

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. Amazon Triggers a Bidding War - Saratoga leader says "We need to be Aggressive"

Last week, Amazon said that it was [soliciting bids](#) from cities across North America for a place to build its second headquarters — its first outside of the Seattle area. Amazon said it would invest \$5 billion in the construction of its new headquarters, and it hopes to eventually house 50,000 employees. Saratoga Partnership President, Marty Vanags said "[We need to be aggressive](#)" and submit a proposal in partnership with regional and state partners. [Business Insider](#) later included the Albany region among 48 other metro areas in North America that would be vying for the mega project.

2. Albany one of Top 7 Cities competing with Silicon Valley for Tech Talent

[Entrepreneur](#) has included Albany (Capital Region) in its list of cities competing with Silicon Valley for tech talent. Over the past year Albany has experienced a 161% increase in tech jobs due in part to its creation of an ideal environment for tech companies and employees. Local universities ensure that companies have a well-educated talent pool to draw from, and the state government offers tax breaks meant to attract investment and contribute to its growth as a tech hub.

3. Talent Retention + Attraction - What does it mean for our region?

Saratoga Partnership President Marty Vanags weighs in on a [Daily Gazette](#) cover story about the region's workforce and how it impacts our ability to retain and attract business to Saratoga County. Vanags said a lot of economic developers face similar issues in a robust economy. It's partly a structural issue, as the large Baby Boom generation retires and smaller generations replace them. Attraction and retention continue to be a priority and luckily our unparalleled quality of place gives Saratoga County a competitive edge over other regions.

Development Block Grant program. The funding is intended to help small business start-ups, agribusinesses and commercial enterprises with five or fewer employees. Approved businesses may be eligible for a minimum \$5,000 to a maximum \$35,000 award. Ballston officials said they are particularly interested in agri-tourism businesses in the town.

5. Stewarts Milk Voted Best in NY State

Saratoga County produced [Stewart's Milk was voted best](#) in New York State. The award was presented by Dairy Day, which judged samples of whole milk, 2%, 1%, and fat free milk based on various criteria, including best flavor. Did you know that Stewart's sources milk from dozens of local family farms throughout Saratoga County and the region?

6. Quad/Graphics to Hold Open House...and they're hiring!

Quad/Graphics has entry level general manufacturing positions available now. They're holding an open house Sept. 27 from 12:00 noon - 5:00pm. Please come in for a tour and an interview to 1 Marsel Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. They have both full and part-time positions available in production support, forklift, food services, housekeeping and heavy machinery. Visit workatQuad.com to learn more and fill out an application.

7. WHERE WE RANK - SUNY Poly and Skidmore Rise in Rankings of Best Colleges

U.S. News & World Report has ranked SUNY Poly 15th in its [2018 list of Best Colleges in the Regional Universities North category](#). This is up three positions from its 2017 ranking of 18, as SUNY Polytechnic continues to receive increasing national recognition for its top-tier educational offerings. SUNY Poly remained 3rd in top public regional universities north for the second year in a row and rose to 6th for Best Colleges for veterans amid regional universities north. [Skidmore College](#) ranked as best A-plus school for B-students and No. 41 among national liberal arts colleges.

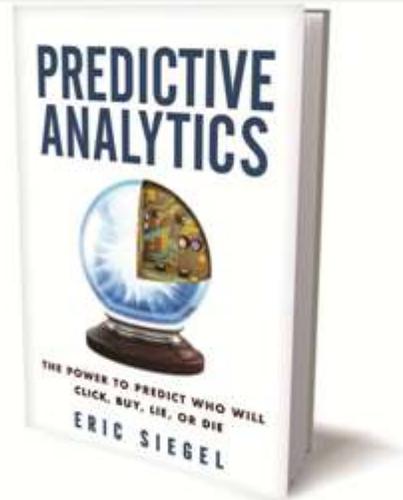
8. Spa Solar Park Now Fully Operational

The Spa Solar Park, a 2.5 MW solar array built on the City's landfill on Weibel Ave, was given permission to operate and energize by National Grid on Tuesday, August 22nd. The Spa Solar Park has 7,992 solar panels and should produce about 3.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which is approximately 40% of the City's energy usage. The energy output is equivalent to the average energy usage of 2,800 homes, and offsets more than 2,300 metric tons of CO2 emissions. CO2 is the primary greenhouse gas emitted through the burning of fossil fuels.

What We're Reading

What is big data and what does it mean for us? In particular, what does it mean for Economic Development? [Predictive Analytics - The Power to Predict who will Click, Buy, Lie or Die](#) by Eric

parts of this book are the explanation of predictive effects (there are five) and why it is worth knowing them if nothing at all. Pick up this book if you want a good primer on data and their predictive impact on your everyday life.



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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