

## Thumbs up, thumbs down

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Thumbs up for the long-awaited approval of the proposed Irondequoit development known as I-Square. Town officials and local developer Mike Nolan went around for years debating a tax-abatement plan. With a nudge from another Irondequoit resident, Assemblyman Joe Morelle, the sides recently reached compromise. One final hurdle: The county's Industry Development Agency must also sign off on tax breaks.

Thumbs up for Livingston County Sheriff John York, who is preparing to wrap up a nearly 45-year career with the department. York, who joined the force in 1969 and has been sheriff since 1989, has announced he won't seek a seventh term this year. He has been a regional law enforcement staple and a class act.

Thumbs down for gun manufacturers who say they will stop selling to New York police agencies in opposition to the state's recently passed stricter gun laws. One firm's sales director said the policy is meant to "even the playing field," arguing that if civilians can't buy semi-automatic weapons, the company won't sell to law enforcement. Who's side are these guys on?

Thumbs up for the 30-plus professional women who took part in the Young Women's College Prep Charter School of Rochester's first "Cool Women, Hot Jobs" Career Day last month. Speakers from a variety of fields educated seventh-graders about the wealth of career opportunities an education provides.

Thumbs up for SUNY Geneseo students, faculty, staff and alumni, and members of Livingston County CARES for recently spending a week rebuilding homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Sandy on Staten Island.

Thumbs down for the cancellation of the summer Empire State Games, which were to have returned to Rochester this July but have been put off until 2014 owing to financial challenges. With the state no longer the primary funding source, more than \$1 million in donations is needed to hold the games.

Thumbs up for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for taking steps to broaden its appeal, audience and financial support, as it seeks to make up a \$750,000 operating deficit. Greater outreach and more out-of-town concerts are among the welcome shifts in strategy as the orchestra, still smarting from reaction to the high-profile firing of former Music Director Arild Remmereit, regroups.

Thumbs up for listeners of 100.5 The Drive (WDVI-FM) and WHAM 1180 (AM) for pledging more than \$217,000 during the stations' two-day fundraiser Feb. 14-15 to benefit Golisano Children's Hospital. Funds will go toward the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility adjacent to Strong Memorial Hospital.

Thumbs down for the hackers that hijacked the Twitter accounts of Burger King and Jeep this week, spreading false rumors, obscenities and headaches for the national companies and, in some cases, their customers.

Thumbs up for the League of Women Voters, which celebrated its 93rd anniversary this month. Rochester's chapter is one of nearly 800 nationwide that work to protect voters' rights. They did so this year by using the birthday to draw attention to an upcoming Supreme Court case that will revisit the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Stay tuned.