

Eight things you need to know on topics related to Saratoga County's economy.

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8 @ 8 is a newsletter filled with eight things you need to know on topics related to the economy in Saratoga County, New York. You can expect to see **8 @ 8** in your inbox twice a month. If you have content you'd like us to share or have a topic you'd like to see more of, let us know and we'll work to include it in a future edition! -The Partnership Team



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
SARATOGA COUNTY PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP**

1. QuickBooks Training Course for Saratoga County based small businesses filling up fast

"Get Your Books in Order" Quickbooks Training Course is filling up fast! The course runs January 22-26, 2018, from 5-8pm at Hudson Valley TEC-SMART. Saratoga County based small business owners will be provided with a QuickBooks software license and receive 15-hours of training led by certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor Marcia Kidney of Pro Accounting Solutions. [Sponsorship opportunities available. Space is limited - Click here to register!](#)

2. Tech Boom Creating New Order for World Markets

The [Wall Street Journal recently reported](#) that shares of global technology companies are outpacing other sectors this year by the widest margin since the height of the dot-com era, with a [handful of key players](#) dictating how markets are performing around the world. Global tech stocks are up 42% this year, roughly double the gains of the broad-based MSCI AC World Index. So far in 2017, the tech sector is up 21 percentage points more than the next best sector, materials—leading by the widest margin of any sector since 1999.

3. Survey of Consumer Expectations

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York provides good information regarding our national and regional economy. One report released on a monthly basis is the Survey of Consumer Expectations. The New York Fed's Center for Microeconomic Data today released the October 2017 shows "persistent optimism about consumers' year-ahead financial situations. [The Survey](#), also shows that consumers' expectations of year-ahead growth in government debt increased again for the third consecutive month. While inflation expectations were relatively stable, year-ahead expectations of food price changes reached their lowest value since the start of their survey in June 2013." [Check out the full report and their website here.](#)

opportunities

For many Saratoga County and Capital Region employers, the only thing holding back their ability to grow is the shortage of available talent. [Transfinder CEO and Prosperity Summit Panelist Tony Civitella](#) told Congressman Tonko "**We need more people**" during a recent visit. The Capital Region Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Network is tackling this issue with [Campus Connect](#). The program is focused on working with local colleges to inform students of the advantages of being a young professional in Tech Valley.

5. Struggling with glossophobia? There is a cure for that

Glossophobia, or the fear of public speaking, is estimated to impact nearly 75% of the population. Statistically speaking, the fear of standing up in front of a group and talking is so great that we fear it more than death. Toastmasters International will help you overcome those fears and improve your business and personal communication skills. There are many clubs in the Capital Region, including the Saratoga Turf Talkers Club that meets on the first and third Tuesdays at Longfellows in Saratoga Springs. If you have heard of Toastmasters and want to check them out come to their [open house on Tuesday December 5th](#).

6. Mark Your Calendar for the Saratoga County Planning Conference

The 14th Annual [Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference](#) will be held on January 31 at the Saratoga Springs City Center. What began as a half-day session in 2005 with roughly 200 attendees, has transpired into a full day session with 16 course offerings which brings in over 500 registrants from numerous counties. The annual all-day conference includes a luncheon, educational and informational courses, achievement awards, and more! The Conference also meets NYS 4-hour Mandatory continuing education requirements for zoning and planning board volunteers. [Click here for video testimonials](#) from Ed Kinowski, Libby Coreno, Jason Kemper, John Scavo, and Tom Lewis who all discuss the importance of public-private partnerships in economic development + municipal planning.

7. HVCC + CEG Working to Fill the Middle Skills Gap

The "middle skills gap" is holding back the Capital Region's manufacturing sector and people with middle skills are hard to find these days. Middle skills manufacturing jobs don't require a college degree but they do require skills like basic shop math and knowing how to read a blueprint to a grasp of mechanical and electrical principles. [Hudson Valley Community College's Manufacturing Technology Pathways](#) allow students to get training through two "stackable" credit-free courses leading to entry level positions in basic manufacturing assembly and warehousing. For more information contact [Penny Hill, Associate Dean, HVCC TEC-SMART](#) or call 518.629-7075.

8. Panel to discuss New York's Tech Industry on November 30

On November 30, a panel of experts will discuss New York's tech economy and how the Capital Region

by today - Nov. 27 and tickets can be [purchased online through Eventbrite](#).

The [Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership](#) is the County's designated Economic Development organization leading the public and private sectors to achieve economic success for our businesses and residents.

The Saratoga Partnership is the first point of contact for business retention, expansion, and attraction. We provide a seamless delivery of economic development and workforce development assistance for businesses seeking to expand in Saratoga County, New York.



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