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PRESS ADVISORY

*Mayor Gary R. McCarthy Announces
Schenectady's City Hall Clock Tower
Will be turning red, blue and yellow for the month of April*



Schenectady, NY - During the month of April, Schenectady City Hall's clock tower will be bathed in red, yellow and blue for Autism Awareness month. The puzzle pattern reflects the mystery and complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with autism. The brightness of the ribbon signals hope; hope that through increased awareness of autism, and through early intervention and appropriate treatments, people with autism will lead fuller, more complete lives. "It is my great pleasure to highlight this important issue in April by throwing the switch on the floodlights of City Hall tonight."

Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disability that typically appears during the first two years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause for autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today. April is a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community. Autism affects 1 in 68 children born in America today; the need for services and supports is greater than ever.

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