



Ye Olde
Tri GOVNSMAN Valley
 "The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 19 NO. 52 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 28, 2023

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Fallsburg CSD Hosts Al Rasnick Do the Right Thing Award Ceremony



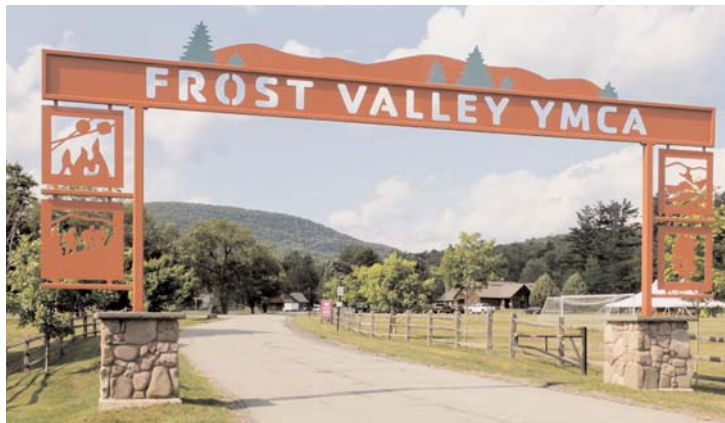
FALLSBURG - On December 20, 2023, three Benjamin Cosor Elementary school students, Awa Gai, Pedro Mendieta Quiroz, and Blerina Selimaj, and one Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School student, Angelina Levner, were named recipients of the Al Rasnick Do the Right Thing Award.

The purpose of the award is to commemorate students who have demonstrated excellent behavior and were caught doing a good deed. Teachers and staff nominate a student that they consider to be a positive role model and positive influence.

The award has been a tradition at Fallsburg since 2004 when then-School Resource Officer Ed Liotard, had the prize accredited for the district after observing the Miami Police Department's version of the Do the Right Thing Award. Since then, it has been financially supported by the

Town of Fallsburg judge, Bart Rasnick, and the Fallsburg Police Department. It was eventually renamed the Al Rasnick Do the Right Thing Award to commemorate Bart's father, the late Al Rasnick. (Contd. Pg. 4)

Frost Valley YMCA is hosting two Strategic Planning Sessions for the Local Community in January 2024



Claryville, NY - Frost Valley YMCA is pleased to announce it is hosting two sessions to solicit feedback from the local community for its Strategic Plan. After navigating through the last years of COVID and transitioning to new leadership, Frost Valley YMCA is ready to contemplate what the future has in store for itself and the local community.

Frost Valley has put together a key group of professionals to lead the development of a new Strategic Plan.

Through a series of listening sessions, conversations and team exercises Frost Valley YMCA plans to develop the strategic framework that will guide the organization into the future, and affirm their position as the camp where all can learn, grow and thrive.

The first Community Listening Session will be held at the Daniel Pierce Library in Grahamsville, New York on January 9th from 6:30 PM EST to 8:00 PM EST. The second Community Listening

Session will be held at the CVFD Warren Cole Firehall in Claryville, New York on January 27th from 12:00 PM EST to 1:30 PM EST. The session on January 27th has an option to join virtually via Zoom.

These Sessions require an RSVP in advance which can be found on the Frost Valley YMCA's designated portal for the Strategic Planning Process by going to frostvalley.org/strategicplan and selecting the RSVP link on the webpage. Frost Valley YMCA is a values-driven organization that fosters youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through outdoor educational and recreational programs for all. Located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, Frost Valley provides

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR
THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (ISSN 1558-9013) will be
published weekly for \$40.00 per year by

Gnome Home Inc.

EDITOR: Linda Comando - 845-985-0501

THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

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**POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the Gnome Home Inc. office. Telephone numbers will not be published.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

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Please send your ad copy to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or by regular mail to: **The Townsman**, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Monday for the current week's issue

NO EXCEPTIONS. All press releases/articles sent by email should be sent as **Microsoft Word Documents**. Photos or graphics must be in jpg or pdf format

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: I will say of the Lord. He is my refuge and my fortress: my God, in him I will trust
Psalm 91: 2

DAYS OF YOKE....

Today's History

January 6, 1954

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Coombe of Ridgewood, New Jersey and Broadacres, Grahamsville, New York announce the engagement of their daughter, Phyllis Ann to John Benjamin Gillette of Ellenville and Grahamsville. Miss Coombe is the granddaughter of the Rev. and Mrs.. William Coombe of Ellenville. Mr. Gillette is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gillette and the late Mr. and Mrs.. George Reynolds of Grahamsville

January 1, 1964

Lee S. Dayton, 71, died September 28 at Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City after a short illness. Dayton had owned and operated a garage in Grahamsville for man years. Less than two years ago he and his wife sold the business and moved to a new hoe in Endwell, NY. The Lahankos now operate a garage business in the same building that the Dayton's owned for so long. He was born on January 24, 1892 at Eureka, NY the son of George Dayton and Josephine Hasbrouck. He was married on November 15, 1911 to Delia Cross.

January 9, 1974

Life Scout Thomas M. Arielly of Grahamsville Troop 187 passed his Eagle Scout Review Board held by the Hudson-Delaware Council on December 27th. Tom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Arielly of Mutton Hill Road, Neversink. An Eagle Court of Honor will be held in February to honor and present Tom with his Eagle

January 5, 1984

Hulda Ferber of Grahamsville and Robert Ferber of Saranac Lake, NY wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Karla, to John Leyden of New City, NY. Miss Ferber is a graduate of Tri-Valley High School and is

now attending the Beauty School of Middletown. Her fiance graduated from Clarkstown North High School and is employed by the Ulster County Highway Department. A fall wedding is planned.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

In the early 1900's our family was always delighted when daddy brought in a jigsaw puzzle from the store and dumped it on the kitchen table. Everyone gathered around the table, straightening it out and making sure that the pieces were turned up correctly. And we didn't forget to take apart the pieces that may have been left together when put away. It wasn't fair to get a head start.

Daddy had a varied collection of puzzles which he kept in the store as us kids were always losing pieces from ours. As a result, we sometimes spent a long time looking for a missing piece that could have been swept up and was never found.

What a sense of accomplishment when the last piece was put in place. We kids were usually guilty of hiding a piece so we could be the one to put in the last piece. This was sure to bring cries of, "Not fair, not fair" from the others.

I think our family reaped hidden benefits from our evenings of puzzle making. We learned to cooperate when someone announced that he was looking for a piece that was "blue with a bump on top and bump on the bottom". Everyone would help find that certain piece and we learned to take turns. Most puzzles were not large enough for each one to have his or her own spot in which to work, so we had to wait until the other person finished adding a piece before we could add ours.

As we worked on those puzzles, we talked about our problems and our joys and hopes...and sometimes "guilt"...my dad usually had a hidden reason for most things.

I wish I could go back to those uncluttered days. We had few material things but we had family unity and that was the most important thing after all, don't you agree?

Nature Column - L. Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman Ladies that we have loved so much and lost... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry, Barbara Slater, Shirley Davis and Hulda Vernooy.

Cute Chubby-faced Chipmunks Still Enjoying a few Winter Meals in the Back Yard

Usually this time of the year Alvin, Simon and Theodore are the only chipmunks that we continue to see through the holiday season. This year with temps in the high 40's it is not unusual for me to be greeted by one of these little critters scooting through the woods when I take the dog out.



Chipmunks are quick and lively little rodents who belong to the squirrel family. With cute little pudgy cheeks, large, glossy eyes, stripes, and bushy tails no wonder they became a favorite among animators, which naturally led to their popular roles in Hollywood!

Chipmunks are classified either as a single genus, *Tamias*, or as three genera: *Tamias*, which includes the eastern chipmunk of the family *Sciuridae*. All species of chipmunks are found in North America, with the exception of the Siberian chipmunk.

They are generally seen in the Catskills scampering through the undergrowth. Many dig expansive burrows which can be more than 11 ft in length with several well-concealed entrances. Their sleeping quarters are kept clean as shells and feces are stored in refuse tunnels. Others make their homes in nests, bushes, or logs.

While chipmunks can be gray the popular chipmunks in our backyards are generally reddish-brown in color with contrasting dark and light stripes on the sides of their face and

across their back and tail. They range in size from 7.2 to 8.5 inches and 1.1 to 1.8 ounces, but can grow up to 11 inches and can weigh as much as 4.4 ounces.

Chipmunks generally gather food on the ground in areas with underbrush, rocks, and logs, where they can hide from predators like hawks, foxes, coyotes, weasels, and snakes. They eat grass, shoots, and many other forms of plant matter, fungi, insects, spiders, small frogs, worms, and bird eggs as well as cultivated grains and vegetables, and other plants from farms and gardens,

Cheek pouches allow them to carry food items to their burrows for either storage or consumption. Chipmunks hibernate, but instead of storing fat, they periodically dip into their reserve of nuts and seeds throughout the winter. This year they are having a few extra meals along the way as they are still gathering acorns and hickory nuts!

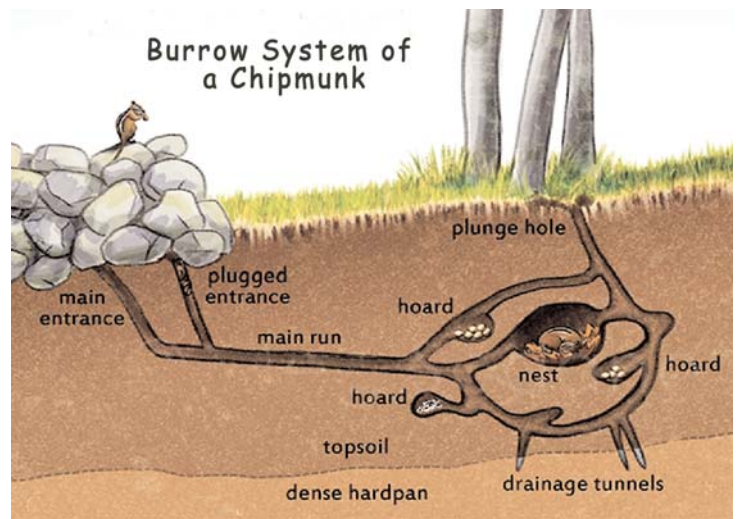
Chipmunks are hermitic creatures and remain incommunicado except during the spring, when mating takes place. Eastern chipmunks mate in early spring and again in early summer. After a 30 day gestation, they produce litters of four or five young twice each year. The young stay with their parents for about two months before they head out on their own to gather their own provisions for the winter ahead.

Chipmunks perform several important functions in forest ecosystems. Harvesting and hoarding tree seeds plays a crucial role in seedling establishment. Equally important is consuming fungi, including those involved in symbiotic mycorrhizal (association between a fungus and the roots of a vascular host plant) associations with trees. Chipmunks help disperse the spores of subterranean sporocarps (A multicellular structure in which spores or spore-producing structures are formed, as in many fungi and slime molds.) which have co-evolved with these and other mycophagous (fungi-eating) mammals and thus lost the ability to disperse their spores through the air.

For the most part, chipmunks, although susceptible to forest fragmentation, are not currently threatened and typically live about three years although some have been observed living to nine years in captivity.

Now that Christmas 2023 has passed, Alvin, Simon and Theodore's music that has been around since 1958 will soon be put back on the shelf for another year.

You may recall "The Christmas Song" (a/k/a Christmas Don't Be Late) sold over 4 million copies in just 7 weeks. Not bad for such cute little critters!



Holiday Household Hint:

Toilet Paper Roll Wrapping Paper Sleeve

This hint will save you from wasting wrapping paper each time you bring it out of storage. Rather than sticking a piece of tape along the loose edge, cut an empty toilet paper tube lengthwise and wrap it around a roll of wrapping paper. Cinch it up and secure the sleeve with a piece of tape. Next time you use the wrapping, you may rip the sleeve when removing it, but your wrapping paper will remain intact.

Sullivan County Sheriff Warns of Payroll Scam

Sullivan County Sheriff Mike Schiff is warning municipalities, school districts and any businesses that use direct deposit to beware of a scam that is currently being attempted in the area. The scam starts when a payroll clerk receives an email, supposedly from an employee, asking the clerk to update their direct deposit information. The email provides a new bank account number and other information for the employee's salary to be deposited into. If the change is actually made, the employee's next paycheck gets deposited into the scammer's account and the money is gone. "This scam can also be accomplished by fax if the company uses a payroll change form", said the Sheriff. "Payroll clerks should have a way to double check any direct deposit change requests and make sure that the actual employee is the one making the request", he said.

Fallsburg CSD Hosts Al Rasnick Do the Right Thing Award Ceremony

(From Pg. 1) Judge Rasnick provided remarks during the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of family influence when it comes to children's behavior. "Though these young students are getting the award, it is all trickled down from the parents, the guardians, and the grandparents," said Bart Rasnick. "They're the ones who instill these children to do the right thing."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz, congratulated the award recipients and wanted to thank the Rasnick family for their many years of contribution to the award.

Start the New Year Outdoors

Hurleyville, NY The public is invited to join Morgan Outdoors for a First Day Hike on Monday, January 1st from 2:00 - 3:30 pm at Mongaup State Park.

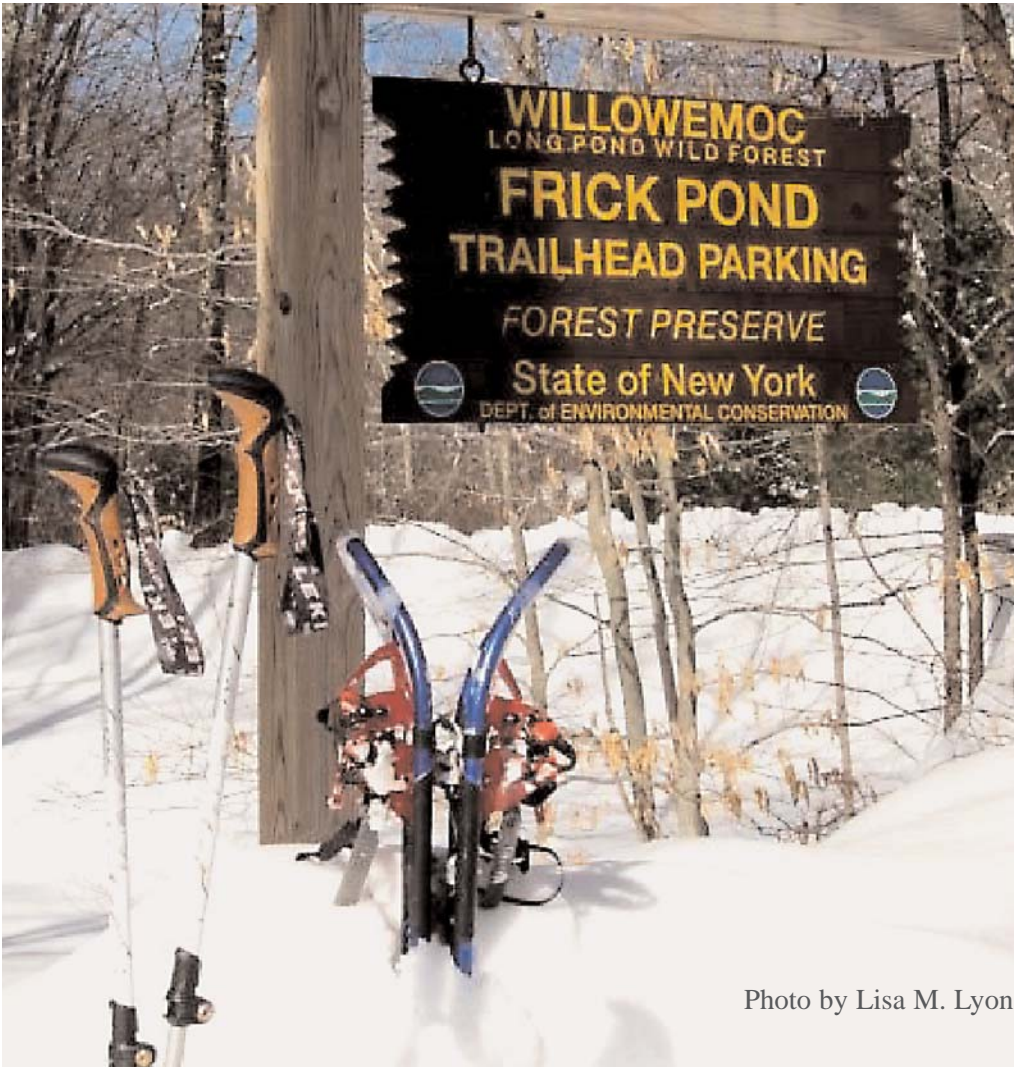


Photo by Lisa M. Lyons

Frick Pond, Willowemoc Wild Forest

Monday, January 1st from 2:00 - 3:30 pm at Mongaup State Park.

Celebrate the New Year with fresh air and friendly folks. The outing follows a 2.2 mile loop trail that is both inviting for beginners and pleasing to more experienced hikers. The pathway meanders through a hemlock grotto with views across Frick Pond, across a trail intersection named for Times Square, and along the edge of a woodland meadow.

Waterproof hiking boots are recommended. Depending on trail conditions, snowshoes or traction devices like microspikes may be required. If needed, microspike rentals are available at Morgan Outdoors. There will be a special New Year's toast after the hike! Participants must be 18 years of age and older. Well-behaved leashed dogs allowed with trip leader approval. Event will be held unless there are hazardous driving conditions.

Registration required, as the group size is limited. The trip leader is Lisa Lyons, owner of Morgan Outdoors. To register, send an email to Lisa at morganoutdoors@hancock.net or call 845 693 4181. All registrants will receive updates on where to meet, what to bring, and trail conditions. Co-sponsored by NYS DEC and Parks, with Morgan Outdoors, located at 234 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY. www.morgan-outdoors.com.

Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation
Ice Skating Rink
has opened for the Season



ICE RINK HOURS
2023-24 Season

(effective 12/17/23)

Wednesday

7pm-9pm

Thursday

7pm-9pm

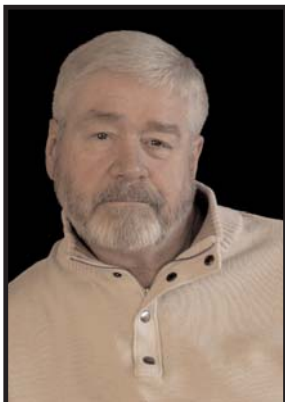
Saturday

1pm-3pm

Sunday

1pm-4pm

NOTE: Hours may change during the season based on weather, volunteer availability or usage.



Just in case you're wondering, we'll be re-running some of our best and most popular book reviews every other week from now on. They will be described as our Legacy Mysterious Book Reports. Send us a quick request if you have a favorite that you'd like to see again and we'll do our best to re-publish it.

The Border

by John Dwaine McKenna

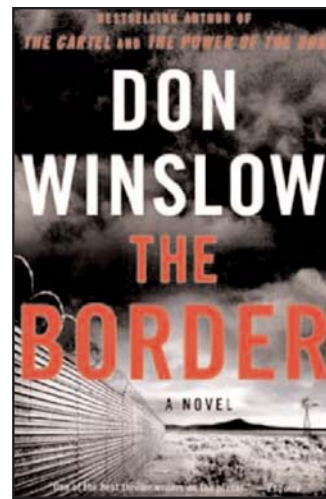
Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 68

Mysterious Book Report No. 368

Published January 7, 2021

No matter what side of the political and social rift you're on, we can all agree that our southern border – the invisible line – which designates the United States of America from the United Mexican States, is one of the most contentious places on planet earth. As such, it abounds with tales of human tragedy, hope, criminality, heroism, death, life, dreams and disasters. It is a place of legend, with stories too numerous to count, as well as a place of endless fascination. And now, in the culmination of a twenty-year effort from one of America's best crime fiction and thriller writers, it's the last volume of a trilogy about the drug wars . . . as seen through the eyes of a tough, pragmatic DEA agent named Art Keller . . . that began in 2005 with the publication of *The Power of the Dog*, followed in 2015 by *The Cartel*. Now, in what can only be called his magnum opus, crime fiction master Don Winslow brings it to a crescendo in *The Border*, (William Morrow/Harper Collins, \$28.99, 720 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-26648-8.)

Art Keller has spent his entire adult life fighting the drug cartels and trying to capture or kill the head of the Sinaloa Cartel: Adán Barrera, the godfather of all the Narcos. It's been a long and bloody fight that's cost Keller his family, friends, a partner who was like a brother, and a piece of his soul . . . but it cost Barrera his life. In a cruel twist of fate however, Keller, now the politically appointed head of the DEA, finds that killing one monster has created thirty new ones, and a new drug war has broken out in Mexico, with fresh young Narcos vying to take over. From his position atop the agency, Keller sees that the fifty year War on Drugs is a failure, and realizes that the enemy isn't just in Mexico, it's his own government, the addicts, users and dope slingers who



sell the poison that's killing 70,000 people a year from overdoses. Heroin is Adán's Barrera's legacy, and every time a junkie uses, someone makes money. Keller thinks it's fueling the US economy, but still puts together a far-ranging clandestine program called "Operation Agitator," targeting the politicians, financiers and bosses of the cartels. It's ambitious, far-reaching and possibly fatal . . . because one of the Narco targets has proof of Keller's involvement in a crime in Central America and is threatening him with exposure . . . while at the same time, Keller has evidence implicating the newly-elected US President's son-in-law of being involved in a real estate deal that uses drug cartel money to complete the financing.

From the slums of Guatemala City, to the financial canyons and corporate board rooms of Wall Street, to the halls of Congress and even the Oval Office of the White House, *The Border*, is epic in scope and far-reaching in content. It is a work of immense scale and deep impact that should be read by each and every voting adult in America. It's a thought-provoking blockbuster, and one for the ages!

Like the review? Let your friends know, You saw it in the *Mysterious Book Report*, because the greatest compliment you can give is to share our work with others.

And Hey! Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments!

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

OR

<http://Mysteriousbookreport.com>

**John Dwain McKenna's Books
are now available at the
NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE**



The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

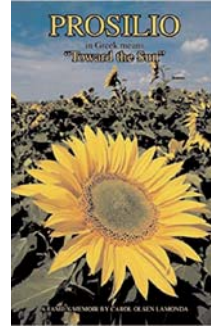
Planning for 2024

My new planner came today, "callous callay as the Jabberwocky would say!"



The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



"Writing is a form of therapy; sometimes I wonder how all those who do not write, compose, or paint can manage to escape the madness, melancholia, the panic, and fear which is inherent in a human situation."

Graham Greene

A whole new year of dated boxes, blank pages, and open possibilities came from Amazon. Working at school I kept a daily plan book, and I simply cannot live without a place to detail the day's events. Not only do I record appointments, but I chronicle the weather, important numbers, passwords, and thoughts worth saving.

Communication has both primary (speaking and listening) but secondary (reading and writing) modes. Each has an active and passive component. Most of our day is spent in primary mode. Little is spent in the very important writing mode.

List making, bracketing, and journaling are important functions of a brain too cluttered by all the information bombarding our tired brains to overload.

Think of a computer. We are uploading so much and downloading so little. Imagine our emails without delete and archive buttons!

Writing is "the inking of the thinking." Some of our thoughts need to be saved. Not all do. Why use up valuable space trying to remember something when a list can be made? Why worry about something, when we can "bracket" it by putting those cares and emotions onto paper? Why have a million scraps of paper when you can gather it all into a planner or journal.

My coworker, Edna, used to carry a steno pad with pencil handy to record important "stuff." That is how I use my planner like an Elizabethan day book.

My new planner is here and each page and box reminds me that there should be excitement in each day and that turning the page literally means new beginnings and surprises.

May 2024 bring you peace, prosperity, health, and delightful possibilities.



Daniel Pierce Library

Between the Bookends

'Tis the Season to be Readin'

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-With winter weather amping up, it's the perfect time for children to participate in our Daniel Pierce Library Winter Reading Challenge. Children ages 0 to 18 years of age can choose between completing the reading bingo sheet or the reading log-or both-from January 1 through February 29.

The forms are available to print online on our website or to be picked up from the library. Each participant will receive a book prize-and all the wonderful benefits of reading! Picture books, audio books and our Wonderbooks all count towards completion of the contest.

Having a few books checked out and ready for any impending snow storms will make the time in between (hopefully) sleigh riding and shoveling fly by! And while your children (or grandchildren) are stocking up and participating in our reading challenge, it would be the perfect time for you to take out some books as well. We have many beautiful cookbooks just waiting for you and a snow day to whip up a new chili variation or soup...but if you're looking for something with a little more spice...

The Knockemout series by Lucy Score is dynamite. This three book series centered on small town romances is on fire throughout the internet and we're having a hard time keeping them on the shelf. For fans of Colleen Hoover and Mia Sheridan, these books are sure to steam up a blustery night. The series starts with *Things We Never Get Over*, telling the story of bad-boy Knox and headstrong Naomi and how he rides to her rescue -over and over-as she picks up the pieces of shattered life her estranged twin leaves behind. With equal measures sarcasm, wit and a whole lot of "drama," it's definitely a worthwhile read.

And while we are on the subject of potential winter weather, please keep in mind that we follow Tri-Valley Central School District's closing protocol. So, if the school goes to a 2 hour delay or closes, we follow suit. We post any changes to our regular schedule on our website and Facebook pages, so if the weather looks a little iffy check before venturing out.



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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

Reflections of the Past

– Carol Smythe



"Zip" was a Grahamsville fixture over 50 years ago. It is reported that his birth name was Joseph Valva. This photo was taken by Sam Anderson in about 1962.



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The Scene Too

– By Jane Harrison

Not my usual this week, dear readers as this Christmas bug swooped in with a fever and bad cough.

It broke my heart to miss singer/songwriter SARA HULSE at CABERNET FRANK'S this last weekend. She is a favorite, I guess because I saw this shy young woman when faced with an audience blossom into a formidable performer. Rock on, my friend!

Some really exciting things coming up for this next weekend and beyond, though.

Friday, December 29th at 8pm it's TERI PARIS on the CABERNET FRANK'S stage with a one woman EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN! What a voice this woman has! One can easily hear the musical theater in her background. Last year, she was 'blizzarded' out, but this year we can all make it up to her.

Saturday the 30th at 8pm, on that same stage, it's MD and THE HEALERS. I'm hooked on these guys! I saw them described recently (and I can't honestly say where I saw it) as "...Russian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian serving up reggae..." Uniquely said and reinforcing that music IS the universal language we all speak.

Sunday, the 31st, New Years Eve, it's another helping of MD and THE HEALERS along with CAPTAIN MAGIC to dump 2023 and to usher in the kind of 2024 we are all praying for. I can't think of a better way to do it. Both bands are rife with professionals and I'm wondering if both will be on stage at the end. THAT truly would be a spectacular end to this crappy year! (not sure of the start time but probably 8pm)

And it continues!

Friday, January 5th 8pm, it's CON QUESO on that stage, bringing you all that cheesy music (mostly love songs) from the past...you know the ones, and if you find yourself singing along, well, no judgements from me since I KNOW I can't sing!

Sunday, January 7th, 2pm-4pm don't miss the opportunity to view what could be the very first automated bagel producing machine at the FIRST ANNUAL WINTER BAGEL FESTIVAL at the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM in Hurleyville. The event is hosted by LITTLE SPARROW (CAROL SMITH and ALDO TROIANI) who will be performing with guests HENRY SIMON and bassist JEFF ANDERSON. Learn how LOUIS WICHINSKY (dubbed the Hurleyville Hero of bagel making), back in 1942 was challenged to create this machine...so he did! See you all there for the music, the history and ...who knows, maybe a... This event is sponsored by THE FREDRICK COOK SOCIETY and admission is free.

I just found out that THE OTHER BAND will be playing THE HASBROUK TAVERN on Saturday, January 13th. Too soon to make this a definite, but I'll let you know next week. Last time I saw JESSIE NORMAN, GREG FISKE and the guys, was at the now defunct 17 West Brewery so it will be good to see them again too!

Before you get all preachy at me ("See! She's always talking about a mask, but SHE got sick!"), just know that I WASN'T wearing a mask where I knew I should be. I got lazy and just see what happened? I just got a new supply of purse sized hand sanitizer and I still have a few disposable masks left. So, when you see 'that masked woman', from now on it's probably me... 'cause I'm not trusting nobody!!

Stay well, stay safe and don't let this bug catch YOU!
Until next time.....

Message from Mountainkeeper

Together we did it. Earlier this evening, Governor Hochul signed the Birds and Bees Protection Act into law. We've all been working together to advance the Birds and Bees Protection Act in New York State for many years, and today is a day to celebrate. Please, email the Governor now to say "thanks." The new law will ban the use of seeds coated with toxic insecticides called neonicotinoids or "neonics" and prohibits neonic use for ornamental and turf applications.

https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=zMRUZVdkdicceVp_6iKnHmNywfh9yWKfs7l6XuFcN4RxIJGaLQYCNpb2tTI3DkuYeIagbbOm14dyg68-nsfY7kQyuU7Ihe4NsOERP7zQxO4&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm_source=catskillmountainkeeper&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bbpa_signed&n=2



This is a huge step toward protecting our bees, butterflies, and birds from being poisoned by toxic neonics and it would not have been possible without your help--thank you for sending thousands of emails, calling your representatives, and organizing in your communities to promote the bill.

Mountainkeeper staff have been tirelessly advocating for the measure in the Capitol and across the state, and today we hope you'll join us in sending Governor Hochul a thank you note at: <https://mountainkeeper.good.do/protectnyspollinators/BBPAtankyou/>

I know we've been asking you to send a lot of emails lately, and we appreciate your ongoing actions--your time and efforts are meaningful, and today's victory demonstrates that with these quick actions you're making a tangible difference. Please send this thank you today--it's so important that our representatives here from us when we're excited about their work, not only when we're calling on them to act.

On behalf of Dr. Kathy Nolan, Kate Hagerman, and the entire Mountainkeeper team, thank you for all you do to protect pollinators.

Ramsay Adams,
Executive Director

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

December 2023

TOWN OF NEVERSINK RESIDENTS ARE A FEISTY BUNCH

After over 20 years as Town of Neversink Historian, it's time for me to turn the page on this part of my life. My parting words include a shout-out to Town of Neversink residents. They come in different ages, shapes and sizes. Their religions and politics may be the same or they may be different but one thing is sure - they pitch in and help when it's needed and they are a focused group.

In 1878, the first version of today's Grahamsville or Little World's Fair was held. Today that fair is still being held. Way over a 100 years old and still an awesome event! Local folks began the fair; local folks kept it going through the years and local folks can be proud of the job they do today.

Tri Valley Central School is a grand example. This area had no high school. Those going to high school in this area went to either Liberty or Ellenville High Schools. A group of concerned citizens banded together; fought the State Education Department; found the funding and thus Tri Valley had it's own school.

A really current example is the Time and the Valleys Museum and the Lost Farm. This couldn't have been done without an amazing group of people and the willing partnership of the Daniel Pierce Library which was expanding and modernizing. No local tax money went into the Museum creation and development. Some grants, some wonderful donations by local businesses and a whole lot of individual ingenuity, creativity and good old hard work by local people!

Whether it's an ice rink, a new playground or a volunteer firemen 's group; there are always local folks ready and willing to partner and get things done. No wonder, I leave the historian's position full of awe and admiration for Town of Neversink residents.

It's with pride that I welcome Mr. Roger Edwards as the new Town of Neversink Historian.

Sincerely,
Carol Smythe



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First Day Hike at the Catskills Visitor Center

Kick off the new year outdoors with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's 13th Annual First Day Hikes program. Visit dec.ny.gov for details.

Please check our events page for information on the two hikes available.

Start the new year enjoying great views while completing one of the six fire towers in the 2023 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge!

Loop Trail and Upper Esopus Fire Tower at the Catskills Visitor Center, 5096 State Rt 28, Mt. Tremper, NY 12457

Please meet your hike leader at the entrance to the Catskills Visitor Center at 11am.

The 0.5 mile loop trail provides an accessible hike for everyone. Walk the trail with Catskill Center staff David Hans while he shares tips for enjoying nature. For those interested, the Upper Esopus Fire Tower will be open and available to climb. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable footwear.

To register for the hike, please call the Catskills Visitor Center at (845) 688-3369 or email info@catskillcenter.org. Provide your name, phone number, and email so we can reach you about any changes or cancellations. Advance registration is required and the hike is limited to 15 people. Space is limited

Annual Hiking Challenge Highlights Catskills Region and Provides Prizes to Participants

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the 2024 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge to highlight the world-class tourism destinations and recreational opportunities in the Catskill Park. Launched in 2019, the Challenge draws participants from every region of New York, as well as 11 other states and countries, including Canada.

"To introduce more New Yorkers and visitors to this awe-inspiring experience, DEC is renewing the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge for 2024 to highlight the spectacular vistas found in this majestic park," said Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Over the past five years, the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge has drawn thousands of outdoor enthusiasts to the unparalleled experience of viewing the natural wonders of the Catskill Mountains from one of the park's historic fire towers. The Fire Tower Challenge is introducing the next generation of environmental stewards to the Catskills, helping keep this tradition alive for future generations to appreciate and enjoy."

For nearly a century, observers watched the forests of New York State, including the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserve, from more than 100 fire towers perched atop the highest peaks, to search for dangerous, telltale signs of forest fires. This Catskills Fire Tower Challenge highlights the park's remaining public fire towers.

The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge encourages experienced hikers to visit the region's remaining fire towers located on Balsam Lake Mountain (Hardenburgh), Hunter Mountain (Hunter), Overlook Mountain (Woodstock), Red Hill Mountain (Denning), and Tremper Mountain (Shandaken), as well as the newest and sixth fire tower opened in fall 2019. The 80-foot-tall Upper Esopus Fire Tower is located at the Catskills Visitor Center in Mt. Tremper and provides an opportunity for visitors

who may not otherwise be able to undertake more challenging hikes to experience a fire tower on the high peaks in the Catskills.

For more information about the Catskills and to experience the easiest to reach fire tower in the region, visit the Catskills Visitor Center on Route 28 in the heart of the Catskill Park. Grounds are open to the public every day during daylight hours. Situated on 60 acres of forest, fields and wetlands, the Catskills Visitor Center offers a visitor information center, gift shop, 1.5 miles of peaceful nature trails (including ADA-accessible trails), picnic areas, a covered pavilion, wildlife viewing, Esopus Creek access, and much more. Visitors can connect with staff and find valuable information, maps, and advice about all the activities available in the 700,000-acre forest preserve.

Ross D. Levi, Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism, said, "The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge offers a unique way to explore and experience the great outdoors in this picturesque region. Climbing up a fire tower for a bird's eye view is an unforgettable adventure, and I LOVE NY encourages residents and visitors alike to join the challenge and discover another reason it's so easy to love New York State."

To participate in the challenge, hikers must hike to all six DEC-owned fire towers in the Catskills between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2024. Once completed, participants submit a log of their completed hikes along with a favorite photo to CatskillsChallenge@dec.ny.gov, or via mail. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 6, 2025. Full details can be found at the 2024 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge page.

All participants who complete the challenge will receive a letter and a commemorative Catskills Fire Tower Challenge patch designed with the 2024 completion year. The first 1,000 finishers will also receive a one-year subscription to DEC's Conservationist magazine. Again this year, finishers who completed the challenge multiple times will receive an additional commemorative Catskills Fire Tower Challenge prize. Upon completion, finishers will be able to download a customizable certificate and will be eligible to win prizes after the challenge period is closed. Finishers will be entered into a grand prize drawing. To promote responsible recreation, DEC will offer a bonus prize entry to finishers who also submit a photo of themselves practicing Leave No Trace™ while participating in the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge (e.g., picking up litter, carrying out, planning and preparing for their hikes, staying on the trail).

The 2023 challenge, which continues through the end of the year, has drawn more than 450 finishers to date. With DEC giving participants a full year to complete the challenge, hikers can take their time. Hikers who would like to get a jump start on the Challenge for the new year can complete their first fire tower of the Challenge as part of a guided First Day Hike. The Catskill Center, in partnership with DEC, will host a guided fire tower hike on Jan. 1, 2024, at the Upper Esopus Fire Tower. Space is limited and pre-registration is required for the hike. For additional details and to register, visit the [First Day Hikes 2024 page](#).

Stewardship of the fire towers is a partnership with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. The Catskill Center, through the Catskill Fire Tower Project, manages six fire towers in the Catskill Park for public access and interpretation under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with DEC. Dedicated volunteers help maintain and staff each of the fire towers on weekends and holidays throughout the summer and fall seasons.

Under the Adventure NY initiative, DEC is making strategic investments to expand access to healthy, active, outdoor recreation, connect more New Yorkers and visitors to nature and the outdoors, protect natural resources, and boost local economies. Read more about Adventure NY on DEC's website. <https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/adventure-ny>

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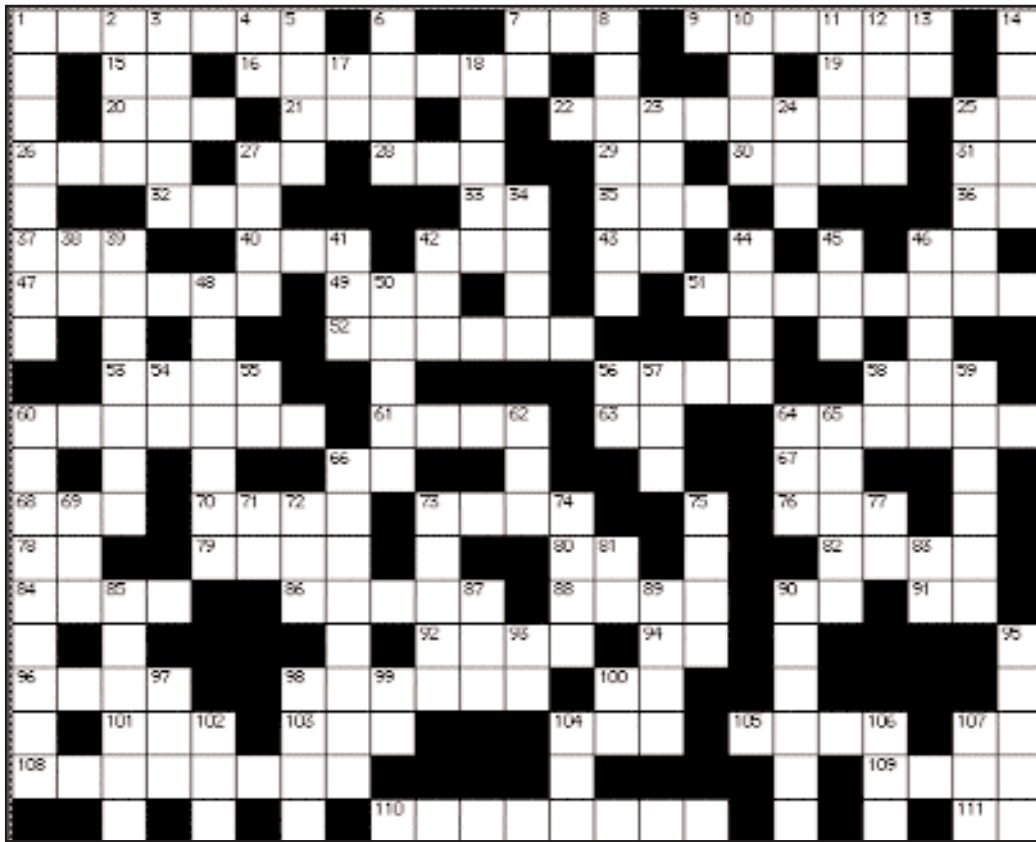
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Looking at the New Year with 2024 Vision L. Comando



DOWN
 1.Speech
 7 Short for goodbye
 9 Cope
 15 Exclamation of surprise
 16 Independence
 19 Read only memory
 20 Point
 21 Used to transmit and receive documents electronically
 22 Legal paper
 25 Mother
 26 Not closed
 27 Referring to something previously mentioned
 28 Hot brewed beverage
 29 North America
 30 Proficiency
 31 Chem Element
 Argon
 32 Consume

food
 33 Connecticut (abbrev)
 35 Lowest cardinal number
 36 Radiotelegraphy
 37 Used with a verb to form a negative statement
 40 Be able to
 42 In accordance with
 43 Maine
 46 Staten Island
 47 Enhance
 49 Expert
 51 Elected head of a state
 52 Financial plan
 53 Title of unmarried female
 56 Tidy
 58 Polite way to address an adult male
 60 Represent on a

map
 61 Network of paths
 63 Elevated railway
 64 Concerning people as a whole
 66 Used to call attention
 67 Indefinite article
 68 Furrow
 70 Capital of Norway
 73 Having two or more different colors
 76 Twitch
 78 To be
 79 Appear
 80 Exist
 82 Leave out
 84 Sturdy small military vehicle
 86 Demon
 88 Female spouse
 90 Head Nurse
 91 Used in a comparison
 92 Perceived with the eyes
 94 Egyptian sun god

96 Swiss Mountains
 98 Procedure
 100 Language Engineer
 101 Petroleum
 103 Key that allows you to escape a computer program
 104 Utility vehicle
 105 Paid regular employment
 107 Tool used to chop wood
 108 Guardia and Kennedy
 109 Besides
 110 Commission formed in 2013 to investigate public corruption
 111 Post Script

representative
 2 Occasion
 3 River that flows through Germany
 4 Source language
 5 Put through a sieve
 6 Way of sending electronic messages
 7 As a result of
 8 Wealth and resources
 10 Title
 11 Tall rounded vases
 12 Automatically
 13 Printer's measure
 14 Begin
 17 Bachelor of Arts
 18 Track down
 23 Walking stick
 24 Hearing organ
 25 NYS Governor who who died New

Years Day 2015
 27 Irritation
 34 Woody perennial plant
 38 Physically supported by
 39 Brass musical instrument
 41 Capture
 42 Performance enhancing drug
 44 Announcer
 45 Archaic use for over
 46 Mollusk with single spiral shell
 48 Public rooms used for gaming
 50 Mario and Andrew's last name
 54 Internet Protocol
 55 Chemical element tin
 56 Northeast deer
 58 Chemical

element anti-mony
 59 Authority to publish a particular work
 60 Herb know for healing properties that is subject of controversy
 62 Female sheep
 64 Touch

quickly
 65 Merger
 66 People without homes
 69 Utilize
 71 Southeast
 72 Light emitting diode
 73 Illegal creation of commercial web sites
 74 First light
 75 Concept
 77 Centimeter

81 Third note of the diatonic scale
 83 Iowa (postal)
 85 Ship abroad
 87 August sun sign
 89 Unencumbered
 90 Kudos
 93 Election District
 95 Compulsory contribution to state

revenue
 97 Drink slowly
 98 NY Baseball team
 99 Chemical element technetium
 100 Lieutenant (abbrev)
 102 Record
 104 Uniform Resource Locator
 106 Ocean
 107 Viper

Hearty Crock Pot Beef Stew

- 1 pound cubed beef stew meat
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 1/2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 1 stalk celery, sliced
- 2 potatoes, cubed
- 1/2 pound mushrooms, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bay leaf

Place beef stew meat into a slow cooker. In a small bowl, mix together flour, paprika, salt, and pepper; sprinkle over beef stew meat, stirring to coat.

Stir in beef broth, teriyaki sauce, onion, carrots, celery, potatoes, mushrooms, garlic and bay leaf.

Cover, and cook on Low 6 hours, stirring occasionally.

数字は単数に限る

	4			6		3	
7					6		9
	5		3	9			
3			5	6	2	8	
		8	7		3	4	
		1	4	8	9		5
				2	8		4
9		7					2
	3		6				1

Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

24 6 12 6 5 21 23 25 7 23 21 24 6 12 13 6 25 12 1 22 15 15 6 18

11 22 21 24 15 23 26 6 15 25 8 10 24 21 6 12 25 7 18

15 22 14 22 21 15 6 5 5 25 18 26 6 7 21 8 12 6 5

Kids' New Year Fun Page

- L.Comando

New Year's Wordsearch

C	G	E	H	S	S	Y	S	M	J	P	A	R	T	Y
Q	O	U	T	L	R	Q	R	A	P	L	G	I	H	X
O	M	N	A	A	Z	E	N	P	L	C	K	P	N	U
M	G	O	F	H	R	U	E	R	J	C	S	J	W	B
F	G	N	N	E	A	B	A	H	R	V	I	V	O	A
E	O	H	X	R	T	D	E	E	C	K	T	L	D	L
K	L	T	Y	X	N	T	S	L	J	U	T	A	T	L
C	D	J	U	E	X	O	I	K	E	Y	Z	V	N	O
O	L	R	L	N	L	L	K	X	U	C	V	W	U	O
L	Q	A	N	U	R	E	K	A	M	E	S	I	O	N
C	C	D	T	M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	U	C	S
V	I	I	R	A	E	Y	W	E	N	V	A	M	H	H
A	O	B	S	Z	E	U	W	S	X	F	C	P	V	I
N	Z	F	P	A	H	J	A	G	L	M	C	G	P	U
M	H	A	N	L	G	A	H	G	R	J	Q	D	O	Y

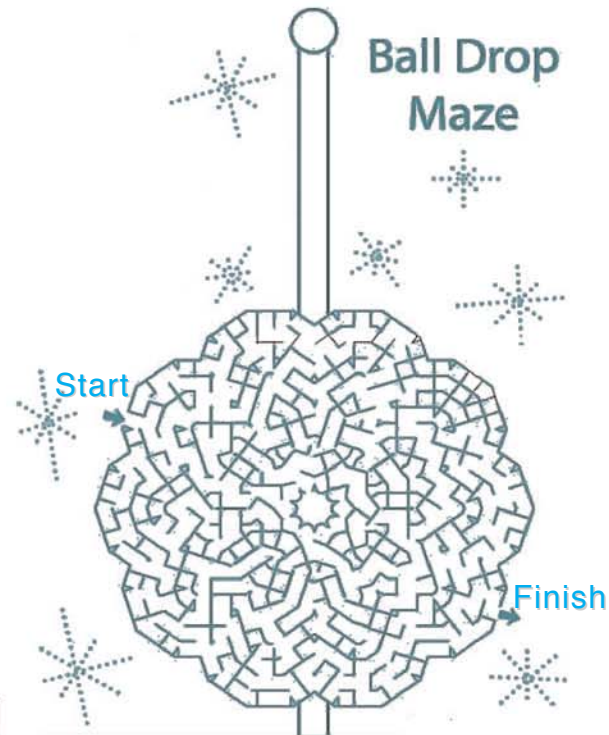
Find five differences between the two pictures.



Follow the dots to see something you may wear on New Year's Eve



- BALLOONS
- CALENDAR
- CELEBRATE
- CHEERS
- CLOCK
- CONFETTI
- COUNTDOWN
- GOALS
- HAPPY
- JANUARY
- MIDNIGHT
- NEW YEAR
- NOISEMAKER
- PARTY
- RESOLUTION



Cryptogram Key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	9	3	18	6	1	10	24	22	2	19	15	14	7	23	4	20	12	5	21	8	26	11	16	13	17

Sullivan BOCES Recognize Students of the Month

LIBERTY - Each month, students are chosen from the Alternative and Special Education programs at Sullivan BOCES to celebrate their accomplishments. As part of the recognition, their names are placed on a bulletin board in the main hallway of the Ruben Pollack Education Center for their classmates, teachers, and visitors to see. The students also attended a Principal's lunch to celebrate and honor their achievements. The following students were selected based on their academic achievements, character, attitude, respect for others, and attendance

Elementary students:

Adonis Washington (Monticello)
 Karissa Dinger (Monticello)
 Tristan Clark (Monticello)
 Ryan Olivera (Monticello)
 Steven (SJ) Boynton (Monticello)
 Shane Greene (Liberty)
 Savannah Jennings (Monticello)
 Evelyn Goodin (Monticello)
 Taylor Geagley (Fallsburg)
 Masoud Bradshaw (Fallsburg)
 Zabdiel Reyes Dubon (Fallsburg)
 Nathaniel Rodriguez (Monticello)
 Makai Cruz (Sullivan West)
 Judith Altman (Tri-Valley)
 Bailey Callender (Fallsburg)
 John Gardner (Roscoe)

Secondary Students:

Hunter Matthews (Tri-Valley)
 Nicholas Di'Chiara (Monticello)
 Evan Miller (Fallsburg)
 Zaniyah McKaney Roberts (Livingston Manor)
 Josh Slater (Liberty)
 Darius Duplessi (Monticello)
 Eric Simmons (Livingston Manor)
 Toni Phillips (Roscoe)
 Vincenzo Huffman (Ellenville)
 Shane Lopez (Liberty)
 Dorian Keillor (Sullivan West)
 Julius Grosse (Liberty)
 Anthony Sarno (Ellenville)
 Zion Bolden (Liberty)
 Albert Brown (Tri-Valley)
 Yadiel Toribio-Torres (Monticello)
 Jayden Quick (Monticello)
 Aiden Lopez (Liberty)
 Niko Franco (Monticello)
 Ricki Jones (Ellenville)
 Tajaye Dempsey (Monticello)
 Elizabeth Totten-Mitchell (Monticello)
 Ah-Mih Owens-Harris (Monticello)
 Zion Caffery (Liberty)
 Destiny Vandunk (Tri-Valley)
 Riley Schreiber (Eldred)
 Cody Terracciano (Sullivan West)
 Aarik Sauer (Fallsburg)
 Carter Feeney (Roscoe)

October

Elementary students:

Oliver Aguilera-Castillo (Fallsburg)
 Luciano Ortiz (Fallsburg)
 Erick Ruano Lopez (Fallsburg)
 Nicholas Ohlerich (Sullivan West)
 Bailey Callender (Fallsburg)
 Walter Canales-Paz (Fallsburg)
 Leah Talmadge (Monticello)
 Blanca Granados Alvarez (Fallsburg)
 Devon Tolbert (Livingston Manor)
 Anthony Kaminsky (Tri-Valley)
 Abdiel Reyes Dubon (Fallsburg)
 Gerald Stanton (Sullivan West)
 Nathaniel Knotts (Monticello)
 Taseh Holman (Monticello)
 Paul Beluli (Tri-Valley)

Secondary students:

Carlito Santiago-Colon (Fallsburg)
 Christopher Colon (Fallsburg)
 Carlton Oney (Monticello)
 Farris Abu Alghanm (Liberty)
 Paul Tsoucalas (Ellenville)
 Z a n i y a h M c K a n e y - R o b e r t s
 (Livingston Manor)
 Evan Miller (Fallsburg)
 Joshua Slater (Liberty)
 Daniel Edmonds (Monticello)
 Dakota Vaile (Fallsburg)
 Quincy Alexander (Monticello)
 Lewis Hollister (Monticello)
 Riley Schrieber (Eldred)
 Joshua Lutz (Liberty)
 Shayla Boyles (Livingston Manor)
 Joshua Jackson (Liberty)
 Thomas Gale (Livingston Manor)
 Marissa Hyman (Monticello)
 Aarik Sauer (Fallsburg)
 Kevin Rosales-Campos (Fallsburg)
 Jesse Guara (Monticello)
 Carter Feeney (Roscoe)
 Dorian Keillor (Sullivan West)
 Ah'Mih Owens-Harris (Monticello)
 Olivia Tagliamonti (Monticello)

November

Elementary students:

Saffee Fisher (Fallsburg)
 Alec Irwin (Livingston Manor)
 Baoer Jin (Ellenville)
 Kelbin Morales (Monticello)
 Giovanni Oliveras (Sullivan West)
 Kole Weekes (Port Jervis)
 Jasper Ramos (Ellenville)
 Gabriel Ackerley (Tri-Valley)
 Kaylee VanSickle (Sullivan West)
 Nyah Sehulster (Port Jervis)
 Damien Baurnefeind (Sullivan West)
 Isabella VanWold (Fallsburg)
 SJ Boynton (Monticello)
 John Gardner (Roscoe)
 Masoud Bradshaw (Fallsburg)
 Judith Altman (Tri-Valley)

Secondary Students:

Carlton Oney (Monticello)
 Mathew Flores (Tri-Valley)
 Ezekiel Oney (Monticello)
 Galahad Carroll (Fallsburg)
 James Smith, Jr (Monticello)
 Arisbeth Padilla-Leon (Monticello)
 Alyiah Andrews (Monticello)
 Evan Miller (Fallsburg)
 Zak Jones (Ellenville)
 Dorian Keillor (Sullivan West)
 Dallas Curry (Roscoe)
 Ricki Jones (Ellenville)
 Zachary Narozny (Roscoe)
 Michael Weiss (Port Jervis)
 Albert Brown (Tri-Valley)
 Ines Gomez Garzon (Liberty)
 Olivia Tagliamonti (Monticello)
 Anthony Sarno (Ellenville)
 Lewis Hollister (Monticello)
 Marissa Hyman (Monticello)
 Dakota Vaile (Fallsburg)
 Yadiel Toribio-Torres (Monticello)



Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Saturn



**Thursday, January 25, 2024
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

(For adults and students ten and up)

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! It's been over 300 years since Galileo turned his telescope on Saturn and first saw its spectacular rings. We will be watching the PBS Nova documentary on Saturn, showing us its beauty and newly discovered mysteries. Our experts will give additional insight and take questions as we explore. Weather permitting we will head outside to view this beautiful planet. If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

For Tri-Valley residents. Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org.

In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.



Daniel Pierce Library

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Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233
www.danielpiercelibrary.org

To register go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXmDINZtGaxxwgAgT3euIOIH6mHIIIfRwXGCJaxV8zfsaezjQ/viewform>

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**Notice of Neversink Fire District 4
Organizational Meeting**

Neversink Fire District
PO Box 394
Neversink, NY 12754

Please take notice that the Annual Organizational Meeting for the Neversink Fire District will be held on the Fourth of January, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Neversink Fire District located at 7486 State Route 55 in Neversink, NY 12765. This meeting will be open to the public. This notice is given to the media pursuant to the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. The purpose of this Organizational Meeting is to determine salaries, establish policies and procedures, as well as handle any other matter that comes before the Board.

Board of Commissioners of Neversink Fire District

Dana M. Vogler
District Secretary
Neversink Fire District

12/21; 12/29; 1/4

**TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL
AND WARRANT**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Nancy A Parrow, Tax Collector for the Town of Denning, Ulster County, State of New York, have received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Denning for the year 2024.

Taxes will be collected at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, N.Y. 12725 on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., and by mail to the Town of Denning, P.O. Box 277, Claryville, N.Y. 12725.

Taxes will also be collected on Saturday, January 27th, 2024 from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Denning Town Hall.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE as pursuant to Ulster County Law No. 8 of 2012 an insert has been provided describing each Unfunded Mandate required by New York State.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that taxes paid on or before the 31st day of January or postmarked by that date are paid without interest. On all taxes received after such date there shall be added interest of one percent of the amount of the unpaid taxes for each month or fraction thereof until taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the Ulster County Department of Finance pursuant to law.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of law, the tax roll for the Town of Denning will be returned to the Ulster County Finance Commissioner on the date of expiration of the Collector's Warrant for 2024.

Nancy A Parrow
Tax Collector
Town of Denning

December 28th, 2023

12/29

**Tri-Valley CSD
Board Meetings:**

1) Board Policy Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 4, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Secondary School Library Lower Level Media Center

2) Regular Meeting #13
Thursday, January 4, 2024
Meeting Opening Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.
Secondary School Library Lower Level
Proposed Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.
Secondary School Library Upper Level
Regular Meeting #13 Resumes - 7:00 p.m.
Secondary School Library Lower Level

Regular Meeting #13 will be on
Tri-Valley's YouTube LIVE Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl224vKQ8nAWhR6NVao24w/live>

**Sullivan Debuts Tax
Lookup Website
Former Site No Longer
Being Updated**

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck is pleased to announce a new way for the public to access tax records.

"We've worked closely with Total Collection Solution, an upstate-based company, to create and test this web-based platform," explained Buck. "It's a truly 'live' system, with real-time updating of data, including recent payments."

Accessible at ny-sullivancounty.totalcollectionsolution.com, the site replaces TaxLookup.net as the go-to location for Sullivan County tax data. To log in, type "sullivan-public" in the username field, and "public" in the password field.

Properties in all 15 townships are available to review. (TaxLookup.net information will no longer be updated for Sullivan County, though historical records may continue to be available.)

Note that the County Treasurer's Office only collects delinquent taxes (taxes from 2023 and earlier). Taxpayers should pay their 2024 County/Town taxes directly to the Town in which their property is located.

"Most towns are also setting up their own web-based portals to this new system," noted Deputy County Treasurer Kathleen Lara, "so that property owners can more directly access their data through their respective town websites."

The County Treasurer's Office welcomes questions at 845-807-0200 or by visiting the office.

Dept. of Motor Vehicles dates for the Neversink Town Hall. Jan. 11, Feb. 8 & Mar. 7, 2024.



Go on the Sullivan County Website at
www.sullivanny.us or search
sullivancountydmscheduling
to make an appointment.

Now conveniently doing business at 9 locations:

Grahamsville - 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY (rotating schedule)

Jeffersonville - 19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY (rotating schedule)

Livingston Manor - 95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY (rotating schedule)

Hortonville - 104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY (rotating schedule)

Wurtsboro - 2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY (rotating schedule)

Narrowsburg - 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY (rotating schedule)

Liberty - 15 Sullivan Ave. Liberty, NY (rotating schedule)

Bloomingburg - 13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY (rotating schedule)

Mobile Unit on Location 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Forms can be accessed through the NYS DMV website - dmv.ny.gov

For further information please call: 845-794-3872

DVAA Seeks Architect for Major Project



Narrowsburg, NY - The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) has been awarded a planning grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to secure the services of a qualified architect to help restore, renovate and add programming space to the historic 1894 Arlington Hotel which houses DVAA's offices, galleries, and recital hall.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the four-story building is located at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. It has been home to DVAA since 1981.

The grant will support preliminary design work, schematic drawings and a historic structure report. Completion of this phase is projected for 2024, followed by further phases over five years. The chosen architect for a successful first phase will be favorably considered for the entirety of the project.

"This project is driven by the inspiring input DVAA received from community members gathered over a series of focus group conversations we conducted over

recent years and our responsibility as stewards of this historic structure. This award is a vital spark to the start of an exciting new chapter for DVAA," notes Ariel Shanberg, DVAA's Executive Director.

Interested individuals and firms should contact Capital Project Manager Jeff Allison at cap@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

ABOUT DVAA

DVAA serves as the arts hub of the Upper Delaware Valley and Sullivan Catskills Region, giving artists platforms year-round to share their voices in our galleries, on our stages, and at our festivals, including Riverfest in July and the Big Eddy Film Festival held every September.

DVAA funds Sullivan County creatives and cultural organizations through our role as the county's Arts Council. In 2023, DVAA regranted nearly \$95,000 to 45 grantees. In addition, DVAA served as Fiscal Sponsor to various projects helping secure \$92,000 in additional funding for the arts to the groups in the region.

DVAA is located at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. Walk-ins are welcome. DVAA's venues are ADA-accessible. Gallery & shop hours are Thursday - Sunday, 11 AM - 4 PM, and by appointment. DVAA manages the Tusten Theatre located at 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY, where it has presented live performances, film screenings, and special events since 1991.

For more information, visit delawarevalleyartsalliance.org or call (845) 252-7576.



ST. MARK'S UMC
68 Clinton St
Napanoch NY

INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

Something for Everyone!



COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES

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434-7363 292-7160 794-2700 583-5445 439-4333

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MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES
CREMATION MEMORIALS & BENCHES, MONUMENT LETTERING & CLEANING

**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
Jan 6, 2024**

Many items from the Indoor Yard Sale will be available for sale at the Supper. Come check them out.

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

St. Mary's and St. Andrews Church
139 S Main Street • Ellenville, NY 12740

Mass Times
SUNDAY EUCHARIST
5:00 PM Saturday Evening
7:30 AM Sunday Morning
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
(Latin) 11:30 AM Sunday Morning*
(Spanish) 1:00 PM Sunday Afternoon
*Sung Mass 2nd and 4th Sundays

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
8:00 AM Monday through Friday
9:00 AM Saturday

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST
Schedule will be listed in the bulletin
<https://smsaparish.org/bulletins>

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)
6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY

Weekend Mass schedule:
Saturday afternoon: 4:30 pm
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday
Mass at 8:30AM.

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm
Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator
(845) 434-7643

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

A Blessed and Joyous Christmas to all!

**Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches
House Worship Plan
Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting - Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2029912673?pwd=R21JYUhyTVdsQWdMUXZvTEtCeGdLZz09>
Meeting ID: 202 991 2673 Passcode: 012740
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

The Bible Study continues every Tuesday at 7 pm.
If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please feel free to contact the Pastor, Seung Jin Hong. 845-985-2283

Grahamsville Reformed Church

The Church with a friendly welcome
Pastor Kenneth Ronk
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 9:30 am
P O Box 238 - Route 55
Grahamsville, NY 12740
845-985-7480

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041



Worship Services @ 10:00 am
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor
Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

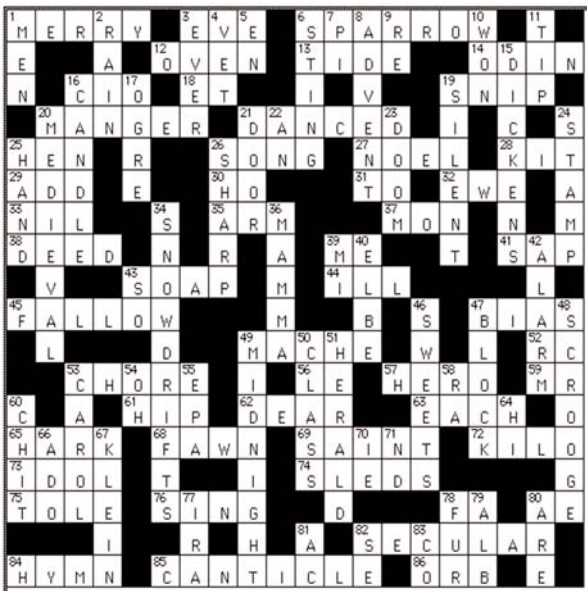
Loucks Funeral Home
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"


79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

St. Augustine's Chapel
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword





**GRAHAMSVILLE
UMC THRIFT MINISTRY**

We are no longer accepting donations for the Thrift Ministry. Thanks to all for your generosity which has helped to make a successful season. We look forward to returning in the Spring of 2023.

The Grahamsville UMC Mission Team

<https://grahamsvilleUMC.org>
GrahamsvilleUMC@gmail.com—Seung Jin Hong, Pastor

**Sundown
United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
Saturday,
January 6, 2024 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall**

Check out the tables with Yard Sale items available for sale
(Covered Dish Suppers are held the First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Church Hall)

All Aboard!

Join the Fun!
Play Mexican Train
FREE FUN every FRIDAY 1- 4 pm

in the upstairs meeting room at the Neversink Town Hall



Also **WANTED** People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

8	4	9	2	5	6	1	3	7
7	2	3	8	4	1	6	5	9
1	5	6	3	9	7	2	8	4
3	7	4	5	6	2	8	9	1
5	9	8	7	1	3	4	2	6
2	6	1	4	8	9	3	7	5
6	1	5	9	2	8	7	4	3
9	8	7	1	3	4	5	6	2
4	3	2	6	7	5	9	1	8

Action Toward Independence is offering a six-week course in Anger Management beginning on January 18

Do you have trouble controlling your temper?
Are you emotionally and physically bothered by little things that happen during the day?
Do you sometimes feel out of control?

We can help. **Action Toward Independence** is offering a six-week course in **Anger Management** beginning on January 18. It will be facilitated by Veteran Peer Advocate Matt Kleman and Program Manager Shawn Comfort.

Call 845-794-4228 or email ati@atitoday.org to register today, and begin the journey of taking control.

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS
Need a place to show and sell your crafts?
Call us at 845-985-0501
email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

VETERANS always **Free** search of the Archives for family or history of Sullivan County
at the **Sullivan County Museum**, 265 Main St., Hurleyville, NY.
For information call 845-434-8044.

12/29/24	Town of Neversink Holiday - 1/2 day New Year's
1/1/23	Town of Neversink Holiday - New Year's Day
1/3/23	Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting
1/4/24	Town of Neversink Organizational Board Meeting 7:00 pm
1/6/24	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church Hall
1/16/24	Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2024**
so that we may continue to post your meetings and events
throughout the coming year.

You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or
USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Unless otherwise noted, all **Town Board meetings** are held at the Town Meeting Hall, Bostock Road, Shokan at **7:00 pm.** Town Board Meetings are the **second Tuesday of each month** with the **audit/workshop meetings** being held the **Monday preceding the second Tuesday.**

Town of Olive Planning Board meets the **first and third Tuesdays of each month.** Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY. You can contact the Town Building & Zoning Department to confirm a meeting date if you would like to attend at 657-2015. If there is nothing on their agenda, they will cancel meetings.

Town of Denning - <http://www.denning.us>
Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

**Ulster County Legislature Weekly
Calendar Update
for the Week Of
December 25 - December 29, 2023**

All Legislative Committee Meetings are
Livestreamed at
[https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLe
gislation/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams)

Monday, December 25

o Christmas Day - County Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26

o No Meetings

Wednesday, December 27

o **CANCELED 7:30 PM - Fire Advisory Board, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building**

Thursday, December 28

o 5:30 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board Meeting - in the UCRRA Offices, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston

Friday, December 29

o No Meetings

**Help your
local business grow
Advertise locally in
*The Townsman!***

Classified ads - \$5.00
for the first 20 words/
20 cents each additional word

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-

\$6.00 per week

Business card ad (2" x 3")

- \$12.00 per week

(3" x 4") - \$24.00 per week

(3" x 6") - \$36.00 per week

1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$40.00 per week

1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$64.00 per week

(6" x 8") - \$96.00 per week

Full Page - 8" x 10" -

\$100.00 per week

Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week

•• **Full Page Flyer for
Local Municipalities
and Organizations -**

one time fee- **\$20.00**

(once the flyer is inserted
we will publish it each week
through the week of the event)

**As in the past, there is no fee for advertising
for our local churches**

**Low Rates
High Visibility!**

Swearing in Ceremony of the Sullivan County Legislature

On Tuesday, January 2, 2024 the Swearing in Ceremony of the Sullivan County Legislature will take place at 10:00AM in the Legislative Hearing Room (second floor) of the Government Center which will be conducted by the Honorable Meagan Galligan and the Honorable James R. Farrell.

The Sullivan County Legislature will then organize at 10:15AM in the Legislative Hearing Room (second floor) of the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701.

The 2024 Standing Committees and their memberships will be distributed through email on Friday, January 19, 2024.

The 2024 Meeting Schedule (February through December) will be distributed at the January 25, 2024 Full Board Meeting.

The January 2024 Meeting Schedule will be as follows:

There are no legislative meetings Thursday, January 4, 2024

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:00AM Public Safety and Law Enforcement
9:30AM Government Services
10:00AM Planning, Real Property and Economic Development

Thursday, January 18, 2024

9:00 AM Management and Budget
9:30AM Human Resources
10:00AM Public Works
10:30AM Health and Human Services

Thursday, January 25, 2024

9:00AM Executive Committee
10:00AM Monthly Legislative Meeting

Sullivan Debuts Tax Lookup Website Former Site No Longer Being Updated

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck is pleased to announce a new way for the public to access tax records.

"We've worked closely with Total Collection Solution, an upstate-based company, to create and test this web-based platform," explained Buck. "It's a truly 'live' system, with real-time updating of data, including recent payments."

Accessible at ny-sullivancounty.totalcollectionsolution.com, the site replaces TaxLookup.net as the go-to location for Sullivan County tax data. To log in, type "sullivan-public" in the username field, and "public" in the password field.

Properties in all 15 townships are available to review. (TaxLookup.net information will no longer be updated for Sullivan County, though historical records may continue to be available.)

"Most towns are also setting up their own web-based portals to this new system," noted Deputy County Treasurer Kathleen Lara, "so that property owners can more directly access their data through their respective town websites."

Payment of taxes due can be made by check, money order or credit card (Master or Visa, with a bank fee of 2.75% added to the balance) via mail, payable to the Sullivan County Treasurer, PO Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701; or in person at the Treasurer's Office on the first floor of the Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello.

The County Treasurer's Office welcomes questions at 845-807-0200 or by visiting the office.

Governor Hochul Public Employees Federation, Civil Service Employees Association Announce Agreement to Award Nearly \$3 Million in Backpay to NYS Employees Who Worked Overtime During Pandemic

Governor Kathy Hochul, Public Employees Federation President Wayne Spence, and Civil Service Employees Association President Mary Sullivan today announced an agreement to award nearly \$3 million in backpay to more than 2,100 New York State employees who worked overtime during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting this week, more than 1,700 PEF members and more than 400 members of CSEA and other unions, as well as unrepresented employees, will receive payments for work completed beyond traditional work hours at the height of the pandemic. Payments will be distributed during the next pay cycle on either December 20 or December 28.

"This agreement honors the tremendous contributions of New York State workers who went above and beyond to protect, inform, and serve their fellow New Yorkers at the height of the pandemic," Governor Hochul said. "As we enter the holiday season, we're putting hard-earned overtime pay back in the hands of the dedicated civil servants who keep our state running and I thank PEF and CSEA for their partnership on this agreement to give state employees the compensation they deserve."

PEF President Wayne Spence said, "PEF is committed to securing overtime payment for all our members who stepped up to serve New Yorkers during the pandemic. This was money they earned with their sacrifice, and we thank Governor Hochul for making sure public employees are fairly compensated. These hours were worked at great personal risk and helped keep New York operating during an unprecedented state of emergency."

CSEA President Mary E. Sullivan said, "CSEA is pleased to say we were yet again able to work with Governor Hochul in an amicable way to resolve these pay issues on behalf of our members. We look forward to our continued collaboration with the Governor and thank her again for her support and willingness to work with us on this and many other issues we face."

Under the agreement, 1,727 PEF members and 428 members of CSEA and other unions, as well as unrepresented employees, will receive payments averaging around \$1,375. Employees on Administration Payroll will receive payments on December 20. Employees on Institution Payroll will receive payments on December 28.

The agreement builds on Governor Hochul's commitment to supporting New York State employees. As part of her 2023 State of the State address, Governor Hochul launched a nation-leading initiative to offer 12 weeks of paid parental leave to more than 150,000 eligible New York State employees. The Governor also secured commitments in the FY 2024 budget to modernize New York's public workforce by waiving civil service exam fees through 2025; offering civil service exams on a more frequent basis; establishing state-operated testing centers for civil service exams; and expanding the 55-B hiring program to expand job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition, the Governor secured an historic increase to New York's minimum wage that would raise the minimum wage through 2027 and then index it to inflation.

“TRIVIA FOR A CAUSE”

hosted by the Kiwanis of Woodridge, NY Foundation, Inc.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Doors Open at 12:30 P.M.

Casa Mia Restaurant

205 Main St., Hurleyville, NY 12747

Come enjoy an afternoon of trivia, great food, fun, laughter, fellowship, and fantastic raffle prizes.

Advance reservations required!

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 Per Person includes delicious food, beverages, and entry for amazing door prize.

One to six players per team. Trivia winner(s) will receive cash prize.

Raffles and 50/50 tickets extra.

Proceeds will go toward our local projects, including donations to local food pantries, winter outerwear for young children, dictionaries for 4th graders, scholarships for graduating seniors, summer reading books for children graduating from Head Start as well as kindergarteners and those entering 1st grade, as well as other projects that benefit FCSD students and families.

Advance reservations must be made no later than 01/12/24.

For questions or further info, please contact:

Deb Jacobsen at 845-798-8795 or Diane Garritt at 845-866-3204.

=====

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
KIWANIS OF WOODRIDGE, PO BOX 722, WOODRIDGE, NY 12789**

Names attending: _____

Attending: _____ @ \$25.00 Each TOTAL DUE: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Trivia Contest for a Cause

Join in on the fun at Casa Mia Restaurant, 205 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY for an afternoon of trivia, great food, fantastic raffle prizes, and loads of fun and laughs when the Kiwanis of Woodridge hosts “Trivia for a Cause” on Saturday, January 27, 2024. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with Trivia starting at 1 p.m.

Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) entry fee per person includes delicious food, beverages, and entry for an amazing door prize. Raffles and 50/50 tickets are extra. Advance reservations are required and must be received no later than January 12, 2024. To make your reservation, or if you have any questions, please contact Diane at 845-866-3204 or Debbie at 845-798-8795.

Proceeds will go toward our local projects, including donations to local food pantries, winter outerwear for young children, dictionaries for 4th graders, scholarships for graduating seniors, summer reading books for children graduating from Head Start as well as kindergarteners and those entering 1st grade..... and much more.

Hope to see you at Casa Mia on January 27th, 2024!

Gillibrand Delivers Floor Speech on the Condition and Treatment of Hostages Abducted by Hamas

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand delivered a speech on the Senate floor to describe the condition and treatment of hostages, including Americans, abducted by Hamas.

WATCH GILLIBRAND'S SPEECH ON THE SENATE FLOOR at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T_eCgH6Cwc

Letter to our Readers:

Wishing You a Warm Holiday Season and Celebrating our Year Full of Wonderful Moments in 2023

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you! We at SHADOWLAND STAGES are filled with gratitude for supporters like you who have made this year extraordinary.

The year 2023 has been a promising time of rebirth for SHADOWLAND. In a year where the arts faced unprecedented

challenges across the country, your belief in our mission allowed us not only to survive, but to succeed. Your support helped us bring to life the musical hits MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET and ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE, the world premiere of JUST ANOTHER DAY written by and starring Broadway and TV star Dan Lauria, and the sold-out comedy sensation THE 39 STEPS.

The intimate exploration of OFF PEAK and the poignant relevance of SKELETON CREW showcased our commitment to pushing artistic boundaries and addressing the pressing issues of our time. The festive hit MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY closed out the 2023 season just two days ago. Additionally, SHADOWLAND ACADEMY offered year-round educational opportunities for kids of all ages.

Your unwavering encouragement, attendance at our productions, and generous monetary support have been the guiding lights that have kept our stages illuminated.

As we reflect on the success of 2023, we're excitedly looking ahead to the promise of 2024. Our upcoming season, crafted with your continued support in mind, is set to deliver the laughter, drama, and music that you've come to love from Shadowland-a madcap comedy, a rock and roll musical featuring familiar faces, an electrifying world premiere, and many more. We look forward to sharing these titles with you very soon...

Your continued support is instrumental in turning these ambitious visions into reality. As we approach the giving season, we ask you to be a part of our journey by making a contribution to SHADOWLAND STAGES. Your investment in us sustains our artistic endeavors and propels us towards a future where the arts thrive, challenge, and shape the narratives of our shared human experience.

Please consider a gift to SHADOWLAND STAGES to help us continue our work with you and the community.

Integrated Insect and Plant Management in Sullivan County

VIRTUAL - The spotted lanternfly is now present in Sullivan County and numbers are likely to increase in the upcoming spring and summer months of 2024. To help community members stop the spread of this and other invasive insect and plant species, Horticulture Program Coordinator Katie Gasior will be hosting an educational program with a guest speaker through Zoom on Wednesday, January 10th from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Within this zoom session, participants will learn more about invasive species of plants and insects causing issues in the county, how to remove them from the area, and how to prevent their spread in the future. Insect species to be covered include the Emerald Ash Borer beetle and Spotted Lanternflies. Plant species to be covered include the Japanese Knotweed perennial herb and the Water Chestnut grass. A question-and-answer session on the topics covered will follow.

There is no fee, but preregistration is required to participate. To register, participants can register online at https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm?dept=248. The program can be joined by computer or phone. More information can be found at <http://sullivanccc.org/events>. Those with related questions can email sullivan@cornell.edu or call 845-292-6180.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. The public can contact the office to request accommodations.

DEC Announces Nearly \$1 Million in Urban Forestry Grant Awards Funding Supports Assessment and Planning Projects to Promote Resilient and Equitable Community Forests

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced grant awards totaling \$978,820 for urban forest assessment and planning projects across New York State. These projects provide urban forest managers with an essential baseline understanding of urban forest conditions and support strategies to assess community forest needs and the equitable distribution of forest benefits.

“Healthy urban and community forests provide a host of environmental, economic, and social benefits by reducing air pollution, enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting watersheds, mitigating flooding, increasing property values, and improving public health,” said Commissioner Seggos. “DEC is making sustained investments in the health of New York’s environment and our communities through the State’s Environmental Protection Fund, providing crucial assistance to help forests thrive.”

Sun Trail Storage 

Sun Trail is a local family-owned business
God Bless America

Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd
and Route 55 Grahamsville, NY



Hours of Operation:
7 AM - 9 PM
Every day of the week
Call (845) 985-7923
or
(914) 672-3952

Please call for availability first

The awards are the first in Round 16 of the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Grants from the Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan categories. The 18 projects to receive funding were selected from 28 applications, evaluated on cost effectiveness, project planning, use of partnerships, support of disadvantaged communities, and inclusion of an outreach and education component. The urban forestry grants complement DEC’s ongoing initiatives to address climate change, environmental degradation, and environmental justice. A second grant award announcement for Round 16 for the Tree Maintenance and Tree Planting categories will be announced in 2024.

Funding for these grants comes from the State’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), with the specific funding for the UCF grants increasing from \$1 to \$3 million in the 2022-2023 budget. In the last 12 years, New York State has awarded more than \$14 million in urban forestry grants to support projects with a total value of more than \$20 million. Among the many environmental victories in the enacted 2023-24 State Budget, Governor Kathy Hochul and legislative leaders increased the EPF to \$400 million, the highest-ever level of funding in the program’s history.

In addition to New York State’s EPF grants, the application period is still open until Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. for New York State’s federal Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Grant opportunities. To apply for the Community Forest Management Plan Implementation in Disadvantaged Communities (\$10 million available) or the Ash Tree Management in Disadvantaged Communities (\$2.9 million available), visit DEC’s website.

UCF grant recipients in the Mid-Hudson Valley Orange County

o City of Newburgh - \$71,250: Tree Inventory and Management Plan Update

The UCF grants are part of DEC’s Urban and Community Forestry Program, which works to increase public awareness of the importance of trees and helps communities to create healthy forests while enha



ANGER MANAGEMENT

Mark your calendars! The course will run from Thursday, January 18, 2024, to Thursday, February 29, 2024. Class starts at 10:00 AM and ends at 12:00 PM.

Join us for this six-week course, which will provide you with effective tools for managing your anger. Learn how to identify anger re-activators and gain valuable tips to help you stay calm and in control.

For more information

and to register :

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www.atitoday.org

ati@atitoday.org



309 E Broadway, Monticello NY 12701

Local Farmers and Agri-Businesspeople Sought for Ag/Farmland Protection Board Submit Letter of Interest by End of This Month

Monticello, NY - The Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB), established by the Sullivan County Legislature in 1992, is seeking three new members:

- One position for an active farmer
- One position for an active farmer and/or other agricultural stakeholder and/or stakeholder from an organization dedicated to agricultural land preservation.
- One position for an agri-business



The term “active farmer” is defined by the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board as a person who actively farms land that he or she either owns or rents, and that falls within one of the following categories:

- not less than seven acres of land used as a single operation for the production for sale of crops, livestock or livestock products of an average gross sales value of ten thousand dollars or more; or,
- less than seven acres used as a single operation for the production for sale of crops, livestock or livestock products of an average gross sales value of fifty thousand dollars or more.

New terms will be for four years, after a new appointment and confirmation by the Sullivan County Legislature. Interested persons must reside in Sullivan County, and should send a letter of interest and statement of qualifications to AnnMarie Martin, Clerk to the Sullivan County Legislature, Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, PO Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701 or by email to annmarie.martin@sullivanny.us by December 29, 2023.

Under Article 25AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, counties are required to establish agricultural and farmland protection boards to assist in review of public land acquisition, review of non-farm projects within New York State Certified Agricultural Districts, formation and review of Agricultural Districts and the development and implementation of county and municipal agricultural and farmland protection plans.

The Sullivan County AFPB generally meets quarterly. During the 30-day window to include viable agricultural land into the New York State Certified Agricultural Districts, which occurs annually in April, members may participate in site visits to evaluate applications for inclusion into the Agricultural Districts. In addition, during the eight-year comprehensive review of an Agricultural District, members meet to review proposed modifications and prepare recommendations for the County Legislature.

The County is also updating their Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan in 2024, and the Board will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the plan.

Hygiene Drive



**SULLIVAN CATSKILLS
FOOD SECURITY
— COALITION —**

HELP PROVIDE HEALTH AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

Items collected will be distributed to food pantries throughout Sullivan County.

Items must be dropped off at a participating location by January 17, 2024. Look for a Donation Box at the following locations:

- Action Toward Independence, 309 E Broadway, Monticello, NY
- Callicoon Farmers' Market, A Dorrer Dr, Callicoon, NY
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, 64 Ferndale Loomis Rd., Liberty, NY
- CVI Building, One Cablevision Center Dr, Liberty, NY
- Kauneonga Post Office, 3584 State Rte 55, Kauneonga Lake, NY
- St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St John St, Monticello, NY
- Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North St, Monticello, NY
- The Tavern at the Arnold House, 839 Shandalee Rd, Livingston Manor, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MONICA PONCE-AGREDANO AT

**845-292-6180 ext.112
or
mp2255@cornell.edu**

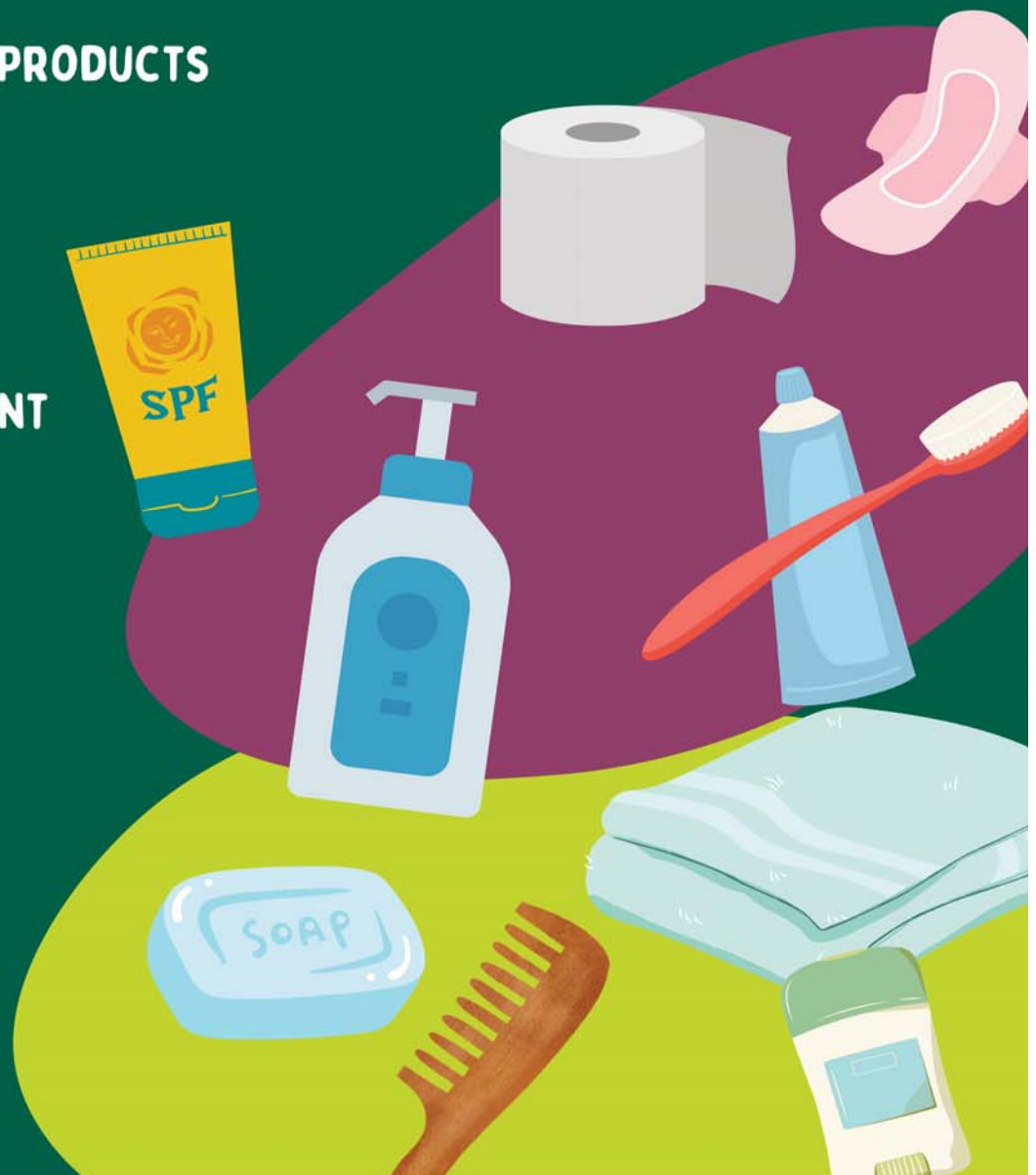


*The County Wide Hygiene Supply Drive is sponsored by the Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition. The Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition is a group of organizations that came together in 2021 with the mission to improve food access through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. For more information on the coalition visit our website at www.scfoodsecuritycoalition.org

HYGIENE ITEMS WE ACCEPT

***ALL AGES, TRAVEL SIZE & FULL SIZE, NEW, UNUSED, UNEXPIRED ONLY**

- TOOTHBRUSHES
- TOOTHPASTE
- SOAP
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER (FOR ALL HAIR TYPES)
- CURL-HYDRATING AND CONDITIONING CREAMS, SPRAYS AND OILS
- HAIR TREATMENTS (HOT OIL TREATMENTS) AND HAIR BUTTERS
- DEODORANT
- TOILET PAPER
- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- RAZORS
- SHAVING CREAM
- BABY WIPES
- DIAPERS
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- LOTION
- SUNSCREEN
- MOUTHWASH
- DENTAL FLOSS
- COMBS/BRUSHES
- SUNSCREEN
- Q-TIPS
- BATH TOWELS
- WASH CLOTHS
- HAND SANITIZER



Governor Hochul Updates New Yorks on Nation-leading Actions to address Opioid and Overdose Epidemic

Governor Kathy Hochul highlighted New York State as a national leader in combatting the devastating effects of opioid addiction, leading the nation in providing opioid settlement funding directly to impacted communities statewide. Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York has distributed opioid settlement funds to impacted communities faster than any other state. Recent actions to address the opioid and overdose crisis include ensuring all \$192 million in first-Year Opioid Settlement Funds were allocated by August 2023. Throughout the past year, New York State, led by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports and Department of Health, has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to support a full continuum of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services designed to increase access to help and support in every area of the state.

"I know how devastating it is watching a loved one navigate addiction, and how important it is to expand and enhance these services so that everyone is able to access the help and support they need," Governor Hochul said. "We are distributing historic amounts of funding to address this crisis, including through the opioid settlement fund, which is allowing us to hold opioid manufacturers and distributors responsible for the role they have played in this crisis."

Preliminary data shows more than 6,300 overdose deaths in New York State in 2022, with opioids involved in more than three-quarters of those deaths. To address this crisis, New York State is continuing to expand and enhance services to every area of the state, allowing all New Yorkers to access individualized services that best meet their needs.

Opioid Settlement Funding

In late October 2023, Governor Hochul announced that New York is leading the country with the pace and volume at which it is getting opioid settlement funding to organizations and local governments providing services in their communities. To date, New York State has made available all \$192.8 Million available from the first year of settlement agreements with opioid manufacturers. This funding is supporting a variety of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery initiatives to help New Yorkers impacted by the opioid and overdose crisis.

Initiatives supported through this funding include support for local governments, funding for supportive housing programs, expansions to treatment, including facilitating easier access to medication for addiction treatment (MAT) and other comprehensive addiction services, funding for recovery initiatives including recovery centers, outreach and engagement services to connect high-need individuals and populations with harm reduction and treatment services, prevention programs, and support for syringe exchange programs, drug user health hubs, increased telemedicine services particularly in rural areas of NYS, and the provision of harm reduction services to priority populations such as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, formerly incarcerated individuals, pregnant and parenting individuals, veterans, older adults and adolescents who use drugs. Additional information about these and other initiatives, and the status of settlement fund spending is available on the Opioid Settlement Fund Tracker on the OASAS website.

New York State is receiving more than \$2 Billion through various settlement agreements with opioid manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies that were secured by Attorney General Letitia James. A portion of the funding from these settlements will go directly to municipalities, with the remainder deposited into a dedicated fund to support prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery efforts to address the ongoing opioid epidemic.

The same legislation that established the dedicated fund also created the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board, which is tasked with making recommendations on how settlement dollars should be allocated to best serve those in need. Board members issued their first recommendations on November 1, 2022, identifying the expansion of harm reduction services and treatment as top priorities. The Board issued its second report on November 1, 2023.

Mobile Medication Units

In 2023, the first Mobile Medication Units (MMUs) began operation. These programs provide medication assessment, administration, and testing services to people in their own communities, and are designed to reach those who face barriers accessing brick-and-mortar locations. There are currently two operational MMUs in New York City, with several more set to begin operation statewide in the coming months.

OASAS has awarded \$5.5 million in federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) supplemental funds to support the development of these programs across the state. MMUs offer services that include admission assessments and medication induction, medication administration and observation, toxicology tests, and other medical services. The development of MMUs is made possible by a DEA rule change, allowing them to be operated by existing Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) providers.

(Contd.. Pg. 34)

**BECOME
SOMEONE'S
Angel**

Donate a little of your time and have a direct impact on someone's path to recovery!

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not HANDCUFFS
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Governor Hochul Updates New Yorks on Nation-leading Actions to address Opioid and Overdose Epidemic

(From Pg. 33)

Overdose Prevention

In the last year, the OASAS launched a new online ordering system for fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, and naloxone. More than 3.2 million fentanyl test strips and 2.9 million xylazine test strips have been ordered across the state through this initiative. These lifesaving resources are available to all New Yorkers, free of charge. The State Health Department has also distributed 873,000 fentanyl test strips and 340,000 xylazine test strips in the last year.

The State Health Department has the most comprehensive overdose prevention program in the country, with more than 1,000 registered programs and 5,155 overdose prevention sites. In 2023, 404,592 naloxone kits were distributed by these programs

Through the above-mentioned OASAS online ordering mechanism, an additional 70,000 naloxone kits have been distributed. For those looking to learn how to use naloxone, OASAS offers virtual naloxone trainings, which are open to the public, and educate individuals on how to recognize an overdose, respond by administering naloxone, and what to do after naloxone is given.

Of additional significance, in September 2023, under Governor Hochul, major commercial pharmacies began carrying the medication both online and in stores, as the FDA approved over the counter naloxone.

In May 2023, the State Department of Health's Office of Drug User Health established four drug checking programs operated by Department-funded Drug User Health Hubs. This care initiative is providing information to individuals on the content of their drugs. The current programs are located in the Southern Tier, Central New York, the Capital Region and on Long Island. More programs are set to commence shortly.

The Department of Health has also expanded funding for Drug User Health Hubs located throughout NYS, allowing agencies to expand services to additional locations, extend hours, hire additional staff and peers, and implement additional services including mental health, reproductive health services, sexually transmitted infection screenings as well as primary care.

Workforce Support

Supporting the addiction workforce across the state also continues to be a top priority. Following back-to-back COLA increases in each of the last two budgets, OASAS also provided funding to support additional workforce related initiatives.

More than \$13 million in opioid settlement funds were made available for individuals pursuing a bachelor's degree in Addiction Studies or the education requirements for an OASAS credential at Alfred State College, Stony Brook University, and Empire State University.

In addition, \$7.8 million in federal SAPT supplemental funds was also made available for a new fellowship program at four medical schools in the state. This innovative addiction workforce training initiative, which is the first of its kind in New York State, is enabling 83 New York State fellows with professional healthcare experience to gain educational training and development to best meet the needs of New Yorkers impacted by addiction.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

Governor Hochul is also dramatically expanding

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Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, which provide comprehensive services and coordinate care across behavioral health, physical health, and social service systems. Earlier this year, New York State awarded \$3.5 million to establish seven new clinics in New York City and six in other regions, with an additional 13 clinics to be funded next year.

New York State has instituted an aggressive, multi-pronged approach to addressing the overdose epidemic, and created a nation-leading continuum of addiction care with full prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction services. The state has worked to expand access to traditional services, including crisis services, inpatient, outpatient, and residential treatment programs, as well as medication to treat addiction, and mobile treatment and transportation services.

Governor Hochul was a member of the NYS Heroin and Opioid Task Force, which in 2016, recommended new, non-traditional services, including recovery centers, youth clubhouses, expanded peer services, and open access centers, which provide immediate assessments and referrals to care. These services have since been established in numerous communities around the state and have helped people in need access care closer to where they live.

The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports oversees one of the nation's largest substance use disorder systems of care with approximately 1,700 prevention, treatment and recovery programs serving over 731,000 individuals per year. This includes the direct operation of 12 Addiction Treatment Centers where our doctors, nurses, and clinical staff provide inpatient and residential services to approximately 8,000 individuals per year.

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the state's toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369).

UC Executive Metzger's First-in-the-State Decarbonization Capital Reserve Passes Legislature

*Government Operations Center Capital Reserve
Proposed by Chair Bartels and County Executive
Metzger also Approved*

KINGSTON, NY - County Executive Jen Metzger's signature Budget proposals to create two \$18 million capital reserve funds (\$36 million total) for County infrastructure improvements were approved by the County Legislature at its December 18 meeting. The two reserve accounts together dedicate \$36 million of the fund balance to needed investments in facilities and infrastructure that will save taxpayer dollars on avoided bonding costs over 15 years.

The Decarbonization Reserve will finance capital projects to improve energy efficiency in aged County buildings and facilities, replace fossil fuel-dependent HVAC systems and equipment at the end of its useful life with clean alternatives, and invest in on-site renewable energy. The reserve aligns with County Executive Metzger's "Climate Action Commitment" in Executive Order 1 of 2023, enabling improvements to County buildings, facilities, and transportation infrastructure that reduce climate-damaging emissions, improve resilience, and save taxpayer funds in ongoing operational costs for energy.

"In the face of the climate crisis, we are creating the first County Decarbonization Reserve in the state, and quite possibly the nation, dedicated solely to County investments that reduce our impact on climate change and improve our resilience to its impacts while also reducing energy costs to taxpayers for the long-term," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "This is a fiscally and environmentally prudent move that will pay dividends to residents well into the future."

The County Legislature also approved a Government Operations Center Capital Reserve, proposed earlier this year by Chair of the Legislature Tracey Bartels and included in County Executive Metzger's Executive Budget. The planned Government Operations Center will house the County's 911 Dispatch Center, Emergency Services Department, and Emergency Operations Center for coordination during natural and man-made emergencies, and will provide a secure data center for critical information technology infrastructure. The \$18M cash reserve fund is estimated to save County taxpayers over \$1 million in borrowing expenses annually.

"The Government Operations Center, which will now have its own dedicated capital reserve, will provide our 911 operators and emergency services staff the tools they need to keep our communities safe, and I am proud to work with Chair Bartels and the Legislature to commit funding to move this project forward," said County Executive Metzger.

By committing \$36 million from the County's fund balance, the two capital reserves bring the County in line with the new fund balance policy, which requires an unrestricted fund balance of between 15-20% of the County's total operating budget. The 2024 Adopted Budget reserves the full 20% of operating expenditures, akin to a "rainy day" fund to protect taxpayers from any future economic uncertainty. The County Finance Department will administer the funds, and the Commissioner of Finance is required to provide detailed and regular reports to the County Legislature that include

statements of receipts, disbursements, and balances. As the appropriating body, the Legislature must approve any spending of capital reserve funds.

Chair of the Legislature Tracey Bartels has been a staunch advocate for having the County make necessary investments in climate resiliency and renewable energy throughout her tenure. Bartels sponsored the resolutions in the Legislature approving both reserves.

"I was proud to sponsor and pass resolutions 702 and 364 of 2023 creating the Decarbonization Capital Reserve Fund and the Government Operations Center Capital Reserve Fund," said Chair of the Legislature Tracey Bartels. "These common-sense actions allow the County to fund much-needed infrastructure investments and transition away from dirty fossil-fuel heating and energy systems without wasting taxpayer dollars on unnecessary debt. Addressing the climate crisis has been a core focus of mine over the 16 years I have served on the Legislature, and even though I am stepping down this year, I am confident in knowing that the Decarbonization Capital Reserve Fund will be in place to continue the incredibly important work on climate that we have begun."

"I am also pleased to have been able to dedicate \$18M for the construction of a County Government Operations Center, a project that is sorely needed and one that I know the next Legislature will take great interest in supervising the project's budget and progress," Chair Bartels continued. "I thank County Executive Metzger for her dedication to making Ulster County Government do our part to fight the climate crisis and keep our residents safe, and I look forward to seeing all of the good work to be done with these funds in the future."

"I want to thank Chair Bartels for her work in advancing the Decarbonization Capital Reserve through the legislative process," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "She has been a tremendous partner this past year as we have worked together to implement new environmental initiatives and pass a budget that will fund climate-resilient infrastructure and renewable energy production. I have been lucky to work with her, and Ulster County has been lucky to have her leadership in the Legislature."

"The inspiring leadership of Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger shows that climate action and fiscal responsibility can go hand in hand," said Betta Broad, campaign director of New Yorkers for Clean Power. "By creating the first-ever Decarbonization Reserve to finance improvements in county buildings such as energy efficiency and heat pumps, Ulster County is demonstrating how we can implement our state's climate goal of transitioning off of fossil fuels while saving taxpayers money in the long term."

"The Decarbonization Capital Reserve Fund is a bold investment in environmental sustainability that will also provide economic benefits to the people of Ulster County," said Tim Guinee, NY Legislative Director, Climate Reality Chapters Coalition. "As the first such fund in New York State (and possibly the nation), this demonstration of leadership by Executive Metzger and the Ulster County Legislature uplifts a replicable model for substantive climate action at the county level which will serve as a beacon to other counties equally invested in the moral imperative of confronting the climate crisis."

Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has released the following statement:

"I appreciate the clarity provided by Supreme Court Justice Mott with respect to the authority and obligations of the Ulster County Comptroller. I especially appreciate Justice Mott's requirement that any investigation protects the confidentiality of employees and whistleblowers. I look forward to working with Comptroller Gallagher to ensure that Ulster County government is efficient, transparent, and responsive to the people we serve."

Ulster County Executive and Chair of the Legislature Visit White House to Discuss Local Impacts of Federal Programs

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger and Chair of the Legislature Tracey Bartels traveled to Washington, D.C., this past Thursday to speak at a White House meeting on local impacts of federal investments from major Biden-Harris initiatives like the American Rescue Plan Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Approximately 50 State and local elected officials and community and labor leaders from across New York were invited to the event, titled "Communities in Action" - one in a series of events planned for different states across the nation.



Chairwoman of the Ulster County Legislature Tracey Bartels and Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger at the "Communities in Action" event at the White House in Washington, D.C. on December 14, 2023

County Executive Metzger spoke about State and County efforts to reduce climate-damaging emissions and improve community resilience and praised the Biden-Harris Administration for the historic level of resources and support for such efforts under the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

"This Administration, working with Congress, has made a historic commitment of resources to our communities to address the climate crisis and bolster our resilience to its impacts, and we plan on leveraging those resources to the fullest here in Ulster County to invest in more resilient infrastructure and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "I appreciated the opportunity to provide a local perspective and also hear from Administration officials about pro-

grams to address a number of different issues important to our County, from housing for veterans to investments in broadband."



"It was a privilege to attend the Communities in Action event and to hear from the Biden Administration and local officials from across New York State about the many ways to leverage the vast array of resources that the federal government has made available to local governments," said Chair of the Legislature Tracey Bartels. "The American Rescue Plan placed unprecedented trust in local municipal leaders to determine how the federal funding would have the most local impact. Through a deliberative process, Ulster County and the Legislative ARPA Committee identified the greatest need and partnered with our towns, villages, and community organizations to have a multiplier effect. We have made improvements and investments in our local non-profits and businesses, municipal water and sewer, parks and rail trails, food security, and housing. The historic investments made by the Biden-Harris administration allowed Ulster County to take meaningful action in the area of mental health including funding the purchase of the soon-to-be-opened Crisis Stabilization Center, a dedication to fund respite homes, and a successful pilot program for mental health services in middle schools across the county. I am so thankful and deeply honored that Executive Metzger and I were able to represent Ulster County and share the success stories of our programs."



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SUPPORT OUR CLUB AND FUTURE YOUTH EVENTS
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WICKED RIDGE - RAIDER 400 DE-COCK CROSSBOW



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ERIC AKERLEY 845.707.1483 - CLUB MEMBER

WINNER WILL BE CONTACTED BY PHONE WHEN TICKET SALES HAVE RUN OUT

DEC Advises Visitors of Wet and Dangerous Conditions in the Adirondacks and Catskills

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today advised recreationists in the Adirondacks and Catskills of wet and dangerous conditions following recent mild temperatures and heavy rain.

The warmer weather and extensive rain melted much of the existing snowpack, swelling waterways and making water crossings dangerous with fast and strong currents. DEC advises visitors not to attempt stream crossings where bridges are not available. Water temperatures will be extremely cold and full or partial submersion can quickly lead to hypothermia. Waterways are not yet frozen and crossing of ponds or lakes should not be attempted. Avoid getting too close to stream and riverbanks as they may be icy.

The Adirondacks are experiencing extensive trail washouts and dangerous high water. Both backcountry and front country areas are affected, and a high-water advisory is now in effect. Severe washouts even in front country areas have been reported, including the Adirondack Rail Trail 0.5 miles north of the parking area on Washington Street in Tupper Lake. Other sections of the trail may be impassible and have the potential for washout. The return to colder temperatures will result in re-freezing along trails, making for icy and dangerous trail conditions.

DEC is working to assess the extent of flooding damage and will continue to provide current trail and infrastructure notices on the Backcountry Information for the Adirondack Park webpage.

If hiking in the Catskills, please be advised that the trails are wet and easily susceptible to damage and erosion. Hikers should travel in the middle of the trail, even if it is muddy, to prevent trail widening and visitor-created trails. DEC encourages hikers to park in designated parking areas and avoid parking along edges or roadsides where the ground is saturated and soft.

Additional information on safety precautions is available on the Adirondack Backcountry webpage and the Catskill Backcountry webpage.

Forest Rangers Wilderness Rescue in Shandaken

On Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m., Forest Rangers Horn and Sweeney responded to a call for a lost hiker in the Slide Mountain Wilderness. Coordinates placed the 17-year-old from Youngsville between Slide and Cornell mountains, approximately three miles from the trailhead. Rangers worked with New York State Police and the Big Indian and Claryville fire departments.



At 7:30 p.m., Rangers reached the subject, who was showing symptoms of mild hypothermia. He was in the middle of a two-night back-

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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles
← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road
Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles
← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles
→ Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
Gun Shop on LEFT

Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge
-Going Towards Olivebridge 7.5 Miles
← Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
Gun Shop on LEFT

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge Every Tuesday at 7 PM

46 North Street in Monticello

For information

contact

Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell at (845) 701-0695

packing trip that started at the Giant Ledge trailhead with a planned meeting with family at the Slide Mountain trailhead. Due to the steep and rugged terrain, snow accumulation, rapidly dropping temperatures, and exhaus-



tion, the hiker could not reach his planned destination. After warming the hiker with hot liquids, food, and hand and foot warmers, Rangers assisted the subject to the Slide Mountain trailhead where he was met by his family. Resources were clear at 2:30 a.m.

Spring 2024 Special Topics Course: Creating & Activating Public Spaces




Are you interested in parks or public spaces? Want to know how these places can improve the health of your community? Looking to explore more of Sullivan County?

Consider taking HUM1350 this spring, which will introduce students to the importance of public spaces for community health and wellness; careers and opportunities associated with caring for public spaces, facilities and grounds, parks and main streets; an understanding of the effort to engage citizens in creating public spaces.

HUM1350 • 3 Credits
Tuesdays 1 PM - 3:40 PM
Main Campus, G120
 Instructor: Shannan Cilento, AICP
 Community Development &
 Communications Manager, Sullivan 180

To register or for more details, scan the QR code.




SUNY SULLIVAN

Sullivan County Hygiene Drive

LIBERTY, NY - Help provide health and hygiene products for our neighbors! The Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition is sponsoring a county wide hygiene supply drive. Several hygiene supply drive boxes have been placed in Sullivan County to collect hygiene items at the following locations:

- Action Toward Independence, 309 E Broadway, Monticello, NY
- Callicoon Farmers' Market, A Dorrer Dr., Callicoon, NY
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, 64 Ferndale Loomis Rd., Liberty, NY
- CVI Building, One Cablevision Center Dr., Liberty, NY
- Kauneonga Lake Post Office, 3584 State Rte 55, Kauneonga Lake, NY
- St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John St., Monticello, NY
- Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North St., Monticello, NY
- The Tavern at the Arnold House, 839 Shandeleer Rd., Livingston Manor, NY

Items being donated must be new, unused, and unexpired. Hygiene items being accepted include toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and conditioner for all hair types, curl-hydrating and conditioning creams, sprays and oils, deodorant, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, razors, shaving cream, baby wipes, etc.

Items will be collected until January 17th.

At the conclusion of the drive, items collected will be distributed to food pantries throughout Sullivan County to be given to Sullivan County residents in need of those items. Those with related questions can email mp2255@cornell.edu or call 845-292-6180 ext. 112.

The County Wide Hygiene Supply Drive is sponsored by the Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition. The Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition is a group of organizations that came together in 2021 with the mission to improve food access through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. For more information on the coalition, visit our website at www.scfoodsecuritycoalition.org.

Corell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. The public can contact the office to request accommodations.

Governor Hochul Signs “Birds and Bees” Act, Nation-leading Legislation to Protect New Yorkers and Wildlife from Harmful Pesticides

Governor Kathy Hochul has signed into law Legislation S.1856-A/A.7640, known as the Birds and Bees Protection Act. This nation-leading legislation protects New Yorkers from potentially harmful toxins by prohibiting the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticide (neonics) treated corn, soybean, or wheat seeds and neonicotinoid pesticides for outdoor ornamental plants and turfs, creating important protections for New York's pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

“By signing the Birds and Bees Protection Act, New York is taking a significant stride in protecting our kids, environment and essential pollinators,” Governor Hochul said. “This law underscores our commitment to fostering a thriving ecosystem while we prioritize sustainable farming and agricultural practices.”

Legislation S.1856-A/A.7640 is a proactive measure to protect pollinators by restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on certain seeds, outdoor ornamental plants, and turf. It allows sufficient time for innovative research on alternatives and the development of more cost-effective products that are less harmful to the environment. After this period, the use of neonicotinoids will be subject to science-based evaluations and waiver provisions to assist farm and agriculture operations in the transition to this new program.

New York is committed to promoting the health and recovery of pollinator populations, as highlighted in the State's Pollinator Protection Plan (PDF). Pollinators contribute substantially to New York's environment and economy. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollinators provide approximately \$344 million worth of pollination services to New York and add \$29 billion in value to crop production nationally each year. The state's ability to produce crops such as apples, grapes, cherries, onions, pumpkins, and cauliflower relies heavily on the presence of pollinators.

This new law will build on action the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has already taken to restrict the use of many neonics and work with registrants to narrow the uses of many of these products to protect pollinators or state resources.

Last year, DEC took action to limit the unrestricted use of pesticides that can harm bee and other pollinator populations by reclassifying certain products containing the neonicotinoid (neonic) insecticides imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and acetamiprid as “restricted use” to ensure applications are limited to trained pesticide applicators in specific situations.

Governor Hochul continues to prioritize agriculture and recognizes its critical importance to New York's economy and role in protecting the environment. The state is proud to be home to over 33,000 farms producing some of the world's best food and beverages. Governor Hochul's 2023 State of the State Address and New York State's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget included strong support and investments aimed at boosting demand for New York agricultural products, bolstering New York's food supply chain, and ensuring all New Yorkers can produce and access fresh, local foods.

Physicians for Social Responsibility President and Pediatrician Kathleen Nolan said, “By signing the Birds and Bees Act, Governor Kathy Hochul has written her name alongside that of Rachel Carson as a defender of birds, bees, butterflies, and all forms of pollinators and pollinator-dependent wildlife. Families in New York will now drink cleaner water and eat healthier foods, with greatly decreased exposure to dangerous nicotine-like chemicals, and farmers can turn to more sustainable practices that promote soil health and provide us all with abundant and nourishing foods.”

2023 – 2024
- WOODSTOCK FARM FESTIVAL -
WINTER MARKET

OVERLOOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
233 TINKER STREET

SATURDAYS, 10 – 2

NOVEMBER 18
DECEMBER 2 & 16
EVERY OTHER WEEK
JANUARY 6 – MARCH 16



Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Expand Patient Access and Tackle the Rising Cost of Prescription Drugs

Governor Kathy Hochul signed two pieces of legislation aimed at lowering the price of prescription drugs and making the administration of pharmaceutical drugs safer. Legislation S.599-A/A.1707 increases the transparency requirements concerning prescription drug costs. Legislation A.6779-A/S.6337-A makes the administration of drugs by pharmacists safer and more accessible to patients by authorizing administering of additional medications for treatment of mental health and substance use disorder and requiring communication of the administration between the pharmacist and the prescribing physician.

“Too many New Yorkers are struggling with the high cost of prescription drugs - and I am committed to doing everything in my power to help,” Governor Hochul said. “This legislation will increase transparency and safety for all New Yorkers.”

Legislation S.599-A/A.1707 increases price transparency by ensuring that price increases are reported to the State through the Department of Financial Services. Legislation A.6779-A/S.6337-A expands the universe of injectable medications available to patients through pharmacies and addresses medical transparency as it relates to pharmacists and prescribing physicians. By requiring pharmacists to notify prescribing physicians of the administration of medication, New York is requiring a layer of communication that will keep patients safe.

Assemblymember John T. McDonald III, RPh said, “Allowing patients to receive their long acting injectable medications for mental health and/or substance use disease at their local pharmacy with patient consent is a meaningful effort to reduce barriers for patients who are looking to live their life and manage their disease. Thanks to the signing of this legislation by Governor Hochul, New York State is ensuring that patients have greater access to medication and care and this is critical in underserved areas such as the urban and rural areas that are turning into health care deserts. I appreciate the Governor's recognition that we need to meet patients where they are at and this legislation is yet another example of meeting that need.”

Senator Gillibrand Announces Expansion of Her Cyber Security Academy Scholarship Program in Annual Defense Bill, Encourages Students to Apply for Free College in Exchange for Public Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand held a video press conference to announce the expansion of her Cyber Service Academy scholarship program in the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Senator Gillibrand created this program to address a

widespread shortage in government cyber personnel, which leaves the U.S. vulnerable to cyber-attacks by foreign adversaries. The program will help develop a talented cyber workforce by granting successful applicants a free college education - including the full cost of tuition, select books and fees, a stipend, purchase of a laptop, and more - in return for public service in a cyber-related discipline in the Department of Defense (DoD) or the Intelligence Community (IC) after graduating. The expanded program mandates that the DoD provide 1,000 scholarships by the 2025-26 school year and allow up to 10% of Cyber Service Academy graduates to serve in the IC after graduation.

“My Cyber Service Academy scholarship addresses a dangerous shortage in cyber personnel in the public sector while also targeting the skyrocketing cost of higher education,” said Senator Gillibrand. “The program will help train a new generation of cyber professionals, allow them to graduate debt free, and provide them the opportunity to serve in the Department of Defense or the Intelligence Community after graduating. There are 20 eligible institutions in New York State alone and I encourage all interested high schoolers to apply at gillibrand.senate.gov/cyberacademy on or before February 1st.”

The Cyber Service Academy scholarship covers the full cost of tuition, required textbooks, fees (including health care), a one-time computer purchase, travel to attend cyber conferences, and room and board. The room and board stipend ranges from \$22,000/year for community college students, and up to \$32,000/year for graduate students. Applicants need to be either enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an eligible institution to be eligible for the Cyber Service Academy program. The deadline to apply for the next academic year is February 1, 2024.

Academy students will be required to serve in the DoD or in the Intelligence Community for one year per year of scholarship, up to five years. They are also expected to serve in internships during school breaks.

The following New York institutions are part of the Cyber Service Academy program:

Capital Region

- * Excelsior University, Albany
- * University at Albany (UAlbany, SUNY Albany), Albany

Central New York

- * Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica
- * Syracuse University, Syracuse
- * Utica University, Utica (including Utica University's MS in Cybersecurity program)

Southern Tier

- * Binghamton University (SUNY at Binghamton), Binghamton
- Finger Lakes
- * Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester

Long Island

- * Suffolk County Community College, Selden

Lower Hudson Valley

- * Mercy University, Dobbs Ferry
- * Rockland Community College, Suffern
- * The College of Westchester, White Plains
- * Westchester Community College, Valhalla

New York City

- * Fordham University, Bronx
- * New York Institute of Technology, Manhattan
- * New York University, Brooklyn
- * Pace University, Manhattan
- * St. John's University, Queens
- * City College of New York, Manhattan

North Country

- * SUNY Canton, Canton

Western New York

- * University at Buffalo, the State University of New York (UBuffalo, SUNY Buffalo), Buffalo



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



January 6, 2023
5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

and don't forget to check out the tables
filled with a variety of collectibles,
household items and more
that will be available for sale

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall
(Intersection of Sundown Rd., Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)

VETERANS

Do you get bored in the

WINTER?

Consider Joining

HUDSON VALLEY SHRED VETS



**A VETERAN ONLY SNOWSPORTS PEER GROUP.
NO COST. ALL SKILL LEVELS.**



Contact: Steve Masee Call/ Text: (845) 417-5795 Email: MaseeSJ@yahoo.com Social Media: @HVShredVets



Kiwanis Club of Monticello 2023

Bernie Shore/Rose Raimond

Fundraising Dinner

We are once again making our annual fundraising dinner available at a time of your choosing from Yanni's Café on Pleasant Street in Monticello. You can have your dinner socially distant "eat in" or "take out" at the window after ordering ahead at 845-794-2044.

Dinner choices (choose one):

Roast Beef Dinner

Grilled Chicken Platter

Gyro Platter

Vegetarian Crepe

Dinner Includes: Dinner choice, Soup or Salad, Choice of 2 Sides

Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance by contacting a Monticello Kiwanis member or by mailing a check made out to Kiwanis Club of Monticello, P.O. Box 413, Monticello, NY 12701. They are valid currently and may be redeemed at Yanni's through December 31, 2023

Thanks for your continual support of this important annual fundraiser. All proceeds benefit our local projects, including a Walk Against Hunger, aiding foster children, working with United Way to collect food baskets for holiday distribution, providing books for second graders and sponsoring scholarships for Monticello High School seniors.

For questions or information on obtaining tickets contact:
Marvin Rappaport at 845-701-1655.

Celebrating the New Graduates of County-Funded Welding Course *Nine Complete Successful Series of Free Classes*

Liberty, NY - Nine local residents successfully graduated on December 21 from a Sullivan County-funded welding certification course, the second in a series of skilled trades classes the Center for Workforce Development (CWD) is offering in conjunction with Sullivan BOCES.



Celebrating the welding students' graduation on December 21 were, standing from the left, Center for Workforce Development Employment & Training Supervisor Renee Vandermark, BOCES Instructor Nick Conklin, grad Peter Smith, grad Steven Koskey, grad Daniel Johnston, grad Kevin Alvarado, grad George Santiago, and CWD Director Loreen Gebelein; and sitting from the left, grads Ethan Williams, Ashley Male and Dominick Furlipa. Missing from the photo is grad Isaiah McNeil.

“Congratulations to these hardworking adults, who made time in their lives to learn new skills, improve their job prospects and aim for higher wages and responsibilities,” said CWD Director Loreen Gebelein. “Thanks to the Legislature's financial commitment, the CWD continues to enhance our local workforce with practical, career-building skills.”

The 10-week program was administered by the CWD, part of the County's Division of Community Resources. Open to those 18 and older who applied and passed a rigorous selection process, classes were held twice a week at BOCES' Rubin Pollack Education Center on Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty. Tuition for the course was entirely paid for by the County.

“I was very impressed by the students, their instructor Nick Conklin, and their capability for precise, quality work in such a short time period,” affirmed Assistant County Manager Michelle Huck. “But I was most impressed with the fact that we invested in a group of people already intent on bettering their lives, families and the County in general.”

“This was hands-on training in a facility designed to teach basic welding, and graduates of this program are now ready to work - or are already employed - with a number of local employers who value their newfound skills,” said Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley. “We offered a similar course in construction trades earlier in 2023, and I look forward to continuing this transformative initiative in 2024.”

“We are proud of the nine individuals who have completed this program and wish them the best of luck and success as they use their knowledge to advance in their existing jobs or start a new career. Each student was determined to learn the art of welding and earn their certifications and should be proud of their accomplishment,” said Robert M. Dufour, Ed.D., District Superintendent/CEO at Sullivan BOCES. “Our partnership with the Center for Workforce Development and the County has been outstanding, and we look forward to working with them to provide future educational opportunities for adult learners, which will help build and maintain our County's workforce.”

To find out more or to apply, contact the Center for Workforce Development at 845-794-3340 or scwd@sullivanny.us.



DEC Releases Final New York State Solid Waste Management Plan

Plan Guides Next Decade of State and Local Actions to Prioritize a Circular Economy to Promote Reuse, Prevent Landfilling, and Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the finalization of the 2023-2032 New York State Solid Waste Management Plan, a milestone in the State's ongoing efforts to ensure New York is at the forefront of rethinking waste. The New York State Solid Waste Management Plan: Building the Circular Economy through Sustainable Materials Management is a 10-year plan that describes actions to reduce the climate impact of solid waste and provides direction for New York's waste reduction, reuse, recycling, collection, transportation, and disposal investments, policies, and practices over the next decade. The prior plan, Beyond Waste: A Sustainable Materials Management Strategy, was released in 2010.

“The State's new Solid Waste Management Plan is a roadmap for advancing more sustainable solid waste management to reduce landfilled waste and address one of New York's largest contributors to climate-altering greenhouse gases,” Commissioner Seggos said. “Working closely with DEC's State, local, and community partners, New York State is bolstering existing efforts to divert waste from landfills, return materials back to productive use, and reduce climate emissions.”

Diverting waste from landfills and renewing a resilient and recycled supply chain is integral to achieving goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act that include reducing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting a just and equitable transition to a greener economy. The Solid Waste Management Plan sets forth six major focus areas to move the circular economy and materials management industry forward in New York State:

- o Waste Reduction and Reuse;
- o Recycling and Recycling Market Development and Resiliency;
- o Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility;
- o Organics Reduction and Recycling;
- o Toxics Reduction in Products; and
- o Advanced Design and Operation of Solid Waste Management Facilities and Related Activities.

DEC is already taking action to support items identified in the Plan, including:

- o Awarding nearly \$2.9 million in grant funding to 23 municipalities statewide to help establish or expand food scrap recycling programs and facilities. Nearly \$1.9 million of this funding was prioritized to 13 projects serving communities in Potential Environmental Justice Areas and helps support the continued equitable development of the organics recycling industry across the state.
- o DEC awarded nearly \$2.2 million in grant funding to 47

emergency food relief organizations to assist with the purchase of equipment (such as trucks, refrigerated vehicles, freezers, and refrigerators) which will assist these organizations in providing food to the more than two million people in New York State facing hunger. This financial assistance addresses the capacity and transportation needs of emergency food relief organizations across the State and supports the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling law. DEC recently celebrated a milestone in the law's implementation by reaching five million pounds of food donated to New Yorkers in need through DEC's initiative with Feeding New York State.

- o DEC received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program to assist New York in implementing online reporting for solid waste management and recycling facilities regulated by DEC, helping facilitate timely data reporting, data evaluation, compliance evaluations, and enforcement.

- o DEC is engaging with reuse partners across the state and will continue to work more closely with partners to identify needs to expand infrastructure and building material reuse, promote deconstruction and reuse through outreach and education, and develop priorities and strategies to ensure materials from the built environment are reused for their highest and best use. The action items and the State's investments are designed to move New York State to an 85 percent total waste stream recycling rate by 2050. Several initiatives to advance waste reduction were also included in the State's Climate Action Council final Scoping Plan and would require legislative changes, such as expanding the State's food donation and food scraps recycling law, reducing packaging and paper product waste, and proposing disposal disincentives on all waste landfilled or combusted in New York.

DEC recognizes the importance of partnerships in achieving the solid waste management objectives for 2032 and beyond. As part of the public process in developing the plan, DEC released a draft for public review in March 2023 along with an informational webinar and an extended public comment period. The final plan released today includes revisions and clarifications based on the DEC's review of approximately 1,400 comments submitted by individuals, organizations, municipalities, associations, elected officials, businesses, among other stakeholders. To review DEC's assessment of public comments received on the draft plan, visit DEC's website: New York State Solid Waste Management Plan - NYSDEC.

Gillibrand Delivers Floor Speech on the Condition and Treatment of Hostages Abducted by Hamas

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand delivered a speech on the Senate floor to describe the condition and treatment of hostages, including Americans, abducted by Hamas.

WATCH GILLIBRAND'S SPEECH ON THE SENATE FLOOR at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T_eCgH6Cwc



ELEMENTARY SOCIAL SKILLS

Registration is open for Grades K-5.

Action Toward Independence offers fun and interactive Social Skills groups for children with Autism and other developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities. These informative sessions cover topics that promote positive behavior, improve interactions with others and build confidence.

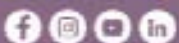
- Manners
- Listening
- Hygiene
- Emotions

Social skills classes will be held in person at ATI Main Office at 309 E Broadway in Monticello, NY. Parents may be required to attend some sessions with their child to offer guidance and support.

Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.

Visit our website at

atitoday.org



SCAN ME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

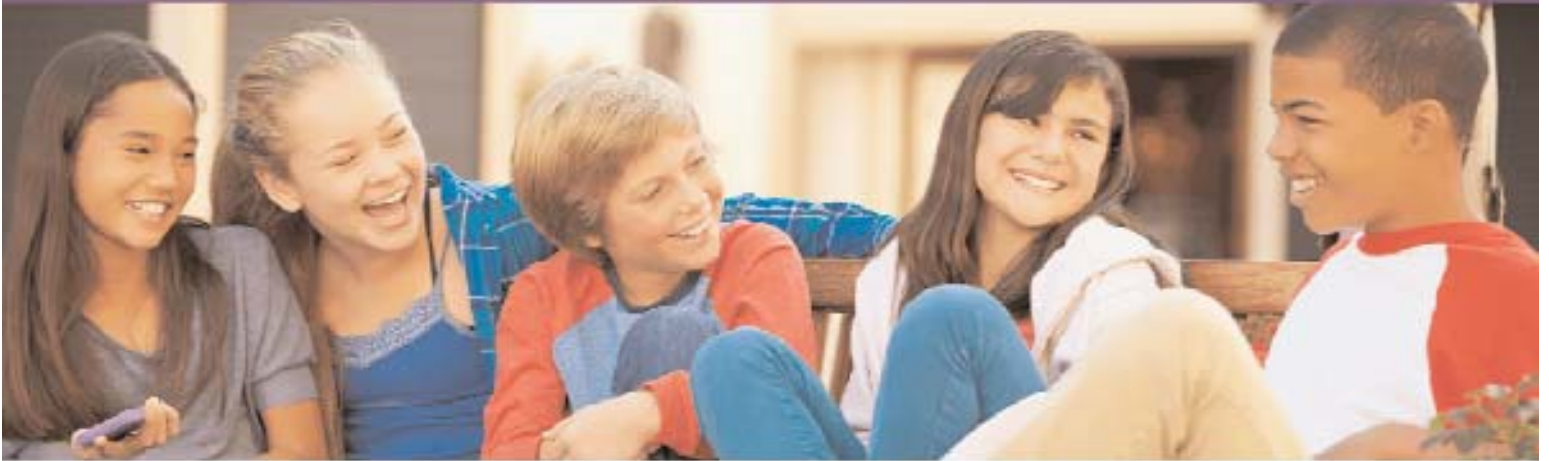
Family Peer Advocate

(845) 794-4228

info@atitoday.org



Middle School Social Skills



Action Toward Independence offers interactive and fun Social Skills groups for children with developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities grades 5 - 8.

The informative sessions cover age-appropriate topics for pre-teens and teens that promote positive behavior, respectful communication, and building confidence.

Social skills classes will be held in person at ATI Main Office at 309 E Broadway in Monticello, NY

For more information:
Family Peer Advocate
(845) 794 - 4228
info@atitoday.org

Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.

Visit our website at

atitoday.org



SCAN ME!



SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE 0 (IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) progresses in stages and, if untreated, can lead to complete loss of kidney function. At CKD stage 5, when both kidneys fail completely, the only options for survival are dialysis or a kidney transplant. Nick is at stage 5.

If interested in donating please contact Westchester Medical Center and speak with a Living Donor Coordinator at 914.493.1990

More about our warrior Nick....

Nick was diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) at birth. TSC is a neurological disorder that produces seizures, tumors, and lesions that effect the organs of the body and can cause Autism. Nick has been battling with seizures his whole life from infantile spasms to adult grand-mal seizures. May 2019 we heard the worst news that Nick's function was under 10% on both kidneys. Since then Nick has had multiple surgeries so he could get the proper dialysis preformed. Nick goes in center for 4 hours 3 times a week. Not what the sweetest, kindest, 31 year old should be going through.

Nick has such a big heart and is loved by so many in our community. We all want Nick to have the best quality of life and going through dialysis does not provide that quality. We hope and pray a kidney comes to us and that Nick will be able to live a happy and healthy life doing what he loves and that is to bicycle all throughout our town making people smile. Nick is a big part of the community, he takes pride with his volunteer work with the EMS and is the Honorary member of the Monticello Fire Department.

Lets all band together for Nick and help him find a kidney so he can live life to the fullest!

*For any other questions
845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com*

 Follow Nick
[@nickneedsokidney](https://www.facebook.com/nickneedsokidney)



**VET 2 VET OF SULLIVAN COUNTY
PFC JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS
PEER SUPPORT PROJECT**

WEEKLY WARRIOR WALK

**NO DOG REQUIRED TO WALK
WALNUT MOUNTAIN
LIBERTY, N.Y.**

THURSDAYS @ 1500 (3 PM)

**VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES ARE WELCOMED**

**ALL ANIMALS ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT
MUST BE ON A LEASH.**

For more information, or to register,
please call 845-794-4228
or email smurphy@atitoday.org

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK OR ONLINE @ WWW.ATITODAY.ORG





**STARTS JANUARY
2024!**

Are You Ready?



Life Skills Group

WORK READINESS EDITION

This series is tailored for 16 to 25-year-olds with developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities. It helps prepare individuals for the workforce by developing skills such as appropriate workplace behavior, social etiquette, time management, and interview techniques. Other topics include wearing proper clothing and using social cues, such as a good handshake.

Every Friday from 5:00pm to 6:15pm

309 East Broadway

Monticello, NY 12701

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(845) 794-4228

info@atitoday.org



SCAN ME!

Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.

Visit our website at

atitoday.org





Continuing to Investigate President Biden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tay711ezr-M>

The Biden administration has impeded the House Republicans' inquiry into allegations of President Biden's corruption. That's why earlier this month, we launched a formal impeachment inquiry to give the House Oversight, Ways and Means, and Judiciary Committee the legal standing and subpoena power to investigate allegations of money laundering, bribery, and influence peddling involving the President, his family, and foreign business associates.

Joe Biden has continued to use his name and his clout to profit. It's beyond suspicious how Joe Biden, who has lived on a government salary nearly his entire life, can shell out millions of dollars in loans. On December 13th, House Republicans aimed to get more answers about this from the President's son, but Hunter Biden failed to show up for his deposition. House Republicans will not provide special treatment because his last name is Biden, and will initiate contempt of Congress proceedings.

President Biden and his family must be held accountable for their corruption and obstruction.

Urging New York State to Prioritize Repayment of Federal UI Loans to Protect Local, Small Businesses

Governor Hochul's inaction in paying back New York's outstanding federal UI loans in a timely manner irresponsibly places that burden on our small businesses and hardworking families. At a time of skyrocketing inflation due to President Biden and Governor Hochul's far-left fiscal policies, Main Street businesses across New York are struggling. They are now facing even higher taxes as a result of New York failing to repay its outstanding federal UI loans. During the COVID-19 pandemic, far-left officials in New York forced businesses to shut down, causing disastrous effects on our economy. Now, these same businesses will be forced to help repay the state's federal UI loans even though the state had other means to repay the debt. This is reckless management from Governor Hochul and only serves to further hurt New York businesses while they're already reeling from many other pressures. This week, I sent a letter to Governor Hochul urging New York to prioritize repayment of the outstanding federal UI loans to prevent additional harm to our small, local businesses and workers in New York. Read the full text of the letter here. https://tenney.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/tenney.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/ny_ct_letter-to-gov-ui-loans.pdf

READ MORE: Tenney urges NY to take action on repaying federal unemployment insurance loans <https://orleanshub.com/tenney-urges-ny-to-take-action-on-repaying-federal-unemployment-insurance-loans/>

Honoring the Heroes of the Wayne County Bus Crash

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncAIRWf8BaA>

On September 27th in Wayne County, New York, a Wayne Central School bus, carrying 22 students and three staff members, was traveling north back toward school when tragedy struck.

Three courageous staff members, Driver Deb Hibbard, teachers Maureen Doyle and Lori Sozio, and students Brody Constable and Colin Schrage, took immediate action. Amid the chaos, they displayed remarkable bravery as they aided students and staff off the rear of the bus, a 5-foot drop, allowing them to move away from the fire.

Due to the quick actions of these heroes, within just one minute of the collision, all 25 passengers were safely evacuated. By the end of the second minute, the entire bus, including the passenger compartment, was engulfed in flames.

In the face of immediate danger, the selflessness and heroism of Brody, Colin, Deb, Maureen, and Lori inspire us all. We commend and honor all of these heroes for their unwavering courage and dedication to the safety of others.

Thank You Paramedics Karen Gavin and Matt Devine of the Lockport Fire Department

In March earlier this year, 911 Dispatchers received a report of a pregnant woman who was in distress and bleeding heavily. Paramedics Karen Gavin and Matt Devine of the Lockport Fire Department arrived in less than five minutes and immediately began administering treatment and preparing the patients for transport.

While en route way to the hospital, the woman went into labor and began to give birth prematurely. As this happened, the paramedics immediately stopped the ambulance, called for backup, and jumped into action. Employing years of training, they were able to deliver the baby and protect the mother's life.

Today, both the mother and child are at home and healthy due to the heroic and expert actions of Karen Gavin and Matt Devine of the Lockport Fire Department. Thank you both for your bravery and dedication to our community!

Happy Belated 100th Birthday Sparky

Laurance, a WWII veteran commonly known as "Sparky," is a cherished member of our community who recently celebrated his 100th birthday!

Sparky began his service as a Corporal in the United States Army in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1945. During his service, he completed three major campaigns, earning him three Battle Stars, two Amphibious landings, and the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat.

Sparky lives an active and inspired life. He loved sports and was involved in numerous sports associations. He coached track, basketball, cross-country, tennis, and baseball, creating a lasting impact on our community.

Happy belated 100th birthday, Sparky!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

3rd Annual Sullivan County Youth Summit
for 11th and 12th Graders



Featuring returning
motivational speaker
Duncan Kirkwood



Registration opens
November 1, 2023
www.Sullivan180.org

January 12, 2024

9am-2pm

Hurleyville Performing
Arts Centre

“Faith is taking the first step even when
you don’t see the whole staircase.”
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Fighting the Migrant Crisis in NYS

I participated in a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on securing the border and addressing the migrant crisis. NYC designated itself a 'Sanctuary City,' then decided to send migrants to Upstate NY where we have no capacity to provide care. The City has exacerbated a humanitarian crisis in communities across New York.

Passed Defense Bill With Big Wins For National Security, Military Families, & Local Workers

I helped craft the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and voted to pass it. In this bill, three pieces of legislation I authored were included to enhance mental healthcare and expand access to Narcan (naloxone). I also fought to deliver the largest pay raise for our service members in 20 years and got additional funding for local defense manufacturers.

Celebrated Chanukah



I joined the Landsfield Avenue Synagogue to celebrate the third night of Chanukah.



Then, participated in a Menorah lighting at the Monticello Village Hall!



And wrapped up the Chanukah festivities by joining the Town and Village of Liberty.

Recognized As A Bipartisan Federal Champion For Flood Resilience

I was very honored to be recognized as a Federal Champion by the American Flood Coalition (AFC)! I've been proud to partner with the AFC to deliver common sense, bipartisan solutions to bolster flood resilience, and will keep working to protect families, farmers, and small businesses from dangerous, costly floods.

Getting Whole Milk Back In Schools

Whole Milk has been banned in schools. So, we passed the Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act. Milk is the number one source of protein for kids 2 to 11. That's why whole milk must be available to students - it's nutritional and beneficial.

Legislation Passed: Forcing American Universities to Disclose Links to Hamas

I wrote and passed a bill to force colleges to publicly disclose if they have received donations from anyone linked to Hamas. Hamas's disturbing antisemitic ideology has flooded college campuses. We are taking an all-of-the-above approach to destroy them and their influence in the U.S.

Two of My Pipeline Safety Bills Cleared the House

Gas pipelines are a necessity to heat our homes which is why we must have high pipeline safety standards. I'm proud the Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety Act passed with two of my measures, advanced with bipartisan support, and is reflective of my mission to safeguard the environment and unlock American energy to drive costs down.

Investments in Upstate New York

\$500,000 for improvements to the Public Square Park in Hudson. I was proud to help advocate for repairs so this park can reach its full potential and be fully enjoyed by residents and families in Hudson.

Combating Antisemitism On College Campuses

At a congressional hearing on antisemitism on college campuses, presidents of elite, Ivy League universities were each asked if they consider calls for the 'Genocide of Jews' harassment. Each time, the presidents refused to say yes. This is unacceptable. How are Jewish students supposed to feel safe on campus when college presidents refuse to state the obvious? Calling for the genocide of Jews IS harassment. Listen to my message below.

Around New York



Glad to be a part of the discussion at Sullivan County's semi-annual Substance Use Task Force meeting in Monticello. Resources and support must be available to individuals who struggle with substance use and mental health disorders. I have worked to bring treatment options to Sullivan County and will continue this push.

Met with Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. We discussed how to better support local small businesses and how to invest & grow opportunities for Sullivan County.




I was proud to tour Kristt-Kelly Office Supplies with Senator Peter Oberacker. They have been serving Sullivan County for over 85 years. Be sure to stop by for all your office

needs!

Met with Mike Taylor, owner of the Holiday Mountain Ski & Fun Park in Sullivan County. A fun way to bring people together and enjoy Monticello!



Veteran Peer Support



**Vet 2 Vet offers
Veteran Peer Support.
Call to speak with our Veteran
Peer Advocates.
We didn't fight alone while
we served, we don't need
to fight alone at home.**

Vet 2 Vet



**Sullivan County
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Rep. Molinaro Introduces Bipartisan Bill To Help Summer Camps Keep Pace With Soaring Food Costs & Continue Feeding Hungry Kids

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY-19) today announced the introduction of the Summer Nutrition Parity Act, a bipartisan bill that will help local summer meal providers keep up with inflation and continue serving meals to children. Rep. Molinaro introduced this bill alongside U.S. Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY-9).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donates food to be served to kids in-need through both the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP is designed to fill the nutrition gap that kids face when school is not in session by serving nutritious meals in low-income areas. Eligible SFSP sites include camps, community organizations, and local school districts. However, school lunches receive nearly 40 cents worth of USDA products per meal through the NSLP, while summer meal sites only receive 1.5 cents through the SFSP because this program's rate has not been adjusted for inflation in decades. This means summer camps like Camp Ger and Machne Satmar in Sullivan County face high out-of-pocket costs to keep kids fed in the summer and have significant strains on their budgets that could cause them to close their doors.

Rep. Molinaro's bill provides parity to summer camps by indexing the value of the commodities they receive through the SFSP to inflation - making it equal to the formula that determines the value for school lunches.

Rep. Molinaro said, "We see inflation every time we go to the grocery store. So, it makes sense this same inflationary pressure is pressing down on summer meal sites and threatening their ability to continue feeding kids in-need. My bipartisan bill makes a simple fix to index the donations they receive from the federal government to inflation, so they can continue fighting hunger and caring for kids."

Congresswoman Clarke said, "Children are our future. And investing in a child's health and nutrition is a foundational driver for improving prosperity and economic success. I'm proud to join my colleague, Congressman Molinaro, on this common-sense, bipartisan legislation that seeks to support our children by focusing on one of the most important factors - their health."

Manny Steinberg, Planning Board Member of the Town of Liberty, said, "I wholeheartedly endorse the Summer Nutrition Parity Act. This critical bill will ensure that our children receive nutritious meals throughout the summer, bridging a vital gap in their dietary needs. It's a significant step towards combating child hunger and reinforces our community's commitment to the health and well-being of our youth."

Suzanne McCormick, President and CEO of YMCA of the USA said, "At the YMCA, we believe summer programs can be transformational, and we know nutritious

meals and snacks are a key ingredient of any successful summer program. Hunger doesn't take a break during the summer, so we're pleased to see Representatives Molinaro and Clarke introduce this legislation to help federally supported programs keep pace with rising food costs and ensure parity between summer nutrition and other child nutrition programs."

Molinaro Builds on 988 Crisis Lifeline Advocacy, Introduces Bipartisan Bill To Get Calls Routed to Local Call Centers

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY-19) today announced the introduction of the 988 Lifeline Location Improvement Act of 2023. This bipartisan bill will advance an effort Rep. Molinaro jumpstarted earlier this year to get the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to implement technology that reroutes calls to the National 988 Crisis Lifeline to local call centers. Rep. Molinaro introduced the bill alongside U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20). A companion bill was introduced in the Senate by U.S. Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM).

Unlike 911 calls, which are routed to a local call center based on the caller's current location, 988 calls are routed based on a person's area code. If someone moves or travels, their call to 988 could be sent to a call center hundreds of miles away. 988 is not as effective if the person answering a call is unfamiliar with the caller's location and cannot provide accurate, local resources.

Rep. Molinaro's bill requires the FCC to establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee to develop and rollout 988 geolocation services. The committee must be comprised of members from key sectors, including telecommunications, handset manufacturing, 911 services, state and local government and representatives from organizations involved in suicide prevention, crisis intervention, veterans' services, substance use treatment, and mental health treatment.

Rep. Molinaro said, "911 calls are rerouted to local call centers. There's no reason we can't do the same for 988. My bipartisan bill convenes a group of logistical and subject matter experts to come up with a plan to roll this technology out. We know the 988 Lifeline is a proven life-saving tool and should maximize its full potential."

Hannah Wesolowski, Chief Advocacy Officer of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) said, "The nationwide availability of 988 has provided us with a once in a lifetime opportunity to reimagine how we respond to people in mental health crisis. NAMI is grateful to Representatives Molinaro and Tonko for introducing the 988 Lifeline Location Improvement Act of 2023, which would start the task of identifying the unique privacy and legal challenges associated with transmitting geolocation information with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline so we can ensure caller privacy but also best help people seeking in-person support."

Gillibrand Joins Colleagues in Bipartisan Push to Lower Prescription Drug Costs

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand joined Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Roger Marshall (R-KS), members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and a bipartisan group of their colleagues in a letter urging the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor (DOL), and the Department of the Treasury to lower out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs by enforcing a rule limiting the use of harmful “copay accumulators.” Copay accumulators prevent copay assistance from counting toward a patient's deductible or out-of-pocket maximum, which makes it harder for patients to afford their medications.

“Drug prices remain unacceptably high, which puts a heavy financial burden on millions across the country,” said Senator Gillibrand. “That is why I'm joining my colleagues to call on HHS, DOL and Treasury to limit the use of copay accumulators and lower drug costs for families. I will continue to fight to ensure all Americans have access to affordable prescription medications.”

In addition to Gillibrand, Kaine and Marshall, the letter is signed by Senators Joni Ernst (R-IA), Ed Markey (D-MA), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Ted Budd (R-NC), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Chris Coons (D-DE), Mike Rounds (R-SD), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), John Boozman (R-AR), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ).

“We are hearing from more and more people with bleeding disorders in Virginia that they cannot access the treatments they need because they are facing copay accumulator adjustment programs. We are so grateful to Senators Kaine, Marshall and their colleagues who are working to lower patient costs and improve access to care. I join them in urging the Biden Administration to release new rulemaking to end this harmful practice; our community - and many others - simply can't wait,” said Kelly Waters, Executive Director, Virginia Hemophilia Foundation.

“More patients than ever are reaching out to us because they've been negatively impacted by these programs,” said Anna Hyde, Vice President of Advocacy and Access for the Arthritis Foundation. “They are being caught in a financial bind because they can't pay the full cost of their medications. Biologic medicines are expensive and there are no generic alternatives, so copay assistance is often a vital life line for them.”

“Far too many of the 1 million Americans living with multiple sclerosis are unable to afford life-changing medications to reduce the number of relapses, delay the progression of disability, and limit new disease activity. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is disappointed with the Biden Administration's decision to appeal the court's September 29th ruling and continue the use of copay accumulators that will negatively impact access to care. We urge the withdrawal of their recently filed appeal,” said Bari Talente, EVP, Advocacy & Healthcare Access, National MS Society.

“Too many rare-disease patients struggle to afford the therapies they need. Copay accumulator programs hurt the most vulnerable rare disease patients who rely on manufacturer copay assistance to afford their medications by dramatically increasing their cost-sharing liability. NORD supports the District Court's decision to vacate portions of the 2021 NBPP Final Rule that permitted the use of copay accumulator programs, and we are grateful for the strong bipartisan and bicameral support for the HELP Copays Act which would cement this decision legislatively. NORD is grateful to Senator Marshall and Senator Kaine for spearheading this letter to HHS on this important issue and for their continued leadership in protecting rare disease patients,” said Peter Saltonstall, President and COE, National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD).

“The NPF Patient Navigation Center is constantly fielding calls

from people who can't afford the medicine they have been prescribed because of copay accumulator practices, so we are clearly disappointed in the Administration's move to appeal the decision of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that would limit their use,” said Leah M. Howard, J.D., President and CEO of the National Psoriasis Foundation. “We join Senators Doc Marshall (R-KS) and Tim Kaine (D-VA), in urging the Administration to renew policies ensuring copay assistance is counted towards deductibles and out of pocket maximums.”

“The Biden Administration has made it a priority to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for Americans. HHS can do just that - make necessary and lifesaving treatments more accessible and affordable for the most vulnerable Americans, those with rare and serious, chronic illnesses. Senators Marshall and Kaine, have led the way in Congress by centering patients in the discussion on healthcare access. We encourage HHS to follow suit, align with the Administration's priorities, and enforce the 2020 NBPP. Now is the time to do right by patients!” said the AIDS Institute.

“While serving a million people impacted by cancer each year, we at the Cancer Support Community have witnessed the adverse effects of copay accumulator adjustment programs (AAPs) on patients' ability to access life-saving medications

CSC strongly opposes the use of AAPs and supports the adoption of the 2020 NBPP policy, protecting affordability and access to care for under-resourced patients who rely on manufacturer copay assistance programs. We are grateful to have leaders that share our commitment to breaking down barriers and improving healthcare for all,” said the Cancer Support Community.

Full text of the letter is available below:

Dear Secretary Becerra, Acting Secretary Su, and Secretary Yellen:

We are writing in support of the recent decision from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that vacated the 2021 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters (NBPP) Final Rule provision that permitted the use of copay accumulator adjustment programs (AAPs) and remanded to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to interpret the definition of “cost-sharing.” This decision is an important step in the right direction for low-income and other eligible patients who rely on manufacturer and nonprofit copay assistance programs to alleviate affordability and access challenges for their medicines. We are disappointed in HHS's decision to file a notice of appeal of the decision and HHS's articulated intention to not take any enforcement action against health insurance issuers or health plans that fail to count copay assistance toward the patient's maximum annual limitation on cost-sharing. Instead of appealing the court's ruling, we urge you to adopt policies from the 2020 NBPP that strike the right balance of preserving a plan's ability to control costs while also putting the patient first.

Patient assistance programs (PAPs) help low-income and vulnerable patients with complex conditions access life-saving medicine. Historically, these copay assistance programs counted toward the annual limitation on cost-sharing, and the policy was reaffirmed under the Affordable Care Act. The patient protection on cost-sharing provided patients and families with greater predictability and certainty about their maximum out-of-pocket exposure on an annual basis. It also helped improve patient adherence to their medication and overall health outcomes. For example, one study showed that reduced cost-sharing for cardiovascular medicines increased adherence and had a greater impact on reducing the risk of vascular events and medical costs among non-white patients.

In recent years, health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, and third-party administrators have used AAPs to help to control costs. However, like cost utilization management, AAPs can be used as a profit-seeking tactic. When HHS published the 2021 NBPP final rule, it permitted group health plans and health insurance issuers to use AAPs without limitation. The Administration believed this “open door” would not necessarily lead to an increased uptake of AAPs by PBMs, but they were wrong. These programs proliferated in the intervening years. Nearly two-thirds of individual health plans available on the ACA marketplace included AAPs. It was also estimated that of all commercial markets in 2021, 43% of covered lives were in commercial health plans that had implemented AAPs.(Contd. Pg. 59)

UC Legislature Approves Hotel, Motel, & Short-Term Rental Occupancy Tax Increase

KINGSTON, NY - Last evening in a special session, the Ulster County Legislature approved a local law increasing the occupancy tax on hotels, motels, and short-term rentals from two percent to four percent, the last budget-related item included in County Executive Metzger's 2024 Executive Budget, which dedicates half of the new revenue from the increased tax to housing and public transportation. In 2022, the occupancy tax raised over \$3 million, and the 2024 Ulster County Adopted Budget projects over \$6 million in revenue from the increased tax. The Legislature first made a Home Rule Request to the State for an occupancy tax increase to four percent last June, in a resolution sponsored by Legislator Abe Uchitelle. This tax had not been raised since it was first instituted in 1991, and at two percent was far lower than neighboring counties, which have an occupancy tax rate of 5%.

The 2024 Adopted Budget will dedicate 25 percent of the revenue from the occupancy tax to fund the UCAT public transportation system and 25 percent to support the Housing Action Fund, with the remaining 50% supporting the County's General Fund to lessen the burden on County taxpayers.

"We are long past due for a sensible tax rate that better aligns with our neighbors and keeps money in the pockets of our local taxpayers while providing revenue to tackle urgent priorities, like the housing crisis," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "Every dollar raised from this tax, largely paid by visitors to the County staying in hotels, motels, and short-term rentals, is one dollar less that comes out of the pockets of our local taxpayers. Ulster County residents are already feeling the pressure of high costs for housing, food, and other necessities, and it is common sense to ask people who can afford to vacation here to pay a few dollars more to support the housing and transit network for people who live and work in the community they are coming to enjoy. Those investments also greatly benefit our tourism industry, which is struggling to find enough workers because of a lack of affordable housing options."

In an April op-ed penned by County Executive Metzger, she proposed to devote a quarter of annual revenue from the Legislature's proposed occupancy tax increase to provide sustained support for the Housing Action Fund to address housing needs in Ulster County for the long term. The Legislature voted to approve the County Executive's Housing Action Fund initiative earlier this year, seeding the fund with an initial \$15 million from the County's cash reserves. In the op-ed, Executive Metzger also proposed dedicating a portion of new occupancy tax revenue to the transportation budget to expand UCAT bus service. Under the County Executive's proposal, the remaining 50 percent of revenues from an increased occupancy tax would be used to support tourism (10 percent) and general government services (40 percent), offsetting costs to property taxpayers.

In June, the State Legislature passed legislation in response to the County's Home Rule Request, permitting Ulster County to raise the occupancy tax to four percent. The bill, sponsored by State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assembly Member Sarahana Shrestha, was signed by Governor Hochul in early December along with other similar local bills from across the state.

County Executive Metzger said, "I want to thank Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha, and Governor Hochul for supporting this sensible increase in Ulster County's occupancy tax, which remains lower than neighboring counties in the region."

The occupancy tax passed the legislature in an 11-10 vote, with much of the discussion centering around an amendment to how the tax is levied on all-inclusive hotels and resorts. The failed amendment would have negated the two percent increase at all-inclusive hotels by decreasing the portion of a customer's bill subject to the tax from 40 percent to 20 percent. The amendment would have decreased projected occupancy tax revenues by approximately \$500,000-\$750,000, shifting that burden back to local taxpayers.

Gillibrand Joins Colleagues in Bipartisan Push to Lower Prescription Drug Costs

(From Pg. 58) As a result of this policy change, patients in our home states suffered, facing financial hardship and barriers to their once-accessible life-saving medicine. In many cases, patients or their family members found out about the AAP not counting their assistance at the pharmacy counter. They were left embarrassed, anxious, and without recourse. A recent survey showed that between 25- 36% of respondents discontinued therapy when they received an unexpected high charge of over \$1,500 during the plan year as a result of AAPs. For many chronic disease patients, discontinuation of therapy can lead to irreversible and in some cases life-threatening health consequences. Further, six in 10 said they would have extreme difficulty affording their treatments without copay assistance programs being applied to their cost-sharing. Moreover, recent research has shown that non-white patients are 31% more likely to be exposed to an AAP than white patients. It was for these reasons, and more, that patient groups took action against the 2021 NBPP. Patients were not the only stakeholder to respond. State regulators have passed and are in the process of passing legislation. To date, 19 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have banned or limited the use of AAPs.

As you consider next steps, we strongly encourage you to support patients by reconsidering your appeal of the court's ruling and instead adopting the 2020 NBPP policy. It required plans to count manufacturer copay assistance toward the annual limitation on cost-sharing for drugs that do not have a medically appropriate generic equivalent available. In the 2020 rule, HHS reasoned that it would be less likely that the manufacturer's assistance would disincentivize a lower cost alternative and thereby distort the market. HHS itself acknowledged situations when a patient has been subject to significant out-of-pocket costs because the patient has not progressed through the deductible phase of the health plan due to AAPs not applying the value of the manufacturer-sponsored assistance to the patient's deductible. HHS further noted that "when this happens, the patient may be forced to stop taking the drug, switch to an alternative offered by the plan, or pay the full bill for the non-formulary drug, none of which are patient-friendly, especially for those patients with rare and life-threatening conditions."

We also strongly believe that federal legislative action is also needed to restore this vital patient protection. In fact, Congress is currently working on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to advance legislation to ensure copay assistance counts toward the patient's maximum annual limitation on cost-sharing.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your reply and your plan to ensure patients receive cost-sharing protections. UCAT bus service. Under the County Executive's proposal, the remaining 50 percent of revenues from an increased occupancy tax would be used to support tourism (10 percent) and general government services (40 percent), offsetting costs to property taxpayers.

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January 5	Taste of Italy Wine-Pairing Dinner , New Paltz
January 5	The Taylor Dance Party , Woodstock
January 12 & 13	David Bowie Birthday Bash , Woodstock
January 12-15	MLK Jr. Family Weekend , Frost Valley YMCA
January 19	Family BrickBlast , Highland
January 20	15th Annual Robbie Burns Supper , West Park
January 20-21	NYS Pride Ski Weekend (Inaugural Event!) , Belleayre Mountain
January 21	Saugerties Pro-Musica Concert , Saugerties
January 24	Full Wolf Moon Night Hike , Mohonk Preserve

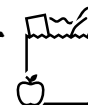
DATE	TRENDING JANUARY 2024
Please Note	This calendar is now digital and is no longer printed for mass distribution. To receive a digital copy via email, please contact tourism@co.ulster.ny.us or call 800-342-5826. Provide your name and email address. Calendar listings are based on information received prior to publication. Changes may occur after distribution.
1	First Day Hikes at Minnewaska Preserve-Frozen Waters: Invigorating hike to see Peter's Kill stream, the Mossy Glen Footpath observing icy cascades, and Awosting Falls. Surfaces may be very icy: participants encouraged to bring Micro Spikes or other ice traction devices. Dress appropriately for cold. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. 1:30pm Pre-registration required: call 845-255-0752. Minnewaska State Park, 5281 Route 44-55, Kerhonkson. tinyurl.com/4v8xpeuy Sam's Point Area: Hike/snowshoe outing for the entire family! Approximate three-mile loop through the scenic Park Preserve. Snowshoes can be rented for \$5/person. 1:30pm. 400 Sam's Point Rd, Cragsmoor. 845-647-7989; tinyurl.com/muhffxxe Walkway Over the Hudson: Group trek to the Center Overlook where a new year raffle and giveaways await. Meet at Walkway entrance at 1pm. No registration required. 87 Haviland Rd, Highland. walkway.org
5	A Taste of Italy Five Course Wine-Pairing Dinner featuring Kevin Zraly: Experience a taste of Italy as Kevin Zraly, world renowned wine expert, guides you through an enchanting evening of Italian cuisine and wines. 6pm. Overnight guest \$115+tax/Day guest \$189+tax. Mohonk Mountain House, 1000 Mountain Rest Rd, New Paltz. 877-724-3159; mohonk.com/events
5	The Taylor Dance Party: Wear your favorite "Era's" outfit and enjoy a Taylor Swift inspired dance party. Adults 18+ only. 8pm. \$20-\$30. The Colony Woodstock 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock. 845-679-7625; colonywoodstock.com
6	New Year Swing Dance: Welcome the New Year Swing Dance with the Swing Shift Orchestra. No partner or experience necessary. Beginner lesson 7:30pm. 8:30-10:30pm band \$25 Admission at the door includes lesson. 845-236-3939; got2lindy.com . White Eagle Hall, 487 Delaware Ave, Kingston.
7	Walkkill Valley RapTour Bird Outing: Popular roadside birding trip between New Paltz and Walkkill. Wintering raptors, congregating waterfowl, gulls, and half hardies will be the focus on this outing. Contact trip leader Christine (chrissy.guarino@gmail.com) to register and learn meeting location. jbnhs.org/event
11	"Casablanca" at The Rosendale Theatre: Enjoy this classic film on the big screen! Winner of "Best Picture" with some of the most memorable dialogue in cinematic history. 7-9pm. \$10. 408 Main St, Rosendale. 845-658-8989; rosendaletheatre.org
12 & 13	David Bowie Birthday Bash with Robert Burke Warren: Two nights honoring the icon's entire career with an exciting list of Special Guests. 8pm. \$25/\$30. Colony Woodstock, 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock. 845-679-7625; colonywoodstock.com
12-14	JAM-uary Weekend at The Ashokan Center: Learn to jam with hands-on instruction in rhythm, lead, harmony singing, and bluegrass repertoire with lead instructor Austin Scelzo. \$250. Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge. 845-657-8333; ashokancenter.org
12-15	Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend: Enjoy a winter wonderland of beautiful scenery and nutritious, tasty meals. Cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, ice skating on Lake Cole, ice fishing, and snow-covered hills perfect for sledding and snow tubing. Warm up indoors in our indoor floor hockey arena, climbing gym, archery range, and arts and crafts studio. \$192 per person (2-nights), or \$265 per person (3-nights) + lodging rate. Frost Valley YMCA, 2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville. 845-985-2291 ext. 450; frostvalley.org
13 & 14	Winter Wineryland: Weekend of special frozen and hot cocktails, along with award-winning COLD white wines! Wood-fired pizza, hot coco and s'mores kits available for purchase. 11am-6pm. Live music Saturday and Sunday 2-5pm. Robibero Winery, 714 Albany Post Rd, New Paltz. 845-255-9463; robiberofamilyvineyards.com/event

DATE	January 2024 Calendar of Events
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13-Feb 25	"Three Voices Beyond" Art Exhibit Curated by Emily Houssart: Works of Lee, Zheng, and Navarra bring together three contemporary responses to diverse cultural traditions which celebrates commonalities and differences between the artists' individual languages, all based on manipulation of loaded cultural material. Fri-Sun 12-5pm. Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, 36 Tinker Street, Woodstock. 845-679-2079; woodstockguild.org
17	Magic City Hippies at Levon Helm Studios: Critically acclaimed Miami indie funk band. 8-11pm. \$35. Levon Helm Studios, 160 Plochmann Ln, Woodstock. 845-679-2744; levonhelm.com
18	Ilana Glazer Live! Laugh out loud with comedian/creator, Ilana Glazer, best known for her critically acclaimed series <i>Broad City</i> . 15+ age requirement. 8pm. \$41+. Ulster Performing Arts Center, 601 Broadway, Kingston. 845-339-6088; bardavon.org
19	Family BrickBlast: An evening of Lego-building fun with LEGO celebs, Brad Doath and Dom Forte! Every attendee will receive a Lego set. Food & drink available. 6-9pm. \$40-\$55. Bad Seed Taproom, 43 Baileys Gap Rd, Highland. 845-901-2541; brickhousereresellers.com
20	15th Annual Robbie Burns Supper Celebration: Party like it's 1758 at this immersive theatrical Scottish-themed dinner experience with Storyteller Jonathan Kruk, Bagpiper Jeremy Freeman, and recitations of Burns' poems. Reservation required. Pre-show Distillery tour w/meet & greet. 6-9pm. \$110. Hudson House Distillery, 1835 Route 9W, West Park. 845-834-6007; thehudsonhouseny.com
20	Woodstock Symphony Orchestra 'Dreaming by the Fireside': The 2 nd of four concerts of the Orchestra's 44th season with Mina Kim conducting. 7:30pm. \$28/\$33. Woodstock Playhouse, 103 Mill Hill Rd, Woodstock. 845-473-2072; woodstockplayhouse.org
20	Neighbor at Levon Helm Studios: With a diverse catalog of songs, the musical juggernaut has become one of the most exciting and unpredictable live bands on the scene today. 8pm. \$25-\$35. 160 Plochmann Ln, Woodstock. 845-679-2744; levonhelm.com
20	The Mountain Jam Band: an Allman Brothers Tribute: 8pm. \$20 Advance ticket/\$25 at door. Colony Woodstock, 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock. 845-679-7625; colonywoodstock.com
20-21	NYS Pride Ski Weekend at Belleayre Mountain: Join the Pride Center of the Capital Region on the mountain for New York's inaugural Pride Ski Weekend! Fabulous days hitting the slopes, or lounging in the lodge, with other events lined up for you! Après Ski Tea Dance Party with DJ RVMB on Saturday at 4:00. ski.capitalpridecenter.org
21	Saugerties Pro-Musica: Free live concert with Oboist Thomas Gallant's chamber group, Frisson: Woodwind Quartet with Piano. 3pm. Saugerties United Methodist Church, 67 Washington Ave, Saugerties. 845-679-5733; saugertiespromusica.org
21	Lonnie Holley & Friends Live at The Local: Holley's music defies classification — haunting vocals, keyboards, and new renditions of songs with every performance. 6pm. \$30. The Local, 16 John St, Saugerties. thelocalsaugerties.com/calendar
24	Full Wolf Moon Night Hike: Family friendly walk along the carriage roads of Mohonk Preserve at dusk to discover who prowls in the dark! Dress for the weather with warm boots. For ages 5 to adult and children must always be accompanied by an adult. 4:30-6pm. Free. Limited space. Registration required. mohonkpreserve.org/events
27	MET HD: Carmen (Bizet): Opera performance broadcast live from the Met. Reinvigorating the classic story of deadly passion with a staging that moves the action to the present day. 1pm. \$30/\$23 under 12. UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston. 845-339-6088; bardavon.org

WINTER INDOOR FARMERS MARKETS

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Jan 6 & 20	Woodstock Farm Festival Winter Market: A celebration of local farmers, producers and artisans. Featuring locally roasted coffee, grains and beans, pasture raised meats, fresh produce and more. Saturdays, biweekly through March 16 th . 10am-2pm. Overlook United Methodist Church, 233 Tinker St, Woodstock. woodstockfarmfestival.org
Every Sunday	Phoenicia Farmers Market: Farmers, artisanal producers, live music, activities, and pop up food. Vendors list is posted weekly on the market's website. 11am-2pm. Pine Hill Community Center, 287 Main St, Pine Hill. phoeniciafarmersmarket.com
Jan 13 & 27	Kingston Winter Farmers Market: Bi-weekly indoor farmers market hosting 20+ local food vendors, artisans, music, and workshops. 10am-2pm. Bethany Hall at Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston. kingstonfarmersmarket.org



ULSTER COUNTY TOURISM, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, 3rd Floor, Kingston
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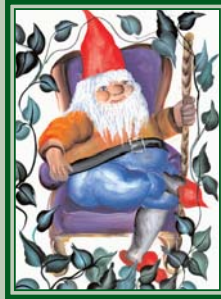
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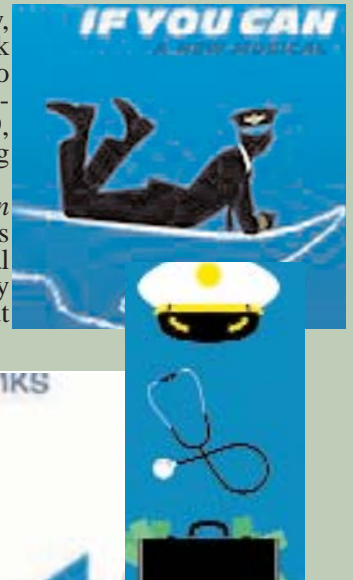
KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIES ON NETFLIX & AMAZON PRIME

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

PG-13 - 2h 21min - Biography - Crime - Drama

Based on a true story, DiCaprio plays Frank Abagnale Jr., who became a professional impersonation expert by the age of 19, earning millions of dollars while trotting around the globe.

But at heart, *Catch Me If You Can* is the story of a father and a son, and is actually one of Spielberg's most personal films. It was directly influenced by Spielberg learning new information about his father's divorce.



This movie is an absolute blast.

Written by Jeff Nathanson Directed by Steven Spielberg, and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Christopher Walken, Martin Sheen, and Amy Adams, *Catch Me If You Can* is one of Steven Spielberg's best films that also boasts of being one of DiCaprio's best performances, and to top it off, with a John Williams' hitting the best scores plateau.



All are something else to be experienced!

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: *Morgan Freeman*

This weeks' Trivia question: What is the name of Scarlett O'Hara;s estate in *Gone With the Wind*?

(From Pg. 68)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #1
NETFLIX & AMAZON PRIME

Hook

(PG · 1991 · 2hr 22min · Fantasy)

Written by Jim V. Hart, and Malia Scotch Marmo, and Directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Bob Hoskins, Maggie Smith, and Charlie Korsmo.



While Hook was critically derided when it hit theaters in 1991, Spielberg found something special here in his retelling of the "Peter Pan." Many still maintain it's one of Spielberg's great movies for kids of all ages. The affect it had on an entire generation of children is undeniable. Robin Williams plays a grown-up Peter Pan who's forgotten all about his time in Neverland, until Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman) steals his children and forces Peter to go back. It's a struggle, as Peter keeps trying to deny any semblance of magic, and indeed at heart, this is a story about reconnecting with your inner child. Perhaps that's why it works so well for kids. Well that and the tremendous production design that brings Neverland to life in vivid fashion. Watch this one with your children and they won't be disappointed. It's also one of John Williams' best scores.



KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIES SUGGESTION GET A ROKU DEVICE

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Some of Adnil's ancestors are from Sweden. So, we are watching and enjoying hilarious laughing moments of the Swedish Broadcast Sit-Com "WELCOME TO SWEDEN," each night and/or with our morning coffee.

New York City accountant Bruce moves to Sweden in Northern Europe, after falling in love with a Swedish woman.

The story continues with two "Mama's Boys," two cultures, socialism and capitalism –enjoy our differences and help keep peace in the world.



Rehearsal of her dance, coming down the aisle, on her wedding day.



A Feminist Priest. and much, much, more

Stay safe, May God Bless
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnomz