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'Country Pumpkins' Take Third Place at RCLS 'Battle of the Books' Competition Sunday



GRAHAMSVILLE-The 'Country Pumpkins' did it again! Our very own DPL Battle of the Books team secured third place in the neck-in-neck RCLS competition held Sunday, August 23 at SUNY Orange. Our team comprised of Tri-Valley Secondary Students Mason, Sam, Emily and Shelby as well as co-coaches, TVSS English teacher Matt Haynes and TVSS librarian Jessica Dymond. (Contd. Pg. 9)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN
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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 Telephone numbers will not be published.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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On the Front Burner:
 the rottenness of the bones.

A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy
 Proverbs 14:30

OBITUARY

Shirley Schwartz, a longtime resident of Livingston Manor, passed away peacefully after a long illness on August 19th, at the age of 98. Born on May 3, 1928, in Willowemoc, Shirley was the daughter of Elma and Audrey Conklin. She was predeceased by her two sisters, Prudence Wehner and Elizabeth Possemato.

Shirley married Martin Schwartz in 1950. Martin predeceased her, passing away in 2016. Shirley is survived by her three children, Neil Schwartz (wife Lea) of St. Paul, Minnesota; Lori Pittaway (husband Steve) of Cherry Log, Georgia; and Susan Murphy of Hillburn, New York. She is also survived by five grandchildren - Evan Schwartz (wife Anna) of St. Paul, Minnesota; Daniel Schwartz of Carlsbad, California; Abbey Murphy of Brooklyn, New York; Briony Pittaway of Paris, France; and Beth Pittaway of Edinburgh, Scotland - and one great-grandson, Henry, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

After raising her three children, Shirley enjoyed a 25-year career in banking, working as a well-known and well-loved teller at the local bank in Livingston Manor, where she amused customers with a good story and a joke or two.

Shirley was an active member of Agudas Achim Synagogue and previously served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Hadassah. She loved golf and was a member, with her husband Martin, of the Sullivan County Golf Club. She also served on the board of the Frank A. and Lulu Rose Diana Fredenburg Foundation, a charitable foundation providing scholarships to students in Livingston Manor, and was a longtime supporter of the Livingston Manor Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Livingston Manor Volunteer Fire Department.

Shirley loved to cook and garden and always helped harvest tomatoes for her homemade tomato sauce. She was fond of feeding the birds in her backyard and watching them from her window. She loved receiving cards of all kinds and was known for remembering her friends'

birthdays year after year.

Visitation and funeral services were at Colonial Bryant Funeral Home, Livingston Manor, NY on Friday, August 21, 2026. Shirley will be interred at Agudas Achim Cemetery in Livingston Manor.

In lieu of flowers donation in Shirley's name can be made to Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, 800 Stony Brook Ct, Newburgh, NY 12550, or the Alzheimer's Association .

DAYS OF YORE... Today's History

August 29, 1956

Two unique wooden candlesticks and a table has been given for the Worship Center of the Lows Corners Church and 12 high back chairs for such use as the church may choose. The gift was made by Prof. Manville Wakefield from the former Addie Reynolds home.

Mr. William Henry Kelly of Curry and Miss Bonnie Lee Schwake of Monarchie, N.J., were married Saturday at the Nanuet Baptist Church. She and her parents formerly lived in the Ralph Countryman house on the Sundown Road. They will make their home at the Francis Kelly home which they are taking over.

August 17, 1966

Christine Bertholf, 17-year old from Liberty, won the title of "Miss Sullivan County Sport Show" in a tightly contested program held at the Grahamsville Firehouse on August 10th. The official judges selected the first place winner and named Joyce Arthur of South Fallsburg as second and Catherine Deagle of Neversink, third.

(Contd. Pg. 3)

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

August 29, 1996

It was a beautiful September morning in the early 1900's when my friend Erelene Owen and I decided to skip school in order to have our fortunes read. It had been raining the night before but had now stopped and as we walked along we noticed the foliage along the sides of the road had already started to change from green to beautiful autumn colors of red, gold and brown.

We were walking to Forest Lake where Andrew and Elviny Yorks were caretakers. In earlier years Elviny had traveled with a gypsy band and she could read anybody's future through tea leaves.

As we walked along dozens of little red lizards brought down from the rain went scampering out into the underbrush.

It was a long walk but we didn't mind that as we were having our fortunes told. When we reached the cabin we found Andrew and Elviny very busy filling a wheelbarrow with vegetables from their garden.

Elviny was getting well along in years and deaf, but she understood what we came for and advised us that being Friday it was a bad luck day and she could not tell our fortunes. She told us to come back another day.

It was late when we arrived back in school and our teacher, Jessie Leslie, took away our recess privileges until we made up all the time we had wasted, along with a lecture which we so badly needed and never forgot.

Household Hint:

Trap fruit flies

Did you bring home fruit flies from the market? You can make traps for them that can be used anywhere around your house by filling an old jar about halfway with apple cider or a piece of apple. Punch a few holes in the lid, screw it back on, and you're good to go.

Nature Column - L. Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman Ladies that we have loved so much and lost... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry, Barbara Slater, Shirley Davis, Hulda Vernooy, Carolyn Coombe, Martha Ahrens and Barbara Barkley. And also to the memory of Frank Comando. a/k/a Knarf Adnamoc.

What are those Tall Plants with Yellow Flowers?

While driving around the Catskill countryside have you seen any of the tall Mullein plants that are now flowering?

Mullein (*Verbascum*) is an herbaceous plant of the figwort family, a/k/a Grandmother's Flannel. It is known for its soft large, pale green spear-shaped leaves that are covered with a yellowish-white velvety matting. This thick covering of hairs on the leaves and stem acts as a protective coat to reduce moisture loss and prevent attacks by creeping insects. The hairs also cause an intense irritation in the mucous membrane of any grazing animals that may attempt to nibble on them.

The hairs are not confined to the leaves alone, but are also on every part of the stem, on the calyces and on the outside of the corollas, so that the whole plant appears whitish or grey.

Towards the top of the stalk, which can grow 4 or even 5 feet high, the much-diminished woolly leaves merge into the thick, densely crowded flower-spike, that is usually a foot long. The flowers open here and there on the spike and not in regular progression from the base. The yellow sessile flowers with orange stamens bloom from June to September. The flowers have a faint, pleasant scent that's attractive to bees. There are five stamens that stand on the corolla; three of them are shorter than the other two and have a large number of tiny white hairs on their filaments. These hairs are full of sap alluring honey bees, as well as other flying insects seeking its nectar who in turn will help pollinate the plant. The mullein plant reproduces with seeds.

The ripened seed capsule is very hard and contains many seeds, which eventually escape through two valves and are scattered around the parent plant.

During its first year, the young mullein plant will produce only a rosette of downy leaves. During the second summer the mullein grows to the long flowering stalk.

Mullein prefer mostly dry soils and a sunny position, but will flourish almost anywhere. Once established, it will perpetuate itself by self-sowing.

The down on the leaves and stem makes excellent tinder when dried, and will ignite with the slightest spark. Before the introduction of cotton, they were used for lamp wicks, hence another of the old names: 'Candlewick Plant.' The plant's foliage can also serve as blotters, containers for vegetables when cooking in a fire pit, and "gloves" when gathering such thorny herbs as stinging nettles. In pioneer days, young ladies rubbed their faces with mullein "fur" to bring a rosy flush to their cheeks. Both in European and Asian folklore, the power of driving away evil spirits was ascribed to the Mullein. It was the mullein that Ulysses, in the ancient classic, took to protect himself against the wiles of Circe.

And in the 'olden days' it wasn't unusual for a little girl to clip some of the leaves as they make excellent blankets for doll beds!

There are many uses for the tall mullein and its furry leaves. Just use your imagination and you may come up with something to add to the list that supports the fact, Mullein isn't just a weed and you might consider the tall stately mullein as a handsome addition to your garden.



DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History (From Pg. 2)

August 17, 1966

Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hill, 9 years on the 17th; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Murray, 15 years on the 18th; Mr. and Mrs. Milo TerBush 50 years on the 23rd (Happy Golden!); Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Arielly, 9 years on the 24th; Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly, 10 years on the 25th; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Klothe, 1 year on the 21st; and Mr. and Mrs. Meyers Groo, 1 year on the 22nd.

September 2, 1976

Susan Cypert and her mother, Mrs. Paul Cypert, called on Mrs. Vernon Gridley several days ago. Susan had just finished leading a group at the Outward Bound School in Minnesota which is designed to develop physical and mental endurance among its participants and to challenge them beyond their normal capacities. Earlier this spring Susan graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northern Illinois University.

Thought for the day: "Just about the time you think you can make ends meet, somebody moves the middle".

September 11, 1986

The end of an era has come for the former Horseshoe Barn Antiques on South Hill Road. This huge old red barn was a source of delight for antique buffs for many years. In its heyday, the shop was written up in the New York Times, and had Bloomingdale's among its customers. The barn itself was moved to South Hill from Neversink before the Neversink Reservoir was built. Its main supporting beams were all taken down and numbered so they could be reassembled. It then served as a working barn for Vernon Gridley, father of the Horseshoe Barn Antiques owner, Carol Smythe.

August 29, 1996

The members of the Claryville Fire Department are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the founding of their service organization and they have chosen to observe the occasion by rebuilding the department's Community Hall, a gathering place for many local activities. Glenn VanDenberg, president of the department, tells us that any donations will be gratefully accepted.

The Sullivan County Retired Teachers' Association will hold their Fall meeting Wednesday, September 11, 1996, at the Masonic Hall in Livingston Manor, New York, across the street from the Fire House.

August 10, 2006

Thomas Leston Amthor of Grahamsville, died Friday, August 4, 2006 at the O.R.M.C. of Horton Campus in Middletown. He was 62 years old.

The son of William M. and Mildred Sheeley Amthor, Thomas was born May 7, 1944 in Ellenville. He was a lifelong resident of the area.

Survivors include two daughters, Lanetta Amthor Hass and her companion, Peter Smith, of Grahamsville and Liza Amthor and her companion, Steve Geiusabel of Vernon, NJ; one son, Thomas W. Amthor, of Middletown; grandchildren, Kristene and Joseph Hass; his former wife, Wilma Amthor of Middletown; two brothers, William Amthor and his wife Theresa, of Utica, NY and Arnold Amthor, Sr. and his wife, Alice, of Wallkill; one sister, Arlene Lambert and her husband, Thomas, of Grahamsville; one uncle, Elwin Wayman of Newburgh; one aunt, Mary Smith of Newburgh and several nieces and nephews and cousins.

Recently the Town of Neversink had a wild animal test positive for the rabies virus. This animal was involved in an altercation involving several different people. The rabies virus occurs commonly in animals throughout Sullivan County and across New York State. Rabies does not present a significant risk to humans unless bitten by a potentially infected animal.

August 25, 2016

In 1893 Chicago World's Fair introduced Pabst Blue Ribbon beer; in **2016 The Little World's Fair** introduced craft beer!



Winners of the new Tug of War at the fair show off their trophy.

The Town of Neversink had been a 'dry town' until this past election in November 2015 when voters made the choice to end the 'local prohibition'. It is debatable whether beer has ever been for sale during the 137 years the Little

World's Fair has run.

Grahamsville Pickleball Club now has over 30 members and will hold its second orientation on Saturday, August 27 at the Town of Neversink Grahamsville Fairground tennis court complex.

Retired 53-year old Ladies Professional Golf Association golfer, Sherri Steinhauer has become a strong advocate for the sport of Pickleball and she is helping the sport grow in Sullivan County by organizing this new club and promoting these orientation sessions. Neversink town officials recently gave special thanks to Sherri and Tami Shaver who gave the town a generous donation to help defray some of the costs associated with the repairs of the tennis courts and the installation of

Sullivan 180 Advances Conversation on Healthy School Food

Two-day series featured Chef Ann Cooper working with school food professionals and community members together to explore what is possible for the future of school meals

[LIBERTY, NY] - Sullivan 180 concluded two events focused on strengthening school nutrition and advancing conversations about the role healthy food plays in the lives of children.



The conference featured a keynote by Chef Ann Cooper, the *Renegade Lunch Lady*

On August 19, school food service professionals from across Sullivan County gathered at SUNY Sullivan for the Third Annual 2026 Food Service Staff Conference presented by the School Nutrition Action Coalition. The

day was offered for education, connection, and hands-on learning designed to support those who prepare and serve meals to students each day. The conference featured a keynote by Chef Ann Cooper, the Renegade Lunch Lady, as well as culinary staff from SUNY Sullivan who explored scratch cooking, herbs, sauces and salad bars. A representative from NYS Department of Education presented on the New York State's Offer Versus Serve program.

The following evening, Sullivan 180 welcomed Chef Ann to the Michael Ritchie Big Barn at the Center for Discovery for the first event of the 2026 Sullivan 180 Speaker Series. Chef Ann encouraged community members, educators, parents, and school leaders to rethink what is possible in school cafeterias; and the role fresh, nutritious scratch-cooked food can play in supporting children's health and success.

"These two events offered an opportunity to bring both the people working directly in our school kitchens and the broader community into the conversation about school food," said Denise Frangipane, CEO at Sullivan 180. "We are grateful to Chef Ann and to the dedicated food service professionals who joined us. Together, we are building momentum around what is possible for our children and for the future of school meals in Sullivan County."

Through its work within the School Nutrition Action Coalition, Sullivan 180 continues to bring together schools, food service professionals, community partners, and families to remove barriers to healthy food and create more opportunities for students to enjoy fresh, nutritious meals.

Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, Manor Ink, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org or Facebook.com/Sullivan180inc.



Call for Nominations for the Sullivan County Chamber's Your Partner for Success 2026 Annual Awards Gala

Community invited to nominate the businesses, organizations, partnerships, and people building a stronger Sullivan County

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY, August 24, 2026 Success in Sullivan County doesn't happen alone.

Behind every thriving business is an entrepreneur willing to take a chance. Behind every investment is a vision for the future. Behind every strong community are leaders, volunteers, organizations, and partnerships working together to create opportunity.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce & Industry is now accepting nominations for its Your Partner for Success 2026 Annual Awards Gala, taking place Thursday, November 12, 2026, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The theme for this year's celebration is Connect the Dots, reflecting the Chamber's belief that lasting success is built through relationships, collaboration, investment, and shared purpose.

"Since becoming Chamber President, I've spent much of my time visiting businesses, listening to our members, and learning what it takes to operate and grow in Sullivan County," said Matthew Sush, President and CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce & Industry. "One thing has become clear, success looks different for everyone, but it is built through connection. A conversation becomes a partnership. An idea becomes a business. A business creates jobs. An investment creates opportunity. A leader brings people together. These awards are about recognizing those connections and the impact they have on Sullivan County."

A New Name for a Broader Definition of Impact

This year's awards include an intentional evolution of one of the Chamber's longstanding recognitions.

For many years, the Chamber presented a Businessperson of the Year award. While the Chamber respects the history and prestige of that recognition, the organization has broadened the way it defines and celebrates economic leadership and impact.

The new Building Success | Economic Impact Award is designed to recognize not only an individual, but the businesses, projects, and investments that create jobs, attract visitors, strengthen the local economy, and lay the foundation for future growth.

Six Ways to Recognize Success

The 2026 awards reflect the many ways individuals, businesses, organizations, and partnerships contribute to Sullivan County's success:

Building Success | Economic Impact Award

Connecting investment to opportunity.

Recognizing businesses, projects, and investments that create jobs, attract visitors, strengthen the economy, and lay the foundation for future growth.

Growing Success | Small Business of the Year

Connecting passion to prosperity.

Honoring a small business that demonstrates outstanding achievement, leadership, resilience, innovation, customer service, and commitment to Sullivan County.

Inspiring Success | Emerging Leader

Connecting today's leadership to tomorrow's possibilities.

Celebrating an emerging leader whose vision, initiative, and com-

mitment are making a meaningful difference in Sullivan County.

Strengthening Success | Community Champion

Connecting success with service.

Recognizing an individual or organization whose dedication to the community has helped make Sullivan County a stronger place to live, work, and thrive.

Connecting Success | Partnership Excellence

Connecting people, organizations, and opportunity.

Honoring an exceptional collaboration that demonstrates how businesses, nonprofits, government, community organizations, or other partners can work together to create meaningful results.

Sustaining Success | Philanthropic Impact Award, presented by Resorts World Catskills

Connecting generosity with lasting impact.

Recognizing extraordinary philanthropic leadership and contributions that create lasting benefits for Sullivan County and its communities.

"The recognition has evolved, but the honor has not," Sush said. "The Economic Impact Award is intended to carry the same significance and prestige as Businessperson of the Year, while recognizing the broader impact that businesses, investments, projects, and partnerships have on Sullivan County."

Now, the Chamber Needs Your Nominations

The Chamber is encouraging businesses, organizations, nonprofits, municipalities, schools, community leaders, and residents to nominate individuals and organizations whose contributions deserve to be recognized.

Think about the business creating jobs. The entrepreneur taking a chance. The investment bringing new opportunity to the county. The leader bringing people together. The organization serving the community. The partner making something possible.

Nominate them.

Nominations can be submitted online, and the Chamber encourages the community to submit nominations in all six categories.

NOMINATE TODAY:

Sullivan County Chamber Award Nomination Form

https://business.catskills.com/ap/Form/Fill/LzD9Nfjp?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The Your Partner for Success Annual Gala & Awards Dinner will bring the Chamber community together to celebrate the people and organizations connecting opportunity to a stronger Sullivan County.

Event Details

Your Partner for Success Annual Gala & Awards Dinner

Theme: Connect the Dots

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Dress: Cocktail Attire

Additional information regarding the venue, sponsorship opportunities, and ticket sales will be announced by the Chamber.

About the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce & Industry The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce & Industry is Your Partner for Success, serving as a uniting force for business in Sullivan County. The Chamber connects businesses, entrepreneurs, community organizations, public partners, and community leaders to advance economic growth, strengthen local communities, and create opportunities throughout Sullivan County.

For more information, please contact the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce at office@catskills.com or 845-791-4200 x1.



The Bone Hunger

Mysterious Book Report No. 415

by John Dwaine McKenna



All novelists are bright. That's because writing is a craft that demands much, and promises nothing more than thousands of hours of solitary and challenging work, putting together what we hope will be a story with an engaging plot, interesting characters and a few surprises along the way that will entertain and involve our readers, maybe even get them back for more of the same character. *It's a tough row to hoe,*

as my old granny used to say . . . but that, I think is what gives writing its allure. It's hard to do well. Damned hard.

Then, along comes a writer with such talent that she makes the near-impossible look easy . . . which is a mark of genius. Her name is Carrie Rubin. She's a physician-turned author, whose newest, *The Bone Hunger*, (Indigo Dot Press, \$25.99, 305 pages, ISBN 978-1-7328541-4-7) is a genre-bending medical thriller, murder mystery and paranormal hair-raiser, all rolled into one. It features a second year orthopedic surgery resident named Benjamin Oris, who's the star pupil on a knee and hip replacement team under the tutelage of the illustrious Dr. Kent Lock, at Philadelphia's Montgomery Hospital.

The novel – and the trouble – begins when Ben discovers the severed leg of one of his former patients while out for a run in the park. Not only is the leg severed, it shows bite marks, a roadrunner tattoo . . . and the surgical implant Dr. Oris helped install just two weeks earlier. But the patient, who hadn't been following orders to exercise, had died in front of Ben from a blood clot in one of his lungs. The police, the hospital administration, and the surgical team all question Dr. Oris, who's had some problems in the past. Then, more body parts start showing up . . . and the killings and mutilations become more frequent . . . while the tension and suspense ratchets up with every page. Each new revelation deepens the mystery and enlarges the suspect pool in this complex medical thriller. It will leave you feeling as if you're ready to scrub in for the next orthopedic surgery with the same team that recently survived a plane crash in wintertime in Alaska, and five days without food, while on a humanitarian mission. *The Bone Hunger* has more twists and turns than the Iditarod Race. It'll keep you guessing until the end and hollering for more from Carrie Rubin, a woman with a special gift for writing and a serial character you'll admire, if not love, named Dr. Ben Oris!

Like the review . . . let your friends know, You saw it in the *Mysterious Book Report* . . . The greatest compliment you can give, is to like us and share it with others on Facebook.

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.

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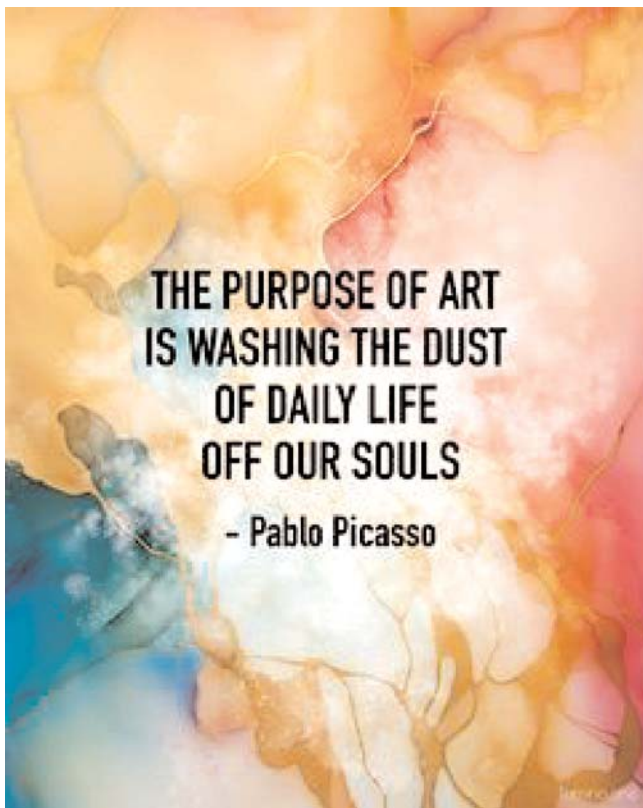
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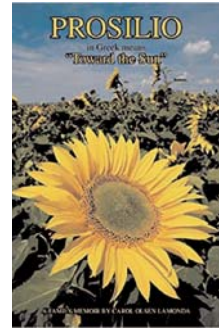
by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Art Therapy



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!**



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"Art is the only way to run away without leaving home".
- Twyla Tharp

Art rewires the brain. Art is therapeutic because the creative process bypasses verbal barriers, allowing people to safely express complex emotions, reduce stress, and process difficult trauma using visual metaphors rather than words alone.

Art is a nonverbal expression that can allow deep feelings to flow. I remember when my mom died, I could not read, which I love to do. I would read a paragraph, then reread it, and realize that the words did not sink in. I could not process words for the longest time. That is when I joined a senior art group and began to paint. An hour or two would pass by and I literally zoned into the canvas.

I remember when Tibor Spitz, a Holocaust survivor, came to speak to my English class while we were read-

ing the play *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He said he was unable to talk about his experiences until he began to paint. His paintings were bold, vivid, and aggressive with lots of oil paint layered in a bas relief. As he explained his painting and style, memories flowed and were shared. He said it was cathartic.

Many people think they need talent to produce art. Art isn't always paint on canvas or paper. Art is fashion. My friend Jeannie adds vintage, clunky brooches to her denim jacket. Art is flower arranging; Art is home decorating; Art is doodling; Art is gardening; Art is arranging snacks on a charcuterie board.

Julia Cameron: "Art opens the closets, airs out the cellars and attics. It brings healing." Thomas Merton: "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

'Country Pumpkins' Take Third Place at RCLS 'Battle of the Books' Competition Sunday

By Lisa Carroll

(Form Pg. 1) For anyone who doesn't know what Battle of the Books is, it's the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)-wide competition where participating libraries form teams of high school students who then read eight pre-selected novels from a multitude of different genres, meet throughout the summer to discuss the books and practice for the competition, and then participate in a Quiz-Bowl type trivia game. It's a lot; for teens to read so much, to commit to the meetings and practices and then to sit on stage in front of their peers to literature-ly battle it out. This year, our team faced off against 7 other teams and to bring home a title is just an amazing feat. We're so proud of their hard work as well as the effort and support Mr. Haynes and Ms. Dymond contributed throughout the season. Our banner is proudly on display in the YA (teen) room if anyone would like to see it.

Speaking of reading-all 2026 "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading Program Reading Logs are due on Monday, August 31. Please drop off any completed forms to the respective circulation desks. We'll be having our end-of-the-summer party on Tuesday, September 1 from 12PM to 3PM, celebrating the conclusion of our summer reading program as well as America's 250. Come ready to play as Ms. Deirdre secured the foam cannon for another sudsy afternoon. There is an age-specific schedule for the foam party portion of the event, so check online to see the best time to come, but of course, children are welcome to come the entire time and partake in other activities such as devouring a delicious ice cream sundae thanks to Stewart's Shops of Fallsburg.

What to give the gift of life? Make an appointment to donate blood at this summer's Red Cross hosted blood drive here at the library on Thursday, August 27 from 2PM to 6PM. While walk-ins are accepted, appointments are preferred. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit their website at redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

And then finally-and I'm going to keep on talking about it until the day of-our 40th Annual Giant Pumpkin Party is Saturday, October 3.



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<http://www.bloominggreenlawnandlandscape.com>
"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

While that sounds like it's far off, it'll be but a blink before it's here. So, if you are interested in signing up as a craft vendor or participating in the much beloved parade, please visit our website for registration and applications. And, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out and give us a call at 845/985-7233. Additionally, we haven't posted the google form as of yet, but there will be a volunteer signup posted soon. Please review the options and choose what works best for you. We need help in a variety of areas, so something should interest everyone. Giant Pumpkin Party is a lot of fun. It's a fantastic fall day filled with fun activities, delicious food and fabulous people.

Lastly, we will be partnering with Access: Supports for Living to provide parking space for their mobile food pantry on September 2. ASFL's mobile food pantry will be visiting multiple libraries throughout Sullivan and Ulster Counties. They will be offering social care network screenings as well as food. While the screenings are geared towards individuals with Medicaid or any form of managed Medicaid, food will be provided to anyone in need regardless of insurance carrier.



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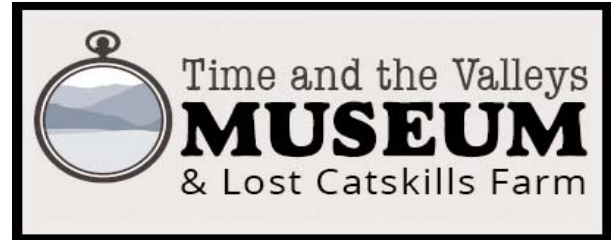




CONNECTING WATER, PEOPLE AND THE CATSKILLS

News From Time & the Valleys Museum # 29

Lynn M. Priebe



Last week's column (#28) about a few of the hotels and boarding houses of the lost village of Neversink mentioned the Edgemere House owned by prominent Neversink resident Charlie Freer. His story is illustrative of life in the village before it was taken in the 1940's, so deserves its own article.

The first Freers, James Madison (1818-1893) and his wife Sarah (1822-1913), moved to Neversink from Greenfield to raise their large family of at least eight children, including an adopted grandson Charles (1867-1944), the subject of this column. James Madison purchased an old gristmill that had first been run by Tunis Misner and later by the Palen family, owners of a local tannery. Young Charlie shadowed James, learning to operate the mill himself by the age of 12 and also playing "second fiddle" as his father performed with his violin at local dances.

Charlie married Neversink girl Jane Velie (1871-1936) in 1888. They too raised a large family of 10, three boys and seven girls. A fourth son died as an infant. With such a large family, Charlie and his wife had to work hard to support them.

Charlie ran the water powered grist mill until it burned in the 1920's. He also operated a steam powered sawmill, a construction business, and, with Jane, opened a building supply store which sold, among other items, paint and wallpaper. Another business was a school bus route to Liberty High School for local students. Did I mention that he ran a large summer boarding House, the Edgemere. He was also a town magistrate for many years. In his free time, he loved playing his violin for dances around the county on open lantern lit platforms and in dance halls or hotels. He was well known as the best fiddler and square dance caller of them all.

The children learned the habit of hard work from their father and mother. First born Arden studied to become a doctor and joined the army when World War I broke out to serve in France. He later served in World War II and rose to the rank of Colonel. After retiring, he became Deputy Director of the Veterans Administration and is buried in



Arlington Cemetery. Addie (LeRoy), the oldest daughter, became a teacher who taught in Town of Neversink schools for over 30 years. Two daughters studied in New York City to become nurses. Son Harry ran a service station in the village, before passing away in his thirties. Youngest daughter

Florence married Joseph Raffa. She was a very involved community member, raising two children. Her husband Joe went into the school bus business with his father-in-law to transport local students to area high schools. He became Tri-Valley bus transportation director. He later was Neversink Supervisor from 1953 to 1975 and Chairman of the Sullivan County Board for five years. That was the time of the opening of the new Government Center and the building of the Grahamsville Fair covered bridge.

When the village was about to be demolished for the reservoir, Charlie bought a lot out of town and constructed a number of small homes for family members, thinking they were secure. But those homes were also condemned and needed to be moved to new Neversink on the Grahamsville road. Charlie died of pneumonia at 77 and was buried in

the Fallsburg Neversink (Velie) Cemetery close to his former lifelong home.

Three museum volunteers, including myself, learned much of the Freer family story visiting his granddaughter Joan Raffa Langton near Kingston about ten years ago. She graciously shared artifacts, stories and allowed the museum to borrow her numerous photo albums. The museum has a large collection of scanned photos of early Neversink village thanks to her. This has allowed us to learn about the Freer family and about life before the reservoir.

Charlie's grandson donated information about Charlie to the Sullivan County Historical Society, including a poem with Renaissance man Charlie Freer's philosophy for a good life.

Put your shoulder to the world, you were made to win.

Lift your chin a little higher, 'tis easy to give in.

Always wear a smile, don't frown, we all must do our bit.

It's not the load that weighs you down, but the way you carry it.

ENJOY Summer!

We'll help protect what matters most.



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The River Rep Jr. Fall 2026 Workshop – *a fun and exciting way for kids to explore their imagination and develop essential life skills that extend far beyond the stage*

What are the benefits of the Workshop?

Learn how to express yourself artistically, through fun-filled games, exercises, scene work, improv, and more!

Learn how to connect with your emotions to bring characters to life.

Boosts self-confidence and builds communication skills: Acting requires clear articulation and expression, improving both verbal and non-verbal communication, which is invaluable in school and social settings.

Develops empathy & emotional intelligence: By embodying different characters, children gain a deeper understanding of emotions, motivations, and diverse perspectives, fostering compassion and tolerance.

Learn how to collaborate: Acting is a collaborative art form. Students learn how to interact with peers, to compromise, and to work as a group to bring stories to life.

Resilience and adaptability: Navigating unexpected moments in the classroom and performances teaches children to think on their feet and adapt.

Experienced instructors create a nurturing and supportive environment where every child feels empowered to explore, take risks, and grow as a creative individual. The Workshop will be taught by River Rep co-artistic directors Arthur Aulisi and Christopher Peditto, as well as guest artist instructors, exploring a wide range of theater techniques.

A Family & Friends Performance of scenes, worked on over the 10 week course, will take place on December 5 at 2pm (the final day of class).

River Rep Jr. Fall 2026 Workshop runs 10 weeks, (Saturdays) September 24 - December 5. 12-2pm. (no class October 31)

All classes at the Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 NY-52, Lake Huntington, NY, 12752.

Tuition: Pay What You Can (suggested donation \$125)

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

<https://www.riverrep.org/classes>

Funded by the County of Sullivan and the Office of Children and Family Services through the Sullivan County Youth Bureau.



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Come From Away

***The Forestburgh Playhouse Mainstage
The Forestburgh Playhouse***

COME FROM AWAY

Aug. 25 - Sept. 6

On September 11, 2001, 38 planes were forced to land in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland. What happened next is an extraordinary true story of kindness, compassion, and human connection.

With a soaring, unforgettable score and a story that celebrates the very best of humanity, *Come From Away* is powerful, uplifting, and deeply moving. It is the perfect addition to our landmark 80th Anniversary Season - and it will be one of the most in-demand tickets of the summer.

Let Me Be Frank: An Evening of Stories & Song

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Saturday, August 29, 2026

The Forestburgh Playhouse & Tavern 39 Forestburgh Rd
Forestburgh, NY, 12777

August 25-29

Let Me Be Frank: An Evening of Stories & Song invites Forestburgh Playhouse Producer Franklin Trapp out from behind the curtain and into the spotlight for a heartfelt, humorous, and thoroughly entertaining night of music. Featuring Broadway favorites, pop hits, country classics, and timeless standards. This eclectic cabaret is part concert, part conversation, and all heart. Join Frank for an evening of laughter, memories, and the music that has shaped his remarkable journey.

How To Spot a Scam

A FREE SEMINAR FROM
 HudsonValley
 CREDIT UNION

Join us for an engaging and informative seminar hosted by Hudson Valley Credit Union, where we empower our members and their communities to lead financially healthy lives. Whether you're just starting your financial journey or looking to sharpen your skills, our seminars are designed to meet you where you are.

How To Spot a Scam

Take a virtual tour through the most common types of fraud and the deceptive tactics scammers use to trick individuals. Learn how to recognize warning signs, avoid falling victim, and report suspicious activity.

Thursday, September 10

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main St Box 268, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Presented by:



Kaylee Wagner
 Grahamsville Branch Manager



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<https://www.amazon.com/Spirit-Sumi-Linda-G-Comando-ebook/dp/B077H87987>

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 County of Sullivan
 Sullivan County
 Public Health Services

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S.A.L.T.
 SULLIVAN AGENCIES
 LEADING TOGETHER

Child Care Providers Needed

If you have considered working with or teaching young children, there is no better time to start! Sullivan County needs childcare throughout the county!

According to The U.S. Census Bureau, the population estimate as of July 1, 2023, is 79,920 people in Sullivan County. 6.1% of the county's population are children under the age of 5 (US Census Bureau, 2010). Making the under 5 population in Sullivan County, 4795 children. The current number of infant / toddler childcare spots available in Sullivan County is 1129. The bottom line is Sullivan County children and current providers NEED your assistance as childcare is filled with waiting lists.

Consider working from home and teaching children. You can run your own small business from home while contributing to and supporting the working families in Sullivan County!

If you're worried about start-up cost, we may be able to assist in supply costs through our Infant/Toddler program. Most training courses through our agency are FREE for Sullivan County providers!!! Please contact the Sullivan County Child Care Council for step-by-step assistance with the application process, business aspect of your program, as well as the programs and resources available when your program is established.

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. has determined an immediate need for Infant and Toddler childcare based on our referral services:

- County wide - of 44 inquiries 31 were for Infant and Toddler care
- Requests for Infant and Toddler care through our agency have been made mainly for Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello
- Most of our providers have no infant or toddler spots available

For more information please visit our website: scchildcare.com, The Office of Children and Family Services at

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/becomeaprovider.asp>

or give our office a call at (845) 292-7166.

US Census Bureau, 2010.

Retrieved on 5/07/2019:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sullivan-countynewyork/AGE135217#AGE135217>

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Blood Drive Daniel Pierce Library

In the Community Room
328 Main Street
Grahamsville, NY 12740

**Thursday, August 27, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule your appointment today!

Please consider giving a Power Red Cell donation if you are O-, O+, A- or B-!

New Donors Needed!

Walk-Ins Welcome!

SOS: Save Our Summer! Give Life and Gas Up!

All those who come to donate at a WNY Red Cross blood drive in July-August 2026 will be automatically entered to win a \$100 GAS gift card. Multiple winners will be selected weekly, email address required.



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.



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• DVD Rentals •

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

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

Display Ads

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")- \$7.50 per week
Business card ad (2" x 3") - \$15.00 per week
(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week
(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week
1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week
1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week
Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week
Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week

Sign up for weekly ads with quarterly billing
and get a 20% discount

Full Page Flyer for Local Municipalities & Organizations

One time fee- \$20.00 -Once the flyer is inserted
we will publish it each week as long as needed
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Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library

Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30

Come paint with us!

Join this collaborative group as we create and inspire
each other. Please bring any art supplies that you plan
to work with to create your piece. Adults only.

Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday
BOOK CLUB



The first
Friday of
every month.

All adults welcome!

Daniel Pierce Library 1st Friday Book Club

Friday, February 06, 2026 • 1:00 PM

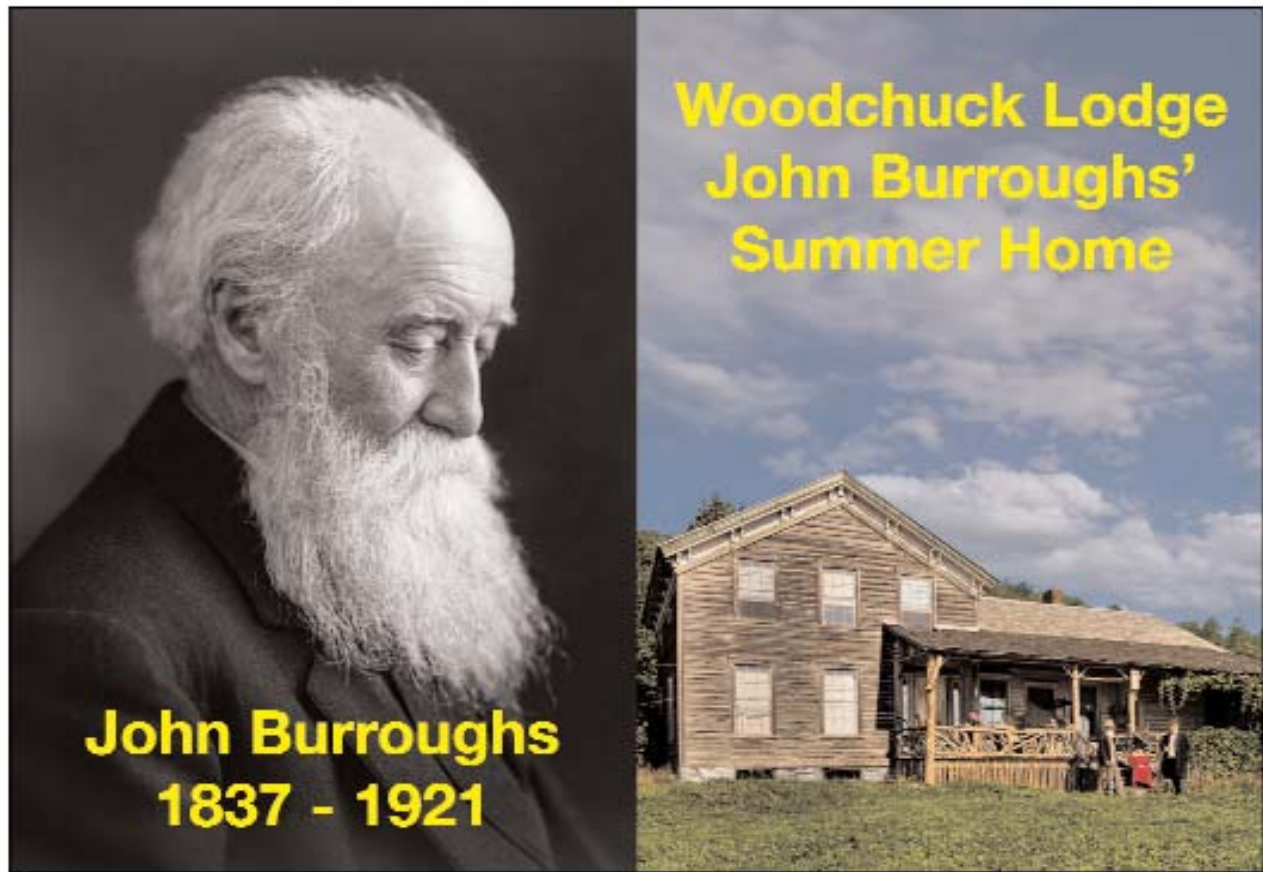
1st Friday Book Club Type: Adults

Location: Upper Level - Conference Room

Join our book club each month and

enjoy new reading and discussions.

You will need to be a RCLS library card holder to participate and join in on
the fun! Please contact Mikki at (845) 985-7233 x103 with any questions.
Adults only.



ANNUAL BYO PICNIC & MEETING
Sunday, September 6, 2026 NOON

Location: Rio Alto (India Nolen)
2205 Denning Road
Claryville, NY 12725

(Across from Red Hill Fire Tower parking lot)

DUES REMINDER

\$20/household, \$10/individual. Mail to:

Neversink Association

PO Box 134, Claryville, NY 12725

MEETING AGENDA

Paul Misko of Woodchuck Lodge will talk about John Burroughs (1837 - 1921), American Naturalist, essayist, and early conservationist of the Catskills Mountains.

**Neversink Association t-shirts
are on sale.**

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Neversink
Association, Inc.**

*To conserve the
flora and fauna
of the Neversink River*

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Open Mic –

Every Sunday:

DeFilippis Bakery

Monticello at 506 Broadway presents “Every Sunday - Open Mic 11AM-1PM. Dusty David Rosenberg and Lively Laura Garone have acted as Co-Masters of Ceremonies for the past nine (9) years.

Frequently, Steve Schwartz, proprietor of Steve's Music Center, located at 248 Rock Hill Drive, Rock Hill, NY shows up with his band, with Steve on lead guitar, Kenny Windheim on bass and Eric Nies on the keyboard. The group often accompanies and encourages other singers and music students. Young performers receive a cookie. Owner Angelo Foglia is the baker, and owner Camela is the cook. On the menu is oven-baked Italian bread, bagels, cannoli's, cakes and cookies with breakfast. Free Admission. Call (845) 791-4103 for further information.

Every Wednesday:

Heartbeat Music Hall

Heartbeat Music Hall, owned and operated by musicians David and Theresa Trestyn, in Grahamsville at 290 Main Street, present “Open Mic Night” from 7PM-10PM. Open Mic Night often includes surprise traveling guests. This being their 6th year running, and are open through Thanksgiving. BYOB. Free Admission. Call (845) 985-5068 for further information.

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1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week

1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week

Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week

Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week
Sign up for weekly ads with quarterly billing
and get a 20% discount

.. Full Page Flyer for
Local Municipalities
and Organizations -
one time fee- \$20.00
(once the flyer is inserted
we will publish it each week
through the week of the event)

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

**Low Rates
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LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Neversink Fire District 2026 Pool Staff Posting

Neversink Fire District is accepting applications for Pool Manager, certified life guards and pool assistants at the Neversink Pool for the 2026 Summer Season. Salary is to be determined and will be based on experience. All inquiries, please reach out to Commissioner Paul Lepke at paulslepke@gmail.com

Dana Vogler, Secretary

1/15 -RTF

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The Town of Denning will hold a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, Titled: Tax Levy Limit Override on **Wednesday, September 9th, 2026** at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 set to begin at 6 pm prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting.

At SAID meeting any and all interested person(s) will be heard either for or against.

A copy of the proposed law is available in the Town Clerks Office during normal business hours.

BY THE ORDER OF THE DENNING TOWN BOARD
Nancy Parrow
Town Clerk
August 24th, 2026

8/27; 9/3

The Critically Acclaimed Once Pulls Audience's Heartstrings at Forestburgh Playhouse Sept 8 - 13

Forestburgh, NY - Once, the heartfelt love story powered by the magic of music, opens at the Forestburgh Playhouse on September 8 and runs through September 13. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8PM, Wednesday at 2PM, and Sunday at 3PM. Due to popular demand, the Playhouse is adding an additional performance Saturday at 2PM!

Once tells the captivating story of a Dublin street musician ready to give up on his dreams-until a spirited young woman takes a sudden interest in his soulful songs. An unexpected friendship becomes a life-changing connection that inspires them both. Featuring the Academy Award-winning hit "Falling Slowly," this touching and beautifully performed musical celebrates love, hope, and the power of music to bring people together.

The Forestburgh Playhouse production is proudly sponsored by Hudson Valley Advertising, whose continued support helps bring bold and inspiring stories to life on stage. The entire 80th Anniversary 2026 Season is made possible by generous sponsorship from the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association and Silent Maid. Thanks to Van Etten Energy Systems, the Playhouse stays powered up and shining bright all season long! Also a special thank you to Do Good Spirits, Vintus NY, and Catskill Brewery for providing our beverages in the Tavern for the season.

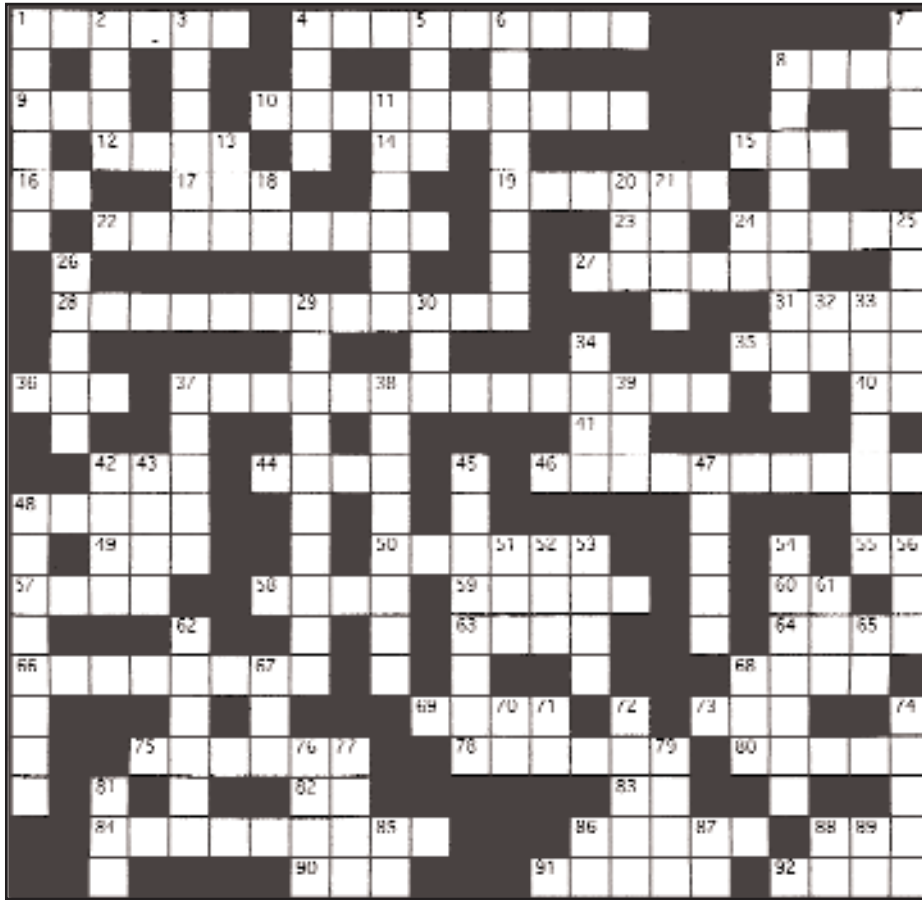
Directed and Choreographed by Trey Compton and with musical direction by Julia Hoffmann and Matthew Nassida, this production promises to leave you moved, inspired, and humming long after the final note.

"Once is a beautiful celebration of music, connection, and the unexpected moments that can change our lives," said Producer, Franklin Trapp. "We're excited to bring this intimate and unforgettable story to our stage and share its heart with our community."

Tickets are on sale now and going fast! Don't miss your chance to witness the love story at the Forestburgh Playhouse.

For tickets and more information, visit www.fbplayhouse.org or call 845-794-1194.

Summer Forest Fun! L. Comando

**ACROSS**

1 To join
4 German gnomes
8 Secluded valley or glen
9 Quick knock
10 Swiss physician and alchemist
12 Particles of frozen water vapor
14 Contraction of have
15 Mighty tree of the forest
16 Printer's measure
17 Outer edge
19 Story handed down for generations
22 Lepidoptera
23 To move along
24 Forests
27 Made of wood
28 Main character in Mr. Knickerbock-

er's tale that took place in the Catskills
31 Small flute-like instrument
35 One-celled plants containing pigments
36 Decade
37 Process of making food in plants
40 Card used for identification
41 Second tone of the diatonic scale
42 Small seed of a certain legume plant
44 Curved structure
46 Free from infectious agents
48 Oak seed
49 To no degree
50 Little people who are believed by some to dwell

in the Earth and guard her treasures
55 South America
57 Clothes
58 Mountain valley
59 To make weak
60 Secret Service
63 A tone of definite pitch
64 Edible inner part of a nut
66 Root-like hairs of moss
68 Tailless leaping amphibian
69 Muddle
73 Past tense of is
75 Grassland
78 Part of moss reproduction
80 Puckish fairy or sprite
82 Mother (colloq)
83 Los Angeles

(abbrev)

84 Tri-Valley i located in these mountains
86 Small prankish woodland legendary creatures
88 Pitch
90 Brewed drink
91 Tripod to hold an artist's canvas
92 Carry out instructions

DOWN

1. Where vegetables grow
2 Highest parts
3 Endeavor
4 Perceive sound
5 Numbered cubes used in games
6 Traditional beliefs and stories
7 Color of Catskill Mountains when the weather is fair
8 Large harmless flying insect

11 Celtic legend island of the dead
13 Humor
18 Middle English
20 Part of the human psyche
21 Midday
24 Us
25 Horse being ridden
26 Opposite red on the color wheel
29 Steep fall of water
30 Clue
32 Indo-Germanic
33 Tiny graceful imaginary beings
34 Non-flowering green woodland plant
37 Living organism that is not animal
38 A moss found in the Catskills
39 To place
42 Small body of water

43 Aphrodite's son
45 Small helpful elf in folk tales
47 Wet marshland
48 Scandinavian story-teller
51 ____ Tse-tung, the principal Chinese Marxist theorist
52 Eastern Standard Time
53 Stalk of a plant
54 Natural process of water is drawn through cell walls of moss

56 Picnic pest
61 Ocean
62 Thick growth of trees
65 Advertise-ment
67 Accomplished
68 A light strike
70 Without issue; sine prole (L.)
71 In the manner shown

72 Monk or hermit's huts
74 Happy
76 Leave out
77 Ridge on the surface of cloth such as corduroy
79 Keep
81 Highest card
85 Lanthanum
86 Each
87 Right angle extension of main building
88 Tuberculosis
89 Whence; at the age of

Impossible Chocolate Cream Pie

2 eggs

1 cup milk

1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened

2 (1 ounce) squares unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled

1 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup Bisquick or similar mix

Sweetened Whipped Cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9-inch pie plate.

Place all ingredients except sweetened whipped cream in blender container. Cover and blend on high 1 minute. Pour into plate. Bake until no indentation remains when touched lightly in center, about 30 minutes. Cool completely.

Top with sweetened whipped cream.

Sweetened Whipped Cream

Pour a pint of whipping cream in a bowl. Beat vigorously. Once it has the right consistency of whipped cream, mix in a teaspoon of vanilla and 1/3 cup of sugar.

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Cryptogram

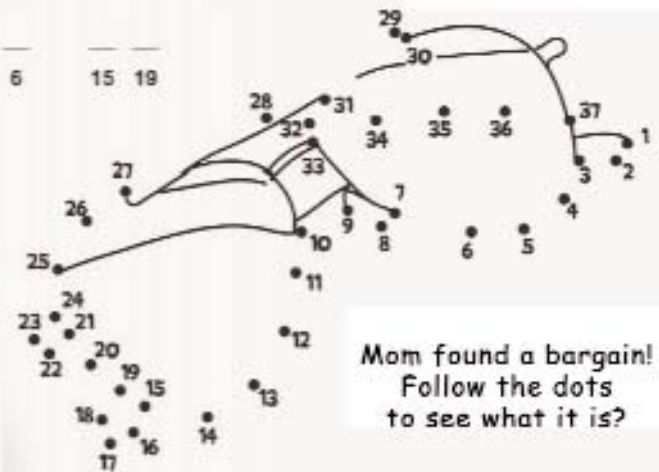
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19 22 10 21 5 26 11 9 14 10 14 21 19 16 1 6 15 19

19 22 9 6 15 2 14 26 15 3 9

Find 5 differences between the 2 pictures



Mom found a bargain!
Follow the dots
to see what it is?

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

PRICES
PUZZLE
REEL
ROD
SCARF
SHELF
SIGNS
TABLE
TOOLS
TOYS
TRINKETS
ADVERTISING
ANTIQUES
BARGAIN
BOOKS
CANDLE
CHAIR
CHANGE
COLLECTIBLES
GADGETS
LABELS
MONEY



Kids'
Fun
Page

L.Comando



Start

Can you find your way
to the Claryville Vol. Fire Dept
Annual Craft Sale
this Saturday?
(See Pg. 27)

Cryptogram Key

P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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

**ST.
MARK'S
UMC**
68 Clinton St
Napanoch NY

**INDOOR
YARD
and
CLOTHING
SALE**

Will be
opened
every
Friday
from
10 - 3

**Something
for
Everyone!**

COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES

**PRE-PLANNING, FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
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MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES
CREMATION MEMORIALS & BENCHES, MONUMENT LETTERING & CLEANING

Sundown United
Methodist Church

**Covered Dish
Supper**

Sept. 5 • 5:30 pm

Chicken BBQ

Aug 29
4-7 pm
(See Page 28)

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

Schedule will be listed in the bulletin
<https://smsparish.org/bulletins>

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

Mass Times

Sat: Vigil 4:00 PM • Sun: 9:00 AM

Confessions: Saturdays -3:15 to 3:45 pm
Or by appointment.
Call the rectory at (845) 434-7643.

Parochial Vicar: Father Thomas

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

**Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church**

Thrift Sale

**Sept 5, 2026
9 am - 12 Noon**

**Grahamsville & Sundown
United Methodist
Churches**

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.
Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am

350 Main Street, Grahamsville
Pastor Harriet Wilkin
845-985-2283

**Claryville Reformed
Church**

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am

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

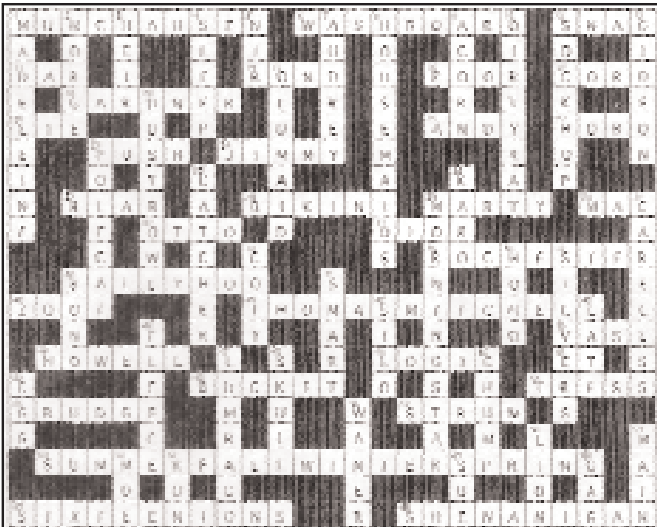
St. Augustine's Chapel

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

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS
Need a place to show and sell your crafts?
email: tvtownsmen@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mall
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

To learn more about
Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)
or to make a donation
please go to:

<https://www.nfxdetroit.org/>

NFX drives bold, high-impact research to discover and develop targeted treatments for **neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1)**. NFX advances groundbreaking research that will bring us closer to ending neurofibromatosis.

Thank you

The Wurtsboro Board of Trade 2026 event dates are as follows:

Halloweenfest

Saturday October 31st 12-3pm

Joy to Wurtsboro

Saturday November 28th 1-4pm

Music & Farmers Market in the park will run every Thursday, starting June 11-Sept 24 from 5pm-8/8:30pm.



Daniel Pierce Library Hours

Monday - 9:00 - 4:00
Tuesday - 9:00 - 7:00
Wednesday - 9:00 - 4:00
Thursday - 9:00 - 7:00
Friday - 9:00 - 4:00
Saturday - 9:00 - 12:00
Sunday - Closed

\$126 Million in Unclaimed Funds Returned in March Comptroller DiNapoli handing over Unclaimed Funds check

The Office of the State Comptroller returned \$126 million in unclaimed funds to its rightful owners during the month of March. From uncashed payroll checks to forgotten bank accounts, Comptroller DiNapoli is dedicated to putting money back into the pockets of the people and organizations it belongs to.

https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds?utm_content=20260411&utm_medium=email&utm_source=weekly+news

Check the air quality where you are at:

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

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.

2026 LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/29	Sundown UMC Chicken BBQ - Sundown UMC Church Hall 4- 7 pm (See Pg. 28)
8/29	Claryville Vol FD Craft Fair 10 am - 3 pm
9/2	Town of Neversink Planning Board -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 8/21/2026)
9/5 & 9/6	Headwaters Chamber Music Festival Claryville Reformed Church (See Pg 36)
9/7	Town of Neversink Holiday - LABOR DAY
9/8	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm (<i>Note change of date</i>)
9/9	Denning Business Meeting 1:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
9/9	Denning Town Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
9/9	Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting
9/16	Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Assoc. 7:30 pm Grahamsville Fire Department Firehouse – <i>Meeting before the show</i>
9/17	Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting–6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
9/17	Neversink Fire Commissioners' Meeting 7 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Sept. 8th **Neversink Association Inc Annual BYO Picnic & Meeting** (See Pg. 17)
 Saturday, September 19th • 10 am - 6 pm **Neversink-Rondaout Antique Machinery Association's**
28th Annual Tractor Show • Grahamsville Fairgrounds
Daniel Pierce 40th Annual Pumpkin Party -October 3, 2026 Parade 11 am • Pumpkin Party 12 noon- 4 pm

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

Town of Denning - <http://www.denningny.gov>
 Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

UC Legislative Weekly Update

for the Week of

August 24, 2026 - August 28, 2026

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>**Monday, August 24**

9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

10:00 AM (or immediately following the UCIDA Governance Committee) - **Ulster County Capital Resource Corporation Governance Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Tuesday, August 25

5:00 PM - Recycling Oversight Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

6:00 PM - Ulster County Transit Riders and Intermodal Advisory Committee, Via Zoom Meeting ID: 862 5272 1551

Wednesday, August 26

3:00 PM - Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board, in the Rondout Municipal Center, 1915 Lucas Avenue, Room M-1, Cottekill

4:30 PM - Ulster County Environmental Management Council Roundtable, at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 NY-32, Rosendale

Thursday, August 27

6:00 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Regular Board Meeting, at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, & livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ucrra5008>

Friday, August 28 No Meetings

To Renew or Sign up for your weekly digital copy to
Ye Ole Tri-Valley Townsman (a/k/a The Townsman)
follow these directions

Print out this form

Fill out it out

Mail it along with a check for the **Annual Rate –\$40.00**
payable to **The Townsman**

The Townsman
P O Box 232
Grahamsville, NY.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATE: **\$40.00 PER YEAR**

NEW _____ RENEWAL/DATE EXP. _____

Check # _____

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<http://thetownsman.com>

and follow the link to Paypal

Thank you for your continued support.

*If you are a subscriber and ever not receive your weekly copy of The Townsman,
please call me at 845-985-3215. Thank you.*

Fish & Chips Dinner

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

\$22 PER TICKET

(MEAL INCLUDES COD, FRENCH FRIES,
COLESLAW, & DESSERT)
CHICKEN DINNER TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE!

GRAHAMSVILLE FAIRGROUNDS
ROUTE 55, GRAHAMSVILLE

DRIVE-THRU DINNER - PRE SALES ONLY

FOR TICKETS EMAIL:
NEVERSINKTRACKCLUB@GMAIL.COM
OR
CALL/TEXT JESSICA AT 914.799.4637

CASH OR CHECKS
MADE PAYABLE TO:
Neversink Track Club
Thank you for your support!

Neversink Track Booster Club Raffle \$5 per ticket

- 1st Place - Ultimate Test Drive @ Monticello Motor Club
(\$600 value)
- 2nd Place - Yeti Cooler (\$400 value)
- 3rd Place - Gift Certificate to The Quiet Saint, Grahamsville
(\$100 value)

DRAWING ON SEPTEMBER 2ND AT 7PM
YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

The raffle tickets can be purchased at the same time people purchase their dinner tickets - they can either call Jess Dymond (her number is listed in the flyer), they can email the booster club

[\(neversinktrackclub@gmail.com\)](mailto:neversinktrackclub@gmail.com),

or they can get them from any cross country athlete when they purchase dinner tickets. We also will be selling raffle tickets at the fairgrounds for when people come pick up their dinners.



Claryville Vol. Fire Dept.

Annual
Craft Fair
SATURDAY AUG. 29TH
10 am - 3 pm
Vendors / Food Sales
Raffles / Yard Sales
Claryville Fire House
1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725
Call: 845-807-6563 or email: claryvillefd@gmail.com
for vendor information



Sundown UMC Annual **CHICKEN BARBEQUE**

Sat, August 29th
4 - 7 pm

Take Out & Outdoor Dining

Adults: \$15.00
Children (8 & Under): \$10.00

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

For information &/or tickets
Contact: John Barnum 985-7065



You're Invited!

Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation

Gala
& Silent Auction

Honoring the commitment and service of
Reverend Julius and Vernice Collins
to our community

&

Giving our Community Spotlight Award to
Laura Villegas, Paul Sommer,
and Dan Matthews of Matthews Pharmacy

October 3, 2026 | 6:00 pm
Honor's Haven | 1195 Arrowhead Road, Ellenville

Join us for an elegant evening of fine dining, live music,
dancing, and philanthropy as we celebrate and support the
mission of the Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation

Evening Program

Cocktail Hour with Hors d'oeuvres

Silent Auction and Raffle

Premium Open Bar from 6:00-10:00pm

Plated Dinner and Dessert

Recognition of Honorees

Music and Dancing to Follow

Complimentary Valet Parking**Black Tie Optional****\$170 per person | Table of 10 \$1,700****Questions? Call (845) 898-1956***Thank
You to our
Sponsors***Gala Sponsors:**Envision
Honor's Haven
Resorts World
Upstate Curious**Triple Sponsors:**Anonymous
Constable Custodial Services
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David & Holly Eikstza
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Garnet Health
H. Osterhoudt Excavating
Honoring the 50 Year Legacy of Villa Veritas
Hudson Valley Credit Union
HV YoYoDyne LLC
Institute for Family Health
JB & Linda Gillette
Lipsicum, McCormack, VanVoorhis
Sprague & Killeen
Steve & Deb Kelley
Ulster Savings Bank*Centerpieces provided by Shawangunk Garden Club
Decor by Scott Frost Design*

NYS DEC Encourages New Yorkers to visit DEC's Exhibits at the Great NYS Fair

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today encouraged New Yorkers to visit DEC's engaging exhibits at the Great New York State Fair in Syracuse. The Fair runs from Wednesday, August 26, through Monday, September 7.

"DEC's footprint at the New York State Fair offers a pathway to the outdoors and opportunities to connect with nature," Commissioner

Amanda Lefton said. "Visiting DEC at the Fairgrounds can help reignite visitor's love for all of the great recreation New York has to offer. Whether you're purchasing a sporting license, planting a free tree seedling, or learning about hiking preparedness from our Forest Rangers, DEC



can help you 'Get Offline and Get Outside' this summer and all year long."

In DEC's Aquarium building, visitors are encouraged to purchase their hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, as well as DEC's Trail Supporter patch for \$5. All sales of the patch are deposited in the Conservation Fund's Outdoor Recreation, Trail Maintenance, and Development account.

Visitors looking for hunter education course informa-

tion are encouraged to stop by the Hunter Safety booth for details. DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers will be showcasing information on waterfowl hunting and the benefits of using non-toxic shotgun ammunition.

Staff from DEC's Oneida Fish Hatchery will maintain the aquarium throughout the Fair. The trout are from DEC's Randolph Hatchery, while the lake sturgeon are from DEC's Oneida Hatchery. The warmwater fish species are collected from Oneida Lake, via trap-nets, and are taken to the fairgrounds in stocking trucks.

Visitors can take home a free tree seedling supplied by DEC's Saratoga Tree Nursery. Seedlings will be given away each day of the Fair, while supplies last. Attendees are also encouraged to check out the tree planting display to learn how to properly plant a tree. When planting trees, residents can enter their data into DEC's Tree Tracker to help New York State reach its goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033.

Stop by the Conservationist booth to subscribe to New York's premier outdoor magazine, celebrating 80 years in print. Visitors can take advantage of our 'State Fair Special': \$2 off the regular price of a 1-year subscription and two free bonus gifts, while supplies last. Subscribers can choose from a Conservationist tote bag, trucker hat, t-shirt, koozie, reusable snack bag, or sticker pack. While at the booth, enter our free

drawing for your chance to win a kayak. Eligibility rules apply.



Outside of the Aquarium building, DEC will staff an information booth throughout the Fair to provide information about recycling, composting, climate change, air quality, wetlands, and much more. DEC's Office of Indian Nation Affairs will be available on Friday, September 4, for Native Americans Day.

DEC Forest Rangers will be located near the New York State Police exhibit. The Forest Ranger booth will feature information on hiking preparedness, as well as equipment used for wildland firefighting and search and rescue operations.

For more information on the Great New York State Fair, visit the New York State Fair website.

NYS DEC Police on Patrol

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division of Law Enforcement enforces the 71 chapters of New York State's Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), protecting fish and wildlife and preserving environmental quality across New York. In 1880, the first eight Game Protectors proudly began serving to protect the natural resources and people of New York State.

In 2025, DEC's Division of Law Enforcement fielded an estimated 101,169 calls. Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Investigators across the state responded to more than 35,575 complaints and worked on cases that resulted in 15,673 tickets or arrests for violations ranging from deer poaching to solid waste dumping, illegal mining, the illegal pet trade, and excessive emissions violations.

"DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Investigators enforce New York's Environmental Conservation Law to ensure the protection of public safety and our vast natural resources, including air, water, wildlife, and New York's one-of-a-kind outdoor spaces," DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. "This highly specialized and rewarding work is instrumental to upholding our stringent laws and making the great outdoors safe and enjoyable for everyone."

Rattlesnake Released - Ulster County

On July 28, ECO Zullo responded to a complaint about a timber rattlesnake left inside a bucket outside a residence in the Town of Wawarsing. Officer Zullo investigated and determined that an individual removed the snake from another property and brought it back to his apartment inside the bucket. ECO Zullo learned the same subject also possessed the head of another timber rattlesnake in a freezer inside his apartment. The defendant admitted to capturing the live rattlesnake and possessing the snake head in his freezer and voluntarily surrendered both to Officer Zullo. The subject received tickets for taking/possessing a threatened species in New York State, returnable to the Town of Wawarsing Court. The live rattlesnake was released back into the wild and the snake head was secured as evidence. View VIDEO of the snake release.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2Jgdaq-z6-0>

Burmese Python Owner Ticketed - Kings County

On July 12, ECO Maynard observed a large snake near Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney Island with a crowd of about a dozen people, including small children, gathered around it. An individual with a second snake (a ball python) around his neck was handling the larger snake and showing it off to the crowd. Officer Maynard questioned the subject who identified the larger snake as a Burmese python and admitted to owning it. Burmese pythons are considered dangerous and are illegal to possess in New York State. The snake owner



received a ticket for illegal possession and the snake was confiscated. ECO Grispin assisted with transferring the snake to the Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). In addition to being potentially dangerous to people, Burmese pythons introduced to the environment can severely impact native wildlife populations.



Another Reason to Come to Market...

The end of August always feels a little bittersweet-but before we start talking about sweaters, let's enjoy what's left of summer. This week, we're giving you another reason to make the trip to the market: a brand-new coffee vendor!

Wild Inside Goods is bringing their outstanding coffee beans to the market!! Every time you purchase Hope Coffee beans they give back to the communities where it is grown in the form of food, housing, clean water and medical care. Each time you purchase you are giving back!



Check in with Alyssa at Wild Inside Goods and learn more and be sure to pick up some fudge, jam and a pretzel or two...or three while you're there.

Happy Belly is back at the market this week with their delicious gluten-free and vegan baked goods. Come grab a treat-or two!

Yeah Dawg serves up creative, satisfying 100% vegan food that proves plant-based eating can be anything but boring.

Treat your four-legged market fans to something special! Wuffy makes delicious dog treats that are perfect for rewarding your best friend.

Easy Zucchini Fritters

Got zucchini? Turn it into crispy little fritters!

You'll need:

1 large zucchini, grated

1 egg

A handful of flour

Salt and pepper Olive oil for cooking

Grate the zucchini and squeeze out as much water as you can.

Mix with the egg, flour, salt, and pepper.

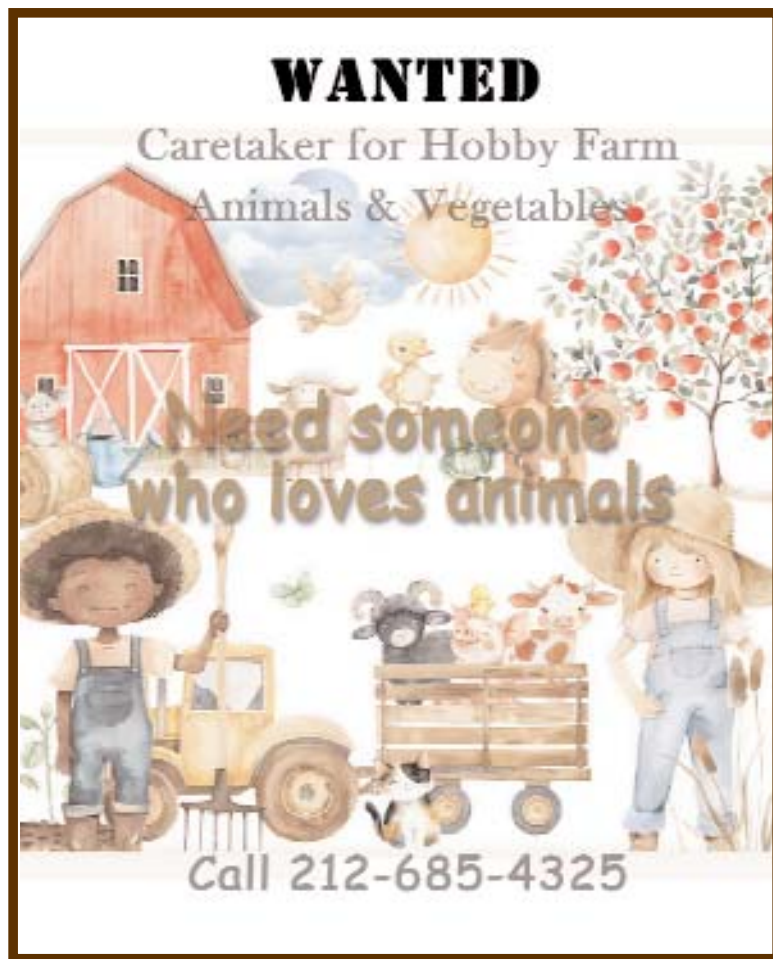
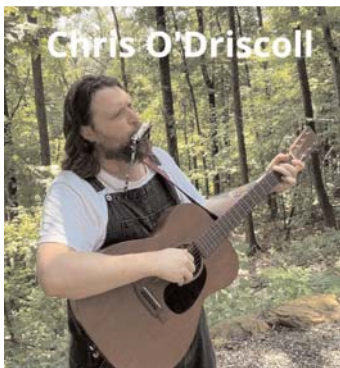
Heat a little olive oil in a pan.

Drop spoonfuls of the mixture into the pan, flatten slightly, and cook for 3-4 minutes per side until golden and crispy.

Top with a little fresh herb, dip in your favorite sauce, or eat them straight from the pan!

This Week At The Market Musical Guest: Chris O'Driscoll

Chris O'Driscoll is a Hudson Valley singer-songwriter whose music blends thoughtful lyrics with expressive, understated guitar work. His songs carry a quiet emotional weight, shaped by the landscapes and small moments that inspire him. With a warm, unpolished voice and a grounded presence on stage, Chris creates performances that feel intimate and honest, whether he's in a crowded room, a quiet corner venue, or your local farmers market.



Little Histories Poetry

Little Histories is popping up at the market! This Hudson Valley-based writing collective is all about bringing people together through storytelling, creativity, and a little bit of magic.

Be sure to stop by for live, extemporaneous typewriter poetry-personalized poems created on the spot, giving you something memorable to take home (and possibly something that makes you cry-in a good way!).

What began as a casual meetup of writers has grown into a vibrant creative community producing zines featuring local artists, hosting live readings, comedy showcases, workshops, and all kinds of imaginative events throughout the Hudson Valley. Come meet the writers, share a story, and see what unfolds.



Catskill Watershed Corporation

The Catskill Watershed Corporation strengthens communities west of the Hudson through local partnerships, strategic investments, and community-driven programs. Their work plays an important role in protecting the region's water resources and supporting the communities that depend on them. Stop by their tent to learn more about their work and the important role we all play in protecting our watershed.

Wednesday, August 26th 3 - 7 PM

Mountainview Parking Lot

SNAP accepted (and doubled up to \$50 per market)

SNAP, FreshConnect, and Market Bucks accepted!



**Bring a
covered dish
to share
Enjoy good food
and fellowship**

Covered Dish Supper

**Saturday
Sept 5, 2026
5:30 pm**

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

**(Intersection of Sundown Rd. Peekamoose Rd.
& Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)**



**Be sure to check out the tables
with a variety of collectibles,
household items and more
that will be available for sale**



SHANDAKEN SUMMER SERIES
CONCERT SERIES
@ BIG INDIAN PARK
SHANDAKEN SUMMER VIBES COLLECTIVE

FREE ADMISSION!
SUNDAYS
1-4PM

2026 LINEUP!

7/12 THE TRAPPS AMERICANA	 Music @ 2pm
7/26 ROADHOUSE 60's JUKEBOX ROCK	
8/09 LEX GREY AND THE URBAN PIONEERS ROCK + BLUES + BIRTHDAY BASH!	
8/23 THUNDER RIDGE CLASSIC COUNTRY	
9/13 THE 209s CLASSIC R&B	
9/27 WYLD BLU BLUES + ROCK	

Come hungry and thirsty!
Delicious food trucks
Beer, wine and cider
Kids activities & games
Family Fun!

PRESENTED BY THE SHANDAKEN SUMMER VIBES COLLECTIVE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
PHOENICIA ARTS CENTER LTD.
LOVESHANDAKEN@GMAIL.COM

THANK YOU WONDERFUL SPONSORS!



+ A HUGE SHOUT-OUT TO ALL OF OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS!

HEADWATERS

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 5, 7PM: BACH + SCHUBERT
SEPTEMBER 6, 3PM: MOZART + DVORAK

CLARYVILLE REFORMED CHURCH
946 CLARYVILLE RD, CLARYVILLE, NY

TICKETS AND INFO AT
[HEADWATERSMUSIC.ORG](https://headwatersmusic.org)

**The historic Claryville Schoolhouse will be open on the Sunday afternoon
before the concert from 1 to 3 pm**

SHADOWLAND
STAGES

"NEVER CAN SAY GOODBYE"
THE **70s**
Beehive
MUSICAL

Book by Fred Stuart

Arrangements, Orchestration, and Additional Music by George Luton

Inspired by *BEEHIVE: The 60s Musical* by Larry Gallagher

Directed by Brittany Proia

AUGUST 14 — SEPTEMBER 13



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NEW!

Sullivan County in the Revolution Traveling Exhibit



Includes:

- ✦ Engaging information on the Sullivan County battles of Minisink and Chestnut Woods, Loyalists, Patriots, Sullivan County's evolution, General John Sullivan, settler life & more.
- ✦ Comprehensive Teacher's Guide which takes a deeper look into the topics and includes activities and student worksheets
- ✦ Interactive learning components including matching games, a 1779 Code Book spy activity and Revolutionary War reproduction items
- ✦ Video - meaning behind the words in Yankee Doodle!



George Washington
takes your students
on a tour of the
American Revolution
in Sullivan County!

Easy Set Up-Take Down

full size 15' x 6'

(with extra space needed for viewing)

Breaks down to the size of three folding tables
and two tie folder boxes for transport

Borrow for up to 3 weeks

Email:

educator

timeandthevalleymuseum.org

or call 845 985-7700

for more information

or to reserve

*Funded by a Sullivan County Discretionary Grant sponsored by Legislator Brian McPhillips
and grant from Stewart's Shops*

Time and the Valleys Museum P.O. Box 254 Grahamsville NY 12740

info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org 845 985-7700

Mid-Season Update from the Catskill Stewards

From answering questions at busy trailheads to offering guidance on responsible recreation, the Catskill Center's Catskill Stewards have spent the first half of the 2026 season doing what they do best: meeting people where they recreate and helping protect the places they came to experience.

Since the season began on May 4, our team of 11 full-time Stewards has been stationed across some of the busiest and most recognizable destinations in the Catskill Park, including **Peekamoose Blue Hole**, Kaaterskill Falls, the Devil's Path, six fire tower locations, and the Catskill Center's Platte Clove and Thorn Preserves.

And it has already been a busy season.

As of July 15, Stewards had welcomed 39,571 visitors and meaningfully engaged with 34,213 of them, providing directions, answering questions, explaining regulations, sharing Leave No Trace™ principles, assisting injured hikers, and helping visitors make informed decisions about where and how to recreate.

These numbers reflect visitation recorded while Stewards are on site, generally between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm, and do not represent total visitation at these locations. Coverage varies by site, from seven days a week at Peekamoose Blue Hole and Kaaterskill Falls to part-time and weekday or weekend coverage at other locations.

At **Peekamoose Blue Hole** alone, Stewards helped 3,321 visitors who arrived without required permits find other places to explore in the Catskills. Across all locations, they provided directions to 28,551 people, cleared 13 blowdowns from trails, and helped 39 visitors avoid parking citations.

Those numbers represent thousands of individual moments when having a knowledgeable person on the ground made a difference for a visitor, a trail, or the surrounding landscape.

That presence is increasingly important as visitation continues to grow. Through mid-July, Stewards counted 26,630 visitors at Kaaterskill Falls, roughly 7,400 more than during the same reporting period last year. Visitation recorded at Peekamoose Blue Hole, Platte Clove Preserve, and fire tower locations also increased, while Steward coverage expanded to the Devil's Path and Thorn Preserve this season.

Stewards are also taking education beyond the trailhead through our new Protect the Path hiking series, where participants learn Leave No Trace™ principles while exploring the Catskills alongside members of our team.

The season continues through October 13, with plenty of busy weekends still ahead. But the mid-season metrics already demonstrate what a difference a Steward can make simply by being there: answering a question before someone heads down a trail, addressing a potential hazard, or sharing the knowledge that helps someone become a more thoughtful visitor the next time they return.

The work of the Catskill Stewards is made possible by people who believe that protecting the Catskills also means helping people experience them responsibly. Every conversation at a trailhead, every question answered, and every

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

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

**Bingo at the
Monticello Elks Lodge**
 Every Tuesday at 7 PM
 46 North Street in Monticello
 For information
 contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
 at (845) 701-0695

visitor guided toward a safer, more thoughtful day outside helps care for the places we all love.

Please consider making a gift to the Catskill Center today. Your support sustains the Catskill Stewards and strengthens all of our work to protect and preserve the Catskills, from conservation and stewardship to education, advocacy, and responsible public access. Make a gift today and help keep the Catskills welcoming and protected for generations to come.

Introduction to Fly Fishing: Casting & Fly Tying



Join New York State Licensed Outdoor Guide Kayla Curry for an introduction to the art of fly fishing at the Catskills Visitor Center! Whether you're completely new to fly fishing or looking to build your skills, this hands-on program offers an opportunity to learn more about casting, fly tying, and the aquatic

insects that make the Esopus Creek such a special place to fish. (Cont. Pg. 40)

Mid-Season Update from the Catskill Stewards

(From Pg. 39)

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Location: Catskills Visitor Center, Pavilion & Lawn Area

Ages: 15 and older. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

On the lawn, Kayla will lead casting lessons, helping participants learn and practice techniques used in fly fishing. Beginners are welcome, and no previous fly fishing experience is necessary.

In the pavilion, fly tier Robert Coyne will demonstrate the art of fly tying while sharing information about the insects and seasonal hatches found along the Esopus Creek.

Watch as Robert ties flies that imitate these insects and learn more about the important connection between aquatic insect life and successful fly fishing.

Already tie your own flies? You're welcome to bring your own gear and learn some new patterns!

This is a free event with a suggested donation of \$10.

Please Note: Pets are not permitted at Catskill Center programs and events with the exception of trained service animals assisting their handlers.

About Kayla Curry:

Kayla Curry is a New York State Licensed Outdoor Guide with a lifelong passion for the outdoors. She has loved fishing since childhood and enjoys sharing that passion with others through fun, welcoming, and educational experiences on the water.

Whether introducing someone to fly fishing for the first time or helping anglers refine their skills, Kayla is dedicated to creating memorable days outdoors and inspiring a lifelong appreciation for the sport.

Come spend an afternoon learning new skills, discovering more about the ecology of the Esopus Creek, and exploring the world of fly fishing at the Catskills Visitor Center!

If you have any questions please email Diana, our Communications and Programming Coordinator, at drichards@catskillcenter.org

Join New York State Licensed Outdoor Guide Kayla Curry for an introduction to the art of fly fishing at the Catskills Visitor Center!

Register https://givebutter.com/Introduction-to-Fly-Fishing?mc_cid=08bc3b0873&mc_eid=741885eb1c



Mushroom Walk & Fungi Identification



Discover the fascinating world of fungi on Sunday, September 13, from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM at Kanape Brook Hollow! Join certified mushroom forager, author, and founder of Chicory Naturalist, Chris Baker for a guided walk to search for and identify mushrooms while learning more about the important roles fungi play in

Catskills ecosystems.

Spots are limited, so click here to learn more and register today!

https://givebutter.com/Mushroom-Walk-Fungi-Identification-with-Chris-Baker?mc_cid=08bc3b0873&mc_eid=741885eb1c

Join chef and naturalist Rob Handel and the Catskill Center for an immersive foraging experience at Thorn Preserve where you'll discover, taste, and learn about the wild foods growing all around you.

Date: Sunday, September 20th (rain date September 27th)

Time: 11 AM - 2 PM

Tickets: \$50

Location: Thorn Preserve, Woodstock, NY

The program begins with a guided walk through the pre-



serve to identify common wild edible plants, many of which may be growing right in your own backyard. Along the way, you'll learn how to recognize key species, understand their life cycles, and harvest responsibly.

This is an interactive, discussion-based experience,

with plenty of time for questions and conversation. The program concludes with a tasting featuring a wildcrafted beverage and small bites prepared from foraged ingredients. Participants will leave with recipes and a resource guide to continue building their foraging skills.

About Rob Handel

Rob Handel is a chef, teacher, and naturalist, and has spent his life learning how to bring the wonderful ingredients that are farmed and foraged in the Catskills and Hudson Valley to plates across Upstate New York. With experience catering locally sourced meals for groups ranging in size from 2-150, Rob revels in providing unique and thoughtful fare that cannot be found elsewhere.

Please Note: Pets are not permitted at Catskill Center programs and events with the exception of trained service animals assisting their handlers.

Advance registration is required. A \$50 fee applies, with a portion of proceeds supporting the Catskill Center.



COME JOIN US FOR THE
THE NEVERSINK-RONDOUT ANTIQUE MACHINERY ASSOCIATION's
26th ANNUAL TRACTOR SHOW

ON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th from 10 am-6 pm

(rain date Sept. 20th) at the

GRAHAMSVILLE FAIRGROUNDS, 8230 State Rt. 55, Grahamsville NY

*Featured Tractors this year are the **CASE, OLIVER & MOLINE***

BUT ALL tractor makes and models are welcome to participate.

Trophies will be awarded to working Tractors, Hit & Miss Engines and Garden Tractors

Also featured will be the

***Ulster Heights Rod & Gun Club with the Sportsman's Vendor Barn,
 the Catskill Region AACA Car Club CRUISE-IN (all vehicles welcome)
 and Knife Sharpening by the Buley Family.***

Join us for a day of family fun with antique tractors and machinery; classic cars; demos of sawmills, shingle mills & hit & miss engines; crafts, yard, machinery and sportsman's sales; food including the

Grahamsville Fire Dept. BBQ, beer garden served by Bridge & Tunnel:

*live entertainment with Jon Zanger & DJ Mark Hyzer; hayrides, kids pedal tractors, Timmy the Train,
 Tractor Parade & MORE*

Get your tickets for our 50/50 Raffle. \$5 a ticket with the drawing at the show.

NRAMA is a 501-c3 non-profit organization. All proceeds benefit our Scholarship Program.

*For More Info contact: **Cher Woehl @ 845-985-2401** & check us out on our NRAMA Facebook page*

NEVERSINK-RONDOUT



ANTIQUE MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

★ Antique Tractor Show – Saturday Sept 19th (rain date 20th) ★

Grahamsville Fairgrounds, Grahamsville NY

★ *Join the Cruise-In* ★



HOSTED BY:
CATSKILL REGION
AACAA CAR CLUB

— *All vehicles welcome!* —

We tell folks if they have a special vehicle
they want to show off come to the cruise-in –
or you can come up with something clever..
its for all vehicles not just cars..



★ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ★

— *Jon Zanger* —
PERFORMING LIVE!



ALONG WITH
DJ MARK
HYZER



★ BEER GARDEN FEATURING ★

BRIDGE & TUNNEL BREWERY

— *Serving up their beer!* —



★ COLD ★
— BEER —
GOOD TIMES!
★

★
YOUR PRIDE.
THE RIDE.
Everyone Welcome!



GREAT VEHICLES.
LIVE MUSIC.
COLD BEER.
Unforgettable Day!

★ COME FOR THE VEHICLES, STAY FOR THE FUN! ★

Daniel Pierce Library

Fall Children's Programs

Register Now!



Our 8 week fall story hour programs will begin the week of October 5, 2026

Mother Goose Time (12-23 months)
Wednesday, October 7th

Toddler Time (24-35 months)
Thursday, October 8th

Story Hour (3 and 4 year-olds)
Friday, October 9th

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Story Hour

Our "Story Hour on the Road" program visits the three UPK classes at Tri Valley Central School
(Children will be registered at school.)

Tuesday, October 13th

*Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents.
Please register online @ danielpiercelibrary.org*

Join Us to Celebrate Our Nation's 250th Anniversary!

This July is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Time and the Valleys Museum is honoring our area's contribution to the struggles for independence by creating two new interactive exhibitions on the Revolution in 2026.

Celebrate With Us ~ Become a Museum Member ~ It's Easy!

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

- ♦ Free admission to all in-person and virtual programs, exhibits and the Catskill Farm
- ♦ Invitations to all special member openings and events
- ♦ *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter and monthly historical and informative emails
- ♦ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- ♦ FREE ADMISSION to over 30 New York State Museums, and more!



Join now by going to timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership, or send a check (\$25 for Individual, \$40 for Double and \$50 for Family) to the Museum at the address below. You will receive membership cards, a newsletter and special gift by return mail.

2026 and beyond is sure to be exciting ~ be part of the excitement by becoming a member today!



Time and the Valleys Museum P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740
845 985-7700 timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Sullivan County
Department of Public Health



Free Rabies Clinics

while supplies last



Call to Pre-Register
845-292-5910

Thursday, August 13, 2026, 6:00-7:30pm

Hanofee Park Pavilion
136 Sunset Lake Rd. Liberty, NY

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 6:00-7:30pm

Monticello Fire Station
23 Richardson Ave, Monticello, NY



REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Sullivan County residents (ID required)
- ✓ Pets must be 3 months or older
- ✓ Pets must be on a leash, in a carrier, muzzled if aggressive
- ✓ Please bring proof of previous vaccination
- ✓ Dogs, cats, and ferrets accepted



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Sullivan County
Department of Public Health



Clínicas gratuitas de vacunación antirrábica

hasta agotar existencias



Llama para preinscribirte
845-292-5910

Sábado, 11 de Julio del 2026, 2:00- 3:30pm

Pabellón del Parque Hanofee
136 Sunset Lake Rd. Liberty, NY

Jueves, 13 de Agosto del 2026, 6:00- 7:30pm

Pabellón del Parque Hanofee
136 Sunset Lake Rd. Liberty, NY

Miércoles 7 de Octubre del 2026, 6:00-7:30pm

Estación de bomberos de Monticello
23 Richardson Ave, Monticello, NY



REQUISITOS

- ✓ Residentes del condado de Sullivan (se requiere identificación)
- ✓ Las mascotas deben tener 3 meses o más
- ✓ Las mascotas deben ir con correa, en transportín y con bozal si son agresivas
- ✓ Traiga comprobante de vacunación previa
- ✓ Se admiten perros, gatos y hurones

Join the Movement: Step into Wellness

A National Wellness Month Walking Challenge

August 1-31, 2026

Gather your team and join Sullivan 180's Step into Wellness Walking Challenge, August 1 through August 31.

Walk with coworkers, friends, family or neighbors to build healthy routines and strengthen connections.



How It Works



Create a team of two or more people.



Walk together at least once each week.



Submit each walk through the Sullivan 180 website.



Share photos and stories.



Celebrate your progress.



There are no required steps or miles.

Register Today!



Register your team or learn more at Sullivan180.org beginning July 22. Teams can join throughout August.

Walk Together. Build Connections.
Create Healthy Routines.



“Low Local Tech” and “The Eyes of Abstraction” at WCAA

The Wayne County Arts Alliance Gallery at 959 Main Street in Honesdale will open two new exhibits - “Low Local Tech” and “The Eyes of Abstraction” on Thursday, August 27, 2026, running through Saturday, October 3, 2026, with an opening reception for both shows scheduled for Friday, August 28, from 5pm - 8pm. The public is invited to join us at the reception, get a first look, and meet the artists.

“Low Local Tech”, curated by “place maker”, illustrator, designer, builder, and WCAA member artist Lisa Glover, is showing in the first floor gallery. Exhibiting artists include: Nora Boydston, Lisa Glover, Jennifer Gougé, Luke Green, Keenan Gruver, Douglas L. Jones, John Kascht, Lexi Pinto, Gil Riley, Connor Simon, A Smith, Dustin Werner-Fazio, Derek Williams.

Local tech is about reimagining our relationship with here- in this case, the region around Honesdale.

Technology is the application of knowledge to create practical solutions. Hand tools are just as much a technology as computers; so is language; so are maps.

The “technologies”-the practical solutions-we create depend on the knowledge we start with. Knowledge related to abundance or scarcity, peace or destruction, human-centric or environment-centric result in very different solutions.

This exhibit explores the idea, “what do our technologies look like when the knowledge used to make them focuses on what is around us in some way?” This concept was explored by a number of artists and their “local technologies” take the form of maps, photographs, clothing, sculptures, and more. Some invite participation, others invite contemplation.

“The Eyes of Abstraction”, the second floor exhibition highlights WCAA member artist Elizabeth Castellano in a solo painting show.

Legally blind since birth, Elizabeth Castellano is a professional artist and art educator. Her limited vision accentuates her unique semi-abstract style. She graduated with a BFA and a MAT from Manhattanville University in Purchase, New York. Her BFA, received in May 1999, is in studio art with an emphasis on painting and a minor in art history. During her undergraduate studies, Ms. Castellano took a leave of absence to study art abroad at Lancaster University in Lancaster, England. During that time, she studied painting, printmaking and photography. Prior to her study abroad experience, Ms. Castellano had the opportunity to travel to Florence, Italy, to complete intensive coursework towards her art history minor.

Ms. Castellano completed her MAT in art education in January of 2000. Her student teaching was completed at the Mount Pleasant Central School District and the Pocantico Hills School District in New York. For both her undergraduate and graduate studies, Ms. Castellano graduated Summa Cum Laude. She received her BFA with art department honors.

Elizabeth Castellano has been a part of many solo and group shows locally, nationally, and internationally. Her artwork is in both private and public collections. Public collections include Herkimer County Community College, and Manhattanville University Office of Admissions.

Ms. Castellano writes:

“My solo exhibition focusses on the process of abstraction, and the journey that I took as an artist to get to the point of non-representational art. Due to my visual impairment, I naturally abstract my work because there are elements that I cannot see. However, recently I am trying to paint my narrative using shapes, lines, and colors representing how I feel about an experience rather than replicating it.”

The WCAA Gallery is open 11am till 4pm, Thursdays through Sundays. For more information about the Wayne County arts Alliance, please visit www.waynecountyartsalliance.org

For more information about our gallery and our exhibitions, email Debby Pollak at wcaamaingallery@gmail.com

Wayne County Arts Alliance Presents:



ELIZABETH CASTELLANO

The Eyes of Abstraction
August 27th - October 3rd

Opening Reception: August 28th | 5-8PM Hours: Thursday-Sunday | 11AM-4PM



Wayne County Arts Alliance 959 Main Street, Honesdale PA 18431
www.waynecountyartsalliance.org armature



WCAA
WAYNE COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE
www.waynecountyartsalliance.org

Low Local Tech

REIMAGINING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HERE.

August 27th-October 3rd
959 Main Street Honesdale, PA

Featuring
Nora Boydston
Lisa Glover
Jennifer Gougé
Luke Green
Keenan Gruver
Douglas L. Jones
John Kascht
Lexi Pinto
Gil Riley
Connor Simon
A Smith
Dustin Werner-Fazio
Derek Williams

Brett De Palma, RM Fischer and Judy Glantzman at CAS

Livingston Manor, NY - Catskill Art Space (CAS) is pleased to present a three-person exhibition featuring Brett De Palma, RM Fischer, and Judy Glantzman, on view September 5 through October 24, 2026. The exhibition opens with an Artist Talk on Saturday, September 5 from 3-4pm in the River Gallery, followed by a reception from 4-5pm in the Main Street-facing galleries. Working across sculpture, painting, and works on paper, the exhibition brings together three artists whose practices span decades of making - rooted in process, material discovery, and an abiding belief in the expressive and revelatory power of art.

RM Fischer returns to early works stored in an art storage shed on his Catskill Mountain property - photographic deconstructions from the early 1970s that laid the groundwork for the lamp sculptures and public art for which he is widely known. Beginning with images drawn from popular culture, sociology textbooks, and travel brochures, Fischer constructed objects that responded to and transformed their source material, a process that remains at the core of his practice.

Judy Glantzman approaches painting as a playground, her canvases populated by invented characters treated with utmost sincerity. For Glantzman, paint becomes radiant and remains an object simultaneously - the dichotomy between illusion and materiality beating at the heart of her practice. In 2005 these paintings were finished; twenty years later, she has returned to them, reworking each canvas in a return to the playground of a younger self. Her paintings are accompanied by ceramic works that explore subjects of a similar nature, each at once undone and luminously resolved.

Brett De Palma constructs sardonic, psychedelic visual puzzles that resist easy resolution, embracing the raw, the funky, and the deliberately impure as tools for truth-telling. His compositions hold contradictory elements in productive tension - hard edges and soft forms, humor and darkness, sensuality and roughness - standing in for real life in all its quirkiness. Together, the three artists share a commitment to discovery over certainty, to standing before the work and finding out what it wants to be.

About the Artists

RM Fischer (b. 1947, New York, NY) is a sculptor whose practice spans assemblage, public art, and works on paper. Known in the 1980s and 1990s for creating lamp sculptures from wholesale kitchen equipment and various fasteners, Fischer's work evolved from an

early practice of deconstructing photographic images drawn from popular culture. His renowned public art works appear in cities across the United States and Japan. His work is held in public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Dallas Museum of Art; the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; and the Tamayo Museo Cultural Center for Contemporary Art, Mexico City.

Judy Glantzman has lived and worked in New York City since 1978, and moved to Chatham, NY in 2022. A member of the

East Village art scene in the early and mid-1980s, she was represented by Civilian Warfare Gallery and Gracie Mansion Gallery, and is currently represented by Betty Cunningham Gallery, New York. Glantzman is a National Academician at the National Academy of Design and a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, Anonymous Was a Woman, Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, and the New York Foundation for the Arts award.



Brett De Palma is a painter and educator based in Nyack and Roscoe, New York. A recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts award (1988) and Rockland County Executive Visual Artist of the Year (2013), De Palma has exhibited nationally and internationally, with work held in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Permanent Collection of the Hotel Chelsea, the Eli Broad Family Foundation, among others. His work has been written about in the New York Times, The New Yorker, Artforum, and Flash Art. He has been on the faculty of the School of Visual Arts, New York City, for thirty-five years.



Long-term Installations

Following a major renovation and expansion, Catskill Art Space reopened in October 2022 with a long-term presentation of James Turrell's *Avaar* (1982) in a custom-built gallery on the building's second floor. A room-sized installation, *Avaar* is an important example of the artist's early, wall-based "aperture" works, which function by creating two areas within a room. There is a "viewing space," where one stands to see and experience the work, and a "sensing space," which is an ambiguously defined area of diffused light. *Avaar* is one of the rare examples of Turrell's aperture works to make use of white lighting only; no colors will be present in the installation. This work is in the collection of the Seattle Art Museum, which has granted CAS a special long-term loan to exhibit the work. The presentation at CAS marks the first time the work has been shown since the 1970s, giving audiences from the Catskills and beyond the rare opportunity to experience a major Turrell work that has not been seen in nearly five decades.

On the second floor's central landing, Sol LeWitt's vibrant *Wall Drawing #992* unfolds in three sections, each consisting of 10,000 straight lines drawn in color marker, to create a mesmerizing arrangement of primary colors. On the fourth wall, presenting LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #991*, straight, arced, and organic lines will encompass the wall in black marker and pencil. The conceptual, minimalist artist conceived guidelines for his two-dimensional works to be drawn directly on the wall. Much like Turrell's *Avaar*, the LeWitt works were realized for CAS's space; in this instance, they are generously loaned by the artist's estate. This work was overseen by a draftsman, who determines the length and placement of the lines, and executed by five artists local to the area over nearly two weeks. (Contd. Pg 51)

Brett De Palma, RM Fischer and Judy Glantzman at CAS

(From Pg. 50)

The newly realized performance space on CAS's second floor hosts British sculptor Francis Cape's *A Gathering of Utopian Benches*—an installation of meticulous copies of benches built and used by communal societies. Cape's installations have always argued that design and craft express belief. Utopian Benches, which has toured extensively throughout the US, was built from poplar grown near Cape's studio in Narrowsburg, NY. To be considered both as contemporary sculpture as well as furniture that visitors can actively use, the benches reference the societies who first used them, inviting visitors to utilize them for exchange, discourse, and community. The installation, which is meant to be used by visitors both for contemplation and may be used for performance seating, overlooks an expansive wall of windows onto the Willowemoc Creek.

Ellen Brooks activates an intimate gallery space, framed by a partially open staircase, with *Hang* (2022), an installation suspending over 30 feet of scrolls of film negatives from the ceiling. The artist hangs transparencies and negatives in all formats and from clips attached to the ceiling, mimicking the practice of film photography. Hanging negatives reference the surrounding natural landscaping, evoking a cascading waterfall with coils of film collecting on the ground floor gallery.

About Catskill Art Space

Catskill Art Space (CAS) explores contemporary art practices of emerging and established artists. Through exhibitions, performances, classes, lectures, and screenings, CAS fosters creative community in the Catskills.

Established as Catskill Art Society in 1971, CAS reopened in October 2022 as Catskill Art Space following a major renovation and expansion of its multi-arts center, located in the picturesque hamlet of Livingston Manor in the Western Catskills. CAS presents a rotating slate of exhibitions, performances and other events featuring national and regional talents, alongside long-term installations of works by James Turrell, Sol LeWitt, Francis Cape, and Ellen Brooks. Learn more at catskillart-space.org.

Balkan Mountains Music Festival

SHANDAKEN, NY - "Balkan" means "chain of wooded mountains" in modern Turkish and has been the Turkish word for the Balkan Peninsula since Ottoman times. Some of the countries of Eastern Europe that are situated in or near the Balkans are Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Turkey.

On Saturday, September 19, the Phoenicia Library will celebrate the music and dance of the Balkan peninsula with a FREE festival of musical and choral groups playing and singing odd meters and unusual scales and harmonies in a gorgeous setting at Glenbrook Park in Shandaken.

Festival Schedule

2:30 pm - Doors

3:00 pm - Dedication of Renovation of Glenbrook Park

3:30 pm - Driftwood Chorus

3:45 pm - Dance Instruction by Noel Kropf with Live Music

by Mac & Cheez Balkan PowerTrio

4:30 pm - Niva - Traditional Macedonian Dance Music

5:50 pm - Romski Boji - Modern Roma Music

6:30 pm - Bourbon and Breastmilk Community Choir

Everyone is welcome to join this free event.

Balkan Mountains Music Festival

Saturday, September 19, 2026

3:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Rain or Shine

[Website: https://brazzamatazz.com/](https://brazzamatazz.com/)

For performer info, contact Matthew "Max" Fass at matthewfass@gmail.com

Location

Glenbrook Park

48 NY-42

Shandaken, NY 12480

[Map: https://goo.gl/maps/NcdiFhWzjJQF6jc1A](https://goo.gl/maps/NcdiFhWzjJQF6jc1A)

Sponsored by

Ulster Savings Bank

The Phoenicia Library

Upstate Curious

About the Artists

Noel Kropf is a producer, organizer, and sound coordinator for the Zlatne Uste Golden Festival, having helped lead and shape the festival since 1996. His dance workshops are known for being welcoming and accessible to all, combining clear instruction with contagious enthusiasm. Noel emphasizes the communal, inclusive nature of folk dance, helping beginners and experienced dancers alike participate with confidence.

MacNCheez Balkan Power Trio is an acoustic ensemble dedicated to performing traditional and contemporary folk music from the southern Balkans, infusing their performances with influences from Roma and Ottoman cultures.

Niva is a Brooklyn-based, all-women ensemble dedicated to performing and preserving traditional Macedonian roots music. The group specializes in an authentic presentation of North Macedonian folk repertoire, featuring rich vocal harmonies and the signature sounds of local instruments. Their instrumentation foregrounds the kaval (shepherd's flute), tambura (long-necked lute), tapan (bass drum), and powerful group singing.

o Romski Boji is a New York City-based Romani ensemble led by percussionist Seido Salifoski. Its name translates as "Romani Colors," and the group draws on the communal, high-energy spirit of Balkan Roma wedding music—rhythm-forward, celebratory, and made for dancing.

Bourbon & Breast Milk, a community choir in the Mid Hudson Valley, brings village songs from the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Ukraine to life, sharing their cultural richness with local friends and neighbors.

More Information

o Phoenicia Library: <https://phoenicialibrary.org/>

o Phone: 917-497-7852

o Email: matthewfass@gmail.com

o Event Poster by Andrew Nelson (@ditvcreative)

Come out for a great afternoon in a little nook in the Catskill Mountains—bring your friends, family, and curiosity. All are welcome to join the dance and celebration!

New IMMERSIVE Exhibit!



The Great Fear: Frontier Life in the American Revolution

Celebrating our Nation's founding by exploring
the American Revolution in our own backyard!

Patriots, Loyalists, Settler Life, Battle of Chestnut Woods,
Raids, Captives and More. Games, Interactives, Audio and Video!



Opening 4th of July

Weekends through September - 12 to 4 p.m. and by appointment

Private tours for groups of 15 or more



Time and the Valleys Museum

P.O. Box 254, 332 Main Street, Grahamsville NY 12740

timeandthevalleymuseum.org 845 985-7700

*Partially funded through a
Sullivan County Discretionary
Grant secured by
Legislator Brian McPhillips*

Neighbors Loving Cats



We trap, neuter, spay, vaccinate, foster, and place these cats with the help of local rescues and the Town of Fallsburg

Urgently needed foster homes for:

Kittens

Adopters for friendly young cats

Barn or farm placements for fixed
adult cats who provide excellent
natural pest control

If you have been involved in trapping cats and have firsthand experience, we welcome your assistance and any guidance that you can offer to us.

If you can help, please contact

Larry Schafman at

prguy1942@yahoo.com



Your support will directly improve the lives of these
animals and benefit our community

Thank you!



2026-27 HUNTING LICENSE & DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT SALES

at the Olive Free Library on Wed Sept 2nd 10am-5pm
and the Shokan Branch on Sat Sept 26th 10am-4pm

The Town of Olive Deputy Clerk will be available to process hunting licenses and Deer Management Permit applications

PAYMENTS ACCEPTED:

- credit cards
- cash
- checks made payable to the Town of Olive

BE SURE TO BRING:

- NYS DRIVER'S LICENSE OR OTHER PROOF OF RESIDENCY
- YOUR DEC ID OR PREVIOUS HUNTING LICENSE, IF AVAILABLE
- HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE IF YOU ARE A FIRST-TIME HUNTER OR IT IS NOT RECORDED IN DECALS
- BOWHUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE IF PURCHASING A FIRST-TIME BOWHUNTING PRIVILEGE
- HELPFUL IF YOU KNOW THE WMU NUMBERS YOU WANT FOR DEER MANAGEMENT PERMITS
- CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
- DOCUMENTATION FOR ANY MILITARY, VETERAN OR OTHER REDUCED-FEE ELIGIBILITY



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Shadowland Stages *Never Can Say Goodbye: The '70s Beehive Musical* is SENSATIONAL!

Reserve your tickets today for an experience unlike any other

"Six sensational actress/singers, slick choreography, superb staging, a super rockin' band, snazzy 70s costuming - what more could you ask from a juke box musical?"

- Lori Schneider

"It's become fashionable to end a review with "don't miss this show." But seriously, why would you want to miss something that's so energetic and so uplifting that you literally exit the theatre marveling at the sensational gift just presented to you?"

- Carol Montana

Thursday, August 27 @ 8PM - Great Availability!

Friday, August 28 @ 8PM - Great Availability!

Saturday, August 29 @ 2PM - Great Availability!

Saturday, August 29 @ 8PM - Great Availability!

Sunday, August 30 @ 2PM - Almost SOLD OUT!

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

READ Carol Montana's FULL REVIEW

<https://www.scdemocratonline.com>

READ Lori Schneider's FULL REVIEW

<https://mcusercontent.com/e8>

The beat of the disco era comes roaring back to life as Shadowland Stages presents *Never Can Say Goodbye: The '70s Beehive Musical*; a high-energy celebration bursting with powerhouse vocals, dazzling choreography, and chart-topping hits from the decade.

With six profoundly talented women taking center stage, this electrifying musical invites audiences to relive the joy, freedom, and infectious spirit of the 1970s in a concert-style theatrical experience that will have you dancing in your seats. Featuring legendary songs from Marvin Gaye, The Jackson 5, Gloria Gaynor, Heart, The Supremes, Linda Ronstadt, and more!

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/eventsByMovie/A000000228?mc_cid=17aff3229d&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

This superb cast includes Brandi Knox, Liz Neitge, Jasmine Crosson, Amy Knips, Claire Latourette, and Mya Espinosa. Brittany Carey Proia directs with Andrew Geller Karl's Choreography and Nathan Perry as Music Director.

Performance Schedule & Tickets

Performances take place at the MAINSTAGE at SHADOWLAND STAGES, at 157 Canal Street, in downtown Ellenville, NY.

- o Regular performances run Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening at 8 PM, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 PM.
- o "Pay What You Can" preview performances are offered on the first Friday (8/14) at 8 PM and the first Saturday (8/15) at 2 PM.

o Tickets can be purchased online at shadowlandstages.org, by calling the box office at 845-647-5511, or in person starting two hours before showtime. Season subscribers save up to 30%, and groups of 10 or more receive substantial discounts. For group packages, contact the box office directly.

With free parking, excellent local dining, and a deep commitment to accessibility and affordability, SHADOWLAND STAGES remains "one of the region's treasures" (Times Herald-Record).

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT
SHADOWLANDSTAGES.ORG**

PHONE OR VISIT THE BOX OFFICE: 845.647.5511

**The electric cast of "Never Can Say Goodbye:
The '70s Beehive Musical" now playing at Shadowland Stages.**

"NEVER CAN SAY GOODBYE"
THE **70s**
Beehive
MUSICAL

Meet the Cast



*Brandi Knox**



*Liz Neitge**



*Jasmine Crosson**



Amy Knips



Claire Latourette



Mya Espinosa

*DENOTES MEMBER, ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION,
THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS & STAGE MANAGERS.



Historic Claryville Schoolhouse Museum

Experience a One Room School from Long Ago



Debbie Scanlon, Museum Educator

Meet 1930s Schoolmarm
Elsie Harshey
on June 6th
Don't be late for school!

Interactive exhibits, games and activities for kids

2026 Open Hours

Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

June 6, July 18,

August 15, September 19,

October 17

Admission by donation



Claryville Schoolhouse Museum

946 Claryville Road, Claryville NY (next to the church hall)

info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org 845 985-7700

A collaborative project of the Claryville Reformed Church, Neversink Association and the Time and the Valleys Museum



Your voice and stories are crucial to my work as your Representative. Whether it's talking to you at a community event or when you call my office, I immensely value hearing from each and every one of you.

Here's some of how I fought for you and a more affordable, safe, and free Hudson Valley for us all last week: **DEMANDING TRANSPARENCY AND PROTECTING SAILORS' SAFETY**

The stories we've heard from the loved ones of sailors on the USS Lincoln are disturbing & infuriating. This is what happens when you start a war with no strategy and no plan, and it's our servicemembers who pay the price.

The administration is now trying to downplay the situation, claiming these reports are 'completely misrepresented.' It's shameful. We're demanding transparency & accountability from the Pentagon to make sure our sailors are protected and a plan is in place.

WELCOMING LTG BATHOLOMEES TO WEST POINT

It was a tremendous honor to attend the Change of Command at West Point.

We thanked LTG Gilland and his wife Betsy for their 4+ years of exceptional service and welcomed LTG Bartholomees and his family as he takes command of this treasured institution.

It's my great honor to represent the Academy in Congress, and I will continue fighting every day to deliver for the next generation of cadets.

CELEBRATING 106 YEARS OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

We celebrated 106 years since the 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote.

We honor the suffragists who courageously fought to better our country and strengthen our democracy by protecting every American's right to equal access to the ballot box.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE'S NEWEST FIRE CHIEF

Congratulations to our new Poughkeepsie City Fire Chief Vincent Parise!

Born & raised in Poughkeepsie, Vincent's spent the last 25 years serving this community.

Excited to continue working with Chief Parise to ensure our heroic firefighters have the resources & support they need.

CELEBRATING THE NEWBURGH-BEACON SHUTTLE AND FIGHTING FOR WEST OF HUDSON TRANSIT

Great to check out the Newburgh-Beacon Shuttle,

which is free through 2026 & now runs on weekends!

This enhanced service will increase the amount of trips by 60 percent, and will more than double the weekday trains that commuters are connected to.

For years, our community has fought for better transit options. I'm proud we're taking action through the West of Hudson Transit Study.

I'll keep fighting for the transit YOU deserve.

US SERVICE ACADEMY INFORMATION SESSION

At West Point I learned how to live a life grounded in duty, honor, and country.

Nominating the next generation of leaders is an incredible privilege.

To learn more about the service academy application process, join my information session Sept. 19th from 11am-2pm.

If you're interested in finding YOUR path to service, reach out to my office!

SIGN UP FOR MY AMERICA 250 ESSAY CONTEST!

Our community was on the forefront of American independence 250 years ago, and that revolutionary spirit lives on today - especially in our next generation of leaders.

That's why I'm so excited to launch my America 250 Essay Contest, and hear from the exceptional young people of the Hudson Valley.

The Hudson Valley has a profoundly rich history of Patriotism and service to this great country.

As we celebrate the first 250 years of American history, we must also look forward to the next 250.

This Independence Day, it's important to remember what unites us: our kids, our community, and the country that we love.

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

If you need help with Medicare, getting your IRS tax return, and more, Join my team at one of August's CARES Van events for one-on-one assistance with federal programs.

If you need help navigating a federal agency, but can't join an event, please call my team at (845) 443-2930.

SIGN UP FOR MY SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

Summer reading keeps kids curious, confident, and connected - it's how we make sure every child comes back to school ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

I am consistently so impressed with Hudson Valley students, and I think My Summer Reading Challenge is a great way to recognize them and their commitment to education. So, whether you're enjoying the nice weather in one of our beautiful parks or making a splash at a Hudson Valley pool this summer vacation, make sure you bring a book!

Students who want to participate should fill out the form linked below. Participating K-8 students who read five or more books between June 23rd and August 31st will receive a Congressional Certificate of Achievement.

Sign up for my Summer Reading Challenge:
<https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-ryan-launches-second-annual-summer-reading-challenge-hudson-valley> (Contd. Pg. 60)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 59)**GRANTS CORNER****Featured Funding Opportunities**

Charge Ready NY - Large Public Sector Project Program
This funding opportunity, administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), provides funding to public sector entities including New York State agencies and authorities, local governments and state or city university systems, to install Level 2 charging stations on publicly-owned land for use by the general public. Selected projects will be awarded a minimum of \$1 million and a maximum of \$15 million to install electric vehicle chargers at one or more sites.

Proposers may request up to 80 percent of eligible documented purchase and installation costs of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). Proposers must also work with original equipment manufacturers, white-labeled models and network service providers approved by NYSERDA through RFQL 5312: Charge Ready NY 2.0 Equipment and Network Qualification Process to be eligible for and receive funding.

Proposals are due on October 20, 2026, 3:00 p.m. ET. A complete list of all eligibility rules and evaluation criteria can be found at the solicitation summary on NYSERDA's website .

NYSERDA will host a webinar on September 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m. ET to provide more details on the solicitation, project requirements and the application process.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The NYS Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is the largest residential energy conservation program in the country. NYS WAP assists income-eligible homeowners and some renters* in our state by reducing heating and cooling costs through energy-conservation measures, while also addressing health and safety issues in their homes.

Households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income are eligible for assistance. Program services are available to both homeowners and renters, with priority given to senior citizens, families with children, and people with disabilities.

If a household contains a member who receives Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits or certain other forms of public assistance, the household is automatically eligible for NYS WAP services. Applications are accepted from renters, homeowners, and rental property owners. Potential program participants apply by contacting the WAP provider that serves their area.

HFFI Food Access and Retail Expansion Fund (HFFI FARE Fund)

The HFFI FARE Fund is a program under America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a program of USDA Rural Development.

The HFFI FARE Fund will fund projects that create or expand the following types of business models:

SNAP Authorized food retailers located in eligible underserved areas that will sell an assortment of Staple and Perishable foods directly to consumers

Post-harvest food retail supply chain enterprises that will distribute Staple and Perishable foods to SNAP authorized

food retailers located in eligible underserved areas

Funding Levels:

Grants from \$20,000 - \$250,000 for planning and implementation projects

Technical Assistance up to \$75,000 per project for early-stage planning, predevelopment, and business assistance contractual soft costs

If invited to submit, full applications are due no later than 11:59 PM ET, October 30, 2026. Award notifications will be made no earlier than January 2027.

New York Providing Local Access to Essential Sustenance (NY PLATES) Capital Grant Program

Last week, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that funding is available from the new \$10 million NY PLATES Capital Grant Program. This funding will support food banks and other organizations that provide emergency food assistance in building the modern facilities, equipment, and infrastructure needed to serve more families across the state.

The application period for the NY PLATES capital grant program will open on July 8, 2026, and applications must be submitted by August 20, 2026. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than October 20, 2026.

National Park Service: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program

The ORLP Program supports the creation and improvement of local parks and outdoor recreation spaces in qualifying urban areas of 25,000+ residents or in areas administered by Federally recognized Tribes.

ORLP funds: Land acquisition, New Park development; and Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. Awards range from \$300,000 to \$15 million.

Applications are due to NPS each year by November 1 at 11:59 PM ET.

The Trust for Public Land is working in partnership with the NPS to launch a new, no cost ORLP Technical Assistance Program. In 2026, TPL will provide potential applicants with:

ORLP application support webinar series

One-on-one ORLP applicant support

Self-serve resources for ORLP applicants

Additional Resources**Hudson Valley Regional Council Grants Guide**

Each month, the Hudson Valley Regional Council publishes its Grants Guide focused on federal, state, and local funding opportunities related to economic development, water, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability. Each grant listing features the deadline, eligibility, and a short description including the amounts municipalities are eligible to apply for and any required match. To subscribe to the grants guide, please email elaferriere@hudsonvalleyrc.org .

If you want to stay up-to-date on all of that my office is doing, I encourage you to follow along on our social media channels: Facebook and Twitter .

Please remember that my office is always here to help if you have a question or need assistance. You can reach us using the contact information above and below and we will do everything we can to connect you with the resources you need.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!



Releasing My 2026 Border Security Plan to Protect Americans and Uphold the Rule of Law

Securing our borders and enforcing our immigration laws are among the most basic responsibilities of the federal government. Having visited both our Northern and Southern Borders and spoken directly with the men and women on the front lines, I released my 2026 Border Security Plan to build on the progress President Trump and Border Czar Tom Homan have made restoring order to our immigration system. My plan prioritizes giving Border Patrol and ICE the personnel, technology, and resources needed to combat illegal immigration, fentanyl and human trafficking, while strengthening Northern Border security and holding criminal illegal aliens accountable. Our immigration system must put American citizens and legal residents first, uphold the rule of law, and keep dangerous criminals and illicit drugs out of our communities.

To view my full 2026 Border Security Plan, click here.
<https://tenney.house.gov/issues/border-security-plan>

Releasing My 2026 Law Enforcement Plan to Support Police and Keep Communities Safe

Every day, law enforcement officers across our country put on the uniform knowing they may be called into harm's way to protect someone else. My 2026 Law Enforcement Plan is focused on standing behind these courageous men and women by ensuring they have the resources, legal protections, and modern tools necessary to do their jobs safely and effectively. It also advances stronger cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement, protections for officers exposed to dangerous substances such as fentanyl, and policies that hold violent criminals accountable. The officers who dedicate their lives to protecting our families and neighborhoods deserve to know that their government stands firmly behind them.

To view my full 2026 Law Enforcement Plan, click here.
<https://tenney.house.gov/issues/law-enforcement-plan>

Leading Bipartisan Letter Urging DHS to Protect Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Houses of worship and nonprofit organizations facing targeted threats deserve certainty that the resources available to protect their communities will be there when they need them. I joined Congressman Brad Schneider in leading a bipartisan letter urging the Department of Homeland Security to clarify and revise guidance for the Nonprofit

Security Grant Program, which helps eligible organizations make critical security improvements such as surveillance cameras and access control systems. Our letter encourages DHS to ensure organizations can confidently plan and invest in these projects knowing that approved security improvements will receive the support they expect. As threats against houses of worship and community organizations continue to rise, maintaining a strong and reliable program is essential to keeping congregations, employees, and communities safe.

Read the full letter here.

<https://tenney.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/tenney.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/schneider-tenney-nsgp-letter.pdf>

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

H.R. 3137, the Biodiesel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2025: This bill would extend federal tax credits for biodiesel, renewable diesel, and certain second-generation biofuels through 2026. Supporting domestic biofuel production strengthens American energy security while providing important markets for farmers and agricultural producers. This legislation provides certainty for biofuel producers, supports rural economies, and encourages continued investment in American-made energy.

H.R. 3037, the Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis Act of 2025: This bill would eliminate out-of-pocket cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations covered by group and individual health insurance plans. Specifically, it would prohibit deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance for medically necessary diagnostic mammograms, breast MRIs, ultrasounds, and other supplemental examinations used to investigate abnormalities or screen individuals at increased risk for breast cancer. Removing financial barriers to follow-up testing can help patients receive timely diagnoses and begin treatment sooner when breast cancer is detected. This legislation helps improve access to potentially lifesaving breast cancer screening and diagnostic services while reducing the financial burden on patients and families.

H.R. 1513, the Unplug the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Program Act: This bill would repeal federal programs that use taxpayer dollars to subsidize electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Federal transportation policy should prioritize responsible use of taxpayer dollars rather than subsidizing energy resources for one type of vehicle. This legislation helps rein in unnecessary federal spending, bring parity to all vehicle types, reduce government intervention in the vehicle market, and ensure transportation investments are driven by the needs of American motorists and communities.



No bonuses for Utility CEOs

Big news: my bill to ban bonuses for utility CEOs is gaining momentum in the Senate.

As Upstate New Yorkers are cutting back on groceries and school clothes just to keep the lights on, they're watching utility executives walk off with massive payouts. That's completely backwards. I introduced the No Bonuses for Utility Executives Act to fix this broken system and stop utility companies from rewarding their CEOs while ratepayers get crushed.

I'm excited to work with Senator Hawley and Senator Blumenthal to get this legislation across the finish line and put more money back in your pockets.

A federal proposal sponsored by Rep. Josh Riley that would restrict executive bonuses at certain electric utilities when customer rates outpace inflation has gained a bipartisan companion measure in the Senate, a development Riley says would benefit ratepayers in New York State.

Sens. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, and Josh Hawley, a Missouri Republican, introduced the Senate proposal last week, according to Riley's office. Riley introduced the House version, H.R. 6590, in December with Republican Rep. Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey.

The No Bonuses for Utility Executives Act would prohibit executive bonuses at utilities that increase customer rates by more than the annual inflation rate. When rate increases remain at or below inflation, executive bonuses would be capped at 25% of the median compensation earned by nonexecutive employees. Utilities would report rates and pay data

Covered utilities would have one week after the end of their fiscal year to report their average percentage increase in customer rates and the median compensation of nonexecutive employees to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC would then have one month to decide whether executive bonuses were allowed and, if so, determine the maximum permitted amount.

If a utility violated the proposed restrictions, its entire executive bonus pool would be forfeited to the Internal Revenue Service. The bill directs the IRS to return that money to customers through stimulus payments.

Sponsors point to rising utility costs

Riley said Upstate New York residents have told him that rising utility bills are forcing them to cut spending elsewhere while utility executives continue to receive increased compensation. He said the bill would prevent companies from awarding bonuses while ratepayers face increases above inflation.

Blumenthal cited a proposed 18% increase by Eversource in Connecticut and said utilities should not reward executives while customers face higher costs. Hawley said the legislation would bar bonuses for executives who benefit while electricity costs rise.

Riley's office also cited an Energy and Policy Institute report that said investor-owned utilities paid their chief executives more than \$626 million last year. The release did not provide a break-

down of that figure by company or state.

Proposal follows other utility measures

Riley's office said the bill is part of a broader effort focused on utility costs. He introduced the Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act in February 2025 to support household energy-efficiency work and the Keep the Lights Local Act in September 2025 to prohibit foreign corporations and governments from owning U.S. utility companies.

In April 2026, Riley introduced the No Taxes on Utility Bills Act, which would allow taxpayers to deduct taxes and state-mandated surcharges included on gas and electric bills, and the Lowering Utility Bills Act, which his office said targets utility overcharges.

He introduced the FAIR Data Act in July 2026 to address utility costs associated with data center projects. Riley's office also said he participated as an intervener in Central Hudson and NYSEG rate cases during 2025 and 2026.

The release did not identify a committee timetable or a date for further action on either version of the executive bonus bill.

REPAIR THE DAM, REFILL THE RESERVOIR

Last weekend, I heard what the Toronto Reservoir drawdown is costing Bethel: grandparents can't take their grandkids swimming, sportsmen can't fish close to home, first responders worry about having water to fight a fire, and the town faces a huge loss in tax revenue.

Telling Bethel to wait until 2030 is unacceptable. Apollo has the resources. FERC has the authority. I am demanding, in writing, firm dates to repair the dam and refill the reservoir. Bethel has waited long enough.

I met with upstate New Yorkers

15 years ago, a group of vets in Owego came together with a simple mission: to raise money to help their fellow veterans transition to civilian life. Out of this small network, they created STVSG - which now serves 14 counties across the Southern Tier, connecting folks with financial resources, VA services, and community.

At a time when politics too often brings out the worst in people, it was great to be with folks focused on bringing out the best. Congratulations on 15 years and here's to many more!

It was great to bring local leaders together to hear directly about the priorities and challenges facing people with disabilities across NY-19.

I'm grateful for the thoughtful conversation and for the advocates and community members who shared their experiences. I'll keep working to make our communities more accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of every person who calls them home.

There are few things more Broome County than a spiedie.

As an Endicott native, I was honored to serve as a judge at this year's Spiedie Fest cook-off. Great food, friendly competition, and a whole lot of hometown pride. I had a blast celebrating one of the traditions that makes this place special.

As always, to stay up to date with the work I'm doing, follow along on my official social media pages at @RepRileyNY on X, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. If there's anything my team or I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude and high hopes,

Josh Riley



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Here's what she's been up to this week:

1. Demanding an end to the war in Iran

As Americans struggle to fill up their gas tanks, pay their soaring utility bills, and put food on the table, President Trump is spending billions of taxpayer dollars dropping bombs overseas. Now, with no peace deal in sight and no objectives achieved, President Trump is threatening to prolong the war with Iran even further by bombing Oman.

This has to stop. This week, Kirsten continued to demand an end to this reckless war. She is doing everything she can rein in President Trump's cost-increasing chaos and provide relief for American families.

2. Fighting for troops on the USS Abraham Lincoln

After reports of dismal conditions for sailors on the USS Abraham Lincoln—a Navy aircraft carrier stationed in the Middle East to support President Trump's war

with Iran—Kirsten demanded accountability and relief for American service members.

Following pressure from Kirsten and her colleagues, the USS Abraham Lincoln was sent home, providing the prospect of much-needed relief for the 5,000 sailors and Marines on the ship. Kirsten will continue pressing for hearings and accountability to ensure that American service members are protected in future military operations.

3. Assisting New Yorkers with federal agencies

This week, Kirsten's mobile casework program, Senate at Your Stop, continued making the rounds in New York City.

If you need help with Social Security, VA benefits, an immigration case, or any federal agency, keep an eye out for when Senate at Your Stop is coming to your neighborhood, or visit Kirsten's website for assistance.

4. Helping federal workers get their retirement benefits

A Suffolk County constituent and former federal employee contacted Kirsten's office following nearly a year of delay in receiving her retirement package.

After Kirsten's team contacted the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on the constituent's behalf, the constituent's retirement package was finalized and she received a retroactive payment of over \$15,000.



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Olive Free Library is Certified Sustainable *The Sustainable Libraries Initiative recognizes Olive Free Library as a leader in sustainability*

Suffolk County, NY -August 24, 2026 - Olive Free Library located in West Shokan, New York has been designated as a Certified Sustainable Library through the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP). With this recognition, Olive Free Library becomes the thirty-sixth public library to earn Sustainable Library Certification through the SLCP: an award-winning benchmarking system and community of practice designed to provide public libraries, academic libraries, library systems, and school librarians with exclusive resources and guidelines to shift towards a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future.

"The Olive Free Library is incredibly proud to receive Sustainable Library Certification, which recognizes the commitment and efforts of our staff and Board and our shared dedication to building a more sustainable and resilient future," said Melissa McHugh, Library Director. "This achievement is not simply about the practices we have put in place within the library-it reflects our responsibility to serve as a leader, partner, and resource for our community. We look forward to building on this accomplishment and finding new ways to make sustainability an integral part of how we serve our patrons and the community."

McHugh became the director of Olive Free Library in 2023 and took on the SLCP as one of her first big projects. Since then, she's led her dedicated team through a number of sustainability initiatives such as the installa-

tion of an indoor beehive, partnerships with local business to provide gift cards for summer reading giveaways, and annual petitions for a vote on the municipal ballot to increase library funding and reduce reliance on grants. In 2025, the library opened a satellite branch on the local bus route, and opposite side of the reservoir dividing the town, to improve the accessibility of library services. About 90% of the collection in the library's new branch was sourced from the main branch or purchased from other library book sales.

"Cheers to the Olive Free Library for the purposeful work that led to this achievement. It was rewarding to support the library during this process. I'm eager to see them carry this momentum forward and continue making a meaningful impact in their community," said Laura

Crisci, the library's SLI mentor and the Sustainability Coordinator at the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Maintaining their commitment to sustainability moving forward, library staff plan to develop a pollinator garden for the library, continue the removal of invasive species, and further collaborate with the town and other



Melissa McHugh, Carla Field, David Edinger, Peggy Berk, and Dianna Charchidi

local organizations for community events.

For more information, view Olive Free Library's final presentation or reach out to SLI Staff at sliadmin@suffolknet.org.

About the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is a member-driven organization that empowers library professionals to be leaders in triple-bottom-line sustainability (environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility) both within their organizations and in their communities. The Sustainable Library Certification Program is now enrolling public and academic libraries, library systems, and school librarians.

State Pension Fund Valued at \$309.7 Billion

Comptroller DiNapoli announced that the estimated value of the New York State Common Retirement Fund was \$309.7 billion at the end of the first quarter of State Fiscal Year 2026-27, with Fund investments returning an estimated 6.12% for the quarter.

Comptroller DiNapoli noted the Fund returned another strong quarter despite several factors including persistent inflation, higher energy prices, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts. The Fund's disciplined investment strategy is focused on diversification, responsible risk management, and long-term stability, to achieve the Fund's purpose of protecting the retirement security of New York's public workers, retirees, and their families.

The estimated value of the New York State Common Retirement Fund (Fund) was \$309.7 billion at the end of the first quarter of State Fiscal Year 2026-27, New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli announced today. Fund investments returned an estimated 6.12% for the quarter.

"The New York State Common Retirement Fund returned another strong quarter despite a host of factors including persistent inflation, higher energy prices, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts," DiNapoli said. "Our disciplined investment strategy is focused on diversification, responsible risk management, and long-term stability so that we achieve the Fund's purpose of protecting the retirement security of our public workers, retirees, and their families."

The Fund's estimated value was \$295.4 billion as of March 31, 2026, the end of the state's fiscal year. As of March 31, 2026, the Fund had 39.4% of its assets invested in publicly traded equities. The remaining Fund assets by allocation are invested in cash, bonds, and mortgages (22.9%), private equity (14.3%), real estate and real assets (14.3%), and credit, absolute return strategies, and opportunistic alternatives (9.1%).

The Fund's long-term expected rate of return is 5.9%.

DiNapoli's management of the Fund has received praise from two independent reviews released in 2026. First, a statutorily required fiduciary and conflict of interest review of the Fund released in January recognized the Fund for its exemplary investment oversight, risk management, and ethical governance. This review, conducted by Weaver and Tidwell LLP and required by state regulations, is part of the reforms that DiNapoli fought for when he became State Comptroller to provide the public with a clear, independent assessment of how the Fund is being managed and where improvements could be made.

Weaver's review found:

- o The Fund operates under a strong governance framework with a rigorous system of internal controls and maintains a high level of operational transparency.
- o DiNapoli manages the Fund with the highest ethical, professional, and conflict of interest standards, and acts for the sole benefit of the retirement system's members and beneficiaries.
- o The Fund has a great deal of focus on the fees applied to each individual deal and whether the proposed fees fall within prevailing market norms.
- o The Fund demonstrates a strategic asset allocation between public and private markets that closely aligns with its peer group.
- o Fund staff are knowledgeable and dedicated and manage the Fund in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

The fiduciary review highlights that the Fund's high-funded status and conservative assumed rate of return put it in a stronger financial position to meet long-term obligations than its peers and is able to weather market volatility. The funded status was 96.8% as of March 31, 2026.

The second review was conducted separately by the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), the regulator of the Fund and the New York State and Local Retirement System. This review found the investment and risk teams are performing their duties professionally and competently while safeguarding the retirement security of the state pension fund's members.

DFS' review found:

- o Total fund performance versus benchmarks over 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods "has been very good," and it highlights the pension fund's consistently healthy funded ratio as evidence of a well-managed portfolio and low risk to pensioners.
- o No concerns "that the level of investment fees and expenses is excessive or about the diligence conducted in monitoring them and assuring accuracy."

After conducting numerous interviews and comprehensively examining risk reports, guidelines, asset allocation, asset-liabilities studies, liquidity management, investment due diligence and various other areas, DFS concluded "the NYSCRF investment and risk teams are professional and competent, and they take their fiduciary responsibilities of loyalty, care, and prudence seriously." DFS determined the consistency of a very healthy funded ratio over a 10-year period is indicative of a well-managed investment portfolio.

DiNapoli initiated quarterly performance reporting by the Fund in 2009 as part of his ongoing efforts to increase accountability and transparency.



Our Spring Open Garden Days wrapped up on June 10th, and we loved sharing the gardens with old friends and many new ones. Thank you for helping spread the word about native plants, and we hope you'll add more of them to your own gardens.

Our Open Garden Days for Summer 2026 will be July 24-26; August 1-3, 21-24 and 28-31; and September 5, 7 and 15. All tours are by appointment.

Reserve your tour now by email at flyingtrillium@gmail.com. Visit Flying Trillium's website for more information.

<https://www.flyingtrillium.com/> Flying Trillium is located near the Neversink Reservoir in Sullivan County, New York.



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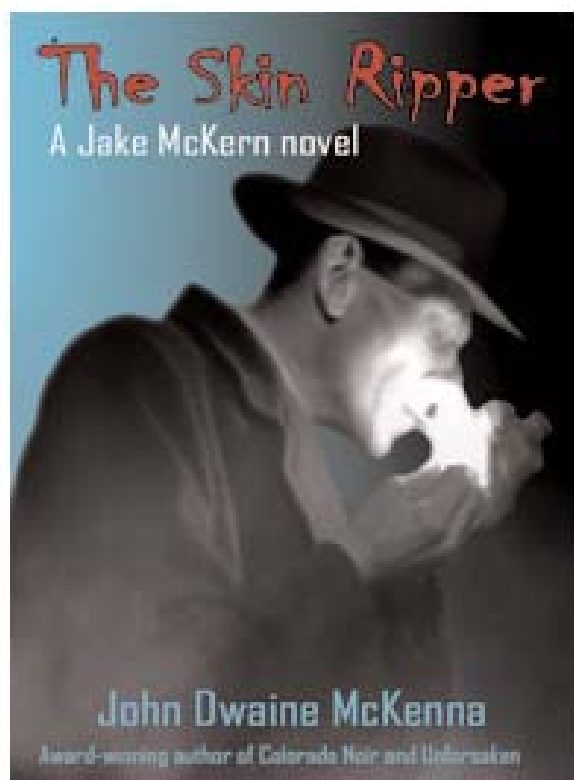
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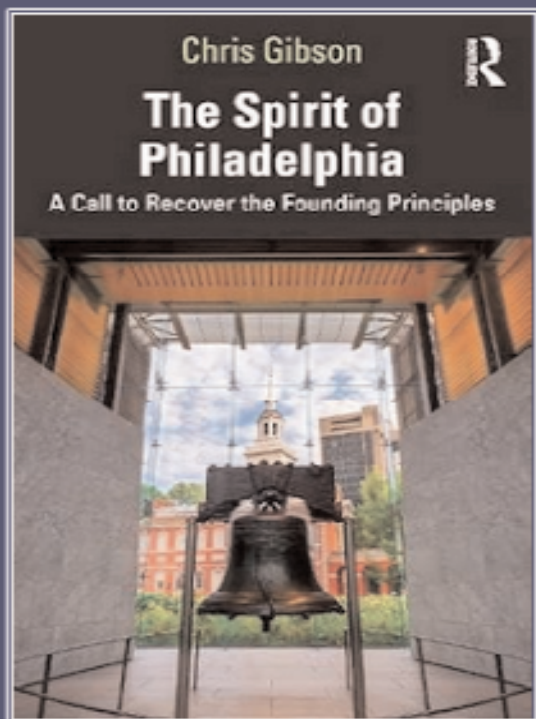
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The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

Rediscover the common ground
of common sense through the
wisdom of our founding principles.

[TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com](https://www.thespiritofphiladelphia.com)

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

I hope your summer has gone well. I'm reaching back out to you to share the news that our website has been refreshed and updated. It now features four new essays on the Founding era recently published by the Hoover Institution of Stanford University as we look forward next year to celebrating our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. One of those essays is on the significance of the Battle of Saratoga, which proved to be a turning point in the Revolutionary War. You can now read those essays for free on our website here.

<https://www.thespiritofphiladelphia.com/events>

We've also added links to some of our recent TV, radio and podcast appearances, relevant media coverage, and an updated listing of upcoming events (all of these can be found on the "media & events" page). All of the new items are marked with a green "NEW" banner. We've also updated the "what people are saying" section of the home page to include several new endorsements of the book by Americans from across the ideological spectrum.

As always, I'd welcome your thoughts and feedback on any of these items and/or your reactions to my new book. You can reach me by sending an email message from the "contact us" page on the website.

Finally, I hope you are enjoying the beautiful color as our leaves change across the region and country - it's shaping up to be a beautiful fall!

Sincerely yours,
Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson

Soldier



Scholar



Statesman



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JOIN US!

Join us for a peer led, mental health, lesson based virtual support group for teens ages 13-17. Together we learn about our mental health and do an activity together. This group is completely free to join, and all supplies for the activity will be sent to your home. Space is limited for each group!

Contact Rebekah at rumarbashar@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD
WEDNESDAY
@ 6:30 PM





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EVERY 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAY
@ 6:30 PM





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Give us a call or send us a text and
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can be reached.**



Governor Hochul Extends Invitation to Canadian Travelers to Visit NYS

New I LOVE NY Promotion Highlights Savings to Canadian Visitors

Governor Kathy Hochul today extended a special invitation to Canadian travelers by announcing the launch of a NY LOVES CANADA promotion on the I LOVE NY website. This program highlights to Canadian travelers deals and opportunities throughout the state available to visitors during the final weeks of summer in August and September, with some promotions running through December. Savings vary by attraction or lodging, with several offering discounts to encourage travel and offset the currency exchange rate. Canadian visitation to New York State fell more than 26% in 2025. This promotion represents the latest in I LOVE NY's continued efforts to promote cross-border tourism to New York State's dynamic and diverse vacation regions.

"Canada is a strategic and vital ally to New York, and the state's tourism businesses are feeling the impact of fewer visitors traveling to our communities," Governor Hochul said. "Our message is one of love: New York loves Canada, despite whatever headwinds may challenge our fellowship. This new program is our invitation to Canadian travelers. New York and Canada are neighbors by geographic destiny, but we are friends by choice, and we want our Canadian companions to know that they are welcome in New York State."

Canada has long represented New York State's largest inbound international market for travelers. In 2025, overall visitation to New York State grew 1.1% to 321 million visitors - however, the number of international travelers fell 6%, led by significant decreases from

north of the border. Spending from Canadian travelers dropped 28% over 2024. Full statewide and regional tourism reports for 2025 are available here.

The NY LOVES CANADA promotion complements the Northern Neighbour Deal from New York City Tourism + Conventions, highlighting offers at hotels, attractions, dining and Broadway shows throughout the City. Businesses and attractions in New York State interested in participating in NY LOVES CANADA are encouraged to contact their regional Tourism Promotion Agency.

ESD Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "New York State is always eager to welcome its friends from north of the border and these special discounts provide additional reasons for Canadian travelers to extend their summer and kick off Fall holidays with the amazing attractions, spectacular lodging and delicious dining available here in the Empire State. From Niagara Falls to the Thousand Islands, to the Adirondacks and all the way down to the Big Apple, there is everything to love for Canadian visitors across New York State."

NY LOVES CANADA furthers New York State's outreach to Canadian travelers and businesses, which are vitally important to regions throughout the state - but especially those along the border. I LOVE NY has continually worked to ensure that the state's northern neighbors understand that New York appreciates and respects the shared history and close relationship. Efforts include targeted marketing, experiential opportunities, digital and social media outreach and a Global NY trade mission to Montreal and Toronto last fall.

For more information on a New York State getaway, visit www.iloveny.com

Neversink River

CRAFT CO-OP

WHERE:

2554 FROST VALLEY RD.
CLARYVILLE, NY

October 10 & 11

HOURS:

10am - 5pm

HOURS:

10am - 5pm

For more information, call 845-985-2016

The Neversink River Craft Co-op is showing new work throughout the summer and fall.

Visit, relax, meet the artists, and shop for pottery, wooden bowls, cutting boards, jewelry, paintings, photography, and more!



DIRECTIONS: From Napanoch or Liberty, take Rt. 55 to Grahamsville. Turn up Claryville Road. Just past the church in Claryville, turn left on Frost Valley Road and continue for four miles until you see our sign!

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Summer Challenge 2026

Reading Logs

Children Ages 0-5 Years and 6-11 Years

Read all summer, log the number of books and minutes read to receive prizes!

"Tweens". Teens and Adults

Log the number of books and minutes read and for every 4 books you read you will be entered into our SRP drawing!

Book BINGO

Book BINGO: Ages 6 - 11 years, "Tweens" Grades 5-8, Teens Grades 9-12 and Adults.

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Print out reading logs & BINGO cards from the DPL website

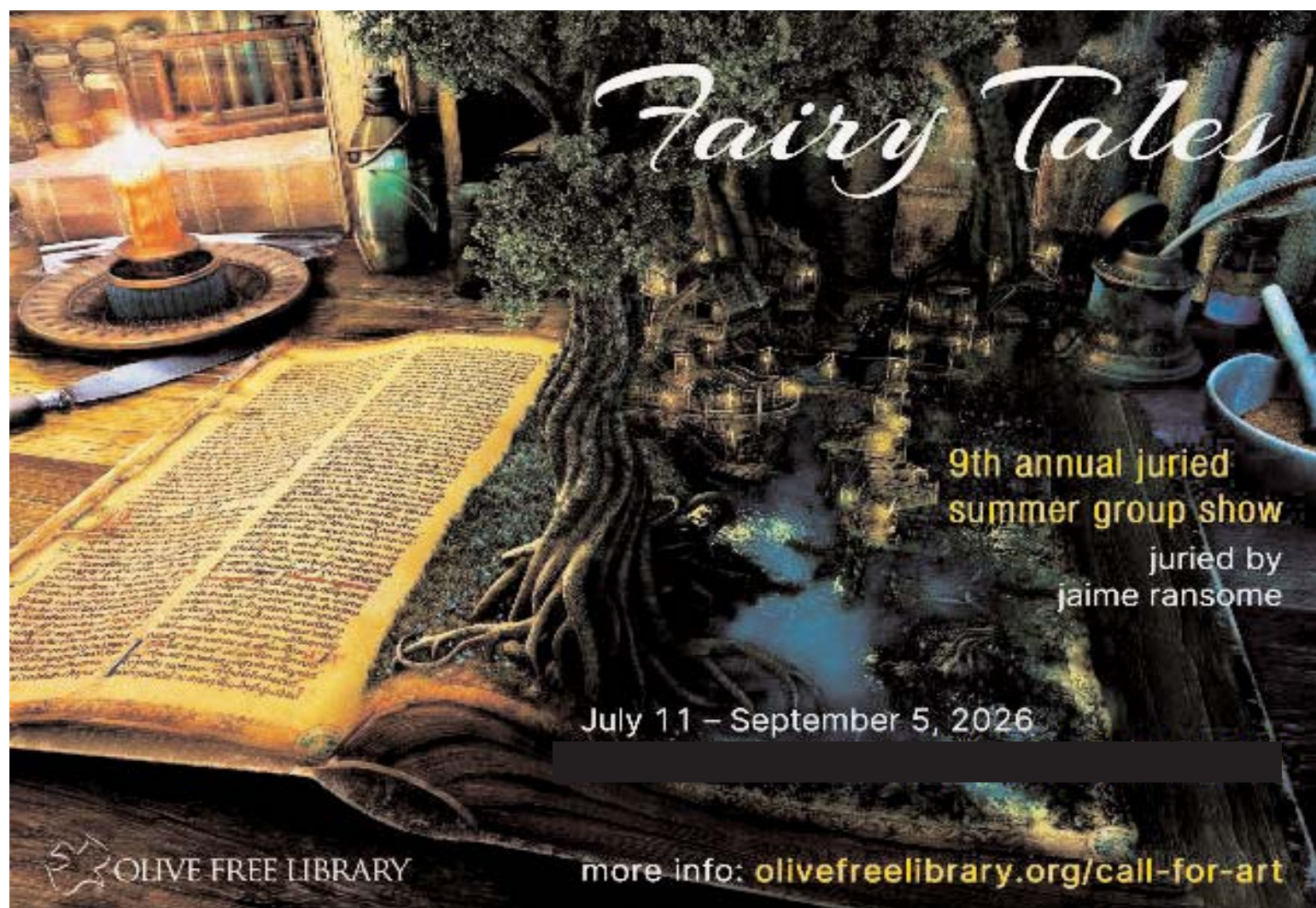
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July 11 – September 5, 2026

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OLIVE SENIORS

When: 2nd Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m.

Where: American Legion Hall*

What: Guest speakers covering topics like CPR, wildlife, Ashokan Reservoir, etc. & visits from local vendors like the Catskill Visitor Center and Fruition Chocolate

Shuffleboard: meets January-May every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon**

* 26-28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY, handicap accessible, bathrooms on site

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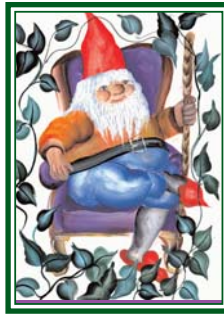


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**KNARF'S
CLASSIC MOVIE**

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**Patriot
Games**

(1992 / Rated R / CC / 1 hr 56 min.)

The film, part of a series of films featuring **Tom Clancy's** character, **Jack Ryan**. When Ryan interferes with an IRA assassination a renegade faction targets him and his family for revenge.

Harrison Ford stars as Jack Ryan and **Anne Archer** as his



wife. **James Earl Jones** reprises his role as Admiral James Greer.

Directed by: Phillip Noyce, Starring: Harrison Ford, Anne Archer, Patrick Bergin, and Sean Bean.

**Answer to last week's Knarf's Trivia Question:**

False. The did however, star together in *Hellcats of the Navy*.

This weeks' Trivia question: What is Jack Nicholson's problem in *As Good as it Gets*?