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# Tri **GOVNSMAN** Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

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GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740

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FIFTY CENTS

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## Legislator Cora Edwards Speaks to Fallsburg Lions Club



Fallsburg Lions Club President Miranda Behan, Sullivan County Legislator Cora Edwards, and Fallsburg Lions Club First Vice President Patricia Gibson. at the January Lions Club of the Town of Fallsburg meeting.

At the dinner meeting of January 17, 2013, the Lions Club of the Town of Fallsburg received an update of important information from Sullivan County Legislator Cora Edwards, who represents part of the Town in her legislative district. Ms. Edwards was excited to share that she recently returned from a meeting accompanied by fellow legislators Ira Steingart and Kitty Vetter with United States Senator Charles Schumer from New York. At the meeting in Orange County, Senator Schumer called on the federal government to ease restrictions and release hundreds of millions of dollars that could help bring broadband (high speed internet) to homes and businesses in Orange and Sullivan Counties. Legislators Edwards, Steingart, and Vetter strongly encouraged the expansion of service to help develop businesses that use Web sites to promote products and services.

The above initiative is but one of several important initiatives that County Legislators are pursuing in the interests of the residents. In her words, "We were elected to make government efficient with our tax dollars." She explained that the Legislature is looking at how all County government departments operate so that the county gets the best value in service for the tax dollar, particularly in the area of external contracts. A lively discussion followed Ms. Edwards's remarks about the cost savings measures, current situation with governance, and issues regarding weather emergencies. The dinner meeting was at Nardi's Frankie and Johnny's Restaurant in Hurleyville.

## Hospital Foundation Installs Giving Tree

The Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation invites the Ellenville/Wawarsing community to become part of the Hospital's newly installed Giving Tree.



The full size bronze and copper tree sculpture by local artist Matt Pozorski will be a permanent, growing installation embracing the main entrance to the hospital. It portrays the uplifting expression of the hospital's direction and productivity that is the hospital's goal and benefit to the region.

The Foundation invites the community to purchase a Leaf, Brass Apple, Silver Apple, Copper Blossom or Bronze Bird, which will be installed on the tree. Special orders are also available and each gift will display the name of the donor.

"Our Giving Tree is unique in that it is 3-dimensional and cast from a real apple tree," said David Eiksza, Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation Board Chairman. "With leaves starting at \$100, it is an affordable and accessible way for the community to support the work of the hospital and the hospital Foundation. We encourage the community to stop the main entrance to the hospital to see the tree. It's beautiful!" he added.

The donation is 100% tax-deductible.

For information on the Giving Tree, please call Debbie Briggs, Executive Director of the Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation at 845 210-3043.

## UC Legislative Committee Summons Urges Repeal of State Gun Law

Ulster County Community College echoed support for the Ulster County Legislative committee who in full agreement, passed a resolution asking for the repeal of most of the state's new gun law.

The resolution carries no legal weight, but is intended to send a message to Albany as to the county legislators' attitude about the new gun restrictions.

Terry Bernado, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislators who spoke at length, commented, "Genocide is almost always preceded by gun confiscation. History tells us that." She continued, "This constitutes a seizure of legally-owned personal property with no clause for compensation."

Bernado emphasized that restricting ammunition magazines from ten to seven bullets will render nearly all semi-automatic weapons useless since gun manufacturers won't make lower capacity magazines solely for New Yorkers.

Rich Vizzini of Hurley commented, "Basically, we're being endangered or made into criminals." Vizzini has begun organizing a gun rights rally set for February 28th in Albany. He strongly stated, "Our Second Amendment rights are being trampled on."

One of the resolutions states, "This (state) legislation effectively turns countless New York State law-abiding gun owners into criminals."

The resolution will be taken up by the entire Ulster County legislature on February 19th who virtually will guarantee its passage.

## Broadway Cabaret Sure-Fire Cure for Cabin Fever



Choreographer, Jackie Horner puts the cast thru its paces

Come out to the Sullivan County Museum the weekend of February 22-24 for the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop's sure-fire cure for Cabin Fever in the form of a Broadway Cabaret. Featuring some of your favorite Broadway tunes sung by many talented singers from in and around the County, the Cabaret is directed by Richard Chiger, with piano accompaniment by Leon Hilfstein and choreography by Jackie Horner. You'll enjoy selections from "Cabaret," "South Pacific," "Chicago," "Les Miserables" and many others favorite shows.

Performers include Timothy Buckley, Richard Chiger, Frank Giorginanni, Terri Hall, Lawrence Myers, Teri Paris, Ellen Pavloff, Mekayla Perneszi, Chelsea Riegel and Grace Strauss. Admission is \$10 and includes homemade desserts, coffee, tea or hot chocolate served during Intermission. (Contd. Pg. 9)



## YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR

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NEVERSINK NOTES - Hulda Vernooy

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

RESERVOIR MUSIC - Fred Perry

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH NATURE - Peggy DeWire

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

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

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**All inserts/flyers must be pre-paid.** Please send the correct amount of money along with **1,500 copies** of your flyer. If the insert/flyer is printed only on one side, the rate is \$40.00 per week. If the insert/flyer is printed on both sides, the rate is \$60.00 per week. The customer must provide the correct number of pre-printed flyers. If you wish *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* to print the flyers the charge for a one-sided flyer based on **1,500 copies (white paper)** \$95.00; (color paper) \$125.00. If both sides of the flyer are to be printed the charge based on **1,500 copies (white paper)** \$145.00; (color paper) \$175.00.

**Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

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

Have a question- please call: Linda Comando (845) 985-0501.

As always, thank you for your support.

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman

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**ON THE FRONT BURNER:** When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord hear our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.  
Deuteronomy 26:6-7

## THANK YOU

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you everyone for the flowers, cards and phone calls.

Your kindness and respect have been greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the Grahamsville Fire Department, Ladies Auxiliary, Grahamsville First Aid Squad and Reverend Kerstan.

Gratefully,

The Family of Virgil Edwards

## Days of Yore... ...Today's History

**February 18, 1953** - Negotiations for the sale of the Harold Dierfelter farm on Thunder Hill have been completed and Mr. and Mrs. John McKenna and sons, the new owners, will move in at once. Mr. and Mrs. Otis Sheeley lived there for many years until Mr. Sheeley's retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Robinson of Rocky Hill are the proud parents of an 8 lb. boy, Gary Ronald born February 11th at the Hamilton Avenue Hospital in Monticello. Gary has two brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur DuBois and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Robinson are the baby's grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Erts are the proud parents of a daughter, born February 12th at the Benedictine Hospital in Kingston. Mr. and Mrs. George Erts of Denning are the baby's paternal grandparents.

Sixteen friends gathered at the home of Miss Marilyn Mickelson to celebrate her eighteenth birthday Saturday night. The guests enjoyed round and square dancing and they watched television. Sharing the birthday spotlight with the Mickelson family was Raymond who celebrated his 13th birthday on Monday.

**February 20, 1963** - The State Education Department announced today the county lists containing the names of 16,242 winners of regents scholarships. Among the recipients are TVCS seniors Miss Susan Shaut and Miss Elizabeth Spann.

Work will begin on Friday, February 22nd on the building that was donated to the Grahamsville First Aid Squad by the contractor at Lows Corners. The building, which will eventually house the ambulance and equipment of the First Aid Squad, must be torn down immediately to make way for the landscaping at the outlet works. The lumber will be stored on the Cliff Slater farm until the Squad finds a permanent location.

**February 14, 1973** - Karen Van Aken, a sophomore at the State University College at Cortland, has been named to the Dean's List. Miss Van Aken is majoring in Sociology and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Van Aken.

Leonard Houghtaling, 80, a retired carpenter, died Thursday at Liberty Community General Hospital after a long illness. He lived in Parksville. Mr. Houghtaling was born May 13, 1882 in Willowemoc on Elias and Mary Wood Houghtaling. He married Ada Anderson on Sept. 27, 1945 and was a member of the Liberty American Legion Post and a veteran of World War I. Survivors include his widow; a stepson, Stewart Decker of Claryville; a sister, Mrs. Clara Bedford; two brothers, Chester of Willowemoc and Oscar of Claryville.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hartman of Woodbourne have announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary to Roy Garber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Garber of Liberty. Wedding plans are incomplete.

**February 17, 1983** - Congratulations to Wendy Krom of Grahamsville and Joann Oliver of Sundown who were nominated for admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy by Congressman Matt McHugh.

Did you know that the Roosevelt Administration's original plan was to issue dog tags to all social security recipients. The Hearst newspapers complained that it military regimentation. The dog tag idea was dropped and cards were substituted. The original Social Security Act was signed into law on August 14, 1935. Back in 1795, Thomas Paine issued a pamphlet calling for pensions for anyone over 50.

## St. Paul's Celebrates Lunar Year of Snake



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Narrowsburg was treated to a festive Chinese lunch after church service on February 10th - the first day of the lunar new year. For celebrative purposes, the lunar calendar is utilized by Asian cultures such as the Chinese and Vietnamese.

In 12-year cycles, each year is assigned an animal and those born in the year of the snake are said to be intelligent and quick-thinking. Jason and Jenny (pictured), two members of the Sunday School, are the children of the Lin Family, the proprietors of China King Restaurant in Narrowsburg. The meal of special fried rice, lo mein, chicken/broccoli, General Tso's chicken, sweet & sour chicken was enjoyed by the chilly parishioners who worshiped with their coats on due to a furnace malfunction. The Sunday School sang during the service and then gave out special Valentine's gifts to the congregation. The heat returned in time for the special meal celebration. St. Paul's has been in the neighborhood since 1869, and is a member of the Catskill Area Lutheran Churches.

## Ukrainian Pysanky Egg Decorating Workshop in Ellenville

ArtsWAVE announces a great workshop coming in March; Ukrainian Pysanky Egg Decorating. This was a very popular class last year and with class size limited we encourage you to sign up soon!

In case you would like to know more about Pysanky here is a bit about it and what the class will entail.

The art of Pysanky or decorated Easter eggs in Ukraine dates back to ancient times.

A pysanka (the word is a derivative of "to write") is made by first hollowing out the egg through a small pinhole. A Kitska, or hot wax pen, is then used to write designs on the egg in beeswax. The egg is then dipped in various dyes, alternating with more wax writing on the shell.

Pysanky are highly symbolic, incorporating both Christian symbols, traditional symbols and nature symbols such as the sun, flowers and animals. The designs are elaborate and fun to create. The eggs a traditional symbol of hope and renewal.

This would be a fun thing to come and explore with your kids!

Be sure to sign up for this workshop that will be held on

Thursday, March 28, 2013 1:00-4:00 PM at the ArtsWAVE Center, 12 Market St., Ellenville, NY

For adults and children ages 10 and up Materials fee includes supplies to take home

Kids \$10/Adults \$15

Class size limited

To register : email: [class@artswave.org](mailto:class@artswave.org) or call: 845.443.5319



**A Round About Tri-Valley**

- Carol Furman

250 Boy Scouts tested their survival skills and teamwork on Saturday, February 2nd at the Klondike Derby held at Thunderview Farms in Grahamsville. Congratulations to Troop 97 of Neversink's Border Patrol for their first place finish.

Happy birthday to Wayne Elberth of Neversink who will turn 80 on February 16th, and to Don Erath of Grahamsville who will be 93 on February 19th. Jack Benny, the famous comedian, once said that "age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter". Enjoy your birthdays, Wayne and Don!

Paul Lounsbury seems to be doing very well following heart surgery. He is now in rehab. Prayer does seem to work!

The Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster County, PA. will be presenting "Noah" from March 9 - November 2, 2013. This past summer I saw "Jonah" and it was wonderful! I plan to see "Noah" the end of March. Plan to see it if you can ~ you won't be sorry!

Thank you to Sally Hill, Polly's daughter-in-law, for giving me a few of Polly's books containing many "words of wisdom" selections and for the additional info on the Flag Exchange Ceremony.

I keep reading in various papers about the "Lowes" Corners bridge being repaired. I wish the NYC Department of Environmental Protection would learn to spell LOWS CORNERS (rhymes with cows) correctly. The area, located on the Sundown Road near the Rondout Reservoir, was named for the LOW family who had a home, raised a family and farmed there for many, many years. Loretta Low Erath was one of their daughters. Years ago, Inez George Gridley even wrote a poem entitled "Breakfast Time At The East Delaware Outlet At Lows Corners".

Professional Story Tellers, Barry and Gerry, did a wonderful job entertaining the young children and their parents at the Daniel Pierce Library programs held on Saturday, February 2nd. Of course, everyone also enjoyed the cookies, juice and coffee served by the Library volunteers following the performances. Thank you to the Daniel Pierce Library for offering these programs!

Have you noticed the new railings that have been installed in front of the Grahamsville Reformed Church?

Reminder: Tri-V'alley's Third Annual Dancing with the Teachers will be held on February 14th, starting at 6:30pm in the High School's Bernstein Theater. All proceeds go to the annual Heart-A-Thon to benefit Catskill Regional Medical Center's Cardiopulmonary Unit. Adults: \$5.00/Students: \$3.00.

Happy Valentine's Day!

**Words of Wisdom:** Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. Thomas Edison

**AARP Driver Safety Program**

AARP Driver Safety Program will be held at the South Fallsburg Community Center, Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg, New York on Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
PLEASE ARRIVE AT 8:45 AM

To Register - Call Sonny Smith at 434-8922 (Leave Message). PLEASE CALL AFTER 9:00 AM IN THE MORNING.

Sonny Smith, an AARP- Certified Instructor, will give this course in one full day session, which will consist of a lecture, discussion and video presentations. Participants will receive a certificate which entitles them to apply for a discount on their automobile insurance.

For information, phone Sonny Smith at 434-8922 (Leave Message). PLEASE CALL AFTER 9:00 AM IN THE MORNING.

The fee is \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non-members; make checks payable to AARP, and mail to Sonny Smith. Please enclose your phone number with payment. Classes are limited to 35, so apply early.

This course is instructed by a Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (R&SVP) volunteer and is sponsored by the Sullivan County Office for the Aging.

**Hospital Offers a Free Community Event "Love Your Heart Day"**

Ellenville Regional Hospital invites you to join them for their 13th Annual Love Your Heart Day.

The free festivities will be held on Thursday, February 14th from 10:00am-12:00 noon in the lobby at Ellenville Regional Hospital.

The schedule for the seminars is as follows:  
10:30am: Healthy Eating by Donna Trast, RN, BSN, CPT Certified Diabetes Educator, Family Practice Center of Ellenville

11:00am: Living with Congestive Heart Failure by Keynote Speaker Saeeda Mahmud, Director of Cardiology, Ellenville Regional Hospital

11:30am: Exercises to Keep Your Heart Healthy by Theresa Marcel, Dir. of Physical Medicine & Rehab, Ellenville Regional Hospital

Bring your prescriptions as Supervising Pharmacist Michael Stearns, RPh, will be available from 10:00am-noon to consult with you on your current medications!

The hospital will also be offering health screenings including Blood Pressure, Heart Rate, Blood Oxygen Level, Cholesterol, Glucose, Bone Densitometry and Body Mass Index (BMI), along with healthy snacks and give-a-ways.

All events are being offered free to the public!

For further information about Love Your Heart Day, please contact Debbie Briggs at 845 210-3043.

**Helping Volunteers Learn Sullivan Renaissance Welcomes New Staff to Team**

Sullivan Renaissance has named Diana K. Weiner as horticultural coordinator and Cara Kowalski as volunteer coordinator. Now in its 13th year, the community beautification program is expanding its staff to provide additional gardening and organizing assistance to volunteers in their communities.

The appointments follow a job search begun in December. Weiner started work in January and Kowalski will begin later this month. Each of the new staff members will lead workshops at the Annual Conference, Local Market & Expo on Saturday, March 9. For workshop descriptions and to register, go to [http://www.sullivanrenaissance.org/\\_doc/Annual\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.sullivanrenaissance.org/_doc/Annual_Conference.pdf)

The horticultural coordinator will assist grantees with garden design, help promote the Renaissance Collection, and provide technical assistance and training where needed. She will work closely with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and other partners.

Before joining Sullivan Renaissance, Diana K. Weiner was the restoration and volunteer manager for Friends of High School Park in Elkins Park, PA. Previously she was superintendent of parks and grounds for Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz. She also served as the Master Gardener Coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County for 16 years. She has a degree in agronomy from SUNY Cobleskill and has been a judge for America in Bloom for nine years.

The volunteer coordinator will be responsible for recruiting new volunteers and organizing training for existing volunteers. She will establish a volunteer database and create job descriptions and procedures for the volunteer program.

Most recently, Cara Kowalski has been working for the Head Start Program administered by the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council in Ballston Spa, NY. Previously she was volunteer coordinator at the Northeast Food Pantry in Spokane, WA through AmeriCorps and Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest. She has a degree in geography and sociology from SUNY Geneseo.

"We are pleased to have hired Diana and Cara from a large pool of qualified candidates. We look forward to working with both of them and know they will make valuable contributions to our program as we work to enhance the volunteer experience and target resources more effectively," said Sandra Gerry, who chairs the Sullivan Renaissance Steering Committee. For information, call Sullivan Renaissance at 845-295-2445 or visit [www.sullivanrenaissance.org](http://www.sullivanrenaissance.org).

**A Sunny Sunday in Sundown**



We were quite fortunate that Nemo decided not to get too close to Sundown! Early Saturday morning, the Town Highway Department crew had the roads cleared; great job! Although, we didn't get the snow, or power outages, the chilly 10° Sunday morning was cold enough to create a skim of ice on one of the spring fed Benekills along Peekamoos Road. By Sunday, with the roads clear, the sun shining, Nemo produced another Kodak moment in Sundown!

**Nature Column - L. Comando**

*A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman ladies that we have lost and loved so much... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall and Polly Hill.*

You may find it difficult to believe that spring is right around the corner, especially after Nemo left many of us shoveling out from the storm this past weekend. It has been almost two weeks since Puxatawney Phil made his prediction, and yet temperatures continued to lurk below the freezing level.



It is still February and winter is still quite discernable, but there are signs of spring all around us in the Catskills including the small, furry black animal with white stripes whose arrival is often heralded by the first warmly scented breezes of the year.

This time of the year, during the magical dusky hours a skunk will wake up and romp in the moonlight, looking for a mate and fresh food. Then they return to sleep a little longer until spring finally comes.

A skunk, sometimes called a polecat is best known for its ability to secrete a liquid with a strong, foul odor. The "skunk family" ("Mephitidae") belongs to the order Carnivora. Skunk species vary in size from about 15.6 to 37 in and in weight from about 1.1 lb to 18 lb. They have moderately elongated bodies with relatively short, well-muscled legs, and long front claws for digging. Although the most common fur color is black and white, some skunks are brown or grey, and a few are cream-colored.

Skunks are omnivorous, eating both plant and animal material and changing their diets as the seasons change. They eat insects and larvae, earthworms, grubs, small rodents, lizards, salamanders, frogs, snakes, birds, moles, and eggs. They also commonly eat berries, roots, leaves, grasses, fungi, and nuts. And of course, many of us know that they like rummaging through our garbage pails. Less often, skunks may be found acting as scavengers, eating bird and rodent carcasses left by cats or other animals. Skunks commonly dig holes in lawns in search of grubs and worms.

Although in the Catskills skunks retreat to winter dens, skunks are not true hibernators in the winter. They do den up for extended periods of time, and generally remain inactive and feed rarely, going through a dormant stage. Over winter, as many as 12 females huddle together in one den that they use year after year. The males often den alone and are likely to be active aboveground, especially during the mating season. Striped skunks mate in February. Skunks are a polygamous species, meaning males usually mate with more than one female.

Before giving birth, around May, the female will excavate a den which is often in a woodchuck burrow, to house her litter of four to seven kits. The young kits are blind, deaf, and covered in a soft layer of fur. About three weeks after birth, their eyes open. The kits are weaned around two months after birth, but generally stay with their mother until they are ready to mate, when they are a year old.

The most notorious feature of skunks is their ability to ward off potential enemies, including bear, with a highly offensive odor. The spray can cause irritation and even temporary blindness, and is sufficiently powerful to be detected by a human nose up to a mile down wind.

Like the more glamorous members of the weasel family (mink, otter, fisher and marten), the skunk also has glossy and durable fur that can be dyed uniformly black for exquisite garment trimming. The skunk lives in a variety of habitats but prefers open areas. Residential areas that have both lawns and large shade trees often provide an optimal habitat for skunks.

The striped skunk has been protected under the Environmental Conservation Law since the late 1800s when the pelts of the striped skunk were more valuable than they are in the current fur market. Current regulations allow only a limited, open harvest season. This type of regulatory protection has been successful and the striped skunk is abundant in New York and its populations are secure.

Skunk musk is still important to the perfume industry. This Valentine's Day, if you are the giver or receiver of a gift of fine perfume, remember the little furry animal whose scent may have helped to add to the value of the gift, and is surely a sign of spring!

**Household Hints**

**Vinegar for your dog!**

Remove skunk odor from a dog. Rub fur with full strength vinegar; rinse.

Keep away fleas and mange. Add a little vinegar to your pet's drinking water.



**Mysterious Book Report No. 84** by John Dwaine McKenna



I swore I'd never do it again. Took the pledge and promised that was it, I'd never touch the stuff again and I meant it. I really did. But then, over time my resolve weakened. Things happened. Life, with all of its trials and tribulations, intervened. Day-by-day I felt myself slipping . . . finally I could stand it no more. I gave in to my craving and pure animal lust took over. I was powerless, washed away in a flood of self-loathing and pity, as I gave in to my reptilian sub-conscious. And . . . I'm almost ashamed to admit it . . . I read another vampire novel. *The Twelve*, (Ballentine Books, \$28.00, 568 pages, ISBN 978-0-345-50498) by Justin Cronin is the second of his epic vampire trilogy which began with last year's massive tome: *The Passage* and lest there's confusion, these aren't touchy, feel-good, *I only drink artificial blood and fall in love with moonstruck teeny-bopper vampires*. Nope. These undead ones are the real deal; the bite your head off and kill-you-dead vampires. They've run amok and have so decimated the world that now, 100 years after the catastrophe caused by an out of control government program, the vampires are dying off because there aren't enough humans left to feed them. This novel is action-packed from start to finish, and has a cast of characters worthy of a Fyodor Dostoyevsky novel. Fortunately, for those who choose to read it, the author has provided a list of characters at the back of the book to help you keep track of who is who. It's there, I think, because the story plays out in the points-of-view of various characters in a random order that I found it hard to keep interest in. Fortunately, Mr. Cronin brings all the different elements together for the last half of the book. The action picks up to a white-hot pace that keeps the reader face down in the pages, racing to the stunning conclusion. An ending which neatly lays the groundwork for the last of the trilogy in another year or so. I'll be ready for another vampire story by then. I'm sure it, like the first two, will be another blockbuster.

If you'll stop in at your local library there's shelf after shelf after shelf of blockbusters old and new, in every genre ever written. It's a community resource available without charge . . . but you'll have to get off the couch and go. "Read or surrender to ignorance," as Confucius said. You'll wonder what took you so long after you do.

Calling all you gamers, and geeks, aficionados and computer users everywhere. Check out our websites: johndwainemckenna.com and rhyolitepress.com That's where you can leave comments, ask questions, criticize, share recipes and gossip; you can find all eighty-four Mysterious Book Reports indexed by month and year; biographical news and information; books, t-shirts and gifts for sale; reading lists and best books of the year. There's a calendar of upcoming events: book signings, lectures and author events as well as the latest publishing news, where you'll be the first to know about the newest and next books from Rhyolite Press. Signed copies of *The Neversink Chronicles* are available at Cannie D's Corner Store, in Neversink, the Time and the Valleys Museum Store in Grahamsville and Peter's Market in Napanoch. *The Neversink Chronicles* and our newest, *The Whim-Wham Man* are available at bookstores everywhere, Amazon, as an eBook or at: Rhyolite Press, LLC, P.O. Box 2406, Colorado Springs, Co 80901

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**Lions Clubs International Mission and History** -By Esta Jacob,

Special Director, Tri-Valley Lions Club

This is the first in a series of articles that will familiarize the readers of *The Townsman* with its local Tri-Valley Lions Club, and the purpose of its foundation back in 1977. But, before we get specific about our individual Tri-Valley Lions Club, we thought it would be a good idea to discuss Lions Club International (the parent group), how it started and its mission.

In 1917, Melvin Jones, a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. Jones' group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed.

After contacting similar groups around the United States, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The new group took the name of one of the invited groups, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of that year. A constitution, by-laws, objects and a code of ethics were approved.

Within three years, Lions became an international organization. Since then, the group has earned high marks for both integrity and transparency. It is a well-run organization with a steady vision, a clear mission, and a long - and proud - history.

**Vision Statement**

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

**Mission Statement**

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

**Lions International Purposes**

- **To Organize**, charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs.
- **To Coordinate** the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.
- **To Create** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- **To Promote** the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- **To Take** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- **To Unite** the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- **To Provide** a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- **To Encourage** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

**Lions Code of Ethics**

- **To Show** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
- **To Seek** success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
- **To Remember** that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
- **Whenever** a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.
- **To Hold** friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
- **Always** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.
- **To Aid** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- **To Be Careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

Our next article will discuss Lions International History, and subsequent articles will discuss the formation of the Tri-Valley Lions Club in 1977, with Don TerBush icon of our area as its First President, and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club founded in 1979, with my mother Sylvia Rubenstein (TerBush) as its first President.

Please remember that our annual Tri-Valley Lions Journey For Sight Walk will take place on Saturday, May 4th, 2013 with 8:30am registration at the Grahamsville First Aid Squad Building followed by a 2.5 mile walk around The Fairgrounds starting promptly at 9am. Refreshments will be served before and after the Walk at the First Aid Squad Building. Also, Lions Tag Day will also be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013 with checkpoints in Grahamsville, Claryville Road, and Route 55 by Cannie D's. This year's walk is in honor of Lion Don TerBush, who left us on July 16, 2012, as well as the many fine Lions and Lioness' who helped to serve our community and have also departed. It is a wonderful walk, terrific camaraderie, all donations go straight into our charity account to help others, and we hope you will join us.

**Allan Scott of Sullivan County IDA to speak at Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce Winter Mixer 2013**

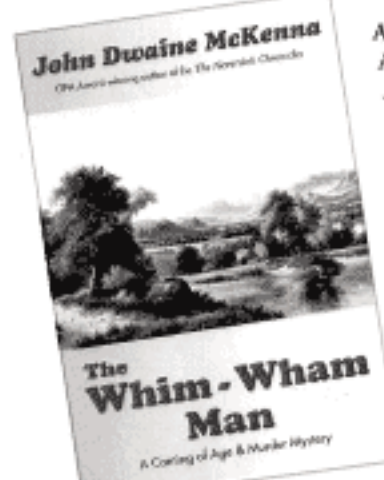
The Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce proudly presents its Winter Mixer 2013 to be held on Thursday, February 21st at 5:30 pm at Cracolici's on the Green. With several new businesses opening and other recent developments in Liberty, this is a perfect time to join us and learn what's new!

Allan Scott, CEO of the IDA (Sullivan Industrial Development Agency) will be the Special Guest Speaker. Topics include, IDA project funding, current projects underway, future plans, small business grants & loans, business funding and more.

All are welcome to attend. This will be a fun and informative evening, as well as a great opportunity to mingle with other area businesses. There will be a table available where you can showcase your business with business cards and brochures.

Admission includes buffet dinner, dessert and coffee. Liberty Chamber members: \$15.00 per person, non-members: \$20.00 per person. Cracolici's on the Green, 2514 Route 52, Liberty, NY.

RSVP's are appreciated by Mon., Feb. 18th. For more information on this upcoming mixer, to join, or to volunteer, please contact us at the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce by phone at 845-292-9797 or email GreaterLibertyChamber@yahoo.com. Find us online at www.LibertyChamber.org and Facebook at Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce.



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## The Olive Jar - Carol LaMonda

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"M'am, for just \$.79 you can supersize that with larger fries and a larger soda." We are becoming a society of excesses. Certainly, if you glance around the mall, you will see more of us who look like we have already supersized ourselves.

The language of enormity has pervaded our culture. No longer do we have small, medium and large. We go beyond large to extra large and jumbo. More, we have told, is better. We desire that extra "now 40% more" that advertisers have used to lure us to purchase more than we need. I just heard a frightening statistic that the average family wastes, and throws away, more than 40% of its food. Leftovers have gotten a bad rap. I remember how dinners on Sunday became stew on Monday and soup on Tuesday.

Home television screens now approach the dimension of the movie screen we used to watch at the Phoenicia Theater where seats were backseats of junked cars and darkout shades were heavy-duty garbage bags. I remember watching "All the President's Men" there.

We have moved from double to king-sized beds. Sectional sofas are designed for auditoriums, not my living room. Clothing comes in plus, big man and goddess sizes. We want more, more and then more.

The jargon of advertising has now invaded the weather forecasts. Superstorm Sandy, Hundred-year flood Irene, drought of the century, and now Mega-blizzard Nemo all fell within a year and a half. Imagine what is to come and what it will be called.

At this moment I am regretting that we built an expansive deck. Eleven hundred square feet is simple grand in the summer, but it collects a "humungous" amount of snow that needs to be shoveled now.

It was Henry David Thoreau who advised us "to keep our accounts on a thumbnail." Today he would say it this way, "M'am, may I undersize that for you?"



### RESERVOIR MUSIC NOTES-

Fred Perry-Owner of Reservoir Music Center • 711 Route 28, Kingston, NY 12401

You know, it's not always easy to write this column. I usually wait until Sunday night so I can write about the weekend's shows, and sometimes I'm tired by then. Sometimes I just plain don't feel like writing cause I've got too much on my mind, and my head is spinning! Tonight is one of those nights, but I'm gonna do my best to tell you something you don't know, and then hit the hay!

Well, the GRAMMYS were tonight, and there was a lovely tribute to Levon. Led by Elton John on piano, Mumford and Sons, Mavis Staples, T-Bone Burnett, and Alabama Shakes' vocalist Brittany Howard traded verses on "The Weight", Helm's signature closer.

There was also a Bob Marley tribute that featured Sting, Rihanna, Bruno Mars, and Ziggy and Damian Marley performing the Marley classic, "Could You Be Loved".

David Bowie has a new album coming out next month, his first in a decade! Titled "The Next Day", the album features local residents, Gail Ann Dorsey, Tony Levin, and Earl Slick, amongst others. Bowie has been working on the record in secret for over two years!

March also sees the premier of the HBO movie "Phil Spector", starring Al Pacino as the troubled genius. Focusing mostly on his trial and conviction for murder, the film premieres on HBO on March 24. You can see the trailer here:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/movies/videos/al-pacino-radiates-intensity-in-phil-spector-trailer-20130205>

Alright, that's enough news for this week. Here's a few shows to keep you entertained until next week.

Thursday, February 14 - The only show in town for Valentine's Day is guitar god, ALBERT LEE, at The Egg in Albany.

Friday, February 15 - Ramble veteran and Levon Helm favorite, CHRIS BERGSON, pulls into The Bearsville Theater tonight with a band of musicians all associated with Helm, so you know it's gonna be good! But if you had any doubts, know this - Bergson's 2008 release was named #1 Blues CD of the Year by Mojo magazine, the most intelligent and thorough music magazine on the planet! And his 2011 release was named #2 for the year by Mojo! I think you probably wanna go to this! More info at <http://www.bearsvilletheater.com/events-calendar/chris-bergson-band-friday-february-15-2013>.

If your in the city, Woodstock's own young guitar-slinger, CONNOR KENNEDY is at The Rodeo Bar.

Saturday, February 16 - A really cool band from the 80's, SOUL ASYLUM, returns to The Bowery Ballroom in Manhattan tonight. They had a hit with "Runaway Train", remember?

Alright, that at least gets you through the weekend. Yer on yer own till Wednesday. Have a good 'un!

### The Season for Love

When we hear the date February 14th we most likely think of candy, flowers, or even love. For years St. Valentine's Day has been a widely celebrated holiday in America and Europe. Today it is celebrated around the globe. With love in mind, on this day we've grown accustomed to exchanging gifts and spending time with that special someone.

Although St. Valentine's Day has been celebrated for centuries, many of us may be unaware of the origins of this holiday. So when did Valentine's Day start? Who is St. Valentine's? Why do we exchange gifts?

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is the story that is not focused on Eros (passionate love) but rather on agape (Christian love). This St. Valentine was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. According to scholars, it was Chaucer who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance in his known works, Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine.

In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked: "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate."

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. The tradition of Valentine's cards did not become widespread in the United States, however, until the 1850s, when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing them. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines, most of which still embrace the phrase, "from your Valentine".

Have a Happy and Loving Valentine's Day!

### Pine Hill Community Center February/March Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 17, 2013 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Catskill Mountains Acoustic Slow Jam

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Thursday, February 21, 4-6 pm. Pine Hill Community Center Storytellers Circle. This new group invites all who have a tale to tell and are interested in the craft of storytelling. We'll meet on the third Thursday of each month to listen and share.

Saturday, February 23, 10:30-noon. Kid Stuff. Free Program for kids ages 6-12. Adults welcome. Wendy Brackman (Wacky Wendy) brings her own inimitable take on cutting paper.

Saturday, March 2, 10:30-noon. Kid Stuff. Free program for kids ages 6-12. Adults welcome. Nat Thomas shares the secrets of successful collage.

Mondays, March 4-April 8. 6 Sessions. 10 am - noon. Food for Thought. A Writers in the Mountains Workshop by Ann Epner.

We all have to eat, but for each of us food has a special meaning - culturally, sociologically, personally. In this informal class, we'll write about food in all its forms and in any genre you choose - personal essay, fiction, short play - whatever, as long as the subject is food. We'll be looking at examples of great food writing and sharing our work in weekly sessions.

You may register for this workshop by calling Jean Stone at 607-326-4802 or emailing her to [jstone@wildblue.net](mailto:jstone@wildblue.net), or by filling out the online registration form at [www.writersinthemountains.org](http://www.writersinthemountains.org). Full and partial scholarships are available, according to need. Go to Register Online page for more information. Fee: \$50 - if you register and prepay by February 11. \$60 - after that. Pine Hill Community Center, (845) 254-5469. [info@pinehillcommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@pinehillcommunitycenter.org).

Saturday, March 9, 10:30am- noon. Kid Stuff. Free program for kids ages 6-12. Adults welcome. Our own Science Guy, Bill Piervincenzi will make the Science of Sound more fun than you can imagine.

Saturday, March 9 Catskills Cabaradio. The Catskills favorite event with an exciting line up of music, interviews, poetry, storytelling and trivia. The evening begins with a pot luck supper at 6:00pm. Then promptly at 7:00, house lights dim and the broadcast begins. A Prairie Home Companion meets David Letterman meets Hee Haw extravaganza not to be missed, but if you must tune in live at [www.wioxradio.org](http://www.wioxradio.org) or 91.3 FM WIOX in Roxbury.

Saturday, March 16, 10:30am-noon. Kid Stuff. Free program for kids ages 6-12. Adults welcome. Bill Piervincenzi, our own Science Guy makes the Science of Sound hilarious.

The Pine Hill Community Center is located at: 287 Main Street; Pine Hill, NY 12465 - 845.254.5469; [info@pinehillcommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@pinehillcommunitycenter.org) or visit their website at [www.pinehillcommunitycenter.org](http://www.pinehillcommunitycenter.org)



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... 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. As summer approaches, the story of a carefree vacation in the Catskills should be added to your summer "must-read" list. The memoir 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 [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*

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**County Executive Mike Hein Requests Nominations for UC Senior of the Year**  
Kingston, NY - Every year, the Ulster County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, together with County Executive Mike Hein and his Office for the Aging Director Anne Cardinale selects two extraordinary seniors as "Senior of the Year." The County Executive is seeking citizens who have made significant contributions to enhance the lives of seniors within their community.

"Seniors are such an integral part of our community and their positive impacts are felt in such diverse ways," said County Executive Hein. "Each year we recognize two extraordinary people who stand out among their peers. I look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful senior citizens that make Ulster County such a special place to live."

The two age categories for the "Senior of the Year" award are (1) age 60 to 74; and (2) age 75 and older. Nominations are welcome from anyone and must be submitted by April 1, 2013.

If you know anyone who deserves this recognition, please describe his/her accomplishment and/or contributions concisely and completely in

one page or less. Include the nominee's address, phone number and age, as well as your own contact information and submit to: Ulster County Office for the Aging, 1003 Development Court, Kingston, NY 12401. Please call the Office for the Aging with any questions at: (845)-340-3456 or toll free 1-877-914-3456.

**Meeting of Long Term Care Council**  
The Long Term Care Council is the advisory board for SULLIVAN NYCONNECTS, the single Point of Entry for information on long term

care services in Sullivan County.

The next meeting of the Long Term Care Council will be Wednesday, February 20, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Legislative Committee Room (2nd floor) in the Sullivan County Government Center.

The Council is currently looking at two issues:  
1) care transition and  
2) transportation for people with disabilities and people under the age of sixty. Meetings of the Long Term Care Council are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

For further information about the Long Term Care Council, please contact Martha Scoppa, Point of Entry Coordinator, SULLIVAN NYCONNECTS, Office for the Aging, 100 North Street, P.O. Box 5012, Monticello, New York 12701 or (845) 807-0257



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**Valentine's Day Dinner**

After hosting a number of recent events and large groups, we've decided to have a relaxed Valentine's Day, and will serve our regular menu, as well as Chicken Fajitas, Steaks, and Shrimp Coconut Soup. Dinner (eaten in) comes with FREE dessert (and you know we make rockin' desserts!). We'll also have Ella Fitzgerald and all her crowd crooning in the background.

This week's specials:  
Wed: Fish & Chips • Thurs: Burgers & Fries (and see above) • Fri & Sat: Fantastic Fish Pie, Burgers & Fries

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**Happily Ever After- Great places for Proposing Marriage in the Hudson Valley**

Ah, romance. The stuff that makes the world go round has couples coming from all over, popping the question at gorgeous sites within the lush landscape of the Hudson Valley. There are so many special places here they've even captured the attention of National Geographic Traveler which named the Hudson Valley one of the hottest spots to visit in 2013. With Valentine's Day around the corner and love in the air, these are a few places to consider for that most poignant question.

Make it a weekend, a getaway for two that will set the stage for a life together. The Gregory House in Averill Park has twelve uniquely themed guest rooms for a cozy rendezvous. Stay in "Touch of Italy" or "Country Getaway," then bask in the glow of a candlelit dinner at the inn's restaurant, La Perla. Authentic Italian cooking with an extensive wine menu will undoubtedly melt the heart of your intended. Maybe you'd like to get engaged and preview a place for your wedding all at the same time. Catlin Gardens in Slate Hill has produced stellar nuptial events for years. They've recently opened a beautiful boutique hotel to compliment their catering space. The Victorian style inn is surrounded by acres of colorful gardens, perfect for that special day, whether engagement or wedding!

Something old, something new; experience both at Albergo Allegria B&B in Windham. Italian for the "Inn of Happiness," this graceful 1892 Victorian has the original stained glass windows and handcrafted woodwork (the old) that compliment the well appointed guestrooms with modern amenities (the new). Wake to the delicious aromas of a hearty gourmet breakfast, then step outside the inn's front door and enjoy a wide variety of all-season activities. When there's not time for a weekend but only an evening to profess your love, bring your intended to Restaurant X in Congers. Sit by the roaring fireplace in the bar before dinner, a romantic setting for any twosome. The stylish restaurant serves American cuisine flavored with international seasonings, all served within an elegant country atmosphere.

The French have a way with love, and anything French is very romantic! Brasserie 292 in Poughkeepsie combines old-world charm with classic brasserie fare. From the black and white tile to the restored tin ceiling, the feeling is both familiar and charming. Their delicious dishes combine local ingredients with traditional cookery to create an exceptional experience. It's just what's needed to win a heart.

Adventurous proposers who prefer the outdoors to profess their love can carve figure eights or even hearts into the ice at the Empire State Plaza Ice Rink in Albany. Hold hands under the stars as you glide around the rink with the glow of the city as a backdrop. Pause for a moment, drop down on one knee amid the icy sparkle, and ask

that all important question! For a real high, take the trail up Breakneck Ridge in Cold Spring. The first peak of the mountain, marked by an American flag, sits nearly one thousand feet above the Hudson River and offers scenic views of Storm King Mountain and the villages that lie below. Take in the breathtaking sight, catch your breath, and then ask for your lover's hand in marriage.

Beautiful panoramas have always inspired Cupid. Among them is the landscape at Olana in Hudson looking almost exactly as it did in the 1800's when artist Frederic Church created it. The grassy stepped terrace beneath the house is your viewing platform. Like a symphony, the land falls away at one's feet, the Hudson River bends deeply stretching off toward infinity, and the Catskill Mountains rise up from the south with their majestic peaks. The glory of this visual composition will bring music to your beloved's ears when you ask them to marry you. Historic homes maintain their popularity with lovers, perhaps because many a mansion was built for newlyweds. RiverWalk in Tarrytown winds through the grounds of Lyndhurst, an 1838 gothic Revival mansion overlooking the Hudson River. The esplanade offers views of the river and the Palisades stretching to the Manhattan skyline. In this dramatic setting, who would dare say no?

Call us old fashioned, but few places are more romantic than a covered bridge. The bucolic setting, the privacy to steal a kiss, all make for a perfect spot to ask for someone's hand on a starry, moonlit night. Perrine's Bridge outside of New Paltz is a fully restored 1844 enclosed bridge, a 154-foot single span on the Wallkill River next to a lovely park. Closed to vehicular traffic, the bridge is lit inside so you can gaze lovingly at each other when the answer is YES!

Plan the excitement of "Will you marry me?" at a special location in the Hudson Valley. Make it memorable with a weekend getaway, a cozy fireside dinner, a scenic spot. Everyone remembers the day they said "I will." Marriage proposals made in the Hudson Valley turn "Marry me?" into "I do."

Additional information can be obtained from the Hudson Valley Tourism web site at www.travelhudsonvalley.com. On the go, tap into http://travelhv.mobi from your cell phone.

**NYSERDA Awards Green Jobs-Green NY Funding for Building-Science 'Lab House' at SUNY Ulster- Project Will Expand Hands-On Energy-Efficiency Training, YouthBuild Members to Participate in Construction**

The New York State Energy Research and

Development Authority (NYSERDA) today announced a \$205,000 award funded through New York State's Green Jobs-Green New York to Integral Building Design Inc. of New Paltz. Integral Building Design is partnering with SUNY Ulster to turn Kelder House, one of its original campus buildings, into a state-of-the-art energy efficiency building-science "lab house" training facility.

The facility will be called the Kelder Science Lab and Test House. Located on the Stone Ridge Campus, it will be used for hands-on energy efficiency training by the Hudson Valley's five-college Clean Energy Technology Training (CETT) Consortium, which includes Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan county community colleges. The consortium has been active in developing training programs in clean energy technologies and energy efficiency with support from NYSERDA.

Building-science lab houses, also known as pressure houses, are built and outfitted so the entire house becomes a building-science laboratory, demonstrating energy loss issues and other problems faced by those working in energy efficiency fields.

This lab house is one of five such facilities being developed across New York State with NYSERDA funding to increase regional access to hands-on field training and testing facilities that prepare energy-efficiency workers for certifications. The other NYSERDA-funded lab houses are located in Queens, Schenectady, Plattsburgh and Long Island.

The Kelder building was the original farmhouse on the apple orchard donated to Ulster County in 1964 for creation of the community college. A two-story addition was built in the 1970s, so the combined space could be used as a conference center. The building has most recently been used for storage.

"The development of an energy-efficiency training lab house is central to SUNY Ulster's mission. This project is in keeping with the College's vision to provide accessible, relevant programs to our community. To do so in such a sustainably focused way allows SUNY Ulster to continue to be a leader in energy-efficiency training," said Dr. Donald Katt, President of SUNY Ulster.

"This project will enable the community college consortium to dramatically expand training for jobs in building sciences and energy efficiency," said Francis J. Murray Jr., President and CEO, NYSERDA. "Contractors have told us overwhelmingly that job applicants with hands-on work experience are the most attractive job candidates. This lab house will meet that need by providing learning in a real-life environment. It is the type of innovative project that supports the Next Generation Job Linkage Program that Governor Cuomo announced in his 2013 State-of-the-State address, which calls for linkages between community colleges and employers."

Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification courses, field training on air leakage and duct testing, and field testing will take place in the Kelder House addition. Once completed, this facility will be a valuable resource in training and educating building professionals throughout the region. Beyond energy efficiency, students and seasoned professionals alike will have opportunities to gain experience and expertise in a wide range of sustainable building practices. Many of the trainings will focus on how to improve existing buildings, with special attention to the problems found in older homes, including issues related to high energy usage, moisture damage, improper ventilation, draftiness and poor indoor air-quality.

Integral Building Design Inc., in partnership with SUNY Ulster Community College, Ulster YouthBuild and other project sponsors, is investing approximately \$313,000 of in-kind support into the project.

Ulster YouthBuild members will provide labor to retrofit the original house and will receive a Basics of Building Science course at no cost. This introductory course will expand the education of YouthBuild participants in the field of energy efficiency, building performance and energy auditing, and can lead to BPI certification. YouthBuild is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive job training, educational, leadership development and community development for out-of-school, low-income young adults between 16 and 24.

The lab house will enable SUNY Ulster and its partners to increase the number of students trained by more than threefold to 300 in 2014 and to add advanced and continuing education





building-science courses for professionals certified by BPI.

Previous NYSERDA funding for SUNY Ulster included \$616,786 for energy efficiency and renewable energy equipment, and \$225,000 for curriculum development in energy efficiency and clean energy technology.

**Veterans Outreach Day Set for February 20th**

Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless will be hosting the 2013 Sullivan County Veterans Outreach/Pantry Day on Wednesday, February 20th, from 1:30pm-3pm. This will be a coordinated effort between the Federation, the Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency, the Committee for the Families of War Vets and the Healthcare for Homeless Vets Outreach Program(HHVOP) from the Hudson Valley VA. The event is free and open to all veterans and active duty military personnel living in Sullivan County.

"This event is really about connecting with all vets in the county, but especially those who may not be aware of the resources that are out there to help them" says John Crotty, director of the SC Veterans Service Agency.

Chrissy Schiff of the Committee for the Families of War Vets added "These men and women have given of themselves to support this country, and we want them to know we are there to support them." There will be representatives on hand from all the collaborating agencies, and the Federation will be holding a special veterans food pantry (veterans ID required to participate). HHVOP outreach coordinator Lisa Curcio will be bringing a mobile unit as well as additional food being donated from the Vets Volunteer Food Pantry located in Montrose, NY.

For more information or to find out how to participate in this event, please call Kathy at (845) 794-2604.

**Viewing Party TEDx Manhattan "Changing the Way We Eat" February 16, 2013**

Interested in 'Changing the Way We Eat'? Everyone is welcome to attend a free viewing of the TEDx Manhattan Webinar on Saturday, February 16, 2013. TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) is a set of conferences presented globally, with the purpose of sharing "ideas worth spreading". TEDx Manhattan is an independent event in the style of TED, which will be focused on creating a shift toward a more sustainable way of eating, farming, and growing our local communities and food systems.

The viewing will be held from 10:00 am - 5:30 pm at the Catskill Art Society, 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor, New York. Over 16 prominent speakers are scheduled to participate in this annual webinar organized by The Glynwood Institute for Sustainable Food & Farming, which will also include videos on the current sustainable food movement. The talks will be streamed live throughout the day over the Internet and viewed on a large screen in the Catskill Art Society.

The event is hosted by Catskill Mountainkeeper, NOFA-NY Catskill-Hudson Region, and the Slow Food Upper Delaware Chapter. The day will also include discussion, locally-sourced snacks, door prizes, a seed swap, and exhibits and presentations from local farmers, food businesses, and advocacy organizations. Some key areas of focus for the talks are: information, education and empowerment. Attendees are welcome to drop in or stay all day.

**Controlling the Cost of Mandates Falls to State Lawmakers**

By Dave Lucas, NYSAC Director of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

What is a Mandate?

Unfunded mandates come in many forms, and occur when the State or federal government directs a county to:

- Implement a program or provide a service created and defined by the State or the federal government,
- Meet an environmental or labor standard,
- Maintain a certain level of financial effort for a particular service, or
- Construct/retrofit/expand a facility (under required State prevailing wage and contracting standards).

A mandate usually requires a county to strictly adhere to rules set by the State, which define the scope, eligibility, frequency of service, amount of benefits, etc. Counties have virtually no ability to control the cost of these State mandates.

State mandates impact county property taxes

Mandates are usually born from good intentions, but once it is realized that a "good intention" may be more expensive than the State can afford on its own, there is often a quick legislative pivot and counties are ordered to help pay for the new or expanded State program.

County leaders believe local revenues should be raised to help finance local services, like programs for the poor and elderly, parks and recreational facilities, public safety, public health services, maintaining local roads and bridges, providing clean drinking water, and promoting economic development and local tourism.

Unfortunately, over many decades, State leaders have required counties in New York to finance and often administer statewide programs. Counties refer to these edicts as "state unfunded mandates."

Today, counties in New York are required under State law to pay for more than 40 State mandated programs using local tax dollars. In turn, these legislative mandates can be accompanied by dozens or even hundreds of pages of regulations and rules-all of which can drive local costs higher.

**A roadmap to mandate relief**

With the Roadmap to Mandate Relief report, published in November 2012, NYSAC's objective was to narrow down the scores of mandate relief ideas put forth by NYSAC's member counties into rational, actionable proposals that State lawmakers and the Mandate Relief Council can embrace and implement. This report identifies major mandates under several key program areas, and offers legislative or regulatory solutions to each mandate in order to lighten the burden on the homeowners and businesses that pay county property taxes. The report and

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supporting materials are available for download at [www.NYSAC.org](http://www.NYSAC.org).

As always, our county leaders stand ready to work with our State governmental partners to maintain and bolster the quality of life for all of New York State's residents.

**Broadway Cabaret Sure-Fire Cure for Cabin Fever** (From Pg. 1)



Frank Giorgianni and Ellen Pavloff share a Broadway moment

Performances will be at the Sullivan County Museum, 265 Main Street in Hurleyville on Friday, February 22nd and Saturday, February 23rd at 8 pm and Sunday, February 24th at 2 pm. So don't give in to cabin fever - come warm up with an evening or afternoon of Broadway melodies.

For information, phone (845) 807-8253 or log on to [www.scdw.net](http://www.scdw.net)

**SUNY Sullivan Announces Met Opera: Live in HD March Broadcasts: Wagner's Parsifal & Zandonai's Francesca da Rimini**

SUNY Sullivan's Met Opera: Live in HD series continues into March 2013 with two simulcasts showing in the college's state of the art Seelig Theater - Wagner's Parsifal on March 2, and Zandonai's Francesca da Rimini on March 16. Both simulcasts will begin at 12:00 noon.

Parsifal has an approximate run time of 320 minutes. Jonas Kaufmann makes his Met debut in the titular role of this Francois Girard production conducted by Daniele Gatti.

Says Girard: "Parsifal is not just an opera—it's a mission. At the end of his life, Wagner was trying to reconcile all the aspects of his spirituality. It's a sacred piece in the history of music."

The cast also includes Katarina Dalayman performs the role of Kundry, the mystical woman who tempts Parsifal; Peter Mattei plays Amfortas, king of the Knights of the Holy Grail; René Pape performs as the wise old knight Gurnemanz; and Evgeny Nikitin is the magician Klingsor.

Francesca da Rimini has an approximate run time of 200 minutes. This early 20th-century melodrama is having its first revival at The Met in more than 25 years. Production by Piero Faggioni. Marco Armiliato conducts. The cast features Eva-Maria Westbroek in the title role of a noblewoman who is tricked into marrying the brutal Gianciotto, sung by Mark Delavan, instead of her true love Paolo, sung by Marcello Giordani. Robert Brubaker sings the wicked Malatestino, whose jealousy incites a murder.

Ticket pricing for both presentations is as follows: \$20.00 (Adults); \$10.00 (Children 13 & Under); \$10.00 (Students).

Please join us on the campus of SUNY Sullivan to enjoy this Peabody and Emmy Award winning series. To view the complete season schedule for The Met: Live In HD series, you may visit us online at [www.sunysullivan.edu](http://www.sunysullivan.edu), and search "Met Opera." To order tickets to this opera, or any of the other inspiring cultural events presented to the public by SUNY Sullivan, please call the college box office at (845) 434-5750, extension 4472, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on weekdays.



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

*The following is an open letter to Ulster County Executive Mike Hein from Harry G. Jameson III, the Chairman of the Catskill Mountain Railroad Company.*

Dear Mr. Hein,

I am writing in response to the State of the County Address which you gave last week. We understand that you are still intent upon shutting down the Catskill Mountain Railroad Company's Kingston operations for the plan of creating a hiking trail to the Ashokan Reservoir. The assumption you are making is that rail and trail are incompatible. We disagree. The CMRR will soon be publishing a study of the corridor that will clearly show that rail and trail can share the right-of-way. We wish that you had consulted with us before you launched your campaign to eliminate us, but we assume others gave you incomplete information. We would like to set the record straight.

In your Address you said "we can not get gridlocked in the endless railroad vs. rail trail debate." We agree, because as far as we can see, running a trail alongside the railroad tracks makes sense for both the railroad and the trail enthusiasts. As we have said multiple times, the Catskill Mountain Railroad supports building a trail along side the railroad and by possibly eliminating railroad access to the reservoir, Ulster County will never be able to realize the full positive economic impact the CMRR's tourist trains are capable of providing.

You also said "Simply put, we cannot let more decades pass and more opportunity pass us by, especially when now is the perfect time to act." We also agree. Although the CMRR has had to make do with a lack of County support, with additional funding both the railroad and the trail can be built more quickly.

You next said, "For railroad enthusiasts, I believe in, and will fully support, a tourism based railroad operation in the Phoenicia / Mt. Tremper area." First of all, we are not railroad "enthusiasts". That term is reserved for rail fan photographers, model railroaders, and those guys that mount locomotive horns to their cars. We are the Catskill Mountain Railroad Company Incorporated which was chartered as a railroad corporation in the State of New York and our members are Volunteer Railroad Workers. We are historic preservationists, craftsmen, mechanics, educators, musicians, entrepreneurs, small business owners, welders, realtors, fund managers, mothers, fathers, retirees, all who work under Federal Railroad Administration criteria. We each donate hundreds of hours per year to rebuild and operate a railroad. We also have highly-qualified train crews, with some of our members having gone on to careers as professional railroaders for several other Class 1 freight carriers.

And Finally, you said "But the fact remains, decades are passing, and the tens of millions of dollars needed to build out and operate a fully functional railroad system have not come and will not be coming anytime soon." Here we must set the record straight. Now that FEMA funds have been awarded to Ulster County to rebuild the railroad damage from Hurricane Irene, including the Boiceville trestle, and the CMRR itself has repaired Bridge C9 near Kingston, the hardest part is behind us. The bulk of the work that remains is replacing ties on the 16 miles of track between the bridges. The Adirondack Scenic recently repaired 6 miles of similar track for \$250,000 per mile. At that rate the cost to fully repair the railroad, Kingston to Phoenicia, is \$4 million dollars.

We feel compelled to remind you that the O&W trail from Washington Avenue to Hurley, is 1.78 miles long and budgeted for \$1.235 million in the 2013-2018 Executive Capital Improvement Program (project 334), or will cost nearly \$700,000 per mile. This indicates that it is building the trail, not restoration of the railroad that will cost the "tens of millions of dollars".

Clearly you have heard the benefits of trails, and how they allow spontaneous use of the corridor and make people healthy. But what about the handicapped, the seniors citizens, and young children? Or what happens when it rains or snows? The train will allow all weather, handicapped accessible, and age friendly access when trail use is not feasible. Including the railroad alongside a trail allows the maximum benefits for the public, so that everyone can use the corridor. In other words, keeping the railroad allows for all in the community to enjoy the benefit of the corridor, not just the young and healthy.

Nevertheless, we applaud your efforts to get funding for the trail and believe it will be an enhancement to the corridor. We also applaud your efforts to open up the Ashokan Reservoir to recre-

ational use, as has been done with other reservoirs. Opening up the Ashokan Reservoir will indeed make it a popular destination like the "Walkway over the Hudson". But it will also bring traffic congestion and parking issues all along the Route 28 corridor, unless the railroad is there to help alleviate those problems. People won't walk up from Kingston to West Hurley on the trail - they will just drive to West Hurley and access the reservoir from there.

With repairs to the C9 bridge complete, the CMRR is presently heading west towards the reservoir. With our own funds, we should make it to the reservoir in 3-4 years. With only half of the \$2 million of trail funds you may get from the state, we could be there in one year. Instead, that amount will be only enough to barely get the trail out of Kingston at \$700k per mile. Where will the remaining tens of millions come from to finish the trail?

In 2006, a study of the corridor was done by ALTA engineering. One of its concluding statements was:

"The future vision of the Ulster & Delaware Rail-With-Trail is a significant opportunity for local communities, Ulster County, and the region. The combination of two historic tourist railroads, the trolley and railroad museums, restored historic sites, and a trail for multiple uses will compliment the tourism and recreation economy of the Catskill Mountain Region. The project can become a model of sustainable transportation and cooperation between a wide range of public, private, and nonprofit partners."

We agree with the conclusion of the ALTA study, and believe that we can all work together for what is best for Ulster County. We at the CMRR look forward to making the dream of access to the Ashokan reservoir, with a trail alongside the railroad, a reality. Our report, which we have worked on for the past three months, will show this is more than possible. The rail with trail concept will allow the skilled volunteers of the CMRR to work with the trail enthusiasts and create a truly "World Class" approach to the maximum use of a railroad corridor, and be a model for other trail projects. But removing an existing, growing tourist attraction in Kingston such as the CMRR, without any study, is a poor decision based on misinformation.

We hope that you will read this letter and realize that you have only heard one point of view on the best use of the corridor. You have not fully considered our efforts or our input and it is not easy to reach out to you when you continue to threaten our hard work and visions. I think that once all the facts are presented, that you will see that the CMRR can help make Rail-With-Trail a reality, and needs to be part of the plan to fully benefit Ulster County's future. The Catskill Mountain Railroad Company, Inc. is a grassroots organization that offers Ulster County a Public/Private partnership that can be a model for others to use for getting things done, not only on the trail, but in other areas of Ulster County Government as well.

In Closing, the CMRR looks forward to working with you and the Ulster County Trail Advisory Committee to create a World Class Rail-With-Trail from Kingston to the Ashokan Reservoir for the benefit of everyone.

Harry G. Jameson III  
Chairman, Catskill Mountain Railroad

### **Deadline March 1 to apply for property tax exemptions**

KINGSTON, N.Y. - March 1 is the deadline to submit applications for property tax exemptions to local assessors' offices, whether for the first time or for a renewal. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption for primary residences only, is available to property owners whose combined income is \$500,000 or less. The exemption is not based on age. The basic STAR exemption does not apply to weekend or vacation homes. The property owner must provide proof of residency, and the exemption does not require an annual renewal. An enhanced STAR exemption is available for senior citizens. Applications can be submitted by March 1 of the year one of the property's owners will turn 65. The property must be the primary residence of the owner or owners, whose combined income must be \$79,050 or less, minus IRA distributions. The exemption requires an annual renewal.

Seniors with limited income may be eligible for additional benefits and, depending on their income, may qualify for reduced school, county and/or town taxes. Senior exemptions are also based on age and residency, and all sources of income are calculated to determine the levels of eligibility for each taxing jurisdiction. The assessor must have documentation of all the applicant's sources of income to apply the exemption, which also requires annual renewal. Veterans may also be eligible for exemption benefits and should contact their local assessor's office to see if they qualify. Further information and applications regarding these

and other property tax exemptions are available at your local assessor's office, at the Ulster County Real Property Tax Service Agency, and at the state Office of Real Property Services. Some applications are available on municipal websites, as well as at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov).

### **DEP Announces Completion of Roadwork Projects in Delaware and Ulster Counties**

Additional work planned for 2013 to maintain roadways around reservoirs

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced the completion of work on 10 miles of roadways around City reservoirs in the Catskills. The roads serve as key thoroughfares in the communities where they are located, and as critical infrastructure that allows DEP staff to access reservoirs and protected lands. The roadwork included two projects:

- DEP completed work along 2.2 miles of New York City Highway 30A in the Town of Colchester. This work was done through an intergovernmental agreement with the Delaware County Department of Public Works (DPW). The county DPW performed work that included repaving, guide rail replacement, road striping, and drainage improvements. The work cost \$1 million.

-DEP also made substantial improvements to 7.9 miles of Route 28A east in Ulster County. The stretch of improved roadway runs through the towns of Hurley, Marbletown and Olive. The project included milling and re-laying the existing asphalt with a rejuvenating agent. The process, known as "hot-in-place recycling," allows the road to be rejuvenated without incorporating unnecessary loads of new material. This spring, workers will return to seal and stripe the roadway. The initial phase of work cost \$650,700. Previously in 2012, DEP completed a \$15 million project on a different section of Route 28A. That work included realigning the highway, construction of turning lanes, and drainage improvements. In addition to making roadway improvements, DEP enhanced visibility for drivers by removing trees that obscured views of oncoming vehicles. Additional space was also added along the shoulder of the roadway to improve safety for joggers and cyclists. The Five Pines public access area at Monument Road was also expanded to include more parking near the Olive Bridge Dam and crosswalks were added to enhance safety for pedestrians.

"These road improvements are important to the City and to our neighbors in the watershed," DEP Commissioner Carter Strickland said. "Maintaining a steady schedule of road maintenance ensures that our thoroughfares are safe and passable for all who use them."

In 2012, DEP announced that it would invest \$10 million over the next decade to improve roadways throughout the watershed. DEP maintains and operates 95 miles of roadways in the Catskill and Delaware Watersheds. Because regular road maintenance is a cost-effective and efficient way to maintain infrastructure, DEP plans to continue rehabilitating roads in the watershed in 2013.

DEP plans to enter into a new intergovernmental agreement with Delaware County, which could lead to another 2.2 miles of road improvements on NYC Road No. 4 near the Shavertown Bridge. DEP is also planning roadwork in Schoharie County this year, where it will repave 2.72 miles of Route 990V along the northern perimeter of Schoharie Reservoir. That project is expected to start this summer. The repaving work will keep the road in good condition until the year 2018, when it's scheduled to undergo a more rigorous reconstruction coinciding with the completion of rehabilitation work on Gilboa Dam.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight million in New York City, and residents of Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP employs nearly 6,000 employees, including approximately 750 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the upstate watershed. In addition to its \$68 million payroll and \$153 million in annual taxes paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$1.5 billion in watershed protection programs-including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council-that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with a planned \$13.2 billion in investments over the next 10 years that creates up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nycwater](http://www.facebook.com/nycwater), or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/nycwater](http://www.twitter.com/nycwater).



## County Officials Raise a Unified Voice in Albany

More than 800 county officials from across New York State are in Albany this week for the New York State Association of Counties' Legislative Conference.

During a time when heated political divisiveness often makes headlines, the NYSAC conference is an opportunity for county leaders from diverse regions and backgrounds to come together to discuss the challenges every county faces.

On Monday, members deliberated resolutions regarding the NY SAFE Act, funding for county 9-1-1 communications, public health article 6 reforms, early voting, IDA reforms, Medicaid costs, and home rule authority.

"County officials recognize that by joining together to examine the issues that impact all counties, more can be accomplished than by trying to work alone. There are several crucial issues that need to be addressed by our partners at the State level. Local officials attend this conference in great numbers to roll up their sleeves and examine the challenges we face, and to make a difference for their taxpayers," said Stephen Acquario, NYSAC Executive Director.

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli will speak to NYSAC members today during lunch. Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy and State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman spoke to conference attendees on Monday.

"Our members are eager to come together to discuss the challenges facing county governments. County officials are engaged in the State legislative process and are ready to partner with State lawmakers to bring positive change for New York State's taxpayers," said NYSAC President Ed Diana, Orange County Executive.

Dozens of workshops will cover a range of issues, including the impact of the State budget on counties, pension funding, renewable energy, local Medicaid costs, public safety, budgeting, pre-school special education reforms, shared services, and local leadership.

"By coming together, we have the opportunity to discuss ways to effectively address the common challenges that we all face in our counties," said Ulster County Executive Mike Hein, president of the NYS County Executives Association. "Local leaders have a strong desire to continue providing vital local services to our residents. In order to do that, we must share best practices and unify our call for meaningful mandate relief from the State."

## DiNapoli Reaches Agreement with Cabot Oil and Gas to Disclose Policies on Hydraulic Fracturing Fluid

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli announced today that Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation has agreed to publicly disclose its policy and procedures for eliminating or minimizing the use of toxic substances in its hydraulic fracturing fluids. As a result of the agreement, DiNapoli has withdrawn his shareholder proposal submitted for the company's 2013 proxy statement calling for a report on the use of these substances in Cabot's shale energy operations.

"Cabot has taken a positive step to reduce risk to shareholders, the environment and the communities in which it operates," DiNapoli said. "This agreement means that Cabot will publicly release what it is doing to use less toxic substances in its hydraulic fracturing fluids and detail how it is ensuring these efforts are being carried out. Shareholder value is better protected when companies disclose the risks associated with the hydraulic fracturing process."

DiNapoli, trustee of the \$150.1 billion New York State Common Retirement Fund, has filed several resolutions over the past three years with oil and natural gas companies in which the Fund owns stock concerning disclosure of legal and regulatory risk, chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process and identification and reduction of potential hazards associated with hydraulic fracturing.

DiNapoli's resolutions for these disclosures have been gaining support with shareholders. In 2010, resolutions addressing legal, regulatory and environmental issues went to votes at Cabot and Chesapeake, winning more than 25 percent of the shares voted. A shareholder vote at Carrizo Oil and Gas in 2011 on environmental impacts and material risks to the company's finances or operations related to hydraulic fracturing was supported by over 43 percent of shareholders voting.

DiNapoli has also reached agreements with portfolio companies Hess Corp., Range Resources and SM Energy to disclose potential business and environmental risks linked to their hydraulic fracturing activities. In 2013, DiNapoli is engaging with a number of oil and gas companies seeking to reach agreements on ways that they can reduce risk and protect shareholder value by limiting environmental harm and liability from company operations.

As of Feb. 4, 2013, the Common Retirement Fund held 681,692 shares of Cabot valued at \$35.8 million

## NYSAC Concerned about Potential Mandate: Fracking

As counties continue to struggle with mandates under the tax cap, we are concerned about a potential new mandate: fracking. In Monday's budget testimony, the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation said there will be an impact on local governments, but insisted the costs could not be analyzed because we haven't yet had hydrofracking in New York.

Will counties be left holding the bag?

We call on the State to analyze the costs before drilling starts; counties need to know what we're getting into and how fracking will impact our budgets.

About NYS Association of Counties

New York State Association of Counties' mission is to represent, educate and advocate for member counties and the thousands of elected and appointed county officials who serve the public. We represent New York counties before Federal, State and Local officials on matters germane to county governments; and we inform our membership and the public at large on issues of importance to county governments. We educate, train and provide research on public policy to Federal, State and Local officials and to the membership on issues important to counties.

We advocate for our 62 counties, including the City of New York, to the legislative and executive branches of government at the State and Federal levels.

## DiNapoli Receives Hubert H. Humphrey Humanitarian Award

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli received the Hubert H. Humphrey Humanitarian Award in recognition of his lifetime of public service to the state of New York and its citizens. The award was presented at the United Federation of Teachers' annual Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference held over the weekend at which DiNapoli delivered the luncheon keynote address.

"I am humbled to receive an award bearing the name of Hubert H. Humphrey, an honorable and transformative national figure. Vice President Humphrey was a strong voice for issues that improved the lives of Americans in need," said DiNapoli. "It is a collective and individual responsibility of every citizen to advocate for the needs of us all."

## Regional Economic Development Councils Build a Better New York - By Katy Vescio,

NYSAC Deputy Director for Governmental Relations

On December 19, 2012 Governor Cuomo announced the second annual grant awards for Regional Economic Development projects. The 2012/13 State Budget authorized this second round of funding for the Regional Councils, including \$220 million to implement regional strategic plans comprised of \$150 million in new capital funding and \$70 million in tax credits from the Excelsior Jobs Program. Resources from a wide range of existing agency programs were available to businesses and sponsors for economic development purposes that are consistent with Regional Council plans through the new Consolidated Funding Application process.

During the award ceremony, \$738 million in funding was announced, to be allocated for projects in 10 geographic regions. Three regions received "Best Plan" designations and earned bonus awards: Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Mid-Hudson Regions. The Central New York and North Country Regions also received bonus award amounts, earning "Top Performer" status, as they were previously "best plan" awardees in 2011.

The ten Regional Economic Development Councils were created in July 2011 and followed an ambitious meeting and planning schedule. Within six months, regional councils organized, met, considered local projects, and created regional plans to coordinate and guide strategic investment. As part of the process, a Strategic Plan Review Committee analyzed and ranked the plans submitted by each region. Regions competed for economic development funding that was previously distributed through grant programs run by various State agencies. The new Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process combined disparate funding streams and streamlined the application and distribution process for these funds.

The first round of the Regional Economic Development awards in 2011 awarded \$785.5 million to the ten regions. In 2011, plans were awarded funding based on recommendations of the review committee and each region's adherence to the following criteria: vision, process, strategies, implementation, leveraging, and performance measures. Of the ten regional plans, the council awarded "Best Plan" to four proposals. Best Plan regions received more than \$100 million for their plans.

The six other regions were awarded \$49.4 - \$68.8 million. Of the \$1 billion earmarked for the Regional Councils, the State awarded \$785.5 million during the inaugural year of the program.

Governor Cuomo received much praise for the suc-

cess of this initiative following the 2011/12 award announcements. Assembly Speaker Silver and Senate Majority Leader Skelos pledged their support for the program and promised to continue funding for the competitive grants in the 2012/13 State Budget. The second annual award announcements provided much of the same excitement, as new regions achieved the much sought after "Best Plan" designation. Video presentations highlighted the work each region had completed in the past year, and framed the vision for growth moving forward.

In the months leading up to the December 2012 awards announcements, Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Duffy toured the State, meeting with council members in each region and receiving briefings on regional progress to implement their strategic plans. The Governor is expected to include more funding for this initiative in his 2013/14 State Budget, in order to continue investment in all regions of New York State into 2013 and beyond. The first two years of this regional investment strategy have been markedly successful, engaging business and private sector experts with local leaders, higher learning institutions, and other key individuals within each region. These groups have come together to invest in economic development as part of a comprehensive strategy. By ensuring that each region focuses on its specific economic sectors and capitalizes on its strengths, the program is achieving its overarching goal: building a better New York.

## POLITICAL SLANT

By Frank Comando

### - Press release Credo IS KILLING AMERICANS WITHOUT A FAIR TRIAL LEGAL?

#### ARTICLE V, U.S. BILL OF RIGHTS

"[N]or shall any person...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." --

George W. Bush claimed that he had the presidential authority to declare Americans "enemy combatants" and throw them into a dungeon without access to the court system. But even Bush, with his breathtakingly expansive view of executive power, never stood in front of the American people and claimed he could order the assassination of an American citizen without judicial review. Yet recently, after a Department of Justice white paper on President Obama's extrajudicial assassination program was leaked, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney shamefully and appallingly defended missile strikes against American citizens as "legal," "ethical" and "wise."

There may not be the political will in Washington, DC, to address this clearly unconstitutional power grab by the executive branch, but as citizens it is our duty to say this is clearly illegal, immoral and a deplorable desecration of the rule of law. Tell President Obama: Assassinating Americans without due process is wrong. The Obama administration has previously defended the extrajudicial program that has killed a number of Americans, including an American teenager who wasn't involved at all with terrorism.

We have been solemnly told that the constitutional right to due process doesn't mean that the president can't unilaterally order, without any input from or review by the judiciary, a Predator drone to fire a missile at an American citizen.

It has been "explained" that there's a secret legal memo that makes this "legal."

Until recently, the president completely refused to release this secret memo to Congress or the American people, instead releasing an insufficient white paper that purports to summarize the administration's legal justification for extrajudicial assassination.

While he has since allowed a small number of senators to read the memo, the onerous restrictions imposed on the senators (staff members were prohibited from reading the memo and the senators were not allowed to take notes, have prevented even the senators who have seen the memo from fully assessing or analyzing its merit. Killing American citizens based on a secret interpretation of our law and Constitution is absurd, it's illegal, it's completely antithetical to democratic values, and it's morally repugnant.

Tell President Obama: Assassinating Americans without due process is wrong.

At times like this, outspoken dissent is an important political act. Call your elected officials. Thank you for speaking out. Your activism matters.

This space is also for you;

To have your comments and/or questions, space allowing, and townsman guidelines adhered to, as listed in the masthead, Email [politicalslant@yahoo.com](mailto:politicalslant@yahoo.com)



**Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department Planning Community Yard Sale, Crafts & Vendor Fair**

On Saturday, July 13, 2013 the Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department Planning Community Yard Sale, Crafts and Vendor Fair They are presently seeking vendors that include Home Party, Craft and Yard Sale Vendors. The cost is \$15. Contact Jamie Brooks at 985-2262 xt 312 to reserve your spot by May 13, 2013.

**Free: Solar Thermal Systems Informational Session**

The Adult and Continuing Education Program at Sullivan County BOCES is offering a FREE Informational Session on Solar Thermal Systems, Saturday, February 16, 2013 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at the St. John Street Education Center in Monticello, New York. Join our local expert EnergyStar Dave, to learn how you can save money and keep most of your existing heating equipment.

Did you know that electric hot water generally makes up 17 to 20 percent of a homeowner's monthly electric bill and less than 10 percent of the monthly bill for the average commercial building? Solar thermal systems typically provide 50 to 80 percent of a homeowner's hot water needs and generally have an attractive payback period.

To help New York State increase its use of renewable energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has launched the State's first incentive program for solar thermal systems, which produces hot water from solar power. This 5-year, \$25 million program provides incentives of up to \$4,000 per site for eligible single and multi-family residences and up to \$25,000 per site for eligible commercial and nonprofit customers who currently use electricity to produce hot water.

"New York's first solar thermal incentive program will help homeowners and businesses reduce the use

of electricity and cut energy costs," said Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO of NYSERDA. "Through this program, NYSERDA is working to develop our clean emergency economy, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and increase our energy security."

In addition to the NYSERDA incentives, homeowners, commercial entities and nonprofit organizations can apply for federal tax incentives, which cover 30 percent of the cost of an installed solar thermal system, and New York State tax incentives, which cover 25 percent of the installed system up to \$5,000. To obtain more information please contact the Adult and Continuing Education Program at (845) 295-4900 between the hours of 8:30 am and 7:00 pm or visit us at scbooces.org, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. The Adult Program at BOCES enhances our community, one family at a time.


**Learn to Prune with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County!**

The workshop includes: 1 hour class at the Community Room of the Callicoon Town Hall (11am-12pm); 3 hours of hands on pruning practice at 250 Tonjes Rd. Callicoon, NY (12pm-3pm) The workshop will cover topics such as: light distribution; tree size and fruit quality; training methods; types and physiology of pruning cuts.

The workshop will be capped at 20 enrollees so call now to register. Cost for the program is \$20 or CCE members and \$25 for non-members. Payment for the class will be required to hold your spot.

For more information Contact: Cassie Schweighofer, Extension Educator Phone: 845.292.6180, ext. 104 E-mail: cms346@cornell.edu

**CLARYVILLE FIRE DEPT.**  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT**



**PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, Feb. 17**  
Serving 7:00 until 12:00 Noon  
**ADULTS \$7**  
**CHILDREN UNDER 12 YRS. \$3**  
**UNDER 5 YRS. FREE**  
**\$50 FROM EACH MONTHLY BREAKFAST IS DONATED TO THE CLARYVILLE REFORMED CHURCH FOOD PANTRY**

Due to last week's snowstorm...  
**•The Waffle Breakfast•**  
**Everyone Welcome!**  
will be held this  
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013  
Sundown Church Hall  
7:30 am - 9:30 am  
Free Will Offering  
For Information call - 985-2455


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**TIME & THE VALLEYS MUSEUM**  
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY



2012 Season: Open Noon-4 p.m. Thurs.-Sun.  
and by appointment  
332 Main St., Grahamsville  
Price: \$2, \$1 ages 6-15; free age 5 and younger  
Call: 985-7700  
Time and the Valleys Museum has copies of every Townsman printed since the beginning classified by year for anyone to research.  
[timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org)




**The Hurleyville and Woodridge United Methodist Churches**  
invite you to weekly worship:  
**9 am in Hurlyeville,**  
**10:30 am in Woodridge.**  
For more information, call  
Pastor Susan Woodworth 985-2283



**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION**  
The Little Church with the Big Heart  
**Sunday, 8:15 am Service of Holy Communion**  
Music by Susan and Fred Van Wagner  
Coffee hour follows service  
All are welcome!  
5277 State Rt. 42  
South Fallsburg  
845-436-7539  
Rev. Ninon Hutchinson  
[www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org](http://www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org)

**CrossWay Assembly of God**



**Service Times**  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service/  
Children's Church 10:30 am  
Monday Night Home Bible Study 7 pm  
Tuesday Night Youth Home Bible Study 7 pm  
Friday Youth Night 7 pm

**Ismael Berrios**  
Lead Pastor  
P. O. Box 480  
507 Hasbrouck Drive  
Woodbourne, NY 12788  
845-434-8263  
Email: [crosswayaog@aol.com](mailto:crosswayaog@aol.com)  
[www.crosswayaog.com](http://www.crosswayaog.com)



**Covered Dish Supper**  
**Mar. 2, 2013**  
**5:30 pm**  
Sundown United Methodist Church  
at the Sundown Church Hall



**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**  
**Thrift Sale Only**  
**Feb. 16, 2013**  
9 am-1 pm



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

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**  
Sunday Worship Service  
10:30am  
985-2283

**Claryville Reformed Church**



Claryville Road  
Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2041

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

**RAMSAY'S FUNERAL HOMES, INC**  
Serving Sullivan County Since 1896

66 John Street, Monticello, New York (845) 794-2700  
275 S Main Street, Liberty, New York (845) 292-7100  
Route 55, Kauneonga Lake, New York (845) 583-5445

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

**Weekend Mass schedule:**  
Saturday afternoon: 5:00.  
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

**Holy days of obligation:** as announced in church bulletin.

**Daily Mass schedule:**  
Monday afternoon 5:45 (Holy Rosary at 5:30); Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday mornings: (includes Morning Prayer)- 8:50 am

**Saturday afternoon confessions:** 4 to 4:45.  
Rev. John J. Lynch, Ph.D., Pastor. 434-7643.

**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. George W. Hommel, Pastor

**Loucks Funeral Home**  
**Geoff and Heather Hazzard & Anthony Perito**  
79 North Main Street  
Ellenville, New York  
(845) 647-4343

**Grahamsville Reformed Church**  
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
Worship Service 9:30 A.M.  
Rev. Paul Z. Ruter, Pastor  
845-985-7480



**LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES****PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

The Town of Denning PLANNING BOARD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the Application for "SPECIAL PERMIT" issued to the Blue Hill Lodge and Café (Tomina LLC) for the purpose of manufacturing beer in a Micro-Brewery located on their commercial site at 1467 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725.

SAID hearing will take place at the Claryville Fire House Community Hall, 1500 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 on Saturday, February 23, 2013 scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM. At said time any and all interested person(s) will be heard.

For further information please contact the Planning Board at 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 during normal business hours or by calling 985-2411 for further information.

By the Order of the Town of Denning  
Planning Board  
Carl Landon, Chairman

2/7; 2/14/13

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that March 1, 2013 is the final day for ALL EXEMPTION FORMS to be returned to the Assessor's Office. If we do not receive these forms by that date we will have to remove your exemption for the coming year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Assessor's Office at (845) 985-2262 ext. 323, Monday thru Thursday 8:30 PM - 4:30 PM.

2/14; 2/21/13

**Inappropriate Payments Cited In Kingston Audit Comptroller's Audit Leads to Arrest of Former Fire Chief**

The city of Kingston made \$23,000 in improper payments to employees for unearned leave time, according to an audit released today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. As a result of the audit, former fire chief Richard Salzmann was arrested and charged by Ulster County District Attorney D. Holley Carnright with offering a false instrument for filing in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor.

"These errors occurred because the city had lax processes and relied on unverified, incomplete and inaccurate records," said DiNapoli. "I would like to thank District Attorney Carnright and his staff for making sure those who try to cheat the system are held accountable for their actions. I also appreciate the efforts of Kingston Mayor Shayne Gallo's administration to recognize these issues and bring them to the attention of my office. The mayor and his staff, however, will need to continue to work hard to ensure employees only collect compensation they're entitled to receive."

"It is extremely helpful to our office to have the benefit of the assistance of the State Comptroller. Once again, the Comptroller's office has served the people of Ulster County well," said District Attorney Carnright. "We have been working with Comptroller DiNapoli and Mayor Gallo on this matter. I know that Mayor Gallo has already taken the administrative steps necessary to correct the difficulties outlined in this audit, which arose from procedures employed prior the mayor's administration."

City employees earn a fixed number of days each year for vacation, illness and personal use. Typically, local governments provide cash payments to employees for all or a portion of their accrued leave time when they leave service or periodically if leave has not been used and cannot be carried over for use in future years.

DiNapoli's auditors reviewed a city-wide sampling of administrator and employee records and found accruals were overstated by 102 days for 35 employees and understated by 21 days for 18 employees.

Due to the problems identified, DiNapoli's office expanded the audit period back to Jan. 1, 2010 to include two former city fire department chiefs. Auditors found that former fire chief Salzmann was paid about \$5,500 more than he was entitled to and former assistant fire chief Chris Rea received inappropriate payouts totaling \$16,600. Specifically:

-In 2010, Chief Salzmann received a lump sum buyout

payment of \$3,100 for 37 vacation days although his employment contract only entitled him to convert a maximum of 30 vacation days per year for pay. Then in 2011, Salzmann converted 129.50 compensatory hours to a cash payment, even though his contract only allowed payment for the first 80 hours of extra time.

-Assistant Chief Rea received \$10,800 for unused supplemental time although his individual employment contract did not provide this benefit. In addition, Rea was paid \$5,800 for leave accruals that did not exist.

DiNapoli's auditors made a number of recommendations to the city, including:

-Recover inappropriate payments and adjust employee leave accrual records as necessary;

-Review employment policies, agreements and contracts and provide clear guidance as to which benefits are intended for each category of employees;

-Develop comprehensive policies and procedures to address the maintenance of leave time records and ensure that accurate information for time accruals is maintained, monitored and periodically reconciled; and

-Establish internal control procedures to ensure that leave accrual payments are made in accordance with applicable collective bargaining contracts, employment agreements or city council action.

In a previous audit, DiNapoli found the city may have overpaid \$7,790 to police department employees for time they might not have worked. In that case, auditors found department officials failed to review time and attendance schedules and did not require department employees to document their hours worked.

City officials agreed with the Comptroller's recommendations and indicated many changes have already been implemented. The full response from the city is included in the report.

For a copy of the report visit

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/cities/2013/kingston.pdf>

**Cahill Weighs in on Proposed Settlement Between Central Hudson, Fortis and the Public Service Commission**

Assemblymember Kevin Cahill (D - Ulster, Dutchess) responded to the settlement agreement between Central Hudson and the Canadian-based Fortis, Inc., calling the customer benefit a "pittance" when compared to other major utility mergers and the contribution ratepayers have made to the value of the company. The settlement agreement details \$50 million in customer and community benefits, including \$5 million to be split between Ulster, Dutchess and Orange counties for economic development, \$35 million to cover expenses "normally passed along to consumers" allowing for a one year rate freeze, and an estimated consumer savings of a purported \$9.25 million over the next five years.

"The \$9.25 million in savings pales in comparison to the \$275 million in ratepayer savings the Public Service Commission required in 2009 in the sale of NYSEG and RG&E to the Spanish-owned utility Iberdrola," said Assemblymember Cahill. "The Iberdrola settlement resulted in an average savings of \$220 per customer. Central Hudson's proposal comes in at around ten percent of that for each ratepayer they serve over the course of five years. In addition, Iberdrola was bound to an economic development package that included either a \$200 million investment in wind power or a \$25 million fund. That makes the average \$1.8 million for each county for the Fortis/Central Hudson takeover."

Cahill added, "While the settlement agreement completely demonstrates that both companies and the Public Service Commission are prepared to meet the duties a publicly traded corporation owes its shareholders, it falls woefully short of what is required of a monopoly utility to protect ratepayers and the communities they have been given an exclusive license to serve."

On April 26, 2012, Assemblymember Cahill called on the Public Service Commission to pay special attention to the impact the transaction would have on Central Hudson's customers and demanded the inclusion of strict accountability measures before the acquisition is approved, especially considering the deep decline in state and independent resources for consumer protection.

"In similar circumstances in the past the Consumer Protection Board, the Citizens' Utility Board and the Public Utility Law Project fought for and won significant concessions for residential and low-income ratepayers. Unfortunately those important groups have been dissolved and de-funded leaving the average citizen without a voice during this process," said Assemblymember Cahill.

Assemblymember Cahill urges consumers to weigh in with the Public Service Commission. Comments can be sent to Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, New York 12223-1350. The public comment period will close when the Commission votes to approve the acquisition on date to be determined. "This settlement should not be approved unless and until ratepayers get a fair shake. A vote by the Public Service Commission to approve this proposal would clearly demonstrate that they have ignored their basic obligation

to assure that their determinations are in the public interest, that consumer benefits outweigh potential detriment," said Assemblymember Cahill. "The consumer protection apparatus of New York has been largely dismantled. If ever there was a demonstrated need to restore those agencies and organizations, this give away is Exhibit Number One. I will be reviewing potential further action to determine what can be done to assure ratepayers do not remain forgotten."

**Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller: Local Governments Must Address Cracks in Public Infrastructure**

State and local governments provide a number of vital services to New York's residents: public safety, education, public health, economic development and much more. What's become increasingly difficult, however, is the ability to fund both operations and public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and water and sewer systems. During periods of fiscal stress when tough choices need to be made, critical infrastructure needs are often deferred in order to fund daily services.

My office recently issued a report explaining how the competing needs for operations and infrastructure represent significant challenges to our state and local governments. Over the past decade, local governments have tried to maintain their infrastructure assets by taking advantage of historically low interest rates for bonding and from the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In 2010, for example, New York's local governments spent about \$1.3 billion combined on highway, water and sewer capital needs. This includes \$974 million on roads and bridges, \$224 million on sewer systems and \$136 million on water systems.

But construction and energy-related costs have increased much faster than the rate of capital spending and the purchasing power of capital project dollars has quickly eroded. Local government officials are reporting that they have deferred road and bridge maintenance because of inadequate funding and rising costs.

Officials in Madison County, for example, said they should rehabilitate or reconstruct about 25 miles of highway annually, but have only been able to rehabilitate about 12 to 15 miles per year for the last five years. Additionally, Orange County officials said that they need to repair five or six of the county's 152 bridges each year, but only are repairing about two annually.

Similar decisions are being made around the state in communities big and small. Eight of the 12 local governments interviewed for the report indicated they have recently deferred capital projects due to limited funding. Many spoke of having to prioritize projects and using limited funding for emergencies instead of regular maintenance. If this trend continues, future repair and replacement costs are likely to be much greater.

Recent estimates project New York will need to spend \$250 billion in its water, sewer and highway systems over the next 20 years. This includes \$175 billion for transportation needs; \$39 billion for the state's drinking water systems; and \$36 billion for municipal wastewater systems.

This price tag does not include the costs associated with Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. These three natural disasters had a devastating impact on New York's infrastructure in the span of 15 months.

These storms will divert resources and force many communities to undertake emergency repairs at the expense of renovating unsafe bridges, crumbling roads and failing water and sewer systems.

Infrastructure funding was estimated to only reach \$161 billion over the next 20 years, creating a likely \$89 billion shortfall. Recent estimates for Sandy alone peg storm-related damages at \$32.8 billion, and New York will require an additional \$9.1 billion for preventive measures to reduce the potential impact of future weather disasters.

Infrastructure is vital to a community's livability, future economic prospects and competitiveness. But without additional aid, creative new funding sources, or a significantly improved economy, state and local governments will struggle to maintain their critical infrastructure for the foreseeable future.

Recently, I proposed legislation to help local governments deal with the financial impact of Hurricane Sandy. The proposals would amend current laws to help local governments use more of their reserve funds to pay the up-front costs for Hurricane Sandy; allow local governments to issue storm bonds to be repaid over five years; and extend the time for repaying inter-fund loans.

This will not be enough. It is clear that we need to enact real and meaningful reform of how we prioritize and fund public infrastructure projects. State and local policymakers should promote efforts to strengthen capital planning, increase access to funding and coordinate local infrastructure investment. It won't be easy, but now more than ever we must do this right.

There are growing cracks in New York's public infrastructure. We have billions in unmet infrastructure needs and the effects of Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene have only compounded the problem. The longer we delay, the worse our bridges, roads and sewer systems become.



**Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department**  
[www.townofneversink.org](http://www.townofneversink.org)  
 (845) 985-2262 extension 312

**-Capital District Flower Show -**  
 March 22. \$15 residents/\$23 non-residents must be paid no later than Tuesday, February 12.

**Villa Roma FUN DAY** -Saturday, May 11. \$10 residents/\$30 non-residents must be paid no later than Tuesday, March 26 includes lunch & make your own sundaes.

**Father's Day Brunch Cruise** -Saturday, June 15 fd \$20 residents/\$39 non-residents must be paid no later than Tuesday, April 23.

**FLEA MARKET**- Saturday, July 13. DETAILS:With both new and used items something for everyone. Reserve your table now. \$15 per space must be paid no later than Tuesday, June 25.

**Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Yankees Baseball Game** - Thursday, July 25, \$12 residents/\$30 non-residents must be paid no later than Tuesday, May 28.

**FREE FUN every FRIDAY** afternoon 1-4 pm in the upstairs meeting room in the Neversink Town Hall.  
**Walking Club Tuesdays** 6:30-7:30 Grahamsville Fairgrounds



**Daniel Pierce Library** hours of operation beginning September 1, 2011.  
 Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday and Monday: Closed  
 If you have any questions, please call the library at 985-7233.

*The Library Board of Trustees meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. On occasion, a meeting date is changed. Please call ahead to confirm.*

**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.

**AL-ANON MEETINGS -**

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

**Sullivan County Elementary School Art Show**

The Sullivan County Elementary School Art Show is right around the corner.

Fifty students from the elementary school will have their artwork in the show this year!

The opening reception will be on Friday March 8th from 5pm to 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. The show will be up from March 8th through April 2nd, 2013 at the Hurleyville Museum.

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU  
 answer

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

- 2/13/13 Town of Neversink Board Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 2/14/13 Dept. of Motor Vehicles Neversink Town Hall 10:00 am - 2:30 p.m.
- 2/16/13 **Waffle Breakfast**- (postponed from last week) Sundown Methodist Church Hall - 7:30-9:30 am-
- 2/16/13 Grahamsville United Methodist Church - **Thrift Sale Only** - 9 am - 1 pm
- 2/17/13 Claryville Fire Dept. **Pancake Breakfast** 7 am - Noon
- 2/18/13 Town of Neversink Holiday - **President's Day**
- 2/18/13 Town of Denning - offices will be closed - (**Federal Holiday "Presidents Day"**)
- 2/19/13 Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals - 7:30 pm
- 2/20/13 Neversink Fire District Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Public Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- 2/23/13 Town of Denning Public Hearing on Microbrewery -10 AM at Claryville Firehouse Community Hall
- 2/26/13 Town of Neversink Parks & Rec - 7:00 pm
- 3/2/13 **Sundown Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper** - 5:30 pm Sundown Church Hall
- 3/6/13 Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting- 7:30 pm
- 3/6/13 Town of Denning Board Meeting - 7 PM - Denning Town Hall
- 3/13/13 Town of Denning Audit/Business Meeting - at 7 PM - Denning Town Hall
- 3/15/13 Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting -7 pm-Denning Town Hall
- 3/29/13 Town of Neversink Holiday - **GOOD FRIDAY**

**Save the Dates!**

**Saturday, May 4th, 2013 for the Tri-Valley Lions Journey for Sight Walk** -- in memory of Donald Ter Bush, Charter Member and President of the Tri-Valley Lions, who passed away July 16, 2012.

**Annual Shawangunk Mountain Wild Blueberry & Huckleberry Festival** sponsored by the EWCOG -Saturday August 10th-Vendor applications are available now. Coordinator is Dianne E Turner ("aka "Mother Blueberry")  
**2nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair** - Sundown Methodist Church Hall - Date to be announced.

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

- SUNDOWN CAMP & BAIT SHOP
- GRAHAMSVILLE DELI
- EUREKA MARKET & CAFE
- CANNIE D'S
- BLUE HILL LODGE
- 3 GOLDENS
- NADIA'S (Hurleyville) • VALERO MINI MALL (Loch Sheldrake) •
- WOODBOURNE - CITGO STATION • MO'S GAS STATION • P.D. SMITH ENTERPRISE
- LIBERTY - LIBERTY FITNESS • CHARLIE'S PIZZA • AGWAY (Liberty) • J.B. MAK (Liberty)
- JAMES NAPANOCH GROCERY
- DR. LONSTEIN'S OFFICE
- MATTHEW'S PHARMACY
- ELLENVILLE CITGO
- ELLENVILLE REG HOSPITAL
- NAPANOCH APPLIANCE
- PETER'S MARKET

**NEW LOCATIONS in the TOWN OF OLIVE & SHANDAKEN**

- Boiceville IGA • Boiceville Florist • Reservoir Music • Snyder's • Jimmy's Belleayre Ski Shop
- Phoenicia Hardware • Phoenicia Pharmacy • Phoenicia Deli • Mama's Boy • Brio's • Emerson Resort
- Big Indian Market & Deli • Colonial Inn Pine Hill • Pine Hill Community Center

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

**Town of Olive Board Auditing Meeting** every **second Monday of each month**. This meeting is open to the public and all bills being reviewed are available for the general public to see.

**Town Board** meets **every second Tuesday of each month**. Both meetings begin at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY.

**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.

**Sullivan County Community Chorus Prepares for 36th Annual Spring Concert**

The Sullivan County Community Chorus, under the direction of Kevin J. Giroux, will resume rehearsals Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Church of Monticello-Presbyterian on Jones Street, Monticello. The Chorus is preparing for its 36th Annual Spring Concert, to be performed at Immaculate Conception Church in Woodbourne on June 9, 2013.

The Concert theme chosen by Conductor Giroux is "L'Chaim - A Celebration of Jewish Culture." The chorus will perform a variety of Hebrew and English songs with their inspiration taken from Jewish poetry, religious texts or stories.

Chorus conductor Kevin J. Giroux is in his 15th year as Choral Director at Tri-Valley Central School, Grahamsville, NY. Mr. Giroux's other music activities include solo adjudicator for NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) and Zone 9 Representative (Green, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties), Past President and Treasurer of the Sullivan County Music Educators Association and part-time church organist. A native of Plattsburgh, New York, Mr. Giroux received a Bachelors of Music Education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and a Masters in Music Education from Ithaca College.

The Chorus welcomes all interested singers to attend their rehearsals. An ability to match pitch is essential and it is helpful if singers are also able to read music. Prospective new members are encouraged to attend the first three rehearsals (Feb. 20, 27 and March 6) and have dues waived for those rehearsals with no obligation. Rehearsals are open to all voice parts, and chorus auditions are not a requirement. Singers wishing to perform in the concert must regularly attend rehearsals, joining the chorus no later than March 20. Performances of the Sullivan County Community Chorus are made possible in part with funds from the Sullivan County Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

Dues are \$20 with a one-time \$15 music deposit for those new to the chorus. Those wishing to sing in the Spring Concert are encouraged to arrive for the first rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. to sign in and receive packets of the concert music. For further information regarding rehearsal schedules, contact Lucille Horton at 845-794-7869.

**Win a Free Session of Sleepaway Camp! Happy New Year!**

Hello campers and parents! Want to win a free session of SLEEPAWAY CAMP FOR 2013?

Frost Valley recently passed the 10,000 fan mark on our Facebook page! To celebrate we're having a contest that's just for our Facebook fans!

To enter all you have to do is show your love for Frost Valley by: 1) creating an original piece of artwork (a painting, a sculpture, etc) and send us a photo of it, 2) taking a photo of you rocking all your Frost Valley gear, or 3) making your own video. Once you're ready to submit your entry just email it to us at: [marketing@frostvalley.org](mailto:marketing@frostvalley.org) - subject line Facebook Contest Entry with your name in the body of the email.

Once we post your entry to our Facebook wall, just get your friends and family to like our page and then to like, comment, and share your post. At the end of February the entry



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT\*  
 FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
 FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**HIKE FOR FREE AT FROST VALLEY**



**MAPLE SUGAR HIKE**  
 March 9, 1-3:30pm

Join us for a hike to our Maple Sugar Shack. Explore the history and science behind the process of creating syrup from sap. **Reserve your spot today!**

**CONTACT US:**

TEL 845-985-2291 ext 397  
 EMAIL [hbowman@frostvalley.org](mailto:hbowman@frostvalley.org)  
 WEB [frostvalley.org](http://frostvalley.org)



with the most likes, shares, and comments wins a FREE session of Sleepaway Camp at Main Camp for Summer 2013! Visit us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/frostvalleyymca>

**CCE Offers Bus to Philadelphia International Flower Show**

LIBERTY- The Philadelphia Flower Show on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 prepares for a British invasion, as the culture and horticulture of the United Kingdom takes center stage. The Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Sullivan County are offering an opportunity to enjoy this great show without the hassle of driving and parking. The cost to join the Master Gardeners on their bus trip, including admission, is \$75.00. Registration is required no later than February 22, as space is limited. No refunds will be made.

Boarding of the bus is at 7:45 am in the CCE parking lot on 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty. Participants will have the entire day to explore and enjoy the show. Lunch can be brought along or purchased at the show. The bus will return to the CCE parking lot by 9 pm.

Contact Susan Dollard, Master Gardener Coordinator at CCE, with any questions about the Philadelphia International Flower Show or the Master Gardener program by email at [smd243@cornell.edu](mailto:smd243@cornell.edu).





**GRAHAMSVILLE REALTY**  
New York State Licensed Real Estate Broker  
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Sundown, NY 12740  
grahamsvillerealty@yahoo.com  
<http://www.grahamsvillerealty.com>  
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Wanted  
Handyman  
Special in  
Sundown area**

**CountryHouse REALTY** 7991 State Rte 55  
Grahamsville, NY 845.985.5116

**Catskills Real Estate for Sale**

- **UNDER CONTRACT** 2 BR/1 BA cabin on 2 acs, C/vl. \$149k
- Spacious 4-5 BR/2BA turnkey colonial on 5+ level acres w/lg sep garage, porch in quiet Grahamsville n'hood. \$275k
- 3 BR/2.5 BA on 8.5 acres with stream in Roscoe. \$650k
- Off the grid 6 BR/3 BA lodge in the Neversink Gorge. \$995k
- 3BR/2 BA architect-owned/renovated farmhouse with modern addition on 1.7 acres. \$349,000.
- **REDUCED** 4BR/2.5 BA eyebrow colonial w/fpl, screened porch, sep dining rm on 15+ acs nr State Land. \$354,000.
- 5 BR 1840s home on 20 acs in the Beaverkill Valley. \$490k
- Dramatic views from 108 acre property with huge meadows, woods, 1900s farmhse, barns & apple orchard. \$599k
- Bright 3 bed/1 ba on 4.5 acres adj State land. \$75k
- **REDUCED** 2BR/1BA authentic log cabin on 20+ acs with fpl, skylights, woods that end at the Neversink River. \$275k
- Cute 2BR seasonal cabin on 3 acs w/fpl, screened prch \$105k
- **SOLD** 4 BR/2.5 BA in Beaverkill Valley. \$750k

For our full roster of real estate listings, visit our site:  
**www.CountryHouseRealty.net**  
Jennifer C. Grimes • Licensed Broker • GREEN® • CBR

**RENTALS**

**BUILDING FOR RENT: RENT FREE FOR REPAIRS!** In the center of **Grahamsville** (Old Post Office) Rent - 985-7411.

**FOR RENT:** 1 - 2 bedroom apartment 1 - 3 bedroom apartment. Call 845-985-0107.

**FOR RENT:** 3 Bedroom; 2 bath; jacuzzi; LR; DR & Kitchen. Lots of closet space. Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg. \$900/month+utilities. Security/Proof of income - 845-693-5104

**Large 3 / 4 BR, 2 bath finished basement house.** Available immediately. \$1000. per month plus Utilities & security. No pets. 985 2709.

**1 Bedroom Upstairs Apt.** Utilities included. 1-2 people. Good Location-Davis Lane, Grahamsville, NY -No Pets-References/ first month's rent & security. \$625.00. 1-845-796-6319

**2 BR Duplex, Rt 55, Grahamsville.** Nice Apt in small community. Great Layout. \$750 +utilities. Sec & References. 985-2941

**YOGA/REIKI CLASSES/HEALTH**

**YOGA • REIKI**  
Close to Neversink Dam on Lindholm Rd  
**Yoga Class schedule:**  
Mon, Wed & Sat a.m. - Tues & Thurs p.m  
Includes gentle stretches to ease and prevent back & joint pain.  
**Reiki energy sessions by appointment**  
Please call for details  
JOY 845 292 7870

**Beauty of Birth • Doula Services**  
*The word "doula" comes from ancient Greek and is now used to refer to "a woman experienced in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth."*

**DONA**  
INTERNATIONAL

For more information call:  
**JANNA COMANDO**  
DONA Trained Doula Services  
(845) 417-6165  
[beautyofbirthdoula@yahoo.com](mailto:beautyofbirthdoula@yahoo.com)

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

1. 2 Acres residential. Rt 55, across from Fairgrounds. Private Road. \$38,000.
2. 3+ BR., 2 baths, 2 acres, Tri-Valley Schools in Divine Corners, \$99,900. Owner financing w/25%
3. Mini Estate Loch Sheldrake near college. 4+ BR, 2 baths. Unique.
4. Handyman Special - 1500 sq ft. Loch Sheldrake. New roof. New Foundation. Needs interior. \$50K  
**Please Call Teresa 845-321-1919.**

**EARN as YOU LEARN** about exciting new Health Products and how you can become part of the **Waioira Team** and effortlessly enjoy the benefits of an extra income, too.  
For more information visit:  
<http://mywaioira.com/538042>

**FORSALE**

**1995 Suzuki GSX 600** Katana Red/Black Motorcycle (845) 985-0201.

**PINE LOGS 4 SALE**  
Pine logs for sale cut, trimmed, lengths up to 20 feet. Ready to be sawed for framing lumber, or chunked for outdoor wood stoves.  
Call 985-2869

Authentic Native American Jewelry. **Sterling silver & Turquoise. 985-7189.**

**SERVICES**

**Lawn Care by Victoria** - Snow removal. 985-7218 or 866-1194. Leave message please.

**Snow Plowing • Sanding  
Tree & Stump Removal • Septic & Driveways**  
Robert Dubas - 845-985-7116

**HANDCRAFTED ITEMS FORSALE**

*Don't let the bad weather stop you from buying from our local artists. Visit them on the internet*  
**chrisparrow.com**  
**harnettdesigns.com**  
**gnomehome.net**

Don't have a website. Call us- 845-985-0501

**Knarf's "Classic Movie Trivia"**  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST (SUSPENSE, 1959)**  
An advertising man is mistaken for a spy, triggering a deadly cross-country chase. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Cast: Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason, Leo G. Carroll, Martin Landau, Jessie Royce Landis, Philip Ober, Adam Williams, Josephine Hutchinson, Edward Platt. Quintessential Hitchcock comedy-thriller, with bewildered ad-man Grant chased cross country by both spies (who think he's a double agent) and the police (who think he's an assassin). One memorable scene after another, including now-legendary crop-dusting and Mount Rushmore sequences. One of the all-time great entertainments. Witty script by Ernest Lehman, exciting score by Bernard Herrmann. **See it on TCM! Sunday, February 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM, VistaVision.C-136 min, Rated,TV-PG, Quiz: 1 Who played the Professor? 2. Who played Eve Kendall?**

**What's Going On In The Gnome Neighborhood™ This Week?**

**ELLENVILLE  
LA BELLA PIZZA 151 CANAL ST.**

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Do you want the very best in Pizza, with tons of meat, veggies on one pie, check this out, your tummy, will love you for it.



**ELLENVILLE WAWARSING JULY 4TH CELEBRATION BENEFIT SPAGHETTI DINNER**

The Dinner will benefit the ELLENVILLE WAWARSING **JULY 4TH CELEBRATION**, and will be held between the hours of 5:00 -7:00 PM Saturday, **February 16, 2013**, (I say, "Get your tickets now!") **ELKS LODGE, RTE 55, NAPANOCH NY**, for tickets visit James MKT, in Napanoch or call James @ (845) 647-5973

**KNARF**  
Hi! guys and gals, just a note. You know I manage Frank Comando and his song "IF YOU GO AWAY" that is now #2 **IN THE CATSKILLS AND THE HUDSON VALLEY'S REVERBNATIONS JAZZ CHARTS**. For \$9.95 buy Frank's Christmas Album "**YE OLDE TIME CHRISTMAS**," (40's 50's Christmas songs). Own **IF YOU GO AWAY PLUS 9 OTHER CLASSIC SONGS** \$14.95 -snail mail me, Knarf Odnamoc, in care of the Townsman PO Box 232 Grahamsville NY 12740 or send me an email [knarfodnamoc@yahoo.com](mailto:knarfodnamoc@yahoo.com) for your copies.

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Ans.

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