

CliftonPark.com E-News: Deals, Events, Specials and More!





## Southern Saratoga County Hidden Gems

By Amy E. Tucker

Every town has its pièce de résistance: its popular watering hole or hidden gems of interest. Common knowledge to locals, these "hot spots" could be easily missed by out-of-towners who don't know what to look for. CliftonPark.com has stepped up to remove the guess work for you. **We've done the research to free up your time** to enjoy these summer festivities and hidden gems in Southern Saratoga County.

### Family Fun

Nothing says summer like ice-cream! **The Country Drive-in**, at 1455 Vischer Ferry Road in Clifton Park, has been serving up home-made ice-cream since 1969. Known as "The Stand" to locals, The Country Drive-in is open daily from March 1 through October 1 and serves a variety of fried and grilled specialties including their famed mini hotdogs.

Escape to **Regal Cinemas** at the [Clifton Park Center Mall](#), 22 Clifton Country Road, for the Regal Entertainment Film Festival. This summer favorite has been entertaining audiences since 1991 with **FREE movies every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m.** The nine-week Festival runs through August 26 and features select G-rated and PG-rated films weekly. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. [Preview the schedule here](#), or phone the theater at (518) 371-6186 during their regular business hours of noon to midnight daily.

Across the parking lot from the mall sits the **Clifton Park Action Park**. The popular skateboard park opened in Summer 2005 and is packed with teenagers daily. Open Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., the park features quarter pipes, mini ramps, funboxes and more! Used by skateboarders and inline skaters, the Action Park hosts more than 20 kids on a typical summer afternoon. For more information, contact the Clifton Park office of Parks and Recreation at (518) 371-6667.



**Matt Nicoll has been skateboarding here since opening day. "I've learned a few things on my own through trial and error," Nicoll explained, "but, the older kids are always willing to teach us new tricks, too."**



**Clifton Park Golf**, 1759 Route 9, features something for everyone with its double-deck driving range, 19-hole miniature golf course, batting cages for baseball and softball and Giffy's Snack Shack. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. through October, the park also features golf instruction and a Water Wars game that's a sure splash on a hot day. Call Clifton Park Golf at (518) 371-3112 for more information.

**Community Groups** such as [libraries](#), museums and local churches and synagogues also offer special summer and year-long activities for children and families. More than 30 places of worship in Clifton Park and neighboring communities provide multiple opportunities to volunteer, engage with the community and participate in learning and recreational activities including 5K runs and more. [Click here for a complete listing of Community Groups in Southern Saratoga County.](#)

### Singles and Couples



### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

#### Mothers & More

Read about Mother's & More of Southern Saratoga, a non-profit organization celebrating motherhood.

#### SAFE

Discover Sports Are For Everyone, a non-profit that offers opportunities for disabled children to engage in sports.

#### H.O.P.E.

Learn more about Homes for Orphaned Pets Exist, an organization that provides services to the Saratoga County Animal Shelter and pet foster homes.



### LOCAL EVENTS

#### County Fair - Friday

Fri, Sep 11, 2009

#### Country Fair - Saturday

Sat, Sep 12, 2009

#### Apple Fest 2009 at Bidwell Orchards

Sat, Sep 19, 2009 until Sun, Sep 20, 2009

#### 3rd Annual Chowderfest

Sun, Sep 20, 2009

#### [2009] Troy Night Out - Downtown Troy

Fri, Sep 25, 2009

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If you enjoy the outdoors, **Clifton Park boasts several parks** bursting with perennial foliage and ample hiking trails. **Kinns Road Park** is popular with both humans and dogs alike. Open daily from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. features acres of wooded trails boasting scenic beauty, ambiance and plenty of new and interesting smells for our canine friends to explore. A picnic area with tables and grills makes this a perfect spot for an afternoon out with friends, family or Fido.



When it comes to [food and dining](#), Southern Saratoga County knows how to tempt your palate! [Lakeside Farms](#), at 336 Schauber Road in Ballston Lake, makes some of the best cider donuts on the planet! [Fo'Castle Farm Country Store](#), 166 Kingsley Road in Burnt Hills, has been featured on ABC's *Good Morning America* for its slice of hometown flavor. While you're there, don't forget a slice (or two) of their amazing home made pies, which can be preordered for pick-up daily.

#### Suburban sprawl throughout Southern Saratoga County has strengthened the pull

these home-town establishments have held in local hearts, and served to attract new customers looking for something unique and quaintly unassuming. One such gem is [The Jonesville Store](#) at 989 Main Street in Clifton Park. Situated in a 150-year-old historic building, which served as the original General Store of Jonesville, the newly renovated structure features a deli, country store and gourmet meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner created by two talented chefs from the New England Culinary Institute. Unique trademarks of The Jonesville Store are their 13 different omelet offerings, Grab-and-Go Dinners and the dozens of healthful jams, jellies, honeys and products made by local vendors. Everything is made from scratch with the finest ingredients to support the motto: Eat Good Food. Open Tuesday through Sunday with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings, The Jonesville Store combines a rustic charm with a bistro flair that you have to experience to fully appreciate.



Check out [Mocha Lisa's Caffé](#) on the North side of Clifton Park Center Mall at 22 Clifton Country Road, for a chic twist to the typical coffee shop. A wide assortment of paninis, garden wraps, desserts and pastries make Mocha Lisa's a popular lunch stop. A popular first-date spot, Mocha Lisa's features live entertainment with Jay Kline every Friday at 7:30 p.m. Guests can grab a warm cup of coffee to start their day or change up their routine with a cool, freshly brewed ice tea, smoothie, cream soda or

lemonade to go. Winners of the 2009 *Times Union "Best of the Capital Region"* survey, Mocha Lisa's is living up to their slogan: The Capital District's Meeting Place! For information, or to book catering services or private parties, call (518) 383-5373.

**Jen Murphy found Mocha Lisa's six months ago while out with her boyfriend. "We love little sandwich shops and they've got a great assortment," said Murphy. "I also love their home-brewed ice teas and will stop in and grab one to go if I don't have time for lunch."**

Business owner Wayne T. Beale has amassed the night spot trifecta for Southern Saratoga County with Bentley's Tavern, in Parade Ground Village, Malta; [The Rusty Nail](#), 1789 Route 9, Clifton Park; and [The Mill Tavern](#) nestled between them at 2121 Route 9, Round Lake. Both business and biker-friendly, these establishments offer free WiFi in addition to great food and entertainment including bands, karaoke, free billiards night and trivia competitions. Stop by The Mill Wednesday's for a weekly ride with the No Destination Motorcycle Club. Kick-stands go up at 6:30 p.m. sharp for a guided ride throughout Southern Saratoga County. Completely remodeled from its original roadhouse state, The Mill recently expanded with additional indoor dining, an outdoor patio, bar, fire pit and bocce ball court!



Finally, for a more cultural spin, check out the **Clifton Park Summer Concert Series** Offering FREE entertainment on Sundays and Wednesdays through August, the [Clifton Commons](#) stage brings you Capital District favorites Hair of the Dog as well as the musical "Bye Bye Birdie," an open mic night, a wizard and more. Performances are held

rain or shine. For more information, contact the Clifton Park office of Parks and Recreation at (518) 371-6667.

This slice of life captures a few of our **favorite "Hidden Gems" in Southern Saratoga County**. We encourage you to share your stories below and tell us what your favorite things are to see and do in the area.

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