



Ye Olde Tri-TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 5 NO. 47

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740

DECEMBER 3, 2009

FIFTY CENTS

REMINDER: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* will not be published the week of Christmas (Dec. 24, 2009) or New Years (Dec. 31, 2009)

RONDOT WATERSHED LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

There will be a pilot meeting of the Rondout Watershed Landowners Association on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the Town of Neversink Town Hall. All residents who own property along the Rondout Stream in the Towns of Denning and Neversink are urged to attend this informational meeting. For further information please call 985-0501.

FIRST THURSDAY READERS MEETING

The book selection for November by the First Thursday Readers is "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri a novel about an Indian family from Calcutta and their transformation into American. The group will meet on Thursday, December 3, at 1:00 p.m. at the library. Books are available from the library? 985-7233. All are welcome.

GRAHAMSVILLE UMC HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND LUNCHEON

On Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm the Grahamsville United Methodist Church will hold its annual Holiday Craft Fair and Luncheon in the Church Hall. There will be many crafts including pottery, stained glass, handmade paper, watercolors, baked goods, etc. A lunch of soups, sandwiches and desserts will be available. A great way to do your holiday shopping! For further information call 985-2283 or 985-7427.

GMUC THRIFT STORE CONTINUES RECEIVING DONATIONS

The Grahamsville United Methodist Church Thrift Store will continue receiving donations of new and lightly used clothing and household items through the winter. Thank you for your continued support of this community outreach.



In the photo are SYDA Foundation public relations person Chris Williams and EPIC director Ruth Stratton seated, with EPIC Staff, Martine Swerdling and Jane Sorensen and EPIC volunteer Kathy Fuller standing.

EPIC AND SYDA FOUNDATION MEETING GREATER NEEDS

"The needs are greater this year than ever before," said Ruth Stratton, Director of Every Person Influences Children at Fallsburg's Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. She was accepting a generous donation of several boxes of children's gifts, toys, and school supplies just prior to Thanksgiving from the SYDA Foundation for the sixth year in a row. (Contd. Pg. 8)

LIBERTY FREE THEATRE PRESENTS DOUBLE BILL-Two One Act Plays for December

The Liberty Free Theatre will present *Not Much To Say* by Paul Austin and *Final Placement* by Ara Watson December 3 - 6 and 10 - 13. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 7:30 P.M. and Sundays at 3:00 P.M. Admission for the performance is free. (Contd. Pg. 8)

HOLIDAY SEASON HAS A BRIGHT BEGINNING IN THE HEART OF TRI-VALLEY



"... 3, 2, 1" and Bi-Centennial Square became a Winter Wonderland as Town of Neversink Supervisor, Greg Goldstein led the countdown at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday.



The event was well-attended and enjoyed by local residents, and friends and relatives from afar. Be sure to check out the Townsman website for this year's Tree Lighting Ceremony photo album - <http://thetownsman.com>

GRAHAMSVILLE FIRE DEPT LADIES' AUXILIARY NEWS

On December 6, 2009 from 11am to 1pm Santa will be coming to town! Parents bring your kids to the Bicentennial Square in Grahamsville to see Santa Claus! Enjoy a hot dog, hot chocolate and a cookie for free! Bring your camera to capture that special moment.

We hope to see you there! (Contd. Pg. 3)

BENEFIT CONCERTS

Jack Hardy and the Transformation Choir would like to sing for someone else's supper. This Christmas season, the choir and the folk singer/songwriter are teaming up to perform 3 benefit concerts, one for the Grahamsville Food Pantry on Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Grahamsville Reformed Church at 7:30 p.m.. (Contd. Pg. 3)

AGNES OF GOD ENCORE AT SCCC

The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop, providing quality, award-winning community theatre in the Catskills since 1950 will be presenting an encore of its critically acclaimed production of John Pielmeier's powerful drama, "Agnes of God" for two performances (December 5 and 6) in the Seelig Theatre at Sullivan County Community College in Loch Sheldrake. Presented in September during the 2009 Season at the SCDW's home of the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallsburg, critics raved that the "stellar cast" went well beyond the expectations of community theatre and "rivaled...the original Broadway production." This production earned awards from the Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS) for Excellence in Acting, Directing, Technical Direction and for Outstanding Vocal Performance. (Contd. Pg. 3)

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! TIME AND THE VALLEYS MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW INTERNET BOOKSTORE

The Time and the Valleys Museum is pleased to announce the opening of a new Internet Bookstore at www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org/store.html just in time for the holiday season!

Created to encourage the interest in Catskill and Sullivan County history and the environment, a wide variety of books on local history, geology, the environment, folklore and Native Americans are available for sale on the site.

GIVE A GIFT THAT WILL LAST FOREVER

The holiday season is approaching quickly. Stocking-stuffing time will be here before we know it! Are you looking for a unique and lasting holiday gift for a family member, friend, or organization? You may wish to participate in the Daniel Pierce Library's "Buy a Brick" Campaign by purchasing an engraved brick, inscribed with a name, greeting, or message of your choosing. You may want to honor a particular person or acknowledge an organization. You may commemorate a special milestone, event, or accomplishment. Personalized holiday certificates are available upon request. (Contd. Pg. 3)

2009 HOLIDAY SHOW AT THE OLD STONE HOUSE IN HASBROUCK

Big Sky Productions and the Concerned Citizens of Hasbrouck present a 2009 holiday show on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Stone House in Hasbrouck.

The show will include readings, poems and a few songs to celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa and the New Year. (Contd. Pg. 3)

LONG BEARDS TALK TURKEY WITH FALLSBURG STUDENTS



Benjamin Cosor Elementary School welcomed the Sullivan County Long Beards to an assembly for fifth and sixth graders and a special meeting with the school's Ecology Club three weeks before Thanksgiving. The group is a chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NTWF) and has long been involved in working with boys and girls to share their knowledge and love of the outdoors and the Sullivan County natural habitat. (Contd. Pg. 4)

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY HEALTH CELEBRATES PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOME RECOGNITION AT LUNCHEON

Recently, the Institute for Family Health celebrated its recent recognition as a Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). "The November 24 luncheon honored the commitment of the doctors, nurses, social workers and support staff at the centers, and the Institute's award winning electronic health record and practice management system, Epic," said Neil Calman, MD, president and CEO of the Institute.

"We are proud to be the first Community Health Center network in New York State to receive this recognition from NCQA." (Contd. Pg. 3)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE TOWN OF
DENNING AND THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (USPS #009 398 - ISSN 1558-9013) is published weekly except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's week for \$22.00 per year by Gnome Home, Inc.. Periodical postage paid at Grahamsville, NY. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:

The Townsman • P.O. Box 232 • Grahamsville, NY 12740
EDITOR: Linda Comando - 985-0501 FAX: 985-2527
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HERE AND THERE: Polly Hill - 985-2255
NEVERSINK NEWS - Hulda Vernoy - 985-2268
DAYS OF 'YORE' - Martha Ahrens
GETTING IN TOUCH WITH NATURE - Peggy DeWire
COLUMNIST/TYPIST - Karen Curry
LEGALS - Gloria Beavers
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POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or printed legibly.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words.
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 YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN office.
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 TOWNSMAN, please fill out the form below. Mail form to the address above or place in the TOWNSMAN drop box located on the porch of the First Aid Building in Grahamsville. Make checks payable to:

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS: **\$22.00 PER YEAR**

NEW _____ RENEWAL/DATE EXP. _____ Check # _____

Subscription renewals must be received by the last Saturday of the month preceding subscription renewal date to avoid interruption of the paper or renewal notices.

A change of address must be received a month prior to change in order to make the necessary changes in our computer. All changes of address, whether seasonal or permanent, are the responsibility of the subscriber.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

3:00 P.M. FRIDAYS • FIRM - Drop Box, FAX, Mail or Email

WEEKLY ADVERTISING RATES

- Classified ads - \$5.00 for the first 20 words and 15 cents each additional word.
1" Boxed ad (1" x 3") - \$5.00 per week (\$1.67/col in)
Business card ad (2" x 3") - \$10.00 per week (\$1.67/col in)
(3" x 4") - \$20.00 per week (\$1.67/col in)
(3" x 6") - \$30.00 (\$1.67/col in)
(4" x 6") - \$40.00 (\$1.67/col in)
1/4 pg (5" x 7") - \$58 (\$1.67/col in)
(6" x 8") - \$80.00 (\$1.67/col in)
1/2 pg (7" x 10") - \$115 (\$1.67/col in)
(Full page - 10" x 14") - \$230 B/W
(Full back page - 10" x 14") - \$300 B/W

Rates are based on **B/W Camera-ready copy**. All other display advertising will be based upon \$2.50 per column inch. Guaranteed placement is available for a 25% surcharge on a first-come, first-served basis on all pages except the front page, page 2 & page 3. All advertising must be pre-paid unless other arrangements have been made.

All inserts/fliers must be pre-paid. Please send the correct amount of money along with **1,000 copies** of your flyer. If the insert/flyer is printed only on one side the rate is \$17.00 per week. If the insert/flyer is printed on both sides, the rate is \$32.00 per week. The customer must provide the correct number of pre-printed flyers. If you wish *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* to print the flyers the charge for a one-sided flyer based on 1,000 copies will be \$70.00. If both sides of the flyer are to be printed the charge based on **1,000 copies** will be \$125.00.

Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday, NO EXCEPTIONS

If you are submitting your advertising by email, our email address is: tvtownsman@yahoo.com If you do choose to send ad copy via the internet please send it in either PDF (Acrobat) files or JPG format. All press releases/articles should be sent as Microsoft Word Documents (**Word Document with an extension of .doc**).

Have a question- please call: Linda Comando (845) 985-0501.
As always, thank you for your support.

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman
P O Box 232
Grahamsville, NY 12740

Email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman on-line: <http://thetownsman.com>

ON THE FRONT BURNER : Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.
Corinthians 8:7

COLLEGE NEWS

Charles P. Edwards, a freshman majoring in psychology at the University of Rochester, has been named to the Dean's List for academic achievement for the spring 2009 semester.

Edwards, a resident of Neversink, is the son of Lori and Brian Edwards, and a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School in Grahamsville.

**DAYS OF YORE...
TODAY'S HISTORY
November 30, 1949**

A 21 year old Jackson Heights deer hunter, Joseph Donahue, plunged 200 feet down the side of Peckamoose Mountain and then rolled for another 200 feet when he lost his footing on a ledge last Wednesday afternoon. He is in a serious condition in Kingston Hospital this week, having suffered a possible skull fracture, broken ribs, punctured lung, fractures of arm and wrist, and general internal injuries.

Master Sergeant Carl J. Erts, his wife and two children are expected to arrive here from Japan about the middle of December. They were scheduled to leave Japan on November 16th and arrive in Seattle, Washington, in about twelve days. Sgt. Erts expects to be processed in San Francisco and then visit his wife's parents in Arkansas, after which they will come to spend the Christmas Holidays with Mr. and Mrs. William Erts in Ladle-ton. They would have spent three years in Japan had they remained until January 1st. Mr. Erts expects to make the Army his vocation and to be located in the good old U.S.A.

Arnold Robinson is expected home this weekend from Norfolk, Va., on a 72-hour leave. Early in January he is to sail on the U.S. Steamship Barton for the Mediterranean area and will spend six months there.

Sgt. Morris Robinson is in Germany with his wife, his children and his wife's mother. They left here last August and have an eight room apartment with servants in Stuttgart, Germany. His title is Sergeant and Warrant Officer. His mission is to teach the science of Government and Democracy to the German people, especially those who were U.S.A. prisoners. He was prepared for this at a Prisoner of War Camp in Mississippi and when located in Germany one of the prisoners here became his helper there.

November 25, 1959

Mrs. Neva Stanton of Grahamsville was injured in a two-car accident Tuesday afternoon, November 17th in Hancock. She was removed to Roscoe Community Hospital suffering from shock.

Walter L. Sheeley of El Paso, Texas, formerly of Grahamsville, who is serving with the Armed Forces in Turkey, was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer early in October. He is the son of Mrs. Clarence Sheeley of Grahamsville.

A flock of evening grosbeaks were seen Saturday morning on the Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Adams property. There were 40 to 50 of them by count.

Bids were opened in Albany recently for a \$650,000 building project for the Woodbourne Correctional Institution. The project, the second major expansion

program at the institution within two years, will provide accommodations for 120 inmates. The structure will be three stories with a recreation room in the basement. The other project now underway will provide a new school building to house vocation shops and classrooms.

Herbert George, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. George of Sundown, who is with the Armed Forces in Japan has been promoted to the rank of Specialist 4; this rank is equal to the rank of Corporal and commands the same pay. He has been with the Army since June 1958, and has been overseas in Korea and Japan since Nov.

Congratulations go to Mrs. Vernon (Inez) Gridley of South Hill. Her poem, "Brook Lullaby" was published in the New York Times, Oct. 24th. Her article "Tri-Valley's Community Hobby" which appeared in the American agriculturist of Oct. 17th has, perhaps been the most closely and eagerly read article by people of Tri-Valley of any article in that paper for many an issue and without doubt was thought inspiring to many others. It is recalled that Inez Gridley wrote "Along The South Hill Road" for the Agriculturist for many a year.

Miss Patsy Banta of Keuka College and Miss Margaret Finch, University of Buffalo, are at their homes for the Thanksgiving holiday, with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Banta and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Finch. Miss Brooke Anderson of the University of Buffalo is visiting relatives in N.Y.C. and will be here for Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Anderson and family.

December 2, 1959

Bids are expected to be let in early 1960 for the new \$27,500 town hall at Grahamsville, which was approved by the voters in the last election.

The shopping days
till Christmas
Are growing less and less,
But there's still time
to make a blouse,
An apron or a dress!
KUM TO KRUM'S

Mr. Robert Ingram, a student at Alfred University, spent the holiday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingram of Thunder Hill.

The Liberty Gazette, a weekly newspaper of Liberty, printed their last issue this week, ending a 67 year old history. The subscription commitments of the Gazette will be fulfilled by the Liberty Register. The Gazette has been the only newspaper in Sullivan County which has been owned and published by the immediate family of its founders during its history.

December 3, 1969

The pancake supper, sponsored by the Claryville Fire Company and held on November 22 was a great success. The old-fashioned buckwheat pancake batter was made by two experts, Pearl Cole and Bertha Lewis.

The elite of the hunting and fishing editors of the eastern newspaper and magazine

world have spent part of the just-ended hunting season in Sullivan County according to Supervisor Joseph Raffa. Frequent articles, friendly and laudatory in nature, have been appearing in such newspapers as the *New York Times*, *Long Island Press*, *New York Daily News*, *New York Post*, *Newsday*, *Newark Star Ledger* and *Newark News*. Jerry Kenny of the *Daily News* and Nelson Bryant of the *Times* hunted the county for a good part of the big game season and interviewed hunters from both within and without the county.

The Claryville Sunday School started practicing for their Christmas Program

Best wishes for your anniversaries to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cypert, 5 yrs. the 5th; Mr. and Mrs. James Mentnech, 11 yrs. the 6th; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Smith, 12 yrs. the 7th.

November 29, 1979

Congratulations to Joe and Larissa Pond on celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary on Nov. 24th.

There were 65 people at a 40th wedding anniversary party for Clarence and Pearl Roosa, held at the home of Mike and Joan Allison in Hasbrouck on Nov. 24th. A beautiful cake was baked by Bonnie Kelly.

Congratulations to Jimmy McCarthy who bagged an 10-point buck on opening day of hunting. Jim is home on leave after a tour of duty in Germany. He returns to North Carolina on Dec. 1st to await further orders.

December 6, 1979

Linda Denman and John Sheeley were bronze medal winners at the annual FFA National Convention. Linda and John competed in the Poultry Contest along with 100 other students from across the country.

ALCHEMIST VI is on the market. It may be the end of a decade, but the Alchemy Club carries on its tradition of writing and publishing poetry as though time meant nothing. Among the imaginings of the 21 poets included in this sixth edition, is the poem "Voice of Voyager II... August 20, 1977" for which Evelyn Hill Huntsberger won the \$1,000 prize from the 1978 World of Poetry Contest. The other poets also include the founders of the Alchemy Club Mabel Hill, Mrs. Huntsberger, and Inez George Gridley - who have been together for more than four decades.

A farewell party was held recently for Frances Pierrro of White Sulphur Springs at the Neversink Community Hall, for all her efforts in the formation of the Dennis Akerley VFW Post 8648 Ladies Auxilliary.

Sue Denman, Brooke Parker, and Nancy Conjura enjoyed a breakfast meeting on Saturday morning at the home of Teresa Higgins to prepare a draft of the by-laws for the Tri-Valley Lioness Club. The club was chartered on Nov. 10, 1979 and now has 90 members, making it the largest Lioness Club in the world with a club in Japan runner-up with 73 members.

Mrs. Joyce Jordon of Red Hill shot a bobcat on Sunday, Dec. 2. The cat weighed approximately 30 lbs.

HERE AND THERE

We hope your holiday weekend was as joyful and memorable as ours. David, Lisa, and grandsons Aaron and Matthew drove up from Virginia Beach, and on Thursday we drove to Philmont, where Glenn and Sally set forth a huge and delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Susan couldn't make it this year (too costly in time and money); her holiday plans were for something we wouldn't think of doing up here: she was going camping!

Barbara Purcell reports that Owen and Shirley Davis have moved into their new apartment in the Glen Arden Retirement Community. Shirley is doing well in her recovery from hip-replacement surgery, and in fact, often drives up on Fridays for the Afternoon of Games at the Town Hall. I'm sure they'd enjoy hearing from friends and neighbors, especially at the holiday season. Their new address is:

214 Harriman Drive - Apt. 1026
Goshen, NY 10924

There are two on-going events, both religious in nature, currently taking place in our area, which may cause some confusion (as they did with me!). One is "Saturday Night Worship - A time of song, scriptures, and prayer," held at the Grahamsville United Methodist Church. The first of these services, followed by a pot-luck supper, was held Saturday, November 21; the next two are scheduled for December 19 and January 16. For questions regarding this program, call Pastor Bob Kersten at 985-2283.

The second worship service is called "Grahamsville Jubilee - Gospel and Hymn Sing," organized by Hayes McCardell of Route 55, Grahamsville. Their first meeting was held last weekend at the Grahamsville United Methodist Church Hall (one source of my confusion); and the second is planned for the Adult Care Center on Sunday, November 29. I do not know what future programs have been planned, but questions can be referred to Mr. McCardell at 985-0402, or by checking their website www.grahamsvillejubilee.com.

Today's quote (and one that I should try to remember):

"The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do." (Thomas Jefferson)

That's it for today; have a good week. (pah)

NEVERSINK NEWS - Hulda Vermooy

No Neversink news this week. Have a good week and God Bless. (Call Hulda at 985-2268 with your Neversink news.)

GRAHAMSVILLE FIRE DEPT LADIES' AUXILIARY NEWS (From Pg. 1)

On November 21, 2009 we drew the name for our Holiday Basket Drawing. We would like to congratulate Josie Dubas of Grahamsville for winning this year's basket.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! (From Pg. 1)

"This new internet bookstore is one of the few places online with a large selection of books on Sullivan County and Catskill history," according to Donna Steffens, the Museum's new Executive Director. "There is something for everyone on your holiday list, from stories of lost treasure in the Shawangunks, to millions of years of Catskills geology, to current trail guides, to histories of the Delaware Water System."

New titles are being added every day, with the intention of being a one-stop shopping place for all local history and environmental publications. Purchases can be made directly through the site, or by mail order. All purchases support the Museum and their many educational activities.

"When doing your holiday shopping, think of our site first," said Donna Steffens. "It is quick, easy, and you are purchasing quality gifts for friends and family while supporting the Museum at the same time."

To make shopping even easier, the Museum will also wrap and ship your purchase with a holiday card, directly to your gift recipient. Stop by the website www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org today, call 845-985-2262 x 313 or write Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 307, Grahamsville, New York 12740, for a book list and more information.

The Time and the Valleys Museum is a living and interactive resource that preserves the past, educates the present and ensures the uniqueness of the Rondout and Neversink watersheds for all generations. Currently located in the Neversink Town Hall, the Museum provides educational programming for the public, preserves a large collection of historical artifacts, photos, rare books and documents relating to local history, and actively raises funds to install exhibitions in the Museum's future home, co-located in the new addition to the Daniel Pierce Library.

GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER (From Pg. 1)
Completed bricks will be placed in the beautifully landscaped Memorial Circle on the library's front lawn. Two different brick colors and sizes are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Daniel Pierce Library and Time and the Valleys Building Fund. "Buy a Brick" Campaign brochures are available in this week's issue of The Townsman, or can be downloaded under the Building Project link on the library's website (www.danielpiercelibrary.org). For additional information, please contact the library (985-7233).

HOLIDAY SHOW AT THE OLD STONE HOUSE (From Pg. 1)

Noted local artist and writer, Helena Clare Pittman of Liberty, will be on hand to read from two of her books: *The Angel Tree*, about a boy named Jake and a very special Christmas tree, and Ms. Pittman's newest book, *The Hundred Kites of Len Yo*.

Following the performance the audience can enjoy hot apple cider and holiday cookies.

Admission is \$5.00 per person and one non-perishable food item, which will be distributed to local food pantries. Reservations are suggested.

The Old Stone House is located at 282 Hasbrouck Road in the historic community of Hasbrouck, NY.

For additional information, directions or reservations, call Big Sky Productions at 845-985-7783.

AGNES OF GOD (From Pg. 1)

The controversial and riveting story of "Agnes of God" revolves around a novice nun, startlingly naive and so innocent as to appear angelic, who stands accused of bearing a child in the convent and strangling it with its umbilical cord. The question of whether or not Agnes is guilty is enmeshed in that of whether she is mad, or sainted... As Sister Agnes, Marissa Cohen of Ellenville turns in a stunning performance that is as compelling as her singing voice is haunting. Annie Hat of Hortonville offers a powerhouse interpretation of the role of Mother Miriam Ruth, in charge of the convent and struggling to protect Agnes, whom she feels has been touched by God. As the court-appointed psychiatrist, Dr. Martha Livingstone, Evelyn Albino of New Hampton rounds out this excellent ensemble with a dynamic portrayal of the doctor whose own history causes her to become convinced of Agnes' innocence of the crime. The talented team of Lori Schneider-Wendt of Hurleyville as Director and Jim Schmidt of Hurleyville as Technical Director bring truly spectacular staging to the production. Heather Strauss of Rock Hill ably fills the role of Stage Manager for these performances.

If you missed it in September, here's two more chances to see this fine production. If you saw it during its run, come out and relive the power that is "Agnes of God." Performances are at the Seelig Theatre, Sullivan County Community College on Saturday, December 5th at 8:00 pm and Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Senior Citizens and \$7 for Students with a valid student ID. Please note that due to mature content, this production is not suitable for young children. No advance reservations are necessary - tickets will be available at the door one hour prior to each performance. For additional information, phone (845) 436-5336 or log onto www.scdw.net

BENEFIT CONCERTS (From Pg. 1)

The second will be for the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless Soup Kitchen on Friday, Dec. 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the Hortonville Presbyterian Church.

Then on Dec. 18th at 7:30 at the Jeffersonville Presbyterian Church, the performance will benefit the Jeffersonville Food Pantry.

The choir, singers from area churches who have performed in the area for the past few years, will present "I Hear the Prophet Callin'", written by

Pepper Choplin, a folk cantata which tells "The Christmas Story from Prophecy to Fulfillment". Jack, who splits his time between New York City and Callicoon and is known across the country as well as in Europe, will be performing his original folk songs.

Enjoy an evening of folk music and help feed hungry people at the same time. There will be a donation box at the door. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call (845) 887-4346.

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY HEALTH (From Pg. 1)

Level 3 recognition is the highest conferred by the NCQA, and attests to the outstanding quality of health care provided at 13 Institute federally qualified community health centers located in the Mid-Hudson Valley and in New York City. Each year, 40,000 patients in Ulster and Dutchess counties receive medical, dental, and mental health services at Institute centers.

In September, the Institute's announcement of its NCQA Level 3 recognition drew accolades from health leaders, including New York State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines, MD, who said, "Governor Paterson and the State Health Department support the Medical Home model for the high quality, coordinated care these centers provide to patients. We congratulate the Institute for Family Health." Steve Kelley, CEO of the Ellenville Regional Hospital, noted, "The NCQA accomplishment is a reflection of the Institute's commitment to providing the best possible medical care to their patients, even to those who have no health insurance. I hope that many area residents - especially those who do not currently have a doctor - will visit an Institute center."

The Institute's health centers in the Mid-Hudson Valley are: Family Health Center of Kingston, 1 Family Practice Drive; Family Health Center of New Paltz, 279 Main Street; Family Health Center of Ellenville, 6 Healthy Way; and Family Practice Center of Hyde Park, 11 Crum Elbow Road. For more information, visit www.Institute2000.org.

HOW EVERGREENS STAY GREEN

By Peggy DeWire

I looked at the Christmas tree and marveled again at how evergreens remain green year around. Once they covered the whole world and over millions of years perfected three magic tricks on behalf of all trees to come.

The first and most important is photosynthesis or transforming sunlight into green chlorophyll.

Think of one sunbeam composed of tiny particles of electromagnetic radiation energy called photons. Each week photon has zero rest mass and charge plus spin of one. How it changes sunlight into chlorophyll is a technology called photonics. Here's what happens:

As a sunbeam shines on a pine needle filled with water, the photons radiant energy splits each molecule of water into hydrogen and oxygen. The oxygen is discarded back into the air. The hydrogen mixes with air inside the needle or leaf and builds a new molecule of chlorophyll, which is carbohydrate (sugar). The whole process takes thirty seconds!

To split the water molecule requires the color bands of red, orange and blue - from the rainbow light spectrum. Only these colors transform light into chlorophyll or carbohydrate (sugar). The middle of the rainbow, where green is located, is mostly reflected. This is why a pine needle or leaf looks green.

Trees store little packages of carbohydrate as liquid sugar cells everywhere in the tree - needles, limbs, trunk, bark and roots - and in cold weather convert the sugar into an alcoholic substance slow to freeze. Pioneers made a tasty drink called Spruce Beer by boiling young twig tips in water and adding molasses and yeast to taste.

The second magic trick performed by evergreens is transporting the alcohol throughout the whole tree in long pipeline cells whose woody side walls thicken in winter weather.

The last trick is that all evergreens except tamarack and cypress keep sap flowing through needles year around. Broadleaf trees by contrast make cork cells at the end of the leaf stem, thus blocking water and causing the leaf to drop off in autumn.

Just imagine - 50 million years ago there was nobody around to appreciate a Christmas tree.



HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE TOWN HALL

The Town of Neversink will observe the following Holiday Hours. The Town Hall will be closed on November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving. It will close at noon on December 24th & all day on the 25th for Christmas and will close at noon on December 31st and all day on January 1st for New Years. The Transfer Station hours will be as usual. Please plan your Town Hall business accordingly. The Town of Neversink wishes you a very Joyous Holiday Season and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

11/12, 11/19 & 12/3

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Section 267, Town Law, on the application of Stephen Feffer for an Area Variance at 300 Viscomi Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740. (ZBA #11-1-8.1) Mr. Feffer is requesting a variance for relief from §50-8 Setback Requirements.

Said hearing will take place at the Neversink Town Hall, Grahamsville, NY on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. at which time all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.

BY ORDER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN OF NEVERSINK
VERN LINDQUIST, CHAIRMAN

12/3 & 12/10

Denning Residents**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

Winter hours at the R&R Center return to 4 pm on Sundays.

The Town of Denning Refuse & Recycling Center hours are:

Wednesday 7 am to 11 am
Friday 1 pm to 6 pm
Sunday 12 Noon to 4pm

Ed Mues
Site Manager

12/3

**TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

December 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting
Secondary School Library, Lower Level

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. GUESTS
B. TREASURER'S REPORT
C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
1. CSE Recommendations
2. Minutes
3. Building Use Forms
4. Resolutions
5. Personnel
D. OLD BUSINESS
E. BUSINESS REPORT
1. Warrants
F. EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Personnel (Negotiations)
G. ADJOURNMENT

TOY EXCHANGE BRINGS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

Once again, Interfaith Outreach United (IOU) is bringing toys and gifts to low income families in the Callicoon area. The Toy Exchange is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th between 1:00 and 3:00 in the afternoon. To be eligible, parents must register at the Main Street Thrift Shop.

The Toy Exchange works differently from other Christmas programs. No children attend. Instead, parents pick out the things which they can then give to their children as gifts from them- (Next Col.)

selves

or Santa at Christmas.

Set up for the Toy Exchange will be Friday, December 11th at the Callicoon United Methodist Church Hall. Volunteers are needed to set out the toys on the 11th, and to help distribute the bounty on the 12th.

If you have new gifts or lightly used childrens items, you may drop them off at the Thrift Shop, Main Street in Callicoon during business hours. (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 - 3:00). For further information, call Herb at (845) 887-5647.

LONG BEARDS TALK TURKEY (From Pg. 1)

President Butch Kortright and Treasurer Hank D'Auria spoke to over 200 kids with the aid of an educational video on the saving of the wild turkey in the State of New York and the wonderful activities performed by NTWF to preserve the habitat, educate youngsters, and promote safe hunting.

The biggest hit at the assembly was the opportunity for children to create turkey calls with the many devices on display. During the Ecology Club meeting, Faculty Advisor Lee Smassanow and 15 of his students received 14 blue bird house kits made by Mr. D'Auria in his shop. The kids eagerly carried a kit back to their classrooms. Under the guidance of Mr. Smassanow, they will be assembling them and taking them home to welcome the birds next spring. In honor of Thanksgiving and support of the Fallsburg Central School District annual food drive, the Long Beards are donating 10 turkeys to the Student Government Association. They also provided information that offers \$1000 scholarships to graduating senior

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! 4-H on Stage Show-in-a-Week!

From Mon. - Thurs. December 28th - 31st, 2009, from 9am to 3pm each day for 4 days the 4-H will once again offer the 4-H Stage Show-in-a-Week for children ages 6-12. The fee is \$100, \$75 for 4-H Members!

Are you an aspiring actor or actress? Then don't miss out on your opportunity to shine! Why spend your holiday break week doing nothing when you can be a part of "Show-in-a-Week?" Learn about stage presence, vocal projection, performance confidence, set design, costuming and much more. Under the direction of former actress and professional singer, Amanda Galigher Speer, you will work with other youth to put together an unforgettable New Year's Eve themed performance for friends and family. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Teen volunteers are also needed for bit parts, assistance and stage management.

There will be 3:30 pm performance for friends and family on Dec. 31st followed by a New Year's Eve themed reception for participants and their family.

JEFF BANK 2011 PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST

Announcing the Jeff Bank 2011 Photo Calendar Contest - Jeff Bank is seeking photographers interested in submitting up to 4 color images (preferably depicting the four seasons) for their 2011 Calendar. Organized by the Catskill Art Society, the theme of this inaugural contest is the Four Seasons of Nature & Landscapes in Sullivan County, NY. Contest entry dates are from February 6 - April 16, 2010. All entries must have a completed application form (available at all Jeff Bank branches, online at www.jeffbank.com or by contacting Kathryn@catskillartsociety.org), a maximum of four images in digital, horizontal JPEG format with the largest file size available (preferably 16M or larger) on CD. There is a contest entry fee of \$5 payable to CAS. All entries must be delivered to CAS, 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY by April 16th or send by post to CAS, PO Box 991, Livingston Manor, NY 12758. Please note that this is not a postmark deadline.

This initiative was created by Jeff Bank to support CAS and the Arts Community. If you have any further questions please contact Kathryn at 845-436-4227 or Kathryn@catskillartsociety.org.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CONSUMER AND FINANCIAL ED.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County will host "Save Energy, Save Dollars" is on December 15th at 5:30-7:30 pm at CCE - Learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy and reduce your energy bills. Also learn about programs that can help you afford energy-efficiency improvements with subsidies, low-interest loans or free (Next Col.) services to qualifying households. There will be free energy-saving materials to be provided to all participants. Sean Welsh, presenter.

I would like to thank **ALL** of the
Town of Denning voters
for their support.

Joy Ann Monforte
Town Clerk

This class is free and open to the public, but you must pre-register with Linda at 845-292-5250. There must be a minimum of 10 pre-registered participants for this class to be held.

JIMMY BLAKE IS HONORED AT RESTAURANT

Jimmy Blake knows how to retire. A custodian in the Fallsburg Central School District for over 19 years, he spent 16 of those years as an active member of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) Local 853. Jimmy decided to celebrate his retirement by hosting his friends and colleagues at a buffet dinner at Mr. Willy's on October 24. Almost 100 attended and applauded County Legislators Ron Hiatt, David Sager, and Leni Binder presenting Jimmy with a Certificate of Special Recognition for his wonderful and inspiring leadership as President of the Local 853. Jimmy and Sharon Blake will be moving to south Florida to be closer to their children and to enjoy the year round sunshine. Sharon will continue her work with Head Start in the new location.



Left to right Gregory Bedik, Amanni Sitz, and Stephen Bedik with Lions President Larry Schafman in the background. Brooke Rappaport was unable to attend.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE TOGETHER

An Elves' Ornament Workshop will be held on Friday, December 4 at 3 pm, with the tree lighting, caroling, and ornament display occurring on Saturday, December 5.

As the holiday season is quickly approaching, the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce is looking for your help to dress the trees on Main Street. This year, to bring more members of the community to join in the festivities, the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an ornament-decorating party where students from the Liberty Elementary School and Liberty Middle School will be personalizing ornaments that will be displayed. Also, looking for artistic volunteers to help the Elves out!!

MONTH LONG INVESTIGATION BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES LEADS TO THE ARREST OF A NEVERSINK WOMAN.

On Friday November 27, 2009, Sullivan County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Maryann McIntosh, age 46, of Neversink. McIntosh, who was the evening manager at Annie D's Corner, a convenience store on State Route 55 in Neversink, was accused of stealing cash from the store's register over a period of several months. The lead investigator on the case, Detective Sergeant Don Starner, was able to piece together evidence from cash register records as well as video surveillance inside the store. It is believed McIntosh used fraudulent void transactions to cover her tracks when she stole money, so that the cash register would still balance. "We are over six thousand dollars and still counting", said Starner who filed preliminary charges against McIntosh on Friday, while the investigation continues. "Thefts like this can be devastating to small businesses," said Undersheriff Eric Chaboty who noted that the Sheriff's Office has investigated similar incidents over the past 12 months. "Some suspects believe that if they get caught, they will simply be fired and have to look for another job. They don't expect to be charged criminally", he said.

In this case, Maryann McIntosh was charged with Grand Larceny in the 3rd degree, a class "D" Felony and Falsifying Business Records in the 1st degree, a class "E" Felony. She was arraigned before Town of Fallsburg Justice Bart Rasnick and committed to the Sullivan County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 dollars bail, pending a future appearance in the Town of Neversink Court.



School Banking is back in session!

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**UC SPCA JOINS HUMANE SOCIETY IN
RESCUE OF NEGLECTED SLED DOGS**

The Ulster County SPCA accepted two neglected sled dogs from the Humane Society of the United States as part of an international operation on November 21 that rescued nearly one hundred mixed huskies. Ninety seven dogs were surrendered to Canadian authorities after the owner, a musher and sled-dog breeder, proved unable to provide care for the animals when he went out of business.

The dogs were used to pull sleds for tourists and kept chained in the woods of Quebec when they weren't working. According to Brian Shapiro, Executive Director of the UCSPCA, "These dogs lived their whole lives on chains in crude and dangerous conditions without proper food, water and shelter. Our agency is honored to be working with the Humane Society and we are excited about giving these beautiful dogs the chance for a new life here in Ulster County. The Humane Society has always helped our shelter in times of need and we are pleased to do the same." (Contd. Pg. 12)



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SYDA DONATES TO FALLSBURG SCHOOL



From left: Fernando Del Canto, SYDA Foundation Trustee, presents a \$4,000 donation check to Dr. Ivan Katz, Fallsburg School Superintendent, and Michael Zalkin, Fallsburg School Board President.

The SYDA Foundation has donated \$4,000 to the Fallsburg School District. It will help pay for playground equipment to be installed at the Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. Dr. Ivan Katz, Fallsburg School Superintendent, said: "SYDA has helped the school district tremendously to have a wonderful, fun and safe playground for our kids to enjoy for many years to come."

The SYDA Foundation, a not-for-profit organization based in the Town of Fallsburg, makes ongoing contributions to the community in the areas of health, safety, and education. The SYDA Foundation is recognized locally for its philanthropic work through the PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program.

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EPIC AND SYDA FOUNDATION (From Pg. 1)
 She was accepting a generous donation of several boxes of children's gifts, toys, and school supplies just prior to Thanksgiving from the SYDA Foundation for the sixth year in a row.

The Foundation's public relations person Chris Williams delivered the gifts and listened to Ruth describe the growing number of Fallsburg homeless families due to the impact of recession. He will return again prior to Christmas school recess with an even larger delivery of needed items of warm clothing, tooth brushes, tooth paste, soaps, and other toiletries just as he has for the past several years. Ruth Stratton is thankful not for herself but for the many children who will benefit from this generosity.

LIBERTY FREE THEATRE (From Pg. 1)
 Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. The audience is invited to gather after the performance for food, drink, and music. The theatre is located at 109 South Main Street, Liberty. Call 292-3788 for reservations and information. The plays are not suitable for children.

Not Much To Say is a comedy crime caper about two lovers caught stealing an important person's money. The play was written as an homage to Nobel Laureates Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter. The language is one of the more unusual features of the play in that no line of dialogue is longer than one word. *Final Placement* made its debut at the Humana Festival in 1981 and since then has been played all over the world. It is brutally candid and profoundly compassionate as it investigates the confrontation between a social worker and a young woman whose child has been taken away from her. Tom DeFavero, Michael Frizalone, Valerie Mansi, Dana Priebe and James Sullivan comprise the cast of *Not Much To Say*. Dana Priebe and Rebecca Robbins are featured in *Final Placement*. The sets were designed by Alexis Siroc and Thomas Bosket. Lighting was designed by Jon-Jon Thomas. Paul Austin directed.

FALLSBURG HS STUDENTS EARN AWARDS FOR THEIR ART



Left to right are Ofelia Hernandez (mother of Jesus Reyes), Jesus Reyes, Nayeli Chacon (Jesus' sister holding Jesus' award winning poster, Eduardo Chacon (Jesus' step-father), Jack Halchak, and Nancy Lee. Stephanie Rossi was ill and unavailable for the awards presentation.

Stephanie Rossi and Jesus Reyes earned first and second place honors for their posters on the theme of staying smart for fire safety in the Annual Town of Fallsburg Chief's Association Poster Contest. Additionally, Stephanie garnered a Second Place in the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter's Association Contest. The Board of Education honored the winning entries on November 11 and acknowledged Deputy Fire Commissioner Jack Halchak for promoting the contest over the past many years. Mr. Halchak presented flowers to Fallsburg art teacher Ms. Nancy Lee for her ongoing encouragement of the students.

SEND YOUR HOLIDAY GREETINGS BY WAY OF THE TOWNSMAN

Each year *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* publishes holiday greetings to your friends, neighbors and family. This year our holiday issue will be published on December 17th. Each greeting will be approximately 2"x3". The deadline for all holiday greetings is Friday, December 11th, 2009. Please use our "Holiday Wishes" order blank when ordering your greeting. Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season! - Please use the order blank on the bottom of the page.



1 -Candle



2 -Sleigh



3 -Snowman



4 -Trees



5 -Snow



6 -Santa



7 -Santa 2



8 -Nativity



9 -Stocking



10 -Pine cone



11 -Ornament



12 -Pointsetta

Please print the number of greeting you wish to have published (1-12).
 greeting.
 Greeting you wish to send: _____
 Number _____ Description (name) _____
 Send this form along with your check for \$8.00 for each holiday greeting you wish to:
 Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman • P O Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740 by December 11, 2009. All greetings will be published in our holiday issue, December 17th, 2009.
 NAME _____
 Telephone # _____

UC BANK CONSORTIUM INTRODUCES "CREDIT FOR SUCCESS" PROGRAM - County Executive Mike Hein Announces Innovative Program to Assist County's Small Businesses

At a press conference last week, Ulster County Executive Mike Hein announced the "Credit for Success" Program, which will provide loans from \$25,000 to \$150,000 to Ulster County businesses that meet the program's requirements. All of the funding for this initiative is from private sector sources not County taxpayer dollars.

The County Executive introduced the newly formed Ulster County Bank Consortium, whose members are Catskill Hudson Savings Bank, Provident Bank, Rondout Savings Bank, Sawyer Savings Bank, TD Bank, Ulster Savings Bank and Walden Savings Bank. County Executive Hein initiated the Consortium earlier this year and has brought together the banks, the New York Business Development Corporation (NYBDC) and the Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC) to provide this option to Ulster County businesses. Companies facing unprecedented business pressure will find it a little easier with this innovative, \$1 million dollar plus, local lending program. The seven area banks, along with the New York Business Development Corporation and the Ulster County

Development Corporation have combined to make the County Executive's initiative a reality. "This program is all about creating and retaining jobs in Ulster County. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and they need access to capital to adequately finance new projects, move through their normal business cycles and most importantly, to keep people employed," said Ulster County Executive Hein. "I applaud our regional banks for thinking outside of the box and for stepping up to participate in this truly innovative program."

The program requirements include presentation of a lending institution declination letter and among other things a business must work with the Small Business Development Center to create a business plan. The program is available now and is only offered by participating banks, who are sharing the risk of each loan spread across the seven participating entities. NYBDC is managing the program as the primary lender.

"We applaud the Ulster County Executive and the NYBDC for their innovative pro- (Next Col.)

gram which will ensure that small businesses have crucial access to commercial lending. Since convening this summer, the Governor's Small Business Task Force has been addressing the challenges of small businesses and promoting their growth and development. Programs like the Ulster County Banking Consortium are exactly the types of initiatives we hope to encourage as we move towards a robust, small business-fueled recovery in the coming months," said Dennis Mullen, President and CEO of the Empire State Development Corporation.

"This program will help create stability for many small businesses along our County's main streets," said Lance Matteson, president, UCDC. "We hope companies taking advantage of this program are able to improve their businesses to the point that new jobs are created. That's real economic development."

"Small businesses are the engine of the American economy and access to capital is the fuel that makes it run. The Ulster County Bank Consortium is a very creative and much needed initiative that will increase funding options for entrepreneurs in Ulster County."

LONG BEARDS DISTRIBUTE 161 HOLIDAY BIRDS!

The Sullivan County Long Beards, NYS Chapter of the NWTF, held its annual Turkey Hunters Care Program outside of M&M Auto Group in Liberty, NY the Sullivan County Long Beards gave away 161 turkeys to those in need. When this program began, they were only giving 25 birds away, but he requests kept on coming in and this year they were up to 161 birds, which was close to 1 ton.

Thus Long Beards feel that in this time of need, they are very happy that they can help their community celebrate the holidays and they wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

ELLENVILLE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ANIMAL CRUELTY

An Ellenville woman arrested on November 2 has pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor animal cruelty charge of Failure to Provide Sustenance under state Agriculture and Markets law. Tina Brandenburger of 140 Berme Rd. appeared in Village Court and received a suspended one year jail sen- (Next Col.)

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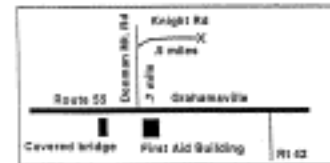
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tence pending payment of \$250 to the Ulster County SPCA. She was also ordered not to own any animals for the term of the suspended sentence.

Brandenburger was arrested by the Ulster County SPCA's Humane Law Division on November 2 after responding to a call for assistance from the Village of Ellenville Police Department. She was charged with abandoning three dogs in a condemned apartment without food and water in excess of four days. According to Humane Law Investigator Adam Saunders, "The apartment was littered with garbage and the animals' own waste. The smell of ammonia was overwhelming." The dogs were surrendered to the UCSPCA where they are receiving food, water, care and veterinary treatment. They will soon be available for adoption.

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Linda Comando, Editor
Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman

SCCC TO HOLD EDUCATION INFORMATION SESSION FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

Sullivan County Community College (SCCC) is holding a one-hour information session designed for active duty military personnel and veterans on Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Statler Hall in room H062.

Attendees will learn about education benefits programs available to active duty military personnel as well as veterans and dependents of veterans. In addition, they will hear from current SCCC students who have served in the armed forces about their experiences in higher education. A light dinner will be served.

Those interested in attending the session should contact the SCCC Admissions Office at 845-434-5750 ext. 4287 no later than Friday, December 4. Attendees should park in lot 2 in front of the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse.

HINCHEY, HALL, SCHUMER & GILLIBRAND HAIL ARMY'S DECISION TO REVERSE COURSE, MAINTAIN GOVERNMENT JOBS AT WEST POINT- House & Senate Members Still Seeking Final Passage of Legislation to Block Privatization Efforts Across the Country

In response to repeated pressure from Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Congressman John Hall (D-NY), U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), the Army today announced it is formally cancelling its efforts to privatize 531 public works and custodial jobs at West Point and will instead maintain them as government positions. The Army's announcement comes as House and Senate defense leaders continue to debate whether to approve a provision that Hinchey helped author with Hall's support that would prevent the Pentagon from moving forward with its plan to potentially privatize nearly 6,000 civilian and military jobs, including the jobs at West Point. While the jobs at West Point are now safe from the flawed A-76 process, thousands of others government jobs remain at risk. Schumer and Gillibrand have been working to include the House provision in the final bill.

Hinchey, with the assistance of Hall, helped push the provision through the House as part of the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill, but the Senate did not include similar language in its version of the bill. Schumer and Gillibrand are now trying to have the Senate adopt the House language. House and Senate defense spending leaders, including Hinchey, are now working to resolve the differences between the two bills. Hinchey said he is hopeful that the Army's cancellation of its privatization efforts at West Point, will boost support for the provision he helped to sponsor in the House defense bill that would cancel privatization efforts at all other military installations across the country.

"Today commonsense won out over ideological stubbornness as the Army abandoned the senseless study that had been initiated by the Bush administration in an attempt to privatize hundreds of government jobs at West Point," said Hinchey. "More than 500 workers at West Point, who have done their jobs well for years, now have the comfort of knowing their jobs won't be outsourced to a private company in Georgia that would have cut their wages and benefits while padding the salaries of company executives. The entire A-76 process is broken and misguided and should be eliminated. I'm thankful for Army Secretary McHugh's leadership on this matter and I encourage him and other Pentagon officials to cancel the remaining A-76 studies, which have been proven to be inherently unfair and remain a threat to thousands of workers across the country. I'm hopeful that this latest development at West Point will strengthen our efforts in Congress to have the Senate support the language I secured in the House Defense Appropriations bill that would cancel these privatization efforts across the country."

"Keeping these jobs both local and in the government is the right decision for West Point, the Army, our community, and the taxpayers," said Hall, whose Congressional District includes West Point. "Allowing the A76 study to go forward would have outsourced West Point's jobs and cost taxpayers more money. The A76 study that led to the privatization of West Point jobs was inherently flawed, skewed, and discriminatory since its inception. Privatization reviews were commissioned by the Bush administration as part of an ideological effort to outsource government jobs to private companies. I am glad we have finally done away with this illegal holdover from the Bush Administration."

"This is the final nail in the coffin of this deeply flawed study," said Schumer. "The A-76 process was obviously unsound and relying on its inaccurate data made no sense at all. During a time when we need to maintain as many jobs as possible, cancelling this study will preserve nearly 400 jobs at West Point and save taxpayers money."

"This is great news for West Point and the Hudson Valley," said Gillibrand. "My top priority is keeping New York jobs and rebuilding our economy. Ending this flawed study is the right decision and will ensure these New Yorkers will continue to have the job they deserve and need."

In March, the Pentagon announced its decision to privatize 394 operations and maintenance jobs at West Point that have long been held by government employees. The Department of Defense revealed it was planning to outsource West Point government jobs to a private company from Georgia. The 394 workers at West Point subsequently appealed the Defense Department's decision to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which last month ruled in the workers favor, citing flaws in the cost comparison analysis that would have led to a waste of taxpayer dollars. Specifically, GAO found that the Pentagon used unrealistic figures provided by the private sector when determining whether it was cost-effective to outsource the government jobs at West Point.

The Pentagon also sought to privatize an additional 137 custodial jobs at West Point. That plan was previously rejected as part of the A-76 process, but was not formally resolved until today. With the Army's announcement today, the 531 jobs at West Point that were once threatened to be privatized are now safe.

While the provision Hinchey and Hall successfully helped push through the House will no longer be needed at West Point, the measure would prevent all other privatization efforts, known as Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 privatization reviews, from being carried out. Those privatization reviews were started during the Bush administration. Prior to today's announcement, a Pentagon document showed that 3,575 civilian jobs and 2,394 military jobs were in jeopardy of being privatized. The provision Hinchey helped draft would prevent that from happening. The congressman also secured the inclusion of an additional provision in the House version that would block the privatization of more than 20 positions that manage the water and wastewater utilities at West Point. Those jobs remain in jeopardy regardless of the Army's new intentions, but they would be saved under the legislation Hinchey helped sponsor with Hall's assistance.

Earlier this year, Congress passed legislation that President Obama subsequently signed into law that bars any future privatization studies. Since the West Point study and others were already underway, government jobs at the academy and elsewhere were still eligible to be privatized. Hinchey worked closely with House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense Chairman John Murtha (D-PA) to ensure the inclusion of the provision blocking the privatization of government jobs.

UC SPCA (From Pg 7) The UCSPCA is one of eleven shelters throughout North America helping to find safe homes for the animals. The dogs arrived at the Kingston facility on Saturday, November 21, in a tractor trailer

specifically designed for transporting rescued animals. The UCSPCA's two mixed huskies were named after Sainte Agathe, Quebec, the town from which they were rescued. The male husky named Saint and a pregnant female named Agatha were thin and emaciated at the time of their arrival. They are receiving food, water, care and veterinary treatment at the UCSPCA shelter. Saint will be available for adoption after sterilization and Agatha will give birth to her puppies at the UCSPCA shelter under the careful watch of staff. Donations are requested to help assist with the care of these sled dogs and their puppies.



The Humane Society of the United States has produced video footage of the rescue: http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2009/11/quebec_dog_rescue_111709.html

For more information from the Ulster County SPCA, contact Executive Director Brian Shapiro at 845-331-5377 x211

For more information from the Humane Society of the United States, contact Public Information Officer Jordan Crump at 240-654-2964.

SENS. VOINOVICH, GILLIBRAND INTRODUCE BILL TO ATTRACT STUDENTS TO PUBLIC SERVICE

U.S. Senators George V. Voinovich (R-OH) and Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced the Roosevelt Scholars Act, a bill to encourage outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in mission-critical fields of study to pursue a career in the federal government. Individuals possessing the specialized skill sets required by many mission-critical occupations - such as medicine, law, or information technology - are in short supply. As a result, the federal government is often unable to effectively compete with the more attractive salary and benefits packages available to such high-skilled individuals in the private sector. Yet the public sector hiring need is greater than ever. In fact, through September 2012, federal agencies will be required to fill 273,000 mission-critical positions.

The Roosevelt Scholars Act would help address this hiring challenge by establishing a scholarship program to provide tuition assistance and a small stipend to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in mission-critical degree programs. In return, Roosevelt Scholars would fulfill three to five years of service with a federal agency in a mission-critical position.

"I have long been concerned about the ability of federal agencies to fulfill their assigned mission," Sen. Voinovich said. "Too often, agencies lack the most important resource in getting the job done - the right people with the right skills. The Roosevelt Scholars Act would provide the federal government with another tool to use in competing with the private sector for the next generation of top-flight talent."

"This act provides opportunities to help more young people, particularly those in mission-critical fields, enter public service," Sen. Gillibrand said. "In this time of grave economic uncertainty, so many people feel the need to contribute to the greater good and work to help the most vulnerable among us. We must inspire our best and brightest to enter public service to help address the critical issues facing our economy and serve those most in need."

Representatives David Price (D-NC) and Michael Castle (R-DE) have introduced similar legislation, H.R. 3510, in the House of Representatives.

GILLIBRAND URGES USDA TO IMMEDIATELY DISTRIBUTE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO DAIRY FARMERS IN A WAY TO HELP SMALL FAMILY FARMS IN NY

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the first New York Senator to serve on the Agriculture Committee in nearly 40 years, urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to act quickly to distribute emergency assistance funds to dairy farmers based on a formula she has proposed, which would provide more funding to family farms like those in New York. This fall, Senator Gillibrand helped secure \$350 million for the USDA to help New York farmers struggling during the dairy crisis (Next Col.)

in the final Agriculture Appropriations Bill. The agreement includes \$60 million in cheese and dairy product purchases for food banks and other nutrition and feeding programs, and \$290 million in direct support to dairy farmers using guidelines to be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Senator Gillibrand again urged the USDA to use the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program to distribute the direct payments and purchase cheese for price support to help keep dairy farmers solvent during this current crisis. Specifically, Senator Gillibrand urged the USDA to use her bill, S. 1330, as a model to distribute payments by increasing the percentage of payments between the market price and \$16.94.

In her letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, Senator Gillibrand wrote, "I am writing to you about the grave situation that family-owned dairy farms in New York are facing. With milk prices disturbingly low, farmers are waking up every morning to milk their cows and see their equity vanish into thin air. Last month, Congress provided the USDA with \$350 million dollars in order to help bring some measure of relief to our dairy farmers. I am writing to ask that you disperse these funds with all due haste. Every day we wait means more dairy farms will go under... My colleagues and I will continue to work to develop long-term solutions to the unpredictable dairy industry, but once again I must stress the urgency of immediate action. Farmers are currently operating in an unsustainable environment. I fear a delay in getting this badly needed funding out the door would result in hundreds more of New York's farms closing their doors forever."

In June, Senator Gillibrand introduced legislation that would index the MILC rate of \$16.94 to inflation. The MILC program payments were originally designed to help dairy farmers in their time of need, but have remained stagnant. The price floor of \$16.94 per hundredweight has not changed since the 1990's, yet the cost of production has increased exponentially.

In her letter, Senator Gillibrand cited that in the North Country alone, 15 dairy farms closed, leaving many without jobs. She argued that we are losing the economic driver for many of our rural communities and a cultural heritage that we may never again regain.

Senator Gillibrand urged the USDA to utilize the MILC program, since the infrastructure for the program is already in place. Using an existing program will ensure that MILC checks that farmers received were able to provide real help in a time of crisis.

In regard to the support price, Senator Gillibrand urged the USDA to use a portion of the funds to purchase cheese. This would lead to a quick boost for farm milk prices today, and help farmers in the coming months stabilize their farms.

Senator Gillibrand is giving a strong new voice and a real seat at the table for New York's dairy farmers and agricultural communities struggling in these tough economic times.

In July, after meeting with Senator Gillibrand, the USDA announced immediate action to support struggling dairy farmers by increasing the amount paid for dairy products through the Dairy Product Support Program (DPPSP). The increase went into effect in August and will continue through the end of October. The increase is expected to generate an additional \$243 million in revenue for dairy farmers.

In August, Senator Gillibrand held a field hearing in Batavia, New York that focused on identifying major problems with the current dairy pricing system and determining effective solutions moving forward. Just last month, Senator Gillibrand chaired an Agriculture Committee Hearing on dairy pricing in Washington, D.C. which explored the various proposals currently being presented as a response to historically low dairy prices. On October 30, Senator Gillibrand met with North Country dairy farmers to discuss short-term and long-term fixes to the dairy pricing system. Senator Gillibrand is working with stakeholders and economists to develop a proposal before the next Farm Bill is written in 2012 that will mitigate the boom and bust cycle that dominates the American dairy industry.

HINCHEY HELPS HOUSE PASS BILL TO PROTECT SENIORS' ACCESS TO DOCTORS, MEASURE REFORMS MEDICARE TO PREVENT SCHEDULED 21% CUT IN PAYMENTS TO PHYSICIANS

Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) last week, helped the House pass a bill that will preserve seniors' access to their doctors by avoiding a major cut in Medicare payments to doctors that would have forced many of those physicians to stop seeing Medicare patients. The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act will permanently reform the Medicare payment system -- repealing a 21 percent cut in payments to doctors scheduled to take place in January and replacing it with a stable (Next Col.)

system that protects seniors, preserves their relationship with their doctors and promotes primary care.

"This bill will help ensure that seniors continue to have access to the doctors they like," Hinchey said. "Without this bill, doctors would have seen their payments from Medicare cut by 21 percent, which would have resulted in many, if not most, of those doctors choosing to no longer see Medicare patients. This bill creates a fair system for doctors and gives seniors the comfort of knowing that their doctors will still participate in Medicare. Coupled with the broader health care reform bill we recently passed in the House, this measure ensures that Medicare recipients will receive improved benefits and enhanced care."

The Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act will prevent a 21 percent cut in Medicare physician payment rates scheduled for January 2010. Instead of temporarily overriding the cut as Congress has done six times before, the bill will replace the broken Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, correcting a decade of Republican mismanagement of the Medicare program with a permanent, sustainable solution. Ultimately, the legislation protects access to physicians for Medicare beneficiaries and members of the military and their families since physician payment rates in TRICARE, the military health system, are tied to those used by Medicare.

The bill builds on the historic health insurance reform bill the House passed earlier this month, which will lower premiums, extend the solvency of Medicare, improve preventive and primary care for seniors, close the "donut hole" drug coverage gap, and allow the federal government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies in order to secure lower drug prices for seniors.

HINCHEY INTRODUCES BILL TO BREAK UP FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONSIDERED TOO BIG TO FAIL

In an effort to prevent a more severe economic collapse from occurring in the future, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today introduced the Too Big to Fail, Too Big to Exist Act, which would require the Secretary of the Treasury to dismantle any U.S. financial institution deemed to be so big that its potential collapse would undermine the entire U.S. economy. Hinchey's bill is the House companion to U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' bill, S. 2746, which was introduced earlier this month.

"We're unfortunately very familiar with the devastating consequences that a financial institution's collapse can have on our economy," said Hinchey, who is a member of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC). "Instead of trying to prevent future collapses of enormous banks or scrambling to come up with trillions of dollars in taxpayer money to bail them out, let's avoid such a major risk by dismantling those massive firms now. Put simply, if a financial firm is considered too big to fail, then it is too big to exist and should be unwound quickly. As bad as this economic collapse has been, if we allow these goliaths to continue to exist then the entire economy could come crumbling to its knees."

Today, just four huge financial institutions (Bank of America, Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, and Wells Fargo) hold half the mortgages in America, issue nearly two-thirds of credit cards, and control about 40 percent of all bank deposits in the U.S. In addition, the face value of over the counter derivatives at commercial banks has grown to \$290 trillion, 95 percent of which are held at just five financial institutions in the entire country (Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, and Morgan Stanley).

"If an institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist," said Sanders, a member of the Senate Budget Committee. "No single financial institution should be so large that its failure would cause catastrophic risk to millions of American jobs or to our nation's economic wellbeing. No single financial institution should have holdings so extensive that its failure could send the world economy into crisis. We need to break up these institutions because they have done just tremendous damage to our economy."

Hinchey's and Sanders' Too Big To Fail, Too Big To Exist Act would require the Secretary of the Treasury to identify every financial institution and insurance company in this country that is too big to fail within 90 days. After one year, the Secretary of the Treasury would be required to break-up these institutions so that their failure would not lead to the collapse of the U.S. or global economy.

"We need to put these commonsense safeguards in place now and eliminate the possibility of a firm collapsing leading to the collapse of the overall U.S. economy," Hinchey said. "The U.S. economy should be able to sustain the collapse of a financial firm. Unfortunately, we currently remain in a vulnerable position where these firms are so enormous that the federal government needs to be poised to bail them out if they collapse. That would change under our legislation." (Contd. Pg. 14)

AND RIGHTLY SO

by Matt Weyuker for the November 22, 2009
Desert Local News

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good. . ." Psalm 100: 4, 5a.

Early in our nation's history, President George Washington proclaimed Thursday November 26, 1789 "to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that will be; that we may all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country." From that time until the present day 220 years later, Thanksgiving Day has been a day set aside to be thankful to the Creator for his many blessings bestowed upon our nation.

In November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln offered this proclamation, "It has seemed to me fit and proper that (God's gifts) should be solemnly, reverently, gratefully acknowledged with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

As for me - I am extremely grateful to have been born an American. To live, be educated, serve my country in a time of war, meet and marry Marlene, the love of my life, and with her raise 5 children, work in my chosen field, be elected to 2 school boards, and as Mayor of my city, worship God in the church of my choice, and to have been able retire after a long and fruitful life in this great and wonderfully free United States of America. There is no other country on earth that offers a boy from the wrong side of the tracks these kinds of opportunities. We Americans live in the freest nation in the world, one that is protected by the God-given rights that our Founders penned for us in the compelling Declaration of Independence and the liberty guarantees of the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution.

It is time once again for "We The People" to stand up and restore the fundamental God-given principles upon which these United States of America were founded. This Thanksgiving, why don't all of us set aside a time when we gratefully acknowledge the Almighty with a humble prayer of thanks for living in this citadel of individual liberty?

As Americans, we have been blessed with an incredible freedom document - the Declaration of Independence, which says in part, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among them are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..." - And Rightly So - Happy Thanksgiving!

Matt Weyuker lives in Desert Hot Springs, California and is a regular columnist for the 'Desert Local News'. Matt wrote this piece for their the Thanksgiving issue and sent it to his sister, Barbara Slater who would like to contribute his wise thoughts for our readers this week.

LOOKING BACK OVER 2009-HAVE WE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

It's getting darker earlier. The change of season is upon us and, seemingly within a few blinks, the holidays will be here and gone and another year will have come to a close. It seems to go faster with each passing year. Year's end is an introspective time. We form a mental tally sheet of the things we've accomplished - look back at the goals we set at the beginning of the year and see how we've fared. Are we closer to those goals, farther away than last year at this time - or stuck in virtually the same place? Has the past year been meaningful? Have we made a difference in our own lives or in the lives of others?

One way to assure looking back on a meaningful year when you do your tally come this time next year is to make a choice to actively make a difference - by becoming a Compeer volunteer. Compeer means companion, peer, equal friend. Compeer is a nationwide program, sponsored locally by Friends and Advocates for Mental Health, the Sullivan County affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Compeer volunteers are caring men and women who spend a few hours each month in one-to-one friendships with people recovering from mental illness - sharing the gift of friendship and helping their friends to live happier, more socially integrated, productive lives.

As a volunteer, you will enjoy flexible hours that suit your schedule while partaking in activities you already enjoy doing. You can also gain valuable experience for your resume' or career while making a contribution in another person's life. Compeer volunteers should possess excellent "people skills," be compassionate and caring and have as little as a few hours each month to volunteer.

Compeer volunteers undergo a background check, receive a one-time 2-3 hour training and plenty of ongoing support! Matches are made based on similar interests and backgrounds as well as proximity. Compeer friends share walks, talks, activities they both enjoy - and through each other, they both become better people. There are even monthly group activities you can take part in that are always free to volunteers and their Compeer friends.

There are dozens of men and women waiting for a caring friend like you! If you would like to look back on next year as the year you really made a difference in someone's life, we would love to speak with you and give you more information. Please call Lori at (845) 794-1029. Compeer - it's as simple as being a friend

SUNY Ulster Workshop: "FOOTING THE BILL"

SUNY Ulster will offer a workshop "Footing the Bill" on December 3, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in room 204 of the Business Resource Center, located along Ulster Avenue, in Kingston. Learn to navigate the financial aid application process with the Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Plan ahead for this hands-on workshop by visiting www.pin.ed.gov to obtain your electronic pin at least two days prior to the event. Bring your 2008 tax information and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid with the help of a financial aid professional. The

Assistant Director of the College Foundation will discuss scholarship options for adult students. An Admissions counselor will be available to discuss the application and registration process for new and returning students.

A seat for this free information session can be reserved by calling the Admissions Office at (845) 687-5022 or by emailing: admissions@sunyulster.edu

SC CARE CORPS/COMMUNITES THAT CARE ANNOUNCES SAFE HOLIDAYS CAMPAIGN

On December 3, 2009 at 11 AM in the Monticello Government Center Lobby, Sullivan County CareCorps/Communities that Care will hold a press conference to kick off the end of the year Safe Holidays Campaign directed at stopping the sale of tobacco and alcohol products to underage youth in the County. Representatives from local law enforcement, county legislature, and students from D.R.E.A.M. Tank, Catholic Youth Organization, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Hudson River Community Health Remix Program will address the issues that challenge the community and explain the STOP Sticker drive to enlist the support of retailers throughout Sullivan County. For further information, contact Chair of Sullivan County CareCorps Larry Schafman at (845) 434-6800, ext 2213.

TOYS FOR TOTS/FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Toys For Tots/Food Pantry Collection - Elliott & Pomeroy will be collecting Toys For Tots and food for the local food pantries for the upcoming holidays. Please stop by Elliott & Pomeroy Real Estate (next to the SUNOCO) in Roscoe. Every gift is appreciated. Please do not wrap the gift(s). Hours for drop off are Mon- Friday 10:00 - 5:00 pm and weekends 10:00 - 4:00 pm

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

There will be an AARP Driver Safety Program at the South Fallsburg Community Center (Former Ambulance Building), Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg, NY on Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To register, call Sonny Smith at 434-8922 (leave message). Sonny Smith, an AARP Certified Instructor, will give this 8-hour course in one full day session, which will consist of a lecture, discussion and video presentations. Participants will receive a certificate that entitles them to apply for a discount on their automobile insurance. For information, phone (toll free) 1-888-227-7669, or call Sonny Smith at 434-8922. The fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members; make checks payable to AARP and mail to Sonny Smith. Please enclose your phone number with payment. Classes are limited to 35, so apply early. This course is instructed by a Retired & Senior Volunteer Program volunteer and is sponsored by the Sullivan County Office for the Aging.

BARN QUILT CALENDAR

For the second year in a row, Town of Neversink residents have spent the year photographing barn quilts placed on the town's historic barns by local volunteers. Now Neversink Renaissance has released its Barn Quilts of Neversink 2010 Calendar depicting the barns during the various seasons of the year.

The calendar celebrates the residents whose pride in their community and spirit of volunteerism can be seen across the township. It is dedicated to Barbara Purcell who initiated the barn quilt concept in Neversink. Photos were taken by residents; the calendar was designed by Carolyn Bivins.

"We have had a very successful start to our sales at the SCCC craft fair, Neversink Ladies Auxiliary Craft Fair and general sales at the library and town hall," said Dave Moore, one of the people who organized the project. "We are having more of a mail order push this year which I am sure will help as well."

Calendars are available at the Neversink Town Hall and the Daniel Pierce Library at a cost of \$7.00. They may be ordered by mail at: Neversink Renaissance, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740. With shipping, the cost is \$9.00 for one; \$16.75 for two; or \$26.00 for three. Checks should be made payable to Neversink Renaissance.

Sundown United Methodist Church
Sunday Worship Service • 8:30am

Grahamsville United Methodist Church
Sunday Worship Service
10:30am

985-2283

RAMSAY'S FUNERAL HOMES, INC
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66 John Street, Monticello, New York (845) 794-2700
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Loucks Funeral Home
Geoff and Heather Hazzard & Anthony Perito
79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

Grahamsville Reformed Church
Sunday School 9 A.M.
Worship Service 10 A.M.

Hymn Sing & Covered Dish Supper
5:30/6:30 P.M. - 1st Sunday of the Month

Looking for a Lifeguard?
Ours walks on water!

Rev. Paul Z. Ruter, Pastor

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Bible Class 9:00 am
Worship Services @ 10:00 am
Rev. Paul Nulton
John Bult, Organist

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

6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne.

Weekend Mass schedule:
Saturday afternoon: 5:00.
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am
Holy days of obligation: as announced in church bulletin.
Daily Mass schedule:
Monday afternoon 5:45 (Holy Rosary at 5:30); Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday mornings: (includes Morning Prayer)- 8:50 am
Saturday afternoon confessions: 4 to 4:45.
Rev. John J. Lynch, Ph.D., Pastor. 434-7643.

Dec. 5, 2009
5:30 pm
Sundown United
Methodist Church
at the Sundown Church Hall

Covered Dish Supper

HINCHEY - BREAK UP FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONSIDERED TOO BIG TO FAIL (From Pg. 12) It's been more than a year since Congress passed the \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street. The Federal Reserve also committed trillions of additional dollars in virtually zero interest loans and other assistance to large financial institutions. These efforts have resulted in the largest taxpayer bailout in the history of the world.

A wide array of prominent economic and financial leaders have spoken out in favor of breaking up the largest financial firms in the country. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volker, U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairwoman Sheila Blair, and others have all said that the U.S. should look at unwinding large institutions considered too big to fail.

HINCHEY VOTES TO EXTEND & IMPROVE FEDERAL GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Congressman Has Previously Helped Obtain Nearly \$17.4 Million for Local Fire Departments & EMS Providers

- As part of his ongoing commitment to ensuring that local firefighters and emergency responders have the tools and resources they need to prevent and fight fires and keep us safe, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today helped the House pass the Fire Grants Authorization Act. The bill authorizes the continuation of the popular and successful Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program for another five years. It also makes it easier for local fire and EMS departments to take advantage of these programs. Hinchey has previously secured nearly \$17.4 million in federal funding for local fire departments and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers through the AFG and SAFER programs.

"These two fire grant programs have helped ensure that fire departments throughout New York and across the country have the equipment and staffing levels needed to protect the public and keep themselves safe," Hinchey said. "Additionally, the federal funds we're authorizing through this bill will help spare local taxpayers from having to pay the bulk of the cost. This is particularly important as local budgets are being cut due to the tough economy."

The bill authorizes \$1 billion per fiscal year from FY 2010 to FY 2014 for the AFG program, which was created in 2000 and provides grants to help fire departments purchase equipment, training, fire trucks and other resources. The SAFER program, which was created in 2004 and has helped fire departments help hire additional firefighters, is authorized under the bill to receive \$1.194 billion per fiscal year during the same time period.

To ensure an equitable distribution of funding through the grant programs, the bill requires the funds to be apportioned such that 25 percent would go to career fire departments, 25 percent would go to volunteer fire departments, and 25 percent would go to combination fire departments. Ten percent would remain for open competition among all types of fire departments. The remaining 15 percent would serve certain other functions, including fire prevention and safety grants as well as grants for non-fire service EMS and rescue operations.

The bill also includes other changes to the AFG and SAFER programs, such as lowering the matching requirement for the AFG program from 20 percent to 10 percent - with populations serving populations under 20,000 paying only a 5 percent match.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the National Volunteer Fire Council have all endorsed the bill.

BONACIC AND GUNTHER: ON TOUGHEST DWI LAW IN THE NATION

State Senator John J. Bonacic (R/I/C - Mt. Hope), voted to enact one of the strongest anti-drunk driving laws in the nation. "Drunk driving kills - period. It endangers society at large and puts every motorist and pedestrian in danger. The law enacted today will help keep repeat drunk drivers off the road, and more severely punish those who drive drunk," Bonacic said.

The legislation makes it a felony to operate a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08, or impaired by drugs, with a child passenger who is 15 or under, punishable by a prison sentence of up to 1-1/3 to 4 years. It also mandates that every person sentenced for a misdemeanor DWI, or DWI-related penal law felony, install an interlock device. Such devices

prevent intoxicated drivers from starting vehicles. If a convicted driver tries to bypass or tamper with the interlock, he or she would commit a crime.

According to District Attorneys Association of the State of New York President Kate Hogan, when ignition interlock devices are installed in the cars of drunk drivers, DWIs decrease by 35%. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), over 4,000 people in New York have been killed in drunk driving crashes since 1998.

The push for the enhanced criminal penalties came after 11 year old Leandra Rosado was killed while a passenger in the car of a drunk driver last month. "Children do not have the choices that adults have to get into a car or not. When a parent or adult friend says to get in, the child gets in - generally without a choice, and likely, without knowing the driver is intoxicated. Subjecting a child to drunk driving is an act of abuse and now it is a felony," Bonacic said.

The successful passage of this legislation was attributed to the father of Leandra Rosado, who traveled to Albany to urge its adoption. His appearance, along with pressure from groups like MADD, and District Attorneys, as well as the New York Daily News resulted in the successful passage of this legislation.

Bonacic, a former prosecutor in the Orange County District Attorney's office, added "Drunk driving is a completely preventable crime. It is not an accident. It not only kills and injures people, but also costs taxpayers' money in terms of police investigation costs, and medical costs, for victims and perpetrators. This law is a positive step that will prevent needless injury and death."

Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther (D, C, I - Forestburgh) comments, "I am a proud sponsor of this bill. I introduced legislation in 2007 to mandate the use of ignition interlocks and am happy this has been included as part of this comprehensive legislation," said Gunther. "The Assembly has heard the concerns of the family of Leandra Rosado, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, law enforcement, and the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, as well as New Yorkers who demand the vast array of protections and punishments that this bill offers. When enacted this bill will make our roads safer and ensure the security of our families," said Gunther.

This is the toughest sentence for any first time DWI offense with a child passenger in the nation. In addition, this legislation includes a number of other protections that recognize the seriousness of driving with children while driving intoxicated.

"Interlock devices prevent intoxicated drivers from starting vehicles," Gunther said. "If a convicted driver tries to bypass or tamper with the interlock, or get another person to use the interlock, under this new law he or she commits a crime. Under this proposal, courts will be required to sentence DWI offenders to use ignition interlocks."

GUNTHER: ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM WILL HELP REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther (D, C, I - Forestburgh) announced the Assembly passed legislation authorizing municipalities to establish municipal sustainable energy loan programs in order to finance energy-efficiency improvements to residential, commercial, industrial and public buildings using federal funds (A.40004-A). The federal Department of Energy recently made approximately \$454 million in Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) funds available nationally, which New York State and New York State municipalities engaging in these projects under this legislation can apply for. Gunther said the bill would authorize a municipality to adopt a local law establishing their own energy-efficiency loan program - which would use the federal funding to offer low-interest loans to property owners for installing energy-efficient improvements and renewable systems.

"Many homeowners and business owners would jump at the chance to reduce their carbon footprint and help promote greener, more eco-friendly operations, but making those improvements can be very costly," Gunther said. "This program provides a valuable incentive and helps offset the immediate costs by creating a loan system that allows for payments to be made on your property tax bills over time."

Gunther said improvements could include basic measures like window and door replacement, caulking, weather-stripping, air-sealing, insulation and heating and cooling upgrades, as well as the installation of renewable energy systems - larger projects that will make an even bigger impact. These include energy-generating systems like solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digester gas-to-electricity systems, and fuel cell technologies. "By partnering with the federal government and local communities, we can help the state move toward achieving its goal to drastically reduce electricity use by 2015," Gunther said. "This legislation will help lower energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and make energy-efficiency improvements more affordable for those businesses and families who are already struggling in this economic downturn."

Gunther said in order to receive a loan, the property would be required to undergo an energy audit or feasibility study by a certified contractor. Municipalities would be required to verify and report on the installation and performance of the improvements and systems.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) would oversee the loan program by establishing cost-effective criteria for energy-efficiency improvements, establishing criteria for certifying contractors that perform efficiency audits and feasibility studies - as well as providing for and establishing installation and performance reporting requirements, Gunther said.

Gunther said the Assembly has also directed NYSERDA, as part of the "green jobs, green New York" program, to include more provisions in its comprehensive home-assessment program. This establishes a sliding scale for payment of audit fees for residential projects. Gunther said audit fees may be fully waived for income-qualified homeowners. If a business or residence chooses to participate in the energy-efficiency project or retrofit, any applicable audit costs may be capitalized in the repayment of the retrofit costs.

The "green jobs, green New York" program was signed into law (Ch. 487 of 2009), directs up to \$4 million to establish green jobs training programs throughout the state, and requires NYSERDA and the state Labor Department to develop additional sources of job-training funds, Gunther said.

Since severe weather and a poor economy pose serious risks to working families and the elderly during the winter, the Authority also offers help with the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), a federally funded program that issues financial assistance to help with a household's heating cost.

Assistance and incentives are also available for families and individuals looking to weatherize their homes and businesses, according to Gunther.

For further information about HEAP, including how to apply, please call the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's (OTDA) toll-free hotline at (800) 342-3009, or visit the OTDA Web site at www.otda.state.ny.us/main/heap/. To find out if you are eligible for HEAP assistance, visit www.myBenefits.ny.gov.

"These programs will help revive New York's struggling economy by encouraging investment in these energy-efficiency improvements, and will also help protect our environment," Gunther said.

"Promoting green energy doesn't have to mean paying through the nose for costly improvements. It's time for New York to become more energy and cost efficient, and this takes a huge step by incorporating municipalities across our state and making crucial federal funds available."

GUNTHER: COBRA EXPANSION LAW AMENDED TO CLOSE LOOPHOLE, INCREASE ELIGIBILITY

Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther (D, C, I - Forestburgh) announced the Assembly has passed an amendment to the COBRA benefits law allowing a group of individuals who were covered at the time the law became effective - yet were unable to receive the extension if their benefits expired before their contract was renewed - to continue receiving coverage (A.40006). The original law, passed in June, extended COBRA benefits from 18 to 36 months for individuals whose policies were issued or renewed after July 1 of this year (Ch. 236 of 2009).

"With the national unemployment rate at a 26-year high, an increasing number of workers are experiencing extended periods of job loss or being forced to work part-time," Gunther said. "The result is a loss of group health insurance coverage that these workers cannot afford."

The original law extended health insurance coverage offered through COBRA, but the timeframe for renewing certain contracts inadvertently disqualified a number of individuals. This chapter amendment ensures that these struggling New Yorkers continue to receive the health benefits they need.

The chapter amendment:

- Provides a special enrollment period for this group of individuals to receive benefits;
- Requires coverage issued during the special enrollment period to be prospective;
- Provides up to a total of 36 months of benefits;
- Prohibits any pre-existing condition exclusions from applying to lapses in coverage;
- Allows insurers 30 days to make a reasonable effort to provide written notice of the special enrollment period;
- Gives those individuals who receive notice 60 days to enroll and those who do not receive notice six months from the immediate effective date; and

(Contd. Pg. 15)

THE TOWNSMAN CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department
www.townofneversink.org
 (845) 985-2262 extension 312
Games & Socializing FREE fun every Friday afternoon 1 pm - 4 pm in the upstairs meeting room in the Town Hall. -

FREE Pizza & Christmas Craft Friday December 4, 5:30 pm Town Hall. Quick dinner & decorate Gingerbread cookies. All supplies will be provided. **FREE to residents/58 non-residents must be signed up no later than November 10.**

SUUJII WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
 answer

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

GUNTHER: COBRA EXPANSION LAW AMENDED (From Pg. 15)

-Changes the effective date from the reliance upon renewal to a flat effective date for all policies and contracts on or after Nov. 1, 2009.

COBRA allows workers and their families who lose their health benefits - because of voluntary or involuntary job loss, reduction in hours worked, transition between jobs, death, divorce or other lifealtering events - the right to continue their health benefits provided by their group health plan for a limited period of time. As companies downsize, older workers are often offered early retirement options as an alternative to lay-offs. These individuals may not have retiree health benefits and can be years aw from Medicare. This bill allows these individuals to maintain their existing coverage for a longer period of time, without which they would be uninsured after 18 months. "Providing New Yorkers with coverage, particularly if their employment status is reduced, is a priority," Gunther said. "This extension ensures that affordable health insurance coverage is available to those who need it."

BACK TO BASICS BUSINESS SEMINAR AT SCCC

Find out the fundamentals for business success at the "Back to Basics" breakfast seminar at Sullivan County Community College (SCCC) on December 11 at 8 a.m. During this two-hour workshop led by Dr. Arnaldo Schwerert, director of the Mid-Hudson Region Small Business Development Center, attendees will learn how to assess the strength of their businesses as well as identify opportunities for improving their bottom lines. In addition, they'll (Next Col.)



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- 12/15/09
- 12/16/09
- 12/16/09
- 12/21/09
- 12/24/09
- 12/25/09
- 12/31/09

- Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting
- Rondout Watershed Landowners Association Meeting - 7:00 pm Neversink Town Hall
- FIRST THURSDAY READERS MEETING 1:00 p.m. at the library. 985-7233.All are welcome.
- Grahamsville UMC Holiday Craft Fair
- Tri-Valley AARP #1604 Christmas Luncheon 12:00 noon at Albert's
- Sundown Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper - 5:30 pm Sundown Church Hall
- SANTA ARRIVES IN GRAHAMSVILLE! -Bi-Centennial Square 11 am- 1 pm
- 2009 Holiday Show -Old Stone House Hasbrouck -2 pm -call Carol for info/reservations 985-7783
- Claryville Fire District Elections 6-9/Fire District Meeting 7:00 pm
- Town of Denning Bill Audit meeting 7 pm
- Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting
- Dept. of Motor Vehicles - Neversink Town Hall - 10 am - 2 :30 pm
- Town of Denning Board Meeting 7:30 pm - Denning Town Hall
- Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals
- Tentative - Neversink Rondout Antique Tractor Meeting - 7:30 Neversink Fire House
- Neversink Fire Dist Meeting - 7:30 pm - Public Meeging 8:00 pm
- Grahamsville Fire District Meeting
- Town of Neversink Holiday (1/2 day)
- Town of Neversink Holiday - CHRISTMAS
- Town of Neversink Holiday (1/2 day)

SAVE THE DATE!

14th Annual Women's Conference to be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Sullivan County Community College

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

Town of Neversink Website: <http://townofneversink.org>

Daniel Pierce Library - <http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org>

Time and The Valleys Museum - <http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org>

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman On-Line Edition: <http://thetownsman.com>

To find out what is happening at Tri-Valley CSD: <http://tvcs.k12.ny.us>

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman is now available at the following retail stores and restaurants:

- SUNDOWN CAMP & BAIT SHOP
- GRAHAMSVILLE DELI
- LAGUEUX HARDWARE
- CANNIE D'S
- BLUE HILL LODGE
- ARATI GIFT SHOP (Brickman Rd.)

- E & H PAINTBALL (Loch Sheldrake)
- VALERO MINI MALL (Loch Sheldrake)
- WOODBOURNE CITGO STATION
- MO'S GAS STATION (Woodbourne)

- LIGHTHOUSE DELI
- NAPANOCH FLORIST
- JAME'S NAPANOCH GROCERY
- MATTHEW'S PHARMACY
- NAPANOCH APPLIANCE
- PETER'S MARKET

receive an informational "business basics" booklet from the small business development center.

This workshop is part of the "Make Your Business Competitive" Breakfast Series sponsored by SCCC in conjunction with the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development.

The cost is \$10 for Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce members and \$20 for non-members. Pre-registration is required by calling the college at 845-434-5750 ext. 4398 before December 7. Continental breakfast is included in the fee.

WOODRIDGE KIWANIS GIVES WARMTH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Ruth Stratton, who runs the Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) program at Fallsburg's Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, loves the holiday season because she can count on local organizations to donate funds, clothing, and gifts for the families with special needs. Receiving a \$650 check from Woodridge Kiwanis Annual

Holiday Service Project allowed Ruth to shop for socks, warm gloves and hats, underwear, outfits and toiletries. She and her EPIC elves package up everything according to size and age. Delivering the packages to the homeless shelter and other needy families in Fallsburg puts the seasonal red color of joy on everyone's face.

DRIVING SKILLS CLASSES IN KINGSTON AND STONE RIDGE

SUNY Ulster's Continuing and Professional Education Department will offer several driving courses in November and December. Course offerings include the 5-Hour Pre-licensing Class and the Defensive Driving Class. All are open to the public and require pre-registration.

The 5-Hour Pre-licensing Class covers the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving perception and defensive driving techniques. Upon completion, students will be issued a certificate, which is required to take the road test. The class meets the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles classroom requirement in driver safety education. The course will be offered on Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Class is held at the Business Resource Center in Kingston. The course fee is \$39. The Defensive Driving Class is designed to help prevent and avoid accidents through techniques developed by the National Safety Council and approved by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Participants in the 6-hour class can save 10% on their auto liability, no-fault and collision (Next Col.)

insurance premiums for 3 years. They may also receive a reduction of up to 4 points on their driving record toward points accumulated prior to class completion. Classes are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8, and 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each evening and Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Business Resource Center in Kingston. The course fee is \$45.

For more information or to register, contact SUNY Ulster's Continuing and Professional Education office at (845) 339-2025 or visit www.sunyulster.edu and register online.



Left to right are Kiwanians Lorraine Bogarsky and Sue Kasofsky and teacher Pete Dworetzky; the students left to right are Phoenix Diaz, Raul Diaz, and Brandon Delgado

WOODRIDGE KIWANIS SPREADS THE WORDS FOR COSOR 4th GRADERS

In their continuing efforts to support the educational process in the Fallsburg Central School District, Woodridge Kiwanians distributed dictionaries to the entire fourth grade student body at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School.

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting & Celebration

Saturday December 13, 2009
 • 6pm Peter's Market •
 Seasonal Music, Visit by Santa, Tree Lighting
 • 6:30pm Napanoch Fire House •
 Photos with Santa, Arts & Crafts, Light Refreshments

SC HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Do your Christmas shopping this year at the Sullivan County Historical Society. On Sunday, December 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. there will be book signings by authors John Conway, Myron Gittel and Rita Sheehan of their newest books: "Sullivan County-A Bicentennial History in Images", "Woodstock '69: Three Days of Peace, Music and Medical Care", and "Views of Sullivan County in the Town of Bethel".

This will take place at the Sullivan County Museum, Main Street, Hurleyville. It is free and there will be refreshments.

The Sullivan County Historical Society 23rd Annual Theme Tree Exhibit and Open House will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 1 p.m. at the Sullivan County Museum, Main Street, Hurleyville, NY. The auditorium will be filled with trees and exhibits by local organizations, businesses and individuals. There will be a showing of an historical Movie at 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments. Snow date is December 13th. For further information on these events, please call (845) 434-8044.



Daniel Pierce Library

HOURS:
Tuesdays & Thursdays - 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesdays & Fridays - 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Mondays

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

On occasion, a meeting date is changed. Please call ahead to confirm. 845-985-7233

Time and the Valleys Museum has copies of every **Townsmen** printed since the beginning in loose-leaf binders classified by year for anyone to research. For further information, contact the historian's office in Grahamsville at 985-2262 x313, e-mail: historian@townofneversink.org, or visit www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org

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845-985-0501

FOR SALE: Desirable Grahamsville rental investment property, 1 acre +/-, 4-1 bedroom apartments, good condition, great location, rented. Present capitalization rate 14.2 % asking \$199,000.00.
Listing # com4-1BR

WANTED ASAP - Hunting property, acreage with cabin preferably near state land. **BUYER WAITING!**

RENTALS

BUILDING FOR RENT: In Grahamsville (Old Post Office) Rent - 985-7411.

CABIN for rent - secluded road. Grahamsville. Needs some work. Rent-\$500 month. Available immediately. 845-985-7411.

Large 3 room Apartment in the heart of Grahamsville. 2nd Floor. Tenant pays own heat. Available now \$500. 646-331-7114 *tn*

Tri-Valley School District - for rent d/w 3 br. 2 bath on 2.7 acres. No pets. \$850 month + utilities - security. Call 845-434-2731. Available Dec. 1, 2009. *pd12/3*

Apartment for rent. 2 bedroom, L.R., kitchen. Call 985-0107 *tn*

WANTED

House wanted to Rent - 3 bedroom, Tri-Valley School District. Good References. Call (845) 647-4093 oglesbysee@aol.com *b-ffr*

PET BOARDING

Pet Boarding- Small boarding facility. Heated, well ventilated, 4x6 stalls with access to an outdoor run several times daily. 845-985-5036 *bfngty*

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 1997 Pontiac Van, Transport, 7 passenger, 4 extra wheels w/snowtires; dependable, reasonable. 1997 Subaru Legacy wagon, good shape, extra snowtires. 985-7564. *tn*

1998 Dodge Grand Caravan. Needs some repairs. Reasonable. Call 845-985-0501.

SERVICES

STUMP GRINDING - Certified Arborist - Winter Discounts - call **LUCKY DOG** - 985-7689

LawnCare by Victoria - Fall Clean-ups and snow removal. 985-7218 or 866-1194. Please leave message. *pd 12/3*

CONTRACTOR

K & A CONSTRUCTION - affordable General Contracting Company. Reliable, reasonable, hard-working & negotiable. **FREE ESTIMATES & DESIGN IDEAS!** Call and leave a message (845)985-5004

HELP WANTED

Reliable, detail-oriented **house cleaner** for busy vacation rentals company. Must be a self-starter interested in joining a growing enterprise. Flexible hours. Advancement potential if desired. Please call Jennifer at 985-7153.

HEALTH FOOD/CLASSES

YOGA • REIKI

Close to Neversink Dam
on Lindholm Road

Morning **YOGA** classes include gentle stretches to ease and prevent back and joint pain

REIKI Spiritual Energy Healing Sessions and classes by appointment
Call: JOY @ 845-292-7870

Learn about exciting new Health Products and how you can become part of the Waiora team and enjoy the benefits of an extra income.

<http://www.mywaioro.com/581155>

GOOD NEWS

It's time to update our list of men and women who are in the armed services. Please bring in their name and address to **Grahamsville Hardware**, 171 Main Street, PO Box 417, Grahamsville, NY 12740 and we will post them so everyone can send a letter or package. Getting something from us will let them know we support them. If you can't bring the information to the store, you can mail it to the above address.

Let's remember we are at war and they need our support.

Denning Democrats

Get involved! Have a voice in running your town. December 2 at 7:00 pm Rondout Watershed Landowners Association on Wednesday in the Town of Neversink Town Hall.

December 8, 2009 Town of Denning Bill Audit Meeting 7:00 PM

December 12, 2009 Town of Denning Board Meeting 7:30 PM Denning Town Hall

December 8, 2009 Claryville Fire District Elections 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Fire District Meeting 7:00 PM,

Send suggestions for improving the Town of Denning to Denning Dems 135 Peckamoose Road Sundown NY 12740 - email:

denningdems@yahoo.com or call 845.985.0501

Democratic Committee Chair
Frank Comando

ANSWER TO KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA

B. Montgomery Clift
A. Frank Sinatra

TRI-VALLEY PROPERTY FOR SALE

CLARYVILLE:

- **NEW** Renovated 3 bed/1 bath farmhouse with creek on approx. 1 acre \$299,000; with 6.42 acres \$329,000
- **NEW** Two quiet, pretty, level 1 acre, buildable lots. \$22,500 each. (*1 lot is under contract*)
- **NEW** 3 bed/2 bath restored farmhouse on 1.3 acs with dramatic ultra-modern addition, fine fixtures \$395k
- **RENTAL** Elegant 4 bed/5 bath home on 150 acre estate with Neversink frontage. \$1,900/mo + utils.

GRAHAMSVILLE /LOCH SHELDRAKE/JEFFERSONVILLE:

- **NEW** 3 bed/1+ bath farmhouse on 1 ac with stream. Beautiful floors, deck, views. \$159,000
- **NEW** 4 bed/2.5 bath single fam. home + two 1 bed/1 bath apts in attached bldg. In quiet section of Jeffersonville Village. Short walk to school. \$249,000
- Mini-estate with indoor pool, 2 ponds, manicured grounds and 9 private acs. 4 bed/3 bath \$749,000
- Dreamy 4 BR eyebrow colonial on 15.73 acres with views & stream next to city land. \$399,000.

Jennifer Grimes

REALTOR®, GREEN, Frank Lumia Real Estate
Home Office: (845) 985-7153 • Cell: (845) 258-2802
or visit www.JCGreps.com

Knarf's "Classic Movie Trivia"

From Here To Eternity (1953)

On the eve of, and during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. enlisted men in Hawaii fought for love and honor at the beginning of World War II.

Cast: Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Donna Reed
Dir: Fred Zinnemann BW-118 mins, TV-PG on Monday, December 7, 2009 @ 8:30 am on TCM

Quiz:

A. Name the actor who played the character Angelo Maggio?

B. Name the actor, in this film, who Elizabeth Taylor stated was her only

true love?

What's going on in the *Gnome Neighborhood*™ this week?

We remember and realize that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, acted as a catalyst propelling America into World War II. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Japan. In return, December 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. Few events in the history of the United States have generated as much controversy as the attack on Pearl Harbor. Rumors abounded during the war, and the release of the Congressional Investigation Report on July 26, 1946, while containing information that would squelch most of them, did not end the speculations.

Part of the problem with the Pearl Harbor Attack Investigation Report (PHA for short) was that it was in 40 parts contained in 23 volumes. Extracting the answers to the bizarre stories that ran rampant was a daunting task for even the most serious researcher. Today, however, with the aid of computer search engines, we can locate information about events and people that have been buried in stacks and university attics for decades. Of course, no one will be able to convince the die-hard Roosevelt-haters that he did not arrange, or at least allow, the attack. And there are those of us who simply want the answers to questions such as "Why didn't the Opana Point radar-contact report reach Adm. Kimmel?" The testimonies of the people involved will illuminate the situation in a most satisfactory manner.

The link below will take you to a document which explains why a particular myth is either wholly false or a distortion of the facts. Find the truth for yourself and clear up the rhetoric go to: <http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/myths/myths.html>

Our hearts must go out to all who have served our country in all wars.

Bye,

Knarf Oghamoc

Gnome