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Valley

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VOL. 20 NO. 51 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 19, 2024

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 7 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11
Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia Pg 62

Holiday Magic at the DPL!



(Contd. Pg. 8)

2025 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge Lighting the Path to Wellness



[LIBERTY, NY] - Entering its third year, the Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge is set to kick off on January 1, 2025. To date, 16 of Sullivan County's Volunteer Fire Departments have signed up to participate. To kick off the challenge, departments gathered with their members, friends and families to walk the 1.7-mile illuminated trail at Peace, Love & Lights at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

The Healthiest Fire Department Challenge calls attention to the mental and physical health of our firefighters.

Firefighting is physically and emotionally demanding from the moment the tones drop. More than half of all firefighters have elevated blood pressure; are obese and pre-diabetic. 90% or more have poor diet or exercise habits, additionally, suffering from heart disease, PTSD and lead in suicide more than any other first responder. Firefighters are consistently managing the balance between family, work and serving their community. Absorbing the trauma of each call has impacts that are not always visible or obvious.

"We learned about better eating habits, cardiac health, and became more aware of the importance of fire responder mental health as a group," said Nate Routledge, Chief of Roscoe-Rockland Fire Department. "This challenge did exactly what it intended to do, it brought us together as a group, it got our families together and made us get back to the days where we would socialize and spend time together away from drill nights and fire calls."

(Contd. Pg. 4)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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

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Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. 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: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Is. 7:14

OBITUARY

Lawrence Winfield Whipple Jr.,



beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away on November 26, 2024, at the age of 77. He was born on December 13, 1946, in Liberty, NY, to Lawrence Winfield Whipple Sr. and Helen Frances Whipple (née Porter).

Larry, as he was known to family and friends, lived a life full of love, hard work, and dedication to his family. He married his cherished wife, Pauline Frances Whipple (née Saunders), on January 9, 1970. Together, they shared 54 years of love and companionship.

Larry proudly served in the United States Army from 1966 until 1968, honorably contributing to his country during his service. After returning home, he continued to build a life centered around his family and work.

A devoted father to Patricia (Michael) Whipple-Beiling, Linda Kalman, and Lawrence Whipple III (Jen) and his niece Judy Koch whom he loved as his own. Larry's legacy lives on in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Larry's grandchildren, Tiffany (Steven) Kahn, Jessica Conklin, Cortney (Parker) Conklin, Sierra Whipple, Alicia (Bobby) Kalman, Marissa (Thomas) Kalman, and Lawrence Whipple IV, along with his step-grandchildren Brandon, Justin, Grace, Heather, Michael, and Nick, were all deeply loved by him.

He is also survived by his great-grandchildren Isabelle, Abigail, Mason, Arria, Wesley, Kahlia, and Karter. The entire Whipple and Saunders family will forever miss their "Uncle Larry" who always met all with a strong smile.

He was predeceased by his daughter Janet Whipple, his grand-

daughter, Amanda Whipple and his siblings, Albert and Glen Whipple.

Larry worked as a carpenter and produce manager, dedicating many years of service to Bowers Construction and Great American. His work ethic, skill, and commitment to his craft left a lasting impact on those who worked alongside him.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held on Friday, December 13, 2024, at St. Peter's Cemetery in Liberty, NY, at 11am.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial-Ramsay Funeral Home, for further information call 845-292-7160 or visit www.colonial-familyfuneralhomes.com

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

December 15, 1954

There were two funerals in Liberty last week for members of Claryville born folks' families. Herb Lambert, 49, son of Eva Brundage and Oleo Lambert of Aden. Also Hazel (Peggy) Dice, 44, daughter-in-law of Fredella Brundage and the late James Dice of Liberty. Fredella and Eva are sisters, daughters of Eli Brundage who lived where the Capt. Elmer Smalls now reside.

Worth thinking about: It is better to be a go-giver than a go-getter. We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Mrs. Emily Ter Bush Van Wagner, 58, of Napanoch, passed away at Veterans Hospital, Ellenville on December 9th. Mrs. Van Wagner was born at Sundown on October 2, 1896, the daughter of Benjamin and Minerva (Aldrich) Ter Bush. She married Nial Van Wagner on August 23, 1916 at Lows Corners. Surviving are her husband; three sons; one sister and five brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. George Mayberry are the proud parents of a daughter, Gina Marie, born December 4th at Newburgh. Gina weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz. at birth. Mr. and Mrs. Mayberry were formerly advisors at Tri Valley School.

(Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

December 15, 1954

The 4-H of Grahamsville has been organized; the name chosen is "Stardusters." The Misses Rosemarie Boeckle and Barbara Knox are leaders of the group.

December 9 1964

Two children were baptized at the morning service at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning. John Earl Sheeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Sheeley and Gregory Guy Grey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grey. Mrs. Sheeley joined the church by letter from the church in Monticello. Although hampered by cold spells, the construction at Tri Valley is proceeding on schedule. Delivery of steel for the roof section is expected within two weeks and if the weather permits, the construction program will continue on schedule.

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Ellen Cole and Mike Bertholf Jr. who were married Wednesday evening at the Methodist Church in Grahamsville. They have rented an apartment on the Woodbourne Road.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Arielly on the birth of a daughter last Saturday.

December 11, 1974

William A. Brenner, Esq. was admitted as a member of the Sullivan County Bar Association on December 9, 1974 at its meeting held in the Steak Pub, Monticello. Mr. Brenner was proposed for membership by Grahamsville attorney, Joseph Pond, Esq. Mr. Brenner is currently associated with the firm of Brenner and Hacker in N.Y.C. and plans to open an office in Grahamsville.

Mrs. Donna M. Bischert, 40, of Cypert Road, Woodbourne, died Tuesday at Liberty Loomis Hospital. She was born May 22, 1934 in Oregon to Jessie and Nellie Potter Van Blair. She was married to Francis Bischert on Sept. 20, 1950. She is survived by her husband; four sons; two daughters; her parents and 18 brothers and sisters.

December 20, 1984

We are happy to welcome a baby girl, Mary Lee Heather Diescher, born December 12, 1984 at Community Gen. Hospital, Harris to Mr. and Mrs. Steven Diescher. Mary Lee weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 _ oz. and was 21 _ inches long. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George C. Haag Jr.; the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Brian Diescher of Livingston Manor.

Louise Sawchuck of Grahamsville recently caught a 26 lb. salmon while on a fishing trip in Pulaski in upstate New York. Her son, Wade, urged mom to "hang in there, you can land him" and she sure did. Congratulations!

Household Hint:

Eliminate garbage can odors

Sprinkle some baking soda in the bottom of your garbage can to fight unwanted odor.

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 and Carolyn Coombe.

Red Berries of the Season - The Santa Claus Bush

Nature has done it once again! She has splashed the dreary late autumn landscape with the warmth of the bright red berries of the Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*, a/k/a Black Alder -although it is not a member of the Alder family. After the snow on Monday, the bright red berries even more showy.



If I had to pick a favorite native plant for December in the Catskills, it would be the Winterberry.

The Winterberry's half inch red berries persist on the branches long into the winter. The berries are a globose red fleshy fruit with a thin skin and fleshy fruit with a central pit. Winterberry is dioecious which means there are separate male and female plants. There needs to be at least one male plant in an area to pollinize the females in order to bear the bright red berries. The Winterberry will lose its leaves during winter. At this time of the year, only the bright red berries are left. It is a shrub that can grow to 16 ft. tall and is found throughout the Catskills preferring to form a dense thicket in moist areas, while in dry soil it will remain a tight shrub.

The leaves are sharply toothed, stalked, and are approximately 1 1/2 to 4" long, lance to ovate shape, pointed at the tips, deep green in summer, hairy on the underside, and turning yellow in autumn. The bark is clearly visible with a thin brown outer surface with whitish patches (lenticels). Twigs are slender, green on new growth, then brownish, with scattered light colored lenticels. Buds are small and may have a small persistent stipule, small leaf-like appendage, on the side of the leaf scar. It bears white flowers with 5 to 7 petals that form clusters in the leaf axils in late spring and early summer. These little flowers eventually become the very attractive red berries that are now decorating the landscape and attracting many different winter songbirds. The berries are often used as an emergency food source for other wild animals including game birds, wild turkeys, and quail. They are also eaten by white-tailed deer.

The Native Americans used Winterberry as a medicine and named this bush, Feverbush, as they used the bark to heal cuts and bruises.

An unusual thing about Winterberry is its wood which is white when freshly cut, but will turn blood red. In Norse and Irish myths the first humans were made of Black Alder wood. Back then cutting a bush down was forbidden because it was a symbol of the resurrection.

Today Winterberry is used to make furniture from the wood and the bark is used to tan leather and smoke fish and other foods. Winterberry contains so much tannin that it repels insect pests. The wood is very durable for underwater for pilings.

Winterberry shrubs are now common in landscaping as they are prized for their ornamental value and are treasured by arts and craft enthusiasts. You will often see them in floral arrangements, wreaths and window boxes this time of the year.

There is one other name that must be mentioned that has been given to this attractive shrub. It is also called the Santa Claus Bush! Like the man in the red suit, surely the warmth of the Winterberry's bright red berries will dispel some of the chill we feel during the dark days of winter, another gift from nature.

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 raisers we had each year was a box social. By 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.

2025 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge Lighting the Path to Wellness

(From Pg. 1)

To date the 2025 Participating Fire Departments are: Bloomingburg, Callicoon Center, Grahamsville, Hortonville, Jeffersonville, Kauneonga Lake, Liberty, Livingston Manor, Lumberland, Monticello, Narrowsburg-Lava, Rock Hill, Roscoe-Rockland, Smallwood-Mongaup Valley, White Lake, Woodbourne and Woodridge.

To make the challenge fun and competitive, departments receive credit in the form of 'turtle points' for each health focused activity they complete. The department that earns the most turtles will be eligible for grant funding through Sullivan 180 and community partners.

Grant levels are based on the final points completed by September 1, 2025. The two departments that earn the most turtle points will be eligible for a grant in the amount of \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Additional grants will be awarded based on a tiered point system. Winners will be announced at the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Parade in Monticello on September 6, 2025.

During last year's challenge, departments chose healthier food options, increased physical activity, trained in suicide prevention, and recognized the sense of comradery that returned to their houses and between departments. (With a little competition as well.) Monticello Fire was named the Healthiest Fire Department and awarded a well-deserved grant in the amount of \$15,000. Roscoe-Rockland Fire was awarded a \$10,000 grant, coming in second. To follow the challenge and the participating departments visit Sullivan180.org.

Monti Elks 200 Coats for Kids



(Monticello) Just in time for the holidays, Monticello Elks Lodge #1544 utilized a \$4000 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to provide winter coats, gloves and hats for 100 students in the Fallsburg School District and 100 students in the Monticello School District. Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy Jim Gerrard thanked the many Lodge elves who assisted with this project. Pictured from left are Past exalted Ruler Mike Brennan, Fallsburg Guidance secretary Kristen Meyer and Elks Trustee Brian Johnson

Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Schiff Receives 2024 Award for Outstanding Law Enforcement Executive



Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Schiff was honored recently at a luncheon held by the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan Detectives Crime Clinic. The Sheriff was among several police officials who received the association's 2024 award for Outstanding Law Enforcement Executive.

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School Announces First Marking Period Honors

FALLSBURG - Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is excited to announce their elementary Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients for the first marking period. Students who made the Honor Roll list earned an overall grade-point average of 3.0-3.5, and students who made the Superintendent's Honor Roll list earned an overall grade-point average of 3.6-4.0. The students who were recognized for their high academic achievements are:

Grade 4

Honor Roll: Jalen Anthony, Mila Anthony, Raegan Atkins, Juliette Aviles Zelaya, Abigail Bensimon, Athenna Betancourt, Jaycole Brizuela Fuentes, Juan Cabrera Chavez, Abigail Call, Sophia Carpenter, Ancel Chavez, Trinity Doolittle, Annabella Fisher, James Geagley, Pearl Gold, Jacob Guillen Matamoras, David Jimenez-Castillo, Elias Lopez, Raymond Lopez III, Giavanna Mack, Sofia Madera, Ashton Mahodil, Lia Mora Ceron, Zoe Murry, Gabriel Ortiz, Keysi Otero Deras, Dove Picciotti, Ashley Ruano Lopez, and Lillyann Vazquez.

Grade 5

Honor Roll: Mila Arroyo, Jacob Boynton Torres, Santiago Brito Garcia, Amore Brown, Anpol Caguana, Elijah Cruz, Brooklyn Fisher, Olivia Hilliard, Josiah Hinton, Jackson Hockenberry, Brianna Johnson, Muhammed Kassama, Mason Li, Steven Loja Tenezaca, Enina Lulanaj, Braylee Maitland, Zoya Meer, Lincoln Oneal, Jax Pillius, Jean Carlos Pineda Reyes, Skyla Restrepo, Taylor Simms, Madax Simpson, Mirey'ah Steele and Tyler Torres.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Rayvn Henry and Elizabeth McManus.

Grade 6

Honor Roll: Nila Ahmed Anha, Saleisha Aleman, Armani Alencaster, Kadija Bamba, Rocket Budde, Muhammad Dumbuya, Aleczandra Esparza, Taylin Frunzi, Genesis Fuentes, Selena Garcia, Valentina Garcia Delgado, Selina Lazroe, Alexandria Mann, Caleb Mapes, Theresa Medina, Paolo Moran Mazariago, Grayson Mungeer, Harlow Oathout, Da'navaeh Palmer, Katherine Reyes Serrano, Madison Samora, Blinera Selimaj, Gabrielle Spruill, Annabella Vences-Urquiza, Melanie Wang and Benjamin Wizwer.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Ava Berrios, Isaac Castillo Miranda, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Anthony Frunzi, Lithsy Fuentes Ardon, Erick Rivera Moreno, Kendra Rodriguez, Derrick Saravia, and Blerina Selimaj.

CCE Orange and Sullivan to provide Winter and Spring Parenting Programs

Middletown, NY - Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange and Sullivan Counties are offering a variety of virtual parenting workshops this Winter and Spring. Parenting can be stressful, and we have tools and approaches to assist parents and caregivers to make things a bit easier.

The virtual approach allows parents to learn from the comfort of home and still gain valuable information in an interactive and welcoming setting. It also helps those that don't have childcare or transportation, it can easily be accessed from their cell phone.

Advance registration is necessary for attendance. To register for any of these programs please go to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County website at www.cceorangecounty.org/event

Self Care - Self Connection - Virtual

A program to help adults understand the value of practicing self-care. This could mean ways to deal with stress, but also ways to regulate their own emotions and the powerful impact to their families. We will discuss strategies to help parents and caregivers practice self-care.

Date: January 23, 2025

Time: 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$10 per person

Unpacking the Teen Years- Virtual

During this positive and supportive approach to the teen years, we will discuss:

- o Understand the changes in your teen
- o Your role in parenting teens
- o Ways to build connectivity with your teen
- o Communication strategies and tools
- o How to identify red flags for challenging behaviors

Dates: Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$40 per family

Discipline is NOT a Dirty Word - Virtual

This fun, interactive four session series is filled with resources about child development, parental coaching, and powerful parenting tools that support caregivers on their parenting journey. There will be ample time for questions and group discussions that support parental confidence and well-being. Topics include: What is discipline?, Why do kids misbehave?, understanding your parenting style, ways to co-regulate with your child, parental self-care, child and brain development 101, understanding the value of empathy and self-esteem, temperament, Protective Factors framework, communication strategies, how to build connection with your children, and 5 important techniques for your parenting tool box.

This series is generously funded by the Orange County Youth Bureau.

Dates: Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$40 per family

Once registered, you will receive the Zoom links to participate in the virtual series. Please contact Suzan Sussmann at 845-344-1234 or by emailing sls536@cornell.edu with any questions.

Cornell Cooperative Extension and its partnerships provide programs for Orange County residents on youth and family development; nutrition, health, and food safety; community and economic vitality; and agricultural sustainability through Cornell based research. Committed to Orange County, we design programs to meet local needs to enable people to improve their lives and communities. For more information call Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County at 845-344-1234 or visit our website at www.cceorangecounty.org.

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



Germania Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 112

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 429

Published Dec 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 war-planes. 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!

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

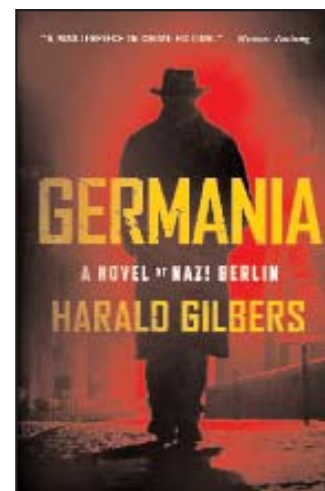
Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments. We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

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Thank You!



**John Dwaine McKenna's Books
are now available at the
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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Santa Delivers

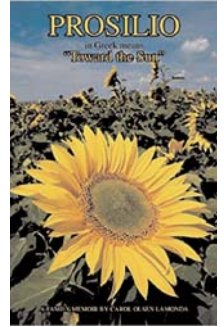
And Santa delivered my early Christmas present from my husband. Santa always delivers!

Carol



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*



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 21ST STARTING AT 10AM

COME MEET WITH SANTA AT:

(BAD WEATHER DATE DECEMBER 22ND)

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 {11:45PM}*
9. MILL RD. - ACORN HILL - COUNTY RT. 2 - TETTA'S {12:30PM}*

***{APPROX. TIMES}**

Holiday Magic at the DPL! Families share their decorating skills as they build memories

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-Thank you to all the families who came out on Thursday, December 12 for our Holiday Gingerbread House Decorating fundraiser. It was an amazing evening of friends, laughter and holiday cheer. Even Santa made an appearance!



While decorating, many families chose to take photos with Santa around our beautifully appointed reading room, played in the children's area and checked out books. It was fabulous to see so many sticky faces! It was definitely cuteness overload as children sipped hot cocoa complete with vanilla ice cream and swiped gum drops and other yummy snacks off the decorating trays.

A special thank you to the students of the SUNY Sullivan Holiday Baking Club as well as advisor, Chef Handrinis, for baking and providing us with gingerbread houses, snowmen, stars and trees as well as the icing to build all these fabulous houses.

(Contd. Pg. 8a)



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Holiday Magic at the DPL! Families share their decorating skills as they build memories



library and reading. Hopefully, we're instilling a life-long love of learning and books, stories and community.

Our fall children's programs wrapped up this past week as well culminating in puppet shows, crafts and parties. The cuteness just can't be contained with these youngsters! We're so appreciative of the families that can join us for our 8-week programs; allowing us to share our love of the



Our next children's program, Latkes & Applesauce, will be for Tri-Valley students in grades 1-6 on Wednesday, December 18. Children will be joining us for an afternoon of delicious warm latkes, holiday cheer, stories, crafts and games. They will be learning all about the Festival of Lights-Hanukkah!

And Sounds of the Season-a two-part holiday musical experience-will start on Tuesday, December 17 from 6-6:45PM featuring Mr. Clarence & Mrs. Jaishree Dow-Spielman followed by Mrs. Keira Weyant on Thursday, December 19. Please join us in our reading room and let the holiday stress melt away as our favorite local musicians stun the audience with their magical musical skills. Please come in and witness truly gifted artists in their element.



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Van Furman: Tri-Valley's Record-Breaking Star Sets Sights on National Glory



The most decorated and successful Tri-Valley male runner, Van Furman's resume speaks for itself. Van holds a New York State Cross Country Federation title and two State Cross Country Championships (2023 and 2024). He's a state outdoor 3200m champion and holds the #1 time in the USA for the 3000m steeplechase this past outdoor season. Van's list of records is truly staggering: he owns a meet record at the prestigious Loucks meet, the OCIAA Cross Country record in Warwick with a time of 14:59, the school records for the 3200m indoors and outdoors, the 5000m outdoors, the 3000m steeplechase, and no doubt, more records will fall before he graduates.

On November 23rd, Van Furman was the first Tri-Valley athlete to ever punch a ticket to the Nike Cross National Championships in Portland, Oregon. Van finished 4th in the largest, most competitive Federations race ever. Van was named to the NXR 1st Team and ran a time of 16:04.

Van then competed at the Foot Locker Regional meet in Boston, MA on November 30th - racing to try to qualify for the prestigious Footlocker Nationals in San Diego. He finished 6th with a time of 15:29.

Van then went on to the Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Oregon this past weekend and finished 48th out of 199 runners with a time of 16:11. Van was the first New York boy to cross the line, and the fifth out of the entire Northeast.

Van Furman is one of the only eight runners in the US who has qualified and will be competing at both national competitions. In Boston, he punched his ticket to the prestigious Foot Locker Championships in San Diego this Saturday, December 14th. Footlocker is the most historic and prestigious cross country championship in the United States and only the top 40 of the best runners in the country qualify for this race. Tune in to the live broadcast on Saturday at 12:45pm EST: <https://footlockercrosscountry.runnerspace.com/>

Van has committed to Georgetown University. We are incredibly proud of him and hope he continues to find more appreciation and value for all of the great ways running can change his life.

Radio Catskill Unveils New Sunday Programming Lineup

New Time Slots for Acclaimed National Shows "City Arts & Lectures" and "The New Yorker Radio Hour" and Local Favorite "Folk Plus"

Liberty, NY - December 10, 2024 - Radio Catskill has announced a new Sunday programming schedule, effective January 5, 2025.

Critically acclaimed national programs "City Arts & Lectures" and "The New Yorker Radio Hour" will move to more accessible times. Local favorite "Folk Plus" will move to an earlier time on Sunday afternoon.

"We're pleased to provide wider exposure to 'City Arts & Lectures' and 'The New Yorker Radio Hour' and have them book-end the Sunday edition of 'All Things Considered,' said Jason Dole, Program Director, Radio Catskill. "With "Folk Plus" moving to 2pm, our afternoon lineup will feature four local shows in a row and streamline our schedule."

See below for the new line-up effective January 5, 2025:

Folk Plus –New Time: Sundays, 2pm

Angela Page has been curating folk music since the 1970s, drawing from her extensive experience, including running coffee houses in college and working with the first national coffee house conference in 1976. After college, she founded the Speak Easy in NYC's Greenwich Village and co-launched the Fast Folk Musical Magazine. She has written reviews for "Sing Out Magazine," judged for NERFA, and MC'd at international festivals. Angela has hosted "Folk Plus" on Radio Catskill since 1991 and has aired specials on SiriusXM and other stations across North America. In 2022, she was inducted into the Folk DJ Hall of Fame by the International Folk Alliance. Visit folkplusradio.com for setlists, interviews, and more.

City Arts & Lectures – New Time: Sundays, 4pm

Since 1980, San Francisco-based non-profit "City Arts & Lectures" has offered unique programs with leading figures in arts and ideas. Each year there are more than fifty lectures and onstage conversations - and a few surprise performances, film tributes, and concerts - with outstanding writers, critics, scientists, performing artists, and cultural figures from around the world. "City Arts & Lectures" events are held in the historic Sydney Goldstein Theater in San Francisco's Performing Arts Center and can be heard on more than 130 public radio stations across the country, co-produced with KQED 88.5 FM in San Francisco.

The New Yorker Radio Hour –New Time: Sundays, 6pm

David Remnick is joined by "The New Yorker"'s award-winning writers, editors and artists to present a weekly mix of profiles, storytelling, and insightful conversations about the issues that matter - plus an occasional blast of comic genius from the magazine's legendary Shouts and Murmurs page. "The New Yorker" has set a standard in journalism for generations and "The New Yorker Radio Hour" gives it a voice on public radio. Produced by "The New Yorker" and WNYC Studios.

Additionally, "Fresh Air Weekend" will join the schedule Saturdays at 6am.

Leaving the schedule are "Millenium of Music," "Harmonia," "Sinner's Crossroads," and "Notes From America," which is ending production.



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Sullivan County Legislature Adopts 2025 County Budget

Monticello, NY - Via an 8-1 vote today, legislators approved the 2025 Sullivan County Budget. District 9 Legislator Terry Blosser-Bernardo was opposed.

The \$303 million budget comes with a 2.5% tax levy increase to cover general cost increases and the new EMS fly car system but does not propose incurring new debt.

"I'm relieved the budget passed; however, there were some departments that were not treated fairly," said Legislature Chair Nadia Rajsz. "It included a 5% raise for most management/confidential employees, and I'm hoping we address our union employees in the coming year at least with a comparable increase, as they are tremendously underpaid."

"We still have work to do that will continue throughout the year to address various concerns raised by employees and the public," agreed District 1 Legislator Matthew McPhillips. "But I'm proud of the work we've accomplished in funding the new EMS fly cars, and I look forward to continuing to improve the County in 2025."

"This Legislature, though new, deeply understands the obstacles and challenges faced every day by our citizens, and we're listening to how they want us to proceed," noted District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips. "We are maintaining and improving services without significantly impacting taxpayers, and we aim to continue improving this County in the years to come."

"It's a good budget," added District 4 Legislator Nick Salomone. "We stayed under the property tax cap, so I'm happy."

"As a first-year legislator, I found this process interesting, to say the least," said District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott. "I'm looking forward to tackling the budget a bit earlier next year."

"I'm very happy with the money we've earmarked for the EMS fly cars," remarked District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez. "I've been the foremost advocate of this new system, and it's already been a lifesaving success."

"I'm glad the budget passed, but I think there are challenging times ahead," explained District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello. "This Legislature is going to have to pay close attention to our finances in the months and years ahead, in order to avoid overburdening taxpayers."

"The 2025 Budget we passed today does right by the people we serve and the phenomenal staff we employ," said District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward. "We're holding the line where we should, increasing services where we can, and providing raises as we're able. I'm proud to be a part of this process for the very first time, and I look forward to working with my legislative colleagues and the public to follow through on the initiatives in this budget."

Highlights of the Adopted 2025 County Budget include:

- o \$21.6 million for road and bridgework throughout the County, to be achieved without going into debt by bonding
- o \$2.7 million to continue the already-successful EMS fly car system throughout the County
- o \$2 million for a Housing Trust Fund to address the housing crisis in the County, plus \$250,000 to supplement a State program that provides local renters with first/last months' rent and security deposits to ease the emergency housing

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- o \$2 million to provide for the design and renovation of County office spaces, including the Liberty campus and the County Courthouse in Monticello
- o \$500,000 for the Sullivan Promise Scholarship Program, which provides up to two full years of tuition-free attendance at SUNY Sullivan for local high school graduates
- o \$494,000 to offer to eligible community nonprofits via a restored Discretionary Funding Program
- o \$350,000 for legislators to use towards tourism event promotion
- o \$300,000 for the Youth Bureau to fund local organizations serving youth and their families
- o \$250,000 to develop a water resource map, to fully understand our water resources and where infrastructure should and should not be placed
- o \$65,000 to continue the popular local workforce development partnership with BOCES, whereby area residents can learn skills like welding, car repair and construction trades, at no cost to them

New positions include an additional investigator in the District Attorney's Office, another dispatcher at the 911 Center, a grantwriter, a health & wellness coordinator in the Public Safety Division, three Social Services caseworkers, two Social Services aides, and several instructors for both the Bureau of Fire and the Bureau of EMS.

Full details of the adopted budget will be made available at www.sullivanny.us (look for "Sullivan County 2025 Adopted Budget" tab in the lefthand margin).

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Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library
Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30
Come paint with us!

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

Daniel Pierce Library

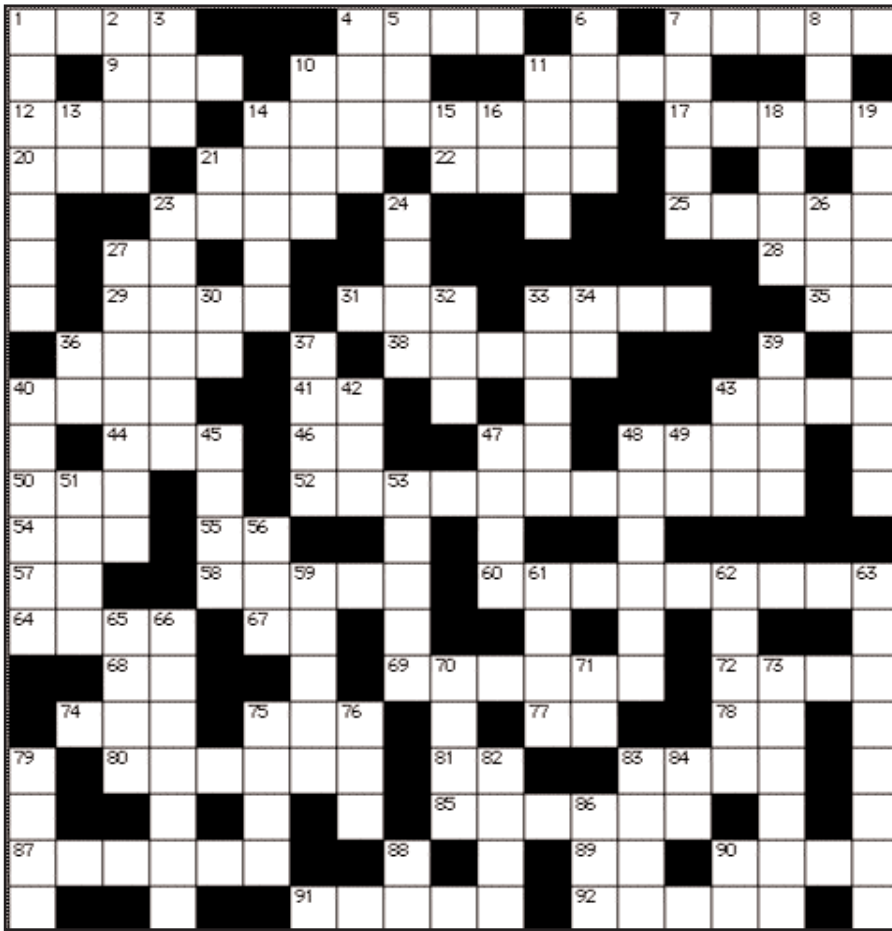
1st Friday BOOK CLUB



The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!

You Better Not Pout -L. Comando



ACROSS

1 According to Moore, they did not stir on Christmas Eve
 4 Rural road that Santa may travel down
 7 Third planet from the sun
 9 Avenue
 10 _____ Voyage;
 Good Journey
 11 Persuade
 12 Rudolf's was glowing red
 14 Artist famous for our present day image of Santa
 17 Formed for a particular purpose (2 wds)
 20 A single item
 21 Suspend
 22 Red and white striped candy _____
 23 Without

25 Liquid astringent applied to the skin
 27 Exclamation of surprise
 28 Having three parts
 29 Carbonated soft drink
 31 Expert
 33 Scandinavian Yuletide animal
 35 The same way
 36 Past tense of give
 38 Type of canoe you might take to Quincy or Nyack!
 40 Highly esteemed green stone
 41 Mystical symbol
 43 Santa's reindeer
 44 Gnome-like creature
 46 Year
 47 Knock Out!

48 Smooth creamy cheese
 50 Another name for mother
 52 German Santa Claus
 54 Holly and _____
 55 State of being
 57 One's mother
 58 Relating to the North Pole
 60 Custom or belief handed down from one generation to the next
 64 Expression of concern
 67 Plural form of archaic thou
 68 Southwest
 69 Go into
 72 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

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

conjunction
 6 Where many will be this year for the holidays
 7 Acclaim
 8 Duo
 10 Small sweetened breads
 11 Shape of a gnome's hat
 13 Supported by
 14 Jolly old man from the North Pole
 15 Before Christ
 16 Louisiana
 18 Inking
 19 Holiday to honor Christ's birthday
 21 An exclamation of triumph
 23 An important winter tool
 24 What Santa carries on his back
 26 Age
 27 A school for special instruction

30 Language
 Engineering
 32 Hearing organ
 33 Short for alligator
 34 Exclamation expressing agreement
 36 Georgia (abbrev)
 37 A child's play things
 39 Meetings for communal work
 40 Icon that adorns a well-known pancake syrup label created by Hadden

Sundblom
 42 Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 43 Transient Ischemic Attack
 45 To turn over
 47 Retained possession of
 48 Runners on ice skates
 49 Egyptian sun god
 51 Egg-shaped
 53 Pertaining to medieval Scandinavia
 56 Leguminous plant native to Asia
 59 Crowbar

61 Tall slender-leaved grass plant
 62 Implementation or device
 63 4th Century Bishop of Myra;
 Patron saint of children
 65 Largest continent
 66 North Germanic language of Sweden
 70 Artist known for Civil War Santa

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

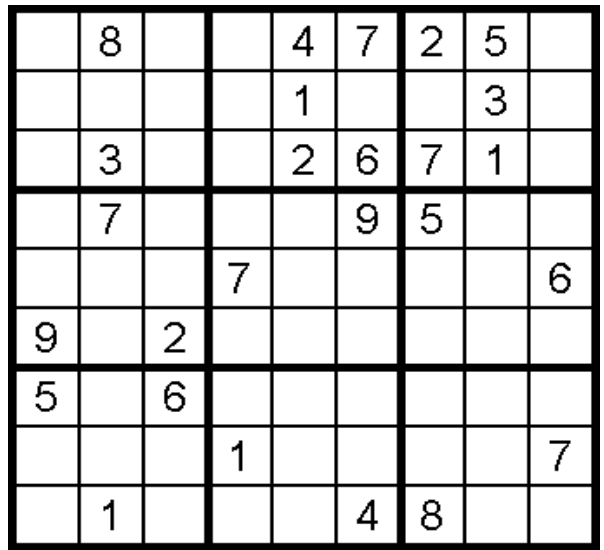
Sinterklaas Cookies

Leave a plate of these and a glass of milk for Santa!
 2-1/2 cups butter, softened
 2 cups sugar
 2 cups packed brown sugar
 2 large eggs
 6 cups all-purpose flour
 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs. In another bowl, whisk remaining ingredients; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Divide dough into quarters; shape each into a 12-in.-long roll. Wrap in plastic; refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 375°. Unwrap rolls and cut dough crosswise into 3/4-in. slices. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until set, 10-12 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.

数字は単数に限る



Cryptogram

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

18 9 22 22 1 21 6 7 20 9 6 23 14 20 8 2 5 7 23 9 24 9

24 25 1 10 17 8 9 16 20 22 1 21 6 23 6 1 21 14 8 20 24 18 20 8 23

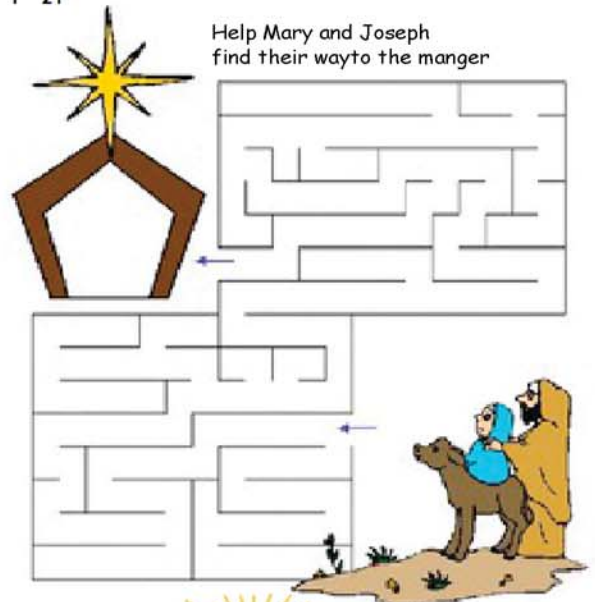
9 10 9 22 8 2 16 20 24 25 1 10 9 25 4 9 4 6 2 17 23

1 17 14 8 20 24 24 2 25 5 24 24 21 6 6 1 21 25 4 22 1 21

Kids' Holiday Fun Page

- L. Comando

Spot the difference - Find 6 things



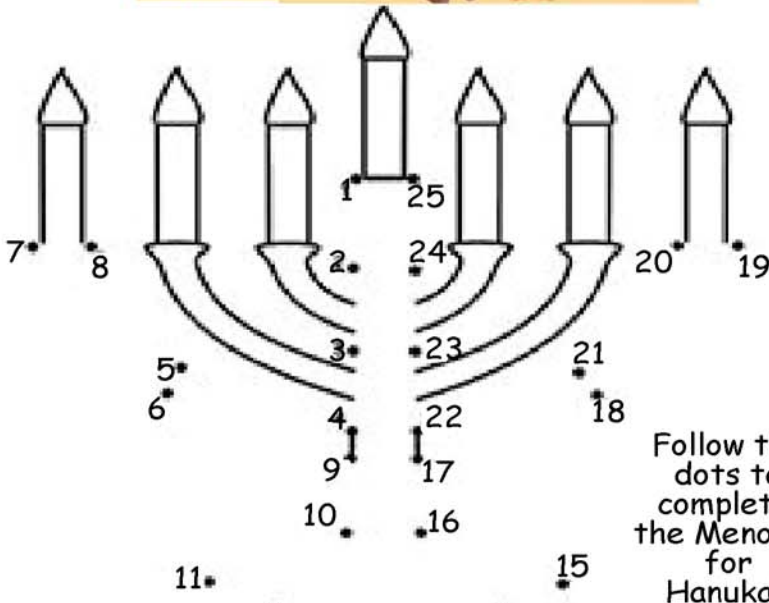
OH HOLY NIGHT

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

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



Follow the dots to complete the Menorah for Hanukah

Cryptogram Key 12 13 14

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

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Notification to the Media of Organizational Meeting

Claryville Fire District
PO Box 22
Claryville, NY 12725

The Townsman
PO Box 232
Grahamsville, NY 12724

December 17, 2024

Re: Organizational Meeting of the Claryville Fire District

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Claryville Fire District of the Towns of Denning and Neversink, Counties of Ulster and Sullivan, New York, will be held on the 7th day of January, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Claryville Fire Department Warren Cole Community Hall, 1500 Denning Rd. , Claryville, NY. The regular End of Year meeting will be held following the Organizational Meeting on January 7, 2025. These meetings are open to the public.

This notification is being given to the news media pursuant to the provisions of Section 104 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. The purpose of the Organizational Meeting is to set salaries, establish policies and procedures, as well as handle any other matter that has come before the Board.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Claryville Fire District

Anne-Marie Kremer
Secretary
Claryville Fire District

12/19

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT

There will be a **RECESSED MEETING** of the Town of Neversink Town Board to be held at the Town Hall, 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY at **on Thursday, December 26, 2024** at 7:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to approve year end vouchers as well as any other business that may legally come before the board.

Staci Conjura,
Town Clerk Dated: December 16, 2024

12/19

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting

Thursday,
January 9, 2025
at 7:00 p.m.
Secondary School
Lower Level Library

The meeting will be livestreamed on the District's
YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nAWhR6N%20%20Vao24w/live>

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Neversink Notice of Budget Adoption

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town of Neversink Town Board, Sullivan County, New York has met and considered the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and conducted a public hearing thereon November 7, 2024 as required by Town Law, Section 108, and

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that the Preliminary Budget is hereby adopted as the Annual Budget of the Town of Neversink for the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2025. Copies of said budget are available at the Office of the Town Clerk, 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY during normal business hours.

By order of the Town Board
Staci Conjura, Town Clerk
December 16, 2024

12/19

TOWN OF NEVERSINK ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2025

Please be advised that the Annual Organizational meeting of the Town of Neversink Town Board for the year 2024 will be held on January 8, 2025 at the Town of Neversink Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

The purpose of the meeting is to make appointments, set salaries and compensations, establish policies and procedures as well as to handle any other matter that may legally come before the Board.

Staci Conjura, Town Clerk December 16, 2024

12/19

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4-7PM

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12/21 - ALBI BELULI

SANTA CON

12/28 - BJ HENDRICKSON

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UC 2025 Budget Approved by County Legislature

The 2025 Budget Prioritizes Infrastructure, Housing, Climate, and EMS with No Property Tax Increase

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Legislature voted on Tuesday to approve the 2025 Executive Budget with amendments - giving the green light to all of County Executive Jen Metzger's proposed investments to improve infrastructure and transportation, address the housing crisis, bolster emergency medical services, protect the environment, and expand programs and opportunities for youth, veterans, and small businesses. The County Executive is carefully reviewing amendments by the Legislature - in particular those that were not vetted or approved by the Ways and Means Committee.

The 2025 Budget keeps property taxes flat and maintains a healthy fund balance consistent with County policy to protect taxpayers from uncertainty in the economic climate. When presenting her Executive Budget to the Legislature in October, County Executive Metzger noted that the County government has received the lowest possible score of zero in the State Comptroller's annual Fiscal Stress Score, and is in a strong fiscal position.

The Final Budget, passed with a bipartisan vote of 17 to 4 with two absences, included all of the Budget initiatives in the Executive Budget. Among them:

- o A new "Better Homes for All" program to help struggling households make energy upgrades that save on utility bills, improve safety and comfort, and reduce their carbon footprint. The Budget also continues support for a suite of housing initiatives to expand the supply of new housing and prevent eviction and homelessness.
 - o Dedicated revenue from the occupancy tax to housing and to public transit service improvements.
 - o A package of initiatives to enhance EMS through recruitment, training, equipment, collaboration, and to support multi-jurisdictional approaches for addressing service gaps.
 - o A new lead-hazard rental inspection program in high-risk areas, with state funding.
 - o \$200,000 in additional operational support for Ulster County Community College, bringing total County support to \$7.1 million.
 - o New after-school and summer programming for youth in emergency housing.
 - o An expansion of the "Corrections to Careers" program in the County jail to continue pre-apprenticeship training by the Carpenters' union upon release.
 - o A second round of grants to local municipalities for climate initiatives, utilizing remaining funds from the County's federally-funded \$2.5M municipal solar and EV-charging program.
 - o A revitalization of the County's \$1.2 million Revolving Loan Fund to support small businesses, including minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses, with low-interest loans for a variety of needs.
 - o An increase in operational efficiency by consolidating County functions in two new departments - a Department of General Services and Department of Risk Management - to better meet departmental needs and produce long-term savings.
- The County Executive also supported a number of amendments during the budget process that were approved by the Ways and Means Committee and included in the final budget:
- o Two new bus steward positions, to help ensure rider safety.
 - o \$9M to save debt service expenses by paying off Bond Anticipation Notes.
 - o \$8.25M in contingency for expected salary increases associated with the ongoing salary study, expected to be completed in 2025.
 - o \$75,000 for legal services for immigrants.

The County Executive is currently reviewing amendments made on the floor during last night's vote to approve the final 2025 budget. She has five days to consider signing the budget as passed or exercising her line-item veto authority on any amendments.



**RURAL HEALTH NETWORK
FITNESS CLASSES**

The Ellenville Regional Rural Health Network offers a wide variety of FREE fitness classes for all ages and fitness levels.

 **CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE
DECEMBER FITNESS CALENDAR**

https://erhny.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/December-2024-Fitness-Calendar.pdf?utm_source=Ellenville+Regional+Hospital+Emails&utm_campaign=f4d7807856-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_02_23_02_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bba6f60ff6e-f4d7807856-499879025&mc_cid=f4d7807856&mc_eid=e96f95494c

MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENTS

Keeping medications in a secure location and disposing of unused medication ensures that they are less likely to be consumed by those that they are not intended for.

Tuesday, December 17

Matthews Pharmacy

101 Canal St. Flenerville

11:00am - 2:00pm

Monday, December 9

Catskill Pharmacy

16401 US-209, Kerhonkson

11:00am - 2:00pm

Friday, December 20

Ellenville Regional Hospital

Emergency Department Lobby

10 Healthy Way

8:00am - 12:00pm





**NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
AT THE
RUSSIAN MULE BREWERY**

Live Music - Food - Drink

DECEMBER

28

AT 5:00 PM

CHOOSE FROM OUR PRE-FIXED HOLIDAY MENU
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DEC Announces \$15 Million in New Grant Funding for Community Reforestation

Funding Supports New York State's 25 Million Trees by 2033 Initiative and Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Reforestation Targets

Grants to Public Entities for Reforestation in Urban Areas Complement Recently Released Opportunities for Planting Projects on Private Lands

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced \$15 million is now available through the new Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program to expand, restore, and create urban forested natural areas. The funding helps fulfill the 2024 State of the State "25 Million Trees Initiative" launched by Governor Hochul to recognize the importance of trees and forests for climate resiliency and community health. The State of the State commitment included a \$15 million appropriation for competitive grants supporting resilient reforestation

"Trees are invaluable tools for mitigating extreme heat vulnerability in urban areas by lowering temperatures, reducing air pollution exposure, improving public health, and bolstering community resilience," DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said. "Every tree planted gets us one step closer to our state's goals to plant 25 million trees by 2033 and become carbon-neutral by 2050. DEC applauds Governor Hochul's significant and ongoing commitments to forestry, and we are excited to launch this first-of-its-kind grant opportunity as a catalyst for resilient urban reforestation statewide."

More than 85 percent of the state's population lives in or near an urban community. The competitive CoRe Grant Program will support planting new trees and restoring tree cover in natural areas in urban communities. Urban neighborhoods typically have lower tree canopy and heightened environmental challenges compared to more rural areas. The majority of the grant funding--\$12 million--is available for municipalities, Indian Tribes and Nations, and not-for-profit organizations to reimburse costs for projects to create new forests or restore forests impacted by invasive species or other environmental challenges. The maximum grant amount is \$3 million and the minimum grant amount is \$150,000. An additional \$3 million is available for State agencies, State authorities, and State educational entities to expand and restore forests on State lands in eligible areas.

Eligible CoRe projects include planting trees, preparing sites and removing competing or invasive vegetation interfering with tree seedling growth, and/or protecting new plantings from deer browse. Additional consideration will be given to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities or communities with low Tree Equity scores, which measure the intersection of urban tree canopy and a population's social vulnerability. Funds cannot be used for real property (land) acquisition or for planting and maintenance of individual street or park trees.

DEC will host a webinar on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, from

10 a.m. to 12 p.m., to provide information and answer questions about this new Community Reforestation funding opportunity. Visit DEC's website for more information. Registration is required to attend the webinar.

Grant applications will be accepted until 2 p.m. on March 12, 2025. Applications must be submitted through the SFS Grants Management System (SFS). Those wishing to apply need to establish an account in SFS. Once registered, search SFS for "CoRe." For more details about the grant opportunity, including application and scoring criteria, visit DEC's website or email urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov.

In addition to the CoRe Grant Program, \$4.5 million was previously announced and currently available through the Establishing Large Forests (ELF) Grant Program for private landowners to establish new forests. ELF builds on New York State's popular Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program and is designed to support the creation of new forests crucial for mitigating climate change, providing wildlife habitat, protecting air and water quality, and supplying timber, an important renewable resource.

Governor Hochul's 2024 State of the State Address and Enacted Budget included \$47 million to support a new goal of planting 25 million trees statewide by 2033. The initiative will invigorate the State's tree planting efforts, sends an unmistakable market signal to private nurseries, advances efforts to meet the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's net-zero goal, and grow the state's vital forest products industry. Capital investments through the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and other State sources, and multi-year annual grants awarded by DEC to municipalities to plant trees in support of resilient reforestation and urban forests, are key components of this initiative.

New Citizens to Take Oath in Ulster County

Acting Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck announces that a naturalization ceremony will take place at the historic Ulster County Courthouse on Wall Street in Kingston on Friday, December 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Approximately 23 new citizens will take their Oaths of Allegiance accepting the responsibilities of an American, while also gaining the rights and privileges afforded to most Americans by birth. "It's a privilege to stand with these individuals as they take their final step toward U.S. citizenship," states Acting Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck. "Their dedication is inspiring, and we're proud to welcome them into our community."

Several local elected officials and organizations will be helping to welcome the new citizens by awarding them with congratulatory certificates and providing them with useful resources and materials.

Presiding over the ceremony will be the Honorable David M. Gandin, Supreme Court Justice, State of New York. Judge Gandin will be the keynote speaker welcoming our 23 participants as newly naturalized American Citizens.

For further information about the ceremony or other programs of the Ulster County Clerk's Office, please call Acting County Clerk Taylor Bruck at (845) 340-3040.

ST. MARK'S UMC
68 Clinton St
Napanoch NY

INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

Something for Everyone!



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

**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
Jan 4, 2024**

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday
Mass at 8:30AM.
Thursday, 3 pm Divine Mercy Chaplete followed by Mass

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

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

**Wishing you all
A Very Blessed
and Joyous
Christmas!**

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

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

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

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor
Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information



Loucks Funeral Home

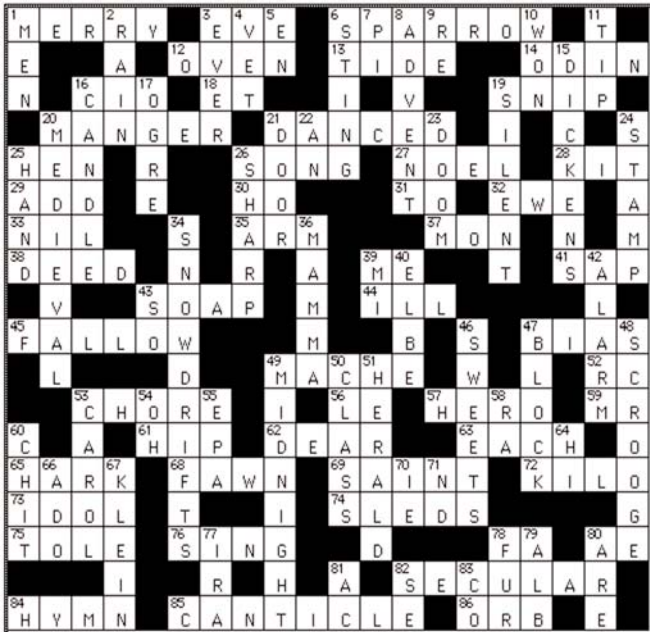
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Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

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

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday,
January 4, 2025 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall
*Check out the tables with Yard Sale items
available for sale*

*(Covered Dish Suppers are held the
First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall)*

Order Your 4 Free At-home COVID-19 Tests • Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests Do you want 4 free Covid Tests Kits? Go to: CovidTests.gov

COVID-19 testing can help you know if you have COVID-19 so you can decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce your risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower your chances of spreading the virus to others.

Your order of COVID tests is completely free - you won't even pay for shipping. Want to know when your tests are coming? Sign up to receive email alerts when you order!

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

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



@Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties
 @misucatskills

MISU is a 501c3 nonprofit organization

MISU Annual Holiday Concert Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church

MISU Community Orchestra in collaboration with
select members from Rondout Valley High School Band directed by Randolph Loder
with guest artists David Fiedler, Susan Seligman, and James Fitzgerald

40 Market St. Ellenville www.misucatskills.org 845.377.3727

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.

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email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/19/24 Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
 12/19/24 Denning Town Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
 1/4/25 **Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper** 5:30 Church

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.
 Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2025** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

Town of Denning - <http://www.denning.us>

Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

Weekly Update for The Week of

December 16 - December 20, 2024

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

Monday, December 16

- o **3:30 PM - Fleet Management Review Committee**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **4:30 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; Members of the Public May Also Attend Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 868 3734 5815 Passcode: 807518
- o **6:00 PM - Trails Advisory Committee**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Tuesday, December 17

- o **5:00 PM: Caucuses: Democrats**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; Republicans, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- The Following Public Hearings & Legislative Session are held in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; Members of Public May Also Attend at 663 Oregon Trail Pine Bush, 12566
- And via Livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature>
- o **6:05 PM - Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2024 - A Local Law Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) In Relation To Certain Employment Restrictions**
- o **6:10 PM - Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2024 - A Local Law Amending Article II Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) To Remove Certain Employment Restrictions**
- o **6:15 PM - Public Hearing on Naming A County-Owned Asset**
- Immediately Following Public Hearings - Legislative Session

Wednesday, December 18

- o **9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Board Meeting**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **10:00 AM (Or Immediately Following IDA) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Board Meeting**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **10:30 AM (Or Immediately Following UCCRC) - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **11:00 AM (Or Immediately Following IDA Governance Committee) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Governance Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **3:00 PM - Electrical Licensing Board**, in the Rondout Municipal Center, 1915 Lucas Avenue, Cottekill, 12419

Thursday, December 19

- o **5:00 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Zero Waste Committee**, in the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston
- o **6:00 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Regular Board Meeting**, in the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston

Friday, December 20

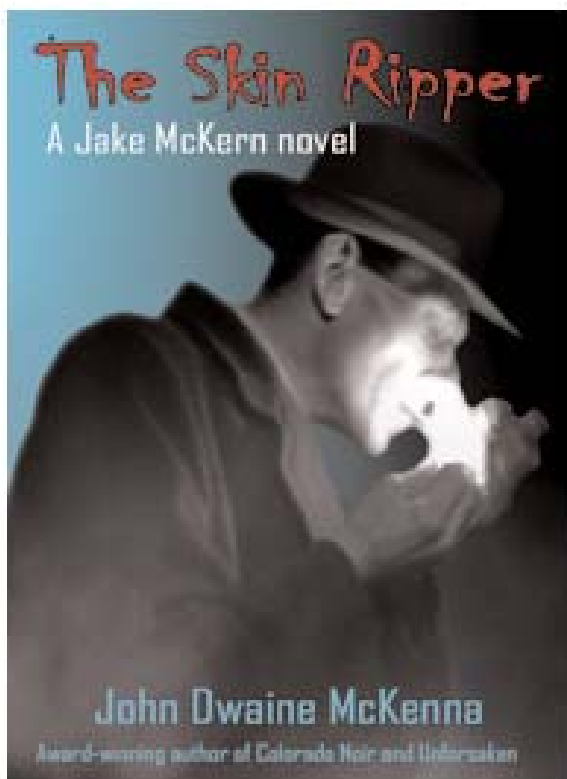
- o No Meetings

The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

From the award-winning pen of John Dwaine McKenna comes a searing new novel five years in the making . . .



Recently promoted and just out of the hospital after a long recuperation from injuries he received while battling Lee Roy Morgan gang as they were trying to rob Colorado Commercial Bank, Colorado Springs homicide detective Jake McKern is on his first case . . . the double murder of an elderly couple who ran a small grocery on the 'Springs near west side . . . while at the same time, his personal life is crashing down around him.

With the only clue being a handwritten journal in an unknown and indecipherable language, the victims turn out to be Jews who survived Auschwitz and the horrors of the Shoah, the case suddenly takes on an international flavor with world-wide consequences.

The suspense ratchets up with each chapter as the beleaguered detective is drawn ever deeper into a morass of treachery, danger, and personal tragedy. It's Jake's darkest

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

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And bookstores everywhere.

Fallsburg Honors John Halchak Jr. with Wall of Coaching Distinction



FALLSBURG - On December 9, 2024, the Fallsburg Central School District Board of Education honored John Halchak Jr. for being posthumously inducted into the Wall of Coaching Distinction. The Fallsburg Board of Education presented the plaque to Mr. Halchak's son, Jack Halchak.

The Wall of Coaching Distinction recognizes athletic coaches who have made a significant impact on the Fallsburg school community. Mr. Halchak is now one of five former staff members to be inducted.

John Halchak Jr. joined Fallsburg in 1957, initially serving as a physical education and driver's education teacher and the head coach of the basketball, baseball, golf, and swimming teams. He led his swimming team to the DUSO League swimming championship in 1966 and his baseball team to the Section IX Class D championships in 1985. And from 1980 to 1989, he served as the district's athletic director.

Students and staff, who knew Mr. Halchak, applauded his unparalleled commitment to the Fallsburg school community. He was known to forge strong bonds and treat everyone with the upmost respect. He encouraged his students and athletes to push themselves beyond their limits, regardless of the adversities ahead.

"On behalf of the Halchak family, I do thank you all [the Board of Education] for this very prestigious award," said Jack. "We are truly honored."

DEC Releases Environmental Bond Act Draft Guidelines for Infrastructure Projects that Protect Drinking Water from Harmful Algal Blooms *Draft Guidelines Now Available for Public Review and Comment through Jan. 10, 2025*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released for public review and comment draft eligibility guidelines to implement funding under the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Bond Act). The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant program, and others where applicable, will make Bond Act funding available on a competitive basis to eligible entities to implement projects that reduce the adverse impacts of harmful algal blooms (HABs) on water quality and associated uses.

"Investing in projects designed to decrease the negative environmental impacts of harmful algal blooms, or 'HABs,' is essential to DEC's sustained efforts to protect water quality and drinking water supplies for all New Yorkers," DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said. "The draft guidelines released today for public comment bolster

the State's sustained commitment to invest in critical environmental projects and water infrastructure improvements under the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act."

Funds for eligible projects may be used in conjunction with other available sources, such as federal funds and grants, State funding that will be repaid (i.e., State Revolving Fund loans), and local government or not-for-profit contributions. Funds may be used across other bondable eligible project types within the WQIP program, which specifically target nutrient reductions to improve water quality and reduce the frequency of HABs.

Municipalities including Indian Nations, soil and water conservation districts, not-for-profit corporations, and State agencies will be eligible for funding. Priority will be given to projects that directly protect drinking water supplies and water quality in respective watersheds, as defined in various U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- and DEC-approved clean water plans including Total Maximum Daily Loads and Nine Element Watershed plans, as well as projects that support actions identified in New York State HAB Action Plans, DEC watershed program action agendas, and DEC-accepted Drinking Water Source Protection plans.

Examples of eligible projects may include but are not limited to:

- o Construction and implementation of projects that directly improve water quality of drinking water supply intakes (extension/repositioning/addition of intakes), improved filtration or technology upgrade, improve internal lake circulation, reduce water stagnation, and act to promote sediment and nutrient fallout, among others;

- o Construction and implementation of runoff reduction Best Management Projects on agricultural and non-agricultural lands that reduce stormwater and nutrient runoff and soil erosion;

- o Replacement and repair of failing/failed septic systems to maximize their functional capacity and minimize their nutrient contributions;

- o Creation of riparian buffers and wetlands or enhancement/restoration of existing riparian buffers and wetlands as nutrient and sediment reduction strategies; and

- o Acquisition and conservation of lands to protect and maintain existing vegetated buffers along waterways and wetlands.

DEC will evaluate projects based on overall responsiveness and factors including project impact, project readiness, reasonableness of cost, climate and flood resiliency, environmental benefit, and other criteria. The full eligibility guidelines are available in the Environmental Notice Bulletin.

Public comments on the draft guidelines will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, at 5 p.m., and can be submitted in writing, by mail to: Stephanie June, NYSDEC, Division of Water, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-3502 or e-mail: user.water@dec.ny.gov.

Disadvantaged Communities

The Bond Act requires that disadvantaged communities shall receive no less than 35 percent, with the goal of 40 percent, of the benefit of total Bond Act funds (\$4.2 billion). Disadvantaged communities are those identified by the Climate Justice Working Group, pursuant to the Climate Act. Consistent with this Bond Act requirement, DEC will aim to prioritize 40 percent of grant awards to benefit disadvantaged communities.

On Nov. 8, 2022, New York voters overwhelmingly approved the \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act. State agencies, local governments, and partners will be able to access funding to protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency, and create green jobs. Bond Act funding will support new and expanded projects across the state to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change. Sign up for progress updates and find Bond Act-related information. <https://environmentalbondact.ny.gov/>

Take a Walk Back in Time in Liberty

Liberty, NY The public is invited to enjoy a special display, featuring the five-story Walnut Mountain House hotel built on the summit of Walnut Mt. in 1887, on view in the window of the Liberty Museum and Arts Center, 46 South Main Street, Liberty, NY. The display is lit up at night, making it a 24-hour exhibition!



Walnut Mountain House colorized postcard, circa 1890

A mile away at Walnut Mountain Park, the building's foundation can still be seen and carriage roads leading to it are now part of the trail network at Walnut Mountain Park. Come learn about this part of Liberty history in the window of the Liberty Museum and pick up your own trail map to go see the foundation for yourself. You might catch the history bug and want to help the research team fill in missing details!

There will be a Self-Guided History Walk along the route to the Walnut Mountain House during the holidays, prepared by the research team and co-sponsored by Liberty Park & Recreation. This effort is part of an interpretive panel project underway with the Town of Liberty.

Walnut Mountain is a 279-acre Town Park with historic carriage roads and more recently

constructed Mountain Bike trails adding to Liberty Parks and Recreation's trail network.

For more information, call Liberty Parks and Recreation at (845) 292-7690 or Lisa Lyons at Morgan Outdoors (845) 693-4181.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi there,

It's been so rewarding to be part of the collaborative effort behind these free public events. It would be WONDERFUL if you could share the details with your audience!

Thanks to the Liberty Museum, the Town of Liberty, and my behind-the-scenes fellow volunteer researcher Ruth Huggler, for making this possible!!

If you're passing through Liberty and have a minute to pull over, treat yourself to our sweet display in the window!

Cheers and Thanks,
Lisa Lyons
Morgan Outdoors

Join us at
St John's Episcopal Church at
40 Market St for
MISU's Annual Holiday concert!
MISU Community Orchestra in
collaboration with select members
from Rondout Valley High School Band
directed by Randolph Loder with
guest artists David Fiedler, Susan
Seligman, and James Fitzgerald.

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

Lulu and Smokey - Two Beautiful Cats Need a Good Caring Home



Lulu

Two beautiful cats are in need of a good, caring home. Lulu is a female black and white cat. She's about 13 years old. She is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. She is very lovable and loves to play and be petted.

Smokey is the gray male tabby cat. He is about 12 years old and a big boy. He just loves to play, be petted, and loves his food.

He too is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. I have been taking care of them for a month and have not let them outside, and they are fine with that.

Their owner was my brother who recently passed away and he had both cats for at least 12 years. They have had all of their shots, and will come with a supply of food, kitty litter and pans, bowls for food and water, and toys.



Smokey

The hope is to keep them together.

I would love to keep them, but have 3 dogs that would not take well to cats.

Only serious cat lovers will be considered.

If you are interested, please contact me.

Esta Jacob

856-866-1579 Cell

845-985-3937 Home

ejacob4848@gmail.com

Sun Trail Storage

Sun Trail is a local family-owned business
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Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd
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Every day
of the week
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or
(914) 672-3952

Please call for availability first

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

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

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1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-
\$7.50 per week

Business card ad (2" x 3")
- \$15.00 per week

(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week

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

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

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

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

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

**Sign up for quarterly billing and get
a 20% discount**

**.. Full Page Flyer for
Local Municipalities
and Organizations -
one time fee- \$20.00**

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

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

**Low Rates
High Visibility!**



2025 SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV winter schedule

mobile unit
on location 10:00am - 3:00pm



<p>JEFFERSONVILLE</p> <p>Tues January 7</p> <p>Tues February 4</p> <p>Tues March 4</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY</p>	<p>WURTSBORO</p> <p>Thurs January 23</p> <p>Thurs February 20</p> <p>Thurs March 20</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY</p>	<p>NARROWSBURG</p> <p>Tues January 21</p> <p>Tues February 18</p> <p>Tues March 18</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY</p>	<p>HORTONVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 16</p> <p>Thurs February 13</p> <p>Thurs March 13</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY</p>
<p>LIVINGSTON MANOR</p> <p>Tues January 14</p> <p>Tues February 11</p> <p>Tues March 11</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY</p>	<p>GRAHAMSVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 9</p> <p>Thurs February 6</p> <p>Thurs March 6</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY</p>	<p>LIBERTY</p> <p>Tues January 28</p> <p>Tues February 25</p> <p>Tues March 25</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY</p>	<p>BLOOMINGBURG</p> <p>Thurs January 30</p> <p>Thurs February 27</p> <p>Thurs March 27</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY</p>

Schedule an appointment on the county website sullivanny.gov | County Clerk Russell Reeves

Saturday, January 25

1pm: Friends Mixer

3pm: Friends Mixer

The Friends are a volunteer group whose mission is to benefit the Olive Free Library by raising money, providing volunteers for Library events and programs, raising community awareness of the Library, and advocating on behalf of the Library.



SHADOWLAND
STAGES

THE WICKHAMS

Christmas at Pemberley

The sequel to last season's holiday hit, *Miss Bennet!*



"A romantic comedy that offers audiences the ability to "time-travel" to experience Jane Austen's point of view. Playful entertainment for the Holiday Season."

-BroadwayWorld

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON
AND MARGOT MELCON

DEC. 6 - 22

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SATURDAY & SUNDAY at 2 PM

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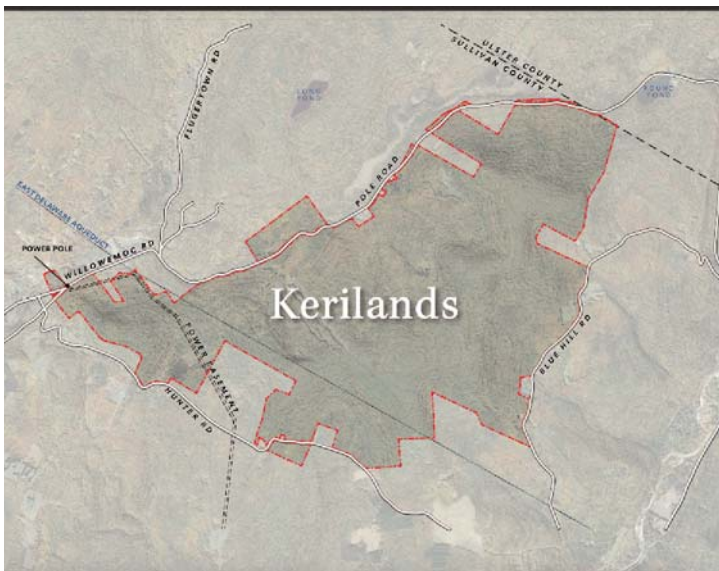
Show Dates
December 6 - December 22
Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM
Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM

Tickets
Evening performances: \$43
Matinees: \$39

Conservation Win: Kerilands Property under contract with OSI

-Pat Wellington

We are pleased to announce that the owners of the Kerilands property are under contract to sell the land to the Open Space Institute (OSI). This sale will protect the land and be certain it remains open space and preserved. "Founded in 1974, the Open Space Institute (OSI) is a national conservation leader, partnering in the protection of more than 2.5 million acres across the Eastern US and Canada. OSI protects land for clean drinking water, public recreation, healthy communities, wildlife habitat, and climate protection, since the intact forests and floodplains we protect capture carbon and protect against extreme weather events".
<https://www.openspaceinstitute.org/about>



The 3,150 acre parcel had plans to be a ski resort, then a housing development and though it changed focus a few times, the efforts of the Concerned Citizens of Neversink (CCN) paid off when the option to preserve the land become available. From the CCN press release "the Neversink citizens group supported a third option for the Kerilands property - a conservation option that would preserve the property in perpetuity as an undeveloped, key connection between the Willowemoc Wild Forest and the New York City watershed, and maintain critically important, pristine brook trout habitat in Fir Brook on Kerilands' western border - where the developer had proposed to place a wastewater treatment plant discharging hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater into the brook and onward to Willowemoc Creek."

Working with Citizens group and Theodore Gordon FlyFishers, many members of Trout Unlimited wrote letters to the town of Neversink asking the development not go through. This is a conservation win for all involved!

2025 Executive Budget Reserves Approved by Ulster County Legislature

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger included two proposed reserves in her 2025 Executive Budget - a \$10M Bridge Reserve Fund and a \$2M Retirement Reserve Fund, both of which were approved by the Ulster County Legislature during Tuesday's session in a bipartisan vote of 22 to 0.

The \$10M Bridge Reserve Fund will support needed bridge repairs and replacements and reduce borrowing costs for taxpayers for the long term. The County government owns and maintains 157 bridges in communities around the county. Ten bridges underwent repairs and partial or full replacement in 2024, and another seven bridge projects are planned for 2025.

The \$2M Retirement Reserve Fund will help protect taxpayers by offsetting the projected rising costs of retirement contributions while also keeping the unrestricted General Fund balance in compliance with the County's Fund Balance Policy.

"We have many aging bridges that need repair or replacement, and creating the Bridge Reserve is a practical step we can take to meet the need for safe, resilient infrastructure while reducing long-term debt and borrowing costs to our taxpayers," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "The Retirement Reserve is a different type of fund that enables the County to reduce the tax burden from the increasing costs of retirement contributions paid to New York State. In the last two years, alone, the cost of retirement contributions increased by \$4 million, making this reserve a prudent move for the future. I want to thank the Legislature for supporting the creation of these reserves, and for recognizing the importance and benefits of planning for the future."

Farmers and Community Members are invited to join CCE for a trip to the 2025 New York Farm Show!

LIBERTY, NY - Since 1985, the New York (NY) Farm Show has been the one of the biggest indoor farm events in the Northeast, showcasing the latest innovations in farm equipment, tractors, crop protection and seed technology as well as attracting thousands of farmers and industry professionals. This year, if there is sufficient interest, CCE Sullivan will be coordinating transportation to the Farm Show on Thursday, February 20th.

Interest and weather permitting, CCE Sullivan will host a round trip charter bus from the Extension Education Center in Liberty to Syracuse and back on Thursday, February 20th. Farmers and community members who are interested in attending the 2025 NY Farm Show are invited to let CCE Sullivan know by contacting Michelle Proscia, agriculture production program manager, at (845) 292-6180 ext. 129 or mml249@cornell.edu. The deadline to express interest is January 3rd.

The New York Farm Show will be taking place from February 20-22, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. It will be located at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. For more information on this event and what it entails, interested community members can visit <https://www.newyorkfarmshow.com/>.

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



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



January 4, 2025
5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

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



Please Help Save Our School!

The Claryville Reformed Church and the Time and the Valleys Museum
are working together to preserve and open
the historic 1848 Claryville One Room School, and we need your help.

A donation of ANY amount will go directly to the 1848 Claryville School and help:

- inventory the many historical items.
- purchase acid-free storage supplies for artifacts, photos and documents.
- repair the building and restore the one room school interior.
- open the school to the public on a regular basis.
- provide programs for children and adults.

PLEASE make a tax-deductible donation today using the form below or go to www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org. This historic building is an important part of our fading past and should be preserved and enjoyed by all - your donation will make that happen!

Thank You!

Yes! I would like to make a donation to preserve and open the 1848 Claryville School.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other

Please mail your check to:
Time and the Valleys Museum
P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740
or go online:
[www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org/
support/donate](http://www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org/support/donate)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Thank you so much for your donation.
Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Get Museum Membership & FREE Admission to over 30 Museums for only \$25 a year!

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- ◆ Free admission to the Museum and Catskill Farm
- ◆ Invitations to exhibit openings and special events
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- ◆ Monthly historical and informative emails
- ◆ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- ◆ FREE admission to over 30 other museums in New York State



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Join at the \$100 (Patron) level for FREE admission to thousands of museums all across North America!

Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740
 845 985-7700 or join online: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org

- Individual \$25
- Double \$40
- Family \$50
- Patron \$100
- Patron Silver \$200
- Patron Gold \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum

Time and the Valleys Museum

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



Ice Skating Wonderland

COME SKATE DURING WINTER BREAK!

Winter Break Schedule:

- Monday, 12/23 6:30-8:30pm
- Thursday, 12/26 6:30-8:30pm
- Friday, 12/27 3:00-8:00pm
- Saturday, 12/28 1:00-3:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm
- Sunday, 12/29 1:00-3:00p & 6:30-8:30pm
- Monday, 12/30 1:00-4:00p
- SKATE IN THE NEW YEAR! 1/1 @1p-4p
- Thursday, 1/2 6:30-8:30 pm
- Friday, 1/3 6:30-8:30 pm
- Saturday, 1/4 1:00-3:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm
- Sunday, 1/5 1:00-4:00 pm



Contact Tanya with questions: 845-807-7502

Get Ready for a Musical Holiday Treat: Hartman Sisters & Friends Light Up Tusten Theatre DVAA Presents 3rd Annual Cozy Catskills Holiday Revue!



On December 21st, DVAA welcomes back Camellia and Odetta Hartman to the Tusten Theatre, for a two performance-run featuring retro holiday music and special seasonal performances with COZY CATSKILLS HOLIDAY REVUE.

This year's musical lineup includes a mix of well-loved classics and lesser-known festive gems, with a focus on themes of peace and unity as we close out the year.

Hosted by Camellia & Odetta Hartman on vocals & strings, and features Evan Tyor on piano and vocals, Jamie Mohamdein on upright bass, Billy Aukstik on trumpet, Eric Burns on guitar, and Nathan Repasz on drums.

This Year's Local Special Guests include Flirty Riot whose dancing elves on aerial trapeze will leave audiences astounded, Bret Keyser orating classic holiday story telling with twists and turns), and Kazzrie Jaxen whose improvisational piano and vocals will create a soundscape that captures the warmth and joy of the season).

SATURDAY afternoon, December 21st at 1 pm, Cozy Catskills will showcase global holiday traditions, featuring special guests sharing their unique cultural festivities. Attendees of all ages will enjoy a sing-along and a heartwarming story time.

SATURDAY evening, December 21st at 5 pm, the Tusten Theatre will be brimming with holiday cheer as DVAA presents a classic cocktail party with the Ladybug Land Entertainers performing your favorite holiday tunes.

Tickets for this special, live musical event are \$25 for adults (\$20 for DVAA members).

FREE ADMISSION for Kids 19 and under for the 1pm

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performance thanks to generous support from the Tusten Youth Commission.

ABOUT LADYBUG LAND

Ladybug Land is a blooming artist collective based out of Cohecton Center, NY. Led by sisters Camellia and Odetta Hartman, Ladybug Land hosts musicians, crafters, writers, dancers, and more in exploring modes of collaborative creation and performance. With colorful musical upbringings that spanned classical violin to bluegrass, punk, and soul, the Hartman Sisters aim to create opportunities to experiment with style and form by expanding and strengthening the community through art.

TICKETS & LOCATION

Performances take place at the Tusten Theatre, 210 Bridge Street in Narrowsburg, NY.

Tickets \$25 adults (\$20 DVAA Members) / kids 19 and under FREE

Box office/concession opens 30 minutes before showtime. Tickets may be purchased by calling (845) 252-7576 or online at delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

SUPPORT

DVAA's programs are made possible thanks in part to the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency with support from the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; the Sullivan County Legislature; the Nancy Stevenson Memorial Fund; A Fair Games Fund; the Heartland Embers Fund, our 2024 Business Sponsors; DVAA members; and individuals like you.

Feeding Families in Need: Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Expand NY's Food Donation and Recycling Program and Help Low-income New Yorkers

*Record 32-Million Pounds of Food Diverted to Feed Hungry New Yorkers Since 2022
New Law Increases Number of Businesses and Entities Required to Donate Food and Recycle Food Scraps at Organics Recycling Facilities*

Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation to expand New York's food donation and food scraps recycling program, which provides high-quality food to low-income New Yorkers. Since launching in 2022, food waste generators have successfully diverted tens of millions of pounds of food to those in need.

"No one in New York should be forced to choose between paying rent or putting food on the table," Governor Hochul said. "Expanding the State's Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law will expand access to food supplies and make sure families in need have the resources they deserve."

Legislation S.5331-A/A.5906-A will promote the collection of more excess edible food and send more food scraps for recycling—including composting and anaerobic digestion—by gradually increasing the number of businesses and institutions required to donate excess edible food and recycle food scraps if they are within 50 miles (increased from the prior law's 25 miles) of an organics recycler.

With funding from DEC, Feeding New York State—the state association of New York's 10

Feeding America member food banks—has been able to increase new food donations, reporting an average of two million pounds of food donations each month. The program reached a record 32 million pounds of food since launching in 2022.

DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said, "New York's Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law has been an outstanding success in our efforts to feed hungry New York families and reduce greenhouse gases created by landfilling wasted food. Expansion of the law will accelerate the program's growth to bring more food to New Yorkers in need while strengthening our work to implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. We thank Governor Hochul for her support of this vital program and look forward to working with our state agency partners and Feeding New York State to support the 10-member food banks across the state."

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.

**BECOME
SOMEONE'S
Angel**

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

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not HANDCUFFS
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SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT ARE CRITICS SAYING ABOUT THE WICKHAMS?

"Working as a true ensemble, the cast merges together like a dream team." -Carol Montana, *Sullivan County Democrat*



Christina Rose Yasi, Jacob Orr, Ben Williamson, Lena Pepe, Melody Ladd, and Kathy McKafferty – photo by Jeff Knapp

"The Wickhams is an engaging tale of class and humor." -Helena Carroll, *The Shawangunk Journal*

"While level-headed and usually lighthearted, Ben Williamson's Mr. Darcy is also capable of great irritation and exasperation this time around, while also being warm and welcoming - a tribute to his range as an actor." -Carol Montana, *Sullivan County Democrat*

"The cast blends together in the dreamiest ensemble." -Helena Carroll, *The Shawangunk Journal*

"Kathy McCafferty's Mrs. Reynolds is enchanting, scurrying about trying to keep order among servants and nobility alike. Be on the lookout for her impressive range of emotions as she juggles loyalty to different parties." -Carol Montana, *Sullivan County Democrat*

Read the full *Shawangunk Journal* Review here

https://shawangunkjournal.com/news/2024/12/12/wickhams-win-again-at-shadowland/505CGC?mc_cid=db56fe7f16&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

Check out the full *Sullivan County Democrat* issue here https://www.scdemocratonline.com/stories/dec-10-2024-issue,54510?mc_cid=db56fe7f16&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

One More Weekend to Experience The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley!

Don't miss your chance to experience the heartwarming sequel to last year's *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, written by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon, takes you downstairs at Pemberley for a delightful holiday tale that explores life among the staff during the festive season.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

Availability for This Weekend:

Friday, 12/20 at 7 PM: Best Availability
Saturday, 12/21 at 2 PM: Best Availability
Saturday, 12/21 at 7 PM: Best Availability
Sunday, 12/22 at 2 PM: Limited Availability

Why You'll Love The Wickhams

Whether you're a die-hard Austen fan or simply looking for a heartwarming holiday escape, *The Wickhams* is the perfect way to celebrate the season. No need to have seen *Miss Bennet* or read *Pride and Prejudice*-this standalone story is a delightful treat for everyone.

Join us for a weekend of warmth, laughter, shopping, and Austen charm. We can't wait to celebrate the holidays with you!

Ticket Information

Prices: \$43 (Evenings); \$39 (Matinees) Group Discounts: Available for groups of 10 or more.

Performance Schedule Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM; Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM

Running now through December 22nd Location: SHADOWLAND MainStage, 157 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY

Get your tickets today! Visit us online or call our Box Office at (845) 647-5511.

Looking for a unique gift?

Share the magic of theatre with your loved ones! Gift certificates for tickets, subscriptions, or a custom amount make meaningful presents that will create lasting memories.

CLICK HERE FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES

https://easy-ware.forms.com/shadowlandstages/giftcertificate?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY By Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon; Directed by Brendan Burke through December 22nd on The MainStage at SHADOWLAND STAGES

The Wickhams brings warmth, humor, and a touch of holiday scandal to the stage. When Mr. Wickham, the dashing troublemaker and Mr. Darcy's old nemesis, makes an unexpected entrance, the servants at Pemberley must juggle their holiday duties, personal ambitions, and the task of keeping the peace. With the help of Mrs. Reynolds, the steadfast housekeeper, Cassie, the spirited new servant, and Brian, the hopelessly romantic groomsmen, the holiday bustle at Pemberley becomes a heartfelt journey of family, class, and forgiveness-all wrapped in the spirit of giving.

Make SHADOWLAND part of your holiday tradition and experience the joy, warmth, and fun of *The Wickhams* this season!

MAKE A YEAR-END DONATION TO SHADOWLAND STAGES

Why Your Support Matters

While ticket sales cover only about 50% of our operating costs, your contributions make it possible to keep our stages vibrant and our programs thriving. Today, on Giving Tuesday, we invite you to join us in shaping the future of SHADOWLAND STAGES. Every donation, no matter the size, directly supports our mission to inspire, entertain, and connect through the arts.

How You Can Give

Make a tax-deductible donation today by visiting shadowlandstages.org/donate, or click the button below. Together, we can ensure the arts continue to flourish in our community.

Let's set the stage for an extraordinary 2025 together.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT

SHADOWLANDSTAGES.ORG • PHONE OR VISIT THE BOX OFFICE: 845.647.5511
NOON - 5PM and BEGINNING TWO HOURS PRIOR TO CURTAIN AT THE VENUE
WHERE THE SHOW IS PLAYING 157 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY 12428

DEC Encourages Volunteer Campground Ambassadors to Sign Up for 2025 Camping Season

State Encourages Volunteers to become Campground Ambassadors

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today the opening of the 2025 application period for the Campground Ambassador program to connect more New Yorkers with the outdoors. Like other campground host programs, volunteer Campground Ambassadors assist DEC campground staff in welcoming and assisting the millions of visitors who vacation in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks each year. Ambassadors conduct environmentally themed activities and other programming to enrich the camping experience of visitors. DEC encourages New Yorkers that are passionate about camping and the outdoors to help introduce new campers to DEC facilities and other outdoor activities.

"Campground Ambassadors assist DEC staff by enhancing the customer service experience offered at our facilities and conduct fun, educational, and meaningful programming opportunities," Interim Commissioner Mahar said. "Offering exciting programming for campers is an integral part of continuing the success of our campground program, bolstering New York's campgrounds as the destination in the Adirondacks and Catskills for building memories and connecting visitors to nature for generations to come."

Ambassadors serve two weeks during the DEC's core camping season (July through Labor Day). In consideration for services provided, a campsite will be provided to Ambassadors for the duration of their stay at one of the following participating locations:

- Catskills
- Kenneth L. Wilson Campground & Day Use Area
- North South Lake Campground & Day Use Area
- Adirondacks
- Ausable Point Campground & Day Use Area
- Buck Pond Campground & Day Use Area
- Cranberry Lake Campground & Day Use Area
- Fish Creek Pond Campground & Day Use Area
- Frontier Town Campground, Equestrian & Day Use Area
- Lewey Lake Campground & Day Use Area
- Luzerne Campground & Day Use Area
- Meacham Lake Campground & Day Use Area
- Moffitt Beach Campground & Day Use Area
- Nicks Lake Campground & Day Use Area
- Northampton Beach Campground & Day Use Area
- Rogers Rock Campground & Day Use Area

To apply for the 2025 program please complete and submit the application. The deadline for applications is Jan. 10, 2025.

To view the full details of the program, please visit DEC's Campground Ambassador webpage or call 518-457-2500 x1.

DEC operates 51 campgrounds and four day-use areas in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. The summer camping season runs through the summer; some facilities remain open during fall foliage and hunting seasons.

For more information on DEC-operated campgrounds, including a list of campgrounds and schedules, visit DEC's website and go to the Camping link under the Outdoor Recreation section, or call DEC's Bureau of Recreation at 518-457-2500. To make reservations at any of these camping facilities, call ReserveAmerica at 1-800-456-CAMP (2267) or visit the ReserveAmerica website.

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 Olive Bridge, N.Y. 12461 (845) 657-7031 (Fax)
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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road
 Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles
 → Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
 Gun Shop on LEFT

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

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM
 46 North Street in Monticello

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

Catskill Center's Catskill Stewards Engage Over 150,000 Visitors in the 2024 Season

December 13, 2024 - Arkville, NY: The Catskill Center's Catskill Stewards Program concluded a record-breaking 2024 season, educating and assisting 155,000 visitors across five high-use locations, including Peekamoose Blue Hole, Kaaterskill Falls, and the Devil's Path. This represents a marked increase from last year's engagement numbers, reflecting continued growth in visitation to the Catskill Park and underscoring the vital role of the stewards in managing this rise responsibly.

The upward trend in visitation highlights the importance of stewards, whose on-site presence reduces litter, trail misuse, and ecological damage, which often spike in their absence. This year, stewards collected 440 bags of trash, helped visitors avoid 384 parking citations, and addressed ecological damage by dismantling rock dams, removing rock stacks, and rehabilitating user-created trails. Their efforts not only enhanced the visitor experience but also helped protect the Catskill Park's fragile ecosystems from the impacts of overuse.

"Every interaction our stewards have with a visitor is an opportunity to cultivate a deeper appreciation for the Catskills' natural beauty and ecological significance," said Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center. (Contd. Pg. 43)

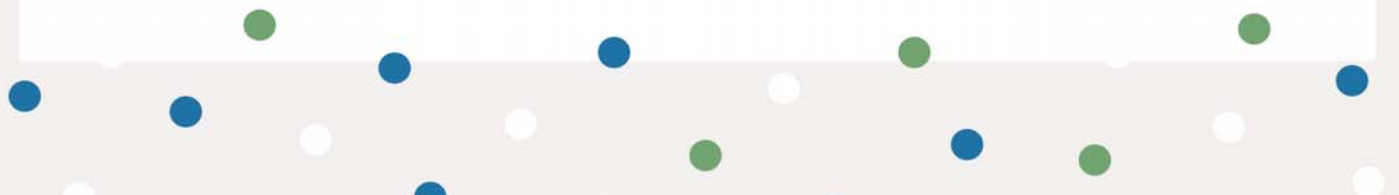


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Come join us along with other
Vets to share some coffee and
some stories.

**Place: 309 East Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701**

**Call 845-794-4228 for more
info, ask for Matt or Vinny**



Catskill Center's Catskill Stewards Engage Over 150,000 Visitors in the 2024 Season

(From Pg. 40) "Through education and the promotion of responsible recreation, our stewards help ensure these landscapes remain resilient and accessible for generations to come."

In addition to providing education on minimizing environmental impact, stewards offered visitors information about alternative recreation locations and directions to local businesses, easing pressure on high-traffic areas and supporting the local economy. These efforts help foster a culture of sustainable recreation critical to managing increased visitation.

Each season, the Catskill Center equips its stewards with in-depth training, including Leave No Trace, Authority of the Resource Technique, Wilderness First Aid, and additional skills in wilderness preparedness, communications, and trail maintenance. This year, stewards also participated in specialized training with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and conducted social science interviews for the U.S. Forest Service, gathering data on recreation trends to inform better park management.

This preparation proved invaluable during real-time emergency scenarios, such as when Catskill Steward Dan Schroeder joined a multi-agency rescue effort near Echo Lake. The team carried an injured hiker 300 feet uphill to a helicopter hoist site, ensuring they received timely medical attention.

The Catskill Stewards Program operates in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at Peekamoose Blue Hole, Kaaterskill Falls, Devil's Path, and the six fire towers in the Catskill Park. The program also runs at Platte Clove Preserve and provides additional outreach at Thorn Preserve.

The full 2024 End of Season Report can be found here.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54984d33e4b0fd2ebe2b6881/t/67532fb06e7faf6300f94c41/1733504951039/2024+Catskill+Stewards+End-of-Season+Report+V3.pdf?utm_source=Media+-+no+calendars+-+no+waltontreporter+-+no+joan&utm_campaign=e9e92e4cbd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_09_07_33_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ce8eb5e2e-e9e92e4cbd-161715389&mc_cid=e9e92e4cbd&mc_eid=741885eb1c

The Catskill Stewards Program is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund, as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

2024 Winter Wishlist Drives

Each December, UlsterCorps compiles a list of Holiday Wish List items requested by local service agencies. Items listed below should be dropped off with the specific agency that requested them.

For more information or to add your agency to the list, please contact UlsterCorps at 481-0331 or email info@ulstercorps.org.

UlsterCorps' 16th Annual Celebration of Service

when: Saturday January 18th, 2025, 12-2:30pm

where: Rosendale Recreation Center

1055 NY-32, Rosendale

A thank you event honoring all volunteers in Ulster County Celebrating your service to the community and honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Volunteers from ALL Ulster County non-profits are welcome at

UlsterCorps' 16th Annual MLK Day Celebration of Service, Saturday, January 18th, 2025, 12-2:30pm at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 NY-32, Rosendale, NY (Monday, January 20th snow date). The event honors volunteers from service organizations throughout Ulster County for their hard work and dedication.

The event will celebrate the broad circle of kindness and generosity that knits us together as a community and demonstrates the value of the volunteer spirit across all generations. The event is free and will include live music, refreshments and raffles. Attendees can choose to join us for a sit-down meal together, or simply stop by for a to-go box. There will also be an event program listing the names of all volunteers who pre-register by January 13th, and all businesses and agency partners contributing raffle items and supporting the event.

To register for this free event please email register@ulstercorps.org or call/text (845) 481-0331. Please register by Monday January 13th if you would like your name and the agency where you volunteer included in the event program. If you'd like to sponsor the event or donate items for the raffle, please click here <https://www.ulstercorps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/MLKDaySponsorship2025-1.pdf> for sponsorship details or call/text Beth at (845) 481-0331.

Gardiner Repair Cafes

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 11AM-3PM

Gardiner Library

133 Farmer's Turnpike, Gardiner

A Repair Cafe is a free community event. You bring your broken but beloved items and together with volunteer repair coaches, WE FIX THEM! People bring all kinds of things to a repair cafe: clocks and other mechanical items; chairs, frames, and other wooden items; electrical items and small appliances; digital devices; clothing and textiles; dolls, stuffed animals, and toys, tools in need of sharpening; jewelry and watches; and so much more! Most items get fixed, and even when they don't - we have a good time trying!

For more information or to volunteer please contact repaircafegardiner@gmail.com

FAMILY of Woodstock Hotline & Textline VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS NEEDED

As the oldest, continuously operating emergency switchboard in the county, FAMILY is proud to say that we have been able to keep our hotline running 24/7 since 1970. It has been no small task, and one of the biggest ways we can continue to do what we do is by the help we receive from volunteers. Our Agency is in great need of hotline volunteers - to find out how you can help, contact us at 845-679-2485, email Sue Carroll at scarroll@familyofwoodstockinc.org, or come in to our building at 16 Rock City Road, Woodstock.

Volunteer Counselor Training

Are you interested in helping both your local and wider community? Are you that listening ear that friends and loved ones always seem to turn to? Are you interested in using the skills you have and building on your knowledge of helping? Family's hotline training is just what you're looking for! Training covers the core of Family's phone and texting hotline and walk-in services.

(Contd. Pg. 44)

2024 Winter Wishlist Drives

(From Pg. 43)

Topics include domestic violence, child abuse, mental health and substance abuse, adolescent issues, suicide, and homelessness. The training is free of charge and oriented towards personal growth. You will learn active, compassionate listening skills and ways to connect with people in need. Family offers an opportunity to be part of the change you wish to see in the world. Intervention is as simple as answering a phone call or text message at the moment someone reaches out. It is as direct as offering a cup of coffee and a bag of food to someone who is hungry. It takes your skill and the amazing depth of resources Family has gathered over its 50+ year history.

The next 40-hour training curriculum is scheduled January 2025 and is open to all 16 years old and over. The training will qualify you to volunteer at any of our three walk-in centers - New Paltz, Ellenville, or Woodstock. For more information call (845) 679-2485.

Non-counselor Volunteers

The Woodstock Hotline office helps the community in many ways and we rely on volunteers. If you would like to help with our holiday programs, special events, our food pantry, maintaining our free store, or helping with building and property maintenance projects please email Alan Rovitzky at arovitzky@familyofwoodstockinc.org.

COMPEER Program of MHA in Ulster County

Imagine making a real difference in someone's life by simply being a friend. The Compeer program offers an incredible opportunity to build meaningful connections with adults working to improve their mental wellness. As a volunteer, you'll provide support, understanding, and companionship that can truly transform lives.

By sharing experiences, enjoying activities together, and offering genuine friendship, you can help someone feel valued, supported, and more confident. Your compassion can be a powerful catalyst for personal growth and resilience. Volunteers like you create spaces of acceptance where individuals can thrive, build self-esteem, and develop stronger coping skills.

Compeer is an internationally recognized program that trains and supports volunteers to become supportive friends and mentors to individuals who receive mental health services. The Compeer program meets the diverse needs of individuals receiving mental health supports at MHA in Ulster County, through meaningful friendship and mentorship.

Volunteer Expectations:

Engage in meaningful connections with your match each week through text, phone, email, or other forms of communication.

Spend 4 hours each month enjoying face-to-face activities together, creating positive experiences.

(Each month, the Compeer program hosts a fun, fully-sponsored activity to support volunteers in meeting this goal.)

Want to make a lasting impact? Contact our Compeer coordinator to learn how you can become a supportive friend and community changemaker.

Compeer Coordinator: 845-339-9090 ext.2206 or wellnessinfo@mhainulster.com

African Roots Community Center seeks volunteers

The Library at the A.J. Williams-Myers African Roots Center are looking for volunteers to help with after school program for elementary, middle or high school aged children. If you can help out, or for more information, please contact The Library at the A.J. Williams-Myers African Roots Center at 845-802-0035 or ajwm43gill@gmail.com

More information: <https://africanrootslibrary.org/>

Kingston Emergency Food Collaborative Volunteer Opportunities

KEFC seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or groceries and pack groceries. Meal delivery driving volunteers who can assist Monday-Thursday at 12:45pm at the Hodge Center and on the second and last Wednesday of the month for grocery deliveries at 11:15am at the Clinton Avenue Church. Also, grocery packing volunteers on the second and last Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm and the second and last Wednesday of the month at 9:30am at the Clinton Avenue Church. You may sign up for occasional or recurring shifts.

To volunteer, complete the Volunteer Interest Form <https://airtable.com/appBHFSK7pihH2qZc/shrGgmcrk9e4mA7My> or for more information

<https://www.kingstonemergencyfood.com/volunteer-opportunities> or email kingstonemergencyfood@gmail.com

Ulster Literacy Association

People who choose to volunteer with Ulster Literacy find an opportunity to engage in an immensely helpful and satisfying endeavor. Our tutors, like our learners, come from a variety of backgrounds and have many reasons for joining us. They all want to help others!

No teaching experience is necessary. If you are interested in sharing your love of reading and writing with an eager and motivated learner, then we can use your help.

Tutor Training is now 100% online. After you complete a 12 hour virtual curriculum, we invite you to a zoom meeting with other volunteers. This two hour session presents information about our organization, reviews lesson planning and tutoring requirements, and answers your questions about the matching process.

To get started, please call our office at 331-6837, email us at info@ulsterliteracy.org or visit <https://ulsterliteracy.org/volunteer/>

Ulster County Office for the Aging

Ulster County Office for the Aging seeks volunteers in the following areas:

Volunteers willing to assist as shoppers or with grocery pickup, chore doers, light maintenance volunteers for area seniors

Warm Callers - folks who are willing to call isolated seniors regularly so they hear a friendly voice, have someone to speak to Volunteer drivers and dispatchers, with clerical office work for our Neighbor to Neighbor Medical appt driving program

Help at various pantries like Angel Food East, People's Place, Rondout Valley Food Pantry

Drivers for those pantries, and cooks

Caregiver group respite –Help at area nursing home for transporting, activities, companionship

Volunteers willing to be trained to be ombudsmen in nursing homes

Coaches for evidence-based programming which help folks learn to live more safely and wholly

To learn more please contact Sue Koppenhaver at skop@co.ulster.ny.us or 845-340-3456.

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/aging/volunteer>

Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group



Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of
each month

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Discuss topics impacting women today, in a safe and judgement free environment. Opportunities to exchange ideas and share life experiences. Attend educational workshops and learn from guest speakers.

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*



Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



Find us on
Facebook





Montigram President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

Happy 70th Anniversary to the Livingston Manor Rotary Club. Members from the Monticello, Liberty, and Wallkill East Rotary Clubs were on hand to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Livingston Manor Rotary Club recognizing the club's commitment for 70 years of Service Above Self.



The Monticello Rotary Club was pleased to present a banner to the Livingston Manor Club to mark the occasion. Gary Siegel, Past President of both the Liberty and Livingston Manor Clubs shared memories of the Livingston Manor Club before presenting the club with a banner stanchion as well. Lori Orestano-James shared the history of sponsorships from the Port Jervis Club sponsoring the Monticello Club over 100 years ago; the Monticello Club sponsoring the Liberty Club 72 years ago; and the Liberty Club sponsoring the Livingston Manor Club 70 years ago. Both Gary and Lori agreed that the Monticello, Liberty, and Livingston Manor Clubs combined share a unique bond not only on how the sponsorships took place, but in the work done in collaboration in making our community and world better.

Congratulations Livingston Manor Rotary - Here's to another 70 years of success.
Ladies Night Out

Rotary Ladies - we are planning an ALL LADIES Rotary Event. "Oh My Stars!" A Cabaret Style Burlesque Event is being held at HPAC on Friday evening, December 27, 2024 at 8pm. This is a ladies only event and all lady Rotarians, ladies interested in joining Rotary, or lady partners of Rotarians are invited. As we have special pricing, please email your reservation for this event directly to me or text me of your (or your partner's) intent. Info about this event can be found at <http://www.ohmystars.com> "Oh My Stars!" A Cabaret Style Burlesque Event.

Comfort Closet - Remember to shop for items to donate to our Annual Comfort Closet Drive. Items needed are lap throws, fingerless gloves, shawls, large print puzzle books, comb/brush sets, lotions, gripper socks, etc... Think about what your grandparents would like. We will be collecting all items at our December 17th Holiday Party Meeting at 6pm at Albella Restaurant.

Our Motto: Service Above Self - How have you meet that goal lately?

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

Monticello Rotary Board of Directors Meeting - December 17, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Monticello Rotary Annual Holiday Party, December 17, 2024, 6pm. Albella Restaurant. Bring Guests. All Clubs are invited to join us to celebrate. Comfort Closet Collections will be done at that time. Please bring lap throws, gripper socks, shawls, fingerless gloves, large print puzzle books, comb and brush sets, lotions, and other items you think your grandparents might like.

Santa, Chanukah Harry, and Rotary Ramblers Garnet Hospital Tour - Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 2:30 (meet at 2:15 to prepare in lobby of the hospital.) All can join us to distribute Blush Holiday Teddy Bears, sweet treats and photo ops while sharing some wonderful holiday spirit through song. Feel free to dress in a Holiday Spirit fashion.

No Meetings will be held on Tuesday December 24th or December 31st due to the Holiday.

Lastly, our meetings are hybrid. We would love to see you at our meetings either in-person or and/or Zoom. For those of you who attend regularly, we thank you for your commitment.

With Rotary Pride,

Lori Orestano-James

President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

Stories

Comfort Closet Gearing Up

The Monticello Rotary Senior Comfort Closet is in full gear ramping up to make sure that those infirmed have gifts this holiday season. Each year, the Club collects gripper socks, fingerless gloves, lap throws/blankets, lotions, hair care products, big print puzzle books, scarves, shawls, hats, and other items that you might think your grandparents might like. Monticello Rotary will meet at Albella Restaurant on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6pm for its Annual Holiday Party where all will be collected. Then, magically, Santa delivers all the goodies to local nursing homes in Sullivan County.

Rotarians are encouraged to bring their items the night of the party. All others who would like to do a pre-drop off may do so at Kristt Company in Monticello, or email RotaryMonti@gmail.com to arrange pick-up or delivery options.

VET 2 VET

On Tuesday December 10th we celebrated the Livingston Manor Rotary's 70th Anniversary at the Liberty Elks Lodge in Liberty. A wonderful night of camaraderie celebrating the rich history of the Livingston Manor Rotary and the local Rotaries in



general! Many generations aspiring to Service Above Self.

We were lucky enough to hear about service in action from Matt Klemen and Vinny Iannacone the two speakers for the evening. Vet 2 Vet is a peer networking program for veterans, by veterans in Sullivan County.

(Contd Pg. 47)

Montigram President's Corner

(From Pg. 46) Some of the core services provided include Peer Counseling, the Veteran Service Dog program, Recreational Activities to name a few. Every Monday morning from 10-11AM the group hosts Caffeine & Camaraderie in Monticello. A great coffee hour to share a warm beverage and some stories. The work and programming that Vet 2 Vet provide is so very necessary. We were all moved by the stories shared.

You can visit their website at <http://atitoday.org> or email vet2vet@atitoday.org for more information.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL TOY DRIVE

The Monticello Rotary supports so many efforts to make sure our community has what they need and never is it more apparent than during the Holiday Season. The Rotary has been supporting Murph's Toy Drive for many years. Our own Les Kristt channelled his inner Santa this week and went shopping for the Toy Drive on behalf of the Monticello Rotary. We are proud to have purchased \$285 worth of items listed on the kid's wish lists! Murph's Toy Drive concludes Saturday evening December 14th with a "sold out" event at the Villa Roma.

ROTARIANS SING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On August 19th a group of close to 40 local musicians came together at the Michael Ritchie Big Barn on the grounds of The Center For Discovery in Hurleyville to perform in the 2nd annual Sullivan Sings project to benefit the Sullivan County Federation For The Homeless. Accompanied by a five piece combo band the singers formed a "We Are The World" style chorus under the direction of Cris Spinner to perform Bill Withers's popular tune Lean On Me. It was recorded by Gregory Fiske of Hard Drive Recording Studio and is now available for purchase. The donation to download the song is \$10 but there is opportunity to increase your donation to benefit the Federation.

The project is the brainchild of Cris Spinner, Vice President of the Monticello Rotary. She partners with Steve Schwartz owner of Steve's Music Center in Rock Hill to coordinate musicians and oversee all that goes into making this a success. And this year the chorus was sprinkled with Monticello and Liberty Rotarians. Brad Rutledge, Monticello and Barbi Neumann-Marty and Gary Siegel, Liberty, lent their voices to the chorus. In addition, Kathy Krieter, director of the Federation joined the chorus as well! Every person involved gives their time and talent freely for the cause. The end result is phenomenal!

You can support the efforts of all of these stellar community minded people who certainly exemplified the Service Above Self motto by purchasing the song. Your donation goes 100% to The Sullivan County

Federation For The Homeless.

<https://sullivansings1.bandcamp.com/track/lean-on-me>

Shopping for Good - Editors Thoughts by Cris Spinner

It's the Giving Season! So many of us are out there purchasing items for all sorts of "Drives". Among the most popular are Toy Drives. Recently it was brought to my attention that the average buyer tends to purchase toys geared for "kids". But we have the pre-teens and teens to think about too! I did an informal poll on social media and received some great suggestions. So if you are looking for the older ones perhaps this list can be of some assistance...Happy Shopping!

Boys : Flannel PJ bottoms - Sports themed hats - Cool pencil case - Water bottle - Soccer ball - Football - Technic lego sets - Ear buds/ headphones
Girls: Lotions - Makeup collections or kits - Nail polish - Hair clips - Fashion Accessories - Lululemon items

General: Art supplies - Clothes - Hoodies - Hats/gloves - Puzzles - Books - Board Games - Card games - Film camera with film - Gift Cards

"Service Above Self"

THE FOUR-WAY TEST: of the things we think, say or do...

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Hope for the Holidays

Visit sudhelpulster.org to access vital resources like **Substance Use Supports & Services, Treatment Information, Narcan Training, and Recovery Support** to help you or your loved ones take the next step toward healing.



DECEMBER NEW HORIZONS: THE HEARTS PROGRAM: FOR ADULTS WITH DIMENSIA AND THEIR CARE GIVERS

Join us to discover valuable information about the HEARTS Program, a program that builds community while walking alongside persons living with dementia, their caregivers, and families. Presented by Reverend Eileen M. Daunt of the HEARTS Program.

Tuesday, December 17, 1:00pm
Ellenville Senior Housing Community Room
Call 845-647-6400 ext. 281 to register

THE FARM-ACY

AT ELLENVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Come pick up some FREE healthy fruits and vegetables December 12 and 19, from 4 to 6pm!
**or while supplies last*

Location

Pick up is located at the back of the hospital.
Please drive past the hospital down to airport road, cars can line up near the employee parking lot behind the hospital.
10 Healthy Way, Ellenville NY 12428
Call (845) 647-6400 ext. 215 for questions.

DEC Announces \$15 Million in New Grant Funding for Community Reforestation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced \$15 million is now available through the new Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program to expand, restore, and create urban forested natural areas. The funding helps fulfill the 2024 State of the State “25 Million Trees Initiative” launched by Governor Hochul to recognize the importance of trees and forests for climate resiliency and community health. The State of the State commitment included a \$15 million appropriation for competitive grants supporting resilient reforestation.

“Trees are invaluable tools for mitigating extreme heat vulnerability in urban areas by lowering temperatures, reducing air pollution exposure, improving public health, and bolstering community resilience,” DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said. “Every tree planted gets us one step closer to our state's goals to plant 25 million trees by 2033 and become carbon-neutral by 2050. DEC applauds Governor Hochul's significant and ongoing commitments to forestry, and we are excited to launch this first-of-its-kind grant opportunity as a catalyst for resilient urban reforestation statewide.”

More than 85 percent of the state's population lives in or near an urban community. The competitive CoRe Grant Program will support planting new trees and restoring tree cover in natural areas in urban communities. Urban neighborhoods typically have lower tree canopy and heightened environmental challenges compared to more rural areas. The majority of the grant funding—\$12 million—is available for municipalities, Indian Tribes and Nations, and not-for-profit organizations to reimburse costs for projects to create new forests or restore forests impacted by invasive species or other environmental challenges. The maximum grant amount is \$3 million and the minimum grant amount is \$150,000. An additional \$3 million is available for State agencies, State authorities, and State educational entities to expand and restore forests on State lands in eligible areas.

Eligible CoRe projects include planting trees, preparing sites and removing competing or invasive vegetation interfering with tree seedling growth, and/or protecting new plantings from deer browse. Additional consideration will be given to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities or communities with low Tree Equity scores, which measure the intersection of urban tree canopy and a population's social vulnerability. Funds cannot be used for real property (land) acquisition or for planting and maintenance of individual street or park trees.

DEC will host a webinar on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., to provide information and answer questions about this new Community Reforestation funding opportunity. Visit DEC's website for more information. Registration is required to attend the webinar.

Grant applications will be accepted until 2 p.m. on March 12, 2025. Applications must be submitted through the SFS Grants Management System (SFS). Those wishing to apply need to establish an account in SFS. Once registered, search SFS for “CoRe.” For more details about the grant opportunity, including application and scoring criteria, visit DEC's website or email urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov

In addition to the CoRe Grant Program, \$4.5 million was previously announced and currently available through the Establishing Large Forests (ELF) Grant Program for private landowners to establish new forests. ELF builds on New York State's popular Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program and is designed to support the creation of new forests crucial for mitigating climate change, provid-

ing wildlife habitat, protecting air and water quality, and supplying timber, an important renewable resource.

Governor Hochul's 2024 State of the State Address and Enacted Budget included \$47 million to support a new goal of planting 25 million trees statewide by 2033. The initiative will invigorate the State's tree planting efforts, sends an unmistakable market signal to private nurseries, advances efforts to meet the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's net-zero goal, and grow the state's vital forest products industry. Capital investments through the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and other State sources, and multi-year annual grants awarded by DEC to municipalities to plant trees in support of resilient reforestation and urban forests, are key components of this initiative.

Gillibrand Announces Pay Raise for Service Members, Expanded Eligibility for Department of Defense Food Security Program

Washington, D.C. -- Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Chair of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, announced several provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025 that will increase pay and benefits for service members.

“Our troops are the armed services' greatest asset, and they deserve fair pay and good benefits,” said Senator Gillibrand. “That's why I'm pleased to announce that this year's NDAA includes provisions that will significantly increase pay for troops and combat food insecurity among service members. I'm proud to have fought hard to secure these wins, and I will continue working to ensure that our nation's service members have the resources they need to provide for their families and put food on their tables.”

Specifically, the FY2025 NDAA contains a 4.5 percent pay increase for all service members, as well as an additional 10 percent increase for junior enlisted service members in the ranks of E1 through E4.

The bill also expands eligibility for the Department of Defense's (DoD) Basic Needs Allowance (BNA), which is a supplemental monthly payment for qualifying service members that is intended to address food insecurity in the military. This year's NDAA increases the eligibility threshold to participate in the BNA program from 150 percent of the federal poverty line (FPL) to 200 percent. This change will help service members and their families afford groceries and other basic household necessities.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Gillibrand has long advocated to increase pay and benefits for service members. Last year, Senator Gillibrand successfully pushed the department to accelerate the prior increase in BNA eligibility from 130 percent of the FPL to 150 percent of the FPL. This year, she worked to support the increase to 200 percent. She has also supported efforts to exclude service members' Basic Allowance for Housing from the eligibility calculation for both BNA and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Holiday Party Reminder!



The chapter's "2024 Year-Ending Holiday Party" will be held this Wednesday evening, December 18th, 6 PM at the Boiceville Inn. A light buffet dinner will be provided by the chapter for all members and guests in attendance, but participants need to purchase their own liquid refreshments.

For anyone so desiring, we will conduct a gift swap. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift with a value of about \$20. All participants will be given a ticket and tickets will be randomly drawn allowing the ticket holder to choose a wrapped gift. This activity is not a requirement to be part of the Holiday Party, but merely a fun event for those wishing to participate.

Wednesday's weather looks good, hope to see you there.

**From the chapter officers
and board of directors,
Happy Holidays to you and yours!**



Sounds of the Season

at the Daniel Pierce Library

'Tis the season for holiday melodies featuring local musicians

Special guests

Mr. Clarence & Mrs. Jaishree Dow-Spielman,

Tuesday, December 17th

Mrs. Heira Weyant, Thursday, December 19th

Featured musicians 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Let's celebrate the wonders of the season with music in our festive Reading Room! The holidays can be such a hectic time of year, we know you could use a pause. Please come by to sit back and take a moment. We will be providing the sounds of the season, while you enjoy the elegant atmosphere.

Take this time to just relax!

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



Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268

Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233

www.danielpiercelibrary.org

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Inside the Sullivan County Government Center Lobby,
100 North Street, Monticello

12 p.m., December 4, 2024

10:30 a.m., December 6, 2024

11:30 a.m., December 11, 2024

12 p.m., December 12, 2024

10:15 a.m., December 13, 2024

1 p.m., December 13, 2024

11:45 a.m., December 16, 2024

1 p.m., December 16, 2024

10:30 a.m., December 17, 2024

1 p.m., December 17, 2024

10:45 a.m., December 18, 2024

12:30 p.m., December 18, 2024

10:30 a.m., December 19, 2024

12 p.m., December 19, 2024

10 a.m., December 20, 2024

12 p.m., December 20, 2024

Livingston Manor High School Band
and Chorus

Chase Elementary School Chorus

Fallsburg High School Instrumental
Chamber Groups

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
Chorus

Sullivan West Elementary Chorus

Roscoe Elementary and High School
Choirs

Liberty High School Jazz Band

Liberty 5th & 6th Grade Chorus and

Liberty Middle School Honors Band

Mackenzie Elementary School
(Eldred) Band & Chorus

Monticello High School Emerging
Ensembles and Chamber Singers

Sullivan West High School Select
Choir

Liberty Mixed and Honors Choirs

Sullivan BOCES Choir

Fallsburg High School Treble Choir
and Chamber Choir

Tri-Valley Secondary School
Holiday Band

Monticello Middle School Groups



Nominating Trump, Netanyahu, & Gallant for a Nobel Peace Prize

President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and former Defense Minister Gallant's valiant work to combat terrorism and stand up to Islamist regimes has directly led to greater regional and global stability. Without their work, terrorist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the IRGC would still pose a massive threat to all civilians around the world. In a time of global turmoil, the bold and unwavering efforts of these leaders is unprecedented and offers hope for lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world.

This week, I nominated President Donald Trump, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, and former Defense Minister of Israel Yoav Gallant for their tireless efforts on the Abraham Accords, to advance peace in the Middle East, to combat terrorist groups, and to confront radical and oppressive Islamist regimes.

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee has honored esteemed world leaders and champions of peace; it is only fitting that valiant and heroic leaders like President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and Defense Minister Gallant join these esteemed ranks. I am eager to see these leaders receive the respect, honor, and distinction they richly deserve.

Introducing the DOGE Acts to Make the Federal Government More Efficient and Slash Wasteful Spending

Under President Trump's leadership and a Republican-controlled Congress, we are determined to cut wasteful government spending and reduce costs for hard working Americans. Congress is ready to collaborate with Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to rein in bloated budgets, relocate federal agencies out of Washington, DC, reform overly-complex and dysfunctional bureaucracies, and ensure bureaucrats are paid accordingly to their performance. The DOGE Acts embody these priorities, serving as a bold first step in advancing the incoming Trump Administration's 'Make America Efficient Again' agenda.

Here are the separate pieces of legislation included in the DOGE Acts:

The Federal Freeze Act would address out-of-control spending and save taxpayer dollars by implementing a one-year freeze on increases in federal civilian employees' salaries, directing federal agency heads to establish a cap on the number of workers that can be employed over a period of three years, and decreasing the number of employees at federal agencies. This legislation would exempt certain employees deemed necessary to serve the interests of law enforcement, national security, public safety, and public health services

The Commission to Relocate the Federal Bureaucracy Act would decentralize the power held by unelected bureaucrats in Washington D.C. by establishing a plan to relocate non-national security related agencies to states across the country based on financial efficiency, existing infrastructure, and related industries.

The Federal Employee Performance and Accountability Act would establish a performance-based pay structure that bolsters government efficiency by incentivizing high performance among federal employees, exempting agencies deemed necessary for national security or public safety.

Implementing DOGE Act would limit increases in non-security discretionary appropriations by requiring all increases in non-security appropriations above one percent to be rescinded on a pro rate basis. This bill will help us get control of our deficit and national debt and require Congress to get serious about addressing our Nation's spending problem.

Supporting the FY25 NDAA and our NY-24 Servicemembers

While the United States faces growing threats from adversaries like China, Iran, and Russia, who continue to jeopardize our national security and international stability, this NDAA provides our servicemembers with the necessary resources to strengthen our national defense and protect our interests around the world.

This week, I voted in favor of the FY25 NDAA to improve the lives of our servicemembers and strengthen our national security and defense capabilities. It passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 281-140.

The FY25 NDAA delivers a 14.5% pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers and authorizes \$569 million to build new family housing units, along with an additional \$1.2 billion to renovate and construct new barracks. This reaffirms our commitment to supporting our servicemembers and their families. The Biden administration has prioritized a woke agenda over strengthening our military's lethality. This NDAA takes decisive action by banning the Department of Defense from performing dangerous transgender medical procedures on children and continues to roll back the DEI bureaucracy. This bill also includes \$15.6 billion to bolster U.S. deterrence against China and fully authorizes funding for joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs, including Iron Dome and David's Sling. By prioritizing our warfighters and the lethality of our Armed Forces, this year's NDAA makes tremendous strides in implementing President Trump's Peace through Strength agenda.

Importantly, this bill authorizes critical funding for Fort Drum, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, and the Air Force Research Lab in Rome, NY. This includes \$27 million for the Fort Drum Wellfield Field Expansion Project and over \$19 million in design funds for future projects at Fort Drum and Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station also received \$6.6 million for their taxiway/runway extension design which is critical to supporting its mission.

This bill also included two bills that I introduced, the FORKS Made in America Act and the Parity for Child Exploitation Offenders Act. Additionally, my amendment to fully fund the first new LC-130J polar airlift planes will be critical in supporting the incredible work of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing. While I am disappointed that this bill fails to fully fund two Virginia-class submarines, and that provisions in this bill jeopardize the ability of the 222 CACS to remain in New York, this bill is still a big win for House Republicans, our military, and our national security. I am eager to see this NDAA enacted to start restoring our America First Foreign Policy Agenda and reestablishing our position as a global force through peace through strength.

Here is some background on my bills and amendments that were included in the FY25 NDAA:

FORKS Made in America Act - This bill will require DOD to only purchase domestically produced stainless steel flatware beginning in 2026 until 2029. This will help support American manufacturers of stainless-steel flatware, such as Sherrill Manufacturing. (Contd. Pg. 53)

Claudia Tenney

(From Pg. 52)

Parity for Child Exploitation Offenders Act - Under current law, loopholes allow individuals charged with sexual crimes involving children under the UCMJ do not receive the same enhanced penalties that civilians receive for the same heinous crimes. This bill closes these loopholes to ensure all offenders receive these enhanced penalties for their horrific crimes.

New Polar Planes - The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing operates the current LC-130H fleet, the only planes in the world that can land and take off in the Arctic and Antarctic. However, the current fleet is over 50 years old and is only able to operate at roughly 40% capacity at any time, posing a grave national security threat. My amendment funds the first new LC-130J, beginning the process of recapitalizing these planes to ensure that our Armed Forces can continue keeping our Nation safe in the Arctic and Antarctic.

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. 10300 - the Chevron Re-Review Act - Now that the Supreme Court has rightfully eliminated Chevron deference, which requires federal courts to defer to federal agencies' and bureaucrats' interpretations of federal law, we must work to reverse all the previous faulty decisions that were made based up Chevron deference. This bill would create a new expedited process for Congress to overturn agency rules that were upheld by Chevron by passing a joint disapproval resolution by a simple majority in the House and Senate. The Chevron Re-Review Act will help uphold Congress' power as granted by Constitution and end the practice of the Executive Branch exceeding their authority.

H.R. 9913 - Ending FCC Meddling in Our Elections Act - This bill prohibits federal funds from being used to enforce the FCC's proposed regulations on artificial intelligence (AI) in campaign advertising. The FCC's proposal, backed by a Democrat-appointed majority, would require broadcasters to disclose on-air when an ad is AI-generated. This exceeds the FCC's authority and infringes on political free speech. This legislation is designed to prevent partisan overreach and protect free speech in campaign advertising.

H.R. 190 - Saving Gig Economy Taxpayers Act - This bill modifies requirements for third party settlement organizations to eliminate their reporting requirement with respect to the transactions of their participating payees unless they have earned more than \$20,000 on more than 200 separate transactions in an applicable tax period.

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>

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 9668, the SHIELD Against CCP Act. The bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security create a working group to counter terrorist, cybersecurity, border, port security, and transportation threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP has become increasingly brazen in their attempts to undermine our national security, most recently with the Salt Typhoon hack. This new working group will be laser focused on the threats posed by the CCP and what we can

do to better strengthen our defenses against these threats. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 409-4.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 7673, the Liberty in Laundry Act. This bill prevents the federal government from imposing burdensome, out of touch regulations on washing machines. Specifically, it prohibits the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy efficiency standards for clothes washers that 1) are not technologically feasible or economically justified, 2) could result in additional net costs to consumers, or 3) are not likely to result in significant conservation of energy.

I voted "Yes" on S. 3613, the Improving Federal Building Security Act. This bill would require federal agencies to respond to and implement recommendations by the Federal Protective Service (FPS) on security measures within 90 days. FPS provides security recommendations to help keep the public and government employees safe from potential threats, however these recommendations often are not addressed for months or years. This bill will ensure that federal agencies respond to security improvement recommendations promptly. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 410-6.

I voted "Yes" on S. 4367, the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act. This bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and feasibility studies, deauthorize inactive projects that have not been funded, establish pilot programs and reauthorize other programs, and makes a number of other important changes to Army Corps policies. Critically, it includes a provision that I advocated for to add Wyoming County to the Northern Border Regional Commission. This addition will help spur economic development in the region and lead to new jobs and substantial private sector investment.

I voted "Yes" on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5009, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for FY25, with an amendment. While the United States faces growing threats from adversaries like China, Iran, and Russia, who continue to jeopardize our national security and international stability, this NDAA provides our servicemembers with the necessary resources to strengthen our national defense and protect our interests around the world. The FY25 NDAA delivers a 14.5% pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers and authorizes \$569 million to build new family housing units, along with an additional \$1.2 billion to renovate and construct new barracks. This reaffirms our commitment to supporting our servicemembers and their families. The Biden administration has prioritized a woke agenda over strengthening our military's lethality. This NDAA takes decisive action by banning the Department of Defense from performing dangerous transgender medical procedures on children and continues to roll back the DEI bureaucracy. This bill also includes \$15.6 billion to bolster U.S. deterrence against China and fully authorizes funding for joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs, including Iron Dome and David's Sling. By prioritizing our warfighters and the lethality of our Armed Forces, this year's NDAA makes tremendous strides in implementing President Trump's Peace through Strength agenda. Importantly, this bill authorizes critical funding for Fort Drum, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, and the Air Force Research Lab in Rome, NY. This includes \$27 million for the Fort Drum Wellfield Field Expansion Project and over \$19 million in design funds for future projects at Fort Drum and Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station also received \$6.6 million for their taxiway/runway extension design which is critical to supporting its mission. This bill also included two bills that I introduced, the FORKS Made in America Act and the Parity for Child Exploitation Offenders Act. Additionally, my amendment to fully fund the first new LC-130J polar airlift planes will be critical in supporting the incredible work of the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing. (Contd. Pg. 54)

Claudia Tenney

(From Pg. 53)

While I am disappointed that this bill fails to fully fund two Virginia-class submarines, and that provisions in this bill jeopardize the ability of the 222 CACS to remain in New York, this bill is still a big win for House Republicans, our military, and our national security. I am eager to see this NDAA enacted to start restoring our America First Foreign Policy Agenda and reestablishing our position as a global force through peace through strength. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 281-140.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 9716, the Increasing Baseline Updates Act. Each year as part of the appropriations process, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is required to provide its Budget and Economic Outlook annually to Congress. This outlook includes data regarding projected revenues, surpluses or deficits, and debt projections, however, these numbers are never updated throughout the year as the economy and projected spending changes. This bill requires CBO to update its Budget and Economic Outlook at least twice per year after it publishes its original numbers, which would better help Congress estimate the economic impact of its annual appropriations bills. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 407-0.

I voted "Yes" on S. 4199, the JUDGES Act. As caseloads continue to increase, our federal judges are simply overwhelmed, particularly at the district court level. This bill would add more judges over the course of the next three presidential terms, to help district courts around the country better manage their caseloads and allow individuals to have their cases heard quicker. In NY-24, this bill would add a judge for the western district of New York in 2031. This bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent, however, now that President Trump is incoming, the overwhelming majority of Democrats voted against this bill to deny him the right to appoint some of these new judges. This brazen partisanship, even though my colleagues know well the need for more judges, is unconscionable. I strongly support this legislation and urge President Biden to reverse his veto threat and sign this critical legislation into law. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 236-173.



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

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

1. Fighting to keep health care affordable

No family should have to choose between life-saving health care and putting food on the table.

That's why this week, Kirsten held a press conference to urge Congress to pass the Health Care Affordability Act by the end of this year. This legislation would permanently extend the enhanced premium tax credits (PTC) offered in individual marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Without an extension, these enhanced subsidies will expire at the end of 2025, which would increase premiums for nearly 20 million Americans and cause an estimated 4 million people to lose their insurance.

Read more. <https://www.weny.com/story/51973984/senator-kirsten-gillibrand-urges-congress-to-pass-the-health-care->

affordability-act

2. Increasing pay and benefits for service members

Our troops are the armed services' greatest asset, and they deserve fair pay and good benefits.

This week, Kirsten announced that this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes provisions that will significantly increase pay for troops and combat food insecurity among service members. Specifically, the FY2025 NDAA contains a 4.5 percent pay increase for all troops, as well as an additional 10 percent increase for junior enlisted service members in the ranks of E1 through E4. The bill also expands eligibility for the Department of Defense's Basic Needs Allowance (BNA), which is a supplemental monthly payment for qualifying service members that is intended to address food insecurity in the military.

Read more. <https://www.silive.com/news/2024/12/all-us-service-members-set-to-receive-pay-raise-heres-how-much-more-theyll-earn.html>

3. Protecting American airspace

Incidents involving unknown drones over American airspace could pose risks to our safety and security.

That is why Kirsten is leading a charge to address the drones that have been seen flying over New York and New Jersey in recent weeks. This week, she led Senators Schumer, Booker, and Kim in sending a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requesting a briefing on how the agencies are working with federal and local law enforcement to identify and address the source of the drones.

Read more.

<https://www.lohud.com/story/news/ny-news/2024/12/12/ny-drones-chuck-schumer-kirsten-gillibrand-ny-cory-booker-andy-kim-nj-lawmakers-press-for-answers/76947917007/>

4. Watch Kirsten on MSNBC

On Thursday, Kirsten joined Andrea Mitchell on MSNBC to discuss drones, national security, and more.

Watch here. <https://www.msnbc.com/andrea-mitchell-reports/watch/where-are-the-drones-over-nj-coming-from-we-need-answers-says-sen-gillibrand-226908741537>

5. Helping NY veterans

When a Saratoga County constituent needed help with a long-awaited FOIA request to the Department of Veterans Affairs, he contacted Kirsten's office for help.

Kirsten's team contacted the VA and, within a month, he received a compact disc with all requested documents, which will allow him to file a supplemental appeal for the VA benefits he deserves.

Gillibrand, Schumer, Booker, Kim Send Letter to FBI, DHS and FAA Requesting Briefing on Drone Activity in New York and New Jersey

Washington, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requesting a briefing on how the agencies are working with federal and local law enforcement to identify and address the source of recent unmanned aerial system activity in New York and New Jersey. (Contd. Pg. 55)

Gillibrand, Schumer, Booker, Kim Send Letter to FBI, DHS and FAA Requesting Briefing on Drone Activity in New York and New Jersey

(From Pg. 54)

The senators noted that “since late November, communities in the New York City area and northern New Jersey have reported several incidents of unattributable drone sightings at night, alarming both residents and local law enforcement” and highlighted that “the potential safety and security risks posed by these drones in civilian areas is especially pertinent considering recent drone incursions at sensitive military sites in and outside of the continental United States over the past year.”

The letter requests a briefing from the agencies and that it “include any authorities, tools, or staff your agencies may require to address these ongoing incidents and the broader security challenge posed by UAS.”

Gillibrand has long been a leader on coordinating efforts across the federal government to identify and assess security challenges in our airspace. She created the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) in the FY22 NDAA to focus the Department of Defense (DoD) and Intelligence Community on resolving UAP sightings, improve data sharing between DoD and the Intelligence Community on UAP sightings, address national security concerns, and report health effects people may experience in relation to UAP events.

A full copy of the letter can be found below:

Dear Secretary Mayorkas, Director Wray and Administrator Whitaker,

We write out of urgent concern regarding the unmanned aerial system (UAS) activity that has affected communities across New York and New Jersey in recent days. Due to the ongoing nature of these drone incidents, we request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) brief us as soon as possible on how your agencies are working with federal and local law enforcement to identify and address the source of these incursions.

As you know, since late November, communities in the New York City area and northern New Jersey have reported several incidents of unattributable drone sightings at night, alarming both residents and local law enforcement. According to public reports, residents have reported that some of these drones are larger in size compared to other commercially available drone technology.¹ Some of these drones have been observed maneuvering near critical infrastructure and sensitive locations, including reservoirs and military installations.² In addition to potential privacy concerns raised by these aerial systems, we are also especially concerned about how these drones may harm public safety, especially given recent reports that a medevac helicopter was prevented from transporting a seriously injured patient for care because of the presence of these drones.³

The potential safety and security risks posed by these drones in civilian areas is especially pertinent considering recent drone incursions at sensitive military sites in and out-

side of the continental United States over the past year. Protecting civilian infrastructure, safety, and privacy as well as military assets and personnel will require a comprehensive response from Congress and the executive branch. For this reason, we request that the briefing you provide also include any authorities, tools, or staff your agencies may require to address these ongoing incidents and the broader security challenge posed by UAS.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response no later than December 23, 2024.

Sincerely,

Statement by Governor Kathy Hochul on Additional Drone Activity 2

“Last night, the runways at Stewart Airfield were shut down for approximately one hour due to drone activity in the airspace. This has gone too far.

“In mid-November, I directed the New York State Intelligence Center to actively investigate drone sightings and coordinate with federal law enforcement to address this issue, and those efforts are ongoing. But in order to allow state law enforcement to work on this issue, I am now calling on Congress to pass the Counter-UAS Authority Security, Safety, and Reauthorization Act. This bill would reform legal authorities to counter-UAS and strengthen the FAA's oversight of drones, and would extend counter-UAS activities to select state and local law enforcement agencies.

“Extending these powers to New York State and our peers is essential. Until those powers are granted to state and local officials, the Biden Administration must step in by directing additional federal law enforcement to New York and the surrounding region to ensure the safety of our critical infrastructure and our people.”



Senator Peter Oberacker Visits LifeNet Base in Sidney; Highlights Lifesaving Role of Air Medical Services in Rural New York

SIDNEY, 12/13/24 - Senator Peter Oberacker visited the Air Methods LifeNet base in Sidney today emphasizing the critical role air medical services play in saving lives across New York State, particularly in the rural counties of the 51st Senate District. (Contd. Pg. 56)

Senator Peter Oberacker Visits LifeNet Base in Sidney; Highlights Lifesaving Role of Air Medical Services in Rural New York

(From Pg. 55)



“As a first responder, I have seen the life-saving impact of rapid, efficient medical transportation,” said Senator Oberacker. “Air Methods not only provides an essential service, but ensures residents in rural areas have access to the advanced medical care they need when seconds matter most. Their contributions to our healthcare and emergency response systems are truly invaluable.”



“We were thankful for the opportunity to meet Senator Oberacker and to thank him for his support,” said LifeNet of New York Account Executive Steve Sculley-Beaman. “Blood products have made an incredible impact in our community. Our crews are better equipped to support our ground ambulances and hospitals, and together, we’re able to deliver better outcomes. We have the best critical care crews in the state, and we’re so thankful that we can provide them with the best tools.”

The LifeNet base in Sidney is part of Air Methods’ nationwide network of 300 air bases, delivering rapid medical transport to underserved and rural areas across 48 states. With over 100,000 patient transports, Air Methods serves as a critical bridge to advanced medical care, often making the difference between life and death.

“In an emergency situation, every second counts,” Senator Oberacker continued. “The dedicated pilots, engineers, mechanics, and highly trained medical personnel at Air Methods are heroes, plain and simple. Their efforts deserve our deepest gratitude and unwavering support.”

Senator Oberacker’s visit comes amid ongoing efforts to ensure emergency service personnel are equipped with the resources they need to serve critically ill or injured patients across New York State.

“Supporting first responders like Air Methods is not just about emergency care, it’s about ensuring every New Yorker, rural or urban, has equal access to help during life-threatening emergencies,” Senator Oberacker concluded.

Governor Hochul Signs Key Legislation to Make Raising A Family More Affordable in New York

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed a package of new laws that will expand the availability of resources for new parents and young children. These laws will ensure that new parents are fully informed about the products they are selecting for their families, and will make it easier for working parents to have access to child care programs, among other resources. Governor Hochul has prioritized affordability for families and parents by investing \$1.8 billion in child care in the past year alone, and this package of legislation supports new parents and young children from medical coverage to information accessibility.

“You need a network of resources to raise a family - it takes a village - and that’s exactly what we are building for new parents across New York State,” Governor Hochul said. “With this package of laws, we are making meaningful strides toward making New York a more affordable place to raise your family. By addressing costs and expanding access to essential services, we’re ensuring that every parent has the tools they need to thrive.”

Legislation S.2279C/A.43C requires a plain and conspicuous printed list of all ingredients listed in order of predominance on diapers sold in the state. It imposes a civil penalty of one percent of the manufacturer’s total annual in-state sales not to exceed \$1,000 per package or box on the manufacturer.

Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

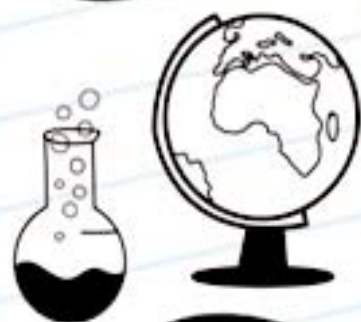
We invite all homeschooling families to join a self-guided group that meets monthly at the Daniel Pierce Library.

Together this group will share lessons, network, set up future field trips, have various guest speakers and programs.

You can also... borrow books, check out DVD's, access the internet, research online databases and utilize library space! (If you have a RCLS library card).

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

**Text or call Dana
for more information:
845 707 – 2489**



**Beginning
September
24th**



Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

Are you a parent struggling with your family?
Are you a teen having problems at home?

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

Give us a call or send us a text and someone will always be there to listen and help you deal with your situation.



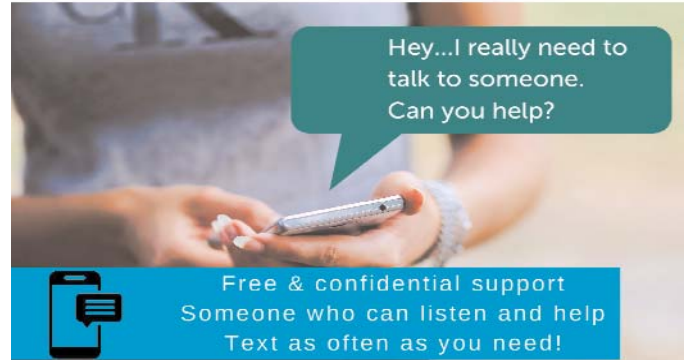
Text 845-372-1817
Call 866-372-2336

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

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4pm-10pm
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Text as often as you need!

We're Here to Listen:
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and more!

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Text for Teens is supported by a Grant of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



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Familia

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Contact:

Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

Sullivan County Department of Social Services is looking for families who can help fulfill the **DESPERATE NEED** for ages **8-18!**



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VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!



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

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

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM


VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!




Join us for a peer led virtual support group for parents of children with mental health challenges. Together we have time for conversation and an activity. This group is completely free to join, and all supplies for the activity will be sent to your home. Space is limited for each group!

Contact Anne-Marie at afreitas@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

Veteran Peer Support



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

Vet 2 Vet



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NEW YORK**

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vet2vet@atitoday.org

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Monticello, NY 12701

in the still of the night

November 16, 2024
– January 4, 2025

Opening: Saturday,
November 16, 3 – 5 pm

seventh annual small works
show & concert fundraiser

ARTISTS In the show:

Lucy Aponte, Judith Boggess, Linda Champanier, Marie Cole, Mary Connelly, Jerry Curtis, Maxine Davldowitz, Carol Davis, KP Devlin, Ted Dixon, Robyn Ellenbogen, Ena Firinn, Gail Freund, Lynne Friedman, Denise Giardullo, Melanie S. Gonzalez, Melissa Harris, Martha Hill, Sue Horowitz, Pat Hough, Janette Kahil, Ava Kaloz, Martha Klein, Lisa Kole, Robin Kornstein, Nick Lacy, Carol LaMonda, Maureen Lohan-Bremer, Kate Masters, Mary McFerran, Ashley Middleton, Wilma Miller, Laura Wynn Montgomery, Meredith Morabito, Ann Morris, Grey Morris, Sylvia Mueller, Raymond Negron, Sean Nixon, Jacqueline O'Malley-Satz, Jacqueline Oster, Gina Palmer, Carol Pepper-Cooper, Bryan Perrin, Susan Shaftan Perrin, Tracy Phillips, Regina B Quinn, Elaine Ralston, Joe Reilly, Lubi Ruiz, Aleksandra Scepanovich, Roberta Sickler, Gopika Sidhu, Janet Siskind, Jan Sosnowitz, Michelle Spark, Judy Slanger, Kevin Sterne, Melissa Styles, Kathleen Suess, Cindy Sumerano, Alyssa C. Toohy, K. Velis Turan, Steven Walkenshaw, Joyce Washor, Nancy Winternight



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at:

<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>



**"KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE
CHRISTMAS AT ITS BEST!
ON PRIME**

BISHOP'S WIFE

is a 1947 Samuel Goldwyn romantic comedy feature film directed by **Henry Koster** and starring **Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven**. The plot is about an angel who helps a bishop with his problems creating a

hilarious romp through the pitfalls of religion, love money, attraction, jealousy and the need for opulence in negotiations. Also a belly laughing skating adventure that will have you in the enchanted world of the 1940's celebration of the birth of JESUS THE CHRIST. David Niven as the Bishop delivers a wonderful sermon –one of my favorites.



THIS IS THE STORY OF AN EMPTY STOCKING

Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry. A blazing star hung over a stable and wise men came with gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down through the centuries; we celebrate with stars on a Christmas trees, the sounds of bells and with gifts. But especially with gifts. You give me a book; I give you a tie. Aunt Martha always wanted an orange squeezer, and Uncle Henry could do with a new pipe. We forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled –all that is except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It's his Birthday we are celebrating. Don't ever let us forget that. Let us ask ourselves what he would wish for most, and then let us each put in his share of loving kindness, warm hearts, and the stretched out hand of tolerance –all the shining gifts that make peace on earth.

(Contd. Pg. 63)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: It takes place in Norway.

This weeks' Trivia question:

True or false: Whose first husband was Humphrey Bogart?

(From Pg. 45)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON, IMOB, NETFLIX

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

(RELEASE / DEC 02, 1951, TV - PG / CC / 1HR. 26 MIN.)

[HTTPS://WWW.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT0044008](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0044008)

A **CHRISTMAS CAROL**: Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst. Starring Alastair Sim, Kathleen Harrison, Mervyn Johns, Hermione Baddeley.



Ebenezer Scrooge, a curmudgeonly, miserly businessman, has no time for sentimentality and largely views Christmas as a waste of time.

However, one Christmas Eve he was visited by three "Christmas spirits", the ghost of Christmas Past, Present, Future, who

will show him the errors of his ways.

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON, IMOB, NETFLIX

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

(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 pull together to help save George from the evil deed of Mr. Potter.

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

Merry Christmas

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

