

BUSINESS

Bank, gas station partner on \$4 million retail development in Clifton Park

Pioneer will be moving its branch in Clifton Park closer to Northway exit

By **Larry Rulison**, Staff Writer
July 29, 2025

Gift Article





Pioneer is colocating its Clifton Park branch with USA Gas at the intersection of Route 146 and Fire Road.
Courtesy Pioneer



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BY: 

CLIFTON PARK — Gas station owner Erin Ozbay will have some very buttoned-up neighbors at his new location.

Pioneer (the bank dropped the word 'bank' in its marketing) is colocating its Clifton Park branch with Ozbay's USA Gas at the intersection of Route 146 and Fire Road.

Pioneer gave Ozbay a \$3.9 million construction loan to rebuild his gas station and shopping plaza to include just USA Gas and Pioneer, right next door to one another.

Pioneer says the new 3,000-square-foot branch, which will replace an existing branch down the road at 843 Route 146, will include an interactive teller machine for "extended hours banking."

There will also be private offices in the branch for consultations with customers.

The 5,000-square-foot convenience store side of the retail plaza will have six pumps. The site, at 4 Fire Road, is just off the Northway. Pioneer approved the loan in June, the bank said.

The new location, which is closed during construction, is expected to reopen early next year. That is when Pioneer will move the existing branch to its new location closer to the Northway exit.

Pioneer CEO Tom Amell said that the colocation with USA Gas is part of the bank's business philosophy. "This new branch reflects our broader strategy of investing in the communities we serve by colocating with complementary businesses," Amell said in a statement. "By integrating financial resources into convenient, everyday destinations, we're making it easier for customers to access the services they need."

"I'm incredibly excited to work with a strong partner like Pioneer on this project, and to offer local residents a fast and convenient experience, from fueling up and grabbing fresh food or craft beer to banking, all in one place," Ozbay added in a statement.

Pioneer is currently floating a plan in Bethlehem to vacate a branch on Delaware Avenue for a drive-thru coffee retailer to be constructed, and then build a new branch next door where a vacant building now stands.

July 29, 2025



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Larry Rulison has been a reporter for the Times Union since 2005. Larry's reporting for the Times Union has won several awards for business and investigative journalism from the New York State Associated Press Association and the New York News Publishers Association. Contact him at [518-454-5504](tel:518-454-5504) or lrulison@timesunion.com.

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