

The Record

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Come see Collar City under the stars

By: Steven S. Couse , The Record

More than 50 businesses and art venues throughout downtown will open their doors from 5 to 9 p.m., in an effort to keep street activity from drying up at 6 p.m.

"This event continues to grow by the day," Tutunjian said at City Hall Tuesday.

"Hopefully, we'll have great weather."

Troy Night Out was founded by Elizabeth Young, owner of The Living Room, and Karen Schlesinger of Digital Artist's Space.

"We live here as well as work here," Young said. "We want to go out in our own city."

The new event, on the last Friday of every month, is sponsored by the city, The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Metroland, ID29, and Lotus Screen Printing.

"This monthly event will attempt to reclaim the days in Troy when the downtown area would be the place to go on a Friday night," Tutunjian said. "We have a lot of work to do before we get close to that again, but this event is a wonderful step in the right direction."

A map of the event is being constantly updated, and will highlight the many art openings and special events. It will be available Thursday at www.troynightout.org. Information points for the event will be The Art Center at 265 River St. and the new PhotoCenter at 404 River St.

The city will roll out the trolley to help people get around, and organizers have encouraged the cleanup and dressing up of vacant store fronts.

More than 20 simultaneous art openings are planned. Live music will be presented at more than 10 venues. Merchants will have special events and sales. And restaurants and cafes will offer their best dishes.

Each participating venue will hang an illuminated paper lantern.

"This event will focus on the senses, an experience you can totally submerge yourself in," Young said.

Charlie Staats of Flavour Café on Fourth Street, and Deidre Healy, president of The Arts Center, stood with the mayor as he took questions.

Flavour will open an exhibit from students at the Roarke Center, and have a live band. The café celebrates two years in Troy on Saturday.

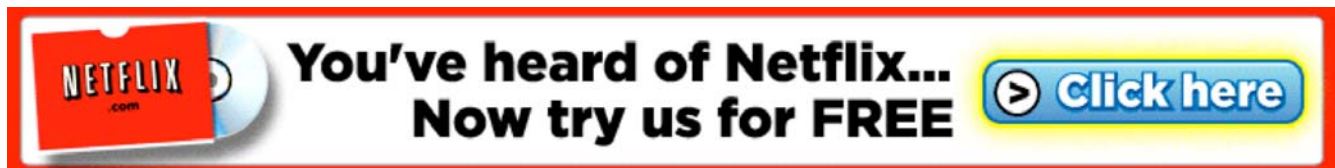
The Arts Center will open two contemporary art exhibits, one with a landscape architect theme, and a mural that is installed site specific.

The mural is closing soon and is by Philadelphia artist Paul Santaleri. It is "just fantastic," according to Healy.

"We want this to be an event that grows each month, something that people look forward to experiencing," Young said, and pointed out that most events are "free, free, free."

"More people are discovering Troy at night," Tutunjian said. "We want to make it quicker."

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