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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016

TOMPKINS HOME  
SEARCH STRUGGLE



A house for rent on West Spencer Street, one of several vacancies on the edge of downtown Ithaca. While the city's vacancy rate is still low, demand for certain types of housing throughout the city and county is still high.

Housing survey finds significant shortage of supply

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Results from the Tompkins County Housing Needs Assessment survey reveal what many have known for a long time: Availability is low, demand is high and prices are up.

Though addressing Tompkins County as a whole, the City of Ithaca came out as the main driver in response to the survey. More than half of the 3,000 respondents who weren't students live in the city or town of Ithaca, while out of all non-student respondents, three-quarters of them work in the city or town.

Among all responses, several trends emerged showing the City of Ithaca will

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“That’s a real loss for us when someone who works here and wants to be a part of the community doesn’t have access mainly because of our housing costs.”

MEGAN MCDONALD, SENIOR PLANNER  
WITH THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

Water  
supply  
in dire  
straits

Residents urged  
to cut back usage

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The City of Ithaca's water supply is “critically low” and the city's reservoir could be drained within the next 30 days if there is no significant rainfall, the city announced Wednesday.

Officials urged residents to conserve water.

Ithaca and Tompkins County are in a severe drought, as classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor, with rainfall from March through June at the lowest on record for Ithaca.

Fall Creek and Six Mile Creek, which supply drinking water to the City of Ithaca and Cornell University, are at record low levels, according to a news release last week from the Tompkins County Health Department. United States Geological Survey data shows groundwater levels are lower than normal and steadily dropping.

On Wednesday evening, the city said water has been flowing down Six Mile Creek into the reservoir at a lower rate than water is being drawn into the city's water treatment system. That means the water level in the reservoir has been dropping.

“At current water consumption rates, the city could drain the reservoir within the next 30 days if there is not significant rainfall and/or a significant reduction in consumption. Bolton Point is supplying water to both the City of Ithaca and Cornell University water systems, but has reached its filtering capacity and cannot supply additional water at this time,” the release stated.

Typical flows in Six Mile Creek for this time of year are 14 to 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), according to the re-

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NY delegates have high hopes for Clinton’s speech

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PHILADELPHIA — New York Democratic delegates hope Hillary Clinton on Thursday will be able to sway voters leery of presidential candidacy, while some Bernie Sanders delegates are still hesitant to back her.

As the Democratic convention nears its end Thursday night with Clinton's prime-time acceptance speech, her home-state supporters said she will be able to unify the party and the nation heading into the November election against Donald Trump.

“I think she's going to have a message of hope and a message that this country hasn't seen its greatest days,” said Shawn Hogan, a Clinton delegate and mayor of Hornell.

Sen. Charles Schumer said he expects the Chappaqua, Westchester County, resident to talk about lifting up the country, rather than offering negative attacks.

He said voters want the presidential candidates' views on helping the middle class.

“That's what the people want to hear,” Schumer said. “I think at the end of the day, you will see the negativity doesn't

work. The negativity coming out of the other convention won't work.”

But dissension among Democratic delegates continues.

Some Sanders supporters said they have yet to be convinced that Clinton has embraced Sanders' ideals — even as the convention has focused on unifying the party after the bruising Democratic primary.

“The spectacle of the Hillary show leaves me with a sick feeling in my stomach,” said Mary Thorpe, a Sanders delegate from Van Etten.

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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Go to [ithacajournal.com](http://ithacajournal.com) for full coverage of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

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