



CROSSGATES



## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Media Contacts:**

Jill Shorter, President | Capital Region CANstruction: 518.221.6738  
Leslie Mugrace, Marketing Director | Crossgates Mall: 518.391.4014

## **14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CANSTRUCTION HELPS FEED THE HUNGRY; TALENTED TEAMS TRANSFORM CANNED FOOD INTO ART WITH COLOSSAL SCULPTURES ON DISPLAY AT CROSSGATES MALL WITH SUPPORT FROM MARKET 32 AND PRICE CHOPPER**

**Celebrating Capital Region CANstruction: “Lights CANmera Action” Themed Display  
May 6 – May 19, 2025**

*All cans, including those collected from visitors, are donated to  
The Food Pantries for the Capital District*

Exhibition: May 6 – May 19, 2025

Location: Crossgates Mall, Ground Floor, Two Locations Near APEX Entertainment and Dick’s Sporting Goods

*Fee: No Fee; Donation of Canned Goods Encouraged*

**Albany, NY** – At the 14<sup>th</sup> annual [Capital Region CANstruction](#) design/build competition, talented teams of architects, designers, builders, and engineers will join forces to create innovative and gravity-defying structures embodying the theme, “Lights CANmera Action!” The structures will be made entirely of canned food, instead of bricks, stone, glass, and other traditional building materials. Structures are comprised of an average of 4,000 cans. Benefitting [The Food Pantries for the Capital District](#), these structures will be on display at [Crossgates Mall](#) from May 6 - May 19, 2025. This will be the third year the event is being hosted at Crossgates Mall.

The 12 participating teams include [AOW Associates](#) with [Envision Architects](#), [CSArch](#), [Exyte](#), [kW Mission Critical Engineering](#), [Labella](#), [MJ Engineering & Surveying](#), [Mosaic Associates](#), [Ryan Biggs Clark Davis Engineering](#), [Stantec](#), [C.T. Male Associates](#), and newcomers [Colliers Engineering & Design](#) and [New Leaf Energy](#). An additional structure will be part of the exhibit and will be constructed by Girl Scouts from the [Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York](#) in support of Girls CAN Do, an annual program the girl scouts participate in that encourages not only STEM, but service to their community. All “building materials” used in the displays were purchased with generous support and coordination from [Market 32 and Price Chopper](#), the presenting sponsor, and will be donated to The Food Pantries for the

Capital District, a coalition of more than 70 food pantries in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties, at the end of CANstruction.

Visitors are encouraged to bring canned goods (tuna, beans, canned vegetables, soups/chilis, and fruit) to Crossgates Mall and participate in the CANstruction competition and food drive. Visitors can use their canned goods as ballots to vote for the winner of the People's Choice award. Donation receptacles will be stationed at each structure. A jury of designers, local business owners, and local dignitaries will also judge the structures. Awards include Best Original Design, Best Meal, Best Use of Labels, Structural Ingenuity, Honorable Mention, and Jurors Favorite. Additional awards include Largest Cash Donation and Best Signage. Along with juried prizes, a People's Choice Award will be bestowed on the structure that gains the most votes (most food donations) from visitors. Last year, nearly 4,000 cans were collected at Crossgates from the public.

"Canstruction combines art, architecture, and community spirit for a cause that matters— nutrition security," said Pam Cerrone, Director of Community Relations for Market 32 and Price Chopper.

"Market 32 and Price Chopper are proud to support Canstruction and the incredible creativity it brings to fighting hunger. Our support helps raise awareness and collects much-needed food for local pantries, one can at a time."

Leslie Mugrace, Marketing Director at Crossgates remarked, "We're excited to welcome the Capital Region CANstruction event back to Crossgates! Our visitors love seeing the unique structures come to life here in the center – and even better, it all supports a great cause. We're so thankful for our amazing shoppers who always show up to give back. It's an event we're proud to be part of, and we can't wait to see this year's creations!"

"Lights CANmera Action Canstruction will showcase a few familiar faces from the big screen, entertainment landmarks, and movie theater must-haves. Canstruction provides invaluable support to the food insecure in the Capital Region, while also showcasing the deep expertise and unlimited creativity of local design firms and contractors from the region," said Jill Shorter, Capital Region CANstruction President and Director of Marketing at Ryan Biggs Clark Davis. "Crossgates has been an amazing partner and aligned in our vision, and we are excited for thousands of patrons of the mall to see the exhibit over the next two weeks. The support that Market 32 and Price Chopper provides to Canstruction is unmatched; we are incredibly grateful for their partnership and philanthropic spirit. Over the last six months, 12 creative and passionate teams have designed an inspiring edible art exhibition by utilizing the same engineering principles they design our most essential facilities and infrastructure with. At the conclusion of the event, these colossal structures will be deCANstructed and thousands of canned food

items will be donated back to the local community. We invite all visitors to Crossgates to bring canned goods to vote for People’s Choice to further increase the donation we provide to The Food Pantries because together we CAN make a difference.”

Natasha Pernicka, Executive Director of The Food Pantries for the Capital District said, “CANstruction is a powerful example of how much we can do when we come together in the fight against hunger. We are incredibly grateful to the region’s design community for helping heighten awareness of the need for our programs and services.”

This year’s CANstruction is presented by Market 32 and Price Chopper, Crossgates Mall, with Ryan Biggs Clark Davis Engineering, Envision Architects, and [C2 Design Group](#). Others lending support with generous sponsorships include [Arnoff Moving, Storage & Rigging](#), [Camelot Print and Copy Centers](#), [American Council of Engineering Companies of New York](#), [Page/ Design](#), [Eastern Contractors Association](#), [Gabriela Gordon](#), Girls Scouts of Northeastern New York, CSArch, [JMT](#), [Curtis Lumber](#), [Turner Construction](#), [DeCrescente Distributors](#), and [Kone Elevator](#).

Since its inception in 2011, the Capital Region event has donated over **900,000 pounds of food and raised more than \$400,000** to help fight hunger. The local organization has big goals this year and is trying to break an all-year donation total of 1,000,000 pounds of food and \$500,000 to The Food Pantries. The chapter has consistently attained national recognition, most recently placing third in the world for Most Food Donated and first in the world for Most Cash Donated in 2023.

Capital Region CANstruction is part of the international program organized by the Society for Design Administration. CANstruction events are held annually in over 250 cities around the world including North America, Australia, South America, Europe, and Asia. You can learn more about Capital Region CANstruction at:

Website: <https://www.capregcans.com/>

Blog: <https://www.capregcans.com/blog>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/CapitalRegionCanstruction?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/CapitalRegionCanstruction?ref=br_tf)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/capitalregioncanstruction/>

Hashtag for Event: #thecansareback #lightsCANmeraaction #capregcans2025