



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



Tri *Ye Olde* GOVNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 20 NO. 8 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 7 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11
Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia Pg 72

VITA Program Comes to Tri-Valley



Fourteen Tri-Valley students recently became certified tax preparers in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and Tri-Valley Central School is now a VITA site. The VITA program is a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the school offering free income tax preparation to school and community members who earn less than \$76,000.

The student volunteers include Jenna Carmody, Anthony Chevalier, Scott Cole, Logan Congelosi, Dayra Cuje Calle, Matthew Fanslau, Kaytlyn Ingrassia, Misha Khodakovski, Isabella Maiori, Abigail Mentnech, Colin Monell, Emily Rusin, Austin Swett, and Nathaly Tixi. These students are in Mrs. Nancy Peters' business math and accounting classes. Mrs. Peters is the site coordinator along with Mrs. Jessica Revette, and Mrs. Tanya Huggler.

These students will be preparing basic tax returns for community members who have W-2 forms from employment and/or 1099 forms for interest, dividends, investments, pensions, and social security benefits. We are currently unable to prepare tax returns for self-employed individuals.

The program will begin after Presidents' weekend. Call 845-244-1507 or send an email to: nancypeters@trivalleycsd.org. for more information or to make an appointment.

Tri-Valley Lions attend and support the 2024 46th WSUL Heart-A-Thon



Stuart Wizwer Al Frangipane and Ilene Wizwer

On Friday, February 16, 2024, Lions Stuart and Ilene Wizwer attended the 46th WSUL Heart-A-Thon, a 12-hour event at Resorts World Catskills to present a check from The

Tri-Valley Lions in the amount of \$500. The WSUL Heart-A-Thon is the longest running community Fund-Raiser in Sullivan County and is sponsored by the Sullivan County Visitors Association and was also broadcast live by 98.3 WSUL. To date, this event has raised over \$3 million. Proceeds from the Heart-A-Thon go into the "Bold Gold Fund" of Orange and Sullivan Counties" and from there is distributed to organizations in our community for prevention, education, and treatment of heart disease.

This year the WSUL Heart-A-Thon will benefit four organizations, Garnet Health Medical Center Catskills, Sullivan 180, A Single Bite, and the STEAM Fund as follows: (Contd. Pg 5)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (ISSN 1558-9013) will be published weekly for \$40.00 per year by **Gnome Home Inc.**

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OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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

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

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

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

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Rates are based on **Camera-ready copy**. **All advertising must be pre-paid** unless other arrangements have been made.

Please send your ad copy to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or by regular mail to: **The Townsman**, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Psalm 50:4

OBITUARIES

Bernice M. Hamilton of Maybrook, NY



She was 96.

The daughter of the late Clarence and Catherine Steinhilbur Winchell, she was born July 28, 1927 in High Falls, NY. Lifelong learning was a must for Bernice, having completed her Associates Degree later in life exemplifying how she always reached for the next great thing that awaited her.

Bernice also was proud to have travelled extensively with her husband Charles to all of the 50 states always stopping at as many historical sites as possible. As an avid collector of antiques and artwork, Bernice always "catalogued" valued items with a note indicating the artist, year of origin and a brief history. This included artifacts and other items of interest across a wide variety of cultures.

In addition, Bernice was an excellent cook making the best lasagna and carrot cake and anything else in between. Many of her recipes could never be repeated, even if she wrote them down for others. Bernice had a phenomenal "green thumb" making her environment one of beauty inside the home and outside in the many gardens including a unique "rock garden" at her New Paltz residence where the family had their home from 1956 - 1981.

In role as SUNY New Paltz Librarian, Bernice had the job of Acquisitions for over 25 years, avidly reading many reviews and making the decisions to buy or not to buy for the libraries many collections. This led to a large library at home and instilling the inquisitiveness of her family by continually sending them to the bookshelves to enrich their lives.

Bernice also loved decorating and was able to transform their many retirement homes into having a museum quality atmosphere. Instilling this level of appreciation in her children and grandchildren. Having lived a full life Bernice was shooting for 100 and she can rest assured we will be celebrating when that time arrives.

Survivors include her daughters, Kathryn G. Hamilton of Walden, NY and Cynthia L. Hamilton of Maybrook, NY; her son, Charles "Lee" Hamilton of Ft. Bragg, CA; five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Chales Hall Hamilton in August of 2016.

Funeral services will be private. Burial will be in the Grahamsville Rural Cemetery, Grahamsville, NY. In honor of Bernice's memory, please make memorial contributions to Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York New Paltz, 300 Hawk Drive, New Paltz, NY, 12561-2493.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home.

Dr. Walter Dobushak, of Liberty, NY, passed away on Tuesday, February 13,

2024 at Delaware Valley Skilled Nursing Home. He was 73.

He was the son of the late Walter Dobushak and Katherine (Kade) Dobushak, born on November 23, 1950 in Irvington, NJ.

Dr. Dobushak obtained his B.A. in Biology from Franklin and Marshall College and then went on to study Osteopathic medicine at Philadelphia College and completed his post graduate training at Memorial General Hospital, American Osteopathic Association and American Academy of Forensic Sciences and finally earning his board certification from both the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians in 1977 and American Academy of Forensic Sciences in 1986. He began his private practice in 1977 and continued his career in medicine. He held many positions over the course of his career including, Clinical Director, Medical Examiner, Chief Medical Examiner, Medical Consultant and Medical Director, all at various hospitals and facilities in New York and Pennsylvania, he was particularly proud of the position of Facility Health Service Director through the Federal Bureau of Prisons, where he presided over the care of many people. (Contd. Pg. 4)

DAYS OF YORE... Today's History

February 24, 1954 - Miss Pat Potter was guest of honor at a miscellaneous bridal shower at the Grahamsville Fire House on Saturday evening. The hostesses were Misses Marilyn Mickelson and Betty Foster. Miss Potter's wedding to A/2C Clinton A. Hamilton will take place on Saturday, February 27 in the Grahamsville Methodist Church.

Several Sundown residents have tapped their sap bushes. Dennis Eighmey has about 100 buckets out.

Sgt. Richard Van Wagner, with his wife and daughter, are expected at the home of his mother, Mrs. Flossie Van Wagner, within the next two weeks. They are now at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The soldier's term of enlistment will end on February 28th.

February 19, 1964 - Mrs. Barbara Ann Bailey told State Police on Sunday that she killed her husband, James Virgil Bailey, with a .32 caliber revolver after an argument over who would rekindle their kitchen stove. She was charged with second degree murder.

The American Farmer Degree is awarded to about 380 outstanding FFA members each year. Only one member in a thousand may receive it. Gene Walter, a member of the Tri Valley FFA, received this award last year.

Alfred Einert, formerly a resident here and a graduate of the Class of '56 at Tri Valley School, returned to college after his service in the Air Force at Arkansas State College and has now been selected for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

In 1962, New York State led the nation in maple syrup production with 524,000 gallons. New York produced approximately 30% of the nation's total maple syrup production.

February 27, 1974 - On February 16, 1974 at 6 p.m. a Candlelight Ceremony in the Grahamsville United Methodist Church, Barbara Robinson and Peter Jay Van Scoy were united in marriage. The Rev. Newton Ford officiated. Mrs. Van Scoy is the daughter of Morris W. and Adelaide M. Robinson of Grahamsville. She graduated from Fort Greely High School, Alaska. She was employed by Tri-Valley School. Mr. Van Scoy is the son of Mrs. Ethel Van Scoy and the late Howard Van Scoy of Rome, N.Y. He is a graduate of Syracuse Univ. and served 4 years in the Air Force. He is currently employed by the Dept. of Correction in Napanoch. They are making their home in Kerhonkson.

Howard Grant Aldrich 52, of Chesapeake, Va. died Tuesday on arrival at East Norfolk General Hospital. Born in East Meridith he lived many years in Grahamsville but had lived in Virginia for the past 27 years. Among the survivors was his stepmother, Helen Aldrich. His father, Zophar Aldrich, passed away in 1972.

February 3, 1984 - Mr. Thomas E. Chase, Sr. of Grahamsville and Mrs. Beverly Chase, also of Grahamsville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kim Chase to William K. Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Moore of Neversink, N.Y. Miss Chase is a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School. She is employed by Greenwood Rehabilitation Center as a Direct Care Counselor. Her fiancé is also a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School. He is employed by Fallsburg Gas Co. as a driver. Wedding plans are incomplete.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Costa, South Hill Road, Grahamsville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Rose, to Scott Tompkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Tompkins of Scio, N.Y. Miss Costa is a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School and is currently a student at Alfred State College, Alfred, N.Y. She is studying to be a Medical Lab Technician. Her fiancé graduated from Scio Central School and has served three years in the United States Army. He is now employed by Bush Industries in Little Valley, N.Y. An April 1985 wedding is planned.

Household Hint:

Did You Ever Get Gum in Your Hair?

Peanut butter gets gum out of hair without needing to cut the hair.

Nature Column - L. Comando

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

Starlings - To be or not to be!

Have you noticed the huge flocks of little black birds with polka dots gathered in parking lots and electrical wires? It is not unusual for these birds, European Starlings, that chirp and chatter in the north all winter long to hang out in flocks of thousands.

The first European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were deliberately introduced to the United States on March 6, 1890. The thinking of Eugene Schieffelin, chairman of the American Acclimatization Society, was that any bird worthy of inclusion in Shakespeare's works deserved a place in North America. The bird gets a quick mention in Act I of "Henry IV, Part I".

Today they flourish in every region of the world except the tropics. In fact, starlings are probably the fourth most common birds on our planet. In winter, starlings are a glossy black with satiny highlights liberally speckled with white spots. Though the dots mark the tips of starlings' new feathers all winter, they wear off as spring fades into summer, leaving the birds with a very different plumage without the need to grow a new set of feathers. They have plump bodies and short tails. This is the only blackbird with a yellow beak in spring and summer, but dark in winter.

As usual in the history of man's importation of species across oceans and continents, Schieffelin was not thinking of any long-term consequences. For the first six years after he released his birds they rarely strayed beyond Manhattan. The first nesting pair was discovered in the eaves of the Museum of Natural History, across the street from Central Park. Many years ago, visitors to the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan were greeted by a caged starling named Sam. Often called the "poor man's myna," starlings are excellent mimics.

By the mid-1950's they numbered more than 50 million. Schieffelin's mission had become more appropriate to a work of Hitchcock than of Shakespeare! In 1960 a Lockheed Electra plummeted seconds after taking off from Logan Airport in Boston, killing 62 people. Some 10,000 starlings had flown straight into the plane, crippling its engines.

Their strong beak helps them gather a wide variety of foods: spiders, earthworms and insects and plants including corn and grains, berries and fruits. The starling's eye have evolved to the narrow front of its face, giving it the perfect view for ferreting. Its binocular vision combined with its open-bill probing ability means that starlings can find insects in colder climates better than other birds, thus starlings do not have to migrate to warmer climates in winter, which means that they can take the best nesting holes during the breeding season.

Starlings breed from March to September raising three broods a year. Males use wing waving (wings flap halfway) to attract females and mate with many partners. Eggs are pale blue, 4-6 to a clutch. With plenty to eat and lots of habitat to live on - what else does a species need to survive?

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Starlings remain one of the few unprotected species. When starlings become over abundant, they drive out native birds and strain the balance of nature.

Despite knowing that starlings bully native birds and destroy crops and are a menace, it was still interesting to see a megaflock of these feisty birds gather and make themselves known with their noisy whirring wings and polyphonic calling.



OBITUARIES (From Pg. 2)

Dr. Walter Dobushak – He was a member of the American Osteopathic Association and Pennsylvania Osteopathic Association. And he also held several academic positions including Clinical Associate Professor at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and Clinical Preceptor at Pace University.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his wife Harriet Loizeaux-Dobushak; children Joshua (Jena) Schwartz, Benjamin T. Schwartz, Theodore “Teddy” Schwartz (Nicole), Valerie Dobushak and Nadiya Dobushak; grandchildren Taylor, Everett, and Jackson Schwartz, Aubre and Isla Schwartz and Holden Dobushak; cousins Dennis Kade (Helene), Maria Cade and Diane Rheinhardt; his mother-in-law Kathryn B. Loizeaux; and God-children Andre, Christine, Myron and Olya Cade.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dr. Dobushak's name can be made to the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Church, 211 Foordmore Rd. Kerhonkson, NY 12446.

A visitation was held on Friday, February 16, 2024 at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home. A mass of Christian burial was celebrated at 10am on Saturday, February 17th at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Church, Kerhonkson, NY. Burial will follow at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Cox Lane, White Sulphur Springs, NY.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, for further information call 845-434-7363 or visit www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Dr. Walter Dobushak, please visit our Tree Store

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published January 9, 1997

For most of us folks in this day and age, about the biggest threat a winter storm poses is a few hours of inconvenience. We just turn up the heat and wait for the snow plows to push away the drifts and then we resume our daily schedule.

Sometimes we may pause a few minutes to listen as a neighbor brags about how quickly he wiped his driveway clean with his new snow blower. This wasn't always so.

There was a time when getting through a blizzard was much more than an inconvenience. It could even be a struggle for survival. I can recall some of those days. Going into the forest with dad during a blizzard while he chopped and us kids were the carriers. The sound of that ax ringing in the frosty air mingled with our laughter made it an enjoyable job, an activity spurred only by visions of the crackling fire that we would all enjoy a little later on in the day.

If you were snowbound in the early 1900's you generally stayed that way for days. It wasn't that the storms were more severe or the snow deeper back then, in spite of what you tell your grandchildren. The truth is that our snow removal equipment wasn't anything to brag about. Our township cleared our roads with a grader and horses and they paid a dollar a day to anyone who would show up with a shovel. We had no snow shovels in those days, only grain shovels, but they worked and our winters were no longer than they are today.

Radio Catskill Launches Three New Locally Produced Music Shows “Old Skool Sessions” Moves to a New Time on Saturday Nights

LIBERTY, NY) Radio Catskill, public radio for The Catskills and Northeast Pennsylvania, announced the addition of three new locally produced music shows. Plus, listener favorite “Old Skool Sessions with DJ Chucks and Selector Starkey” moves to a new time on Saturday nights. The new schedule will start February 15.

“These great new local shows represent more than a year of planning, production, and feedback involving staff, our Program Committee, prospective new DJs, and current volunteers following station goals and listener feedback,” said Radio Catskill Program Director Jason Dole. “We could not be more excited to add more locally produced music to our schedule. And hopefully, Chucks and Starkey get a little more sleep while still bringing the funk on Saturday nights!”

Here's more information on the new local shows and scheduling:

Thursday at 10pm**NEW SHOW: Virtual Soundscapes with Matt Hurtado**

Where pixels meet melodies, and controllers become conductors. An hour of video game music and industry news. Host Matt Hurtado brings listeners the best music from their favorite games - composed and orchestrated music that crosses multiple genres. Plus, hear Matt's weekly conversations with video game industry professionals.

Saturday at 8pm

NEW TIME: Old Skool Sessions with DJ Chucks and Selector Starkey

Same old school, brand new time

For more than 23 years, Old Skool Sessions has been bringing Radio Catskill listeners four hours of the best in old-school: rap, funk, breakbeats, club classics, roots reggae, and “everything your mama likes, really” as DJ Chucks says! Now, OSS starts the party earlier, right after another great, local DJ program Liberation Station with Callison Stratton. With this move, the Saturday night music on Radio Catskill is all locally produced from 7pm to 2am!

Saturday Night/Sunday Morning at Midnight**NEW SHOW: Electric Mountain with Jeff Barnes**

The best in Electronic Dance Music, from back in the day to today

Host Jeff Barnes presents great EDM-House, Techno, and more. It's two hours of music to make you move! Jeff spins for the first hour, then brings on a special guest DJ every week for the second hour.

Sunday at 11pm**NEW SHOW: Ambient Barn with Mark Partridge**

The tonally fascinating and expansive atmospheric world of electronic music

Music Producer, Sound Designer, and Filmmaker Mark Partridge curates an hour of electronic music in its many forms. Produced in Mark's big red barn in The Catskills.

Additionally, Upfront Soul with Sanguine Fromage moves to Wednesday night at 9, following Retro Cocktail Hour. Soul Deluxe moves to Sunday at 2am, following Electric Mountain. Return to the Source moves to Sunday at 8pm.

Tri-Valley Lions attend and support the 2024 46th WSUL Heart-A-Thon

(From Pg. 1)

Prevention: Sullivan 180 Empowering a Healthier Generation and Healthiest Fire Department Challenge Turtle awards; grants for schools and fire departments who are actively making changes that improve the health of our youth and first responders.

Education: A Single Bite's four-part Real Food Education Program; teaches Sullivan County students to care about the food they eat and where it comes from, challenging them to make healthy choices whenever possible.

Steam Fund's Full Steam Ahead with Healthy Habits initiative designed to make a generational improvement in health using music, song-writing, mindfulness, and movement providing children with tools to make healthier choices.

Treatment: Garnet Health Medical Center Catskills will receive funding to purchase state of the art echocardiogram equipment.

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 47th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey For Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley School Community Service and Achievement Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes For The Blind, and so much more. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvacpat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com

Hoping the Winter season is good to one and all, and we look forward to a beautiful Spring season, which is now under one month from the date this article was written. (YEAH!!!) Stay well, warm, and safe

Kiwanis Clubs Remember Veterans and Meals on Wheels on Valentine's Day

The Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs are continuing their tradition of joining together to bring smiles to the faces



of our veterans as well as Office for the Aging Meals on Wheels participants. They recently met with reps from both agencies and presented them with beautifully hand-made Valentine greeting cards. This was a group effort consisting of Kiwanis members as well as Jill Weiner's Liberty Middle School Students and the Aktion Club of Sullivan County, which is sponsored by both Kiwanis Clubs and comprised of members with disabilities from the Arc of Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery.

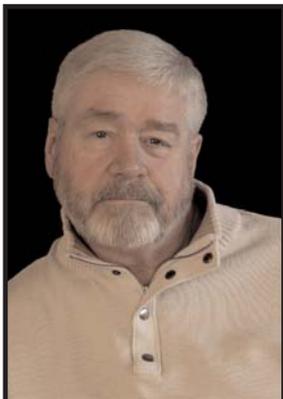
From left - Woodridge Kiwanian Diane Garritt, Monticello Kiwanian Sheila Lashinsky, Arc Program Director Kim Loucks, Veterans Svs. Officers Zackery Jones and Joseph Putnam and Aging Svs. Asst. Albert Patalone.

This is in compliance with our clubs' project mission, which is to give back to the community and reassure our residents, young and old, that we are thinking of them and strive to make their day a little more enjoyable.

For more information about Kiwanis activities, visit the Facebook pages for Monticello, NY Kiwanis Club or Kiwanis of Woodridge, NY.



Valentine Cards on Display



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

Charlie 316

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 76

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 376

Published February 20, 2020

Charlie 316, (Down & Out Books, PB, \$18.95, 398 pages, ISBN 978-1-948235-68-6) by Colin Conway & Frank Zafrino, is an electrifying and propulsive police procedural that takes place in Spokane, Washington . . . out near the Idaho state line. It combines elements of race, heroism, crime, treachery, violence and murder into a tale that you just can't stop reading because there's no end to the plot twists and turns. They keep on coming, one after another.

Written by two Spokane Police Department Officers, (Conway five years, Zafrino twenty years and retired as a captain,) The novel begins when SWAT officer Tyler Garrett stops a reckless driver. Garrett is a poster child and model officer for the SPD: good looking, college educated, politically connected, decorated for bravery . . . and black . . . on a mostly white police force.

But, only moments after making the routine traffic stop-something he's done a thousand times-Officer Garrett is ambushed by gunfire from a nearby house. As he dives for cover, the reckless driver turns and pulls a weapon as Garrett returns fire . . . killing the man and chasing the second shooter in the house away. Community support, and the legend, of Tyler Garrett grows. He's publicly hailed as a hero.

Serious problems start to arise when SPD Internal Affairs Investigators determine that the reckless driver was shot in the back, and his gun has disappeared. Overnight the Police Department, City Hall, local news and even the national news media are looking into just what happened that night as the whole country focuses on police brutality and with racial roles reversed, Tyler Garrett's case is at the center of attention.

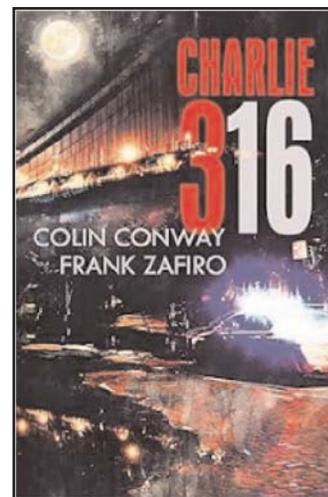
With time running out, Garrett has to take matters into his own hands, as he tries to find the other shooter and clear his name, before the stunning and shattering conclusion that will leave you shaking your head and wishing for more!

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

Find us at: <https://www.goodreads.com>

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

Johndwainemckenna.com
or
Mysteriousbookreport.com



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



The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

The Power of Words



“Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.”

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

“The power of the pen” is an often-used cliché, but in today's world where we are bombarded by media, the pen becomes even more powerful than sound bites or

texts. Words come and go and are interpreted by the reader or audience. What they heard is not necessarily what was said or what was true.

The written word captured on paper gains even more power in a world of quick texts, unwanted emails, telemarketers, and junk mail. When was the last time you actually got a thank-you note or a handwritten letter? I have a small cardboard box that contains all pertinent notices (mostly tax stuff) and a few stacks of crumbling letters written decades ago and tied in ribbons in bundles. I save cards from my children, grandchildren, and husband.

Writing something down, in its entirety, takes effort. That effort is doubled by the reader who decides whether the message requires a reply, action, or clarification. The resulting message then becomes memorabilia or trash. The message gets catalogued, forgotten, or relegated to the reader's interpretation and value.

Marshall McLuhan said, “the medium is the message.” Some media make messages readily disposable and easy to downgrade. Letters of complaint often get much more response than a text, email, or phone call. Cyber messages become a nuisance which is easy to disregard. Letters of compliments move the message to the level of safe-keeping. I must admit that I have a small stack of notes from students who made me glow with their kind flattery.

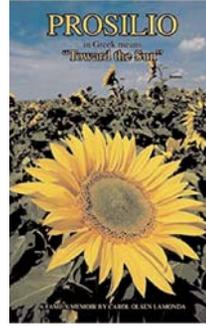
Writing is also a kind of catharsis. It allows the writer to express a thought in a more complete manner and allows the reader the luxury of reading and responding in a likewise manner sans emotion and knee-jerk reaction.

Words have become cheapened by the barrage of media blitz and commercials. Somehow words on paper need to be more precise with just the right vocabulary and connotation. When someone adds effort to the process of communication by writing, the effort elevates the message somehow.

However, words are only words. The thoughts and actions behind them are the real messages. My favorite saying is, “Preach Sermons. Sometimes use words.” Sometimes our actions tell volumes when words can so easily be said and not meant. The best communication is heart to heart. Words can only describe actions. No words can capture the sympathy of a hug or the agony of an injustice. THE MENU IS NOT THE MEAL.

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

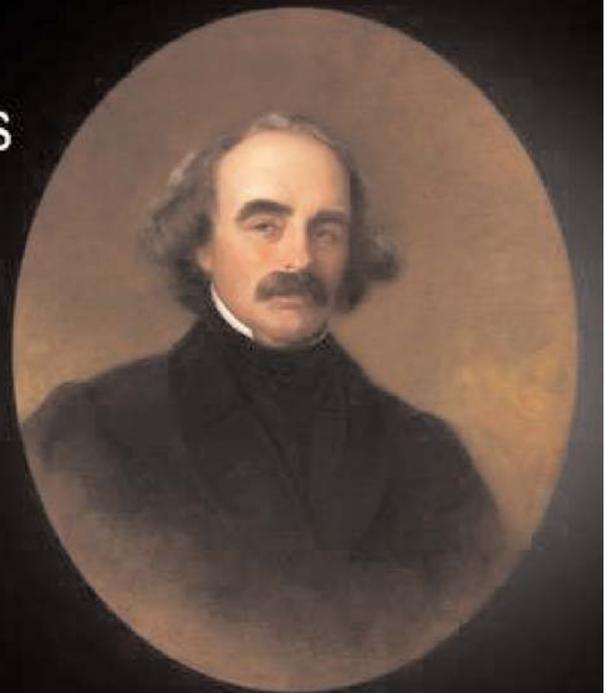
... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of “Prosilio” as you read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



<http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*

**Words - so innocent and powerless
as they are, as standing
in a dictionary, how potent
for good and evil they become
in the hands of one who knows
how to combine them.**

– Nathaniel Hawthorne





Daniel Pierce Library

Between the Bookends

Another Great February in the Books: Mardi Gras Donuts and Valentines' Day Cards Numbers Soar

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-If numbers could speak they'd say-'We love the DPL!' and we'd owe everyone who participated in this past weeks' events a great big 'thank you!'



Thank you to all our families, patrons, Girl Scouts, 4H Puppy Pals and the Tri-Valley School teachers and students for creating 186 Valentine's Day cards that were delivered to the residents of Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility in Liberty on Wednesday, February 14. Each resident also received a carnation thanks to the teachers and students of Tri-Valley's Agricultural Education Program.



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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

270 dozen donuts were purchased during our Mardi Gras donuts fundraiser. Wow-what an astounding number. While we're biased here, can we all agree that they are very delicious donuts? Predictably, they filled the library with such an amazing scent-which only added to our warm and fuzzy vibes while the blustery February winds blew. Our new director, Beth Wolpert, had her first opportunity to take part in the donut-making biz-and boy, was she tired and incredibly happy. It's just one more aspect of our library that makes us stand out, one more cog in the wheel that keeps us going and thriving and getting to share with our community. So, a big thank you to all who purchased donuts and for all those who came out on Thursday, February 15 to assist in making them, boxing them, and cleaning up afterwards.

186 Valentines' Day cards were made and delivered to Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility in Liberty on Wednesday, February 14. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our fantastic patrons, Tri-Valley Central School teachers and students, our local Girl Scout troop, and the 4H Puppy Pals every resident of Achieve received a special, hand-crafted Valentine's Day card. In addition, thank you to the amazing Agricultural Education teachers and students at TVCSD who prepared 135 carnations giving a flower to each and every resident. In a statement online, Achieve personnel shared, "their efforts in crafting lovely cards and generously contributing beautiful flowers for each resident in celebration of Valentine's Day are sincerely appreciated." Our Children's Program Coordinator, Deirdre McHugh, shared what an amazing experience it was to deliver all these beautifully done cards. (Contd. Pg. 12)



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The Scene Too

– By Jane Harrison

No Column this week. See you next week.

Bill Murray Sends Emissary to First Annual Groundhog Day Celebration at Sullivan County Museum

William A. Brenner

Theatrical and Entertainment Reporter

Actor Bill Murray sent an emissary to the Sullivan County's "First Annual Groundhog Day Celebration" in Sullivan County sponsored by the Frederick Cook Society in the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, New York on Sunday February 2, 2024.

This was two days after the traditional 138th Annual Groundhog Day (USA) festivities in Punxsutawney PA. This is the day when Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his den into the sun to look for his shadow. If he sees his shadow there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If the weather animal does not see his shadow, it predicts an early Spring. On this rainy day the groundhog did not see his shadow.

This year, there was some confusion. In Westchester County, New York, there was a copycat Groundhog Day celebration and the weather being sunny, the groundhog actually saw his shadow indicating 6 more weeks of winter.

Further confusing matters, there are no Groundhogs in New York. In the Catskills we have Woodchucks!

Not much difference. They both dig holes in the garden and under the barn.

Bill Murray starred in the famous movie "Groundhog Day". Inadvertently his beautiful co-star Andie MacDowell was not invited.

The musical hosts in Sullivan County were Little Sparrow starring Carol Smith and Aldi Troiani. In local newspaper publicity it stated "Bill Murray has been invited to perform. His attendance is as of yet unconfirmed (and unlikely)".

Attendance was free. Everyone was treated with a fresh bagel with cream cheese and hot chocolate (from the Bagel Bakery in Monticello).

Little wonder - Louis "Lebel" Winchinsky, of Hurleyville, (where he grew up, met and married his wife Ceil), is credited with creating the prototype bagel machine. On March 8, 1966, he filed a dough-kneading machine patent. Mr. Winchinsky's son-in-law, Jim Mack, explained how the bagel machine works: It can SH_T out one bagel per second, and dozens and dozens an hour of two-point-five ounce bagels: usually bagels are three-point-five to four ounces. (But I digress.)

That Saturday, the museum got a mysterious phone call that Bill Murray is tied up and he can't make it to the Sullivan County First Annual Groundhog Day. But, he promised to send an emissary to open the festivities.

On Sunday at 2:00 pm, the Sullivan County Museum theatre was anxiously packed. Everybody was eating a bagel with cream cheese.

Aldi announced that Bill Murray unfortunately could not make it, but he sent a distinguished unnamed emissary from Grahamsville.

Bill Murray's emissary bounded onto the stage opening the festivities carrying a letter in one hand and a bagel with cream cheese in the other and wearing a banjo. He opened and read the letter

"On behalf of Bill Murray, I joyously welcome one and all to Sullivan County's First Annual Groundhog Day Celebration. I humbly thank everyone for considering me Honorary Mayor

of Punxsutawney-Hurleyville chapter (Emeritus) to celebrate Sullivan County's First Annual Groundhog Day or Woodchuck Day (depending on your social status or amount of teeth) as honored by the Frederick Cook Society here in the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, New York.

"And it is only fitting that we are honored by the Frederick Cook Society - the first explorer to reach the North Pole - but Admiral Perry had a better press agent - and Frederick Cook was an explorer to the Antarctic - The South Pole (try that Admiral Perry).

"Unfortunately since I, Bill Murray am unable to be here today, you deserve an explanation why I am unable to be here:

"FIRST: I have been unexpectedly detained in the small one horse (and apparently one Groundhog) town in Pennsylvania - PUNXSUTAWNEY - with some critter they call "Punxsutawney Phil: - a woodchuck.

Well, after we had that ridiculous celebration where they let the Groundhog out to look for his shadow. (He didn't see his shadow because it was cold, it was raining - it was storming, lightning and thunder.)

Well, the Major of PUNXSUTAWNEY handed the Groundhog to me with both hands - the soaking wet and stinkin', smelly Groundhog to hold over my head for the whole cheering drenched crowd to see.

I held the Groundhog high up over my head in the rain. Suddenly, amidst the cheering, there was a yelling and screaming then the flash of lightning, a clap of thunder and, and, and that Groundhog, Woodchuck, that son-of-a-bitch BIT ME - TO THE BONE.

I DROPPED THAT CRITTER - IT SQUEALED - ITS CLAWS SCRATCHING ON THE WAY DOWN.

THE CRITTER LANDED ON MY FOOT - AND BIT THROUGH THE BOOT. I PICKED IT UP BY ITS TWO HIND FEET - I BIT ITS BUTT!

THEN I KICKED THE GROUNDHOG INTO THE NEXT COUNTY.

THE PUNXSUTAWNEY POLICE ARRESTED ME AND THE STRUGGLING GROUNDHOG ON THE SPOT - I WAS CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED ANIMAL ABUSE.

THE PUNXSUTAWNEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH QUARANTEED THE GROUNDHOG IN JAIL AS A PRECAUTION.

THE PUNXSUTAWNEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ALSO QUARANTEED ME IN JAIL - WITH MY FOOT IN A CAST.

AND THEY SAID I'LL GET OUT SOMETIME IN THE SPRING - BUT

I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE SPRING WILL BE - THE GROUNDHOGS DIDN'T TELL ME!

THAT IS WHY I'M NOT HERE TODAY!!

SO ON BEHALF OF BILL MURRAY, I JOYOUSLY WELCOME YOU TO THE SULLIVAN COUNTY FIRST ANNUAL GROUNDHOG OR WOODCHUCK CELEBRATION. I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHICH."

Bill Murray asked if I could sing his favorite song - it's a sing along - on the banjo - called "DEAD SHUNK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD" - SO EVERYONE PLEASE JOIN IN!

And, one last song dedicated for the Groundhog (or Woodchuck) when he looks for his shadow. It's called: "YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE".

PLEASE JOIN THE CHORUS!

Authentication of Bill Murray's emissary and his letter and banjo playing is still being authenticated.

From there the rest of the Groundhog celebration went crazy with animal songs and outrageous Groundhog and Woodchuck jokes - for example:

For the artsy fartsy intellectual poets was the conundrum: "How much wood would a Woodchuck chuck if a Woodchuck could chuck wood?" (Contd. Pg. 19)

Another Great February in the Books: Mardi Gras Donuts and Valentines' Day Cards Numbers Soar

(From Pg. 8) So far, 20 reading logs and 12 bingo sheets have been turned in for our Children's Winter Reading Challenge-which is a great number; but, we're hoping more will be returned between now and the deadline of February 29. Children who return the slips get to put their names on birds we have on display on our Children's Floor and get a brand new book they keep for their own at-home libraries.

February 23 (Friday) is the deadline for the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) Logo Contest. Students in grades 6 through 12 in the RCLS service area have been invited to submit a new logo for their Battle of the Books Competition. For a complete list of rules and submission criteria, please visit our website. The winning logo will be used to advertise and promote the RCLS Battle of the Books, which is a college bowl-type program for teens. Participants in the competition read eight preselected titles and then participate in trivia battles based on those books at a regional battle. Our DPL/Tri-Valley Secondary School team came in first place at last summer's competition and we are eagerly awaiting practices to begin again. Artists interested in submitting to the logo competition do not have to be past, current or future Battle of the Books members (but can be).

(Contd. Pg. 12)

Also on our website is information on the new RCLS Go app. This app allows patrons to access, explore and manage their library account any time. While it has many features similar to those you would find by accessing your account through the library's website, the app simplifies it. In addition, there's ways to create 'to be read' lists and to filter searching to your own, more specific tastes. It's an app worth playing with and seeing how it might be beneficial to you.

Our next planetary program, about Jupiter, is coming up, February 22...with space still remaining. There will be a showing of the Nova Documentary with a Q and A session afterwards.

And last but not least, the DPL will be celebrating Leap Year! On Thursday, February 29th from 9AM to 7PM, Tri-Valley families are welcome to join us for this extra fun-filled day and celebrate with hula hoops, crazy hats, games, puzzles and leap day time capsules. Patrons with outstanding fines are invited to leap back into the library during this fine free day. Any items with overdue fines or items that have been marked as "lost" can be returned and related fines and fees will be waived! Registration is not required and activities will be on-going throughout the day, while supplies last.



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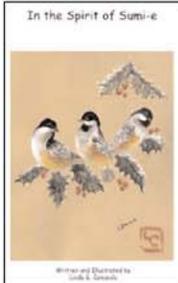


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Delaware Aqueduct Repair Project

Talk by Heidi Haynes

Sunday, March 3rd at 2 p.m. *Virtual Only*

[Grahamsville, N.Y.] The Time and the Valleys Museum's next virtual program will be on Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.. Heidi Haynes, Deputy Director of Outreach, NYC Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply will give a presentation on the Delaware Aqueduct Repair Project.

The project, calls for shutting down a portion of the Delaware Aqueduct in order to attach a bypass tunnel under the Hudson River, a complex repair of decades-old leaks. "This is the largest-ever capital repair project in history of the City's water supply and worker safety is paramount for DEP," said DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala.



Since 1944, the 85-mile-long Delaware Aqueduct has delivered about half of New York City's water supply-typically about 600 million gallons a day-using only gravity to carry the water from four Catskill Mountain region reservoirs. The Catskill Aqueduct provides water to the City from two reservoirs in the eastern Catskills which will be more heavily relied upon during the Delaware Aqueduct shutdowns.

In 2010, New York City announced a \$1 billion plan to repair the aqueduct by connecting a 2.5-mile-long bypass tunnel around known leaks discovered in the 1990s-one in the town of Newburgh, the other in the Ulster County town of Wawarsing. The new bypass, being connected 700 feet beneath the Hudson River, is the first tunnel built under the Hudson River since 1957, when the south tube of the Lincoln Tunnel was completed.

Since 1992, DEP has continuously tested and monitored the leaks, which can release upwards of 35 million gallons per

day. Nearly all of the water escaping the leaks happens near the Hudson River in Newburgh.

DEP has been working closely with Hudson Valley municipalities that rely on the Delaware Aqueduct for their water supplies to activate backup plans during the temporary shutdown as well as working with the U.S. Geological Survey to continually monitor groundwater levels in communities where the Delaware Aqueduct leaks are located.

Admission to the VIRTUAL ONLY program is FREE for Museum Members and \$5 for non-members. To receive a link for the program, register by email at info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org and put NYC DEP Talk in the subject line, or call 845 985-7700. Non-members will be asked to please first make a donation on the Museum's website: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate.

About the Time and the Valleys Museum: Connecting Water People and the Catskills, the Museum is open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Memorial Day through September and from October to May by appointment and during programs. Located at 332 Main Street in Grahamsville (St. Rt. 55), Sullivan County, admission for adults is a suggested donation of \$5, children under 16 \$2, and children under six are free.

Museum exhibitions are interactive and both fun and educational for all ages:

- o **Water and the Valleys**, an exhibit on the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th century. This exhibition includes interactives such as a Native American artifact guessing game, grinding corn with a mortar and pestle, videos and more.
- o **Tunnels, Toil and Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story**, an interactive exhibit on NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system, which includes computer interactives, games, puzzles, videos and building a dam and tunnel.
- o **1930s Lost Catskill Farm**, a farmhouse, outhouse, barn, electric plant, milk house and working waterwheel help visitors experience life in the 1930s through displays, videos, games and hands on activities.
- o **Bittersweet Memories: Lost Towns of the Catskill Watersheds** a collaborative augmented reality art exhibition of the buildings and homes taken for NYC's water system.

The Time and the Valleys Museum is proud to be a Blue Star Museum, a collaboration between the National Endowment of the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and over 1,500 museums across America to provide free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information call 845 985-7700, e-mail info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org or visit www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. To schedule a group tour for children or adults, please call 845-985-7700.

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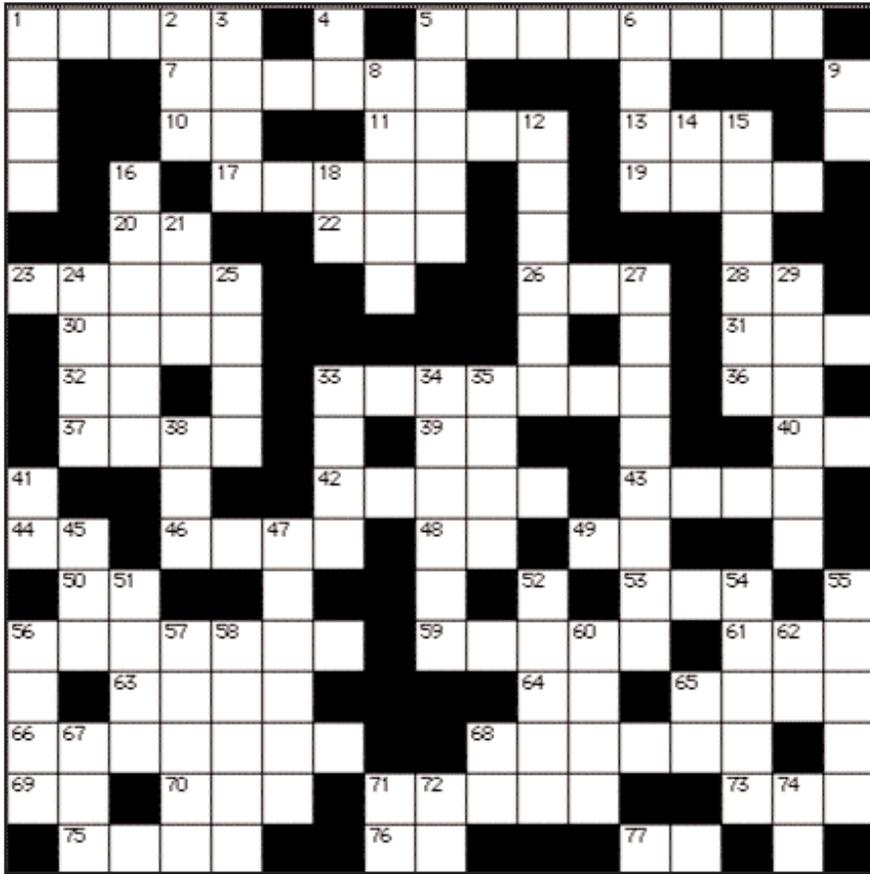
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Magic of Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes - L. Comando



- ACROSS**
- 1 Boston's legendary publisher of *Mother Goose's Melodies for Children*
 - 5 In 1697 he set the stage for Mother Goose to become a household word
 - 7 Infant's bed
 - 10 Modus operandi
 - 11 Long poem
 - 13 Supernatural creature in folk tales
 - 17 Northern territory of India
 - 19 Of great height
 - 20 Form of to be
 - 22 Mythological god of flocks
 - 23 Neartic
 - 26 Plowman's son who was as tall as a thumb
 - 28 I am (contraction)
 - 30 Low female singing voice
 - 31 Negative clause
 - 32 In the direction of
 - 33 Willow trees are used to make these
 - 36 Denoting a high performance car
 - 37 Special Weapons and Tactics
 - 39 Physical Education
 - 40 That man
 - 42 1650 French author that referred to Mother Goose
 - 43 Small island
 - 44 Toward a higher position
 - 46 Actually existing
 - 48 Internet Protocol
 - 49 Intelligence Quotient
 - 50 Alternating Current
 - 53 Uninterruptible power supply
 - 56 Small banner
 - 59 Large waterbird with long neck
 - 61 Brewed hot beverage
 - 63 Not occurring often
 - 64 One's mother
 - 65 A model of the human figure
 - 66 Prepare and issue a written book
 - 68 Male goose
 - 69 One sort
 - 70 Allow
 - 71 Gas formed from oxygen by electrical charges; O₃
 - 73 Affirmative
 - 75 Belonging to a German grandmother
 - 76 Title used before a man's surname
 - 77 You and I
- DOWN**
- 1 *Old Mac Donald had a*
 - 2 Electronic countermeasure
 - 3 Stomped
 - 4 Anno Domini
 - 5 Charlemagne the Great's Father, and wife of "Queen Goosefoot"
 - 6 Go along with
 - 8 Hungarian composer famous for the "Merry Widow"
 - 9 Colorado
 - 12 Dress
 - 14 Los Angeles
 - 15 How Mother Goose is often seen with the gander
 - 16 Tree mentioned in *Psalm 137*
 - 18 Long Playing
 - 21 Abbrev for Saturday
 - 24 Grain plants
 - 25 Crushing defeat
 - 27 Fascinating aura of mystery
 - 29 Caring female parent
 - 33 Where Cinderella met the prince
 - 34 Season we are looking forward to
 - 35 Retain position

- 38 Substance we breath
- 41 Trade Union
- 45 A friend
- 47 Stop
- 51 Short for carbohydrate
- 52 Adult human female
- 54 Spoken or written account of events
- 55 Fictitious or true narrated stories
- 56 One's father
- 57 A plant of the arum family
- 58 April sun sign
- 60 A person of sound mind
- 62 Elevated railway
- 65 Delaware
- 67 United Nations Organization
- 68 Move from one place to another
- 71 Mystical syllable
- 72 Chemical element zirconium
- 74 Electromagnetic

OLD-FASHIONED OATMEAL COOKIES

- 1-1/4 cups margarine
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)
- 1 egg
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups Old-fashioned uncooked oats
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

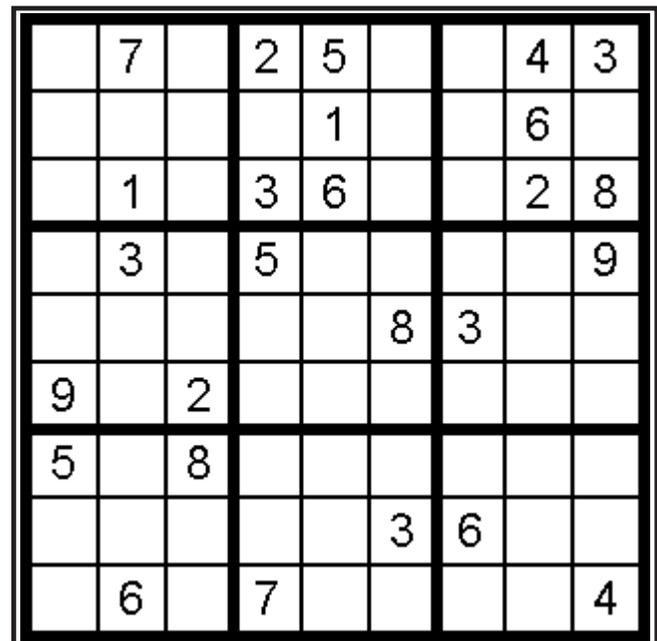
Heat oven to 375°F. Beat together margarine and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and spices; add to margarine mixture, mixing well. Stir in oats.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8 to 9 minutes for a chewy cookie, 10 to 11 minutes for a crisp cookie.

Cool on cookie sheet; remove to wire cooling rack. Store in tightly covered container. Makes about 4-1/2 DOZEN Cookies

数字は単数に限る



Chryptomgram

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

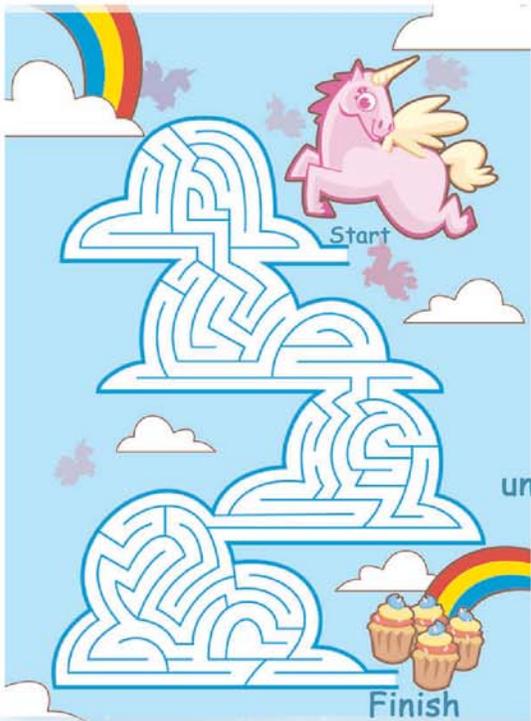
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Kids' Fun Page

- L. Comando

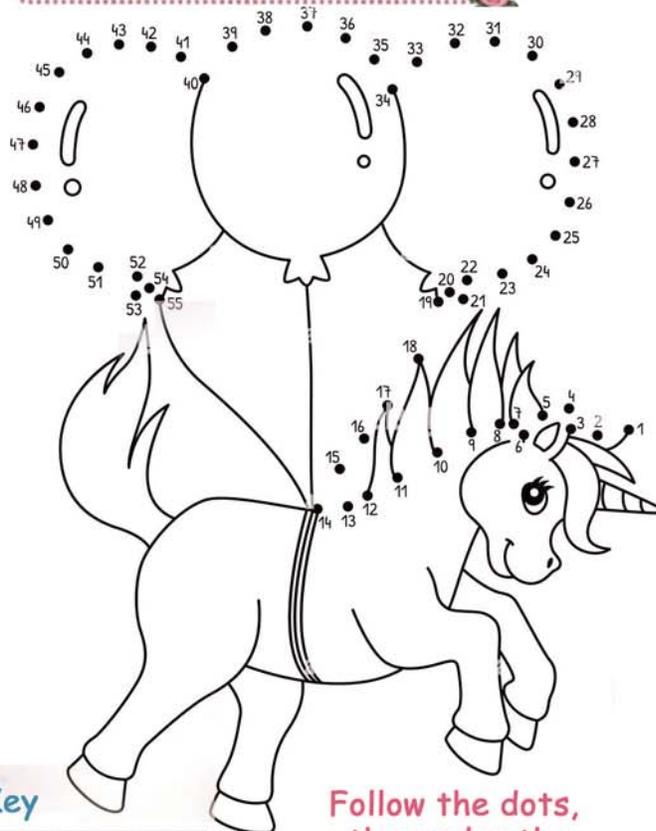


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Unicorn spot the difference



Find the 7 differences between these 2 pictures.



Follow the dots, then color the unicorn

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- DANCING
- GLITTER
- HOOFS
- HORN
- MAGIC
- RAINBOW
- SPARKLE
- STARS
- TAIL
- UNICORN

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

Cryptogram Key

11	6	25	19	9	4	2	23	24	26	12	21	1	18	7	3	13	14	20	22	15	17	16	10	5	8
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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The Daniel Pierce Library

Spring Children's Programs 2024

The library is a wonderful place to ignite your child's love of reading!

The following children's programs are open to caregivers and their children ages 12 months to 5 years who are residents of the Tri-Valley Central School District. The spring eight-week long session begins the week of April 8th.

These programs are free and are made possible through the generosity of our community. Registration is required.

Mother Goose Time (12-23 months) Beginning Wednesday, April 10th

This program is specially designed for very young children. It includes "read together" time (each child has his or her own board book), nursery rhymes, felt stories, playtime and music for our tiniest patrons ages 12-23 months. Two programs will be held each Wednesday: one from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and one from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Must be 12 months by 12/1/23.

Toddler Time (24-35 months) Beginning Thursday, April 11th

Stories, felt stories, crafts, music and friendship-building geared for wee ones ages 24-35 months. Two programs will be held each Thursday: one from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and one from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Must be 24 months by 12/1/23.

Story Hour (3, 4 and 5 year-olds) Beginning Friday, April 12th

Our classic, beloved program for three, four and five year-old children, featuring the "Magic Bag," a read-aloud, felt stories, craft projects, homework and music. Two programs will be held each Friday: one from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and one from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Must be 3 years or older by 12/1/23.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Story Hour

Our "Story Hour on the Road" program visits the three UPK classes at Tri-Valley Central School. Children will be registered at school.

Give your child a head start by enrolling in one of these valuable programs this spring.

Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents. Please register online at www.danielpiercelibrary.org by April 1st. If you have any questions, please email dmchugh@rcls.org or call (845) 985-7233 x105.

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Bill Murray Sends Emissary to First Annual Groundhog Day Celebration at Sullivan County Museum

(From Pg. 11) For rabbit aficionados: "You're no bunny till some bunny loves you!"

For Foie Gras and duck lovers: "Waddle Waddle I do - when you are far away, and I'm left all alone, waddle, waddle, I do - Quack, Quack."

Itsy Bitsy Spider was especially difficult with all the fingers getting entangled.

As for chicken songs - Don't ask.

Shel Silverstein "I'm being eaten by a Boa Constructor."

Mel Brooks "A tiger is chewing my arm off - Quick somebody call a cop!"

An elegant bearded gentleman in the back stood up, held up his cup of hot chocolate in a toast: "You might be a redneck if you swear you are not drunk, and then pass out."

A Florida visitor from the audience chipped in with "What is the meanest animal in the world? The meanest animal is the "CROC-O-GATOR". Its front end is a crocodile and its backend is an alligator. Question: Why is it so mean? It's a bathroom joke."

Carol Smith joined in with "Bill Murray took the Groundhog to the movies. It like it better than the book."

Aldi Troiani attacked the banjo player with: "How is a live hand grenade like a banjo? Once you hear a noise, you're finished."

Some of the classical music lovers got up and left early with tears in their eyes.

Musicians participating with Little Sparrow: Harry Simon on electric guitar and vocal from Callicoon; Jeff Anderson - strong on the bass, from Liberty, and special guest Fred Scholl on acoustic, electric and lap street guitar from Hillsdale, New Jersey. They played the Eagles, Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

On February 16, 17, and 18th, the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop (SCDW) held its 2024 Valentine Cabaret in this same Sullivan County Museum. The shows director is Richard Chiger. The Groundhog group sang a song for Valentine's Day called "How can I miss you if you won't go away?"

This Groundhog Day celebration did not include a live Groundhog. A "to-do" note for the next year is to bring a tame or heavily sedated caged Woodchuck (named Wally). Or bring a gray Squirrel (named Sullivan). Or at least a red Squirrel with a red neck. What will we call him?

College Visits with The Club



The Club Kids of Monticello High School took a trip to SUNY Sullivan! As our teens start to identify different avenues to consider after high school - whether entering the workforce, joining the military, or pursuing college - our Boys & Girls Clubs work hard to make sure they get a chance to explore what's out there.

The Senior Unit Director of our Sullivan County Programs, Barbi Neumann-Marty took a group of her high school students for a campus tour. This trip gave Club Kids a peek into what life as a student at SUNY Sullivan is like by giving them the oppor-

tunity to spend time on campus and learn about college life, expectations, and academic options.

Giving our Club Kids the resources they need to thrive is at



the heart of everything we do. Many of our teenage members don't have access to necessary resources for planning college visits. Our programs make it possible for us to give Club Kids everything they need - like transportation and supervision to encouragement and

support - to be a part of this important opportunity. Did you know we plan five campus tours with high school Club Kids every year?

Barbi rounded off this special day with a trip to Yiasou Cafe right in Liberty for some traditional Greek food! Most of the students had never tried Greek food, so we were excited to introduce them to a new cuisine and culture. Extra thanks to Yiasou



Cafe's owner, George, for stopping by our table to share his story of personal growth and business success!

The Club Kids were especially excited by tzatziki and pita bread, and we can't help but agree. A delicious and productive day? That's what we call a win/win. May we all be so lucky to have a mentor and friend like Barbi!

Meet Us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/townofwallkillbgc/>

Celebrating with Messiah



We'd like to congratulate Club Kid, Messiah, whose hard work landed him a Student Distinction Award this marking period! Messiah is a junior at Monticello High School whose writing contributions consistently stand out.

Messiah's most recent writing piece, A Young Black Kid's Dream, confronts the effects of poverty, nihilism, and survivor's guilt in Black communities. Messiah told us that the piece reflects his personal experience with "the internal struggle that young Black men wrestle with and how it creates an endless cycle... until someone is man enough to step up to break it."

Messiah shows time and time again that the books he reads in class and reflects on at home push him toward deeper understanding, critical thinking, and self-expression.

Not only is Messiah a joyful presence in the classroom, but he is also a pillar of our Club programs. Our teenage Club Kids count on Messiah to help resolve conflict and be a resource and friend to new members of the program. We're so proud of Messiah today and every day.

Dept. of Motor Vehicles dates for the Neversink Town Hall.

Mar. 7, 2024



Go on the Sullivan County Website at
www.sullivanny.us or search
[sullivancountydmscheduling](https://www.sullivanny.us/sullivancountydmscheduling)
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Hortonville - 104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY (rotating schedule)

Wurtsboro - 2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY (rotating schedule)

Narrowsburg - 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY (rotating schedule)

Liberty - 15 Sullivan Ave. Liberty, NY (rotating schedule)

Bloomingburg - 13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY (rotating schedule)

Mobile Unit on Location 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Forms can be accessed through the NYS DMV website - dmv.ny.gov

For further information please call: 845-794-3872

UC Executive Jen Metzger Appoints Deborah DeWan as Ulster County's First Agricultural Services Administrator



KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger today announced the appointment of Deborah DeWan as the County's Agricultural Services Program Administrator, a new position in the Economic Development Department. DeWan will develop and implement new agricultural programs in close coordination with the farming community.

In her State of the County Address, County Executive

Metzger outlined a number of agricultural initiatives for 2024, including updating the County's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan for the first time in 27 years, rolling out a new grant program to support farm investments in soil health, workforce housing, and other key areas of need, and creating a program to expand participation by low-income households in Community-Supported Agriculture (CSAs). Metzger previously chaired the State Senate Agriculture Committee when she served in the State Senate.

"We want to see the County take a more active role in supporting the long-term viability and sustainability of farming in our county, and help our farmers meet the challenges they face and take advantage of new opportunities," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "Deborah's deep knowledge of agriculture and her experience working directly with Ulster County farmers make her the ideal person for this important position, and I look forward to our work together."

Deborah DeWan brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of dedication to Ulster County's farms. She led the Rondout Valley Growers Association for six years as the organization's Executive Director, where she successfully built community connections among farmers, neighbors, and schools. DeWan later served as Agriculture Policy Advisor and Agricultural Liaison for the State Senate Agriculture Committee, helping develop state policy when the committee was chaired by then-State Senator Jen Metzger. The Senate Agriculture Committee is currently chaired by Senator Michelle Hinchey.

County Economic Development Director Kevin Lynch expressed confidence in DeWan's appointment, stating, "We are very excited about Deborah joining the team. Deborah

brings a wealth of experience after years of working in the County's agriculture sector as a policy advocate, project manager, and a strong supporter of initiatives that address the challenges faced by our farming community. Helping our local farmers is at the core of her being, and we look forward to all she will bring into this role."

DeWan outlined her vision for the program, stating, "I am thrilled to be joining the Ulster County team in the newly-created position of Agricultural Services Administrator to continue doing what I love and helping farmers do what they do best- stewarding the land, feeding our communities, and contributing to the local economy. I look forward to working with County Executive Jen Metzger, the Economic Development Department, and all the agricultural stakeholders to put the County's resources to good use. By applying and leveraging the ARPA funds allocated by the County Legislature, we can address real challenges facing our farmers, weathering the effects of climate change, strengthening their economic viability, and protecting irreplaceable agricultural land throughout Ulster County."

The Ulster County Agricultural Services Administrator position is part of the Ulster County Agricultural Crisis Relief Program, created by the Ulster County Legislature to provide support to farmers facing economic and climate-related challenges. Legislator Kathy Nolan spearheaded the effort in the Legislature, and Herb Litts, a farmer himself, co-sponsored the resolution.

"Under the able leadership of Deborah DeWan, Ulster County's new agricultural program stands ready to gear up both to protect and preserve valuable agricultural lands and also to help farmers and farms in Ulster County respond to new economic opportunities as well as to climate change and other emerging challenges," said Legislator Kathy Nolan (D-22, Towns of Denning, Hardenburgh, Olive, Shandaken). "Most of our farms in Ulster County are small farms, and we have a unique opportunity to show how valuable smaller scale farms are to our economy and how they can play an increasingly important role in enhancing the vitality and health of our entire community."

"This is a long time coming and I'm glad it's here," said Legislator Herb Litts (D-9, Town of Lloyd), a farmer himself. "Farmers in the Hudson Valley need all the help they can get."

Deborah DeWan has worked for over 25 years in the fields of agriculture, climate change, food and housing security, and environmental, community, and economic sustainability. She has worked with non-profits and government agencies throughout the Catskills and Hudson Valley with policy development, environmental planning, affordable housing planning, and land preservation projects. In addition to her work at the RVGA and State Senate, she has held senior positions at The Catskill Center and Scenic Hudson, leading and developing environmental and community programs. DeWan holds a Master of Science, Environmental Studies, from Bard College and a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

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**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
Mar 2, 2024**

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday
Mass at 8:30AM.

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

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

See you in the Spring with our New Thrift Sale Calendar!

Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches House Worship Plan
Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting - Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2029912673?pwd=R2lJYUhyTVdsQWdMUXZvTEtCeGdLZz09>
Meeting ID: 202 991 2673 Passcode: 012740
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

The Bible Study continues every Tuesday at 7 pm.
If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please feel free to contact the Pastor, Seung Jin Hong. 845-985-2283

Grahamsville Reformed Church

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

Loucks Funeral Home
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Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

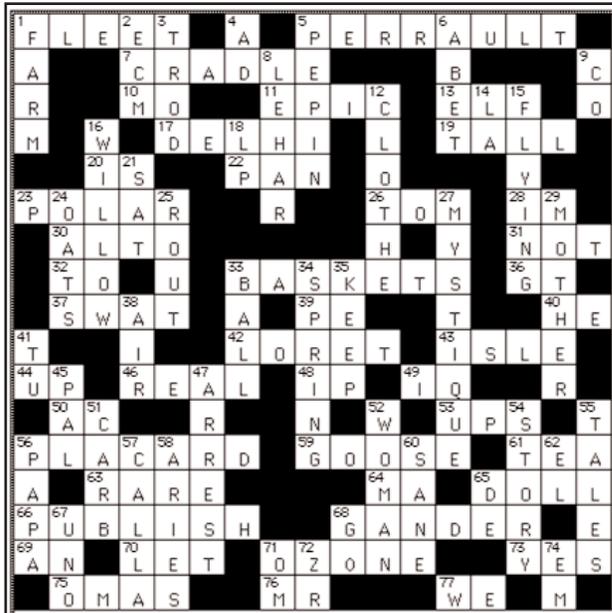


Worship Services @ 10:00 am
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor
Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

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

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also
WANTED
 People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
 answer

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

GRAHAMSVILLE
UMC THRIFT MINISTRY
 We are no longer accepting donations for the Thrift Ministry. Thanks to all for your generosity which has helped to make a successful season. We look forward to returning in the Spring of 2024.
The Grahamsville UMC Mission Team

<https://grahamsvilleUMC.org>
 GrahamsvilleUMC@gmail.com—Seung Jin Hong, Pastor

Sundown
United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
Saturday,
March 2, 2024 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall
Check out the tables with Yard Sale items available for sale
(Covered Dish Suppers are held the First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Church Hall)

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce their annual spring Tree & Shrub Program. Landowners can choose from a wide variety of deciduous and conifer trees and shrubs and specialized packets such as Nut Tree, Flowering Tree & Shrub, Wildflower, Butterfly, and perennials. Seedling varieties allow for you, the purchaser, to select what's right for your needs. We offer a range of quantities at reduced costs to promote conservation plantings.

Other items available through the program are fruit trees and wildlife habitat housing.

Trees and shrubs offered through the District program can be planted for a number of purposes such as wildlife habitat, windbreaks, hedges, screens and streambank and road bank stabilization.

To order, please contact the District Office at (845) 292-6552 and request the brochure and order form or go online at sullivanswcd.org. **The order deadline is April 8, 2024.**

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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.

3/2/24	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church Hall
3/5/24	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm
3/6/24	Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting
3/12/24	Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
3/13/24	Town of Neversink Board Meeting 7:00 pm
3/19/24	Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
3/21/24	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
3/21/24	Denning Town Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
3/29/24	Town of Neversink Holiday Good Friday

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Calendar Update for the Week Of

February 19 - February 23, 2024

All Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at
<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Monday, February 19

- o **Presidents' Day Holiday** - County Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 20

- o No Meetings

Wednesday, February 21

- o **9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

- o **10:00 AM** (or immediately following IDA) - **Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation, in Legislative Chambers**, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, February 22

- o **5:00 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Sole Member Meeting**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; 604 Bradford Ct., Boynton Beach, FL; 44 Bingham Road, Marlboro 12542; and Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 876 7096 2907

- 5:00 PM (Or Immediately Following UCEDA Sole Member Meeting) - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Annual Board Meeting**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; 604 Bradford Ct., Boynton Beach, FL; 44 Bingham Road, Marlboro 12542; and Via Zoom Meeting ID: 876 7096 2907

Friday, February 23

- o **12:00 PM - Resolution Deadline**

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

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

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-

\$6.00 per week

Business card ad (2" x 3")

- \$12.00 per week

(3" x 4") - \$24.00 per week

(3" x 6") - \$36.00 per week

1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$40.00 per week

1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$64.00 per week

(6" x 8") - \$96.00 per week

Full Page - 8" x 10" -

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Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10" -
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through the week of the event)

As in the past, there is no fee for
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CREDIT CARD SURCHARGES - The New Law and Your Business.

Last year, a law was signed that requires merchants that impose a credit card surcharge fee to post prices inclusive of the surcharge fee. This law went into effect on February 11, 2024.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce will host a webinar presented by the Division of Consumer Protection at the NYS Department of State to review and discuss how businesses can learn how to comply with the law. Participants will be allowed to ask questions during Q&A following the presentation. Join the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and Consumer Protection at the NYS Department of State for their webinar on this new law and what is now required of all businesses that charge a credit card surcharge, Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM

GET MORE INFO AND REGISTER

<https://business.catskills.com/events/details/credit-card-surcharges-the-new-law-and-your-business-14735>

In Wake of Sullivan County Head Start Closure, Rep. Molinaro Calls on Federal Government to Provide Stronger Oversight of Program

Liberty, NY - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) today called on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which administers Head Start through the Office of Head Start (OHS), to provide stronger oversight over local Head Start programs like the one in Sullivan County.

Earlier this month, Sullivan Head Start abruptly closed, leaving hundreds of children and families without education and childcare services, and many providers without a job. This closure occurred, despite

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b1/18-2/8

there being federal funding available for Sullivan Head Start to continue operating. Since then, Rep. Molinaro has worked to investigate the circumstances surrounding the closure, connected over 60 impacted families with alternative facilities, and is assisting Sullivan County in finding a new temporary and permanent Head Start provider.

In a letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Rep. Molinaro highlighted the need for stronger oversight and communication from HHS to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. Rep. Molinaro also requested additional information from HHS on why Sullivan County Head Start closed and when the agency possessed such information.

Rep. Molinaro said, "The closure of Sullivan Head Start is impacting hundreds of children, families, and providers. While we continue our work to find a new temporary and permanent provider in Sullivan County, we also need to take steps now to prevent an incident like this from ever happening again. I'm calling on the Department of Health and Human Services to step up and implement strong oversight measures of the Head Start program."

The full text of the letter can be found below:

Dear Secretary Becerra,

As you may know, earlier this month, the Sullivan Head Start located in Sullivan County, New York abruptly closed its doors to hundreds of students and families. My office worked tirelessly to get to the bottom of what had occurred and to connect families who were suddenly stuck without vital education and childcare services to facilities that could accommodate them.

The more I learned about what led to the eventual closing of the Sullivan Head Start, the more it became clear there is a need for improved oversight and communication. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must work to ensure nothing like this can ever happen again.

Below are several questions directly derived from the communities impacted by this closure:

Why did the Sullivan Head Start close so abruptly?

What are the oversight functions HHS employs on Head Start facilities across the United States?

More specifically, what information about the Sullivan Head Start did HHS have ahead of the closure that may have indicated a forthcoming closure?

What systems are in place at HHS to ensure Head Start students do not face service interruptions?

What notification requirements are in place to ensure families are given an adequate warning about potential Head Start service interruptions?

I believe we can agree this is an unprecedented incident that cannot occur again. Taking steps to prevent this from happening anywhere in America can only be a benefit and ought to be a goal.

NYS Public Service Commission Takes Action on Hudson Valley Water Company Failures, as Urged by County Executive Metzger and Local and State Officials

Public Service Commission orders Company to Show Cause by March 1 or Will Install a Temporary Operator

ALBANY, NY and KINGSTON, NY - The New York State Public Service Commission today took action to address persistent problems with water service provided by Hudson Valley Water Company (HVWC), as urged by County Executive Metzger and local and state elected officials in a letter to the Commission last month. The Commission Order requires HVWC to show cause by March 1 as to why the Commission should not order and replace the company with a temporary operator for its failures to comply with previous directives.

DPS Staff issued and detailed a 2024 report outlining the most recent "catastrophic failure" and referenced the 2020 investigation case and ongoing inability of HVWC to comply with the 49 recommendations and orders previously issued by the Commission. "Every New Yorker deserves access to clean, safe and reliable drinking water," said Commission Chair Rory M. Christian. "With today's action, we are formally starting the process to determine whether the company has failed to meet this basic requirement, and we will take swift action if the company is found to have failed to meet necessary operating standards."

In a letter to the Commission in January that was co-signed by 11 state and local leaders, County Executive Metzger made the case for a new owner-operator, citing repeated service interruptions, water quality issues, and poor communication from the company over many years, most recently in Boiceville, where residents were left without water service for nearly a month. The Office of the Ulster County Executive and Ulster County DOH, together with DPS staff, coordinated to ensure residents received proper communication, and pressed operators to comply with their responsibilities and provide potable water to residents until the Do-Not-Drink order could be lifted.

In a written response to the letter, the Department of Public Service stated that it is "actively investigating" HVWC and is "urgently considering short-term actions to ensure customers are provided with safe drinking water," while the Department and Commission evaluate long-term solutions, including replacing the owner and operator.

"I want to thank the Public Service Commission for taking prompt action on our urgent request to address long-standing issues with the service provided by Hudson Valley Water Company to more than 430 Ulster County households," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "The chronic problems associated with HVWC's service are unacceptable, and the company's failure to follow the improvement plan set out for them by the Commission suggests that the only fix is to change owners. Water is life, and our residents deserve service they can depend on."

"The Town of Olive appreciates the diligent advocacy by the Ulster County Executive's Office and the quick response of the NYS PSC on this issue of great importance to our residents. People need the security to know the source of their water is reliable and safe to drink," said Olive Supervisor, Jim Sofranko.

"Thank you to County Executive Jen Metzger for her continued efforts put forth on this matter. This is a great first step in providing the overdue relief to the residents of the HVWC," said Saugerties Supervisor, Fred Costello.

"Excellent, I could not think of a better outcome," added Mike Boms, Hurley Supervisor.

Supervisor Jeanne Walsh of Rosendale stated "Thank you to the Public Service Commission for taking this first step. The residents of High Falls Park deserve to have reliable clean water and they deserve management that takes the necessary steps to ensure their district is run responsibly."

"Today, the PSC has taken a significant step toward ensuring that HVWC customers in Hurley, West Hurley, and other locations in Ulster County will be able to count on having dependable, clean water. I thank them for taking this action to help protect our residents," said Ulster County Legislator Jeff Collins, (D-23).

"High Falls residents have long suffered from the inadequacies of HVWC in providing quality water service. I thank the County Executive and our Ulster County Department of Health for taking the lead on this most recent issue and ensuring swift action followed. We look forward to the next steps," added Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator, (D-19)

State Senator Michelle Hinchey said "The Hudson Valley Water Company has persistently violated the Constitutional right of our residents to clean, safe, and reliable water service, and we commend the PSC for hearing our calls and instituting a show cause order. Access to clean water is not just a necessity but a fundamental right, and we remain hopeful that today's action will help reveal to the Commission the long-standing negligence and indefensible service quality on the part of the Hudson Valley Water Company."

Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha said, "Many of my constituents have had their lives disrupted for years by unreliable access to clean and safe water. I welcome the Public Service Commission's decision to call on the Hudson Valley Water Company to respond as to why a temporary operator should not be installed to oversee its operations. Reliable access to water is a fundamental right and I urge the PSC to set a precedent on how seriously the responsibility of providing this service must be taken."

BACKGROUND:

Hudson Valley Water Company, Inc., operates five pumping and distribution systems throughout Ulster County, including in Mount Marion, High Falls Park, Pine Street-Hurley, West Hurley, and Boiceville. After a system failure began on December 16, the Boiceville system was left without drinking water service for nearly a month. This extended outage is the latest in a long record of outages, service interruptions, and poor customer service, and demonstrates the company's inability to follow its PSC-approved Standard Operating Procedures and Emergency Plan.

The company's failures have repeatedly resulted in officials having to step in over the years to ensure residents were properly notified of issues, including outages, boil water notices, service interruptions, and the provision of potable water during a system failure.

These issues were the basis of customer complaints about the Hurley and Mount Marion systems, which prompted a Department of Public Service Investigation in 2019-2020. In June 2022, then-County Executive Pat Ryan, together with Senator Michelle Hinchey and then-Assemblymember Kevin Cahill, held a public hearing on HVWC's request for a 20.6% rate increase, drawing residents from all five systems to demand service improvements. The company was granted just a 2.8% increase, due in good part to numerous complaints by residents and officials, and the company's failure to comply with commission orders.

Commission order and 2024 staff report for Matter 24-W-0105 can be found here:

<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseM aster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=24-W-0105&CaseSearch=Search>.

Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Arrests South Fallsburg Man



Keith Nash

On Thursday February 15, 2024, Keith Nash, 31, of South Fallsburg was arrested by the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office on a Family Court Child Support warrant. It is alleged that Nash owed \$ 1200 in support payments. The defendant was also wanted on a felony warrant for Grand Larceny. The defendant allegedly collected \$1152 dollars in food stamps that he was not entitled to. Keith Nash was arraigned in the Town

of Liberty Court and released on his own recognizance under New York's bail reform law. He is due back in court on February 21, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

Governor Hochul Continues NY's Leadership on Artificial Intelligence with Nation-leading Actions to Protect Against Deceptive Uses of AI

- **Governor Proposes Legislation to Allow Individuals to Seek Judicial Relief for the Dissemination of False Digitally Altered Material**
- **Legislation Would Also Update Penal Law to Account for Unauthorized Uses of Artificial Intelligence**
- **Also Proposes Legislation to Require Disclosures on Digitized Political Communications Published or Distributed Within 60 Days of an Election**
- **Complements Governor's Bold Empire AI Proposal to Secure New York's Place at the Forefront of the Artificial Intelligence Transformation**

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced nation-leading actions to protect against untrustworthy and fraudulent uses for artificial intelligence in New York as the state continues to build and embrace the future of responsible AI. Governor Hochul's actions include new legislation, presented as part of her FY 2025 Executive Budget, which would add a misdemeanor for unauthorized uses of a person's voice; allow for a private right of action to combat digitally manipulated false images; update the Penal Law to account for unauthorized uses of artificial intelligence; and require disclosures on digitized political communications published within 60 days of an election. The new legislation builds on the Governor's vision of putting New York at the forefront of artificial intelligence research and development - including through her transformative Empire AI proposal to

establish a consortium of leading New York institutions to unlock AI opportunities focused on public good.

"As part of our work to bring the future of AI to our state, I'm proposing nation-leading protections for New Yorkers to ensure that we're doing it safely and responsibly," Governor Hochul said. "This legislation will help to set important guardrails around the use of this cutting-edge technology and give law enforcement the tools it needs to go after bad actors, and I will work closely with the Legislature to make sure we get this done."

In light of recent, high-profile incidents involving unauthorized uses of AI and deepfakes, Governor Hochul is prioritizing safety as the state continues to build its AI footprint. The Governor has proposed legislation to add a misdemeanor for the unauthorized use of one's voice in connection with advertising or trade and to expand the existing misdemeanor of unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image to also include liability for unlawfully disseminating authentic or digitized audio featuring sexual content. The legislation would also clarify that the prohibition under current law on the unlawful distribution of intimate or sexually explicit images, includes digital images. It also adds a new private right of action for the publication of false digitally altered material.

The legislation would also update the Penal Law to clarify that crimes committed with the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence still constitute crimes and expand certain crimes to specifically include unauthorized uses of artificial intelligence, including:

- o Coercion in the third degree
- o Criminal impersonation in the first and second degree
- o Identity theft in the third, second, and first degree, and aggravated identity theft
- o Crimes regarding promoting and possessing a sexual performance or obscene sexual performance by a child

In addition, the legislation would establish the crime of Unlawful Dissemination or Publication of a Fabricated Photographic, Videographic, or Audio Record.

The Governor has also proposed legislation to require all forms of political communication - including video recording, motion picture, film, audio recording, electronic image, photograph, text, or any technological representation of speech or conduct - created through digitization to provide a disclosure of its use when published or distributed 60 days prior to an election.

Governor Hochul's Empire AI Proposal

Governor Hochul remains committed to putting New York State at the cutting-edge of AI research, including through her FY 2025 Executive Budget proposal establishing the Empire AI consortium. The consortium will create and launch a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence computing center in Buffalo to be used by New York's leading institutions to promote responsible research and development, create jobs, and unlock AI opportunities focused on public good. The consortium will be backed by seven founding institutions - Columbia, Cornell University, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the State University of New York, the City University of New York, and the Simons Foundation - as well as industry leaders.

Access to the computing resources that power AI systems is prohibitively expensive and difficult to obtain. As a result, researchers, public interest organizations, and small companies are being left behind, which has enormous implications for AI safety and society at large. By increasing collaboration between New York State's world-class research institutions, Empire AI will allow for efficiencies of scale not able to be achieved by any single university, empower and attract top-notch faculty, expand educational opportunity, and give rise to a wave of responsible innovation that will strengthen New York's economy and national security.

Governor Hochul Announces Two Free Snowmobiling Weekends

*Registration Waived for Out-of-State Snowmobilers
for First Two Weekends in March*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced two free snowmobile weekends for all out-of-state and Canadian snowmobilers to rev their engines. This year's events will occur March 1- March 3 and now March 8 - March 10, encouraging out-of-state visitors to come ride the 10,500 miles of snowmobile trails in New York State.

"Winter is here in New York, and we are ready to welcome visiting snowmobilers to our trails," Governor Hochul said. "With the help of local governments and clubs, we are now offering two free snowmobiling weekends this year to boost tourism and support local economies. Plan your trip to explore a scenic, beautiful upstate trail this season."

New York State already set aside the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in March as free for out-of-state snowmobilers, and is now adding a second. During this time, the registration requirement in New York is waived for already properly registered and insured out-of-state snowmobiling enthusiasts. Participants in these free snowmobiling events must operate a snowmobile that is registered in their home state/Province and must carry any applicable insurance as required. Outside of this promotion, out-of-state and Canadian snowmobilers are required to register their snowmobiles with New York State before hitting the state's trails - from the Hudson Valley to the North Country to Western New York.

These free snowmobiling weekends, March 1 - March 3 and March 8 - March 10, 2024, helps with tourism for state and local economies, and reinforces New York's commitment to the industry. New York State has made an ongoing commitment to snowmobile trail maintenance and our local grants program is funded by snowmobile registration fees collected by the State Department of Motor Vehicles and deposited into the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund. County and municipal governments distribute the grants to about 230 snowmobile clubs across the state, which in turn groom and maintain the trails.

This announcement is also a good reminder for riders to observe trail conditions and safety procedures while snowmobiling. Trail conditions vary depending on snowfall amounts and other factors. State Parks cautions snowmobilers, fishermen, skiers and snowshoers to put safety first and to proceed with extreme caution before venturing on ice- or snow-covered bodies of water. Historically, the two leading causes of snowmobile injuries in New York State are excessive speed and operator intoxication.

Top safety recommendations include:

- o INSPECT and properly maintain your snowmobile; carry emergency supplies
- o ALWAYS wear a helmet with DOT-certified standards and make sure you wear appropriate snowmobile gear including bibs, jackets, boots, and gloves to withstand the elements
- o ALWAYS ride with a buddy or group and tell a responsible person where you will be riding and your expected return time
- o SLOW DOWN. Ride within your ability
- o STAY ON MARKED TRAILS. Respect landowners and obey posted signs

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- o NEVER drink alcohol or use drugs and ride
- o FROZEN BODIES OF WATER are not designated trails; if you plan to ride on ice, proceed with caution and be aware of potential hazards under the snow. If you choose to ride on ice, wear a snowmobile suit with flotation built-in and carry a set of ice picks as a precaution.

Check the websites of area snowmobile clubs for information on trail conditions, including the status of grooming. Individuals operating a snowmobile should be familiar with safe riding practices and all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The New York State Snowmobile Association website provides information about snowmobiling and snowmobile clubs. Maps of the state snowmobile trail network are available on New York State Parks' website here.

More information on planning a great snowmobile getaway and other ways to enjoy winter in New York State is available at iloveny.com/winter.

DEC recently enacted speed limit regulations, effective immediately, for the length of the Adirondack Rail Trail which posts limits of 15 miles per hour in Saranac Lake and Lake Clear. Visit DEC's website for more information on the Adirondack Rail Trail. Visit the DEC website here for more information on snowmobiling on Forest Preserve and other DEC lands.

The DMV reminds New York riders that snowmobile registrations must be renewed annually. DMV allows snowmobilers to renew registrations online on the DMV website, by mail or in person at a DMV office. Snowmobile registration costs \$100 but is decreased to \$45 if the snowmobiler is a member of a local snowmobile club.

Non-New Yorkers who wish to use a snowmobile in New York State before or after this promotional weekend can use the NYS Registration for Out-of-State Snowmobile service to get a 15-day registration and operate their snowmobile here immediately. DMV will send a permanent registration in the mail.

For information on snowmobiling, visit parks.ny.gov.

Governor Hochul Announces Finalized Agreement Allowing for Installation of New Emergency Access Gate on I-84 in Orange County

Maintenance Agreement with the Town of Wawayanda Clears the Way for State Department of Transportation to Begin Construction This Spring

New Gate Will Facilitate Speedier Emergency Response to Highway Incidents

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a formal maintenance agreement between the State Department of Transportation and the Town of Wawayanda that clears the way for the installation this spring of a new emergency access gate along Interstate 84. Under the agreement, the state DOT will design and install a new entranceway and access gate at County Route 49 that will provide local emergency service vehicles with direct access to Interstate 84; and the Town of Wawayanda will maintain the entranceway and ramp going forward and ensure that designated emergency service vehicles are able to utilize it to reach the highway.

“Since the terrible accident on Interstate 84, I have been laser focused on working with our local and federal partners to approve the new emergency access gate and keep New Yorkers safe,” Governor Hochul said. “This access gate will allow police, fire departments and other emergency service providers a faster, more direct way to reach Interstate 84 and save lives.”

The agreement calls for the state DOT to design and con-

struct a new ramp from County Route 49 to the westbound Lane of Interstate 84. Access to the eastbound side will be available via an existing turnaround near the access gate. The Town of Wawayanda will perform snow and ice removal and periodically inspect the gate to be sure it is secured. Only designated emergency service providers and maintenance equipment will be able to use the access gate.

The Federal Highway Administration approved the DOT's plans for a new access gate in December 2023 and the state DOT expects to begin construction when the construction season begins this spring.

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, “Governor Hochul's imperative is that our first responders are able to quickly respond to incidents on our highways. This new access gate will make it easier for emergency services to reach incidents on Interstate 84 and allow those in need to get the help they require as fast as possible.”

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, “With this finalized agreement in hand, we are one step closer to finally installing this lifesaving crash gate on I-84 in Orange County. The tragic bus crash this past September, that killed and injured beloved members of the Farmingdale school community, was just one of many a horrific tragedies on Interstate 84 and plagued New Yorkers with fear about the ability of first responders to quickly respond to these dangerous and sometimes deadly accidents. I was proud that after calling on the Federal Highway Administration to support this plan to keep New Yorkers safe, that it was finally given the greenlight, and that today - along with Governor Hochul - I am thrilled to announce this project moving forward to improve safety along I-84. In an emergency, every minute and second counts, and I will continue to fight to deliver the federal resources needed so our first responders can continue to save lives in Orange County and beyond.”

Representative Pat Ryan said, “Our heroic first responders have been calling for this crash gate for years- I'm proud that by working together with local, state and federal partners, we're finally making strides towards delivering for them. I'll keep fighting to bring home the resources our first responders need to keep Hudson Valley families safe.”



**THE 2024
BAGEL FESTIVAL**
VENDOR REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
AUGUST 11, 2024 - BROADWAY IN MONTICELLO, NY
CLICK FOR MORE INFO!

<https://thebagelfestival.org/vendor-registration/>

Protecting Elders from Financial Abuse

: Protect and Respond Effectively from Cyber Threats.

**AT GRAHAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH SOCIAL HALL**
(350 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY)

Thursday, Feb. 29th at 1 PM

(In case of inclement weather, the snow date is Friday, March 1st at 1:00 pm)

In these times, there are unscrupulous people who prey on senior citizens (and all ages). This 1.5 hour program demonstrates how you can protect yourself and your assets from these thieves. The planned topics include:

- Scam strategies currently being used
- Losses reported by the FBI
- Fraud Trends
- Specific examples of actual cases without names
- What to look for-how to be diligent
- Can you get your money back?
- Remedies and reporting



<https://forms.gle/xUrvxbisRd3Widxa8>

This local community program will be presented by Rhonda Decker (Physical Security Officer) and Leanne Stuhlmiller (Information Security Officer) from Jeff Bank, Phil and Cathy Coombe of Coombe, Bender & Company, and hosted by Grahamsville United Methodist Church for the local community.

The program is free, but we ask that you register by phone or through the provided QR code so that we can ensure there is enough seating.

If you have more questions, please contact 845-985-2283.

- The Church Mission -

To become one with God as we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, share our faith with others, and serve God's church, community and world.

Governor Hochul Announces \$200 Million in Utility Bill Relief for 8 Million New Yorkers

*Discount Provided to Residential and Non-Residential Electric and Gas Customers
More Than \$1.4 Billion in Assistance Available to
Energy Utility Customers in 2024*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that the New York State Public Service Commission adopted a \$200 million New York State energy bill credit to be administered by the large electric and gas utilities on behalf of their customers. The energy bill credit is a one-time credit using State-appropriated funds to provide energy bill relief to more than 8 million directly metered electric and gas customers. With today's action, more than \$1.4 billion has been or will be made available to New York consumers to help offset energy costs in 2024.

"Every New Yorker deserves affordable and clean energy, which is why I fought to secure additional funds to provide financial relief for hardworking families," Governor Hochul said. "Energy affordability continues to be a top priority in my clean energy agenda and this utility bill credit is just one of many actions New York is taking to reduce costs for our most vulnerable New Yorkers."

The program, proposed by the Energy Affordability Policy working group, provides that the \$200 million appropriation included in the FY24 State Budget will be allocated to customer accounts through a one-time credit within roughly 45 days of the utilities receiving budget funds. This utility bill relief builds on several other key energy affordability programs administered by New York State, including \$380 million in energy assistance program (EAP) funding for consumers through utilities, \$360 million in Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funding, \$200 million in EmPower+ funding through the State Budget, over \$200 million in ratepayer funding to provide access to energy efficiency and clean energy solutions for low-to-moderate income (LMI) New Yorkers through the Statewide LMI portfolio and NY Sun, and more than \$70 million annually through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

The Department of Public Service (DPS), in consultation with the Energy Affordability Policy working group, was tasked with designing a utility bill relief program related to the costs of utility affordability programs in recognition of energy commodity cost increases and the costs of utilities' delivery rate increases. The working group considered multiple proposals over several months to effectuate the desired relief. The majority of the working group agreed to the staff proposal after several key modifications and recommended the PSC implement a one-time energy bill credit that would primarily benefit residential and small business electric and gas customers.

The Energy Affordability Policy working group is made up of leading consumer groups and advocates, municipalities, relevant state agencies, and utilities in New York.

measures to ensure energy is affordable in 2024 and beyond."

In addition to the energy bill credit funds and EmPower+, New York State programs offer funding and technical assistance that can assist homeowners, renters, and businesses manage their energy needs. This includes:

- o Apply for HEAP: As of November 1, applications were being accepted for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

which can provide up to \$976 to eligible homeowners and renters depending on income, household size and how they heat their home (e.g., family of four with a maximum monthly gross income of \$5,838 can qualify). For more information visit NYS HEAP.

- o Energy Affordability Program/Low Income Bill Discount Program: This program provides income-eligible consumers with a discount on their monthly electric and/or gas bills, as well as other benefits, depending on the characteristics of the particular utility's program. New Yorkers can be enrolled automatically if they receive benefits from a government assistance program. For more information, they should visit their utility website or links can be found at DPS Winter Preparedness.

- o Community-based Service Programs: Service organizations and local community agencies provide financial aid, counseling services and assistance with utility emergencies. New Yorkers can contact organizations like the American Red Cross (800-733-2767), Salvation Army (800-728-7825), and United Way (2-1-1 or 888-774-7633) to learn more.

- o Receive a customized list of energy-related assistance in the State: New York Energy Advisor can help income-eligible New Yorkers locate programs that help them spend less on energy and create healthier and more comfortable spaces. With New York Energy Advisor, consumers answer simple questions and get connected with energy-saving offers in New York State. Sponsored by NYSERDA and utilities, qualified New Yorkers can get help paying utility bills, receive special offers on heating assistance, and more.

- o EmPower+: Income-eligible households can receive a home energy assessment and no-cost energy efficiency upgrades through the EmPower+ program, administered by NYSERDA. Get more information about the program, including information on how to apply at <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/EmPower-New-York-Program>.

- o Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal, WAP provides income-eligible households with no-cost weatherization services. Rental properties can also be served, though there are additional requirements for owners of rental properties. For more information on WAP, including how to apply, visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/weatherization-applicants>.

New York State's Nation-Leading Climate Plan

New York State's nation-leading climate agenda calls for an orderly and just transition that creates family-sustaining jobs, continues to foster a green economy across all sectors and ensures that at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the benefits of clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities. Guided by some of the nation's most aggressive climate and clean energy initiatives, New York is on a path to achieving a zero-emission electricity sector by 2040, including 70 percent renewable energy generation by 2030, and economywide carbon neutrality by mid-century. A cornerstone of this transition is New York's unprecedented clean energy investments, including more than \$40 billion in 64 large-scale renewable and transmission projects across the state, \$6.8 billion to reduce building emissions, \$3.3 billion to scale up solar, nearly \$3 billion for clean transportation initiatives, and over \$2 billion in NY Green Bank commitments. These and other investments are supporting more than 170,000 jobs in New York's clean energy sector as of 2022 and over 3,000 percent growth in the distributed solar sector since 2011. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, New York also adopted zero-emission vehicle regulations, including requiring all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold in the State be zero emission by 2035. Partnerships are continuing to advance New York's climate action with 400 registered and more than 100 certified Climate Smart Communities, nearly 500 Clean Energy Communities, and the State's largest community air monitoring initiative in 10 disadvantaged communities across the State to help target air pollution and combat climate change.

Woodbourne Fire Department

French Toast Breakfast



Sunday April 14th, 2024

7am – 12 Noon

Location: Woodbourne Fire House

Adults \$12.00

Children 6 or Under \$6.00

For more information call: (845)-434-6763 or (845)-798-1035



Eat In or Take Out

**Breakfast includes: French Toast,
Eggs (Scrambled, Over Easy & Sunny Side Up)
Sausage and Home Fries**



Governor Hochul Expands Access to Mental Health Care to 200,000 SUNY Students \$10 Million to Support Expanded Mental Health Services at 28 SUNY Campuses

Funding Allocated to SUNY's State-Operated Campuses Through This Year's Historic \$163 Million Operating Increase

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced State University of New York campuses are investing nearly \$10 million in annual State funding to increase their mental health services and support for students, faculty, and staff. This investment will expand services at 28 campuses, support more than 200,000 students, and build on its Statewide Tele-Psychiatry Network (STPN) and new tele-counseling option for community colleges.

"We are making critical investments to ensure every New Yorker has access to high-quality mental health services," Governor Hochul said. "College can be a stressful and overwhelming time, and this funding will expand mental health services on college campuses so students can focus on just being students."

This funding was secured through the Governor's and the New York State Legislature's historic \$163 million recurring increase in direct operating aid to SUNY's State-operated campuses this year. To highlight the impact of the funding, SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. visited SUNY Oswego and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) today. At Oswego, he spoke with students about mental health and met with counselors and staff at the recently renovated Mary Walker Health Center. The center, named after Oswego native Mary Walker, the only female Medal of Honor recipient, houses the campus Counseling Services.

To build on the campus' model counseling operation that has long been at the vanguard of initiatives for SUNY and higher education in general, SUNY Oswego is investing its new state funding in:

- o Hiring more staff to support students, such as staff that specialize in providing care to students from marginalized backgrounds.
- o Entering tele-counseling contracts to provide more access to therapy and practitioners from diverse backgrounds.
- o Extending counselor contracts so they can provide services over the summer months.
- o Being able to provide an increase in pay to per diem staff who offer much-needed services.

At SUNY ESF, the Counseling Center staff provides therapy services for students, hosts outreach initiatives and training, and consults with campus members on how to best support students and connect them to resources. To expand the services provided for students, ESF will utilize the funding in:

- o Hiring additional staff to support the campus community.
- o Hosting a Mental Health Symposium to bring together staff, faculty, and students for an event that focuses on topics related to mental health.
- o Launching a peer ambassador program to assist with programming initiatives on campus.

Other state-operated campuses will use their portion of the \$10 million to expand mental health services and support including:

- o At least 25 campuses will hire, retain, or extend the contracts of over 90 mental health staff, including psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and other clinical staff. Many campuses will be able to increase their capacity to meet student mental health needs by extending clinical hours or focusing on targeted student populations.
- o 14 campuses will leverage telehealth contracts to increase capacity and meet crisis and off-hours student needs. Telehealth contracts will also allow for several campuses to connect students to a more diverse clinical staff, both in terms of specialties and demographics.

SUNY's Student Tele-Psychiatry Network (STPN) has grown from four campuses utilizing the service in 2018 to 56 campuses as of spring 2024. The

entire network is run out of SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, and utilizes psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, case managers, and more. STPN primarily provides psychiatric services and medication management to SUNY students. The network may also provide diagnoses, mental health assessments, and short-term Cognitive Behavioral Therapy intervention to students. Since the spring of 2017, 2,085 students have been seen overall via the STPN, with around 13,430 appointments since that time.

About The State University of New York

The State University of New York, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023, is the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the United States, and more than 95% of all New Yorkers live within 30 miles of any one of SUNY's 64 colleges and universities. Across the system, SUNY has four academic health centers, five hospitals, four medical schools, two dental schools, a law school, the country's oldest school of maritime, the state's only college of optometry, and manages one US Department of Energy National Laboratory. In total, SUNY serves about 1.4 million students amongst its entire portfolio of credit- and non-credit-bearing courses and programs, continuing education, and community outreach programs. SUNY oversees nearly a quarter of academic research in New York. Research expenditures system-wide are nearly \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2022, including significant contributions from students and faculty. There are more than three million SUNY alumni worldwide, and one in three New Yorkers with a college degree is a SUNY alum. To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunities, visit www.suny.edu.

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On Valentines Day, Governor Hochul and Dr. Ruth Westheimer Announces Tips to Help NY's Connect and Address Loneliness

Governor Kathy Hochul today highlighted resources available through State government to improve mental health and combat loneliness, as New Yorkers gather to celebrate Valentine's Day. Developed in partnership with Dr. Ruth Westheimer, renowned intimacy therapist and New York's honorary 'Ambassador to Loneliness', these resources offer simple measures New Yorkers can take in their lives - from reaching out to friends to volunteering in their community - to help them and their loved ones avoid and address feelings of loneliness, and to prevent social isolation.

"Valentine's Day is a time when we can make simple gestures to our friends and loved ones to let them know they are in our thoughts," Governor Hochul said. "We should also be mindful of those who feel isolated or alone and take measures to show them we care. Together with my friend Ambassador Ruth, we are letting all New Yorkers know that resources are available to help anyone struggling with feelings of loneliness and social isolation."

"If you are alone on Valentine's Day, do what I am going to do - call a friend who is also alone and do something enjoyable together," said Dr. Westheimer, in a video message. "Agree that you are going out and maybe you'll even meet somebody new. This Valentine's Day, let's commit to ending the loneliness epidemic in our state and making sure all New Yorkers know they have somewhere to turn for help."

Last spring, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory warning of an epidemic of loneliness and social isolation spreading nationwide. About half of U.S. adults indicated that they experienced loneliness, the 81-page advisory concluded, warning that many individuals are now less engaged with traditional institutions and social connections. While older adults are at increased risk for loneliness and social isolation, people of all ages may be affected.

As part of her service as New York's first-ever honorary 'Ambassador to Loneliness,' Dr. Westheimer released a public video promoting a list of simple actions all New Yorkers can take to help stave off a sense of loneliness, and to prevent themselves and others from experiencing social isolation. These measures include:

- o Reconnecting with Friends and Loved Ones: Valentine's Day can present the perfect opportunity for New Yorkers to reconnect with someone outside of their normal social network. Call up a friend or loved one or stop by a neighbor's house - making these connections can rebuild or rekindle positive relationships that have faded over time.

- o Volunteering in the Community: Volunteering has been demonstrated to improve physical and mental health, provide a sense of purpose, and nurture social relationships. New York State's Commission on National and Community Service can connect individuals with volunteering opportunities in communities statewide. Individuals interested in volunteering can also reach out to Let's Green NYC, an initiative that will connect them with volunteer groups dedicated to improving parks and public spaces New York City, or the State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to connect with organized friends groups supporting parks and historic sites.

- o Getting Out and Exercising: Although winter is in full swing,

something as simple as taking a walk around the neighborhood or getting the body moving will strengthen muscles, increase oxygen to the brain, and ultimately improve mood and mental acuity.

- o Visiting Local Museums or the Public Library: These institutions provide a variety of programs and resources - including classes, book clubs, and other social activities - that can help individuals establish positive connections within their community. Museums and libraries are also areas where individuals can make new connections with others exploring what these institutions have to offer.

- o Reaching Out to Peers Online: For New Yorkers who cannot connect with others in physical settings, online resources are available to help them connect with other adults. For older adults, the New York State Office for the Aging has partnered with GetSetUp to provide thousands of live online classes, free of charge, to keep older adults mentally, physically and socially active.

More than a third of adults 45 or older experience loneliness, with nearly a quarter of adults 65 or older considered socially isolated, a recent study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found. Loneliness is defined as the feeling of being alone, regardless of the amount of social contact, while social isolation refers to a lack of social connections. Per the report, social isolation significantly increases the risk of premature death from all causes, rivaling the risk posed by other detrimental health conditions or behaviors, including smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity. Social isolation has been associated with an approximately 50 percent increased risk of developing dementia, while poor social relationships - characterized by social isolation or loneliness - have been associated with a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease and a 32 percent increased risk of stroke.

The Office of Mental Health continues to implement Governor Hochul's landmark \$1 billion plan to strengthen New York's continuum of mental health care, which was adopted last year. Part of this multi-year plan includes investing \$60 million in capital and \$121.6 million in operating funding to dramatically expand outpatient services, which can provide a stigma-free environment to help New Yorkers experiencing mental health issues like anxiety or depression.

Additionally, last year Governor Hochul significantly expanded the capacity of the state's 988 Crisis Contact Centers by nearly doubling their annual funding from \$35 million to \$60 million. Nearly 200,000 calls are directly routed to New York's crisis call centers annually, with roughly 31,000 calls coming from former service members connecting via the Veteran's Crisis Line.

Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "Valentine's Day is a time when so many New Yorkers affirm their affinity for friends and loved ones. But for some, the Valentine's Day observation can contribute to heartache, accentuating feelings of loneliness and social isolation. This year, we are joining Governor Hochul and Dr. Ruth Westheimer in reminding everyone in our state of the simple steps we can all take to help ourselves and others who may be struggling with the depression or anxiety and raising awareness of the resources available to overcome those feelings often associated with loneliness and isolation."

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State is also taking steps to develop age-friendly communities and build a more robust system of mental health care. Last year, Governor Hochul signed an executive order to create the state's first-ever Master Plan for Aging to ensure older New Yorkers can live healthy, fulfilling lives while aging with dignity and independence. New York is seeking input from older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers - please consider completing the Master Plan for Aging survey before February 29. <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/mpasurvey>

Apply Now for Youth Bureau Funding Monies Available for Groups Which Serve Local Children

Monticello, NY - The Sullivan County Youth Bureau is now accepting grant applications from organizations which serve children and youth within Sullivan County.

The Youth Bureau receives monies annually from the Sullivan County Legislature to fund youth programming within Sullivan County. Eligible applicants include private non-profit organizations, schools and municipalities.

“The Legislature is glad to provide this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children across the County,” affirms District 1 Legislator Matthew McPhillips, who chairs the Legislature's Planning, Real Property and Economic Development Committee, to which the Youth Bureau reports. “We encourage applications from any local nonprofit or government agency that serves our kids. Applications can be found at <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/Youthbureau/Apply>.”

Organizations that would like to be considered for funding are requested to submit completed applications by Monday, March 11, 2024 by the close of business. All applications must be submitted electronically to

Kristen.Kitson2@Sullivanny.us.

For more information, please contact the Sullivan County Youth Bureau at 845-807-0394.

Letter to the Editor

Stop China's Purchase Of U.S Land And Companies

Congress has to pass the 2024 Farm Bill which includes a provision to provide oversight and the restriction of foreign companies and governments from purchasing U.S. farmland. In particular it must address purchases by companies and other entities from China and other adversarial countries.

Although these companies might only own a very small percentage of U.S. farmland, recent purchases by Chinese companies have increased in recent years, including the purchase of Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork producer.

Several Chinese companies have tried to purchase farmland near U.S. military bases. In 2021 a Chinese company tried to purchase land about 12 miles from the Grand Forks, ND Air Force Base. The base houses top secret intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and communication facilities. The deal was killed by intervention from the Air Force. Prior to the Grand Forks effort another Chinese company tried to purchase land near the Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas, but lawmakers killed the deal.

We have to stop allowing companies in countries like China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela from purchasing our farmland and corporations. These countries are ongoing threats to our national security.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

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ESTATES & TRUSTS • INJURY & MORE**

Sullivan County Democratic Committee Endorses

Bethel, NY- February 20, 2024 - The Sullivan County Democratic Committee held its convention on February 20, 2024. By unanimous vote, the Committee endorsed the following candidates:

Josh Riley for Congress in the 19th District, Michele Frazier of Delhi, NY for State Senate District 51, Paula Kay of Rock Hill, NY for Assembly District 100, and B. Elton Harris for Sullivan County Coroner.

Riley will challenge first term Congressman Marcus Molinaro in a re-match from 2022, when he lost by a narrow margin. Frazier will challenge first term State Senator Peter Oberacker. Kay's challenger is currently unknown. She is running for the seat currently held by long time Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, who is retiring. Harris has been Sullivan County Coroner for more than 25 years.

“Sullivan County's Democrats enthusiastically support this slate of candidates and are ready to roll up their sleeves to achieve a win for all of them in November,” said Chair Anne Hart.



For Children Of All Ages!



WINTER READING CHALLENGE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

Get your reading logs and bingo sheets here!

<https://danielpiercelibrary.org/Pages/Index/228365/winter-reading-challenge>

Daniel Pierce Library
328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268
845-985-7233
<https://www.danielpiercelibrary.org>



The Daniel Pierce Library **CELEBRATES** **LEAP DAY**

Where will you be spend a day that only comes around once every four years? Hopefully at the library! Tri-Valley families are welcome to join us for this extra fun-filled day and celebrate with hula hoops, crazy hats, games, puzzles and leap day time capsules!

Thursday,
February 29th
9:00 a.m. to
7:00 p.m.

Library users with outstanding fines are invited to leap back into the library during this fine free day. Any items with overdue fines or items that have been marked as "lost" can be returned and related fines and fees will be waived!

Registration not required. Activities while supplies last.

DEC Forest Rangers Week in Review Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Rangers respond to search and rescue incidents statewide. Working with other state agencies, local emergency response organizations, and volunteer search and rescue groups, Forest Rangers locate, and extract lost, injured, or distressed people from across New York State.

In 2023, DEC Forest Rangers conducted 370 search and rescue missions, extinguished 146 wildfires covering nearly 1,400 acres, participated in 52 prescribed fires that served to rejuvenate more than 1,000 acres of land, and worked on cases that resulted in hundreds of tickets and arrests.

“DEC Forest Rangers are among the nation's most versatile first responders, utilizing their expert training and wide-ranging knowledge to protect natural resources while encouraging responsible stewardship among those who visit State lands and sites,” said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. “Their expertise in wildland fire suppression, technical rescue techniques, and law enforcement mean that Rangers are always prepared to successfully execute critical missions, here in New York State, as well as across the continent.”

Town of Shandaken Ulster County Wilderness Search: **On Feb. 11 at 5:50 p.m.**, Ray Brook Dispatch notified Forest Ranger Horn about two hikers lost in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area. Coordinates obtained by Dispatch placed the 28- and 31-year-old subjects near the summit. The pair from Dolgeville and Herkimer lost the trail as darkness set in and called 911. Ranger Horn called one hiker's cell phone and helped guide the pair a short distance back to the trail. The hikers shared tracking information with Ranger Horn to ensure they made it back to the trailhead. At 8:30 p.m., the hikers reached the trailhead where they were met by New York State Police and Shandaken Police.

Environmental Conservation Police on Patrol

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division of Law Enforcement enforces the 71 chapters of New York State's Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), protecting fish and wildlife and preserving environmental quality across New York. In 1880, the first eight Game Protectors proudly began serving to protect the natural resources and people of New York State. In 2023, the Division of Law Enforcement fielded more than 101,500 calls, resulting in Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Investigators across the state responding to more than 30,932 complaints and working on cases that resulted in nearly 16,900 tickets or arrests for violations ranging from deer poaching to solid waste dumping, illegal mining, the illegal pet trade, and excessive emissions violations..

“DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers and Investigators from Brooklyn to Buffalo and beyond work around the clock to protect our environment, safeguard public health, and hold law breakers accountable,” DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. “As DEC continues its efforts to build a Police force more reflective of the communities they serve, the public can rest assured that our Officers, in partnership with representatives of local, State, and federal law enforcement agencies, continue to enforce New York's stringent Environmental Conservation Laws.”

JIM YORK
163 Krumville Road, CR2A
Olive Bridge, N.Y. 12461

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

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

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM

46 North Street in Monticello

For information

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

Skunk Whisperer

On Jan. 27, ECO Powers received a phone call from a concerned quail hunter who reported witnessing a large skunk inside a live trap near a ditch on Traffic Road in the town of Otto. It appeared whoever trapped the skunk abandoned the animal and trap to avoid getting sprayed. Officer Powers responded, located the distressed skunk, carefully walked up to the trap, maneuvered it to avoid being sprayed, and opened the door. After some initial hesitation and assistance from the



Officer Powers responded, located the distressed skunk, carefully walked up to the trap, maneuvered it to avoid being sprayed, and opened the door. After some initial hesitation and assistance from the

Officer, the skunk wandered off unharmed. ECOs encourage individuals who trap an animal they are uncomfortable approaching to contact DEC for assistance.





TROUT UNLIMITED

Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter



BLUE MOUNTAINS TROUT NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

By Ed Ostapczuk



A winter scene on New York City's (NYC) Ashokan Reservoir. Photo by Ed Ostapczuk

Next Chapter Meeting is February 22

The chapter's February meeting will take place 7:30 PM Thursday, Feb. 22 at the Boiceville Inn, on NY 28 in Boiceville. Chapter President Mark Loete will give a PowerPoint presentation on the evolution of modern fly rods. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW STARTING TIME AND LOCATION of chapter meetings. We hope to see members and guests there.

Fly Tying Workshops in February and March



As reported in last month's newsletter, the chapter is hosting 2024 fly tying classes at the Olive Library - 4033 NY 28A, West Shokan - starting this Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. Classes will be held on the last two Saturdays in February (2/17 and 2/24) and the first two Saturdays in March (3/2 and 3/9). Attendance is free and all are welcome, BUT please pre-register with Tony Cocozza at: Flyfish@hvc.rr.com. Bring your own tying items if you want; if you don't have any gear, the chapter will provide tools and materials for use at the library sessions.

A #4 Governor wet fly, good for the Esopus Creek late season when big stoneflies and Isonychia reappear. Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Shandaken Tunnel/NYC DEP SPDES Permit

On February 27 the New York City of Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) will be hosting their semi-annual SPDES Permit (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) review via Zoom. Several chapter members plan to participate and we have submitted a few questions regarding the Shandaken Tunnel that hopefully will be addressed.

Fishing News

So far it seems weather this winter has been very variable and unpredictable. Mountain snow pack seems to be less than normal. Despite changing weather, opportunities have presented themselves for the hardy few willing to take advantage of good days to try their luck at fishing. Several folks have reported some success. Chapter member Bennet Ratcliff recently experienced a nice outing on a local trib. Remember, until April 1, 2024 stream trout fishing is limited to "catch & release" only, using either flies or lures. Bait fishing is not allowed till April 1, and all trout must be released unharmed.



An Esopus trib wild brown made an ordinary winter day special
Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP)

Chapter members continue to participate in ongoing AWSMP Stream Ecosystem Working Group meetings attended by reps of USGS, NYS DEC, NYC DEP, and AWSMP. More on AWSMP at ashokanstreams.org.

Acid Rain Report

Jody Hoyt reported during January there were 10 measurable storms recorded in Boiceville. These included 20.1 inches of sleet/snow with a total of 9.4 inches of liquid precipitation having a 5.6 weighted average pH. Thank you, Jody.

Treasurer's Report

Jody reports we currently have \$8,475.95, with \$7,185.43 in the General Operating Fund and \$1,290.52 in the Conservation Fund, dedicated to conservation uses only.

Membership

If you have membership questions or concerns, or know someone who wants to join our chapter, please contact Russell Martin at: mailto:rmartintu@gmail.com?subject=TU%20membership%20inquiry.

Until next time,
Ed Ostapczuk
February 14, 2023

Spring 2024 Special Topics Course: Creating & Activating Public Spaces



Are you interested in parks or public spaces? Want to know how these places can improve the health of your community? Looking to explore more of Sullivan County?

Consider taking HUM1350 this spring, which will introduce students to the importance of public spaces for community health and wellness; careers and opportunities associated with caring for public spaces, facilities and grounds, parks and main streets; an understanding of the effort to engage citizens in creating public spaces.

HUM1350 • 3 Credits
Tuesdays 1 PM - 3:40 PM
Main Campus, G120
 Instructor: Shannan Cilento, AICP
 Community Development &
 Communications Manager, Sullivan 180

To register or for more details, scan the QR code.




2023 – 2024
- WOODSTOCK FARM FESTIVAL -
WINTER MARKET

OVERLOOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
233 TINKER STREET

SATURDAYS, 10 – 2

EVERY OTHER WEEK
JANUARY 6 – MARCH 16





**CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
STATION 65**

1500 DENNING ROAD
CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725
845-985-7270

E-MAIL Claryvillefd@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/claryvillevolunteerfd

Defensive Driving Course

Opened to all Community Members

Sponsored by: Claryville Vol. Fire Dept

Date: Saturday, March 23rd, 2024

Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$45 per a person

***Checks made out to Claryville Vol. Fire
Department**

**To sign up please contact Glenn at 845-985-2943 by
3/20/24.**



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



March 2, 2023

5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

and don't forget to check out the tables
filled with a variety of collectibles,
household items and more
that will be available for sale

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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

VETERANS

Do you get bored in the

WINTER?

Consider Joining

HUDSON VALLEY SHRED VETS



**A VETERAN ONLY SNOWSPORTS PEER GROUP.
NO COST. ALL SKILL LEVELS.**



Contact: Steve Masee Call/ Text: (845) 417-5795 Email: MaseeSJ@yahoo.com Social Media: @HVShredVets





COMMUNITY TAKEOUT CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday, May 18, 2024
4 to 6 p.m.

Museum and Library Parking Lot
332 Main Street, Grahamsville

*Supports the
Time and the Valleys Museum's
Educational Programs*



Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740
845 985-7700 info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org

COME SEE US AT THE TRUDY RESNICK FARBER CENTER!



SERVICES

Physical Fitness: Free Fitness Classes on Mondays and Thursdays

Nutrition Coaching: Meet with our Certified Nutrition Coach for assistance with Nutrition Education, Meal Planning, and Individualized Chronic Disease Nutrition Planning.

Wellness Community Health Worker: Learn about Preventive Cancer Screening, Finding a Primary Care Provider, Smoking Cessation Support, and Apply for NYS Market Place Insurance.

Substance Use Support Community Health Worker: Get trained to use Narcan, Get Harm Reduction Supplies, and Treatment Information Options.

SCHEDULE

Monday 11:00 am Fitness Class - Interval Training

Tuesday 10:00am - 12:00pm Wellness Community Health Worker
1:00pm - 3:00pm Nutritionist

Wednesday 1:00pm - 3:00pm Substance Use Support Community Health Worker

Thursday 10:00am - 2:00pm Nutritionist
2:30 pm Fitness Class - Cardio Dance

Friday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Wellness Community Health Worker

Daniel Pierce Library

5 HOUR PRE-LICENSING CLASS FOR PERMIT HOLDERS

DMV approved class and mandatory for unlicensed students 16 and up looking to get their license. Students must hold a NYS "photo" permit to attend.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Looking to get your license? This 5 hour DMV approved course will provide you with a certificate good for 1 year. Brought to you by J & J Driving School, instructed and owned by Jerome and La June Black with over 25 years experience.

Class fee is \$45 per student. To secure registration submit checks to DPL payable to J & J Driving School prior to class date.

Please stop in to the library today. Space is limited.

*** Snow Date Saturday April 27, 2024**

- Become a safe driver
 - No test required to complete
 - Get certificate valid for 1 year
 - Gain confidence
 - Photo permit required day of
 - Additional course information to follow upon payment & registration
- BRING YOUR LUNCH!**

Advanced registration is required at:
www.danielpiercelibrary.org



Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233
www.danielpiercelibrary.org



ELEMENTARY SOCIAL SKILLS

Registration is open for Grades K-5.

Action Toward Independence offers fun and interactive Social Skills groups for children with Autism and other developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities. These informative sessions cover topics that promote positive behavior, improve interactions with others and build confidence.

- Manners
- Listening
- Hygiene
- Emotions

Social skills classes will be held in person at ATI Main Office at 309 E Broadway in Monticello, NY. Parents may be required to attend some sessions with their child to offer guidance and support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Family Peer Advocate
(845) 794-4228
info@atitoday.org

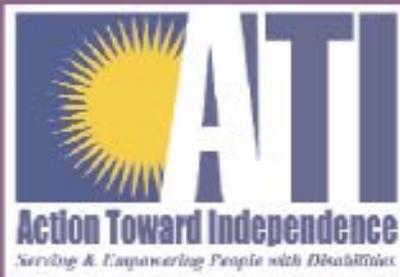
Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.

Visit our website at

atitoday.org



SCAN ME!



Middle School Social Skills



Action Toward Independence offers interactive and fun Social Skills groups for children with developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities grades 5 - 8.

The informative sessions cover age-appropriate topics for pre-teens and teens that promote positive behavior, respectful communication, and building confidence.

Social skills classes will be held in person at ATI Main Office at 309 E Broadway in Monticello, NY

For more information:
Family Peer Advocate
(845) 794 - 4228
info@atitoday.org

Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.

Visit our website at

atitoday.org



SCAN ME!



SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

*For any other questions
845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com*

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



**VET 2 VET OF SULLIVAN COUNTY
PFC JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS
PEER SUPPORT PROJECT**

WEEKLY WARRIOR WALK

**NO DOG REQUIRED TO WALK
WALNUT MOUNTAIN
LIBERTY, N.Y.**

THURSDAYS @ 1500 (3 PM)

**VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES ARE WELCOMED**

**ALL ANIMALS ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT
MUST BE ON A LEASH.**

For more information, or to register,
please call 845-794-4228
or email smurphy@atitoday.org

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK OR ONLINE @ WWW.ATITODAY.ORG





**STARTS JANUARY
2024!**

Are You Ready?



Life Skills Group

WORK READINESS EDITION

This series is tailored for 16 to 25-year-olds with developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities. It helps prepare individuals for the workforce by developing skills such as appropriate workplace behavior, social etiquette, time management, and interview techniques. Other topics include wearing proper clothing and using social cues, such as a good handshake.

Every Friday from 5:00pm to 6:15pm

309 East Broadway

Monticello, NY 12701

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(845) 794-4228

info@atitoday.org



SCAN ME!

Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.

Visit our website at

atitoday.org





After a busy week down in Washington, D.C., I wanted to provide another update on how I'm fighting for Hudson Valley priorities:

STANDING UP TO THE MTA'S UNFAIR, UNINFORMED, AND UNACCEPTABLE CONGESTION PRICING PLAN

For decades, the MTA has failed the Hudson Valley. Now, it is proposing a \$15 per day toll to penalize dedicated Hudson Valley workers and families without providing significantly improved services or reliable alternative public transportation options.

Since the MTA refused my call to hold one of its public hearings on its congestion pricing plan in the Hudson Valley, I decided to hold my own this weekend.

We heard from firefighters, police officers, transportation workers, and teachers all saying the same thing: the congestion pricing plan is completely detached from reality.

The MTA must commit to adding one-seat service in Orange, improving service in Dutchess, and adding exemptions for public servants who live in the Hudson Valley but protect New York City.

If you want to make this work, come to the table, and let's talk about actual solutions.

DEMANDING AN END TO GUN VIOLENCE

Again in America, a moment of joy and celebration was shattered by horrific gun violence in Kansas City during the Chiefs Super Bowl parade.

Twenty-one people, mostly children, struck by bullets, and on the sixth anniversary of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida no less.

We are better than this. We must be better than this. The only way we end the violence is for the cowards in the GOP to finally tell the gun lobby to go to hell. Now, together, before another life is lost.

FIGHTING FOR OUR ALLIES IN DEMOCRACY

Last week, once again, Elise Stefanik, Speaker Mike Johnson, and the far-right broke faith with the American people and with our allies to follow Donald Trump's marching orders. They don't even have the courage to hold a vote on a bipartisan aid package to our critical allies.

The need to stand with Ukraine became even more urgent with the death of Alexi Navalny, the biggest pro-democracy voice in Russia.

Let's be clear, the blood of Alexei Navalny is on Putin's hands. This MUST be a wake-up call for Congress amidst our Ukrainian ally's existential fight for freedom.

Having survived previous brutal assassination attempts, Navalny knew his relentless battle for democracy against Putin's authoritarianism would likely cost him his life - Navalny refused to yield.

He embodied bravery, moral fortitude, and hope, which is why Putin feared him. Navalny's fight to protect democracy, to stand against Putin, is the very same fight as our Ukrainian ally's. If we fail to pass additional military aid, Kyiv will fall.

And it will all be due to far-right politicians who do not

have a sliver of Navalny's courage.

We see "leaders" like Mike Johnson and Elise Stefanik turn to putty in the hands of Donald Trump. They're more loyal to a traitorous former President and his friends in the Kremlin than they are to our own national security and the security of our allies.

I'm calling on them to emulate the legacy of Alexei Navalny. To put the survival of democracy across the globe and the good of our country ahead of their political agendas.

This is a wake-up call. I took to the House floor and joined colleagues on a letter this week to convey the urgency of this moment: we're running out of time. Watch here .

<https://twitter.com/RepPatRyanNY/status/1758147894211707164?s=20>

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

The C.A.R.E.S. Van has been all over Orange County the past couple of weeks bringing assistance with everything from passports to VA benefits to Social Security right to you in your neighborhood.

Thanks to everyone who came out to join my team! This upcoming week is packed with more events, including joining with Senator Michelle Hinchey's office to bring assistance with both federal and state agencies to constituents in Dutchess County - hope you'll join!

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED OUR NATION

Our veterans risk their lives to protect us and our nation - it's the ultimate show of love for their fellow Americans and for our democracy.

Thank you to all of the students and community members from across the Hudson Valley who helped thank them for their sacrifice by sending in their homemade cards for my second annual Valentines for Vets.

My staff has already started delivering them to veterans across NY-18, making some new friends along the way!

I'm looking forward to being home this upcoming week and getting to hand-deliver some of the cards myself.

SUPPORTING OUR NURSE PRACTITIONERS

It was great recently seeing a familiar face down here in my DC office. Thanks to Alexis for making the trip down from Fishkill on behalf of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Looking forward to continuing to work together to make quality healthcare more accessible across the Hudson Valley.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Thank you to the members of the Community Health Care Association of New York State who came from across the Hudson Valley to DC to discuss the vital role that community health centers play in making quality healthcare more affordable for NY-18 families.

I'll keep working every day to ensure you have the resources you need to keep our families healthy!

DELIVERING FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Our heroic first responders have been calling for a crash gate for years at the site of last September's tragic bus accident on I-84.

I'm proud that by working together with local, state and federal partners, we're finally making strides towards delivering.

I'll keep fighting to bring home the resources our first responders need to keep Hudson Valley families safe.

(Contd. Pg. 54)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 53)

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a critical document for college students to secure federal financial aid and alleviate the burden of the cost of college.

The U.S. Department of Education is hosting a webinar series to help current college students, prospective college students, and parents navigate the FAFSA submission process to maximize financial assistance. The webinars will take place over February 20, 21, and 22. Learn more and register here

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnbnwom1UOEiXN1VBU01EUkdURFFTOVVUVI1JMWIZCRi4u

Know that I will keep battling to make education more affordable and ensure that critical financial aid programs continue to provide brighter futures for our kids!

GRANTS CORNER APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

The NYS ConnectALL Broadband - Municipal Infrastructure Program will assist municipalities, non-profits, and other entities to construct open and accessible public broadband infrastructure to provide New Yorkers with high-quality, reliable, and affordable service options. The Municipal Infrastructure Program will prioritize projects that address unserved and underserved locations. Learn more here .

The 2024 Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program provides student loan repayment assistance to over 1,200 awardees who commit to work at eligible healthcare facilities or schools of nursing. The purpose of the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program is to assist in the recruitment and retention of professional Registered Nurses, including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, dedicated to working in health care facilities with a critical shortage of nurses or working as nurse faculty in eligible schools of nursing. Applications are due by March 7, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. ET. More information on this funding opportunity can be found here .

The Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program provides critical funding to strengthen volunteer fire departments and districts statewide. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$1,000,000 if proposing projects for construction, renovation, or purchase costs for critical facilities (buildings, training facilities, etc.) that support fire operations, or up to \$500,000 if proposing projects for allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve their response capabilities. Application due April 30. See the following for more information and resources: Request for Applications (RFA) , Application Worksheet , Frequently Asked Questions , E-Grants Tutorial

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) provides support to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications on a rolling basis for \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available through its Community Change Grants Program to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and

advance clean energy. This opportunity will be available for a year, closing on November 21, 2024, and EPA will review applications on a rolling basis. This allows applicants to utilize technical assistance and possibly resubmit a new application if not initially selected. EPA encourages applicants to apply as early as possible.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is now accepting applications for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2024. The popular program helps communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or regional impact. RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the state and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. Application due by February 28, 2024 .

If you want to stay up-to-date on all of that my office is doing, I encourage you to follow along on our social media channels: Facebook and Twitter .

Please remember that my office is always here to help if you have a question or need assistance. You can reach us using the contact information above and below and we will do everything we can to connect you with the resources you need.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

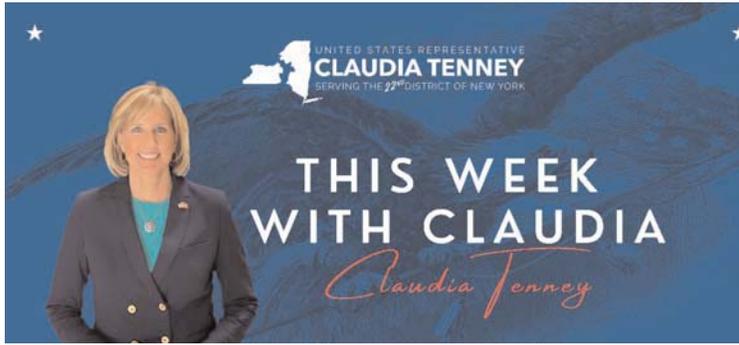


Impeaching Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas

The historic impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas sends a message to the Biden administration that the American people will hold them accountable for willfully refusing to enforce the laws of the United States. This impeachment follows a months-long investigation into the record-breaking 8 million illegal border crossings that have happened under Mayorkas' watch.

I recently joined local elected officials from our community and the former New York ICE Director to discuss the severity of this crisis that continues to shatter records and squander taxpayer resources, turning every community into a border community. I also hosted a Law Enforcement roundtable in Watertown, and a member of the CBP spoke of the need to address the growing crisis at our Northern Border. 85% of all suspected terrorists, including an Iranian national who illegally attempted to enter our country through Niagara County, have done so along the Northern Border. It is essential that we hold Mayorkas accountable for the crisis he caused in our own backyard.

In addition, as one of the first members of Congress to call for Secretary Mayorkas' impeachment, I firmly believe that this is a crucial step forward for our nation. Every day that Secretary Mayorkas is in office, he threatens our national security. On behalf of New York's 24th Congressional District, I voted to impeach Secretary Mayorkas this week and reiterated my commitment to ensure Congress takes all necessary measures to secure the border. (Contd. Pg. 55)



This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 54)

Unleashing American Energy Independence

Earlier this year, the Biden administration took its anti-American energy policy to a new level by halting liquefied natural gas (LNG) export authorizations. This misguided decision is a direct attack on all hardworking families and will only raise prices at the pump, kill American jobs, threaten American energy production, and empower our adversaries.

I voted in favor of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, this week to remove these dangerous restrictions on U.S. imports and exports of natural gas and enact safeguards to prevent trade with individuals or foreign nations subject to sanctions or designated as state sponsors of terrorism.

I remain committed to supporting pro-American energy policy solutions to deliver affordable energy options for hardworking families.

Election Integrity Update: The End Zuckerbucks Act PASSED the House Administration Committee Markup

During the 2020 Election, Mark Zuckerberg dumped \$350 million into the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), a left-leaning non-profit run by former Obama staffers. CTCL then funneled this money directly to Boards of Elections, completely bypassing any accountability or oversight from state legislatures or local governments. CTCL said at the time that this money was for PPE, but it was actually used for just about everything but PPE. As election officials have since admitted, this includes Get Out the Vote campaigns, mailers to registered voters, and online voter registration drives. In addition, 92% of this money went to Democratic-leaning precincts.

I introduced the End Zuckerbucks Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations from directly funding official election organizations through donations or donated services. This bill works to prevent Silicon Valley billionaires and special interest groups from spending millions of dollars to directly influence election administration and voting policy, strengthening the security and integrity of our elections.

With the 2024 election cycle upon us, it is critical that the House immediately bring this bill to the House Floor to ensure that Americans in every state and territory have confidence in free, fair, accurate, and transparent elections. As chair of the Election Integrity Caucus, I will continue to advocate for transparency and accountability in our democratic process.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional Republic. My constituents deserve to know how their members of Congress vote, which is why I have explained every vote I have cast in Congress since I was first elected.

To read more about my votes and see the full list with explanations of all the legislation considered this week by the House, please click here. <https://tenney.house.gov/about/my-votes-explained>

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 2766, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2023. H.R. 2766 would direct the State Department to create the Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues position. It would also direct the State Department to offer Uyghur language training to Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) and assign FSOs who speak the language to diplomatic missions in China. Millions of Uyghurs and other ethnic minority groups residing in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have been the victims of genocide and China's "reeducation" campaign. The United States needs an enhanced strategy to further raise the atrocities in XUAR on the global stage, push back against China's campaign of disinformation and coercion, and effectively respond to the human rights abuses taking place. H.R. 2766 is a great first step in the right direction. It passed the House by a vote of 414-6.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024. H.R. 7176 removes restrictions on the import and export of natural gas, protecting investment in American energy production and undoing our adversaries' grip on the global energy market. Since President Biden assumed office, his war on American energy has caused skyrocketing prices that have placed a heavy financial burden on families in New York and across the country. The latest act of President Biden's war on American energy saw the administration pause all pending approvals of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals. This is nothing more than a gift to Russia, Iran, and other authoritarian regimes who have used their energy profits to fund their wars and destabilization tactics. Today, I stood up for New Yorkers by condemning the Biden administration's war on American energy and reiterating efforts to deliver affordable energy options to hardworking families. H.R. 7176 passed the House by a vote of 224-200.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 533, the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act. H.R. 533 serves as an essential step in the right direction toward countering China's human rights abuses against the people of Tibet. It would amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to expand the responsibilities of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to counter Chinese disinformation and broaden the definition of the territory of Tibet to include historically Tibetan regions. H.R. 533 passed the House by a vote of 392-28.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 5375, the Strengthening the Quad Act. H.R. 5375 would establish a working group between the federal legislatures of the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, otherwise known as "the Quad". This bill would also require the Secretary of State to submit a strategy to Congress on a plan for bolstering engagement and cooperation with the Quad. This strategy would include proposals to enhance security cooperation, intelligence sharing, and economic partnerships. H.R. 5375 passed the House by a vote of 379-39.

I voted "Yes" on H.Res. 966, Condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel. H.Res. 966 condemns the extreme violence committed by Hamas terrorists against Israelis on and since the horrific events of October 7, 2023. It also calls on other countries and international organizations to condemn rape and sexual assault by Hamas terrorists. I have been horrified by international organizations that have denied the indisputable evidence of rape and sexual assault by radical Palestinian terrorists during the horrific October 7 attack. As a strong supporter of Israel and women, I was honored to cosponsor and support this important resolution. H.Res. 966 passed the House by a vote of 418-0, with 1 voting present.

(Contd. Pg. 56)

This Week With Claudiaia

(From Pg. 55)

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023. H.R. 3202 would amend the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 to specify that sanctions on the Assad regime in Syria should include energy projects, on which the Biden administration has refused to impose sanctions. It would also require the development of a strategy to prevent the normalization of the Assad regime in the Middle East. H.R. 3202 would enact essential measures to prevent the brutal Assad regime from attaining status on the world stage and continue pressure to address the regime's horrific human rights abuses. I was honored to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3202 and was glad to see it pass the House by a vote of 389-32.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023. H.R. 5856 authorizes funds for certain programs to combat human trafficking through education grants, support for survivors, and improved coordination among law enforcement. The United States must do more to fight the egregious crime of human trafficking and H.R. 5856 will be an important first step in that effort. The next step must be to combat the crisis at our southern border, which has enabled a troubling increase in human trafficking. H.R. 5856 passed the House by a vote of 414-11.

I voted "Yes" on H.Res. 863, impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors. The historic impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas sends a message to the Biden administration that the American people will hold them accountable for willfully refusing to enforce the laws of the United States. Secretary Mayorkas' impeachment follows a months-long investigation into the record-breaking 8 million illegal border crossings that have happened under his watch. I recently joined local elected officials from our community and the former New York Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director to discuss the severity of this crisis that continues to shatter records and squander taxpayer resources, turning every community into a border community. As one of the first Members of Congress to call for Secretary Mayorkas' impeachment, I firmly believe that today's impeachment vote is a crucial step forward for our nation. Every day that Secretary Mayorkas is in office, he threatens our national security. On behalf of New York's 24th Congressional District, I voted to impeach Secretary Mayorkas and reiterated my commitment to ensure Congress takes all necessary measures to secure the border. H.Res. 863 passed the House by a vote of 214-213.

ICYMI: Standing with Local Officials in Combatting the Migrant Crisis

President Biden's failure to secure our borders has already cost New York taxpayers billions, and Albany Democrats sanctuary city and far-left state policies are continuing to fuel this crisis.

I joined Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt, Assemblyman Mike Norris, Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, Niagara County Legislator Rich Andres, and Former Director of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations for the State of New York, Thomas Feeley, last weekend to discuss the ongoing border crisis plaguing our community.

We stand united and committed to supporting policy solutions like ending catch and release and reinstating Remain in Mexico, which will work to combat this crisis.

READ MORE: Tenney, Ortt call for end of 'catch and release' immigration policy

<https://www.wgrz.com/video/news/local/as-seen-on-tv/tenney-ortt-call-for-end-of-catch-and-release-immigration-policy/71-3a1f3bb8-4cd5-4c3d-a3a4-99563b3bade8>

ICYMI: IRS Best Practices Webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48kjPcLm9mo>

As part of our office's monthly webinar series, our team works to connect residents of New York's 24th Congressional District to resources and support at the federal level.

For this segment, my team of expert caseworkers hosted a webinar with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to give our constituents some tips and tricks and discuss the best practices for filing taxes this year. This webinar also covered new rules, dates, and deadlines to look out for!

Recordings of this webinar and past webinars can be found on my website here <https://tenney.house.gov/issues/monthly-seminar>



Rep. Molinaro Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Address Healthcare Provider Shortage at Community Health Centers in Upstate NY

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY-19) today introduced the Health Care Workforce Innovation Act of 2024 to address the healthcare provider shortage at Community Health Care Centers (CHCs) in Upstate New York. He introduced this bipartisan bill alongside U.S. Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-02).

CHCs, like Cornerstone Family Healthcare in Binghamton, are community-based and patient-directed organizations that provide comprehensive healthcare to medically underserved and rural populations. In Upstate New York, CHCs are experiencing a healthcare staffing shortage, leaving families without reliable access to care.

Rep. Molinaro's bill addresses the workforce shortage by creating a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish or expand partnerships between CHCs and high schools, vocational-technical schools, community colleges, Area Health Education Centers, or Health Care Career Laddering Programs. With the partnerships, CHCs will be able to implement training to practice models that will produce qualified medical, behavioral, and oral health professionals that can practice in medically underserved and rural communities.

Rep. Molinaro said, "I am proud to partner with Congresswoman Craig to address the healthcare provider shortage. It's not good enough to just have a Community Health Center. In many medically underserved and rural communities, we need enough qualified providers to meet the needs of Upstate New York families. This grant program will get more students trained to provide care to the Upstate New York community."

(Contd. PG. 57)

Rep. Molinaro Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Address Healthcare Provider Shortage at Community Health Centers in Upstate NY

(From Pg. 56)

Rep. Craig said, "We need to act to ensure that all Americans have access to the high-quality health care they deserve. Right now, that means investing in the community partnerships we know will prevent workforce shortages and incentivizing young folks to pursue meaningful careers as health care workers. I'm proud to be working with my colleague Rep. Molinaro on this important bipartisan effort."

David Jolly, President and CEO of Cornerstone Family Healthcare said, "Cornerstone Family Healthcare thanks Rep. Molinaro for his continued support of the work we do at community health centers. The Health Care Workforce Innovation Act highlights health centers' role in workforce innovation and provides the tools and funding to continue to develop a strong workforce that reflects the community we serve. This bill will ensure that health centers, both in the Hudson Valley and nationwide, will have the workforce needed to provide high-quality, comprehensive healthcare to the populations who need it the most."

National Association of Community Health Centers President and CEO, Kyu Rhee, said, "Community Health Centers are proud to be the employers of choice for more than 300,000 dedicated employees who serve more than 31.5 million Americans at more than 15,000 locations across the country. As a physician, I know how important allied health professionals such as medical assistants, dental assistants, pharmacy technicians, and many others are to patient care and to the operations of health centers. That's why more than 80 percent of health centers are establishing innovative partnerships with local schools, community colleges, and Area Health Education Centers to support training in community-settings and provide career laddering opportunities for staff. I commend Representative Molinaro for his leadership in introducing this important legislation, which for the first time will provide federal funding to scale up these successful community-led workforce development partnerships."

Tim Clement from Mental Health America said, "Mental Health America supports the Health Care Workforce Innovation Act because it will enhance the allied health professional workforce, including peer support specialists who play a critical role in the recovery process for those with mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Clinical and non-clinical allied health professionals play a critical role in the overall delivery of health care in America."

Rose Duhan, President and CEO for Community Health Care Association of NYS said, "Community Health Centers have always relied on innovation and creativity to ensure they have the people they need to provide high quality care to the populations who need it most. The Health Care Workforce Innovation Act recognizes that health centers are the leader in workforce innovation - and provides the funding they need to develop workforce from within the very communities they serve. We are incredibly grateful for Congressman Molinaro's leadership and commitment to health centers and the tremendous work they do."

Jeffrey B. Caballero, MPH, Executive Director of the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) said, "The Health Care Workforce Innovation Act is important legislation to help community health centers address the significant workforce challenges they face. CHCs provide care to 31.5 million people in the U.S., including nearly 1.5 million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. This bill makes historic investments to build out CHCs' integrated care teams and establish a pipeline to recruit new staff and upskill current employees who are culturally and linguistically aligned with a health center's needs. AAPCHO applauds Rep. Molinaro for his leadership in introducing

this bill. We urge Congress to pass it without delay."

Dr. An Nguyen at the National Network for Oral Health Access said, "For decades, health centers have been incubators and hosts for innovative workforce solutions, and NNOHA believes that strategies that strengthen their ability to deliver community-based training programs, though partnerships and funding, are essential to the future of health care and the health of the communities served by health centers. The dental industry is facing a critical shortage of dental assistants and dental hygienists that impacts health centers' ability to meet the needs of those they serve. Authorizing HRSA to provide health centers with resources to establish and expand vocational programs to train people in the community (often where they already live) to fill these high-demand positions will ease a critical gap in the healthcare workforce, increase the ability of health centers to care for more patients in need, increase employment in good paying jobs for those who may not be able to afford higher education, and incentivize young people to enter and remain in the field where they are so urgently needed. NNOHA applauds this innovative approach to encourage partnerships to alleviate workforce shortages in America's highest needs communities."

Dr. Gary Cloud of A.T. Still University said, "A.T. Still University stands firmly behind Congressman Molinaro's Healthcare Workforce Development bill, H.R. 7307, recognizing its vital role in shaping the future of healthcare education and ensuring a robust and skilled workforce to meet the evolving needs of our communities."

This bill is also endorsed by The National Association of Community Health Centers, National Rural Health Association, National Network for Oral Health Access, Mental Health America, A.T. Still University, and Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations.

Ahead of President's Day, Rep. Molinaro Launches NY-19 Writing Competition for Students with President-themed Prompt

Binghamton, NY - Ahead of President's Day, U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) today announced his office is having an essay writing contest for young students in New York's 19th Congressional District. <https://molinaro.house.gov/services/writing-competition.htm>

In 400 words or less, Rep. Molinaro's writing prompt asks students: 'If you were President for a day, what would you do?'. Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade in New York's 19th Congressional District are eligible to enter the contest and a winner will be chosen from each grade. This contest gives young students a chance to practice their writing skills, use their creativity, and learn more about government and the presidency.

Rep. Molinaro said, "What would you do if you were president for a day? Would you make Pizza Friday every day? Would you build playgrounds accessible to those with disabilities? I want to hear from students across Upstate New York on what they would do if they were the leader of the free world. I'm excited to have students participate and submit their essays for this competition."

Essays should be submitted by March 15, 2024, and include the student's first and last name, school, and grade, along with their parent or guardian's contact information. Essays can be submitted by email to Congressman.Molinaro@mail.house.gov with the subject line 'Writing Contest' or by mail to the following address:

Attn: President for a Day Writing Contest
Office of Rep. Marcus J. Molinaro
PO Box 615, Leeds, NY 12451

Questions about the contest can be directed to Rep. Molinaro's office at 518-625-2100.

Craft Fair, Yard Sale, Vendors & Food Vendors

Sponsored by: Woodbourne Fire Department

Location: 355 Fire House Road

Woodbourne NY, 12788

Time: 10am - 4pm

Date: Saturday, May 25th, 2024

Vendor spots are \$25.00 (NONREFUNDABLE) for a 10x10 spot.

Food Vendors are \$50.00 (NONREFUNDABLE)

All Vendors Must supply their own power for outside.

Payment must be made prior to setting up your spot

Vendor's spots will be available inside and outside. Tables will be provided for inside Only. If you have a spot outside, you will need to provide your own tables.

Indoor spots are a First come First serve basis (ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT)
and No spots will be reserved.

Once indoor spots are filled everyone will need to set up outside.

For more information please contact Amanda at (845)-798-8648 or James at (845)-423-3910 or

Send a email to wfd91815@gmail.com and put Vendor Information in subject.





SULLIVAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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RABIES CLINIC

FOR DOGS, CATS, AND FERRETS



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Sullivan County
Department of Public Health

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 6:00-7:30 PM
Town of Rockland, Livingston Manor Firehouse
93 Main Street.
Livingston Manor, NY

-
-
- **All pet owners must clean up after their pets.**
- **All pets must be at least 3 months old.**
- **All pets must be in a carrier or on a leash.**
- **Aggressive dogs should be muzzled to prevent any biting incidents.**
- **Bring proof of prior rabies vaccination to receive a 3-year vaccination.**
- **If you do not have proof of prior rabies vaccination, your pet will receive a 1-year vaccination.**

Sullivan County Residents Only!

- **Please bring photo ID as proof of Sullivan County Residency.**
- **No Pre-registration at this time, there maybe pre-registration at future clinics.**

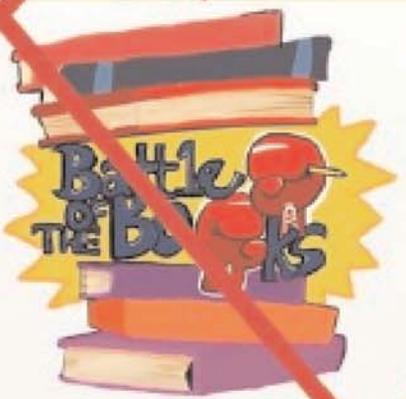
If you have any questions, please call:
Sullivan County
Department of Public Health
at : 845-292-5910, Ext. 0.

RCLS

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Logo Contest

Are you
artistic?



RCLS is looking for a new logo for their Battle of the Books Competition.

This opportunity is open to all teens in Grades 6-12!
(In RCLS service area)

Submissions are due by 2/23/24

Details are available at the front desk.



Rules & Criteria

For more information go to:
<https://danielpiercelibrary.org/Pages/Index/228680/rcls-battle-of-the-books-logo-contest>

Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

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

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

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



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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



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

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

Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486

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



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

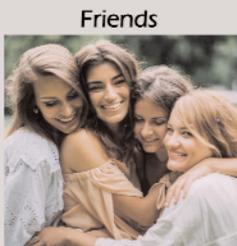


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Amigos

Family

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Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

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VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

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

Contact Rebekah at rumarbashar@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM





VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

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

Contact Anne-Marie at afreitas@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM





Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Falls Prevention

**Tuesdays &
Fridays
Jan 30– Mar. 22,
2024
4:00-5:00 pm**

A \$10 fee for the cost of the participant handbook is refundable upon completion of the series.



What is Tai Chi?

Tai chi is an ancient Chinese practice that combines slow and gentle movements with deep breathing.

Tai chi helps:

- Increase strength, balance, and posture
- Prevent the risk of falls
- Improve the mind, body, and spirit
- Reduce stress

All movements are adaptable to meet your needs and can be performed from a chair! This is an 8-week series; classes are held 2x week for 1 hour.

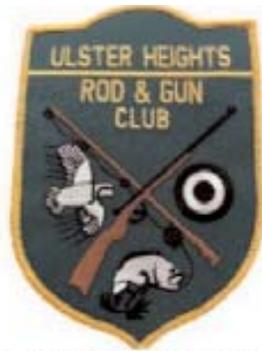
Register:



sullivancee.org - sullivan@cornell.edu - 845-292-6180

This program is supported through funding from the NYS and Sullivan County Offices for the Aging.

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Contact CCE/SC to request special accommodations.



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RYAN BOLLIN 845.399.6703 - CLUB PRESIDENT
ERIC AKERLEY 845.707.1483 - CLUB MEMBER

WINNER WILL BE CONTACTED BY PHONE WHEN TICKET SALES HAVE RUN OUT

★ Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Jupiter



Thursday, February 22, 2024
6:00-7:00 p.m.

(For adults and students ten and up)

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary on Jupiter, discovering this beautiful planet with additional insight from our experts. Weather permitting we will head outside for a viewing of this spectacular planet and its moons. If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

For Tri-Valley residents. Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org.

In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.



Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233
www.danielpiercelibrary.org

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Time and the Valleys Museum

Grahamsville, NY

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- Free admission to the Museum and expanding Catskill Farm
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events
(there are TWO exhibit openings in 2023!)
- *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter
- Monthly historical and informative emails
- 10% discount in the Museum Shop



Join now & get 10% off!

Join at the \$100 (Patron) level for FREE admission to thousands of museums all across North America! You can use the form below, or go to www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org to join with paypal.

Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740
845 985-7700 www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25 \$22.50	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Double	\$40 \$36	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50 \$45	City: _____ State & Zip: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100 \$90	Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Silver	\$200 \$180	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Gold	\$500 \$450	

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum.



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10am -3:30pm

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Happening February 23,
from 8:00am to 12:00pm
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Sharps must be in a plastic, puncture-proof container
Free Sharps container will be provided
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to fight alone at home.**

Vet 2 Vet



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Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

vet2vet@atitoday.org

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

2024 Caregiver Resource Center Virtual Support Groups



Wednesdays | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

January 17th

January 31st

February 14th

February 28th

March 13th

March 27th

Via Zoom or Phone

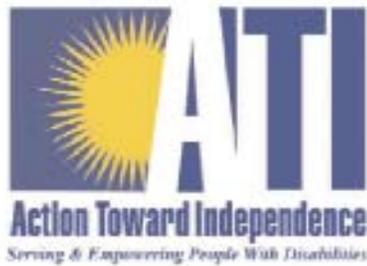
For all family caregivers of any age caring for an individual with any illness, chronic disease or disability (including seniors or someone with early-stage dementia).

Register: email sullivancrc@cornell.edu or at <http://tinyurl.com/ezt9kzn>.

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION

sullivancce.org - sullivan@cornell.edu - 845-292-6180

This program is supported by a grant from the NYS Department of Health and is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County Office for the Aging, and the Alzheimer's Association.



ANGER MANAGEMENT

Mark your calendars! The course will run from Thursday, January 18, 2024, to Thursday, February 29, 2024. Class starts at 10:00 AM and ends at 12:00 PM.

Join us for this six-week course, which will provide you with effective tools for managing your anger. Learn how to identify anger re-activators and gain valuable tips to help you stay calm and in control.

For more information

and to register :

845-794-4228

www.atitoday.org

ati@atitoday.org



309 E Broadway, Monticello NY 12701

RENTALS

Store for Rent in Grahamsville (845) 985-7411

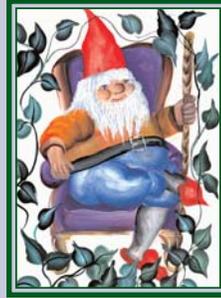
FOR SALE

Sundown Camp and Bait Shop!
Firewood for sale

HELP WANTED

Typing Help Wanted

Experienced or Student. Full/Part time. Work in Grahamsville. Busy Law Office.
William Brenner
(845) 985-7411



“Knarf’s Classic Movies”
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ON HBOMAX
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE
WORLD WAR II

Super Heros of **The Justice League** go back in time to **World War II**. All our Heros are trying to prevent the immortal Vandal **“SAVAGE,”** from using future technology to change history. Our **Super Heros** Fueled by their



restored faith in humanity, inspired by Superman's selfless act, Bruce Wayne (**B a t m a n**) enlists the help of his new found ally Diana Prince (**Wonder Woman**), to face

an even greater enemy, causing the team to now face an even greater threat to global peace Together, Batman and Wonder Woman work quickly work to recruit a team to stand against this newly awakened enemy. Despite the formation of an *unprecedented league of heroes*, **Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and the Flash** may be too late to save the planet from an assault of catastrophic proportions.

GET HBOMAX

And find out what Superman’s selfless act was.

For more great Justice League videos
click the link below:

https://www.hbomax.com/grw-jldc?utm_id=sa|71700000080823539|58700006929662059|p62298511336&&msslkid=32ee9ee6d95713ac9db4fe927194fb6f&gclid=CK3X26bB-e8CFeOjswod4MULJg&gclsrc=ds

(Contd. Pg. 74)

Answer to last week’s Trivia Question: Bing Crosby and Bob Hope

This weeks’ Trivia question: What kind of ship wwas the *Amistad*? Dutch, Portugese or Spanish?



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at the

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<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>

(From Pg. 72)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE'S *It Happened on 5th Avenue*

(Holiday comedy / 1h 55m | TV-G 1947)

A favorite TCM heart warming comdey about the long gone business practice that supported the nights off the individual people and supported the



humanity in all of us. where people come first, and business second. Couple this with tongue and cheek LAUGHTER of knidness and man's humility to mankind,, the rich and the hobo meet and live on equal ground.



Directed by Roy Del Ruth. Starring Don DeFore, Gail Storm, Ann Harding, and Charles Ruggles.

FUNNY, FUNNY, FUNNY!

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE'S

CLASSIC RERUNS ON SPECTRUM TV, CHANNEL 151 (HERICNH) THE HEROS AND ICONS CHANNEL 7:00 AM WEEKDAYS

Maverick

(TV - G / comedy / western drama)

PLAYFUL CON ARTISTS, AND GAMBELING GUN-MEN BRET AND BART MEVERICK PLAYED BY JAMES GARNER, AND JACK KELLY KEEP THE



OLE WEST ALIVE THROUGH MYSTERIOUS, BUT SOLVABLE CRIMES.

WE ALSO HONOR CLASSIC RERUNS LIKE ON SPECTRUM TV, CHANNEL 151 (HERICNH) THE HEROS AND ICONS CHANNEL 7:00 AM WEEKDAYS ALSO ON HEROS AND ICONS THE ORIGINAL

STAR TREK ORIGINAL SERIES

(Adventure science fiction, age 8 Plus) Channel 151 on Spectrum, or search on your provider



Star Trek is an American science fiction media franchise originating from the 1960's television series *Star Trek*, created by Gene Roddenberry. That series, now often known as "The Original Series", debuted on September 8, 1966, and aired for three seasons on NBC. It followed the voyages of the starship USS Enterprise, a space exploration vessel built by the United Federation of Planets in the 23rd century, on a mission "to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations.

*Stay safe and stay well,
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome*