



VALLEY PLAZA

PROJECT UPDATES

AUGUST 2026

Dear Community Members,

We appreciate your patience as we have worked behind the scenes to secure necessary approvals to move this project forward. It has taken longer than expected, but things are starting to pick up. We are still hopeful for a fall 2026 opening for Super Imperial Market. The new independent pharmacy, brought to us by McKesson, is also moving forward.

Going forward, the team will plan to send out monthly project updates to keep everyone informed and engaged of what is happening in the Plaza. In this update, you can learn about the work we have done thus far, reasons for the delays we have faced, what is next for the project, and opportunities for construction and equipment vendors to bid on aspects of the renovation work.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you!

– Kevin Race, Business Program Manager, City of Syracuse | krace@syr.gov | (315) 448-8241

I thought the store was supposed to be open by now. *What happened?*

We had initially hoped for a May 2026 opening, which was very optimistic. The project experienced delays in securing an insurance policy for SEDCO, the City's loan fund that applied for the grant and getting the funding contract executed by New York State (NYS).



A proposed rendering of the new grocery store facade. It includes new paint, materials evoking natural wood, and LED lighting fixtures.

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What have you been working on so far?

Community Engagement

We have launched an in-house engagement campaign with our key partner FAHNN (Food Access Healthy Neighborhoods Now!), with support from McKinley-Brighton Elementary and YMCA Community Schools.

This has included a project page on the City's website, a community feedback survey, two community meetings, and a public safety roundtable.

Contracts

We executed our main contract with NYS in June 2026 and both subcontracts with our grocer and property owner/contractor partners.

Permits & Construction Plans

The project received site plan approval from the City Planning Commission (CPC) in April 2026. The CPC mandated in their approval that the property owner must address long-standing maintenance issues, including repaving of the parking lot. Construction drawings are complete and the first permits for construction have been submitted.

What is next?

Expect to see crews begin work, starting with painting the exterior, trimming overgrowth, replacing the fence behind the building, and beginning interior demolition.

The work will be bid out and advance other parts of the renovation, so that an opening date can be set for the new store.

Further engagement will follow, including a hiring event for the estimated 35 jobs to be created.

Learn more: syr.gov/vpgs

ATTENTION VENDORS!

- ★ There are several upcoming opportunities to work on this project. Future bids include: HVAC, electrical, interior build-out, signage, painting, store equipment, and more.
- ★ We are specifically looking for NYS certified Minority and Women-owned business enterprises (MWBES).
- ★ If you or someone you know is interested, scan the below QR code or email Kevin Race at krace@syr.gov.

**SCAN
HERE**



What about those potholes?

In coordination with the Police Department, the property owner was sent a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Report - which outlined key improvements that need to be made to the property in order to increase safety and reduce the possibility of crime. Those were accepted by the property owner. Planned upgrades to the site will begin this fall and include the following:

- Complete mill, pave and restriping of parking lot
- Repair and reconstruction of curbs, including ramps
- New crosswalks, pedestrian zones and islands
- Increased lighting and new security camera system
- New pylon sign and landscaping along Salina Street
- Overgrowth trimming and fence replacement

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Jazz in the City was a Hit!

Congrats to Larry Luttinger and team for organizing a fantastic event on July 23. The Plaza was buzzing with great music, food vendors, and community based organizations connecting with local residents.

Shout out to Community Bank for providing free Gannon's Ice Cream and presenting FAHNN with a \$5,000 check for all their hard work advocating for a better Valley Southside.



The Plaza was packed on Thursday, July 23 for the Jazz in the City concert featuring The Blacklites with opening support from the Bob Cecil Zumba Girls including the City's very own Commissioner of Parks, Syeisha Byrd.

Did you know?

Your voice matters! Based on community feedback, hours for the grocery store will be 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. Tell us your feedback by taking the survey at syr.gov/vpgs.

Updates from FAHNN

Right: Mayor Owens (center) alongside Common Council President Rita Paniagua (right) reads a proclamation honoring Rhonda Vesey, FAHNN Executive Director, for her visionary leadership at the Jazz in the City event on July 23.



FAHNN Summer Farmer's Market: Saturdays 10am-3pm

The Summer Farmer's Market in the Valley Plaza is back! Every Saturday in the Plaza, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, running through October 17. Featuring fresh local produce, other farm goods, and crafts from local artisans. By including us in your weekly shopping routine, you are supporting local farms and artists, the work of FAHNN, and your community in the process.

Next Wellness Wednesday Workshop: August 5, 5:30-7pm

FAHNN's Wellness Wednesday Workshop series is back, bringing a variety of service providers to the neighborhood for free informational workshops. The next one is Wednesday August 5 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the FAHNN Storefront (to the left of Citi Trends).

Hillary Rabel, Community Impact Director for the American Heart Association, will be leading a hands-only CPR Training. A light dinner, complimentary produce bag, and childcare will be provided.