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# THE ITHACA JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

## Boston run to raise awareness on suicide



Michele Lee (left) and a friend celebrate finishing a half marathon. Lee will be running the Boston Marathon on April 18 to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

‘... to do this is such an honor —  
to give back what they’ve given us’

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Dryden native Michele Lee is admittedly nervous to run her first full marathon. With a pair of half marathons and a trio of 18-mile walks under her belt, the 25-year-old Lee has had some experience in endurance races. But her long-distance debut, Lee said, has required a bit more preparation than just stepping out into the street.

“With my half marathons, I was always focused on the end of it, like ‘I’m

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### Fundraiser

**What:** Miles For Michele, a fundraiser with proceeds to benefit American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20.  
**Where:** Dryden Hotel, 42 W. Main St.

**Cost:** Suggested donation is \$26.20.

**Learn more or donate online:** Search “Miles for Michele” Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/903720643056527>

## Student housing project starting

\$80M development  
may open 2017

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Cornell University is moving ahead with plans to replace and expand a graduate student housing development on the edge of Belle Sherman with an \$80 million project.

Maplewood Park Apartments was built in 1989. The 170-unit complex on East Hill with 356 beds is set to become 500 to 600 units with 850 to 975 beds in a mix of townhomes and multi-family apartment buildings on the 13-acre property, according to a proposal submitted to the Town of Ithaca by Whitham Planning and Design.

Construction may begin in spring 2017.

“We have a big goal of wanting to house more of our graduate and professional students in Cornell housing,” said Jeremy Thomas, senior director of real estate for Cornell University’s Real Estate Department. “We really wanted to take a look at this site to try and figure out ways to add some density in a responsible way that’s consistent with the neighborhood and its surroundings.”

The Ithaca Town Board heard a presentation on the development Monday, and the town Planning Committee will meet on the project at 4:30 p.m.

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“This is 500 more people  
potentially spending money  
in Collegetown.”

JEREMY THOMAS, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE FOR CORNELL UNIVERSITY

## Ithaca school district, teachers reach tentative deal

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The Ithaca City School District on Wednesday said it has reached a tentative collective bargaining agreement with the Ithaca Teachers Association.

No details about the agreement were immediately released.

The agreement must be ratified by a vote from the union membership and by the board of education, the district said in an email late Wednesday afternoon.

The Ithaca Teachers Association has been trying to reach a new contract with the district. Teachers have held rallies and demanded better pay.

The union and district disagree about the rates of pay for teachers relative to other districts. At a rally at Belle Sherman Elementary School in January, the union said their median salary of \$51,000 ranked 579th out of 667 school districts in New York.

The union also said pay disparities increase with length of service, and Ithaca

teachers pay a higher proportion of health care costs compared to other districts.

The Ithaca City School District and Ithaca Teachers Association could not immediately be reached for comment.

Simon Wheeler contributed to this article.

Follow Kelsey O’Connor on Twitter @ijkocconnor.



SIMON WHEELER / STAFF PHOTO

Belle Sherman Elementary School staff at a recent rally to publicize the lack of a contract with the Ithaca City School District.

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