



Tri **Ye Olde** GOVNSMAN Valley



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Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 5 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 6 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11
Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia Pg 54

News from your Town of Neversink Parks & Rec

GREAT NEWS! Our Community Ice Rink is OPEN for the season! And this year it is BIGGER and BETTER than before. A big THANK YOU to our Town Team for all their hard work to get our rink up and ready. And this year we will have Tri Valley School and our other youth organizations selling hot cocoa and snacks at the rink. Skating is free. While we do have some skates for use during the sessions and we are always looking for donations of skates and safety equipment. So if you have any to donate you can bring to the Ice Rink during open hours or drop them off at Town Hall in the box located in the lobby area. Your Community Ice Rink could not operate without the volunteers who help monitor and manage the rink during its open hours. (Contd. Pg. 8)



Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress Appoints Adam Bosch as President and Chief Executive Officer



NEWBURGH, NEW YORK - The board of directors at Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress today announced the appointment of Adam Bosch to be the organization's next president and chief executive officer. Bosch, a lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley, worked as a journalist, college professor, and policy analyst across the region before joining the senior leadership team of the New York City water supply system. He will become Pattern's sixth president since the organization was founded in 1965.

"I am excited to lead the team at Pattern for Progress during a time when the Hudson Valley faces so many challenges and opportunities," Bosch said. "Our region has long trusted Pattern to develop plans and policies that are based on objective research, steering our communities toward a more prosperous and equitable future. I'm eager to amplify the work of Pattern's talented staff by collaborating with leaders across the region who have the passion and authority to turn our research into action."

"As Pattern enters into this next chapter of its history, I am excited to work with our new President and CEO Adam Bosch, our talented staff, and our committed and dedicated board of directors," said Anthony Campagiorni, Chair of the Pattern for Progress Board of Directors. "Adam is the right leader for Pattern at this moment. He has demonstrated success in developing actionable research for the region, he brings an exciting vision for the Hudson Valley and Pattern's role in advancing that vision, and he demonstrates an inspiring passion that will undoubtedly attract new individuals and organizations to Pattern's critical mission."

"Adam is the perfect choice to lead Pattern for Progress at this important time for the Hudson Valley," said Jonathan Drapkin, who stepped down as president of Pattern in December after leading the organization for 15 years. "Throughout his career, Adam has built many strong relationships across the region. Those who have worked with Adam respect and trust him for his savvy advice, creative thinking and ability to knit issues together. Adam is a thorough researcher and an articulate communicator who will help the region assess where it was before the pandemic, and where it needs to go in the future. Pattern was indeed fortunate to attract Adam to this vital position." (Contd. Pg. 4)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

FALLSBURG NEWS - Larry Schafman

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

ON THE FRONT BURNER: For he hath said, it profiteth a man nothing that he should delight himself with God.

Job 34:9

OBITUARY

Henry "Hank" H. Illing of Cooley, NY, a retired Professional Engineer



and a lifelong area resident, died Thursday December 30, 2021 at his home. He was 96.

The son of the late Hugo and Mabel Carley Illing, he was born December 31, 1924 in Cooley, NY.

Hank proudly served our Country in the United States Army during WWII in France. After earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Syracuse University, he worked as a Professional Engineer for many years with Curtiss-Wright Corporation in Caldwell NJ, and with Kieley & Mueller in Middletown NY, before starting his own private engineering business here in Sullivan County. A dedicated family man, he managed to find time for his private plane and flying, playing the guitar, and showing Arabian horses.

Survivors include his wife of more than 72 years, Marguerite A. (Evans) Illing, at home; one daughter, Marta J. Illing and her husband Rick Begeal of Parksville, NY; three sons, William H. Illing and Debra Baumgarten of Woodbourne, NY and Wesley R. Illing and Nancy Courier of Parksville, NY and Glenn D. Illing and his wife Sheila of Parksville, NY; grandchildren Lainie Yennie, Dallas and Jamie Illing, Zane and Xaver Illing, 7 great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Virginia Fisher and granddaughter York Illing. The family has chosen to remember Hank's life privately at this time. A celebration of his life will be held July 9, 2022.

Memorial contributions in Hank's name may be made to the Sullivan County Veterans Coalition, PO Box 1527, Monticello, NY 12701.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home, West St. at Buckley, Liberty, NY 845-292-0001 or 845-439-5200
www.Harris-FH.com

**DAYS OF YORE...
Today's History****January 9, 1952**

The interior of the Methodist Church in Grahamsville is now in the process of being painted. Inasmuch as at least fifteen years have elapsed since it was last done, there is no question but that it is greatly needed. Any contributions towards this worthwhile work will be greatly appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex LaHanko of Grahamsville are the parents of a daughter born at Hamilton Avenue Hospital on January 7th. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Moe Rubenzahl died at Maimonides Hospital in Liberty Saturday morning, December 29th. He was born March 14, 1900 in New York City. He was the son of Louis and Hannah Rubenzahl. Mr. Rubenzahl was a partner of Rubenzahl Egg Hatchery at Neversink. Surviving are a son, Harry and two brothers, Max and George, all of Neversink.

The Town Board of the Town of Denning held its organizational meeting at Ladleton on Wednesday evening, Jan. 2nd. Present were Supv. Herbert L. George; Town Clerk, Nellie Hamilton; Town Supt. of Highways, Ransie Hamilton; and Justices of the Peace Grant Sheley, J. Arthur Mackey, George V. Erts and Everett Smith.

January 10, 1962

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cuttler of Liberty have announced the engagement of their daughter, Clara Ann to Douglas Gorton, also of Liberty. They plan to be married January 14th. Miss Cuttler is a graduate of Tri Valley Central School and is employed at the Liberty office of the New York Telephone Company. Mr. Gorton is a graduate of Liberty High School and is employed at the Liberty Post Office.

Mrs. Lizzie Evans, 93, died suddenly Sunday at her home in Woodbourne, leaving three children, seven grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Evans, a resident of Woodbourne for the past twenty-three years, was born July 26, 1868 in Claryville, N.Y., the daughter of John W. Moore and Elizabeth Ann (Palmitier) Evans. She was married to the late Willis L.B. Evans.

DAYS OF YORE...**Today's History**

(From Pg. 2)

January 12, 1972

Phil Costigan left on Friday evening for Granada, Spain where he will study at Granada University for the next semester. While there Phil will be a house guest of a Spanish family.

Douglas Hamilton, 12-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton, Sr. of Grahamsville is being considered for a Boy Scout heroism award for his quick thinking which saved his six-year old brother, John Jr. from a pre-Christmas tragedy. John's pajamas caught fire when he climbed onto the kitchen stove to reach a cabinet. Douglas rolled his brother on the floor the way he was taught in Boy Scouts and put the fire out with his hands as there was nothing else available. John sustained only minimal burns. Douglas is a seventh grader at Tri-Valley Central School. He has been scouting for four years and is a member of Troop 187 in Grahamsville.

Mr. Bruce Krum of Mutton Hill Rd., Neversink, has completed his last course at Oneonta State Teachers College for his Masters Degree. He is very proud to have attained this goal. He teaches 5th grade at Livingston Manor and also algebra at night in Yeshiva Zichron Moshe in South Fallsburg.

January 14, 1982

Airman James T. Kocijanski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kocijanski of Woodbourne, has graduated from Air Force Aircraft Maintenance Training Course at Sheppard's Air Force Base. Jim will now serve at Ramstein Air Force base in West Germany with the 86th Aircraft Generation Squadron. He is a 1980 graduate of Tri-Valley High School.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bowers of Bowers Rd., Hurleyville, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sue Ellen to Earl E. Osterhout, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Osterhout of Cole Rd., Hurleyville. Miss Bowers is a 1981 graduate of Tri-Valley Central School and is attending SCCC. Mr. Osterhout attended Tri-Valley School and is now employed by the Town of Fallsburg Highway Dept. Wedding plans are incomplete.

The wedding uniting Donna Dexheimer and William Myers was held Nov. 28, 1981 in St. Paul's Church, Liberty. The Rev. Thomas Taylor and Father Patrick Brady of St. Peter's Catholic Church officiated. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Dexheimer of Neversink. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Norman Myers of Liberty. Donna is a graduate of Tri-Valley H.S. and SUNY Oneonta. Her husband is a graduate of Liberty Central School and attended Clarkson College. They are making their home in Jamestown.

Household Hint:**Clean your toothbrush holder**

Get the grime, bacteria, and caked-on toothpaste drippings out of the grooves of your bathroom toothbrush holder by cleaning the openings with cotton swabs moistened with white vinegar.

Nature Column - *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 and Shirley Davis.*

Time to Retreat to Our Winter Abode

Until this past week the weather felt a little more like a soggy day in early spring. The forest in the backyard was busy with squirrels scampering around, a few chipmunks, noticeable paw prints in the mud from a raccoon family, of course, the deer, turkeys and winter birds. However, today -Saturday morning-it is so still. The little blanket of white snow and the sharp drop in temperature let not only us know winter is here, but the animals, whose bodies are well-adapted retreated to their winter retreats.



There are many types of adaptations. The birds that typically migrate in the fall have already left the area. They used the sun, moon and stars for direction and seem to have a compass in their brain for using the Earth's magnetic field. Scientists consider migration as part of a yearly cycle of changes a bird goes through controlled by changes in the amount of daylight and the weather.

Many mammals, built a thick fat layer and fur coat over their body. The snowshoe rabbit's new fur is white to act as a camouflage in the snow. Deer also build a thick layer of fat and a heavy fur coat. They spend winter looking for moss, twigs, bark and leaves to eat.

Animals may find winter shelter in holes in trees or logs, under rocks, leaves, underground or even in a warm attic. Some mice will build tunnels through the snow and will huddle close together to stay warm.



Cold-blooded like snakes will find shelter in holes or burrows, and spend the winter inactive, or dormant, similar to hibernation.

Water makes a good shelter for many animals. When the weather gets cold, frogs, turtles and many fish hide under rocks, logs or fallen leaves. Water makes a good shelter for many animals. Some bury themselves in the mud where they become dormant. Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water and the frogs and turtles can breath by absorbing oxygen through their skin. Earthworms move down into the earth, some as far as six feet below the surface!

Insects look for winter shelter in holes in the ground, under the bark of trees, deep inside rotting logs or in any small crack they can find. They may find a gall - a swelling on a plant caused by certain insects, fungi or bacteria that produces a chemical that forms a lump on a plant. The gall becomes its maker's home and food source.

Other wild animals just sleep through the winter, or hibernate. Hibernation is an extended period of deep sleep, or torpor. Many hibernating species get ready for winter by eating extra food and storing it as body fat that is used for energy while hibernating. The reduction of their metabolic rate and lower body temperature enables them to survive through cold periods when food is scarce.

Bears, squirrels, skunks, chipmunks, and some bats hibernate or go into a period of torpor. The main difference between a torpor and a hibernation is that during a torpor the animal is easily awoken. Some animals hibernate for part or all of the winter. A squirrel sleeps for about 4 to 5 days at a stretch and will wake up, again eat some of the food it has collected all summer and then will go back to sleep for 4 to 5 days.

For us — it is time to get out the winter coats, furry boots, fill the wood bin, put on the snow tires and maybe even grumble a bit while we too, look forward to the chill in the air and if you are lucky, maybe even an afternoon nap by the fireplace!

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress Appoints Adam Bosch as President and Chief Executive Officer

(From Pg. 1) Bosch will join Pattern for Progress on Jan. 31. He can be reached at abosch@pfprogress.org.

Bosch started his career as a journalist in the Hudson Valley. He covered public affairs, courts and the environment for the Wallkill Valley Times, the Times Herald-Record, and in the Albany bureau of The New York Times. His work also appeared in several regional and national magazines. His work in journalism earned six Associated Press awards for investigative reporting, depth reporting, and breaking news coverage. Bosch also served as an adjunct professor of journalism for 10 years at SUNY New Paltz.

After leaving journalism, Bosch joined Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress in 2012 as vice president of research and external affairs. Bosch authored reports on the adaptive re-use of closed school buildings across the region, New York's tax cap, and an investigation of Rockland County's budget deficit. His examination of Rockland County's fiscal crisis, and recommendations to solve it, earned Pattern the President's Award from the Rockland County Business Association.

For the past nine years, Bosch has served as director of public affairs for the New York City water supply system - the largest municipal water supply in the United States. In that role, Bosch was responsible for community outreach, intergovernmental affairs, education programs and more. He served as the primary liaison between New York City and federal, state and local officials across the Hudson Valley and Catskills for issues related to the city's reservoir system and its infrastructure. His work focused on explaining the operation, maintenance and protection of the water supply system that serves nearly 10 million New Yorkers, especially as the city pursued several large capital projects to upgrade its dams, aqueducts and treatment facilities in the region.

Bosch currently serves as a volunteer on the Catskill Advisory Group, a state-appointed panel that is developing a strategic framework to tackle the challenges and opportunities of increased visitation to the Catskill Park. He also serves on a nationwide advisory group that is developing risk communications for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water supplies.

Bosch was born and raised in the Town of Newburgh in Orange County, and graduated from Wallkill High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from SUNY New Paltz, and his master's degree from Columbia University in the City of New York. Bosch lives in Saugerties with his wife, Jennifer, and their 8-year-old son, Tristan.

Founded in 1965, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is a not-for-profit policy, planning, advocacy and research organization focused on promoting regional, balanced, sustainable, and equitable solutions that enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. Today, Pattern provides research and support, focusing on emerging trends, convening leaders from across the Hudson Valley to collaborate on regional approaches to our most challenging issues - housing, local government efficiency, education, land use policy, transportation and infrastructure. Pattern inspires growth and vitality for the Hudson Valley's regional economy through its initiatives, which include The Center for Housing Solutions and the new MAIN STREET: Hudson Valley, a regional resource center to strengthen main streets. Pattern also provides critical training programs including The Pattern Fellows regional leadership training for mid-career professionals, the Community Builders community development project

incubator, and The Board Institute, providing pathways to leadership for a more diverse cross section of our neighbors. Pattern serves communities across nine counties in the Hudson Valley, including Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

About Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is a policy, planning, advocacy and research nonprofit that has promoted regional, balanced, equitable, and sustainable solutions for the Hudson River Valley since 1965. Visit Pattern-For-Progress.org. Follow on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn @PatternForProgress and on Twitter @HVPattern.

DEC Named '2021 Agency of the Year' by National Deer Association

New York State Recognized for Outstanding Leadership in Deer Management

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced that DEC was recognized as 'Agency of the Year' by the National Deer Association (NDA) for the state's leadership in white-tailed deer management. This national award recognizes DEC's successful deer management program and efforts to involve New York hunters in the planning and management process.

"Driven by science with public input, DEC has developed a Deer Management Program that benefits deer, deer habitat, and New Yorkers," Commissioner Seggos said. "We are constantly exploring new ways to address overabundant deer populations while increasing hunting opportunities. It is an honor to be recognized by the National Deer Association for these ongoing efforts."

"A quick comparison to other states shows just how successful and diverse New York's deer management program is," said Kip Adams, NDA's Chief Conservation Officer. "The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has gone the extra mile in the past year to address limitations regarding hunter opportunity, suburban hunting, deer overabundance, and their integration of setting deer population objectives using social and biological science ranks among the highest in the country."

Agencies that received the NDA's award in the past boast a record of innovative and progressive deer management, initiating positive change through science, regulation, and hunter involvement. DEC's Deer Management Plan, released in June 2021, guides management actions to balance the diverse values of the public with the biological and ecological needs and impacts of deer.

Some significant elements of the plan include integrating data of deer impacts on forests with public preferences for deer population changes to set deer population trajectory objectives; furthering protections against introduction or spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and recommending hunting-related changes to strategically increase antlerless harvest where needed and to provide additional hunter opportunity. DEC's deer program worked with researchers to develop a simple protocol for landowners to monitor deer vegetation impacts on their property (Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer - AVID), and deer biologists worked with municipalities across the state to implement management programs tailored to their communities.(Contd. Pg. 5)



Find Me Mysterious Book Report No. 472

by John Dwaine Mc Kenna

Hope Miller is the name adopted by a young woman who doesn't know her real identity . . . or where she came from. She was found fifteen years ago, in a wrecked and stolen SUV, unconscious and severely injured. The woman who discovered the accident in a remote area just outside of Hopewell, New Jersey, is Lyndsay Kelley—a young defense lawyer from New York City—who was visiting her parents, where they still live in the house where she grew up. Lyndsay has been protecting, guiding and

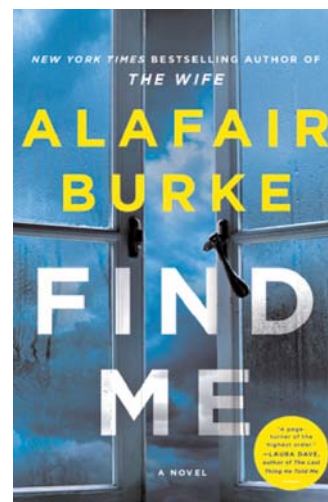
looking out for Hope ever since.

As *Find Me*, (Harper Collins, \$26.99, 304 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-285336-3), by Alafair Burke begins, Hope has just announced that she's relocating to East Hampton, Long Island, where her mentor Lyndsay fears she won't be able to survive on her own. A short time after the move, those fears are realized when Hope disappears, leaving a single drop of blood as the only clue. When CODIS, the national Combined DNA Index System available only to law enforcement, matches the sample to the DNA of a Wichita, Kansas serial killer, followed by the death of a local businessman soon after, lead police to believe that Hope is a killer and not a victim. That's when Ellie Hatcher gets involved. She's a NYPD homicide detective with roots in Wichita, where her father, also a homicide detective, was so obsessed with solving the serial killer case that he took his own life . . . an event that Ellie refuses to believe happened. Thereafter, Ms. Burke skillfully weaves plot, subplot and back-story into a dynamic, irresistible cold case file and can't look away—twisty psychological thriller combined with a police procedural which will have readers racing to the conclusion—while at the same time wishing that the novel were several hundred pages longer. It's an incredibly difficult achievement most writers only dream of doing. The MBR's advice: get your own copy of Alafair Burke's *Find Me* and join her ever-growing legions of fans. You won't regret it. Not ever!!

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.

Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments! We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com> or <http://Mysteriousbookreport.com>



DEC Named '2021 Agency of the Year' by National Deer Association

(From Pg. 4) This past year, DEC worked with the Governor and Legislature to reduce the minimum age for deer hunting with a firearm from 14 to 12. DEC also continued the successful Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow program,

expanded deer hunting hours to 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset, and implemented requirements to wear hunter orange or pink during big game season to improve hunter safety. DEC continues to work diligently to obtain input from the hunting community and public in administering a deer management program that controls deer populations, optimizes recreational opportunities for New Yorkers, and manages disease risks. DEC also congratulates Dr. Krysten Schuler for being recognized by the National Deer Association as the Professional Deer Manager of the Year and her integral work as part of DEC's wildlife health program. Dr. Schuler was recognized for her leadership in managing and slowing the spread of CWD nationally and her substantial contributions to CWD prevention in New York. Dr. Schuler is a wildlife disease ecologist, assistant research professor at Cornell University's Wildlife Health Lab. In addition to her work with CWD, Dr. Schuler is closely involved with DEC wildlife programs, providing expertise in DEC's assessment of impacts of lead ammunition, monitoring of mange in black bears, research on juvenile moose health and survival, and contaminants in waterfowl.

"DEC is fortunate to have Dr. Schuler in New York, and we join the NDA in recognizing her contributions to deer management and wildlife health in New York and nationally," Commissioner Seggos said. "As this year's awards demonstrate, New Yorkers are leading the way to ensuring a healthy deer population now and into the future."

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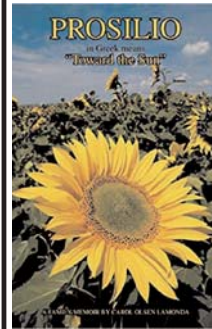
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The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... 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

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The Olive Jar by Carol Olsen LaMonda Healing Arts

If we three siblings were sick, my mom would summon Dr. Gerde who would show up at the house with his black leather medical satchel. I can still feel his cool catcher's mitt size of a palm on my forehead as a thermometer was thrust under my tongue. The medicine was dispatched and a phone call followed up the visit. It was personal.

At my recent hospital stay, the doctor was the furthest removed from patient care. My surgeon spoke to me shortly before the anesthesiologist put me out. We spoke right after surgery as I was coming around. I never saw him again. Even at my post op visit to have surgical bandages removed and thirty-four staples removed, I saw a PN.

I was hospitalized during Covid surge. I kept recalling Tonto asking, "Who was that masked stranger?" My care was very remote. Masked people came and went never to be seen again.

Hospitals now have Hospitalists. So an orthopedic hospitalist, an internal medicine hospitalist, a cardiac hospitalist visited me. No one came closer than five feet and no one examined me. I will see their names on the bill.

Then technicians come by to do vitals and draw more blood. Different ones each time.

The only personal care came from nurses who dispensed medicine, performed transfusions and infusions, and changed bandages. They were caring and attentive but overworked and always on to the next thing.

Even the aides were overworked. No sponge baths, no back rubs, no grooming. In 6 days I had one gown change. I had to ask for some soapy wash cloths to spiff up.

The social worker came twice, once as I was leaving. A Physical Therapist and an Occupational Therapist came often but never the same one. They were the closest personal connection except for the most important person of all.

The cleaning lady wearing an elf hat and a smile made my day. She arranged all the things I could not reach; she hummed and chatted; she cheerfully cleaned my room and opened the blinds. We talked about her family and mine.

A large screen computer in my room was how all these personnel communicated with each other. No one communicated with me. I found it ironic that the hierarchy of personal medical care was in inverse proportion to pay scale.

There was one thing missing in the healing process, the personal touch. I would look forward to my chatty cleaning elf. She would even ask me, "How are you doing today?"

I could almost feel Dr. Gerde's reassuring palm on my forehead.



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As Omicron Surge Continues Strain on Health Care Workforce, Gillibrand announces Bipartisan Bill to Address Retention and Recruitment of Health Care Professionals Through Student Loan Repayment Program

• New York State Health Care System Overwhelmed by Rapid Omicron Spread; More Than 5 Million New Yorkers Live In Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas; More Than 20 NYS Hospitals Nearing Capacity Have Stopped Performing All Elective Surgeries

• The Bipartisan BIO Preparedness Workforce Act Would Help Alleviate Strain and Grow the Infectious Disease and Pandemic Preparedness Workforce

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As the New York State health care system battles worker shortages and hospital strain, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is announcing her support of the Bolstering Infectious Outbreak (BIO) Preparedness Workforce Act. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in our nation's preparedness for public health emergencies and as Omicron continues to spread, many New York State hospitals are facing severe staffing shortages and are nearing capacity. This bipartisan bill would help address retention and recruitment issues in the health care workforce by removing financial barriers and authorizing \$50 million to establish a new student loan repayment program for infectious disease clinicians and bio-preparedness health care professionals.

“We are starting this year as we finished the last - our health care system and providers are under historic levels of stress and they need reinforcements,” said Senator Gillibrand. “This bipartisan bill would establish a loan repayment program to meet the needs of our nation's health care workforce and attract more students to receive vital clinical care training. We must do everything in our power to eliminate financial barriers and encourage the next generation of infectious disease and public health professionals so New York is well equipped for future crises.”

(Contd. Pg 11)

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News from your Town of Neversink

Parks & Rec



(From Pg. 1) A BIG BIG THANK YOU to our community members Joan Mingo, Stu Alexander, Dana McCarthy, Amanda Snook-Barnes, Jen Thomas, Eng-San & Halle Kho and Cory Dame who have stepped up and are volunteering. We still need more volunteers, so if you are willing to help out please reach out to Parks & Rec at cwparksandrec@gmail.com.



Christine Grim and Janine selling cocoa and snacks at the rink



Christine Grim TV Jr. Class Advisor setting up to sell



Fun on the ice

And we cannot go forward without thanking Ric, Patrick and Becky Coombe who help to take care of our ice, and Walt Zeitschel who is our go to man for everything related to the rink from monitoring and managing during open hours to helping with maintaining the ice. Your community can't thank all of you enough for giving them this fun family activity during these cold winter months.

Our current hours of operation at the Community Ice Rink are:

- Tuesday, Thursdays & Fridays 7 pm - 9 pm
- Saturdays 1 pm - 3 pm & 7 pm - 9 pm
- Sundays 1 pm - 5 pm

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

Make sure to check our Facebook page for changes to these hours of operation due to weather conditions and to see if we have any special events scheduled at the rink. And remember: ALL SKATERS, YOUNG AND OLD, MUST WEAR HELMETS ON THE ICE!

Other exciting news from your Parks & Rec Team is our upcoming WINTERFEST! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 12th (blizzard date: February 19th) when we will have our first Winterfest from noon till 7 pm at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds. There will be vendors selling homemade crafts and other products. We will have food and drinks provided by vendors, our Tri-Valley school organizations and our youth sport organizations. And plenty of fun activities for all ages. And the Ice Rink will be open during the event. Check our Facebook page for updates.



Learning to skate

For those skiers in our community, Holiday Mountain has once again provided discount days for our Town of Neversink and Tri-Valley School residents. Details are posted on our Facebook page.

Any questions send them to cwparksandrec@gmail.com. And as always, be safe, stay healthy and most of all be happy.

Cher (your Parks & Rec Director)

Unexpected Catskill Pleasures!



Every year brings with it the tradition of New Year's resolutions- promises to change, improve, or do something differently. Our Sullivan Catskills has long been a place where people come for self-improvement. Whether you're seeking better health, relaxation, or just the peacefulness of the country, come on up to our legendary vacationland. We promise you'll find some unexpected pleasures.

Get outdoors and take in some exercise-with an alpaca! Our friends at Buck Brook Alpacas will teach you harness & show basics so you can apply your new skills with a refreshing guided walk around the farm with your own alpaca. Now that's unexpected!

Another great way to enjoy our outdoors is on our hiking trails- quiet and peaceful in winter and perfect for any fitness level. Who doesn't benefit from a dose of retail therapy? And strolling down our main streets to shop is as good for your body as it is for your soul. Shop til you drop in Mountain Dale, Wurtsboro, Roscoe, Monticello, Narrowsburg, Liberty, Callicoon, Eldred, Hurleyville, Barryville, and Livingston Manor. If it's too cold for you, then you might consider driving around to visit the 60 hand-painted doves on the Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail.

Know what else is good for your body? Yoga at Yo1 Health Resort, The Yoga Space at Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre and Kenoza Hall; pilates at Find the Midline Pilates, massage at Crystal Life Spa at Resorts World Catskills, and strength training at Flex Appeal and at Villa Roma and Chi Hive. Look here for all the fabulous ways you can focus on self-care to start the new year in our Sullivan Catskills.

Good food does a body good, too. Our chefs love to satisfy a hearty appetite with their very own brand of Catskill-icious cuisine. And you'll definitely want to treat yourself to the fine selection of good cheer on the Good Taste Beverage Trail featuring award-winning wine, beer, spirits and ciders.

The final piece to self-improvement of course is good sleep. Plan a weekend sleepover at a full-service resort, vacation rental, small inn, or B&B. Our hoteliers are offering some very enticing Winter Specials!

Pack your bags (and your facemasks, too). We're wearing ours because everyone's health is important. And everywhere you go you can be assured that we're all following our Catskills Confidence program to keep us all safe and healthy.

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UC Executive Pat Ryan and the Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Announce Tentative Five- Year Contract Agreement

The Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's PBA includes all Deputies, Detectives, Sergeants and Dispatchers at the sheriff's office. Once adopted by the Legislature, all Ulster County bargaining units will have a contract.

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan and the Ulster County Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association, representing all Deputies, Detectives, Sergeants and Dispatchers at the Sheriff's Office, announced today a tentative five-year contract agreement. Once the contract is approved by the Ulster County Legislature, all Ulster County bargaining units will be under contract.

"I am proud that we have reached this agreement with the PBA, and that Ulster County will soon have contracts with all of our bargaining units," County Executive Pat Ryan said. "This new contract recognizes the hard work of our employees, especially given the challenges that they have faced since the outbreak of COVID-19."

"I am very pleased with the collective bargaining agreement that the Ulster County PBA, the Ulster County Executive and the Sheriff agreed to," Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa said. "The Deputies of this Office, working through an opioid epidemic, a once in a century pandemic, new state laws, and current historical events, are dedicated to the safety of the residents of Ulster County and will continue to be keepers of the peace in these unique times. The commitment to enhanced training and building community relationships are the cornerstone of our continued success."

"We are pleased we have reached this agreement," President of the Ulster County Sheriff's PBA Collin Reynolds said. "It helps recognize the selfless work our men and women do on a daily basis to serve the residents and visitors of Ulster County."

The five-year agreement covers the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024. The County employees represented by PBA will receive a \$1,250 off-base signing bonus, increases in the county's share of health insurance costs in retirement, and raises across the board to help with both recruitment and retention. This agreement is part of County Executive Ryan's commitment to support and recognize the hard work of Ulster County's frontline workers who have stepped up during the course of the pandemic.

Last month, more than 90% of voting PBA membership ratified the contract agreement. The agreement will now go before the Ulster County Legislature for adoption.

The Scene Too

-Jane Harrison

No column this week.– will be back on board next week with a good story! Have a great week. Stay safe and stay masked!

As Omicron Surge Continues Strain on Health Care Workforce, Gillibrand announces Bipartisan Bill to Address Retention and Recruitment of Health Care Professionals Through Student Loan Repayment Program

(From Pg. 7) A June 2020 study in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that 208 million Americans live in areas with little or no access to an infectious disease (ID) provider. In 2020, only 75% of infectious diseases training programs were able to fill all their slots, in part due to lower salaries for ID providers than nearly all other specialties, including general internal medicine. Given that the average medical student debt is over \$200,000, the ID specialty and related bio-preparedness work are a financially infeasible choice for many. Physicians, nurses, laboratory professionals, and other health care professionals have also been working intense hours in an environment of health risks, uncertainty, and overwhelming patient loss, contributing to severe burnout during the pandemic. Many have considered early retirement, exacerbating existing workforce concerns and threatening the future of this critical workforce.

Qualified individuals working in infectious disease and bio-preparedness and response, including physicians, clinical pharmacists, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses, may receive up to \$50,000 for each year of service, up to a total of \$150,000 in loan repayment.

The BIO Preparedness Workforce Act is supported by Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, Infectious Diseases Society of America, American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American Association of Medical Colleges, National Rural Health Association, Association for Clinical Microbiology, American Society for Microbiology, American Dental Association, Association of Professionals in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology, HIV Medicine Association, AIDS Institute, AIDS United, American Academy of HIV Medicine, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Institute of Dental Public Health, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, Society for

Health Care Epidemiology, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, American Society for Clinical Pathology, HIV Dental Alliance, HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association, National Virus Hepatitis Roundtable, National Working Positive Coalition, Latino Commission on AIDS, National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, Physician Assistant Education Association, Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition, Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists, University of Wisconsin Health System, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Vivent Health, Wisconsin Medical Society, and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

This bill is led by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

The full text of the Bolstering Infectious Outbreak (BIO) Preparedness Workforce Act can be found at: <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/download/bio-preparedness-workforce-act>

Sullivan County Acquires 15,000 More KN95 Masks Distribution Continues Tuesday at Transportation Building

Monticello, NY - Thanks to efforts by Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Farney, Sullivan County has acquired 15,000 more KN95 masks, in addition to the 34,500 it received from the State earlier this month.

As a result, Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley is pleased to announce that another drive-thru pick-up event has been scheduled for 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, January 11 at the Transportation Building, 401 County Route 183 (Airport Road), Swan Lake, NY.

"We also continue to work with our local towns, libraries and housing complexes to keep distributing these useful masks," explained Quigley. "As always, I welcome more complexes to give our Community Assistance Center a call (845-807-0925) if they would like some for their residents."

Any Sullivan County resident is welcome to come on Tuesday to pick up masks for themselves and their families. Residents should remain in their vehicles. Identification showing Sullivan County residency will be required, and drivers should be wearing a mask when conversing with staff and volunteers.

KN95 masks also continue to be available at the Government Center during normal business hours. Inquire at the Sheriff's desk in the lobby.

As supplies last, local libraries have masks available as well. Call first before travelling to pick up masks.

For those unable to access these locations, contact the Community Assistance Center at 845-807-0925 for help.




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Gov Hochul announces Direct Payments to Healthcare Workers as Part of \$10 Billion Healthcare Plan

Largest Ever Investment Will Grow New York Healthcare Workforce by 20 Percent Over Five Years

- Invests \$4 Billion in Wages and Bonuses, Including \$3,000 Retention Payments to Full-Time Healthcare Workers
- Retains, Rebuilds, and Grows Healthcare Workforce Through Wages, Bonuses, Cost of Living Adjustments, Strengthened Career Pipeline, Expanded Access to Training and Education
- Strengthens Healthcare System with Investments in Infrastructure, Access and Delivery

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a \$10 billion multi-year investment in healthcare, the largest in State history, to rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce and strengthen the healthcare system as part of the 2022 State of the State. The plan will invest \$10 billion in New York State's healthcare sector, including more than \$4 billion to support wages and bonuses for healthcare workers, and will invest in the healthcare workforce development pipeline to meet the current and increasing demand for medical professionals.

"From the very beginning of the pandemic, New York's healthcare workers have been on the front lines," Governor Hochul said. "We must stop the current hemorrhaging of healthcare workers, and we need to not just say we owe them a debt of gratitude, but actually pay them the debt we owe. The health of every New Yorker depends on a strong, stable, and equitable healthcare system, and healthcare workers are its very foundation. With the largest ever investment in healthcare, we will retain, rebuild, and grow our healthcare workforce and ensure we deliver the highest quality healthcare for New Yorkers."

The pandemic has dramatically exacerbated healthcare workforce concerns, impacting the experience of our essential workers as well as access to high quality care for New Yorkers. As of June 2021, New York's healthcare workforce was still 3 percent below pre-pandemic levels, and 11 percent below where it would need to be by the end of 2022 to keep up with pre-pandemic projected demand.

Make a \$10 Billion Investment in Our Healthcare Sector and Support Wages for Workers

New York's essential health and human services workers have seen us through a once-in-a-century public health crisis and turned our state into a model for battling - and beating - COVID-19. But many of these workers are still earning a wage far below what they need to sustain a household and a fair quality of life.

To grow New York's healthcare workforce by 20 percent over the next 5 years, Governor Hochul will make a \$10 billion, multi-year investment in healthcare, including more than \$4 billion to support wages and bonuses for healthcare workers. Key components of this multi-year investment include:

- o \$2 billion to support healthcare wages
- o \$2 billion to support healthcare and mental hygiene worker retention bonuses, with up to \$3,000 bonuses going to full-time workers who remain in their positions for one year, and pro-rated bonuses for those working fewer hours
- o \$500 million for Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) to help raise wages for human services workers
- o \$2 billion for healthcare capital infrastructure and improved lab capacity
- o Other investments in workforce and healthcare access and delivery . (Contd. Pg. 26)

Senator Mike Martucci Delivers Senate Republican Response to Governor Hochul's 2022 State of the State Address

For everyone, the start of a New Year presents us with an important opportunity to take stock of the past year... to make an honest assessment of the challenges that we face... and to set new goals for the coming year.

For each of us personally, the New Year is a good time to remember that despite all challenges we have a lot to be thankful for.

As Legislators, now is the time to consider how our state has gotten into this mess, and more importantly, how we can best get out of it.

New Yorkers were rocked last year by the scandals and cover-ups that forced Andrew Cuomo to resign in disgrace.

Now, we have a new Governor, and we stand ready to work with her in a spirit of bi-partisanship and good faith to move our state forward.

As we enter 2022, New York is clearly facing enormous challenges....

Crime and violence are skyrocketing.

Our economy has been badly battered by high taxes, over-regulation and a hostile business climate.

And, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our state leadership is once again making many of the same mistakes and blunders that we saw under the prior administration.

So, while Andrew Cuomo has left office in disgrace, his terrible policies live on.

These problems clearly represent major challenges for our state. We, the Senate Republican Conference, are ready to tackle these challenges head-on.

Here's how...

Let's face facts: The soft-on-crime, anti-police policies imposed by New York City Radicals working with Andrew Cuomo have been an unmitigated disaster, fueling violence and undermining public safety throughout our state.

We must end cashless bail for dangerous criminals, restore judicial discretion, and stop giving get-out-of-jail-free cards to people who wreak havoc on our streets time-and-time again.

We can and we must support critical mental health and addiction services. But we can do these things while at the same time restoring respect for the law, and supporting the courageous law enforcement professionals who keep our communities safe.

We also have a great deal of work to do in terms of fixing our economy, creating jobs and making our state more affordable.

Yes, we've been hit hard by COVID... but New York's economy was in bad shape long before this pandemic hit.

Here's what we need to do to reverse the trend of people leaving our state in droves.

We must reduce taxes, period.

We need to support our struggling family farms and small

businesses, instead of punishing them with more taxes and red tape.

We should target state investment to strengthen our workforce, expand broadband and improve our energy and transportation infrastructures - putting New Yorkers to work to rebuilding our economy.

By virtually every measure, New York has been hit harder by this pandemic than any other state.

And like many New Yorkers, Senate Republicans believe that our state government should be doing a better job in tackling this crisis and moving our state forward again.

Our message is simple and straightforward. "No more government by Executive Order."

No governor - from either political party - should ever be allowed to rule without checks and balances, accountability and legislative oversight.

Oppressive mandates are an affront to our democracy, and they can also produce disastrous consequences. We saw this very clearly with Governor Cuomo's nursing home scandal and cover-up.

Our state leaders need to be working in partnership with local leaders... with our local hospitals and nursing homes... and with our dedicated front-line health care professionals.

We need clear and consistent communications with families, schools, and small businesses all across the state.

We need to expand access to vaccines, boosters and rapid testing resources in every region of New York.

One-size-fits-all Albany Mandates are not the solution to our problems-they are the problem.

In addition to the Senate Republicans' proactive Take Back New York agenda, our conference will also be leading the fight against many of the misguided policies now being discussed in Albany.

The political extremists and socialists who now dominate State politics are hell-bent on enacting a radical agenda. They are more concerned with their own political survival than doing the work of the people.

So when they try to enact more pro-criminal, anti-cop policies, we're going to do everything we can to stop them.

When they try to let non-U.S. citizens vote in our local elections, we are going to fight tooth and nail against it.

When they try to increase gas taxes by up to 50 cents per gallon - at a time when New Yorkers are already being hammered by inflation - we're going to call it out.

And when extremists try to endanger our communities and use our classrooms for social experimentation- we're going to say "no."

As we enter the New Year and the 2022 Legislative Session, it is important to remember that we've been confronted by major challenges throughout our state's long history.

New Yorkers have never failed to rise to the occasion at any of those times.

For that to happen again, they need a government worthy of them. One that promotes hope, growth and opportunity instead of fear, distrust and control.

By restoring common sense and checks and balances to our state government, Senate Republicans know that we can - and we must - overcome the historic challenges we face in 2022 and beyond.

Thank you, and may God bless every New Yorker.

Assemblymember Cahill's Statement on the Rejection of IRC Gerrymandering

Assembly took the necessary measures to assure a timely completion of the important task of redistricting. The failure of the so-called "Independent" Redistricting Commission to advance a single set of cohesive reapportionment maps resulted in a bipartisan rejection of their cobbled together submission of multiple plans that do not meet even the basic guidelines that were their charge.

Locally, the splitting of Dutchess and Ulster Counties into multiple districts, reaching tendrils far into other areas, reflects the same bad policy used to form the constituencies I opposed and voted against a decade ago. This blatant disenfranchisement of our neighbors by the tried and true "divide and conquer" approach cannot be allowed to stand.

The Commission has a second chance to return, by January 25th, more reasonable maps that are contiguous, cohesive, equal and representative of communities of interest across New York State. Should they fail to do so for a second time, I will again join the vast majority of my colleagues in rejecting them. It will then fall to the legislature to undertake the task itself.

Attention Artists! Call for Entries

Announcing an open call for artists in all mediums for presentation on The Great Wall of Honesdale 2022!

The Great Wall of Honesdale is entering its 7th year, and has become a landmark in Wayne County, PA. More than 100,000 cars pass by The Wall in a week and see the 11' x 17' foot panels. The 2022 edition will premiere in June. The 12 panels will be on display for an entire year. In addition, each artist is permanently featured on The Wall's website, which includes a link to their personal website or social media: <http://www.thegreatwallofhonesdale.com>

The theme for 2022 is illumination. This is entirely open to the artist's interpretation.

ILLUMINATION, noun

1. lighting or light
2. a display of lights on a building or other structure
3. clarification
4. spiritual or intellectual enlightenment

What is your personal experience from the past year? Has anything become more clear to you? What issues do you think need additional light? Have you found clarity from an unlikely source?

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Please submit up to three jpeg images for consideration. Low resolution images are requested for judging (72 dpi and 650 pixels on longest side).

Please note that winning entries will be required to submit a HIGH resolution image for printing (300 dpi and 5000 pixels on longest side). Do not submit more than 3 images.

2. ENTRY FEE: Members of the Wayne County Arts Alliance may enter without paying a fee. For non-members, the entry fee is \$10 for 1 entry, \$15 for 2 entries, and \$20 for 3 entries.

You may become a new member in order to waive this fee (see below, #7).

Payment can be made here: waynecountyartsalliance.org/the-great-wall-of-honesdale/

3. Selections will be made based on artistic quality, graphic strength, and interpretation of the theme. The Wall is most often viewed from a distance, so strong graphic interest is important to be effective. All submissions should be horizontal and able to accommodate minimal cropping, as needed.

4. Enter your submission(s) via this email: greatwallentry@gmail.com

Please put "Great Wall Entry" in the subject line. Include ALL contact info in the body of the email (full name, address, phone number, preferred contact method), and attach jpeg files with specs listed above in #1.

o If you are a student, please include "Student Entry" in your submission.

o The Honesdale Jaycees have generously supported a panel in the past, and artwork for that panel will be selected from qualified student entries.

5. Deadline for entry is midnight EST on Sunday, February 20, 2022. Chosen entries will be notified on Monday, March 7, 2022.

6. If you do not adhere to the above rules, your submission may not be considered.

7. The Wall is sponsored by the generosity of local patrons and supporters. Thanks to many donations throughout the year, artists will not be required to financially cover the production of their vinyl panel this year! Artists will have the option to purchase their panel at the end of the year for \$250. This money will then move into the Artist Fund for 2023.

o The Wall is an affiliate of the Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA).

_ To become a member of the WCAA (which waives the entry fee), please visit: <http://waynecountyartsalliance.org/membership/>

In addition to exhibition opportunities for members throughout the year at Honesdale's Main St. Gallery, membership supports our non-profit mission and aids in expenses necessary for high quality programming in our community and beyond.

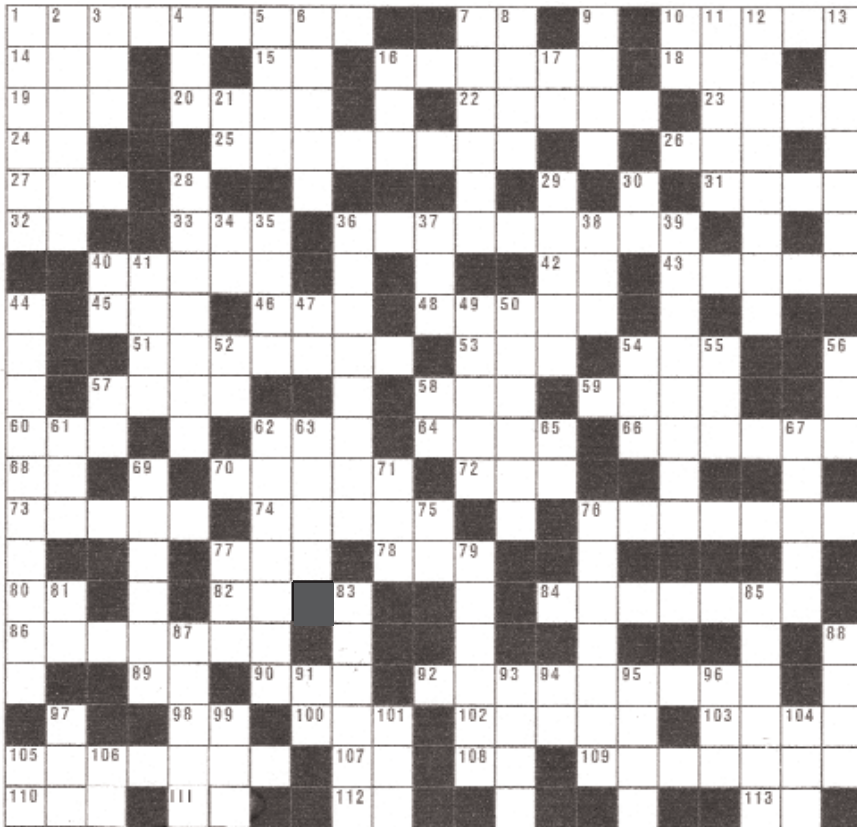
Please see the WCAA website for full details, or email: waynecountyartsalliance@gmail.com with membership questions.

We strongly encourage artists of all backgrounds and ages to submit their work, including high school students!!

Questions?

Email Maggie Fuller and Phyllis Chekenian at <mailto:greatwallentry@gmail.com> with plenty of time before the deadline.

"I Have a Dream" - L. Comando



ACROSS

- 1 Aware
- 7 Living Room
- 10 Vision
- 14 Exists
- 15 United States
- 16 Oration
- 18 One of the slender curved bone protection the thoracic cavity
- 19 Nocturnal flying mammal
- 20 Large amount
- 22 Not silent
- 23 Relating to a teenager
- 24 Nearby
- 25 Study of the nature of God
- 26 Female chicken
- 27 Less than average height
- 31 Perceives with the eyes
- 32 Chem. element Argon
- 33 Staff
- 36 College attended by Martin Luther

- King, Jr.
- 40 Turn to ice
- 42 Rupees
- 43 Search
- 45 A great deal
- 46 Long period of time
- 48 Thick
- 51 City where Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated
- 53 Female deer
- 54 Male human
- 57 Trial
- 58 Honey-producing insect
- 59 Hindu
- 60 Distinctive philosophy
- 62 High degree of heat
- 64 Against
- 66 Moral
- 68 Street
- 70 Swedish chemist, entrepreneur and pacifist who invented dynamite
- 72 Be seated
- 73 International system of telegraphy
- 74 Folk tradi-

- tions
- 76 Avoid
- 77 Pastry
- 78 Secretary-General of the U.N. from '58-'61
- 80 Northeast
- 82 Part of the human psyche
- 84 Birthplace of Martin Luther King, JR.
- 86 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s wife
- 89 Regarding
- 90 Term for Cantonese language
- 92 Alaska's largest city
- 98 Ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter
- 100 Short sleep
- 102 Yiddish dish
- 103 "___ & Andy"
- 105 Submissive
- 107 Modus operandi
- 108 Surrounded by something
- 109 Icons
- 110 Curved line
- 111 Delaware

- 112 Chem. element tellurium
- 113 Road

DOWN

- 1 Jewish mystical tradition
- 2 Skilled public speaker
- 3 Overall
- 4 Projection on a rotating part of machinery
- 5 Cry of pain
- 6 Escort
- 7 Union
- 8 Depend on
- 9 Close
- 10 Doctor
- 11 Solemn ceremonial act
- 12 King was the pastor of this church
- 13 Someone's established set of attitudes
- 16 Sun
- 17 Colorado
- 21 State that observed Human Rights Day until 2000
- 28 Objection
- 29 According to their mythology, the first humans were

- 55 Badger
- 56 Belonging to him
- 57 Trademark
- 58 Bachelor of Arts
- 61 Female saint
- 62 Celebration
- 63 Slender woodwind with a double reed mouthpiece
- 65 That thing
- 67 Small freshwater tropical

- brightly colored fish
- 69 Overseer
- 71 Organized and directed
- 75 South America
- 76 Lower half of a two-piece garment
- 77 Excavation
- 79 Noted civil rights leader in India

- 81 Executive Order
- 83 Had a cherished aspiration
- 85 Quake
- 87 Lukewarm
- 88 Multitude
- 91 United Nations
- 93 Penny
- 94 Hour
- 95 Lines of light
- 96 Chat
- 97 Face value of a stock
- 99 I have
- (contraction)
- 101 Author of "The Raven"
- 104 Not new
- 105 Father
- 106 State that officially began to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as an official holiday in 2000

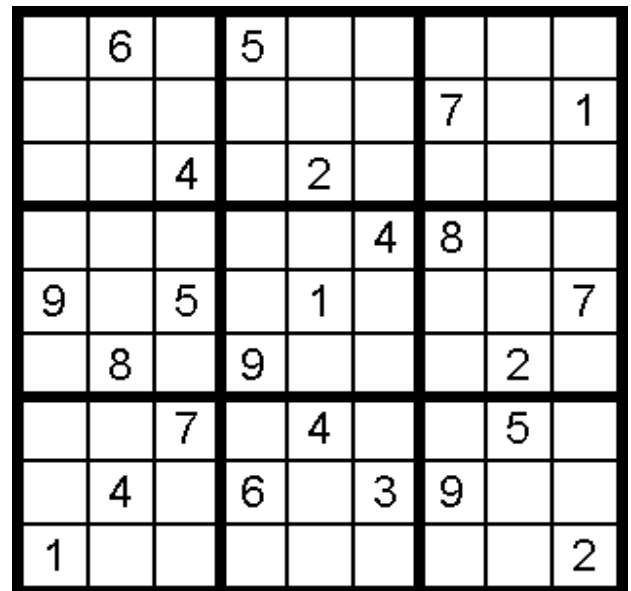
Broccoli Quiche

- 1 (10 oz). pkg. frozen broccoli
- 1 c. chopped onion
- 1 c chopped green pepper
- 1 1/2 c shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 c chopped parsley
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1 1/2 c milk
- 1 c. Bisquick
- 3 eggs

Grease 10 x 1 1/2 inch pie plate. Mix broccoli, onion, green pepper, cheese, Parmesan cheese, parsley, salt, pepper, garlic powder and oregano. Put in pie plate. Beat the milk, eggs and Bisquick until smooth (1 minute). Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour until golden brown.

Let stand 5 minutes and serve.

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

To play SUDOKU online: <https://sudoku.com>

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

15 26 24 11 13 11 7 14 8 18 21 26 18 11 22 7 14 8 18

6 14 14 18 7 14 8 18 3 8 22 22 5 11 22 13 19 25 25 11 25

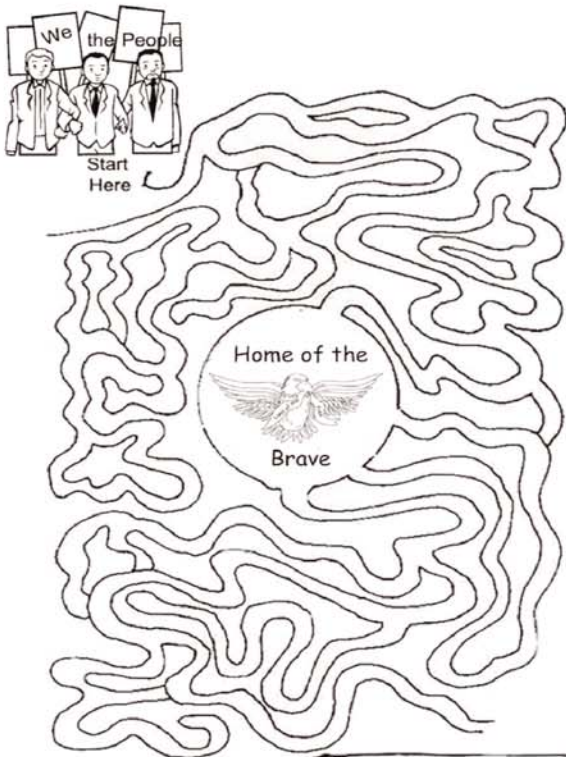
7 11 19 18 1 26 1 15 21 14 16 18 11 19 21 3 11 23 18 11 11

WORDSEARCH

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

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| FREEDOM | GENDER |
| CULTURE | DISABILITY |
| RACE | SPEECH |
| RELIGION | PRESS |
| AGE | LIBERTY |

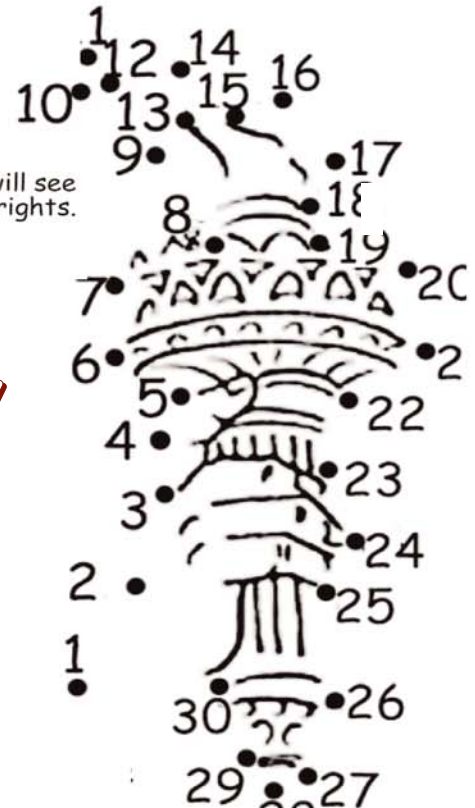
It took many people to guarantee the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the USA. Can you help these citizens through the maze where they will be able to read the Bill of Rights?



This man is on his way to a Martin Luther King Birthday celebration. What are the differences between the two pictures?



Follow the dots and you will see a symbol of our freedom and rights.



Kids' Holiday Fun Page

- L. Comando

Cryptogram Key

19	16	9	22	11	23	15	3	26	10	2	5	13	1	14	6	4	18	25	21	8	24	12	20	7	17
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

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Ellenville Regional Hospital

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ERHNY.org

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE NEVERSINK FIRE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Election of the Neversink Fire District will take place on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 between the hours of 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm at the Neversink Fire Station located at 7486 State Route 55 Neversink NY 12765 for the purpose of:

Electing one commissioner for a two year term commencing on January 25, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023. The candidates running for the office of Fire District Commissioner are Ken Bivins and James Darling.


This is a Special Election conducted pursuant to Town Law §174(2).

Only those persons who are residents of the Neversink Fire District on or before December 27, 2021 and who are registered to vote with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before January 3, 2022 shall be eligible to vote in this Special Election.

December 16, 2021
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
NEVERSINK FIRE DISTRICT
7486 State Route 55
Neversink, NY 12765

1/6; 1/13

Please Take Notice:
Covid-19 Home Test Kits are available at Town of Denning Town Hall 1567 Denning Road Claryville, NY
Mondays through Thursdays 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM until they are gone.
Call (845) 985-2411 for more information.
Full Time Residents Only Proof of Denning residency required ONE kit per household (2 tests) Signature required
Ulster County is tracking distribution

 **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS Tri-Valley CSD**

The district is seeking candidates to fill the position of Superintendent of Schools. The candidate should have prior experience as a principal or district level administrator and possess excellent leadership, and communication skills with a 21st century educational vision. A background in curriculum development, budgeting, human relations, and negotiating experience is a plus. Commitment to student achievement, community involvement, and residency in the district is strongly preferred.

New York State School District Administration or equivalent certification required. Salary up to \$175,000 with a competitive benefits package, based on experience

Tri-Valley is located in Sullivan County, New York, about 100 miles north of New York City, and is well known for its natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. Combined with quality housing, medical facilities, and cultural events, it is an ideal area in which to live and work.

Forward letter of interest, resume, university placement folder/official transcripts and application by Feb 4th to: Robert M. Dufour, Ed.D., District Superintendent, Sullivan BOCES, 15 Sullivan Ave, Suite 1W, Liberty, NY 12754 EOE

1/13



The Tri-Valley School District is searching for a new Superintendent of Schools

The Tri-Valley Board of Education seeks input from the school community on the desired characteristics and skills the next superintendent should possess.

To share your preference, please complete the survey located on Tri-Valley's website www.trivalleycsd.org

By Wednesday, January 19, 2022

1/13

Fallsburg CSD Board of Education January Meeting
January 19, 2022

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting
Regular Meeting #14 - Thursday, January 20, 2022
Call to Order - 6:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library Lower Level
Anticipated Proposed Executive Session - 6:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library Upper Level
Regular Meeting resumes - approximately 7:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library Lower Level
All Board Meetings will be broadcast on our YouTube Live Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkI224vKQ8nAWhR6NVa024w/live>

COVID-19 Response Shifts in Sullivan County Debuts New Ways of Combatting Pandemic

Liberty, NY - Due to the rapidly changing COVID-19 pandemic situation, Sullivan County is announcing strategic changes to balance the responsibility to protect public health with enabling schools and workplaces to safely stay open.

"Through this change in our response strategy, we aim to clarify and simplify the continually evolving guidance from the State and Federal governments for Sullivan County residents," explained Health & Family Services Commissioner John Liddle. "A fact-based, common sense approach to our current situation will help everyone make decisions that protect their own health and that of the community as a whole."

"While the rapid growth in cases is certainly cause for concern, we are also very fortunate - the rise of the Omicron variant is only causing mild to moderate illness for the vast majority of those who are fully vaccinated," added Public Health Director Nancy McGraw. "Nevertheless, the total number of cases is putting heavy pressure on our Public Health professionals and local healthcare providers. This is the primary driver behind the changes in our response strategy."

Public Health has created a flowchart as another tool in making healthcare decisions, which can be found at <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/PublicHealth/Coronavirus>.

Public Health has also committed to providing citizens with a daily update via its social media platform and will expand interactions with media outlets for the duration of the current surge in cases.

"One important concept in our strategy has not changed - vaccines have proven to be very safe and highly effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalization from all COVID-19 variants," remarked McGraw. "As of January 5, less than 25% of the patients admitted to Garnet-Catskills who test positive for COVID-19 reported being fully vaccinated - 75-80% were either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or did not report their status. We encourage everyone 5 and older to obtain a vaccine as soon as possible. If it has been more than 6 months since your original vaccine series, you should also obtain a booster."

Contact Tracing Ending

Starting Monday, January 10, Sullivan County Public Health will discontinue COVID-19 contact tracing until otherwise directed by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) for high-risk congregate settings.

"Public Health still encourages those who test positive for COVID-19 to isolate themselves and notify their close contacts that they may have been exposed," explained McGraw. "However, due to the extremely high number of cases, we have determined that contact tracing does not provide meaningful support in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Sullivan County at this moment, with the exception of those in congregate settings such as schools, nursing homes, group homes, and incarceration facilities."

What to Do With Those At-Home Test Kits

Over-The-Counter (OTC) test kits have already been distributed from the State to all Sullivan County school districts and municipalities. More are coming, as they are another useful tool to help better understand the risks from COVID-19.

"Because the extremely high number of cases is putting heavy pressure on our local healthcare providers, we are advising everyone to assume that a positive OTC test result means that you are positive for COVID-19," noted McGraw. "Confirmatory

PCR tests are not necessary at this point for you to follow isolation guidance - stay home, avoid contact with others, and monitor symptoms closely. If you are worried that your symptoms cannot be managed with over-the-counter products, contact your healthcare provider. If your symptoms worsen to the point of having difficulty breathing, do not wait for a primary care provider: call 911 for assistance, and let them know about your symptoms in advance."

Beginning next week, anyone who tests positive utilizing an at-home test will be able to report that to Public Health by entering their information in a special portal to be announced. That portal will also provide isolation/quarantine return-to-work letters automatically.

Isolation/Quarantine Rules Changing

Isolation and quarantine orders are changing to align with Federal CDC guidance, beginning January 10. Most importantly, isolation and quarantine periods are being reduced from 10 days to 5 days for those who are fully vaccinated, boosted and not experiencing symptoms on Day 5. It is important to note that a negative test is **NO LONGER REQUIRED** to exit quarantine. "Based on all we are learning about the Omicron variant, anyone returning to school or work after 5 days must also wear a medical-grade mask (i.e., KN95) until the 10th day after their exposure date," said Liddle. "Although we still believe cloth and basic surgical masks offer some protection against COVID-19, data is clearly indicating the benefits of higher grade masks, and they should be considered an essential tool for those who are just coming out of their isolation or quarantine period. If you need to obtain one, please contact our Community Assistance Center at 845-807-0925."

Test-to-Stay' Arriving

Public Health is supporting all local school districts who wish to implement "test-to-stay" programs in their districts. These programs are an important tool for school districts to be able to keep kids in school safely. Individual school districts will provide guidance to families in the days and weeks ahead on how these programs will work locally. Public Health will be providing assistance and consultation to schools who wish to implement "test-to-stay" programs.

Implementing the Mask Mandate

In order to bring more financial resources to the County to support residents, Sullivan County will accept \$1 million being offered by the State to counties who support the Statewide indoor mask mandate.

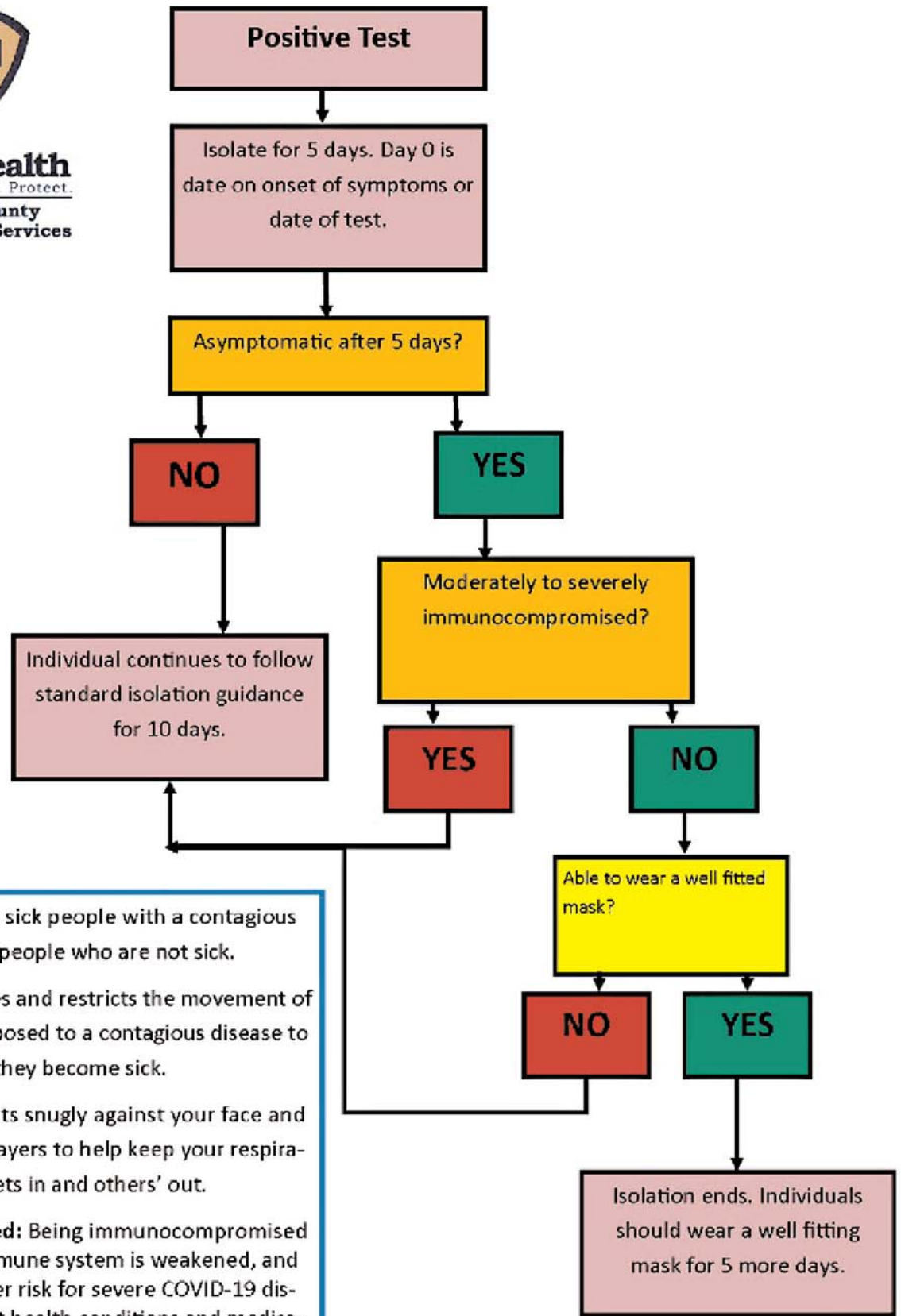
"We will use the funding to bolster support for our COVID-19 Info Line (845-513-2268), which will field the community's concerns and connect any identified venues with additional masks and public health information to enhance compliance with the mandate," said Liddle. "We will use the vast majority of these funds to improve access to vaccines, masks, and test kits for everyone in the County."

Continuing to Advocate for Additional Resources

"We welcome the recent support NYS government has provided us in the form of KN-95 masks and test kits," stated District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajsz, chair of the Legislature's Health & Family Services Committee. "We also know they're not enough to support the many challenges our citizens are facing right now. I've joined Sullivan County Emergency Management in requesting staffing and supplies from the State to expand or open new test sites in the County, and we have purchased more test kits on our own for public distribution in order to supplement the supplies provided from Albany."

The Division of Health and Family Services appreciates the ongoing support and advocacy from Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Senator Michael Martucci, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and all of the local elected officials.

Decision Guide for a Positive COVID-19 Test or COVID Exposure

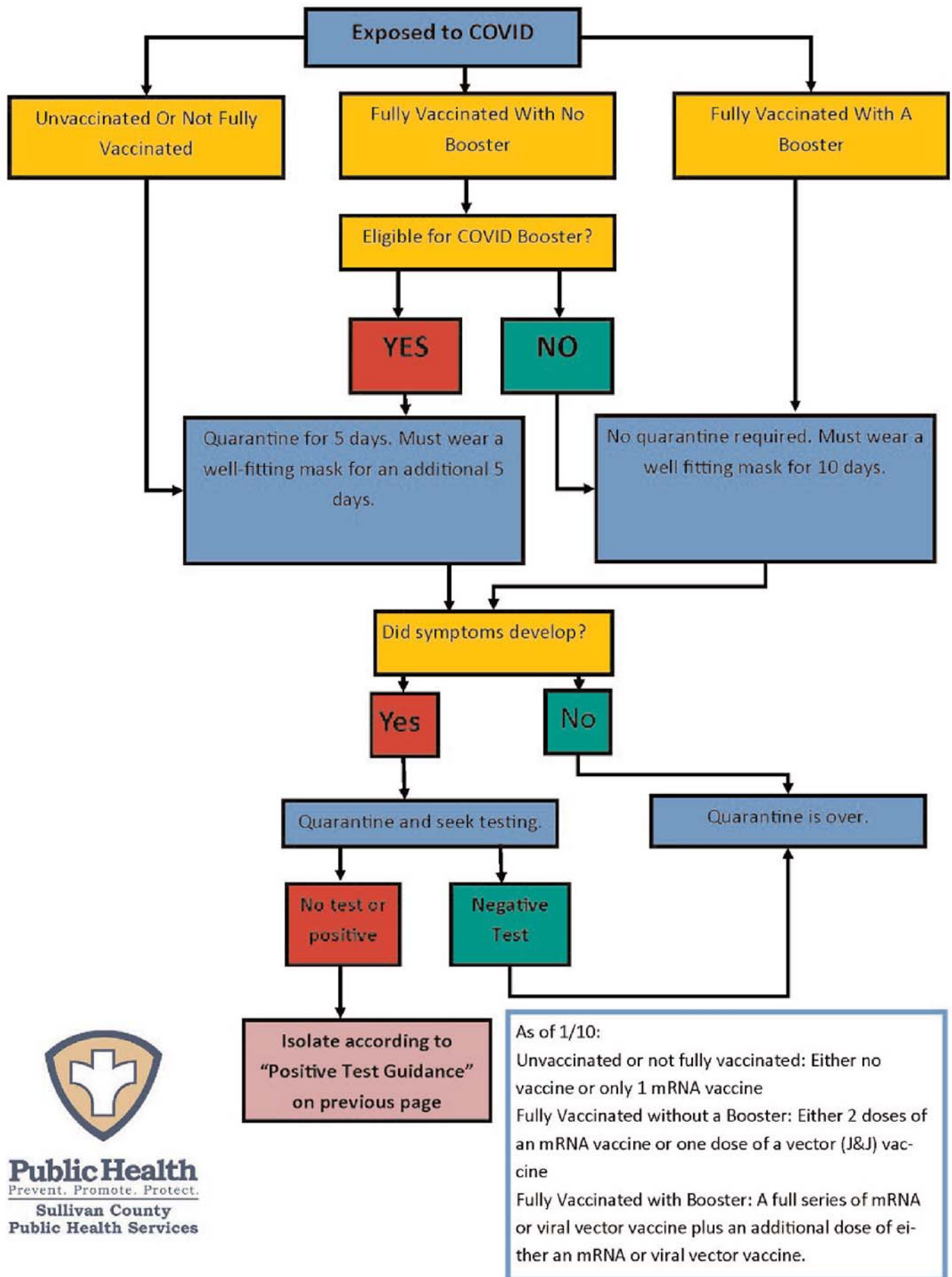


Isolation: separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine: separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Well-Fitting Mask: Fits snugly against your face and is made of multiple layers to help keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out.

Immunocompromised: Being immunocompromised means that your immune system is weakened, and you may be at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease. Many different health conditions and medications can cause you to be immunocompromised.



As of 1/10:
Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated: Either no vaccine or only 1 mRNA vaccine
Fully Vaccinated without a Booster: Either 2 doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of a vector (J&J) vaccine
Fully Vaccinated with Booster: A full series of mRNA or viral vector vaccine plus an additional dose of either an mRNA or viral vector vaccine.

ST. MARK'S UMC
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INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

Something for Everyone



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Sundown United Methodist Church

Sundown Ladies

See you this summer!

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION

The Little Church with the Big Heart
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday, 8:00am Service of Holy Communion
Music by Fred VanWagner

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845-436-7539

For information contact:
The Reverend Diana Southwick Scheide
Canon Missioner of the Delaware Catskill
Episcopal Ministry
PO Box 296 Callicoon, NY
vicardcem@gmail.com
845-887-3201 • 717-870-7874 cell

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 morning 8:50 am; Tuesday morning 8:50 am; Wednesday morning No Mass; Thursday afternoon 3:00 pm; Friday morning 8:50 am and Saturday morning 8:50 am.

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

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

Thrift Sales will reopen in the Spring
See you then



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=R2lJYUhyTVdsQWdMUXZvTEtCeGdLZz09>
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

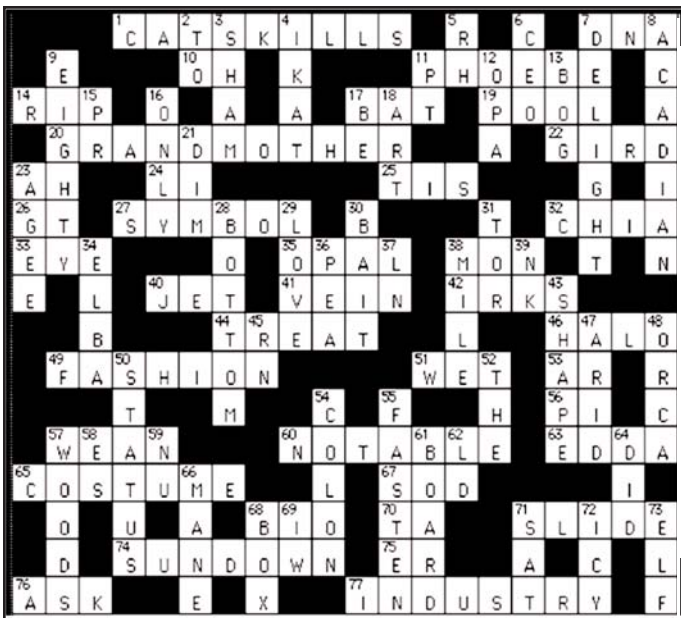
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

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 United Methodist Church

The GUMC held their final 2021 Thrift Sale on November 6th. Even when we are closed we want the community to know that, by appointment, our Thrift items are always available to anyone in case of an emergency by calling 845-985-2283. Because of storage space we are **NOT ABLE** to receive items again until next spring. Please help us by storing your treasures at your house until then.

ST. MARK'S UMC

in Napanoch

INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE

Will be opened every Friday
from 10 - 3

Something for Everyone

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

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

DANIEL PIERCE LIBRARY

Curbside Pickup

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
TUESDAY - 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
THURSDAY - 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
FRIDAY - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
SATURDAY - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Curbside pick up will continue to be available every day from 9:00 am until a half hour before closing time.

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Call us at 845-985-0501
email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

AL-ANON MEETINGS- <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>
Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty • Thurs- 7:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty

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.

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/12/22	Town of Neversink Board Meeting 7:30 pm
1/16/22	TVCS Board Meeting (See Pg. 18 for details)
1/17/22	TOWN OF NEVERSINK HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/18/22	Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
1/25/22	SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE NEVERSINK FIRE DISTRICT 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Neversink Fire Station
2/1/22	Claryville Fire District Meetings 6:30 pm
2/2/22	Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting 7:00 pm

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

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2022** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events thru out the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or
USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740
or Drop them in the Drop Box at the Grahamsville 1st Aid Building

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.

During these uncertain times - PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF EACH ORGANIZATION for updates & changes

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

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update

January 10 - January 14, 2022

Monday, January 10

- o 5:00 PM - Community Services Board, Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 843 9989 2283, Passcode: 897625, Dial In Number: (646) 558-8656
- o 6:30 PM - Organizational Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature, This meeting will be livestreamed and available via vimeo at <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>. Public Comment is administered by "Call In Studio": Dial 205-ULSTER-0 or (205) 857-8370 to be connected. Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk via email to vfab@co.ulster.ny.us

Tuesday, January 11

- o 2:00 PM - Recycling Oversight Committee, Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 837 3668 3879, Dial In Number: (646) 558-8656
- o 4:30 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 830 5224 2442, Dial In Number: (646) 558-8656

Wednesday, January 12

- o 10:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee, Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 816 4111 9687, By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
- o 11:00 AM (or immediately following the UC IDA Governance Comm.) Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Governance Committee, Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 816 4111 9687, By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
- o 5:30 PM - Ulster County Executive Public Hearing on: Proposed Local Law No. 8 of 2021, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 304, Solid Waste, Article IV, Food Waste Prevention And Recovery, In Relation To Composting, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 6:00 PM - Commission on Reapportionment, Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 871 1855 9447, Dial In Number: (646) 558-8656

Thursday, January 13

- o No Meetings

Friday, January 14

- o No Meetings

Next Generation of Environmentalists Learn About New York's Shared Water Resources Through Art & Poetry Contest



Students from New York City and the upstate watersheds are invited to submit original works of art and poetry

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced the launch of the 36th annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. Second through twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter and parochial schools, and those who are home-schooled, in New York City and in the East and West of Hudson watersheds, are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for New York's shared water resources. Entries will be accepted online until March 4, 2022.

Last year, more than 1,300 New York City and watershed students (grades 2-12) representing nearly 90 schools submitted original poems and artwork about New York's shared water resources. Contest winners, called Water Champions, were honored during a virtual celebration hosted by DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, DEP staff, and the 2021 NYC Youth Poet Laureate, Serena Yang. Students also received certificates and gift bags at the program's conclusion. For this year's contest, teachers, parents and students can visit

nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry to view the contest guidelines and resource materials, submit entries online, see past winners, and learn more about New York City water. In consideration of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's contest will culminate with a virtual celebration in the spring.

DEP's Water Resources Art and Poetry program helps raise awareness about the importance of clean, high-quality drinking water, and what it takes to maintain New York City's water supply and wastewater treatment systems. Students can create poems and artwork including paintings, collages, three-dimensional models, photography, animation and videos of dance performances, public service announcements and songs. The 2022 contest will focus on five central themes that incorporate STEM and humanities disciplines:

- o Water, A Precious Resource: To recognize the importance of a clean and plentiful supply of water.
- o New York City Water Supply System: To explore the history of the New York City Water Supply System and its present-day source, operation, delivery, protection and maintenance.
- o New York City Wastewater Treatment System: To understand our sewer infrastructure; the purpose of, and process for, cleaning wastewater in New York City and in the East and West of Hudson Watersheds.
- o Harbor Water Quality and Healthy Marine Ecosystems: To discover the richness of our marine life, and opportunities for recreation and commerce on local waterbodies; to understand the work that is being done to monitor and ensure healthy water quality.
- o Water Stewardship and Climate Change: To consider our influence on the environment and how we can address and take action on environmental issues that influence our neighborhoods, our city, and beyond.

Entries will be judged based on creativity in interpreting one or more of the contest themes, accuracy of information, originality, and skill. An impartial panel of judges will review the entries and select art and poetry winners from each category (grades 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12). Please submit additional requests for information to artandpoetry@dep.nyc.gov.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing approximately 1 billion gallons of high-quality drinking water each day to nearly 10 million residents, including 8.8 million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 in the upstate watershed. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program, with a planned \$20.1 billion in investments over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.

Gov Hochul announces Direct Payments to Healthcare Workers as Part of \$10 Billion Healthcare Plan

Largest Ever Investment Will Grow New York Healthcare Workforce by 20 Percent Over Five Years

(From Pg. 12) The growing demand for our essential healthcare workforce requires also swift and strong action. Governor Hochul will rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce with a program designed to improve the career pipeline, expand access to healthcare training and education, recruit care workers to underserved areas, and strengthen home care.

These efforts include:

- o Increasing the Training Capacity of Medical Institutions: This initiative will cover the costs of new programs, provide compensation to allow workers to train full-time support staff (who help free up existing staff do more training), and the development of new training techniques.

- o Attracting Students into Healthcare by Relieving Their Financial Burdens: Governor Hochul will provide direct financial support for the education of healthcare professionals, provided that they work in New York State for a specified period after obtaining their credentials. The plan will offer free tuition, cover instructional costs for high-demand health occupations and provide stipends to make up for lost income while in school. It would also provide for wraparound services such as childcare or transportation support to eliminate obstacles that stand in the way of New Yorkers training for healthcare professions.

- o Awarding Prior Learning Credit Across SUNY and CUNY: As part of the Governor's plan to make it easier for New Yorkers to move between college and career, the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) will adopt a consistent, statewide policy for crediting relevant prior learning and work experience, supporting credit accumulation, certifications, and post-secondary attainment.

- o Recruiting Medical Professionals to Work in Underserved Areas: Governor Hochul recognizes the need to recruit medical professionals to work in underserved areas, particularly in rural parts of the state. To achieve these goals, New York State will:

- Increase funding for the Doctors Across New York Program, providing loan forgiveness up to \$120,000 for doctors who work in underserved areas for three years;

- Create a "Nurses Across NY" Program based on the successful Doctors Across NY program, placing nurses in underserved areas across the state; and

- Expand the SUNY Pre-Medical Opportunity Program and

the Diversity in Medicine Program, recruiting and training a diverse healthcare workforce that represents the diversity of the patients in underserved communities to ensure health equity across the continuum of care.

- o Connect Immigrant New Yorkers to Direct Support Professions: State agencies will work with external partners to develop an apprenticeship job training program that provides new and existing immigrant workers with a career pathway in the workforce - addressing the gap in immigrant employment while filling more urgently needed direct support professions.

- o Allow Doctors and Nurses to Easily Relocate to and Practice in New York: Governor Hochul will propose legislation for New York to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and the Nurse Licensure Compact. Joining these compacts will enable doctors and nurses to relocate to New York and use their existing license to more quickly be able to practice in the state through telehealth or otherwise, attracting more healthcare workers at a time of great need.

- o Expand Workforce Development Partnerships to Build a Human Services Talent Pipeline: To further strengthen the human services talent pipeline, Governor Hochul will use federal funds to:

- Expand the Direct Support Professional Career and Technical Education Program to offer high school students the opportunity to become direct care workers; and

- Expand the SUNY for All Partnership with OPWDD to all ten SUNY Educational Opportunity Centers statewide to offer a free training tool for direct support professionals to enhance their skills and help them enter, or advance, in the health and human services field.

- o Grow the Home and Community-Based Healthcare Workforce Through Benefits and Skills Development: Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State has applied to the Federal government to spend \$2.2 billion on 14 initiatives to strengthen our care workforce. These include:

- Home Care Workforce Initiative: Enables home care agencies to implement evidence-based programs that help them to recruit, retain, train, and support their direct care workers.

- Workforce Transportation Incentive: Solves transportation-related barriers related to home care worker recruitment and/or retention.

- Enhanced Wages for the Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities Workforce: Provides longevity and retention incentives to direct support professionals.

- Direct Support Professional Workforce Development Grants: Provides skills development for direct support professionals.

- Workforce Recruitment Initiative: Implements data-driven strategies for effective recruitment of workers for OPWDD.

- Community Residence Program: Increases funding for rising direct care staff costs.

Tracey Bartels Returns to Lead UC Legislature Majority and Minority Leadership Appointments, Restructured Standing Committees, and the Establishment of American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee



Kingston, NY—Tracey A. Bartels was elected with unanimous support as chair of the Ulster County Legislature this evening at the annual organizational meeting.

Bartels, an eight-term legislator who represents Gardiner and Shawangunk, was chosen for the top leadership position for the second time.

In 2019, Bartels became the first woman from the Democratic caucus to serve as the chair of the Ulster County Legislature and only the second woman to lead in the body's 54-year history. She is also the first chair who is not enrolled in a political party.

Bartels was nominated to the chair position by Legislator Brian Cahill (Towns of Ulster and Kingston, Dist. 4) and seconded by Legislator Laura Petit (Town of Esopus, Dist. 8).

Democratic Majority Leader Jonathan R. Heppner (Towns of Woodstock and Hurley, Dist. 23) said, "I have served with Tracey Bartels for over six years, and I'm excited for the sake of the Legislature, and all of Ulster County, for her to lead the Legislature. Chair Bartels is a dedicated, experienced, and fair leader, and that is why her colleagues gave her unanimous support. I look forward to continuing to work with her and this new Legislature."

Legislator Cahill states, "I have known Tracey Bartels for more than 15 years. She is open minded, fair, and willing to listen to all sides of a discussion—no matter what your political party affiliation. She has what it takes to lead."

Democrats re-elected Jonathan R. Heppner (Towns of Woodstock and Hurley, Dist. 23) as Majority Leader and Abe Uchitelle (City of Kingston, Dist. 5) as Deputy Majority Leader—the

Deputy role was formerly titled Whip.

Kenneth J. Ronk (Town of Shawangunk, Dist. 13), was re-elected as Minority Leader. The designation of Deputy Minority Leader is expected shortly.

Chair Bartels will lead a 23-member body, including six new members and two former legislators who retook their seats in the last election.

"I thank my colleagues for the honor and privilege to lead the Ulster County Legislature," said Chair Bartels. "These are unprecedented times. The continued and changing challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic require us to work together to respond to the urgent needs of our constituency. As a county and a nation, we face critical crises in housing, mental health, and climate."

Chair Bartels adds, "We are called upon to unite, to place the needs of the people first, and to serve. I commit to working together to deliver on our shared goals and a vision for an ever-stronger Ulster County. Together we will deliver transformative change and relief."

This evening, at the annual organizational meeting, legislators supported substantial changes to the Legislative Standing Committees.

"The new committee structure will enable the Legislature to work more effectively," said Chair Bartels. "The needs of Ulster County residents have evolved, and so too must county government," says Deputy Majority Leader Abe Uchitelle.

"For the first time in over 20 years, Agriculture is included in the committee structure and recognized as a central economic driver in Ulster County. The addition of Agriculture to Economic Development puts farmers and agricultural-related businesses in clear policy focus. The Legislature understands what our farmers mean to our economy, our well-being, and health," said Chair Bartels.

Chair Bartels adds, "The inclusion of Education and Arts in the Economic Development Committee's responsibilities recognizes the critical role that our arts community plays in Ulster's economy, as well as the role that education plays in shaping Ulster County's economy now and in the future. These additions enable the Legislature to develop initiatives and policies to foster greater economic growth within these sectors."

One of the most significant changes made to the structure of the standing committees is the reconfiguration of the former Public Health and Social Services Committee to Health, Human Services, and Housing. The committee's focus has been expanded to allow the Legislature to take an all-encompassing view of health that includes human services and housing.

"The Legislature recognizes the longstanding relationship between public health and housing. Integrating Health, Human Services, and Housing allows the Legislature to take a wide view of the complex, interconnected forces which shape public health. It empowers the Legislature to develop holistic policies to address the immediate and emergent challenges and crises faced by families, businesses, and communities throughout Ulster County," said Chair Bartels.

Legislators also voted to establish the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Special Committee dedicated to the investment and allocation of \$34,491,474 American Rescue Plan Act federal funding.

The new special committee will review and track all proposals related to the expenditure of federal ARPA funds before forwarding them to legislative Standing Committees of jurisdiction. (Contd. Pg. 28)

Tracey Bartels Returns to Lead UC Legislature

(From Pg. 27) The special committee will have a standing committee's same powers and duties. The ARPA Special Committee will be dissolved in three years, or after all ARPA funds are spent.

Chair Bartels states, "Ulster County will receive over \$34 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding over two years. The allocation of ARPA funds requires diligent and careful investigation, vetting, and oversight. The Special Committee will be a transparent vehicle for evaluating all proposed ARPA expenditures."

The Special Committee will work to ensure that ARPA funds are effectively used to provide immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses impacted by the pandemic, strengthen vital public services, and remedy systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic.

The Chair adds, "The Legislature will work in active partnership with the Executive branch to build a pathway to an equitable recovery with long-term benefits for health and the strongest possible economic outcome for the residents of Ulster County."

2022 Standing and Special Committees

Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture

To set legislative policy and review contracts for all aspects of Ulster County Department of Economic Development, Ulster County Department of Planning, Office of Employment and Training, Ulster County Community College, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, Arts, Tourism and Libraries. Responsible for issues pertaining to: Ulster County Industrial Development Agency, Ulster County Planning Board, Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Shovel Ready Committee. To foster relations and communications with the Ulster County Economic Alliance and local Chambers of Commerce. To establish policy relating to agriculture and farmland preservation.

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability

To set policy and review contracts pertaining to the Department of the Environment, Environmental Management Council, Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and Forest Practice Board, including the protection of waterways and the County's recycling efforts. To set policy and review contracts pertaining to but not limited to the activities of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Health, Human Services, and Housing

To set policy for and review contracts pertaining to the following County Departments and Divisions: Health, Mental Health, Social Services, Community Action, Office for the Aging, Youth Bureau, and Veterans Affairs. To set policy relating to housing issues including but not limited to temporary, emergency, affordable, workforce, and senior housing.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

To set policy and review contracts pertaining to the following County Departments and Divisions: Ulster County Sheriff and the Law Enforcement Center, Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation, Restorative Justice, Emergency Management/Emergency Communications, Arson Task Force, Fire Coordinator, EMS Coordinator, STOP DWI, Consumer Fraud Bureau, Weights and Measures, and Safety Office.

Laws, Rules, and Government Services

To set policy and review contracts pertaining to the following County Departments and Divisions: Board of Elections, County Clerk, County Attorney, Human Rights, Insurance and Board of Ethics. To oversee legislative policy and legislative proposed revisions to the Ulster County Charter and the Administrative Code. To review and maintain the Rules of the Legislature and to review and approve all local laws for legal sufficiency only, unless Laws and Rules, Government Services is the committee of original jurisdiction. To approve all late resolutions, considering lateness and content prior to submittal to the full Legislature. To approve resolutions required to be referred to it under the Rules of the Legislature.

Public Works, Capital Projects, and Transportation

To set policy for and review contracts pertaining to the following County Departments and Divisions: Public Works (including Parks, Highways, and Buildings and Grounds), Transportation (including Fleet Management and Ulster County Area Transit), the Electrical Licensing Board, and Capital Projects.

Ways and Means

To recommend the Legislature's position on all budgetary and financial matters of the County. To review contracts pertaining to the following departments: Comptroller, Finance, Innovation Division, Personnel, Purchasing, Information Services and Real Property Tax Services. To approve all resolutions with financial impacts to the County, excluding those financial impacts limited solely to legislative advertising expenses.

American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee

Dedicated to the investment and allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds utilized to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. To review all proposals related to the expenditure of ARPA funds prior to forwarding to any Standing Committees of jurisdiction.

Statement from County Executive Pat Ryan on the Organizational Meeting of the UC Legislature

"I would like to extend my congratulations to Legislator Tracey Bartels for her election as Chair of the Ulster County Legislature, as well as to members of the Legislative leadership team, and to all new and returning Legislators upon their swearing-in for the 2022 session. I'm looking forward to partnering with Chairwoman Bartels and the rest of the Legislature in service to the 180,000 residents of Ulster County - from continuing our proactive efforts to blunt the current COVID-19 surge, to addressing our housing crisis and expanding mental health services, all while holding the line on taxes and keeping Ulster County affordable. Now more than ever, it's essential that our government continue to work together as a team in order to deliver for our residents. I am excited and optimistic that we will continue to do so, building on our already strong partnership in 2022 and beyond."

Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club Elects 2022 Officers

Written by member William A. Brenner

The Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club elected its officers for 2022 at its monthly meeting held on the first Thursday after the first Wednesday of the month, at the First Aid Squad building.

There were 19 members at this meeting.

All the members were commended for their volunteer activities, such as stocking streams and lakes with trout, bass and perch, environmental, activities, teaching children and young adults hunting safety and responsibility, money raising activities like selling knives and outdoor equipment at the Grahamsville Fair and Tractor shows, and other community service throughout the year. They are organizing their coyote hunt. They are always looking for new members, men and women.

They are organizing the 14th Annual Coyote Hunt, sponsored by the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs of Sullivan County, New York, Inc. The Hunt is on February 4, 5, and 6, 2022. You must register before 7:00 pm on January 31st and must be postmarked by January 29th.

There is a \$2,000 Grand Prize awarded to the hunter with the heaviest coyote weighed. For registration forms or questions call Linda Doughrey in Jeffersonville at (845) 798-7992; or John at (845) 292-8375,

Due to their dedication and initiative, all of the 2021 officers were re-elected for 2022.

Hank Samyn - President
 Todd Brown - Vice President
 Gary TerBush - Treasurer
 Marlene Dauch - Secretary
 Craig TerBush - Trustee - 3 years
 Gary Muthig - Trustee - 1 year

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 or
 (914) 672-3952

Please call for availability first

Monti Elks Bingo Moves to Saturday

(Monticello) The Monticello Elks Lodge will now host Bingo every Saturday at 2 PM at the Lodge at 46 North Street in Monticello. The doors will open at 12:30. Previously, Bingo was held every Tuesday evening. Bingo Chair Ronni Scannell said, "The change was made to allow more people to attend on Saturday afternoons." There's a full payout and a progressive jackpot with weekly door prizes. Food is also available in the Bingo kitchen. The Monticello Lodge supports local veterans, scouts, Little League and the Homeless Federation, as well as providing coats and gloves to elementary school children. For information, contact Bingo Chair and Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell at (845) 701-0695

Monti Elks Bingo 2:00 -pm Every Saturday

(Doors Open at 12:30)

at the Lodge • 46 North Street • Monticello

Full payout and a progressive jackpot with weekly door prizes
• Food is also available in the Bingo kitchen

The Lodge supports local veterans, scouts, Little League and the Homeless Federation, as well as providing coats and gloves to elementary school children.

For information, contact Bingo Chair and Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell at (845) 701-0695.



RIBBON CUTTING

Bridge Back to Life Center, Inc., in collaboration with the Government of Sullivan County, would like to cordially invite you to the official Ribbon Cutting for our Mobile Treatment Unit serving the residents of Sullivan County



Made possible through the support of the NYS Office of Addiction Services & Support through SOR II Grant Award

Date: Thursday January 20, 2022

Place: Legislative Building
100 North Main St
Monticello, NY 12701

Time: 1:00pm

R.S.V.P. to Dan Hust, Sullivan County Director of Communications at
dan.hust@sullivanny.us

Governor Hochul Announces New Guidance on COVID-19 Booster Doses

*Booster Shots Now Recommended for 12-15 Year-Olds, Along with
Previously Authorized 16+ Age Group*

*Announces Plan to Require Health Care Workers Receive COVID-19
Booster Dose Within Two Weeks of Becoming Eligible*

*New Nursing Home Visitation Rules to Protect Vulnerable New Yorkers
- Negative Tests and Surgical Masks Required*

Governor Kathy Hochul announced new guidance recommending booster doses for all New Yorkers ages 12 and older. The guidance, following action by the CDC, recommends that people, including the newly authorized 12-15 year-old age group, who received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine should receive a booster dose at least five months after their second dose; the previous recommended interval was at least six months. In addition, moderately to severely immunocompromised 5-11-year-olds can receive an additional primary dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 28 days after their second dose. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children ages 5-11.

Additionally, the CDC today recommended the same change to a five month booster interval for the Moderna vaccine, which is only authorized for people 18 years and older.

"As we continue to battle this winter surge, I strongly recommend that all New Yorkers ages 12 and older get boosted as soon they are eligible," Governor Hochul said. "With boosters now available for all adolescents, I especially urge parents and guardians to get their children in this age group a booster dose as soon as eligible. A booster dose will provide greater protection against severe outcomes from COVID-19 and help keep our kids healthy, protected, and safe."

Governor Hochul additionally announced her plan to require that all covered health care workers previously required to receive a COVID-19 vaccination under the Department's August 26th Emergency regulation must also now receive a COVID-19 booster dose within two weeks of becoming eligible, absent a valid medical exemption. Consistent with the August 26th Emergency Regulation, there is no test-out option. Following review and approval by the Public Health and Health Planning Council at their emergency meeting on Tuesday, the emergency regulation will be filed with the Department of State (DOS). Regulations are effective upon the filing with DOS.

The Governor also announced new rules for nursing home visitations. Starting Wednesday, all visitors must wear "surgical"-type masks and must present upon entry a COVID negative test taken within 24 hours of their visit. Governor Hochul further noted that 952,000 tests and 1.2 million masks are being delivered to nursing homes late this week into next.

On January 5, 2022, the CDC endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP) recommended expansion of booster dose eligibility for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 to individuals ages 12 through 15. CDC now recommends that all adolescents ages 12 through 17 should receive a booster dose five months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. This followed the CDC's updated recommendations that severely immunocompromised 5-11 year-olds receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second dose, and that people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine series should get a booster dose at least five month after the second dose, instead of six months.

New York State Department of Health Acting Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett said, "Booster doses are a critical tool in our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am grateful that they are now available

Please Wear
a Face Mask



Help Stop the Spread

Why wear a mask?

Out of respect.

When you wear a mask you are saying,
I respect my neighbors.

When you wear a mask you are saying,
I respect nurses and doctors.

When you wear a mask you are saying,
I respect other people.

We all need to show respect to one another
in difficult times.

Wearing a face covering is a small inconvenience to protect others. We have gotten through this crisis by standing together and doing the right thing. The right thing - the respectful thing - is to wear a mask.

for all New Yorkers 12 years of age and older. Data show that people who are vaccinated and boosted are more protected against serious illness from COVID-19, and we continue to urge all those eligible to act now. Do what you can to stay healthy and out of the hospital by getting vaccinated and boosted and wear a mask. If you have questions, talk to your health care provider or vaccine administrator."

All state mass vaccination sites are now offering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster doses for New Yorkers 12 years of age and older, as well as third doses for immunocompromised people 5 years and older. For more information on boosters and additional doses, see the State's dedicated page at:

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/booster-doses>

Assemblymember Cahill Comments on the State of the State Address

(Albany, NY) - Last week we heard Governor Kathy Hochul's first State of the State address establishing her vision for New York as we begin the 2022 Legislative Session. In a welcome return to tradition, Governor Hochul addressed the Legislature in its own chamber for the first time in over a decade. Appropriately, the foremost priority of the Governor is mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant schools reopen for the second half of the academic year. She also emphasized the importance of ensuring the timely passage of a fiscally sound budget that meets the needs of struggling New Yorkers.

As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Hochul highlighted inequities this catastrophe laid bare, including the condition of our healthcare system, the fragile living situations many families face and even access to the Internet. She also proposed significant funding to address these issues. Additionally, the Governor committed the resources of the state to provide more affordable housing units for families weighed down by soaring rent and those at risk of homelessness and displacement.

Among her primary health objectives this year are providing needed relief to our overburdened medical system, including rationalizing telehealth insurance reimbursements, bolstering access to basic coverage for more New Yorkers and expanding the healthcare workforce. I look forward to working with Governor Hochul to modernize health services in our state and commend her for also recognizing the need to incorporate mental health in the field of pediatrics.

It was also refreshing to hear the Governor enunciate a clear agenda of reform. Calling for a replacement of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, term limits for statewide elected officials, uniformity in local government ethics procedures and a renewed pledge to put voting rights amendments back before the voters is a good start in restoring public confidence in elected state leaders.

While the governor acknowledged that climate change is an existential threat, this speech lacked specific directive on what the state intends to do about a reduction of our dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate more frequent and severe flooding. I am confident, however, that the fiscal plan proposed by the governor after negotiation with the legislature will include important measures required to mitigate the effects of climate change. I will be advocating for the inclusion of two meas-

ures I sponsor: to end fossil fuel tax breaks and to begin to change carbon emitters for the destructive carbon they are putting into our atmosphere.

All indications are that Governor Hochul is interested in serious collaboration with the Legislature and the expertise we provide in bringing much-needed reforms to the communities we serve. Further evidence of the Governor's commitments to these initiatives will be seen through allocations in the Executive Budget to be released in the coming weeks. It is typical for governors to leave the specifics out of their State of the State address, saving details for the Executive Budget Proposal. Along with my colleagues, I will examine supplemental materials when Governor Hochul provides them and look forward to the fiscal plan, when that is presented. All in all, however, Governor Kathy Hochul offered a breath of fresh air and a promising new beginning for our great state.

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path to recovery!

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A Drive-thru Thank You Event honoring all Volunteers in Ulster County Celebrating Your Service to the Community and Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Volunteers from ALL Ulster County non-profits are welcome at UlsterCorps' 13th Annual MLK Day Celebration of Service, Saturday January 15th, 2022, 12-2pm outside the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 NY-32, Rosendale, NY (Monday January 17th snow date). The event honors volunteers from service organizations throughout Ulster County for their hard work and dedication.

The event will celebrate the broad circle of kindness and generosity that knits us together as a community and demonstrates the value of the volunteer spirit across all generations. The event is free and will include a raffle drawing and goodie bags for all attendees who pre-register by January 10th. There will also be an event program listing the names of all volunteers who pre-register by January 10th, and all businesses and agency partners contributing goodie bag items and supporting the event. Volunteers from all Ulster County non-profits are welcome to attend. This will be a drive-thru event - you are welcome to drive through any time between 12pm and 2pm to receive your goodie bag, event program and words of gratitude. We ask all attendees to wear a mask or face covering while at the event.

To register for this free event please email register@ulstercorps.org or call/text (845) 481-0331. Please register by January 10th if you would like your name and the agency where you volunteer included in the event program. If you'd like to sponsor the event or donate items for the raffle or goodie bags, please click here for sponsorship details or call/text Beth at (845) 481-0331.

Thank you so much to our sponsors and supporters: Ulster Savings Bank, Adams Fairacre Farms, Kingston Candy Bar, Barbara Bash, Bread Alone Bakery, Green Cottage, Hudson Valley Seed Company, Julia Turshen, Krause's Chocolates, Marysa Sacerdote Jewelry, Resource Center for Accessible Living, Rock and Snow, Rondout Valley Growers Association, Stewart's Shops, Tree Juice Maple Syrup, and the Town of Rosendale.

UC Executive Pat Ryan Announces State Run COVID-19 Community Testing Site in UC Opening This Week

- *The state run community testing site, located at SUNY New Paltz, will open to the public during the week of Monday, January 10th*
- *This week, after delivering over 50,000 free at-home testing kits, County Executive Pat Ryan requested that New York State open a state-run COVID-19 testing facility in Ulster County*

New Paltz, N.Y. - County Executive Pat Ryan today announced that New York State will open a state run COVID-19 community testing site on the campus of

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SUNY New Paltz starting next week. The announcement from the State comes after County Executive Ryan requested a facility open in Ulster County to bolster access to critically-needed tests for residents in the midst of the current surge in cases. The state-run testing site will complement the over 50,000 free at-home rapid kits that Ulster County has already distributed to residents throughout the county.

"Based on the surge we have seen driven by the Omicron variant, and as part of our proactive plan to make testing more readily available in the county, we requested this week that New York State activate a testing site in Ulster County," County Executive Pat Ryan said. "I want to thank Governor Kathy Hochul and her team for the rapid response, and for her strong leadership during the pandemic. This site will help ensure that our residents have access to critically-needed testing so we can keep our residents healthy, and continue to keep our schools and businesses open safely."

Last week, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan signed a thirty-day extension of the State of Emergency order he originally enacted on November 28th. The extension of the order comes as cases of COVID-19 in Ulster County, driven by the Omicron variant, have more than doubled in the last month. The order, now in effect for an additional thirty days, has allowed Ulster County to rapidly procure over 50,000 at-home kits, bolster countywide vaccination efforts, and secure a second school specialist from the State to assist with contact tracing.

The SUNY New Paltz Community Testing Site is anticipated to open to the public sometime next week. Information regarding hours and appointments for the state run testing site will be announced soon. For additional information regarding vaccines, boosters, and testing, please visit VaccinateUlster.com.



VET 2 VET

Vet 2 Vet is a peer networking program for veterans, by Veterans in Sullivan County. Vet 2 Vet offers Veterans an opportunity to participate in programs and a safe, anonymous, and non-judgmental environment. We also offer advocacy and assistance with navigating the VA System and other services.

CORE SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Veteran Peer Support
- Peer Counseling
- Advocacy
- Financial Literacy
- Benefit Advisement
- Mental Health Support

For more information contact:

Ryan Fuller at (845) 794-4228

Kevin Coates at (845) 794-4228

Visit our website at atitoday.org



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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)

Martucci and School Bus Industry Praise Hochul's School Bus Driver Retention Initiative



Albany, N.Y. - Senator Mike Martucci and the school bus industry today thanked Governor Hochul for including help for school districts struggling to meet their transportation and teaching needs. Governor Hochul included in her State of the State message a proposal similar to Senator Martucci's bill, S.7393, which calls for eliminating the earnings cap for state retirees who opt to work as school bus drivers and teachers. The proposal, first introduced by Senator Martucci, will help school districts struggling with school bus driver shortages recruit and retain needed drivers. The legislation is also strongly supported by the New York Association for Pupil Transportation, private school bus contractors, and retirees across the state.

"New York's schools continue to face major shortages of school bus drivers and the industry has forecasted that the problem will only get worse going into next year," said Senator Mike Martucci (R-C-I, Hudson Valley/Catskills). "The state's retirement earnings cap is a significant impediment to retirees who want to drive a school bus and it's clear something needs to be done to allow our school districts to hire these folks. I am grateful that Governor Hochul has put this proposal in her State of the State; and I look forward to working with her to get it passed as part of her executive budget."

"Driving a school bus is one of the most important jobs in our state and we are struggling to find enough school bus drivers to do the job each day," said New York Association for Pupil Transportation executive director David Christopher. "Attracting additional school bus drivers into the workforce is good for school districts and private operators. We believe that lifting the retirement cap is an important step toward solving this problem. We thank Governor Hochul and Senator Martucci for their unwavering commit-

ment to our schools and ensuring we have enough drivers to transport the more than 2.3 million children who ride a yellow school bus each day."

The acute shortage of school bus drivers was felt across New York last year and in some cases forced schools to shut down because of a lack of reliable transportation for students. At the time Governor Hochul took several positive actions to address this crisis. These actions were strongly supported by school districts and private school bus operators and the adoption of this new proposal would be another significant step in the right direction, helping ensure New York's children stay where they belong - in school.

"Again, I was thrilled to see this proposal in Governor Hochul's State of the State policy book, and I thank her for recognizing the struggles of school districts and the school bus industry and working to address them head on. I will be a strong ally for her in the legislature on this issue as we look to expand her proposal to meet the scope of my legislation and look forward to working with her to get my colleagues in the State senate to support it," said Martucci.

The proposal is a top priority for Senator Martucci and NYAPT and they will work to ensure that it is included in the state's budget which is due by April 1st.

ABOUT NYAPT: The New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) is a statewide organization dedicated to the support, development, and representation of school transportation professionals who are responsible for the safe and efficient transportation of more than 2.3 million school children each day in New York State. NYAPT's over 600 members comprise school transportation supervisors and professionals from hundreds of school districts across the state.

Mike Martucci serves as the Senator for New York's 42nd State Senate District which comprises all of Sullivan County and parts of Orange, Ulster, and Delaware counties. He is the ranking member of the Senate Standing Committees on Disabilities and Commerce, Economic Development And Small Business.

Statement from Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan on Governor Hochul's State of the State Address

"In her first State of the State address, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered an ambitious and inspiring message for all New Yorkers. Governor Hochul has consistently been there for Ulster County, and I share her exciting vision to create green jobs, develop affordable housing, provide direct relief for our small businesses, and much more. In addition, I applaud the Governor's commitment to support our heroic public health and frontline workers, along with her continued efforts to work proactively to keep our schools and our businesses safely open. I look forward to working closely with the Governor in achieving these critical goals for the residents of Ulster County."

New Tax Credit Will Provide Relief To Small Businesses Taking On COVID-Related Capital Expenses

- *Small Business Lending Initiative Will Provide Accessible Loans To Expanding Small Businesses*
- *Governor Will Propose Legislation Permanently Allowing the Sale of To-Go Drinks in Bars and Restaurants*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a new Billion Dollar Rescue Plan for small businesses as part of the 2022 State of the State. Small businesses, accounting for 98 percent of all businesses statewide, are the backbone of New York's economy and under the Governor's plan, the state will be supporting these entities through a variety of initiatives focusing on growing the businesses of the future, helping new businesses struggling to establish themselves and providing tax relief. Additionally, to support New York's restaurant industry, a sector that has especially been hit hard by COVID-19, the Governor will introduce legislation to permanently allow the sale of to-go drinks for bars and restaurants statewide.

"New York's comeback depends on the recovery and success of our small businesses," Governor Hochul said. "Since the pandemic hit, small business owners have been struggling with unprecedented challenges. New York is here with a simple message: help is on the way."

As a former small business owner, Governor Hochul understands the challenges facing small businesses, even in the best of times. Governor Hochul is also acutely aware of how the pandemic has tested small businesses throughout New York, and what is needed in this moment to support the recovery of our small businesses.

To help small businesses at this critical moment, Governor Hochul's Billion Dollar Rescue Plan will include targeted programs strategically designed to respond to small business needs, and to ensure that disadvantaged, minority-owned, and women-owned small businesses prosper throughout the State.

The Billion Dollar Rescue Plan includes:

- o **Funding for Small Businesses of the Future:** This initiative will support venture capital and venture debt awards to fast-growing, venture-backed startups that either locate to, or remain and grow in, New York State. This funding will assist emerging small businesses in the innovation sector, including minority- and women-owned companies often overlooked by private-sector venture investments. Through this program, New York State will continue to be the center of innovation and small business growth.
- o **The Small Business COVID Capital Investment Tax Credit:** This initiative will provide a tax credit to small businesses which took on COVID-related capital expenses, including retrofits, renovations, machinery and equipment related to COVID safety enhancements.
- o **Seed Funding for Small Businesses:** This initiative will provide flexible grants to early-stage small businesses to help those that recently opened get off the ground, despite the COVID pandemic. Priority will be given to socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners.
- o **Small Business Lending Initiative:** This initiative will provide reduced interest rates and accessible loans to expanding small businesses. As part of this effort, this initiative will seek to address disparities in the traditional loan market, which oftentimes precludes small businesses, particularly socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses, from accessing loans to grow their businesses or take on larger government contracts.
- o **The Excelsior Contracting Opportunities Initiative -** This initia-

tive will provide state-backed funding and technical assistance to position small businesses - particularly those which are socially and economically disadvantaged - to secure federally funded contracts related to the \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This initiative will also include the establishment of an interagency Excelsior Contracting Opportunities Council - including Empire State Development, the State Department of Transportation, the Thruway Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey - to identify strategies to encourage greater minority- and women-owned small business participation in forthcoming federally funded infrastructure projects across the State.

o **Permanently Legalize the Sale of To-Go Drinks for Bars and Restaurants:** To-go drinks were a critical revenue stream for New York's bars and restaurants during the pandemic, helping many small businesses across the state pay their rents or mortgages. Governor Hochul will permanently allow for the sale of to-go drinks for off-premises consumption to continue supporting the recovery of bars and restaurants.

Governor Hochul will also provide \$100 million in tax relief for 195,000 small businesses by widening eligibility and increasing a tax return adjustment that reduces a small business's gross business income.

Attorney General James Alerts 17 Companies to "Credential Stuffing" Cyberattacks Impacting More Than 1.1 Million Consumers

Companies Urged to Protect Consumers Impacted in Previously Undetected Attacks

AG James Releases Guide to Help Businesses Secure Customers'

Accounts Against Credential Stuffing Attacks

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced the results of a sweeping investigation into "credential stuffing" that discovered more than 1.1 million online accounts compromised in cyberattacks at 17 well-known companies. Attorney General James released a "Business Guide for Credential Stuffing Attacks" that details the attacks - which involve repeated, automated attempts to access online accounts using usernames and passwords stolen from other online services - and how business can protect themselves. Credential stuffing has quickly become one of the top attack vectors online. Virtually every website and app use passwords as a means of authenticating its users. Unfortunately, users tend to reuse the same passwords across multiple online services. This allows cybercriminals to use passwords stolen from one company for other online accounts. Following discovery of the attacks, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) alerted the relevant companies so that passwords could be reset and consumers could be notified. Today's guide shares lessons learned over the course of the OAG's investigation, including concrete guidance on steps businesses can take to better protect against credential stuffing attacks.

"Right now, there are more than 15 billion stolen credentials being circulated across the internet, as users' personal information stand in jeopardy," said Attorney General James. "Businesses have the responsibility to take appropriate action to protect their customers' online accounts and this guide lays out critical safeguards companies can use in the fight against credential stuffing. We must do everything we can to protect consumers' personal information and their privacy." (Contd. Pg. 38)

Attorney General James Alerts 17 Companies to “Credential Stuffing” Cyberattacks Impacting More Than 1.1 Million Consumers

(From Pg. 37) Credential stuffing is a type of cyberattack that involves attempts to log in to online accounts using username and passwords stolen from other, unrelated online services. It relies on the widespread practice of reusing passwords as, chances are, a password used on one website was also used on another.

In a typical credential stuffing attack, an attacker may submit hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of login attempts using automated, credential-stuffing software and lists of stolen credentials downloaded from the dark web or hacking forums. Although only a small percentage of these attempts will succeed, through the sheer volume of login attempts, a single attack can nevertheless yield thousands of compromised accounts.

An attacker that gains access to an account can use it in any number of ways. The attacker can, for example, view personal information associated with the account, including a name, an address, and past purchases, and use this information in a phishing attack. If the account has a stored credit card or gift card, the attacker may be able to make fraudulent purchases. Or the attacker could simply sell the login credentials to another individual on the dark web.

Credential stuffing is one of the most common forms of cyberattack. The operator of one large content delivery network reported that it witnessed more than 193 billion such attacks in 2020 alone.

The OAG's Investigation

In light of the growing threat of credential stuffing, the OAG launched an investigation to identify businesses and consumers impacted by this attack vector. Over a period of several months, the OAG monitored several online communities dedicated to credential stuffing. The OAG found thousands of posts that contained customer login credentials that attackers had tested in a credential stuffing attack and confirmed could be used to access customer accounts at websites or on apps. From these posts, the OAG compiled credentials to compromised accounts at 17 well-known online retailers, restaurant chains, and food delivery services. In all, the OAG collected credentials for more than 1.1 million customer accounts, all of which appeared to have been compromised in credential stuffing attacks.

The OAG alerted each of the 17 companies to the compromised accounts and urged the companies to investigate and take immediate steps to protect impacted customers. Every company did so. The companies' investigations revealed that most of the attacks had not previously been detected.

The OAG also worked with the companies to determine how attackers had circumvented existing safeguards and provided recommendations for strengthening their data security programs to better secure customer accounts in the future. Over the course of the OAG's investigation, nearly all of the companies implemented, or made plans to implement, additional safeguards.

The OAG's Recommendations

Credential stuffing attacks have become so prevalent that they are, for most businesses, unavoidable. Every business that maintains online customer accounts should therefore have a data security program that includes effective safeguards for protecting customers from credential stuffing attacks. Safeguards should be implemented in each of four areas:

1. Defending against credential stuffing attacks,
2. Detecting a credential stuffing breach,
3. Preventing fraud and misuse of customer information, and
4. Responding to a credential stuffing incident.

Attorney General James' guide presents specific safeguards that have been found to be effective in each of these areas. Some highlights from the guide include the following:

o Three safeguards were found to be highly effective at defending against credential stuffing attacks when properly implemented: 1) bot

detection services, 2) multi-factor authentication, and 3) password-less authentication.

o Because no safeguard is 100 percent effective, it is critical that businesses have an effective way of detecting attacks that have bypassed other defenses and compromised customer accounts. Most credential stuffing attacks can be identified by monitoring customer traffic for signs of attacks (for example, spikes in traffic volume of failed login attempts).

o One of the most effective safeguards for preventing attackers from using customers' stored payment information is re-authentication at the time of purchase by, for example, requiring customers to re-enter a credit card number or security code. It is critically important that re-authentication be required for every method of payment that a business accepts. The OAG encountered many cases in which attackers were able to exploit gaps in fraud protection by making a purchase using a payment method that did not require re-authentication.

o Businesses should have a written incident response plan that includes processes for responding to credential stuffing attacks. The processes should include investigation (e.g., determining whether and which customer accounts were accessed), remediation (e.g., blocking attackers' continued access to impacted accounts), and notice (e.g., alerting customers whose account were reasonably likely to have been impacted).

Attorney General James Launches Investigation Into CareCube for Wrongfully Billing New Yorkers for COVID-19 Tests

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced that her office has launched an investigation into CareCube, a primary care provider, over reports that the company wrongfully billed New Yorkers for rapid and PCR coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) tests. CareCube has 20 locations in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn.

“As New Yorkers brace for a continued surge in Omicron cases through the winter, we cannot create harmful financial barriers that keep our communities from seeking testing,” said Attorney General James. “CareCube and all COVID-19 test providers have a responsibility to be accurate and transparent in their billing process. My office is committed to working with our government, private sector, and non-profit partners to ensure accessible testing throughout the state. Any New Yorker who feels they have been overcharged by CareCube is encouraged to file a complaint with my office.”

Attorney General James encourages insured patients to always check with their testing site and health insurer to make sure there isn't a fee for a COVID-19 test. Uninsured patients should work with the testing site to confirm whether there are any potential fees associated with a COVID-19 test. Under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPPHEA), and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a testing site can receive reimbursement for fees associated with testing uninsured individuals.

COVID-19 testing is free at test sites run by New York state, and patients are encouraged to check with test sites operated by their local governments for additional free testing options. Appointments for testing at state-run sites may be scheduled through the New York state Department of Health's online portal. New York City also offers free tests, which can be found through the COVID-19 Citywide Information Portal.

If a patient has questions or believes they have been a victim of misleading billing practices related to COVID-19 testing at CareCube, they should contact the Office of the Attorney General's Health Care Bureau online or call 1-800-428-9071.

NEW HERITAGE BAKING BOOK JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The new 68-page

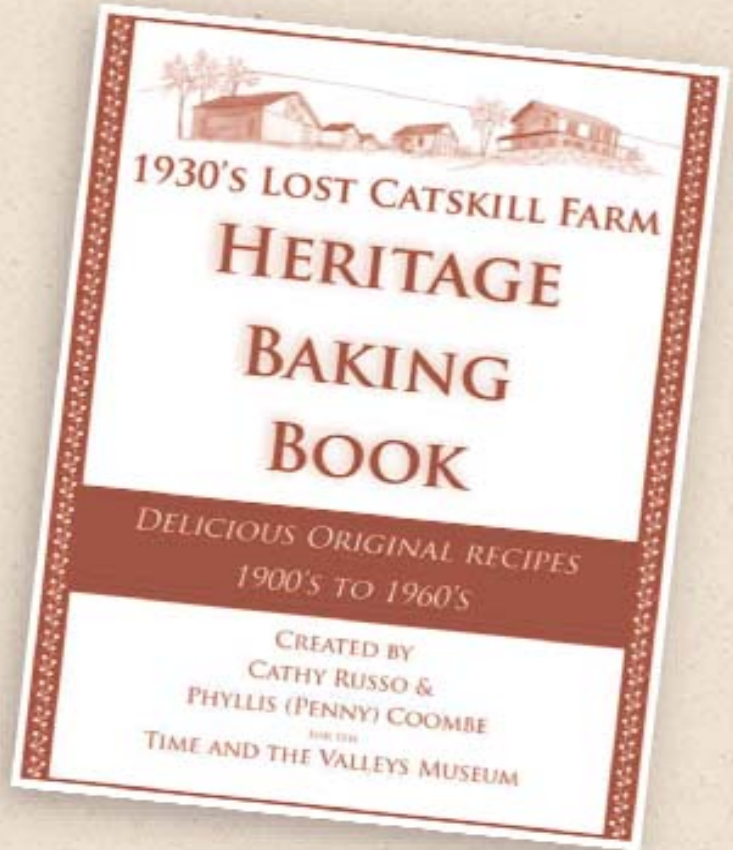
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CONSUMER ALERT: **Attorney General James Warns of Cyberattacks Targeting Consumers Reusing Passwords for Online Accounts** *Simple Steps Can Help Consumers Safeguard Online Accounts From “Credential Stuffing” Attacks*

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued a consumer alert warning New Yorkers of cyberattacks targeting consumers that use the same username and password (login credentials) on more than one website or app. In these cyberattacks, known as “credential stuffing” attacks, cybercriminals attempt to log in to online accounts using login credentials stolen from other online services. Specialized software enables attackers to generate and send tens of thousands of login attempts in quick succession.

“With billions of stolen credentials floating around on the internet, credential stuffing attacks have the ability to hurt both businesses and consumers,” said Attorney General James. “Fortunately, consumers can help safeguard their online accounts against credential stuffing. As we work with businesses to better safeguard consumers’ private information, I encourage all New Yorkers to remain vigilant against these types of attacks and take the appropriate steps to protect their data and their wallets.”

Credential stuffing attacks occur with alarming frequency. One company reported that it witnessed more than 193 billion credential stuffing attacks in 2020 alone. And, earlier this week, Attorney General James announced that a sweeping investigation by her office had identified more than 1.1 million online accounts compromised in credential stuffing cyberattacks on just 17 well-known companies.

Attorney General James recommends consumers take the following steps to safeguard their online accounts against credential stuffing attacks:

- o Never reuse passwords: While reusing login information may be convenient, it also puts consumers at risk. Consumers are encouraged to always create a unique password for each of their online accounts.
- o Use a password manager: A password manager on a phone or computer can keep track of a consumer's passwords, automatically filling them in when they log in to a website or an app. Many modern web browsers include this functionality. Browsers and other password managers can also check if a consumer's passwords have been stolen in a data breach, and even generate new passwords when creating new online accounts.
- o Enable two-factor authentication (2FA): 2FA can provide an extra layer of security by requiring anyone logging in to an account to provide another credential, such as a one-time code sent by SMS or email. Most attackers that have access to a stolen password will not have access to a secondary credential. Consumers should ensure that if a website or app offers 2FA, that it is enabled for their account.
- o Check regularly for unauthorized activity: Not all companies will notify their users when their online accounts have been compromised. Consumers are encouraged to regularly check their online accounts for unauthorized transactions and activity, and immediately contact their online service (and credit card company, if appropriate) if they see something suspicious.
- o Sign up for updates: Consumers should register with a breach notification service, like Have I Been Pwned, that will send them a notification if an account associated with their email or phone number has been compromised.
- o Take Suspicious Activity Seriously: If an online service notifies a consumer of suspicious activity on their account, they should immediately change their password. If consumers use the same password for other accounts, they should be sure to change the password for those accounts as well.

Congressman Delgado Weekly Recap

As we finish up the first week of 2022, I wanted to give you an update on how I've been serving you.

I wanted to start off the New Year by hearing from my NY-19 community member advisory committees. I met with my Veterans, Healthcare, Agriculture, and Small Business Advisory Committees to discuss what action items we can work on in 2022.

The insight I gain during these meetings is invaluable, and I am so grateful for every committee member who takes the time to speak with me. I look forward to working with all these groups in 2022 to support our upstate veterans, health care heroes, local farmers, and small business owners.

Rep. Delgado leads way in win for dairy farmers

Earlier this week, following a letter I wrote with a bipartisan group of colleagues, a United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) panel agreed with the United States that Canada is breaching its USMCA dairy commitments. This historic win will help eliminate unjustified trade restrictions on American dairy products and will ensure that the U.S. dairy industry and its workers get the full benefit of the USMCA to market and sell U.S. products to Canadian consumers. I am proud of this win that will help upstate farmers during a challenging farm economy.

\$500,000 to Develop Upstate Workforce Training Program

On Friday, I announced a \$500,000 workforce training grant for the SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill. The funding, allocated through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, will help students work in collaboration with large, multi-location agricultural equipment dealerships in New York State to develop and deliver an agricultural power machinery workforce training program.

With ongoing labor shortages, it is critical that we invest in upstate New Yorkers and give them the tools they need to succeed. This grant will develop a training program and provide community members and students with the skills and industry-accepted credentials necessary to gain full-time employment. I am proud to announce this funding and will keep pushing for programs and policies to grow New York's workforce.

New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund portal

It was announced that applications are now being accepted for the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF), a program that will provide up to \$539 million in aid or other direct assistance to help eligible homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement due to financial hardship caused by the pandemic. New York was the first state in the nation to receive U.S. Department of the Treasury approval to launch its program.

To apply, visit the online application portal at www.nyhomeownerfund.org or call the NYS Homeowner Assistance Fund call center at 1-844-77-NYHAF.

SAFER Program for Firefighters

The application period for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program opened on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 8 a.m. ET and will close on Friday, February 4, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET.

Applicants requiring assistance should visit www.grants.gov or the FEMA website, contact the FEMA SAFER Program Help Desk at (866) 274-0960 or email firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The SAFER Program Help Desk is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET.

Remembering January 6th

This week marked the first year that has passed since the violent January 6th attack on the United States Capitol. It was a somber day as we honored and remembered the officers who lost their lives in the days, weeks, and months following the attack. (Contd. Pg. 41)

Congressman Delgado Weekly Recap

(From Pg. 40) "One year ago, the peaceful transfer of power to a legitimately elected president, came under siege, as violence and malice tore through the hallowed halls of the Capitol. More than 100 police officers were injured in the line of duty that day. Five officers died in the days, weeks, and months that followed. Their bravery saved the lives of countless individuals trapped in the Capitol. We owe these heroes and their families profound gratitude and assured accountability.

In the darkness of January 6, 2021, let us never forget the many acts of valor and bravery that made it possible for our government to resume its work and fulfill what our Constitution obligates. In the face of violence and terror, our democracy prevailed - the people's power was not relinquished. God willing, We the People of the United States, will make sure that it never is."

IRS Child Tax Credit Letters

Did you receive advanced Child Tax Credit payments in 2021? If so, look out for a letter from the IRS.

The IRS started issuing information letters to advance child tax credit recipients in December. Recipients of the third round of the Economic Impact Payments will begin receiving information letters at the end of January. Using the information in these letters when preparing a tax return can reduce errors and delays in processing.

People receiving these letters should keep them. Do not throw them away. These letters can help taxpayers, or their tax professional prepare their 2021 federal tax return.

Nomination Deadline for National Small Business Week 2022 Awards

Next week is the last week to nominate upstate small businesses for the National Small Business Week 2022 Awards.

To nominate an upstate small business owner you can apply online via sba.gov/nsbw

All nominations should be submitted electronically by 3 p.m. ET on January 11, 2022. The awards will be presented during National Small Business Week in early May 2022.

COVID-19 Booster Shot and Vaccine Update

BOOSTER UPDATE: The CDC expanded booster shot eligibility for 12-17 year olds.

If you received Pfizer-BioNTech: Everyone 12 years and older can get their booster at least 5 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most* situations. Teens 12-17 years old may only get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster.

If you received Moderna: Adults 18 years and older can get their booster shot at least 6 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most* situations

If you received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen*: Adults 18 years and older can get their booster at least 2 months after receiving your J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most* situations

*Although mRNA vaccines are preferred, J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be considered in some situations.

Learn more at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [COVID-19 Vaccine | COVID-19 Vaccine \(ny.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/vaccine)

Get Covered

The New York State of Health's Open Enrollment Period for 2022 is NOW going on. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, which I voted to pass, New Yorkers will be able to browse more plan options from more insurance companies and continue to benefit from lower healthcare costs.

2021 Open Enrollment has been extended through December 31, 2021. 2022 Open Enrollment will continue through January 31, 2022.

If you are interested in signing up for health insurance, reviewing the options for you and your family, or changing your provider, you can visit <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/> to look at your options. If you are currently uninsured, this window is an opportunity to get the coverage you need.

Staying Healthy & Safe

Cold and flu season is upon us, make sure you keep yourself and your loved ones safe by getting your flu shot. Find out more about where to get the shot and what you should know about the flu in New York State below.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/>

As always, it's an honor to represent you in Congress.

Sincerely,
Antonio

Connect With Us

I hope you'll connect with us soon. We're always here to help, and you can get in touch with us in the following ways:

Call 845-443-2930

Reach out online: <https://delgado.house.gov/contact>

Come to one of my town halls or public events

Comprehensive 5-Year Housing Plan Will Invest \$25 Billion to Create and Preserve 100,000 Affordable Homes in NYS

- **Governor Will Take Action to Build New Homes, Kick-Start Transit Oriented Development and Increase Density in Urban Areas**

- **New Initiatives Will Tackle Inequities in the Housing Market to Protect Low-Income and Vulnerable New Yorkers**

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced sweeping plans to make housing more affordable as part of the 2022 State of the State. Governor Hochul will initiate a new, \$25 billion five-year housing plan to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes statewide, increase construction of new homes, and tackle inequities in the housing market.

"In the wake of the pandemic, it's crucial that we tackle the housing crisis and make New York a more affordable place for all," Governor Hochul said. "These bold steps are a major step forward in transforming our housing market, protecting affordability and increasing the housing supply."

Governor Hochul will implement a comprehensive 5-year plan, \$25 billion plan to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes, including 10,000 homes with support services for vulnerable populations. Governor Hochul's plan would also electrify an additional 50,000 homes as part of the State's plan to electrify 1 million homes and make another 1 million electrification-ready. The comprehensive housing plan will be designed using a four-part framework of economic recovery, social justice, climate action, and digital connectivity.

Governor Hochul will take major steps to construct new housing and increase density in appropriate urban areas, including:

- o Permit accessory dwelling units in single-family neighborhoods: Governor Hochul will propose legislation to require municipalities to allow a minimum of one ADU on owner-occupied residentially zoned lots. (Contd. Pg. 42)

Comprehensive 5-Year Housing Plan Will Invest \$25 Billion to Create and Preserve 100,000 Affordable Homes in NYS

(From Pg. 41) This legislation will allow for municipalities to set size requirements and safety standards for these dwellings. It will also require that an amnesty program be created in New York City to legalize existing ADUs, with the expectation they be brought into compliance with building code to ensure resident safety. The housing plan will also include capital funding for municipalities or nonprofits to assist in the legalization or creation of new ADUs.

- o Kick-start transit-oriented development: Governor Hochul will propose legislation to foster multifamily construction in zones drawn by municipalities around rail transit stops within commuting distance to New York City. The State will provide assistance to municipalities for drafting the ordinance changes, easing the burden on smaller municipalities.

- o Give New York City the authority to encourage densification: Governor Hochul will propose amending the State law that limits the maximum density of residential floor area ratio to 12.0 in New York City, returning it to local authority. This will provide municipal leaders with the autonomy to allow for denser residential development where appropriate.

- o Ease restrictions on converting hotels and offices to housing: Given the changing demand for office and hotel space, Governor Hochul will use legislation to implement more flexible zoning rules to make it easier to convert unused office buildings and hotels to residential spaces. This includes allowing any Class B hotel located within a residential zoning district to use the existing certificate of occupancy for permanent residences, with certain conditions, and allowing for office-to-residential conversions of buildings constructed before 1980 or any applicable buildings located south of 60th Street in Manhattan from now until the end of 2027.

Claudia Tenney This Week in Washington The Supreme Court Should End the Vaccine Mandate

This week, the Supreme Court began hearing arguments in a case challenging President Biden's vaccine mandate. This Supreme Court case is not about the vaccine. It is about the constitutionality of Joe Biden's mandate. And on this question, the facts could not be clearer: The federal government does not have the authority to implement such a mandate.

Earlier this week, I joined more than 130 of my House colleagues in filing an amicus brief to the Supreme Court that makes our opposition to this mandate abundantly clear on constitutional grounds. I have received my vaccine and

encourage others who are comfortable getting it to do the same, but it should never be a decision that is forced on Americans by the federal government.

As soon as President Biden announced he was moving forward with the mandate, I immediately delivered solutions to stop it. My Health Freedom for All Act clarifies that OSHA does not have the authority to impose such a requirement, while my Employment Freedom for All Act ensures any American who is unfairly terminated because of the mandate is not bound by a previously signed non-compete agreement. As the new year gets underway, I will not stop my fight to defend Americans, their jobs, and our health freedom.

Election Integrity Update: New Data Shows Low Voter Confidence Among Americans

An ABC/Ipsos poll showed that only 20% of Americans are very confident in the integrity of our elections. This should alarm every single one of us.

Too many American patriots have served and sacrificed in our nation's military to protect our sacred right to vote. It is disheartening to see that many Americans, Republicans and Democrats alike, lack full confidence in the democratic process. This is the very reason I launched the Election Integrity Caucus in Congress. The caucus, which has more than 60 members, is proactively educating and informing the American public about issues related to election security and actively driving commonsense policy solutions to restore faith in the democratic process and improve the administration of elections.

This year alone the caucus held more than eight events, including a recent discussion with author Mollie Hemingway, who wrote a book exposing how partisan political operatives and Big Tech giants unfairly influenced the 2020 election. To address the influence of Big Tech billionaires, I introduced H.R. 4290, the End Zuckerbucks Act. The administration of our elections is not something that should be sold to the highest bidder or wealthiest donor. My bill ensures that wealthy, private citizens cannot funnel money through non-profits directly to government election agencies like they did in 2020. I hope you will continue to follow our work this year to secure elections and restore confidence.

We Cannot Close Schools Again

Throughout the pandemic, students have been severely impacted by the lack of in-person learning. Data confirms that, on average, students were five months behind in math and four months behind in reading as a result. Their overall well-being and social development has also been impacted by the pandemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency visits for suspected suicide attempts among adolescents jumped by 31%.

We must focus on the health, well-being, and success of our young students - they are the future leaders! We simply cannot close schools again and deny students the opportunity to learn and socialize. In-person learning for our students can be done safely, and it must be. If we deny students this opportunity, an entire generation of young people will be left behind for many years to come.

Governor Hochul Announces \$230 Million in Additional Food Assistance for New Yorkers in January

- All SNAP Households to Receive the Maximum Level of Food Benefits
- More than 2.77 Million New Yorkers Rely on the Supplement to Make Ends Meet

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that all New Yorkers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will receive the maximum allowable level of food benefits for January. All households participating in SNAP - including those already at the maximum level of benefits - will receive a supplemental allotment later this month, bringing in roughly \$230 million in federal funding into the state's economy.

"As we continue to endure the difficulties of the pandemic, too many New Yorkers are struggling to make ends meet," Governor Hochul said. "These additional food benefits will play a critical role in eliminating food insecurity throughout the state. As the cold weather puts pressure on family budgets, these additional SNAP funds will provide much-needed relief."

The emergency assistance supplement is provided to households that do not ordinarily receive the maximum allowable benefit per month on SNAP - a federally funded program overseen by the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Those households already near or at the maximum benefit level --\$835 for a household of four -will receive a supplemental payment of at least \$95.

SNAP households in all counties outside of New York City should see these benefits posted between Wednesday, Jan. 12, and the end of the day Friday, Jan. 21. Those SNAP households in the five-county New York City region should see their benefits post between Saturday, Jan. 15, and the end of the month.

Struggling New Yorkers continue to rely heavily on SNAP as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact everyday life. In the first months after the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, New York saw a substantial increase in SNAP enrollment.

The initial spike has remained sustained, and recipient counts remain about where they were at the end of the initial surge, which is substantially higher than pre-pandemic levels. As of November 2021, there were nearly 1.6 million households totaling 2.77 million New Yorkers that were receiving SNAP benefits.

OTDA Acting Commissioner Daniel W. Tietz said, "The tremendous impact these food benefits have had for New York households cannot be overstated. The additional benefits SNAP households have received since the onset of the pandemic have helped millions of New Yorkers to avoid food insecurity and make ends meet during the ongoing public health emergency."

As with the prior months, the payments will be delivered directly to recipients' existing Electronic Benefit Transfer accounts and can be accessed with their existing EBT cards. Like regular SNAP benefits, the supplemental benefits can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. Any unused SNAP benefits will automatically carry over to the following month.

SNAP benefits also play an important role in New York's economic recovery, with every federal dollar invested generating up to \$1.54 in economic activity, according to a federal study quantifying the impact of SNAP on the U.S. economy. The study also found that an additional \$1 billion invested in new SNAP benefits could support roughly 13,560 jobs nationwide.

Find more information on the emergency supplemental SNAP benefits, including answers to frequently asked ques-

tions, here. New Yorkers can check their eligibility for SNAP and apply online by visiting mybenefits.ny.gov.

Schumer, Gillibrand Announce Over \$6 Million in Federal Funding to Help Law Enforcement Fight Crime, Invest in Court System in NYS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced \$6,109,353 in federal funding to combat criminal activity and fund family and drug courts in New York State. The funding was awarded through the Department of Justice and will be used to combat and respond to online child sexual abuse, conduct forensic DNA analysis and reduce the backlog of forensic and database DNA samples in crime laboratories, fight human trafficking, and help establish and strengthen family and drug courts throughout the state.

"This federal funding will help communities from Nassau to Erie County identify perpetrators and achieve justice for victims," said Senator Schumer. "I am proud to deliver this investment to help local law enforcement stop online child predators, reduce the backlog of DNA evidence in forensic labs, and strengthen support and outreach for crime victims. I will continue to fight tooth and nail to ensure our communities have all the resources needed to keep families safe."

"This federal funding is a critical investment in our communities," said Senator Gillibrand. "It will dedicate resources to help local law enforcement fight heinous crimes including online child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking, and invests in vital services like family treatment and drug courts. I'll continue fighting to ensure that communities across New York have what they need to stay safe."

DEC Releases Interim Report from Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group

Recommendations Include State and Local Actions to Promote Sustainable Recreation and Diversity

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the release of the Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group's (CAG) Immediate Action Recommendations Report for public review and comment. The report includes proposed actions that DEC and its State and local partners could undertake, pending available funding and continued partnership, to balance increasing and diverse recreational use of the Catskill Forest Preserve, protecting the park's natural and historic resources, and ensuring the experience of using the Park is welcoming, accessible, and inclusive.

"I applaud the extensive work of the CAG members to strategically examine the issues facing the region's communities and natural resources and develop this interim report which is an important part of our comprehensive actions to protect the Catskills for future generations," Commissioner Seggos said. "We look forward to receiving feedback from stakeholders on the recommendations to help further inform a final framework to guide New York State's collaborative work to promote sustainable recreation in the Catskills." (Contd. Pg. 44)

DEC Releases Interim Report from Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group

(From Pg. 43)

In October 2020, Commissioner Seggos announced the formation of the Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group (CAG) comprised of stakeholders with expertise in local government, recreation, natural resource protection, business, tourism, and other priority areas. The members collectively provide advice to DEC on how to balance critical issues associated with increased public use in the Catskill Park in order to protect the area's natural resources for future generations.

The CAG has been meeting throughout the past year to develop this Interim Report with recommendations for immediate actions along the Route 23A corridor in the vicinity of Kaaterskill Clove as well as long-term park-wide management strategies that include:

- Educate all users of the Catskill Park about responsible recreation, protecting natural and historic resources, and Leave No Trace™ principles;

- Coordinate consistent messaging and communication for the Catskills Park on different mediums;

- Implement park-wide traffic and parking management strategies;

- Incorporate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and justice (DEIJ) principles in recreational, educational, and operational frameworks and the economic benefits provided in the Catskill Park; and

- Establish a Catskill Park Coordinator position to collaborate among entities and streamline parkwide efforts.

Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center, said, "The Interim Report represents a great deal of research, hard work, and consensus building amongst the members of the CAG. The Interim Report, and the forthcoming Final Report, will also be roadmaps for the future of an inclusive, actively managed Catskill Park that welcomes visitors through locations like the Catskills Visitor Center, protects our region's natural resources, and better connects our communities to the economic benefits of visitors. I look forward to working with my fellow CAG members on the development of a robust Final Report, and then working with stakeholders and the newly appointed Catskill Park Coordinator to ensure that the CAG recommendations are implemented."

Ramsay Adams, Executive Director of the Catskill Mountainkeeper, said, "The Draft Report addresses many of the challenges identified by the Catskills Advisory Group (CAG) and is a great step forward in planning the future for our lands and forests. Catskill Mountainkeeper applauds Commissioner Seggos and the staff at the DEC for facilitating the process and our colleagues in the CAG for engaging in such important conversations."

Adrienne S. Larys, President of the Mountain Top Historical Society, said, "The Mountain Top Historical Society in Haines Falls was pleased to be invited to join the Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group. Given our location at the top of the Kaaterskill Clove, we have had a front row seat to the influx of visitors in recent years and have been concerned about the impact on the Catskills. The CAG has given stakeholders in the region the opportunity to be a part of an effort to develop a strategic approach to assuring that the natural beauty and recreational assets of the Catskills are sustained for generations to come. The Interim Report will give the public a glimpse into the work we

have been doing since late 2020. The appointment of a Catskill Park Coordinator by the DEC is one of the first results of our work."

Joshua Howard, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Executive Director, said, "The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has always strived to collaborate with likeminded organizations to improve the recreational opportunities in New York. Being a member of the Catskill Advisory Group epitomizes this principle and we are very excited to have participated in this process and submit our interim recommendations to DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos for his consideration. We have already seen the department act on the group's thoughts with the creation of a Coordinator position for the Catskill Forest Preserve and are excited for future investments and improvements to keep recreation sustainable and welcoming for all users who wish to enjoy the wonders of our Forever Wild lands in the Catskills."

Michael Barrett, ADK Executive Director, said, "ADK is excited to represent those who recreate in the wildlands of New York State's Forest Preserve, including the beautiful mountains and cloves of the Catskill Park. The Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group's Interim Report sets the stage for a final set of recommendations that protect natural resources, respect quality visitor experiences, and ensure that the Forest Preserve is a welcoming and inclusive space for all."

DEC encourages the public to submit their comments on the report to CatskillPark@dec.ny.gov by Feb. 3, 2022. The Interim Report can be found on DEC's website.

Due to the ongoing collaborative process to address issues affecting sustainable use, DEC and its State and local partners are taking action on many of the recommendations of the Catskill Advisory Group's interim report. For example, DEC recently named a Catskill Park Coordinator who was recently invited to the CAG's deliberations as the group prepares the final report. The CAG will continue to develop its recommendations and other topics in the coming months as it works to review public comments on the interim report and complete the Final Strategic Framework.

Other recommendations acted on in 2021 to improve public safety and sustainably manage use of the Catskill Park during the summer months include:

- Worked with Catskill Center, Catskill Mountain Keeper, NY/NJ Trail Conference, 3500 Club and others to increase the Stewards interacting with the public

- Increased public awareness and education through the Love Our NY Lands campaign

- Addressed increased use of the Mongaup Access to the Delaware River across agencies including DEC, the National Park Service, the Upper Delaware Council, and the town of Lumberland;

- Helped address parking issues in Claryville at a very popular fishing access site on the Neversink by working with Sullivan County;

- Implemented a number of strategies along the Route 23A corridor including: enhanced parking enforcement, variable message boards and Mountain Top Historical Society allowed for alternate parking options.

In the 2022 State of the State Address on Jan. 5, Governor Kathy Hochul committed to additional Forest Preserve protections and investments, including critical actions to address sustainable use through comprehensive planning for the future, and enhancements for trail safety and climate resiliency. These efforts will include support for increased stewardship programs to protect natural forest lands, while allowing visitors to enjoy the Catskills for future generations.

This winter, DEC reminds visitors recreating on State lands to practice Leave No Trace™ and Love Our NY Lands. For more information, go to DEC's website.

Important Announcement from OverDrive



The OverDrive App is going away in February!



But that's okay!



The Libby App will replace the OverDrive app.

Get the Libby app today!

In February 2022, the OverDrive app will be removed from the Apple App Store, Google Play, and Microsoft Store. Then, only the Libby app will be available for download.

The OverDrive website will still be available; just not the mobile app.

- Kindle Fire Users -

Until OverDrive and Amazon reach an agreement about Libby and Kindle Fire tablets, only the OverDrive app will be available at the Amazon App store.

Scan the QR code to go to your App Store



Download Libby today!

New to Libby?

<http://help.libbyapp.com>

Daniel Pierce Library Patron

WINTER READING "AlphaBOOKbet" CHALLENGE

December 1st - March 1st

Read (or listen) to a book--26 actually--with titles that start with every letter of the alphabet. Fill in the reading log provided after each book, return the completed log to the library by March 1st, and receive a book to keep!

Visit the library to pickup a reading log
or go to our website to print it.

<https://danielpiercelibrary.org>



WIN PRIZE BOOKS | ALL AGES WELCOME TO READ

UC NOW TRENDING...

January 2022

Jan. 1-Dec. 31 2022 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge: Experienced hikers are encouraged to visit the region's six fire towers. Hike to all six Catskill Fire Towers between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Fill out the log of completed hikes along with one favorite photo. Download the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge log (PDF) and email it to catskillschallenge@dec.ny.gov or mail to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1010. Entries must be postmarked by January 7, 2023. Limit one entry per person. Participants will receive a commemorative patch and will be entered to win great outdoor prizes including hiking accessories. Catskills Visitor Center, 5096 Route 28, Mt. Tremper. 845-688-3369; catskillsvisitorcenter.org

Jan. 16, 30 Kingston Winter Farmers' Market: Indoors for winter. Locally-grown and crafted products. Vegetables and fruits, meats, dairy, wine and spirits, body care products and more. Feb. dates: 13 & 27. Senate Garage, 4 N. Front Street, Kingston; kingstonfarmersmarket.com

Jan. 7; Feb. 4 Saugerties First Friday: Every month in the village of Saugerties, businesses stay open late and offer special activities and discounts to visitors. 5-8 p.m. Partition, Market and Main streets, Saugerties; facebook.com/saugertiesscene

Jan. 22 Volunteer Fireman's Hall & Museum: Known locally as "a little gem of a museum." Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every other Saturday; weather permitting. Free. Feb. dates: 5 & 19. 265 Fair St., Kingston. kingstonvolunteerfiremensmuseum.weebly.com

Jan. 13, 27 Hand Knitting Chunky Blanket Sip and Craft at Magnanini Winery: Learn to hand-knit chunky blanket. Includes one free glass of Magnanini wine. An experienced artist will help you as much or as little as you want. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be available for additional purchase. Small bites can be purchased in the Tasting Room. Limited quantities. Seats are limited; please book ahead. Starts at 6:30 sharp. \$60. 172 Strawridge Road., Wallkill. 845-895-2767; facebook.com/magnaniniwinery

Jan. 14-17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend: Enjoy our cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, ice skating rink on Lake Cole, ice fishing and a snow tube run (weather permitting). Warm up at our indoor floor hockey arena, climbing gym, archery range and arts and crafts studio. Snow tubes, snowshoes, and cross-country skis are provided. Frost Valley YMCA, 2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville. 845-985-2291 x450; frostvalley.org

Jan. 21 The Hudson Valley's 13th annual Traditional Robbie Burns Supper/Celebration: Featuring the recitation of Burns' poetry, a traditional dinner with the entrance of the haggis, storytelling, songs and whisky toasts. Samplings of Hudson House whiskies. Several local hotels are offering special room rates. Seating is limited. Please call for reservation 1-914-299-0837- 1-845-834-6007. \$75.00pp+ tax & gratuity. Or reserve through Eventbrite: eventbrite.com/e/13th-annual-robbie-burns-supper-celebration-tickets

Jan. 21-22 Rock Academy Presents RUSH: 7 p.m. Tickets available through a Rock Academy student and at the door. Wall Street Music Hall, 323 Wall Street, Kingston. 323-538-3012; facebook.com/events/kingston-ny/rock-academy-presents-rush/404652028024563/

Jan. 22-24 24th Annual Catskill Ice Climbing Festival 2022: Choose from multiple clinics on all the skills and techniques. \$175 per person per event for all group events; \$200 for the back-country day. Rock and Snow will offer 25% off for apparel and

15% off ice gear for all Icefest registrants up to the end of the event. Alpine Endeavors, PO Box 291 Rosendale. 877-486-5769; alpineendeavors.com

Jan. 28, 29 The Students of Rock Academy Present PRINCE! 7 p.m. Tickets available through a Rock Academy student and at the door. "Songwriter, producer, actor/director, multi-instrumentalist Prince was one of the greatest and prolific musicians of all time...." — Director, Adrien Reju. Woodstock Playhouse, 103 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock. 845-679-6900; woodstockplayhouse.org

DEC Encourages Outdoor Enthusiasts to Purchase New Recreation-Themed Trail Supporter Patches

Patch Sales Enhance and Maintain Non-Motorized Trails throughout New York

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the release of the latest New York State Trail Supporter Patches. The 2022 patches consist of five designs that resemble the international symbols for some of New York State's most popular outdoor recreation activities - cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, camping, and biking. Each patch will be available individually for a limited time; however, the entire series can be purchased at any time.

"New York State residents and visitors can show their love for New York's premier recreational trails by purchasing this year's trail supporter patches, starting with the seasonally appropriate cross-country skiing patch," Commissioner Seggos said. "All funds received will support projects to increase public access to outdoor recreation opportunities."

The public can purchase a Trail Supporter Patch for \$5 (or the full series for \$25) at any sporting license sales outlet, or online at the DECALS website. The proceeds from patch sales go into the Conservation Fund's Outdoor Recreation, Trail Maintenance, and Development account to help maintain and enhance DEC's non-motorized recreation trails throughout the state.

Since its introduction in 2007, patch sales have funded a variety of projects including the construction of a boardwalk and pit privy in Texas Hollow State Forest, foot bridges on the Northville-Placid Trail and at the Catskill Visitor Center, an accessible horse mounting platform at Brookfield horse assembly area, and multiple lean-tos in the High Peaks Wilderness. Patch funds were also used to purchase materials for the new mountain bike trails at Elm Ridge Wild Forest and to maintain the Otter Creek horse trails. For more information on the Trail Supporter Patch visit DEC's website.

DEC remains committed to promoting opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the state and is actively working with partner organizations and tourism promotion agencies to highlight and encourage sustainable recreation and responsible use on State lands. DEC's 'Love Our New York Lands' campaign was launched in response to the steady increase in the number of visitors to state lands, both during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the decade prior, as more and more New Yorkers and visitors from other states and countries discovered the natural beauty of New York State. For details and more information, visit the Love Our New York Lands page on DEC's website.



Due to the increased numbers of Covid-19 cases **Claryville Fire Dept** has **canceled** our **January 2022 Pancake Breakfast.**

We hope to be open for February 2022!
Stay safe and healthy!

UC Executive Pat Ryan Announces Additional Details on State-Run COVID-19 Community Testing Site in UC

- **The New York State-run Community Testing Site, located at SUNY New Paltz, is open to the public and run from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4pm**
- **County Executive Pat Ryan will soon release details on additional free at-home rapid tests and mask distributions**
- **Last week, New York State announced plans for the testing site after County Executive Ryan requested a facility open in Ulster County to bolster access to critically-needed tests for residents in the midst of the current surge in cases**

New Paltz, N.Y. - Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan today announced additional details on the state-run COVID-19 community testing site on the campus of SUNY New Paltz. Starting Monday, the site will be open to the public from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4pm.

"I want to thank Governor Hochul and her team for answering our request to activate a testing site here in Ulster County," County Executive Pat Ryan said. "This site will help ensure that our residents have access to critically-needed testing so we can keep our residents healthy, and continue to keep our schools and businesses open safely. As we respond to the ongoing surge in positive cases driven by the Omicron variant, it is essential for residents to continue to wear masks, get vaccinated, and especially to get their booster shot."

The SUNY New Paltz Community Testing Site at the College Terrace Building will be open from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4pm. Residents can make an appointment by clicking here. Each site will maintain capacity for approximately 225 appointments per day and up to 50 walk-ins for PCR testing. For additional information regarding vaccines, boosters, and testing, please visit VaccinateUlster.com.

This week, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan will announce information on distribution of additional free COVID-19 at-home rapid tests along with masks. Last week, New York State announced plans for the testing site after County Executive Ryan requested a facility open in Ulster County to bolster access to critically-needed tests for residents in the midst of the current surge in cases.

SC Warming Centers Open Through Wednesday Morning

Monticello, NY - Due to dangerous wind chills over the next two days, Sullivan County plans to open its two warming shelters tonight in Liberty and Monticello, continuing through the night of Tuesday, January 11:

- o United Methodist Church, 170 North Main Street, Liberty
 - o Ted Stroebele Recreation Center, 2 Jefferson Street, Monticello
- These facilities will be open to anyone from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Monday, January 10 and Tuesday, January 11 (into the morning of Wednesday, January 12). PLEASE NOTE: Masks are required due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A comprehensive and interactive map of these locations is available on the County website at:

www.sullivan.us/Departments/RealProperty/GISData.

Click on the "Warming and Cooling Center Locator" app button at the bottom of the page.

In addition, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - which can provide funds for fuel and heating system repair/replacement - continues Countywide, including aid for emergency heating situations. For more information, call 845-807-0142.

During the daytime hours (12-1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, except holidays), the Federation for the Homeless at 9 Monticello Street in Monticello offers takeout food, and afterhours emergency food requests can be made to the Federation at 845-798-8774. The Federation's pantry is open to all (no documentation required) from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Friday, as well.

CONSUMER ALERT:

Attorney General James Issues Alert to Protect New York Homeowners From Deceptive Practices

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued alerts in multiple languages, warning New Yorkers to be wary of scams and other deceptive practices related to the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). The HAF is a federally funded program designed to assist homeowners who are experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. New York state has since received nearly \$540 million in HAF funding that is available to eligible New York homeowners.

"As New Yorkers continue to recover from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last thing anyone needs is additional financial burden," said Attorney General James. "The Homeowner Assistance Fund is a critical program that provides a vital lifeline to individuals and helps remedy some of the hardship caused by this pandemic. It is unfortunate, however, that there are bad actors out there looking to potentially exploit the integrity of this crucial program just to line their own pockets. But make no mistake: My office is committed to protecting the safety and financial welfare of all New Yorkers, and anyone who seeks to cheat our communities out of their money or their homes will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. I strongly urge everyone to remain vigilant and to report these deceptive practices to my office immediately."

In her continued efforts to protect New Yorkers and their homes, Attorney General James reminds New Yorkers of the following information:

- o Applying for HAF is free, and homeowners are able to apply for HAF on their own with minimum documents needed: Homeowners should be cautious of anyone charging a fee to apply for HAF or promising HAF funds. No individual or entity can guarantee you HAF funds. For information on how to apply for HAF, please visit New York state's Division of Housing and Community Renewal's (HCR) website. For free assistance with a HAF application, please visit New York state's HomeOwner Protection Program (HOPP) website or call 855-466-3456.

(Contd. Pg. 50)

Attorney General James Issues Alert to Protect New York Homeowners From Deceptive Practices

(From Pg. 49)

o It is illegal to request upfront fees for mortgage assistance: Even attorneys cannot request an upfront fee for mortgage assistance unless it is for “retainer” services and the attorney has filed a notice of appearance on your behalf in an active court case.

Additionally, Attorney General James recommends the following tips to help homeowners avoid mortgage rescue and HAF-related scams:

o Be cautious of any online ads, telephone solicitations, or people coming to your door that promise you HAF funds or a mortgage modification, especially if they are not from a trusted government agency: Only HCR can approve you for HAF and only your bank or mortgage servicer can approve a loan modification.

o Be careful of solicitations from people or companies with out-of-state phone numbers or addresses, especially for attorneys: Only lawyers admitted to practice in New York can represent you in court.

o Do not give your personal financial information to an unrecognized caller, someone knocking on your door, or in response to an unexpected piece of mail: This includes your bank account number, Social Security number, or the name of your loan servicer. Your bank already has all of this information and will not ask you for it.

o Never pay an upfront fee for mortgage-related services: It is a violation of New York law to charge upfront fees for such services and violations should be reported to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

Any New Yorker who is aware of or believes that they have been a victim of a scam are encouraged to file a complaint with the OAG online or call 1-800-771-7755.

Attorney General James Warns New Yorkers to Beware of Sham Charities Set Up in Response to Bronx Fire

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued an alert reminding New Yorkers to beware of potentially fraudulent charities created in the wake of yesterday's horrific fire in the Bronx. Anyone who is considering making a donation to organizations that are purportedly assisting victims of the fire, should consider consulting the office's charitable giving tips before donating. Scammers often use incidents of crisis to perpetuate frauds to divert donations away from the intended recipients.

“In moments of tragedy, New Yorkers are quick to offer support, donations, and strength to those in need, but too often, individuals take advantage of that kindness,” said Attorney General James. “As we look to aid those who were impacted by the horrific fire in the Bronx yesterday, we must be vigilant and ensure that victims receive each and every donation that is intended for them. My heart is with the Bronx today as we mourn, pray, and heal as

one community.”

Attorney General James offers the following tips for those donating to those impacted by the Bronx fire:

Check Before Giving. Donate to charities you are familiar with and carefully review information about the charity before you give. Most charities are required to register and file financial reports with the Attorney General's Charities Bureau if they solicit contributions from New Yorkers. Check our website, charitiesnys.com, for financial reports of charities or ask the charity directly for its reports.

Ask How Your Donation Will Be Used. Find out how the charity plans to use your donation, including the services and individuals your donation will support. Find out more than just the cause. Find out what organization or entity will receive the money and what programs it conducts or what services it provides.

Look Into Newly Formed Organizations Carefully. Often, in the aftermath of tragedies, new organizations emerge to meet community needs. While most of these organizations are well-intentioned, and some may provide innovative forms of assistance, some may not have the experience or infrastructure to follow through on their promises, and some may turn out to be scams.

Solicited by Email? Find Out Who is Soliciting. If you receive a solicitation by email, find out who is behind that email address. Contact the charity whose name is in the email or visit its website to find out if the email is really from the charity. Do not give personal information or your credit card number in response to an email solicitation unless you have checked out the charity.

Be Careful When Giving Through Social Media or Other Fundraising Sites. Before giving through these social media or fundraising sites, research the identity of the organizer of the fundraising efforts and ask the same questions you would of a charity. Online platforms that host groups and individuals soliciting for causes may not thoroughly vet those who use their service. Donors should only give to campaigns conducted by people whom they know. Donors also should take a close look at the site's FAQs and Terms and Conditions to see what fees will be charged. Also, don't assume that charities recommended on social media sites, blogs, or other websites have already been vetted. Research the charity yourself to confirm that the charity is aware of the campaign and has given its approved permission for the use of its name or logo. If available, sign up for updates from the campaign organizer to keep abreast on how contributions to the campaign are being spent.

Exercise Caution Before You Text A Contribution. Check the charity's website or call the charity to confirm it has authorized contributions to be made via text message.

Don't Give Cash. Give directly to the charity either by check made payable to the organization or through the charity's website.

Be Careful About Personal Information. Be cautious before giving credit card or personal information over the phone, by text message or via the Internet. In all cases, make sure you are familiar with the organization to which you give such information and check to see that the fundraising campaign is legitimate.

Report Suspicious Organizations. If you believe an organization is misrepresenting its work, or that a fundraising or charitable scam is taking place, please contact the Charities Bureau at charities.complaints@ag.ny.gov or charities.complaints@ag.ny.gov.

Governor Hochul Delivers 2022 State of the State

- "New Era for New York" Agenda Includes 228 Bold Initiatives to Kick-Start New York's Comeback
- \$10 Billion Healthcare Plan Will Rebuild and Grow Workforce, Deliver Direct Payments to Workers
- Major Ethics Reforms Will Limit Statewide Elected Officials to Two Terms, Ban Outside Income and Replace JCOPE with New Independent Ethics Agency
- Billion Dollar Rescue Plan Will Help Small Businesses Come Back, Middle Class Tax Relief Will Lift Up Millions of New Yorkers
- Infrastructure Investments Will Expand Transit in New York City and Lead the Nation in Climate Action

State of the State Book Available at:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/2022StateoftheStateBook.pdf>

Governor Kathy Hochul today delivered her 2022 State of the State Address, outlining her plan for a New Era for New York. Governor Hochul outlined nine key components of her agenda: rebuilding our healthcare economy, protecting public safety and addressing gun violence, investing in New York's people, investing in New York's communities, making New York's housing system more affordable, equitable, and stable, making New York a national leader in climate action and green jobs, rebuilding New York's teacher workforce and reimagining higher education, advancing New York's place as a national equity model, and making critical reforms to restore New Yorkers' faith in their government.

"As the first woman to present a State of the State address in New York, I want to make it clear I am not just here to make history - I am here to make a difference," Governor Hochul said. "The time has come for a new American Dream. Today, we start building a better, fairer, more inclusive version that I call the New York Dream. We will create a New Era for New York by embarking on a bold, far-reaching policy agenda that advances our recovery and restores New Yorkers' trust in government. And through all of this, I will continue to collaborate with others and deliver results for New Yorkers."

Governor Hochul's A New Era for New York Agenda is comprised of nine components each geared toward carrying New York State to a brighter future.

Rebuild Our Healthcare Economy to Provide Care for More New Yorkers

\$10 Billion Plan to Rebuild and Grow the Healthcare Workforce by 20 Percent

Over the next five years, Governor Hochul's plan will rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce by 20 percent. \$10 billion will be invested in the state's healthcare sector, including more than \$4 billion to support wages and bonuses for health-care workers. Additionally, this plan will improve the career pipeline, expand access to healthcare training and education, recruit care workers to underserved areas, and strengthen home care.

Protect Public Safety and Take Strong Action Against Gun Violence

Three-Part Agenda to Prevent and Reduce Gun Violence and Violent Crime Throughout New York State

This public safety initiative will provide state and local law enforcement with tools necessary to keep New Yorkers safe from gun violence. The Governor's plan will invest in public safety and fund state and local policing gun safety efforts, create the Interstate Gun Tracing Consortium, and triple investment in community-based gun violence response.

Invest in New York's People

Tax Relief Efforts for Thousands of Small Businesses and Millions of Middle-Class New Yorkers

Governor Hochul's plan will accelerate the phase-in of \$1.2 billion in middle class tax cuts for 6 million New Yorkers by two years - to 2023 - and establish a \$1 billion property tax rebate program to put money back into the pockets of more than 2 million New Yorkers who have had to endure rising costs as the pandemic has progressed. The Governor will also deliver a tax rebate for 2 million New York families and increase existing tax credits and create new ones to support food production. Governor Hochul's efforts will also bring about \$100 million in tax relief for 195,000 small businesses across New York State. (Contd. Pg. 52)

Beware of Malicious COVID-19 Phishing

Protect yourself from identity theft and fraud during pandemic recovery.

Confirm any SBA disaster assistance emails by contacting **(800) 659-2955**, TTY **(800) 877-8339**, or **disastercustomerservice@sba.gov**.

Avoid scams and fraud, visit **sba.gov/COVIDfraudalert**



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Governor Hochul Delivers 2022 State of the State

(From Pg. 51) **Strengthen New York's Workforce and Help Grow the Economy**

Governor Hochul's seven-pronged initiative will overhaul workforce development to focus on regional needs, expand access to new careers and career services, and recruit the next generation of New York's labor force. As part of this plan, the Governor will create the Office of Workforce and Economic Development, help New Yorkers move between education and careers, expand access to apprenticeships, recruit the next generation of public servants, expand the state's technology talent pipeline, make New York a model for the employment of workers with disabilities, and protect and strengthen worker's rights.

'Jails to Jobs,' A New Initiative to Improve Re-Entry into the Workforce and Reduce Recidivism

Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals are often left to their own devices upon reentrance into society. With the 'Jails to Jobs' program, these individuals will be connected with education, resources, and opportunities for job placement, which will improve public safety and reduce recidivism.

Invest in New York's Communities

Moving Forward with Major New Expansion of Transit Service in Brooklyn and Queens: The Interborough Express
The Interborough Express is a historic project that would use the existing right of way of the Long Island Rail Road owned Bay Ridge Bridge to connect transit deserts in Brooklyn and Queens. This line would connect commuters to as many as 17 subway lines, expanding access to jobs and other destinations. Governor Hochul's plan is to move forward with the expansion by directing the Metropolitan Transit Authority to begin the environmental review process.

Billion Dollar Rescue Plan for Small Businesses and to Strengthen New York's Economic Recovery

After the hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Hochul's billion dollar rescue plan will invest in the growth and retention of small businesses of the future, small business tax credits for businesses that took on COVID-related expenses, seed funding to establish new businesses, provide flexible grants to early-stage small businesses, expand small business lending, and help small businesses secure contracts. The Governor also plans to propose legislation to permanently allow the sale of to-go drinks in bars and restaurants.

\$1 Billion 'ConnectALL' Initiative to Bring Affordable Broadband to More Than 1 Million New Yorkers

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed how inaccessible and unreliable broadband connection was for many New Yorkers, who suddenly were forced to live their lives through the internet. It is essential that all New Yorkers have equitable access to the internet, as marginalized communities are most affected by this lack of broadband access. The \$1 billion ConnectALL initiative will deliver affordable broadband to millions of New Yorkers and transform the state's digital infrastructure through new investments

Make New York's Housing System More Affordable, Equitable, and Stable

Major Statewide Initiative to End the Homelessness Crisis and Address Longstanding Inequities in Housing

Our housing system is riddled with systemic inequalities that need to be addressed. Governor Houchul's housing plan will tackle these and use public funding to expand opportunity for all. Initiatives to expand housing include utilizing Safe Options Support (SOS) teams of trained mental health practitioners that will assist in transitioning individuals living on the street into stable housing, ending the 421-a tax abatement and establishing a new, more effective program, improving housing access for renters with criminal records or negative credit history, creating an eviction prevention legal assistance program, and creating a permanent disaster recovery and resiliency unit for home rebuilding.

Address Housing Affordability Crisis in New York State

The Governor will implement a comprehensive 5-year housing plan, a \$25 billion effort to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes, including 10,000 homes with support services for vulnerable populations. To increase access and affordability in New York's housing market, Governor Hochul will also take major steps to construct new housing and increase density in appropriate urban areas. These steps include permitting accessory dwelling units in single-family neighborhoods, kick-starting transit-oriented development, giving New York City the authority to encourage densification, and easing restrictions on converting hotels and offices to housing.

Make New York a National Leader in Climate Action and Green Jobs

Achieving 2 Million Climate-Friendly Homes by 2030

Buildings account for more than a third of New York's climate pollution. Governor Hochul's plan to achieve a minimum of 1 million electrified homes and up to 1 million electrification-ready homes is anchored by a series of legislative and policy actions. These include requiring zero on-site greenhouse gas emissions for new construction no later than 2027, providing the training programs necessary to ensure that the state has a skilled workforce to deliver these services, establishing a dedicated green electrification fund and electrifying low-income homes through the housing capital plan, among others.

Nation-Leading \$500 Million Investment in Offshore Wind

Governor Hochul announced plans to invest in offshore wind infrastructure, procure enough wind energy to power at least 1.5 million homes, initiate planning for an offshore wind transmission network, and launch the offshore wind Master Plan 2.0 Deep Water. This will ensure that the state has the strongest offshore wind energy market along the Eastern Seaboard. The Governor's plan for offshore wind will support more than 6,800 jobs, a combined economic impact of \$12.1 billion statewide, and more than 4.3 gigawatts of energy, enough to power nearly 3 million homes in New York.

Rebuild New York's School System and Reimagine Higher Education

Invest in New York's Students, Teachers and Schools

To rebuild New York's teacher workforce, Governor Hochul plans to emphasize recruiting and retaining teachers throughout the state. The Governor will also take action to accelerate the teacher certification process and increase funding for K-12 education. This plan also includes providing incentives to attract teachers and school workers, providing learning and mental health grants, creating a state teacher residency program, and upskilling teacher support workers to earn their certifications. (Contd. Pg. 53)

Governor Hochul Delivers 2022 State of the Statements

(From Pg. 52)

Increase Access to Childcare for 100,000 Families and Invest \$75 Million in Wages for Childcare Workers

Affordable childcare is essential to give children the best possible chance at success while providing parents the ability to participate in the workforce. While Governor Hochul believes that the federal government must pass Build Back Better to expand childcare coverage for New York families, if they do not she will propose an expansion of access to childcare. This would impact 100,000 families across New York by increasing eligibility from 200 percent of the federal poverty line to 225 percent. The Governor's plan also includes a \$75 million in better pay for childcare workers.

Revitalizing SUNY and Secure Its Place as a Globally Recognized Higher Education Institution

Governor Hochul's plan to revitalize the State University of New York System is wide ranging and extensive. The plan includes making the institution a global leader on research and innovation, ensuring SUNY serves students well, and prioritizing equality within the SUNY system. This transformation will set students on a path to economic success and focus on equity so that all may thrive with a SUNY education.

Advance New York's Place as a National Equity Model

Equity Agenda to Promote Anti-Hate, Racial

Equity, and Justice for All New Yorkers

The Equity Agenda will advance a wide-ranging plan to promote and support gender equity, racial equity, anti-hate, social justice, the LGBTQIA+ community, immigrants and new arrivals, and veterans with the goal of protecting the health, safety, economic opportunities, and fundamental dignity of every New Yorker-in short, to make the New York Dream into a reality.

Make Critical Reforms to Restore New Yorker's Faith in Their Government

Propose Constitutional Amendment to Limit All Statewide Elected Officials to Two Terms and Ban Outside Income

By introducing a constitutional amendment, Governor Hochul plans to limit the roles of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller to two consecutive terms. The Governor will also propose legislation to impose a ban on earned outside income for the same statewide elected officials, with an exception for academic positions that must receive ethics board approval.

Replacing JCOPE with a New Independent Ethics Agency

To restore the people's trust in their government, Governor Hochul plans to introduce legislation to repeal and replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) with an ethics

entity that is truly independent and transparent. This entity will be subject to Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests and the Open Meeting Laws, increasing and improving transparency. This plan will also ban outside communications so that members of the entity will be prohibited from participating in ex-parte communications regarding any potential or ongoing investigation.

\$100 Million in Tax Relief for 195,000 Small Businesses Across the State

Accelerates Middle-Class Tax Cut to Provide Relief for 6.1 Million New Yorkers by 2023

New Property Tax Rebate Program to Deliver Additional Relief for Two Million Low and Middle Income New Yorkers

New and Expanded Tax Credits to Support New York Farm's Grappling with Rising Costs, Employee Retention and to Provide Capital for New Equipment

Governor Kathy Hochul announced new efforts to deliver tax relief for thousands of small businesses and millions of middle class New Yorkers as part of the 2022 State of the State. The plan will provide \$100 million in tax relief for 195,000 small businesses through increasing a tax return adjustment to reduce small businesses' gross business income. The plan will also accelerate the implementation of \$1.2 billion in New York's existing Middle Class Tax Cut for 6 million New Yorkers which first began to be implemented in 2018, and establish a \$1 billion property tax rebate program to put money back into the pockets of more than 2 million New Yorkers who have had to endure rising costs as the pandemic has progressed.

Additionally, the Governor will create new, and increase existing, tax credits to support New York's farms and food production overall.

"As we continue to grapple with the impacts of COVID-19, we must ensure we are investing in our state's most valuable resource: its people," Governor Hochul said. "Millions of New Yorkers, particularly small business owners, middle class families, and our senior communities, have been hit hard by the economic devastation of the last two years, and they need our help. We must accelerate our recovery by not only reducing the tax burden, but also finding ways to put money back into the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers who support our economy."

From the depths of the COVID-19 economic downturn to today, New York has recovered some 1.2 million jobs, and in early December, Governor Hochul announced an initiative to connect New Yorkers to 220,000 jobs and signed legislation to increase New York State's support for recovering small businesses.

New York State's economic recovery is not over. The State's unemployment rate is 6.6 percent - more than two points higher than the national rate. Some 71 percent of small businesses still report negative effects from the pandemic. As of July, earnings remained below pre-pandemic levels in seven of New York's 13 major job sectors.



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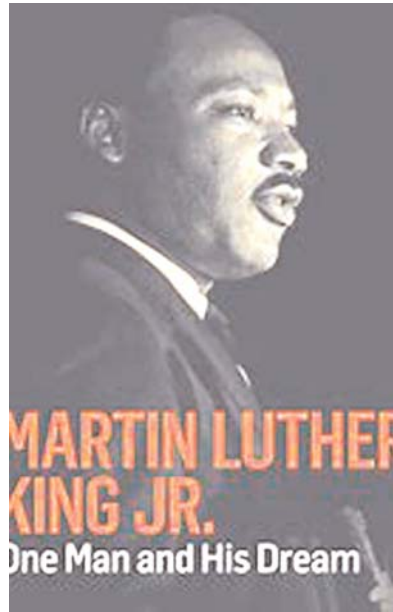
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Seeking classical piano teacher for adult beginner. In-person only. Vaccinated. Please leave a message at 845-554-8818.

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IN HONOR OF ONE OF THE
 WORLDS GREATEST
 HUMANITARIANS

**MARTIN LUTHER
 KING JR
 "ONE MAN AND HIS
 DREAM"**

On April 4th, 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated —a catastrophic moment that shook the world. 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the tragic event. A two-hour documentary special, *Martin Luther King Jr.: One Man and His Dream*, hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald explores the life and legacy of one of the most influential people to ever live and continues to influence modern politics decades after his death.

According to McDonald, King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech ...depicted the civil rights leader's "dream of black and white children playing together; people of all races around the same table." To quote super model Naomi Campbell speaking of King, "He was fearless.



(Contd. Pg. 55)



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(From Pg. 54)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

AVAILABLE ON YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE CHANNEL

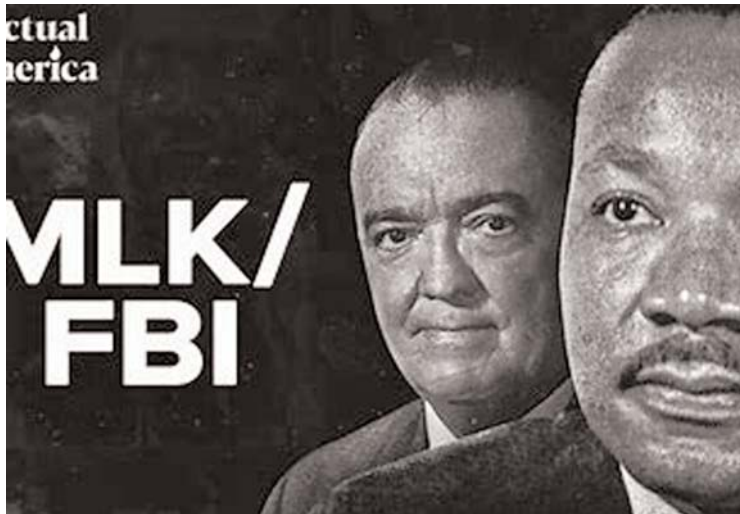
THE MURDER OF ONE OF WORLD'S GREATEST HUMANITARIANS

IN THE DOCUMENTARY

MLK/FBI

(TV-PG · 2020 · 1hr 44min · Documentary)

"ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR."
<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/assassination-martin-luther-king-jr>



From the March on Washington in 1963 up until his assassination in 1968, the FBI engaged in an intense campaign to discredit Martin Luther King Jr. and his work. Film director Sam Pollard chronicles those efforts in the new documentary, *MLK/FBI*.



"The first fear that FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover had was that King was going to align himself with the Communist Party, which J. Edgar Hoover was obsessed with destroying," Pollard says.

Pollard's documentary is based on newly declassified files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, along with restored archival film footage. It shows the government's extensive targeting of King and his associates in the 1960s.



The FBI campaign against King began with wiretaps, but quickly ballooned. When wiretaps revealed that King was having extramarital affairs, the FBI shifted their focus to uncover all evidence of his infidelity by bugging and taping him in his hotel rooms and by paying informants to spy on him. Eventually, the FBI penned and sent King an anonymous letter, along with some of their tapes, suggesting that he should kill himself.

According to McDonald in *Martin Luther King Jr.: One Man and His Dream*, the civil rights leader "dreamed of black and white children playing together. People of all races around the same table."



Stay safe, and stay well
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome