

Ye Olde  
**Tri GOVNSMAN Valley**  
"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"



**VOL. 20 NO. 49 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 5, 2024**

*Mysterious Book Report* John D. McKenna Pg 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 7 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11  
*Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* Pg 61

## Monticello Elks Purchase Food and Clothing



(Monticello) Just in time for the holidays, Monticello Elks Lodge #1544 went shopping to buy the makings of complete ham dinners for 54 local veterans, and coats, hats and gloves for 100 elementary school children in the Monticello and Fallsburg school districts. The funding for the food is from a \$2000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and the funding for the coats is from a \$4000 Elks Beacon Grant. The Lodge recently also donated \$2000 to the Federation for the Homeless. Pictured are (from left): Scott Cooper, Tyler Hulse, Julie Hulse, Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy Jim Gerrard, Past District Deputy Gregg Esposito of Ellenville Lodge, Gregg's wife Penny Esposito of Monticello Lodge, Peter Kunz, Past Exalted Ruler and Trustee Mike Brennan, Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell, Trustee Brian Johnson, Terry Atkins, James Rodriguez and Joe Levi. Photo by Past Exalted Ruler Bill James.

## Senator Peter Oberacker Kicks Off District-wide Winter Coat Drive in Otsego County



In the spirit of the holiday season, State Senator Peter Oberacker, joined by Otsego County Sheriff Rich Devlin and Angel Network President Laurie Williams, formally announced the start of the First Annual Senate District 51 Winter Coat Drive in Otsego County. This initiative is part of a district-wide effort to ensure no one must face the winter season unprepared.

"As we approach the holidays, it's a time to reflect on our blessings and give back to those in need," said Senator Oberacker. "This coat drive is a way for our community to come together and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors. A warm coat can mean so much, especially during this festive, yet often difficult, season."

(Contd. Pg. 11)

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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

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

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

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

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

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

**On the Front Burner:** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

Luke 2:2

## OBITUARIES

### Patricia Anne Reinshagen



Never sink passed away on November 21, 2024, at home after a long illness. She was 91.

She grew up in a loving home in Kenoza Lake to John and Bertha Bernhardt. Her

first job was working in a Boarding house right next door to her house. She has memories of ice skating on Hust Pond with her sister, Helen and best friend from next door, Betty Girrback.

Many years later, Mom met Dad at the Liberty-Loomis Hospital: Mom was a hostess and Dad was a maintenance repairman.

Mom was 27 years old when Dad introduced her and her 2 children, Kenny and Laurie to his kids, Clifford, Joyce ad Patty.

Since Dad was also self-employed as an appliance repairman, Mom soon ended being a hostess and became an "administrator" for Dad's business (Carl Appliances) which allowed her to stay at home and raise the children. Their whole family lived in a beautiful old house at the top of Old Loomis Road.

Mom and Dad married on November 5, 1961, and 11 months later, to the day, the family was complete with the birth of Carrie.

Mom was involved with the scouts, with Clifford, Kenny and Laurie all being in the Scouts. When not cleaning house, taking care of the kids and especially taking care of dad, Mom loved to bake. So many delicious goodies coming out of the oven. Many years later, mom and Dad joined the Claryville Reformed Church. Mom was very involved in any festivities held by the church. Especially with making food helping in the kitchen of the Church Hall. Although she wasn't in the choir, we all remember her having a beautiful singing voice. Mom and dad belonged to a snowmobile club which they enjoyed together for a few years.

Although the kids were not all full siblings, we were all treated the same,

with the same amount of love and caring.

In the spring of 2023, mom was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, which, together with debilitating arthritis, left her unable to do much on her own. Since that time, her daughters, Joyce and Carrie shared the responsibility for caring for her. They were joined in March 2024 with help from the wonderful Lorie Turner, home health nurse, who cared for her with such love and compassion. We are eternally grateful to her.

Patricia was predeceased by her loving husband, Carl Reinshagen, her parents, John and Bertha Bernhardt, her sister Helen Snedeker, her brother George Fulton, her daughter Laurie Hessinger Marrone; stepdaughter, Patty Reinshagen, granddaughter, Melody Marrone and great-grandson Beck Leon Hessinger.

Survivors include her children: Clifford Reinshagen, Joyce Decker (John Milteer), Ken Hessinger (Donna), Carrie Karsch (Will). Grandchildren: Renee Breen (Pete), Amy Decker (Vaclav), Robert Decker (Mandi), James Hessinger (Kelli), Ed Hessinger (Kelsey), Sarah Karsch, Heather Karsch, Brandon Stein, 16 great grandchildren 4 great great grandchildren and a host of friends.

Visitation and a funeral service was held at Claryville Reformed Church, on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Burial followed at the Claryville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Orange/Sullivan Hospice or to the Claryville Reformed Church.

### Donald Leroy Hamilton, Sr.,

84, of Grahamsville, NY, passed away peacefully at his home on November 24, 2024. Born on February 10, 1940, at Nyack Hospital to the late Roger "Pete" Hamilton and Maude Thorington, Donald lived a full and dedicated life, rooted in



family, service, and hard work.

Donald grew up in New City, NY, and later lived in Congers, NY, before settling in Grahamsville. (Contd. Pg. 4)

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

### December 8, 1954

A new mail route was started this week over Lackawack Hill, up through Yeagerville to Sundown. The mailman is Guy Curry who has driven the Sundown-Yeagerfille route for years only not over Lackawack Hill.

Mr. and Mrs Richard Brooks are the parents of a boy, Robert Allen, born November 23 at Veteran's Hospital, Ellenville. The baby's paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brooks of Gardiner.

18 Shopping Days to Christmas  
To fill those stockings from toes to top,  
For boys and girls, for mom and pop.  
We have fruits and candies and goodies galore,  
We have clothes to wear for 'dress' and chore.  
KUM TO KRUM's

### December 9, 1964

Miss Linda Lee Knox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Knox of Neversink, became the bride of Thomas Paul Cypert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cypert of Frost Valley on Dec. 5th at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Woodbourne. The bride is a graduate of Tri Valley Central School and Cobleskill Tech. Her husband graduated from Tri Valley and served four years in the Army Air Force. After a wedding trip upstate, the couple will reside at Frost Valley where he is employed by the YMCA.

Two children were baptized at the morning service at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning. John Earl Sheeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Sheeley and Gregory Guy Grey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grey. Mrs. Sheeley joined the church by letter from the church in Monticello.

### December 18, 1974

Airman Richard M. Deagle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon V. LeRoy of Neversink, N.Y. has graduated at Chanute AFB, Ill from the U.S. Air Force jet engine mechanic course conducted by the Air Force Training Command. Airman Deagle is a 1974 graduate of Tri-Valley Central School in Grahamsville, N.Y.

Mr. Richard Strangeway, accompanied by his wife, Audrey, attended the 26th annual convention of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association which was held in New Orleans December 6-11. While there Mr. Strangeway was elected to the office of Regional Vice President of the NVATA.

## Household Hint:

### DIY Wwindow Cleaner

Your grandma didn't have fancy window and mirror cleaning sprays, and you don't need them either.

- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1 1/2 T. white vinegar
- 1 1/2 T. rubbing alcohol

Mix in a spray bottle, spray liberally on windows and mirrors and wipe with a lint-free cloth or crumpled newspaper.

## Nature Column - L. Comando

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

## Red Berries of the Season - Rose Hips -Mother Nature's Gift Bundle

The crisp chill of frosty mornings and the new fallen snow announce winter is on its way revealing another hidden treasure - rose hips! These vibrant red and orange fruits, emerging from spent blooms, bring a dash of seasonal color and charm to our Catskill Mountain landscape.



Rose hips are a colorful, and versatile option to include in flower creations as said by floral lovers, plus are also an edible component of roses, frequently used to make herbal tea, jams,

jellies, syrups, and vinegar. Rose hips are a great source of vitamin C that also are quite tasty. They do not taste like roses but instead have a fruity, sour tang to them like citrus fruit or hibiscus flowers.

They can be used whole in tea blends, but if you use crushed rose hips, you MUST be sure to get rid of the tiny, itchy hairs inside of them. No matter the size of the hips, those hairs are unpleasant to eat, drink or breathe.

The familiar Dog Rose a/k/a Wild Rose or Briar Rose (*Rosa canina*) is that rambling shrub, found in hedgerows, woodland edges, and grasslands. It is the most abundant of our native, wild roses. The dog rose that grows wild in the Catskills has thorns and clusters of sweet-scented five petaled white flowers that appear in June and July. By autumn they produce bright red rosehips that we now see.

The rose has been around for about 35 million years. Pliny the Elder, born at the time of Christ, believed that the root could cure the bite of a mad dog, and used that to explain the origin of the common name, although some believe it got its name from its thorns that are like the fangs of a dog. Shrouded in mythology and strongly linked to the Christian faith, the dog rose remains a symbol of purity, love and marriage. *Rosa canina* - (Dog Rose, Dog Brier, Common Briar) originated in Eurasia. It is been known as the Dog Rose since ancient times. It is a species that occurs naturally, with no help from man - a true "wild-flower."

There are not many things available to forage once winter arrives, but collecting rose hips is an exception to that rule. As long as Rose Hips still have their beautiful red or orange hues, they will be good to pick.

Why not give rose hips a try on your next floral bouquet, arrangement, or even in the kitchen! You'll actually be surprised at how this small round-shaped flower can impact any creation positively.

And of course, consider leaving some rose hips on the plants for local wildlife, especially birds. Rose hips add a striking splash of color to the otherwise bare winter landscape, so leaving them intact isn't just good for the birds, it's a beautiful addition to the beautiful Catskill Mountain winter scene.



## OBITUARIES

### Donald Leroy Hamilton

(From Pg. 2) He attended New City Elementary and Clarkstown High North, where he developed a passion for mechanics that would shape his career. Donald proudly served in the United States Army before embarking on a life-long career as a skilled mechanic. His work as an independent contractor for the United States Postal Service spanned 24 years. In addition to his work with the USPS, Donald served as a mechanic for the SYDA Foundation and owned his own garage, where he earned the respect of many for his craftsmanship and dedication.

A longtime member of the Hurleyville Fire Department, Donald was also known for his generosity, strong work ethic, and commitment to his community. He was an avid mechanic who enjoyed the challenge of fixing anything that came his way, and his skills were always sought after by family, friends, and neighbors.

In October 1962, Donald married Emma J. Newell, and together they raised a loving family. He is survived by his wife Emma, and their children: Donald Jr. (Cherie), Theresa Grafmuller (Terence), Tina Hamilton (Joe), and Bonnie Hamilton (Sam). Donald was also a proud grandfather and great-grandfather, cherished by his grandchildren Megan Marsh, Tayler Hamilton, Kristina McKay, Alexis Ortega, Sean Schrader, Dylan Schrader, Anthony Simpson, Jarret Simpson and his six great-grandchildren.

He is further survived by his siblings: Louis Faye Thorington of Georgia, Barbara of Mississippi, and Janet Mancuso of Circleville, NY. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son Timothy Hamilton.

Donald will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. A man of great integrity, he leaves behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and love for his family and community.

Burial with full military honors will be held at a later date at Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, for further information call 845-434-7363 or visit [www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com)

**Evelyn “Pidge” Collier** peacefully passed away on November 25, 2024 at her beloved home, “The Farm” hav-



ing had the pleasure of being comforted in her final days by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and dear friends. Pidge is survived by her children “Bill” Collier (Shelley), Jane Joray (Gregg), Stephen Collier (Natalie), and David Collier (Jacqueline); her grandchildren Geoffrey, Erik, Kristen, Jaclyn, Brian, Tyler, Jessica, and Julia; and her great grandchildren Miles, Erika, Magdalena, Keira, Tanner, William, Esther, Carter, Kainan, Avery, Layla, and Sidney. Pidge was predeceased by her husband of 64 years “Bill” and son “Bob”. Pidge

was 92 at her death having been born on July 16, 1932.

Pidge was an active member of the community and particularly enjoyed her many hours spent with the Shawangunk Garden Club and Ellenville Hospital Auxiliary. Pidge was an avid gardener and reader, but her greatest joy came from being a loving, caring, and nurturing mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Pidge's life was filled with love and joy, both giving and receiving. She will be missed by many.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 3 at Loucks Funeral Home, 79 Main Street, Ellenville NY. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Saint Mary & Saint Andrew on Wednesday, December 4 at 10 AM, with interment to follow at Fantinekill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Pidge's memory to Saint Mary & Saint Andrew Catholic Church, Shadowland Theatre, or Shawangunk Garden Club, to benefit FGCNYS: World Gardening.

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## LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published December 7, 1995

I was startled to see several of our local stores already displaying items for Christmas in October. Bright autumn leaves were still on the trees, and Halloween decorations were everywhere. Could Christmas be close at hand?

I recall when the magic of Christmas started the day after Thanksgiving. That's the day Dad brought out the toy table and placed his display of Christmas items out for sale. Today Christmas comes in dubs and dabs. We receive Christmas literature as early as September.

Somewhere along the line we have nessed up Christmas. By the time Christmas comes around, the cookies and Christmas candy are getting stale in our local stores. Today's imitation trees are lacking the nice friendly smell of balsam, spruce, or pine. In the early 1900's we had never heard about an imitation Christmas tree. We took our axe, went out in the forest, and chopped one down. If one side of the tree didn't look so great, that's the side we turned toward the wall. And all the kids took a part in decorating. We shelled, popped and strung popcorn to hang on its green branches. We strung cranberries and hung candy canes. If one of the candy canes was only half there, Santa wouldn't mind.

We placed our toys from last year under the tree so Santa could see how well we had cared for them, and perhaps he would leave us a new one.

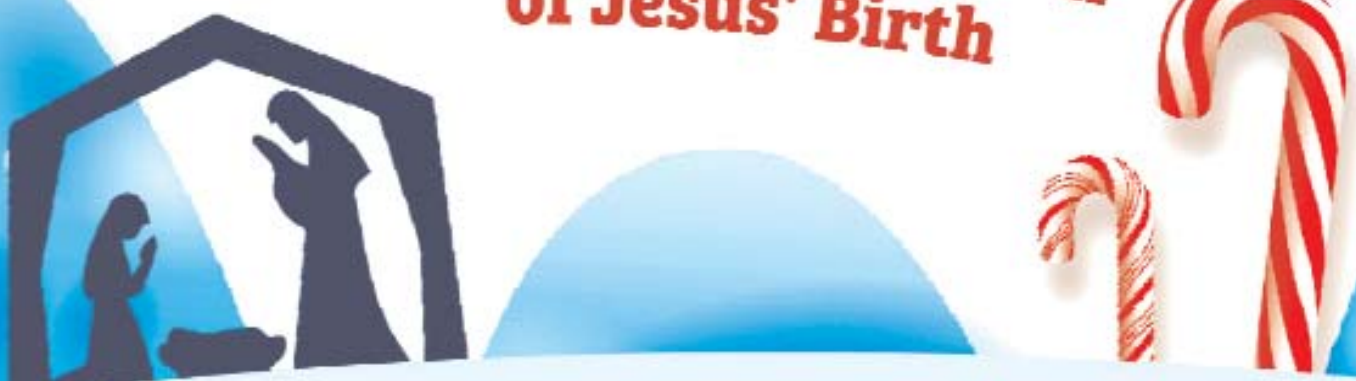
Our gifts to each other were underwear and stockings which Mother helped us to wrap, and hankies and neckties for Dad. On Christmas morning we always found a candy dish filled with Christmas candy brought in from the store, which always brought giggles from us kids. Santa must have helped himself to Daddy's candy (we were never allowed to), and Santa had chosen ribbon candy and chocolate drops - Daddy and Mother's Favorites.



**Claryville Reformed  
Church Presents:**

# Gingerbread BASH

**A Sweet Celebration  
of Jesus' Birth**

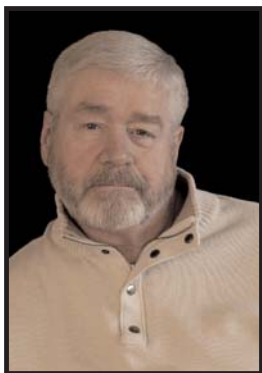


**Where: Claryville Reformed Church Hall  
946 Claryville Road, Claryville, NY  
When: Sunday Dec. 15, 2024  
Time: 1:30-3:30 PM  
Cost: FREE**

**Space is limited! Sign up at  
the link below or find our  
event on Facebook!**

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



## The Man In Milan

### Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 110

by John Dwaine McKenna

### Mysterious Book Report No. 422

Published Dec 3, 2020

An execution-style murder of an Italian air force officer and diplomat on Sutton Place – in one of New York City's most expensive mid-Manhattan neighborhoods-begins author Vito Rancanelli's electrifying new thriller entitled, *The Man in Milan*, (Polis Books, \$26.99, 336 pages, ISBN 978-1-951709-11-1).

As NYPD Detective Paul Rossi and his partner, Detective Hamilton P. Turner investigate however, they're pulled ever-deeper into an intriguing and sinister plot with political overtones and roots that go back decades . . . to the worst air disaster in Italian history. Eighty-one souls were lost when an airline crashed on the island of Ustica, between the shin of Italy and the island of Sicily, in June of 1980. The cause of the crash has never been determined, but foul play may have occurred, because Russian-backed Libyan MiG fighters, French Mirages, as well as NATO and Italian warplanes were all in the same airspace at the time. It's suspected that a crime may have been committed and covered up . . . but no one knows for certain . . . because the Italian Government continues to investigate but still hasn't determined a cause, more than twenty years after the crash. And the man who was assassinated in NYC? His name was Gaetano Muro, and he was flying an Italian fighter jet in the melee where the ill-fated airliner went down.

Trying to fit together the pieces of an insanely complex puzzle Rossi and Turner are thwarted by the NYPD bureaucracy and stonewalled, obfuscated and misled by the Italian Consulate in New York City. The two detectives are joined by Gaetano Muro's sister Laura, a policewoman from Italy who comes to America to claim her brother's body and return it to the old country for burial. And that's when another element known as the Gladio, a powerful and shadowy Italian political cabal whose tentacles extend all the way across the Atlantic Ocean to the innermost circles of New York's political, social and ruling classes steps in to try and prevent the Sutton Place murder from ever being solved.

Based in part on actual events, *The Man in Milan* is stuffed full of action, intrigue and enough plot twists to satisfy Niccolo Machiavelli himself, and announces the arrival of a major new talent in thriller fiction. Read it for yourself and see why the MBR is calling it one of the best first novels we've seen in quite some time!

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

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

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

or

<http://Mysteriousbookreport.com>

**Thank You!**



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



# The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

## Choices

Life is all about choices. In the course of a day, we make dozens of choices. What shall I wear? What will I make for breakfast? Shall I shop today? What television show shall I watch? Should I answer the phone when it is probably just a spam call?

As I sat in a seafood restaurant and was aware of the many questions our waiter asked us about food choices, I realized how diverse were our selections.

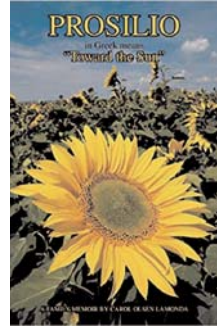
It brought to mind the Robert Frost poem, "The Road Less Traveled" that uses the fork in a road to symbolize our life choices. That poem, also reminds me of Yogi Berra's famous line, "When you come to a fork in the road, pick it up."

Coincidentally, a high school classmate shared this with me. "Love has four letters, but so does hate. Cry has three letters but so does joy. Enemies has seven letters but so does friends. Lying has five letters but so does truth." Always choose good over evil.

The upcoming week has a number of choices that relate to ways to spend the holiday season. Here are just a few that are my choices:

### The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*




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 Saturday, December 7  
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THE PARETE FAMILY INVITES YOU TO  
**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**  
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
 8:30AM - 11:00AM  
 AT THE  
 BONCEVILLE INN

EVERY CHILD RECEIVES A CANDY CANE & SMALL GIFT

## Holiday Programs Galore at the DPL

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-The winter chill is upon us! This week, with temperatures plummeting, it certainly makes trekking out to the library in pursuit of the hottest new reads a worthwhile trip. Come in; take a look at our newest novels, popular children's stories or stay current with our collection of magazines and newspapers. We have some beautiful holiday decorations on display-the upstairs reading room, with its Christmas trees and fireplace makes for a fantastic spot to take that annual holiday family picture-so please come in from the cold and take a tour.

Despite being so early in December, our calendar is filling up quickly with special events and programs for the month, but first a little pertinent housekeeping. The library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the day after (December 26) and New Year's. We will be closing early, at 3PM, on New Year's Eve. Also, as we all know, weather this time of year is finicky. We follow the Tri-Valley school district winter weather closing protocol. So, if they call a two hour delay, early dismissal, or closing, we will follow suit. To be fair, if the weather is questionable, please give us a call before making your way here. We'd all rather be safe than sorry and

may decide to change hours accordingly. We will always have any weather related schedule changes (both operating hours and specific program/events delays) on our website and social media platforms.

Now, on to our special December programs. On December 12th, from 5:30 to 6:30, we will be hosting a family Gingerbread House Decorating Fundraiser. Pre-registration (online) is required and open to Tri-Valley residents. Seating is limited, so register as soon as possible if you (and your family) would like to attend this program. While decorating gingerbread houses, families will also enjoy the festivities with music and hot cocoa. In addition, we've received word that Santa will be making a special appearance as well, just in time for those holiday family photos.

On December 18th we will be hosting our popular Latkes & Applesauce program from 3:00-4:30PM. This program is open to Tri-Valley students in grades 1-6, with advanced registration available online. Join us for an afternoon of delicious, warm latkes and applesauce, as well as, holiday cheer, stories, crafts, music and games. This is a great opportunity for children to learn about the Festival of Light-Hanukkah, a beautiful, joyous holiday. If you wish for your child to take the bus from school, please send a note to the elementary main office no later than Monday, December 16.

There are plans in the works to continue our holiday music showcase, Sounds of the Season, this year, during the week of December 16, so please check our website for updated information as the time approaches.

I cannot stress more the importance of having a book handy as the chaotic weather approaches. I know the argument could also be made that time is in short supply during the holiday season, but I'll rebuff that with reminders of how cathartic reading is. Whether it's you, curled up in a comfy chair with a soft blanket and warm beverage, or sneaking time before bed, stretching out with the kids in their tiny twin sized bed and sharing stories of reindeer with superpowers or snowmen up at night, it's those moments of peace and calm that will get you through the holiday chaos that will likely ensue. So brave it...and if it's with a steamy Lucy Score novel, all the better!



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**FRESH**

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**Ellenville, NY**

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## Senator Peter Oberacker Kicks Off District-wide Winter Coat Drive in Otsego County

(From Pg. 1) The coat drive encourages donations of new or gently used winter coats and jackets for adults and children. Donations collected in Otsego County will directly benefit local families through the Angel Network.

Otsego County Drop-Off Location: Senator Peter Oberacker's Office, 41 S. Main Street, Oneonta

In collaboration with the Angel Network and supported by Otsego County Sheriff Rich Devlin.

Collection Hours: Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 5:00pm

Senator Oberacker continued, "We are incredibly grateful to work with the Angel Network and the Otsego County Sheriff's Office to make sure these donations reach those who need them most. My deepest thanks to Laurie and Sheriff Devlin for answering the call, and I am inspired by the spirit of our local leaders."



Sheriff Rich Devlin said, "It's always inspiring to see our community come together to help those in need. The Otsego County Sheriff's Office is proud to support this initiative, and we applaud Senator Oberacker for this incredible effort."

Angel Network president Laurie Williams said, "The Angel Network is honored to be part of this heartwarming effort. A warm coat can make all the difference, and together with Senator Oberacker and Sheriff Devlin, we're making a real difference during a difficult season for many."

The coat drive also includes participation from other counties in the 51st Senate District, with support from local organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders.

"We're starting something new this year and I hope it grows into a cherished annual tradition," added Senator Oberacker. "Every coat represents the generosity of our community, and together, we can make an impact during the cold winter months."

To learn more about the First Annual Senate District 51 Winter Coat Drive or to find additional drop-off locations, visit [Oberacker.NYSenate.gov](http://Oberacker.NYSenate.gov) or contact Senator Oberacker's office at 607-432-5524

## Public Welcome to Weigh in on Tentative Sullivan County Budget Hearings Set for December 10 and 12

Monticello, NY - Formal public hearings about the proposed 2025 Sullivan County Budget have been set for Tuesday, December 10 at 5 p.m. and Thursday, December 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello.

Written comment is being accepted by Clerk of the Legislature AnnMarie Martin at [annmarie.martin@sullivanny.gov](mailto:annmarie.martin@sullivanny.gov) or 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701.

"As presented to the Legislature by County Manager Josh Potosek, the Tentative 2025 County Budget encompasses a range of services proposed to be offered to the people of Sullivan County," Legislature Chair Nadia Rajsz noted. "My colleagues and I may modify that proposal before we adopt the Budget in mid-December, but in the meantime, residents and taxpayers are welcome to let us know what they think of the budget at these upcoming hearings, or via email to our Clerk."

To review the budget, visit <https://sullivanny.gov/Departments/Managementandbudget/Budgetdocuments> or contact the Legislature office at 845-807-0435.

## Radio Catskill Announce 2024 Holiday Programming Celebrate the Season with Radio Catskill

(Liberty, NY) - Radio Catskill is excited to announce a special lineup of holiday programming designed to fill the season with festive cheer. From heartwarming stories to a diverse collection of holiday music, these programs will bring joy and holiday spirit to listeners throughout the yuletide season.

Whether you're tuning in on-air, streaming online via our website, or using our free mobile app or smart speaker, Radio Catskill will provide a variety of uplifting shows for all ages and musical tastes. Enjoy a mix of holiday favorites, timeless classics, and unique seasonal offerings.

Happy Holidays from all of us at Radio Catskill!

### 7PM: The Annual Tree Lighting in Barryville

The Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce presents Broadway performer Erin West and Friends and musicians from the community for an evening of song and light, next to the bridge at the intersection of Routes 97 & 55 in Barryville, NY. Broadcast live with lots of music and a visit from Santa!

(Contd. Pg 12)

**Radio Catskill Announce 2024 Holiday Programming Celebrate the Season with Radio Catskill** (Firin Pg, 11)

**DECEMBER 18**

7PM: The Retro Cocktail Hour Annual Christmas Show -Two hours of hip-shaking, tiki-drink-stirring holiday tunes that will look great under your pink-and-white Christmas tree! From Kansas Public Radio, hosted by Darrell Brogdon.

**DECEMBER 24**

9PM: An Afro Blue Christmas -Howard University vocal ensemble Afro Blue and special guest pianist Cyrus Chestnut perform a concert full of new and classic holiday songs that induce African-American spirituals, jazz and pop tunes, and classical repertoire. From NPR, hosted by Michele Norris.

10PM: Christmas with Morehouse and Spelman Glee Clubs-The choirs of Morehouse and Spelman Colleges -- two of the most prestigious historically black institutions in the nation -- present an annual holiday concert program of spirituals and carols. This encore presentation features the best works of the last several years. From NPR, hosted by Korva Coleman.

11PM: Jazz Piano Christmas -The annual concert of jazz-infused renditions of seasonal music. Featuring a distinctly Afro-Cuban vibe this year with pianist, vocalist, and actress Melvis Santa and Cuban composer & jazz pianist Alfredo Rodriguez. From The Kennedy Center and NPR, hosted by Felix Contreras.

MIDNIGHT: A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols -Recorded at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, this service has been a Christmas Eve tradition for more than a century, and it's a Radio Catskill tradition, too. Featuring biblical readings, a cappella and organ accompanied anthems, hymns, carols, and related seasonal music. From American Public Media, hosted by Michael Barone.

**DECEMBER 25**

10AM: A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols Encore Presentation -The Christmas Morning rebroadcast of the traditional Christmas Eve service Recorded at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England.

Noon: Joy To The World - A Holiday in Pink The internationally acclaimed "Aglittle orchestra" Pink Martini bedecks the airwaves with festive holiday songs from across the globe. From timeless classics to rarely heard gems, hear a Shapiro.

1PM: The Big Tiny Desk Concert Holiday Special - Celebrate the season with amazing holiday performances from The Tiny Desk Concert series including Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Steve Martin, Hanson, The Polyphonic Spree and more! Hosted by NPR Music frenemies Bob Boilen and Stephen Thompson.

2PM: A World Cafe Holiday -World Cafe celebrated 30 years by revisiting special holiday performances from Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings, Los Lobos, Andrew Bird, The Bird and The Bee, Pink Martini, Preservation Hall Jazz Band and more. Hosted by Raina Douris, this musical gift will provide a full hour of hip holiday cheer. From NPR and WXPB, hosted by Raina Douris.

**DECEMBER 28**

2PM: Hanukkah Lights 2024

An annual favorite featuring favorite stories from NPR's archives. We'll hear "AgGifts of the Last Night" by Rebecca Goldstein, "AgHanukkah Gelt, Hanukkah Money" by Sholem Aleichem, "AgGifts of the Jewish Magi" by Allegra Goodman, "How to Spell the Name of God" by Ellen Orleans and "AgGeek Week" by Rebecca O'Connell.

**DECEMBER 31**

9PM: NPR's Toast of the Nation -An NPR tradition every New Year's Eve since the 1970s, Toast of the Nation is a four hour festive jazz party! Hosted by Christian McBride



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**SLAC  
Senior Legislative Action  
Committee  
of Sullivan County  
Rescheduled Monthly Meeting**

2 P. M., Thursday, December 5, 2024, in the  
Legislative Meeting Room, at the Sullivan County  
Government Center, Monticello NY

This will be our final meeting of the year. In the  
past we have not met over the winter months.  
With the ongoing adult care center issue, we need  
to continue with a monthly meeting.

Kenneth Walter,  
Co Chair

**Agenda**

1. Meeting schedule for 2025.
2. Review of the Department of Health's October  
inspection.
3. List of talking points

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**Songs, Stories and Sleighbells A Holiday Concert  
PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR NEW DATE  
Featuring Craig Bickhardt, Jesse Terry, Halley Neal,  
and Sam Robbins.**

Four highly acclaimed, award winning singer-songwriters team up and take the stage for an evening of festive & heartwarming holiday music!

Craig Bickhardt's songs have been recorded by Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, BB King, Martina McBride and about 125 others. He has written or co-written nine (9) top ten hits including four (4) #1s. "Precious Child - The Story of Christmas," Craig's collaboration with Thom Schuyler (Songwriter Hall of Fame), is considered a classic, must-have holiday album.

Jesse Terry is a Grand Prize winner of The John Lennon songwriting contest and the CMT/NSAI Song Contest. He plays over 125 shows annually from Bonnaroo to the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the 30A Songwriters Festival to AmericanaFest. Jesse's Holiday CD, "Peace-A Christmas Collection," his children's book, "If I Were The Moon," and his arrangements of timeless holiday songs, have people coming back for more every holiday season!

Halley Neal is an award winning folk singer and songwriter whose live shows center on themes of positivity and peace. The formerly-Nashville-currently-Boston-area-based artist has gained national recognition from touring across the country to listening rooms and folk music venues and from her performances at festivals, notably the Kerrville Folk Fest, Rocky Mountain Folks Fest and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. Her live shows are remembered for her effortless vocals and honest lyrics.

Sam Robbins is a Nashville-based singer songwriter, in the vein of classic writers like James Taylor and Jackson Browne, with an upbeat side. He's the 2021 Kerrville Folk Fest New Folk winner and he was the first to sing a Jim Croce song on The Voice. Sam and Halley's collaborative holiday album, "You and Me on Christmas Eve," was released in December or last year and quickly drew accolades from reviewers and fans alike.

All are Welcome to join us and get into the Holiday spirit!

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## Studio Artists Group

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

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

### Daniel Pierce Library

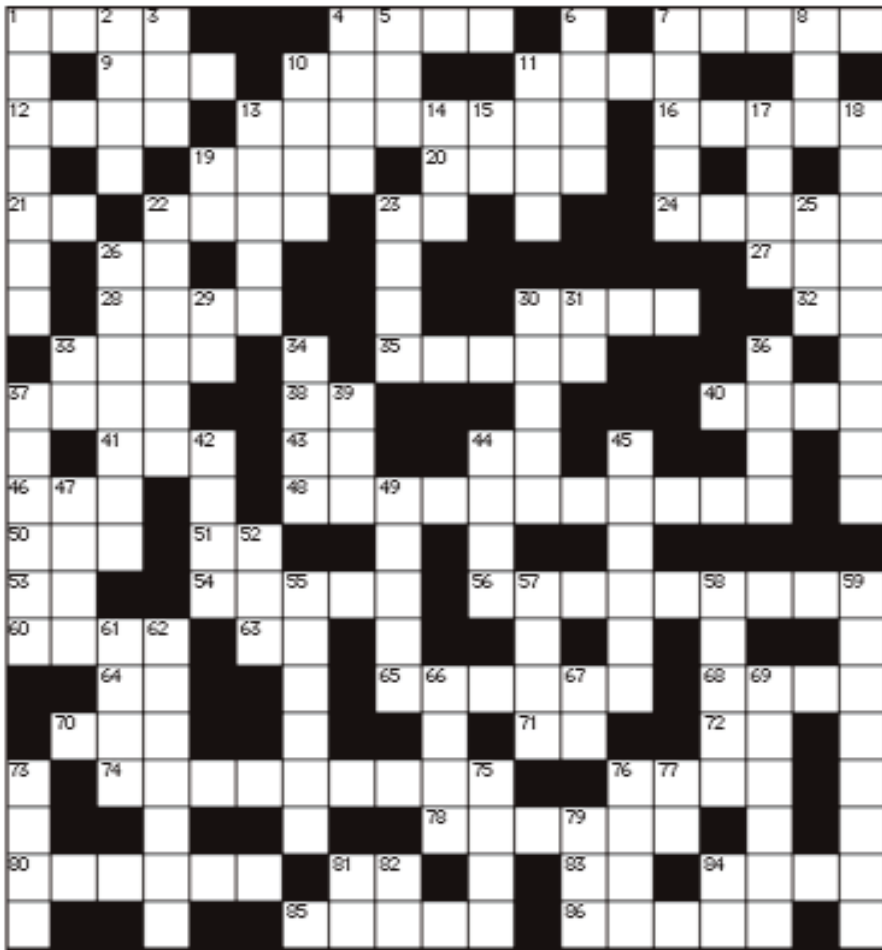
## 1st Friday BOOK CLUB



The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!

Santa's Coming to Bi-Centennial Park -L. Comando



**ACROSS**  
 1 The gift of Christmas  
 4 Rural road that Santa may travel down  
 7 Third planet from the sun  
 9 Mature female reproductive cell  
 10 \_\_\_ Voyage, Good Journey  
 11 Persuade  
 12 Misplace  
 13 Artist famous for our present day image of Santa  
 16 Formed a particular purpose (2 wds)  
 19 Suspended  
 20 Red and white striped candy  
 21 Perform  
 22 Without Being  
 23 Southeast  
 24 Black powder used in the copying process

26 Exclamation of surprise  
 27 Having three parts  
 28 Carbonated soft drink  
 30 Scandinavian Yuletide animal  
 32 The same way  
 33 Past tense of give  
 35 What an Eskimo might travel in  
 37 Highly esteemed green stone  
 38 Mystical syllable  
 40 Santa's reindeer troupe  
 41 Gnome-like creature  
 43 Year  
 44 Knock Out!  
 46 Another name for mother  
 48 German Santa Claus

50 Holly &  
 51 To be  
 54 The movie, "\_\_\_ Express"  
 56 Custom or belief handed down from one generation to the next  
 60 Expression of concern  
 63 In knitting 'yarn over'  
 64 Southwest  
 65 Goes in to something  
 68 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries  
 70 Fasten  
 71 Delaware (abbrev)  
 72 Long Island  
 74 To call public attention  
 76 The ordinary people  
 78 Island country off the southeast coast of China  
 80 One of the four divisions

of the year  
 81 That thing  
 83 Artificial Intelligence  
 84 Self-referential  
 85 "Twas the Night Before Christmas" author  
 86 Goblet  
**DOWN**  
 1 A festive time  
 2 Display in a public place  
 3 The night before Christmas  
 4 Of elongated shape  
 5 Combining junction  
 6 Where many go for the holidays  
 7 Acclaim  
 8 Duo  
 10 Small sweetened breads  
 11 Shape of a gnome's hat  
 13 He will be coming to town on Dec. 8

14 Before Christian Era  
 15 Louisiana  
 17 Inking  
 18 Holiday to honor Christ's birthday  
 19 An exclamation of triumph  
 22 An important winter tool  
 23 What Santa carries on his back  
 25 Age  
 26 School for special instruction  
 29 Language Engineering  
 30 Short for alligator  
 31 Exclamation expressing agreement  
 33 Georgia (abbrev)  
 34 Child's play things  
 36 Meeting for communal work  
 37 Icon that adorns well-known

pancake syrup labeled created by Hadden Sundblom  
 39 Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
 42 To turn over  
 44 Retained possession of  
 45 Flat metal runners  
 47 Eggshaped  
 49 Pertaining to ancient Scandinavian  
 52 Leguminous plant native to Asia  
 55 Art gallery in France  
 57 Tall slender-leaved grass plant  
 58 Utensils  
 59 4th Century Bishop of Myra  
 61 Largest continent  
 62 North Germanic language of Sweden  
 66 Artist known for Civil War Santa  
 67 Regarding  
 69 Twelfth sign of the zodiac  
 73 Short

examination  
 75 Short for favorite  
 76 Correspondence article  
 77 Indefinite  
 79 Swish  
 81 A galileon

moon of Jupiter  
 82 In the direction of  
 84 Title before a woman's surname

**Old-Fashioned Gingerbread Cutout Cookies**

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

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

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

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

数字は単数に限る

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

# Cryptogram

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

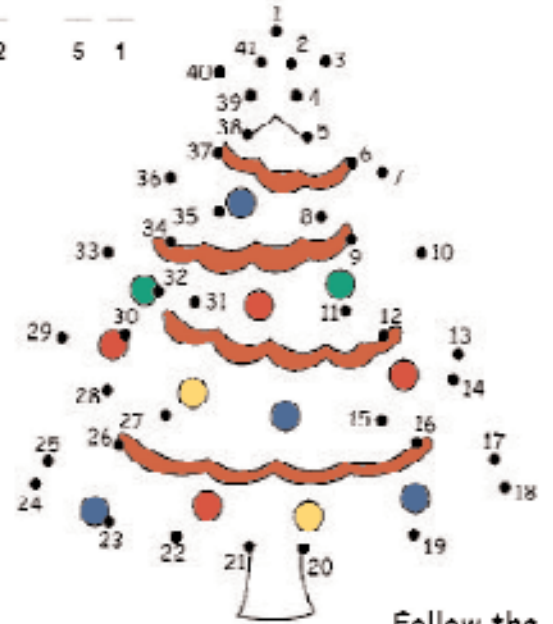
3 4 22 11 10 22 3 3 26 22 13 3 13 26 21 4 3 3 5 13 22 22 26 13

3 4 22 4 5 12 12 17 3 4 7 3 19 26 12 12 24 22 5 1

17 5 6 10 5 19 1 2 10 5 1 3 20 5 5 10

## Kids' Holiday Fun Page

- L. Comando



Follow the dots to see a familiar hint that Christmas is on its way

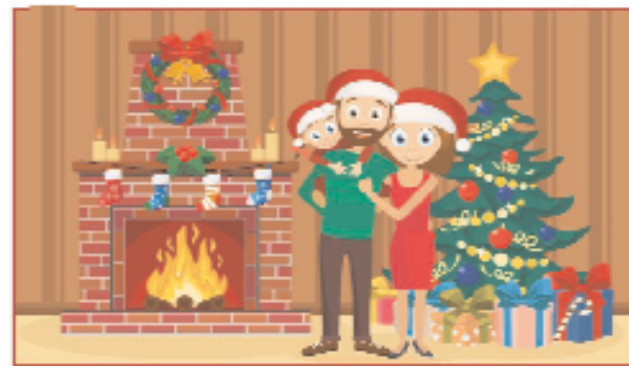
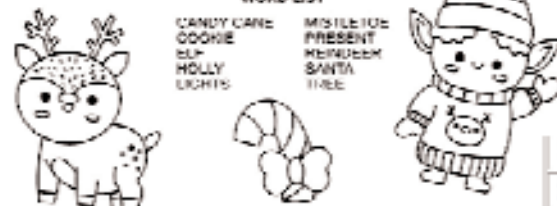
### Looks Like Christmas Wordsearch

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

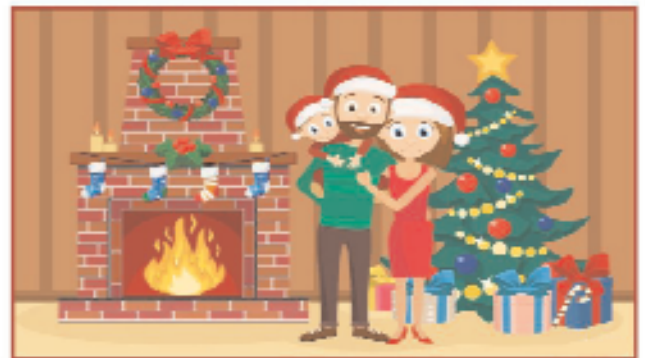
**WORD LIST**

CANDY CANE  
COOKIE  
ELF  
HOLLY LEAVES

MISLETOE  
PRESENT  
REINDEER  
SANTA TREE



Find 7 differences between the 2 pictures



### Cryptogram Key

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



## **LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**

### **Annual Election of the Neversink Fire District Held on December 10th, 2024**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Election of the Neversink Fire District will take place on December 10th between the hours of 6:00pm and 9:00pm at the Neversink Fire House located at 7486 State Route 55, Neversink, New York for the purpose of electing a Commissioner for one, five year term, commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31st, 2029. All voters registered with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before November 18th, 2024 and residing within the Neversink Fire District will be eligible to vote.

Candidates for District Office will need to have filed their names and the office they are seeking in writing with the Secretary of Neversink Fire District, at the firehouse at Neversink Fire District, PO Box 394, Neversink, New York 12765, no later than 20 days prior to the election with the last day for a Candidate to file their name in writing being November 20th, 2024.

Dana Vogler, Secretary  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
Neversink Fire District  
11/14; 11/21; 11/28; 12/5

## **Ulster County Announces Draft 2024 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Public Meeting on December 5 *Public Encouraged to Attend***

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Government has released the draft 2024 Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, a comprehensive roadmap for sustaining and enhancing agriculture in Ulster County, and is hosting a public meeting on Thursday, December 5, from 6-8 PM - both online and in person at the SUNY New Paltz Lecture Center, to gather feedback.

The meeting will open with remarks from Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, and will consist of a presentation by Nan Stolzenburg of Community Planning & Environmental Associates, with an

## **Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting**

**Thursday,  
December 12, 2024  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Secondary School  
Lower Level Library**

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

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

opportunity for the public to make verbal and written comments. Spanish interpretation will also be provided.

To RSVP and/or register for the meeting in-person or online, and for directions to the event, visit [participate.ulstercountyny.gov/ag-protection-plan](https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/ag-protection-plan).

The primary objective of the draft Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan is to address the challenges facing agriculture in the County while capitalizing on opportunities to ensure the economic viability, sustainability, and resilience of the agricultural sector. The 179-page document is the result of an extensive and collaborative planning process that engaged farmers, landowners, local governments, agricultural organizations, and the community-at-large. The Plan, which can be found at [participate.ulstercountyny.gov/ag-protection-plan](https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/ag-protection-plan), contains a wealth of data, analyses, maps, and resources that underpin the recommendations and strategies put forward, and includes a detailed examination of the internal and external factors that affect agriculture in Ulster County. Public feedback on the Plan will help shape the future of our region's agricultural landscape.

"Protecting and stewarding our agricultural resources is crucial to Ulster County's future food security and economic well-being. The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan is central to our efforts in ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of farming in our county, and public comment is critical to ensuring that the final plan truly reflects the needs and aspirations of our community," said County Executive Metzger, who chaired the Senate Agriculture Committee when she served in the State Senate. "This draft plan is the product of significant stakeholder input and dedication, and we are pleased to present the full draft to the public for review and comment."

More information on the Plan, along with a copy available for download, can be found at <https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/ag-protection-plan>. Comments can be submitted at the bottom of the Participate Ulster page, or by emailing Burt Samuelson at [bsam@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:bsam@co.ulster.ny.us) through January 31, 2025.

Prior to the 2024 draft Plan, the County's last such plan was released in 1997 and can be viewed here: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/agriculture/farmland>.

## Ulster County Celebrates Sojourner Truth Day with Historic Marker Unveiling and Evening Program

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County celebrated Sojourner Truth Day on Tuesday, November 26th with two powerful events commemorating the renowned abolitionist and women's rights advocate who freed herself from enslavement in Ulster County in 1826, and then successfully sued to win her son's freedom at the Ulster County Courthouse on Fair Street in Kingston, becoming the first Black woman to win a court case against a white man in the United States.

The day's events welcomed Barbara Allen, Sojourner Truth's sixth-generation granddaughter, who unveiled a new historical marker outside the Ulster County Courthouse that reads: "Sojourner Truth - At This Courthouse In 1828, The Orator And Anti-Slavery Activist Successfully Sued To Free Her Son Peter From Enslavement."

Ulster County Chief Diversity Officer Esi Lewis led the unveiling ceremony, which also included a Libation by Dr. Weldon McWilliams, Chair of the Department of Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz. Aleshanee Emanuel and Briana Gary, two members of the Kingston YMCA Farm Hub Youth Crew, spoke about Sojourner Truth's legacy and its resonance with young people today. The two were among the Kingston YMCA Farm Hub Youth Crew members who successfully advocated with the County Legislature, beginning in 2020, to designate Sojourner Truth Day as an annual County observance, and Emanuel, who is also an artist, created the image of Sojourner Truth that was also used for this year's observance.

In a surprise announcement at the ceremony, Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha shared that Governor Hochul was signing their legislation that day, designating Sojourner Truth Day as a statewide commemorative day - legislation inspired by the advocacy of these young YMCA Farm Hub youth.

Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger closed out the ceremony with a Sojourner Truth Day Proclamation from her office recognizing Truth's powerful story and legacy in the country's history and encouraging "All residents to take this day to reflect on the remarkable life of Sojourner Truth and to honor her accomplishments by continuing to strive for a more just and equitable society for all."

The County Executive, along with Kingston Common Council Member Bryant "Drew" Andrews, Hinchey, and Shrestha, also presented certificates of recognition to Barbara Allen, Aleshanee Emanuel, and Briana Gary.

Later that evening, the community gathered at the Ulster County Restorative Justice Center in Kingston for a reenactment by Rev. Deborah Zuill, of Sojourner Truth's iconic speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. The evening was led by Harambee's Ubaka Hill, also a nationally-known percussionist, and included words by Ulster County Human Rights Director Joe McDonald and a performance of "the Valiant Soldiers" by Rev. Evelyn Clarke. Barbara Allen spoke about the honor she felt to carry her descendant's torch forward, and how Truth was a savvy businesswoman and galvanized her community.

Court artifacts were on display, offering a unique glimpse

into the life and times of Sojourner Truth. Kim Mapes, of the Ulster County Restorative Justice Center, presented Allen with copies of all of the court documents being displayed, one bearing Truth's signature. The documents will remain on display at the Restorative Justice Center, at 733 Broadway in Kingston, through Black History Month 2025.

"Being here in Kingston to honor Sojourner Truth and represent the family is a tremendous privilege," said Barbara Allen, Truth's sixth generation descendant. "Sojourner was a truly extraordinary woman, and her legacy deserves recognition for her contributions not just to Kingston but to the world as a pioneering abolitionist and women's rights leader. Her memory will always endure."

"Like our beloved, Sojourner Truth, I too seek solace in watching the waters that flow nearby. It was a privilege to collaborate with my community and partners in the State to honor the phenomenal life and legacy of the most notable and influential figure in our County's history. I was moved by the power of Sojourner Truth's legacy and the inspiration of our youth who are carrying it forward," said Esi Lewis, Ulster County Chief Diversity Officer. "I am proud to have been a small part of unveiling the historic marker that recognizes my personal shero and informs generations to come of her excellence and what they can achieve."

"Sojourner Truth's story and historic role as an abolitionist and fighter for women's rights has profound significance not just as part of history, but for today," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "Her story is one of tenacity, courage, and resilience in the fight for human rights and the dignity of all people, and we honor her by continuing to strive for a more just and equitable society for all."

"On this day we commemorate the life of a remarkable woman who overcame the bonds of slavery here in Ulster County," said Rev. Evelyn Clarke. "Though she was illiterate, Sojourner Truth used her voice to speak truth against slavery and injustice throughout this land."

"Sojourner Truth's story is widely regarded as one of the most inspiring in all American history. Her vigilance and tenacity brought about a watershed legal decision that propelled us closer to the 'more perfect union' promised in the Constitution. Being the first Black woman to win a court case in our Nation's history, Sojourner Truth showed us what justice should look like in a post-slavery America, and we're proud in Ulster County to honor her and the Courthouse where this justice was served," said Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk.

"Together with local historians, community leaders, and the Kingston YMCA Farm Project Youth Crew - who I was proud to work with to establish November 26th as Sojourner Truth Day in Ulster County - we honor the legacy of Sojourner Truth and her fight for justice and equality. We are especially honored to welcome Barbara Allen, Sojourner Truth's sixth-generation granddaughter, for this occasion," said Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. "This collaboration not only celebrates her extraordinary life but also inspires us to continue addressing social justice and fostering a more equitable future. I am proud to stand with these remarkable individuals on this meaningful day."

"The Black Studies department of SUNY New Paltz is grateful and honored to be a part of the program that celebrates and honors the life of Sojourner Truth," said Dr. Weldon McWilliams, Chair, Department of Black Studies, SUNY New Paltz. "In keeping her memory alive, we continue to shed light on the history of the Black experience in America and recognize that experience as a legitimate one!"

(Contd. Pg. 19)

## Ulster County Celebrates Sojourner Truth Day with Historic Marker Unveiling and Evening Program

(From Pg. 18) "Sojourner Truth didn't stop when she became the first Black woman to successfully sue white men to get her son released from slavery - she went on to spend the rest of her life fighting for everyone else across the country," said Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha. "Her determination is a reminder that those who commit to dismantling systems of oppression and injustice seldom do it because someone told them it was going to be easy. They do it precisely because it's difficult, and precisely because it's up to everyday people like Truth and her abolitionist peers were at the time, to lay the groundwork for making the impossible possible. I'm thrilled to have worked with Senator Hinchey and Governor Hochul to establish November 26th as Sojourner Truth Day in the State of New York, and look forward to honoring Truth's work every year."

"Sojourner Truth was an American hero whose unyielding fight for freedom and equality continues to inspire us nearly 200 years after her passing, igniting a new generation of young leaders carrying her legacy forward - including here in Ulster County, Truth's birthplace. Our bill to establish Sojourner Truth Day in New York began with students from the Kingston YMCA Youth Crew, who recognized our responsibility in New York State to share her journey as one of the most prolific abolitionists and women's rights activists of the time," said Senator Michelle Hinchey. "Turning this vision into law is an honor, and for New York, November 26th of each year will not only reflect our commitment to keeping Sojourner Truth's legacy alive but reaffirm what it means to be a New Yorker: always striving toward a better, more equitable future for all."

## Gillibrand Statement on the Release of Three Americans, Including One New Yorker, From Chinese Custody

New York, NY - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand released the following statement about the release of three Americans, including New York's Kai Li, from Chinese custody:

"This Thanksgiving, I am so grateful to hear that three Americans, including my constituent, Kai Li, have been released from Chinese custody and are set to be reunited with their families.

For the last several years, my office and I have been working with the Biden administration, Leader Schumer, and most importantly, Kai's son, Harrison, to help secure Kai's safe passage back to the United States, and now that day has come. The release of Kai Li, Mark Swidan, and John Leung means that there are no longer any wrongfully detained Americans being held in the People's Republic of China.

I would like to thank Harrison Li and his family for their tenacious advocacy for Kai over the last several years, as well as President Biden, his staff, and personnel across the

United States government who worked tirelessly to bring Kai home.

I will continue to work with President Biden and his administration to secure the release of our wrongfully detained individuals across the world, including my constituent, Ryan Corbett, who has spent over two years wrongfully detained by the Taliban, and the return of the innocent men and women still being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza."



### RURAL HEALTH NETWORK FITNESS CLASSES

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



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

[https://erhny.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/December-2024-Fitness-Calendar.pdf?utm\\_source=Ellenville+Regional+Hospital+Emails&utm\\_campaign=f4d7807856-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_02\\_23\\_02\\_39\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_bba6f60ff6e-f4d7807856-499879025&mc\\_cid=f4d7807856&mc\\_eid=e96f95494c](https://erhny.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/December-2024-Fitness-Calendar.pdf?utm_source=Ellenville+Regional+Hospital+Emails&utm_campaign=f4d7807856-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_02_23_02_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bba6f60ff6e-f4d7807856-499879025&mc_cid=f4d7807856&mc_eid=e96f95494c)

### MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENTS

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

#### Tuesday, December 17

Matthews Pharmacy  
101 Canal St Ellenville  
11:00am - 2:00pm

#### Monday, December 9

Catskill Pharmacy  
16401 US-209, Kerhonkson  
11:00am - 2:00pm

#### Friday, December 20

Ellenville Regional Hospital  
Emergency Department Lobby  
10 Healthy Way  
8:00am - 12:00pm





# FROSTY FUN IN THE VALLEY



## Winter Break Day Camp at FROST VALLEY YMCA DEC 30, 2024 – JAN 3, 2025

- For Kids in Grades K-5
- Daily, 9:30 am – 4 pm
- FREE Transportation from Dollar General, Grahamsville

SCAN TO REGISTER



Slide into Winter with some frosty fun at Frost Valley's Winter Break Day Camp! Campers will have the opportunity to participate in activities like archery, snow adventures (weather permitting), broomball, arts & crafts, and more!

CALL: 845-985-2291 x 203

EMAIL: [daycamp@frostvalley.org](mailto:daycamp@frostvalley.org)

**REGISTER ONLINE:**

[frostvalleycommunity.campbrainregistration.com](https://frostvalleycommunity.campbrainregistration.com)



# Gotsch

## Christmas Tree Farm

Blue and White Spruce

Cut-Your-Own Tree: \$50 any tree

Fresh Pre-Cut Tree: \$50 any tree

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

November 29, 30, & December 1

December 7 & 8

December 14 & 15

December 21 & 22 (depending on supply)

Closed December 24

Weekdays by Appointment Only

Cash only. No credit cards.

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

**Phone: 845-985-7902**

**ST. MARK'S UMC**  
68 Clinton St  
Napanoch NY

**INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE**

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

Something for Everyone!



# COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES

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

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<http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com>

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

**Sundown United Methodist Church**  
**Covered Dish Supper**  
**5:30 pm**  
**Dec 7, 2024**

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

*Sundown United Methodist Church Hall*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

**Dec - 7th Holiday Craft Fair**  
**10 am - 3pm**  
GUMC Hall  
356 Main St  
Grahamsville, NY

**Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches**

Come and Join us for in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am  
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am  
350 Main Street, Grahamsville

Pastor Harriet Wilkin  
845-985-2283

*Grahamsville Reformed Church*

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

**Claryville Reformed Church**

Claryville Road  
Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2041

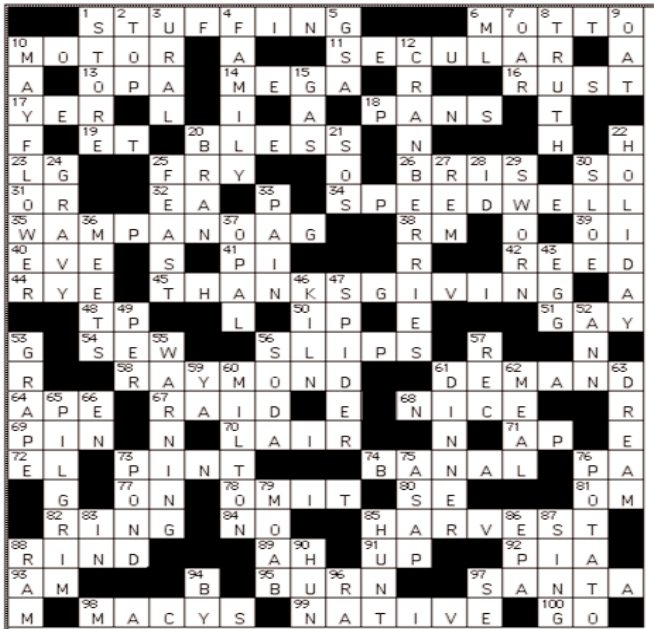


Worship Services @ 10:15 am  
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor  
Church Hall available for rent  
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

**Loucks Funeral Home**  
**Geoff and Heather Hazzard**  
**"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"**  
79 North Main Street  
Ellenville, New York  
(845) 647-4343

**St. Augustine's Chapel**  
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY  
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am  
Holy Days 5:30 pm  
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month  
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also  
**WANTED**  
 People to  
 play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU  
 answer

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

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

Clip & Save



**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

356 Main St. P.O. Box 86  
 Grahamsville, NY 12740

**Thrift Sale Schedule 2024**

All sales are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**Dec 7th -  
 Holiday Craft Sale**

Donations accepted in the thrift building on Tuesdays,  
 starting March 14, 2024, from 9:30 to 11:30 or by  
 appointment. Call Ruth at 845-985-7222.  
[grahamsvilleumc.org](http://grahamsvilleumc.org) - [grahamsvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:grahamsvilleumc@gmail.com)



**Sundown  
 United Methodist Church  
 Covered Dish Supper**

Saturday,

December 7, 2024 5:30 pm  
 at the Church Hall

Check out the tables with Yard Sale items  
 available for sale

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

**Claryville Reformed Church  
 Gingerbread Bash**

This year, join us for our Gingerbread Bash where your family will build a gingerbread nativity while celebrating the birth of Jesus. More than that, you'll hear the Christmas story from the Bible, sing songs, play games, and discover the good news of Jesus through candy canes! Sunday December 15th 1:30-3:30 PM. Claryville Reformed Church Church Hall at 946 Claryville Road, Claryville, NY.

Registration is needed so there are enough supplies for each child/family. The link for registration is on the flyer on page 5.

**\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money**

Every day New York State returns \$1.5 million to those who file claims here. Is any yours? To find out, go to:

<https://osc.state.ny.us/ouf> or <https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf>

Many have checked, and sure enough after following the directions and filing a claim, have received a check from the NYS Comptroller's Office. It only takes a few minutes to find

Check the air quality where you are at:

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

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

## LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/4/24	Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting
12/7/24	<b>Holiday Craft Sale - Grahamsville United Methodist Church Hall &amp; Time and the Valley Museum 10-3 pm</b>
12/7/24	<b>Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church Hall</b>
12/10/24	Claryville Fire District Election 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
12/10/24	Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
12/11/24	Town of Neversink Board Meeting 7:00 pm
12/17/24	Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
12/19/24	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
12/19/24	Denning Town Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall

**Save the Date!**  
**Dec. 7, 2024 Grahamsville United Methodist Church Holiday Craft Sale**

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

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

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

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

## Weekly Update for The Week of

December 2 - December 6, 2024

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

**Monday, December 2**

o **6:00 PM - Ulster County Traffic Safety Board**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

**Tuesday, December 3**

o **3:00 PM - Fleet Management Review Committee**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

o 4:30 PM - Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

o 6:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee) - Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

**Wednesday, December 4**

o **2:00 PM - Special Meeting of the Ways & Means Committee to Vote on Budgetary Appeals & Amendments**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

o 5:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Special Ways & Means Committee) - Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

o 6:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee) - Health, Human Services & Housing Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Human Rights Commission, in the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

o 6:30 PM - Ulster County Environmental Management Council, in the SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus, 94 Marys Avenue, Kingston & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 974 4252 9615, Passcode: 278571

o 7:00 PM - Ulster County Planning Board, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

**Thursday, December 5**

o Cancelled: Housing Subcommittee

**Friday, December 6**

o No Meetings



## SONG CLUB at MISU

Every last Saturday of the month  
 All ages and voices welcome

Song Club is a drop-in singing experience that  
 builds community  
 through singing original arrangements of familiar  
 songs in a safe and welcoming environment.

The audience is the choir!  
 For more information visit our website

40 Market St. Ellenville  
[www.misucatskills.org](http://www.misucatskills.org)  
 845.377.3727



@Music Institute of Sullivan  
 and Ulster Counties

@misucatskills

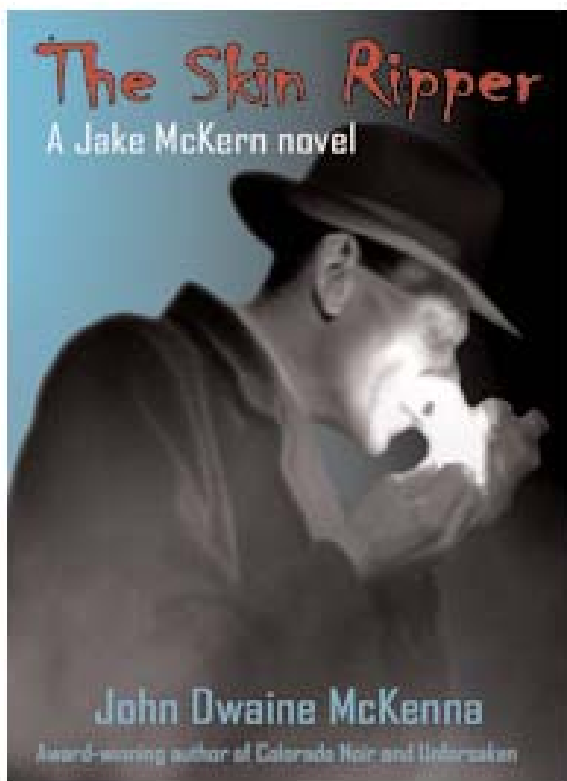


# The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

**Neversink General Store**

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple  
And bookstores everywhere.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*from Ellenville Regional Hospital*

Remember, if you need medical attention or have any concerns about your health, our team is here to provide the care and support you deserve.

**Together, we can make this season a healthy one!**

*Here when you need us most...*

- Pain Management
- Physical Therapy
- Ambulatory Surgery
- Speech Pathology
- Subacute Rehab
- Wound Care
- Laboratory
- IV Therapy
- Digital Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Department
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Occupational Therapy

**845.647.6400 | [ERHNY.org](http://ERHNY.org)**

# BIG INDIAN-OLIVERIA AUXILIARY



## Holiday Fundraiser and Bazaar

Enjoy hot  
cocoa and  
cookies with  
Santa at noon!



**December 7nd  
11am-3pm**



## SANTA AT NOON!

For more information 845-254-4238

### VENDORS WANTED!

**\$20.00**

Vendor Application

Name- \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number- \_\_\_\_\_ Cell- \_\_\_\_\_

Address- \_\_\_\_\_

Email- \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to- Big Indian Oliveria Fire Co Ladies Aux

8 Firehouse Road  
Big Indian, Ny 12410

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



Lulu

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

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

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

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



Smokey

The hope is to keep them together.

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

Only serious cat lovers will be considered.

If you are interested, please contact me.

**Esta Jacob**

**856-866-1579 Cell**

**845-985-3937 Home**

**[ejacob4848@gmail.com](mailto:ejacob4848@gmail.com)**

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

Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd  
and Route 55 Grahamsville, NY



Hours of  
Operation:  
7 AM - 9 PM  
Every day  
of the week  
Call (845) 985-7923  
or  
(914) 672-3952

**Please call for availability first**

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

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

#### Display Ads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Low Rates  
High Visibility!**



Visit the *Time and the Valleys Museum* at the

*United Methodist Church*

# *Holiday Shop*

Saturday, December 7th

St. Rt. 55, Grahamsville

(next door to the Museum)

**10 to 3 p.m.**

Unique books, gifts, heritage toys and local crafts -

**Rather shop online?**

[timeandthevalleymuseum.org/shop](http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org/shop)

You can pick up or we can ship - it's quick and easy!

**Come in and browse!**

Call 845 985-7700 or email

[info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org)

Shop on a day that works for you.



SHADOWLAND  
STAGES

# THE WICKHAMS

## *Christmas at Pemberley*

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



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

-BroadwayWorld

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON  
AND MARGOT MELCON

## DEC. 6 - 22

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



FRIDAY & SATURDAY at 7 PM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY at 2 PM

FOR TICKETS - CALL 845.647.5511  
BUY ONLINE AT SHADOWLANDSTAGES.ORG

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW**

[https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc\\_cid=1b165f1bb5&mc\\_eid=138a9b9d06](https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=1b165f1bb5&mc_eid=138a9b9d06)

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

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

# *Holiday Craft Fair*



**Saturday, December 7, 2024**  
**10:00 - 3:00**

*United Methodist Church Hall*  
*356 Main Street (Route 55), Grahamsville, NY*

Pottery, Jewelry, Ceramics, Baked Goods and More!  
Gifts Galore!

Chili, soup, sandwiches and dessert available for Take-Out!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 845-985-7427 or 845-985-7222**



# Sundown United Methodist Church

(Sundown UMC Hall-Intersection of Sundown Rd.,  
Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)

## Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, December 7, 2024

5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share.  
Enjoy good food and fellowship.  
... and don't forget to check out the tables  
filled with holiday items that will be  
on sale!







## Please Help Save Our School!

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

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

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

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

### Thank You!

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

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

Please mail your check to:  
**Time and the Valleys Museum**  
P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740  
or go online:  
[www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/  
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# Governor Hochul Encourages New Yorkers to “Think Big, Shop Small” During the Holiday Shopping Season

Governor Kathy Hochul encouraged New Yorkers to support local businesses during the holiday shopping season by highlighting the critical role New York's small businesses play in building vibrant communities across the state. On November 30, New York will mark Small Business Saturday to celebrate the significant impact small businesses have on local economies across the state. In honor of the day, Governor Hochul is taking the opportunity to emphasize how choosing local retailers, restaurants and service providers creates a ripple effect of economic growth throughout New York's communities.

“Every purchase at a local shop or family-owned business ripples through our neighborhoods, creating jobs and opportunities that strengthen the fabric of our communities,” Governor Hochul said. “As the daughter of a small business owner, I witnessed firsthand how these enterprises serve as anchors of community life. This holiday season and on Small Business Saturday, I encourage New Yorkers to invest in their communities by shopping local - because when our small businesses thrive, all of New York thrives.”

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, “Every thriving Main Street tells a story of small business success. By choosing to shop local, we empower these businesses to flourish, ensuring our neighborhoods remain vibrant and resilient. These enterprises do more than drive our economy - they create first jobs for young people, spark innovation in every sector, and preserve the distinctive character of our communities. Through targeted investments and strategic support, Empire State Development is working to ensure New York remains the premier destination for entrepreneurs to launch, grow, and realize their dreams.”

New York State Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said, “Small businesses are a vital part of New York State's economic ecosystem. From workforce recruitment to utilizing tax credits and incentives, the Department of Labor offers a trove of resources to help these businesses thrive in the global economy. I encourage New Yorkers to show their support by shopping at any of the thousands of small businesses statewide this holiday season and beyond.”

Department of Taxation and Finance Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller said, “We are grateful for the contributions of small business owners not only this weekend, but throughout the year. It's the most dynamic sector of our economy - a sector that New York State supports with a wide array of tax credits and incentives.”

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “Farmers and small businesses across New York State work hard year-round to create delicious foods, thoughtful gift products, and tasty beverages to fit any occasion. When New Yorkers shop locally throughout this holiday season, and on Small Business Saturday, they're not only investing in top-notch products made by hard-working people, but they're also supporting the agricultural economy.”

Small Business Saturday celebrates the innovation and dedication of small business owners, encouraging New Yorkers to support local shops and services throughout the bustling holiday season. Small businesses - defined as those with fewer than 100 employees - represent 98 percent of all businesses in the state, employing nearly 40 percent of the private-sector workforce. In the retail sector alone, New York is home to more than 71,000 stores, with nearly 79 percent - approximately 55,000 - being independent local retailers. These enterprises are vital economic engines, with retail establishments

contributing \$40.1 billion in wages in 2023 and projected to generate \$507 billion in sales in 2024, providing over \$20.3 billion in State sales tax revenue. Of New York's small businesses, about 8.1 percent are retailers, forming an essential part of our local economies as they drive community growth, foster neighborhood identity, and keep billions of dollars circulating within our communities.

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State continues to prioritize the growth and prosperity of small businesses through a diverse array of initiatives and programs. Since taking office, the Governor has launched a number of programs dedicated to small businesses, committing hundreds of millions through Empire State Development to foster entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation, and ensure that small businesses have the support they need to succeed.

Empire State Development powers small business growth through strategic investments and innovative support programs that address today's market challenges. Through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), ESD has committed nearly \$100 million to help entrepreneurs access capital and expand their operations. New York's network of 26 Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers offers vital technical support and training across the state. Additionally, New York State has streamlined access to resources through its digital Business Express platform, connecting entrepreneurs with millions in available funding opportunities, tax incentives, and specialized assistance programs designed to foster innovation and accelerate growth in every region of the state. Learn about ESD's small business and other programs at [esd.ny.gov](http://esd.ny.gov).

The New York State Department of Labor offers a multitude of no-cost services for businesses of all sizes, including thousands of job postings on the NYSDOL website, access to tens of thousands of qualified candidates in our talent pool, career fairs and customized recruitments, and Human Resources consultation services. More than 25,000 businesses each year work with NYSDOL to list their jobs, find the right candidates, access hiring and training incentives, obtain business tax credits and incentives, get help with one-on-one labor law and safety and health compliance services, and find layoff aversion resources. For more information, visit: [www.labor.ny.gov/business](http://www.labor.ny.gov/business).

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets supports New York's agricultural industry, which boasts nearly 32,000 farms, 700 farmers' markets and farm stands, and thousands of small agribusinesses. The Department supports farms and food and beverage businesses by providing critical services that enhance their business and increase productivity, profitability, and competitiveness. It also provides direct promotional opportunities through initiatives like the NYS Grown & Certified program, which markets local growers and producers participating in safe food handling and environmental sustainability programs, helping them better compete in the marketplace.

Additionally, the Taste NY program showcases New York farmers and food and beverage businesses at large public events and at more than 70 Taste NY locations across the State, including the State's Welcome Centers, where New Yorkers can find a gift for everyone on their holiday shopping list. The Taste NY locations statewide also feature a variety of gift items and gift sets perfect for the holidays.

The markets are stocked with local products made and produced by New York farms and food and beverage producers unique to the region the Welcome Center is located in. From local, gourmet food items and locally produced craft beverages to novelty items and even bath and beauty products, gifts at stores range in size and price and can be customized. Customers may reach out to their closest local Taste NY location for specific offerings and details. Visit [Taste.NY.gov](http://Taste.NY.gov) to find your local Welcome Center and Taste NY Market.

## Governor Hochul Encourages New Yorkers to “Think Big, Shop Small During the Holiday Shopping Season

(From Pg. 35) The markets are stocked with local products made and produced by New York farms and food and beverage producers unique to the region the Welcome Center is located in. From local, gourmet food items and locally produced craft beverages to novelty items and even bath and beauty products, gifts at stores range in size and price and can be customized. Customers may reach out to their closest local Taste NY location for specific offerings and details. Visit Taste.NY.gov to find your local Welcome Center and Taste NY Market.

The online marketplace, ShopTasteNY, offers opportunities to shop for New York agricultural products and gifts from the comfort of home. Newly revamped, ShopTasteNY.com offers a variety of products from across New York, from honey and jams to goat milk soaps, reflecting each region's offerings. Participating partners and products are featured on a rotating basis to ensure the diversity of the product line and regional representation. Starting Black Friday, November 29 through Cyber Monday, December 2, customers can get 30 percent off all products. In addition, from December 3 through December 25, shoppers will receive 25 percent off their purchase with the Happy Holidays promotion. Please note, orders should be placed by December 15 to ensure delivery for Christmas. After Christmas, shoppers can still receive 20 percent off with the New Year New Vendors promotion, which runs from December 27 through January 4, 2025.

## Ways to Support Small Businesses Every Day

- o Choose Local Retailers - Opt to shop at independently owned stores in your community. Your patronage helps sustain local jobs and keeps money circulating within the local economy.
- o Shop Online Locally - Many neighborhood businesses offer e-commerce options. Check if your local shops have websites or participate in digital marketplaces that facilitate local delivery or pickup.
- o Buy Gift Cards - Purchasing gift cards from local businesses-whether it's a favorite eatery, boutique, or service provider-provides them with immediate support and encourages future visits.
- o Explore Farmers' Markets - Even during colder months, many farmers' markets continue indoors, offering unique, locally made products. From handcrafted items to seasonal foods, it's a great way to support local producers.
- o Shop Taste NY - Support New York State's farmers, producers, artisans, and craftspeople by visiting Taste NY Welcome Centers across the state or ShopTasteNY.com. Explore specially curated holiday gift baskets and unique New York-made products that showcase the best of what local businesses have to offer.
- o Dine Locally - Visit or order takeout from neighborhood restaurants and cafes. Your support helps sustain these establishments and the jobs they provide.
- o Spread the Word - Share your positive experiences with local businesses on social media and review platforms. Personal recommendations are invaluable for small businesses seeking to grow their customer base.
- o Opt for Store Credit - If you need to return an item, consider accepting store credit instead of a refund.

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## LETTER TO EDITOR

### Navy Needs Ships

My U.S. Navy continues to be over stretched across the oceans of the world against our potential enemies of China, North Korea, Russia and Iran.

Our 11 carrier strike groups (CSGs) should be deploying for about six months at a time; but are now deploying to the world's hot spots on the order of nine months or more on a regular basis. We have around 285 naval vessels, when we need at least 300 ships to project U.S. Naval Power around the world.

George Will in his recent editorial points out we have only 50 attack submarines, but we need 66 to complete missions.

In addition to securing the needed funding, a major problem is the lack of adequate ship building and maintenance facilities in the U.S. to service our submarine forces and our surface Navy. We are short three drydocks and the workers needed to man them. Additionally, we are not meeting our goals to recruit naval personnel. An increase of Navy ships from 285 to 300 would probably require an additional 25,000 to 40,000 personnel.

Our defense budget needs to be increased from 3% of GDP to somewhere around 6% or 7% of GDP.

Donald Moskowitz  
Londonderry NH

# Money in Your Pockets: Ahead of January 1, 2025 Start Date for First-in-the-Nation Paid Prenatal Leave, Governor Hochul Announces New Campaign to Mobilize Eligible New Yorkers

## Governor Hochul Fought To Pass the Nation's First-Ever Paid Prenatal Leave Policy, Helping Pregnant Women Facing Economic Challenges

As Paid Prenatal Leave Policy Takes Effect On January 1, 2025, State Unveils Public Awareness Campaign To Notify Eligible New Yorkers

Under Governor Hochul's Leadership, New York Has Taken Major Steps To Improve Affordability for Working Families

Governor Hochul kicked off a statewide campaign to raise awareness of New York's first-in-the-nation paid prenatal leave policy, which takes effect on January 1, 2025. This nation-leading policy, proposed in Governor Hochul's 2024 State of the State and signed into law in April, gives workers the ability to take paid leave for any pregnancy-related medical appointments. In the past year alone, Governor Hochul has made New York more affordable for working families through investing \$1.8 billion in child care, delivering \$2.3 billion in property tax relief, brokering a landmark affordable housing deal and more.

"No pregnant woman in New York should be forced to choose between a paycheck and a check-up - and that's why I pushed to create the nation's first paid prenatal leave policy," Governor Hochul said. "From raising the minimum wage to investing in affordable child care, we're making New York the best and most affordable place to raise a family."

Led by the State's Department of Labor, New York's statewide public awareness campaign is aimed at promoting New York State's groundbreaking Paid Prenatal Leave policy. The campaign will officially kick off with the unveiling of subway ads. The goal of the awareness campaign is to educate New Yorkers and businesses about the new law and to remind pregnant women in New York State that they never have to choose between a paycheck and prenatal care.

Additional campaign efforts will include social media outreach, a dedicated webpage, newsletters, a virtual media tour with New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, and collaboration with various stakeholders and influencers to raise awareness throughout 2025.

New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said, "With Paid Prenatal Leave, New York is not only taking care of pregnant women, but also future generations of our workforce. I applaud Governor Hochul's ongoing commitment to New York State families."

Effective January 1, 2025, any privately employed pregnant New Yorker will now be able to receive an additional 20 hours of paid sick leave for prenatal care. The New York State Department of Labor estimates that about 130,000 pregnant women per year will be eligible for this benefit, with about 65,800 of those being hourly workers.

Pregnancy-related health care includes:

- o Physical examinations
- o Medical procedures



- o Monitoring
- o Testing
- o Discussions with a health care provider needed to ensure a healthy pregnancy
- o Fertility treatment
- o End of pregnancy care

The paid prenatal leave benefits are in addition to New York State Paid Family Leave, existing employer-provided leave and existing sick leave benefits, ensuring workers can receive the health care needed to address all pregnancy related care to create healthy outcomes without jeopardizing their employment or finances. The law applies to all private employers in New York State, with no minimum employee threshold, and is applicable to both full-time and part-time employees.

New York State Health Commissioner James McDonald said, "Governor Hochul's unwavering commitment to protecting pregnant workers in New York is critical to ensuring access to quality care throughout their pregnancy. Giving pregnant people paid leave for pregnancy-related care will protect their health, the health and safety of their unborn children and improve health outcomes."

Without paid leave, many women are forced to choose between getting medical care or earning a paycheck. In New York, rates of infant mortality are highest among those who had no prenatal care or did not begin accessing prenatal care until the third trimester. Yet too many women are not able to receive this medical care because they cannot take unpaid leave; one recent study found that nearly 40 percent of women who did not get prenatal medical care reported this was due to a lack of paid leave or unaffordable care.

(Contd. Pg. 38)

## Money in Your Pockets: Ahead of January 1, 2025 Start Date for First-in-the-Nation Paid Prenatal Leave

(From Pg. 37) Studies show that prenatal health care is highly correlated with improved health outcomes for mothers and infants; and that pregnant women who have access to regular prenatal medical visits are less likely to die in childbirth, and their newborns are more likely to be healthy. Compared with infants born to mothers who received prenatal care, infants whose mothers did not receive prenatal care were three times more likely to have a low birth weight, less than 5.5 pounds, and five times more likely to die in infancy. Additionally, women who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than those who do receive care.

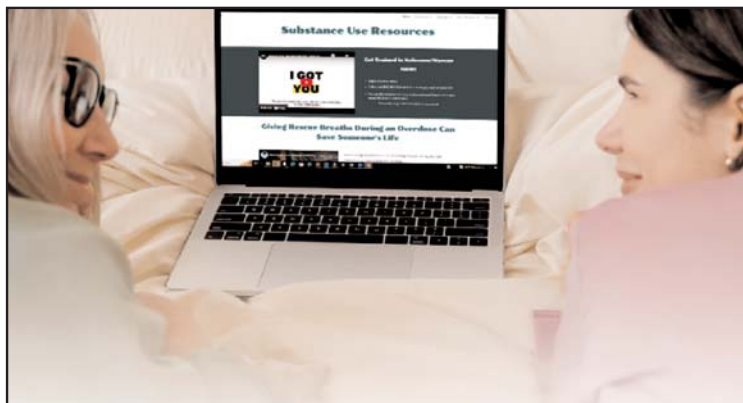
Pregnant women of color, especially Black women, face disproportionately higher rates of pregnancy complications and maternal mortality nationally. Black women are overrepresented among pregnancy related deaths, accounting for 14.3 percent of all births in New York in 2018 but more than half, 51 percent, of maternal deaths. Black women are five times more likely to die from pregnancy than white women and are also more likely to experience complications, and the preeclampsia rate is 60 percent higher in Black women than in white women.

New York State Office of Child and Family Services Commissioner DeMia Harris-Madden said, "This innovative and meaningful legislation is another example of the Governor's commitment to addressing maternal and infant health. Introducing this premiere paid prenatal medical leave is a deliberate action to protect women and babies while promoting equitable workforce advancements. With more than 80 percent of pregnancy-related deaths being preventable, increased access to consistent prenatal care without a penalty of lost wages will lead to positive health outcomes to include a reduction in pregnancy and birth complications."

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Commissioner Barbara C. Guinn said, "New York's new Paid Prenatal Leave law will improve health outcomes for women by helping ensure that all pregnant workers in New York have the support and resources they need to access vital pregnancy-related health care. We are grateful to Governor Hochul for prioritizing maternal and infant health and well-being and for her steadfast commitment to supporting women and families in New York State."

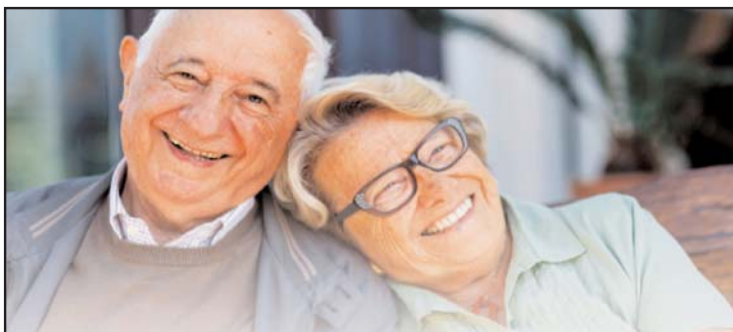
As New York's first mom Governor, Governor Hochul has continued to build on the state's commitment to maternal health care and supporting families. In addition to paid prenatal leave, as part of her broader plan to improve maternal and infant mortality, the Governor established 12 weeks of paid parental leave benefits for more than 80 percent of the state workforce, extended postpartum coverage for up to a full year for Medicaid and Child Health Plus enrollees, established statewide Medicaid coverage for doulas, created the state's first doula directory, and has taken steps to eliminate cost-sharing for certain pregnancy-related benefits for those enrolled in the state's Essential Plan or Qualified Health Plans.

New York's publicly funded child care system - and the new, online application launched in July - is part of the Governor's ongoing effort to make child care more affordable, accessible and equitable for New York families. Governor Hochul has improved access to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) by raising the child care income eligibility limit to the federal maximum, capping families' out-of-pocket child care costs, and increasing State reimbursement rates to child care programs. The enacted 2024-25 state budget more than doubled funding for CCAP to \$1.8 billion, and in 2023, Governor Hochul also announced a combined \$100 million commitment in capital grants for child care center construction and business tax credits for workplace-based child care expansion to address a critical shortage of child care supply in New York State.



## Hope for the Holidays

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



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

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

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

## THE FARM-ACY AT ELLENVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

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

*\*or while supplies last*

### Location

**Pick up is located at the back of the hospital.**

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



## Season's Greetings from SHADOWLAND STAGES

Season's greetings! As the holidays draw near, all of us at SHADOWLAND STAGES feel immense gratitude for friends like you who've made this year so remarkable.

The year 2024 has been a time of both accomplishments and challenges at SHADOWLAND. In a time when the arts continue to face unprecedented obstacles, your dedication allowed us to persevere. Thanks to you, we brought the hit musical *Beehive to life*, laughed it up with *Lend Me a Soprano*, felt joy and pain in *The Garbologists*, and so much more. (And here's some news: our heralded production of *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* was so lauded that it's opening Off-Broadway in NYC in January!) Beyond our season productions, SHADOWLAND ACADEMY has been providing educational programs for kids and adults year-round. We successfully expanded our summer and fall educational offerings, providing more opportunities to inspire the next generation of artists.

Your presence, support, and contributions are the true driving forces that keep our programs and stages alight and thriving.

Your continued support is essential in bringing these visions to life. As we enter the season of giving, we humbly ask you to join our mission by making a contribution to SHADOWLAND STAGES. Ticket sales provide only about 50% of the costs of Shadowland's operations. Simply put, we NEED your support. Your generosity enables our creative journey helping us ensure a future where the arts continue to flourish, connect, and inspire our community.

Make an end-of-year tax deductible donation online at [shadowlandstages.org/donate](https://shadowlandstages.org/donate), or click the button below.

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE**

[https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc\\_cid=c27b6febf2&mc\\_eid=138a9b9d06](https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06)

This holiday season, we also hope you can join us for *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, the delightful sequel to last year's holiday favorite, *Miss Bennet*. Step back into the world of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and experience a story filled with warmth, humor, and a touch of intrigue. There's no need to have seen last year's show to fully enjoy this exciting holiday tale. **GET YOUR TICKETS NOW**

[https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc\\_cid=c27b6febf2&mc\\_eid=138a9b9d06](https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06)

If you are looking for a unique gift this holiday season—immerse your loved ones in the world of drama, laughter, and unforgettable moments by gifting them a pair of tickets, a subscription, or a custom value of your choice. Our next season promises a lineup of exciting performances that will leave a lasting impression.

Purchase your gift certificate today and set the stage for an unforgettable 2025 with SHADOWLAND STAGES!

**CLICK HERE FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES**

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As always, thank you for your incredible support. We look forward to welcoming you back to the theatre soon, and in the meantime, we wish you a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, creativity, and celebration.

**CLICK HERE TO DONATE**

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## THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

*By Lauren Gunderson & Margot Melcon;  
Directed by Brendan Burke; Running December 6th -  
December 22nd on The MainStage  
at SHADOWLAND STAGES*

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

Tickets:

\$43 (Evenings) | \$39 (Matinees)

Discounts available for groups of 10 or more!

Purchase tickets now or call the Box Office at (845) 647-5511.

Performances:

December 6 - December 22

@ SHADOWLAND MainStage, 157 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY

Special Holiday Schedule:

Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM

Saturdays & Sundays at 2 PM

Don't wait—matinees are already selling fast!

Celebrate the holiday season with warmth, laughter, and classic Austen charm. We can't wait to see you there!

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

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW**

[https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc\\_cid=c27b6febf2&mc\\_eid=138a9b9d06](https://shadowlandstages.easy-ware-ticketing.com/events?mc_cid=c27b6febf2&mc_eid=138a9b9d06)

UPCOMING EVENT

## Poppy Cannon-Reese: Stitching Nature

Sponsored by COFFE @ The Studio at Shadowland Stages

December 5, 2024 - January 12, 2025

Opening Reception with artist's remarks:

December 5, 2024, 6-8pm

11 Market Street, Ellenville, NY

Poppy Cannon is a local textile artist and founding member of the COFFE Arts Collective. *Stitching Nature* is comprised of a series of elegant and whimsical quilts which infuse the language of this time-honored medium with aspects of modernist painting. The works are an expression of the artist's deep connection to the surrounding landscape and environs. Before re-locating to the Hudson Valley, she worked as a costumer in the film industry, ultimately managing the costume rental division at Universal Studios, Los Angeles. Her career working with costumes and fabrics informs her recent work in the medium of machine quilting and needle-turn applique.

Of her work, the artist says: "When I found my property here - 158 acres, with a lake - it deeply inspired me creatively. I've always loved fabrics and although I painted for years, quilting seemed like the appropriate medium to express my connection to the land I live on. I feel a real connection to the town and the land and hope to express that in my work."

Cannon's exhibition is the first to be held in the lobby space of Ellenville's renowned Shadowland Studio, and opens concurrently with Noelle Fries' exhibition at the adjacent Market Street Studio.

After the artist's reception, the exhibition will be open by appointment, by calling 917-837-6193.

# DEC Announces Graduation of Nine New York State Forest Rangers

## *Forest Rangers Charged with Protecting New York's Communities and Natural Resources*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar today welcomed nine new graduates from the 24th Basic School for New York State Forest Rangers. As part of DEC's Division of Forest Protection, New York Forest Rangers protect natural resources and public safety and stand ready to support sister states across the country in the face of emergencies like wildfires and flooding. The ceremony held in Albany this afternoon celebrated graduates from across New York State who followed extensive law enforcement and natural resources training in the classroom and in the field.

"I commend this brave new class of New York State Forest Rangers for completing this important part of their journey to carry on the proud tradition of protecting New York's environment and the public," Interim Commissioner Mahar said. "From snow-covered peaks to wildfires in New York and beyond, New York State Forest Rangers are some of the most elite first responders in the state, and I am proud of our newest class of Rangers for stepping up to join our ranks and wish them success as they begin their challenging and fulfilling new careers."

DEC Division of Forest Protection Acting Director Drew Cavanagh said, "Forest Rangers are dedicated to ensuring public safety while patrolling more than five million acres of land across the state. They often go above and beyond the call of duty assisting other states and Canada when fires or natural disaster occur. I am thrilled to add these nine Rangers to our ranks."

For the last six months, recruits endured strenuous training at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry campus in the hamlet of Wanakena and the Huntington Wildlife Forest in the town of Newcomb. The Division of Forest Protection trained the Ranger recruits in a wide range of rescue techniques, including rope rescues, and led extensive training in wildfire suppression, prescribed burns, water rescues and wildlife protection, among other skills. Nine graduates will join the State's Forest Ranger force for a total of 156 Rangers statewide.

Upon graduation, DEC assigns recruits to patrol areas to join the ranks of Forest Rangers currently serving across the state. In 2023, Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Rangers conducted 370 search and rescue missions, extinguished 146 wildfires covering

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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles  
 ← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road  
 Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles  
 ← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles  
 → Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles  
 Gun Shop on LEFT

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

## Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM  
 46 North Street in Monticello

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

nearly 1,400 acres, participated in dozens of prescribed fires that served to rejuvenate more than 1,000 acres of land, and worked on cases that resulted in hundreds of tickets or arrests. For more information about New York State Forest Rangers, visit DEC's website. Forest Ranger career information is also available on the website.

Below is the list of the graduates of the Department of Environmental Conservation's 24th Basic School for Forest Rangers:

- Robert Christopher - Camillus, Onondaga County
- Jacob Cleinman - Glenville, Schenectady County
- Ryan Commerford - Clifton Park, Saratoga County
- Zachary Dormer - Naples, Ontario County
- Osita Ezumah - Saranac Lake, Franklin County
- Sonja Hale - Pompey, Onondaga County
- Nathan Jeffery - Lake Placid, Essex County
- Nicole Kocher - Narrowsburg, Sullivan County
- Cody Welch - Waterville, Oneida County



## New Hope Community Appoints Amy Spadafino to Board of Directors



Loch Sheldrake, NY - New Hope Community is pleased to welcome Amy Spadafino to their New Hope Community Executive board. Spadafino's twenty-five years of experience supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will further enhance New Hope Community's position of advocacy as their governing leaders commit best efforts to drive their important mission forward.

As a parent of a young man with autism, Spadafino has a profound understanding of the resources necessary to enrich the lives of those with I/DD. Over the years, she has extensively committed her time and expertise to many peer groups, focusing on family support and advocacy. Spadafino served as an Early-Intervention Service Coordinator at Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) in Valhalla, NY, where she worked with numerous families seeking support for newly diagnosed family members. She also contributed to the implementation of critically needed programming for children with I/DD during her tenure with the Family Support Services Consumer Counsel.

Additionally, Spadafino served as a parent-to-parent member of WIHD, as well as a parent advocate within the Byram Hill School District, in Westchester County. Her keen insight into the obstacles and challenges families face supported her ability to provide realistic, holistic choices that empowered people with I/DD to experience a life that authentically speaks to their needs, wants, and wishes. Most recently, Spadafino spent six years as the Fiscal Intermediary Liaison for Self-Direction at Select Human Services, a division of New Hope Community, Inc.

Spadafino received the Woman of Distinction award from New York State Assemblyman Chris Burdick's Disability Council and is an OPWDD-certified Self Direction Broker. In her earlier professional life, she held the position of Vice President of Sales and Marketing for a division of the Anne Klein Company.

New Hope Community Chief Executive Officer Debra

McGinness commented, "We are beyond pleased to welcome Amy Spadafino as a new member to our board team. Ms. Spadafino brings an amazing combination of professional and personal life experiences that will add great value to our board positioning and decision-making as we continue to do our best to forward New Hope Community's mission."

### About New Hope Community

New Hope Community is a not-for-profit human services organization providing support for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Established in 1975 to serve as a nurturing and caring alternative to large institutions which were found to have violated the most basic human rights and conditions, New Hope Community has become recognized New Hope Community PO Box 289, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759 [www.newhopecommunity.org](http://www.newhopecommunity.org) @newhope1975 Media Contact: Amber Cardona Marketing & Communications Coordinator 845-241-2775 [acardona@newhopecommunity.org](mailto:acardona@newhopecommunity.org) as a leading provider in the human services field. Services include clinical and nursing care, day programming, education and recreation, leisure activities, a robust supported employment program, summer programs for youths, and more. The agency has always maintained a person-centered approach aimed at enhancing the lives of people with disabilities, and actively advocates for individual choice in a person's efforts to live, work, and participate fully in his or her community. New Hope Community presently supports and serves over 300 individuals and is a leading employer in Sullivan County, with more than 650 staff. Learn more at [www.newhopecommunity.org](http://www.newhopecommunity.org).

## The Catskill Exotic Bird Club Holiday Covered Dish Party and Penny Social



The Catskill Exotic Bird Club will be holding its annual Covered Dish Holiday Party and Penny Social at 20 Crystal Street in Monticello, Thursday, December 12th, at 7 PM. Whether you have a pet bird, are interested in exotic birds or would just like to have a festive evening, please join us. Bring a main or side dish, or a dessert and anything nice for the Penny Social.

All are welcome and that includes your birds. This is the first holiday party since COVID and it has always been a fun evening for the past 40 years! For more information, call Richie at (845) 794-7966 or Matt at (845) 807-6725 or visit us at [www.birdclub.com](http://www.birdclub.com).

Vet 2 Vet

Caffeine &

Camaraderie



**Every Monday**

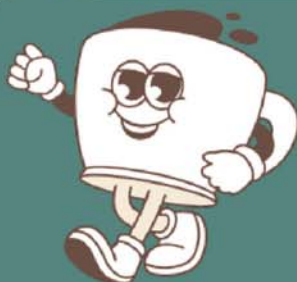


**10:00AM - 11:00AM**

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

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

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





ETHELBERT B. CRAWFORD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Chair Yoga

Connect, Move, Breathe, Focus, Relax

Invigorate and Restore with the versatile and wonderful Chair as a prop to help you move better in your body. This practice will help to encourage and restore lost flexibility, stamina, balance and ease.

Benefits may include:



- improved lung function
- improved circulation
- improved mental and emotional health
- lower stress
- expand loving awareness toward self and others



A desire to nurture a healthy mindset and healthy body can change how we experience the world we live in.

Come play, connect, and be empowered.

**Registration is required via the online library calendar; space is limited**

Monday, December 9th

1:00pm—2:00pm

in the Robert D. Norris Community Room

Monticello-Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library  
479 Broadway Monticello, New York 12701-1300 (845)794-4880  
<https://ebcpl.org>





# Town of Neversink Annual Tree Lighting Sunday, December 8th @ 5pm Bicentennial Park (Across from Town Hall)

Visit with family & friends while you enjoy treats & listen to holiday music as we await the tree lighting and a special visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Treats available:  
Hot dogs, hamburgers,  
cocoa, coffee, cookies,  
toasted marshmallows,  
and popcorn- **ALL FREE!!**

Santa & Mrs. Claus escorted by  
various community groups &  
school organizations.  
Music provided by Mr. Weyant  
& his band students!



**JOSEPH P. DWYER  
VET 2 VET OF SULLIVAN COUNTY**

# **Free Christmas Trees for Veterans**

**December 1st - December 15th**

**To reserve your tree voucher please contact  
our Veteran Peer Advocates,  
Matt and Vinny at 845-794-4228.**

**Limited quantity available!**

**Trees Donated By:  
Delaware Valley Farm and Garden  
30 VIADUCT RD  
CALLICOON, NY 12723**



# SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

### More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

*For any other questions  
845.798.2077 [nickneedsokidney@gmail.com](mailto:nickneedsokidney@gmail.com)*

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



## Montigram President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

As is traditional, we had a small but mighty turn out for our Annual Friendsgiving Pre-Thanksgiving Meeting. Those in attendance shared what they are most grateful for. The usually expected, good health, family, and friendships were on the docket, with the one additional share of thanks being for our Rotary Family.

At each meeting, our last Happy Dollar donor Orshii Boldiis proclaims with his final Happy Dollar, "Life is Good." No matter our lot in life, as we search to find the good in what we do and who we are, we are assured that the positive that comes from the good is a legacy we can all be part of.

Rotary provides us with more than just a monthly meeting; rather a kinship like no other. When we work together as one in the name of Rotary, we accomplish so many wonderful things. We do so to make our community and world a better place. We do so without ego; rather camaraderie of a common goal. To be people of action by doing good while having fun.

I was honored the day the Monticello Rotary Club asked me to become a member of this esteemed fellowship, and proud of the trust you have placed in me to serve a 2nd term to lead you as your Club President. Each of you makes me who I am, and better for knowing and working along side you in our great work. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

I hope you all had a fabulous Thanksgiving filled with the love of family and friends as we all have so much to be thankful for.

It was my privilege to attend The Federation for the Homeless Thanksgiving to help set up and serve a Thanksgiving Meal to those in need. I wore my Rotary Apron. I was humbled by those who recognized the Rotary name and thanked me for the work we did to help with the Food Drive. Know that what we do is valued and recognized by those who need our help most.



Program for December 3rd Meeting: Hurleyville

Performing Arts and Monticello High School Interact Report

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

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Agenda for December 3, 2024

1. Meeting Called to Order - President Lori Orestano-James
2. Pledge Of Allegiance - Secretary Orshii Boldiis
3. Introduction of Guests of Members - Full Membership
4. Guest Speaker - HPAC
5. Committee Reports:
  - Interact Report
  - Rotary Radio - Rick Stein
  - Murph's Toy Drive - Les Kristt
  - Senior Comfort Closet - Lori Orestano-James & Cris Spinner
  - Hospital Santa Visit and Rotary Holiday Ramblers - Lori Orestano-James
6. Regional Updates/District Updates -
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Happy Dollars
10. 50/50 Raffle
11. Adjourn

Link for Zoom Meeting Sign-on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M2lCSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

Livingston Manor 70th Anniversary Celebration, Liberty Elks Lodge, December 10th at 7pm. Cost \$40 per person. Ugly Sweater themed, so get ready to show us your ugly.

Liberty Rotary Annual Holiday Party December 12th Bridge & Tunnel. Cost \$35 per person. to sign up:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18X1DLc9bfwzGcflsZwY450Fb3YZ0zQ\\_QIQ8Dvm1Shto/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18X1DLc9bfwzGcflsZwY450Fb3YZ0zQ_QIQ8Dvm1Shto/edit?usp=sharing)

Murph's Toy Drive - December 14, 2024 opens at 5:00pm at the Villa Roma Clubhouse.

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

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

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

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

With Rotary Pride,  
Lori Orestano-James

President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

### Stories

#### HPAC COMES TO ROTARY

Our Rotary program for our next meeting on December 3rd will set the stage for a great potential project that will be proposed to the club for next fall. The program on Tuesday will be presented by Chris and Toni of Hurleyville Performing Arts Center better known as HPAC! They have taken an amazing space in Hurleyville and transformed it into a fabulous venue for so many activities for young and old. I will not say any more as I want them to "Wow" you yourselves with information on what is there. I am sure many probably know about some of their activities already but there's lots more to share! See you on Tuesday December 3rd! - By Les Kristt

#### MURPH'S TOY DRIVE

Murph's Toy Drive is officially gearing up and partnering with Monticello Rotary. There are toy drop-off boxes at Kristt Kelly, Albella Restaurant and Wayne Bank in Monticello. Please consider bringing unwrapped toys and/or simple clothing such as hats, scarfs or socks for this holiday season. All items will be distributed by Julian Dawson of the United Way to every school district in Sullivan County ..Yes! Everything stays in Sullivan County. A thank you to Josh Murphy for organizing this fabulous event. We are sold out for our dinner/dance at the Villa Roma Clubhouse on December 14th! We appreciate your on-going support! Thank you.

Shopping for Good - Editors Thoughts by Cris Spinner

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

Boys : Flannel PJ bottoms - Sports themed hats - Cool pencil case - Water bottle - Soccer ball - Football - Technic lego sets - Ear buds/ headphones (Contd. Pg. 48)

## Montigram President's Corner

(From Pg. 47)

Girls: Lotions - Makeup collections or kits - Nail polish - Hair clips - Fashion Accessories - Lululemon items  
 General: Art supplies - Clothes - Hoodies - Hats/gloves - Puzzles - Books - Board Games - Card games - Film camera with film - Gift Cards

Monticello Rotary Food Drive Fills Local Pantries

Thank you Sullivan County!! As always, we come together for our community! #ServiceAboveSelf

The Rotary Club of Monticello, NY Monticello Rotary Annual Food Drive is officially in the books! Thank you to the entire community for making this year's event a huge success

Here are the totals: (Drum Roll Please)

72 Cases of Food

98 Turkeys

8 Hams

All foods collected went to United Way of Sullivan County and Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless .

Congratulations on a job well done! Thank you to first year Chairperson Cris Cirillo Spinner and Committee Members President Lori Orestano-James ( Lori James ), Orshii Boldiis , Jackie Rutledge, Brad Rutledge, Bradlyn Brooks, Les Kristt , and

Peter Alan Chester for running such a successful event. Thank you to Kathy Kreiter from SC Federation for the Homeless and Julian Dawson of United Way of Sullivan County for your help in reaching out to those in need and your constant support and assistance in helping us do our service. Thank you Village of Monticello, New York and Village Manager James Snowden for providing us the use of the Ted Strobel Building as well as assistance for set-up and clean-up. A great shoutout Monticello High School Interact students who assisted us. Without getting the word out, we would have never done this well. Thank you to Paul Ciliberto , Eddie Wilson , Mike Sakell , and Dawn Chernow Ciorciari from Bold Gold Media Group ; Derek Kirk and Fred Stabbert from Sullivan County Democrat; Jim Sebastian Mid Hudson News, and Bill Liblick and BettyJane Stevens for all the social media opportunities. And, the day would not have been complete without Joe Kavanaugh and his friends (AKA Pluto, Elmo, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and The Cookie Monster) for provided great support and opportunity for kids of all ages become engaged in this important work.

Special thanks to all the amazing Rotarians who helped throughout the day. And, most importantly, thank you to YOU - our community!!! We couldn't do this without you!

# SUNY SULLIVAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS The Met: Live in HD at SUNY Sullivan's Seelig Theatre

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

[HTTPS://SUNYSULLIVAN.EDU/MET-OPERA/](https://sunysullivan.edu/met-opera/)

The Metropolitan Opera's award-winning series of live high-definition cinema simulcasts opens at SUNY Sullivan's Seelig Theatre on Saturday, December 7, 2024, with an encore holiday transmission of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*\*, an abridged, English-language production of an enchanting musical fairy tale staged by Julie Taymor-the Tony Award-winning director of Broadway's *The Lion King*. With dazzling puppets and a colorful setting, the Met's *Magic Flute* is an ultimate seasonal sensation for family audiences.

The 2024-25 Live in HD season also features new stagings of Strauss's *Salome* by director Claus Guth, with a cast led by soprano Elza van den Heever and baritone Peter Mattei, and Verdi's *Aida*, with soprano Angel Blue and tenor Piotr Becza\_a, directed by Michael Mayer; the first-ever Met Live in HD transmission of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, along with Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with an all-star cast; and director Bartlett Sher's beloved take on Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, with opera's newest star, mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina returning to the Met after her hit run this season in the new production of Bizet's *Carmen*. Met Music Director Yannick Ne'zet-Se'guin conducts *Aida* and *Salome*.

Tickets: \$25

Met Opera Members & Seniors \$20

Students \$10

Children under 5 \$5

Tickets also available at the door

Doors open 30 minutes before screening | All screenings (aside from *The Magic Flute*) are simulcasts of live performances and will start promptly as listed.

All proceeds to benefit the SUNY Sullivan Foundation







*Join us for a musical performance by*

# *Fisher and Kean*



*For this special holiday performance, the duo will be performing holiday classics.*

*Songwriters Deborah Anne Fisher & Paul Kean began playing together in 2017. They accompany each other in harmony & varied instruments, switching off on guitar, ukulele, bass & washboard percussion.*

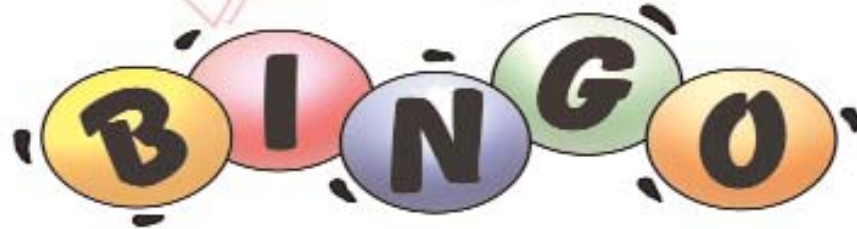
***\*Tuesday, December 17th, 2024***

***6:30 p.m.***

*\*If the weather is bad, please call before coming to make sure programs aren't cancelled/postponed.*

Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library  
479 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701 | (845)794-4660 | ebcpl.org





**Program  
at  
EBCPL**



Join us for a Monthly Library Bingo program! We plan to have 5 bingo rounds and the winner of each round will receive a prize.

\*Each attendee will receive one (1) free bingo card. An additional card will be available for a suggested donation of \$2.00 with all proceeds going toward future bingo programs.

First come, first served; registration is recommended.  
Please go to [ebcpl.org](http://ebcpl.org) or Call (845)794-4660 x4

**Wednesday, December 18th,  
3:00pm-4:00pm**

**In the  
Robert D. Norris Community Room**



Monticello-Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library  
479 Broadway Monticello, New York 12701-1300 (845)794-4660  
<https://ebcpl.org>



# HOLIDAY CONCERTS

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

12 p.m., December 4, 2024

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

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

12 p.m., December 12, 2024

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

1 p.m., December 13, 2024

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

1 p.m., December 16, 2024

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

1 p.m., December 17, 2024

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

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

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

12 p.m., December 19, 2024

10 a.m., December 20, 2024

12 p.m., December 20, 2024

Livingston Manor High School Band  
and Chorus

Chase Elementary School Chorus

Fallsburg High School Instrumental  
Chamber Groups

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School  
Chorus

Sullivan West Elementary Chorus

Roscoe Elementary and High School  
Choirs

Liberty High School Jazz Band

Liberty 5th & 6th Grade Chorus and

Liberty Middle School Honors Band

Mackenzie Elementary School  
(Eldred) Band & Chorus

Monticello High School Emerging  
Ensembles and Chamber Singers

Sullivan West High School Select  
Choir

Liberty Mixed and Honors Choirs

Sullivan BOCES Choir

Fallsburg High School Treble Choir  
and Chamber Choir

Tri-Valley Secondary School  
Holiday Band

Monticello Middle School Groups



Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives and be thankful for the incredible opportunities and freedoms our great nation provides.

As we gathered with family and friends this holiday, I was especially grateful for the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, who spend Thanksgiving away from their loved ones to serve our nation. It is an honor to represent the over 46,000 veterans in New York's 24th Congressional District and all who wear the uniform. Their sacrifices are deeply meaningful to me, especially as my son Trey, a Major in the U.S. Marine, serves alongside them.

Representing this region in Congress is the honor of a lifetime. Today and every day, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve, as well as for my family and friends across our community who bring so much joy to my life.

This year, we also invited members of our community to share what they are thankful for, and their responses have been inspiring.

Incoming Republican Administration, ending the Democrat stranglehold and constitutional assaults!

Timothy from Oswego County -I am thankful for Representative Tenney for introducing The Essential Caregivers Act in the 117th and 118th Congress. There are now over 100 House Cosponsors - we look forward to The Essential Caregivers Act becoming a law!

Irma from Oswego County - I'm thankful to live in a community where we can agree to disagree and still come together in times of joy and need.

Bob from Wyoming County -God and all the graces I have received.

Eileen from Ontario County -My family, friends, and my health!

June from Wayne County -I am thankful that God sent Jesus Christ, He died on the cross for my sins, I have accepted that gift and now I have the Holy Spirit living in me which helps me with all of my problems.

Gary from Cayuga County -I'm Thankful for the Upcoming New Year and a New Beginning of Freedom and Peace.

Sylvia from Wayne County -Nov. 6 was the most joyous day in this country since 2016. I sleep better and my prayers have been answered, LOUDLY! I am thankful that we are getting our country back with Patriots! God Bless Donald Trump, his new Senate and House.

Susan from Jefferson County -To all of NY-24, my family and I extend our warmest wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving filled with joy, gratitude, and, of course, delicious food.

### **Introducing Legislation to Expedite Election Result Reporting**

Voters across the country are frustrated with vote tallying that drags on for weeks, especially in instances where ballots seem to be discovered long after Election Day. This undermines trust in our elections and creates opportunities for fraud or errors in ballot counting. That's why I am introducing a bill to enhance transparency in our elections by addressing the lengthy delays, sometimes over a month, that some states experience in announcing results. As Chair of the Election Integrity Caucus, I am committed to ensuring it is truly Election Day - not Election Month.

### **Reelected as New York's Regional Representative on the Republican Policy Committee**

It is a distinct privilege to have been chosen by my colleagues in the New York Delegation to serve on the Republican Policy Committee again this upcoming Congress. This prestigious committee was created in 1949 and serves as a forum for members of the House Republican Conference to collaborate and develop legislative proposals that promote common sense, conservative solutions. With an oppressive government in Albany, it is crucial to have a strong voice at the federal level advocating against misguided policies and helping New Yorkers push back against the liberal agenda imposed on us at the state level. I look forward to working alongside my colleagues to create solutions to the problems facing Americans today.

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

H.R.10145 - PARTS Act of 2024 - This bill would clarify that suppressor components cannot be considered as standalone suppressors under the National Firearms Act. Under the Biden administration, the ATF has sought to exceed its authority by seeking to regulate suppressor components, which they lack the authority to regulate. This bill will clarify Congressional intent in the law to ensure that access to components like mounts, baffles, and end caps is protected.

H.R.10072 - Long-Term Care Transparency Act - This bill ensures Congress has access to critical data on the quality and safety of care in nursing homes and long-term care facilities by requiring the Administration on Aging to compile and report state ombudsman findings. This bipartisan bill enhances oversight, promotes accountability, and supports the development of policies that prioritize the health, safety, and dignity of seniors, making it a vital step toward improving long-term care standards.

H.R.1806 - the Small LENDER Act - This bill exempts certain financial institutions and transactions from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) reporting requirements with respect to data about small business credit applications. Freeing up these businesses from unnecessary and burdensome regulation will help spur innovation in our economy and economic growth in financial markets.



## Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

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

### 1. Happy Thanksgiving from the Gillibrands!

From my family to yours, happy Thanksgiving! Wishing you all a safe and peaceful holiday filled with lots of love, joy, and good food.

- Kirsten

### 2. Fighting for funding to combat NY wildfires

Over the last few weeks, hundreds of brush fires have blazed across New York State, endangering our firefighters, our environment, and our communities. This is an unprecedented occurrence, and our state needs additional resources to combat these dangerous wildfires.

That's why this week, Kirsten called on congressional leadership to pass a comprehensive disaster relief package to replenish funding for key federal disaster response programs. This will help make sure that the FDNY and communities across New York have access to the resources they need to repair fire damage, boost climate resiliency, and better prepare our state for extreme weather.

Read more. <https://www.whec.com/top-news/sen-gillibrand-asks-for-more-federal-funding-to-battle-wildfires-burning-across-new-york-state/>

### 3. Federal \$\$\$ \_ NY

Kirsten is committed to sending federal dollars to Upstate New York.

Just this week, she helped secure:

\$11.5 million in federal funding to provide care for individuals with substance use disorders and support related research initiatives in Western NY and the Rochester-Finger Lakes region. Read more.

\$7 million in federal funding for Erie County through the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program, which will be used to address lead-based paint hazards in old homes and affordable housing units.

\$2.4 million through the Department of Energy for Erie County's Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR) Program, which will help create a collection system for all types of batteries to ensure their proper disposal.

### 4. Helping those in need

During the holiday season, it's important to focus on giving back to our community.

Earlier this week, Kirsten visited Xavier Mission to join their volunteers in helping to combat poverty, homelessness, and hunger. Kirsten served nutritious hot meals, worked on art projects with children, and visited with guests of Xavier Mission who struggle with hunger and poverty. Every Sunday, when most other NYC soup kitchens are closed, Xavier Mission serves roughly 1,000 meals in a wel-

coming and warm environment to provide sustenance and support to guests in need.

### 5. Delivering for New Yorkers

When a new Kings County hospice provider experienced processing delays after applying to become an approved Medicare and Medicaid provider, they contacted Kirsten's office for help. Kirsten's team contacted the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the provider's behalf, and the issue was resolved within 2 weeks.



## Rep. Marc Molinaro Statement on the Murder of BU Student by Hamas Terrorists

Binghamton, NY -- U.S. Rep Marc Molinaro (NY-19) released the following statement on the murder of BU student and American-Israeli hostage Omer Neutra.

"The murder of BU student Omer Neutra is heartbreaking and infuriating. We are not done fighting for the memory of Omer, to bring the hostages home, and to make the Hamas terrorists pay for their crimes. We extend our love and prayers to Omer's parents who became selfless leaders in the fight to return all hostages. We pray for his friends and fellow students. And we know his life and memory will always be a blessing."



## Senator Peter Oberacker to Launch First Annual 51st District Winter Coat Drive in Delaware County

DELHI, 12/4/24 - State Senator Peter Oberacker will be joined by Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond, District Attorney Shawn Smith, Board of Supervisors Chair Tina Molé, and representatives from Delaware Opportunities on WEDNESDAY, December 4th at 11:00am to announce the first annual 51st Senate District Winter Coat Drive in Delaware County.

# MURPH'S 10TH ANNUAL

# TOY DRIVE

*\$60 Ticket (21 and over) Includes Dinner & 2 Hours  
OPEN BAR!!!*

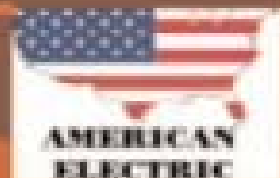
*For Tickets go to:  
[MURPHSTOYDRIVE.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://MURPHSTOYDRIVE.EVENTBRITE.COM)*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH  
DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM-12AM**

Villa Roma  
Clubhouse

Thank You to our  
Entertainment Sponsor  
American Electric & Joe Curreri

We are looking for donations of new (unwrapped) toys for local children  
in our community.





*Holiday*  
**Gingerbread House  
Decorating Fundraiser**

Thursday, December 12, 2024

5:30 to 6:30pm

Get into the holiday spirit with this  
delightful evening for ALL ages.  
Enjoy these festivities with  
music and hot cocoa!

*Shhh...we got word that Santa will be at the  
DPL for family pics!*

Tri-Valley residents.  
\$15 supply fee per family.

Register at  
[www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)



**To register go to:**

<https://www.danielpiercelibrary.org/pages/index/229627/gingerbread-house-decorating-fundraiser>

# in the still of the night

November 16, 2024  
– January 4, 2025

Opening: Saturday,  
November 16, 3 – 5 pm

seventh annual small works  
show & concert fundraiser

## ARTISTS In the show:

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



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**Nathalie Andrews and  
Susan Shaftan Perrin**

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845.657.2482



# Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

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

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

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

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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



**Beginning  
September  
24th**



### Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

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

**Help is available now!**

We are here anytime you need to talk.

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



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

### Sullivan County Text For Teens

Monday - Friday  
4pm-10pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
5pm-12am



Hey...I really need to talk to someone. Can you help?



Free & confidential support  
Someone who can listen and help  
Text as often as you need!

We're Here to Listen:  
Bullying - Eating Disorders -  
Self-Harm - Homeless/Runaway -  
Pregnancy - Problems at Home -  
Relationship Issues - LGBTQ+ -  
Divorce - School Issues -  
Substance Use -  
Physical/Mental/Sexual Health -  
and more!

**Text "Start" to:**  
**845-637-9486**

**OFF HOURS:**  
Call 1-888-750-2266, option 2



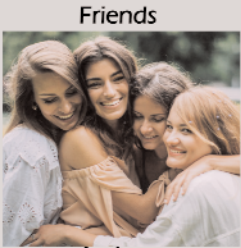
Text for Teens is supported by a Grant of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

### COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Who will you protect?



Friends

Amigos

Family

¿A quien protegerás?

Get the facts.



Familia

Obtenga los hechos.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the COVID vaccine.



Comunidad

Hable con su proveedor de salud sobre la vacuna del COVID-19.

**#VaccinateSullivan**

For more information, visit [www.sullivanny.us](http://www.sullivanny.us)



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Sullivan County  
Public Health Services

GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk  
(845) 645-6544

[awowk@chowc.net](mailto:awowk@chowc.net)

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



# FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!



**WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A Daniel Pierce Library Card?**  
Explore everything your library card gives you!





**Read any way you like**  
Printed books, magazines, and newspapers, e-books, and audiobooks



**Listen at home or on the go**  
CDs and music to stream or download



**Get online and get going**  
Free Wi-Fi

**Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more**

**Learn something new 24/7**

Learn a new language with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

**Borrow instead of buy**

Check out books, magazines, e-books, and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

**Entertain your kids – or yourself**

Passes to Mohawk Preserve and the American Village Museum

Unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga

There's even more to explore with your library card:

- ▶ Online programming, databases and research materials
- ▶ Export reading recommendations
- ▶ Internet access and computers to use

**SIGN UP TODAY!** It's FREE and easy!  
Visit the Daniel Pierce Library for more details.

**SHARE THE NUMBER**

**SPREAD THE WORD**

CALL OR TEXT

**988**



CHAT

**988LIFELINE.ORG**

*There is hope.*



**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

# YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

**JOIN US!**



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


Contact Rebekah at [rumarbashar@asfl.org](mailto:rumarbashar@asfl.org) for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

**WEDNESDAY**

@ 6:30 PM






VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

# PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

**JOIN US!**






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

Contact Anne-Marie at [afreitas@asfl.org](mailto:afreitas@asfl.org) for more information.


EVERY 2ND & 4TH

**WEDNESDAY**

@ 6:30 PM

# Veteran Peer Support



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

**Vet 2 Vet**



**Sullivan County  
NEW YORK**

*NYC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program*

Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

[vet2vet@atitoday.org](mailto:vet2vet@atitoday.org)

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701

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Full/Part time. Work in Grahamsville. Busy  
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**Blooming Green Lawn  
and Landscape Sevice**  
Part time/Full time work.  
Salary based on experience.  
Call: 845-665-3348  
or 945-985-0516

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Tri-Valley School District. Available immediately.  
Call or Email 845-985-7411  
or williamabrenner@hotmail.com

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virtual on-line local shop  
at:

**<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>**



**"KNARF'S CLASSIC  
MOVIE & TRIVIA"**

AVAILABLE ON

TUBI  
**THE POLAR  
EXPRESS**

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



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



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

motion capture animation. The film tells the story of a young boy who, on Christmas Eve, sees a mysterious train bound for the North Pole stop outside his window and is invited aboard by its conductor. The boy joins several other children as they embark on a journey to visit Santa Claus preparing for Christmas. The film stars Tom Hanks, who was also one of the film's executive producers, in multiple distinct roles, with Daryl Sabara, Nona Gaye, Jimmy Bennett and Eddie Deezen in supporting roles.

(Contd. Pg. 62)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: *False: It's the name of his sled*

**This weeks' Trivia question:**

True or false: Helen Hunt, Marisa Tomei, Alan Alda, and Mel Gibson are all cast in what romantic comedy?

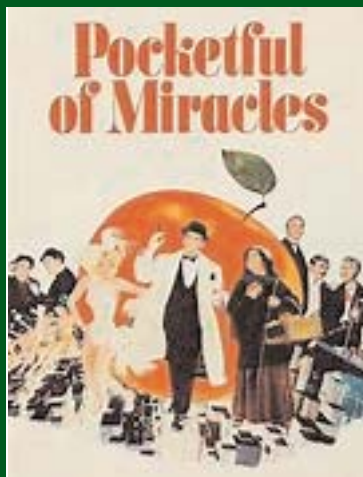
(From Pg. )

**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE**  
**Amazon Prime**

**Pocketful of Miracles**  
(1961 / 2h 16m / Comedy / TV-G)



*Pocketful of Miracles* is a charming urban fairy tale from 1961. It was the last movie directed by Frank Capra, who specialized in mid-century American fairy tales (*It Happened One Night*, *It's A Wonderful Life* and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*)



Directed by Frank Capra, and starring Glenn Ford as "Dave the Dude," Bette Davis as Apple Annie, also known as Mrs. E. Worthington Manville; Hope Lange as Elizabeth "Queenie" Martin, Arthur O'Connell as Count Alphonse Romero, Peter Falk as Glen Ford's under boss.

**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE**  
**Amazon Prime**

**Bell, Book and Candle**  
(1959 / 1h 46m / Comedy / TV-PG)



Christmas Eve in New York City it is more magical than any other place in the world. Especially when the magic of love, the greatest peacemaker and healer in all of creation, is countered by witchcraft, adding a bevy of laughter.



The key to Gillian Holroyd's, (Kim Novak) happiness is her surprise as the owner of a bewitching gallery specializing in eclectic, eccentric art. Directed by Richard Quine. Cast James Stewart, Kim Novak, Jack Lemmon, Earnie Kovacs



*Stay safe, the very best to you, and yours,*  
*Knarf Odnamoc,*  
*Gnomø*