

Saratoga Springs mayor: Borders' Broadway spot should be filled soon

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By PATRICK H. DONGES
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SARATOGA SPRINGS — At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Mayor Scott Johnson assured the council and city residents that he is working with local business leaders to ensure the Broadway building that is soon to be vacated by Borders Books and Music finds a new tenant in short order.

"We're not just sitting back doing nothing about this," Johnson said, noting sentiments of "anxiety" and "concern" felt by the downtown business community after the recent announcement that the store would close.

The closure will affect 37 employees locally and 6,000 employees nationwide as part of a bankruptcy protection filing.

Johnson said he has been in touch with representatives of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, the Saratoga Springs Downtown Business Association and the owners of the building, Buffalo-based developer Myron M. Hunt Inc., to help facilitate the movement of a new tenant or tenants into the space.

"It's not a real reflection on downtown Saratoga," he said of the closing, echoing statements made by local businesspeople that the store's closure was indicative of a flawed corporate strategy, not a flailing local economy.