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## **Capital District Community Gardens Marks 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Summer Celebration**

TROY, N.Y. - Capital District Community Gardens (CDCG) will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and honor founder Dean Leith at a Summer Celebration at Pat's Barn in Rensselaer Technology Park on June 12 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

What began as a program of Garden Way, manufacturer of the Troy-Bilt rototiller in the early 1970's, is now an independent organization with 47 gardens and a variety of other programs serving more than 50,000 members of the community each year. With the mission to nourish healthy communities by providing access to fresh food and green spaces for all, CDCG engages people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds through the following programs:

- Community Gardens
- Veggie Mobile
- Healthy Convenience Store Initiative
- Produce Project
- Squash Hunger
- Urban Greening
- Taste Good Series

The Summer Celebration is open to the public and more than 100 expected attendees will spend the afternoon enjoying the music of Neil Brown, hors d'oeuvres from the Old Daley Inn and slideshow images from CDCG. Speaking about the organization's development at 3:00 p.m. are former directors, John Pattison, Paul Winkeller and Maria Trabka, as well as founder Dean Leith. Tickets may be purchased by making a donation of \$35, \$50 or \$100 and advertising space in the event journal may be procured by contacting Mari Shopsis at CDCG.

“As the organization continues to grow by leaps and bounds to meet soaring demand for healthy food in urban areas, it's important to step back to appreciate our history,” said Amy Klein, CDCG's executive director. “The positive impact we have in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer counties is in large part due to

the vision of the people who started the organization decades ago, many of whom continue to contribute on so many levels.”

For more information please visit [www.cdcg.org](http://www.cdcg.org), e-mail [media@cdcg.org](mailto:media@cdcg.org) or call 518-274-8685.

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