

TWIN COUNTIES

Region expected to get over foot of snow

BY SHAWN NESS
 AND SPENSER WALSH

The Capital Region is expected to be hit by a major snowstorm of a scope not seen in years.

The Twin Counties are expected to be hit with at least a foot of snow starting Sunday, according to the National Weather Service in Albany.

"We are expecting a big snowstorm, with pretty significant impact to the Capital Region," National Weather Service Meteorologist Abbey Gant said Friday. "It looks like the snow should start mid-morning or early afternoon on Sunday."

The storm is expected to end by Tuesday, Gant said.

"It could be a little later if there are lingering snow showers behind the storm. Generally, it should wind down Monday evening and be done before Tuesday."

Gant said the valley towns in Greene and Columbia Counties could get between 15 and 17 inches of

snow, with the towns in the Catskill Mountains at higher elevations, like Hunter and Tannersville, could see as much as 20 inches.

"Pretty much the entire area... is expected to see over a foot," Gant said. "In the Capital Region, [expect] anywhere from about 15 to 17 inches. There could be some isolated places that get more than that. In the Catskills, they could get up to 20 inches."

Gant said this is expected to be the largest storm in years.

"It's definitely — for this time of year in late January — not unheard of," Gant said. "This type of storm won't be anything that is bringing historic snowfalls to the region. However, it will be the biggest, or anticipated, to be the biggest for the last seven years. The impact will go farther south and west this year, which is why it's being messaged as such a significant snowstorm."

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A snowplow is ready at the Columbia County Highway Division's main garage in Greenport. SPENSER WALSH



State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-41, above, and Assembly Member Didi Barrett, D-106, below, speak out against the proposed Shepherd's Run solar farm in Copake on Thursday. SPENSER WALSH



COPAKE

Hinchey, Barrett speak out against Shepherd's Run solar farm plan

BY SPENSER WALSH

Columbia County's representatives in Albany spoke out against the planned Shepherd's Run solar farm in Copake at a public Thursday.

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-41, and Assembly Member Didi Barrett, D-106, criticized Illinois-based Hecate Energy's plan to build the solar farm at Copake town hall during one of five public comment sessions hosted by the Office of Renewable Energy and Siting and Electric Transmission.

The Renewable Energy Office is the state agency responsible for granting the siting permit that the project needs to begin construction.

In November, the office granted Hecate Energy a draft permit to build the 215-acre, 42-megawatt Shepherd's Run solar farm.

Hinchey painted the fight between the small, rural town and the energy company in biblical terms.

"From the very beginning, this has been a David and Goliath relationship. It also feels a little bit like 'Groundhog Day,'" Hinchey said, referring to the multiple times Hecate Energy has pursued a solar farm permit in Copake. "The comments that I've submitted today will be my sixth official comments about this project and my eighth set of public statements against this specific project."

Hecate's initial application for the solar project — a 60-megawatt project on a 265-acre parcel — was rejected by the Renewable Energy Office in 2024 after the company lost access

to a parcel of land that would have allowed an access road. The company reapplied for a smaller 42-megawatt project in December 2024.

During her speech, Hinchey highlighted a letter her office had received from the New York Power Authority saying they would not be assisting Hecate Energy with the development of Shepherd's Run; however, the project was included on a December list of projects the power authority intends to support in the coming year.

"They [NYPA] see the same thing we've been talking about for the last more than three years that this isn't the right one to move forward," Hinchey said.

As far as Hecate Energy understands, NYPA is still committed to the project, Senior Director of Development Matt Levine said Friday.

"Based upon our conversations with NYPA last week, NYPA has not pulled out of the project. We remain on their strategic plan," Levine said.

"It's disappointing that certain state officials are urging NYPA to remove the project," he said, noting the company would be moving forward with or without the agency's support.

While the need for renewable energy is dire, renewable projects should not threaten other natural resources, like farmland, Hinchey said.

"We need renewable energy. We needed it yesterday. Quite frankly, we needed it 50 years ago," Hinchey said. "But we have to be thoughtful and

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SCHENECTADY

Veteran Gazette News Group reporter joins Community Journalism Fund initiative



STAN HUDYT
 Community Journalism Fund political reporter Ted Remsnyder

BY STAN HUDYT

The Gazette News Group's veteran Schenectady city and Niskayuna town reporter Ted Remsnyder is stepping into a new role with the Community Journalism Fund as a reporter covering regional politics.

The newly-created position is supported by the fund established by Gazette News Group, with The Schenectady Foundation serving as fiscal sponsor of the program. The Schenectady-based newspaper group has five daily publications and three weeklies across the Capital Region.

Remsnyder, a SUNY Stony Brook graduate, joins Chad Ar-

nold on the Community Journalism Fund reporting team. Arnold was tapped as a health care reporter in late October.

"We're really excited about the position, and the timing is fortuitous," John DeAugustine, Gazette News Group president and owner, said. "Unfortunately, in our society right now, people are so divided and there's so much trash out there that sometimes passes for news that it's absolutely critical to have somebody as talented and unbiased as Ted to take these election stories or complex political stories that people are highly charged about and just write

it straight down the middle, explain to people how it's going to impact them and what's really happening without the emotion."

The Community Journalism Fund (501c3) supports independent, public-service reporting. Reporters funded through this initiative operate independently of the newspaper's daily coverage, pursuing in-depth, accountability-driven projects that serve the public interest.

Stories published by Arnold and Remsnyder are freely accessible on the Daily Gazette Family of Newspapers websites, not behind a paywall.

Remsnyder was excited about the new position and its focus on politics.

"There's always news and politics, but you want it to be kind of chaotic," Remsnyder said during a podcast interview on the "Tell Me Your Story" podcast with business editor Stan Hudyt. "You want to kind of make sense of the chaos. There's so much to cover. There is endless amounts of stuff you can cover with politics in New York, not just in Schenectady, but beyond all of our coverage areas."

Politics, opinions, candidates, and their camps, waiting

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 High 15/Low 4
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