

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 14, 2021

CONTACT: Christine Rush, Director of Public Relations

PHONE: (518) 884-4748

**SARATOGA COUNTY ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO BOLSTER AED DATABASE**

County Office of Emergency Services Hosts Contest for Public to Help Locate AEDs countywide

Ballston Spa, NY – Saratoga County officials today announced its Office of Emergency Services is hosting a contest with cash prizes for those who help locate AEDs around the county. The contest, in partnership with the EMS Council, is an effort to grow the county's automatic external defibrillator (AED) database.

Contestants are asked to locate and upload photos and information of AEDs around the county using the PulsePoint AED app. The contest runs from July 15<sup>th</sup> through August 13, 2021. Cash prizes will be awarded to the five people who register the most AEDs located in Saratoga County and will be distributed as follows: \$300 for first place; \$200 for second place; \$150 each for third, fourth and fifth place. The initiative is funded through grants from PulsePoint and the EMS Council, each providing \$950.

PulsePoint works in the background at the computer-aided 911 dispatch center. When the call-taker verifies the location and determines there is a sudden cardiac emergency in a public location, PulsePoint automatically notifies CPR-trained individuals within a quarter-mile of the event. The PulsePoint AED app provides visual directions to the emergency along with the location of nearby AEDs.

According to Saratoga County OES statistics, on average, there are 35 cardiac arrest events in Saratoga County each month with 10 of them happening in a public location. The OES currently has 251 AEDs registered throughout the county and estimates there are more than 2,000 in total throughout Saratoga County. Most AEDs are located in schools, businesses, stores, fitness centers and restaurants.

To enter the contest, individuals must download the PulsePoint app and register with the OES. To register for the contest use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEDcontest>. To learn more about PulsePoint use this link: <https://www.pulsepoint.org/>.

Wilton Town Supervisor John Lant, Chair of the County Public Safety Committee said, "This contest allows community members to take an active role in helping their fellow residents who may need an AED during an emergency. I applaud the Office of Emergency Management for its proactive role in this important initiative and thank the EMS Council for helping to produce this contest to increase our county's AED database. I urge all residents to participate in this contest."

Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services Commissioner, Carl Zeilman said, "Using an AED as soon as possible after a cardiac event can increase survival rate by 60-percent, which is why it is vital that we build our county's database to help CPR-trained individuals quickly locate the nearest AED during these emergencies. I encourage Saratoga County residents to help us locate all the AEDs in the county. By entering this contest, you can have fun while helping save lives."

Nashua Alexander, Chief Operating Officer at the EMS Council said, "Early access to defibrillation is a crucial step in the American Heart Association Chain of Survival and has proven to save countless lives. Your participation in

this contest will help identify the location of defibrillators in our communities which will help ensure the early and rapid defibrillation for patients in sudden cardiac arrest.”

The Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services oversees and administers the county’s emergency preparedness activities, including comprehensive emergency management, Fire and EMS services, management of the County’s public safety radio system, NIMS compliance, and database management for E-9-1-1. The office works with local governments, volunteer organizations and the private sector to develop disaster preparedness plans and mitigation projects as well as training and exercise activities.

For more information about Saratoga County OES and the contest, please visit [www.saratogacountyny.gov](http://www.saratogacountyny.gov) , follow them on Facebook @saratogaOES or Instagram @saratogaemergencyservices.

###

*About Saratoga County: With its friendly people, thriving tourism, and one of the lowest county tax rates in the state, Saratoga County is an excellent place to live, work and visit. We are proud of our strong commercial growth and a diverse local economy that ranges from Global Foundries, the largest high-tech economic development project in the country, to thriving family farms that are some of the best in Upstate New York. Our cultural venues, excellent schools and colleges along with trails, parks and recreation programs make Saratoga County a great place to call home.*

*Saratoga County is governed by a County Board of Supervisors, who collectively represent more than 220,000 residents in the fastest growing county in the State.*