THE WHITNEY WIRE

WHITNEY YOUNG HEALTH

Whitney Young Health's Monthly Employee Newsletter

APRIL 2024

Under Construction: The latest updates on renovations

AS we near the completion of Phase 1 of our renovation efforts at 920 Lark Drive, we have quite a few updates to share with you.

ENTRANCE A CLOSED ON APRIL 8

Due to our ongoing renovations and upgrades, **Entrance A (front door) at 920 Lark Drive will be closed on Monday, April 8 due to paving.** The entrance will reopen on Tuesday, April 9. Staff members are encouraged to park in the upper lot on Monday, April 8 to allow patients and visitors to utilize the lower parking lot and Entrance B. Staff use Entrance B or the rear entrance near the SC conference room. *Staff should refer to Robert Coyle's all-staff email or follow up with their supervisors for additional information.*

DOH INSPECTION AT 920

The Department of Health will be conducting a review and inspection of Phase 1 progress and construction next week on April 12.

ALBANY HEALTH CENTER CLOSED ON APRIL 19 & APRIL 22

Our Albany Health Center (920 Lark Drive) will be **closed April 19 and 22 for all operations due to a scheduled power outage**. Labcorp and the College Parkside Pharmacy will be closed as well. **Some staff will be deployed to other locations.** *For additional information regarding the closure, and how that impacts where you'll be located on those days, please speak with your supervisor. An all-staff email will be circulated, providing additional details.*

ONGOING RENOVATIONS AT OUTPATIENT ADDICTIONS TREATMENT CENTER

Center Renovations are ongoing at the Outpatient Addictions Treatment Center (formerly known as Dewitt Street). Expect additional updates regarding this project in the coming weeks and months.

Photo credits: *Kyla Loucks*

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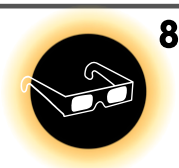
WHITNEY YOUNG HEALTH

APRIL 2024

Diversity, Equity & Awareness and Health Observances

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8  **Solar Eclipse** SEE PG. 3	9 Vasantha Navaratri begins 4/9-4/17 *Hindu* Eid al-Fitr *Muslim*	10	11	12	13 Vaisakhi *Sikh*
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Ridván begins 4/20 - 5/2 *Baha'i*
21 Mahaviri-Jayanti *Jain*	22 Pesach/Passover 4/22-4/30 *Jewish* Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

All Jewish and Muslim holidays start and end at sundown.

***** Fasting may be required for some observers.***

Observance Months

- Arab American Heritage Month
- Autism Acceptance Month
- Celebrate Diversity Month
- National Minority Health Month
- STI Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SOLAR ECLIPSE

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024
Albany, NY & Capital Region

Start: 2:12 pm *(edge of moon begins to cover the sun)*
Maximum: 3:26 pm (96.6% of sun will be covered by moon)
End: 4:36 pm *(edge of moon stops covering the sun)*

NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN!

You can seriously hurt your eyes, and even go blind. Proper eye protection, like eclipse glasses are the only safe option! REGULAR SUNGLASSES WON'T PROTECT YOUR EYES!

HOW DO I SAFELY VIEW THE ECLIPSE?

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 12312-2 certified eclipse glasses are the **only** safe eyewear. **Beware of fakes.**

If you don't have eclipse glasses, click here to go to the I Love NY website for locations giving away certified glasses.

Click to find out about local viewing events!

For more information on the solar eclipse, click HERE or HERE!

The area of the map between the 2 dark blue lines will experience a **TOTAL** solar eclipse, where 100% of the sun will be covered by the moon for a few minutes. These areas are to the north & west of us.

Albany and the Capital Region will experience a **PARTIAL** solar eclipse. Even at the peak of the eclipse, a little bit of sun will still be visible…but 96.6% will be covered, so it will still be spectacular!

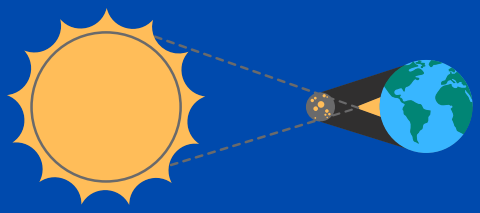
Other ways to safely view the eclipse.

PINHOLE VIEWER

With the Sun behind you, let sunlight shine through a small opening, like a hole punched in an index card. Project a solar image onto a nearby surface (another card, a wall, or the ground). A pasta colander makes a terrific pinhole projector because you can see dozens of little "suns" projected!

WARNING: Do NOT look at the Sun through the pinhole(s)!

WHAT IS A SOLAR ECLIPSE?



A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow on Earth that either fully or partially blocks the Sun's light in some areas.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Only 2-3 solar eclipses occur in the world each year. This is the first total/near total eclipse visible in the Northeast since 1970. The next won't be visible in the US until 2044, in the Western states!

New Hires & Movers

WHITNEY YOUNG HEALTH

New Hires

Tiffany Amiah	Health Home Program Manager
James Bruno	Specialty Health Home Care Coordinator
Latisha Brunson	CBP Medical Assistant/Outreach Worker
Joshua Burns	SUD Counselor
Abigail Cannon Bailey	Specialty Health Home Care Coordinator
Diana Darling	Albany Health Center Practice Manager
Heather Gilman	LPN - Albany HC
Celestine Hymes-Olaniyan	LPN - Watervliet HC
Reily Kotwasinski	RN Care Manager
Nadia Newman	Social Health Engagement Specialist
Tatyana Rodriguez	CPTS Care Coordinator
Faith St. Arromand	BH Clinician I
Rachel Scott	CPTS Care Coordinator
Leigh Ward	BH Clinician I
Brennan White	CPTS Care Coordinator
Smyrna Wilson	Peer Support Specialist

Movers

Lydia Parker	WIC Nutrition/Breastfeeding Coordinator
Felicia Velasquez	Risk & Compliance Specialist

Pride season is approaching, and WYH is gearing up to participate in numerous events throughout the area.

We'd love you to get involved by joining our planning committee, becoming a volunteer at an event, marching in the parade, and more!

If you're interested in participating, please contact Kayla Anderson at **kanderson@wmyhealth.org** or call ext. 5083.

In Loving Memory of Trisha A. Quay-Ernst

On March 6, 2024, Whitney Young Health lost a valued family member with the passing of CPTS Program Manager, Trisha Quay-Ernst.

We would like to share with you this beautiful tribute to Trish, written by her team at CPTS.

Trish has shaped the entire CPTS department throughout her career at Whitney Young. She took each and every staff member under her wing and showed us how to do what we do best, which is provide high quality patient care. Throughout her time at WYH, Trish managed all CPTS programs (HCV, Ryan White, MSA, and PrEP), and developed workflows that made these programs function flawlessly in the interest of providing the best care possible to the populations we serve. She has taught us how to advocate for our patients, ourselves, and each other.

As one of the kindest and most compassionate people we have had the privilege to meet, we cannot express how valuable she was to our team. She was a mentor, a role-model, a leader, a fearless advocate, and above all, our family. We are the passionate caseworkers we are today due to values that Trish instilled in us. We will continue to honor her legacy through the great work that we do every day, and her guiding presence will never be far from our minds.

Trish worked at Whitney Young for 8 years, and is survived by her family, including her cats: Sid, Charlie, and Denver. Per Trish's request, the cats have lovingly been rehomed in the care of CPTS HCV Program Manager, Mary Raiti.

In honor and memory of Trisha,
WYH is holding a donation drive for
Whiskers Animal Benevolent League

Whiskers mission is to bring love, sanctuary and forever homes to abandoned, abused and stray cats in the Capital Region

Since 1982, Whiskers has been the area's leading NO-KILL rescue. They are a 100% volunteer organization and their work is entirely funded by donations

If you would like someone pick up your donations, please email Kayla Anderson at **kanderson@wmyhealth.org.**

Drop boxes for donations are in the following locations:

- Watervliet Administration Building
- Troy Health Center
- Albany Health Center (920)
- Swinburne Health Center

Item Suggestions:

- Cat Food (Canned or dry)
- Cat Treats
- Cat Toys or Catnip
- Cat litter
- Paper Towels
- Scratching posts/toys
- Pet grooming gloves
- Nitrile Gloves
- Disposable bowls
- Garbage bags
- Open-topped litter boxes

Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade

On Saturday, March 16, WYH staff and family members put on the green to march in Albany's 74th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Marching down Central Avenue accompanied by Whitney on Wheels, our team had fun while spreading awareness of Whitney Young Health in the community.

Black Family Wellness Expo

Whitney Young Health was among over 50 vendors and organizations that took part in the **Black Family Wellness Expo,** held on Saturday, March 16 at Giffen Memorial Elementary School in downtown Albany.

The goal of the event was to address health and economic disparities, and to save and improve lives in the Black community.

Kyla Loucks offered information about WYH's CPTS program, PrEP and HIV prevention, as well as overviews of all our programs and services.

The free community event featured useful information as well as family fun. On hand were medical experts and providers who spoke about health issues affecting Black individuals and families, while games and activities for kids, refreshments and giveaways were also offered.