



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



# Ye Olde Tri TOWNSDALE Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"



**VOL. 16 NO. 51 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 24, 2020 \$1.00**

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*Her Quirky Journey* – Marilyn Borth Pg 11 • *Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* Pg 33

## News from your Town of Neversink Parks & Rec



**GREAT NEWS!** Our Community Ice Rink is OPEN! The ice rink, located at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds pavilion, officially opened on Friday, December 18. It was a cold night, but we had several skaters, including some beginners who by the end of the night were looking like pros. Our current hours of operation are:

Tuesday & Thursdays	7 pm - 9 pm
Fridays	6 pm - 9 pm
Saturdays	10 am - 2 pm & 4 pm - 9 pm
Sundays	noon - 5 pm

We will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas day, New Years Eve and New Years day. Rink hours may be subject to changes as we get more into the season.

We want to remind everyone that face masks are

required in compliance with pandemic guidelines AND ALL SKATERS MUST WEAR HELMETS ON THE ICE. It has been suggested by our patrons to bring multiple face masks as they tend to get "soaked" with moisture as you skate. (Contd. Pg. 8)

### FCSD Will Provide 13,000 Meals to Students over Winter Break



George Lewis of Rolling V

Ever since the "normal" school day had to be altered because of the Covid-19 pandemic last March, Fallsburg Central School District has ensured that school children received breakfast and lunch every Monday through Friday when school was in session and over the past summer as well. (Contd. Pg. 10)

### New Hope Community Staff Sew 10,000 Masks To Protect Co-Workers and Residents from Covid



Loch Sheldrake, NY (December 15, 2020) - When the Covid-19 virus emerged as a serious health threat earlier this year, surprisingly, medical equipment and personal protective equipment became as sought after and elusive as a Willie Wonka golden ticket. (Contd. Pg. 17)

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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EDITOR: Linda Comando - 985-0501  
NEVERSINK NEWS: Hulda Vernooy  
THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison  
OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda  
MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna  
HER QUIRKY JOURNEY - Marilyn North  
FALLSBURG NEWS - Larry Schafman  
MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

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

.....  
**POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND  
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

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

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

**To renew or receive a new subscription** to the *Virtual TOWNSMAN*, in your email every week, fill out the form below and mail it to Townsman, P O Box 232, Grahamsville, NY or drop it in the box located on the porch of the First Aid Building in Grahamsville. Make checks payable to: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. You may also sign up on line and pay with **Paypal** from the website: [thetownsman.com](http://thetownsman.com)

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**Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue**

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

More than ever, thank you for your support during these difficult times. Wishing everyone well.

**ON THE FRONT BURNER:** Ch 2 The Birth of Jesus  
1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Luke 2:1-21 (Contd. Pg 3)

**OBITUARY**

**Arlene Mary Graham** of Grahamsville, NY, passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. She was 77 years old. Arlene was born on April 20, 1943 in Grahamsville; she was the daughter of the late Alton and Mary Ella (Sheeley) Knight.

Arlene graduated from Tri-Valley High School in 1961. Following graduation she attended Central Academy of Beauty and Culture in Narrowsburg, NY which led her to open her own beauty shop. Arlene married Warren Graham on February 14, 1965; shortly after they started a family and Arlene gave up the beauty shop to raise her children. Arlene was also an amateur artist.

In addition to her husband Warren, Arlene is survived by their children, Eric Graham, Sherri Graham and Louise Miller and her husband Brian; her brother, Harold Knight and wife Nancy as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In following with Arlene's wishes, cremation will be private. A memorial gathering and burial of her ashes will be held in the spring at Grahamsville Rural Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Arlene's name to the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association.

Arrangements are under the guidance of Loucks Funeral Home, Ellenville, NY.

Personal condolence may be left for Arlene's family at [www.loucksfh.com](http://www.loucksfh.com)

**DAYS OF YORE...****Today's History****December 20, 1950**

The Oscar Banta farm above Sundown has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Cayton of Larchmont, New York. The Banta place is the old Norman DuBois homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller of Woodbourne have bought the Harrison DuBois place on the Woodbourne Road. Mr. Miller is a guard at the Woodbourne Institution.

**December 21, 1960**

Anthony Cypert and Myrtle Kratch were united in marriage November 24, 1910 at St. Andrews Catholic Church, Ellenville fifty years ago. On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Guinan of The Immaculate Conception Church, Woodbourne, celebrated a Nuptial Mass during which Mr. and Mrs. Cypert renewed their vows. The Cyperts are parents of six children, Mary Cypert Mentnech of Woodbourne, Paul Cypert of Grahamsville, Rita Cypert Hotchkin of Parksville, Walter Cypert, David Cypert and Thelma Cypert Botsford of Woodbourne. They now have 23 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Bonnie Jean Mentnech, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Mentnech.

**December 23, 1970**

Two Tri-Valley Seniors were awarded Regents Scholarships as a result of the competitive examination held this fall. Winners in the local district were Stephen Currey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Currey and Glenn Eltz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Eltz. Gary Robinson, son of Mr. Vincent Robinson and Mrs. Blanche Hitchcock has been named an alternate.

**December 18, 1980**

Sincere sympathy of the community is extended to the family of Edna Shields who passed away recently. Mrs. Shields is a sister of Mrs. Ralph Hornbeck.

The highlight of Thanksgiving Day for the George Smith family was talking to their daughter, Linda, in Florence, Italy. Linda is studying art there and is enjoying visiting some of the surrounding countries.

The Service Committee from the Tri-Valley Lionesses recently visited several new families in the area. The ladies served cake, coffee and provided the new-comers with valuable information pertaining to the area.

The Grahamsville/Sundown/Lows Corners area has been hard hit with illness with quite a few in Ellenville Hospital.

The Tri-Valley Homemakers will be working on a quilt at their January meeting that will be held in the First Aid Building.

**ON THE FRONT BURNER:** (From Pg. 2)

**2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**The Shepherds and the Angels**

**8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Jesus Is Named**

**21** After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**Household Hints:****Remove candle wax**

Candles are great for creating a holiday mood, but the mood can quickly sour if you wind up getting melted candle wax on your fine wood furniture. To remove it, first soften the wax using a blow-dryer on its hottest setting and blot up as much as you can with paper towels. Then remove what's left by rubbing with a cloth soaked in a solution made of equal parts white vinegar and water. Wipe clean with a soft, absorbent cloth.

**Nature Column - Linda Comando**

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

**The Magical Birth of a Snowflake**

This past week you may have caught a moment to escape back to simple winter childhood memories - catching snowflakes on your tongue, sleigh riding or making a snowman, rather than think about the COVID Crisis or in fact, the 'old-fashioned' normal hazards that a snow fall can bring.

The birth of each snowflake is not simple. A snowflake begins when a tiny dust or pollen particle comes into contact with water vapor high in Earth's atmosphere that coats the tiny particle and freezes into a tiny crystal of ice - the "seed" from which a snowflake will grow.

There are two basic ways that water vapor condenses to become a snowflake. The first way is to form facets, like a flat face on a 3D shape such as a prism. The crystal structure of frozen ice is a six-sided shape which is where the symmetry in a snowflake comes from. The second way a snowflake grows is to form branches as water vapor condenses on the first thing it touches.

The newly-formed ice crystal is heavier than the surrounding air and begins falling. While falling toward Earth through humid air, more water vapor freezes onto the surface of the tiny crystal. The water molecules of the vapor arrange themselves so that the hexagonal crystal structure of ice is repeated. The snowflake grows larger and larger as it falls. No two snowflakes are the same as each represents the conditions of temperature and humidity and water vapor the snowflake encountered during its fall. Some combinations produce flakes with long needle-like arms, flakes with wide flat arms or branching arms all emanating from the six-sided crystal structure of frozen ice.

Scientists have pondered the mystery of snow crystals since the early 1600s. In 1611 Johannes Kepler published a short treatise *On the Six-Cornered Snowflake*, which was the first scientific reference to snow crystals. Kepler wondered why snow crystals always exhibited a six-fold symmetry. He speculated that the hexagonal close-packing of spheres may have something to do with the morphology of snow crystals. Kepler was astute in recognizing that the beginning of crystalline symmetry was an interesting scientific question, and he also realized that he did not have the means to answer it. "Does some property of water vapor, or impurities in it account for its six-cornered shape, or must an external cause be sought? And why is the snowflake flat? Why does it not assume a three dimensional shape?" he wondered.

"Each single plant has a single animating principle of its own, since each instance of a plant exists separately, and there is no cause to wonder that each should be equipped with its own peculiar shape. But to imagine an individual soul for each and any starlet of snow is utterly absurd, and therefore the shapes of snowflakes are by no means to be deduced from the operation of soul in the same way as with plants." -- Kepler, 1611

During the mid twentieth century Ukichiro Nakaya performed a true systematic study of snow crystals by growing artificial snow crystals in the laboratory under controlled conditions. From his study Nakaya was able to describe the crystal morphology under different environmental conditions, which provided a clue, however, it still stands there is no complete scientific understanding of the physics of 'snow crystal formation' - a snowflake.

Isn't it amazing with all of the technology of today, a tiny snowflake still keeps this secret hidden? Perhaps that is why it seems so quiet and peaceful after a new snowfall. Maybe each little snowflake is put here just to let us know, we don't have all the answers - but rather just to enjoy its beauty and the magic of our own emotional memory bringing back light-hearted memories.



# DVAA Call for Entries 2022 Exhibition Season

Narrowsburg, NY (December 4, 2020) - The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance in Narrowsburg NY has announced an open call for solo, two-person, group, and curated exhibitions for the 2022 exhibition season.

The application portal is open now through January 30, 2021.

Artists must fill out the online submission form that includes a bio, artist statement, list of works, and 10 to 15 images.

DVAA convenes a jury of three to five visual arts professionals to select the exhibitions based solely on the projected images of artwork, so it's important to submit consistent, high-quality images.

DVAA will notify applicants via email by April 1, 2021.

The DVAA has two exhibition spaces located at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg NY.

o Alliance Gallery: is a ground floor gallery measuring 340 square feet and features 104 linear feet of wall space (including hallway space) with 9 foot high ceilings.

o Loft Gallery: is located on the second floor, is handicapped accessible and is 710 square feet and features 100 linear feet of wall space with ceilings that range from 7 foot to 8 foot 10 inches.

For more information, call DVAA's gallery director Krissy Smith at (845) 252-7576 or email: gallery@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

## DEC Announces Availability of Ashokan Reservoir Water Release Proposal for Public Review

*State Releases Draft SPDES Permit Modification and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Ashokan Reservoir Releases for Public Comment  
Public Hearing on Feb. 4, 2021, to Accept Input on Draft; Public Comments Accepted until Mar. 16, 2021*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the release of two draft documents related to water releases from New York City's Ashokan Reservoir for public review and comment. DEC is also hosting a virtual public hearing on these draft documents on Feb. 4, 2021. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed modification to New York City Department of Environmental Protection's permit for water releases from the Ashokan Reservoir would continue progress reducing turbidity in the reservoir and other connected waterbodies, including Esopus Creek.

The draft State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit modification and DEIS would codify and fulfill requirements in a 2013 Order on Consent between New York City and New York State. Since the consent order was issued, DEC and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection have been working closely with the Ashokan Reservoir Working Group, which is made up of local municipal officials, environmental groups, community residents, and other stakeholders to share information and input during the development of the DEIS and the draft permit.

The DEIS and draft permit incorporate turbidity control measures, including operation of the Ashokan Reservoir in accordance with the Revised Ashokan Release Protocol, that will help improve water quality, protect critical fish and wildlife habitat in the Ashokan and downstream communities, and continue to provide reliable and clean drinking water. The documents can be found on DEC's website.

DEC is accepting public comments on the DEIS and draft permit modification for 90 days until Mar. 16, 2021. In addition, DEC is hosting a virtual public meeting on Feb. 4, 2021. For more information on how to participate in the hearing, and to submit comments please go to DEC's website.

For more information about the New York City reservoir system, go to NYC's Reservoir System website.

**A Country Calendar**  
By Ann Higgins



**2021**

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**Country Calendar Order Form:**

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Number of Calendars @ \$6.00 each...

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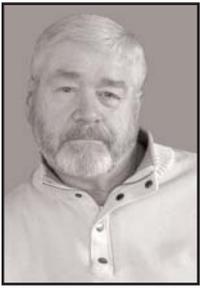
Grahamsville, NY 12740

### Attorney General James' Statement on Opioid Filings Detailing How Sackler Family Personally Ran Purdue Pharma and Directed Billions in Profits Into Personal Bank Accounts and Trusts

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today released the following statement after updated filings by the official committee of unsecured creditors in the multiple opioid lawsuits against Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family - currently in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of New York - revealed that the Sacklers personally directed and oversaw the illegal transfer of billions of dollars out of Purdue bank accounts and into personal accounts and trusts of Sackler family members, as well as that the family had direct control over all material decisions by Purdue:

*“As America suffered hundreds of thousands of opioid deaths, millions of addictions, and countless left in financial ruin, the Sacklers profited billions and syphoned those funds out of their company and into their personal bank accounts and trusts. These filings finally display just some of the measures taken by and at the direction of individual members of the Sackler family to illegally shield their finances and protect billions in profit. The vast financial web this family built was meant to pull wool over our eyes and conceal their assets from both creditors and victims. As we have argued since we first filed our lawsuit nearly two years ago, we need full transparency into the Sacklers' total assets, as well as justice for opioid victims and our communities.”*

## John Dwaine McKenna's Mysterious Book Report 2020 Best Books of the Year

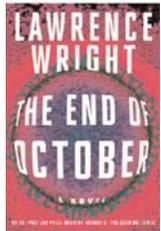
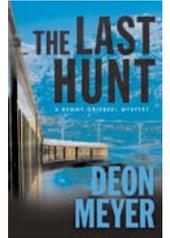


The year 2020 has been unusual to say the least. We've gone from a world class economy to a world class pandemic and thrown in a contested presidential election for good measure. These are indeed interesting times, and one of the best ways to cope is by reading good books and escaping into literature. With our warmest holiday greetings, and sincere hopes for a fabulous, happy and prosperous New Year . . . here are our Best Books of 2020.

### Best Books of the Year 2020

#### MBR #404 The Last Hunt by Deon Meyer

An intricate, well-plotted suspense novel full of twists and turns. It begins when a cold case file is given to the Hawks, the Serious and Violent Crimes Unit of the South African Police Force. It involves the assassination of a private detective on the world's most luxurious train . . . and a deep dive into murder, political intrigue and a nation's awakening to the notion that their ideals, which sparked a revolution and set them free from apartheid, have been hijacked and sold for greed.

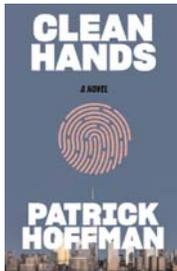
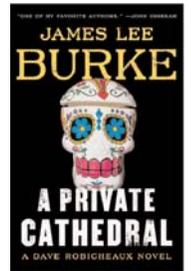


#### MBR #405 The End of October by Lawrence Wright

A stunning bit of drama that feels like today's news! The novel opens with the discovery of a new and previously unknown virus that's highly contagious and almost always fatal. When the epidemic is unknowingly spread to Mecca during the Hajj, three million are exposed from all corners of the world and the pandemic is on. And then, it gets even scarier!

#### MBR #412 A Private Cathedral by James Lee Burke

A genre-jumping, mind-bending, captivating yarn-and possibly the best of his twenty-three novels-featuring an imperfect and tortured detective named Dave Robicheaux. In the late 1990s, Dave is out of work, trying to get his badge back, fighting alcohol addiction and mourning the deaths of two wives. That's when he gets sucked into one of the oldest, most bloody and deadliest criminal feuds in Louisiana history.

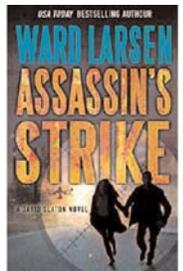


#### MBR # 411 Clean Hands by Patrick Hoffman

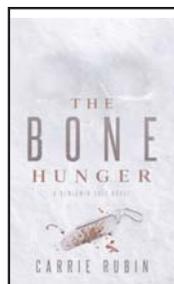
A mega-merger between two multi-billion dollar banks collapses and lawsuits have been filed with claims and counter claims. It's the highest stakes lawsuit a prominent Wall Street law firm has ever filed, and its survival-as well as the personal wealth of the partners-hangs in the balance. That's when a junior associate loses his cell phone, with most of the firm's secret case files on it. Then a high-priced fixer and ex-CIA officer named Valencia Walker is called in, and the real action begins and never stops in this propulsive thriller.

#### MBR # 413 Assassin's Strike by Ward Larsen

A kinetic and attention-grabbing thriller. It begins with a secret meeting between the presidents of Russian and Iran, to discuss the transfer of some outlawed, secret technologies, the use of which is a war crime, as well as crime against humanity. The two presidents and two interpreters are the only witnesses. But shortly after the meeting concludes, the Iranian interpreter is thrown to her death from a tall building by Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The Russian interpreter goes on the run to save her own life, and contacts the Americans for help. It becomes a desperate race of time for legendary assassin David Slayton to rescue the middle-aged woman in this pulse pounding adventure.



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



#### MBR # 415 The Bone Hunger by Carrie Rubin

An electrifying medical thriller, murder mystery and paranormal hair-raiser all rolled into one, featuring orthopedic surgery resident Benjamin Oris. He is the star pupil on a hip and knee replacement team under Dr. Kent Lock. The trouble begins when Ben discovers the severed leg of one of his patients while running in the park. This one has more twists and turns than the Alaskan Iditarod race! It will keep you guessing to the last page. (Contd. Pg. 19)



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**The Poets Circle**  
**The Sullivan County  
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 Call To All Poets!**

We are proud to offer poets the opportunity to express their poetic creativity by showcasing their original works in our first ever virtual SCDW's - Poets Circle.

Audition Dates are:

- Sunday, December 27, 2020 at 6-8PM
- Monday, December 28, 2020 at 7:30 - 9PM
- Saturday, January 2, 2021 at 6-8PM
- Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 7:30 - 9PM

Performances to be held the weekends of January 22nd and 29th.

Auditions can be in person held at the Rivoli Theater at 5243 Main Street, South Fallsburg, NY or via Zoom.

To schedule an audition please contact Keith Prince at [keithprince.scdw@gmail.com](mailto:keithprince.scdw@gmail.com).

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



(From Pg. 1) Kudos to our community as some of our rink patrons have already stepped up to help us care for the rink. It is important to keep the ice and surrounding areas in good condition so that we can keep the rink open for the season. We are asking for volunteers to help us with the following:

#### OPEN THE RINK:

- o Turn on the lights, if needed
- o Make sure the ice is ok to skate on
- o Sweep any dirt from mats by entry to ice, if needed

#### MONITOR THE USE OF THE RINK:

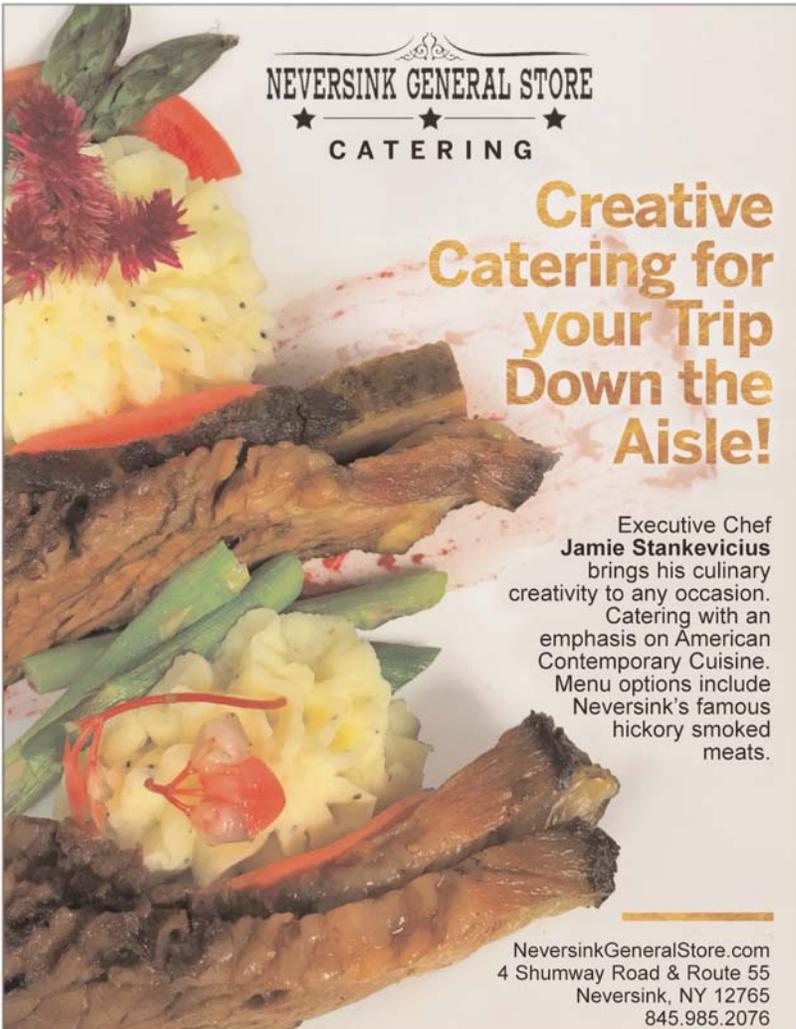
- o Make sure the Ice Rink Rules are followed
- o Your decisions **MUST** be followed by all patrons
- o Any issues, contact Cher Woehl, Parks & Rec Director @ 845-985-2401

#### CLOSE THE RINK:

- o Sweep/shovel rink and remove any loose ice
- o Sweep mats to remove any debris, including mats in spectator area
- o Turn off lights
- o Let Cher know of any problems with the ice or surrounding areas

Volunteers don't need to be there to do all of maintenance tasks, but, for example, if you are there at closing you can help close the rink. **PLEASE CONTACT CHER (845-985-2401) OR VIA EMAIL AT CWPARKSANDREC@GMAIL.COM IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RINK. ALL HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

One last note for this week on the ice rink-the rink just opened and we are still working through the details on things. We are open to any suggestions you may have to help us improve your skating experience. (Contd. Pg. 9)



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**News from your  
Town of Neversink Parks & Rec**  
(From Pg. 8)

**Now on to the Holiday news** – Our House Decorating contest was a great success. Keith Zanetti, Dana McCarthy, Walt Zeitschel and I spent a fun evening driving through town checking out all the incredible holiday decorations. Not only were our entries impressive, but the neighboring houses were remarkable too. Here are the results:

**GRAND PRIZE:** the Moore family on Cherrie Lane (a holiday Disneyland!)

- 1st Place the Kelly family on Myers Rd
  - 2nd Place: the Scanna family on Myers Rd
  - 3rd Place: the Kaplan family on Hastings
  - 4th Place: the Beatty/Babcock/Kleinfield family on South Hill Rd.
  - 5th Place: the Monell family on Thunder Hill Rd
- Honorable mentions that did a beautiful job are:

- The Poley family on Pine Rd
- The Coombe family on Old Brodhead Rd
- The Kern family on Pine Rd
- The Hunt family on Smith Lane
- The Babcock family on Big Hollow Rd

Thank you all for bringing joy to our holiday season. And a big thank you to all the generous businesses whose donations helped make this year's contest a successful one. I hope everyone gets a chance to bundle up the family in the car and tour our community to see all these wonderful decorations. And do not forget to take a ride through downtown Grahamsville and St. Rt 55 which has more houses decorated this year than I've ever seen. It's truly wonderful. As is Bicentennial Park, which not only includes our town tree, but several other trees (donated by the Goetsch Family Tree Farm) that have been decorated by the boy scouts, the girl scouts, Daniel Pierce Library, Catskill Hudson Bank, Golden Shears Hair Salon, the Rondout Stream team, your Parks & Rec team and TESSA, whose tree has gloves & mittens free to those who need them. This year we also included some decorations from the past-the holiday signs painted in the '90's by Carol Smythe's husband, Daniel. While Daniel is no longer with us, we are keeping his memory alive by sharing his wonderful artwork this season.



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***Happy Holidays!***

**Ulster County 2021 Budget includes a  
0% tax increase and zero layoffs  
despite the financial impact from  
the pandemic**

*2021 Budget Expands Mobile Mental Health placing a full-time social worker into County 911 Emergency Management Department*

*County Executive Ryan calls for new "People-Centered Economy" envisioning a better and stronger Ulster County focusing on key economic sectors*



(From left to right) Minority Leader Ken Ronk, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature Dave Donaldson, Legislator Abe Uchitelle, County Executive Ryan, Legislator Heidi Haynes, Legislator Laura Petit, and Legislator John Parete.

KINGSTON, N.Y. - County Executive Pat Ryan signed the 2021 Budget that again held the line on taxes while enhancing critical services during one of the most challenging financial times that Ulster County has seen. (Contd. Pg. 30)



**Happy Holidays everyone!  
Stay safe and stay healthy.**



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## FCSD Will Provide 13,000 Meals to Students over Winter Break

(From Pg. 1)



*FCSD cafeteria staff Karen Allen and Cynthia May*

This great effort was possible because the District's Food Services staff, with the help of custodial staff, worked early morning shifts and late in the day to prepare the meals and all the packaging. All boxes were filled and labeled according to each bus route and carted to waiting buses. Rolling V Bus Company was the essential partner for FCSD. Drivers and monitors picked up at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School (BCES) each morning no matter what the weather was.

With families still struggling in the throes of Covid-19 and its disruption in the community, Fallsburg CSD

will be serving 13,000 meals to students over the winter break. The District has rented a refrigerated truck to store the needed food that the Food Services Department along with Rolling V will be packaging and delivering.

“We realize that the holiday season, amid a difficult and challenging pandemic, can and does cause strife for many families,” said FCSD School



*Cafeteria at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School where the meals are prepared and packaged for delivery by Rolling V Bus Company*



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Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz. “Our hope is that by providing meals to our students, families have one less thing to worry about and our kids will get fed.”

## The Scene Too

- Jane Harrison

You've heard me mention my writer friend, MATT WILLIAMS, from Canada before when his second book of his SciFi trilogy came out. I spoke with him last week because at long last, the third of the trilogy is being released.

I became familiar with Matt's writing when we first became friends and I began following the articles in UNIVERSE TODAY. He is a scientific journalist specializing in anything to do with Astronomy. Astronomy always meant just the stars to me. Boy was I wrong. The more articles I read of Matt's, the more I realized there was a lot more to it. Of all definitions I researched, the one from Wikipedia is probably the best I've found to explain exactly what this is, "Astronomy is a natural science that studies celestial objects and phenomena. It uses mathematics, physics, and chemistry in order to explain their origin and evolution. Objects of interest include planets,

moons, stars, nebulae, galaxies, and comets." Wow, who knew.

So here I am, extolling the writing of a SciFi trilogy that I would have bypassed completely were it not for my respect for Matt's talents and knowledge.

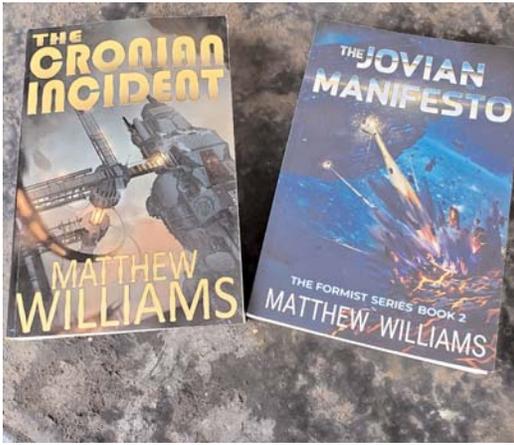
I would not have chosen SciFi to read BUT I am so glad I did. The writing is fluent and cohesive but it's how his lead characters hooked me from the first book, THE CRONIAN INCIDENT, kept my attention riveted through his second; THE JOVIAN MANIFESTO and I have no doubt will continue in the third in this trilogy, THE FROSTLINE FRACTURE which will be released this week. I really am looking forward to reading this one as well.

In addition, I was privileged to be one of the few he has spoken to about the outline for his NEXT book and plans for others in the future.

Get to know my friend at [Universtoday.com](http://Universtoday.com) and [interestingengineering.com/author/matthew-s-williams](http://interestingengineering.com/author/matthew-s-williams)

I heard from yet another wonderfully artistic friend last week, renown in quilting circles around the globe, KATHARINA LITCHMAN, wishing me Happy Holidays and to share her latest creation with me. This quilt is exquisite in the colors used and I'm awestruck by the precision adhered to in the cutting and piecing together. And that's just the end game. There is also the selection of the fabrics, often among those specifically for the serious quilter.

(Contd. Pg. 12)



## Her Quirky Journey

-Marilyn Borth

<http://www.herquirkyjourney.com>



### Christmas in Asia

2020 has certainly been a year we won't soon forget. We've had to deal with the constant stress of a pandemic while socially distancing from complete strangers (hooray for that!), but also our loved ones (boo for that).

Needless to say, it's been a rough year for everyone. On top of that, many of us have chosen to abide by the social distancing guidelines and continue to distance from our family, friends, and loved ones during the holiday season. It's been difficult for the past year to do so, but it's even more prevalently painful this month.

I've felt a somewhat similar homesickness in the past when I lived abroad during the holidays. I've missed a few holiday seasons now and, as a big fan of this time as simply for kicking back with the family and swimming in gratefulness rather than stressing about material gifts, each one was difficult in it's own right.

#### 2014- Thailand

Thailand was the first country I ever went to outside of the US- and I lived there for 6 months! I taught English in a city called Chonburi just outside of Bangkok. There, I spent Christmas away from my family and friends for the first time.



As difficult as it was, it was fascinating as well. I may have had to celebrate the day by working, b u t throughout the day, I got to witness the students in my elementary school put on Christmas plays, sing Christmas songs, and dance the day away. Everyone wore red and had a blast, even though the country is primarily Buddhist and doesn't celebrate Christmas.

After work, I indulged in a Western meal with some friends and called my family. As homesick as I was, I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed it. Oh, and I even got to indulge in the Christmas cookies my mother so thoughtfully baked and mailed to me across the world!

#### 2015- South Korea

I taught English in Korea for 6 months in a city called Sejong, which is somewhere in the center of the country between Seoul and Busan. It was my second Christmas away from home, yet I had a day of work along with casual drinks, food, and gifts with friends and coworkers. Work was a little mundane, but at least the special time with special people was had by all! (Contd. Pg. 12)

## The Scene Too

(From Pg. 11) It's all very much like the selection, cutting and piecing of stained glass, my business for several years so I can appreciate the artistry. Her quilts are not meant for a bed, but to be displayed like the artwork they are. This one is 60 inches by 60 inches

These were the high point of my week. The downside comes from watching the arrogant "I don't WANT to"s driving the new case numbers up here in Sullivan County to where another shut down looms in our future. Good going! 50 new cases last Friday. 38 on Saturday. Wear a mask, wash your hands, social distance because there are a whole group of people out here who don't care whether you contract this deadly virus.

I've said before that sooner or later everyone will know someone who contracted CoVid 19. Someone who died from it. Monday, last week, this came crushingly home to me as I received the news that my niece and my older sister both tested positive. My niece works in the healthcare field. She has been horribly ill and now has a cough that doesn't allow her a five minute phone conversation. My sister is blind and in an assisted living facility and has had pneumonia twice in the last year. She's been moved to their CoVid wing and all I get is "She's doing fine." I am beside myself with worry. Wisconsin has it's own share of "I don't WANT to"s.



So please, wear your mask, stay home, stay strong, stay well. It's the only way we'll get through this. Until next time...

## Her Quirky Journey

(From Pg. 11) 2018- China



I was lucky enough to spend Christmas at home during 2016 and 2017, but missed the beloved holiday once again in 2018 when I worked and lived in Shenzhen, China for a year. On Christmas Eve, my students and I made ornaments.

Then, fortunately, my school gave me the day off, so my friends and I had a huge Christmas Eve feast along with a White Elephant gift-giving fiasco. For those who don't know, a "White Elephant" is like Secret Santa, only you can steal gifts from other people. It's a great time!

Then, on Christmas Day, one friend and I had a big meal in our favorite restaurant and snagged a photo with Santa! Then, we watched Christmas movies in our pajamas while intermittently calling our families.

I hope that, if you are spending the holidays without your family or friends when you're normally with them, you're staying positive and enjoying yourself anyway. See this time as an opportunity to be grateful for those you have in your life, whether you can physically hug them on a holiday or not.

**Happy Holidays to you all!**





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## Nutcracker at Wethersfield

Nutcracker at Wethersfield ([www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com](http://www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com)), a Covid-19 compliant Nutcracker, choreographed and directed by Troy Schumacher, has announced a special Twitch live stream this Sunday, December 20 at 5:00PM EST.

For those who were not able to watch the live stream on Sunday, there will be an On Demand stream at: [www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com](http://www.NutcrackerAtWethersfield.com) from December 23 at 5pm to December 26 at midnight.

Currently running this holiday season through December 23 at the glorious Wethersfield Estate in Amenia, NY (a two-hour drive north of Times Square), this watershed live production provides a guided immersive experience in a historical site. BalletCollective and the Wethersfield Estate are producing the event.

*The Nutcracker at Wethersfield* will feature the new, magical production of the holiday classic featuring over 20 dancers from New York City Ballet with Sara Mearns as the Sugar Plum Fairy as well as an interactive chat with luminaries of the ballet world including ballerinas: Ashley Boudier (@ashleyboudier),



Megan Fairchild (@mfairchild17), Lauren Lovette (@laurenlovette), and Kathryn Morgan (@kathryn\_morgan). Director/choreographer of *The Nutcracker at Wethersfield* - Troy Schumacher (@troymacher) and creative director Elizabeth Mayhew (@elizabethmayhew) will also be participating.

*The Nutcracker at Wethersfield* keeps this beloved holiday tradition alive in a re-imagined, safety-compliant way that is unlike any other production of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece. It is the first new full-length premiere and the first professional full-length production of *The Nutcracker* in the United States.

*he Nutcracker at Wethersfield* features female party scene costumes by Oscar de la Renta, male party scene costumes by Todd Snyder, Christmas trees and decorations by Balsam Hill and wallpaper and fabric design by Schumacher Fabrics.

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There is also a live music element at each event from The Metropolis Ensemble and the event's medical partner is Dr. Lipi Roy, an NBC News medical contributor.

Acclaimed filmmaker Annie Sundberg ("*Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*," "*Surviving Jeffrey Epstein*") is producing and directing a feature documentary about this historic production.

Invitations to attend the live event are limited due to current regulations and are open only to underwriters of *The Nutcracker at Wethersfield*. In addition to underwriters and their guests, a limited number of invitations were provided to families hard hit by the pandemic through the following community organizations: Willow Roots, Inc. in Pine Plains, Grace Immigrant Outreach in Millbrook, North East Community Center in Millerton, and Food of Life / Comida de Vida (Food Pantry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church) in Amenia Union.



Invitations to essential workers in the Rhinebeck community have also been extended courtesy of Van Lamprou of Del's Dairy Farm. These include teachers, medical personnel, and a restaurant owner who has donated food to front line Covid workers.

*The Nutcracker at Wethersfield* features a roster of internationally acclaimed dancers, currently furloughed from New York City Ballet, including: Sara Mearns, Tyler Angle, Ashley Laracey, and Taylor Stanley, among others.

(Contd. Pg. 18)



# Gotsch Christmas Tree Farm

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

November 27, 28, & 29

December 5 & 6

December 12 & 13

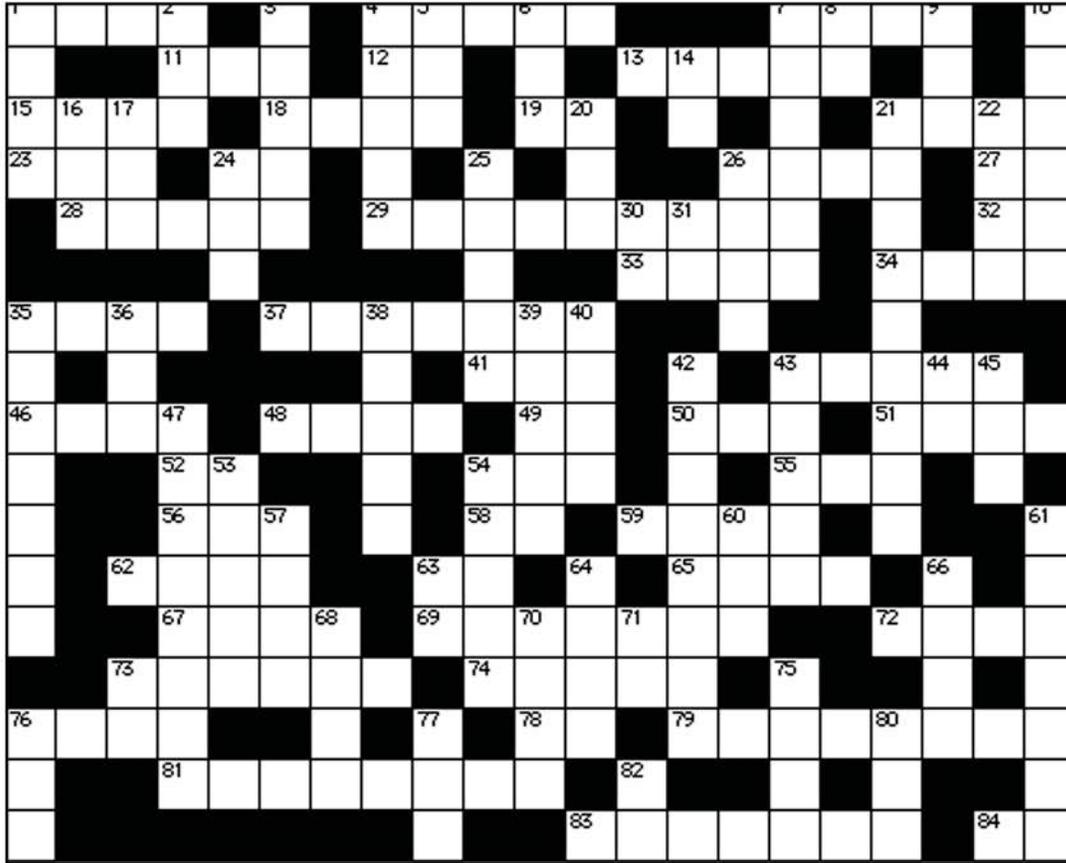
December 19 & 20

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Away in a Manger - 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 Form of an indefinite article
- 13 Terra firma
- 15 Terror
- 18 Leaf
- 19 By means 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 Sea fish
- 72 Frame
- 73 Holy youth
- 74 Country
- 76 Savory pie
- 78 Chem. element
- 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 Townsendman writer, Tom and artist who creates an Annual Calendar (see pg 4) 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 chamber
- 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

**Old-Fashioned Gingerbread Cutout Cookies**

- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 teaspoons white vinegar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

In a large saucepan, combine the butter, sugar, molasses and vinegar; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat; cool to lukewarm. Stir in egg. Combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon and salt; stir into molasses mixture to form a soft dough.

Divide dough into thirds. Shape each portion into a disk; wrap in plastic. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or until easy to handle.

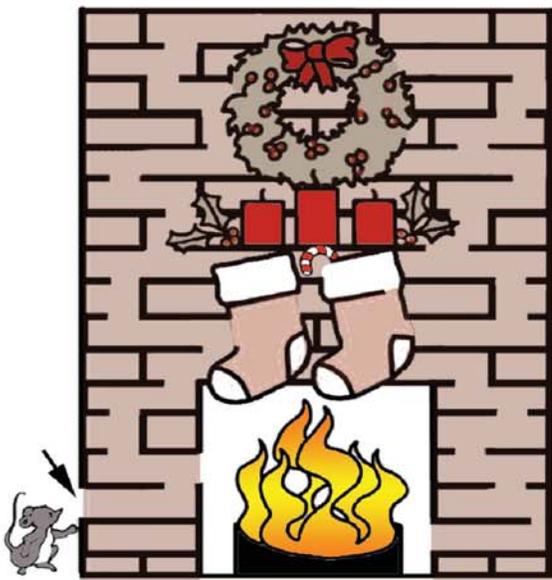
On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a floured cookie cutter. Place on greased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 7-9 minutes or until edges are firm. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Decorate as desired.

数字は単数に限る

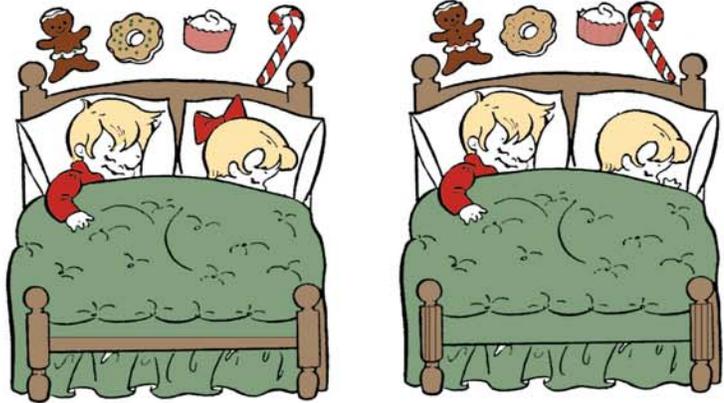
	3		7		6	
	8				2	1
9			2	8		
		5	3	2		8
		3		1	5	
6			8	4	9	
			4	7		6
2	7					5
		9		5		4

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?



The children were nestled all snug in their beds While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads. What are five differences between the two pictures?



Christmas Word Scramble

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

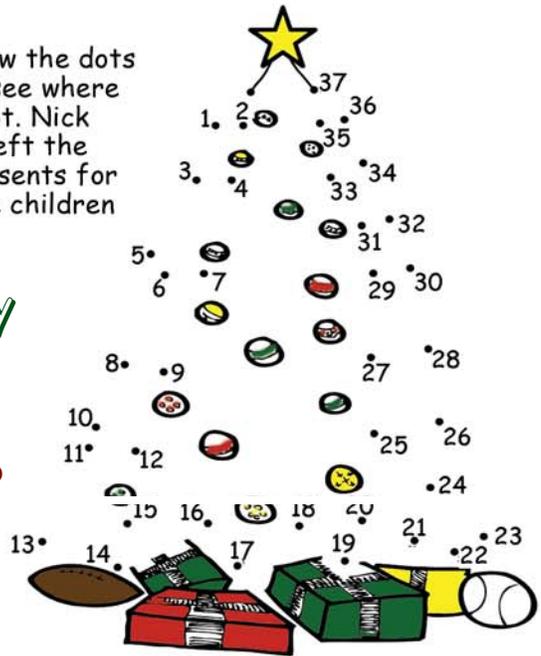


WORDSEARCH

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



Kids' Holiday Fun Page

L. Comando

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 Hope Community Staff Sew 10,000 Masks To Protect Co-Workers and Residents from Covid

(From Pg. 1) At New Hope Community (NHC), a residential human services organization in Sullivan County supporting men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a supply chain solution for much-needed face coverings was quickly put into motion. Within days, protective face masks began to pour in thanks to a handful of energetic employees who volunteered to sew handmade masks for the residents and staff of New Hope Community.

This group, which became known as the Mask Avengers, was started by two members of New Hope's exceptionally caring healthcare team who saw an urgent need. The team of staff volunteers grew quickly and by the time the operation was put on hold in September, the mask-making team had created a supply of 10,000 face coverings for the New Hope family and frontline workers in the community.

Long-Time Staff Show They Care

Each of the 10 staff volunteers will tell you it was a true team effort -- something they felt compelled to do -- to address the emerging pandemic. The group's founders are long-tenured staff members, each with decades of experience at New Hope Community, where they ensure the health and well-being of people with disabilities. Muriel Cypert, a registered nurse and nurse educator at New Hope, and Karen Kerendian, Director of Health Services, devised a plan and wasted no time in enlisting the support of the administration. Soon, they transformed a conference room at New Hope Community's Loch Sheldrake, NY campus into a bustling workshop staffed by employees from throughout the organization. Kerendian and six other NHC colleagues brought in sewing machines from home, including 32 year NHC veteran staff member Alicia Scotland, Pat Lamb, Amy LeRoy, and Sherrie Shaw, while some, like Melissa Martinez, even sewed from home. Everyone rummaged for fabrics and supplies, while Licensed Practical Nurse Pat Lamb, a longtime staff member with 35-years at New Hope Community, teamed up with Kerendian to search online for mask patterns that were used to outfit and protect every person living or working in New Hope's 42 residences.

Over the next few months, staff and administrators helped the cause while sharing laughs, supplies and candy, especially from New Hope Community's Chief Executive Officer Debbie McGinness, who was among the team's greatest supporters. An informal sisterhood of support was formed and each person drew on their strengths. Alicia Scotland, a task-oriented digital document administrator, became known as "the boss" while Robyn Van Lowe, a fun-loving electronic health administrator displayed a knack for cutting fabric. Kerendian, known to the group as the "sewing machine whisperer," was on call as needed and kept the sewing machines running with help from YouTube tutorials.

"Love and concern were the common threads of this project. I am thankful for the hundreds of hours our incredible staff volunteers put in, often working on their own time to help others," said New Hope Community CEO Debbie McGinness. "I

want to thank everyone throughout the organization who continues to work tirelessly to keep the hundreds of people of New Hope Community's 42 residences safe and healthy. This remarkable effort is proof that nothing is impossible if you are willing to work at it, together."

A True Community Effort

With fabric and supplies in short supply, the Mask Avengers put their creativity to the test and enlisted donations from friends and family. They collected shoe laces, fitted sheets and shirts, and recycled unused supplies in storage as well as fabric and elastic. "We bought out every headband in every dollar store so we would have elastic for straps," Pat Lamb explained. New Hope's maintenance department also pitched in by making clear plastic templates to help with cutting patterns, which sped up production.

Over several months, the team evolved into a core group of four, who collectively have more than 100 years in longevity at New Hope. Their dedication knows no limits, and it is no surprise that several members of the group have previously been awarded NHC's Deirdre McCoy Award for putting their hearts and souls into everything they do for the men and women in their care. It was only natural that the team of close-knit colleagues rolled up their sleeves to ensure that everyone who needed a mask would have the protection they needed.

By April, more than 500 colorful face-masks were distributed to New Hope individuals and staff and their families as needed, as well as frontline workers in the local community such as the Loch Sheldrake Fire Department and Tractor Supply Store. They also created custom masks, using fabrics people supplied with their orders. Before long, men and women throughout the New Hope Community including its Westchester-based community habilitation division Select Human Services, Inc. proudly showed off their themed masks ranging from superheroes and Harry Potter to glow-in-the-dark styles.

By the time the program wound down in September, the total number of masks produced had soared to tens of thousands. The Mask Avengers had sewn an average of 80 unique face masks per day, serving as a protective barrier against the virus and a fashion statement among the men and women of New Hope Community.

And while only a few on the team knew their way around a sewing machine, it did not deter these seasoned New Hope Community staffers from making life better for others. "Giving back to the community is a way of life here at New Hope Community. And it felt good to be productive and help others," recalled Cypert. The others agreed, noting that if necessary, they are ready to start up again. "We have over 300 masks in reserves and a pile of fabric ready to be cut," said Lamb.

In the meantime, New Hope Community continues to educate the staff, residents and visiting families about COVID-19 safety. As a result, infection rates among the staff and those they serve have been extremely low. "We remain committed to our holistic approach to keeping our community healthy and active, and we are grateful to have incredibly dedicated people on our staff who help us achieve that," says McGinness.



## LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

The Neversink Fire District will be holding a Special meeting to finalize any 2020 unfinished business on Monday December 28, 2020 at 6:30pm.

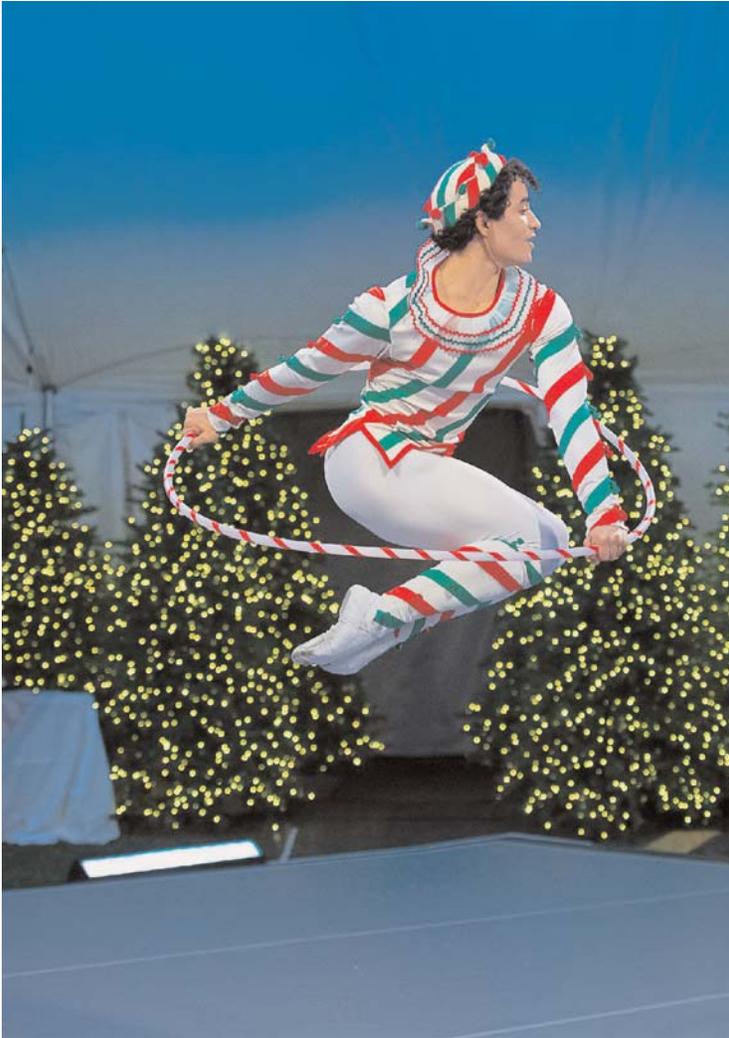
This meeting is open to the public.

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## Nutcracker at Wethersfield



(From Pg. 13) When guests arrive at the Wethersfield Estate they are immediately immersed in a magical world, as if they are attending the ballet's famous party scene. The event guides guests through all of the quintessential moments of the ballet, including the battle scene, the snow ballet and the Land of the Sweets, as they traverse the beauty of the historic manor house and the impeccably kept grounds and gardens of Wethersfield.

Each event is completely compliant with New York's Covid-19 regulations, supervised by a team of medical professionals to ensure the safety of guests and artists. All of the dancers have been quarantining since early November and maintain social distance from all guests.

Guests are limited to 7-8 socially distanced groups of 2-6 attendees in each group in order to ensure that the house never

## Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting

2) Thursday, January 7, 2021, anticipated proposed

Executive Session 6:00 p.m.,

Regular Meeting #14 7:00 p.m.

Whichever meetings are virtual

will be televised live on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl224vKQ8nAWhR6NVao24w>

exceeds 25% capacity, and that no more than 50 people, including dancers, are together in any space at any time. Guests must wear new masks throughout the experience. As the event progresses, guests are taken through a range of ventilated indoor, heated outdoor and tented locations.

The event provides a range of experiences, including a Nutcracker Party Scene themed tour through the manor house, an outdoor snow ballet, and a tented land of sweets, featuring creative direction and food design by Elizabeth Mayhew of The Dutchy.

"We are pleased that the public will be able to experience this unique production online for free," said choreographer and director Troy Schumacher. "For many, The Nutcracker is an annual tradition and we hope that The Nutcracker at Wethersfield will make this year's holidays sparkle a bit brighter."

The Nutcracker at Wethersfield is being underwritten by members of the Hudson Valley community and national arts lovers, to provide work for more than 50 dancers, designers, crew, and arts workers who have seen their livelihoods and purpose disappear this year. With theaters closed well into 2021, this unique opportunity provides each of these artists a lifeline and a chance to return to their craft.

## Enjoy a Virtual Tour Through the Catskills

Want to travel and learn about new places while staying safe? Check out TravelStorys GPS! It's an app on your phone that allows you to explore new places without a tour guide. Whether you go on the Gateway to the Catskills at: [https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=axAf1IPaFTnh4FppUrA97FE8bO-Qnh5VQI87KERn9Fc1NlmM7O1wIqU29su1oZvXTovV2Z\\_7JFrobv5tQQ\\_kAkFGptMq0hyP4JD49Zru18o&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm\\_source=catskillmountainkeeper&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=decembernewsletter&n=4](https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=axAf1IPaFTnh4FppUrA97FE8bO-Qnh5VQI87KERn9Fc1NlmM7O1wIqU29su1oZvXTovV2Z_7JFrobv5tQQ_kAkFGptMq0hyP4JD49Zru18o&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm_source=catskillmountainkeeper&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=decembernewsletter&n=4) or the Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway tour, at: [https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=axAf1IPaFTnh4FppUrA97LqSdn9ZJQ\\_rxdzxtaVDEavZ9WbXhDhKvXahSr\\_1xiAfXc h t v f v b E H J F I g y P y 8 o 6 G K r P g - a Z q T 1 - DTLOBzhAw&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm\\_source=catskillmountainkeeper&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=decembernewsletter&n=5](https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/r?u=axAf1IPaFTnh4FppUrA97LqSdn9ZJQ_rxdzxtaVDEavZ9WbXhDhKvXahSr_1xiAfXc h t v f v b E H J F I g y P y 8 o 6 G K r P g - a Z q T 1 - DTLOBzhAw&e=bcff9b4954e87a9937341abb8272169c&utm_source=catskillmountainkeeper&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=decembernewsletter&n=5)

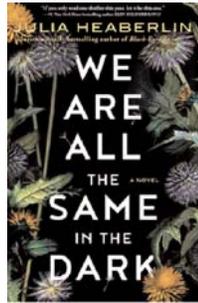
You will have fun and learn something new. Grab your family, get in the car or check out these virtual tours of The Catskills!

## John Dwaine McKenna's Mysterious Book Report 2020 Best Books of the Year

(From Pg. 5)

### MBR #414 We Are All The Same In The Dark by Julia Heaberlin

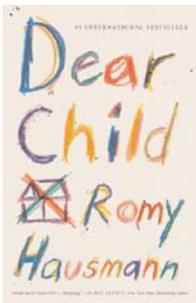
Begins in North Texas with the discovery of a nameless, wounded and mute young girl. She's missing her left eye and found lying in a pasture, surrounded by dandelions she's picked and placed there as a talisman to protect herself. Her discovery reignites the cold case disappearance of Trumanell Branson, and re-inflames the small Texas town where anger, suspicion and mob-mentality still seethe just beneath the veneer of a quiet, peaceful small town.



### MBR # 423 Dear Child by Romy Hausmann

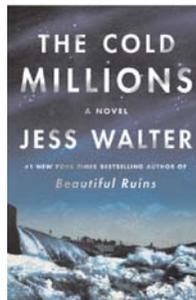
Already a runaway best-seller in Europe. It's the tale of a woman who's been kidnapped, held in a hovel and forced to act as a wife and mother in an insane pseudo-family. She manages to overcome her captor and escape, "But the end of her ordeal is only the beginning of her nightmare." The story is told in three first person points-of-view: by a young girl, whose entire life has been lived in the windowless cabin; the abducted woman; and the missing woman's elderly father. One of the most compelling, engaging and page-turning

psychological thrillers ever!



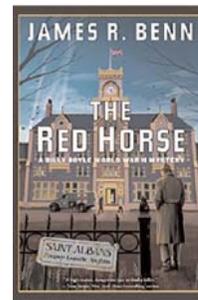
### MBR# 421 Cold Millions by Jess Walter

The Labor Wars of the early twentieth century in Spokane Washington is the backdrop for narrators Rye and Gig Dolan, a pair of train-hopping drifters and hoboes. They're part of the International Workers of the World and their fight for free speech. It's a struggle between the haves and the have-nots to see who's going to get a bigger slice of the economic pie during a time, like now, of extreme income disparity. It begins in 1909 with a full-on riot, where the cops are busting heads and hauling the battered working stiffs off to jail.



### MBR# 425 The Red Horse by James R Benn

The Red Horse is World War II historical fiction combined with a terrific murder-mystery. It's shortly after D-Day and Paris has just been liberated, but Captain Billy Boyle has paid a heavy price. He's hallucinating from stress, lack of sleep and



the overuse of methamphetamines. He comes to at St. Albans, a secret convalescent hospital in the English countryside that's geared to handle high-value war-wounded patients with knowledge of Allied secret information. Boyle thinks he sees a murder when a high-ranking clandestine warrior leaps to his death from the hospital's clock tower. But did he? This one will keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish.



**"It's Good to Know an old Country Lawyer!"**

## William A. Brenner ESQ.

Attorney-At-Law

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Grahamsville, NY 12740

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- 1) Spouse with children or
- 2) Couples living together
- 3) Second marriages

[must personally meet and discuss your ideas, plans & options]

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That's it. Those are the best from our 2020 reviews and we hope you get a chance to read some, or all of them, and look forward to a better 2021, when the Mysterious Book Report will once again bring you some of the most exciting mysteries, thrillers, and crime fiction in print. Happy holidays to one and all and Merry Christmas from all of us, here at the MBR!

See more at:  
[Johndwainemckenna.com](http://Johndwainemckenna.com)  
or  
[Mysteriousbookreport.com](http://Mysteriousbookreport.com)

If you wish to download this week's Church bulletin from St. Peter's, Liberty, NY please go to: [stpeters/bulletin](http://stpeters/bulletin)

As New York begins to open allowing churches to once have services, we encourage our readers to contact their individual church or parish for updated information.

St. Mark's UM Church  
68 Clinton St., Napanoch

**YARD AND CLOTHING SALE  
CLOSED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



**Sundown United Methodist Church**

**Covered Dish Supper**

5:30 pm

To be Announced

*Sundown United Methodist Church Hall*



**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

**Saturday Thrift Sale**

9:00 am to 12 noon  
To be Announced

**Thrift Sale**  
9am-12 noon  
Luncheon  
11 am - 12:30 pm  
To be Announced



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[www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org](http://www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org)

**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 5:45 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



**Sundown United Methodist Church**  
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown  
Sunday Worship Service - 8:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:45 p.m.  
Pastor Seung Jin Hong  
845-985-2283  
e-mail: [Sundownumc@gmail.com](mailto:Sundownumc@gmail.com)

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**  
Rte. 55, Grahamsville  
Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School for grades k-7 - 10:30 a.m.  
Mid-week Bible Study opportunities available!

**Regular Office Hours**  
Wednesday 9 am - Noon  
Friday 3 pm to 6 pm

If you wish to make an appointment to talk to Pastor Seung Jin Hong please call 845-985-2283

For all other information contact Pastor Seung Jin Hong.  
845-985-2283 • e-mail: [Grahamsvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:Grahamsvilleumc@gmail.com)

*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

Church Hall available for rent  
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

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

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

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

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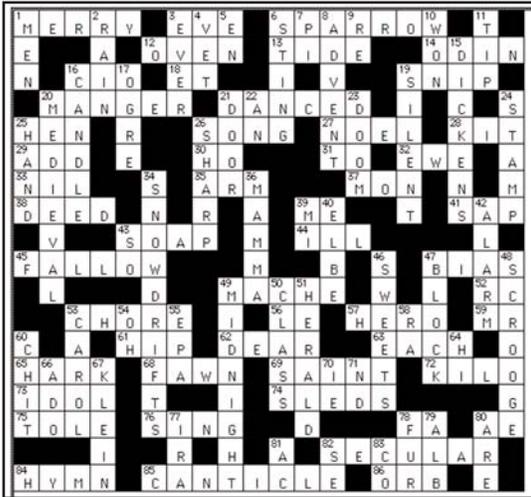
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**AL-ANON MEETINGS-** <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>  
 Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty • Thurs- 7:00 p.m. Immacu-late Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne  
 Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 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., Hurleyville, NY. For information call 845-434-8044.

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also  
**WANTED**  
 People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU  
 answer

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

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 email: [tvtownsman@yahoo.com](mailto:tvtownsman@yahoo.com)  
 or visit our Virtual Mall  
[gnomehome.net](http://gnomehome.net)

# Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, January 9th 2021 at 9:00 am.

The cost of the class is \$40.00 per a person, payable to the Claryville Vol. Fire Department.

(The fee covers your registration and workbook materials)

Registration is required. To sign up call Chief VanDenberg at 985-2943 **NO LATER than December 31st.**

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department (Warren Cole Fire Hall)

# Our Student Show at ASK is Open!

Our new student show at the Art Society of Kingston (ASK), features artwork created during the time of Covid. You can check it out online through the link below, or visit in person. The exhibit runs from December 5th-26th, and the gallery will be open for viewing Tuesdays-Saturdays from 1:00-6:00PM.

Click Here to View the ARxT Show

<http://www.askforarts.org/online-exhibitions-122002/>  
<http://www.askforarts.org/online-exhibitions-122002/>

# Are you a High School or College Student on Winter Break? Come study with us... for free!

Woodstock School of Art is proud to offer full tuition youth scholarships through the generosity of the Thompson Family Foundations. We can help you brush up on your skills or try something new! We also offer merit and work exchange scholarships for adults. Questions about our program or want to sign up? Visit our website or contact our program coordinator.

Questions about our program or want to sign up? Visit our website or contact our program coordinator.

<https://woodstockschoolofart.org/about/scholarships/>

# Join us for Sullivan 180's Walkthrough Wednesdays at Peace Love & Lights

Sullivan 180's Walkthrough Wednesdays at Peace Love & Lights at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts will be every Wednesday starting November 25th through December 30th. The walkthrough will start at 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Walkthrough Wednesdays allows guests to explore the beautiful holiday lights display up close and personal, out of the car, and in the midst of the magic before cars arrive.

Admission is \$5, or bring a new unwrapped toy to be donated to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless and get in for free (first come first serve basis).

Sullivan 180 is also challenging our community to get 500 residents to walk the one-mile route over the course of the six Wednesdays. If we reach this goal, a cash donation of \$500 will be made to the Federation and matched by Liberty NY Rotary Club!

For more information on Sullivan180's Walkthrough Wednesdays please see the flyer below, and for other Peace Love & Lights offers or to purchase tickets, please visit: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

## Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update For The Week Of December 21 - December 25, 2020

### Monday, December 21

o 6:00 PM - Trails Advisory Committee Powered by Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 880 4099 8048, Passcode: 608976, Dial In Number (646) 558-8656

### Tuesday, December 22

o 4:00 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Sole Member Meeting, Powered by Zoom Meetings. Dial (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 851 4735 8546

### Wednesday, December 23

o 9:30 AM - Soil & Water Conservation District at 5 Park Ln, Highland

### Thursday, December 24

o No Meetings

### Friday, December 25

o Christmas Day - County Offices Closed

Regards,  
Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

## ASK - 2020 In Review

2020 has been a year like no other. While our 25th anniversary did not all go as planned, here at ASK we feel proud of all we accomplished and think it worth celebrating! None of it would be possible without your support. Click through to see the 2020 year in review.

At ASK we appreciate your continued support and membership throughout 2020, and thank you for your donations and future collaborations.

o Starting 12/19, pick up a FREE 2021 Kingston Community Calendar. This year, the calendar features stunning photographs sent through the #ASK4Unity project.

o Please join us this holiday season and help us help children by donating socks to keep their feet warm this winter. Donations will be accepted until January 1st. All sock donations will be hung on the Sock Tree located at ASK (97 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401) and then donated to a charitable organization.

Your contributions make a difference! Especially during this unprecedented time, your donation is necessary to keep our community thriving. ASK is raising \$3,000 before the end of 2020 to support our mission of providing a space for artists to create and present their work. Please consider making a fully tax-deductible donation to ASK, and support the incredible arts community here in Kingston. To contribute now, please click

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=LDWKC9FVY6MAJ](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=LDWKC9FVY6MAJ)

**OPENING:**  
SATURDAY 11/21  
2 - 4 P.M.

**CURATED BY**  
ED MUES

**FEATURING:**  
CYNTHIA ALTORISO  
TOM BOLGER  
CHARLES BRODERSON  
DUTCH PINK  
LETIZIA GENTILE  
ELINORE HOLLINSHEAD  
GIAN KAMAL  
PATRICIA PETERS  
MARY SOCOLOF  
NATALIE STOPKA

**CRAGSMOOR**  
**ARTISTS**  
**IN OLIVE**  
RUNS  
NOVEMBER 21  
JANUARY 9

## Public Health Advisory Multiple Exposures During Party at Monticello Restaurant

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County Public Health Services has confirmed that a diner at Ciao Bella, an Italian restaurant in Monticello, tested positive for COVID-19.

While there is currently no indication that the patron contracted the virus at the restaurant, the diner was at a group party, and the restaurant was hosting over two dozen people at the time, many of whom were not wearing masks. Additional individuals are awaiting their test results.

The party was being held at the restaurant, located at 46 Forestburgh Road in Monticello, on the following date and time:

- o December 12 from 6-10 p.m.

Public Health is currently conducting contact tracing, but if someone thinks they have been exposed and develops symptoms, they and their close contacts should self-quarantine for 14 days and call their healthcare provider, or call Sullivan County Public Health Services at 845-292-5910. Please DO NOT leave quarantine while awaiting test results.

The virus that causes COVID-19 most commonly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet, or 2 arm-lengths). It spreads through respiratory droplets or small particles, such as those in aerosols, produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes. These particles can be inhaled into the nose, mouth, airways, and lungs and cause infection. This is thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

For an updated list of testing locations, visit [www.sullivanyny.us](http://www.sullivanyny.us).

Due to the large increase in the number of cases and community-wide transmission, and an anticipated surge in COVID-19 cases over the holidays, public health and medical experts highly recommend avoiding gatherings, especially if masks are not worn and social distancing cannot be maintained.

The following parameters and protocols are based upon recommended preventive measures issued from the public health community. Follow these CDC guidelines to protect yourself and others:

- o Stay at least six feet from other people.
- o Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- o Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.
- o Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- o Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- o Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- o Take your temperature if symptoms develop.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Possible symptoms of COVID-19 include one or more of the following:

- o Fever or chills
- o Cough
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Fatigue
- o Muscle or body aches
- o Headache
- o New loss of taste or smell
- o Sore throat

- o Congestion or runny nose
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Diarrhea

If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- o Trouble breathing
- o Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- o New confusion
- o Inability to wake or stay awake
- o Bluish lips or face

For more information on coronavirus, go to <https://sullivanyny.us/departments/publichealth/coronavirus> or <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.



## 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.

PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF EACH ORGANIZATION FOR UPDATES ON OPENINGS

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

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

1/1/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - New Year's Day  
 1/6/21 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting - Organizational  
 1/13/21 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting - Rewgular  
 1/18/21 Town of Neversink Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*Save the Date!*

**Matthew Bertholf's 10th Anniversary Memorial Horseshoe Tournament Sunday, July 11, 2021**  
 Neversink Fire Department Pavilion.

**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.

**Claryville FD**

**Volunteers Needed for**

**Associate and Active Members**

Please contact Chief VanDenberg  
 at [claryvillefd@gmail.com](mailto:claryvillefd@gmail.com)  
 for any questions

**Tri-Valley Elementary School**

**WANTED:**

**Local establishments to display student KINDNESS artwork**

Contact Penny Hennessey in the Main Office at 985-2296 ext. 5306  
 or [pennyhennessey@trivalleycsd.org](mailto:pennyhennessey@trivalleycsd.org).

All artwork and frames will be provided by the District  
 and refreshed bi-annually.

**PRAYER TO THE**

**BLESSED VIRGIN**

(Never known to fail)

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

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

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

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

GBA

**To All: 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  
 throughout 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

# Software Glitch Prevents Positive COVID Test Results From Being Transmitted Timely to Public Health Middletown Medical Patients Urged to Contact County Directly

Liberty, NY - Sullivan County Public Health Services is working closely with private healthcare provider Middletown Medical to quickly account for missing data arising from a software malfunction earlier this month.

On December 8, Middletown Medical implemented an automated system for reporting positive COVID-19 test results to the State and Sullivan and Orange counties' public health departments.

"Some discrepancies were discovered this week following the implementation of the new system, as isolated portions of data from test results were not successfully delivered to the Sullivan County and Orange County Departments of Health by the software," said Middletown Medical Communications Officer Caitlin Huebner.

"According to what we've been able to determine thus far, approximately 200 positive test results in Sullivan County, from tests as far back as November 25, were never received by our office due to this software glitch," stated Sullivan County Public Health Director Nancy McGraw.

"We had received a few phone calls recently from residents asking why they had not been contacted by our office following notification by their healthcare provider of a positive COVID-19 test result," McGraw added. "Our staff identified a pattern that many individuals had received their tests at the same location, and we notified the provider's office, Middletown Medical. They recognized a software problem that prevented lab results from being automatically uploaded to the State's Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS)."

Upon this discovery, Middletown Medical returned to manually uploading cases to the State.

"Middletown Medical's staff personally advised all individuals - at the time they received their positive results - to quarantine and monitor themselves and their household members for symptoms," McGraw said.

"Middletown Medical continues to work closely with both the Sullivan County and Orange County Health Departments to verify all results and communication protocols are successfully addressed at the county level," stated Huebner. "In order to ensure proper patient reporting and prevent a lapse in county tracking, Middletown Medical is directing all patients who were tested at a Middletown Medical location and received a positive test result to reach out to their local county Health Department if they have not been contacted by their respective county officials already."

Sullivan County Public Health Services can be reached at 845-292-5910. Orange County's Health Department is available at 845-291-2332.

"While our staff work diligently to reach out to all the residents directly impacted, please feel free to call our office and ask to speak with a staff member in the Communicable Disease Unit and leave your name and phone number," McGraw urged. "Also, please be patient with us if it takes a while to return calls, as there are close to 200 lab results to sort through in

addition to the ongoing new daily lab results that our office receives from ECLRS reported by other area healthcare providers."

"An important part of isolation is to identify all close contacts so that we can help limit further transmission of the virus and further community spread of COVID-19," she added. "If you seek a COVID-19 test, you should immediately isolate at home until receiving your result. If it is positive, you must remain in isolation for 10 days to avoid transmitting the virus to household members you share the same rooms or bathrooms with, and they should quarantine for 14 days. Routine disinfection of common areas should take place daily. If you test positive, do not share cups, utensils or food, and stay in a separate room if possible, or maintain a minimum of 6-10 feet away from family or other household members while wearing a mask, even indoors."

The complete statement from Middletown Medical is follows:

December 16, 2020

## STATEMENT FROM MIDDLETOWN MEDICAL:

Built on more than 25 years of experience, CGM LAB-DAQ is an advanced laboratory information system that has long been the industry standard for medical laboratories. Following COVID-19, an automated feature was added to improve testing workflow and health department reporting.

On December 8th, Middletown Medical went live with the new automated system feature to more efficiently and effectively comply with state-mandated result reporting requirements for COVID-19 and influenza in both Sullivan and Orange counties.

Some discrepancies were discovered this week following the implementation of the new system, as isolated portions of data from test results were not successfully delivered to the Sullivan County and Orange County Departments of Health by the software.

Until Middletown Medical is fully confident that the discrepancy has been resolved, all laboratories have resumed manually uploading cases to the New York State health reporting agencies. Middletown Medical remains dedicated to adhering to COVID-19 tracking policies, working collaboratively with county leaders, and continuing to be vigilant in efforts to understand and combat the coronavirus pandemic. This includes strict internal protocols for patients who test COVID-19 positive.

Upon a positive result, all patients are immediately categorized as "critical," and are personally notified by a Middletown Medical provider. The provider will also educate the patient on quarantine protocol, monitoring symptoms, and follow-up care. In order to ensure proper patient reporting and prevent a lapse in county tracking, Middletown Medical is directing all patients who were tested at a Middletown Medical location and received a positive test result to reach out to their local county Health Department if they have not been contacted by their respective county officials already:

– Sullivan County Public Health Services: 845-292-5910

– Orange County Health Department: 845-291-2332

Middletown Medical continues to work closely with both the Sullivan County and Orange County Health Departments to verify all results and communication protocols are successfully addressed at the county level.

Caitlin Huebner  
Communications Officer  
Middletown Medical

## Gov Cuomo Signs Executive Order to Better Support Seniors and Assist the Restaurant Industry Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

### *Safe Renewal and Registration for Real Property Tax Benefits Sales Tax Deadline for Restaurants Extended Until March 2021*

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced he has signed an Executive Order providing additional support for two of the groups hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic - vulnerable homeowners and the restaurant industry. Under Executive Order 202.83, local governments can continue to provide property tax exemptions for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities who own property through 2021 by lifting an in-person renewal requirement which would put vulnerable New Yorkers at risk of infection from COVID. Additionally, the sales tax deadline for restaurants in orange zones which have been required to suspend indoor dining will be extended until March.

"COVID has tested our collective strength and put a strain on finances for so many New Yorkers," Governor Cuomo said. "We're taking measures that will provide much needed tax relief for some of those hardest hit by this pandemic - New Yorkers over 65 and our restaurant industry. With the finish line in sight, we will continue to support New Yorkers wherever possible and fight to get the federal government to deliver real relief for those who are struggling."

Thousands of low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities rely on property tax exemptions annually to remain in their homes. To claim or renew benefits, eligible seniors and disabled New Yorkers typically line up at town halls across the state to file the required documentation. This raises obvious concerns amid the COVID-19 public health emergency as those eligible to receive these benefits are among those most susceptible to the virus. This modification will decrease density in assessor's offices to limit the spread of COVID and ensure critical tax relief.

Under the Governor's Executive Order, local governments can automatically renew 2021 benefits for all property owners who received the benefit in 2020 unless the locality has reason to believe an individual has changed their primary address, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or passed away.

In addition to the flexibility provided for these benefits, the Governor's Executive Order provides a three-month extension to the deadline for restaurants in orange zones, including New York City, to turn over sales taxes to the state. Restaurants in impacted areas were required to suspend indoor dining temporarily. Extending the sales tax deadline for payment of taxes due on December 21 to March 2021 will ease tax burdens for restaurants and bars in communities where COVID-19 metrics necessitated additional restrictions. This action also provides a degree of temporary relief as New York continues to fight to ensure the federal government provides real fiscal relief for these small businesses. Affected restaurants should follow guidance from the Tax Department to request this relief.

## UC Executive Ryan Announces the Next Phase of Project Resilience

*Project Resilience will focus its efforts on supporting those most vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic including seniors, youth, and families who are living paycheck to paycheck*

*The program will continue to address growing food insecurity by supporting local food banks*

*County Executive Ryan announces the initiative is reactivating grassroots community fundraising to support its efforts*



KINGSTON, N.Y. - County Executive Pat Ryan announced today the next phase of Project Resilience. As the county continues to experience a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, Project Resilience will continue to serve as a vehicle to support those most vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic. The next phase of Project Resilience will focus on supporting our seniors and our young people, addressing growing food insecurity by supporting our network of local food banks, and building support systems for Ulster County families that are living paycheck to paycheck. Project Resilience will begin re-activating its grassroots community fundraising today to support these efforts.

"Project Resilience is an unprecedented initiative that has allowed us to channel the wave of goodwill from across Ulster County to better serve our residents in need since the beginning of the pandemic," Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan said. "Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, far too many families were already struggling - with four in ten Ulster County households living paycheck to paycheck. COVID-19 has further exacerbated and amplified these challenges, and we have to continue to step up our game to meet the surge of need across our County. The strength of our community has truly been the backbone of Project Resilience since day one and it's more important now than ever that we renew our commitment to leave no one behind."

These areas of focus are identified by the Ulster County Recovery Task Force, whose goal has been to ensure a coordinated and compassionate response to the devastating socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on county residents. Since the outbreak of the virus, Ulster County has already seen a surge in SNAP applications, senior meals on wheels requests, and many other key services. (Contd. Pg. 27)

## UC Executive Ryan Announces the Next Phase of Project Resilience

(From Pg. 26) Given the ongoing public health crisis and resulting economic dislocation, Ulster County anticipates these needs will continue to grow in scale and scope over the coming months. As informed by the Recovery Task Force, Project Resilience will respond to these challenges across Ulster County, and work to develop new ways to support residents.

As the needs of our county evolve over the winter, the County will continue to re-imagine Project Resilience to meet the needs of the Ulster County community. Project Resilience has raised \$900,000 to support our community through this difficult winter and will roll out support strategically on an ongoing basis. Project Resilience is made possible through partnerships with the United Way and Community Foundations.

Launched in March, Project Resilience started as a community fund and local food distribution efforts established to support residents impacted by COVID-19. Within 24 hours of its inception, County Executive Ryan secured over \$2 million dollars in funding and announced partnerships with municipal governments, local businesses, and not-for-profits. Since launching, Project Resilience has provided nearly 300,000 meals while supporting over 100 small businesses

Donations are accepted here through United Way. For more information on Project Resilience, please visit: <https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/project-resilience/>

## Gillibrand Calls for Extension of Emergency Paid Leave Provisions

***National Paid Sick Days And Family Leave Will Expire At The End Of December For Nearly 22 Million Americans, One-fifth Of The Workforce Will Be Forced To Choose Between Their Health Or Their Paycheck As COVID-19 Cases Surge Across The Country***

***Recent Study Shows Emergency Paid Leave Policies Reduced COVID-19 Infections Gillibrand's PAID Leave Act Would Provide All Employees With 14 Emergency Paid Sick Days And 12 Weeks Emergency Paid Family and Medical Leave***

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senate lead on the FAMILY Act, called on Congress to extend the bipartisan paid sick days and family leave provisions, authorized in March under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), in the next COVID relief package. The provisions are set to expire at

the end of December, in the midst of a second wave of coronavirus that has prompted communities to renew stay at home orders and roll back business and school reopenings.

*"The next relief package must include emergency paid leave provisions which have been a critical tool for keeping families safe and slowing the spread of this virus. As the second wave peaks and with possible renewed shutdowns, millions of workers will be forced, once again, to make impossible choices between caring for their family and earning a paycheck-unless there is a national paid leave program," said Senator Gillibrand. "This policy received bipartisan support this spring because it not only protects jobs and the health and safety of workers, but it helps slow community spread and it is good for the economy. This crisis has shown that paid sick days and family leave is smart policy for the pandemic and our future."*

*"Paid leave is one of our most affordable and effective tools to fight the pandemic. It saves jobs and it saves lives, and it has been a lifeline to working families. Congress passed emergency paid leave this spring, and applauded its passage on both sides of the aisle; voters in states across the country have said this is their top relief policy. If Congress lets this protection expire right as we go into the holidays and the peak of the pandemic, it will be a profound failure," said Dawn Huckelbridge, director of Paid Leave for All.*

While the FFCRA required many employers to provide workers with two weeks of coronavirus-related sick leave at full pay, and up to 12 weeks of family and medical leave to care for family members at two-thirds pay, it is estimated that up to three-quarters of all workers were excluded from receiving these benefits. Despite excluding many workers, the provisions gave 22 million workers nationwide the ability to stay home when they're sick, helping to slow the spread of coronavirus. A recent study in Health Affairs found that the introduction of the paid leave provisions helped reduce COVID infections by about 15 thousand cases per day. Now, as COVID-19 cases surge across the country and with paid sick and family leave set to expire, millions of workers are being forced to decide between their paycheck or the health of themselves and their families.

The relief package currently being negotiated fails to provide an extension of emergency paid sick day and family leave provisions. In addition to the extension of current provisions Senator Gillibrand is calling on Congress to include the PAID Leave Act (Providing Americans Insured Days of Leave Act). The legislation would close current loopholes that left out millions of workers and provide all employees with 14 emergency paid sick days and 12 weeks emergency paid family and medical leave. The PAID Leave Act would also permanently enact a paid family and medical leave program and ensure workers can accrue 7 paid sick days.

Senator Gillibrand has continuously fought to enact a federal paid leave program during the COVID-19 crisis and throughout her career. In March, Senator Gillibrand, Senator Patty Murray, and Representative Rosa DeLauro successfully secured the national emergency paid leave program with the FFCRA. Gillibrand later introduced the PAID Leave Act alongside Senator Patty Murray, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

## Want to Keep Your Family Safe From Medications in Your Home?

Liberty, NY - The newly redesigned Sullivan County Drug Task Force, along with Sullivan County Public Health and Sullivan County Rural Health Network, is asking the public's input regarding the availability of drug drop boxes and other safe and responsible methods of drug disposal.

"The input gained will help direct our attempts to reduce the amount of unwanted or unneeded medication in our communities," stated Sullivan County Public Health Educator Jill Simon.

The public is urged to take the survey, which can be found on the Sullivan County Public Health Services Facebook page, or at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Drug\\_Disposal\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Drug_Disposal_Survey). The deadline to complete the survey is January 15, 2021.

They're also encouraged to use the drop boxes to get rid of old or unwanted medicines.

"There are drop box locations around Sullivan County," said Nancy McGraw, Public Health Director. "Drop and go, there will be no questions asked when dropping off. Please: no liquids, needles or syringes."

Drop boxes can be found in these locations:

### 24/7 drop off

- o Village of Monticello Police Department, 2 Pleasant Street, Monticello
- o Town of Fallsburg Police Department, 19 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg
- o Village of Liberty Police Department, 159 N. Main St., Liberty

### 9a.m. - 5pm. only

- o Department of Family Services. 16 Community Lane, Liberty.

For more information, visit Sullivan County Public Health Services and Sullivan County Rural Health Network.

## SUNY Sullivan Alum Makes Forbes Magazine 30 Under 30 List

Couldn't be prouder of SUNY Sullivan Liberal Arts and Sciences alum Cody Siciliano ('09), a Grahamsville native who made *Forbes' 30 under 30 list!* Cody Siciliano is Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Siciliano's lab explores how the brain computes information to make decisions and how substance abuse alters these mechanisms in certain individuals to cause addiction. His aim is to find better addiction treatments, and his research has uncovered a circuit in the brain that's central for the development of compulsive drinking.

## UC Exec Pat Ryan Announces Nearly \$2 million of Available Funding for Local Bridge Projects

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan along with the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) announced the availability of \$1.999 million in federal funding for local bridge projects in Ulster County. The UCTC is now soliciting proposals for bridge repair projects utilizing the UCTC's share of federal Surface Transportation Program "Off System" Bridge Repair funds.

"We are thrilled to be able to make these resources available to Ulster County municipalities to support our local infrastructure," County Executive Ryan said. "Bridges are among the most important elements of our transportation system, and federal funding for this critical transportation infrastructure can offset local costs by as much as 80%. This funding will help us ensure that we continue to not just maintain, but improve our critical local infrastructure."

### Eligible Applicants

Any city, county, town, or village within the Ulster County Metropolitan Planning Area with eligible facilities that are authorized to receive and administer State and federal transportation may apply.

### Eligible Projects and Funding Availability

UCTC is soliciting projects under the following funding category:

- Proposals to rebuild, rehabilitate, preserve, or deice off-system bridges. An off-system bridge is a highway bridge located on a public road that is not a Federal-aid highway.
- A map of all eligible bridge facilities is available on the UCTC website.

### Application Process

Municipalities with candidate projects that meet FHWA and UCTC project eligibility criteria must complete and submit applications (one application per project proposal) by close of business on January 15, 2021.

Detailed application instructions and forms can be found online at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/transportation-improvement-plan/tip-call-for-projects>

Applications and a cover letter signed by the Chief Elected Official should be emailed to [uctc@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:uctc@co.ulster.ny.us) by 5:00pm on January 15, 2021.

## DEC Wilderness Rescue:

On Dec. 12 at 11:25 a.m., DEC's Ray Brook Dispatch was notified via radio by Forest Ranger Milano about a 60-year-old hunter from Long Lake who had fallen out of a tree stand. While on routine patrol in Sargent Ponds Wilderness Area, Ranger Milano noticed a truck parked at the end of North Point Road and saw an injured man crouched next to his vehicle waving frantically. The Forest Ranger had recently transferred into the Long Lake area and was in the right place at the right time -- North Point Road is a dead-end road with no cell phone coverage and the hunter had not informed anyone he was going into the woods. Ranger Milano called dispatch to request an ambulance and administered medical care while waiting for the Long Lake Rescue Squad. Once the ambulance arrived, the hunter was transported to a local hospital for additional medical care. DEC's Environmental Conservation Police Officer (ECO) Buswell and Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigators (BECI) Unit were notified to investigate as a possible elevated hunting incident.

DEC reminds hunters that one of the basics of hunter safety is to let someone know where you will be hunting and when you will return. A map showing tree stand locations makes it easier for others to find hunters if they do not return on time. For more hunter safety information, go to DEC's website.

## Ulster County Medical Professionals Begin First Round of COVID-19 Vaccination

**County Executive Ryan visited MidHudson Regional Hospital today where he joined Ulster County health care professionals who were receiving among the first COVID-19 vaccinations**

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Today, County Executive Ryan joined health care workers as they administered among the first COVID-19 vaccinations in the Hudson Valley to Ulster County medical professionals.



*Colleen Laico, from Kingston, NY, a medical professional at the ER at Kingston Hospital receives her COVID-19 vaccination*

“This is a significant step forward in our pandemic response. Health care workers have been at the front lines of COVID-19, risking their lives to help others and selflessly working around the clock to serve our community,” County Executive Ryan said. “Being able to witness today's vaccinations brought a surge of optimism and relief, but we still have to continue to remember the realities of the pandemic with cases continuing to surge. While we are still months away from the vaccine being widely available to the public, we must continue to take precautions to stop the spread while making sure all Ulster County residents the information they need when the vaccine becomes available to



*County Executive Ryan and Colleen Laico.*

them.”

“My hat's off to the team at MidHudson Regional Hospital and WMCHealth for their tremendous accomplishment of setting-up and now vaccinating our Healthcare Heroes,” Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley Dr. Michael Doyle said. “And, real credit to these heroes, who continue to amaze us all with their courage, on the frontline fighting the pandemic and now on the frontline making it go away by being vaccinated.”

Earlier this week, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan announced the formation of the Ulster County Vaccine Distribution Coalition. Led by Dr. Marc Tack, an infectious disease specialist with more than 20 years of medical experience, the coalition is made up of community leaders with the goal of educating the public in order to build trust and confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine and its distribution process. The committee looks to focus on underserved populations to ensure a seamless process once the vaccine is readily available to the general public.

This week Pfizer delivered nearly 170,000 Covid-19 vaccines to New York State. Stage 1 vaccination distribution will see vaccines distributed proportionally throughout New York's 10 regions based on the makeup of each region. Whatever percentage of the state's healthcare workers any given region holds will determine how much of the vaccine will be sent to that region. It is expected that pending FDA approval, next week a second shipment from Moderna would deliver an additional 346,000 more vaccines to New York. The Mid-Hudson region will receive over 19,000 vaccines in the first round.

Members of the committee include the following:

Dr. Marc Tack, Infectious Disease Specialist; Dr. Walter Woodley, Institute for Family Health; Dr. Marta Sanchez, Institute for Family Health ; Mariel Fiori, Editor La Voz Magazine ; Beth Albright, Family of Woodstock; Susan Koppenhaver, Director of the Ulster County Office for the Aging; Estela Aquino-Woych, New York State Nurses Association; Lauri Naccarato, New York State United Teachers; Pastor Jim Childs, Pointe of Praise Church; Pastor Denise Younger, New Testament Church of Jesus Christ in Ellenville; Diana Lopez, Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson; Ulster County Jewish Federation Representative

For additional information and to find out how to get involved, please email [UCVDC@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:UCVDC@co.ulster.ny.us).

## 2020 Sullivan County Bar Association Donation Drive to Benefit Adult Care Center

Sullivan County Bar Association President Meagan K. Galligan announced today that the Association's 2020 Donation Drive will benefit Sullivan County's Adult Care Center in Liberty, New York. Galligan said, "This year has been tremendously difficult for many members of our community, including elderly residents of facilities that have, for safety reasons, limited interactions with non-residents. To that end, we are hosting a donation event for residents of the Adult Care Center this year." A contactless donation bin will be located at the District Attorney's Office at 26 Hamilton Avenue in Monticello through December 22. Those who wish to donate are encouraged to consider giving items like: Blankets; Games; Puzzle Books, Sealed Candy (Regular and Sugar Free); Slippers; and/or Books and/or Reading Glasses.

The bin will be available from 9 AM through 5 PM Monday-Friday. Cash donations to facilitate additional purchases are requested to be secured with reception at the DA's Office.

## Ulster County 2021 Budget includes a 0% tax increase and zero layoffs despite the financial impact from the pandemic

(From Pg. 9) At approximately \$334.4 million, the 2021 budget includes a 0% increase in the tax levy and no layoffs to county employees. The budget highlights a series of initiatives focused on ensuring Ulster County emerges from the challenges of the COVID pandemic stronger and more equitable, including a comprehensive set of economic investments, major infrastructure improvements, and critical social services.

"The 2021 Budget was adopted unanimously with bi-partisan support and represents an overwhelming vote of confidence after one of the most difficult years for Ulster County in decades," Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan said. "I want to thank my partners in the Ulster County Legislature. Together, we worked to deliver a county budget that once again held the line on taxes, while also containing no layoffs and maintaining - and in many cases improving - delivery of vital services across the board. At this time, we must do everything within our power to ensure that we are delivering the best services at the best value to taxpayers and that we can emerge from the pandemic with a continued focus on taking care of each other during this moment of great need. Our 2021 Budget accomplishes just that."

"Ulster County had one of the most financially challenging years that we have ever seen," Ulster County Legislative Chairman Dave Donaldson said. "Yet, through hard work and collaboration, we unanimously adopted a budget that does not raise taxes and keeps essential services that our residents rely on fully intact. The work done in 2020, sets us up for success as we continue to address the challenges that Covid-19 has brought Ulster County."

"I'm really pleased with the collaborative process between the Legislature and Executive that led us to this budget signing," Minority Leader Ken Ronk said. "This budget protects Ulster County taxpayers, continues to invest in our dedicated County workforce, and works to keep our residents safe and healthy through the COVID-19 Pandemic. It's a document that all of Ulster County can be proud of."

"When uncertainty can feel overwhelming, the certainty of stable taxes and the promise of key services continuing may hopefully bring some comfort to our constituents as we head into 2021," Ulster County Legislator Abe Uchitelle said.

"We are always better in unison than we are apart and that has never been more evident than during these unprecedented times," Ulster County Legislator Heidi Haynes said. "My colleagues in the legislature along with County Executive Pat Ryan have worked hard to unanimously adopt a sound budget for all the residents of Ulster County. The 2021 budget continues to hold the line on taxes, cuts spending and maintains critical services. We've faced some of the most challenging fiscal decisions in recent county history and I am confident that together we will emerge stronger than ever to continue to best serve the residents of this amazing county."

"The unanimous adoption of the Ulster County budget during these trying times is a prime example of what can happen when we all work together," Ulster County Legislator Laura Petit said. "I am so proud that we were able to keep taxes flat while maintaining services that our residents need now more than ever."

"During these difficult times it is more important now than ever that government cooperate and work together at all levels and branches," Ulster County Legislator John Parete said. "The 2021 budget is an example of what is possible if we take this approach to government."

Despite the financial challenges brought on by the pandemic, the county was able to hold the line on taxes due to strong fiscal management in response to the crisis. Once again, Ulster County received a strong credit rating of AA in the most recent ratings by S&P Global, issued in November. Ulster County has also again been designated as "fiscally sound" by the NYS Comptroller, and Ryan's Budget maintains a fund balance above recommended levels to ensure the county maintains financial flexibility going forward.

### 2021 Budget Initiatives

#### Building A People-Centered Economy Ulster 2040

County Executive Pat Ryan released Ulster 2040, an action plan for creating a sustainable and "People-Centered Economy." The report outlines a bold, long-term vision for what our economy (and by extension our community) should and could look like in twenty years and it outlines specific recommendations and short, medium and long-term investments in four focused sectors to achieve that vision.

#### Grow and Diversify our Economy for All

The 2021 Ulster County Budget proposes to spend approximately \$5.3 million in the operating budget and capital program to support economic development in the county.

The Ulster County Office of Economic Development's budget includes \$768,768.00 in proposed funding in the 2021 Ulster County Budget. Additionally, the Ulster County Tourism Department includes \$1,007,099.00 in proposed funding.

#### Ulster County Enterprise West (Formerly Tech City)

Approximately \$225,000 is included in the operating budget to ensure the upkeep of Ulster County Enterprise West, formerly known as Tech City. Additionally, to rebirth the former IBM site, taking long-vacant buildings and putting them back to work as a hub for artists, designers, manufacturers, and creatives. The capital budget includes \$2.9 million over several years to fund this transformation.

#### Green Careers Academy

As a part of the 2021 Budget, up to will be used \$75,000 to expand the Green Careers Academy for green career training and new internship programs. The Office of Employment and Training (OET) will be partnering with Ulster BOCES and SUNY Ulster to create green training opportunities for Ulster BOCES students. Through OET's Green Careers internship program, graduating students will also be eligible for further Green Careers Academy courses and paid on-the-job training experience.

#### 100% Renewable Energy by 2030

Through investments made in the 2021 Budget, Ulster County will be halfway towards its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030. As part of a five-year \$2.5 million dollar capital plan, Ulster County will invest over \$800,000 in 2021 to update decades old HVAC systems at the Ulster County Courthouse, the Ulster County Government Building, Ulster County Hall of Records and the Trudy Resnick Building in Ellenville. Over the next five-years, the county will look to upgrade systems in 14 buildings. The project will reduce heating and cooling energy use by up to 20%, resulting in significant operational cost savings, and replace older refrigerants, which are powerful greenhouse gases, in HVAC equipment.

In addition, Ulster County recently executed an agreement with the NY Power Authority for UCAT electric bus charging infrastructure. This project which utilizes VW settlement funding, upgrades the electrical service of the UCAT facility at 1 Danny Circle, Kingston will commence along with the installation of three 150KW DC fast chargers in the bus garage. It is anticipated that work will be completed by the end of 2021. (Contd. Pg. 31)

## Ulster 2021 Budget includes a 0% tax increase and zero layoffs despite the financial impact from the pandemic

(From Pg. 30) Through an agreement on the future site of Ulster County's second solar array located in the town of Saugerties, Ulster County will develop a community distributed generation project which will provide power for both Ulster County Government operations and local community solar subscribers. Ulster County will also subscribe to receive community solar credits from multiple sites within Central Hudson's service territory, including the ELP Myer solar project located on Warren Myer road in Saugerties. Both projects will lead to an anticipated annual cost savings of \$60,000.

### *Investments in Community Care* **Mobile Mental Health Expansion**

For the first time, Ulster County will invest \$150,000 to place a full-time social worker into the Emergency Management Department. Residents who call 911 and are experiencing a mental health crisis, will be able to be met with the response of a social worker opposed to law enforcement. This will ensure a trauma informed care response instead of incarceration. In the 2021 Budget, \$13.7 million will be allocated for Mental Health a total of \$871,664 will go to Mobile Mental Health.

### *Brighter Futures*

Launched last year, Brighter Futures focuses and personalizes support for adolescents, and their families, to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. In the 2021 Budget, the program will be doubled from 20 participants to 40. Brighter Futures will undoubtedly change the life trajectory for many young people in our community.

### *Golden Hill Housing*

In the 2021 Budget, Ulster County will continue to press forward in bringing workforce housing to Ulster County. In partnership with the Ulster County Legislature and the newly formed joint Housing Advisory Committee, plans will be finalized to convert the old jail at Golden Hill into a major workforce housing project. County Executive Ryan stressed that this type of housing will be accessible to frontline workers who've risked their lives during the pandemic and deserve a place for them and their family to live in dignity. In addition, work will continue to identify more sites across the county for future workforce housing projects.

### *Tackling the Opioid Epidemic*

As part of the 2021 Budget, \$670,000 will be dedicated to opioid use prevention. Through the budget, residents will have the opportunity to obtain housing vouchers at local hotels for those in need of safe housing while seeking treatment. Additionally, vouchers for childcare to assist those in obtaining treatment and attending critical appointments will be made available. Further, funds will be made available to offset transportation costs for residents getting help and providing access to technology for telemedicine needs.

Funding will also be used to expand Ulster County's High Risk Mitigation Team to the City of Kingston and strengthen its reach into other parts of Ulster County. Through this new effort, Ellenville Regional Hospital will fund two Care Managers to serve communities outside the City of Kingston and the Ulster County Health Department will fund one Care Manager to focus on Kingston along with assisting the program in reviewing all county overdoses and connecting the many treatment facilities. The High Risk Mitigation Team will take a population health approach and work closely with those struggling with addiction to ensure they receive comprehensive, personalized support and services. The team will carefully follow their treatment so they don't slip through the cracks in existing systems. Services will

include: linking to peer services, treatment, harm reduction measures, medication assisted treatment, OUD prevention education, and recovery services.

### *Infrastructure Investments*

In the 2021 Capital Budget, \$48.5 million will be dedicated to enhancing roads and bridges. This includes, among many other key projects, \$4.4 million to rebuild the Shawangunk Kill Bridge in Shawangunk, nearly \$3 million to upgrade the Maltby Hollow Bridge in the town of Olive, over \$2 million on the Sundown Bridge in the town of Denning, and \$10 million on overall road paving across the county throughout 2021.

### *Education and Community Care*

In the 2021 Budget, \$16.2 million dollars will be invested in education, including \$12.3 million in continued support to SUNY Ulster's academic programs and facility upgrades. Further, \$36.7 million has been allocated for Medicaid, \$36.6 million on childcare and early intervention programs and \$13.7 million for **Mental Health**.

Over \$100,000 will be allocated to Family of Woodstock for Domestic and Family violence prevention.

## Gov Cuomo Announces Largest Public Electric Vehicle Fast-Charging Station in the Northeast Now Available at JFK Airport

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the largest publicly accessible fast-charging station for electric vehicles in the Northeast is now operational at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens. The ten-port charging station is part of a joint initiative by the New York Power Authority and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that will reduce New York State's carbon footprint and improve air quality by incorporating electric vehicle technology throughout JFK and LaGuardia airports. The EV charging hub, compatible for all current fast-charging EV models, will help decarbonize the transportation sector and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85 percent by 2050, a target included in the Governor's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and bring New York State another step closer to a clean energy economy.

"As we make it easier for more New Yorkers to drive electric vehicles, we are directly reducing emissions and helping forge the path towards a greener future," Governor Cuomo said. "Reducing emissions from transportation is a priority in our historic Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and with projects like the new fast charging station at JFK, we are ensuring the infrastructure needed to meet our ambitious goals is in place."

The Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC) hub is available to local EV drivers as well as motorists traveling to and from the airport and will provide a valuable resource for New York City's increasingly electric taxis and rideshare vehicles. The project was completed as part of NYPA's statewide EVolve NY charging network that is being installed along key travel corridors and in urban areas to encourage more travelers to drive EVs.

The ten JFK high-speed 150kW chargers have been installed in the northeast corner of the West Cell Phone Parking Lot, conveniently located off the Van Wyck Expressway en route to the airport's main terminals. The site is for use by the public, rideshare drivers, taxis, and the Port Authority's own EV transportation fleets. These fast chargers will complement the medium-speed (Level 2) chargers that provide slower charging speeds and are already in the airport's indoor parking garages. The new DCFC public charging site also features four Tesla adapters so the hub will be able to charge any fast-charging electric vehicle.

**INTRODUCING:  
RENEE ZHANG:  
ANIMALS + PLANTS +  
FUNGI**

ASK is excited to open up 2021 with our January Spotlight Exhibition, *Animals + Plants + Fungi*, which showcases the incredible work of Renee Zhang!

*Animals + Plants + Fungi* as a show highlights subjects that are usually supporting "actors" in art. Ms. Zhang's portraits of these often-forgotten elements of nature are represented in various mediums,



and range from realistic to stylized. 2020 was (and 2021 promises to be) an unusual time in our lives for many reasons. More so than ever we need to recognize the importance of our interconnectedness. Animals, plants and fungi deserve to be preserved, seen, and immortalized through art. Through this show, Ms. Zhang hopes to convey to the public the soul and beauty of her unusual subject matter.



*Four Views of a Black Cat*



*Sycamore*

clear and simple line drawings to colorful, rich, detailed paintings.

Renee's Spotlight Exhibition opens up Saturday, January 2, at 1pm, both online and at our galleries.



*Underside of a Wild Mushroom*

**Glen Spey Camp and United Way of SC Will Make the Holidays a Little Merrier**



Through the efforts of Legislator Nadia Rajsz, Camp Simcha Director Ben Brown, left, was able to give hundreds of toys donated by the Glen Spey camp and its supporters to the United Way of Sullivan County for distribution this week to many children and families. Gratefully accepting the donation today outside the Government Center was United Way Executive Director Julian Dawson. "Thank you to Camp Simcha and Ben Brown for always remembering the children of Sullivan County through these yearly donations!" said Rajsz.



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**"KNARF'S CLASSIC  
 MOVIE & TRIVIA"  
 AVAILABLE ON  
 NETFLIX & AMAZON PRIME  
 THE POLAR EXPRESS**

(G · 2004 · 1hr 40min · Animation / Fantasy)

Tom Hanks as the Conductor, Nona Gaye as  
 Hero Girl, Peter Scolari as Billy - Lonely Boy, Michael Jeter as  
 Smokey. *The Polar Express* is a 2004 American computer-animat-  
 ed adventure film co-written and directed by Robert Zemeckis,



based on the 1985 children's book of the same name by Chris Van  
 Allsburg, who also served as one of the executive producers. The  
 film features human characters animated using live-action motion



capture animation. The film  
 tells the story of a young  
 boy who, on Christmas  
 Eve, sees a mysterious train  
 bound for the North Pole  
 stop outside his window  
 and is invited aboard by its  
 conductor. The boy joins

several other children as they embark on a journey to visit Santa  
 Claus preparing for Christmas. The film stars Tom Hanks, who  
 was also one of the film's executive producers, in multiple distinct  
 roles, with Daryl Sabara, Nona Gaye, Jimmy Bennett and Eddie  
 Deezen in supporting roles. (Contd. Pg. 34)



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(From Pg. 33)

**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2  
The Christmas Chronicles**

(PG · 2018 · 1hr 44mi Fantasy/Family)

What a refreshing, hilarious fantasy romp, through the spirit of the human kindness called Christmas. The wonderful musical performances are a pleasant surprise in conveying the love of the



soul, as the energy of the soul creates the feeling of **“THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS,”** called **CHRISTMAS.** We honor the celebration of Christ's day of bringing love to humanity for over two thousand years giving us hope to face our realities. The film shows the value of fairytales in creating a positive impression when making children laugh and understand the material,



and spiritual aspects of their reality. The film is spreading love and Christmas cheer.

Entertaining, with a comical bucket of monkey's fun-attitude of enjoying the human spirit. Not one boring moment in delivering the “fun,” of love, to humanity. Don't miss the fun of two adolescents catching Santa, by surprise on video. **Directed**



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

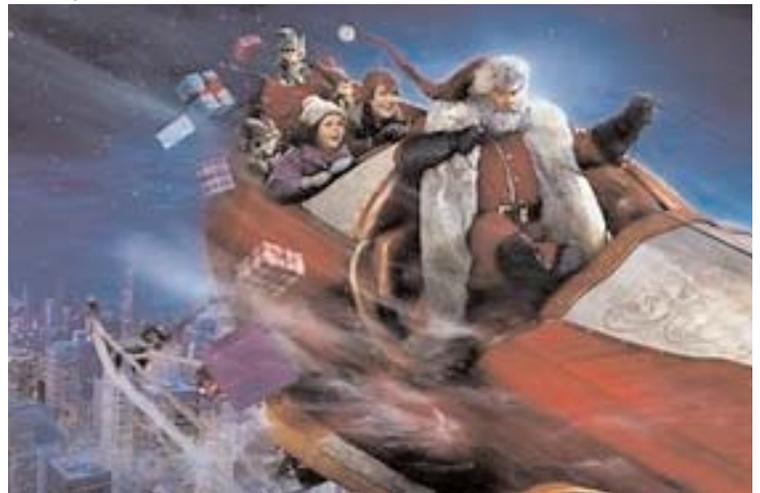
**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #3  
The Christmas Chronicles II**

(PG · 2020 · 1hr 44min · Fantasy/Family)

**YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, YOU BETTER NOT CRY, YOU BETTER NOT POUT, I'M TELLING YOU WHY?**



The Christmas Chronicles: Part Two. Unhappy over her mom's new relationship, a now-teenage Kate runs away and lands at the North Pole, where a naughty elf is plotting to cancel Christmas. Written and directed by Chris Columbus (Home Alone, Harry Potter) and co-starring Goldie Hawn, **THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES 2** is an action-packed adventure for the whole family that's full of heart



**Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

***Knarf Odnomac  
Gnome***