

9/5/18-ANOTHER SWELTERING DAY IS ON THE WAY. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A HEAT ADVISORY FOR MOST OF UPSTATE, INCLUDING ONEIDA COUNTY. THE COMBINATION OF HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY WILL MAKE IT FEEL LIKE IT'S WELL INTO THE TRIPLE DIGITS. OFFICIALS ARE ADVISING RESIDENTS TO TAKE THE USUAL PRECAUTIONS. ANYONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO AIR CONDITIONING CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COOLING STATIONS SET UP ACROSS THE AREA. YOU'LL FIND A FULL LIST OF LOCATIONS AT O-C-GOV-DOT-NET.

9/6/18-IS IT TOO HOT FOR SCHOOL? THAT'S WHAT SOME OFFICIALS WITH THE STATE'S TEACHER'S UNION WERE ASKING YESTERDAY. HIGH TEMPERATURES ACROSS NEW YORK HAD THEM RENEWING THEIR CALL FOR A LAW CALLING OFF CLASSES IF ROOM TEMPERATURES HIT 82 DEGREES. THE MEASURE WAS FIRST PROPOSED DURING A HEAT WAVE LAST YEAR, BUT DIDN'T MOVE FORWARD IN THE LEGISLATURE. SUPPORTERS SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN WHEN THEY'RE SUFFERING FROM HEAT STRESS IN CLASSROOMS WITHOUT AIR CONDITIONING.

9/7/18-IS THERE A HURRICANE HEADING OUR WAY? THAT'S WHAT SOME FORECASTERS ARE STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT. HURRICANE FLORENCE IS CURRENTLY MAKING IT'S WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND SOME PREDICTIONS HAVE IT ARRIVING IN NEW YORK LATE NEXT WEEK. COMPLICATING MATTERS ARE THE REMAINS OF ANOTHER HURRICANE- GORDON. AFTER HITTING MISSISSIPPI LATE TUESDAY IT'S BEEN MAKING IT'S WAY NORTHEAST AND IS LIKELY TO BRING HEAVY RAINS OUR WAY NEXT WEEK AS WELL. COMBINED THE TWO STORMS COULD PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT FLOODING.

9/7/18-THIS YEAR'S WET WEATHER COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON NEW YORK'S FALL FOLIAGE. SOME MAPLE TREES ARE ALREADY DROPPING THEIR LEAVES, AND INSTEAD OF TURNING YELLOW AND ORANGE THEIR FOLIAGE GOES FROM GREEN TO BROWN. THE CULPRIT IS THE BLACK TAR FUNGUS, A DISFIGURING INFECTION THAT THRIVES IN MOIST CONDITIONS. EXPERTS SAY IT'S LIKELY TO CUT DOWN ON THE BRILLIANT COLORS TOURISTS LOVE THIS SEASON. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT'S RELATIVELY HARMLESS AND DOESN'T CAUSE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE TO TREES.

9/10/18-A FLOOD WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR MOST OF CENTRAL NEW YORK. FORECASTERS SAY WE'RE LIKELY TO SEE CLOSE TO 24 HOURS OF STEADY RAIN AS THE REMAINS OF HURRICANE GORDON MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE AREA. THAT'S LIKELY TO TRIGGER FLOODING IN LOW LYING AREAS AND LEAVE THE GROUND SATURATED WITH WATER, TRIGGERING RUNOFF THAT CAN EASILY OVERWHELM DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND SUMP PUMPS. OFFICIALS ARE ASKING RESIDENTS TO PAY ATTENTION TO FLOOD UPDATES AND AVOID AREAS WITH ANY STANDING WATER.

9/12/18-DELTA LAKE STATE PARK IN ROME IS DEALING WITH ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF BLUE GREEN ALGAE. OFFICIALS WITH THE ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAY THERE HAVE BEEN BLOOMS REPORTED BOTH IN DELTA LAKE AND TURTLE POND, A SMALLER BODY OF WATER INSIDE THE PARK. SIGNS HAVE BEEN POSTED WARNING RESIDENTS TO AVOID CONTACT WITH THE SWIRLING GREEN CLOUDS OF ALGAE AND TO KEEP THEIR PETS AWAY AS WELL. EXPOSURE TO THE ORGANISMS CAN CAUSE SYMPTOMS RANGING FROM MILD SKIN IRRITATION TO POTENTIALLY FATAL LIVER DAMAGE.

9/14/18-LOCAL FARMERS COULD BE TRADING IN THEIR COWS FOR SOLAR PANELS. MULTIPLE SOLAR COMPANIES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROACHING FARMERS ABOUT LEASING THEIR ACREAGE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF COMMERCIAL SOLAR GRIDS. THE MOVE COMES AS THE PRICE OF MILK HAS ONCE AGAIN PLUNGED, LEAVING CONVENTIONAL DAIRY FARMERS STRUGGLING TO STAY ALIVE. THE SOLAR DEVELOPERS ARE LOOKING FOR PROPERTY WITHIN A MILE OF A POWER LINE OR SUBSTATION WITH AT LEAST TWENTY AVAILABLE ACRES OF OPEN SPACE.

9/17/18-THE FALL FOLIAGE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY. THE STATE HAS RELAUNCHED ITS SEASONAL FOLIAGE REPORTS FOR THE YEAR AT THE I LOVE N-Y DOT COM WEBSITE. WEEKLY UPDATES WILL TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF FALL COLORS ACROSS NEW YORK. OVER THE YEARS LEAF PEEPING HAS BECOME A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS, WITH HORDES OF TOURISTS VISITING AREAS OF PEAK COLOR. THAT HELPS DRIVE BUSINESS AT RESTAURANTS AND MOTELS DURING ONE OF TRADITIONALLY SLOW PERIODS OF THE YEAR. THE FOLIAGE REPORTS WILL BE UPDATED EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH EARLY NOVEMBER.

9/19/18-A MONTHS LONG DROUGHT IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN NEW YORK COULD BE GOOD NEWS FOR THE UTICA ROME AREA AND NORTH COUNTRY. CENTRAL NEW YORK IS ONE OF THE FEW AREAS OF THE STATE NOT DEALING WITH A LACK OF RAINFALL, AND THAT MEANS WE HAVE SOME OF THE BEST FALL FOLIAGE IN THE STATE. DROUGHT CAUSES TREES TO PRODUCE LESS OF THE COMPOUNDS THAT PRODUCE INTENSE FALL COLORS AS LEAVES START TO CHANGE. THAT COULD BE A BOON TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND MOTELS SERVING THE HORDES OF TOURISTS TRAVELLING THE STATE TO VIEW FALL FOLIAGE.

9/20/18-THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS GETTING IT'S OWN AIR FORCE. IT'S NOW USING A SQUADRON OF 22 DRONES DEPLOYED ACROSS THE STATE. OFFICIALS SAY THE REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES WILL HELP WORKERS TRACK WILDLIFE AND MONITOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS. IT'S ALSO EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THE D-E-C'S SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES. A SINGLE DRONE EQUIPPED WITH A CHEAP NIGHT VISION CAMERA CAN SCAN A HUGE SWATH OF FOREST FOR MISSING HIKERS AND CAMPERS.