

**VOL. 23 NO. 7 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

*Mysterious Book Report* John D. McKenna Pg 7 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 8  
*Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* - Page 83

## The Tri-Valley Lions will Continue to ROAR and SERVE Our Community

**The Tri-Valley  
Lions wish to  
acknowledge the  
Herculean  
efforts of  
Hugh Delaney Jr  
and  
Gary Buley  
and their  
families for their  
countless hours,  
organizational,  
and technical  
expertise  
displayed over  
the many, many  
years they  
served operating  
the  
Soda Booth  
at the  
Fairgrounds.  
Thank you to  
Hugh & Gary,  
and to the many  
other Lions who  
spent so much of  
their time  
servicing the  
soda booth  
and our  
community.**



It is with deep sadness that The Tri-Valley Lions need to announce to our community and supporters that for the first time in just under 50 years, we will no longer operate the Tri-Valley Lions Soda Booth at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds. This decision is largely due to the fact that the Neversink Agricultural Society has opened soda sales to other vendors, including many vendors that are not located within our community. This would significantly reduce the profits The Tri-Valley Lions make during the summer events at the Fairgrounds, which includes the Grahamsville Little World's Fair, The Youth Fair, The Antique Machinery Show, and the Pumpkin Party.

The Tri-Valley Lions Club was chartered in 1977 and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club in 1979 and within a few years and when Lions International permitted women to be part of a Lions Club as members and officers, the Tri-Valley Lions and Lioness Clubs merged as one. From the outset, The Tri-Valley Lions Soda Booth was given the exclusive by the Neversink Agricultural Society to sell sodas. We also sell coffee, hot chocolate, seltzers, and bottled water. We were given the exclusive on the soda business as it was the aim of the Agricultural Society way back then to support its local volunteer and charitable organizations, knowing full well that all the profits The Tri-Valley Lions made were 100% returned back to our community and organizations via donations. Since the outset, The Tri-Valley Lions donated to our local food pantries, the Daniel Pierce Library, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, which sponsored three seeing eyes dogs to blind Lions members Monte LaHanko and John Harrop, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Garnet Hospital Heart program, Leukemia and Lymphoma organizations, Eye Screenings for local schools including Tri-Valley, Headstart, Fallsburg and more, provided Community Service Awards to selected Tri-Valley Seniors. (Contd. Pg. 5)

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA - From the notes

of Frank Comando

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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

**On the Front Burner:** Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know whether what I teach comes from God or whether I speak on my own authority.  
John 7:17

## OBITUARY

**John James Kissel Jr.**

("Jack" or "Moose")

June 22, 1943 -

January 25, 2026

is with profound sorrow, we announce the peaceful passing of John James Kissel Jr., lovingly known as "Jack" or, to some, "Moose" (After his brother Stanley). Jack, a man of remarkable humility, profound talent, and boundless generosity, touched countless lives and left an enduring legacy of kindness and selfless service.

Born in Newburgh, New York, on June 22, 1943, and raised in New Windsor-better known as "Ducktown"-Jack was the middle child of four: older brothers Paul and Stanley, and younger sister Joanie. He made Cragmoor his lifelong home, living contentedly in his own beloved log cabin, where he stood as a beacon of quiet strength, wisdom, and inspiration for family, friends, and the entire community. A true people person, Jack had a gift for connecting with everyone-his warm smile and genuine interest drew people in, making strangers feel like old friends in moments.

Jack pursued his passion for design, earning a degree in architecture from a university in Indiana. He began his career at an architecture firm in Liberty, New York, before dedicating himself to public service as a building inspector for the Town of Wawarsing in Ellenville. His expertise and unwavering commitment to safety shaped the region's development for decades.

In the late 1960s, Jack married Marianne, his best friend's sister. Their partnership exemplified true companionship and love; though their marriage later ended in divorce, they preserved a deep, enduring friendship rooted in mutual respect and cherished history.

The fire department was truly Jack's life and passion. His extraordinary 56-year tenure with the Cragmoor Volunteer Fire Company-where he served with dis-

tingtion as Past Chief, Past President, and Past Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners-was matched by his dedication to the New Windsor Fire Department, Walker Valley Station 2, Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Hudson Valley VFA, and Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNYS).

He mentored young firefighters, offered sage advice on firematic matters, and infused every effort with his signature humor, calm assurance, and infectious enthusiasm-fostering unbreakable bonds across generations. His extensive collection of fire trucks (a cherished hobby) reflected just how deeply this calling ran through him. In a final act of generosity, Jack donated a real antique 1947 Federal fire truck to the Cragmoor Fire company in 2025, just in time for their 75th anniversary celebrations. He took great joy in watching his firefighter brothers pull it from his garage, restore it, and prepare it for display in the parade-seeing a piece of their shared history come alive once more.

To those who knew him, Jack was simply the greatest: a humble mentor who shared life-changing lessons, a steadfast friend who brought joy to every day, and a beloved family member who wove a tapestry of treasured memories. His gentle kindness extended everywhere-from hospital rooms where he lifted spirits, to firehouses filled with camaraderie, to homes warmed by his presence.

Jack passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at a hospital in Kingston, New York, with his beloved niece Mia Kissel holding his hand and John Stanger a dear friend standing by.

He is survived by his cherished cousin Susan Smith; he leaves behind many devoted nephews and nieces, Steve Kissel and Dijon Blaser of California, Jim Kissel, Zoe Kissel, Valerie Bell, Charles May, Keith May of New York and his biggest admirer, Mia Kissel, whom he served as a steadfast father figure after the passing of his brother Paul when Mia was young, forging an especially deep and loving bond. Which many people knew by how often he spoke of her. Mia reveres him as the best uncle a girl could have. (Contd. Pg. 4)

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

### February 8, 1956

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Eck, former residents of Lackawack, now residing at Bradley, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on January 27th. The couple was married at Lows Corners by the Rev. H. Alfke in his home. Mr. Eck, a retired farmer, said winters are not like they used to be as it was 30 degrees below zero the night they were married. They traveled by horse and wagon from Lackawack to Lows Corners which was a cold ride.

Remember your sweetheart

#### **On Valentine's Day...**

A gift or a card - sentimental or gay  
A surprise from a loved one is always a  
treat

Why not give candy,  
that's "Sweets to the Sweet"

KUM TO KRUM'S

### February 9, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Allison of Grahamsville are the parents of a girl born Monday at Liberty.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stailing of Claryville are the parents of a son born February 8th at Monticello Hospital. He weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz.

The State Conservation Department reported that New York hunters killed a record 648 black bears during last fall's big game season. This tops the previous high of 622 set in 1960 and confirms pre-season predictions for a banner year.

Ann Marie Luttinger has received word of her acceptance at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Ann Marie plans to pursue a career in Art.

(Contd. Pg. 4)

## Household Hint:

### **It's That Time of Year the Pets are Shedding**

Use a new or used dryer sheet to remove pet hair from clothes and furniture. Rub the sheet over the fabric to loosen the hair. Follow up with a lint roller or clothes brush. The polyester-based non-woven dryer sheets are best for pet hair removal.

## 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, Carolyn Coombe, Martha Ahrens and Barbara Barkley*

## Wild Winter Habits

During the most recent Arctic Blast this past weekend the only sound that could be heard in the forest in the back yard was the creaking of frozen trees moving in the blustery wind.

Today, Tuesday is a bit different –the backyard was busy with squirrels scampering about; there were a few noticeable paw prints in the snow as well as hoof prints from the deer. And there were definitely quite a few birds that left their little footprints when they stopped by to eat some of the crumbs I threw out.



Winter isn't over yet. Many of the wild animals out back still remain in retreat in their winter homes.

Nature provides each creature with unique winter adaptations. The birds that typically migrated in the fall used the sun, moon and stars for direction. They seem to have a compass in their brain and use the Earth's magnetic field to guide them.

Many mammals have grown thick fat layers and heavy fur coats over their bodies. Deer are a perfect example. A deer's diet also changes during winter. They spend winter looking for moss, twigs, bark and leaves. The snowshoe rabbit's winter coat is white acting as camouflage in the snow.

Many little wild creatures find winter shelter in holes in trees or logs, under rocks or leaves, or underground. Some mice will build tunnels through the snow huddle close together to stay warm. Cold-blooded snakes will find shelter in holes or burrows and on occasion in a basement or attic. They will often gather, form a ball-shape cluster with their bodies that helps to keep them warm.

When the weather gets cold, frogs, turtles and many fish hide under rocks, logs or fallen leaves. Water makes a good shelter for many animals. Some bury themselves in the mud where they become dormant. Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water allowing frogs and turtles to breathe by absorbing oxygen through their skin. Earthworms move down into the earth, some as far as six feet below the surface!

Insects look for winter shelter in holes in the ground, under the bark of trees, deep inside rotting logs or in any small crack they can find. Some may spend winter in a gall –a swelling on a plant caused by certain insects, fungi or bacteria that produces a chemical forming a lump on a tree or plant. The gall becomes its maker's home and food source.

Other wild animals take long naps through the winter, or hibernate. Hibernation is an extended period of deep sleep. Many hibernating species get ready for winter by eating extra food and storing it as body fat that is used for energy while hibernating. The reduction of their metabolic rate and lower body temperature enables them to survive through cold periods when food is scarce. Bears, squirrels, skunks, chipmunks, and some bats go into a period of torpor. The main difference between a torpor and true hibernation is that during a torpor the animal is easily awoken. A squirrel sleeps for about 4 to 5 days at a stretch and will wake up, eat some of the food it has collected all summer or scamper about looking for other food, then will go back to sleep for 4 to 5 days.

For us –it is still not time to put away the winter coats, woolen scarves, mittens or furry boots. We also have different survival habits during winter. Before this last Arctic chill, the lines at the super market were long with people stocking up on food. Most of us planned to retreat and stay indoors. And some of us may have done something truly on the 'wild side' we don't usually do –take a long afternoon nap by the fireplace!

## OBITUARY

(From Pg. 2)

### John James Kissel Jr.

Which many people knew by how often he spoke of her. Mia reveres him as the best uncle a girl could have.

Despite the distance between California and New York, Jack was an unwavering father figure to his niece there-sharing countless phone calls (often two or three times a week during childhood), hosting joyful school holiday visits to New York, or traveling west himself. They had a blast together; he knew all the friends, and everyone affectionately called him Uncle Jack. His extended fire service family and the entire Cragmoor community also mourn his loss.

Jack has been reunited with his beloved parents, Valoria Petronella Mukutis Kissel and John James Kissel; his cherished siblings, Paul John Kissel Sr. (Mia's father), Stanley Kissel, and Joan V. May; he was also predeceased by his dear nephew, Paul Kissel Jr.

A visitation was held on Sunday, February 8th, with a fire Matic service also taking place at Loucks Funeral Home 79 N. Main St in Ellenville.

Burial followed on Monday, February 9th, with a graveside service by Father Ken Riello at Saint Francis Cemetery 130 Union Ave in New Windsor, New York.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Cragmoor Volunteer Fire Company in Jack's memory.

Rest in eternal peace, Uncle Jack. Your spirit lives on in our hearts, and your memory will never fade.

## DAYS OF YORE

### ...Today's History

(From Pg. 3)

#### February 11, 1976

Four Tri-Valley seniors have recently been notified by Congressman Matthew McHugh of their selection as recipients of Congressional Nominations to service academies. Thomas Arielly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Arielly of Neversink; Lynn Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Robinson of Grahamsville; and Elaine Stratton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stratton of Grahamsville have been nominated for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Eric Dixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dixon of

Grahamsville has received Congressman McHugh's nomination for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point.

#### February 20, 1986

Plans are being made for a Little League field to be erected and dedicated to Jerry Scanna. We have set up a Memorial Fund so that in the near future, when the new field is completed, we would like to have it equipped for an electric scoreboard and possibly bleachers. We all will remember Jerry for the time he spent so unselfishly for our children.

Scott Nyhoff, son of Rev. and Mrs. Harlan Nyhoff of Grahamsville, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall, 1985 semester at the Southampton Campus of Long Island University. Scott is a senior majoring in Marine Geology and is a 1981 graduate of Tri-Valley High School.

## LOOKING BACK

Beatrice Akerley

Published February 6, 1996

Very few housewives wear aprons these days and I miss wearing one very much. A few days ago I was going through some old clothes I had put away in a chest and among them was an apron. I automatically tied it around my waist and when I went downstairs Biilie, one of my grandchildren, asked me if I was opening up a diner. I was wearing my waitress apron.

Over the years I was a housewife, the only times I didn't wear my apron were when I was in church, bed, or shopping. I felt undressed until I had my apron on. I used it for just about everything, from helping me open a mason jar to wiping tears and smudges from the baby's face.

My apron's duties started at dawn when I used it as a basket to carry kindling wood to start the fire in my wood-burning kitchen stove at breakfast time. Then it served as a potholder to carry hot dishes to the table. After breakfast it served as a basket when I gathered eggs from the henhouse. During the summer months our screen door was sometimes covered with flies, so I vigorously flapped my apron to shoo away the pesky things - and also to shoo the chickens off the porch. It kept my dress clean, and when neighbors stopped by all I had to do was quickly turn it around and "Presto!" I had a clean apron.

Many times when my children were playing hide and seek the little one would run to hide under my apron.

I have a great fondness for those memorable days when aprons were in style.

## The Tri-Valley Lions will Continue to ROAR and SERVE Our Community

(From Pg. 1) We have supported local families who experienced devastating home fires, catastrophic illnesses, provided Free Rabies Clinics for cats and dogs. Additionally, we have donated to the electronic scoreboard at the new ball field, helped with the building of a children's playground at the ball field, and contributed to the moving of the Milk House at the Time & Valleys Museum. While we cannot give an exact figure, suffice it to say that over the years, The Tri-Valley Lions have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars back to our community. The Soda Booth was one of our primary fundraising activities, but we also do an annual Journey For Sight Walk and Tag Day, sell Chocolate Easter Bunnies, do raffles, and other fundraising activities.

Make no mistake, the Tri-Valley Lions are not going away, and are already working on new fundraising activities to help us make up some of the loss from not operating the Soda Booth at the Fairgrounds. We will remain strong and continue to support our community and our missions.

It was disappointing that the new Neversink Agricultural Society made the decision to not only stop the exclusive sale of sodas, but will also impact other local volunteer organizations including the Firefighters Food Booth, The Little League, etc., The Tri-Valley Lions were not given an opportunity to discuss the removal of the exclusive until the new Board already voted to cease the exclusives. While we know that many of the earlier Agricultural Society Board members knew what the Tri-Valley Lions do and how they "give back" to our community, we are told that many of the newer Agricultural Society Board members had no knowledge of what the Lions do and how we support our local community. It would have been appreciated to be part of the discussion before the Ag Society made its decision, but we were not invited to the meeting.

The Tri-Valley Lions Club is saddened that we will no longer be visible across from The Firefighters Food booth. Over the years, we welcomed and enjoyed our continuity, presence, and ability to interact with event attendees, our community, and other vendors from the soda booth.

Thanks to one and all who supported us for just under 50 years, and we will certainly stay visible and present in our community.

Wishing one and all good health, happiness and stay safe.



### TRI-VALLEY LIONS

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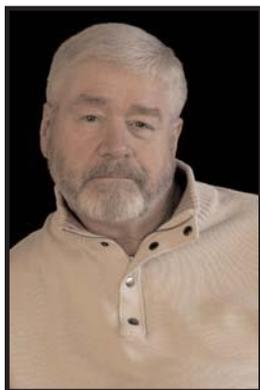
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Tri-Valley Membership Chair - Patricia Menje - [hvacpat69@gmail.com](mailto:hvacpat69@gmail.com) - 917-783-6253

Tri-Valley Director - Esta Jacob - [ejacob4848@gmail.com](mailto:ejacob4848@gmail.com) - 845-866-1579





## Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 167 Sierra Six

Mysterious Book Report No. 475  
by John Dwaine McKenna  
Published February 10, 2022

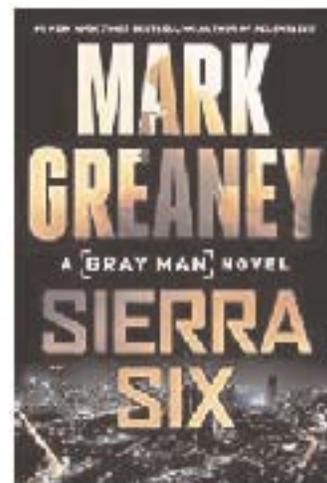
Best-selling author, and a favorite of ours, Mark Greaney, has hit it out of the park with his newest “Gray Man” novel. Number eleven in the series, it's a blockbuster in which the high octane action starts immediately and never stops.

**Sierra Six**, (Berkley Press, \$28.00, 528 pages, ISBN 978-0-593-098999-8), features Court Gentry, the aforementioned Gray Man

—who's a principled assassin with a unique moral code—in two roles of what is actually a double yarn in one novel. In the first story, which takes place in the present time, Court is on a lone wolf mission in Algeria that he contracted for on the dark web through a broker. It's supposed to be simple and easy, but like everything in his clandestine life, it doesn't go as planned, when he sees a someone who's been dead for a decade. The man's name is Murad Khan, and he's a terrorist mastermind. The incident kicks off a second story, which happened twelve years in the past, when Court Gentry, the lone wolf killer was assigned to a CIA paramilitary team known as Sierra Six. Their mission was to stop an attack by terrorists who planned to use a series of radioactive dirty bombs against American forces. But Gentry has problems integrating into such a tight knit military unit . . . causing major friction with the team. But he's deployed to Pakistan anyway, because of his ability to kill efficiently and effectively without conscience. Thereafter, the novel moves back and forth between past and present as Mr. Greaney uses those long ago events to explain Gentry's current mission of personal vengeance. If you're a fan of Clancy, Flynn, or Ludlum, Mark Greaney is gonna be your next MFA, most favorite author. Oh Yeah. He will!!

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## The Olive Jar

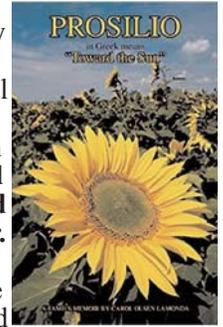
by Carol Olsen LaMonda

### Feb-BRRR-uary

Whoever named February with a BRRR in the middle was warning us about getting our mittens, hats, and boots. Thank goodness it is the shortest month. We are due for some frigid, sub-zero weather this weekend.



**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*



Cold, snowy weather is expected up in the Catskills, so we plan and hunker in. What I did not expect was having to wear a down vest and sweatshirt most of the time I spent in Palm Beach, Florida. My brother and nephew turned the heat on when the coldest weather hit Florida in fifteen years, just the one week my sister and I planned our "Siblings" week in North Palm Beach. Iguanas were falling from palm trees, and the heated pool could only reach 70 degrees with cold nights and day winds off the Intercoastal. I was the only "Damn Yankee" who dove in and lasted a brief ten minutes in the pool.

Somehow the cold snap in Florida, which left as soon as we boarded the plane to fly home, seemed colder than the deep freeze here at home. Perhaps I am just numb.

If Punxatauny Phil, the notorious groundhog, is correct we will have six more weeks of winter. Phil, obviously not a Catskill native, has not had to keep the woodstove burning until late May as we do each year.

I would be thrilled if winter left us by the end of March.

## Our Love Story: Brick by Brick, Book by Book

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-The history of the Daniel Pierce Library-much like pages to a book or bricks to a building-is rich with layers; parts that on their own aren't much to look at, but put together tell a beautiful story. And ours is a story of love.

The story starts with Daniel Pierce, a native son of the small town of Neversink, of which our small hamlet of Grahamsville is located. He lived the better part of forty years here, in the 1800's as a farmer, before making his way to the Midwest to start a lucrative career in banking and real estate. A short time before his



death, Daniel Pierce returned to his beloved hometown and gifted the townspeople the money, \$300, to build a library. The first two books purchased were *Westward Bound* and *The Scarlet Letter*-at an astounding \$0.32 each. The library received its provisional charter in 1898, which interestingly, was signed by Melvil Dewey, who was at that time the Secretary of the University of the State of NY and who also developed the Dewey Decimal System. The original library, boasting a comfortable home-like building complete with golden stone face and three original fireplaces, was built in 1902.

Aside from a small addition built by the Lions Club in the 1970's, the library had continued to operate from its original quarters for nearly 100 years, when the community and library holdings, programs and services outgrew the small space. In January 1998, the community was canvased, and they agreed, it was time to do something. The library staff and board embarked on an extensive building campaign in 2001 to raise funds for the proposed development, without levying any taxes. And on a beautiful morning in April of 2004, the Daniel Pierce Library's Building Committee broke ground. Seven years later, after much sweat, tears and bloodshed, the 23,500 square foot building that housed a library, a museum and a community center opened its doors. Every brick of the façade, every stone of the lobby floor, every window, banister and bench were donated. Every tradesman, from the steelworkers to electricians, plumbers and painters, donated their time, services and expertise. A great very many of the books that lined the new shelves, both in the adult and children's sections, were donated by the very patrons who had utilized the original library, right off their own, home library, shelves.

When we tell people it was a labor of love-our library-it really was.

With that addition, we now have the space, not only for all our fantastic collections of books, materials and library services and programming, but also for the organizations in our community to meet and to host community events of all kinds from blood drives to special events, such as birthday parties. Additionally, we also house (in 30% of the building) the Time and the Valleys Museum, a one-of-a-kind education center focused on the history of the NYC water supply system, the



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reservoirs, and the history behind the building of the system.

Our new building, while still relatively young in structural standards, is already creating its' own memories; adding its' own chapters to the story. We've already seen the rise of many through our children's programs; first entering as babies and now collecting their volunteer hours as seniors in high school. We've created hundreds more library cards for new community members, welcoming them into the fold and keeping up with the amazing relationships we have with our patrons. We've continued to add more and more materials to our collections, expanding into more diverse avenues. Our programs are well attended, both children's and adults, and hopefully-our intention anyways-adding more educational and experiential opportunities for our community. We're sustaining the library's operating budget with outreach through various grants and amazing benefactors-thank you to everyone who donates monetarily, who attend our Bingo fundraisers, who purchase our delicious donuts and buy books from our various book sales. Please know that we appreciate it so much!

And more than a hundred years later, our love story continues to unfold.





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## CONNECTING WATER, PEOPLE AND THE CATSKILLS

News From Time & the Valleys Museum  
Lynn M. Priebe

Connecting water, people and the Catskills is the mission of the Time and The Valleys Museum here in Grahamsville. To help in this effort, we have joined with the Townsman to bring news of what is happening at our wonderful place! I have been a volunteer and archivist here since the museum building opened in 2011, watching it grow to include the Lost Catskill Farm of many authentic early buildings and the one room schoolhouse museum in Claryville.

Time & the Valleys Museum is part of the county wide effort headed by County Historian John Conway and the Sullivan County Semiquincentennial Commission to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation in 1776 and the war fought between American Patriots and those loyal to Great Britain. Watch for events sponsored by the commission. Issuing the Declaration of Independence in 1776 stating that we were a nation was by no means the culmination of that effort, but merely the beginning. It took 7 years of war and 4 more years before our country established a Constitution strong enough to guarantee that the new nation would continue.

In this column, the museum will highlight how that war impacted our watershed area history. The valleys of the Rondout and Neversink were the frontier, a place of confrontation between those loyal to Great Britain, along with their Native allies, and those desiring to create a new nation. Though these valleys were not places of major battles or the movement of huge armies, they played an important part in the story of the war for freedom.

Topics will include our local battle of Chestnut Woods, famous people who influenced our history, the military units and fortifications that protected the frontier settlers and the story of the Sun Trail which Native Americans used to cross northern Sullivan County, so called because it ran east to west as did the sun. Local patriots, Loyalists and Native Americans who fought, lived or died here will be profiled.

Time and the Valleys Museum will be opening a new exhibit this year highlighting our area's part in the American Revolution. There will also be a travelling exhibit for all of Sullivan County and our program schedule will include a number of events dedicated to telling the story of the Revolution. We hope you will join us to learn more about our revolutionary past!

February 9, 2026 # 1

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<https://www.amazon.com/Spirit-Sumi-Linda-G-Comando-ebook/dp/B077H87987>

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## Grahamsville Volunteer Fire Department Elects “Line” Officers and “Company” Officers for 2026

### *Joseph Pond Honored for 57 Years of Service*

At a special meeting on December 11, 2025, the members of the Grahamsville Fire Department elected their “Line” Officers and “Company” officers for 2026.

They are:  
**Line Officers**

Chief Mike Kelly  
1st Asst. Chief Casey Grey  
2nd Asst. Chief Tony Costa  
Captain Will Conjura  
Lieutenant Andy Garigliano  
1st Engineer Douglas Hamilton  
2nd Engineer Jarrod Barnum Budd

**Company Officers**

President Larry Bracken  
VP Andy Gargliano  
Secretary Don Starner  
Treasurer Will Conjura  
Trustee Mike Mickelson

At the December 19th membership meeting, after the pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the members stood while fireman Doug Hamilton read the names, ages and fire departments around the county, of the firemen and First Responders who died this past month while performing, or as a result of their firematic or rescue duties.

Then Chief Michael Kelly honored Joseph Pond with a standing ovation for 57 years of dedicated, continuous service as a Grahamsville Fireman. Besides being a rank and file fireman, answering the fire siren for building and wildfires in the Catskill Park Preserve from the Rondout Reservoir (Meriman Dam in Ulster County) up to the Ashocoan Reservoir in Olive and assisting on mutual aid calls with the neighboring Neversink Volunteer Fire Department and Claryville Volunteer Fire Department, up the hill, he also assisted in automobile accidents, lost hikers and hunters.



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Joe Pond has been the Treasurer in the Grahamsville Fire Department for as far back as anybody can remember.

Unofficially, Joe is a waiter at the annual Neversink/Grahamsville Pancake Breakfast and the cashier at the Fireman's sausage building at the annual Grahamsville Little World Fair.

Each year initially, all Grahamsville Firemen (with help of the Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary) participate in the New York State wide famous Sausage and Pepper stand. Some cut the onions and peppers (divided into sweet and extra hot pepper spicy), cook the fresh sausages in boiling water pots then split and grill the sausage on the long grill, while those at the booth windows yell out the orders for “hot”, “spicy”, or hamburgers and hot dogs in frantic fashion.

Joe calmly sits at the table with the cash box, collecting the money and giving change and deposits the receipts.

And, lesser known is the smaller group of fireman and ladies auxiliary that each day at the fair, arrive early in the morning, light up the grill and sell breakfast and coffee to the concessionaires and early rising young folk feeding and taking care of their displays, cows, horses, goats, sheep, chickens, rabbits and other exhibits.

This year the Fair Association fixed up and rebuilt parts of the Grahamsville Fireman's Sausage and Pepper booth.

The Fair Association also fixed up and rebuilt the Tri-Valley Lions Soda booth which supplements our Fireman's booth just across the way.

Fire Chief Michael Kelly reported that the Grahamsville Fire Department responded to about 95 calls during 2025.

At this year's end meeting, Grahamsville Fire Department President Larry Bracken gave heartfelt thumbs up to all the firemen and the Ladies Auxiliary for their contributions in 2025. He noted the wildfire this summer around Sundown on the Catskill State Park in which fire fighters from throughout many counties came to assist to fight the fire, “and local people and organizations contributed food and supplies for collection in the Grahamsville Firehouse and then forwarded everything to firematic headquarters set up in Sundown.

He welcomed and thanked all the younger members, particularly from Tri-Valley Central School who took the difficult FEMA firematic preparation courses as well as the Grahamsville Fireman's tough “in house” firematic and health and fire truck training preparation and hazing for high school students. We are very proud of their enthusiasm. Next year the Sullivan County Volunteer People will march through Grahamsville

At the 2025 Sullivan County Fire Department Parade in Monticello, Joe Pond, waiving, rode in the front jeep leading the Grahamsville Fire Fighters.

Congratulations with our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Joseph Pond, and the members of all the volunteer fire fighters, First Aides and Emergency Medical Technicians throughout Sullivan County, New York, and throughout the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,  
William A. Brenner, Esq.

## A Whimsical Valentine's Treat: Massenet's Cinderella

This Valentine's Day, SUNY Sullivan invites the community to enjoy a touch of enchantment with The Met: Live in HD screening of Jules Massenet's Cinderella on Saturday, February 14 at 1 p.m. in the Seelig Theatre.

Described as "...enchanting" by The New Yorker and "...simply lovely" by The New York Times, this abridged, 90-minute production is sung in English-making it a wonderful "first opera" for kids, families, and first-time opera-goers. Expect stunning costumes, world-class performances, and a fast-paced retelling of the classic glass-slipper story.

Join us Saturday, February 14, starting at 1 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early-and come dressed for the ball.

### TICKET PRICES

o \$28.52incl. \$3.52 Fee

Sales end on Feb 14, 2026

This ticket guarantees admission for one (1) individual.

MetOpera Members & Seniors (65+)

\$23.18incl. \$3.18 Fee

Sales end on Feb 14, 2026

Students

\$12.51incl. \$2.51 Fee

Sales end on Feb 14, 2026

This ticket guarantees admission for one (1) individual. Attendee must be student-age (18-5 years old).

Children (5 & under)

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In Loving Memory of  
Joseph "Joe" Inghrim

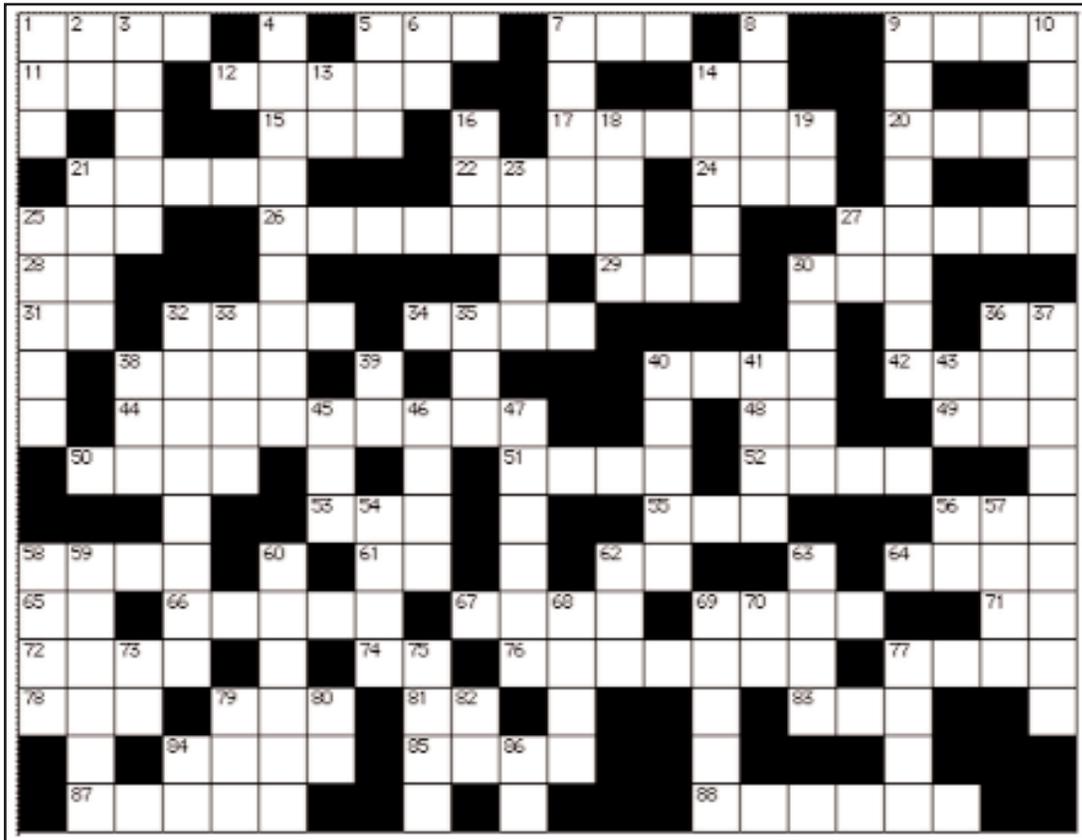


4/12/40 – 2/16/2020

God looked around his garden and found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the Earth and saw your tired face  
He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest  
With the help of his angels, they flew you to your heavenly place  
Gods garden must be beautiful; he always takes the best  
He knew you were suffering, he knew you were in pain  
He knew that you would never get well on Earth again  
He saw the road was getting rough and the hills too hard to climb  
He closed your weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be Thine"  
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone  
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.

With love,  
Mary  
Ginny & Rich and Sue  
Your grandchildren  
Jessica & Jacob, Joshua, Faith and Brittany  
Your great grandchildren  
Levi, Benjamin, Tessa and Isaiah

Put a Little Love in Your Life - L. Comando



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bird that symbolizes peace and love
  - 5 A part of 7 Can
  - 9 Dart
  - 11 Long period of time
  - 12 Valentine sweet treat
  - 14 Exist
  - 15 Young boy
  - 17 A memory trace
  - 20 Invited to do something
  - 21 One deciding the results in a competition
  - 22 In addition
  - 24 Lyric poem
  - 25 "\_\_\_ West"
  - 26 One of the first American card com-
  - 27 God of Love
  - 28 Toward the sky
  - 29 To a small extent
  - 30 Hot brewed drink
  - 31 Southeast
  - 32 Grasp tightly
  - 34 Not confined
  - 36 District of Columbia
  - 38 Press
  - 40 Tatted trim
  - 42 Non-standard form of 'yes'
  - 44 Memorialize
  - 48 Before noon
  - 49 German grandmother
  - 50 Caress
  - 51 Make a
  - 52 True
  - 53 Bundle
  - 55 Keep out of sight
  - 56 Viper
  - 58 Scandinavian god of light
  - 61 Language
  - 62 Abbrev. for light
  - 64 Second brightest star in a constellation
  - 65 Chem element
  - 66 Necessary items
  - 67 Pillar
  - 69 Formal dance
  - 71 Chem symbol silver
  - 72 Boast
  - 74 A preposition
  - 76 Prescribed ceremonial actions
  - 77 Notify
  - 78 Long period of time
  - 79 Chimpanzee
  - 81 Near
  - 83 First woman
  - 84 Scottish man's pleated skirt
  - 85 Yield
  - 87 Supermarket
  - 88 Popular symbols on a Valentine's card
  - 89 Popular symbols on a Valentine's card
- DOWN**
- 1 Glistening liquid drops
  - 2 Either
  - 3 Worth
  - 4 Feb 14th love note
  - 5 Append
  - 6 New York
  - 7 Lock of a woman's hair
  - 8 Ability to look at and comprehend words
  - 9 Valentine's month
  - 10 Tramp
  - 13 North America
  - 14 Progeny
  - 16 For each
  - 18 Shelter
  - 19 First person singular pronoun
  - 21 Practical joke
  - 23 Intense feeling of affection
  - 25 Melodic sound
  - 27 Common Era
  - 30 Pervading idea
  - 32 Expression of good will
  - 33 Rotate
  - 35 A rodent
  - 36 Barrier
  - 37 Sparkling wine
  - 38 Frozen water
  - 39 Man's title before his surname
  - 40 Source of illumination
  - 41 Paper greeting
  - 43 Executive Order
  - 45 Tied knot with two loops
  - 46 Assistant
  - 47 Person who prepares material for publication
  - 54 Too
  - 56 Autoexposure
  - 57 Fixed luminous point in the sky
  - 58 Person's emotional state (informal)
  - 59 Shot from a bow
  - 60 Human beings
  - 62 Allow
  - 63 A favorite Valentine flower
  - 68 Exist
  - 69 Mend
  - 70 Rugby League (abbrev)
  - 73 Indefinite article
  - 75 Truth
  - 77 The left hand side of the person facing north
  - 79 Pretension
  - 80 Extraterrestrial

82 Chem. symbol Tellurium  
84 Knock Out  
86 District Attorney

**Vintage Valentine Linzer Heart Cookie**

- 1-1/4 cups butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking cocoa
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 cups ground almonds
- Raspberry jam
- Confectioners' sugar

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine the flour, cocoa, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves; gradually add to the creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in almonds. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until easy to handle.

On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/8-in. thickness. Cut with a 3-in. heart-shaped cookie cutter. From the center of half the cookies, cut out a 1-1/2-in. heart or round shape.

Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Spread 1/2 teaspoon jam over the bottom of the solid cookies. Sprinkle cutout cookies with confectioners' sugar; carefully place over jam.

数字は単数に限る

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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	

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9 26 7 20 20 8      20 21 4 26      2 14      17 2 20 20      25 21 14

20 26 7 1      8 21 19      7 16 14 9 7 8

# Valentine's Day

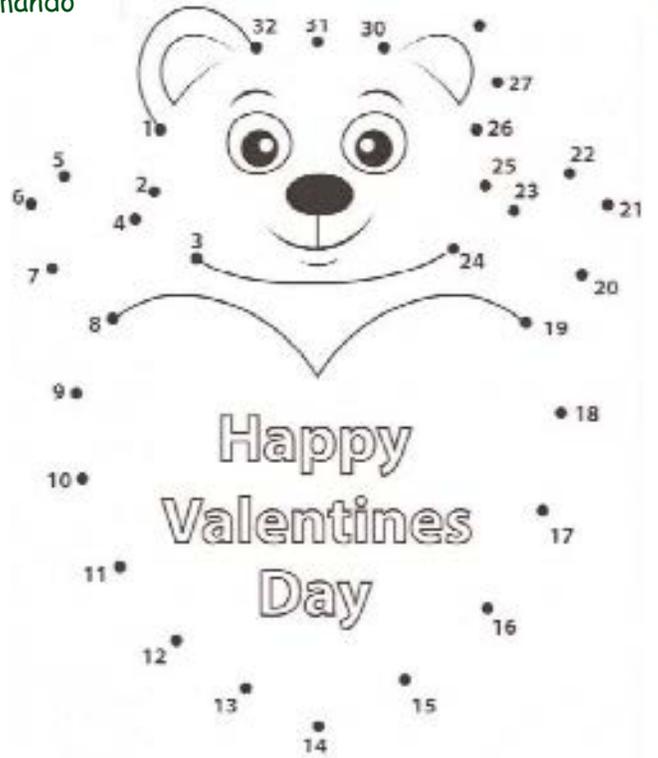
## WORD SEARCH

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

- SWEETHEART
- FRIENDS
- CUPID
- KISS
- VALENTINE
- FLOWERS
- CANDY
- DATE
- ROMANCE
- HEARTS
- LOVE
- HUG
- CHOCOLATE
- HOLIDAY
- GIFTS
- CARD

Kids' Valentine's Day Fun Page  
 - L. Comando

Have an AMAZING Valentine's Day



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Cryptogram Key

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

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### Daniel Pierce Library

## 1st Friday BOOK CLUB



The first  
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every month.

All adults welcome!

### Daniel Pierce Library 1st Friday Book Club

Friday, February 06, 2026 • 1:00 PM  
1st Friday Book Club Type: Adults  
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You will need to be a RCLS library card holder to participate and join in on  
the fun! Please contact Mikki at (845) 985-7233 x103 with any questions.  
Adults only.

## **LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**

### **Neversink Fire District 2026 Pool Staff Posting**

**Neversink Fire District is accepting applications for Pool Manager, certified life guards and pool assistants at the Neversink Pool for the 2026 Summer Season. Salary is to be determined and will be based on experience. All inquiries, please reach out to Commissioner Paul Lepke at paulslepke@gmail.com**

**Dana Vogler, Secretary**

**1/15 -RTF**

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## **Voters Approve Fallsburg CSD Capital Project Proposals**

FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District has announced that both of the propositions in their Capital Project vote have been approved. Here are the final results:  
Proposition #1: 95 Yes, 17 No  
Proposition #2: 92 Yes, 19 No

The first proposition will focus on various renovation projects, such as upgrading the parking lots, sidewalks, and heating and air conditioning systems.

The second proposition will approve purchasing property adjacent to Benjamin Cosor Elementary School in order to expand the entryway and make it safer for buses and emergency vehicles to pass through.

Both propositions will have a 0% impact on the taxpayers. For more information about the capital project, please visit the district's website at fallsburgcsd.net.

“On behalf of the Fallsburg Central School District and the Board of Education, I would like to thank you for supporting our building project propositions,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz. “We will now be able to move forward with necessary repairs, replacements and renovations to improve our school district facilities for many years to come. Your voice matters

## **Thompson Dems to Interview Candidates**

*(Harris)* The Town of Thompson Democratic Committee is seeking letters of interest from town residents wishing to receive the Democratic endorsement to run for the following positions: Town of Thompson Supervisor (Currently held by (R) Scott Mace, and Town of Thompson Council (Currently held by (D) Richard Benjamin, Jr.), for the November 3 2026 Election. Submit letter and brief resume postmarked on or before February 23, 2026 to: Lori Orestano-James, Vice Chair, TOTDC, 255 Harris Road, Harris, N.Y. 12742.

## **Supporting Success in UC: Event Marketing Funds Now Available**

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Tourism is now accepting applications for its Event Marketing Support Fund, an initiative backed by the Ulster County Executive and Ulster County Legislature to help community organizations, not for profits, and local businesses expand the reach of their events and festivals. The program provides targeted marketing support of up to \$3,000 per calendar year to strengthen tourism, attract visitors from outside the County, and highlight the cultural vibrancy of Ulster County.

Tourism is the major economic driver in Ulster County, generating more than \$1.1 billion in annual visitor spending, with events playing a critical role in inspiring travel and extending visitor stays.

Eligible events include town wide community days, historic reenactments, makers markets, fairs, festivals, and other special events. Applicants are encouraged to review program criteria before applying for County support.

Applications may be submitted online at:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/event-marketing-support-fund>

Priority consideration will be given to events that highlight unique cultural offerings, attract visitors from outside Ulster County, celebrate diversity, and/or enhance accessibility for differently abled audiences. This is a competitive funding program, and while not all requests can be awarded, eligible applicants may receive up to \$3,000 per calendar year to support marketing and promotional efforts.

ÅgUlster County's events showcase our communities, culture, and creativity.Åh said Lisa Berger, Director of Ulster County Tourism. ÅgThis funding helps event organizers strengthen their marketing efforts to reach visitors beyond our borders. Tourism generates more than \$1.1 billion in annual visitor spending in Ulster County, and festivals, fairs, and community celebrations play a key role in inspiring travel, extending stays, and supporting local businesses.Åh

### **Event Marketing Support Fund - Program Guidelines:**

1 Priority is given to events that highlight unique cultural offerings, attract visitors from outside Ulster County, promote diversity, and/or improve accessibility for differently abled populations.

- Applicants must submit a marketing plan or budget outlining promotional outlets and associated costs.
- Applicants with pre established sponsorship levels should upload their sponsorship form.
- Funding is reimbursement based. Awardees must submit claims within 30 days of the event, along with required documentation.
- Funds may not be used for general marketing expenses for tourism businesses or for talent fees at events.
- This is a competitive program; not all requests will be funded. The maximum award per calendar year is \$3,000.

Applications for the 2026 Event Marketing Support Fund are open now, with all submissions due by Friday, March 6, 2026. Applications will be reviewed between March 16 and March 20, and award announcements will be made on Friday, March 27.

For more information, contact Ulster County Tourism at [tourism@ulstercountyny.gov](mailto:tourism@ulstercountyny.gov) or (845) 340 3566.

## Open Mic

### Every Sunday:

**DeFilippis Bakery** in Monticello at 506 Broadway presents "Every Sunday - Open Mic 11AM-1PM. Dusty David Rosenberg and Lively Laura Garone have acted as Co-Masters of Ceremonies for the past nine (9) years.

Frequently, Steve Schwartz, proprietor of Steve's Music Center, located at 248 Rock Hill Drive, Rock Hill, NY shows up with his band, with Steve on lead guitar, Kenny Windheim on bass and Eric Nies on the keyboard. The group often accompanies and encourages other singers and music students. Young performers receive a cookie. Owner Angelo Foglia is the baker, and owner Camela is the cook. On the menu is oven-baked Italian bread, bagels, cannoli's, cakes and cookies with breakfast. Free Admission. Call (845) 791-4103 for further information.

## What's to Love About Catskill Mountain Wildlife

Celebrate Valentine's Day by falling in love with the wild side of the Catskills! Warm up with a cup of hot chocolate and join Catskill Center Naturalist Angela Cross for a cozy, engaging presentation on what's to love about our local wildlife

Learn about fascinating winter adaptations of species like white-tailed deer, black bear, and coyote, and discover how they survive and thrive through the coldest months. Educational materials will be available for all ages.



When: Saturday, February 14th, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

**The Catskill Center**

Sip something warm as you learn, ask questions, and spend a winter morning celebrating the resilience of Catskill Mountain wildlife.

## 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 weekly ads with quarterly billing  
and get a 20% discount

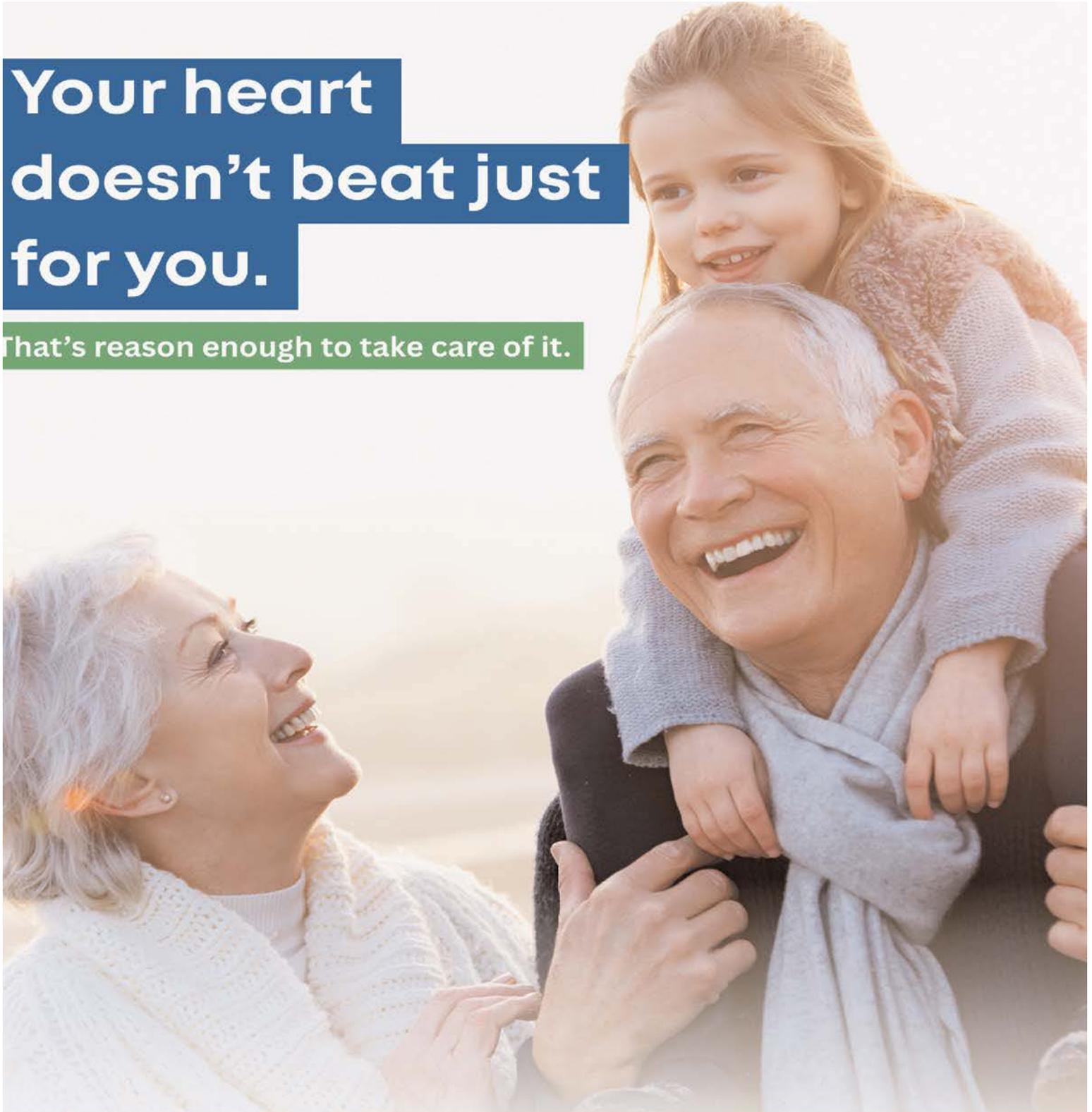
.. Full Page Flyer for  
Local Municipalities  
and Organizations -  
one time fee- \$20.00  
(once the flyer is inserted  
we will publish it each week  
through the week of the event)

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

**Low Rates  
High Visibility!**

# Your heart doesn't beat just for you.

That's reason enough to take care of it.



 845.647.6400 | ERHNY.org



At ERH, we provide preventive and diagnostic cardiac services designed to detect heart conditions early and support lifelong heart health. From advanced imaging and monitoring to personalized cardiac rehabilitation after a heart attack or surgery, our team is here to help you move forward with confidence.



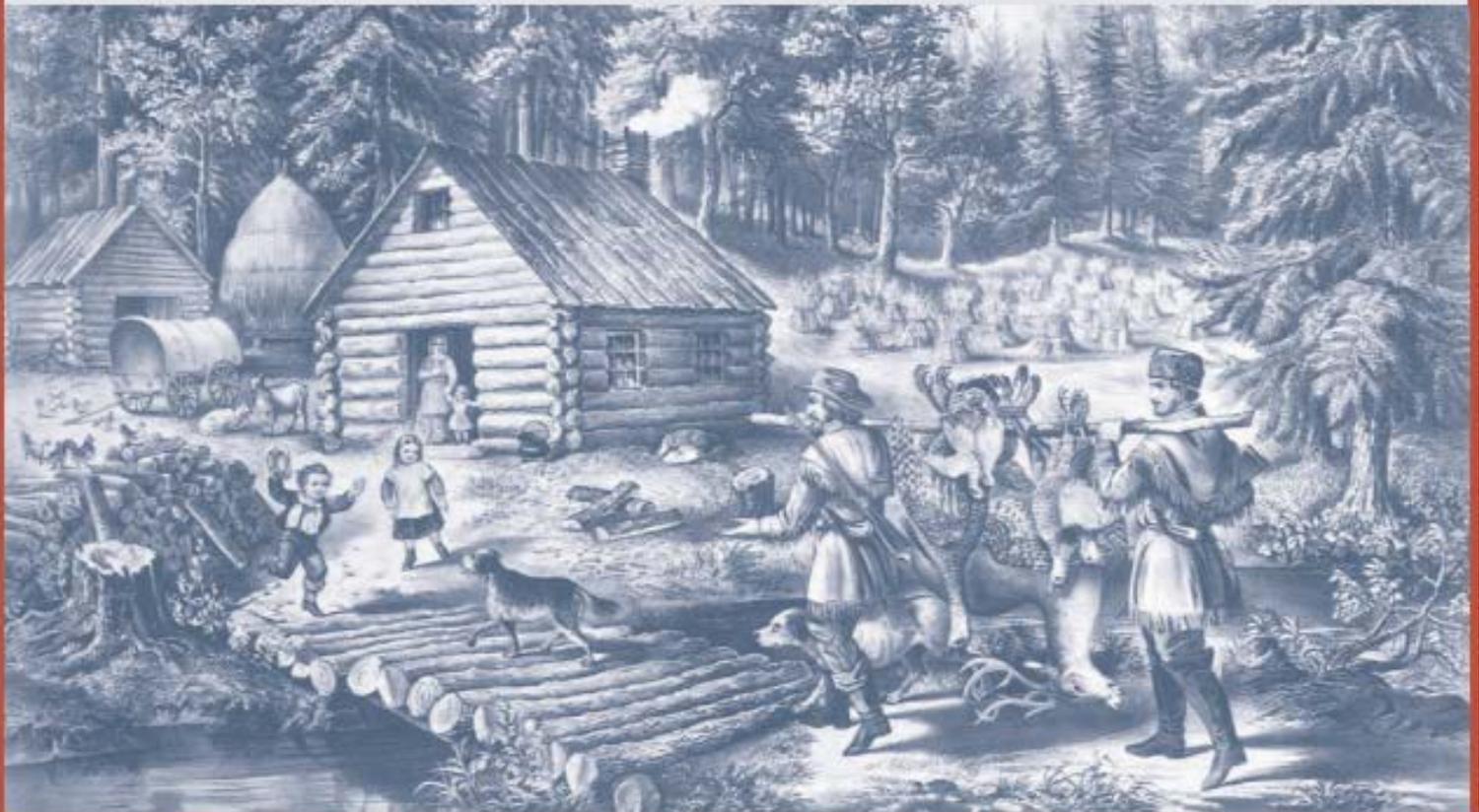
## 1700s Frontier Exhibit Opening in May & We Need Your Help!

Do you have any of these items below to loan to the  
Time and the Valleys Museum through September, 2028?

- Mannequins with heads (man and woman)
- Taxidermied deer, beaver, opossum, hedgehog, racoon, fox, wild cat, rabbit and especially wolf
- Any items (real or replica) from the 1700s

We are also seeking someone with graphic design skills  
to enhance photos and create graphics.

If so, please call or email  
Time and the Valleys Museum, Grahamsville  
[director@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:director@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) 845 985-7700  
*All loans will be gratefully acknowledged in the exhibition*  
Thank you so much!



**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**

LOCATIONS IN WOODBOURNE, LIBERTY,  
MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE

434-7363 292-7160 794-2700 583-5445 439-4333  
<http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com>

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

**Sundown United Methodist Church**

**Covered Dish Suppers will resume in the Spring.**

**Looking forward to be back for the 2026 Indoor Yard Sales!**

*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)

**Mass Times**  
**Sat: Vigil 4:00 PM • Sun: 9:00 AM**

**Confessions:** Saturdays -3:15 to 3:45 pm  
Or by appointment.  
Call the rectory at (845) 434-7643.  
**Parochial Vicar: Father Thomas**

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

**See you in the Spring at our 2026 Thrift Sales**

**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**

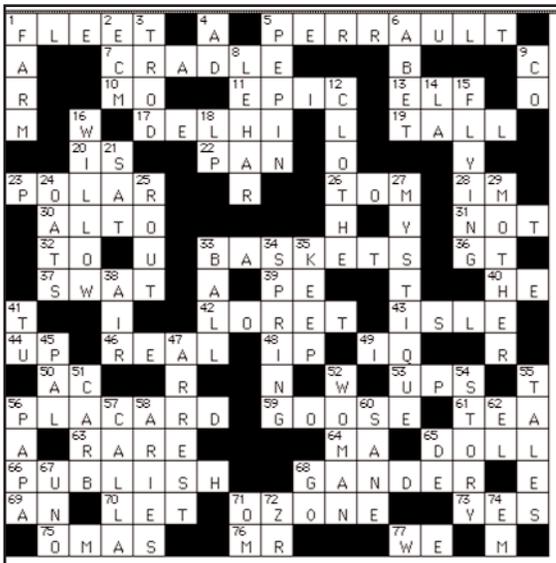


Church Hall available for rent  
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

**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



To learn more about  
**Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)**  
 or to make a donation  
 please go to:

<https://www.nfxdetroit.org/>

NFX drives bold, high-impact research to discover and develop targeted treatments for **neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1)**. NFX advances groundbreaking research that will bring us closer to ending neurofibromatosis.

Thank you

**The Wurtsboro Board of Trade 2026 event dates are as follows:**

- Spring Fling, Saturday May 2nd 12-3pm
- Street Fair, Saturday July 11th 11-5pm
- Duck Race, Thursday August 13th 6pm
- Halloweenfest, Saturday October 31st 12-3pm
- Joy to Wurtsboro, Saturday November 28th 1-4pm

Music & Farmers Market in the park will run every Thursday, starting June 11-Sept 24 from 5pm-8/8:30pm.

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

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



**Daniel Pierce Library Hours**

- Monday - 9:00 - 4:00
- Tuesday - 9:00 - 7:00
- Wednesday - 9:00 - 4:00
- Thursday - 9:00 - 7:00
- Friday - 9:00 - 4:00
- Saturday - 9:00 - 12:00
- Sunday - Closed

**\$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/>

**ARTISTS • CRAFTERS**  
 Need a place to show and sell your crafts?  
 email: [tvtownsmen@yahoo.com](mailto:tvtownsmen@yahoo.com)  
 or visit our Virtual Mall  
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

**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

2/11/2026	Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting
2/16/2026	Town of Neversink Holiday - <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>
2/17/2026	Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 2/6/2026)
2/19/2026	Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting-6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
2/19/2026	Neversink Fire Commissioners' Meeting 7 pm
3/3/2026	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm
3/4/2026	Town of Neversink Planning Board -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 2/20/2026)
2/10/2026	Town of Denning Business Meeting 1:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
2/10/2026	Denning Town Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY

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

# UC Board of Elections Reminds Voters of Party Enrollment Change Deadline and Upcoming DMV System Outage

**Ulster County, NY** - The Ulster County Board of Elections (BOE) reminds voters that the **deadline to change party enrollment is Saturday, February 14, 2026**.

The Board of Elections will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 14 to accept enrollment change requests. The Ulster County Board of Elections is located at 79 Hurley Avenue, Suite 112, Kingston NY 12401. This is a receipt-based deadline, meaning the BOE must receive a voter's request by the deadline in order for it to be processed.

Voters planning to change their enrollment online should be aware that the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has scheduled system maintenance beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026. The DMV's online portal will be unavailable from that time through the close of the February 14 deadline.

Voters who wish to use the DMV's online system are strongly encouraged to submit their request before 2:00 p.m. on February 13.

After that time, voters may:

- Use the New York State Online Voter Registration (OVR) system, or
- Submit their enrollment change in person at the Ulster County Board of Elections during business hours on February 14 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).

The safest way to ensure a change of enrollment is received on time is to appear in person at the Board of Elections before 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2026.

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Ulster County Board of Elections at 845-334-5470 or visit [VoteUlster.com](http://VoteUlster.com)

Jen Bloom, Deputy Commissioner  
 Ulster County Board of Elections  
 79 Hurley Ave, Suite 11

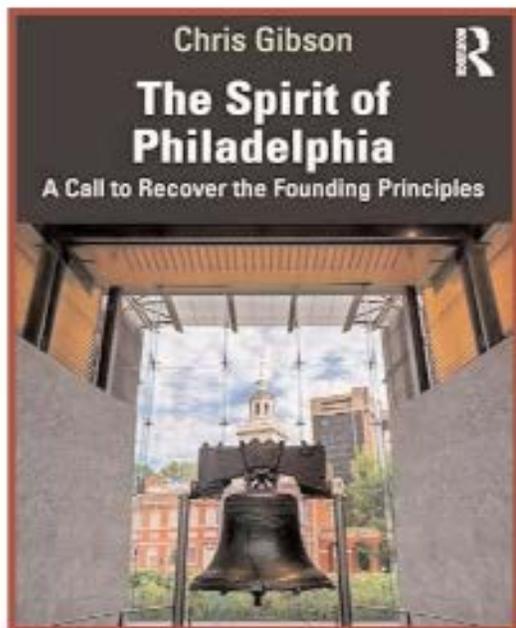


**SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV**  
 mobile unit  
 on location 10:00am - 3:00pm

## 2026 Winter Schedule

You can also Schedule an Appointment at [sullivanny.gov](http://sullivanny.gov) | County Clerk Russell Reeves

<p><b>JEFFERSONVILLE</b>                  Tues January 6                  Tues February 3                  Tues March 3                  License &amp; Registration Appts                  19 Legion St                  Jeffersonville, NY</p>	<p><b>WURTSBORO</b>                  Thurs January 22                  Thurs February 19                  Thurs March 19                  Registration Appts Only                  2948 US 209                  Wurtsboro, NY</p>
<p><b>LIVINGSTON MANOR</b>                  Tues January 13                  Tues February 10                  Tues March 10                  Registration Appts Only                  95 Main St                  Livingston Manor, NY</p>	<p><b>GRAHAMSVILLE</b>                  Thurs January 8                  Thurs February 5                  Thurs March 5                  License &amp; Registration Appts                  273 Main St                  Grahamsville, NY</p>
<p><b>NARROWSBURG</b>                  Tues January 20                  Tues February 17                  Tues March 17                  Registration Appts Only                  210 Bridge St                  Narrowsburg, NY</p>	<p><b>HORTONVILLE</b>                  Thurs January 15                  Thurs February 12                  Thurs March 12                  Registration Appts Only                  104 Lower Main St                  Hortonville, NY</p>
<p><b>LIBERTY</b>                  Tues January 27                  Tues February 24                  Tues March 24                  License &amp; Registration Appts                  15 Sullivan Ave                  Liberty, NY</p>	<p><b>BLOOMINGBURG</b>                  Thurs January 29                  Thurs February 26                  Thurs March 26                  License &amp; Registration Appts                  13 North Rd                  Bloomingburg, NY</p>



# The Spirit of Philadelphia

A talk by former Congressman and author

## Chris Gibson

Sunday, February 22, 2026  
Virtual and In-Person 2 p.m.



Time and the Valleys Museum  
332 Main Street, Grahamsville

Learn about his proposal to restore communication and collaboration in our nation, and to recover the founding principles as discussed in his book, *The Spirit of Philadelphia*.

To join virtually, email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org)  
and put *Spirit of Philadelphia* in the subject line.

Members are FREE, non members are \$5

Non members please go to [timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate](http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate)  
to make a donation before requesting the link.

In person programs include light refreshments and Museum admission.

# Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

## All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



**Sunday, February 15th**

**Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon**

**Adults: \$13**

**Senior Citizens (age 65 +): \$11**

**Children Ages 5-11: \$5**

**Under 5 Yrs. Free**

**Take-outs: \$13**

**Call 845-985-7270**

**We accept cash and checks only**

**Pancakes, French Toast, eggs any style, Hash brown, Sausage,  
Man-n-moon, Spud-eggo, Oj, Coffee / Tea**

# Shorts & Sweets for Valentines

Short Stories, Jokes, and Anecdotes for Lovers and Friends

Join Carol Montana from Big Sky Productions, a theatre company operating out of Grahamsville, and featured guest Laure Valentine, for entertaining readings of short stories, anecdotes, and jokes featuring the theme of romantic love, friendship, and companionship.

Bring a date, bring a friend, bring both, or just bring yourself and a desire for some light-hearted fun.

Sweet treats and beverages will be available during the program.

## Friday, February 13th 5:30pm



Roscoe Branch  
85 Highland Ave.  
RSVP: [LMR-Library.org](http://LMR-Library.org)  
(607) 498-5574



# Catskill Center Welcomes Four New Members to Board of Directors

Arkville, NY: The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development is pleased to announce the election of four accomplished professionals to its Board of Directors. The new board members bring expertise in legal policy, government relations, business leadership, and creative design, strengthening the organization's capacity to protect and foster the environmental, cultural, and economic well-being of the Catskill region.

The newly elected board members include:



*Laura Brodie*

Laura Brodie is the President of Pusterla US, a global luxury packaging manufacturer with operations in Oneonta, and proudly lives here in the Catskills. She offers extensive leadership and board service experience, including as a packaging executive and founding member of a community-based theater non-profit, Starring Buffalo. She is a hiker, runner, and skier devoted to the mountains, waters and communities of New York, and looks forward to sharing her operational and strategic skills in support of the Catskill Center's work across the region.

Nicole Caputo is an award-winning graphic designer and artist who lives full time in the Catskills. Nicole is VP, Creative Director of Catapult, an independent book publisher and runs her own design studio here in the Catskills supporting authors, local businesses, and organizations. A cancer survivor, avid hiker, and gardener focused on native plants and wildlife habitat, she brings both professional creative expertise and a deeply personal commitment to the Catskills' landscapes and communities. She is also a member of the Conservation Advisory Council, manages the Shandaken

Compost Program, serves on the Shandaken Comprehensive Planning Committee, is a Phoenicia Library Board Trustee, and volunteers with Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center.

Daniela Combe is a full-time Catskills resident and recently retired senior lawyer and executive from IBM, where she most recently helped develop and advocate global policy positions on emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. She brings deep experience negotiating multifaceted transactions, managing global teams and navigating complex regulatory landscapes, and she has a longstanding personal connection to the region through her family's multi-generational Catskills hospitality roots.

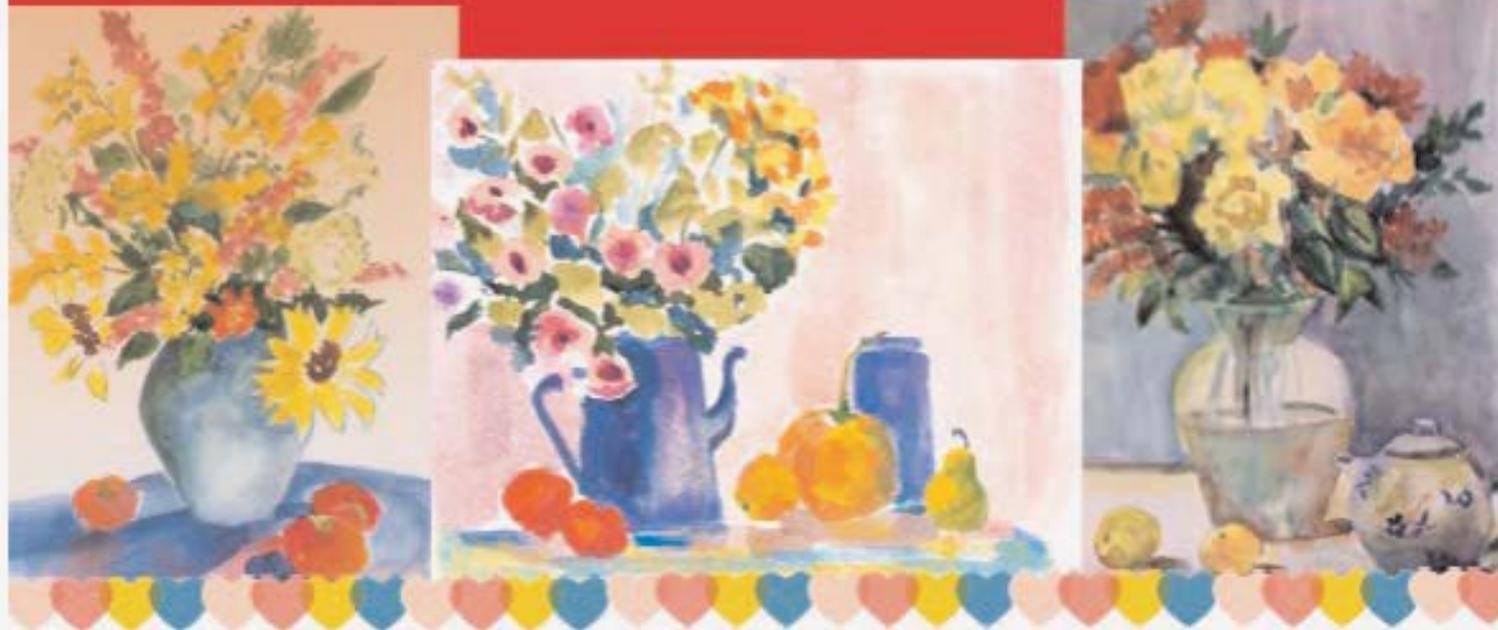
Adam Roberts is the Vice President for Legislation at Kasirer who works with clients to advance beneficial legislation and block harmful proposals in the New York City Council. He brings particular expertise in real estate, construction, and design from his work with the American Institute of Architects New York and the New York Apartment Association/Community Housing Improvement Program, and has been active in electoral politics as both a candidate and party leader.

Peg DiBenedetto, Catskill Center Board Chair said: "Our Board of Directors is very excited to welcome Laura, Nicole, Daniela, and Adam to our team. Their individual talents and energy will help us in the year ahead which is filled with uncertain challenges, as well as undoubted successes and achievements. We look forward to continuing our mission to serve the environment and communities of our region."

Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center said: "We are thrilled to welcome Laura, Nicole, Daniela, and Adam to our Board of Directors. Their deep ties to the Catskills and remarkable professional expertise-from law and public policy to executive leadership, design, and community-building-will strengthen our ability to protect the Catskill Park and support the communities that call it home. At a time of growing pressure on our forests, waters, and towns, their vision and commitment will help guide the Catskill Center's work for years to come."

The addition of these four board members reflects the Catskill Center's continued growth and its commitment to bringing broad perspectives and expertise to its governance. Their combined experience in technology policy, government relations, business leadership, and creative design will help advance the organization's strategic priorities moving forward, including conservation, community well-being, financial sustainability, and climate action.

# Daniel Pierce Library



## Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow

*Flowers speak the language of love* ♥

Friday, February 13, 2026

1:00-2:30 p.m.

\$5 Supply Fee

Join local artist Chris Parrow in exploring watercolor floral still life just in time for Valentine's Day. Technique, color mixing and composition will be covered. Go home with your painting to display or give away.

No experience necessary, limited space available. Adults only.

No snow date. Program will be rescheduled at a later date if we have inclement weather.

Open to To Valley adult residents. Advanced registration required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)



### Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268  
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233  
[www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)

## Find Your Adventure - Winter Outdoor Recreation

### Winter hiking by Christy Greening



Image by Christy Greening

Winter doesn't have to stop you from getting outside! With the proper knowledge, gear, and companions, winter can be a great time to experience the outdoors. Whether you're into hiking, fishing, birding, or skiing, we've got some tips on how to get out this winter.

**Snowshoeing:** When there's snow on the ground, you'll likely need snowshoes or other "over the shoe" devices to help gain traction and prevent postholing. Before purchasing snowshoes, check out our events page to find snowshoeing events at one of our education centers. All DEC trails are open to snowshoeing, but some areas might be better suited for it than others, visit our snowshoeing page to learn more.

**Birding:** Even in winter, birds can be found throughout the State. Along with the birds in our community parks, backyards, and neighborhoods, many birds visit for the winter from their northern breeding grounds. The Great Lakes, Adirondacks, and Long Island become home to unique finches and waterfowl in winter. To find places to observe birds, visit the New York State Birding Trail. Stay tuned for the start of the I BIRD NY Challenge on March 1!

**Ice Fishing:** It requires the proper gear and safety considerations, but this activity can be a great way to extend your fishing season to the winter months. To get started, visit our Ice Fishing webpage and consider going with a guide or someone who has gone ice fishing before. Always check local ice conditions to ensure the ice is safe for fishing—a minimum of three to four inches of solid ice is the general rule for safety.

**Cross-country Skiing:** Cross-country skiing can take place on all DEC trails, but some trails are more suited for skiing than others. Cross-country skiing requires skis, boots, bindings, poles, and the proper clothing. Since you'll be generating a lot of heat once you're skiing, it's best to wear non-cotton clothing in layers. Find out more about cross-country skiing by visiting DEC's cross-country skiing webpage.

DEC offers learn to cross-country ski, snowshoeing, and ice fishing clinics at select times during the winter months. To find an event, visit our events webpage and view our upcoming events section.

## Enter to Win Prizes for Completing the Get Offline, Get Outside Challenge



Watch the sunrise or sunset (Activity #43)

The Get Offline, Get Outside Challenge encourages kids aged 12-18 to take a break from technology, enjoy recreation and outdoor social gatherings, and put their mental and physical health first. The challenge includes a list of 50 activities kids can do before the age of 19—ranging from hiking, birding, fishing, or starting a nature journal. Kids who have completed the list of 50 activities can fill out a simple online form to receive a commemorative sticker, a downloadable certificate, and a one-year subscription to the Conservationist. Kids 12-18 will also be eligible to win additional end of year prizes—including a chance to win a week at a DEC Summer Camp!

Take the Get Offline, Get Outside Challenge

## Camp Santanoni Winter Weekends

If you didn't make it to the Camp Santanoni Winter Weekend in January, there's still time to make it to the upcoming events in February and March. Camp Santanoni Winter Weekends invite visitors to enjoy winter recreation and exclusive winter access to the preserved buildings of the former Adirondack Great Camp. DEC and its partners, Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the town of Newcomb and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Adirondack Interpretive Center, host three Winter Weekend events annually at Camp Santanoni. These events are an excellent opportunity for visitors to take in the natural beauty of the Adirondacks while learning more about the area's cultural heritage. Camp Santanoni provides a 9.8-mile round trip cross-country ski excursion.

(Contd. Pg. 31)

# Find Your Adventure - Winter Outdoor Recreation

(From Pg. 30)

## Camp Santanoni Winter Weekends

Upcoming events are being held  
February 14-15 and March 14-15

Join a Camp Santanoni Winter Weekend

### February 15:

Canalway Challenge Invites  
New Yorkers to Get Active  
This Winter

### February 15 Challenge

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor invites New Yorkers to take part in the free February 15 Canalway Challenge. Participants pledge to complete 15 miles walking, running, hiking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing anywhere within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor by the end of February to earn rewards, including 15-miler crew socks, sticker, and magnet.

*Fishing at Kenneth P. Lynch Boat Launch,  
Onondaga County*



## Get Offline, Get Outside, Stay Safe! Winter Fire Tower by Nirav Patel

Staying warm during the winter months is essential for preventing hypothermia and frostbite when spending time outdoors. Start with wearing the proper clothing-

layers of non-cotton clothing. Cotton does not wick moisture, which can lead to a dangerous situation in the cold. Stick to blended clothing items and include wool or fleece to help retain heat. Thick socks, mittens or gloves, and a winter hat will help keep extremities warm, but adding waterproof, insulated boots is extremely helpful. A neck gaiter or scarf can help button up



Image by Nirav Patel

those exposed areas, trapping heat and keeping cold air out. As you move through the snow, across the ice, or in the ski tracks, you'll likely warm up, so have a place to store those extra layers. Hand and toe warmers, a thermos with a warm beverage, and an extra change of clothes in a dry bag are a few more tips to keep you warm and prepared this winter.

## Upcoming Events

### February 14-15: Camp Santanoni Winter Weekend

- Sat, February 14: How to Do It: Learn to Snowshoe at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
  - Wed, February 18: Free Ice Fishing Clinic at Glimmerglass State Park (Otsego County)
  - Wed, February 18: Dark Sky Walk at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
  - Thu, February 19: I BIRD NY: Early Morning Bird Walk at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
  - Sat, February 21: Hot Drinks, Cold Trails at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
  - Sat, February 21: Woods Walk: Winter Wonders at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve & Environmental Education Center
  - Wed, February 25: Intro to Fishing in NYC Library Lesson (Fresh Meadows)
  - February 27-March 1: Adirondack Winter Pride
  - Mon, March 2: Full Moon Walk at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
  - Wed, March 4: Intro to Fishing in NYC Library Lesson (Corona)
  - Mon, March 9: Intro to Fishing in NYC Library Lesson (Bayside)
  - March 14-15: Camp Santanoni Winter Weekend
  - Thu, March 19: Intro to Fishing in NYC Library Lesson (Flushing)
- Advance registration is required, with a \$10 suggested donation.

## Public Input on Draft Policy to Improve Access to Outdoor Recreation for People with Disabilities

### Written Comments Accepted until Monday, March 9;

DEC announced the release of a draft Commissioner Policy to improve access to the outdoors for people with mobility disabilities. The proposed policy guides the use of Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) on DEC-managed lands by consolidating and streamlining several existing DEC policies and procedures and establishes a framework to identify new opportunities for the use of OPDMDs by people with mobility disabilities.

Written comments on the draft policy will be accepted through March 9, 2026. DEC also hosted a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, for those who were interested in learning more. To register to provide comments, visit DEC's website.

For information about DEC's accessible recreation destinations and explore the range of wheelchair-accessible opportunities statewide, including an interactive online map to identify accessible features on DEC lands, visit DEC's website.



Daniel Pierce Library  
Mardi Gras  
Donuts

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pre-  
orders  
Preferred

Donuts available:  
Cinnamon Sugar and Plain  
\$9.00 per dozen

To order:



Call us at 845-985-7233



Place an online order at [danielpiercelibrary.org](http://danielpiercelibrary.org)



Fill out a pre-order form available at the circulation  
desk

Thank You for your continued  
support!

Tri-Valley Elementary School  
"INSPIRE SUCCESS TOGETHER"



GO BEARS!

## Tri-Valley Elementary School



### UPK REGISTRATION

**If you have a child that will be 4  
years old by December 1, 2026 please  
call us at**

**845-985-2296 ext. 5405**

**Or send an email to:**

**[registration@trivalleycsd.org](mailto:registration@trivalleycsd.org)**

**and leave your name, your child's  
name and phone number where you  
can be reached.**



# **Fundraiser for St Judes**

**Sponsored by:  
United Methodist Church of Shady**

# **Penny Social**

# **Sat Feb 28**

# **Snow Date March 1**

**For your convenience:**

**12:00 Kitchen Opens**

**1:00 Tables Open**

**2:00 Calling**

# **Lake Hill Firehouse**

**Rte 212 8 miles West of Woodstock**

**Information: 679 2982**