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# Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley



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**VOL. 17 NO. 51 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 23, 2021 \$1.00**

*Mysterious Book Report* John D. McKenna Pg 5 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 6 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11  
*Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* Pg 46

## Local Kiwanis Clubs Spread Cheer



Office for the Aging Director Lise-Anne Deoul, Aging Services Aide Albert Patalona, Nutrition Svs. Coord. Jane Bozan, Monticello Kiwanian Sheila Lashinsky and Woodridge Kiwanis Pres. Diane Garritt.

The members of the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge joined forces once more to bring holiday cheer to the Office for the Aging Meals on Wheels Participants as well as local families serviced by the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

They presented little gifts and greeting cards to Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless Program Administrator Kathy Kreiter and to Office for the Aging Director Lise-Anne Deoul and Nutrition Services Coordinator Jane Bozan. The gifts included an assortment of holiday solar dancers, play dough, coloring books, hats, gloves, scarves, Find the Word and Crossword Puzzles, body lotion, playing cards, stuffed animals and holiday mugs filled with candy. (Coantd. Pg. 8)

## Vet 2 Vet of SC and ATI's Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program attend Rumshock Dinner

HUDSON VALLEY, NY: On Wednesday, December 8, three Veterans from Action Toward Independence of Sullivan and Orange Counties (ATI) attended a dinner sponsored by the Rumshock Veterans Foundation.

The dinner at the Newburgh Armory Unity Center honored retired Marine Kyle Carpenter, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Marjah, Helmand Province in Afghanistan in 2010. Carpenter is the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient.

ATI was represented by Veterans Ryan Fuller, Kevin Coates and Crystal Brousseau. (Contd. Pg. 4)



ATI Veteran Advocate Crystal Brousseau, Medal of Honor recipient Kyle Carpenter, and ATI Veteran Advocates Ryan Fuller and Kevin Coates attended the Rumshock Veterans Foundation Dinner in Newburgh on December 8.

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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NEVERSINK NEWS: Hulda Vernooy

THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

FALLSBURG NEWS - Larry Schafman

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

Email: [tvtownsman@yahoo.com](mailto:tvtownsman@yahoo.com)

Website: [thetownsman.com](http://thetownsman.com)

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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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**More than ever, thank you for your continued support.**

**ON THE FRONT BURNER:** In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And bless would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."  
Luke 1:39-45

**OBITUARIES**

**James L. Kile** of Ulster Heights, NY passed away at home December 13, 2021. He was 94.

Jim was born July 15, 1927 in Hasbrouck, NY to the late Lee and Irene LaPolt Kile. He married the former Vera Rode, October 12, 1947 at St. Michael's Church in Ulster Heights. They were married 73 years until her death earlier this year.

Jim served his country in the US Marine Corps stationed in northern China. Upon returning home, he worked as a carpenter and later became a self-employed building contractor building many homes in Sullivan and Ulster Counties.

Jim was a beekeeper from an early age and owned and operated Catskill Mountain Honey for many years. He was a member and past President of the Sullivan County Beekeepers Association as well as a founding member of the Ulster Heights Rod and Gun Club, a member and past President of the Beaver Dam Club, Grahamsville, and a member and past Chaplain of the American Legion Post 111 in Ellenville. He was a parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Church in Woodbourne.

He is survived by his daughter Gail Hornbeck and her partner Tom Nesbitt; sons Don Kile and Ken Kile; granddaughters Erin Hornbeck and Amy Navitsky and her husband Scott; great granddaughters Taylor, Irelynd and Emersyn; sister Ruth McKeon and several cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Vera, son James E. Kile and sister Regina Osterhout.

A private funeral service will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements were under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home for further information please call 845-434-7363 or visit [www.colonialfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhome.com).

**Alida Allison** of Grahamsville died on December 12, 2021, at the Sunset Lake Nursing home where she resided since 2011. She was 100 years old. Alida was born on

September 21, 1921, in Brooklyn, NY to Keith and Margaret Allan. The family moved to South Fallsburg, NY when she was an infant and she lived there with her brothers Clifford (Cliff) and Charles (Chick) and Half-Brothers Robert and Keith Allan Jr. until 1942 when she married Edgar Allison. Alida and Edgar made their home in Grahamsville where they raised three children and lived happily there until Edgar died in 2005. Mom carried on until 2011 when her declining health made it necessary to enter the Care Center at Sunset Lake where she received excellent care until her death. Mom was a worker, who held many jobs throughout her life and seemed to have endless energy. She was a Nurses aide, a Store clerk for Sam Anderson, a Housekeeper at Elko Lake, and lastly a Rural delivery person for the U.S. Postal Department which she retired from. She was also a legendary cook. It was impossible to visit her home without having something to eat and drink. Her ability to prepare a delicious meal for surprise company was incredible to see. She loved having company and was always eager to feed them. She is survived by her three children, Carl Allison and his wife Patricia of Hurleyville, Janice Decker of Parksville, and James Allison and his wife Rose of Grahamsville. Also, she leaves behind eleven Grandchildren and Step Grandchildren, and many Great Grandchildren as well as Great, Great-Grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Edgar and brothers Cliff and recently Chick. A Memorial service will be announced at a later date. Arrangements under the care of Colonial-Ramsay Funeral Home, for further information call 845-292-7160 or visit [www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com)

**DAYS OF YORE....**

**Today's History**

Prior to COVID, *The Townsman* was not published during the weeks of Christmas and New Years therefore we do not have any news from the past during those weeks. Not only are we lacking news of *Days of Yore*, it also looks like we may not have a white Christmas. With that in mind, here are snowy some memories of the past. (Contd. Pg. 3)

## Christmas Eve Worship Service at Claryville Reformed Church

We are happy to invite you and your family to join in Christmas Eve worship at 5:00 PM at the Claryville Reformed Church. Please note the new time. You will receive a warm welcome and celebrate Christ's birth with carols and candlelight. John Bernstein will be at the organ and Pastor Ken Tenckinck will have an inspiring message.

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

(From Pg. 2) **December 25, 1947** *The Townsman* was not even a year old. The United States' president was Harry S. Truman.

During that special week of December people in the United States were listening to *Here Comes Santa Claus (Down Santa Claus Lane)* by Gene Autry. *Brighton Rock*, directed by John Boulting, was one of the most viewed movie released in 1947 and on TV people were watching *Meet the Press*, *The Kelvinator Kitchen*, and *Kukla Fran and Ollie*. (*Howdy Doody* did not air until December 27, 1947 and Uncle Weatherbee made his first TV appearance in 1949). There were no weather channels despite approximately 280,000 televisions were in homes in the United States that Christmas in 1947.

What happened the day after Christmas that year is now history? The weather bureau acknowledged that the public forecast given on Christmas Day was for "occasional snow" the following day. The pattern suggested a one-in-four chance that the snow could be as heavy as 15 inches. The next 24 hours proved the forecast wrong as 25.8 inches of snow fell on Time Square.

*Life* magazine reporters could hear "a faint, muffled shout of triumph" from a few hardy wanderers present in Times Square when the news ticker proclaimed that the snowfall total had indeed surpassed the Blizzard of 1888.

That record held up a long time, until 26.9 inches fell on February 11-12, 2006, the same period -59 years- as it happens, that separated 1947 from the Blizzard of '88.

I suppose not all of our readers will remember the 'blizzared of 1947', but they will remember 69 years later, or 10 years after the February 2006 blizzard -the amazing "Snowmageddon" on January 23, 2016 that left us with an overwhelming 27.5 inches of swirling, drifting white stuff and many of us without power!

Snow. Blizzards. We may complain, dread the traveling and the commute, the shoveling, the slush and of course possible power outages. But, in truth, many still love the excitement, especially when the inches pile up and produce record numbers, as it did in 2016 and certainly was the center of many conversations for a long time after.

According to the National Weather Forecast - accumulations of 1 - 3 inches of snow is expected to fall early Christmas morning giving way to snow showers on Christmas Day!

Maybe we will have a White Christmas 2021 after all!

Just be careful what we wish for and what an "occasional snow" turned out to be in 1947. Winter has just begun!

## Household Hint:

### Have a Winter Cold?

A suggested old remedy- mixing one-quarter cup apple cider vinegar with one-quarter cup honey may take the edge off maladies of a winter cold. Take one tablespoon of the mixture six to eight times daily. Also, adding 1/4 cup or more vinegar to the vaporizer will help purify the air, and clean the vaporizer.

**Nature Column** - A tribute to the memory of all of the *Townsman Ladies* that we have loved so much and lost... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry, Barbara Slater and Shirley Davis.

## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas...

No doubt you have all seen the explosion of the gnome culture this past year, and especially now at Christmas. While there is always controversy as to the origin of these little people, Sweden and Finland were always dominant in my mind as I was influenced by my grandparents, especially my grandfather who was a Laplander from present day Finland.

This Christmas, as in generations past, stories of Santa, his helpers (elves and gnomes) and his reindeer will be told around the world, including tales of how Mr. Claus flies around on his sleigh in the middle of the night delivering presents to all the good children while they sleep snug in their beds.

There is another story that involves real reindeer, a man in a red fur trimmed outfit and a little red mushrooms with white dots.

*Amanita muscaria*, the iconic toadstool is a large white-gilled, white-spotted, usually red mushroom, and is one of the most recognized and widely encountered mushroom in popular culture. Ornaments shaped like *Amanita muscaria* and other depictions of the fungi are still popular Christmas decorations throughout the world, particularly in Scandinavia, northern Europe and even in the United States.



A large, conspicuous mushroom, *Amanita muscaria* is generally common and numerous where it grows. Their fruiting body emerges from the soil looking like a white egg. Once it has emerged from the ground, the cap is covered with numerous small white to yellow pyramid-shaped warts. These are remnants of the universal veil, a membrane that encloses the entire mushroom when it is still very young. Dissecting the mushroom at this stage will reveal a characteristic yellowish layer of skin under the veil; this is helpful in identification. As the fungus grows, the red color appears through the broken veil and the warts become less prominent; they do not change in size, but are reduced relative to the expanding skin area. The cap changes from a spherical shape to hemispherical, and finally to plate-like and flat in mature specimens. Fully grown, the bright red cap is usually around 3-8 inches diameter, although larger specimens have been found. The red color may fade after rain and in older mushrooms.

The free gills are white, as is the spore print. The stipe is white, and has the slightly brittle, fibrous texture typical of many large mushrooms. At the base is a bulb that bears universal veil remnants in the form of two to four distinct rings or ruffs. Between the basal universal veil remnants and gills are remnants of the partial veil (which covers the gills during development) in the form of a white ring. It can be quite wide and flaccid with age. There is generally no associated smell other than a mild earthiness.

Although classified as poisonous, reports of human deaths resulting from its ingestion are extremely rare. It is eaten in parts of Europe, Asia, and North America. *Amanita muscaria* is noted for its hallucinogenic properties, with its main psychoactive constituent being the compound muscimol. The mushroom was used as an intoxicant and ingested to produce an altered state of consciousness for religious or spiritual purposes by the peoples of Siberia.

There has been much speculation on possible traditional use of this mushroom as an intoxicant in other places such as the Middle East, Eurasia, North America, and Scandinavia. (Contd. Pg. 4)

## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas...

(From Pg. 3)

Back in 1967 an amateur scholar named R. Gordon Wasson published a book arguing that *Amanita muscaria* was used in ancient ceremonies by shamans in the Far East. Other scholars then chimed in, noting that in Siberia and northern Europe where reindeer are common, both the shamans - and the reindeer - were known to seek out these hallucinogenic fungi. Donald Pfister, a Harvard University biologist who studies fungi, suggested that tribesmen and later, the reindeer herders who ingested the mushrooms may have hallucinated that the grazing reindeer were flying.



Adding to the history of the shaman and his flying reindeer in the Arctic regions was that the shaman would go around with bags full of the mushrooms as presents in late December. As the herdsman lived in yurts and teepees, and the doorways were often blocked by snow, the shamans would throw the little bags filled with the mushrooms down the smoke holes.

There is little debate about the consumption of mushrooms by Arctic and Siberian tribes people and shamans, but the connection to the jolly old elf and his flying reindeer is more dubious, or "mysterious." The evidence so far is circumstantial. Now some say that certain stories are simply too wondrous to question in this magical season.

But... red clothes with white trim like the cap of the mushroom... reindeer flying all around pulling a sleigh... a whole lot of "ho ho hoing"... little elves making toys at the north pole - kind of makes you think doesn't it???

May the peace and love of Christmas be with you all through this holiday season. Merry Christmas!



## Vet 2 Vet of SC and ATI's Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program attend Rumshock Dinner

(From Pg. 1) All three are ATI's Veteran Advocates in the Vet 2 Vet Program, which offers Veteran Peer Support, Advocacy, Benefit Advisement, Peer Counseling, Financial Literacy, Mental Health Support and more.

The Rumshock Veterans Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to assist combat Veterans with their reintegration into society. For more information about Rumshock, call 845-275-7582. For additional information about ATI or the Vet 2 Vet program, call 845-794-4228.

## SC Legislature Adopts 2022 County Budget

Monticello, NY - By an 8-1 vote today, legislators approved the 2022 Sullivan County Budget. District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart cast the dissenting vote.

"I am proud to say that even in the wake of the pandemic, Sullivan County is well on a path to keeping spending under control," said Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty. "This budget also gives us the ability to substantially reduce our overall debt, which can lead to lowering everyone's tax burden."

The \$259,088,488 budget stays under the State-mandated property tax cap with a projected tax levy increase of 1.42%. Though the exact bill will vary by township, a typical house assessed at \$100,000 should see an increase of around \$17 in its County tax bill.

### Highlights of the 2022 Budget include:

- \$12 million for road and bridgework throughout the County, to be achieved without going into debt by bonding
- \$9.2 million to pay off all short-term bonds, with an intent not to bond at all in 2022
- \$4 million to cover all County costs associated with the Care Center at Sunset Lake, now under management by consultant Infinite Care
- \$600,000 to continue and expand the Move Sullivan public transportation service
- \$370,000 to restore two Assistant District Attorney positions cut during the pandemic and to add two Administrative Assistants to the DA's Office to handle increased work volumes
- \$300,000 for the Sullivan County Land Bank to demolish blighted buildings and restore funding cut during the pandemic
- \$96,000 for the Center for Workforce Development to hire a Youth Intern Coordinator and study ways to close gaps in local youth services and resources
- \$85,000 to create a Comprehensive Housing Strategy that will address every facet of housing in the County, particularly workforce housing and accommodations for the homeless
- \$30,000 to purchase organics containers for a Pilot Residential Composting Program, the first step toward a larger initiative to provide residential and commercial composting services

The Adopted Budget also makes provision for a significant reconfiguration of the Division of Planning, which will take on the Office of Sustainable Energy, the Office of Grants Administration, and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Beautification. This will free up an expanded team of planners to focus on developing important projects like affordable housing and tourism infrastructure, including the O&W Rail Trail. (Contd. Pg. 7)



## The Stolen Hours

### Mysterious Book Report No. 470

by John Dwaine Mc Kenna

*The Stolen Hours*, (Mulholland Books, \$28.00, 311 pages, ISBN 978-0-316-70349-9), by Allen Eskens, is a riveting and twisted law and order thriller featuring three determined, strong women that's a tour de force of psychology-as well as an intense look into the mind of a cunning rapist and stone cold serial killer. His name is Gavin Spencer, and the cops believe he's the one who dumped the bodies of three women in the Mississippi River in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area . . . but the hell of it is . . . they can't prove it. That's

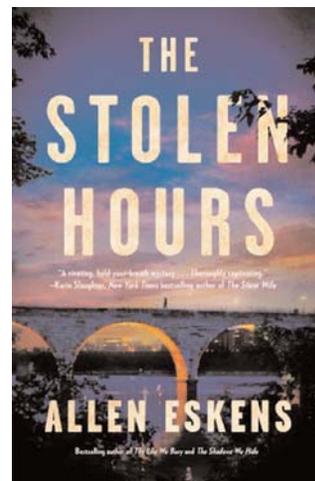
when a woman named Lila Nash-who's about to land the job she's always dreamt about: working for the Hennepin County Minnesota District Attorney's Office as a prosecutor-is given the case of Sadie Vault. Sadie's a woman who was drugged with GHB, gamma hydroxybutyrate, or "liquid ecstasy" also known as the date rape drug because the victim has no memory of the event, then abused and thrown in the river to drown. But she doesn't. She somehow manages to swim to shore and live. Her case is investigated by a Minneapolis police detective named Nikki Vang, who knows she has the right suspect . . . but as any good cop will admit . . . *knowing who is one thing but proving how is another* . . . because Spencer has been careful, crafting, and calculating with his kills, leaving no clues. The third and last woman is Andi Fitch, Lila's tough as nails boss prosecutor who shows the younger woman what it really takes to convict criminals. But there's a problem. It's a big and dirty secret that Lila Nash has been carrying around for eight years . . . and something about Gavin Spencer is nagging at the back of her mind, but she can't quite remember . . .

*The Stolen Hours* is an edge-of-your-seat thriller from a master wordsmith who will leave you hungry for Lila's next case.

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

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

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



## Catskill Art Society awarded \$49,500 by the NYS Council on the Arts

Livingston Manor, New York - The Catskill Art Society (CAS) announced today a grant award totaling \$49,500 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the recovery of the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Following New York State's \$105 million investment in the arts for FY2022, NYSCA has awarded more than \$80 million since June 2021.

Governor Kathy Hochul Quote: "The arts have long been a critical sector in our economy, and as we continue to rebuild a stronger New York, it's essential we do all we can help this industry thrive once again," Governor Hochul said. "These awardees represent the best of what New York's vibrant communities have to offer and with this funding in hand, they will be able to not only continue their creative and inspiring work, but help spur revitalization in their own backyard as well."

Mara Manus Quote: "NYSCA applauds Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature for their responsive investment of \$105 million for the nonprofit arts and culture sector. 2022 will continue to bring change and the Catskill Art Society will play a vital role in the renewal of our state's economy and creative ecosystem," said Mara Manus, Executive Director, NYSCA. "On behalf of the entire NYSCA Team, we wish to extend our sincere congratulations on your award."

Katherine Nicholls Quote: "Council congratulates the Catskill Art Society on their grant award! New York State arts and culture organizations inspire New Yorkers and cultivate community in every region," said Katherine Nicholls, Chair, NYSCA. "Arts and culture are crucial to our state's health, and Council recognizes the dynamic impact of NYSCA grantees on the well-being of all New Yorkers."

You can read Governor Hochul's press release here:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-45-million-critical-funding-propel-recovery-nonprofit-arts-and>

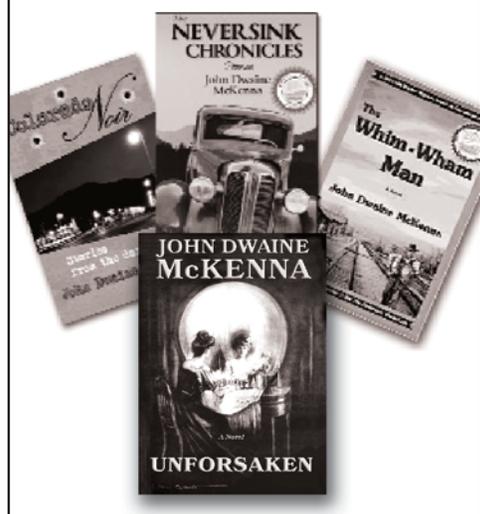
The Catskill Art Society's main building at 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor is undergoing an extensive renovation project, and is scheduled to reopen in fall 2022. The opening of the expanded CAS Arts Center space will host exhibitions of artists of international repute and will make CAS a regional arts destination.

The newly realized exhibition space will launch with a long-term presentation of James Turrell's light installation *Avaar* (1976) and a site-specific wall drawing from Sol LeWitt.

The new second floor gallery and performing arts spaces will offer a variety of major single artist presentations, live performances and film screenings for larger audiences. These exhibitions will be fully integrated with CAS's ongoing operations, and will be used as a significant platform to develop parallel programming including presentations by invited guests, public tours, and other education-focused workshops.

Thank you to the New York State Council on the Arts and Governor Hochul for recognizing the positive impact CAS has on our community.

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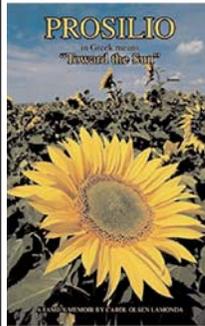
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## The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has



been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book

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## The Olive Jar by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Social Media is buzzing with politically correct holiday greetings. Never before has "Happy Holidays" had a connotation of being "un-American." Merry Christmas has taken on the standard of being, at the same time, Christian and patriotic even though most of us seem to celebrate Santa and the Elf on the Shelf more than the Christ child. To cover my bases, I wish every one a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

My conversational greeting dilemma will only last another week. My greater issue with greetings and salutations lasts the other fifty weeks. I am going to shorten my greeting to "Hi, there." Using

this greeting, I do not have to remember anyone's name, which is becoming more difficult each day.

I can look at a person, know their dog's name, their telephone number, and birthday, but their name eludes me until I let it boomerang back. Names go into a time warp. By the time I remember, at the supermarket, I am an aisle away and saying the name to a jar of salsa. My Uncle Stanley solved this name problem by calling every woman "Gloria." I notice that my friend Jeannie calls everyone "honey", and another person I know covers "name-lapsing" by addressing all men as "buddy."

I no longer greet anyone of Medicare age with a "How are you?" Those three words sometimes open a flood gate of aches, pains, problems, and personal relationships. If the reply is not "good" or "fine", look out. If you really don't want to know, you may just wish you had never asked.

Well, I am pretty safe with, "Happy New Year!" However, even that greeting can open a dialogue of political or social rants if this year was not up to that person's expectations. Unhappily, Covid seems like it is going to follow us into the next year. On second thought, I think I will not risk it after this year. I think I will stick to the simple "Hi, there."





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**SC Legislature Adopts 2022 County Budget**  
(From Pg. 4) The County Clerk's Office will be given further tools to address service demand, particularly in the Department of Motor Vehicles, which will see an additional clerk position, a new service window, and an expanded mobile presence.

Full details of the adopted budget will be made available at [www.sullivanyny.us](http://www.sullivanyny.us) (look for "Sullivan County 2022 Adopted Budget Executive Summary" and "Sullivan County 2022 Adopted Budget Detail" under the "Helpful Links" tab in the lefthand margin).

**Three Mid-Hudson Bridges to Receive Significant State Investment**

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(Albany, NY) - Following a season of heavy rains and unprecedented flooding, three local crossings have been awarded \$7.5 million in Bridge NY funds for repair and replacement. This money is sourced from a pool of \$200 million in the state budget advocated for by Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill (D-Ulster, Dutchess).

"I thank the Department of Transportation and Governor Hochul for approving these critical projects. This investment in our area will serve to replace several of our most at-risk bridges, ensuring the safety of all those who use them for years to come," said Cahill.

The money allocated by this project will be used to replace three bridges: the Saw Kill Road bridge in the Town of Red Hook, the Boice Mill Road Bridge over Falls Mill Brook in the Town of Rochester and the County Road 54 bridge over the Beaver Kill in the Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest.

The Bridge NY application is available to all municipalities authorized to receive and administer state and federal transportation funding. Awards are made through a competitive process and support all phases of project development, including design, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

"This investment in local infrastructure will pay dividends to the residents and businesses that utilize these corridors into the future. As we face stronger winds, rain and flooding it is critical that our crossings are resilient enough to withstand our changing climate. As our state is expected to see record levels of federal investment from the Build Back Better Plan, my office stands by to assist our municipalities in advocating for approval of future Bridge NY applications or inclusion on their project directly in the state budget," concluded Cahill.

# Local Kiwanis Clubs Spread Cheer



*Federation Program Admin. Kathy Kreiter, Monticello Kiwanian Sheila Lashinsky and Woodridge Kiw. Pres. Diane Garritt*

(From Pg. 1) In addition to the Kiwanis Club members, the Monticello High School Key Club, Mrs. Jill Weiner's Liberty Middle School Class as well as the Aktion Club of Sullivan County, comprised of individuals from Arc The Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and Center for Discovery, contributed a large amount of beautifully hand- made greeting cards and gifts.



*Assortment of gifts for Meals on Wheels and Federation for the Homeless.*

The main mission of this project was to give back to the community and to reassure the recipients that people were thinking of them and wanted to make their holiday a little more enjoyable.

For more information about Kiwanis - contact Mont. Pres. Marvin Rappaport at 845 -701-1655 or Woodridge Pres. Diane Garritt at 845-434-7023.

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

## The Bright Holiday Season is Lighting up Sullivan Catskills

All around the Sullivan Catskills, the crisp mountain air smells of pine and wood smoke. Our landscape is full of Christmas trees and holiday things... twinkly lights... and winter nights. It's the holiday season, and all that's missing is you!

If you're searching for that perfect tree, our Christmas tree farms have just what you're looking for. The good people at Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County put together this list of places where you can cut your own! Go to:

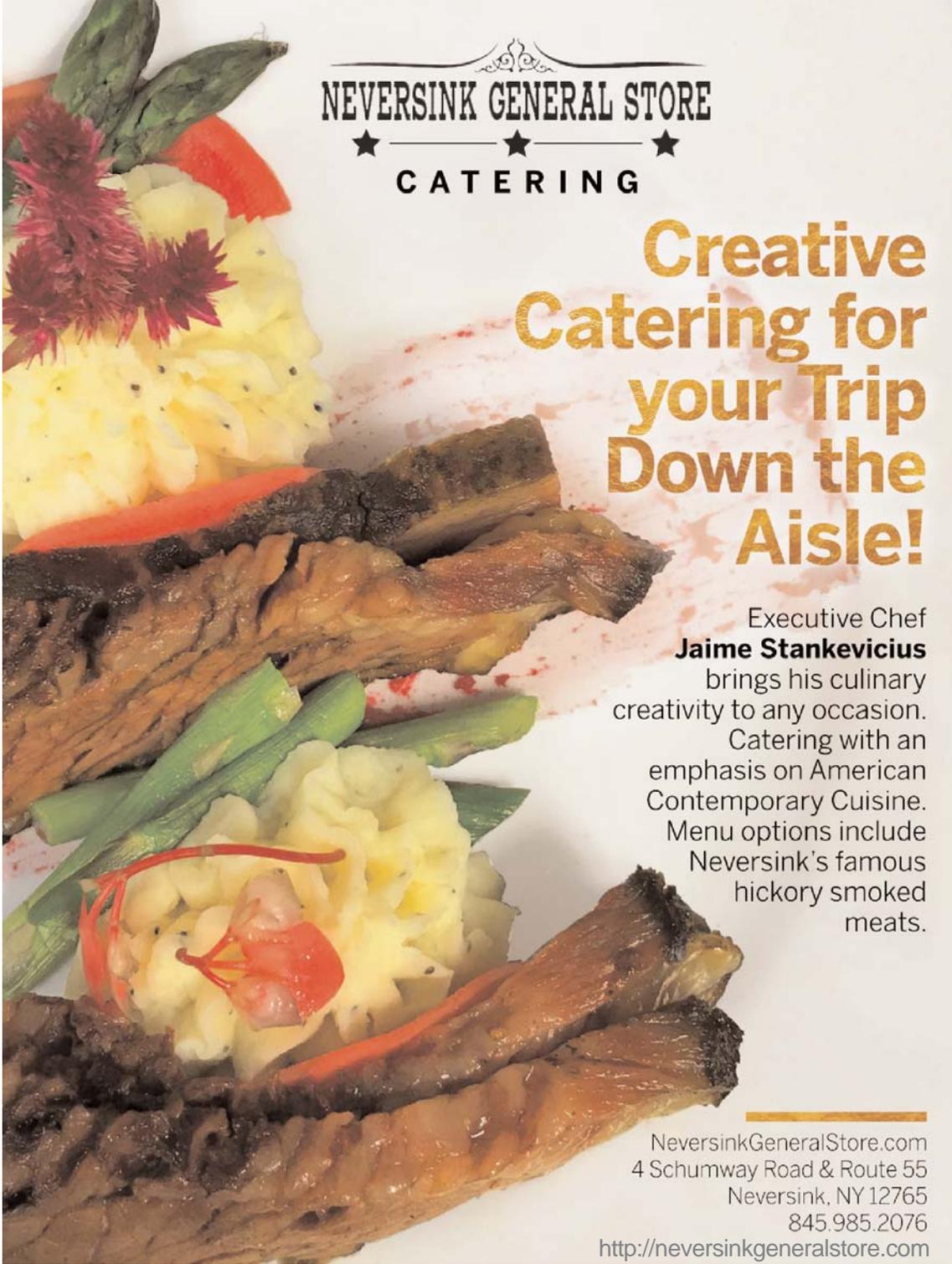
<http://sullivanccc.org/agriculture/buy-local-sullivan-fresh/local-christmas-trees>

Now if that doesn't make your spirit bright, there's plenty of other holiday happenings to help you leave a little sparkle wherever you go.

There are wonderful places to go shopping, too- antiques, general stores, wine and spirits purveyors, pottery makers, and jewelers.

Be sure to plan to visit this year's Peace, Love & Lights drive-thru holiday light show at Bethel Woods. This 1.7-mile route is filled with themed areas, like Holidays Around the World, Snowflake Alley, Groovy Way and more. Live carolers will grace the grounds this weekend, too! And over at the Holiday Hub there's food, fire pits and s'mores.

Now, all that tree cutting, gift shopping and light show fun is sure to stimulate your appetite. Our chefs and bakers are always serving up inventive, Catskillicious cuisine. From walnut coated truffles and jalapeño cheddar bagels to Tagliatelle Bolognese and Pecan Crusted Rack of Lamb, you'll never go hungry...or thirsty for that matter. Our Good Taste Beverage Trail brings together brewers, vintners, cider makers and distillers who are making some of the most flavorful adult beverages you can find. Many of them are award-win-



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ners, too! Taste one, taste them all. Just please drink responsibly.

With so much holiday fun happening, you must sleepover. Take advantage of one of our Winter Specials. Take your pick of full-service resorts, self-service vacation rentals, charming inns or B&Bs. And while you're here remember we have dozens of hiking trails. And our wildly popular Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail now features 60 hand painted sculptures honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Woodstock Music and Art Fair. How many can you visit while you're here?

Your health and wellbeing are important to us. All our proprietors have been participating in our Catskills Confidence program, ensuring social distancing and other health protocols. Please be aware that effective this week, in accordance with New York State's new guidelines, masks are now required in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement. So, as always please bring your mask.

Bring your shopping list, too, and come to the Sullivan Catskills. We're just 90-minutes from Manhattan. Join us. We're close, clean, confident- and filled with holiday joy!

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## Monti Elks Bingo Every Tuesday

(Monticello) Please tell your friends about Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge every Tuesday at 7 PM at 46 North Street in Monticello. There's a full payout and a progressive jackpot with weekly door prizes. Food is also available in the Bingo kitchen. The Monticello Lodge supports local veterans, scouts, Little League and the Homeless Federation, as well as providing coats and gloves to elementary school children. For information, contact Bingo Chair and Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell at (845) 701-0695. Happy New Year from the Monticello Elks.



*he non-profit Monticello Elks Lodge raises funding at Bingo and other events to provide local elementary school children in Monticello and Fallsburg with winter coats and gloves.*

## The Scene Too

-Jane Harrison

No column this week.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season

## Award Winners, New Board Members and a Year in Review at SCVA's Annual Meeting

December 15, 2021 - It was a night of celebratory fun as member businesses and guests mingled at the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association (SCVA) Annual Meeting and Holiday Gathering, presented by Resorts World Catskills. The event was held on the evening of Thursday, December 9 with a cocktail hour, dinner, raffle prizes and more.



*Award winners - Clockwise from top: STAR Award for Business Achievement, Buck Brook Alpacas; STAR Award for Individual Achievement Robert DeSalvio, President of Genting Americas East, Resorts World Catskills; and TOAST Award for Exceptional Service Jean Paul Medina, Executive Chef, Callicoon Hills.*

"Tourism and hospitality-this business sector to which we all devote our lives and livelihood-continues to be an integral part of our Sullivan Catskills economy, driving business sales, employment, and tax revenue," Byron-Lockwood commented.

The evening also celebrated the SCVA's awards recognizing outstanding individuals and businesses with the STAR Award for Individual Achievement presented to Robert DeSalvio, President of Genting Americas East, Resorts World Catskills; STAR Award for Business Achievement presented to Buck Brook Alpacas; and TOAST Award for Exceptional Service presented to Jean Paul Medina, Executive Chef, Callicoon Hills.

Byron-Lockwood also announced returning and new board members to the SCVA Board of Directors. Returning in 2022 for a one-year term are Sims Foster of Foster Supply Hospitality, Tanya Hahn of Jeff Bank, Brian Facquet of Do Good Spirits, Rick Lander of Lander's River

Reflecting on the successes of 2021, SCVA President and CEO Roberta Byron-Lockwood announced that traveler spending in the Sullivan Catskills outperformed eight of the 11 vacation regions in the state. Furthermore, Sullivan Catskills led the state in sales tax growth with an increase of 34% year over year. If not for that increase, residents would have an additional tax burden of \$2,123 per household.



*Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association Board Chair, Sims Foster, gives remarks at the annual meeting*

Trips, and Anthony Bruno of Resorts World Catskills. And we're pleased to welcome newly elected board members Scott Samuelson of The Eldred Preserve, Talya Regan of The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark and Lauren Seikaly of Heartwood.

The SCVA and its marketing and communications teams worked to expand brand awareness and drive visibility this

past year. Our digital and social media partner, Awestruck, for the second year now, has been able to achieve significant growth in the digital world. FisherMears Associates continued to guide the Sullivan Catskills brand messaging on owned and paid media channels. And our PR firm, The Door, attracted over 25 media and influencers to our Sullivan Catskills with press efforts that have generated over 80 placements in news and lifestyle media outlets nationwide.



*Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association President/CEO, Roberta Byron Lockwood, and Constituent and Support Services Director for the Office of Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, Rachel Steingart.*

"All of this-our sales tax growth, our brand growth and recognition, the rise in vacation rentals, new full-service resort openings-is a testament not just to our history as a legendary vacation destination, but to this organization's ability to plan, strategize and adapt to changing market conditions and traveler preferences," Byron-Lockwood said.

The SCVA would like to extend a huge thank you to our event sponsors: Resorts World Catskills, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, Awestruck, Bold Gold Media Group, Fisher Mears Marketing Communications, Jerry Cohen Photography, Prestige Productions, Foster Supply Hospitality, The Sullivan County Democrat, The Misner Agency, Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center, Jeff Bank, and New York's Best Experiences.

Our Beverage Trail sponsors: Bashakill Vineyards, Do Good Spirits, Catskill Brewery, Roscoe Beer Company, Forthright Cyder and Mead, Shrewd Fox Brewery and Seminary Hill Cidery.

We would also like to thank our members who donated raffle prizes, the proceeds of which will benefit A Single Bite and WSUL Heart-A-Thon. Through the generosity of our guests the raffle raised over \$1,670.

Looking ahead, the SCVA will soon launch a new app, called Sullivan Catskills Go, and will roll out a new strategic plan based on the results of our work with Young Strategies.

"We're so excited to enter 2022 coming off a successful 2021, despite the challenges the pandemic presented to everyone," Byron-Lockwood remarked. "We hope that things will continue to look up and we thank everyone who is a part of our Sullivan Catskills."



*Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association Board Member and Vice President of Villa Roma Resort, Paul Carlucci; Sullivan County District 6 Legislator, Luis Alvarez; and Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association Board Member and Owner of Lander's River Trips, Rick Lander.*



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# Governor Hochul Deploys NYS Incident Management Team Following Request from Commonwealth of Kentucky in Wake of Deadly Tornadoes

*Interagency Emergency Management Team from New York State Deploying to Kentucky This Weekend, Tasked with Supporting Active Emergency Operations Centers in Three Counties*

**Team Set to Deploy Saturday, December 18,  
for Two-Week Operational Period**

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced New York is deploying a State Incident Management Team to support ongoing recovery operations in Kentucky following last weekend's deadly storms. The State IMT is a resource designed to assist emergency managers in ensuring a prompt, efficient and organized response to complex, multi-operational disasters. They bring a wealth of training and experience in the Incident Command System, including command and control, planning, logistics and administration activities. At Kentucky's request, the team is being deployed to support three of the state's county emergency operations centers, specifically, Graves, Hopkins and Marshall Counties.

"No matter the scope or size of a disaster, New Yorkers will always be there to help our friends and neighbors in their time of need," Governor Hochul said. "Our world class incident management experts have seen it all and are ready to support our partners in Kentucky any way they can. I am incredibly proud of each and every member of this team and thank them for always being there to help communities recover during the most difficult of times."

The State IMT consists of agency personnel from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), State Police (NYSP), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Office of Information Technology Services (ITS), Thruway Authority and Park Police. Several local agencies also contribute personnel to the teams, including the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Montgomery County Emergency Management.

The IMT will be tasked with assisting state and local officials with initial recovery planning, operational coordination; obtaining situational information and reporting; incident action planning; GIS mapping; and logistical support for ongoing response operations.

Acting DHSES Commissioner Jackie Bray said, "The State's Incident Management Team will represent the best of New York's emergency personnel in Kentucky and I am thankful for their selflessness and dedication to aiding others, especially during the holiday season when they'll be away from their families. My heart goes out to the people of Kentucky and I hope this additional support will help impacted communities recover from this disaster."

The NYS Incident Management Team, comprised of command staff, as well as planning, logistics, operations, and finance sections, will be departing Saturday, December 18 and begin reporting for duty on Sunday, December 19. They will be operational for 14 days before returning home on Sunday, January 2.

## Greetings Tri-Valley Community:

We all know how difficult the last two years have been. And as time moves forward, it seems that we are struggling to keep our heads lifted high. However, we are fortunate to live in a community of compassionate people with values steeped in faith, community, and the American dream. Just as the community started *The Townsman* 74 years ago for the purpose of informing the community of what was going on in the newly formed Tri-Valley Central School District, we are now hoping to do the same. Who are “we” —we are “Tri-Valley Families for Inspiring Success Together”. Together, as a community of parents, grandparents, caretakers, taxpayers, and all who believe in the future of our children, our families, our school, and our community. We are parents and community members dedicated to safeguarding traditional family values, religious rights and parental rights in our school system.

Parental rights include the right to know what is being taught and promoted in our school systems, and the right to decide what we want our children exposed to. Transparency is crucial.

Recent events at Tri-Valley, such as mandatory attendance for students in grades 9 through 12 for a preview of a controversial school play rated PG-13, have drawn parental concern. While the play had a positive message of acceptance, it contained adult language and mature themes such as death, sexuality, alternative sexuality, and fantasy inspired violence, which was better suited for a university stage. Without having the chance to opt out of the school-day performance, the required attendance at the event eroded equal education rights and religious freedoms of students who practice and maintain traditional values.

The intention of the school to adopt new policies and mindsets in an effort to be more inclusive in this changing world by implementing character education in the form of assemblies and school play choices is certainly positive. However, teaching values in public school is only advantageous as long as the values don't infringe on one's religious or personal beliefs. Some values such as integrity and kindness are universal, but others are specific to an individual's personal beliefs, and are not appropriate for the school day.

This has led to polarization among the students rather than a unification of them. This is directly apparent with the recent increase of harassment both in school and through social media websites, causing the need for law enforcement investigation and presence in the school system, as well as a general feeling of unrest among the students. The Tri-Valley Central School District, though they are doing their best with the situation at hand, is not perfect. It takes a village to raise a child, and we think that now, more than ever, is the time for the village to come together to help the school do that.

We understand that many of us feel the disconnect, so we have called for open dialogue with the school and the community and are committed to sharing the narrative with you in the *Tri-Valley Townsman*.

Please be on the lookout in January for key dates to participate in the Superintendent search and the community Town Hall meeting with the Tri-Valley Board of Education and the Administrators. This is an exciting opportunity to be able to work together to effect positive changes in the Tri-Valley Central School District.

Sincerely,

**Tri-Valley Families for Inspiring Success Together**

(845) 418-6037.

## Olive Free Library Exhibition “Shifting the Energy” Opens January 22

An exhibition of works by Hudson Valley retired art educators The Olive Free Library Association is very pleased to present the exhibition *Shifting the Energy* showcasing the works of twelve retired art educators from the Hudson Valley. The show, curated by Linda Schultz will run from January 22 through March 5, 2022 with an opening on Saturday, January 22 from 3 – 5 pm.

Linda Schultz says about this exhibition, “Art Educators are devoted to providing quality experiences for their students. Once an art teacher retires, he or she then shifts the energy from making their students the center of attention to perhaps focusing on themselves and their artwork. The regional artists represented in this show are people that I have gotten to know during my decades-long career as an art educator or are artists that were referred to me once I started exploring bringing this exhibition concept to life.”

## Christmas Around the World Trivia

(From an article by Heather Thomas)

1. Sprinkling yule logs with red wine is one of this country's Christmas Eve traditions.
2. Eel is a traditional part of a seafood-centric Christmas Eve meal in this country.
3. Christmas was banned in this island country from 1969 to 1998.
4. In the capital city of this South American country, there is a tradition of people roller skating to early morning church services between December 16-24.
5. Christmas trees in the western part of this Eastern European country are often decorated with artificial spider webs because of the story of The Christmas Spider.
6. Fortunetelling at Christmas celebrations is a tradition of this former Eastern Bloc country.
7. Christmas has only been widely celebrated in this country for the last few decades as a non-religious holiday and Kentucky Fried Chicken is the popular choice for a Christmas Eve meal.
8. The people of this country believe that Santa Claus, or Father Christmas, lives in the country's northern part called Korvatunturi (or Lapland), north of the Arctic Circle.
9. During the time when this country was under communist control after WWII, the government did not like St. Nicholas or Santa Claus, so they created their own version that translates to “Grandfather Frost” or “Christmas Brother,” who came on New Year's Eve.
10. This country celebrates Las Posadas on Christmas Eve to commemorate the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge for the birth of baby Jesus.
11. This country's culinary traditions include serving 12 dishes meant to give good luck for the next 12 months. For Catholics, it's meant to reflect the number of Apostles.
12. This country's folk tradition has it that mischievous Kallikantazari, or hobgoblins, rise from the underground to wreak havoc during the 12 days of Christmas. To make sure they disappear, priests travel to homes on the day of the Epiphany, January 6, and bless them with holy water.

(Answers on Page 45)

# A Country Calendar

By Ann Higgins



## 2022

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### Country Calendar Order Form:

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

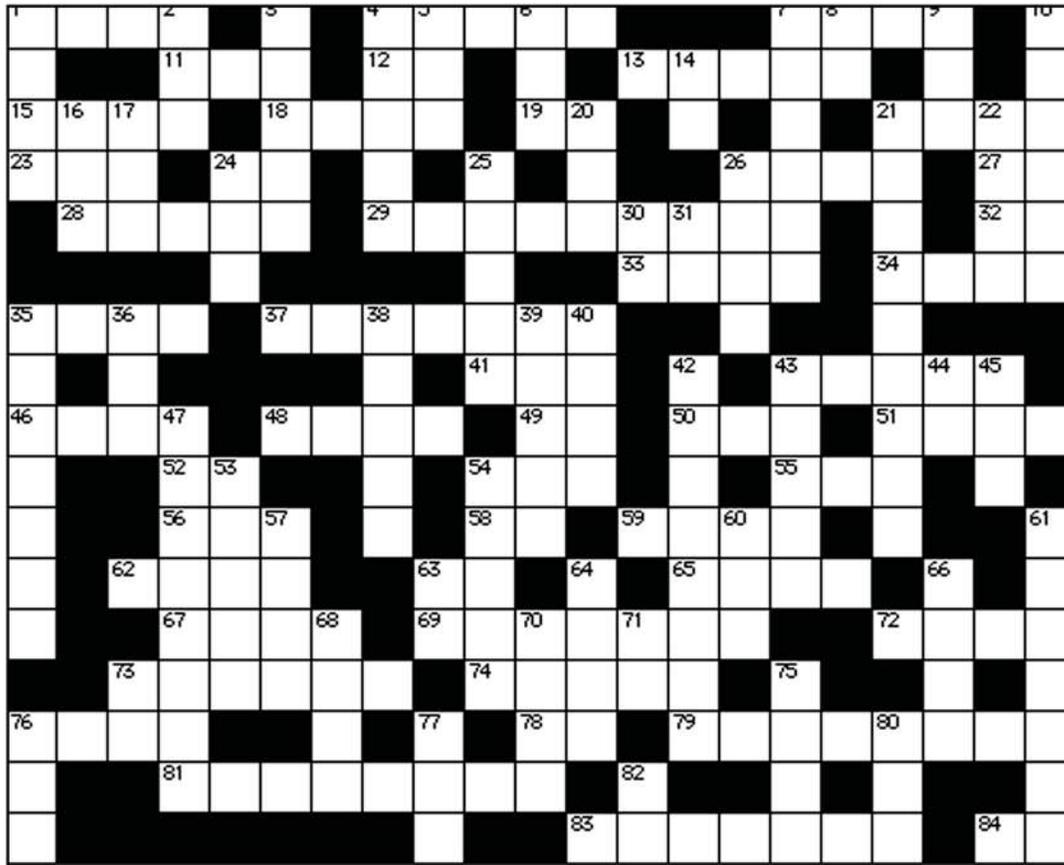
Number of Calendars @ \$6.00 each.....

**Ann Higgins**

**34 Walker Rd.**

**Grahamsville, NY 12740**

'Twas the Night Before Christmas ... -L. Comando



**ACROSS**

- 1 Gift brought by the Magi
- 4 Author of "A Visit from Santa"
- 7 What Santa may get on his suit
- 11 Also Known As
- 12 Indefinite article used before a vowel
- 13 Terra firma
- 15 Terror
- 18 Leaf
- 19 As a result of
- 21 Brought into existence
- 23 Tender Love & Care
- 24 Higher position
- 26 Surrender
- 27 You and I
- 28 Cheerful
- 29 Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth

- 32 Thirteenth star in a constellation
- 33 Hearing organs
- 34 Holds tightly in one's arms
- 35 Feeling of expectation
- 37 Large floating mass of ice
- 41 Address for a man
- 43 Not under control
- 46 Virtuous
- 48 Purchases
- 49 In the direction of
- 50 Total
- 51 Listen
- 52 Exclamation used particularly to ask to repeat something
- 54 Hook
- 55 Lyric poem meant to be sung
- 56 Coral reef
- 58 That which

- 59 Capital of Norway
  - 62 Deep affection
  - 63 Roman four
  - 65 Edge
  - 67 Route
  - 69 Edible fish
  - 72 Frame
  - 73 Holy youth
  - 74 Country
  - 76 Savory pie
  - 78 Chem. element Argon
  - 79 Sheep tender
  - 81 Twelfth Day of Christmas
  - 83 Sacred candelabrum used in Jewish worship
  - 84 New York
- DOWN**
- 1 Present
  - 2 Daughters of the American Revolution

- 3 Joyous
- 4 Wonderful; exciting
- 5 Single unit
- 6 Slender curved bone that protects the thoracic cavity
- 7 Tension
- 8 Exclamation
- 9 Also
- 10 What brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem
- 14 Expressing arrival in a certain place
- 16 Tall deciduous tree
- 17 Highest card
- 20 Affirmative
- 21 Birthplace of Jesus
- 22 Made a clear resonant vibrating sound

- 24 Uniform Resource Locator
- 25 Woody perennial plants
- 26 Pasteboard
- 30 Chem element
- Tellurium
- 31 Mother
- 35 What a past Townsman writer, Tom and artist who creates an Annual Calendar (see pg 14) Ann, have in common
- 36 Professional
- 38 Where Joseph and Mary took Jesus after he was born
- 39 Solemn ceremony
- 40 Spirits mixed with water
- 42 Large

- watertight chambers
- 43 Deluge
- 44 Each
- 45 Wither
- 47 Trim
- 53 Damage
- 54 Covers with asphalt
- 57 Twelve months
- 60 Top
- 61 Festivity
- 63 To be
- 64 At a distance
- 66 Old Norse Christmas
- 68 Cavernous
- 70 At a specified distance
- 71 Variant of 'hoy'
- 73 Senior
- 75 Doe
- 76 Little crippled boy in A Christmas Carol
- 77 Scrooge's sister
- 80 Exclamation of disbelief
- 82 Referring to a male

**Sinterklaas Cookies**

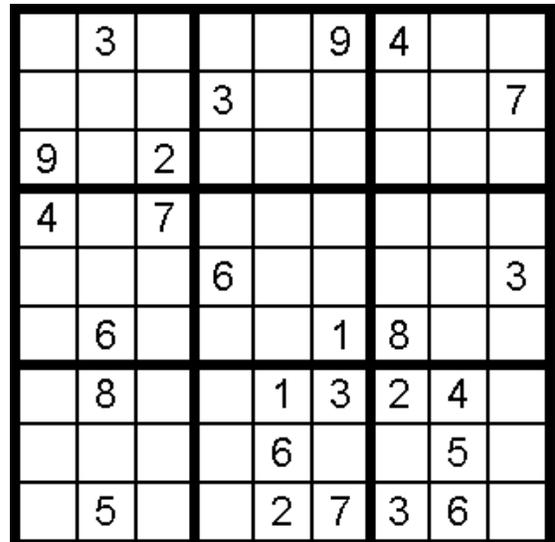
*Leave a plate of these and a glass of milk for Santa!*

- 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.

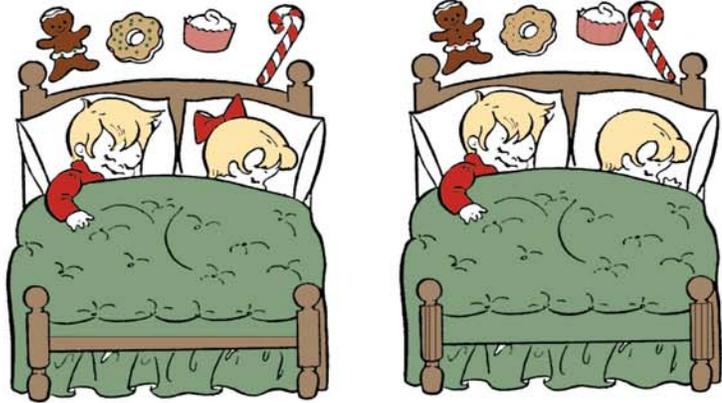
数字は単数に限る



The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

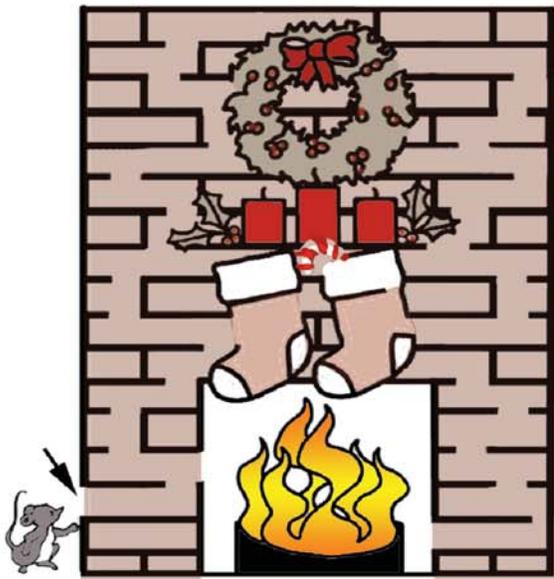
Can you help the little mouse find his way to the candy cane in the stocking?

# Kids' Holiday Fun Page - L. Comando



## Christmas Word Scramble

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 1 STRA     | 6 AEGLN   |
| 2 MAGREN   | 7 JPHOES  |
| 3 MYAR     | 8 JSSEU   |
| 4 HSEPHEDR | 9 KIGSN   |
| 5 DOEYKN   | 10 STBALE |

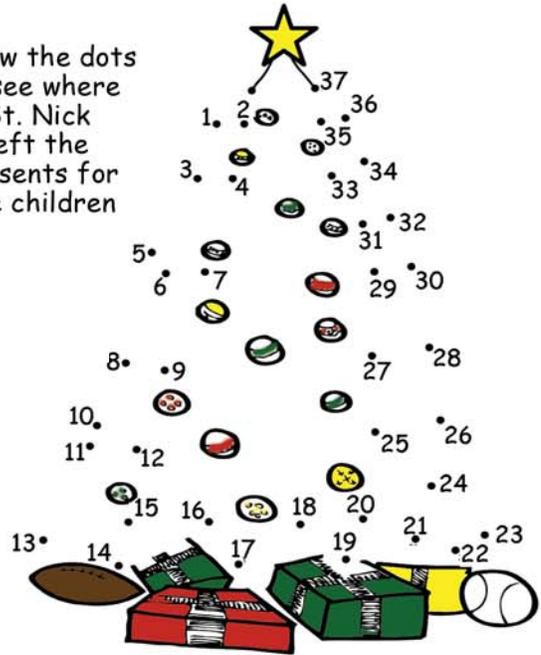


## WORDSEARCH

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

- HOUSE
- STOCKINGS
- CHIMNEY
- NICHOLAS
- SUGARPLUMS
- NAP
- CLATTER
- PEDDLER
- PLUMP
- ELF
- HAPPY
- CHRISTMAS

Follow the dots to see where St. Nick left the presents for the children



## 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

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

## CRYPTOGRAM KEY

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

# NEW HERITAGE BAKING BOOK

## JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The new 68-page

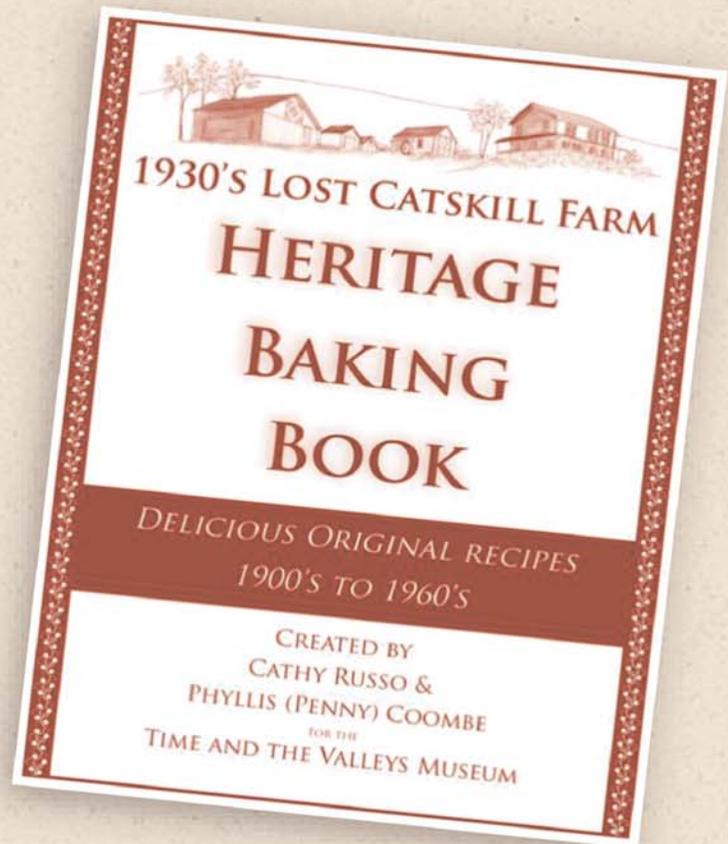
### Heritage Baking Book

has tried-and-true old time treasured recipes for cakes, muffins, pies, cookies and much more, all from local bakers of the past.

It includes a history of baking and information and photos of many of the early local bakers, including bakers from the Smith, Hornbeck, Sheeley and Erath families.

**\$15 Each**

**\$12 for Museum Members**



IT MAKES A UNIQUE GIFT  
AND HELPS FUND PHASE II OF THE 1930S LOST CATSKILL FARM

### Time and the Valleys Museum Baking Book Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Time and the Valleys Museum**, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740

# of copies: \_\_\_\_\_ Shipping/Handling please add: \$5 for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Books can also be picked up by appointment to eliminate shipping - Just call 845 985 7700 or email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org)

**ORDER ONLINE AT [WWW.TIMEANDTHEVALLEYSMUSEUM.ORG/SHOP](http://WWW.TIMEANDTHEVALLEYSMUSEUM.ORG/SHOP)**  
MEMBERS USE TATVM20 FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

**LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Covid-19 Home Test Kits**  
are available at  
Town of Denning Town Hall  
1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY  
Mondays through Thursdays  
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
until they are gone.  
Call (845) 985-2411  
for more information.

Full Time Residents Only  
Proof of Denning residency required  
ONE kit per household (2 tests)  
Signature required

Please Take Notice:

**Covid-19 Home Test Kits**  
are available at  
Town of Denning Town Hall  
1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY  
**Mondays through Thursdays**  
**8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**until they are gone.**  
Call (845) 985-2411  
for more information.

**Full Time Residents Only**  
**Proof of Denning**  
**residency required**  
**ONE kit per household (2 tests)**  
**Signature required**  
Ulster County is tracking  
distribution

## Immediate Openings Tri-Valley Central School

### Special Education Teacher

Leave Replacement  
(Jan 6th thru Apr 6th)

*NYS Certification Required*

### Teacher Aide

*HS Diploma or Equivalent Required*  
*Salary based on exp & qualifications.*

Please forward resumes & Tri-Valley's application  
(located at [www.trivalleycsd.org](http://www.trivalleycsd.org)) by **Jan 7th**  
To: [tri-valley-recruitment@scbores.org](mailto:tri-valley-recruitment@scbores.org)  
Attn: SPED Teacher or Teacher Aide Search EOE

12/23; 12/33 30

## Fallsburg CSD Board of Education January Meetings

January 5, 2022  
January 19, 2022

### Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting

Regular Meeting #13 -  
**Thursday, January 6, 2022**  
Call to Order - 6:00 p.m. - Secondary School  
Library Lower Level  
Anticipated Proposed Executive Session -  
6:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library  
Upper Level  
Regular Meeting resumes - approximately 7:00  
p.m. - Secondary School Library  
Lower Level

Regular Meeting #14 -  
**Thursday, January 20, 2022**  
Call to Order - 6:00 p.m. - Secondary School  
Library Lower Level  
Anticipated Proposed Executive Session -  
6:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library  
Upper Level  
Regular Meeting resumes - approximately 7:00  
p.m. - Secondary School Library  
Lower Level

All Board Meetings will be broadcast on our YouTube  
Live Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkI224vKQ8nAWhR6NVao24w/live>

## FEMA Releases Independent Study Course on Preparedness for Childcare Providers

Whether they face tornados or a pandemic, floods or winter weather, childcare providers must keep the kids they care for safe during emergencies. The newly revised FEMA independent study course, "Preparedness for Child Care Providers" (IS-36), can help. This online course covers multiple hazards and risks that may affect child-care providers. These include fires, criminal activity and child abduction, severe weather, hazardous materials, illness outbreaks, and geological events like earthquakes. The comprehensive course can support safety and planning not just at child-care centers and preschools, but also at before- and after-school programs, summer youth programs, and at-home childcare facilities. Preparedness for childcare providers also includes a variety of tools for students such as procedures for sheltering in place, emergency site closings, reunification with parents and guardians, and more. Students will learn how to create an emergency plan tailored to their needs, including actions like how to identify staff responsibilities when an emergency happens. A companion toolkit includes helpful hazard checklists, sample forms like emergency contact sheets, and checklists for emergency drills. Students can complete this free, web-based course online in about two hours. Go [here](https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-36.a) to read more.

## Attorney General James Applauds FDA for Expanding Access to Abortion Pill

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James released the following statement in support of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision today to permanently allow abortion pills by mail:

"As reproductive rights continue to be under attack across our nation, the FDA's decision today to permanently allow access to abortion pills by mail is a major step to protect the right to abortion services. During the pandemic, my office successfully urged the FDA to expand access to the abortion pill because no one should be forced to risk their health while exercising their constitutional right to an abortion. Despite this progress, we know that there will be pushback from states that wish to deny these rights. We are prepared to fight back and do everything in our power to protect our rights."

In February 2021, Attorney General James led a coalition of attorneys general in filing an amicus brief in *American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists et al. v. FDA et al.*, where she encouraged an appeals court to uphold a lower court's preliminary injunction that provided patients with safe access to medication abortions via telehealth and to extend that injunction to cover miscarriage treatment, all in an effort to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The preliminary injunction, previously issued, partly paused a FDA requirement that forces women to appear in person in a clinical setting to receive a drug known as mifepristone for an early abortion and miscarriage treatment, making the drug readily accessible via telehealth and mail delivery for abortion patients, so as to not potentially expose those patients to COVID-19 by requiring unnecessary travel. The amicus brief followed up on three previous amicus briefs filed in this case by a coalition of states led by Attorney General James - in the U.S. District Court for the District for Maryland in June 2020, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in August 2020, and in the U.S. Supreme Court in September 2020 - asking those courts to issue or leave in effect the preliminary injunction suspending the FDA's in-person requirements for mifepristone.

The four amicus briefs also followed up on a letter Attorney General James sent, in March 2020, to both the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the FDA, requesting that the Trump Administration waive or utilize its discretion not to enforce a specific designation that dictated and subsequently impeded patients' access to reproductive care, including medication abortions. Attorney General James called on the Trump Administration to ensure that patients across the country could more easily access this critical health care service while the pandemic left many unable to seek in-person care.

MOVE SULLIVAN WANTS TO KNOW...

WHERE CAN WE  
TAKE YOU?

Tell us in our new survey, because  
we're getting ready to EXPAND!

**MOVE**   
SULLIVAN  
Connecting Our Communities

[WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/Z8TTR3Z](http://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/Z8TTR3Z)

Trouble filling out the survey?  
Don't have computer or Internet access?  
Call our Community Assistance Center  
at 845-807-0925. We'll fill it in for you!

# WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR HOME *is* WORTH?



## What would your home sell for in today's market?

Have home values gone up? Have they gone down? Have the improvements and renovations you've made added value to your home? What are other houses selling for in your area? Get the answers to these questions and more with a FREE home evaluation. Call me today at (845) 417-3812 to get started.



### **Brian Garber**

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

(845) 417-3812 (cell)

Email:

[brian.garber@timberlandproperties.net](mailto:brian.garber@timberlandproperties.net)



**COLDWELL BANKER**

**TIMBERLAND  
PROPERTIES**

Roscoe: Operates as CB Timberland Properties

62 Stewart Ave, Roscoe, New York, 12776

## Monticello Kiwanis Spreads Holiday Spirit



*United Way Chief Professional Officer Julian Dawson and Kiwanis Treasurer Linda Barriger displaying donated games and toys.*

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Monticello helped spread the holiday spirit by donating games and toys for the United Way of Sullivan County to distribute to local families in need. Due to the Kiwanis Club meeting virtually and canceling their Annual Holiday Dinner once more this year, United Way Chief Professional Officer Julian Dawson traveled to the office of Kiwanis Club Treasurer Linda Barriger to pick up some monetary donations as well as a variety of games, dolls, basketballs, etc. to please children of all ages.

The Monticello Kiwanis Club Mission is to improve the world one child and one community at a time.

For further information, contact Pres. Marvin Rappaport at 845-701-1655.

## Gillibrand, Chair of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, Announces her Hard-fought NDAA Wins that will Improve the Well-Being of Service Members and Their Families

*Gillibrand Secures 12 Weeks of Parental Leave for Both Mothers and Fathers, Expanded Health Care Benefits, and a 2.7% Base Pay Increase for All Service Members*

*NDAA Includes \$27 Million Investment That Will Help Fund The Wellfield Expansion Resilience Project To Improve Fort Drum's Water Supply*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, chair of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, announced her FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) wins that will help improve the quality of life of service members and their families. Gillibrand is a tireless advocate for New York's active-duty service members and her subcommittee oversees matters relating to active and reserve military personnel, including compensation, benefits, health care, education, child care, and more. During this year's NDAA negotiations, Gillibrand championed several provisions to improve and expand military parental leave, compensation, TRICARE benefits, mental health services, child care, basic needs allowance, PFAS remediation, and assessments of autism therapy.

"The strength of our armed services relies on the health and well-being of our service members and their families. As chair of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, I work every day to advocate for the health, safety, and morale of our men and women in uniform," said Senator Gillibrand. "I am proud of the advances we delivered in this year's NDAA, including better mental health and health care benefits, an across-the-board 2.7% increase in base pay for all military personnel, and funding to improve the water supply right here at Fort Drum. Our service members risk their lives to keep us safe and I will remain relentless in our fight to ensure the military operates in a manner worthy of their dedication."

**ST. MARK'S UMC**  
Napanoch

**INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE**

Closed 12/24 & 12/31

Reg. Friday hrs resume 1/7/22

**Something for Everyone**



# COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES

**PRE-PLANNING, FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES  
VETERAN'S CARE, MONUMENTS & ENGRAVING**

LOCATIONS IN WOODBOURNE, LIBERTY,  
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434-7363 292-7160 794-2700 583-5445 439-4333

<http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com>

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

**Sundown United Methodist Church**

**Sundown Ladies**

*See you next year!*

*Sundown United Methodist Church Hall*



**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION**

The Little Church with the Big Heart  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

**Christmas Eve service – 3 pm**

5277 State Rt. 42 • South Fallsburg  
845-436-7539

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

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)

**6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY**

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

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

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

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

**Thrift Sales**  
will reopen in the Spring  
See you then



**Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches**  
**House Worship Plan**  
**Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting - Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2029912673?pwd=R2lJYUhyTVdsQWdMUXZvTEtCeGdLZz09>  
Meeting ID: 202 991 2673 Passcode: 012740

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**The Bible Study continues every Tuesday at 7 pm.**  
If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please feel free to contact the Pastor, Seung Jin Hong. 845-985-2283

*Grahamsville Reformed Church*

*The Church with a friendly welcome*

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

**Claryville Reformed Church**

Claryville Road  
Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:00 am  
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor  
Church Hall available for rent  
Call - 845-985-2041 for information



**Loucks Funeral Home**

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

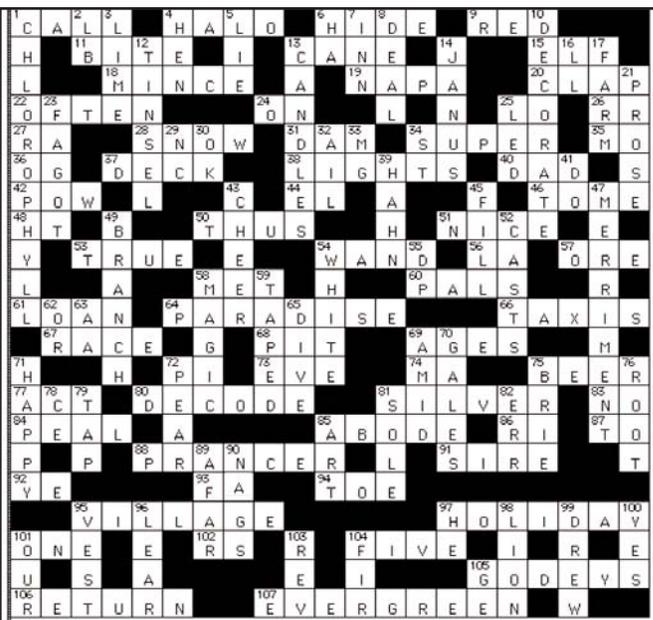
79 North Main Street  
Ellenville, New York  
(845) 647-4343

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

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am  
Holy Days 5:30 pm

Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month  
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword



## 2021 Town of Neversink Holiday Hours

The Town of Neversink will observe the following Holiday Hours: Christmas - close at noon on 12/23 and all day on 12/24. New Years - close at noon on 12/30 and all day on 12/31.

The Transfer Station will be CLOSED on Christmas Day - Saturday 12/25. It will be OPEN on Monday 12/27 from 11 am to 7 pm. Wednesday's 12/29 hours will remain as usual.

The Transfer Station will be CLOSED on New Year's Day - Saturday 01/01/2022. No additional hours will be added.

Please plan your Transfer Station and Town Hall business accordingly. The Town of Neversink wishes you a very Joyous Holiday Season and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

## Grahamsville United Methodist Church

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

## Catskill Mountainkeeper's Jumping Worms Webinar a Huge Success

Catskill Mountainkeeper's Jumping Worms Webinar last week was a phenomenal success. We were delighted by the great turnout, the discussion was informative, and the more than 400 supporters who joined told us that it was engaging and helpful. If you missed the webinar-or just want to revisit the information we covered-you can watch the recording on Mountainkeeper's website at [https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/jumping\\_worms\\_video?utm\\_campaign=jwfollowup&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=catskillmountainkeeper](https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/jumping_worms_video?utm_campaign=jwfollowup&utm_medium=email&utm_source=catskillmountainkeeper)

Mountainkeeper is grateful for our fantastic jumping worms panel and all of the expertise they shared:

- o Dr. Tim McCay, Colgate University,
- o Dr. Rebecca Pinder, Columbia-Greene Community College, and
- o John Thompson, the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP).

Our panelists discussed how the life cycles of jumping worms differ from other common worms, along with how they impact nutrient cycling, soil health, microhabitats, and our forests. They also shared control measures that everyone can take to report jumping worm infestations and help prevent their spread.

Please remember to do your part and report your jumping worms findings via iMapInvasives.: <https://www.nyimainvasives.org/>

And if you have any questions about the app, please contact John Thompson at CRISP or email him at: [jthompson@catskillcenter.org](mailto:jthompson@catskillcenter.org)

And please share your new knowledge about jumping worms with friends and family. The more people who know about and understand this problem, the better we'll be able to address it!

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

**ARTISTS • CRAFTERS**  
Need a place to show and sell your crafts?  
Call us at 845-985-0501  
email: [tvtownsman@yahoo.com](mailto:tvtownsman@yahoo.com)  
or visit our Virtual Mail  
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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

**VETERANS** always Free search of the Archives for family or history of Sullivan County at the **Sullivan County Museum**, 265 Main St., Hurlayville, NY.  
For information call 845-434-8044.

**LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 12/21/21 Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals 7:30 pm- – **CANCELLED**  
 12/23/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - 1/2 Day - CHRISTMAS  
 12/24/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - CHRISTMAS  
 12/30/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - 1/2 Day - NEW YEARS  
 12/31/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - NEW YEARS DAY  
 1/5/22 Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting 7 pm  
 1/18/22 Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm

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

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2021** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events thru out the coming year. You may email them to: [tvtownsmen@yahoo.com](mailto:tvtownsmen@yahoo.com) or  
 USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740  
 or Drop them in the Drop Box at the Grahamsville 1st Aid Building

**TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

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

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

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

## Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update December 20 - December 24, 2021

**Monday, December 20**

- o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 876 6071 2554, Passcode: 663305, By Phone Dial: (646) 558-8656
- o 6:00 PM - Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee, Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 851 0951 5753, By Phone Dial: (646) 558-8656
- o 7:00 PM (or immediately following the Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee) Caucus: Democrats, Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 838 5638 0823, By Phone Dial: (646) 558-8656

**Tuesday, December 21**

- o 5:30 PM - Ways & Means Committee, Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 841 5037 1906, By Phone Dial: (646) 558-8656
- o 6:30 PM - Public Hearing: Pursuant to Section 1411(d) of the Not-for-Profit Law of the State of New York Regarding the Authorization of the Transfer of County Land. This Public Hearing will be livestreamed and available via vimeo at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>. Public Comment is administered by "Call In Studio": Dial 205-ULSTER-0 or (205) 857-8370 to be connected. Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk via email to [vfab@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:vfab@co.ulster.ny.us)
- o 6:40 PM - Special Joint Meeting of the Laws &

Rules, Governmental Services and Ways & Means Committees. This meeting will be livestreamed and available via vimeo at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>

- o 6:45 PM (or immediately following the Special Joint Meeting) - Legislative Session. This meeting will be livestreamed and available via vimeo at <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>. Public Comment is administered by "Call In Studio": Dial 205-ULSTER-0 or (205) 857-8370 to be connected. Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk via email to [vfab@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:vfab@co.ulster.ny.us)
- o 8:30 PM (or immediately following the Legislative Session) - Special Meeting of the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 890 4778 4662, By Phone Dial: (646) 558-8656

**Wednesday, December 22**

- o 3:00 PM - Electrical Licensing Board, at the Rondout Municipal Center, 1915 Lucas Tpke, Cottekill, NY 12419

**Thursday, December 23**

- o No Meetings

**Friday, December 24**

- o Holiday - County Offices Closed

**Happy Holidays,**

Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
 Ulster County Legislature

# Attorney General James Files Lawsuit Against Pet Store That Unlawfully and Deceptively Sold Sick Puppies to Consumers

Investigation Finds Shake A Paw Locations on Long Island Violated State Laws by Fabricating Health Certificates and Lying to Consumers About Health, Breed, and Origin of Puppies On Multiple Occasions, Shake A Paw Sold Consumers Critically Sick Puppies That Died Within Days or Weeks of Purchase

AG James Obtains Testimony From Vet Who Formerly Worked for Shake A Paw, Details Unethical Behavior and Inhumane Conditions of Dogs

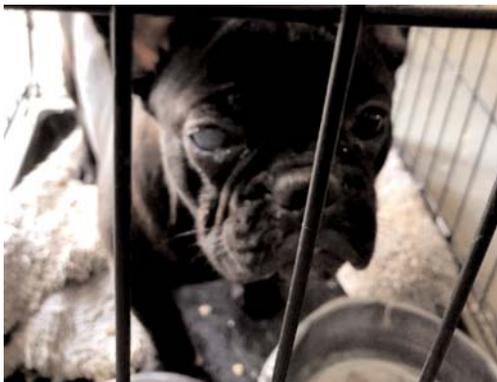
**WARNING:** Pictures of Mistreated Animals Below

NASSAU COUNTY - New York Attorney General Letitia James today filed a lawsuit against pet store Shake A Paw for unlawfully selling numerous sick or injured puppies to



unaware consumers at both of its Long Island locations. An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found that both Shake A Paw locations on Long Island - in Hicksville and in Lynbrook, which serve

the broader tri-state area - falsely advertised sick pets as healthy, fabricated health certificates, failed to disclose the animals' legitimate medical conditions, misrepresented puppies' breeds, and refused to reimburse con-



sumers for veterinarian bills when they lodged complaints with Shake A Paw. Attorney General James also filed a motion for a temporary restraining order against Shake A Paw in an effort to protect the puppies

# All I Want for Christmas is a Nice Warm Home and Someone to Adopt Me

If you have ever considered adopting a dog, have you thought about the perks of adopting an older dog? Older dogs are already housebroken, don't chew up your furniture or slippers like a puppy and you will have a good clue as to what their personality is. Life is tough for all of us when you get older.



This senior Lab/Shepherd mix is presently calling the local dog pound home. It wasn't so bad when it was sunny and warm. Now, the nights are longer and the temperature has dropped. The nights at the dog pound are lonely and cold for this female dog who is the only guest at the pound.

While the radio that the Dog Control Officer plays, does break the silence of the long cold nights, this poor lonely pooch is just waiting to lay by someone's feet, for a pat on the head, and to become someone's faithful companion.

Think about it. And... if you are not able to have a dog at this time, maybe you know someone who is.

If you want to make this senior female dog happy and warm this Christmas, why not call the Town of Neversink DCO at 845-985-7281 today and arrange to adopt her. It certainly would become a happy Holidays 2021 story.

**See page 44 for further information.**

in danger at the two Long Island locations, as well as to freeze funds that are in bank accounts managed by Shake A Paw for restitution.

"Shake A Paw's actions of deceiving consumers into purchasing sick or injured dogs is unconscionable and illegal," said Attorney General James. "My office's thorough investigation uncovered a series of violations by Shake A Paw that defrauded consumers and found sick puppies that came from dangerous puppy mills. When New Yorkers purchased puppies from Shake A Paw, they did not expect to bring home dogs in such heartbreaking and horrifying conditions. Today, we are holding Shake A Paw accountable for their unlawful and inhumane actions by filing a lawsuit to permanently ban the company from selling puppies any longer, as well as to recoup what consumers paid. Animal mistreatment is despicable and will not be tolerated."

## DEC Announces 2022 Exam Dates for Licensed Guides Program Exams to be Held Online

The State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced that examinations are scheduled for individuals seeking to become licensed guides in New York State. The exams being offered are for guiding in the following categories: camping; fishing; hiking; hunting; whitewater; rock climbing; ice climbing; and certified skilled with boats and canoes.

A guide is a person at least 18 years of age who offers services for hire, part or all of which include directing, instructing, or aiding another individual in fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, whitewater rafting/canoeing/kayaking, or rock and ice climbing.

DEC's Special Licenses Unit administers licensing of outdoor guides. Applicants need not be a resident of New York State to receive a guide's license.

To provide enhanced access to examinations for applicants, DEC is offering licensed guide examinations online in 2022. Exam dates and application deadlines are:

Feb. 4, 2022 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Registration must be received by Jan. 28, 2022)

March 5, 2022 - New York State Outdoor Guides Association (NYSOGA) meeting only (Registration must be received by Feb. 26, 2022). In addition, in-person examinations will be offered at the NYSOGA winter rendezvous on Mar. 5, 2022.

April 8, 2022 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Registration must be received by April 1, 2022)

May 13, 2022 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Registration must be received by May 6, 2022)

June 17, 2022 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Registration must be received by June 10, 2022)

Sept. 16, 2022 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Registration must be received by Sept. 9, 2022)

Oct. 14, 2022 - 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Registration must be received by Oct. 7, 2022)

The registration deadline for exams is seven days before the examination. Instructions and registration information about the exams can be found on DEC's Licensed Guide Program webpage.

To register, visit the 2022 Licensed Guide Exams Registration website and follow the directions. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging registration, and an additional one-time link for use to access the website on the date of the exam. Upon successful completion of the exam(s), applicants will receive information on applying for the appropriate guide license, including an application form. Please do not send applications or fees prior to passing the examination(s).

An outline of exam content and a study guide can be found on the DEC Licensed Guide Program webpage. The Fieldbook, a reference book published by the Boy Scouts of America, is also recommended and can be found at a local library or bookstore. A list of current New York State Licensed Guides is available online.

For questions or assistance, contact the Special Licenses Unit at NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752; Phone: 518-402-8985, Fax: 518-402-8925; Email: SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/html>

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation respects your right to privacy and welcomes your

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*Basil Seggos, Commissioner*

## DEC Announces Late-Season Deer Hunting Opportunities Opportunities for Bowhunters and Muzzleloaders

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos reminded hunters today that while deer hunting has ended in the Northern Zone, and the regular season has concluded in the Southern Zone, bowhunters and muzzleloaders still have opportunities to secure venison for their families.

"Late-season deer hunting in New York State is a great opportunity for hunters to venture afield," Commissioner Seggos said. "The late bow and muzzleloader season opened December 13th and runs through December 21st in the Southern Zone, and this year DEC is pleased to provide the Holiday Deer Hunt for hunters across the Southern Zone to get outside with friends and family during the holiday break."

The Holiday Deer Hunt, which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, 2022, is an extension of the late bow and muzzleloader season providing new deer hunting opportunities to families and friends gathering for the holidays. Hunters must possess a bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege to participate in the late bow or muzzleloader seasons and may use all deer carcass tags valid during those seasons. The Holiday Hunt will occur in all Southern Zone counties this year, as previously authorized.

### **Additional late season opportunities include:**

Bowhunting for deer continues in Westchester County until Dec. 31;

January Firearms Season in Suffolk County is open Jan. 2-31, 2022; and

The special Deer Management Focus Area Season for antlerless deer in central Tompkins County is Jan. 8-31, 2022.

These late seasons are a great time to put some venison in the freezer or donate venison to others. During the late seasons DEC encourages hunters to continue to pass up young, small-antlered bucks. Focusing harvest on antlerless deer instead contributes to population management and eases the pressure on antlered bucks. Every late-season deer hunter has at least one tag for antlerless deer, with either-sex and antlerless-only "Bow/Muzz" tags and unfilled regular season tags that can also be used for antlerless deer during the late seasons. When hunters choose to Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow, there is a great chance those bucks will be available next year with more meat and larger antlers.

Hunters are reminded that it is now a requirement to wear blaze orange or pink when pursuing deer with a firearm. This requirement helps hunters identify other hunters who may be down range, and alerts other outdoor enthusiasts they are sharing the woods with hunters. Also, always follow the basics of hunter safety:

Assume every gun is loaded;

Control the muzzle. Point your gun in a safe direction;

Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot; and

Be sure of your target and beyond.

For more information about New York State's hunting seasons, go to DEC's website.



# Gotsch

## Christmas Tree Farm

Blue and White Spruce

Cut-Your-Own Tree: \$30 any tree

Fresh Pre-Cut Tree: \$35 any tree

**Open:** 9:00 am to 4:30 pm (Weekends Listed Below)

November 26, 27, & 28

December 4 & 5

December 11 & 12

December 18 & 19

Closed Christmas Eve

Weekdays by Appointment Only

**86 Knight Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740**

**Phone: 845-985-7902**

Daniel Pierce Library Patron

# WINTER READING "AlphaBOOKbet" CHALLENGE

December 1st - March 1st

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

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

<https://danielpiercelibrary.org>



WIN PRIZE BOOKS | ALL AGES WELCOME TO READ

## DEC Statewide Forest Ranger Highlights *Recent Forest Ranger Actions*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Rangers respond to search and rescue incidents statewide. Working with other state agencies, local emergency response organizations, and volunteer search and rescue groups, Forest Rangers locate and extract lost, injured, or distressed people from across New York State.

In 2020, DEC Forest Rangers conducted 492 search and rescue missions, extinguished 192 wildfires that burned a total of more than 1,122 acres, participated in eight prescribed fires that served to rejuvenate more than 203 acres, and worked on cases that resulted in 3,131 tickets or arrests.

"During New York's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, more people are enjoying the outdoors than ever before and our Forest Rangers are on the front lines to help people get outside responsibly and get home safely," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Rangers' knowledge of first aid, land navigation, and technical rescue techniques are critical to the success of their missions, which for more than a century have taken them from remote wilderness areas with rugged mountain peaks, to white water rivers, and throughout our vast forests statewide."

### **Town of Kingston Ulster County**

**Wilderness Search:** On Dec. 10 at 5:15 p.m., Central Dispatch received a call requesting Forest Ranger assistance for a lost hiker at Onteora Lake in Bluestone Wild Forest. The 25-year-old hiker from Massachusetts, unfamiliar with the trail, called for assistance as it was getting dark and their cell phone battery was dying. Ranger Franceschina and two New York State Police Troopers responded. Using a GPS pin drop supplied by the hiker, Ranger Franceschina located the subject just off the northeast side of Pickerel Pond at 6:30 p.m., and with the State Troopers, led the hiker out of the woods. Resources were clear at 7:15 p.m.

**Sun Trail Storage**  
Sun Trail is a local family-owned business  
**God Bless America**

Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd  
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**Hours of  
Operation:  
7 AM - 9 PM  
Every day  
of the week  
Call (845) 985-7923  
or  
(914) 672-3952**

**Please call for availability first**

### **Town of Wawarsing Ulster County**

**Wilderness Rescue:** On Dec. 11 at 12:30 p.m., Ulster County 911 received a call about an ATV accident off Old Plank Road in the town of Wawarsing. Forest Ranger Rusher was patrolling the area and responded with Ellenville Fire, Cragmoor Fire, Ellenville First Aid, New York State Police, and the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. A 54-year-old from Hewitt crashed into a tree on a private road while hunting. That section of the woods, near Nevele Falls, is steep, rocky, and muddy. The hunter sustained multiple injuries to his leg, shoulder, and rib cage. Rescue crews treated the subject before carrying him out of the woods. Ellenville First Aid transported the patient to the hospital. Resources were clear at 2:15 p.m.

Be sure to properly prepare and plan before entering the backcountry. Visit DEC's Hike Smart NY, Adirondack Backcountry Information, and Catskill Backcountry Information webpages for more information.

**Monti Elks Bingo**  
**7:00 -pm Every Tuesday**  
**at the Lodge • 46 North Street • Monticello**

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

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

For information Contact Bingo Chair  
and Past Exalted Ruler Lisa Muller at: 914-799-1831

## Ulster County Announces This Week's Distribution Plan for Free Rapid At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

**Residents will have the ability to pick up kits in multiple sites throughout Ulster County beginning the week of December 20th**

• *Ulster County has launched a website with additional information on what to do if you test positive while using an at-home test*

• *33,000 COVID-19 at-home rapid test kits will be distributed directly to residents throughout the county at no cost to better allow our schools and businesses to remain open safely while increasing equitable access to testing*

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Rapid at-home COVID-19 test kits are being provided at no cost to cities, towns and villages throughout Ulster County, helping to ensure fair and equitable access to vital testing resources. Distribution will begin for some municipalities the week of December 20th on the following schedule:

- o Saugerties Senior Center, 207 Market Street, December 20th, 4-6pm
- o Kingston City Hall, 420 Broadway, December 20-22, 10am-12pm
- o Shandaken Town Hall, 7209 NY-28, December 21st, 12-2pm
- o Ellenville Village Hall, 2 Elting Court #2, December 22nd, 4-6pm
- o New Paltz Community Center, 3 Veterans Drive, December 22nd, 5-7pm
- o Woodstock Community Center, 56 Rock City Road, December 23rd, 1:30p

More distribution locations to be announced. Residents can contact their town's offices with any questions. Parents and students will have additional information on kit distribution next week from their school districts as well. Ulster County is also partnering with the following non-profit partners who will distribute test kits to their clients: People's Place, the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Center, For the Many, YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kingston and Saugerties, Beyond the 4 Walls Outreach Program, Samadhi, and Family of Woodstock.

Please remember to call ahead to make arrangements for outside pick-up, if you are symptomatic, to stem the spread of COVID-19.

"Twenty months into the pandemic, we know how essential it is to have access to rapid testing in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools and businesses open," Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan said. "Ulster County has partnered with our schools, municipalities, and community groups, to ensure quick and easy access to tests that will ultimately lead to keeping our community safer." (Contd. Pg. 31)



*Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan hands out COVID-19 at-home rapid test kits at the Andy Murphy Neighborhood Center in Midtown Kingston*

# Ulster County Announces This Week's Distribution Plan for Free Rapid At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

## Residents will have the ability to pick up kits in multiple sites throughout Ulster County beginning the week of December 20th

(From Pg. 30)

"I want to thank County Executive Pat Ryan for providing these kits to the residents of New Paltz and Ulster County." New Paltz Supervisor Neil Bettez said. "Getting tested and easy access to testing is critical to helping stop the spread of COVID-19. I encourage all residents to take additional precautions as we enter these critical winter months."

Additionally, County Executive Pat Ryan provided information on what residents should do in the event they test positive with an at-home kit.

Ulster County will continue to hold regular vaccination PODs for residents who need to receive their 1st dose, 2nd dose, or booster dose. Appointments are recommended for the County's vaccination PODs; although walk-ins will be accommodated as capacity allows. Sign up for an appointment at [VaccinateUlster.com](http://VaccinateUlster.com).

Last week, County Executive Ryan announced that 33,000 COVID-19 at-home rapid test kits had been secured for county schools, towns and nonprofits to distribute directly to families and residents in an effort to allow local schools and businesses to remain open safely while increasing testing capacity and access throughout the county. The test kits are being distributed this week to cities, towns and villages throughout Ulster County, and residents interested in receiving a free test kit should contact their local municipal offices beginning Monday, December 20th, for information on how free tests will be distributed locally and the hours of availability. School districts will reach out to families with information on pick-up within local schools.

### What to do if you test positive with at-home rapid COVID test:

Recipients of the free COVID-19 at-home rapid tests should follow the manufacturer's instructions for administering the test. Anyone who tests positive should immediately isolate themselves from others, regardless of vaccination status. Isolation includes retiring to a separate room in the house and avoiding contact with others in the household. If symptomatic, consult with a doctor about treatment and how to isolate people who need caregiving.

Report positive at-home test results to the Department of Health online at [covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/hometest/](http://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/hometest/) or by calling the Ulster County Recovery Service Center (RSC) at 845-443-8888. (Negative test results do not need to be reported to the Department of Health.) Necessary information to report a positive test result includes:

- o Name of person tested
- o Date of birth
- o Email address
- o Phone number
- o Physical address
- o Date of test
- o A photo image of the positive test result is REQUIRED by New York State Department of Health and should be taken within 24 hours of test administration.

Once a positive test result is reported to the Department of Health, you will be contacted by a public health nurse for case investigation and documentation which you can provide to your school or employer; please be sure to answer phone calls from unfamiliar numbers while waiting to hear from the health department.

For questions, please call the Ulster County Recovery Service Center (RSC) at 845-443-8888.

Please Wear  
a Face Mask



Help Stop the Spread

### Why wear a mask?

Out of respect.

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

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

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

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

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

## Attorney General James Concludes New York's Opioid Trial

*Teva Pharmaceuticals USA is Last Remaining NYS Defendant in Trial*

*AG James Has Already Negotiated Up to \$1.7 Billion for New York From Different Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors*

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today released the following statement after New York state concluded its opioid trial in Suffolk County State Supreme Court against the final remaining New York state defendant not currently in bankruptcy - Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. and its affiliates:

"Today marks an important milestone as we conclude the trial against the last remaining defendant in our opioids trial - Teva Pharmaceuticals USA.

"More than two years ago, I made a promise that we would hold opioid manufacturers and distributors accountable for the deaths and the suffering caused by an epidemic that they helped fuel. And, one-by-one, we have done just that.

"We have already secured up to \$1.7 billion from the various defendants we initially sued, and that figure may grow.

"While no amount of money will ever compensate for the human suffering, the addiction, or the lives lost due to opioid abuse, this money will be essential in helping every corner of the state - from the North Country to Western New York, from the Southern Tier to Long Island, and up and down the Hudson - recover from this epidemic.

"Today, I am left thinking about all those families that will never be whole again. For everyone who lost their life. For every parent who will never hold their child again. For every community that's been devastated. But, today, we turn the tide.

"I am also eternally grateful to our trial team and every other member of the office that put time into this virtually important case."

In March 2019, Attorney General James filed the nation's most extensive lawsuit to hold accountable the various manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid epidemic. The manufacturers named in the complaint included Purdue Pharma and its affiliates, as well as members of the Sackler Family (owners of Purdue) and trusts they control; Janssen Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates (including its parent company Johnson & Johnson); Mallinckrodt LLC and its affiliates; Endo Health Solutions and its affiliates; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. and its affiliates; and Allergan Finance, LLC and its affiliates. The distributors named in the complaint were McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc., Amerisource Bergen Drug Corporation, and Rochester Drug Cooperative Inc.

Last week, an agreement with Allergan was reached that will deliver up to \$200 million to New York state and Nassau and Suffolk counties for opioid abatement, as well as make enforceable a bar that stops Allergan and all of its subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors from selling opioids in New York and acknowledges Allergan's prior exit

from the opioid business.

In September, an agreement with Endo was reached that has already delivered \$50 million to New York state and Nassau and Suffolk counties to combat the opioid crisis.

Also, in September, the bankruptcy court in Purdue confirmed a \$4.5 billion plan - at least \$200 million of which will be earmarked for New York - from the Sackler family and foundations that they control, will end the Sacklers' ability to manufacture opioids ever again, and will shut down Purdue Pharma.

In July, a settlement with McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen that will deliver up to \$1 billion to New York state to combat the opioid epidemic was announced.

In June, a settlement that ended Johnson & Johnson's sale of opioids nationwide and that will deliver \$230 million to New York alone was announced.

The deals with Johnson & Johnson, McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen have a global value of approximately \$26 billion. (Contd. Pg. 32 )



**BECOME  
SOMEONE'S  
Angel**

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

**HOPE**  
not HANDCUFFS  
www.hopenothandcuffshv.com

## Attorney General James Concludes New York's Opioid Trial

(From Pg. 32) The cases against Mallinckrodt and Rochester Drug Cooperative are now moving separately through U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Pursuant to the new law establishing the opioid settlement fund, all funds collected by the state from opioid settlements or litigation victories will be allocated specifically for abatement efforts in communities devastated by the opioid epidemic and will not go towards the state's general fund.

Separately, but related to her work on opioids, this past February, Attorney General James co-led a coalition of nearly every attorney general in the nation in delivering more than \$573 million - more than \$32 million of which was earmarked for New York state - toward opioid treatment and abatement in an agreement and consent judgment with McKinsey & Company.

## NYS Supportive Housing Program Offers Critical Funding for Services that Help Individuals and Families Avoid Homelessness

*State Funding Allows 128 Community-Based Organizations to Provide Supportive Services to Vulnerable New Yorkers.*

Governor Kathy Hochul announced today that \$40 million is being awarded to 128 nonprofit organizations and local governments to provide services to residents of supportive housing developments in communities across New York State. Administered by the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the New York State Supportive Housing Program will provide 136 permanent supportive housing developments as well as 141 sites overseen by the New York City Department of Homeless Services with operating funding used to deliver the assistance their residents need to break cycles of homelessness.

"As the pandemic continues, we must continue to strengthen our supportive services networks, which provide vulnerable New Yorkers with the assistance they need to live a safe and stable life," Governor Hochul said. "By coupling affordable housing with supportive services, we are helping vulnerable New Yorkers address and overcome the complex root causes of their housing instability, so they can break the vicious cycle and move forward to live independent, fulfilling lives."

In total, the funding will provide services for 17,539 single adult beds, 2,542 family units, and 372 young adult beds in supportive housing developments in 45 counties throughout the state. View a list of the awards.

The New York State Supportive Housing Program is designed to provide funding for direct services to assist eligible populations residing in permanent or transitional housing projects. Funds support the cost of services designed to promote housing stability and greater independence, including employability, health stability and academic attainment.

The program assists a wide breadth of New Yorkers, including victims of domestic violence; individuals with mental illness or a history of substance use disorder; veterans; individuals previously involved in the criminal justice system; and indi-

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viduals living with HIV/AIDS. Also, young adults aging out of the foster care system; runaway or homeless youth; families whose temporary assistance is expiring or expired; families with multiple barriers to employment and housing stability; families at-risk of having their children placed in foster care; and families reuniting with children after foster care placement.

The supportive services funded through the program are designed to help individuals and families to remain in stable housing so they can avoid housing insecurity or placement in emergency shelters. These services include case management; benefits and health care advocacy; counseling and crisis intervention; employment or vocational assistance; educational assistance; parenting skills development; and life skills training, among others.

Studies have consistently shown the long-term and cost effectiveness of supportive housing in helping vulnerable populations achieve and maintain housing stability. Supportive housing is also effective at achieving other positive outcomes in terms of mental and physical health, and alleviating the use of health care, corrections, and other systems by those experiencing homelessness.

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Executive Deputy Commissioner Barbara C. Guinn said "All too often, New Yorkers who are facing or experiencing homelessness are also coping with an underlying issue that is contributing to their housing insecurity. The New York State Supportive Housing Program provides funding to nonprofit community-based organizations so they can provide the essential services these individuals and families can utilize to break cycles of homelessness." (Contd. Pg. 36)



# VET 2 VET

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

---

## CORE SERVICES PROVIDED:

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

### For more information contact:

Ryan Fuller at (845) 794-4228

Kevin Coates at (845) 794-4228

Visit our website at [atitoday.org](http://atitoday.org)



# SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



## NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE O (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](mailto:nickneedsokidney@gmail.com)

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

## NYS Supportive Housing Program Offers Critical Funding for Services that Help Individuals and Families Avoid Homelessness

(From Pg. 33) Supportive Housing Network of New York Executive Director Laura Mascuch said, "On behalf of the Supportive Housing Network of New York's more than 200 non-profit member organizations, we thank the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for the recently announced awards of \$40 million to support services in 136 supportive housing residences across New York State through the New York State Supportive Housing Program. NYSSHP is not infrequently members' sole source of funding to help tenants live stably and with dignity in their community and is critically important to helping break the cycle of homelessness for the state's most vulnerable homeless families and individuals."

The Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks said, "The NYC Department of Social Services has made important progress addressing homelessness and strengthening pathways to stability for all New Yorkers in need. This has included connecting nearly 180,000 New Yorkers to meaningful permanent affordable housing opportunities and more than 16,000 New Yorkers to supportive housing opportunities. We are grateful for this vital funding from the State which will help build on this progress and further reinforce our mission to provide vulnerable New Yorkers with the kind of high-quality supports and resources they need and deserve as they get back on their feet."

Social Services Committee Chair Senator Roxanne Persaud said, "Tens of thousands of vulnerable adults and families across New York State have safe homes because of supportive housing programs. This \$40 million being awarded to nearly 130 non-profits sustains wrap-around services that ultimately foster stability, independence, achievement and recovery for struggling New Yorkers."

## Update from Representative Delgado

As we get closer to the end of the year, I wanted to give you an update on how I've been serving you.

On Friday, I visited the Canajoharie Family Health Center to deliver holiday cards to health care workers. The cards I delivered were made by community members throughout New York's 19th District and collected as part of my annual Holiday Cards for Heroes Program. This is the third year that my office has collected holiday cards for upstate active-duty service members. During COVID-19, we expanded the program to include cards for frontline health care workers.

Our local health care workers are on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19. This program is a way for our community to thank these local heroes for everything they do. I am so glad I was able to deliver a festive token of our appreciation and I am committed to supporting health care workers and community health centers as they work tirelessly to keep us all safe and healthy.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Arkell Museum and Canajoharie Library, a cultural hub serving upstate New York's Mohawk Valley region. Initially a 1927 wing of the Canajoharie Library and later expanded, the museum is home to an impressive collection of 19th Century American paintings, exhibits documenting the rich history of the Mohawk Valley, and a multitude of programs that attract visitors from across the country.

This week I also had the privilege of speaking with the Schoharie County Child Development Council (SCCDC) about their program, American Rescue Plan Funding, community engagement, Head

Start, and the impact of COVID on their work and the community.

### Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program Extension

FEMA has been working with the General Services Administration to resolve interface issues related to SAM.gov that were affecting some applicants' ability to begin inputting their federal 2021 (AFG) Program applications into the FEMA GO System.

Specifically, some applicants that received error messages stating their organizations were not found and that their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)/Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) combination did not exist despite the applicants' SAM.gov accounts being fully active.

As this issue is ongoing, the FY 2021 AFG Program application period will remain open until January 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

All applicants will automatically be granted this extension. This ensures that applicants affected by the UEI/EFT issue will have sufficient time to complete the online application. The extension to the application period will not affect the award timeline. In the meantime, FEMA continues to strongly encourage applicants to review the FY 2021 AFG Program Notice of Funding Opportunity and the associated tools posted on the FEMA website here:

FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Application Guidance Materials | FEMA.gov.

In preparation for application submission, applicants may also draft their narratives separately and cut and paste them into the appropriate areas of FEMA GO once the SAM.gov interface issue is resolved. For information on what should be included in this section, please review the FY 2021 AFG Program Narrative Get Ready Guide.

### COVID-19 Booster Shot and Vaccine Update

**BOOSTER UPDATE:** Teens 16-17 years old who received their Pfizer-BioNTech initial vaccine series at least six months ago are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech booster. New Yorkers 18 years and older who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna initial vaccine series at least six months ago or the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least two months ago are eligible for a booster dose.

New Yorkers 18 years and older can receive any of the FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines for their booster dose, including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. 16-17 year olds can only receive the Pfizer-BioNTech booster. If you have questions, talk to your health care provider or vaccine administrator.

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

### Get Covered

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

Open Enrollment will continue through January 31, 2022.

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

### Staying Healthy & Safe

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Antonio

## Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce is promoting **Shop Small Sullivan Holiday 2021**

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce is promoting Shop Small Sullivan Holiday 2021 with participating businesses to encourage shopping locally in November and December.

**Download the Shop Small Sullivan Holiday 2021 flyer by clicking on this link:**

[https://growthzonesitesprod.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/984/2021/11/2021\\_ShopSmallFlyer\\_2-1.pdf](https://growthzonesitesprod.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/984/2021/11/2021_ShopSmallFlyer_2-1.pdf)



The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce is promoting **Shop Small Sullivan** 🎁 **Holiday 2021** with participating businesses to encourage shopping locally in November and December.

**Please visit the businesses listed on the next page**

**While shopping tag us on social media using the hashtags:  
#scnychamber #shopsmallsvillvanny**

**Happy Holidays from The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce!**

## Schumer, Gillibrand Announce More than \$30 Million in Federal Funding for NY Airports

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced \$136,977,897 in federal funding for 59 airports across New York State. The FY22 funding was allocated through the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and can be used for improvements related to runways, taxiways, safety and sustainability projects, as well as terminal, airport-transit connections and roadway projects.

"Air travel was severely impacted during the pandemic, and this tremendous investment from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, which I championed in the Senate, will help New York's airports and local economies take off," said Senator Schumer. "Upstate Airports connect businesses and residents and allow economic opportunities to cruise in. As majority leader, I am proud to land this significant funding for New York's airports and will continue to fight for the resources needed to fully recover and reach new heights."

"New York's airports connect our state with the world, creating economic opportunity, facilitating tourism, and providing a safe and efficient travel experience," said Senator Gillibrand. "That's why I'm proud to have voted for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to deliver this historic investment to over 50 airports across New York State. These funds will allow our airports to recover from the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the ever-increasing demand for air travel. I'll keep fighting for federal resources to bolster and modernize New York's infrastructure."

## New York Power Authority Collaborates with Tel-Aviv-Based Award Winner to Use Artificial Intelligence to Monitor Transmission Lines Improving Statewide Grid Security, Enabling Reliable Clean Power Delivery

*New York to Use Innovative Technology to Digitally Assess Energy Assets, Share Advances with Global Utility Industry*

*Round Two International Energy Technology Competition to Launch in 2022*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the winner of the New York-Israel Smart Energy Innovation Challenge, a competitive award with a value of \$1 million that enables New York State to partner with an Israeli company to develop an innovative energy technology that helps New York advance its clean energy agenda. Governor Hochul made the announcement on behalf of the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the largest state public utility in the U.S., which identified Tel-Aviv-based Prisma Photonics as the contest winner. Prisma was awarded for its real-time transmission line issue detection system that will help improve grid safety,

security and reliability while advancing the efficient delivery of clean power statewide. New York Power Authority Interim President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll and Israel's Consul General Asaf Zamir met in midtown Manhattan today to celebrate the award announcement.

"Today two of the world's leading energy technology centers - New York and Israel - are coming together to develop new technologies that will benefit both parties as well as the global utility industry," said Governor Hochul. "New York State and Israel are working together through this smart energy challenge to develop solutions that will result in resilient, renewable and affordable energy systems. With the assistance of smart Israeli companies through innovative partnerships like this one, we are rapidly pursuing technologies with the potential to optimize our energy infrastructure and further develop a state-of-the-art grid that is equipped to deliver reliable, affordable, clean power statewide."

Ambassador Asaf Zamir, Consul General of Israel in New York, said, "It's very exciting to see an old and strong friendship like the one between Israel and New York produce cutting edge partnerships that actually modernize that relationship and produce great results for New Yorkers and Israelis. This partnership, under the Governor's leadership, and the continuation of this great annual energy technology competition, will keep New York and the State of Israel working together as we lead the world to a more sustainable future."

The groundbreaking technology will use optical fiber sensing and artificial intelligence to detect potentially disruptive activity on transmission lines. The Governor also announced today a second \$1 million smart energy competition for 2022 calling for new energy innovators to apply for an award and encouraged New York's continued collaboration with innovative Israeli energy technology firms on creative energy solutions. NYPA uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations - including this award - through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity.

### 2021 Challenge Winner

Prisma Photonics, a Tel-Aviv-based provider of smart monitoring solutions for physical infrastructure, was selected as the 2021 challenge winner through a competition for new utility related technologies jointly organized with the Israel Smart Energy Association (ISEA) and NYPA. NYPA and Prisma Photonics will collaborate on a research and development project to advance the functionality of Prisma Photonics' sensor free grid monitoring platform already installed through a pilot project on one of NYPA's transmission lines. These advancements will include integration of new, artificial intelligence-based, detection algorithms and a dashboard to provide real-time event notification and integration with other Authority operational data.

NYPA Interim President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll said, "The Power Authority has realized important benefits from our previous relationships with Israeli firms by pursuing smart technologies of mutual interest and this latest venture will elevate us to a new level of detection to help maintain our power systems. Through this collaboration, we, together with Israel, will advance best practices in the energy industry and provide benefits for power delivery systems worldwide. The technology supported with this new partnership will employ artificial intelligence to augment our existing transmission asset sensor program, which has proven to be highly effective in identifying potentially costly issues and monitoring power flow and system performance."

In early 2020, the Authority together with the ISEA issued the NYPA-Israel Smart Energy Challenge to solicit start-up technologies from companies headquartered in Israel that support New York's clean energy transition. (Contd. Pg. 30)

# New York Power Authority Collaborates with Tel-Aviv-Based Award Winner to Use Artificial Intelligence to Monitor Transmission Lines Improving Statewide Grid Security, Enabling Reliable Clean Power Delivery

(From Pg. 38) The competition sought proposals from Israeli companies with expertise in energy efficiency and clean energy generation that wanted to work with New York's public utility to scale up their technology in pilot demonstration projects to meet the specific needs of power utilities operations. A second Smart Energy Innovation Challenge, announced today, will similarly be a \$1 million competition that will allow NYPA to select another innovative company to help create significant advances in grid reliability, storage, sustainability and affordability, all of which benefit ratepayers, utilities and the environment.

Doron Gover, Head of the NYPA-Israel Smart Energy Innovation Hub, said, "NYPA's collaboration with Israeli's innovative companies yields mutual benefit by introducing new solutions for commercial usage in large scale electric utilities. The challenge enables pilot installation of Prisma Photonics solutions in order to achieve significant advances in grid reliability, resilience, sustainability and affordability."

The Prisma Photonics / NYPA partnership supports New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (the Climate Act), which creates the most aggressive climate change program in the U.S. and pledges a move toward becoming a carbon neutral state economy by 2050. As a leading transmission developer in the state and as part of its series of strategic investments, NYPA is concentrating its transmission portfolio on projects that balance system planning, returns and wider state objectives to generate a responsible supply of affordable, clean and reliable electricity.

As the winning submission, Prisma Photonics earns the opportunity to work with NYPA, a large utility to support New York's clean energy transition as well as NYPA's strategic priorities. The firm's technology monitors transmission network performance along the grid 24 hours a day using existing optical fibers, detecting vandalism, climbing, tower hits, damaged lines, etc., and providing data that is analyzed so alerts can be sent directly to the relevant NYPA operation center. The project will start in the vicinity of NYPA's Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project in Schoharie County.

NYPA had already engaged Prisma Photonics for a pilot project in December 2020 to demonstrate the capabilities of the firm's sensor. Based on its success, Prisma proposed an 18-month real-time detection and notification project that uses artificial intelligence to recognize attacks on transmission towers using the previously demonstrated fiber sensing-based technology. Prisma Photonics, which submitted a proposal in the open competition, was determined to be the best "fit" for the Challenge partnership.

Dr. Eran Inbar, CEO of Prisma Photonics said, "We are honored to be selected as the Challenge winners. It is a true vote of confidence from NYPA and New York State, and we're proud to be taking part in a trailblazing climate and clean energy initiative, setting the stage for a cleaner, safer

energy future."

Israel's Economic Minister for North America, said, "Israel's Economic Mission is very excited to have yet another Israeli company closely collaborating with NYPA. Prisma Photonics is a leader in smart monitoring solutions. There is no doubt that under this collaboration with NYPA Prisma's AI-enabled sensor-free grid monitoring platform will be one of the most promising solutions in the utility space. We look forward to further collaborations between NYPA, New York and Israeli companies."

## 2022 Competition

The 2022 Smart Energy Innovation Challenge will open in January. The competition's focus is on next generation technology such as electric vehicle charging, reliability with electrical grid systems, energy storage, buildings/campus energy management, data analytics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and demand flexibility technologies. Interested companies can learn more about the challenge and submission details and deadlines in January on NYPA's Smart Energy Innovation Challenge web page. A webinar with additional competition details also will be held in January.

In other partnerships, NYPA is collaborating with Israeli firms mPrest, Brenmiller Energy and SIGA OT in a wide variety of areas with an emphasis on physical and cyber security. mPrest, a leading provider of monitoring and control systems, assisted NYPA in developing a first-of-its-kind monitoring system to identify issues before they occur at NYPA's statewide network of power projects and transmissions assets. Israeli developer Brenmiller Energy coordinated with NYPA to test the use of thermal energy storage with combined heat and power to increase system energy efficiency once installed on a State University of New York campus. SIGA OT provides sensors and analytics right from the source to improve confidence and enhance the reliability, safety and cybersecurity of the grid.

## New York State's Nation-Leading Climate Plan

New York State's nation-leading climate agenda is the most aggressive climate and clean energy initiative in the nation, calling for an orderly and just transition to clean energy that creates jobs and continues fostering a green economy as New York State recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Enshrined into law through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, New York is on a path to achieve its mandated goal of a zero-emission electricity sector by 2040, including 70 percent renewable energy generation by 2030, and to reach economy wide carbon neutrality. It builds on New York's unprecedented investments to ramp-up clean energy including over \$33 billion in 102 large-scale renewable and transmission projects across the state, \$6.8 billion to reduce buildings emissions, \$1.8 billion to scale up solar, more than \$1 billion for clean transportation initiatives, and over \$1.6 billion in NY Green Bank commitments. Combined, these investments are supporting nearly 158,000 jobs in New York's clean energy sector in 2020, a 2,100 percent growth in the distributed solar sector since 2011 and a commitment to develop 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035. Under the Climate Act, New York will build on this progress and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, while ensuring that at least 35 percent with a goal of 40 percent of the benefits of clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities, and advance progress towards the state's 2025 energy efficiency target of reducing on-site energy consumption by 185 trillion BTUs of end-use energy savings.

## This Week in Washington: Representative Claudia Tenney

This week, President Biden again called on the Senate to adopt radical election reform bills that would centralize control of our elections, giving more power to nameless bureaucrats in Washington, DC.

As co-chair of the Election Integrity Caucus, I've been fighting against dangerous proposals like H.R. 1, the so-called For The People Act, as well as H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. These bills would undermine election integrity by centralizing authority in Washington and weakening commonsense measures like Voter ID, which a majority of Americans supports. I testified this week before the House Committee on Administration, which has jurisdiction over election policies, about the need to abandon these bills and work to restore voter confidence in the democratic process.

In addition, this week I also signed on to the Protecting Our Democracy by Preventing Foreign Citizens from Voting Act. This bill prohibits federal funds from being provided to state and local governments that allow non-citizens to vote in any election, like progressives in New York City recently did.

The integrity of our elections is essential to the functioning of our Constitutional Republic. Over the generations countless Americans have fought, marched, and died to protect and expand this sacred right. It is essential for the American people to know that their elections are fair and that only legal votes are counted. I will not back down from this fight and I look forward to continuing to build momentum in Congress to stand against any radical takeover of our elections.

### **New York Should Not be Purchasing Tech from Dangerous Chinese Companies – China Tech Threat Exclusive: NY Reps. Call on Governor Hochul to Bolster State Cyber Protections**

New York State has spent tens of millions of dollars on technology products from companies owned and operated by the Chinese Communist Party. These companies - many of which are blacklisted by U.S. intelligence agencies - pose a significant threat to our national security. This exposes New Yorkers to hacking and cyber-espionage. Some of these firms New York continues to work with have even been involved in the mass genocide of Uyghur Muslims in China.

Doing business with these risky China-controlled tech companies compromises the security of New York residents and businesses. This week I led a letter with my New York colleagues asking Governor Hochul to be transparent about her plans to stop purchasing dangerous tech from the Chinese. Read our letter on my website here. Do these purchases worry you? Let me know!

### **Leading Charge to Defend Free Speech Online**

–Tenney Fights to Protect Free Speech on Twitter

### **Daily Caller Exclusive: Congressional Republicans Press New Twitter CEO Over Censorship of Free Speech**

Twitter's track record of censoring conservatives on its platform while allowing the Supreme Leader of Iran and communist Chinese government officials to remain demonstrates a lack of leadership and accountability. As a member of the Republican Big Tech, Censorship, and Data Task Force, I am seeking answers from Parag Agrawal, Twitter's new CEO. It is my sincere hope that he will take this opportunity to be transparent and protect freedom of speech

This week, I led several of my colleagues on the Big Tech Task Force, including its chair Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, in a letter to Mr. Agrawal asking that as he transitions into this new role, that he assures the protection of free speech on Twitter. Nameless big tech censors cannot continue to trample on our First Amendment rights, while hiding behind special legal immunities provided by Congress. You can read the letter on my website here.

## My Votes Explained

I'm committed to restoring transparency to government, which is why I explain every vote I take on the House floor. While we may not always agree, you will always know where I stand on the issues and how I vote in Congress. To read more about my votes, please go to my website.

**I voted "No" on S.J. Res. 33** - to raise the debt limit by \$2.5 trillion. Since re-taking power, Democrats in Congress have embarked on a wasteful partisan spending spree despite record inflation and significant challenges to our economy. This measure is an attempt to clear the way for even more debt-financed federal spending on destructive programs. It is a blank check enabling Democrats to push through their \$3 trillion harmful, socialist spending package. This legislation passed by a vote of 221-209.

**I voted "No" on H.R. 5665**, the Combatting International Islamophobia Act. No person should face discrimination, whether it is based on their race, color, religion, or sex. Thankfully, this is why we have anti-discrimination protections in law, as well as federal programs to fight discrimination and hate abroad. This bill, however, is simply a bad-faith messaging bill by Democrats, who are aiming to duplicate existing programs without any input from across the aisle. This bill passed by a vote of 219-212.

**I voted "No" on H.Res. 851**, a resolution to find Mark Meadows, a former Member of the House of Representatives and former Chief of Staff to the President of the United States, in contempt of Congress for allegedly failing to respond to a subpoena issued by the Select Committee and refers him to the Department of Justice for prosecution. Meadows made good faith efforts to cooperate with the Select Committee for months, while maintaining his assertions of executive privilege. Meadows produced nearly 7,000 pages of non-privileged emails and other documents that were outside the scope of his executive privilege claim. Mr. Meadows filed suit on December 8, 2021, in federal district court to stop the Committee's overreach, and protect his assertions of executive privilege and testimonial immunity. Until the court rules on the merits of those claims, it is entirely inappropriate for Congress to find Mr. Meadows in contempt and refer him for prosecution. This bill passed 222-208.

### **2021 US Service Academy Nominations Announced**

It is my honor to nominate 11 tremendously talented students from our region to the US Service Academies. These students were nominated based on their academic achievement, exceptional character, and commitment to community service. It is so inspiring to see the next generation motivated to serve our country in such an honorable and courageous way. I wish them great success as they begin this new chapter in life. These students were recommended to me for nomination by a local committee made up of community leaders and veterans from across New York's 22nd Congressional District.

## Nesin Cultural Arts Programs Spring 2022



*Nesin Cultural Arts (NCA) Younger Children's Chorus students sing with the help of older students in the Treble Makers Chorus and NCA Chorale classes.*

(Monticello, NY) Nesin Cultural Arts (NCA) has announced that registration for Performing & Fine Arts classes for the Spring 2022 Semester will open January 3rd. The Semester runs January 31st through May 15th. NCA programs will be operating on-site in Monticello, NY following COVID safety protocols. Virtual options are available by request to ensure the safety of families and artists. NCA provides professional and affordable arts programs for students of all ages.

Courses include: Young Children's Chorus for Grades Pre-K-1 and Treble Makers Chorus for Grades 2-5 directed by Emily McConnell with accompanist Jeff Yeung. NCA Chorale for Grades 6-12 directed by Amy Phillips with accompanist Jeff Yeung. Honors Chorus for ages 8-18 directed by Amy Phillips. Students must audition to be accepted into Honors Chorus. Dance Programs include: First Steps for Pre-K-1, Tiny Dancers for Grades 2-5, Ballet I/Jazz I for Grades 6-12, and NCA Dance Company for ages 8-18. Students must audition to be accepted into the Dance Company program. The NCA Theatre Program is directed by Alexis Costa: Play Production Practicum for Grades 4-12. The Visual Arts Programs are directed by Laurie Kilgore: Children's Art & Crafts for Grades K-5 and Drawing, Painting, and Mixed Media for Grades 6 and up. SCCO Educates - Aspiring Young Musicians (AYM): Private lessons and ensembles, (AYM Orchestra included). AYM Orchestra: Open to all, enrollment in AYM private lessons is not required. Contact [akiko@sccoplayers.org](mailto:akiko@sccoplayers.org) for AYM lesson tuition information.

NCA Classes (Chorus, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts, and AYM Orchestra) are \$90 per class per semester. Discounts are available when you register for multiple classes. To register or inquire about any NCA Chorus, Dance, Theatre, or Visual Art classes contact [fiona@nesinculturalarts.org](mailto:fiona@nesinculturalarts.org) or call (845) 798-9006. For Scholarship information contact: [akiko@sccoplayers.org](mailto:akiko@sccoplayers.org).

Funding for NCA programs is provided by: The New York State Council on the Arts - Kathleen Courtney Hochul Governor, Episcopal Charities, St. John's Episcopal Church, New York Life, Laura Jane Musser Fund, Sullivan County Catskills, Stewart's Shops, M&T Bank, and the Associated Chamber Music Players.

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## **Ulster County – A Year in Review by the Numbers**

*From the sale of TechCity, to historic reinvestments in mental health, to administering tens of thousands of COVID-19 vaccines, 2021 has been a year to remember*

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Nineteen months into the pandemic, Ulster County has continued to respond to the rapidly changing public health situation while also delivering on key priorities for residents. From the sale of TechCity, to historic reinvestments in mental health, to administering tens of thousands of vaccines, 2021 has been a year to remember. Here is our 2021 in review by the numbers: \$352,966,745 total budget appropriations laid out in the 2022 adopted budget.

\$200 MILLION is expected to be spent by National Resources over the next five to ten years at the former TechCity site. National Resources believe they will create up to 1,000 good-paying jobs for Ulster County residents.

\$50 MILLION will be invested in the dormant former Schrade knife company in Wawarsing by Cresco Labs, a vertically integrated cannabis and medical marijuana company. The county and representatives from Cresco Labs have met with local and state officials to begin reviewing designs for the proposed facility, which would employ 300 to 400 hundred residents once fully operational.

\$34,491,474 funds received through the American Rescue Plan. County Executive Pat Ryan has called for an Equitable Economic Recovery in utilizing these funds, with a focus on housing, mental health, and aiding small businesses to emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient.

\$32 MILLION dedicated to roads and bridges in the 2022 budget. This includes, among many other key projects, \$18.2 million to maintain and improve county roads and bridges, and \$3.9 million to help spur and accelerate much-needed municipal water and sewer projects. Major bridge projects include the McKinstry Bridge in Gardiner, the Lyonsville Bridge in Marletown, the Broadstreet Hollow Bridge in Shandaken, and more.

\$7.9 MILLION will be awarded to Ulster County as part of a statewide settlement agreement between Johnson & Johnson, and other opioid companies. The settlement funds will be used as part of the county's continued effort to combat the opioid crisis. Ulster County anticipates receiving its first payment in February of 2022 and will continue to receive payments over the course of the next 18-years.

139,638 COVID-19 VACCINES have been administered to 78.2% of all Ulster County residents making the county one of the most vaccinated in New York State.

33,000 RAPID AT-HOME TESTS were distributed directly to residents throughout the county at no cost to better allow schools and businesses to remain open safely while increasing equitable access to testing.

4,200 RESIDENTS applied to participate in Ulster County's Basic Universal Income pilot program. 100 residents have been receiv-

ing \$500 a month, all funded through the generosity of community donations. Through a partnership between Project Resilience, the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, and Ulster Savings Bank, Ulster County is the first county in the country to undertake a large-scale universal basic income pilot program.

652 DAYS since the Ulster County's first positive COVID-19 case.

145 ROOMS at the former Quality Inn on Route 28 in the Town of Ulster, will be converted into apartments with kitchen and other amenities to help address the critical need to provide housing to those most vulnerable. In addition, wrap-around services including health and mental health care, career counseling and job training, childcare, and support for finding permanent housing will be provided at the site.

116 PRESS RELEASES put out by the Office of the Ulster County Executive.

102-YEAR- OLD WWII Army Veteran Bill Swetow starred in Ulster County's vaccine PSA. A resident of Woodland Pond Senior Living Community in New Paltz, Swetow stated in the ad, "When our nation needed us and Uncle Sam came calling, we answered! We fought the Nazis and stormed the beaches of Normandy. And over 75 years later, we are at another moment where we need every American to do their part." Swetow concluded the ad by saying that getting vaccinated is safe, accessible, and your duty.

91 YARDS of total offense is all Army could muster after the first 15 minutes of play in the 122nd edition of America's Game. As a result of the Navy upset, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan had to provide Orange County Executive and Navy veteran Steve Neuhaus Fruition Chocolate, Keegan Ales' beer, and a bottle of Hudson Whiskey as part of a wager on the game.

54 LIVE COVID BRIEFINGS held by County Executive Ryan where he answered questions from the public while announcing updates and new initiatives related to COVID-19.

30 GOALS AND TARGETS over three focus areas make up Ulster County's Green New Deal Plan. Ulster County is the first County in New York State and among the first in the nation to release such a comprehensive plan.

3 NEW DEPARTMENT HEADS appointed by County Executive Ryan: Ulster County Personnel, Ulster County Department of Emergency Services, and Ulster County Department of Public Works.

1 DEPARTMENT of Mental Health re-established through the adoption of the 2022 Budget. The new department will help to elevate mental health services as a top priority. This will include a full-time Mental Health Commissioner and staff who can expand and improve mental health delivery, hold our team and partners accountable, and push for desperately needed reforms at the State and Federal levels.

0% PERCENT tax increase in the 2022 Ulster County Budget. This marked the third year in a row under the Ryan Administration that taxes remained flat. Additionally, the budget included investments in mental health services, dedicating resources to build a more equitable economy, and addressing the urgent need for housing as Ulster County builds for future generations.

## Hiking Challenge Returns, Highlights Opportunities for Recreation in the Catskill Park

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the 2022 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge, designed to highlight the world-class tourism destinations and recreational opportunities in New York's Hudson Valley. Starting Jan. 1, 2022, visitors are challenged to hike each of

the six fire towers in the Catskill Park and submit information about their visit at any time during the year to earn recognition and prizes.

"Since 2019, the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge has introduced thousands of New Yorkers to the unparalleled experience of viewing the natural wonders of the Catskill Mountains from one of the park's historic fire towers," said Commissioner Basil Seggos. "To introduce even more New Yorkers and visitors to this awe-inspiring experience, we are announcing the 2022 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge. The Fire Tower Challenge is a great way to keep the history and traditions of our Catskills fire towers alive for future generations to appreciate and enjoy."



For nearly a century, observers watched the forests of New York State—including the Catskill and Adirondack forest preserves—from more than 100 fire towers perched atop the highest peaks, searching for the dangerous, telltale signs of forest fires. The Fire Tower Challenge highlights the remaining public fire towers in the Catskill Park. Launched in 2019, the first Challenge drew 878 finishers who submitted nearly 4,400 selfies from the base of the region's five remaining fire towers. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received challenge entries from every region of the state, 12 additional states, and Canada, and participants hiked an estimated 21,000 miles in the Catskills. The 2019 challenge was part of the State's 'See the Catskills Like Never Before' tourism campaign, developed in collaboration with Empire State Development and I LOVE NY.

Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "The Fire Tower Challenge is yet another opportunity to showcase the unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation that exist in New York State. I LOVE NY encourages residents and visitors alike to come be a part of the Catskills by planning a 2022 getaway with a fire tower hike as its

centerpiece, as well as skiing, ziplining, fly fishing, craft beverage and farm-to-table dining experiences, and a stay at a world-class resort. It's sure to be a vacation they will never forget."

Stewardship of the fire towers is a partnership with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. The Catskill Center, through the Catskill Fire Tower Project, manages six fire towers in the Catskill Park for public access and interpretation under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with DEC. Dedicated volunteers help maintain and staff each of the fire towers on weekends and holidays throughout the summer and fall seasons.

"The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge is a great way to introduce new visitors to hiking and outdoor recreation in the Catskill Park," said Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center. "By bringing visitors to the fire towers, we are directing them to durable trails, great views, and the opportunity to interact with our Fire Tower Stewards to get information about the Park, fire tower history, and much more. We are very excited to have the Upper Esopus Fire Tower included, as the Challenge will bring more people to the Catskills Visitor Center where they can learn about the Park, get information on how to recreate responsibly while they visit, and learn more about the communities of the Catskills that they can visit before and after their hikes."

The 2022 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge encourages experienced hikers to visit the region's five historic fire towers located on Balsam Lake Mountain (Hardenburgh), Hunter Mountain (Hunter), Overlook Mountain (Woodstock), Red Hill Mountain (Denning), and Tremper Mountain (Shandaken), as well as a new sixth fire tower that was opened in the Catskills in the fall of 2019. The Upper Esopus Fire Tower is located at the Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center in Mt. Tremper and allows all visitors who may not otherwise be able to undertake the challenging hike of several miles to experience a fire tower on the high peaks in the Catskills.

To participate in the challenge, hikers must hike to all six DEC-owned fire towers in the Catskills between Jan. 1, and Dec. 31, 2022. Once completed, participants submit a log of their completed hikes along with a favorite photo to the Challenge email address: [CatskillsChallenge@dec.ny.gov](mailto:CatskillsChallenge@dec.ny.gov) or via mail. Entries must be post-marked by Jan. 7, 2023. Participants that complete the challenge will receive a letter, commemorative 2022 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge patch, and a one-year subscription to DEC's Conservationist magazine, currently celebrating its 75th year in circulation. Upon completion, finishers will also be able to download a customizable certificate and will be eligible to win hiking accessories after the challenge period is closed.

Interested hikers can complete their first fire tower of the challenge during two of the guided First Day Hikes recently announced by Governor Hochul. The Catskill Center, in partnership with DEC, will host two guided fire tower hikes on Jan. 1, 2022, to Overlook Mountain Fire Tower and Upper Esopus Fire Tower. Space is limited and preregistration is required for both hikes. For additional details and to register, visit DEC's website.

Participants are encouraged to practice Leave No Trace™ principles and Love Our New York Lands by recreating safely and sustainably, hiking in suitable conditions based on weather and experience level.

For more information about the Catskills and to experience the Upper Esopus Fire Tower, the newest and easiest-to-reach fire tower in the region, consider a visit to the Catskills Visitor Center on Route 28 in the heart of the Catskill Park. For more information on the fire towers and complete challenge rules, visit DEC's website.

Under the Adventure NY initiative, DEC is making strategic investments to expand access to healthy, active, outdoor recreation; connect more New Yorkers and visitors to nature and the outdoors; protect natural resources; and boost local economies. Read more about the Adventure NY initiative on DEC's website.

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## Christmas Around the World Trivia Answers (From Pg. 13)

1. Yule logs in France are anointed with wine.
2. In many parts of Italy, eel is served as part of Christmas Eve dinner (La Vigilia di Natale), particularly in the southern Italian town of Naples. It often makes an appearance as part of the Italian-American Feast of the Seven Fishes as well.
3. In 1969, then Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, banned Christmas altogether for two reasons: 1) Cuba was officially an atheist nation and 2) so that celebrations would not interfere with the sugar harvest. The ban lasted for nearly 30 years until a planned visit from Pope John Paul II to Havana in January 1998. In anticipation of the Pope's visit, Castro declared that for one year only, Christmas would be a public holiday. The change, however, stuck and Christmas became permanent.
4. Going to Midnight Mass (Misas de Aguinaldo) is very popular and there are many other masses and church services in the days leading up to Christmas. In the capital city of Caracas, there's a tradition of people roller skating to the early morning church services from December 16-24. Roads are often closed to traffic by 8 a.m. to make way for people to skate!
5. The Legend of the Christmas Spider is an Eastern European folktale which explains the origin of tinsel on Christmas trees. It is most prevalent in Western Ukraine, where small ornaments in the shape of a spider web are traditionally a part of the Christmas decorations. These are made of paper and silver wire called "pavuchky," meaning "little spider."
6. Orthodox Christmas in Russia is normally celebrated on January 7. The fortnight following is believed to be the best time to try age-old methods to predict the future during the Christmas holidays. January 6 (Christmas Eve) through January 19 (Russian Orthodox Epiphany) is considered the time period for the most accurate predictions.
7. Japan - Meri Kurisumasu! Fried chicken is often eaten at Christmastime. It is the busiest time of year for restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and people can place their orders at fast food restaurants in advance!
8. Hyvää joulua! If you grew up in the United States, Santa Claus lives in the North Pole. But many people across the Atlantic believe that Santa Claus, or Father Christmas, lives in Finnish Lapland. People from all over the world send letters to Santa Claus in Finland. There is a big tourist theme park called "Christmas Land" in the north of Finland, near to where it is said Father Christmas lives.
9. People in Serbia also celebrate St. Nicholas' Day, but on December 19. During the time when Serbia was controlled by a communist government, St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus replaced with their own version called Grandfather Frost a/k/a Deda Mraz, who came on New Year's Eve. This is similar to the Russian version of Santa Claus called Ded Moroz. Traditional Serbian customs have also mixed with western customs. For example, people also have Christmas trees but

they are decorated on New Year's Eve, not at Christmas

10. Feliz Navidad! Las Posadas is a religious festival between December 16 and 24, which commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Children often perform the Posada processions, of which there are nine. Posada derives from the Spanish word for lodging. Houses are decorated with evergreens, moss and paper lanterns. In each Posada, children are given candles and a board with painted clay figures of Mary riding on a donkey and Joseph, and proceed through the streets. They call at the houses of friends and neighbors and sing a song at each home, a song about Joseph and Mary asking for a room in the house, but the children are told that there is no room in the house and that they must leave. Eventually they are told there is room and are welcomed in! When the children go into the house they say prayers of thanks and then they have a party with food, games and fireworks. Each night a different house holds the Posada party. At the final Posada, on Christmas Eve, a manger and figures of shepherds are put on the board. When the Posada house has been found, a baby Jesus is put into the manger and then families go to a midnight church service. After the service, there are more fireworks to celebrate the start of Christmas. Christmas Eve is known as "Noche Buena" and is a family day. People often take part in the final Posada and then in the evening have the main Christmas meal.

11. Wesolych Swiat! Poland is a largely Catholic country and Christmas Eve, known as Wigilia (pronounced vee-GHEE-lee-uh), is a very important and busy day. Traditionally, it was a day of fasting and abstinence (not eating anything) and meat is not normally allowed to be eaten in any form. The main Christmas meal is eaten in the evening and is called "Kolacja wigilijna" (Christmas Eve supper). It's customary that no food is eaten until the first star is seen in the sky, so children look at the night sky to spot the first one! Looking for the first star is also a reminder of the Wisemen who followed a star to visit Jesus. The 12 dishes served are meant to give good luck for the next 12 months and for Catholics, the 12 dishes symbolize the 12 disciples of Jesus. The traditionally meatless meal serves as a reminder of the animals who took the baby Jesus in the manger. Everyone is expected to try some of each dish. If you said Lithuania or Western Ukraine, you would be on the right track. These areas share similar Christmas traditions as Poland, such as the 12 dishes, as well as an extra plate and seat are always left at the table. According to folk beliefs, the spirits of the departed members of the family visit on Christmas Eve.

12. . Greece - Kala Christouyenna! A very old traditional decoration is a shallow wooden bowl with a piece of wire suspended across the rim; a sprig of basil wrapped around a wooden cross and hangs from the wire. Some water is kept in the bowl to keep the basil alive and fresh. Once a day, usually the mother of the family, dips the cross and basil into some holy water and uses it to sprinkle water in each room of the house. This is believed to keep the "kallikantzaroi" (bad spirits) away. The kallikantzaroi are meant to appear only during the 12-day period from Christmas to Epiphany (January 6). They are supposed to come from the middle of the earth and get into people's houses through the chimney! They do things like put out fires and make milk go bad. Having a fire burning through the twelve days of Christmas is meant to keep the kallikantzaroi away.



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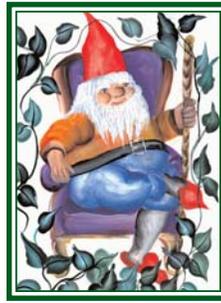
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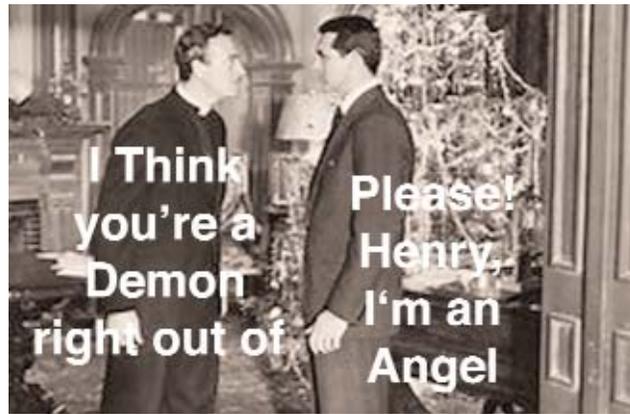
**BISHOP'S WIFE**

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, money, 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 coming 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. Loving  
kindness, warm hearts, and the stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shining  
gifts that make peace on earth.



**LORETTA YOUNG** is dazzling, beautiful and highly effective as  
a conservative Bishop's wife trying to support her husband's efforts  
in finding the way through a predicament while the purity of an  
angel saves the day. for a very Merry Christmas

(Contd. Pg. 47)



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(From Pg. 46

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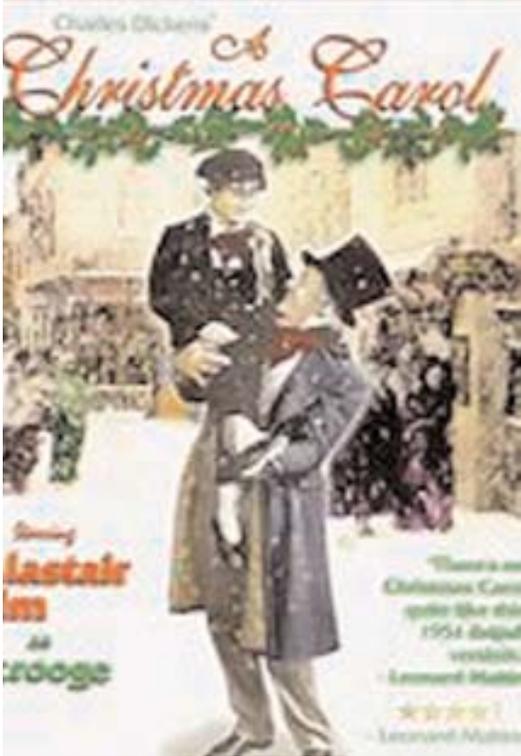
AVAILABLE ON AMAZON, IMOB, NETFLIX

**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, this Christmas Eve he will be 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 )



A heart warming wonderful tale of the acceptance of humanity's frailties, that arise in each of us to produce extreme reactions to difficult circumstances. Sort of like political correctness that limits communication, robs the person of their self esteem robbing them of understandings and developing individual experiences fully. Faced with heavy problems, that can lead to the extreme —suicide —as reflected in today's world.



With a 70% rise in adolescent and teen suicide, perhaps this film is more important for today's youth than ever before as it reinforces hope that leads to a way out of devastating problems.

**Merry Christmas**

*Stay safe, and stay well  
Knarf Odnamoc  
Gnome*