

# *Village of Ballston Spa*

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## **THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA PREPARES FOR “UNOFFICIAL VILLAGE-WIDE SUMMER KICKOFF WEEKEND” Three Major Events — the Farmers’ Market Return, Birdhouse Festival, & Garage Sale — Highlight This Weekend**

The weekend weather forecast looks great this weekend, and in the Village of Ballston Spa, it will be even hotter with three major events comprising the Village’s “Unofficial Village-Wide Summer Kickoff Weekend.”

The fun starts on Saturday, June 10th, as the Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association (“BSBPA”) celebrates the return of their Farmers’ Market in the Village’s Wiswall Park on the corner of Front Street and Low Street. “The BSBPA is celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year, and one of our favorite annual events is the Ballston Spa Farmers’ Market,” says BSBPA Board President Christine Kernochan. “We love seeing people out and about, enjoying our community and shopping for their weekly veggies or crafted goods at our market.” The BSBPA’s Farmers’ Market will run through September 30th on Saturdays from 9am until 1pm, and on Thursdays from 3pm until 6pm.

Then, on Sunday, in and around Wiswall Park, the 5th Annual Birdhouse Program culminates with the Village of Ballston Spa’s Birdhouse Festival, organized by not-for-profit Arts & Sciences Creating Community, Inc. (“ASK”). The Village’s streets, parks, and businesses are becoming the final stop this Summer for about 1,000 birdhouses built and designed by students and others throughout the Capital Region and beyond. “ASK is so thrilled to present the hard work and artistic abilities of so many people in our community, young and old,” says ASK Executive Director Mark Blech. “The Birdhouse Festival is a great way to showcase this special program while highlighting the best of the Village of Ballston Spa.” The Birdhouse Festival will extend onto Front Street and Low Street as a block party from 11am until 4pm this Sunday, June 11th, with crafts, raffles, games, and a chicken barbecue by Miller’s Backyard BBQ. In Wiswall Park, a giant birdhouse and life-sized “BSPA” letters have been erected by the Village to house several birdhouses, which also appear in many storefronts and on light poles throughout the Village. At the end of Festival, 60 “Mayor’s Awards” will be given to participants who designed some of the best and most unique birdhouses.

Finally, throughout this weekend, Village residents will be selling items in the annual Village Garage Sale. While no longer centrally organized, residents have independently carried on the tradition of the Village Garage Sale during the second weekend of June for many years. No permits are required for participation, according to the Village’s Code since 2002, meaning Village residents can participate with no advance notice. “We’ve received numerous inquiries about whether the Village Garage Sale will be taking place,” says Village of Ballston Spa Mayor Frank Rossi, Jr. “As long as residents want to participate this weekend, then absolutely. It’s a tradition that will continue as long as the community continues to support it.”

The events will undoubtedly bring many visitors to the Village of Ballston Spa this weekend. “We encourage visitors to spend the entire day on Saturday and Sunday in our Village, to enjoy our local shops and restaurants after they participate in these great events,” Rossi says. “This weekend’s events are examples of what make the Capital Region love to come visit our ‘Village of Friends,’ as we are able to highlight the best of our community in such fun and positive ways.”