



Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"



VOL. 22 NO. 51 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 18, 2025

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Start the New Year Outdoors

Hurleyville, NY The public is invited to join **Morgan Outdoors** for a **First Day Hike on Thursday, January 1 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm** at **Mongaup State Park near Livingston Manor.**

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

Waterproof hiking boots are recommended. Depending on trail conditions, snowshoes or traction devices like microspikes may be required. If needed, microspike rentals are available at Morgan Outdoors. There will be a spe-



Photo by LM Lyons

Ulster County Clerk's Office Announces Swearing-In Ceremony for Taylor John Bruck



Kingston, NY - The Ulster County Clerk's Office will host a swearing-in ceremony for Taylor John Bruck on Monday, December 30, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Ulster County Courthouse, located at 285 Wall Street in Kingston. Due to limited space, advance RSVP is required.

The ceremony will formally recognize Bruck's entry into office. In addition to the oath of office, the program will include brief remarks from other local officials.

The Ulster County Clerk's Office looks forward to marking this important moment and celebrating continued public service to Ulster County.

For inquiries or further information, please contact the County Clerk's Office at (845) 340-3040 or countyclerk@ulstercountyny.gov.

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA - From the notes

of Frank Comando

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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Subscription for *The Townsman* will be available in PDF format and will be delivered to you each week in your email that will be provided by you. *The Townsman* can easily be read on a computer, tablet or cell phone. The pages have been formatted so they can be printed out as a whole paper or a single page. We continue to encourage those who have home printers, to print out a hard copy and perhaps pass it on to a family member or friend who does not have a computer.

POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

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

Opinions expressed in *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* belong to the writers and are not necessarily the viewpoint of *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* or its staff.

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.
Matthew 2:6

OBITUARY

Michael Joseph Ryan, 61, was a man whose life was defined by service, bravery, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of others. Born on March 22, 1964, in Brooklyn, New York, Michael was the fourth son of Finola and the late William J. Ryan. His early years in Brooklyn were the foundation of a life that would be dedicated to helping others. In 1970, the Ryan family moved to Phoenicia, New York, where Michael would eventually meet the love of his life, Debra Jo, and together they built a life filled with love and adventure. Michael's journey of service began soon after he graduated from Onteora High School. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1983, embarking on a distinguished military career that spanned decades. As a Chief Master Sergeant, Michael served with honor and distinction, including deployments to Afghanistan in response to the World Trade Center attacks, to Pakistan in 2003, and to Camp Buqa, Iraq, in 2005. His commitment to his country was recognized through numerous accolades, including the Iraq Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Medal. Even after his active duty service ended, Michael continued to serve in the NY Air National Guard at Stewart AFB. Michael's dedication to public service extended beyond his military career. For 25 years, he was a distinguished member of the Kingston Police Department, where he was known for upholding the highest professional standards. His leadership and commitment to excellence were evident in his work with the KPD Honor Guard and as a member of the Ulster County Law Enforcement Training Group. Michael also served the Town of Ulster Police Department, where his expertise and mentorship were invaluable. After his so-called "retirement" in 2021, Michael's passion for service remained undiminished. He continued to instruct recruits at the Police Academy, sharing his knowledge and experience with the next generation of law enforcement officers. His dedica-

tion to community safety was further exemplified by his role as Fire Commissioner with the M.F. Whitney Hose Co. On December 13, 2025, Michael's life of service reached its zenith when he passed away in the line of duty as an active duty firefighter. While rescuing an injured hiker in the woods, Michael made the ultimate sacrifice, a fitting tribute to a man who always put the lives of others before his own. His legacy of heroism and selflessness will undoubtedly live on, as his nephew poignantly remarked, "There's a lot of people alive because of him." Michael's life was not only marked by service but also by love and family. Together for 38 years, he was a devoted husband to Debra Jo for 25 years, as they shared a passion for travel, often exploring the towns of New York State on Michael's motorcycle. He is survived by his beloved wife, Debra Jo Ryan; his mother, Finola Ryan; his brothers William (Chris), Thomas (Jon Baird), John (Cindy), Kevin (Christy), and Joseph; his sister-in-laws Amy Goodrich (Chuck), Michelle Nace (Kevin), and brother-in-law Jay (Gail) Canosa; and numerous nieces and nephews, particularly his mentee, nephew Konnor, and nephew Alex Smith currently in active duty across the globe. Each of them will hold memories of Michael close to their hearts. Michael's brothers and sisters in blue and red, as well as his fellow team members with whom he served, will honor his memory. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday Dec. 20th at 12 noon at the St. Francis de Sales church Main St. Phoenicia. Burial at the St. Francis de Sales Cemetery, Rt. 28 Shandaken. Friends will be received on Friday from 1pm to 3pm at the E. B. Gormley Funeral Home. The family suggests memorial contributions may be made to the MF Whitney Hose Co. Phoenicia. You may share a special memory, photo, or condolence with the family on Mike's Tribute Wall at www.gormleyfuneral-home.com Michael J. Ryan's life was a testament to the power of selfless service and the impact one individual can have on the lives of many. His legacy will continue to inspire those who knew him and the countless lives he touched.

Line-of-Duty Death of Firefighter and Commissioner Michael J. Ryan

KINGSTON, NY - On Saturday, December 13 at 5:26 PM, the Phoenicia Fire District responded to a report of an injured hiker in the Town of Shandaken. A crew of Phoenicia Fire Department members, including Firefighter and Fire District Commissioner Michael J. Ryan, entered the trail approximately one-half mile into the wooded area to locate the hiker.

While operating in the wooded area, Firefighter Ryan suffered a sudden medical emergency and went into cardiac arrest. Fellow Phoenicia firefighters, assisted by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Rangers, Shandaken Police Department, and Shandaken EMS immediately initiated life-saving measures.

Despite these efforts, Firefighter and Commissioner Michael J. Ryan passed away.

Firefighter Ryan served the Phoenicia Fire District with dedication and commitment, both as a firefighter and as a fire district commissioner. His passing is a profound loss to the department and the community.

The Ulster County Department of Emergency Services and the Phoenicia Fire District extend their deepest condolences to the Ryan family during this difficult time.

Information regarding services will be shared when appropriate. Press inquiries should be directed to Deputy Director of Emergency Services, Andrew Cafaldo at (845) 331-7000.

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History

January 4, 1956

At chore time on Friday afternoon, Archie Dean Jr. was putting the milking machine onto a three-year old cow when something frightened the cow and she kicked, hitting him. Dr. Tomkins was called and it was found upon examination that the right leg was broken above the ankle. He was taken to Liberty Loomis hospital for treatment and will probably be laid up for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander La Hanco of Lackawack are the parents of a son, Keith Allen, born at Veterans Memorial Hospital on December 28th.

For a New Year's resolution
That is smart and clever too,
Resolve to shop and save at home,
It's the thrifty thing to do.
KUM TO KRUM'S

(Contd. Pg. 4)

Household Hint:

Candles Will Burn Longer with this Tip

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

Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree!

Not only green when summer's here,
But also when it's cold and drear.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
Thy leaves are so unchanging!

This past Saturday, like many other local communities, we will be celebrated the tradition of the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Bi-Centennial Park in Grahamsville.

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people. The evergreen tree was an ancient symbol of life in the midst of winter. In Northern Europe the ancient Celts, decorated their temples with evergreen boughs and the fierce Vikings in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the sun god, Balder. Germany is credited with starting the actual Christmas tree tradition. Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst the evergreens and recaptured the scene for his family. He brought an evergreen tree into their home and placed lighted candles on its branches.

There is an awesome magic in each and every sparkling Christmas tree that remains unchanging. It begins with photosynthesis or transforming sunlight into green chlorophyll.

Think of one sunbeam composed of tiny particles of electromagnetic radiation energy called photons. Each photon has zero rest mass and a charge plus spin of one. How it changes sunlight into chlorophyll is a technology called photonics. As a sunbeam shines on a pine needle filled with water, the photons radiate energy that splits each molecule of water into hydrogen and oxygen. The oxygen is sent back into the air. The hydrogen mixes with air inside the pine needle and builds a new molecule of chlorophyll, which is a carbohydrate (sugar). The whole process takes thirty seconds!

To split the water molecule requires the color bands of red, orange and blue - from the rainbow light spectrum. The middle of the rainbow, where green is located, is mostly reflected. This is why a pine needle appears green.

The little packages of carbohydrates are stored as liquid sugar cells everywhere in the tree - needles, limbs, trunk, bark and roots - and in cold weather the sugar converts into an alcohol substance that is slow to freeze. The alcohol is transported throughout the whole tree in long pipeline cells whose woody side walls thicken in winter weather. Thus the Christmas tree stays green, even in winter!

From the earliest winter solstice celebrations, all the way to the celebration of this year's annual lighting of Christmas trees, the evergreen tree is still very magical. It remains an unchanging beacon of hope. Before science demystified many of nature's secrets, as the shortest day of the year approached and winter had stripped almost all green life from the landscape, humankind feared for its future. As the nights grew longer, evergreen trees stood out as a sign of future life. Even today, the evergreen holds the secret of endurance. The Christmas tree still gives hope, that sympathetically sustains our ability to endure even the darkest cold night.

A symbol of goodwill and love
You'll ever be unchanging
Each shining light
Each silver bell
No one alive spreads cheer so well
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
You'll ever be unchanging



DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History (From Pg. 3)

January 5, 1966 -

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Nash of Neversink, born on January 3., 1966 at Liberty Maimonides Hospital, has been hailed as Sullivan County's first baby of the New Year. The new miss weighed in at almost 7 lbs. She is the Nash's fourth child. The proud maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edwards Sr. and the proud paternal and the proud paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Nash all of Neversink.

January 7, 1976

Anniversary greetings to Richard and Caroline Dickerman on January 17th and to George and Joan Stailing on the 22nd.

Earl D. Sheeley died Friday in Ellenville Hospital after a long illness. He was 72. Born in Eureka on Nov. 16, 1903 to Otis and Hattie Low Sheeley, he was a lifelong area resident. He was retired from the Earl D. Sheeley Trucking and Fuel Co. He is survived by a son, Horace of Grahamsville, and a daughter, Mrs. Frances Ter Bush; eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild and many nieces and nephews.

January 9, 1986

The engagement of Wendy Anne Moshier and John Joseph Diaco, son of Mario and Phyllis Diaco of Monticello, has been announced by Edward and Carol Moshier of Grahamsville, parents of the future bride. Miss Moshier is a graduate of Ellenville High School and is a customer service assistant at the Rhulen Agency, Monticello. Her fiancé is employed by Diaco Construction, Monticello. Wedding plans are incomplete.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published December 21, 1995

In the early 1900s our little one room school held a Christmas Program with a huge Christmas tree and gifts for all. One of the many fundraisers we had each year was a box social. It was custom each lady prepared a supper and brought it to the social in a beautifully decorated box. I usually used a shoe box and decorated it with crepe paper.

We placed our boxes on the "Auction Table." Our name was placed inside the box. When bidding started on the boxes I can still see the auctioneer holding up a box saying "Who'll start the bidding on this beauty?" Inhaling deeply and saying, "Hey, this box smells good; I'm hungry already! Do I hear twenty-five cents?"

Usually the boxes went for fifty or sixty cents but occasionally they brought much more when two gentlemen were interested in the same box.

When the boxes were finally opened there was much good natured laughing and kidding in regard to who shared his supper with whom, but anyway supper was enjoyed and another money raiser was planned. It could be a grab bag or perhaps an ice cream festival for the near future.

One thing we were sure of was that our Christmas Eve Santa would pass out a gift which was a box of candy to each child. And not one child in Grooville would be forgotten.

Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary Donates Record \$31,000 Following Annual Holiday Tea



Ellenville, NY - The Ellenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary celebrated the culmination of a successful year of fundraising and volunteer service with its annual Holiday Tea, held on Friday, December 5, where the organization proudly presented a record-setting \$31,000 pledge donation to support Ellenville Regional Hospital.

The Holiday Tea serves as a signature event for the Auxiliary, bringing members, volunteers, and hospital leadership together to reflect on the year's accomplishments and recognize the collective efforts that support the hospital's mission. During the event, Auxiliary leaders highlighted the dedication of members and volunteers who contribute their time and talents through fundraising initiatives, gift shop operations, patient support programs, and community health outreach.

Throughout 2025, the Auxiliary hosted and supported numerous successful initiatives, including profitable annual theater and luncheon fundraisers, expanded participation in outdoor street fairs, and a photo exhibit at the Ellenville Public Library honoring the Auxiliary's 102-year legacy of service. The Auxiliary Gift Shop remained the cornerstone of fundraising efforts, achieving a 17 percent increase in revenue despite economic challenges affecting merchandise availability and shipping costs.

In addition to fundraising success, the Auxiliary strengthened its organizational foundation by updating financial and regulatory systems and transitioning to a new banking partner to support continued growth. Membership development remained a focus, with new members and volunteers joining through outreach initiatives, including a "Bring a Friend" campaign.

"The generosity and commitment of our members, volunteers, and community supporters make this donation possible," said Auxiliary President, Haze Gal during the presentation. "This year's pledge reflects not only financial success, but the spirit of service that defines the Auxiliary."

The \$31,000 donation represents the largest pledge in the Auxiliary's history and will directly support Ellenville Regional Hospital's ongoing efforts to provide high-quality care and services to the community. The Auxiliary also used the occasion to thank hospital leadership and staff for their continued partnership and support, noting the shared commitment to strengthening healthcare in the region.

As the organization looks ahead to 2026, the Auxiliary reaffirmed its dedication to community engagement, volunteerism, and innovative fundraising to continue supporting Ellenville Regional Hospital for years to come.



Start the New Year Outdoors

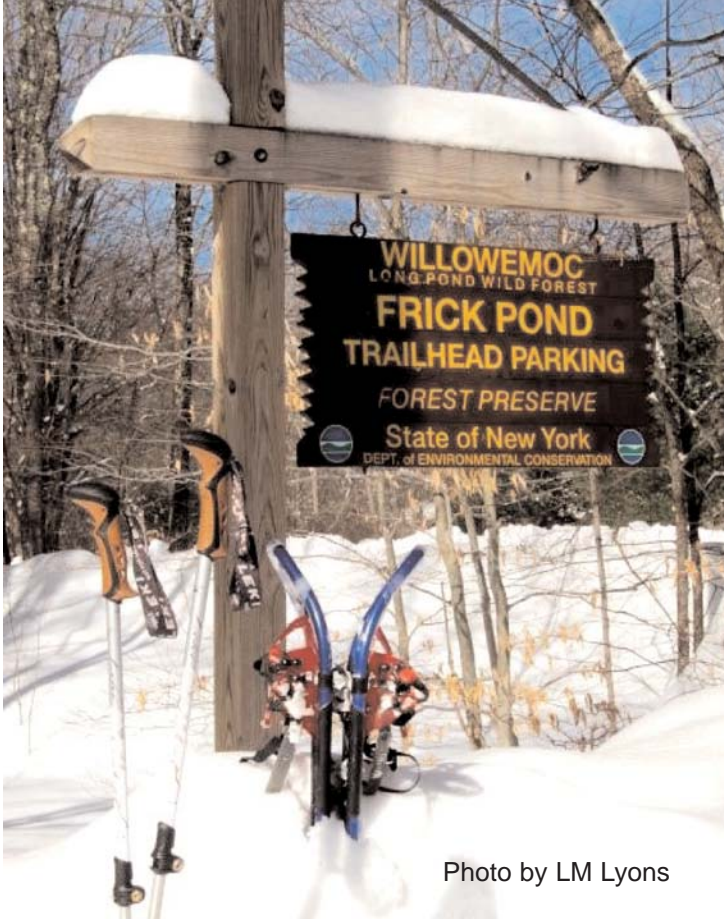


Photo by LM Lyons

(From Pg. 1) Registration required, as the group size is limited. The trip leader is Lisa Lyons, owner of Morgan Outdoors, celebrating this 20th First Day Hike. To register, send an email to Lisa at morganoutdoors@hancock.net or call 845 693 4181. All registrants will receive updates on where to meet, what to bring, and trail conditions. Co-sponsored by NYS DEC and Parks, with Morgan Outdoors, located at 234 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY. www.morgan-outdoors.com.

Find Your Adventure - New Year, New Trails: First Day Hikes, Support the Public Lands and Programs You Love, Give an Outdoor Gift, Catskills Fire Tower Challenge

New Year, New Trails: First Day Hikes

Hikers on a snowy trail wearing the proper winter gear and using poles on a steep portion of the trail
Previous First Day Hikes event

First Day Hikes are just around the corner! There are plenty of opportunities to join guided hikes, walks, and strolls across New York State. Taking place annually on January 1st, First Day Hikes is part of a nationwide initiative to encourage people to start the New Year outdoors.

DEC partners with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks), the Canal Corporation, and many other partners to help coordinate the event in New York, with hikes planned at DEC lands, State Parks, historic sites, natural areas, canal trails, environmental education centers, and other public lands. The event includes a variety of staff, partner, and volunteer led hikes, ranging from hikes up mountains and on cross-country skis, to leisurely strolls along birding trails, and so much more!

Find a First Day Hike Near you!

<https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hiking/first-day-hikes>

Get Offline, Get Outside, Stay Safe!

Hiking in the Catskills by Caysey Herschaft

Although winter might not come to mind as the best time of year to get outside and enjoy nature, it can be a great opportunity to experience a different landscape and get exercise. However, there's a few things to keep in mind before hitting the trail:

- **Non-cotton layers:** Staying warm and dry is the first step to any winter outing. Cotton clothing is not moisture-wicking. Wear and pack several non-cotton layers that keep wind, rain, and snow out, as well as clothing items that keep body heat trapped in.
- **Wear traction devices:** Snowshoes help prevent postholing, or breaking through the snow. Microspikes help keep your footing on icy or slippery terrain. If you're hiking in the Catskills, Adirondacks, or anywhere else where you'll be experiencing a large elevation change, we recommend bringing both snowshoes and microspikes.
- **Drink and eat:** In cold weather, it's easier to forget to drink water. Dehydration can happen any time of year. We recommend warming up warm water in a thermos before your outing - this will keep your drink above freezing for longer. Keeping energy levels high while wearing more layers and carrying more gear requires more food - so snack often!

Winter Hiking Safety

<https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hiking/winter-safety>

Upcoming Events

- Sat, December 20: Snowshoeing at DeVeaux Woods State Park
- Sat, December 20: Forest Fitness: Winter Hike at Hempstead Lake State Park
- Sat, December 27: Family Snowshoe Hike at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Sat, December 27: Last Saturday of the Year Hike at Whirlpool State Park
- Thu, January 1: First Day Hikes, Statewide
- Thu, January 1: Community Science: New Year's Bird Count at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 3: Mindful Nature Walk for an Intentional New Year at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 3: Woods Walk: Nature Guide's Choice at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 3: Family Fun: Animal Tracks and Signs at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 10: Learn to Cross-Country Ski at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 10: Family Snowshoe Hike at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Thu, Jan 15: Learn to Cross-Country Ski at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 17: Woods Walk: Nature Guide's Choice at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
- Sat, Jan 17: Winterfest at Selkirk Shores State Park

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 158

Germania

Mysterious Book Report No. 429

by John Dwaine McKenna

Published December 17, 2020

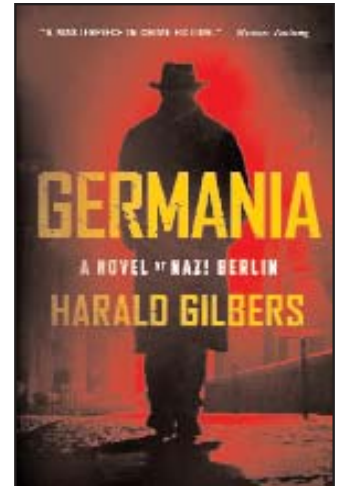


In author Harald Gilbers searing new novel of Nazi Berlin entitled, *Germania*, (Thomas Dunn Books, \$28.99, 352 pages, ISBN 978-1-250-24693-6), it's May of 1944 and the city is being pounded to rubble by daily bombings from

Allied warplanes. The German public is beginning to question Nazi propaganda about the war effort, the so-called "Final Solution" is in full swing, and a diabolical serial killer is on the loose, slaughtering courtesan women, then ritualistically posing their bodies in front of World War I memorials. That's when a man named Richard Oppenheimer—a Jew, and one of Berlin's best detectives before being fired and prevented from working for the police because of his religion—is summoned by an SS officer named Vogler, to a crime scene where the most recent victim has been left.

The arrangement puts both men at risk, but Oppenheimer has the most to lose. His life is in Vogler's hands. He could be shipped off to a concentration camp and certain death at any moment for the slightest of infractions, at the whim of Hauptsturmführer Vogler, or one of his superior officers. It's an almost impossible dilemma. Solve the case and he's no longer needed. Fail to find the monster and Oppenheimer becomes the scapegoat, as well as the perfect fall guy to take the blame in this tense, atmospheric and exquisitely well-researched historical novel.

If you crave an intelligent, compelling and exciting murder mystery with accurate period details, *Germania* is just what you've been looking for. The Allies have landed at Normandy in the west and the Russians are advancing from the east, Berlin is trapped between the two. The bombs keep falling, even as more bodies continue to be discovered, and the tension ratchets up on every page of this thrilling and unforgettable novel set against the background of World War II. Don't miss it!



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are now available at the
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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Aruba

Left home where the temperature read seven.

Four hours south to a tropical heaven.

Eighty four with a balmy breeze

To heal my cough and Covid sneeze.

My winter coat hangs orphaned for a week

In the beach front villa,

As Aruba's cures we seek.

No snow. Just sugary sand

With blue-green water as we land.

Mittens and boots are traded in

For sundresses and sandals to begin.

Tomorrow we will walk barefoot in the sea,

Salty and cleansing to hubby and me.

Celebrating sixty roller-coaster years

Of joys untold but mixed with tears.

Our sixth time to this happy isle,

Laid back and calming, so worth the while.

And if your sad about today, add salty tears to the
ocean,

Let them fall and wash away

Breathe in hope for another day.

Merry Christmas to us,

Merry Christmas to you.

May you some day land

In this land of white sand,

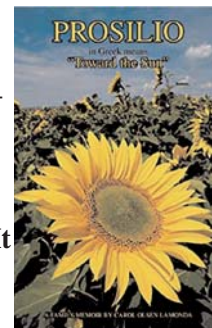
With sea and sky of soothing blue.

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*



DPL Holiday Festivities Continue...

By Lisa Carroll

With the holidays upon us, it's certainly a busy time for everyone. At the DPL, that's no different. We've been coming and going like crazy, but all in good fun. Our fall children's programs wrapped up last week with their festive holiday party, the Tri-Valley UPK classes came to see "The Christmas Spider" puppet show and got to see a very special caroling performance by Hudson Valley Credit Union staff members, and our Cookies & Cocoa Family Night went off without a hitch.

On Tuesday,



December 16 we held our annual Latkes & Applesauce program for Tri-Valley children in grades 1-6, where they learned all about the Festival of Lights-Hanukkah-and got to enjoy delicious, home-made latkes, partake in crafts and hear holiday stories and music.

Next up is Sounds of the



Season. Join us, and Grahamsville native, Shane Rennison, as he shares his beautiful rendition of holiday classics on Thursday, December 18 from 6:00 to 6:45PM. Please come, sit back and relax in our beautifully deco-

rated Reading Room as Shane's sweet melodies brush away the stress of the season.



In the new year, the library will be hosting another Senior Social. Join Adele Barnard and fellow retirees on Thursday, January 8 at 12PM, for an afternoon of conversation. Meet in the community room, as soup and sandwiches will be served. Please bring an appetizer or treat to share. For more information or to register, visit our website. There is a snow date of Friday, January 9, in the event of inclement weather.

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

And back by popular demand...and because it's really cold outside...Cornell Cooperative Extension is offering another D.I.Y Energy Savings Session at the library on Thursday, February 5, from 6:00PM-7:00PM. If you register now (through our website) you'll receive a FREE energy kit (\$45 value!). During this session, learn how to take simple D.I.Y-"do it yourself"-steps to reduce energy waste and save money on your utility bills. Other topics to be discussed include: heat pumps, insulation, incentives for home energy upgrades, Em-Power+ and HEAP.

Always, always, especially this time of year, check our website or call to see that programs are on as scheduled. The weather plays havoc with everyone's schedule, including ours, and we really want everyone to be safe getting back and forth from the library.





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Ellenville, NY

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Opening Day!!

We're kicking off the season this Saturday, December 13th, from 10am-1pm at the Woodstock Community Center (56 Rock City Road).

Join us for the opening day of the Woodstock Farm Festival Winter Market - a cozy indoor market filled with your favorite returning vendors, exciting new faces, fresh local food, gifts, and winter treats..

We're proud to participate in SNAP, our own Market Bucks program, and the free FreshConnect Emergency Program to support shoppers experiencing food insecurity.

Check out all the great vendors attending this Saturday!
<https://www.woodstockfarmfestival.org/vendors>

Vendor List

Back Home Farm (Every Market) -Located in the Hudson Valley on the banks of the Rondout River, Back Home Farm grows a diverse abundance of delicious, nutrient-rich crops with organic farming practices and a lot of love!

Four Sisters Kimchi (1/10, 2/24, 2/14, 3/28) -Authentic Korean kimchi made in small batches using nothing but the best ingredients, locally sourced when available.

Challah Pixie (12/13, 2/14, 3/14) -A home-based business providing artisan baked products indicative of Eastern European Jewish culture and beyond. Products include challah, babka, rugelach, scones and apple cake.

Garden House Rosendale (Every Market) -Flavorful authentic Mediterranean & Middle Eastern cuisine made with care and fresh, local ingredients!

Gnome Apothecary (12/27, 1/10, 1/24, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28) -Clinical herbalist Torin Murphy formulates broadly accessible herbal blends such as ZZZ Sleep Formula, Pain Relief Oil, All-Purpose Gnome Salve, Immune Boost Tincture, Fire Cider, Elderberry Syrup, Gnomish Beard Oil, and Digestive Bitters. All of Gnome's ingredients are organic, wild-crafted, or better.

Joan's Farm Market Vintage (12/13) -Quality vintage & gently worn clothing. Unique gift ideas, housewares and more!

Joppenbergh Gap Distilling (12/27, 1/24, 2/28, 2/28) -Moonshine Style NY Farm Distillery

Lorna's Naturals (12/13, 1/24, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28) -Products are made in small batches by the owner and many made with herbs that she has grown at her home in Woodstock.

Medicine Gardens (12/13) -Herbal body care, botanical art and plant-based and -inspired textiles and jewelry

Montauk Catch (Every Market) -Fresh local fish and seafood. Prepared fish soups and salads.

Nosh Woodstock (Every Market) -Locally sourced cheese, cured meats, and select regional foods from the Hudson Valley and New York State.

Platte Clove Naturals (Every Market) -Savory salad toppers, Gluten-free and Vegan granolas, made in small batches by hand with love.

Red Hook Dreams (12/13, 2/24) -Stone ground sunflower seed butters.

Rising River Bakehouse (Every Market) -Small batch hand made bread and pastry

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Sitsirya (Every Market) -A minority-owned, one woman business specializing in Filipino fusion baked treats. Filipino pastries with a modern twist.

Sustainable Sorcerers (Every Market) -Our work focuses on enhancing native habitats and protecting biodiversity with the use of native plants, trees, shrubs, and, of course, mushrooms! Working alongside nature, our products are created seasonally in alignment with the bounty of each harvest.

The Salty Rose (12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14) -Aggressively Organic Herbal Skin and Body care crafted from local plant and fungi allies. Tinctures, topicals, and beyond.

Thistledown Farm (Every Market) -Thistledown Farm is a sustainability-focused livestock farm located in the Catskills. We raise sheep, poultry, and pigs in the forests, fields, and valleys above the West Branch of the Delaware River. We also sell prepared food that is delicious, nutritious, and fills our souls with comfort and joy.

Tink's Tempting Treats (1/10, 1/24, 2/28, 3/28) -Home Baker specializing in deliciously filled sandwich cookies.

VanRoy's Caribbean Grill (Every Market) -VanRoy's Caribbean Grill offers delicious hot, homestyle Caribbean food - jerk and curry chicken, curry goat, oxtail, and more!

Wuffy (12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14) -A dog treat company handcrafting all-natural treats with five ingredients or less. All made in small batches without preservatives by baking, dehydrating, or freeze-drying.

Yobs Island Co (12/13, 1/24, 2/14, 3/28) -A woman-owned distribution company in the Hudson Valley specializing in Organic and Fair Trade Dreamy Coffee Co.

Bundle up, swing by, and start the season with community, good food, festive spirit, and a little vintage treasure hunting!

Governor Hochul Announces More Than 150 million Free School Meals Served to Students Across NYS Since Start of School Year

- *Schools Now Serving More Than 2.5 Million Free Meals per School Day Statewide*
- *Helps Families Statewide Save up to \$450 Million per Month on Grocery Costs*
- *Governor Secured and Enacted Universal School Meals Law*

Governor Kathy Hochul today highlighted that schools across New York State have served more than 150 million free meals since the start of the school year in September, following implementation of the Governor's Universal School Meals law. Now that State law ensures all New York students have access to free breakfast and lunch, schools across the state are serving more than 2.5 million free meals per school day. Free school meals are estimated to save families \$165 per child in grocery spending each month and have been shown to support learning, boost test scores, and improve attendance and classroom behavior. With approximately 2.7 million students in New York State, universal school meals can help families statewide save up to \$450 million per month on grocery costs.

"Universal Free School Meals are putting money back in families' pockets and guaranteeing every student the nourishment they need to thrive, no questions asked," Governor Hochul said. "No kid should go hungry in the classroom, and no parent should have to stretch their budget to pack a lunch. With 150 million meals now served to our students, we're fighting for New York kids and making New York more affordable."

Governor Hochul's Universal School Meals law, which she signed in May, ensures that every student in New York State has access to a healthy breakfast and lunch at school. By eliminating any financial requirements to receive this benefit, New York State has also leveled the playing field and given parents back the money they would be spending.

The law enacted by the Governor included \$340 million for Universal Free School Meals, allowing all students in participating schools to eat breakfast and lunch at no charge regardless of their families' income. The Governor's initiative requires all school districts, charter schools, and nonpublic schools that participate in the national school lunch and breakfast program to provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all students regardless of their families' income, thereby reducing costs for families and ensuring that no student goes hungry at school. Under this initiative, the State now covers the student's share of costs for all meals served to students not already receiving free meals.



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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.

MISU Annual Holiday Concert

**Join us at St John's Episcopal
Church at 40 Market St for
MISU's Annual Holiday concert!**

**The MISU Community Orchestra
and Cello Ensemble have been work-
ing very hard this semester.**

**Concert starts at 7:30 on Thursday,
December 18th.**

We hope to see you there!

**Guest artists include David Fiedler,
Susan Seligman, and
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For more information visit our website

**www.misucatskills.org
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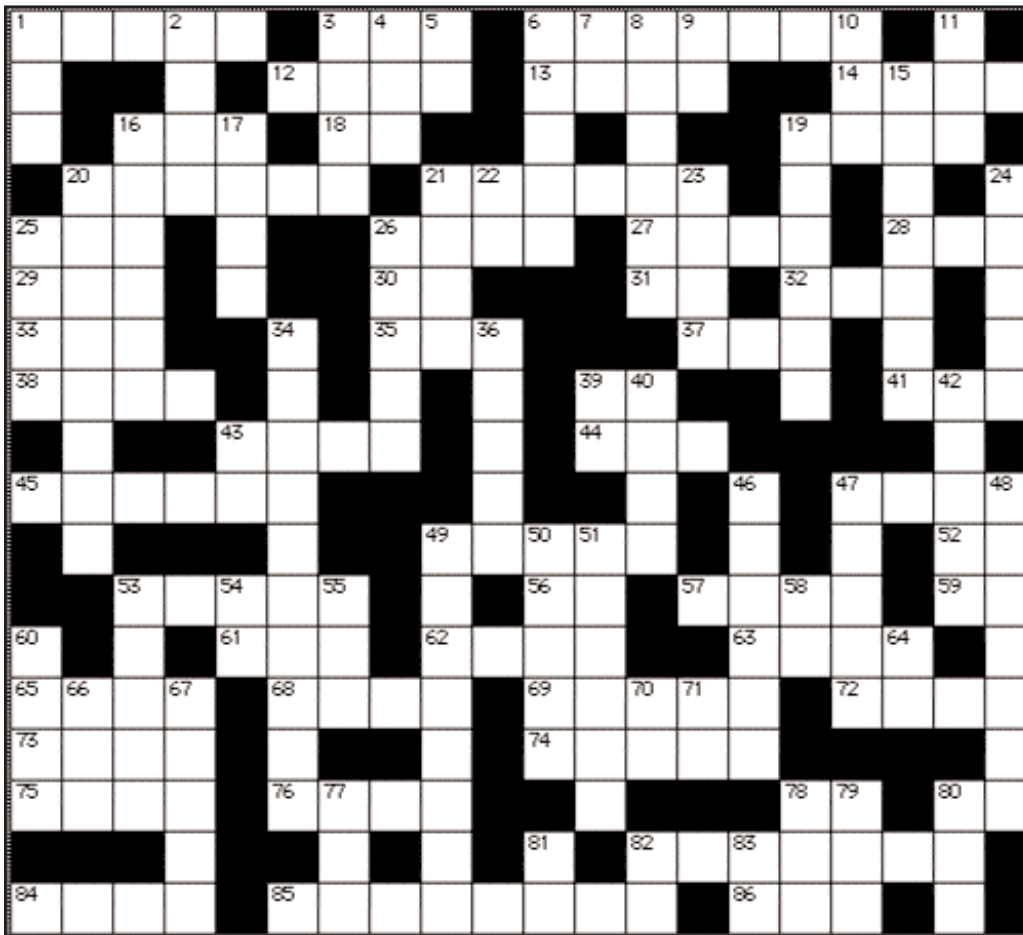
**and Organizations -
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**(once the flyer is inserted
we will publish it each week
through the week of the event)**

**As in the past, there is no fee for
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Sing a Song of Christmas - L. Comando

**ACROSS**

1 Cheerful
3 Night before an event
6 Old World bird
12 Kiln
13 Ebb and flow
14 Mythical Scandinavian god
16 Congress Industrial Organizations
18 Extra-terrestrial
19 Cut with small quick strokes
20 A trough for cattle to eat from
21 Moved rhythmically to music
25 What was sent on the third day of Christmas
26 Vocal music
27 Christmas as a refrain in carols

28 Paraphernalia
29 Contribute to something
30 Sound of Santa
31 Used to express motion
32 Female sheep
33 Non-existent
35 An upper limb
37 Second day of the week
38 Brave act
39 Referring to myself
41 Plant fluid
43 "A Christmas Story" cure for using curse words
44 Sick
45 Inactive farmland
47 Slant
49 Corn salad

52 Roman Catholic
53 Job
56 Language engineering
57 Person admired for their courage
59 Used before a man's surname
61 Fruit of a rose
62 Cherished
63 Used to refer to everyone of two or more
65 Poetic form of listen
68 Young deer
69 Person acknowledged as holy
72 Kilo-gram
73 Icon
74 Vehicles with runners

that travel on snow
75 Decorative painting
76 Make musical sounds with a voice
78 __, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la
80 At the age of
82 Not sacred
84 Religious song
85 Hymn or chant
86 Globe

DOWN

1 Adult human males
2 Condensed moisture from the atmosphere
3 At all times
4 Animal doctor
5 Half an em
6 Wound
7 Private Investigator
8 Arrival of a notable event
9 Regarding
10 Victorious

11 Pointed end of an object
15 Author of *A Christmas Carol*
16 Wax cylinder with a wick
17 Troll
19 Without sound
20 Relating to the Middle Ages
21 Portal
22 Indefinite article
23 Terrible fate
24 Emboss
25 End of the arm including the palm
26 Keen
34 Deep bank of snow
36 The night before Christmas she was in her kerchief
39 Third note of the major scale
40 River in Central Europe that runs through Germany
42 Siren
43 To such a great extent
46 Sugary pleas-

ant tasty delights
47 Large solid piece of hard material
48 Miserly
Dicken's character
49 Twelve

o'clock at night
50 Social division
51 Official messenger bringing news
53 Religious folk song usually associated with Christmas
54 Exclamation of surprise
55 Environmental Protection Agency
58 Egyptian sun god
60 Voucher
64 Informal greeting
66 Without any fuss
67 Famous U.S.

fashion designer
70 Indo-European
71 North Dakota
77 Irish
Republican Army
78 Hair of certain animals
79 Vestment
80 Plural present of be
81 Alternating current
82 Southeast
83 Commanding Officer

Swedish Pepparkakor

Paper-thin and spicy, they are a beloved Swedish Christmas tradition

8 oz butter
1 1/2 c white sugar
1 tbs light corn syrup
1 egg
3 1/2 c all purpose flour
2 tsps baking soda
2 tsp ground cinnamon
2 tsp ground ginger
2 tsp ground cloves
1/4 c orange juice
2 tsp orange zest

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar. Stir in egg, corn syrup, orange juice and orange zest. Sift together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and cloves; stir into the creamed mixture until combined.

Roll dough out to 1/8 inch thickness and cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Cool cookies on wire racks.

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

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

[illegible][illegible]

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

SANTA
CHRISTMAS
COOKIES
MILK
ELF
SNOW
BLITZEN
DANCER
DASHER
SLEIGH
REINDEER
RUDOLPH
CUPID
VIXEN
DONNER
PRANCER
COMET

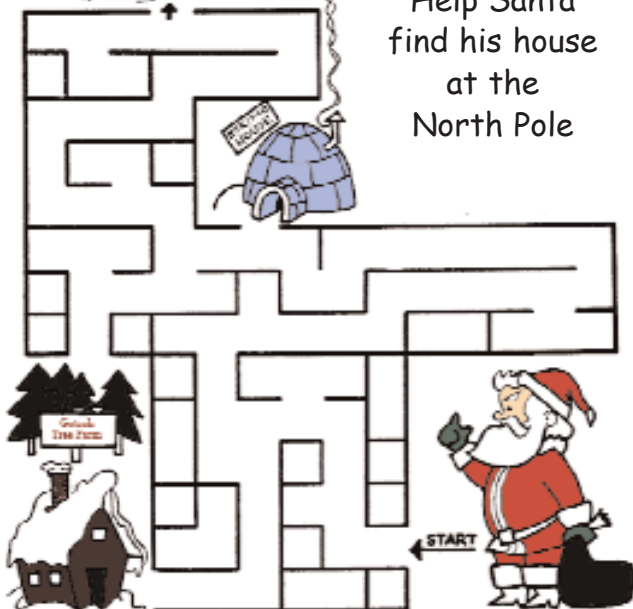
Kids' Holiday Fun Page



Help Santa
find his house
at the
North Pole



Find 5 differences



Cryptogram Key

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

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HEAP's Heating Equipment Repair Program to Again Take Applications

Liberty, NY - The 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will begin accepting applications for the Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement (HERR) benefit on December 11.

HERR benefits are available to assist HEAP-eligible households with the cost to repair or replace the applicant's primary heating equipment. Applicants must:

- o Be 60 years of age or older (or at least one of the documented homeowners be 60+)
- o Own and live in their home as their primary residence
- o Have their home's primary heating equipment inoperable and/or unsafe, as documented by a participating HEAP vendor
- o Apply via www.mybenefits.ny.gov or by contacting the County offices listed below

Sullivan County's HEAP Office continues to be available to answer questions and help applicants (845-807-0142, heap@sullivanny.gov). Sullivan County's Office for the Aging stands ready to assist, as well: 845-807-0241.

Applications can also be obtained from the County's community partners: Action Toward Independence, 845-794-4228, or Independent Living, 845-794-3322.

Fallsburg CSD Invites Community to Capital Project Presentation

FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District will be holding a public meeting in regards to their upcoming Capital Project Vote on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6pm. The meeting will take place in the board room at the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School.

Community members will have the opportunity to learn extensively about the proposed Capital Project plan that will be put to a vote on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. There will be a presentation and a Q&A to follow. For additional questions prior to the meeting, contact Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz at ikatz@fallsburgcsd.net or (845) 434-6800 ext. 1215.

SLAC

Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 26 at 10AM in the Legislative meeting room in Monticello.

This is our last meeting of 2025. It will be spent evaluating the ACC, and the repeal of the staffing requirements established in a 2024 rule.

We will also discuss the merger of Garnet Hospital Systems with Montefiore Hospital Systems. This is of great concern, since the major decisions will be made by Montefiore could be disastrous for Sullivan County residents

Last but not least, we will find out if the site of the Homeless Shelter has been decided.

Hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday.

Governor Hochul Announces More Than \$300 Million to Advance Health Information Technology and Cybersecurity in Hospitals Across New York State

Governor Kathy Hochul announced more than \$300 million in new state funding to support health care transformation projects across New York. The awards, made through the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program IV and V, will support 22 projects aimed at improving health information technology by expanding patient electronic medical records, strengthening cybersecurity and patient information security, and expanding telehealth services.

"By modernizing our hospitals' IT infrastructure and protecting patients' information, we're strengthening the foundation of health care in New York State," Governor Hochul said. "These investments will help ensure that hospitals have the tools they need to safeguard patient data, expand telehealth services and deliver a healthier future for all New Yorkers."

This funding prioritizes projects that:

- Support financially distressed providers;
- Modernize critical health information technology infrastructure;
- Strengthen cybersecurity and patient information security; and
- Expand telehealth services.

Awardees include hospitals in every region of the State.

- A full list of awardees, project descriptions, and award amounts is available here.

<https://health.ny.gov/press/releases/2025/docs/awardees.pdf>

Funds are administered by the New York State Department of Health and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY).

This investment builds on Governor Hochul's continued efforts to strengthen New York's health care delivery system. The Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program has awarded more than \$1.75 billion to providers working to improve access, equity, and quality of care across New York. These awards are part of a broader, long-term commitment that has directed more than \$4.7 billion in health care capital funding statewide since 2016.

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State enacted nation-leading cybersecurity regulations for hospitals, establishing a robust blueprint to protect critical systems and enhance the resilience of the state's health care network against cyber threats.

Recently, the State made additional funding awards for 55 projects under Statewide IV, and additional projects under the Safety Net Transformation Program.



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*Tues. *12/31**

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Happy Holidays!

Obstacles to Independence The Financial Hurdles Facing Young Millennials and Gen Z

https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govDelivery&v=W N8O3qGj4O8

Hello New Yorkers,

New York's young adults—our Gen Z and Millennial neighbors, coworkers, and family members—are facing an increasingly challenging economic landscape. A new report from my office highlights just how much pressure these New Yorkers are under as they work to build financial stability and independence in a rapidly changing world.

https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/financial-challenges-facing-young-millennials-and-gen-z.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govDelivery

Young adults are dealing with mounting obstacles. Rising unemployment, a shrinking pool of entry-level jobs—fueled in part by AI—and soaring housing and debt costs are making it harder for them to live independently and plan for their future.

In 2023, New York was home to 4.6 million young adults aged 18 to 34, making up more than one-fifth of the state's population. Yet over the last decade, this age group has declined by nearly 2%, even as the national young adult population grew by more than 4%.

The majority of young adults live in downstate regions, especially New York City, where one in four residents falls into this age group. Many continue to pursue higher education at high rates, and adults aged 26 to 34 today are more likely to hold bachelor's degrees than previous generations.

The Job Market & The Threat of AI

Despite being more likely to have a bachelor's degree compared to previous generations, some young adults are struggling to secure high-paying, stable employment. The unemployment rate for all young adults (ages 18-34) was 8.6% in 2023, more than double the statewide average. Rates are even higher for Black and Latino young adults.

The rise of Artificial Intelligence is already impacting entry-level opportunities, with one analysis indicating that entry-level tech jobs nationally fell by 36% between mid-2020 and mid-2025. Young

adults are heavily represented in roles (like sales and administrative support) that are projected to decline due to automation.

Housing and Affordability Crisis

Core expenses—food, housing, and transportation—comprised over two-thirds of young adults' total spending in 2023. Spending on these core expenses grew by 39.3% between 2018 and 2023, outpacing young adults' income growth of 26.1% over the same period. 35.9% of young adult renters in New York are cost-burdened, spending 30% or more of their income on rent and utilities. Homeownership rates for young adults in New York are much lower than the national average (15.1% vs. 22.7%). The median price for a home listed in New York was \$664,600 in 2024, making homeownership unaffordable for over 92.9% of the 26- to 34-year-olds in the state. As a result, 22% of young adults aged 26 to 34 in New York were still living with their parents in 2023.

Increasing Debt Burden

Young adults are carrying heavy debt loads that limit their financial mobility. Total debt held by young adults (18 to 39) grew by 67.8% since 2013. New York borrowers carry an average student loan debt of over \$30,300, the second-highest in the nation. Credit card debt among young people nationally doubled between 2013 and 2024, reflecting financial stress from rising expenses.

Supporting New York's Future Generations

These generations represent a vital part of New York's economic future. Addressing affordability, expanding housing options, and improving access to education, job training, and employment opportunities can help ensure young adults can live, work, and thrive here. This is essential for the state's sustained growth and prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to inform and update you on issues affecting New Yorkers across the state. I will continue to share data-driven insights and updates on trends shaping our economic landscape, and I encourage you to stay connected with our work. Please explore our publications at osc.ny.gov/reports, subscribe to my Weekly News if you have not already, and feel free to reach out with your thoughts at contactus@osc.ny.gov.

Sincerely,
Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller

Message from Rabbi Hanoch

Dear Friends,

By now, you have probably heard the tragic news coming out of Sydney, Australia. While our hearts and prayers are with the victims and their families, we will join in with charity, prayer, and repentance on behalf of those who need a speedy recovery from their injuries.

Just as we won against the Greeks by increasing in light, so too today we must increase in light-by ensuring that everyone at home lights a menorah and joins the community in our public menorah lighting's.

We are working together with local law enforcement to ensure a greater police presence at our Chanuakh events. Also, although it is cold and you may want to bundle up, please do not cover your face with a mask so that each person can be properly identified.

Please join us tonight at our Chanukah celebration at the RJC at 4:00 PM

Sincerely
Rabbi Hanoch & Zivie Hecht

With shattered hearts and deep sadness, we share with you that our colleague Rabbi Eli Schlanger, a fellow Chabad Rabbi and a friend, 40 years-old, was murdered by this terrible terror attack.

Our hearts go out to his family and wish them strength and comfort.

We mourn this unspeakable loss and at the same time we renew our resolve to let our light, of Judaism and the Jewish people, shine even brighter than before. With prayers for peace in Israel and for Jews the world over. Click here to do a Mitzvah in the merit and memory of With a broken heart and an unwavering commitment to spreading the light. <http://rhinebeckjewishcenter.com/>

Statement from Governor Kathy Hochul

"Today, we are taking a major step forward in positioning Central New York at the center of America's semiconductor resurgence. The approval of nine necessary permits by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation paves the way forward for local and federal permit approval to advance this multi-decade project and begin construction in the coming weeks. This is the result of one of the most exhaustive expert analyses ever considered for a project in New York State history and balances Micron's manufacturing needs with the environmental needs of the site and the surrounding communities. From day one, this project has been about rewriting the economic story of Upstate New York and lifting up communities by creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs and offering

new opportunities for hard working New Yorkers. This milestone reflects a historic collaborative effort between New York State, Onondaga County, the Town of Clay, our federal partners, and Micron - I now urge our local and federal partners to expedite approval on their end so that we can break ground on this transformational project in the coming weeks."

DEC Issues Nine Environmental Permits to Micron New York Semiconductor Manufacturing Project in Onondaga County

Permits Include Protective Conditions to Avoid and Mitigate Potential Natural Resource Impacts

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced the issuance of nine environmental permits that help support the start of construction for the transformative Micron New York Semiconductor Manufacturing LLC project in the town of Clay, Onondaga County. DEC's transparent and thorough reviews of Micron's applications include public review and comment to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

"The permits finalized today provide important requirements for the protection of freshwater wetlands, water quality, and endangered and threatened species by minimizing impacts to natural areas, enhancing research, and ensuring conservation through monitoring while also preserving responsible economic development for Central New York," Commissioner Lefton said. "I thank the DEC teams who worked across multiple offices and regulatory jurisdictions for their valuable insight and appreciate those who continue to engage with DEC in the permitting process."

The permits issued today include freshwater wetlands, endangered and threatened species, and six mitigation projects to create, restore, and enhance wetlands, in addition to a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certificate. In July, DEC offered a public comment period that closed in September and two virtual public comment hearings in August.

In addition, a draft Air Title V permit is currently available for public comment until Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. DEC also held two virtual public comment hearings on the proposed air permit application earlier this week. Additional comment periods are open on connected actions that would extend water and gas service to the Micron main campus. Details about public comment periods and additional permitting updates can be found on DEC's Micron New York Semiconductor Manufacturing LLC webpage. Final permitting materials will be posted as soon as practicable.

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and
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every
Friday
from
10 - 3

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Sundown United
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

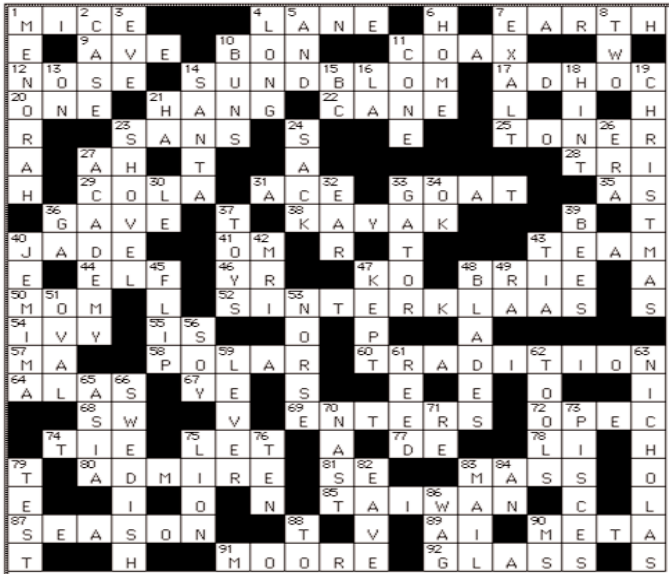
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, **Pastor**

Loucks Funeral Home

Geoff and Heather Hazzard
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79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you



Sundown
United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
will resume in the Spring.
Date of next Supper
will be announced.

Wishing you all a very
Joyous Christmas
and a
Happy & Healthy New Year!

\$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.osc.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

- 12/17/25 **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- 5 PM

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

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: **tvtownsman@yahoo.com** or Mail them to: **The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740**

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update for the Week Of December 15 - December 19, 2025

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

Monday, December 15

- o 4:30 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Board Of Directors Regular Meeting, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston, & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 856 1490 9383 Passcode: 083264
- o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Tuesday, December 16

- o 5:30 PM - Democratic Caucus, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 5:30 PM - Republican Caucus, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 6:00 PM - Legislative Session, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston and Via Legislative Livestream

Wednesday, December 17

- o 9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Regular Board Meeting, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Officed Building, Kingston
- o 10:00 AM (or immediately following UCIDA Regular Board Meeting) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Regular Board Meeting, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 3:00 PM - Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board, in the Rondout Municipal Center, 1915 Lucas Avenue, Room M-1, Cottekill

Thursday, December 18

- o No Meetings

Friday, December 19

- o No Meetings



Annual Holiday Concert

Join us at
St John's Episcopal Church
at 40 Market St
for MISU's
Annual Holiday concert!

The MISU Community Orchestra and Cello Ensemble have been working very hard this semester. Concert starts at 7:30 on Thursday, December 18th.
 We hope to see you there!

Guest artists include David Fiedler, Susan Seligman, and James Fitzwilliam

For more information visit our website
 40 Market St. Ellenville
www.misucatskills.org
 845.377.3727



@Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties



@misucatskills

Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Protect Consumers and Boost AI Transparency in the Film Industry

- *First-in-the-Nation Legislation S.8420-A/A.8887-B Requires Individuals Who Produce or Create Advertisements To Disclose if AI-Generated Synthetic Performers are Used*
- *Legislation S.8391/A.8882 Requires Consent To Use Name, Image or Likeness of a Person Post-Mortem*

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed first-in-the-nation legislation to protect consumers and boost AI transparency in the film industry. Legislation S.8420-A/A.8887-B requires persons who produce or create an advertisement to identify if it includes AI generated synthetic performers. The Governor also signed legislation S.8391/A.8882, which requires consent from heirs or executors if a person wishes to use the name, image, or likeness of an individual for commercial purposes after their death.

“By signing these bills today, we are enacting common sense laws that will ensure we are fully transparent when using images generated by artificial intelligence and also prevent the unauthorized commercial use of a deceased individ-

ual's name or likeness,” Governor Hochul said. “In New York State, we are setting a clear standard that keeps pace with technology, while protecting artists and consumers long after the credits roll.”

AI generated synthetic performers are digitally-created media that appear as a real person. AI generated synthetic performers are sometimes used by advertisers to sell products, and with easy access to technology, there has been an increase in the use of AI generated performers across all forms of media, including on social media and in digital advertising. Without notice that the content the public is viewing is not real, AI generated synthetic performers and manipulated media can undermine one's ability to accurately distill fact from fiction.

SAG-AFTRA New York Local President Ezra Knight said, “The fact that Governor Hochul chose our New York Local office for this signing speaks volumes. It shows that SAG-AFTRA is leading, not just participating, in the movement to protect workers from the dangers of using AI for bad purposes. New York has always been a home for artists, and today it stands as a model for how to safeguard not only our members, but the broader public.”

State Senator Michael Gianaris said, “Film and television production remains an integral part of New York's economy, and that is why New York will continue to lead in protecting the workers who power this industry. I want to thank Governor Hochul for signing my legislation that will protect workers from having their likenesses deceptively replaced by artificial intelligence, and will hold companies accountable for improperly using these tools.”



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!

SHADOWLAND
40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON STAGES

GEORGIANA
& KITTY
Christmas at
PEMBERLEY

By Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon
Directed by Brendan Burke

DECEMBER 5 - 21

The MainStage at SHADOWLAND STAGES
157 Canal Street, Ellenville NY 12428

FRIDAY, SATURDAY at 7PM
SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 2PM

FOR TICKETS - CALL 845.647.5511
BUY ONLINE AT SHADOWLANDSTAGES.ORG

Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Establish New York's Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia to Improve Outcomes for Students with Learning Disabilities

Legislation A2687/S5569 Establishes a Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Within State Education Department To Improve How Schools Identify and Support Students With Reading and Writing Difficulties

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed Legislation A2687/S5569 which establishes the Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia within the State Education Department to improve how schools identify and support students with these reading and writing difficulties. The Center will create a statewide approach for collecting and sharing best practices, set standards for universal screening in K-5th grade and for new entrants, and establish evidence-based interventions and teacher training. It will also develop a guidebook within two years, updated at least every five years, covering legal responsibilities, screening practices, instructions, approaches grounded in the science of reading, and effective Individual Education Program development and accommodations. By signing this bill, the Governor demonstrates her commitment to ensuring New York students have the best educational outcomes nationwide - and that mission includes supporting the nearly one-in-five children navigating learning disabilities in the classroom.

"By signing this legislation, I am celebrating alongside the thousands of families across New York who are navigating the educational system due to their child's learning disability," Governor Hochul said. "The establishment of this center is a win for those New Yorkers seeking twenty-first century answers to dyslexia and dysgraphia. By establishing this center, New York is doubling down on our commitment to ensuring all students, including those with learning disabilities, have the best classroom outcomes."

Today's announcement complements Governor Hochul's broader efforts to increase reading literacy for children. In 2023, Governor Hochul signed legislation to create the Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Task Force, which was responsible for creating guidelines on early screening, interventions, and teacher training for dyslexia, dysgraphia and related learning disabilities. The final report provided 14 recommendations for state-level policy makers, and several have since been implemented, including the creation of this center.

Additionally, the Governor's Back to Basics Reading Plan initiative, created in 2024 focused on evidence-based reading instruction, especially for early elementary grades, and included structured literacy methods such as phonics and phonemic awareness, which benefit all learners, especially those with dyslexia. This statewide push for structured literacy aims to significantly improve reading outcomes for students with dyslexia, as these methods align with what research shows works for struggling readers.

State Senator Patricia Fahy said, "Roughly 1 in 5 children in New York State struggle with dyslexia, yet for far too long, New York has lacked a consistent, evidence-based approach to identifying and supporting these students. We're not just creating a Center, we're giving educators, families, and students the tools they've needed to address this issue for years. Early screening, structured literacy instruction, and high-quality professional development should not be luxuries, and they are necessities for ensuring every New York kid and student can learn to read and write with confidence. Too many of these New York students have been misunderstood and misidentified, but today, we begin to change that story. Thank you to Governor Hochul for signing this legislation into law, Assemblymember Bobby Carroll for his leadership on this issue, and I'm proud that New York is now poised to become a national leader in supporting students with dyslexia and those who learn differently."

Assemblymember Robert Carroll said, "I grew up struggling with dyslexia. Without early identification and real intervention, I would not have made it through school, let alone reached a place where I could write laws to help other kids get the support I was lucky to receive. Today Governor Hochul signs a law that takes an important step toward giving that same chance to every child in our state. New York's Dyslexia Center will create a statewide framework, give schools and teachers the tools to identify dyslexia and dysgraphia early, and provide training in structured, sequential, cumulative, and multisensory literacy instruction. I am grateful to the Governor for her leadership, and to the advocates, educators, and families across New York who fought to make this possible. Creating the Dyslexia Center will ensure far more children get the support I did. Putting it into law means these best practices will endure and continue to guide how we serve every struggling reader."

New York City Councilmember Julie Menin said, "This center is a major step toward improving educational outcomes for thousands of New York students with dyslexia and dysgraphia. By creating a dedicated Center within the New York State Education Department, New York is demonstrating its commitment to evidence-based instruction, early identification, and better support for every student. I applaud Governor Hochul for establishing this dedicated office to ensure every child, regardless of their approach to learning, has access to the tools, training, and interventions needed to thrive."

New York City Councilmember Farah N. Louis said, "I applaud Governor Hochul for signing this important legislation to establish a dedicated Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia in our state. For too long, families across New York have struggled to navigate systems that were not designed to support the full range of neurodivergent learning needs. Children with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and related learning differences have long been overlooked in the development of holistic, strategic approaches that allow them to adapt and succeed in the classroom. I look forward to the center's implementation and the opportunities it will create for families in my district and throughout New York. Every child should have an equitable path to learning, and this effort brings us closer to that promise."

New York City Councilmember Rita Joseph said, "As a former educator, I've seen how transformative the right support can be for a child struggling with reading or writing. Governor Hochul's establishment of the Center for Dyslexia and Dysgraphia is a monumental step that will finally bring consistency, expertise, and real hope to students who have waited far too long. We must stay committed to prioritizing early screening, evidence-based instruction, and strong teacher training. When we invest in our children's literacy, we invest in their future and today, New York took a powerful step in the right direction."



SANTA IS COMING TO THE TOWN OF OLIVE!

The Olive Fire Department is happy to announce that Santa will be riding around town!

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH STARTING AT 10AM
COME MEET WITH SANTA AT:

ROUTE, STOPS AND APPROXIMATE TIMES

1. SHOKAN SQUARE {10:00AM}*
2. RT. 28 - ONTEORA COURT
3. BLACK ALDER - BOSTOCK - LONGYEAR - OLD FARM - RT. 28
4. ONTEORA HIGH SCHOOL {11:00AM}*
5. BEECHFORD CIRCLE - RT. 28 - RT. 28A
6. DAVIS PARK {11:30AM}*
7. 28A - BROADHEAD - BUTTERNUT KNOLLS - TURNER RD. - 28A
8. OLIVEBRIDGE FIREHOUSE {11:45AM}*
9. MILL RD. - ACORN HILL - COUNTY RT. 2 - TETTA'S {12:30PM}*

***{APPROX. TIMES}**



Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides
Like new! \$14,500.

845-434-5539
Leave a message and phone

Governor Hochul's Op-Ed in the Times Union: Why I'm Supporting Medical Aid in Dying

Today, the Times Union published an op-ed by Governor Kathy Hochul outlining her support for medical aid in dying

Two and a half centuries ago, our founding fathers established a vision of a country based on limited government and broad individual rights that together protect rights of speech, worship, privacy and bodily autonomy. Proudly, New York has long led the fights championing the rights of individuals, from civil rights to labor rights, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, and reproductive rights. In the true spirit of this country, government has a responsibility to protect, not interfere, with an individual's deeply personal decisions.

This is the context in which I have considered the Medical Aid in Dying Act, a bill to allow suffering terminally ill individuals with less than six months left to live the right to medical aid to speed up the inevitable.

During this journey I listened to New Yorkers who are in the throes of pain and suffering. I heard from their children, who are watching a parent endure a slow, devastating decline. I heard stories of a parent or spouse pleading for an end to the suffering and how difficult it was to reply, "We can't in New York."

This was heartbreaking, and it hit close to home. I watched my own mom die from ALS. I watched that vicious disease steal away the strong woman who raised me as it took her ability to walk, to eat, to speak and, ultimately, to live. I am all too familiar with the pain of seeing someone you love suffer and feeling powerless to stop it.

At the same time, there are individuals of many faiths who believe that deliberately shortening one's life violates the sanctity of life. I understand and respect those views. But as I have spoken with people tormented by pain, I have come to see this as a matter of individual choice that does not have to be about shortening life but rather about shortening dying. And I do not believe that in every instance condemning someone to excruciating pain and suffering preserves the dignity and sanctity of life.

I reflected on this during a Catholic funeral Mass for a family friend where the priest spoke of the welcome home to eternal life. I was taught that God is merciful and compassionate, and so must we be. This includes permitting a merciful option to those facing the unimaginable and searching for comfort in their final months in this life.

So after careful deliberation, I decided to support legalizing medical aid in dying in very specific circum-

stances and with significant protections included in the law to ensure it is not misused or broadly applied.

The bill passed by the Legislature already allowed individual doctors and religiously affiliated health facilities to decline to offer medical aid in dying. In my view, those protections were essential but not sufficient. I proposed additional guardrails that also protect family members, caregivers and doctors, and I am pleased that the bill's sponsors and legislative leaders agreed to include them in the bill I will ultimately sign once the Legislature returns to Albany and approves the amended language.

These guardrails address the concerns of some who fear that vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities or the elderly, will be pressured into a decision they would not have made on their own. Confirmation from a medical doctor that the individual truly had less than six months to live, and from a psychologist or psychiatrist that the patient is capable of making the decision and not under duress, will now be required.

There will be a mandatory five-day waiting period to provide the patient the chance to change their mind, and both a written and recorded oral request to confirm free will is present, with anyone who may benefit financially disqualified from being a witness or interpreter.

Outpatient facilities associated with religious hospitals may elect not to offer medical aid in dying, and the effective date of the bill has been extended to ensure time for regulations and training.

Finally, this is a right afforded to New Yorkers only.

These are fundamental protections to ensure vulnerable people aren't pressured, misled or left without alternatives.

The Medical Aid in Dying Act will afford terminally ill New Yorkers the right to spend their final days not under sterile hospital lights but with sunlight streaming through their bedroom window. The right to spend their final days not hearing the droning hum of hospital machines but instead the laughter of their grandkids echoing in the next room. The right to tell their family they love them and be able to hear those precious words in return.

I am grateful to the advocates, families and legislative supporters, especially bill sponsors Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Amy Paulin, who worked hard to make this happen in a thoughtful and responsible way. And I hope those who are disappointed by this outcome know this was a difficult decision for me personally. It was not made lightly. It was guided by a genuine and deeply held belief that government must respect the rights and will of the people it serves. I hope that those who oppose this legislation will be able to look with compassion on those who may make a choice they would not make for themselves. And isn't that, at heart, what the choice and freedom our young nation promised its people 250 years ago is all about?

REVIEW: Georgiana and Kitty Deliver An Early Christmas Gift From Pemberly

– Review by Patrick White

– All photos by Jeff Knapp



“Nothing will make you happier this season than celebrating the triumph of love in a crowded theater.”

Where do you like your Christmas theater? Whether you're visiting Whoville, Scrooge & Marley or just want to shoot your eye out in Hohman, Indiana, there's Christmas all over the world on area stages. If you're looking for universal truths, romance and family ties you must head to Jane Austen's Pemberly.

Shadowland Stages completes the Christmas at Pemberly trilogy of *Pride & Prejudice* sequels with *Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberly* by Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon playing in Ellenville through December 21st.



Georgiana & Kitty, if you remember, are the youngest sisters of *Pride & Prejudice*'s lead couple Fitzwilliam Darcy (Ben Williamson) and Elizabeth Bennet (Melody Ladd). Georgiana Darcy (Holly Gayle) is a very serious, dedicated and disciplined concert pianist and Kitty Bennet (Haron Perlman) is her optimistic, cheerful best friend. Georgiana has been carrying on an epistolary love affair with Henry Gray (Evan Sibley) for the past year and has rashly invited him to Christmas celebrations at Pemberly. Pemberly is Darcy's family's great house which proved to be a significant factor in turning Elizabeth to Darcy's favor. The Bennet ladies are all here minus their husbands. The eldest Jane Bingley (a calm and watchful Valerie Lynn Brett), the still unmarried Mary (Lizzy Cenicola) and Lydia Wickham (Lena Pepe, delightful as the grain of sand in this oyster) who has not relinquished her role as family trouble maker.

There is more than enough Bennet material for a season of plays devoted to them. Shadowland Stages and their Artistic Director Brendan Burke have approached this particular play with deep appreciation, respect and care and are hitting on all cylinders with their penultimate production of these titles. The theatre was packed Sunday afternoon and it was fantastic to hear that Shadowland Stages had their best attendance this season in their 48 year history.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

FRI, DECEMBER 19th at 7 pm

SAT, DECEMBER 20th at 2 pm

SAT, DECEMBER 20th at 7 pm

SUN, DECEMBER 21st at 2 pm

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

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

Olive Free Library

SENIOR ART GROUP

Meets at the
American Legion Hall on
Mountain Road, Shokan,
Monday 10-noon

A chatty, friendly group of seniors meet each Monday. At least monthly, we have a guest artist come for a workshop. There is no cost. We have a limited supply of watercolors, oil pastels, water soluble oil paints, paper and canvas. Brushes, too. Our crafty folk might paint or sew or knit or crochet or just hang out with friends. Our guest instructors have been Mia Fink and Sue De Sanna. Linda Schultz and Linda Champanier have been added to our possible guest instructors. MaryAnn Shultis has led us in sewing workshops to make bags and runners, and Donna Kopf has taught us quilt square patterns. We also stuff dolls for a project called MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that sends sweet dolls to Children's hospitals.

Come join us!

JOIN US FOR STRENGTH, STRETCH & BALANCE: AN 8-WEEK SERIES at The Shokan Branch!

with Kathy Carey

Fridays: 11:30am - 12:30pm
December 5 and
January 9, 16, 23, 30

\$6/class

- Muscular Strength
- Endurance & Toning
- Flexibility
- Balance
- Coordination
- Cardiovascular Health
- Bone Density
- Joint Health

Conversations With Death

First Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Starting Saturday, January 3

Join three death doulas for Conversations with Death, a monthly circle that invites open dialogue about dying, grief, and the cycles of life.

Together, we'll open space for story, reflection, and connection, inviting curiosity, courage, and compassion into our relationship with death and dying.

Facilitated by Cory Smith, Jennifer Muir-Braunstein and Kirby Lee

INTRO TO BEEKEEPING

with Rob Overton

Saturday, January 10
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
snow date: January 17

See if beekeeping is right for you—no pressure, no sales. We'll cover the essentials for starting well in the Hudson Valley and how to keep healthy bees over the long term. Whether you're brand new or want a solid refresher, you'll leave with clear next steps and local resources. **Registration required!**

Music Café

WINTER INTERMISSION

After seven months of memorable music, we're taking a break (December-February). See you in March 2026!



**NEW DIRECTIONS
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2026**

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- FREE admission to over 30 museums throughout New York State!

Double

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All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

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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!

DEC and NYSERDA Announce Proposed Regulations to Strengthen Regional Program to Reduce Emissions From Electricity Sector

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) today announced the release of proposed regulations to strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to achieve affordable and effective reductions in pollutants contributing to extreme heat, damaging flooding, and other harmful climate impacts. The regulatory updates follow a multi-state comprehensive stakeholder program review that ensures access to sufficient RGGI emissions reduction allowances to meet expected energy demand and bolsters price protection for consumers.

“As New York and other states encounter rollbacks on the federal level when it comes to climate action, our commitment and partnership through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is advancing energy affordability and reliability, while reducing pollution,” DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. “The proposed updates to RGGI are a strong example of how states can work together with an eye towards affordability to achieve emissions reductions that will improve air quality, protect our environment, invest in clean energy, and create healthier communities.”

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority President and CEO Doreen M. Harris said, “NYSERDA continues to support the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and furthering efforts to reduce harmful emissions while ensuring price stability and affordability. In a time when New York and other states are facing federal headwinds, these proposed updates demonstrate a collective solidarity among states to continue to take action to ensure the health and well-being of our neighborhoods and communities in New York and beyond.”

In the face of federal rollbacks, DEC and NYSERDA's proposals confirm New York's commitment to energy affordability, climate resilience, and public health protection. RGGI continues to perform better than expected when the bipartisan program first launched more than 15 years ago. Emissions of carbon dioxide from the power sector in New York State reduced by more than 50 percent from 2005 levels and the energy transition is made more affordable statewide, with auction proceeds totaling more than \$3 billion to date.

The funds support investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electrification that ultimately provide savings to utility ratepayers. Net savings to participating ratepayers are expected to reach nearly \$12 billion over the lifetime of the investments, providing a nearly 6-to-1 benefit based on investments of approximately \$2 billion to date. In addition, an independent analysis found all RGGI states also realized \$5.7 billion in public health benefits over its first six years alone (2009-2014), including fewer premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses thanks to cleaner air, and added 48,000 job-years. Additional investments are expected as RGGI continues.

DEC's proposed RGGI updates would reduce the regional emissions cap to approximately 69.8 million tons of carbon dioxide in 2027, then decline 89 percent relative to the 2024 cap through 2037. This would result in carbon dioxide emissions decreasing by approximately 10 percent annually through 2033, followed by 3 percent annually until 2037. The updated cap trajectory, which would result in a regional cap reduction of more than 60 million tons of carbon dioxide to approximately nine million tons in 2037 and subsequent years, was determined through consensus among participating states following consideration of stakeholder feedback and technical modeling and analysis.

DEC and NYSERDA, in its role as the administrator of auctions and the investment of auction proceeds, also proposed draft regulations to increase the size of the Cost Containment Reserve (CCR) and establish a second tier of CCR allowances to ensure availability of RGGI allowances to meet grid reliability needs, ensure affordability, and protect against cost volatility. In addition, the joint proposal would remove the Emissions Containment Reserve from RGGI design and increase the minimum reserve price to also help protect against price volatility in the RGGI market.

Updates to NYSERDA's auction rule must be approved by NYSERDA's Board. On November 17, 2025, the Board passed a resolution to approve publication of the proposed changes.

The proposed regulations and proposed auction rule are available on DEC's website. Public comments will be accepted through February 17, 2026. DEC and NYSERDA will hold two virtual public hearings on February 9, 2026, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Following the public comment period, DEC and NYSERDA will work expeditiously to respond to public comments and anticipate adoption of a final regulation next year, in advance of 2027 when the updated emissions cap is slated to go into effect.

In July, the states participating in RGGI, including New York, announced the finalized program updates to strengthen the regional emissions cap. The updated program review secures progress through the tightened cap while providing additional flexibility if extra price protection is needed. The next program review is expected to begin no later than 2028.

On Monday, December 1, DEC also announced final regulations for Part 253 establishing a Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. The rule will protect against anticipated federal rollbacks and improve New York's understanding of sources of greenhouse gas emissions, more effectively monitor the State's progress toward pollution reduction goals, and support the production of the annual GHG Emissions Report.

New York State's Climate Agenda

New York State's climate agenda calls for an affordable and just transition to a clean energy economy that creates family-sustaining jobs, promotes economic growth through green investments, and directs a minimum of 35 percent of the benefits to disadvantaged communities. New York is advancing a suite of efforts to achieve an emissions-free economy by 2050, including in the energy, buildings, transportation, and waste sectors. The State is also working to disburse the historic \$1 billion Sustainable Future Program, which will deliver targeted funding to lower emissions, reduce household energy costs, and spur green job growth.

OLIVE SENIORS

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

Where: American Legion Hall*

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

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

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

** follows Onteora School District calendar and is cancelled when Onteora schools cancel due to a weather event

FUTURE WORLDS

an AI-inspired black comedy

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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

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



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

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



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

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DEC Delivers Banner Stay Connected with Your Environment— DEC Announces New State Record White Perch Fourth State Record Fish Established in 2025

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced that a fourth fish species officially qualified as a State record catch this year. On November 23, Yongfeng Tian of Brooklyn reeled in a 3-pound, 4-ounce white perch from Cross River Reservoir in Westchester County. Mr. Tian's record-breaking catch surpassed the previous state record white perch caught in 1991 by 3 ounces.



"This latest State record is a testament to the incredible fishing opportunities that New York State's waters provide," said DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. "I would like to congratulate Mr. Tian on an impressive catch, and encourage all New Yorkers to visit DEC's website to find an opportunity near you to catch the next record fish."

White perch are a common freshwater fish found in lakes and rivers throughout the state, including the Hudson River. White perch are known for their schooling behavior and once located, can provide a lot of action. They can be caught on a variety of small baits and lures, such as jigs, worms, and minnows.

Mr. Tian submitted details of his winning catch as part

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← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles

→ Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles

Gun Shop on LEFT

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-Going Towards Olivebridge 7.5 Miles

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Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM
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For information
contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
at (845) 701-0695

of DEC's newly revamped Angler Achievement Awards Program, which tracks State record fish and recognizes anglers who catch any of the 40 eligible fish species that meet or exceed the minimum qualifying lengths established for that species. Through this program, anglers can enter freshwater fish that meet specific qualifying criteria and receive official recognition of their catch, along with a species-specific sticker commemorating their achievement.

The program's three categories are Angler Award, Youth Angler Award, and State Record Award. As part of the program revamp, anglers can now submit entries for qualifying catches from the convenience of their smartphone through an online entry form. For official program rules, eligible species, and associated minimum qualifying lengths, visit the Angler Achievement Awards webpage.

The program further supports Governor Kathy Hochul's "Get Offline, Get Outside" initiative that promotes physical and mental health by helping encourage New York State's kids and families to put down their phones and computers, take a break from social media, and enjoy recreation and outdoor social gatherings.

Anglers are encouraged to check out the Tackle Box feature in DEC's HuntFishNY app that provides one-stop shopping for information on access sites, fish stocking, regulations, and more. person holding a fish

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

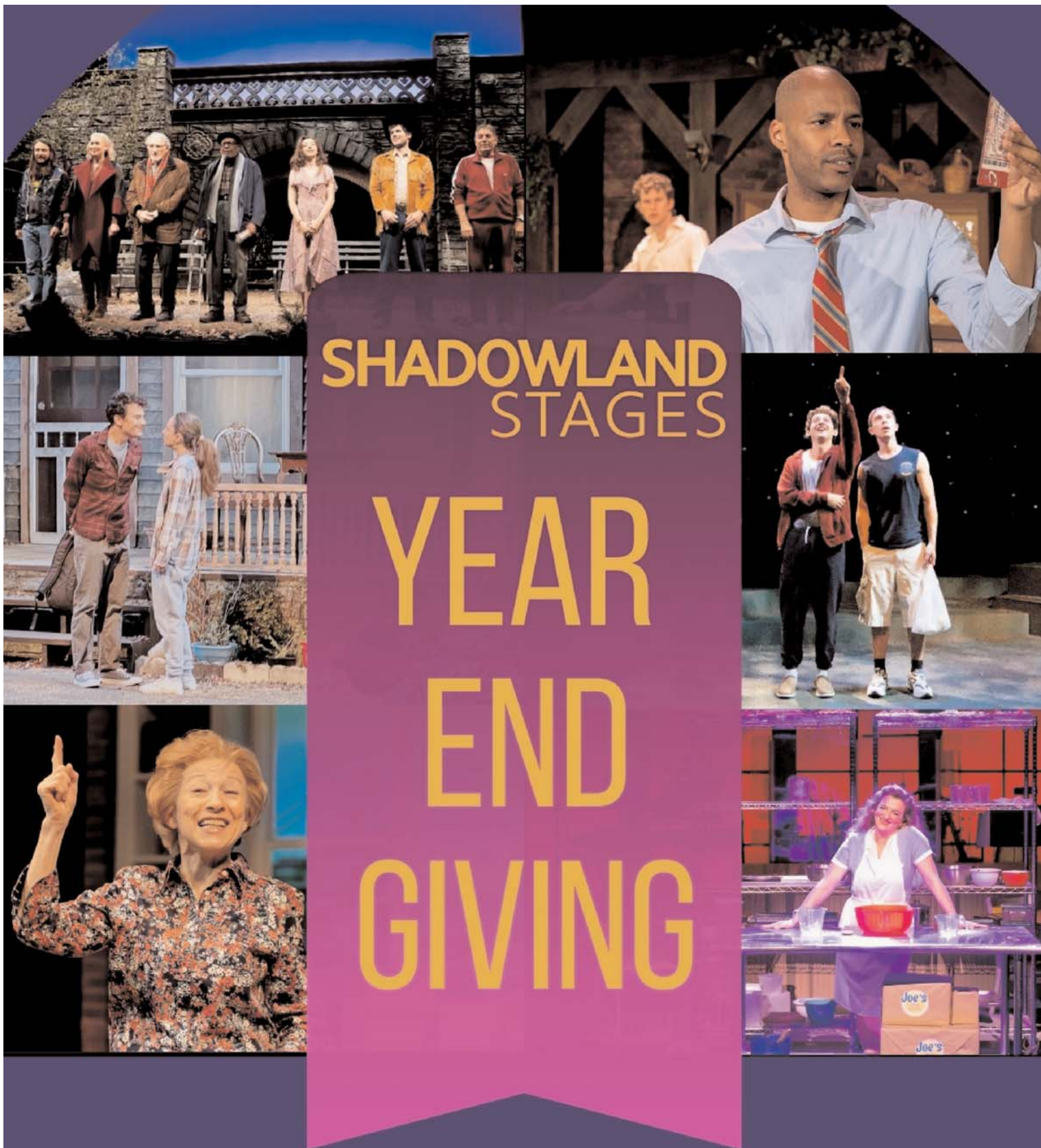


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Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

Text or call Dana for more information: 845 707 - 2489



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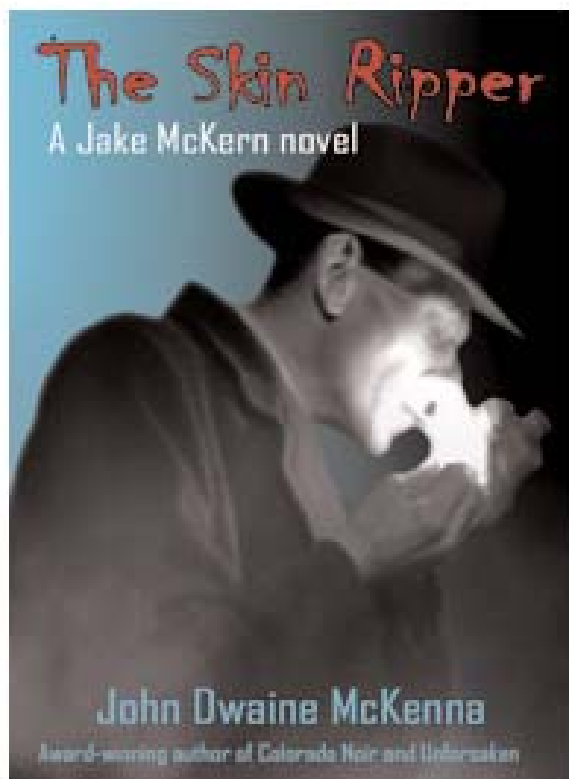
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hour and his greatest adventure to date!

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Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

2025 Caregiver Resource Center Monthly Virtual Support Groups

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

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Use the QR Code, or use the link
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6mtpy4>
or email sullivancrc@cornell.edu.



**3rd Wednesday
each month**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Jan 15 Feb 19

Mar 19 Apr 16

May 21 June 18


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Sept 17 Oct 15

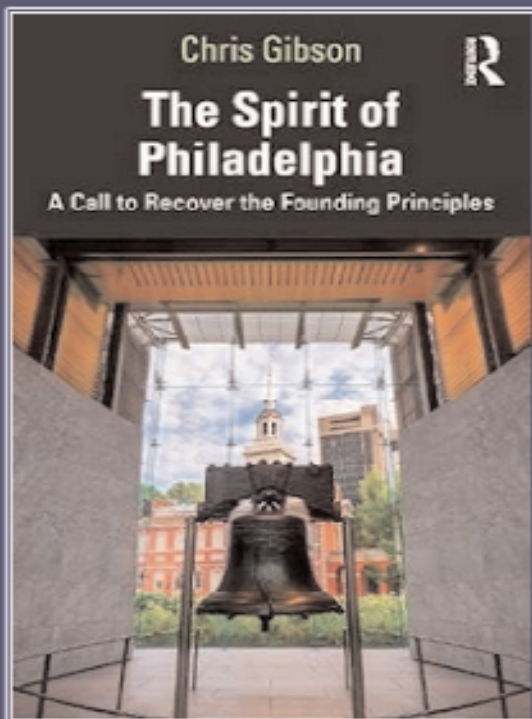
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This program is supported by a grant from the NYS Department of Health and is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County Office for the Aging, and the Alzheimer's Association.



The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

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

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

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson

Soldier



Scholar



Statesman



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.



This holiday season, I want you to be able to focus on making memories with family and catching up with friends, not the bills coming in at the end of the month. That's why I'm focused on lowering costs for everyone in our community - fighting against rising health care insurance premiums and grocery costs, cutting through red tape for small business owners, delivering critical heating assistance funding - anything to bring down the cost of living and put more money back in your pocket.

Here's more of how I fought for a more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley for us all this past week:

LOWERING COSTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

We don't have billion-dollar corporations in the Hudson Valley. What we proudly do have are tons of small businesses that clothe our kids, feed our families, and employ our friends - they deserve federal policy that lowers costs, not endless red tape.

I'm proud that this week, two bills I championed to lower costs for small businesses were passed in the House:

https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-pat-ryan-fights-hudson-valley-small-businesses-passes-two-bills?fbclid=IwY2xjawOn9_BleHRuA2FlbQIxmABicmlkET_E0TDVxcWNQYTZhHJLbFluc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHjGfkNK3jVEHDCujR9ghLgzYcAoVznDRAultcIlTFJrWCyXNSoSoJPClrHij_aem_24dvg_OhVyRQpGnhgELJOOA

The "Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act" alleviates regulatory costs faced by small businesses - in 2022 alone, these costs tallied up to \$15,133.57 per employee for businesses.

The "DUMP Red Tape Act" creates a direct hotline to the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy that small business owners can call to report unnecessary regulatory burdens on their businesses.

REPAIRING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Whether you're walking your children to school, commuting to work, or driving to our local small businesses to finish holiday shopping, everyone deserves better, safer roads that are easier to navigate and get you where you need to go more efficiently.

I introduced my "Restoring Essential Public Access and Improving Resilient (REPAIR) Infrastructure Act" to overhaul outdated transportation infrastructure, rebuild direct, efficient roadways to re-connect communities, and improve safety for every road user.

From improving the safety of a dangerous highway crossing, like 9-W in Kingston, to working to prevent pedestrian and cyclist deaths at roadway intersections, to making access to our community spaces easier for everyone, the REPAIR Infrastructure Act is going to deliver the safer, more accessi-

ble Hudson Valley all of our families deserve.

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://iqconnect.house.gov/iqextranet/EForm.aspx?__cid=NY19PR&__fid=100056

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.

MAKING HOME OWNERSHIP POSSIBLE FOR HUDSON VALLEY FAMILIES

Habitat for Humanity transforms the lives of our neighbors most in need by building them a place to call home.

I'm grateful that my team could join for 'Truss Day' for Ulster County Habitat for Humanity's newest homes in Port Ewen - when the roof trusses are placed on the home's walls.

Together, we'll keep pushing to make home ownership possible for every Hudson Valley family.

Read more about how my housing agenda will lower housing costs here. <https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-pat-ryan-introduces-bold-housing-agenda-address-housing-crisis>

BRINGING DOWN THE COST OF HEATING YOUR HOME

With cold setting in and utility costs rising, the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS)'s withholding of crucial funding for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) was unacceptable.

I joined colleagues in demanding that HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy immediately release this funding and I'm proud that because of our pressure, HEAP funds are now available.

[https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2025/11/28/heating-assistance-released-states-tribes--3-6-billion?cid=id-app15_m-share_s-web_cmp-app_launch_august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic_Learn more about eligibility and how you can apply for HEAP funding here. https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2025/11/28/heating-assistance-released-states-tribes--3-6-billion?cid=id-app15_m-share_s-web_cmp-app_launch_august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic_Learn%20more%20about%20eligibility%20and%20how%20you%20can%20apply%20for%20HEAP%20funding%20here.%20https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/)

(Contd. P6 53)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 52)**WORKING WITH SUNY LEADERS TO DELIVER FOR OUR STUDENTS**

I had a great time meeting with SUNY leaders recently to discuss our work delivering the tools and resources our students need for successful careers.

Dutchess Community College President Dr. Peter Jordan is a champion for Hudson Valley students and I'm grateful for his partnership in fighting to ensure students have every educational opportunity - from accessing PELL grants to workforce training.

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.

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.

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!

WISHING A HAPPY PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY TO A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

I want to congratulate Life Restoration Church's Pastor McLymore on celebrating his 8th pastoral anniversary earlier this week.

He is an inspiration to our entire Hudson Valley Community, putting service above self in every way - as an elected official, police officer, and pastor. I had the privilege of honoring his dimensions of service with his congregation in Newburgh - watch here!

<https://x.com/RepPatRyanNY/status/1998455085584593021?s=20>

Pastor McLymore, thank you for your moral fortitude, compassion for neighbors and strangers alike, and ability to unify our entire community.

GO ARMY, BEAT NAVY!

It was a hard-fought game - I'm always proud of our Army football team. They've had a great season, showing their grit, determination, and unparalleled work ethic.

I'm looking forward to cheering them on in their bowl game against UCONN at Fenway Park on December 27! Go Army! Beat Navy!

HELPING YOU WITH FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Is a federal agency giving you the runaround or keeping you in an endless loop of phone trees?

My team and I are here to help and will leave no stone unturned to get you the results you deserve. We're here to assist with federal programs, including:

Social Security, Medicare, Veterans Affairs benefits and health care, military records requests, passports and visas, federal student aid, cost saving tax credits and grant opportunities, IRS tax returns, and more!

Please give us a call at (845) 443-2930 if we can help you like we helped Susan!

REMEMBERING THE HEROES OF PEARL HARBOR

Last Sunday, we solemnly remembered the 2,403 service members and civilians who lost their lives 84 years ago at Pearl Harbor.

They made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms as Americans - we must honor their memory every day.

CONGRATULATING A STANDOUT TOWN

The Town of Stanford is due a huge congratulations on earning the New York Association of Towns' Towns of Excellence Gold Award!

Stanford's phenomenal community, outstanding local leadership, and thriving economy made it a standout for the award. I want to give an extra shout out to Town Supervisor Wendy Burton for leading Stanford to this award.

Way to show what our Hudson Valley communities are all about! Read more about Stanford's award here.

https://www.newpineplainsherald.org/stanford-earns-statewide-town-of-excellence-gold-award/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAYnJpZBExZ2xSZlg5MkFWVTF5MzFCV3NydgMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR6N6p_hm7uRICsR8Yyetm-Vh0-OnkHq83sxDckdZ-FYekt_76KhSgPDn_PUOW_aem_EnTzzup6xmp660Jb9bv7Eg

GRANTS CORNER**APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:**

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.

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.

(Contd. Pg. 54)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 53)

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.

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 Mid-sized 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/USEPA-REG2/subscriber/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/>
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.

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.

(Contd. Pg. 55)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 54)**RESOURCES:**

New York Small Business Development Center (NYSB-DC) - 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.



Dear Neighbor,

From introducing a bill to limit bonuses for utility executives in Upstate New York to supporting a bipartisan plan to lower healthcare costs, here's a look at what I've been up to

I'M BANNING UTILITY EXECUTIVES FROM CASHING OUT WHILE RAISING RATES ON US

Utility CEOs are cashing million-dollar bonuses while Upstate families are choosing between heat, medicine, and groceries.

I just introduced a bipartisan bill - the No Bonuses for Utility Executives Act - to stop utility companies from paying CEO bonuses while ratepayers get crushed. Enough is enough.

MY PLAN TO SAVE YOU MONEY ON UTILITY BILLS PASSED THE HOUSE

The very first bill I introduced in Congress will help folks save up to \$400 per year on their utility bills by making energy-saving home improvements.

I'm happy to say that it just passed out of committee-the first step to becoming law-by a 50-0 vote.

Upstate New Yorkers deserve relief, and I won't stop fighting until we get it done.

I INTRODUCED A BIPARTISAN PLAN TO LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS

Folks are already getting crushed by heating bills and groceries, the last thing they can afford is a spike in health-care premiums.

That's why today I introduced a bipartisan plan to drive down costs and protect coverage.

I'll work with anyone to get it done.

I'M HELPING RURAL SCHOOLS GET AHEAD

Students in our small towns have talent, drive, and big dreams, and they deserve the same opportunities as everyone else.

That's why I'm introducing the Boosting the Rural STEM Pipeline Act, which will help colleges train and place STEM teachers in rural school districts across Upstate New York.

THE GIVE KIDS A CHANCE ACT PASSED THE HOUSE, AND I CALLED A CONSTITUENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Scout from Kerhonkson has a disease that affects only 1 in 100,000 kids.

Her mom, Alex, called my office asking me to fight for research into rare diseases like hers. So when the Give Kids a Chance Act passed the House, I called her with the good news.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/867472916221628>

This job is about people and hope, always.

I TESTIFIED AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PUTTING AMERICAN WORKERS FIRST

From Endicott to Oneonta, bad trade deals have sold out working people while Wall Street gets rich.

I'm fighting back.

Bring manufacturing jobs home. Rebuild the middle class. Put American workers first.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/25152319207730488>

I'M FIGHTING TO MAKE SURE OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN UPSTATE GET THE RESOURCES THEY NEED

Our rural communities deserve a fair shot, and I'll always fight to make sure we get the resources we need.

That's why I co-sponsored the Secure Rural Schools Act, and I'm glad to see it pass the House and move one step closer to becoming law.

**MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS
SUNY PRESIDENTS**

You can't talk about Upstate New York's future without talking about SUNY, which serves over 45,000 students in NY19.

Great meeting with the Presidents of SUNY Binghamton, Broome, Columbia-Greene, Oneonta, and Tompkins Cortland Community College.

I'm committed to working with them to support the next generation of Upstate leaders.

SUNY BINGHAMTON

I grew up right across the river from SUNY Binghamton. All these years later, it's never lost on me how vital a role this school plays in our community and in Upstate New York.

It was a true honor to meet with President D'Alleva. Her success is our success, and I'm committed to doing everything I can to support Binghamton University and its students. (Contd. Pg. 56)

Josh Riley (From g.. 55)

BINGHAMTON-ONEONTA BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

Our region's future is bright because our workforce and unions are strong.

Grateful to the Binghamton-Oneonta Building Trades Council for sharing how we can keep manufacturing and construction jobs growing in Upstate.

WHITNEY POINT AND WINDSOR FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

NY-19 is home to not one but two championship field hockey teams, the Whitney Point Eagles and the Windsor Black Knights.

We are so proud of these young women, who represent the very best of our rural communities in Upstate New York.

CELEBRATING NY-19'S CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER AT MAINE-ENDWELL
book.com/reel/1832752487369821

Stopped by Maine-Endwell to recognize Andrew, winner of this year's NY-19 Congressional App Challenge! His app uses innovative technology to make medical imaging more accessible, a smart way to lower barriers to care and drive down costs.

I couldn't be prouder of his work and can't wait to see what he does next.

SIDNEY FIRE HALL

It was a full house at the Sidney Fire Hall last weekend!

Thanks to everyone who came by to support Helios Care Hospice and the amazing small businesses that keep Upstate moving!

ONEONTA CHRISTMAS PARADE

Oneonta showed up big for the annual Christmas Parade! Loved talking to folks along the route, and pitching in to help deliver food donations to the Veterans Resource Center.

This is what the holidays are all about.

HURLEYVILLE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Awesome morning at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center Breakfast with Santa!

BIRDSONG HOLIDAY MARKET

Had great conversations and did a little shopping at the Birdsong Holiday Market in Hamden.

IN THE NEWS

Riley wants to cap NYSEG CEO's pay

Riley introduces bipartisan bill to ban bonuses for utility CEOs when they hike rates

Rep. Riley Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Extend ACA Premium Tax Credits

Riley co-signs bipartisan healthcare bill

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

With gratitude and high hopes,
Josh Riley

Riley Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Ban Bonuses for Utility CEOs When They Hike Rates on Families

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Josh Riley (NY-19) and Congressman Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02) today introduced the bipartisan No Bonuses for Utility Executives Act, which prohibits utility company executives from receiving bonuses whenever they raise rates faster than inflation.

"Upstate New Yorkers are getting crushed by high utility bills," said Riley. "Folks are cutting back on everything from groceries to school clothes just to keep the lights on. Meanwhile, the utility monopolies are rewarding their CEOs with millions of dollars per year. When the people footing the bill get squeezed and the folks at the top walk off with massive bonuses, something's seriously broken - and I'm fighting to fix it. My bipartisan bill stops utility monopolies from rewarding the corporate executives who are ripping us off."

"People are getting hit with higher and higher utility bills, and they are tired of seeing executives get big bonuses while they struggle to pay," said Congressman Van Drew. "This bill is about basic fairness. In no world should executives be getting big bonuses if they are raising rates faster than inflation. This bill will make these companies think about the families they serve before they decide to jack up prices. I am proud to be a co-lead on this effort."

Across Upstate New York, working families continue to feel the squeeze of rising electric bills. And even as these utilities pleaded for higher rates, they paid their CEOs

more than \$10 million last year - Fortis (parent company of Central Hudson) paid \$10.6 million, and Avangrid (parent company of NYSEG and RG&E) paid \$10.7 million - all while households struggled to keep up with higher monthly costs.

<https://energyandpolicy.org/as-customers-struggled-utility-ceos-pay-spiked-last-year/>

Riley's bill would put an end to executive bonuses in years when utilities raise rates faster than inflation.

ABOUT THE NO BONUSES FOR UTILITY EXECUTIVES ACT:

1. Stops bonuses when utilities raise rates faster than inflation: If a utility hikes rates above the annual inflation rate, its executives are barred from receiving bonuses of any kind.
2. Caps bonuses in years when rates stay stable: If rate increases stay at or below inflation, any executive bonus must be capped at 25% of the median compensation earned by non-executive employees.
3. Enforces the rules with real oversight and penalties: Utilities must report to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) within one week of their fiscal year ending, providing:
 - o the average percentage increase in customer rates, and
 - o the median pay of non-executive employees.
 FERC has one month to determine whether bonuses are permitted and, if so, the maximum allowable bonus. If a utility violates the law, its entire bonus pool is forfeited to the IRS, and the IRS must return those dollars directly to customers as a stimulus payment.
4. Applies to foreign-owned, state-regulated electric utilities:

The bill covers state-regulated electric utilities that are not wholly owned by U.S. persons, and it takes effect for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

The No Bonuses for Utility Executives Act builds on Riley's earlier Keep the Lights Local Act, part of his broader push to lower utility costs, rein in utility monop-



Joining Bob Lonsberry to Discuss Passage of My Bill to Rename Post Office After Fallen Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuxCdfQuFIE&feature=youtu.be>

This week, the House unanimously passed my bipartisan bill to rename the Avon Post Office in memory of fallen Rochester Police Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz. Nearly every member of New York's congressional delegation joined this effort because Anthony's story resonates far beyond his hometown. A native of Avon, Officer Mazurkiewicz spent 35 years protecting others and earned numerous commendations for excellence, courage, and life-saving service. His tragic loss in 2022 continues to be felt by his wife, children, grandchildren, and the many people whose lives he touched.

Naming the Avon Post Office in his honor ensures that his legacy remains at the center of the community he cherished. It stands as a lasting reminder of his dedication and the countless lives he strengthened throughout Western New York. I'm grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this meaningful tribute. Our region has always stood firmly behind our law enforcement heroes, and this recognition reflects our commitment to preserving their service and sacrifice.

Passing the FY26 NDAA, Securing Major Wins for Upstate New York's Military Communities

The Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which I voted in favor of, passed through the House this week. This year's NDAA strengthens our military at a critical moment as threats from China, Iran, Russia, and terrorist groups rise. It restores accountability and merit, dismantles wasteful DEI bureaucracies, and ensures promotions are based on performance. The bill protects taxpayers by cutting nearly \$20 billion in ineffective programs while supporting President Trump's 3.8 percent pay raise for our servicemembers. It rebuilds readiness, revitalizes our industrial base, secures the southern border, and gives our troops the tools to deter any adversary.

Just as important, this legislation delivers real results for Upstate New York, such as beginning the recapitalization of the New York Air National Guard's LC-130 fleet, building the new Combined Operations Facility at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, design funds for upgrades at Fort Drum, and investing in the New York National Guard. The NDAA will bring critical resources home to our region. These investments support local jobs, enhance our national defense

capabilities, and reaffirm the indispensable role our communities play in keeping America safe. This is a strong step forward for our servicemembers, our state, and our nation.

Key Upstate New York Defense Priorities Secured by Rep. Tenney in the FY26 NDAA:

\$200 million for the LC-130 polar aircraft recapitalization project to modernize the unique fleet flown by the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing and sustain critical Arctic and Antarctic missions.

\$54 million for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to construct a new Combined Operations Facility that will improve mission readiness and support our airmen.

\$20.3 million for Fort Drum, including:

\$9.5 million for aircraft maintenance hangar addition design.

\$8.3 million for design of Operational Readiness Transient Training Barracks.

\$2.5 million for Range 41C automated record fire and range design to improve training capabilities for the 10th Mountain Division.

\$90 million for the New York National Guard to construct a new readiness center and headquarters for the 42nd Infantry Division, enhancing readiness and resilience for New York's Guard soldiers.

Highlights of the FY26 NDAA:

Strengthens America's national defense by authorizing \$900.6 billion to counter threats from China, Iran, Russia, and terrorist organizations.

Codifies core elements of President Trump's national security agenda, rebuilding a lethal, merit-based military and eliminating wasteful DEI bureaucracies.

Supports a 3.8% pay raise for all servicemembers and improves housing, childcare, healthcare, and overall quality of life for military families.

Saves taxpayers nearly \$20 billion by cutting ineffective climate programs, rolling back DEI spending, reducing bureaucracy, and retiring outdated systems.

Strengthens border security by fully funding National Guard and active-duty deployments to assist Border Patrol and enforce National Defense Areas.

Expands counter-narcotics operations with over \$1 billion to disrupt drug trafficking networks and support National Guard missions.

Revitalizes the defense industrial base, strengthens domestic manufacturing, and accelerates delivery of cutting-edge warfighting technologies.

Protects essential airpower by preventing unnecessary retirement of key aircraft, including C-130s, A-10s, F-15Es, E-3s, RQ-4s, and Grey Eagles.

Advances missile defense and nuclear modernization under President Trump's Golden Dome initiative, ensuring unmatched U.S. deterrence.

Accelerates shipbuilding, space modernization, and programs needed to counter China and deter authoritarian aggression.

Provides unprecedented support for Israel, reinforcing America's commitment to its most vital ally in the Middle East.

(Contd. Pg. 58)

This Week With Claudia (From Pg. 57)

Joining Saturday in America to Discuss Law Enforcement in New York

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuxCdfQuFIE&feature=youtu.be>

New York is facing a growing public-safety crisis because state leaders refuse to enforce our immigration laws or cooperate with federal authorities. According to the Department of Homeland Security, nearly 7,000 criminal illegal immigrants with active ICE detainers, including individuals charged with homicide, rape, child sex crimes, and extortion, were released back into New York communities just this year. Instead of addressing this threat, Attorney General Letitia James is targeting local sheriffs who participate in the successful 287(g) program, which allows county law enforcement to work directly with ICE to remove dangerous criminal aliens.

Additionally, I highlighted the urgent case of Kamran Hekmati, a 70-year-old Long Islander imprisoned in Iran on a baseless charge tied to visiting Israel over a decade ago. He is a cancer patient who is being denied critical treatment. That is why I joined Congressman Tom Suozzi in urging Secretary Rubio to classify him as a wrongful detainee under the Levinson Act and use every available tool to bring him home.

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. 2060, the Traveler's Gun Rights Act: This bill would allow law-abiding RV-ers, active-duty military, military spouses, and others who rely on a P.O. Box for their primary mailing address to obtain a firearm. Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) prohibits legal gun buyers from listing a P.O. Box or Private Mailbox (PMB) on purchasing documents. These alternate addresses are already recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and on particular driver's licenses, and this commonsense bill brings parity for law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment Rights.

H.R. 3492, the Protect Children's Innocence Act of 2025: This bill would make attempts to perform genital bodily mutilation or chemical castration on a minor a Class C Felony, with up to 10 years in federal prison and/or fines. Additionally, this bill would codify President Trump's Executive Order (EO) 14187, Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation. H.R. 3492 protects minors by preventing abuse and exploitation linked to radical gender ideology, holding those responsible for these procedures accountable.

H.R. 4565, the No DOT Funds for Sanctuary Cities Act: This bill would prohibit the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from providing any federal funds to sanctuary cities. Specifically, DOT funds would be withheld from states or localities that restrict federal law enforcement agencies from obtaining citizenship information or conducting legal immigration enforcement. Additionally, sanctuary jurisdictions expect federal infrastructure funds while they stand by as anti-ICE protestors vandalize roads, bridges, and

other infrastructure. Sanctuary cities have proven to be a serious threat to the safety of American citizens, and this will ensure that jurisdictions cooperate with President Trump's effective immigration policies 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>

Tuesday December 9th

I voted "Yes" on S. 356, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act. This bill retroactively authorizes and funds the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program, which provides funding to state and local governments with large tracts of federal land, for FY 2024 and FY 2025. State and local governments that overlap with federal land receive payments to compensate for the lack of local tax revenue on that land. The SRS program expired in Fiscal Year 2023, with the last set of payments issued in 2024, missing critical payments this year. This bill extends authorization and funding for this program through FY 2026 and ensures schools remain open, roads are maintained, and emergency services remain in places where federal lands overlap. This bill passed the House by a vote of 399-5.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 1676, the Make SWAPs Efficient Act of 2025. This bill expedites the approval process for State wildlife conservation and restoration plans by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to approve or deny plans within 180 days of submission. Additionally, this bill requires the Secretary to report to Congress on any failures to issue plan approvals in a timely manner. State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) are developed and submitted by states to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to identify non-game species of greatest conservation need, which can take over 18 months to approve. This bipartisan legislation brings accountability to the review process, ensuring America's fish and wildlife resources are preserved for future generations. This bill passed the House by a vote of 400-0.

Wednesday, December 10th

I voted "Yes" on S. 1071, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026. This year's NDAA strengthens our military at a critical moment as threats from China, Iran, Russia, and terrorist groups rise. It restores accountability and merit, dismantles wasteful DEI bureaucracies, and ensures promotions are based on performance. The bill protects taxpayers by cutting nearly \$20 billion in ineffective programs while supporting President Trump's 3.8 percent pay raise for our servicemembers. It rebuilds readiness, revitalizes our industrial base, secures the southern border, and gives our troops the tools to deter any adversary. Just as important, this legislation delivers real results for Upstate New York such as beginning the recapitalization of the New York Air National Guard's LC-130 fleet, building the new Combined Operations Facility
(Contd. Pg. 59)

This Week With Claudia (From Pg. 57)

at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, design funds for upgrades at Fort Drum, and investing in the New York National Guard. The NDAA will bring critical resources home to our region. These investments support local jobs, enhance our national defense capabilities, and reaffirm the indispensable role our communities play in keeping America safe. While I was disappointed that my FORKS Made in America Permanency Act was not included and opposed the inclusion of the Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act, overall, this bill will help make the United States stronger, safer, and more secure. This is a strong step forward for our servicemembers, our state, and our nation. This bill passed by a vote of 312-112.

Thursday, December 11th

I voted "Yes" on the Motion to Table H.Res. 939, Impeaching Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors. In President Trump's first year in office, he has achieved so many great wins for our country. Our borders are finally secure, we have returned to energy dominance, and through President Trump's peace through strength agenda, he has resolved eight international conflicts, making the world a safer place. However, radical left-wing Democrats will stop at nothing to remove President Trump from office. I voted to table the resolution to ensure that the House did not waste time on another dilatory resolution targeting President Trump and House Republicans could continue working for the American people. The motion to table passed the House by a vote of 237-140, with 47 members voting present

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 3898, the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act. This legislation makes several reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) to streamline permitting procedures, eliminate duplicative regulatory processes, clarify definitions of "navigable waters", and address the overwhelming permitting backlog within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The CWA has been in effect since 1972, and some of the Act's permitting processes have become more confusing, cumbersome, and prohibitively expensive over time. The CWA has also been increasingly exploited to block infrastructure projects for reasons beyond water quality issues. These reforms reflect House Republicans' commitment to rebuilding our infrastructure by reducing red tape, streamlining permitting processes, and providing regulatory certainty while continuing to protect clean water. This bill passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 221-205.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 3628, the State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act. This bill holds state regulators accountable for considering the real-world consequences of energy decisions, especially when it comes to grid reliability and affordability. With electricity demand in New York surging and dispatchable generation retiring too quickly, this legislation makes sure utilities are planning ahead so that rolling blackouts, brownouts, or sudden rate spikes don't catch families and businesses off guard. For too long, Governor Hochul and Albany Democrats have hamstrung our energy capacity with impractical, "Green New Steal" policies aimed at appeasing radical leftists. This bill is a common-sense step to hold Albany accountable and ensure they don't

sacrifice reliability or price stability for the sake of scoring political points. The bill passed the House by a vote of 218-207.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 3638, the Electric Supply Chain Act. This bill requires the Department of Energy to regularly assess vulnerabilities in the supply chains that support electricity generation, transmission, and critical grid components so we can stay ahead of threats to prevent future outages or price spikes. Whether it's cyberattacks, foreign dependence, or aging infrastructure, this legislation helps ensure American families and businesses can rely on a stable, affordable power supply. With demand growing from AI data centers and new manufacturing hubs, we must strengthen every facet of our energy supply chain. The bill passed the House by a vote of 267-159.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 3383, the INVEST Act. This legislation cuts red tape, modernizes investment regulations, and helps ensure that the benefits of economic growth aren't limited to the coasts or the biggest players. This bill takes critical steps in helping small businesses access the capital they need to grow and gives everyday Americans more freedom to invest and build long-term wealth. For too long, Washington's outdated rules have made it harder for small employers to raise funds and for middle-class families to participate in our capital markets. The INVEST ACT strengthens U.S. markets, supports entrepreneurship, and opens doors for more Americans to save, invest, and build a secure future. The bill passed the House by a vote of 302-123.

I voted "No" on H.R. 2550, the Protect America's Workforce Act. This bill would overturn President Trump's Executive Order 14251 that would allow the Trump administration to hold the federal bureaucracy accountable to the American people. Executive Order 14251 improves the efficiency of the federal government and allows increased accountability for bureaucrats to ensure they are working for the American people instead of working to undermine the President, regardless of party. This bill also did not go through regular order and receive a committee markup, and as such I voted to oppose this bill. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 231-195.

Friday, December 12th

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 3668, the Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act. This bill strengthens the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for authorizations under sections 3 or 7 of the Natural Gas Act. Additionally, this legislation streamlines the process for participating federal and state agencies to coordinate with FERC to complete environmental reviews. As demand for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is rising both domestically and around the world, this legislation sends a clear message that the United States is still the global leader in energy output. By increasing transparency and accountability in the environmental review process, and providing greater regulatory certainty, we can ensure pipeline projects remain on schedule. This bill passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 213-184.

Stefanik Passes Congressional Ratification of Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, the House of Representatives passed Congresswoman Elise Stefanik's (R-NY) legislation to ratify the land claim settlement agreement between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, New York State, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties, the Towns of Fort Covington and Bombay, and the New York Power Authority. This agreement includes the return of Reservation Status of 3,500 acres as well as the opportunity for up to 14,000 total acres in the land claim areas.

"I am deeply honored to lead the passage of landmark legislation in Congress to ratify the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement. This is a historic agreement between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, New York State, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties, the Towns of Fort Covington and Bombay, and the New York Power Authority that will greatly benefit our North Country communities," said Stefanik.

"For more than 40 years, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne have worked diligently to resolve the Akwesasne land claim in Northern New York. The last decade has seen very focused efforts between the Tribe, local and county officials, and our Congressional office to realize this long-sought agreement dating back to the 1796 Treaty with the Seven Nations of Canada. This historic settlement provides longterm certainty and remedies in terms of lands, land acquisition, and payment of past property taxes," she concluded.

"The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council proudly hails the passage of House legislation approving the Akwesasne Mohawk land claim settlement in New York. This historic achievement brings us one major step closer to resolution of more than four decades of effort and determination by countless Akwesasne leaders. Regaining our land has been a long-standing goal shared by our ancestors and our community, and today's success reflects the perseverance and courage of everyone who worked tirelessly on the claim and negotiations since 1982. We extend our gratitude to Congresswoman Stefanik for championing this legislation and helping make this milestone a reality," said the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

"This moment marks a truly momentous occasion, the culmination of many years of dedicated, patient, and persistent negotiation. Reaching a final Settlement Agreement represents far more than the conclusion of a long process—it opens the door to renewed partnerships, stronger coordination, and thoughtful, future-focused planning for all entities throughout Franklin County," Franklin County Board of Legislature Chairman Ed Lockwood said.

"This milestone stands as historic legislation in every sense. After more than four decades of effort, discussion, and commitment, we have arrived at a resolution that will hopefully allow us to strengthen the foundation for progress in the years ahead. It is both a recognition of where we have been and a commitment to building a more collaborative and prosperous future for our entire community," said Franklin County Legislator Paul Lauzon, District 1.

"St. Lawrence County applauds the news of the passage of

the Akwesasne Mohawk land claim settlement in the House of Representatives and express our thanks to Congresswoman Stefanik for her dedication in guiding this legislation," said St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators Chair David Forsythe. "I again want to commend the Team tasked with finalizing the agreement, who have succeeded where others have not."

"H.R. 2916 resolves longstanding land claim issues between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, local communities and the federal government. This is an important step toward honoring commitments, improving local governance and promoting economic opportunity in northern New York. I commend Representative Stefanik for leadership on this issue and I look forward to working with her to see this bill fully enacted into law," said Chairman Bruce Westerman, House Committee on Natural Resources.

Stefanik reintroduced legislation ratifying the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement in April.

The settlement agreement includes:

- o Free tuition and mandatory fees for all Akwesasne Mohawk students attending SUNY institutions;
- o Right to acquire 9 megawatts of power at a preferred rate from New York Power Authority; and
- o \$70 million from New York Power Authority over 35 years.



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@ 6:30 PM

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(1946 / Rated - G / 2 hr. 10 min. / CC)

Frank Capra's classic is still a perfect
movie, made in 194 -78 years ago.

Jimmy Stewart's masterpiece has lost absolutely none of its magic.



George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) a small-town man whose life seems so desperate he contemplates suicide. He had always wanted to leave Bedford Falls to see the world, but his own good heart and deeds led him to stay. He gave up his education for his brother's, kept the family-run savings and loan afloat, protected the town from the avarice of the greedy banker Mr. Potter,

On Christmas Eve, George Bailey wishes he had never been born. Clarence, an angel is sent to earth to make George's wish come true. George starts to realize how many lives he has changed and impacted, and how they would be different if he was never there.

There is a happy ending when the community pulls together to help save George from the evil deed of Mr. Potter.

Directed by Frank Capra. Starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed and Thomas Mitchell.

*Stay safe, and stay well,
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome*

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: *It's a Wonderful Life*

This weeks' Trivia question:

Who hires Dr. Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*?