

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 22 NO. 50 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 11, 2025

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 7

Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia - Page 71

Tri-Valley Lions Holiday Donations



Tri-Valley Lions Holiday Party on December 1, 2025 at Liberty Diner.

As mentioned in the December 1, 2025, Townsman, the Tri-Valley Lions had their Holiday Party at the Liberty Diner. It was quite a festive celebration and as always, the food was amazing. It has become tradition for The Tri-Valley Lions to donate to local food pantries around Thanksgiving time, and the November 27, 2025, Townsman detailed the Ulster Heights Methodist Church Food Pantry and how our monetary donations helped with feeding 146 families. We also donated to 3 other food pantries at the same time. (Contd. Pg. 5)

SCCO Presents: *The Toy Symphony*



Members of the Nesin Cultural Arts Aspiring Young Musicians will perform "Toy Symphony" with the Sullivan County Chamber Orchestra. (Contd. Pg. 3)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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of Frank Comando

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. Matthew 2: 22-23

OBITUARY

Dr. Louis 'Lou' Phillip Rodrigues
January 8, 1934 - Nov. 24, 2025

Our beloved father, Doctor Louis 'Lou'



Phillip Rodrigues, became one of God's angels at 12:22 a.m., on Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, at age 91, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, South

Carolina, surrounded by his loving family.

Dr. Rodrigues was born on January 8, 1934, in New York City, to his late beloved parents, Joaquim Rodrigues and Mary Milgrim Rodrigues. He had fond memories growing up on Thompson Street, in Greenwich Village, New York. He spent quite a bit of his time reading in libraries and taking long bike rides upstate. Both of his parents were photographers and artists. He too, as well as his younger sister Brenda, took a liking to art – later on painting beautiful watercolors, oil paintings and enamels.

He went through many years of medical schooling and training to become the doctor that many knew him as, beginning with City College in New York City in 1951, where he ultimately received his Bachelor of Science in 1955. He graduated with honors in Biology Phi Beta Kappa. When it came time to go to medical school, Dr. Rodrigues was one of the first ever recipients of the Salk Scholarship, so named after the developer of the first polio vaccine, Dr. Jonas E. Salk, and given to students who would "give more attention to health, not merely disease." In the State University of New York New York, State Medical School, he received his M.D. in 1959.

While attending Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Louis Rodrigues worked along with Dr. David Carver in the research and studies of the Rubella, as well as the development of the influenza type B vaccine with Dr. John Robbins. He was an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College from 1967 to 1970. At the age of 27, Dr. Rodrigues met the love of his life and future wife, Carmen Gloria Valentin de Gonzalez, when the two locked eyes in the cafeteria at Long Island College Hospital, where they were going through medical school and nursing school, respectively. In their first conversation, Carmen Gloria mistakenly assumed he spoke Spanish ... and the rest was history as the

two began a life of adventure, memories, and more than a little laughter.

Dr. Rodrigues served in the US Army as an Assistant Surgeon from 1961 to 1962 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His assignment was T.B. Chemoprophylaxis Research as well as The Peace Corps Training Center from July 1962 to June 1963 with Honorable Discharge.

Dr. and Mrs. Rodrigues opened a pediatric practice in 1970 and spent 55 beautiful years together in the Catskill Mountains of Monticello, New York, where they worked as partners and raised their children. Over the course of more than 40 years, the pair devoted their lives to helping others and providing specialty medical services to over a thousand patients. He worked as the School Physician in Sullivan County New York at: Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, Fallsburgh; Duggan School, White Lake; Hebrew Day School, Kiamasha; and the Middle School, Monticello in the 1970's through the 1980's. He was the Medical Director at the Delaware Valley Job Corps in Callicoon from 1979 to 1991, where he dedicated himself with compassion for his patients. Dr. Rodrigues also served on multiple advisory boards and community committees in Sullivan County over the course of his career, and continuously sought to further the medical profession as a consultant and professor. One of his most treasured roles was as Medical Director at the Center of Discovery in Sullivan County, where he worked along with Mr. Patrick Dollard. They first opened in 1979, helping children and young adults with complex developmental conditions and disabilities.

Throughout his life and career, Dr. Rodrigues saved many lives and provided specialized care to countless children. His patients and community loved him like their own father. When it came time to retire, Dr. Rodrigues didn't want to because he just wanted to go on helping his patients live their best, healthiest lives.

Throughout the years, he made time for his children and grandchildren taking them on small vacations spending quality time with them. In God's perfect plan, Dr. and Mrs. Rodrigues came to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to visit their daughter in 2020, and made the decision to make their stay at the coast permanent. The pair spent four beautiful years together at the beach, enjoying many moments of sunshine and sea air with those they loved, until Mrs. Rodrigues passed in 2024. In all the time since, no matter what else he had on his mind, Carmen Gloria was never far from Dr. Rodrigues' thoughts-he loved her always. (Contd. Pg. 4)

SCCO Presents: *The Toy Symphony*

(From Pg. 1) Monticello, NY) Kick off the holiday season with the most joyful concert tradition in Sullivan County! The Sullivan County Chamber Orchestra proudly presents two sparkling performances of Edmund Angerer's beloved Toy Symphony. Sharing the stage will be the gifted young artists of the Nesin Cultural Arts Aspiring Young Musicians program, adding their own brilliance to this heartwarming afternoon of seasonal music. There are two performances not to be missed: Saturday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John St., Monticello, NY. The second performance is Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the Landfield Avenue Synagogue, 18 Landfield Ave., Monticello. Admission is a suggested \$5 minimum donation and includes your very own toy instrument so you can join the orchestra in the grand finale. Tickets will be available at the door.

Toy Symphony is a delightful late 18th century gem originally attributed to Haydn and later to Leopold Mozart. But now it is confidently credited to Edmund Angerer, an Austrian Benedictine monk and violinist born in 1740. Written around 1780, this playful three-movement work replaces half the orchestra with an enchanting array of toy instruments: cuckoos, nightingales, trumpets, drums, rattles, and triangle. It is pure musical mischief designed to bring smiles to faces of all ages. Bring your family, your friends, and all your holiday spirit. December 13th and 14th will be the most heartwarming, toe-tapping and unforgettable weekends of the season!

Both venues will also collect new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items to help local families in need. Remain after the concert on the 13th to browse the Holiday Market for unique Christmas gifts. Continue the celebration with a festive First Night of Hanukkah Dinner on the 14th immediately following the performance (\$25 per person with generous discounts for tables of four or more, reserve through the synagogue).

This program is made possible in part by funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathleen Courtney Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Sullivan County Youth Bureau, Episcopal Charities and the Associated Chamber Music Players.

DAYS OF YORE....Today's History

November 29, 1950

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Distel of Ulster Heights have twin daughters, Kathleen and Karen, born Wednesday at the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Ellenville.

Successful deer hunters in this area include Roger Ackerley, Albert Rose, Ray Krum, Floyd Ackerley, Claude DePew, Theron Hasbrouck, Al Sherman, Walter Oberti. Elwood Velie brought home a bear.

November 23, 1960

A new 50-star flag was presented to the Neversink firemen at their meeting Monday evening. The flag was sent to Archie Dean Sr. with a letter from Congresswoman Katherine St. George. The flag came from Washington and had flown one day at the State Capitol.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Hasbrouck of Troy, N.Y. are the proud parents of a daughter, Janet Lee, born November 16th. She is the second great-granddaughter for Mr. and Mr. John Knight.

(Contd. Pg. 4)

Household Hint:

Candles Will Burn Longer with this Tip

Placing candles in the freezer for three hours before burning helps them last longer.

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

Bring Out the Holly

Its beginning to look a little like Christmas as neighbors begin decorating and getting into the holiday mood, perhaps adding a little holly to a wreath or garland.

Long, long before we went to the store to buy some silk holly for our annual Christmas décor, or planted ornamental holly in the garden holly was considered to be a sacred plant by some primitive cultures.

But even before that, holly had an interesting historical process responsible for the wide geographic distribution of genealogical lineages and cultural myths which is quite impressive. Ancestors of this group became isolated from the remaining Ilex (Holm Oak; family that includes holly) when the Earth mass broke away into the supermassive continents of Gondwana (present day South America, Africa, Arabia, Madagascar, India, Australia and Antarctica) and Laurasia (present day North America, Europe and Asia) about 82 million years ago, resulting in a physical separation of the groups and beginning a process of change of the Laurel Forests and Ilex to adapt to new conditions just waiting for humans to intercept and integrate the plants into their own cultures and traditions.

Eons later, early Europeans used holly as ornamentation during their winter solstice celebrations that occurred in late December. In the northern hemisphere, it was the longest night of the year signifying the gradual lengthening of days and coming spring - a cause for celebration. In Norse mythology, holly was associated with Thor, god of thunder, and holly plants grown by the home were thought to prevent lightning strikes. Ancient Romans used holly as decorations during Saturnalia, a festival dedicated to Saturn, god of agriculture and husbandry. Holly's symbolism of the new season made it an appropriate and a colorful ornament for winter festivities.

Over time, many customs from pagan celebrations were incorporated by Christians into religious holidays.

As holly was a common part of the winter landscape, it provided a free and easy way for even the poorest of families to decorate their homes for the Christmas holidays.

Over time, as survivor species of the holly genus adapted to different ecological niches, we eventually had our very own Holly (Ilex Aquifolium) found primarily in North America, Europe and Asia, with hundreds of species of the plant ranging from short shrubs to tall trees. The most common species grown in America is the American holly that is mostly associated with our current Christmas festivities. This type of holly grows up to a height of 15 to 30 feet. The foliage is deep green and the leaves are small and pointed. They bear bright scarlet berries. The leaves, characterized by a waxy texture and serrated edges, are dioecious - having male and female reproductive structures found on separate plants. Both male (staminate) and female (pistillate) hollies bloom in May or June, yielding white flowers. But only the females can produce berries. In order for this production to occur, a male plant must be near a female plant for the process of pollination to take place. Insects, like bees, help cross-pollinate female hollies, transferring pollen from the male to the female plants.

Holly berries are toxic to humans, resulting in nausea and severe stomachaches when ingested. Not so for some animals. Holly berries are a vital source of food for birds such as thrushes and blackbirds.

Today, holly is still used in our celebration of modern Christmas and winter holidays. While belief in their mystical powers may have dissipated, our American Christmas holly is just as beautiful as its ancestors, 82 million years ago. Now that is incredible! I wonder if Harry Potter knew all this when he chose holly for his wand?



OBITUARY (From Pg. 2)

Dr. Louis 'Lou' Phillip Rodrigues

Dr. Rodrigues is survived by his son, Louis Joaquim Rodrigues, his daughter, Linda Elizabeth Alonso Rodrigues, and her fiancé, Dana Mercer, his daughter, Judith 'Judy' Marie Skordinski Rodrigues, his son-in-law, Joe Guarnaccia, sister, Brenda Epstein Rodrigues, his grandchildren, Dom Luis Rodrigues, Autumn Chelsee Rodrigues, Kyle Austin Skordinski, Lexi Marie Skordinski, Brian Forrest, and Lorenzo Guarnaccia; his great-grandsons, Emilio Jay Rodrigues and Nicholas Pesola and his nephew, Peter Epstein, his wife, Heather, and their two children, Elle Kemp and Anzel Epstein. Services were held November 29 at Burroughs Funeral Home in South Carolina.

Dr. Rodrigues leaves behind many devoted friends, former patients of Sullivan County, and a large, loving extended family and community. It was truly so special to read all the beautiful comments from many of his patients, and friends before the obituary was written on how our father touched so many lives and how kind, genuine and humble he was. It was his honor, dedication and compassion to help you all. Dad will be deeply missed and never forgotten by us all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing him to serve you.

Paul D. Muthig of Parksville, NY, a journeyman Ironworker with Iron Workers Local 417 in Wallkill, NY and a lifelong area resident, died Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at the Achieve Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility, Liberty, NY. He was 90.

The son of the late Jerome and Nellie Grant Muthig, he was born February 21, 1935, at the family farm in Aden.

Paul attended Tri-Valley School and enlisted in the US Marines in 1954, with an honorable discharge in 1957. He went on to earn his G.E.D. Paul worked on

many memorable jobs through his years in the Iron Workers Local 417 including the old Shea Stadium and Throggs Neck Bridge, both in New York City.

Paul and his brothers were well known for their work ethic and skills. Paul was an avid motorcyclist, hunter, and snowmobiler, and loved to travel. He loved to tell stories of his cross-country motorcycle trips. Paul was a member of Aden Hunting Club, The NRA, Sullivan Co. Trail Association, Aden Night Riders Snowmobile Club, The Intl. Campers Club, Time & the Valleys Museum, The Tri-Valley Squares, square dancing club.

Survivors include his wife and partner in adventure for over 50 years, Cheryl Sprague Muthig, at home; his children, Sheryl Muthig Blume, Paul J. (Christine) Muthig, Kari Hawkins, Krista Muthig, and daughter-in law, Dina Muthig; his grandchildren, Allison, Kevin & Derek Blume, Helen McCombs, Tiffany & Cecil Hawkins, Sunsaree Van Aken, Savaiyah Lee and Olivia Muthig; 12 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren; his in-laws, Stephen (Diane) Sprague, Mariellen Bowers, Beverly Muthig and Dorothy Muthig, and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Grant, Calvin, Clyde, Blake, Harold, Raymond and Michael (infant); his sisters, Mildred Huggins, Hazel Rafterowitz, Doris Coon, Fern Muccino and Annette Brown; his son, Kyle J. Muthig; his daughter, Valerie Muthig Mott and his grandson, Ryan Thomas Blume.

Visitation will be Monday December 8, 2025 from 4-7 PM in the Harris Funeral Home West St. at Buckley, Liberty, NY.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, , Liberty, NY. Father Edward Bader will officiate. Burial with

military honors was in the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery, Sunset Lake Road, Liberty, NY

Memorial contributions in Paul's name may be made to St. Peter's Church, 264 No. Main Street, Liberty, NY 12754, Time in the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740, Ronald McDonald House 26345 Network Place, Chicago, IL 60673 or American Heart Association P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home, West St. at Buckley, Liberty, NY www.Harris-FH.com

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History (From Pg. 3)

Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Erath were honored guests at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Oland Erath on Thursday evening. After dinner they were very pleasantly surprised when a number of friends and relatives arrive to help them celebrate their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

December 2, 1970

Michael Musso, son of Benjamin and Rita Musso of Big Hollow Road in Grahamsville, has earned the highest award of the Boy Scouts of America –the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Joseph J. Kelly, Regional Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, has announced the opening of an office to serve Sullivan County residents. Mr. Kelly stated the new full-time office is at 10 Prince St.

in the Sullivan Professional Building, Monticello. November 20, 1980

Monday marked the coldest morning temperature this fall. It was 15 degrees at the foot of Lackawack Hill.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published December 4, 1997

For most of us folks in this day and age, about the biggest threat a winter storm poses is a few hours of inconvenience. We just turn up the heat and wait for the snow plows to push away the drifts and then we resume our daily schedule.

Sometimes we may pause a few minutes to listen as a neighbor brags about how quickly he wiped his driveway clean with his new snow blower. This wasn't always so.

There was a time when getting through a blizzard was much more than an inconvenience. It could even be a struggle for survival. I can recall some of those days. Going into the forest with dad during a blizzard while he chopped and us kids were the carriers. The sound of that ax ringing in the frosty air mingled with our laughter made it an enjoyable job, an activity spurred only by visions of the crackling fire that we would all enjoy a little later on in the day.

If you were snowbound in the early 1900's you generally stayed that way for days. It wasn't that the storms were more severe or the snow deeper back then, in spite of what you tell your grandchildren. The truth is that our snow removal equipment wasn't anything to brag about. Our township cleared our roads with a grader and horses and they paid a dollar a day to anyone who would show up with a shovel. We had no snow shovels in those days, only grain shovels, but they worked and our winters were no longer than they are today.

Tri-Valley Lions Holiday Donations



tional love. My dogs are spoiled rotten, but just such a joy to the local families have also taken rescues from the SPCA, so it is no wonder that the SPCA is on our list of pet organizations to which we donate.

Catskill Animal Rescue (CARE) in Ferndale is a very special animal organization as well. When my brother passed away somewhat unexpectedly in September of 2024, I cared for his two cats at his home for a few months but then brought them to my home and took as good care as I could of them, but my three dogs were not very happy about this and it became somewhat of a problem. My brother had these two beautiful cats since they were young kittens, and it was important that I find a home that would take them both since they were together for so many years. One was 12 years old and the other 13 years old, but both were in very good health, and I had taken them both to get all current shots. I searched, posted, and advertised to find a home where both could go together. After 4 months of looking, I drove to CARE in Ferndale and explained the situation. Joanne Gerow, the Director of CARE, listened and told me I could bring them to

(From Pg. 1) But what has also become a holiday tradition for The Tri-Valley Lions is the fact that going back many years and continued this holiday season was helping to take care of our furry friends. This year on December 3, 2025, Lions Paula and Mike Ryan delivered approximately 200 lbs of dog and cat food and other pet items to The Rock Hill SPCA. Then on December 4, 2025, Lion Esta Jacob delivered another 200 lbs of dog and cat food, toys, biscuits, and other items to Catskill Animal Rescue (CARE) in Ferndale.

Photos are attached so you can see the pet donations. In lieu of gifts to one another during our holiday party, we asked all Tri-Valley Lion members to bring in pet items, and they certainly did. So many of us have received rescued pets from the Rock Hill SPCA. I adopted three pups back in 2018, who were brought up from a kill shelter in Kentucky just a few days of my adopting them, and one could not ask for better companionship and unconditional love in my life. I know that many other Tri-Valley Lions and



On December 4, 2025 Lion Esta Jacob delivered more than 200 pounds of dog and cat foods, dog biscuits, toys and other pet items to Catskill Animal...



CARE, and they would try to find a home for both. I visited them and then on January 25, 2025, which would have been my brother's 72nd birthday, they were both adopted to the same home. It felt like a miracle to me that they would both go together to a new forever home and on my brother's birthday. When I dropped the pet items off to CARE on Thursday, I asked about Smokey and Lulu. The person at CARE told me that she had not heard of any issues, and it seemed that they were both still in the home without divulging any personal info on the adopter. I still think about Smokey and Lulu but believe they are both still alive and living in a loving home. (Contd. Pg. 5-a)

Tri-Valley Lions Holiday Donations (From Pg. 5)

Sorry if this is cheesy, but I did want to give some insight to the amazing CARE organization. While I could not see the dogs as there was cleanup going on in the dog quarters, I did see a beautiful orange tabby mother cat with two tiny orange kittens, if anyone is interested.

On December 4, 2025, Lions Gene Froehlich and Esta Jacob presented the new Daniel Pierce Library Manager, Cathy Russo, and Assistant Manager Michelle Gorman with an \$800 check from the proceeds of the October Pumpkin Party from the Tri-Valley Lions Soda Booth at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds



Pet Items delivered to Roseann Walter at Rock Hill SPCA by Tri-Valley Lions Paula & Mike Ryan - photos to go with article, which is coming to you

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 48th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey for Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley Lions Club High School Community Service Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, Payment for eye exams & glasses, assistance to local families for fires or health emergencies, and so much more. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvacpat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com



Library from proceeds from our Soda Booth taken in from the October 2025 Pumpkin Party. L-R Michelle Gorman, Assistant Manager, Lions Esta Jacob and Gene Froehlich, and Library Manager, Cathy Russo



Smokey & Lulu –cats placed in same forever home by CARE



Layla, Denver & Layla 3 pups rescued from Kill Shelter in Kentucky by Rock Hill SPCA and adopted by Tri-Valley Lion in 2018 and now 7 yrs old.

**Wishing one and all a happy, HEALTHY,
and safe holiday season
and a prosperous New Year.**

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 157

Eddie's Boy

Mysterious Book Report No. 428

by John Dwaine McKenna

Published December 10, 2020



It takes a rare and awesome talent to be able to invert the forces of good and evil –to make a stone cold serial killer into a good guy –but that's exactly what master wordsmith and Edgar Award-winning author Thomas Perry has done in his newest, and best in our opinion, of the four installments of his *Butcher's Boy* series, which began in 1982.

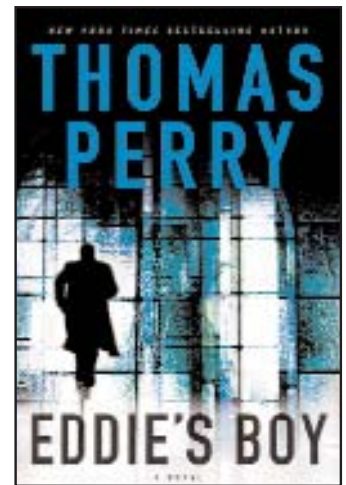
Eddie's Boy, (Mysterious Press, \$26.00, 288 pages, ISBN 978-0-8021-5777-5) opens in the present, in Yorkshire, England where retired American hit man Michael Schaeffer has been living in quiet and peaceful anonymity with his British wife for the past twenty years. But everything changes in an instant when a trio of unknown assassins strike without warning, and Michael, now in his sixties, must defend himself . . . as well as his wife, Meg.

The first pages of the novel begin with an angry Michael Schaeffer speeding away from his home in a stolen automobile with the three corpses of the inept hit men who've been sent to murder him. Knowing that his past could come back to haunt him at any time, the old hit man has always kept himself in top physical condition and had contingency plans in place to ensure the safety of his wife Meg –who is fully aware of her husband's past. She's now in hiding, while Michael heads out for Australia, hoping to find peace and safety.


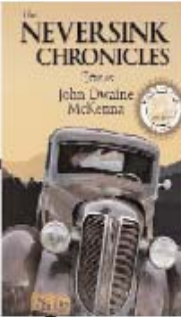


He doesn't. No sooner than he's on the ground down under, than new attempts are made on his life, the body count rises, and Schaeffer realizes that his best hope of survival is to return to the United States and confront whatever demon from his past has returned to try and kill him. And as each new attempt is made on his life, Michael recalls an episode from his childhood and the lessons he learned from his substitute father, Eddie the butcher in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, fifty years earlier.

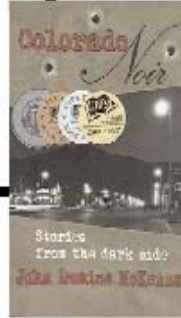
Once he's back in America, Schaeffer reaches out for help to a Justice Department Official named Elizabeth Waring –for whom he was once a confidential informant. By trading information with her, Schaeffer is able to determine who . . . and why . . . someone from his past has re-entered his life, and the action never stops as the old assassin uses all of his wiles and experience, plus every trick he's ever learned, to stay alive.

Eddie's Boy is wickedly twisted, dynamic and super well-plotted, leaving no doubt that Mr. Perry is not only at the top of his game . . . he's outdone everything he's written before. It's impossible to put down once you start reading!



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



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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Shopping Advice

Our grown children keep asking what we would like for Christmas. Heaven knows we do not need another air fryer or another piece of clothing or jewelry. We are fortunate and at the point in our life where we are paring down before all of our "treasured collections" get sold for a buck apiece at an estate yard sale. So here are some ideas for the elderly.

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

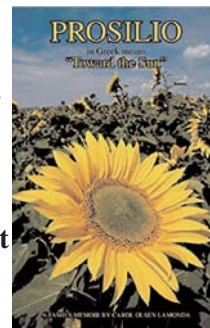
... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice.

Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!

Prosilio is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or

Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com>

and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



Add memories, not clutter to our lives. Some suggestions are:

- A food basket. Imagine an Italian feast basket with pasta, Rao's sauce, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, bread sticks, a wedge of Asiago, and a nice bottle of red wine.
- Go beyond a restaurant gift certificate; pick us up, take us to dinner, share your day, and pick up the check.
- Plan a matinee movie and sit with us and share the Large popcorn container. We are seniors, so it should only cost \$6. a piece in Red Hook.
- Plan a family work bee at our place. Tasks like gardening, wood cutting, yard maintenance, and home repairs can be fun if we all pitch in and make a day of it with a picnic lunch.
- Take our car and have it vacuumed and washed. Better yet, have it detailed.

Give coupons. Homemade ones, like you did as a kid, when you had no money for presents. My husband still has two unredeemed ones that are over fifty years old. One is for a back rub, and the other is for a car wash.

I'd like a coupon for someone to help me organize the pantry or rearrange furniture.

Show up with a pepperoni pizza or take-out Chinese food. Stay and share it with us

Plan an event... a sporting event, a concert, a day trip. Come with us.

The best part of these ideas is that you can save on wrapping paper and tape. Give from the heart, not the pocketbook.



Holiday Spirits Galore!

Daniel Pierce Library
decked out for the season

By Lisa Carroll



GRAHAMSVILLE-The 'Christmas cardinal,' while a popular holiday decoration as tree ornaments, on cards and in seasonal displays, its symbol is associated with themes of hope, faith and remembrance. For some, they even have a religious or personal meaning, such as bearer of messages from passed loved ones.



This past Thursday, December 4, from 6:00PM to 7:00PM over 20 very lucky participants joined felting expert, Christine Adams, to explore the world of wool felting, an age-old textile art form that uses

wool fibers and special tools to create a variety of objects, here at the DPL in our beautifully appointed reading room. Participants had an amazing time creating their own festive red cardinals to adorn their trees or to give as gifts. If you missed out on the opportunity to participate in this art workshop, there will be another one scheduled for the 2026 summer season.

If you're looking for gift ideas that won't break the bank, visit the DPL! We have a plethora of used DVDs for sale for \$1.00 and our used bookstore, Pages & Perks, is filled with fabulous children's, young adults, adult fiction and nonfiction books to peruse. You can't go wrong at these prices, and all sales go to future programming and book purchases for the library, so it's good karma too!

Over the next few weeks, we'll be having a few more festive programs: Cookies & Cocoa Family Night and Latkes & Applesauce, and to culminate the holiday season, Sounds of the Season on Thursday, December 18 at 6:00PM. This fabulous program will feature the musical talents of Grahamsville native Shane Rennison. If you're looking to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays and to enjoy calm and serenity, attend this program held in our beautifully appointed reading room.

Additionally, our fall children's program will be coming to an end this week. It's incredible to see the transformation the



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



children make from the start of program to the end. The artwork that has come out of craft time has been so cute, and it's great to see their little friendships developing. We'll start up the spring programs after Easter, so be on the look out for sign-up.

In the coming week, we'll have an amazing assortment of menorahs on display, so please check back! This is such an eclectic collection, which we have on loan from the fabulous Weisberg family, it's worth the trip out in the frigid temps to see.



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Come to the Gingerbread Bash

Please join the fun at Claryville Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 14 at 1:30 pm for the Gingerbread Bash. It's a Christmas party where you will build a gingerbread nativity, play games, sing songs and learn about the first Christmas ever.

The Gingerbread Bash is FREE but you MUST Register your child(ren) so we have adequate supplies, parent/guardian must stay for event. Open to all ages, seniors welcome too!

To register go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgJUnyrwUpVfA-kQSNgDdDK78CEbtwJ7zWjkPGtR6X47WMroQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Any question don't hesitate to call 845-798-6271 or claryvillechurch@gmail.com

Usher in the Holidays with SCDW

The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop cordially invites you to usher in the Holidays with your talented and dedicated community members. On Friday and Saturday, December 12 & 13, at 7:00pm and Sunday, December 14, at 2:00pm, the SCDW will perform three radio plays - each will warm your heart and tickle your emotions.

We start the show with an original play written by Peter Nastasi and directed by Jean Eifert, entitled "Molly's Holiday Gift". With Christmas rapidly approaching, Molly, who is of the Jewish faith, grows increasingly upset that all school activities focus on Christmas rather than on Hannukah. In this heartwarming tale, Molly's classmates devise a plan to provide Molly with an unexpected holiday "gift".

Then, a throwback to a 1953 episode of the popular radio show "Dragnet" titled "The Big Little Jesus" will be performed. In this radio show, our actors portray two police officers investigating the theft of a statue of the infant Jesus from a Los Angeles church. It is imperative that the statue be

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found before the Midnight Mass service. Ultimately, the statue is returned in an unexpected and emotional turn of events. Director Dawn Perneszi brings this story to life!

And finally, who can forget "Our Miss Brooks"? The SCDW thespians perform the episode "Christmas Gift Mix-up" in which, working on a limited budget, Miss Brooks regifts a present given to her by her landlady to her colleague Mr. Boynton, who subsequently regifts the item to Principal Conklin. In turn, Conklin regifts the item to the Head of the Board of Education. As the characters unknowingly regift the same item hilarious comedic confusion ensues. Playfully directed by Dawn Perneszi, expect to end the show with a smile.

All three pieces will be performed at the Cornell Cooperative Extension building, 64 Ferndale Loomis Road, Liberty. General admission is \$12 and includes coffee, tea and desserts - or donate an unwrapped toy (value \$5 or more) for our Toys for Tots and pay only \$7.00.

Happy Holidays to All from the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop!

For more information call Jean 646-996-4188.

Hurry! Get Your Tickets for *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* at Shadowland Stages

-L Comando

In 2023 Fank and I enjoyed the first of the trilogy, *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley* at Shadowland Stages. Then last year at Shadowland Stages, *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* is among my fondest memories of our 2024 holiday season.

This past Sunday, my daughter, her 10 year old son (my grandson) and I enjoyed an afternoon at Shadowland Stages. We were there for the afternoon performance of *Georgiana & Kitty -Christmas at Pemberley*.

When the first scene ended, my grandson was all smiles as he analysed what he had just observed. He commented, "It certainly is off to a good start!" And that it was! Fun all the way.

The beautifully designed stage and elegant period costumes worn by a cast of superb actors was awesome.

Under the direction of Brendan Burke, each character became alive, was genuine and fully deserved the standing ovation they received.

It was just what the three of us needed to get us into the holiday spirit.

Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley is perfect for the whole family. It is a charming romantic adventure filled with warmth, morality, and benevolence.

Whether you are an Austen connoisseur, or it is your first time to Pemberley, the third episode-*Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* is a delightful holiday treat.

The three of us each had our own experiences that we could relate to as we watched the play.

For me, it's hard to imagine a better uplifting and heartwarming theatrical holiday treat than spending an afternoon or evening at Shatowland Stages enjoying another great production, and making new memories with family and friends.

Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley is perfect!

If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, hurry - they are selling out quickly.

FRI, DECEMBER 12th at 7 pm

SAT, DECEMBER 13th at 2 pm

SAT, DECEMBER 13th at 7 pm

SUN, DECEMBER 14th at 2 pm-SOLD OUT

FRI, DECEMBER 19th at 7 pm

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Coming Up Open Mic

Every Sunday:

DeFilippis Bakery in 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, 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 5th year running, and are open through Thanksgiving. BYOB. Free Admission. Call (845) 985-5068 for further information.

The Woodstock Farm Festival Winter Market begins Friday, December 13th! 10am-1pm

At the Community Center - 56 Rock City Road

Join us indoors this winter as we welcome back many of your favorite longtime vendors and introduce some wonderful new ones. You'll find fresh local produce, eggs, meat, fish, baked goods, specialty foods, and unique seasonal offerings each week.

We're proud to continue participation in SNAP and FreshConnect to help make fresh, local food more accessible for all. This December, we are also participating in a special Emergency FreshConnect Program, offering additional benefits to shoppers experiencing food insecurity.

Fresh Connect coupons will be given to any shopper who is income-eligible or currently food-insecure. To receive \$20 in coupons each week, shoppers simply need to visit the market and attest-by initialing a form-that their income falls below the program threshold or that they are in need.

No proof or documentation is required, and shoppers do not need to be SNAP recipients to qualify. This program is in addition to SNAP, the regular Fresh Connect program, and the Woodstock Farm Festival Market Bucks program.

The Emergency Response Program runs through the end of 2025

If you or someone you know could use support, please visit the market managers at the front desk on market days.

Come shop local, support small farms and food makers, and stay connected to your community all winter long!

For a list of vendors go to:

<https://www.woodstockfarmfestival.org/vendors>

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(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week

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

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

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

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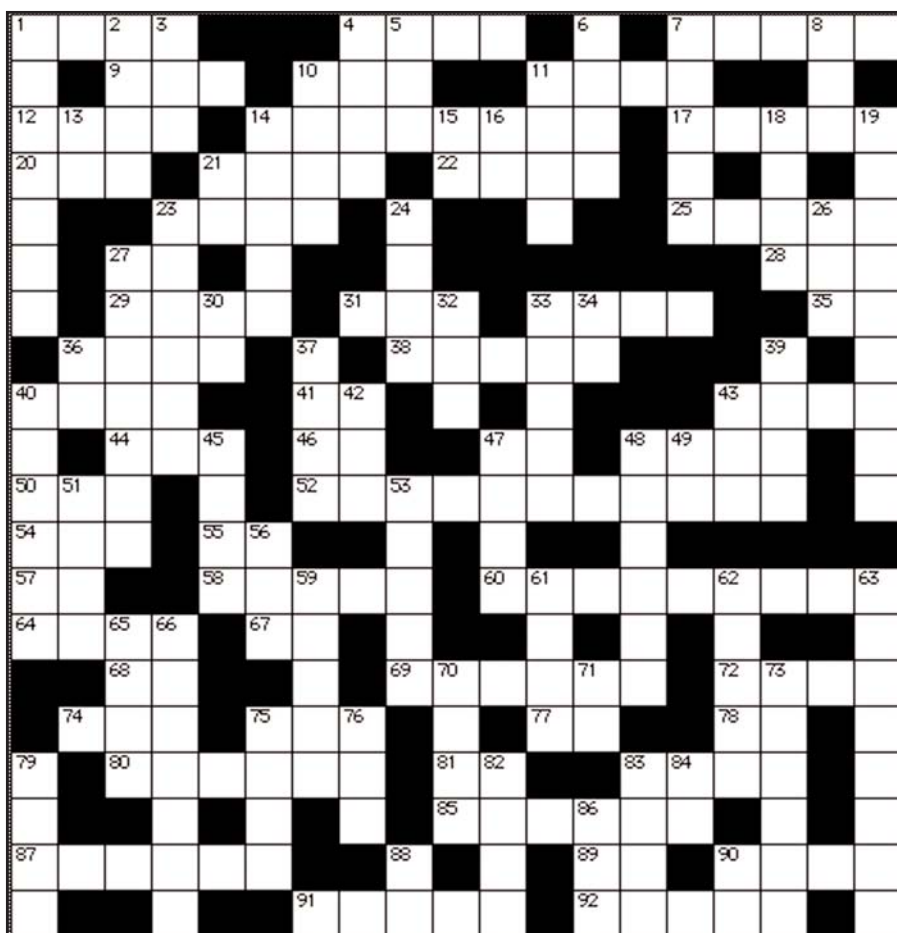
we will publish it each week

through the week of the event)

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

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Santa's Back in Town - L.Comando



ACROSS

1 According to Moore, they did not stir on Christmas Eve
 4 Rural road that Santa may travel down
 7 Third planet from the sun
 9 Avenue
 10 _____
 Voyage; Good Journey
 11 Persuade
 12 Rudolph's was glowing red
 14 Artist famous for our present day image of Santa
 17 Formed for a particular purpose (2 wds)
 20 A single item
 21 Suspend
 22 Red and white striped

candy _____
 23 Without
 25 Liquid astringent applied to the skin
 27 Exclamation of surprise
 28 Having three parts
 29 Carbonated soft drink
 31 Expert
 33 Scandinavian Yuletide animal
 35 The same way
 36 Past tense of give
 38 Type of vessel you might take to Quincy or Nyack!
 40 Highly esteemed green stone
 41 Mystical symbol
 43 Santa's reindeer troupe
 44 Gnome-

like creature
 46 Year
 47 Knock Out!
 48 Smooth creamy cheese
 50 Another name for mother
 52 German Santa Claus
 54 Holly and _____
 55 State of being
 57 One's mother
 58 Relating to the North Pole
 60 Custom or belief handed down from one generation to the next
 64 Expression of concern
 67 Plural form of archaic thou
 68 South-west

69 Repeatedly going in to something
 72 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
 74 Fasten
 75 Allow
 77 Delaware (abbrev)
 78 Long Island
 80 Respect
 81 Southeast
 83 The ordinary people
 85 Island country off the southeast coast of China
 87 One of the four divisions of the year
 89 Artificial Intelligence
 90 Self-referential
 91 " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" author
 92 Goblet

DOWN

1 Sacred candle used at Hannukah
 2 Covering
 3 Night before an event
 4 Of elongated shape
 5 Combining conjunction
 6 Where many go for the holidays
 7 Acclaim
 8 Duo
 10 Small sweetened breads
 11 Shape of a gnome's hat
 13 Supported by
 14 He came to town Saturday night on a firetruck!
 15 Before Christ
 16 Louisiana
 18 Inkling
 19 Holiday to

honor Christ's birthday
 21 An exclamation of triumph
 23 An important winter tool
 24 What Santa carries on his back
 26 Age
 27 A school for special instruction
 30 Language Engineering
 32 Improvise
 33 Short for alligator
 34 Exclamation expressing agreement
 36 Georgia (abbrev)
 37 A child's play things
 39 Meeting for communal work
 40 Icon that adorns a well-known pancake syrup label created by Hadden Sundblom
 42 Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 43 Transient Ischemic Attack
 45 To turn over

47 Retained possession of
 48 Runners on ice skates
 49 Egyptian sun god
 51 Egg-shaped
 53 Pertaining to medieval Scandinavia
 56 Leguminous plant native to Asia
 59 Crowbar
 61 Tall slender-leaved grass plant
 62 Implement or device

63 4th Century Bishop of Myra; Patron saint of children
 65 Largest continent
 66 North Germanic language of Sweden
 70 Artist known for Civil War Santa
 71 Regarding
 73 Twelfth sign of the zodiac

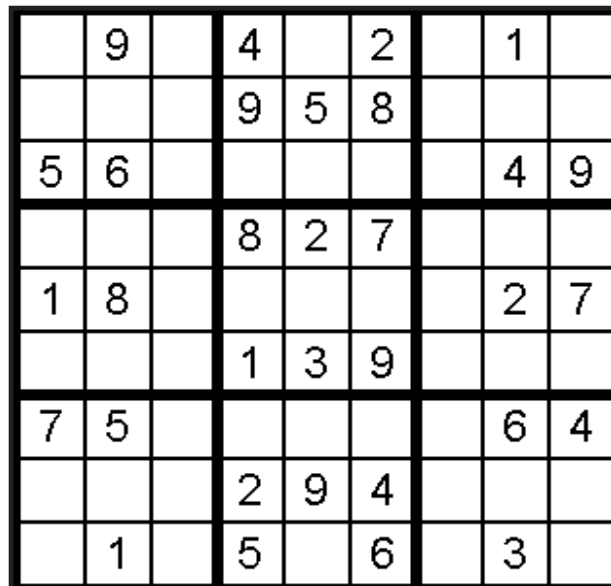
75 Member of the Tri-Valley Lions Club
 78 Decade
 79 Short examination
 82 Part of a roof
 83 Correspondence
 84 Indefinite article
 86 Swish
 88 In the direction of
 90 A title before a woman's name

Swedish Heirloom Yuletide Cookies

3/4 cup Crisco
 1/4 cup butter (margarine)
 1/2 cup powder sugar
 2 tablespoons vanilla
 2 cups flour
 1 cup walnuts
 (chop very fine)

Blend all ingredients well. Shape into walnut sized balls and place on a greased baking tin. Bake 20 minutes at 325 degrees. Cool then roll in powdered sugar.

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

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

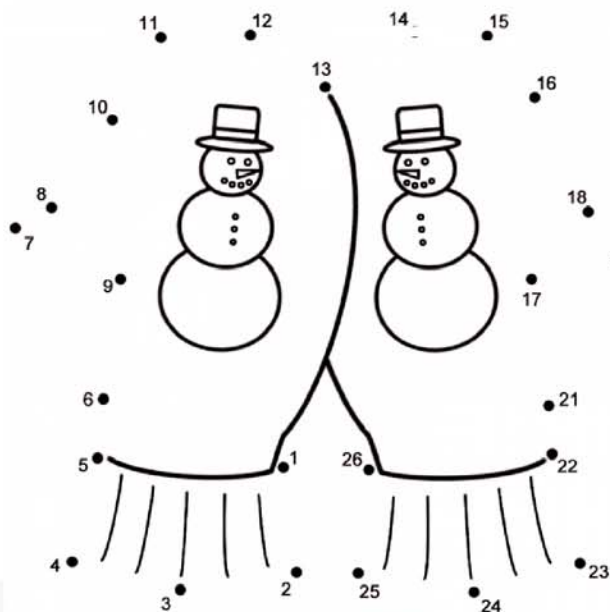
Cryptogram

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

19 4 23 20 20 1 22 25 5 23 19 22 19 3 22 18 22 23 16 19 15 4 10

23 13 17 4 12 10 14 23 21 22 5 19 5 13 17 22 25 22 13 13 23 1 15

19 4 13 19 23 17 11 4 16 19 5 17 19 3 22 25 4 14 11



Follow the dots..



Cryptogram Key

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



Find 7 differences



Kids'
Winter
Fun
Page
- L. Comando

WINTER WORDSEARCH

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

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FROST
FROZEN
JACKET
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Join this collaborative group as we create and inspire
each other. Please bring any art supplies that you plan
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Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday
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The first
Friday of
every month.

All adults welcome!



LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Re: Organizational Meeting of the Claryville Fire District

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Claryville Fire District of the Towns of Denning and Neversink, Counties of Ulster and Sullivan, New York, will be held on the 6th day of January, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Claryville Fire Department Warren Cole Community Hall. The regular End of Year meeting will be held following the Organizational Meeting on January 6, 2026. These meetings are open to the public.

This notification is being given to the news media pursuant to the provisions of Section 104 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Claryville Fire District
Anne-Marie Kremer
Secretary
Claryville Fire District

12/11

Please be advised:

The Village of Monticello Board of Trustees will be having a **Special Meeting on Thursday, December 11th, 2025 at 9:00am** to discuss a Personnel matter & to Re-bid the TSC Roof Renovations.

All are welcomed to attend.
Thank you.

Ulster County 2026 Budget Approved by County Legislature

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Legislature voted on Wednesday to approve the 2026 Executive Budget with amendments - advancing County Executive Jen Metzger's proposed investments to address food and housing insecurity, strengthen emergency medical response, improve public transit and infrastructure, and protect the environment, all while keeping property taxes flat.

"I want to thank the Legislature for approving this budget and for its partnership in carefully stewarding County finances during this challenging time, as the federal government cuts safety-net programs and shifts costs to states and counties," said County Executive Metzger. "This budget meets immediate needs, including bolstering food and housing security, while investing in safe and resilient infrastruc-

ture and safeguarding Ulster County's long term fiscal health. I plan to sign the approved 2026 budget as soon as it is delivered."

The Final Budget, passed with a vote of 14 to 8 with 1 absence, includes:

- **Emergency Medical Services (\$4.7M):** Direct support to local EMS agencies, performance based incentives, and a new EMT certification program to address staffing shortages.
- **Food Security:** The Executive Budget included \$350,000 for food security grants, plus \$150,000 to expand home-delivered meals to seniors through the County's Meals on Wheels program. A Legislative amendment added \$40,000 to the food security program to assist immigrant families in need.
- **Housing Stability:** \$640,000 to expand the Eviction Prevention Program with legal counsel for tenants; \$2 million from the Housing Action Fund to create a nonprofit run family shelter with meals and caseworker support.
 - o **Senior Transportation (\$30,000):** Expansion of the Office of the Aging's Neighbor2Neighbor program to increase rides for seniors to medical appointments and pharmacies.
- **Transit & Infrastructure (\$14.5M):** Paving 30 miles of County roads, replacing seven bridges, adding Sunday UCAT bus service in Kingston, new transfer points, and modernization of UCAT's website and schedules.
- **School Bus Safety:** Launch of a stop arm camera program to reduce illegal passing of school buses, funded through fine revenue reinvested in road safety.
- **Climate & Environment:** Construction underway on an all electric, net zero Emergency Communications Center in New Paltz; municipal climate solutions support; "Green the Scene" program to support composting and recycling at fairs and festivals.
- **SUNY Ulster Support:** \$7.1M in operating support, (plus \$4.3M in state mandated chargebacks); creation of a Reimagining SUNY Ulster Committee to chart future capital investments.
- **Community & History:** The Executive Budget included \$80,000 for Revolutionary War 250th anniversary programming, and a legislative amendment added another \$20,000 for a total of \$100,000. Additionally, the final budget includes the County Executive Budget proposal to allocate \$30,000 for the Hometown Heroes Banner Program honoring veterans and community heroes.

The 2026 Budget also reflects negotiated increases in compensation for unionized employees and the first year of a new salary plan for non represented employees, addressing wage compression and recruitment challenges.



Town of Neversink

**2025
TRANSFER
STATION**

Holiday Hours

*Weds. *12/24**

11 am to 3 pm

*Tues. *12/31**

11 am to 3 pm

Happy Holidays!

Sullivan BOCES Celebrates 75 Years of Service to Students and Schools



LIBERTY - On November 25, 2025, Sullivan BOCES proudly celebrated its 75th Anniversary-marking seven and a half decades of service, innovation, and commitment to the students, educators, and communities of Sullivan County. The event was held at SUNY Sullivan in the Grossinger's Dining Room, where state and county officials, representatives from local school districts, and community partners gathered to honor this milestone achievement.

The celebration began with a reception prepared through a collaborative effort between the culinary programs at Sullivan BOCES and SUNY Sullivan. Students from both institutions worked together to craft and serve a menu that showcased their skills and highlighted the value of hands-on, career-focused education.

During the program, several officials and community partners offered remarks, including BOCES Board President Linda Berkowicz; Camille O'Brien, representing Senator Oberacker's office; Dr. David Potash, President of SUNY Sullivan; and Megan Evans, Philanthropy Manager at Garnet Health Medical Center-Catskills.

Nadia Rajs, Legislative Chair for Sullivan County, emphasized the deep and lasting impact of BOCES on the region. "Sullivan BOCES has impacted thousands of lives by teaching real-world skills and continually adapting to meet the needs of our children and community while responding to the demands of an ever-changing workplace," said Rajs. "I can't imagine life in Sullivan County without BOCES. The institution and its staff fill a niche no one else can. The success of BOCES has been our county's success, and we hope it will continue to serve our community for many years to come."

In true BOCES fashion, the event also highlighted the organization's commitment to community service. Proceeds from the commemorative journal, beyond event costs, were donated to the Sullivan BOCES Backpack Program, which provides food support to students in need. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and SUNY Sullivan, Dr. Robert M. Dufour, District Superintendent at Sullivan BOCES, presented a \$3,000 check to Megan Becker, Director of Special Education at BOCES. The donation will help feed more than 50 families during the holiday season. (Contd. Pg. 20 a)



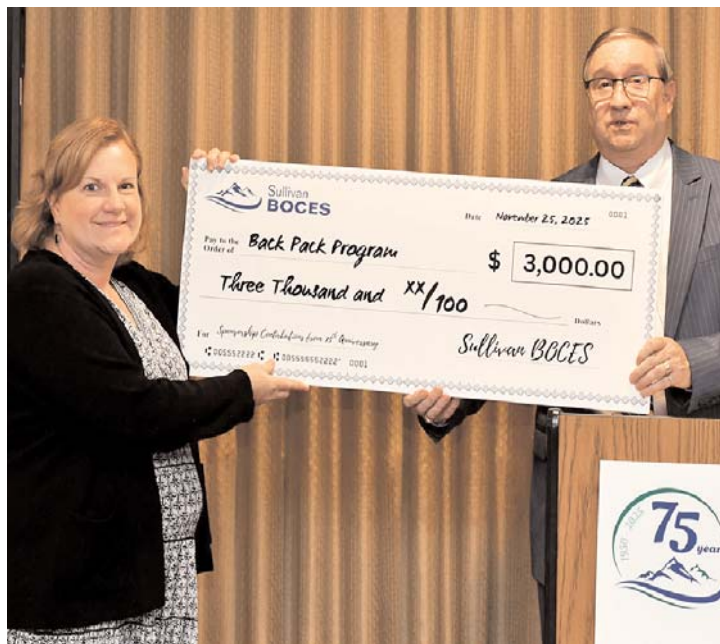
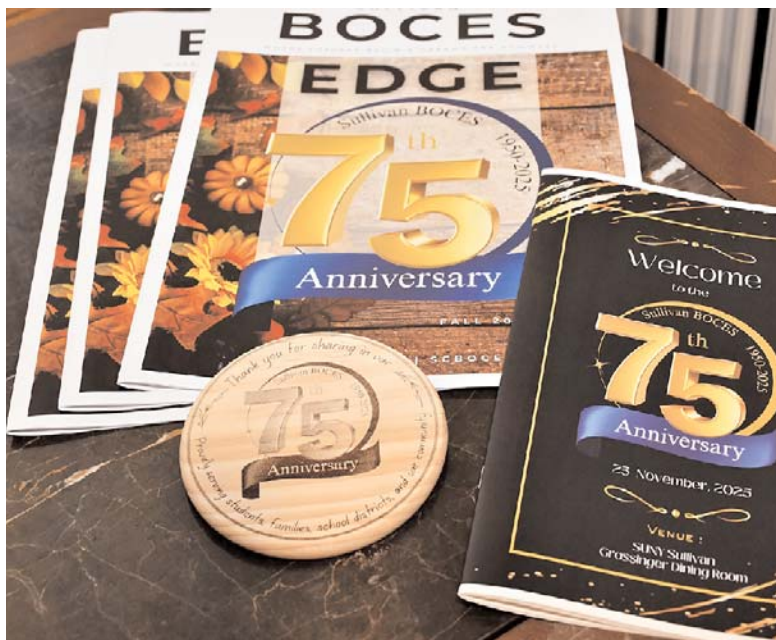
Sullivan BOCES Celebrates 75 Years of Service to Students and Schools

(From Pg. 20)

Since its founding in 1950, the Sullivan County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) has been dedicated to expanding educational opportunities through shared services, innovative programming, and regional collaboration to meet the diverse needs of students. From Career & Technical Education and Special Education to Adult Education, Itinerant Services, and Professional

Development, BOCES continues to play a vital role in preparing students for success in college, careers, and life.

Over the decades, Sullivan BOCES has evolved to meet the shifting needs of the region. From early vocational programs in the 1950s to modern workforce initiatives, specialized services, and streamlined back-office services for school districts, BOCES has remained steadfast in its mission: to enhance student performance across all component districts through leadership, cooperative services, and efficient, collaborative efforts.



“Our 75th Anniversary is not just about looking back—it’s about recognizing how far we’ve come together,” said Dr. Dufour. “BOCES exists because of collaboration. For 75 years, we’ve worked side-by-side with our local school districts to create opportunities for students, strengthen our workforce, and support our communities.”

For generations, BOCES has been a place where students discover their passions, educators find resources and support, and communities experience the power of shared purpose. The 75th Anniversary marks not only a historic milestone but a celebration of the collective commitment that continues to make Sullivan County a place where every learner has the opportunity to thrive.



Gotsch

Christmas Tree Farm

Blue and White Spruce

Cut-Your-Own Tree: \$50 any tree

Fresh Pre-Cut Tree: \$50 any tree

Open: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Weekends Listed Below)

November 28, 29, & 30

December 6 & 7

December 13 & 14

December 20 & 21 (depending on supply)

Closed December 24

Weekdays by Appointment Only

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Methodist Church

**Covered Dish
Suppers will resume
in the Spring.
Wishing you a
Blessed
Christmas
Season**

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

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**

**Have a
Joyous
Christmas &
a Happy
New Year!**



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

St. Augustine's Chapel

Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

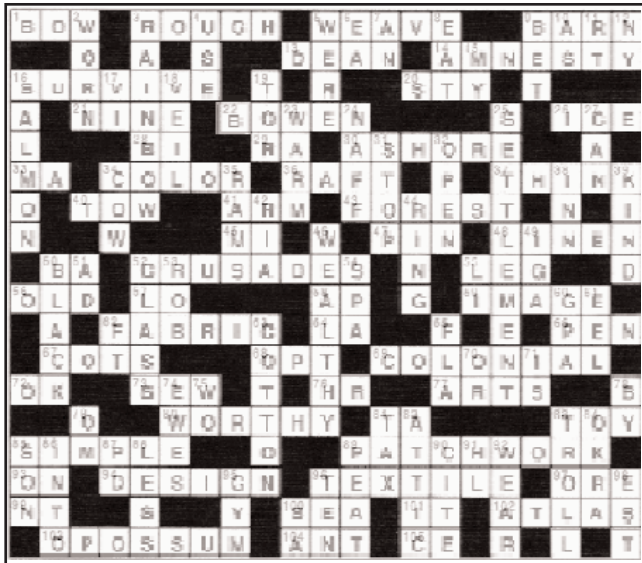
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, **Pastor**

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Ans to last week's Crossword



All Aboard!
Join the Fun!
Play
Mexican Train
FREE FUN
 every FRIDAY 1- 4 pm
 in the upstairs meeting room
 at the Neversink Town Hall

Also
WANTED
 People to
 play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

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 or visit our Virtual Mail
<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

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. (Make request)

There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3x).

Holy Mary I place this cause in your hands. (3x).

Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

LGC

\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

Every day New York State returns \$1.5 million to those who file claims here. Is any yours? To find out, go to:

<https://osc.state.ny.us/ouf> or <https://ouf.state.ny.us/ouf>

Many have checked, and sure enough after following the directions and filing a claim, have received a check from the NYS Comptroller's Office. It only takes a few minutes to find

Temple Sholom Fundraiser Cruise to Nassau

Leave January 11 and return to Miami on January 18, 2026.
 Single cabin -\$2155; Couples-pay between \$3275 and \$4463 for a double balcony cabin with drinks and WiFi included. The higher price includes a dedicated restaurant and a cruise long pass to the spa for two. A \$500 deposit is refundable. Each cabin will receive \$100 in on-board credit.

For further information, contact Barry Gleen at
barry.gleen@cruiseplanners.com
 or (516) 281-5905

All commissions from this trip donated to Temple Sholom.

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.

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/10/25 Town of Neversink - Board Meeting
- 12/14/25 **Gingerbread Bash** at Claryville Church Fellowship Hall 1:30 pm FREE. See Pg 13
- 12/17/25 **Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Association** Grahamsville Firehouse 7 pm
- 12/18/25 Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town of Town Hall
- 12/18/25 Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
- 12/24/25 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** Claryville Reformed Church- 946 Claryville Rd, Claryville NY- Time t/b/a

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>

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc. –Please send us your Events Calendar for 2026 so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsmen@yahoo.com or Mail them to: The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update For The Week Of December 8 - December 12, 2025

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at
<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Monday, December 8

- o **4:00 PM - Special Meeting of the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Board Of Directors**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston, & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 871 9813 9705 Passcode: 306094
- o **5:00 PM - Ulster County Community Services Board**, at the Ulster County Department of Mental Health, 368 Broadway, Kingston
- o **6:00 PM - Public Works & Capital Projects Committee**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o **6:00 PM - Ulster County Traffic Safety Board**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Tuesday, December 9

- o **3:00 PM - Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o **5:00 PM - Ulster County Board of Health**, at the Department of Health, Director's Conference Room, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston
- o **5:30 PM - County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 11 of 2025, A Local Law Amending § 312-4 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Increase The Income Range By Which Senior Land Owners With Limited Income Are Eligible For A Partial County Tax Exemption On Their Residence**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **6:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee) - Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o **6:00 PM - Ulster County Board of Ethics**, at the Ulster County Human Services Complex, Building #2, Veteran Services Entrance, 100 Development Court, Kingston

Wednesday, December 10

- o **6:30 PM - Ulster County Environmental Management Council**, at the SUNY Ulster Kingston Center, Room 215, 94 Marys Avenue, Kingston, & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 974 4254 9615 Passcode: 278571
- o **7:30 PM - Ulster County Fire Advisory Board**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, December 11

- o **4:00 PM - Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o **4:30 PM (or immediately following Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee) - Ways & Means Committee**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
- o **5:15 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Zero Waste Committee**, at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, & Via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ucra5008>
- o **5:30 PM - Ulster County Youth Board**, at the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston
- o **6:15 PM (or immediately following UCRRA Zero Waste Committee) - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Regular Board Meeting**, at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, & Via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ucra5008>

Friday, December 12

- o **12:00 PM - Special Meeting of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency: Employment of a Certain Corporation**, at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, & Via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ucra5008>

Sullivan 180 Funding Brings New Life to Public Spaces

Three Completed Projects Strengthening Western Sullivan County

[SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY] - Sullivan 180 announced the recent completion of three Silver Feather Community Impact Grant projects, each transforming public spaces in western Sullivan County. These initiatives were led by municipalities in partnership with dedicated volunteer organizations, in collaboration to build a healthier, more vibrant Sullivan County. Each of project reflects Sullivan 180's mission to build a healthier community through people-centered spaces, access to recreation, youth engagement, and community collaboration.

In Callicoon, a 2019 \$75,000 Silver Feather Grant helped the Town of Delaware restore the historic Callicoon Train Depot into a welcoming hub for visitors and residents. Through a close partnership with the Callicoon Business Association, Callicoon Depot Inc., and the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, the project revived a long-underutilized building and created a space that celebrates local history while supporting year-round community activity. "This renovation is bringing the Depot back to life as a visitor center and com-

munity hub," project partners shared. "It honors our region's history and celebrates its culture, arts, and environmental stewardship."

In the Town of Highland, a 2021 Silver Feather Grant of \$100,000 supported a series of improvements to river access points along the Delaware. The project included an activity path connecting the Eagle Observation Area to the Roebling Bridge and historic D&H Canal Tow Path, plus new green space, gardens, signage, and bike and canoe racks. "We were able to provide and improve access to the Delaware River while promoting healthy living in our community," said Supervisor John Pizzolato. "[These enhancements] brought together so many partners to make our town's access to the Delaware a real asset to all those who live and visit here."

Most recently, the Town of Delaware received a 2024 Silver Feather Grant of \$100,000 to build new pickleball and basketball courts at the Delaware Youth Center. The project strengthens recreational opportunities for all ages and encourages multi-generational activity. "Families play pickleball together, kids and adults alongside each other," said Alex Gardner of the Youth Center. "The courts have expanded opportunities for kids to be active and created new ways for families to be active together."

"These projects highlight what is possible when municipalities and community organizations work together toward a shared vision," said Shannon Cilento, Sullivan 180 Director of Community Development & Communications. "The collective impact is not just in the beautiful spaces created, but in the healthier, more connected communities that grow around them."



Tri-Valley and Nearby Neighbors
Your Facebook hub for local news, history,
environmental & development trends, and current
events. No politics. No malarkey. Just good people, and
good ideas. Join us to share, learn, and grow together!

ELLENVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

HOLIDAY SALE

DECEMBER 18 & 19

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
10AM TO 4PM

GRAB YOUR LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY GIFTS!

10 HEALTHY WAY | ELLENVILLE NY 12428
ERHNY.ORG | 845.647.6400



Comptroller DiNapoli Explains How New Yorkers Can Claim Their Unclaimed Funds

Comptroller DiNapoli joined Ebro in the Morning on Hot 97 to discuss the state's Unclaimed Funds program and the financial outlook for New York, encouraging New Yorkers to search for and claim their lost money.

Watch Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISsZj9UIz0M&list=PLIIZAYjxnniUs2bYBmGT4iX07x3Q2XWwK&index=7>

Search for Unclaimed Funds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISsZj9UIz0M&list=PLIIZAYjxnniUs2bYBmGT4iX07x3Q2XWwK&index=7>

As Financial Scams Spike During the Holiday Season, Senator Gillibrand Demands Stronger Safeguards to Protect Seniors; Announces Legislation to Sleigh Scammers

Americans Lost \$16.6 Billion To Scams In 2024; \$4.8 Billion Was Stolen From Seniors

Gillibrand's National Strategy for Combating Scams Act Would Help "Sleigh" Scammers by Requiring the FBI to Develop a Coordinated National Strategy to Combat Scams

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, held a virtual press conference to demand stronger safeguards to protect seniors from getting scammed this holiday season. Gillibrand's bipartisan National Strategy for Combating Scams Act would require the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to develop a coordinated national strategy to combat scams.

"Last year alone, Americans lost over \$16 billion to scams. That's a staggering amount of money that's been stolen from our families, our neighbors, and, disproportionately, our seniors," said Senator Gillibrand. "I'm proud to introduce the bipartisan National Strategy for Combating Scams Act to help make sure seniors don't get scrooged this holiday season. It's clear that we need a coordinated national strategy to tackle the increasingly sophisticated scams targeting our seniors, and this legislation would bring that to fruition. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this vital bill across

the finish line."

More than four in ten Americans say they have lost money to scams or had their sensitive information obtained fraudulently. Criminals increasingly utilize advanced tools like generative AI and voice deepfakes to deceive victims, disproportionately targeting older adults. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified at least 13 agencies involved in anti-scam efforts, each working independently under different mandates and authorities. GAO has recommended that the FBI take the lead in creating a National Strategy for Combating Scams to enhance federal coordination and effectiveness in fighting these crimes. Gillibrand's legislation would give the FBI a legal obligation to follow through on this recommendation.

The National Strategy for Combating Scams Act was introduced into the Senate alongside Senators Rick Scott (R-FL), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), and Ashley Moody (R-FL). It was introduced into the House of Representatives by Representative Gabe Amo (D-RI-01) and Representative Derek Schmidt (R-KS-02).

"Families across the country are being hammered by increasingly sophisticated scams, and Washington has been far too slow to respond," said Senator Scott. "As chairman of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am proud to join Ranking Member Gillibrand in this bipartisan effort to finally bring federal agencies together, cut the duplication, and create a real national plan to protect seniors and hard-working Americans. After the findings of our fraud report, it's clear we need a coordinated strategy, not more bureaucracy or new spending, and this bill delivers exactly that. I'm proud to help lead this charge to crack down on criminals and keep Americans safe."

"Every year, scammers steal billions of dollars from Americans, harming families, especially seniors. But the federal government lacks a strategy to address the scope and speed of these schemes," said Senator Kelly. "This bipartisan bill will create a coordinated approach to crack down on fraud, better protect families and seniors, and hold scammers accountable."

"I'm proud to introduce the bipartisan National Strategy for Combating Scams Act in the House, alongside my colleagues in the Senate, to ensure we are addressing the rising scam threat in a coordinated and strategic manner," said Representative Amo. "I look forward to working together as the national strategy is developed to keep fighting scammers and keep Rhode Islanders money where it belongs, in their pockets."

The National Strategy for Combating Scams Act builds on Senator Gillibrand's work to address scams as the top Democrat on the Senate Aging Committee. She has led the fight to protect seniors from financial frauds and scams, raised awareness about predatory scammers targeting seniors, and demanded answers from those attempting to cut funding for agencies like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She has also introduced legislation such as the Senior Financial Empowerment Act, the Guarding Unprotected Aging Retirees from Deception (GUARD) Act, and the DO NOT Call Act. These vital bills would help seniors avoid financial scams, support law enforcement efforts to catch fraudsters, and establish new criminal penalties for robocallers, including prison time.

The full text of the National Strategy for Combating Scams Act can be found here.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/National-Strategy-for-Combating->

Gingerbread BASH

AND THE BIG, UGLY
CHRISTMAS SWEATER

Date: SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30PM

Place: CLARYVILLE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us for a fun Christmas party where we'll build a gingerbread nativity, play games, sing songs, and learn about the first Christmas ever.

It's going to be a BASH!

FREE

*Must register your child(ren) so we have adequate supplies and a parent/guardian must stay for event.

Open to all ages, seniors welcome too!

Click on link below to register.

<https://forms.gle/hs8ohpMBB5VwiDKC8>



SCAN ME



Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides
Like new! \$14,500.

845-434-5539
Leave a message and phone

Farm Arts Collective Performs A Roving *Christmas Carol* at Dickens on the Delaware



Damascus, PA- The innovative theatre troupe, Farm Arts Collective returns to Callicoon, NY to present a new site-specific performance, part of the village celebration, Dickens on the Delaware. On Saturday, December 13 at 2 PM, the collective will present "A Roving Christmas Carol," an abridged and delightful theatrical rendition of Charles Dickens famous novella, A Christmas Carol. The street theatre performance will begin at The Western Inn on Upper Main Street, and from there, spectators are invited to follow the roving play to locations throughout town where scenes from A Christmas Carol will be performed.



The performance is written by company playwright, Melissa Bell, with the role of Scrooge is played by Farm Arts Collective's musical talent Doug Rogers. In this classic Christmas tale, Scrooge encounters three ghosts: Christmas Past (Tannis Kowalchuk), Christmas Present (Jess Beveridge), and Christmas Future (Michael Chojnicki on stilts). Scrooge confronts his life's journey that has led him to a sad and miserly disposition. Throughout his encounters with the ghosts, he eventually arrives at a final spiritual transformation of empathy and generosity and his Christmas and life is changed for the better.

The performance features the cast of Jim Sullivan, Pam Arnold, Melissa Bell, Doug Rogers, Vickie Diescher, Tannis Kowalchuk, Jess Beveridge, Rowan Bloomer, and Michael Chojnicki. The 2:00 PM performance is free and appropriate for all ages.

GEORGIANA & KITTY ~Christmas at Pemberley~

Shadowland finishes the popular Christmas at Pemberley trilogy with this fun holiday tale based on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

After years of being overshadowed by their older siblings, Georgiana and Kitty are ready for their own adventures in life and love, starting with the arrival of an admirer and secret correspondent. Meddlesome families won't stop these two friends from forging their own way in an inspiring holiday story filled with music, ambition, sisterhood, and forgiveness.

"Delivers a delight...bringing a modern sense to Austen's sensibility." - The Courier



PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

FRI, DECEMBER 12th at 7 pm	FRI, DECEMBER 19th at 7 pm
SAT, DECEMBER 13th at 2 pm	SAT, DECEMBER 20th at 2 pm
SAT, DECEMBER 13th at 7 pm	SAT, DECEMBER 20th at 7 pm
SUN, DECEMBER 14th at 2 pm-SOLD OUT	SUN, DECEMBER 21st at 2 pm

*Preview Performances

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=a5a7a0b066&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

Are You ready to... ROCK around the Christmas Tree?

SHADOWLAND STAGES' favorite, Jefferson McDonald, is wrapping up after a whirlwind year of concerts billed alongside legends Paul Anka, Darlene Love, Gary Lewis and the Playboys. But it's not over yet! McDonald returns to the MainStage with a brand new show chock-full of vintage rock and roll and Christmas cheer: **Jefferson McDonald's Great Jingle Balls Of Fire!** Sing, laugh, and dance the night away with the man dubbed "the Victor Borge of Rock and Roll," who was "born inside a piano." Critics rave, "run, don't walk" (Jonathan Charles Fox, The River Reporter) to see McDonald. McDonald is joined by the incredible "Great Jingle Balls of Fire" Orchestra, featuring the talents of Armando Gutierrez on bass and vocals and Colin Summers on electric guitar and vocals.

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

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=a5a7a0b066&mc_eid=138a9b9d06



Ulster County Executive Metzger Announces Additional UCAT Service for Port Ewen and New Paltz Following Rider Feedback

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger today announced that Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) will add two routes, effective Tuesday, December 9, in response to community feedback she received through listening sessions and surveys following the September 15 route changes. The September changes were prompted by the loss of the Kingston Plaza transfer point, and included additional changes to improve service reliability.

Beginning Tuesday, December 9, UCAT will add two routes:

- **New Paltz Loop** - Operating Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM, this route connects key destinations requested by riders, including Zer0 Place, Shoprite Plaza, Tops Plaza, four stops at SUNY New Paltz, and other Village locations. The bus follows the same route as previous loop service prior to September 15.
- **Port Ewen Bus** - Operating Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 3 PM, this route will serve Golden Hill, Birches Port Ewen, Garraghan Drive, the Broadway corridor, Kingston Plaza, Development Court (with connections to fixed routes), among other stops.

The additions were made to address near-term needs prior to implementation of the Route Optimization Plan. Once finalized, the Route Optimization Plan will be phased in over three years beginning in 2026 and will increase Countywide bus service by 27%.

"The route additions I'm announcing today are in direct response to concerns raised by riders affected by the September 15 UCAT route changes and will ensure that residents who rely on our buses to shop for groceries and meet other needs have the service they depend on," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, we are excited about implementing the Route Optimization Plan, which will significantly increase transit service for our residents and make it easier and more convenient to use our transit system for work, school, and other transportation needs."

To continue gathering input, paper surveys will be available on UCAT buses, with QR codes for riders who prefer to share feedback online.

For more information about UCAT routes, schedules, and service updates, visit:

<https://ucat.ulstercountyny.gov>.

Make Your Voice Heard

Dear Friends and Community Members,

Today, the Jewish community of Rhinebeck was informed that beginning next year, the Village will no longer permit our Chanukah menorah to be displayed on municipal property. Mayor Gary Bassett told us personally that while the menorah may remain this season, going forward the Village now considers it a religious symbol and therefore impermissible on public land. I met with the Mayor today and explained that in its 1989 decision, *County of Allegheny v. ACLU*, the United States Supreme Court made clear that a menorah displayed alongside secular seasonal symbols-such as holiday lights-is a permissible acknowledgment of Chanukah as a cultural and historical holiday.

For more than thirty years, this precedent has allowed communities across the country, including countless towns in Dutchess County, to include menorahs in public holiday displays without violating the Establishment Clause.

I am asking you-friends, neighbors, and all who care about inclusion-to reach out to the Village at 845-876-7015 (option 2) or email MayorBassett@village-ofrhinebeckny.gov and share this message:

The menorah is more than a religious object. It is an ancient emblem of resilience, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness. It represents the belief that in the bleakest moments, courage and goodness can still shine through.

By choosing to bar the menorah, the Village dims a message of universal hope and signals-painfully-that Jewish tradition is less welcome in Rhinebeck's public square. This comes at a time when antisemitism is rising nationwide.

We had hoped the Village would choose inclusion over exclusion and honor the Supreme Court's long-standing guidance.

We remain committed to respectful dialogue with Village leadership and to finding a path forward that upholds both the First Amendment and the warm, inclusive spirit that has always defined Rhinebeck.

In the meantime, the lights of Chanukah will continue to shine. We warmly invite all our neighbors-Jewish and non-Jewish alike-to join us on the 7th night of Chanukah, December 20, as we kindle the menorah, in the center of the village, together and share the timeless message that light and goodness will always prevail.

To support this campaign and all our Chanukah events, please consider donating:

<http://rhinebeckjewishcenter.com/donate>

With gratitude,
Rabbi Hanoch Hecht

Studio Holiday Sale



On **Saturday and Sunday, December 13 & 14, from 11 - 5**, **Chris Parrow Pottery** will be having a Studio Show and Sale at 218 Twins Haven Road, off Route 55A and Lackawack Hill Road, just ten minutes from Grahamsville.

There will be lots of beautiful, functional handmade pottery from three local ceramic artists as well as paintings, note cards, honey from Heron Hill Farm. cozy handknit scarves, hats and mittens for kids and adults, and more.

Stop by for cider and cookies and to visit and shop for unique gifts for everyone on your list. For information call 845-985-7564 or email chrisparrowpottery@gmail.com

Directions: From Napanoch or Grahamsville take Rt. 55 to 55A and follow along the reservoir, turn and go up Lackawack Hill Road 1/2 mile then bear left on Twins Haven Road to # 218 on the right.



Give the Gift of Membership!



**Lasting all Year Long, it's the perfect gift
for family and friends who have everything.**

Individual

\$25

- A subscription to *Around the Reservoirs* newsletter
- Advanced notice and for all programs and events
- Invitations to special member receptions and openings
- FREE admission to the Museum
- A 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- FREE admission to over 30 museums throughout New York State!

Double

\$40

All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

Family

\$50

All the above benefits extended to children residing in the household under age 18.

Patron

\$100

All of the above benefits **plus** an invitation to a special higher category member's only reception.

Patron Silver

\$200

All of the above benefits **plus** a private tour of the new Museum and a set of special Museum note cards.

Patron Gold

\$500

All of the above benefits **plus** a surprise historical publication and a reproduced historical photo from the Museum's collections.

Name of Recipient: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Membership Level: _____

Your Name and Address: _____

Gift Message: _____

A notice of your gift and all the benefits will be sent to your recipient in a holiday card. They will receive mailings and notices of programs, activities and openings, plus other benefits.

Solve your gift giving problems and support the Museum at the same time!



Mail your check to: **Time and the Valleys Museum** P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740
or go to: <https://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership> 845-985-7700

Donations and membership fees are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law

Thank you for your support and best wishes for the holiday season!

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press contact: Carla Shapiro, carlashap@yahoo.com

Olive Free Library contact: Melissa McHugh, director@olivefreelibrary.org

OLIVE FREE LIBRARY'S EXHIBITION "S-AGE" OPENS JANUARY 17

The Olive Free Library Association is very pleased to present the exhibition **S-AGE** showcasing 11 artists whose works are focused on the elderly or the journey of aging. The show, curated by Carla Shapiro will run from January 17 through February 28, 2026 with an opening reception on Saturday, January 17 from 3 – 5 pm.

Carla Shapiro says about this exhibition, "What is aging? Not simply the act of growing old, but the art of becoming—layer by layer—someone truer, steadier, and more whole. And what is *spirituality* but the deepening of that becoming, the inner practice that gives meaning to each layer time adds? And what is *sage*? More than a plant, more than a person—sage is what emerges when age and spirit mature together. Wisdom is not produced by years alone, nor by spirituality alone, but by their union.

Spirituality and aging converge to create *S-AGE*: the understanding that time is not our enemy, but our sculptor. When the years pass through us and the spirit wakes within us, we become like sage—fuller in spirit, richer in insight, and able to offer something cleansing, grounding, and sacred to the world.

Included in *S-AGE* are the works by Lori Beitler, Nancy Drew, Janette Kahil, Tatana Kellner, Kay Kenny, Donald O'Finn, Andreas Rentsch, Elise Gold Sewall, Carla Shapiro, Janet Siskind, and Frank Tagariello."

Lori Beitler: Lori Beitler is a contemporary fiber artist whose quilts unite traditional craftsmanship with modern improvisation. With a background in architectural design from Syracuse University, she highlights the tactile beauty of seam lines, using bold solid colors to balance structure and spontaneity. Inspired by design, horticulture, and nature, her work transforms fabric into narratives of place and memory. A member of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) and Surface Design Association (SDA), Lori Beitler has exhibited with the Modern Quilt Guild (MQG) since 2019. Based in Vermont, she continues to explore color, form, and texture. Her work, "Threads of Memory", is an exploration of intimacy, inheritance, and the quiet poetry of everyday objects. Using her father's shirts as the textile, each garment is deconstructed and reimagined into an artwork that holds traces of presence and absence.

Nancy Drew: Nancy Drew was born in NYC. She received her BFA from the University of Michigan. Her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions both nationally and internationally, including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Chelsea Museum of Art, Artists Space, Exit Art, Roebbling Hall, White Box, NYC; as well as Real Art Ways, Hartford CT; Albright College, Reading, PA; Musee D'Art Contemporain, Nimes, France; and the Kyrgyzstan National Fine Arts Museum, Kyrgyzstan Republic. Drew has been written

about in *Art Forum*, *New York Times*, *TimeOut NY*, *Village Voice*, *Partisan Review*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *M Magazine*, and *Bust*. When she's not living and painting in Rosendale, NY, she travels to animal sanctuaries worldwide to help take care of endangered monkey populations.

Janette Kahil: A West Shokan native, Janette Kahil creates artwork inspired by the region's rich history, natural beauty, and the people who shape it. Primarily working in oil and pastel, she brings a versatile approach to her subjects, resulting in pieces that are both expressive and grounded in a strong sense of place. Janette is a member of the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, Olive Free Library Exhibition Committee, and the Olive Adult Art Group. Through her involvement in these organizations, she continues to support and strengthen the local arts community. janettekahil.com

Tatana Kellner: Tatana Kellner's work is rooted in social issues. She has been exhibited in numerous venues across USA, Canada, and Europe, and she has had over 50 solo exhibitions. Kellner is a co-founder and past artistic director of Women's Studio Workshop. Currently she's active in D.R.A.W., an artist community that helps to solve problems, and builds relationships across barriers to cultivate community through shared artistic expression, communication, and appreciation. In 2021 she was inducted into the Hall of Champions, North American Hand Papermakers. Kellner is a recipient of numerous grants and awards, including the Pollock Krasner Foundation, The Creative Climate Award, Puffin Foundation, Photographer's Fund Award (CPW), New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, and many others. Kellner has also been awarded many fellowship residencies. She was born in the Czech Republic, and immigrated to USA in 1969. tatanakellner.com

Kay Kenny: Kay Kenny received her BFA from Syracuse University, MA from Rutgers University, and MFA from Syracuse University (all in Visual Arts). She is a painter and a photographer, and writes art critiques and articles for arts magazines. Kenny was a photography teacher for over thirty years at New York University, and the International Center of Photography in New York City. She has received several awards, and her work has been show in numerous one-person shows. Her work is included in several notable corporate, museum, and private collections, and has been published in many books and magazines. Kenny says about her work in *S-AGE*, "Old Age Comes to Sheep": "In our rural landscape, farm animals, creatures domesticated for our consumption or use for thousands of years, thus our responsibility for their care and well-being, are too often abandoned, neglected, or live out lives intolerable to imagine. The animals photographed here are rescue animals living out their lives in places like the Woodstock Animal Sanctuary. Unlike their fellow sheep they are enjoying the process of growing old in a safe and nurturing environment." kaykenny.com

Donald O'Finn: In 1989 Donald O'Finn graduated with an MFA in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute. He has shown his work from coast to coast, particularly in San Francisco and Manhattan, as well as various locations overseas, including London and China. Trained as a painter, he operates with all the instincts of a Bay Area expressionist figure painter, and considers his videos much more akin to painting and poetry than to film and TV. O'Finn thinks of himself as an "outsider artist". Since 1983 he has been making art with multiple VCR players (and later very basic video editing software) collecting and cross-editing everything of interest he can get his hands on. The generally obscure source material is common to VHS tapes, old TV shows, reality shows, monster movies, silent films, 70s and 80s TV commercials, old trailers, etc. donaldofinn.com

Andreas Rentsch: Andreas Rentsch received a BFA from Les Ecoles d'Arts Appliqués in Vevey, Switzerland, and an MFA in Studio Art from Stony Brook University. He spent the first 18 years of his life

on a prison compound where his father was the warden and where daily interactions with convicts were common. These visual and real-life experiences nurtured a sense of empathy in him for the human condition that has been a guiding force in his life as well as his work. Andreas Rentsch's work has been exhibited worldwide, including a solo exhibition at the Musée de l'Élysée in Switzerland. His images are in many museum collections, and he is a recipient of two New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships and two grants from the Polaroid Corporation. The photography magazine *Aperture* published one of his portfolios. Additionally, numerous books and magazines have published his work, such as "The Polaroid Project", a book published as part of a world-wide nine-museum exhibition of artists who have used Polaroid film in their work. He taught at the International Center of Photography, Stony Brook University, and St. John's University. He is currently an Associate Professor of Photography at Lycoming College and the Chair of the Art Department. **andreasrentsch.com**

Elise Gold Sewall: Born and raised in the northeast, Sewall spent years as a fine jewelry designer in NYC, Asia, and Europe. She won multiple awards for her work including a Mikimoto pearl design award. Contemporary realistic painting was always her primary interest and by the 2000s it became her total focus. Light, color, and reflection are the key areas Sewall explores in her paintings. Simply composed, unassuming moments become fascinating and beautiful. Her colors are often saturated and bright reflecting the light in Southwest Florida where she now lives. Educated at Rhode Island School of Design, Michigan State University, and Arts Students League in NYC she has been featured in solo shows and group shows both nationally and internationally, and has won multiple awards for her work. **elisegoldsewall.com**

Carla Shapiro: Carla Shapiro was born in Manhattan and received a BFA in design from Syracuse University. She is now a photographer and educator based in the Catskill Mountains, NY. Her photographic projects explore loss and longing, memory and nostalgia, womanhood and aging. She employs the use of alternative equipment, processes, and materials, such as platinum printing, the wet-plate collodion process, and pinhole and Holga cameras. Shapiro was an Associate Professor in the graduate department at Pratt Institute. She has received many notable awards, including two Arts Mid-Hudson Arts and Culture grants, The New York Council for the Arts, and three New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships. Her work is included in permanent collections in the Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, The Houston Museum of Fine Arts, The New York Public Library, and Center for Photography at Woodstock. **carlashapiro.com**

Janet Siskind: Janet Siskind is a native New Yorker, and the urban landscape frequently appears in her paintings and prints. Siskind wanted to be an artist since childhood. However Siskind met an anthropologist, and after much study this fascinating profession became hers as well. She did fieldwork in the Amazon, worked with Navajos to document the underreported Church Rock nuclear disaster, visited Tanzania and Russia, and studied the transition from trade to industrialism in New England. Siskind wrote papers and two books, and enjoyed teaching for 35 years at Rutgers University. She still wanted to be an artist so she found time to take figure drawing at the Spring Street Studio and painting classes at the Art Students League. Siskind retired in 2003 with the intention of fully engaging in painting, and quickly had the luck of finding the Woodstock School of Art. She has been there ever since working in landscape, portraits, and printmaking. Siskind had a solo show of her prints at the Storefront Gallery in Kingston, and her work has been shown in many group exhibitions.

Frank Tagariello: Brooklyn-born photographer Frank Tagariello began his career in 1978. After graduating from Pratt Institute, he worked as an art director and travel photographer at *Travel &*

Leisure magazine. Tagariello is an award-winning creative director living in NYC. His photographs have appeared in the *American Photography* annuals. In January 2025 he was part of the Olive Free Library's *Multiplicity: Together and Apart* exhibition where his "Chelsea Market Handmaids" photo appeared on the January 2025 cover of *Chronogram* magazine. [instagram.com/frankmtag](https://www.instagram.com/frankmtag)

The Olive Free Library has created a platform to show and sell the art of regional artists, both established and emerging. This provides art enthusiasts a way to view, appreciate, and purchase local and regional artworks. The rural town of Olive does not have a cultural center, so the library converted its spacious, light community room into a gallery space. The response from both artists and the community has been overwhelmingly positive. olivefreelibrary.org

S-AGE

Exhibition Dates: January 17 – February 28, 2026

Opening: Saturday, January 17, 2026, 3 – 5 pm

Olive Free Library Association

4033 Route 28A (PO Box 59 Mailing Address), West Shokan, NY 12494

Phone: 845.657.2482 / Email: helpdesk@olivefreelibrary.org / Website: olivefreelibrary.org

Please see images of artwork in the show enclosed in this press release. These images and others in high resolution are available by sending an email to thefessor@hotmail.com.



Carla Shapiro, *Leah*, 2025. Photography, 16" x 16".



Elise Gold Sewall, *My Thoughts Have Wings*, 2025. Fine art giclee, 36" x 36".



Donald O'Finn, *Extinction*, 2010-2025. Video, 1920 x 1080, 300 res, 4 minutes and 40 seconds.



Kay Kenny, *Reading with Sheep*, 2018. Archival inkjet printed photography, 22" x 24" framed.



Tatana Kellner, *After You*, 2025. Acrylic on paper, 40" x 26".

Free Christmas Trees & Holiday Stockings for Veterans



Action Toward Independence and the **Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Vet 2 Vet program of Sullivan County** are thrilled to once again team up with **Delaware Valley Farm & Garden Center** in Callicoon to offer free Christmas trees to area Veterans.

Quantities are limited and Veterans need to reserve a tree by calling 845-794-4228 to obtain a coupon for a free tree. The trees, which have been donated by Delaware Valley Farm & Garden Center, may be picked up during store hours anytime between December 2 and December 15.

Delaware Valley Farm & Garden Center is located at 305 Viaduct Road in Callicoon.

In addition to the trees, Vet 2 Vet of Sullivan County is happy to offer Holiday Stockings for Heroes, to Veterans, Active Duty, and their partners or caregivers.

Veterans can stop in at the Action Toward Independence office at 309 East Broadway in Monticello to pick up festive holiday stockings filled with essentials to brighten their season. Quantities are limited, and pick up begins December 1.

Proof of Veteran status is required. Call 845-794-4228 to reserve a tree and / or make an appointment to pick up a holiday stocking.

A photograph of Jefferson McDonald, a man with light brown hair, wearing a brown blazer, a white shirt, and a red tie. He is sitting on a black bench and playing a black upright piano. A vintage-style microphone is on a stand in front of the piano. The background is a festive green with white stars and a large, stylized orange and yellow flame graphic behind the piano.

JEFFERSON MCDONALD'S

GREAT JINGLE BALLS OF FIRE

**NEW
SONGS!**

**DEC. 10
7:00 PM**

with
COLIN SUMMERS
guitarist

ARMANDO GUTIERREZ
bass & vocals

JOHN VIAVATTINE
saxophone

AND MORE!

**SHADOWLAND
STAGES
MAINSTAGE**

"This guy (McDonald) is the
real deal."
Jonathan Charles Fox
The River Reporter

"Run, do not walk, to get your
tickets!"
Lori Schneider
Aisle Seat

"Get a ticket and take the
rockin' ride!"
Patrick Cassidy
Artistic Director
Studio Tenn

"Our crowd was basically
begging us to bring him
back, and soon!"
Kerby Thompson
Artistic Director
Cortland Rep

**\$43
RESERVED
SEATING**



BLUE MOUNTAINS TROUT NEWS

DECEMBER 2025



Ashokan Reservoir in winter. Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Chapter Holiday Party on December 18!

As an appreciation of membership support and celebration of 2025, we are hosting a year-end Holiday Party on Thursday, December 18 at the Boiceville Inn, starting at 6 PM. A light buffet dinner will be served at no charge, but purchase your own liquid refreshments via cash bar. Come and enjoy membership camaraderie while putting a punctuation mark on 2025. The event is open to members and their spouses or significant others, and chapter friends. While not required, for those wishing to take part, we will also host a gift exchange. Participants should bring a wrapped gift with a value of roughly \$20. You'll get a ticket, and numbers will be drawn to select a gift. Hope to see you on the 18th!

Schedule Set for Early 2026 Chapter Meetings

For now, mark your calendar with the first three chapter meetings of 2026, all on the fourth Thursday of each month: January 22, February 26, and March 26. These meetings are all winter weather dependent, so keep watching for updates, but please mark your calendars for the time being.

APWCTU to Sponsor Young Campers

Our chapter is reserving four slots for 2026 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Summer Camps. Slots will be available to male or female

youths expressing an interest in the outdoors. Two slots are for ages 11-13 and two slots for ages 14-17. The young people don't have to be members of Trout Unlimited, nor does the individual submitting a name. We would just like to have someone who enjoys the outdoors and is interested in learning more about nature and outdoor activities. Information on these camps is available on the NYS DEC website at <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/summer-camps>. Our chapter will pay the \$350 registration fee, but transportation must be arranged by the individual. If you wish to nominate a youth for the one of camp slots, submit their name and age, plus a little about their outdoor interests to John Yanzek at: jyanzek@gmail.com.



Underwater image of a brook trout
Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Latest Brook Trout DNA Soon to be Studied

Board member Yuki Asada reports that the Hubbard Center for Genome Studies at the University of New Hampshire has finished sequencing the fin clip samples of our 2024 Rochester Hollow study. This effort was paid for by the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) by means of a grant awarded to our chapter to help underwrite this activity. Dr. Spencer Bruce will analyze these results, comparing them to prior such New York State brook trout studies.

Brook trout lovers, like me, might enjoy this Frequent Flyers Fishing YouTube, The Wild Brook Trout of the Catskills: Miracle of the Mountains. Among others, Jesse Vadala, Trout Unlimited Northeast Engagement Coordinator, is featured in it. This YouTube video defines what the chapter's ongoing Heritage Brook Trout studies are about.

Neversink River May Be Endangered by Development

Our chapter joined a growing list of the concerned public regarding a proposal to build large warehouse on Heiden Road, in the Town of Thompson along the banks of the river, upstream of the Neversink River Unique Area. Yuki Asada chaired a small committee which drafted a letter for President Tony Cocozza's signature, in support of (Contd. Pg. 39)

Blue Mountains Trout News

(From Pg. 38) the letter submitted on behalf of Trout Unlimited by Tracy Brown, TU Program Director for New York, Theodore Fly Fishers, the Catskill Mountainkeeper, and others. Basically, concerns were raised that hopefully will be addressed by the applicant's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Several chapter members wrote letters also.



Christmas Dry Fly
Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Fly Tying Classes Start in February

Once again the chapter will host free fly-tying classes at the Olive Library in West Shokan. The classes will run each Saturday in February plus the first two Saturdays in March. Watch for details for upcoming newsletters.

Precipitation Report

In November Jody Hoyt reported 2.70 liquid inches of precipitation fell in Boiceville, including 0.5 inches of snow/sleet during eight measurable storms. These had a weighted pH of 6.5. By comparison, in 2024 there were five storms measuring 5.03 inches of liquid precip, including 8.3 inches of snow/sleet, with a 5.6 weighted pH. Thanks Jody!

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Treasurer John Yanzek reported the chapter's total cash assets of \$20,675.38, of which \$19,484.86 is in the General Fund, with \$1,190.52 in the Conservation Fund. The chapter received a one-hundred-dollar (\$100) donation from The Neversink Association, Inc that was put into our Conservation Fund, for conservation purposes. Thank you The Neversink Association!

Membership

If you have membership questions or concerns, or know someone who wants to join our chapter, please contact Russell Martin at: <mailto:rmartintu@gmail.com?subject=TU%20membership%20inquiry>. To join our chapter online, please use this link: <http://tu.org/join559>.

Until next time,
Ed Ostapczuk
December 8, 2025

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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan

← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road

Continue onto NY-28A West

← Turn LEFT onto NY-213

→ Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A

Gun Shop on LEFT

1.7 Miles

1.8 Miles

1.1 Miles

0.8 Miles

Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge

→ Going Towards Olivebridge

← Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A

Gun Shop on LEFT

7.5 Miles

0.8 Miles

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

DEC Forest Rangers - Week in Review Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

Town of Olive –Ulster County

Wilderness Rescue: On November 29 at 5:25 p.m., Ray Brook Dispatch called Forest Ranger Horn about a subject lost near the summit of Samuel's Point, a trailless peak in the Slide Mountain Wilderness. The 57-year-old from New York City was visiting a friend who lives near the base of the peak. The hiker bushwhacked almost to the summit before dark but became disoriented in the thick vegetation. The subject was relying on a cell phone for maps, but lost cellular connection. The subject used the satellite messenger feature on the phone to message a friend in New York City to call 911. Rangers Franceschina and Horn obtained coordinates and reached the subject at 7:45 p.m. The Rangers provided food and warm clothes and assisted the hiker out to the patrol vehicles by 9 p.m.

Rangers suggest planning for your hike before heading out, including checking the weather to know how snowy or icy it is. Snowshoes, crampons, or microspikes may be needed in addition to insulated boots. DEC's website has more tips for safe winter hiking.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Penn State Football Will Rise Again

Due to the dismissal of James Franklin as the head football coach at Penn State almost all of the 2026 recruits have deserted Penn State and gone to other schools. Most notably many of them will join Franklin, the new head coach at Virginia Tech. I think they are making a big mistake by placing too much importance on Franklin's promises and his persuasiveness. The decision to join a college football program should include an evaluation of the total football program at the college. This includes whether it has the stature of a national program, will it receive media exposure, and does it have the potential to be nationally ranked. The prowess of the high school football programs in the region should be evaluated. The school's graduation rate and whether the graduates make it into the pros are important. The adequacy of the training facilities should be looked at. The size of the fan base and alumni support are other important criteria. Finally, the financial resources available to the football program are vital for recruiting and retaining players. The Penn State football program addresses and excels in meeting all of these criteria.

The long-term potential for the Penn State football program is very positive based on the elements described in the previous paragraph. It attracts outstanding players, and Matt Campbell, the new head football coach, will bring the impetus, recruiting prowess and overall coaching ability to bring back Penn State football to prominence. Also, I envision a number of former Penn State 2026 recruits deciding to transfer to Penn State after one year at their new schools.

I am a 1963 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

Songs, Stories and Sleighbells A Holiday Concert

Sunday Dec 14, 2025 at 2pm

Featuring Craig Bickhardt, Jesse Terry, Halley Neal, and Sam Robbins

Four highly acclaimed, award winning singer-songwriters team up and take the stage for an evening of festive & heartwarming holiday music!

Craig Bickhardt's songs have been recorded by Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, BB King, Martina McBride and about 125 others. He has written or co-written nine (9) top ten hits including four (4) #1s. "Precious Child - The Story of Christmas," Craig's collaboration with Thom Schuyler (Songwriter Hall of Fame), is considered a classic, must-have holiday album.

Jesse Terry is a Grand Prize winner of The John Lennon songwriting contest and the CMT/NSAI Song Contest. He plays over 125 shows annually from Bonnaroo to the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the 30A Songwriters Festival to AmericanaFest. Jesse's Holiday CD, "Peace-A Christmas Collection," his children's book, "If I Were The Moon," and his arrangements of timeless holiday songs, have people coming back for more every holiday season!

Halley Neal is an award winning folk singer and songwriter whose live shows center on themes of positivity and peace. The formerly-Nashville-currently-Boston-area-based artist has gained national recognition from touring across the country to listening rooms and folk music venues and from her performances at festivals, notably the Kerrville Folk Fest, Rocky Mountain Folks Fest and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. Her live shows are remembered for her effortless vocals and honest lyrics.

Sam Robbins is a Nashville-based singer songwriter, in the vein of classic writers like James Taylor and Jackson Browne, with an upbeat side. He's the 2021 Kerrville Folk Fest New Folk winner and he was the first to sing a Jim Croce song on The Voice. Sam and Halley's collaborative holiday album, "You and Me on Christmas Eve," was released in December or last year and quickly drew accolades from reviewers and fans alike.

All are Welcome to join us and get into the Holiday spirit!

Tickets \$30 - Buy Now on My River Tickets

Buy tickets @

<https://myrivertickets.com/events/songs-stories-sleighbells-a-holiday-concert-celebration-12-14-2025>



Students Grades 1-6 *
Tuesday, December 16th

3:00 to 4:00 pm

Snow Date: Wednesday, December 17th

Join us for an afternoon of warm latkes and applesauce!
Come in from the cold for some holiday cheer, stories,
crafts, music and LOL (Lots of Latkes)!

* Learn about the Festival of Lights - Hanukkah,
a joyous holiday. We have a whole lotta latke
experience to share.

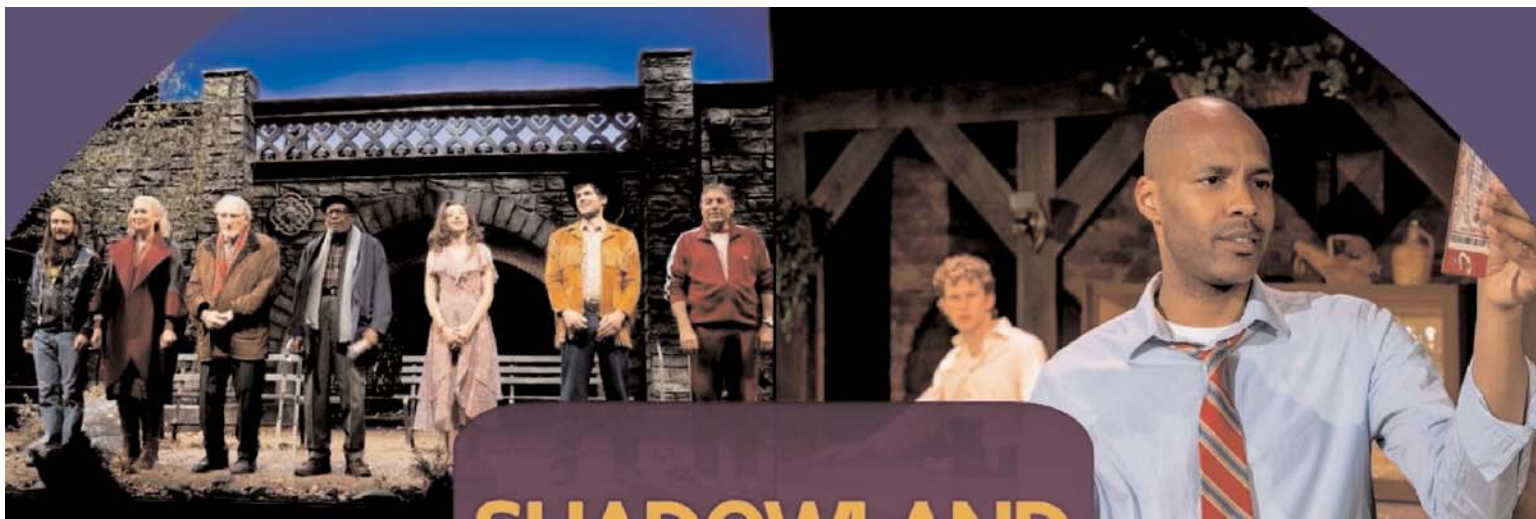
Take home the secret recipe to make your own!

Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents. Advanced online registration
is required at [danielpiercelibrary.org](https://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)

If you wish for your child to take the bus from school, please send a note
to the elementary office no later than Monday, December 15th.

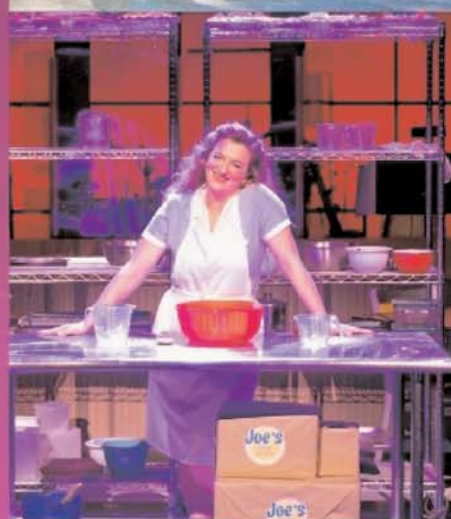
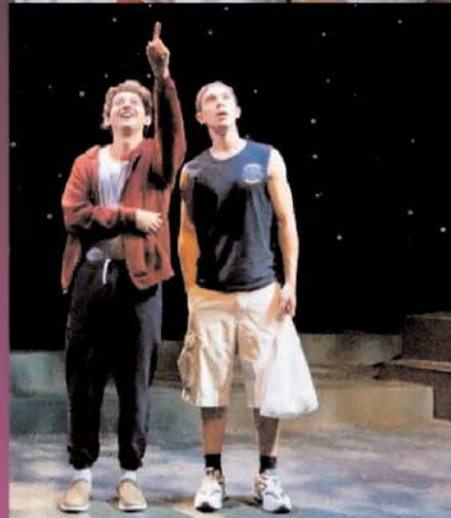
Register for latkes & applesauce

<https://www.danielpiercelibrary.org/pages/index/229696/latkes-and-applesauce>



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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

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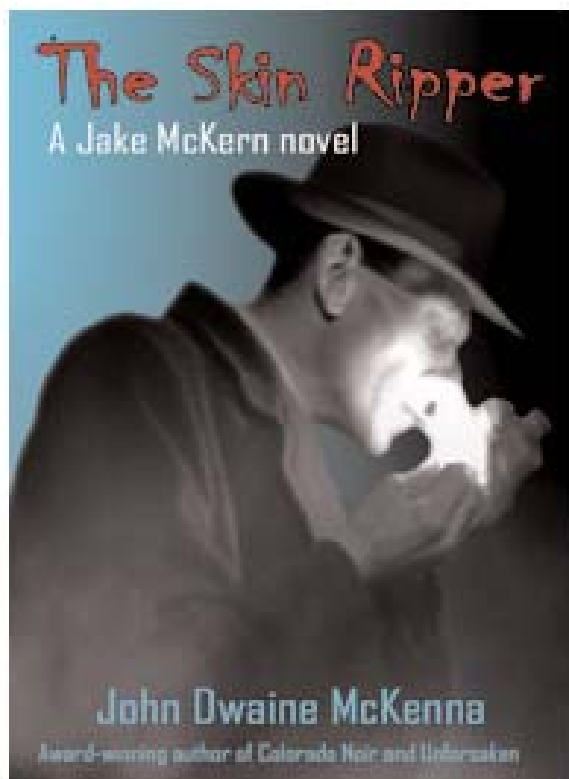
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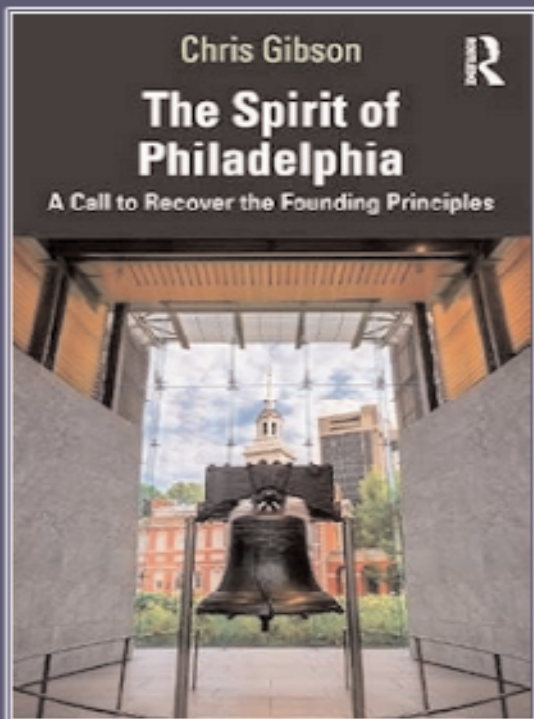


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The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

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

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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



Ulster County Workforce Development Board Appoints Sean Brix as New Chair

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sean Brix, a seasoned Human Resources leader with more than 20 years of experience in talent acquisition, employee relations, and workforce development, as its new Board Chair.



Brix currently serves as Human Resources Manager at Viking Industries, a Hudson Valley manufacturer and distributor of corrugated packaging products. A longtime Ulster County resident of more than 25 years, and a Kingston resident, he has built his career across manufacturing, healthcare, financial services, and technology - designing practical HR programs that strengthen recruitment, retention, and compliance. His leadership roles have included service at Viva Eve, Nuvance Health, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, and Partsearch Technologies, where he developed effective processes to support business goals and employee engagement.

Brix holds a Master of Fine Arts from SUNY New Paltz, a Human Resources Certification from Marist College, and is a SHRM Certified Professional and Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt. He has an extensive history of community involvement, having served on the Kingston Land Trust, the Rip Van Winkle Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Ulster County Job Services Employer Committee. He is also a past president of the Mid Hudson Human Resources Association.

"It is an honor to step into this role and continue supporting workforce initiatives that strengthen Ulster County's economy," said Sean Brix. "I look forward to working with board members, employers, educators, and community partners to ensure that jobseekers and businesses alike have the tools and resources they need to succeed."

"The Workforce Development Board plays an essential role in connecting jobseekers with opportunities and helping local businesses thrive," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "Sean Brix brings extensive experience in human resources and workforce development, and his qualifications will be invaluable in guiding strategies that expand career pathways for our residents and connect businesses with our skilled workforce. I congratulate Sean on his appointment as Chair and look forward to the Board's continued leadership in building a strong and skilled workforce and expanding meaningful job opportunities in Ulster County."

"Sean brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our community," said Sharon Williams, Director of the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training and Workforce Development Board. "We are excited to welcome him as Chair and look forward to his leadership in advancing workforce strategies that meet the needs of both jobseekers and employers."

Workforce Development Boards (WDB) play an important role in local economic growth. The Ulster County WDB sets workforce development policy and oversees Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding allocated to Ulster County for programming services facilitated through the Office of Employment and Training. Appointed by County Executive Metzger, the Board coordinates workforce

development strategies and creates employer linkages. At least half of Board members are representatives of local businesses, with the remaining members representing educational institutions, labor organizations, community based organizations, economic development agencies, and Ulster County Career Center partners. The Chair is elected by the Board.

The Ulster County WDB also extends its sincere appreciation to its outgoing Chair, James (Jim) Ferraro, Managing Partner at Elna Magnetics in Saugerties, for two and a half years of exceptional leadership. Under his guidance, the Board strengthened partnerships, expanded employer engagement, and supported innovative programs that helped residents gain meaningful employment. His commitment and service have left a lasting impact on workforce development throughout the County.

Brix will begin his term immediately and serve through June 30, 2027.

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Gillibrand, Alsobrooks, Kim Introduce Bill to Incentivize States to Help Seniors and People with Disabilities Live with Dignity

The Strategic Plan for Aging Act would create a new, nationwide grant program to incentivize and support states' efforts to create Master Plans for Aging

Washington, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) -ranking member of the U.S. Senate Aging Committee - and U.S. Senators Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD) and Andy Kim (D-NJ) reintroduced landmark legislation that would create a nationwide grant program to support states' efforts to create their own Master Plans for Aging.

Over 61 million Americans are aged 65 years and older, and that number is expected to rise to more than 80 million by 2040. This legislation would help make sure that state and local governments are prepared to address the needs of our aging loved ones.

"After serving in our wars, educating our children, and laying the groundwork for the generations that come after them, American seniors deserve to age with dignity and financial security," said Senator Gillibrand. "The Strategic Plan for Aging Act would deliver critical funding for states to develop their own Master Plans for Aging, which can provide resources to help older Americans navigate everything from housing and food insecurity to skyrocketing health care costs, insufficient retirement savings, and elder abuse. This legislation is critical to make sure that no older American is left behind, and I'm committed to getting it passed."

"As a proud member of the sandwich generation, I witness in my own family the challenges older Americans face," said Senator Alsobrooks. "I am blessed to be raising my 20-year-old daughter while also helping to care for my aging parents. By passing the Strategic Plan for Aging Act, Congress would help incentivize what pioneering states like Maryland are already doing: developing strategic plans for aging to help older Americans secure affordable housing, food, and health care. Our seniors have done so much for us - served our nation in the military and public service, educated and raised our future generations, and created pathways for all of us to succeed - it is time we make sure this country works for them."

"This legislation gives states the support they need in order to give seniors the support they deserve," said Senator Kim. "Living a life of dignity and respect as you get older should not be too much to ask for. I hope we can come together on this simple step to make care and services more accessible across our country."

At least 38 states---including New York---are currently implementing, developing, or initiating a comprehensive plan to address the needs of older adults. These plans

are state-led, cross-sector planning resources that help states transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for older adults and their families. The goal of the plans is to guide policy choices and investments at the state level to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can live with dignity in the settings of their choice.

The Strategic Plan for Aging Act would:

1. Award grants to states, territories, and tribes to create or implement their own Master Plans for Aging, otherwise known as Multisector Plans for Aging and Aging with a Disability.

a. Awardees will finalize and begin the implementation of their plan no later than 2 years after receiving the grant. The plan should cover a 10-year period.

b. Up to 65 grants of \$500,000 or less can be implemented over a 5-year period.

2. Provide awardees with resources to create, coordinate, implement, and evaluate cross-sector plans to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of older adults, including those with a disability, and their families and caregivers.

3. Connect state, local, non-profit, and private sector plans to transform the infrastructure and coordination of key services, supports, and initiatives that address the needs of older adults such as long-term care, transportation, and social engagement.

The legislation is endorsed by 40 organizations. A list of organizations and supporting quotes can be found here.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Strategic-Plan-for-Aging-Act.pdf>

Governor Hochul Authorizes Real Property Tax Exemptions for New York Seniors

Legislation S5175A/A3698A Allows Localities To Provide Real Property Tax Exemption up to 65 Percent for Certain Seniors

Builds on Governor's Affordability Agenda That Included Tax Cuts for Middle-Class New Yorkers

Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation that enhanced real property tax exemptions for New York seniors. Legislation S5175A/A3698A allows localities to provide a real property tax exemption for senior citizens who meet the income eligibility limits, among other criteria, up to 65 percent of the assessed valuation of their properties. This legislation builds on the Governor's affordability agenda, which included tax cuts for middle-class New Yorkers. (Contd. Pg. 54)

Governor Hochul Authorizes Real Property Tax Exemptions for New York Seniors

(From Pg. 53)

“No New York senior should lose their home because they can no longer afford their property taxes,” Governor Hochul said. “By signing this legislation, we are working to make New York more affordable for our seniors on fixed incomes and empowering them to age in place, at home, in the communities they know and love.”

The bill will give localities the option to offer real property tax exemptions of up to 65 percent to seniors living below the maximum income eligibility level set by the locality. Prior to, the maximum percentage of exemption local governments have been able to offer senior citizens was set at 50 percent and has not been raised in decades. Increasing the exemption from 50 percent to 65 percent could translate into savings of up to \$300 annually for the average senior.

New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Acting Director Greg Olsen said, “Governor Hochul is coming through yet again on making New York more affordable for individuals and their families. Property taxes, especially for those on fixed incomes, can often be difficult to afford. With more than 1.8 million older adults who own their own homes, this important law will continue to help older adults remain in the homes and communities of their choice and keeping their vast contributions within New York State.”

State Senator Leroy Comrie said, “Seniors have faced rising housing costs and inflation- oftentimes living on fixed income. Signing S5175A into law is an important step toward restoring real affordability for older adults across New York. This law allows localities to offer up to a 65 percent discount to eligible seniors so long-time homeowners can remain in their communities with dignity and security. I thank Governor Hochul, my colleagues and especially Assemblymember David Weprin for partnering to deliver meaningful support for the New Yorkers who helped build this state.”

Assemblymember David Weprin said, “I'm grateful for Governor Kathy Hochul's commitment to improving affordability for all New Yorkers, including our senior citizen homeowners. By advancing this bill into law, we will provide relief from the burden of increasing real property taxes and ensure stability for elderly homeowners on low fixed incomes. I look forward to continued partnership with Governor Hochul and my fellow elected leaders to advance this critical affordability agenda.”

This legislation builds on Governor Hochul's affordability agenda, which includes:

- **Middle-Class Tax Cut:** Approximately 8.3 million New Yorkers will benefit from decreased tax rates, bringing middle-class taxes to their lowest levels in 70 years.
- **Child Tax Credit Expansion:** The Child Tax Credit is increasing to up to \$1,000 per child under the age of four and up to \$500 for school-aged children, starting in 2026.

- **Inflation Refund Checks:** Eligible New Yorkers have received up to \$200 per person or \$400 per family, reaching 8.2 million people.
- **Free School Meals:** All K-12 students now have access to free breakfast and lunch, saving families up to \$1,600 per child annually.



During the hectic holiday season and following a busy week in Washington, I want to say how grateful I am for each and every one of you - for what you contribute to our Hudson Valley community and for making your voice heard so I can best serve as your Representative.

Hearing from you is critical - your experiences help me target the exact pressure points you're feeling with rising grocery, housing, and health care costs. And your stories are what motivate me day in and day out to fight for a more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley for you and all our neighbors. Here's some of how I worked for our Hudson Valley community recently:
COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY THIS THANKSGIVING

I want to give a huge thank you to our food banks and the volunteers across the Hudson Valley who came together to deliver Thanksgiving meals to our neighbors.

I was truly grateful to join with volunteers at the Regional Food Bank's turkey distribution where we shared 700 hand-prepared Thanksgiving food bags to ensure every Hudson Valley family has a warm, delicious meal.

I'm thankful for our community that always comes together to serve and support each other. This is what our Hudson Valley community is all about!

DEMANDING TRANSPARENCY FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY HEGSETH

This week, we learned more about both about 'Signalgate' in which Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth used an unsecured phone messaging application to send details of a military strike and about the September 2nd strike on an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean.

The Secretary of Defense's two main jobs are to execute the mission and to keep our men and women in uniform safe; the 'Signalgate' report confirmed Hegseth failed at both of those jobs. Crucially, the report concluded that “the Secretary's actions created a risk to operational security that could have resulted in failed U.S. mission objectives and potential harm to U.S. pilots.”

We also deserve answers on the September 2nd attack, in which following an initial strike that destroyed the alleged drug boat and most of its crew, additional strikes took place to kill the two remaining unarmed, shipwrecked individuals. (Contd. Pg. 55)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 54) I led 19 colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee in writing to the Secretary with a straightforward request, squarely within our oversight duties and authorities as Members of Congress: release all follow-on strike video, audio, transcripts, after-action reviews - everything - to the public immediately. The American people deserve transparency, and we will fight until we get it.

Watch my discussion of both of these topics here.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/04/politics/video/pat-ryan-armed-services-committee-on-hegseth-bombing-of-venezuelan-drug-boats>

CALLING FOR ANSWERS AFTER ABRUPT CANCELLATION OF NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

People who came to this country, who came to our community, to build a better life for themselves and their families should be commended and rewarded for their hard work - not shunned by our legal system without warning or reason.

I've been to naturalization ceremonies, they are joyful occasions representing the very best of what our community can be.

Over the past few weeks, we've seen USCIS pull the rug out from under many of our neighbors by abruptly cancelling naturalization ceremonies. For U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) to cancel previously scheduled hearings for people that have been in this process for years, decades even, is a fundamental slap in the face to our community and the American dream as a whole.

Cancelling naturalization ceremonies for people who have followed every legal process, met every qualification, and gone to every court day is more than wrong - it's deeply un-American.

This week, I sent a letter to USCIS Director Edlow demanding answers for this series of abrupt cancellations. The Hudson Valley deserves answers, and we won't stop fighting until we get them.

DEFENDING PROTECTIONS FOR DISABLED TRAVELERS

Under former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, the United States saw our most pro-traveler Transportation Department in history. It made it easier for folks to get refunded, to travel with their families, and instated new protections for disabled travelers.

What we're seeing now is a sharp reversal, and a total betrayal of millions of Americans. That's because, while Secretary Buttigieg understood that disabled Americans, including veterans, deserve to fly safely and with dignity, Trump's DOT Secretary - former airline lobbyist Sean Duffy - is selling out consumers to line the pockets of the guys who used to sign his paychecks. It's peak corruption, and an abject abandonment of the American people.

Duffy is reversing a provision to protect and appropriately compensate the 1 in 100 wheelchair users who have their chair or scooter damaged by the airline while traveling by plane, just like he recently rolled back a rule requiring airlines to compensate travelers for flight disruptions.

I'm demanding that Secretary Duffy protect disabled Americans' right to fly safely and with dignity by enforcing

this provision. We have to be loud and relentless in fighting back and I won't let up.

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES FOR OUR KIDS

I fought tooth and nail to secure over \$4 million in landmark funding for the Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh because they go above and beyond to help our kids thrive.

The Boys & Girls Club recently brought our community together to cut the ribbon on the expansions made possible in part by this funding. These expansions are paving the way for new programs, resources, and opportunities that are going to transform Hudson Valley kids' lives forever.

I am so grateful to everyone that has helped get us to this point - especially the Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh leadership and Board, New York State Council on the Arts, and the Ohnell Family Foundation.

And thank you to the Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh for helping the leaders of tomorrow succeed today.

HEARING DIRECTLY FROM YOU: ARE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS INCREASING?

We're feeling the harms of Trump's cruel health care cuts and cost increases every day in the Hudson Valley.

I'm fighting back relentlessly against the devastating impacts to our community - but as hardworking families across the region face skyrocketing insurance prices, I'm asking for your help.

I want to hear directly from you: Have you received a notice that your health insurance premiums are increasing?

Please take my quick survey here.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/04/politics/video/pat-ryan-armed-services-committee-on-hegseth-bombing-of-venezuelan-drug-boats>

If you know someone else impacted by increasing premiums, please forward this to them so they can complete the survey, too.

240,000 of our neighbors - seniors, veterans, and single parents - are at risk of losing their health insurance. 17,000 already have. Nearly half of them are kids. An average 60-year-old couple on ACA insurance in our community could face a \$1,000/month increase to their health care bill.

These are burdens that our community simply cannot afford - and they shouldn't have to. That's why it's so important that I hear from YOU. We are not powerless - and together, we can build the more affordable, safe, and free Hudson Valley that our families deserve.

HONORING A CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Father Frank Alagna - rector emeritus of Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Ulster Immigrant Defense Network founder, and a powerful advocate for our community's most vulnerable.

He lived a life grounded in justice that serves as an inspiration to us all. He will be greatly missed by our entire Hudson Valley community.

FIGHTING TO BRING DOWN GROCERY PRICES

This holiday season, the only thing you should be focused on is making memories with your loved ones - not the bills stacking up as you prepare for times spent around the table with family. (Contd. Pg. 56)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 55)

As I work to get my Lower Grocery Prices Act passed, please tell me how you're impacted by rising food costs by taking my quick survey here. https://iqconnect.house.gov/iqextranet/EForm.aspx?__cid=NY19PR&__fid=100057

I'll keep working to lower costs for your family and your input is critical for me to do so!

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

Do you need help enrolling in Medicare, getting your IRS tax return, and more? Join my team at one of December'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.

UPHOLDING OUR NATION'S PROMISE TO OUR VETERANS

Our veterans risked their lives to protect our country. We have a sacred duty to take care of them when they come home.

I'm grateful my team could join for the opening of Ulster County's Veterans Treatment Court that will help veterans receive the support and mental health treatment they need to forge a new path forward.

The Rumshock Veterans Foundation, under Bill Whetsel's leadership, does incredible work for our community.

I fought tooth and nail to secure \$1 million for its Veterans Village of tiny homes for Orange County veterans. I'm proud of the completion of the Village's first tiny home and excited for it to transform a veteran's life! Read more about it here.

CELEBRATING OUR GREEK COMMUNITY

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Kingston is an integral part of our Kingston community.

Thank you to Father Kordaris for the invitation and warm welcome to the Church's Greek Bazaar - it was truly a perfect celebration of the Church community, Greek traditions, and amazing food!

LOWERING THE COST OF HOUSING

Lowering housing costs needs an all-of-the-above approach, including cracking down on Wall Street speculators buying up houses and jacking up prices. That's why I've kept up the pressure of my demand to investigate price gouging by multi-billion dollar private equity firms - watch here!

<https://x.com/RepPatRyanNY/status/1993077220408013249?s=20>

It's part of my multi-pronged Housing Agenda targeting the root causes of the housing crisis in the Hudson Valley. I'll keep fighting to lower the cost of housing for you and your family.

SUPPORTING OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

Our family-owned businesses are the backbone of our local economies and I want to say thank you to our Hudson Valley businesses owners for being staples in our communities.

On this past weekend's Small Business Saturday and every day, I'm working to make sure you have the resources you need to keep thriving.

KEEPING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD IN MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

I was heartbroken to hear of the targeted shooting of National Guard members Sarah Beckstrom and Andrew Wolfe in Washington D.C. the day before Thanksgiving.

I am sending my deepest condolences to Sarah Beckstrom's loved ones as they grieve her loss, praying for Andrew Wolfe and his family that he fully recovers, and keeping the entire National Guard community in my thoughts during this time.

Beckstrom and Wolfe are Patriots and heroes. Targeted violence against the men and women serving our country is wholly unacceptable. Thank you to our brave first responders for their quick work to capture the suspect.

PREPARING YOU FOR WINTER WEATHER

The Hudson Valley saw its first blast of winter weather this week.

As we prepare for the rest of the winter ahead, I want to make sure you're ready. Please follow winter weather safety tips to help keep you and your family safe and warm and check in on neighbors who may need assistance getting ready themselves!

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST TO AIDS

On Monday's World AIDS Day, we remembered those lost to this horrific disease.

We have made huge progress in the fight against AIDS and we must continue to push forward by supporting our dedicated healthcare workers, researchers, advocates, and programs like PEPFAR.

GRANTS CORNER

NEW!

Fiscal Year 2026 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MARC) Grants: EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Please visit the Types of Brownfields Grant Funding for an overview of the Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants. EPA has pre-recorded videos to provide an overview of the FY 2026 grant submission process, Application Information Sheet, and threshold requirements. The application submission deadline is January 28, 2026.

(Contd. Pg. 57)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 56)**New York State Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program :**

This new \$100 million Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program is designed to increase the availability of quality care and expand the capacity of child care, including school age programs, across New York State by funding the construction of new child care facilities or expanding existing ones. The initiative is expected to add between 6,000 and 10,000 new seats at child care programs for New York families. The program will provide funding for design, construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment, and other capital assets for existing or proposed not-for-profit or municipal OCFS-licensed child day care centers and OCFS-registered school-age child care programs. The facility must be intended to be used as a child care program for at least eight years and should be located in an area with a current shortage of regulated child care services. Applications will be accepted from January 12, 2026, through February 13, 2026. Awards will be announced no earlier than April 15, 2026.

2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): \$97.4 million in new funding is available for active transportation-related projects and programs that support the advancement of healthy lifestyles across New York State. Projects selected under this solicitation will support the Department of Transportation's commitment to community-centered transportation by providing safe, reliable and resilient transportation systems. Selected projects, which include multi-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, will also connect communities, enhance the quality of life, protect the environment and support the economic well-being of New York State. TAP funding is made available to the State through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The application deadline is March 12, 2026. The application, program guidance and workshop schedules can be found here. <https://www.dot.ny.gov/tap-cmaq>

Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access is accepting applications for the Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition program. The purpose of this program is to preserve and improve access to primary source materials that document the history of America's founding era and of American government in federal, state, and local contexts. Supported activities include conservation treatment and rehousing, digitization and description, transcription and translation, and updating existing digital resources to ensure long-term public availability. This program is offered in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The application deadline is January 15, 2026

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) FY26 Conservation Program Funding: NRCS in New York is announcing that the fiscal year FY26 sign-up deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP),

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and EQIP Initiatives including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), Working Lands for Wildlife Golden-Winged Warbler (WLFW) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) is Oct. 24, 2025

While applications are accepted on a continuous basis, NRCS utilizes application cutoff periods to assess and rank applications based on their potential conservation impact. All applications need to be received by Oct. 24, 2025, to be considered for this first round of funding for FY 2026. Applications received after this date will be held and considered for subsequent rounds.

New York State Council on the Arts FY2026 Capital Projects Fund : Up to \$80 million in capital funding is now available to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts Capital Projects Fund. The Fund has three grant categories: Small and Midsized Capital Improvement Grants, Large Capital Improvement Grants, and Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture. The deadline is January 13, 2026, at 5PM.

Brownfields 101 with the EPA: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Office recorded its "Brownfields 101" briefing for New York communities to provide an overview of the EPA's Brownfield Program. To view the recording, please contact Natalie Lincoln at natalie.lincoln@mail.house.gov or (518) 465-0700. Sign up for the EPA's Technical Assistance and Funding Resource Guide here!

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USEPAREG2/subscribe/new?preferences=true#tab1>

Each month 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 view past Grants Guides, click [here](https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/newsletter-2/newsletter-archive/).

<https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/newsletter-2/newsletter-archive/>

To subscribe to the grants guide, please email epeck@hudsonvalleyrc.org.

New York School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP): Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$200 million in new funding for zero-emission school buses through the Environmental Bond Act of 2022. Distributed via the NYSBIP, the funds support electric bus purchases, charging infrastructure, and fleet planning to improve air quality and reduce pollution in communities across the state. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis with incentive amounts covering up to 100 percent of the incremental cost of a new or repowered electric school bus. This helps offset some or all of the difference in purchase price between zero-emission buses and comparable diesel or gasoline buses. All school bus fleet operators in New York State can also qualify for funding for fleet electrification plans, which provide a customized roadmap for electric bus adoption. (Contd. Pg. 57)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 57)

Weatherization Assistance Program 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.

RESOURCES:

New York Small Business Development Center (NYS-BDC) - NYS Multi-Agency Small Business Resource Presentation: Watch this free session as representatives from several NYS agencies share information about resources and services available to assist small businesses. Topics include licensing, regulations, taxes, insurance, grants, training, and more.

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!



Holding Canada Accountable for USMCA Dairy Violations

This week, I led a bipartisan coalition urging U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to hold Canada accountable for its ongoing violations of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). When President Trump negotiated USMCA, he secured major commitments from Canada to expand market access for American dairy through new, dedicated tariff-rate quotas. Instead of honoring that deal, Canada has sidestepped its obligations by steering most of these quotas to Canadian processors, many of whom have no incentive to import U.S. products. This manipulation has effectively shut out our high-quality,

lower-cost dairy and distorted global markets by flooding the system with artificially low-priced milk solids. As we head toward the 2026 USMCA review, strong enforcement is essential to ensure our farmers receive the access they were promised.

Upstate New York's dairy industry is the backbone of our local economy, and our producers deserve a level playing field. I worked with 73 of my House colleagues on this bipartisan letter, calling on USTR to take firm action and restore fairness to the marketplace. We've made great progress with Mexico under USMCA, and we must protect those gains while holding Canada to the commitments it made. I will continue fighting for accountability, stronger enforcement tools, and greater opportunity for our dairy farmers. The support of leading industry organizations, including the National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association, underscores just how critical this effort is for America's dairy community and for families across New York's 24th District.

READ FULL LETTER HERE.

<https://tenney.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/tenney.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/usmca-canada-dairy-letter-final-2.pdf>

Promoting Internet Freedom in Iran

Alongside Rep. Dave Min (CA-47), I introduced the bipartisan FREEDOM Act to boost America's support for internet freedom in Iran. Our bill directs the State Department, the FCC, and the Treasury Department to fully review the tools that can help Iranians access secure, uncensored communication.

Authoritarian regimes use blackouts and surveillance to silence their people. The FREEDOM Act ensures the United States is doing everything possible to help Iranian civilians stay connected to the world and reach the truth.

Keeping the CCP's Influence Out of Our Schools

The House passed the PROTECT Our Kids Act, a critical measure to stop the Chinese Communist Party from using American classrooms to spread propaganda and influence young students. The CCP has already established 164 Confucius Classrooms nationwide, including several in Western and Central New York, as part of a coordinated effort to shape curriculum, rewrite history, and downplay Beijing's human rights abuses. The PROTECT Our Kids Act ensures that no federal education dollars will go to any school that partners with or accepts materials, personnel, or funding tied to the CCP, and it directs the Department of Education to notify schools and provide clear compliance guidance. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I am working to counter China's malign activities, safeguard our national security, and ensure that American students learn American values, not the messaging of a hostile foreign regime. This legislation moves us closer to keeping CCP influence out of our schools once and for all.

Joining FOX Business to Discuss Jack Smith Subpoena

<https://tenney.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/tenney.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/usmca-canada-dairy-letter-final-2.pdf>

(Contd. Pg. 59)

This Week With Claudia (From Pg. 58)

House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan issued a subpoena requiring former Special Counsel Jack Smith to testify before Congress about his sweeping investigations into President Trump and his decision to secretly obtain Republican lawmakers' phone records. Smith's probes brought unprecedented charges against President Trump, only to be dropped after the 2024 election, and involved extraordinary steps of broad, warrantless toll-record subpoenas targeting senators and members of Congress. These actions raised serious constitutional and political concerns, and the American people deserve transparency. The scheduled closed-door deposition is necessary to build a full investigative record, follow the facts, and understand how and why these powers were used. We must ensure that our justice system will never again be weaponized against political opponents. Equal justice must mean equal justice, no matter who is in power.

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. 2940, the Advancing Water Reuse Act: This bill would increase tax incentives for qualified businesses to invest in water reuse projects. Specifically, this bill assists companies that invest in either on-site water recycling technology or establish public-private partnerships with local municipalities to provide treated recycled water. Manufacturers, data centers, and large businesses rely on large volumes of water, and this bill offers an additional solution for capturing and recycling our abundant water resources.

H.R. 2378, the Defining Male and Female Act of 2025: This bill would define the terms "male" and "female" in U.S. law. Democrats have tried to redefine words like "male" and "female" to include individuals who do not meet that biological definition, spreading radical gender ideologies that harm everyone. It is crucial that Congress makes it clear that a man is a man and a woman is a woman, and this commonsense legislation would help achieve that goal.

H.R. 32, the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act: This bill would deem a state or locality ineligible for any federal funds that would benefit illegal immigrants if they do not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Sanctuary cities have proven to be a serious threat to the safety of American citizens, including cities like New York City. This commonsense legislation ensures that jurisdictions cooperate with U.S. immigration laws or risk federal financial assistance.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional Republic. My constituents deserve to know how their members of Congress vote, which is why I have explained every vote I have cast in Congress since I was first elected.

To read more about my votes and see the full list with explanations of all the legislation considered this week by the

House, please click here.

<https://tenney.house.gov/about/my-votes-explained>

Monday, December 1

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 5348, the Social Security Child Protection Act. This bill would require the Social Security Administration to provide a child under the age of 14 with a new social security card if the child's social security number has been compromised due to the loss or theft of the card. Social Security fraud is a massive issue that Congress must do more to address. This commonsense bill will help prevent fraud before it begins by issuing children new social security cards if their number is compromised early in life. I supported this bill when it passed through the Ways and Means Committee and again when it passed the full House of Representatives. This bill passed by a vote of 386-0, with one member voting present.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 4423, the No New Burma Funds Act. This bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to require the U.S. Executive Director at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to continue the freeze on providing funds to the Government of Burma. In 2021, the Tatmadaw perpetrated a coup against the democratically elected government of Burma and have illegitimately ruled the country since. The Tatmadaw have caused great suffering among Burmese civilians, held sham rigged elections, and worked closely with Russia and China against American interests. Preventing the Tatmadaw from accessing further funds from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development will help reduce funding that can be used to oppress the Burmese people and will show our solidarity with the Burmese people. This bill passed by a vote of 385-0.

Wednesday, December 3

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 2965, the Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025. This bill prohibits the Small Business Administration from issuing new rules that raise compliance costs and requires an annual report on the regulatory burden that other federal agencies impose on Main Street. Here in New York, we know all too well that small employers have faced a flood of complex mandates that cost them time, money, and growth. By forcing accountability and transparency, this legislation will reveal the true cost of over-regulation and gives us the tools we need to roll it back to make Main Street thrive again. Less time navigating bureaucracy means more time for hiring, expansion, and serving local communities. The bill passed the House by a vote of 223-190.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 4305, the DUMP Red Tape Act. This bill creates a dedicated hotline at the Small Business Administration so entrepreneurs can report burdensome, unnecessary, or duplicative federal regulations directly to the Office of Advocacy. It gives small employers a voice in the fight against red tape and ensures their concerns are heard, documented, and reviewed. As a former small business owner, I know firsthand the challenges of maintaining day-to-day operations and meeting payroll while grappling with layers of state and federal mandates. As it applies to federal bureaucratic red tape, it is imperative that we open up clear lines of communication and remove barriers to growth. The bill passed the House by a vote of 269-146. (Contd. Pg 59)

This Week With Claudia (From Pg. 59)

Thursday, December 4

I voted “Yes” on H.R. 1005, the CLASS Act. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I will not allow the CCP to have unfettered access to our classrooms or influence our children. This bill would require any K-12 school to disclose any funds they receive from a foreign source as a condition of receiving federal funding. This is a critical step in our broader America First strategy to counter China, defend our national security, and ensure that every tax dollar supports freedom, not foreign adversaries. Congress must do more to defend the integrity of our nation's integrity program as the Chinese continue working to spread anti-American pro-CCP propaganda in our nation's schools. This bill passed by a vote of 242-176.

I voted “Yes” on H.R. 1069, the PROTECT Our Kids Act. As China continues to malevolently spread its influence around the world, China has found a new avenue to corrupt America's youth: our K-12 education system. For too long, we have allowed Chinese dollars to flood K-12 schools, allowing them to influence what is taught in our schools, including disinformation about the Chinese Communist Party's repression and human rights abuses. This commonsense bill will cut off any federal funding for K-12 schools that receive direct or indirect funding from the Chinese Communist Party. This will protect our nation's children from the malignant propaganda being spread by the CCP and ensure that the Chinese cannot hijack our nation's education system to advance their nefarious aims. This bill passed by a vote of 247-164.

I voted “Yes” on H.R. 1049, the TRACE Act. Parents deserve to know that their children are being taught American values, not the propaganda of a hostile foreign regime. For too long, the Chinese Communist Party has used our own education sys-

tem, including in Western and Central New York, as a Trojan horse to spread censorship, rewrite history, and manipulate the next generation. This bill will require local education agencies to notify parents if they receive any funding from a foreign country or foreign entity of concern. This will help ensure that parents know how their local school district is being funded. I will continue to stand with parents, teachers, and families to keep CCP influence out of American schools once and for all. This bill passed by a vote of 247-166.



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ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

3rd Annual Holiday Market
@ Twin Star Orchards
11 am - 5 pm, December 6th, 13th, 20th
155 N Ohioville Rd, New Paltz

A Frosty Fest @ Headless Horseman
Hayrides & Haunted Attractions
December 6th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st
For time information, please see website.
778 Broadway Route 9W, Ulster Park

10th Anniversary of the Hudson Valley
Gingerbread Competition
@ Mohonk Mountain House
10 am, December 7th
1000 Mountain Rest Rd, New Paltz

Holiday Sip & Shop
@ Locust Grove Brewing Co.
12 pm - 5 pm, December 7th
152 North Rd, Milton

Bad Santa Con
@ Bad Seed Cider Company
12 pm - 8 pm, December 20th
30 Baileys Gap Rd, Highland

DECEMBER



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Each sponsored flag is \$200, allowing you to create a stirring tribute to a person who has inspired you. Your contribution becomes part of an annual inspirational display that touches everyone who sees it.

For Details please email, call or visit the Neversink Town Clerk's office.

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PO Box 307, 273 Main St
Grahamsville, NY 12740
townclerk@townofneversink.org
845-985-2262 Ext. 307



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VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

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

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!




Join us for a peer led virtual support group for parents of children with mental health challenges. Together we have time for conversation and an activity. 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 Anne-Marie at afreitas@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM


Laura Aley's new book includes stories about people and places from long ago.



The book is available at the **Shandaken Historical Museum in Pine Hill** for \$10.00. Not only will you want your own copy, but *Laurels by Laura* will make a great gift -

The Shandaken Historical Museum is located at
26 Academy Street, Pine Hill, NY 12465.
The telephone number of the museum is 845 - 254 - 4460.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

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For family caregivers caring for an individual with any illness, chronic disease or disability (including seniors or someone with early-stage dementia).

To register:

Use the QR Code, or use the link
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6mtpy4>
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**3rd Wednesday
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6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Jan 15 Feb 19

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Via Zoom or Phone



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Presents

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KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2 The Christmas Chronicles

Only on Netflix
(PG · 2018 · 1hr 44mi Fantasy/Family)

One of the best family Christmas movies! This Christmas adventure has lots of kid appeal and excitement in a quest to save Christmas.



Santa, played by Kurt Russell, instantly brings a high level of energy to this film.

Siblings Teddy (Judah Lewis) and Kate (Darby Camp) sneak onto Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. The sleigh crashes and Santa

loses his magic hat and sack full of toys. and then the reindeer go MIA. If Santa doesn't deliver Christmas in time, the world will descend into another Dark Age where violence and chaos rule the day. So the three of them set out to make things right by retrieving the lost items and getting Santa's elves to help repair the sleigh. Along the way, Teddy steals a car (well, borrows a stolen car, really), Santa gets thrown in jail, and Kate finds herself alone in Santa's workshop at the North Pole. Can the three work together to save Christmas?



Directed by Clay Kaytis, derived from a screenplay by Matt Lieberman. Starring Kurt Russell as Santa Claus, Judah Lewis as Teddy, Darby Camp as Kate, Lamorne Morris as Officer Jameson.

*Good wishes for the Holiday Season
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome*

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: **Edith Head**

This weeks' Trivia question:
What kind of dog was *Beethoven*?