

# Ye Olde **Tri TOWNSMAN** Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Sitz!"

**VOL. 23 NO. 9 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

*Mysterious Book Report* John D. McKenna Pg 7 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 8  
*Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* - Page 80

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## History of the Lions Club International and The Tri-Valley Lions and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club

As the Tri-Valley Lions approach one of our main fundraising events, The Journey For Sight Walk and Tag Day on Saturday, May 2, 2026, we thought it would be a good time to let our community and supporters know how Lions International and later the Tri-Valley Lions and Lioness Clubs came to be.

Lions International is the world's largest service organization, united by a shared mission to serve communities with kindness, compassion, and dedication. With over 1.4 million members across 200+ countries and 50,000 Lions Clubs, we work together to make a lasting impact through humanitarian efforts, disaster relief, vision care, youth empowerment, and environmental initiatives. Our commitment to service transforms lives, fosters leadership, and strengthens communities-because where there's a need, there's a Lion.

The Association of Lions Clubs was established in 1917 in **Chicago, Illinois**, by **Melvin Jones**, a Chicago business leader and a **Freemason**. The Association went international in 1920 when Border Cities Lions Clubs in Windsor, Canada, was established. The name of Lions Clubs International has been used since then. It subsequently evolved as an international service organization under the guidance and supervision of its secretary, Melvin Jones. (Contd. Pg. 5)



Tri-Valley Lions Charter  
November 18, 1977



Tri-Valley Lioness Charter  
October 23, 1979

## The Scholastic Art Awards for Sullivan, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties Honors Another Year of Excellence

**New Paltz:** The Regional 2026 Scholastic Art Awards Program recently brought together talented young artists from Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties to celebrate their creativity and artistic achievement. Organized in collaboration with the Hudson Valley Scholastic Art Affiliates-including Dutchess BOCES, the Enlarged City School District of Middletown, the Orange County Arts Council, Orange-Ulster BOCES, and Sullivan BOCES-the annual event was held at SUNY New Paltz on Friday, Feb. 6.

This year, the Hudson Valley Regional Affiliate welcomed 949 middle and high school artists, with an impressive 3,227 works adjudicated. Among the winners, 228 students received Gold Keys, 317 earned Silver Keys, 458 were recognized with Honorable Mentions, and five were awarded the prestigious American Vision Award for exemplary artistic expression.

"Events like this inspire students to continue exploring their creativity and personal expression while reinforcing how vital the arts are to a well-rounded education," said Merideth Paff, instructional support services coordinator at Sullivan BOCES. (Contd. Pg. 29)



Steel Webbing by Allison Vasko, LCS

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA - From the notes

of Frank Comando

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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

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

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

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

**On the Front Burner:** When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. Proverbs 3:24

## OBITUARIES

**Gary D. Brooks**, 72, of New York, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2026, at Garnet Health Medical Center in Middletown.



Born on June 19, 1953, in Kingston, Gary was the beloved son of Dolores Perty Brooks and the late Henry Brooks. He grew into a man known for his talent, humor, and deep love for family and the outdoors.

Gary was a skilled handyman who truly could fix anything. A gifted woodworker, he found joy in building and creating with his hands. He loved the outdoors and everything it had to offer—especially hunting, fishing, camping, and ice fishing. Horses were another lifelong passion. For many years, Gary trained horses and spent time at Monticello Raceway, where he combined his love for animals with the thrill of the track.

At home, Gary's creativity and devotion to his family shined brightly. He built a miniature golf course in his backyard, where he could often be found playing with his children, creating memories filled with laughter. He proudly served as a troop leader for Cub Scouts and later with the Boy Scouts, mentoring and guiding young people with patience and encouragement.

Gary had a laid-back personality and was known as a jokester who loved to make others smile. He enjoyed being surrounded by family and friends and was someone people naturally gravitated toward. In his younger years, he played guitar in a rock band with close friends, a passion he carried throughout his life, continuing to play music until recently.

He was a lifelong dog lover, always having canine companions by his side. His favorite dog, Autumn, held a special place in his heart even after her passing.

Gary's favorite holiday was Thanksgiving—not only for the delicious food but for the joy of having

his entire family gathered together. Those moments meant the world to him.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving wife, Kimberly "Kim" Brooks; his children, Andrew Brooks and Peter Brooks; his mother, Dolores Brooks; his siblings, Steven, Bonnie, Betty and Henry; and his cherished canine companions, Lily and Duke. He was predeceased by his siblings Michael, Debbie and Barbara.

Services are under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home. For further information, please call 845-434-7363.

Gary will be remembered for his warm heart, quick wit, steady hands, and the deep love he had for his family and the life he built around them.

**James E. Bowers**, a lifelong resident of the area, passed away on February 10, 2026, at Garnet Health Medical Center. He was 78.



Born on June 22, 1947, in Loch Sheldrake, New York, James was the son of the late Fred Bowers and Rose Wade.

James proudly served his country in the United States Army and was a dedicated member of the Vietnam Veterans. After his military service, he went on to work for the Town of Fallsburg Highway Department, where he retired as an Equipment Operator. He took great pride in his work and the many years he devoted to serving his community.

James was a man who truly enjoyed the simple things in life. In his younger years, he was a football player in high school and remained a devoted fan throughout his life, often found watching games on television. He loved flying airplanes, mowing lawns, and spending his mornings drinking coffee with the guys. He enjoyed watching television, taking his beloved dog, Lady, for rides, and cherished his trips to Colorado to visit his granddaughter. Above all else, Jim treasured time spent with his family.

For over 57 years, he was married to the love of his life, Geraldine "Gerri" Bowers. (Contd. Pg. 4)

# DAYS OF YORE....

## Today's History

### February 29, 1956

A daughter, Rena Claire, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bullis Jr. of Trumbull, Conn., on February 21st at the Milford Hospital. Mrs. Bullis is the former Miss Barbara Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albro Brown of Lackawack.

The wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Westcott of Ellenville was celebrated at a dinner party at the home of Miss Eunice Terwilliger. Other guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Westcott of Napanoch, and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Miller of Ellenville. Sunday, February 26th was also the wedding anniversary of Miss Terwilliger's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Neal Terwilliger.

John Buswell and Charles Nagel of Grahamsville were among the nine Eagle Scouts who were given special recognition by former county council president, Kenneth Rutherford at a dinner held last Thursday evening at the Grange Hall in Monticello.

### March 2, 1966

The following members of the Neversink Fire Department were awarded membership pins at a dinner given in their honor at the Neversink Community Hall on Saturday evening, Feb. 26th. Ten year pins were given to French Harris, Milton Kortright, James Marks, George Everett, Walter Harris and Sherm Kortright. Fifteen year pins were given to Herman Huffman, Harry Knox and Leslie Krum.

It was announced last week that John Sherman had received word of his acceptance at the State Univ. College at Geneseo. John, who plans to major in Chemistry, was Tri-Valley's lone Regents Scholarship winner.

### March 3, 1976

Shirley Marie Dean and Thomas Harold Poley were married December 28, 1975 in the United Methodist Church of Grahamsville with the Rev. George Hunsberger officiating. A dinner reception followed at the Red Barn, Swan Lake. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Dean Jr. of Neversink. (Contd. Pg. 4)

## Household Hint:

### Coffee Bag Ties

Small bags of fancy coffee have heavy-duty ties to keep them airtight. The ties are handy for securing small coils of electrical cable and rope. They're usually fastened to the bag with just a dab of glue, making them pretty easy to pull off.

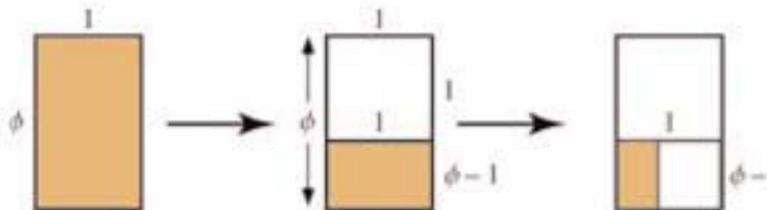
## Nature Column - L. Comando

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

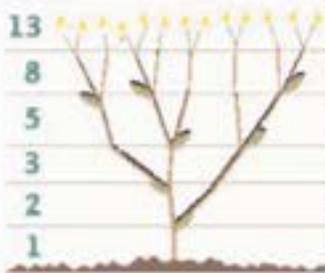
## A Golden Rule of Nature

With the nicer weather coming, if you have time take a walk outdoors and take note, before the leaves appear on the trees, of the shape of the tree branches and the pattern in the way the tree branches grow.

Have you ever wondered why the branches seem to have this pattern that reaches up to the sky? There are writings from ancient India relating to the secret of the trees and nature and this pattern. In 1209 Leonardo of Pisano (a/k/a Fibonacci) took a scientific approach, using his skills discovered this mathematical formula in nature.



Fibonacci came up with a numerical sequence. Starting with zero (0) and one (1). Fibonacci added the last two numbers in the series together, and the sum became the next number in the sequence. The number sequence started to look like this: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34... The number pattern had the formula  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  and became the Fibonacci sequence. But it seemed to have mystical powers!



But it seemed to have mystical powers!

When the numbers in the sequence were put in ratios, the value of the ratio was the same as another number,  $\phi$ , or "phi," which has a value of 1.618. The number "phi" is nicknamed the "divine number". Scientists and naturalists have discovered the Fibonacci sequence appearing in many forms in nature, such as the shape of nautilus shells, the seeds of sunflowers, falcon flight patterns and galaxies flying through space. The ratio between the forearm and the hand is the Golden Ratio! We have one thumb on each hand. 2 bones in each thumb. 3 bones in each of the other fingers and 5 fingers on each hand. The PHI constant is often used in art and design. It is even used for the ever-present plastic credit card -- all golden proportion rectangles!

Why do trees have this pattern? We know trees need sunlight.

And we know in today's world when collecting solar energy the photovoltaic ("PV") array is the way to do it. A photovoltaic array is a linked collection of multiple solar cells. Making electricity requires as much sunlight as possible.

Collecting sunlight is key to the survival of a tree. Leaves are like solar panels of trees that collect sunlight for photosynthesis. Trees in a forest compete with other trees and plants for sunlight. As trees evolve the Fibonacci pattern is in effect helping trees track the Sun moving in the sky collecting the most sunlight even in the thickest forest.

The Fibonacci Sequence allows a very efficient filling of space producing branches that alternate from side to side. The branches will all branch again at the same time. Before the leaves begin to appear, you can see the magical silhouetted pattern against the background sky.

The ancients seemed to know the language of nature. Examples of the Golden Ratio are everywhere. This is the perfect time of the year to take a look at the trees in your back yard and see for yourself how they branch in very specific ways-- the Fibonacci sequence.

## OBITUARIES

**James E. Bowers** (From Pg. 2) Their enduring marriage was a testament to devotion, love, and partnership.

James is survived by his loving wife, Geraldine Bowers; his sons, Todd Bowers and Jason Bowers and his wife Stephanie; his granddaughter, Dillon Bowers; his grandson, TJ Bowers; his siblings, John Bowers and his wife Doris, MaryLou Mears, and Roseanne Knox; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and his faithful canine companion, Lady.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his siblings Bill Bowers, Bucky Bowers, Kathleen Hartling, and Joan McGie, canine companions Collie, Bud, and Sam.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, February 17 at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 396 State Route 52, Woodbourne, New York 12788.

Arrangements are under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home. For further information, please call 845-434-7363.

Jim will be remembered for his loyalty, his quiet strength, his love of family, and his appreciation for life's simple pleasures

## DAYS OF YORE....

### Today's History

#### March 3, 1976 (From Pg. 3)

The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Martha Lee Poley of Liberty, and the late Stephen Poley. The bride is a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School and Sullivan County Comm. College. She is a secretary to the administrative assistant for the Sullivan County Board of Supervisors. Her husband graduated from Liberty High School and attended New Paltz State College. He is presently employed by Poley Paving, Inc. of Liberty. The couple are making their home in Liberty.

#### March 13, 1986

Donald W. Kortright, son of VI and Sherm Kortright of Neversink, has been promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the Air Force. Don has served for 17 years in Civil Engineering and is presently stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. He is a 1968 graduate of Tri-Valley Central School. He resides in Little Rock with his wife and three children.

Harold J. Dexheimer, a retired garage owner and formerly of Liberty, celebrated his 91st birthday on Feb. 15th with relatives who had gathered for the festivities. Mr. Dexheimer, a long time resident of Liberty, sold his home last fall and now resides with his son, George Dexheimer and his wife, Carol in Neversink.

## LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published February 4, 1999

My parents owned a little general store and dad was Postmaster in Grooville, Sullivan County. I guess we would call dad a "jack of all trades", for he also dealt in furs, old rubber, rags and had a little shoe repair shop in a room off the post office.

Our Grooville Post Office was considered fourth class and dad kept in contact with Livingston Manor Post Office. Mail came into Livingston Manor by Ontario and Western Railway in the early 1900's and was brought to the post office by horse drawn wagon where it was sorted.

Our mail arrived Grooville by horse drawn wagon once a day at around 4 p.m. Our mail driver was Mary Conklin and she was a plump, not little lady and to me as a child, she was also mysterious. She wore ten-penny nails in her hair instead of hair pins

like my mother wore. She quite often rode up front on the running board of her wagon when there were extra passengers enroute for Livingston Manor. She charged a 25 cent fare each way.

People who were waiting for the mail to be sorted convened in the waiting room of our tiny post office. On Saturday they sometimes waited in the living room of our home which adjoined the post office. My dad sorted the mail and placed it in the windowed receptacles where the recipient could see if there was mail in their rented box. The fee was \$1.00 a year. Only letters and cards went into these boxes.

If packages or large envelopes arrived, a card would be placed in their mail box stating, PACKAGE TOO LARGE FOR BOX and the recipient would hand it back and receive the item.

When dad opened the small window, everyone knew the mail had all been sorted and placed in the assigned boxes. How interesting it was in those days for folks to receive a personal letter, a colorful postcard or perhaps a card saying "package too large for box". It could even be an order arriving from Montgomery Ward or Sears & Robuck.

My parents quite often sent an order into New York City on Monday and receive their items on Wednesday by Parcel Post. I loved to sit by dad and just watch him as he canceled stamps on outgoing mail and worked on his books. We had no speedy cars or trucks but our Ontario & Western Railroad brought our mail quickly. I sure miss that old railway.

Way back then postage on a letter cost 2 cents and a penny for a card and the United States mail was very precious cargo. Uncle Sam's mail pouches were made from sturdy leather and the first class pouches had a lock and key. The only one who had access to the mail pouches was our postmaster

# History of the Lions Club International and The Tri-Valley Lions and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club

(From Pg. 1)

In 1917, Jones was a 38-year-old Chicago business leader who told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. Jones's group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed. After contacting similar groups around the United States, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago. The Business Circle subsequently joined one of the invited groups, the "International Association of Lions Clubs", and at a national convention held in Dallas, Texas, later that year, those who were assembled: (1) adopted a Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics and an Emblem; (2) established as a main tenet "unselfish service to others", (3) unanimously elected William Perry Woods as its first president, effectively securing his leadership for the first two years of the existence of the International Association of Lions, and (4) selected Jones to serve as the organization's secretary-treasurer.

**The Lions motto is "We Serve".** Local Lions Club programs include sight conservation, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs. The discussion of partisan politics and sectarian religion is forbidden. **The LIONS acronym also stands for Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations' Safety.**

Lions Clubs plan and participate in a variety of service projects. Examples include donations to hospices, or community campaigns such as Message in a Bottle, a United Kingdom and Ireland initiative which places a plastic bottle with critical medical information inside the refrigerators of vulnerable people. Money is also raised for international purposes. Some of this is donated in reaction to events such as the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Other money is used to support international campaigns, coordinated by the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), such as Sight First and Lions World Sight Day, which was launched in 1998 to draw world media attention to the plight of sight loss in the developing world.

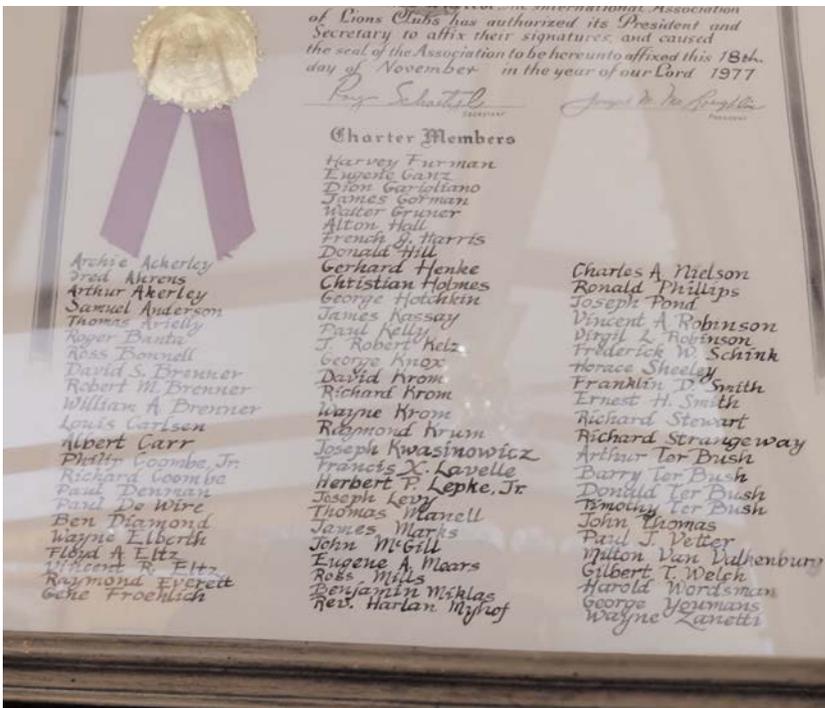
Lions focus on work for the blind and visually impaired began when Helen Keller addressed the international convention at Cedar Point, Ohio, on June 30, 1925 and charged Lions to be *Knights of the Blind*.

Lions also conduct community hearing- and cancer-screening projects. In Perth, Western Australia, they have conducted hearing screening for over 30 years and provided seed funding for the Lions Ear and Hearing Institute established September 9, 2001, a center of excellence in the diagnosis, management, and research of ear and hearing disorders. In Perth, Lions have also assisted in the establishment of the Lions Eye Institute. In Brisbane, Queensland, the Lions Medical Research Foundation provides funding to a number of researchers. Ian Frazer's initial work, leading to the development of a HPV vaccine for the human papillomavirus which could lead to cervical cancer, was funded by the Lions Medical Research Foundation.

Lions Clubs International has supported the work of the United Nations since that organization's inception in 1945, when it was one of the non-governmental organizations invited to assist in the drafting of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco, California. (All of this information comes from the Lions International Website, where any interested readers can go onto the website and read so much more about Lions International and their missions. You can get there by typing in www.lionsclubs.org or simply type in Lions Clubs International).

## Now for the Tri-Valley Lions Club...

With so many kind and hardworking folks in the Tri-Valley area, who wanted to make a difference in their community, The Tri-Valley Lions Club was chartered on November 18, 1977, with Donald TerBush as the first President. Several other folks like Franklin Smith, Bill Brenner, Tom Manell, Gene Froehlich and so many more became officers and members of this new Club. We have attached the original Charter document to this article so you can read all the names of those who were at the first meeting way back then. Many of those listed are still with us and still members, but unfortunately, we lost so many members over the years due to illness, aging, etc. There were 74 members listed on the Charter document, and as you can see, all these members did whatever they could to better our community and fulfill the missions of Lions.



Lions Charter Name List –November 18, 1977

OFFICERS	
Sylvia K. Ribenstein, President	Nancy Conroy, Director
Frances Ter Bush, 1st Vice President	Barbara Russell, Director
Mary Lou Beas, 2nd Vice President	Lois Saech, Director
Jaene Welch, 3rd Vice President	Barbara Anselly, Tall Twister
Georgianna Lepke, Secretary	Eleanore Heine, Lioness Tamer
Martha Atkins, Treasurer	Marilyn Seidita, Corresponding Secretary

MEMBERS		
Deborah Ackenley	Peggy De Vise	Barbara G. Hill
Azida Allison	Florence Dodge	Deborah Howe
Betty Allison	Lillian Dorn	Ella K. Jacob
Virginia Anderson	Ruthann Doyle	Eleanor Johnson
Margaret Santa	Connelia R. Dull	Mary Kenney
Anne Barber	Ina Eaton	Rose Ann Knox
Barbara Bonnell	Alice Elberth	Debra Komorshy
Betty Brenner	Carolene Eitz	Beatrice Koth
Teresa Brenner	Jessie B. Eirth	Ann Krom
Shirley Brown	Carol A. Froehlich	Mary Lou Krom
Roberta Caddo	Carol Furman	Josephine Kull
Frieda Carr	Frances Furman	Catherine L. Levy
Anna Caswell	Jaene Gorman	Joyce Lockhart
Tanya Clevanas	Thelma Gordon	A. Les Manell
Linda Comudo	Kathleen Greene	Eileen Masola
Ethel Coombe	Patsy Gray	Kathryn Matzinger
Marlynn Costa	Eleanor Gropp	Marie Mickelson
Carol Curry	Susan Harris	Grace Nicolosi
Shirley Davis	Teresa Higgins	Bruce Parker
Sue H. Derman		Lillian Plovanashy
		Larissa Pond
		Thomas Richardson
		Janet S. Robbins
		Jane Robinson
		Helen Rubenzahl
		Mary Russell
		Marge Russo
		Jane Schmitz
		Lucile Shetter
		Barbara Slater
		Jane Smith
		Gerda Steiner
		Jeanette Stoyer
		Audrey Strangeway
		Charlette Struth
		Mae Ter Bush
		Willeda Velle
		Rosemary Wilson
		Loretta Zimmann

Charter Lioness Name List –October 23, 1979

(Contd. Pg. 5-b)

# History of the Lions Club International and The Tri-Valley Lions and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club

(From Pg. 5-a)



*Lioness Officer Installation 1979*

On October 23, 1979, the Tri-Valley Lioness Club was formed, with 90 members, making it the largest Lioness Club in the whole world. I am proud to say that my mother, Sylvia Rubenstein was the very first President of the Lioness Club, along with officers including Fran TerBush, Martha Ahrens, Lois Smith and so many more. Again, the Lioness Charter is attached so you can see all the strong and wonderful women who wanted to make a difference in our community. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree and being my mother's daughter, I was a charter member way back when. In just a few years, women were allowed to join the Lions Club as members and officers, and that is when the Tri-Valley Lions and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club merged under the Tri-Valley Lions Club name. While in the Lions Club, I was Secretary for 6 years, President for 1 year, and when my mom Sylvia passed in 2005, I became Chairperson for The Journey For Sight Walk to honor my mom. Twenty years later, I still chair this event, and appreciate all who participate, volunteer, donate, and support this event. (Contd. Pg. 5-c)



# History of the Lions Club International and The Tri-Valley Lions and the Tri-Valley Lioness Club

(From Pg. 5-b)



*Journey for Sight 2023*



*Journey for Sight 2015*



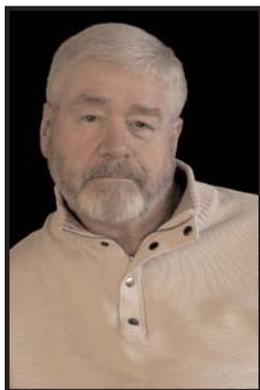
**Members and volunteers at  
Journey for Sight 2025**

The Tri-Valley Lions continues to support our community to the best of our ability. Every penny we take in goes back into our community and to the organizations we support. The Tri-Valley Lions donated to our local food pantries, the Daniel Pierce Library, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, which sponsored three seeing eyes dogs to blind Lions members Monte LaHanko and John Harrop, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Garnet Hospital Heart program, Leukemia and Lymphoma organizations, Eye Screenings for local schools including Tri-Valley, Headstart, Fallsburg and more, provided Community Service Awards to selected Tri-Valley Seniors, we have supported local families who experienced devastating home fires, catastrophic illnesses, provided Free Rabies Clinics for cats and dogs. Additionally, we have donated to the electronic scoreboard at the new ballfield, helped

with the building of a children's playground at the ballfield, and contributed to the moving of the Milk House at the Time & Valleys Museum. This is just a partial listing of what we have done and continue to do.

For more information on the Tri-Valley Lions or to become a member, please contact Tri-Valley Lions President - Stephen Miller - [srecords@hvc.rr.com](mailto:srecords@hvc.rr.com) - 845-798-1981 or Tri-Valley Membership Chair - Patricia Menje - [hvacpat69@gmail.com](mailto:hvacpat69@gmail.com) - 917-783-6253

Wishing one and all a happy, SAFE, and HEALTHY Spring.



## Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 168

### This Side of Night Mysterious Book Report No. 394 by John Dwaine McKenna Published February 27, 2020

It is an undeniable fact that the entire southern border of the United States is in a crisis of epic proportions. Drugs and illegals are pouring into America, while unbelievable amounts of currency, and firearms of all shapes and sizes are flowing south. At the same time, the government of Mexico is being overwhelmed by the drug cartels with endless amounts of cash and *sicarios*, or gunmen, to do their dirty bloody work.

Now, in an electrifying crime fiction thriller entitled *This Side of Night*, (Putnam/Penguin Random House, \$26.00, 454 pages, ISBN 978-0-7352-1291-6) by J. Todd Scott, the drugs and violence are spilling across the border . . . into the lonesome, wild and remote part of west Texas that's known as the "Big Bend Area," where the Lone Star State nestles up against the Rio Grande River . . . just a hard stones throw from Ojinaga, Mexico, where the Nemesio Cartel and it's aging leader, Fox Uno, are clinging to power.

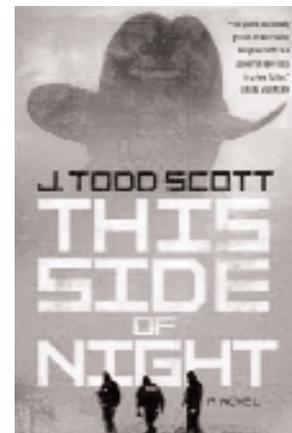
When a busload of protestors is massacred in the Mexican borderlands, the finger of blame is pointed at the Nemesio Cartel, which controls the region. But as the outrage grows and public pressure increases for the government to step in, clear out the cartels and return law and order to the land, *El Patron*, the aging and feared head of the Nemesio Cartel, sees the atrocity for what it is . . . a naked attempt at a takeover. The question is, by whom . . . another cartel, or someone closer?

As the violence, and the drugs, and the people begin spilling across the river from Ojinaga into the small town of Murfee, Texas, Sheriff Chris Cherry and his deputies, America Reynosa and Danny Ford are all caught up in Fox Uno's war and his struggle to survive the legions of murderous assassins sent to kill him and his six year-old daughter named Zeta.

Stamped with authenticity and the iron ring of truth on every page, *This Side of Night* announces in a loud and clear voice the arrival of a distinct, authoritative and compelling fresh face in crime fiction!

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.

And Hey! When you have a moment, please check out our secure, all brand-new and combined website that's redesigned, prettier, simple to use, and makes it as easy as pie to send us your comments! Please do. We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.



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# 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 oft-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...

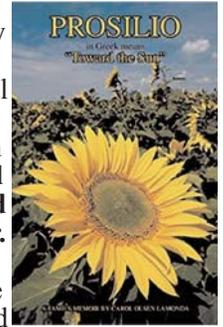
... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of “Prosilio” as you read Carol’s memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair.**

**It also makes a great gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and

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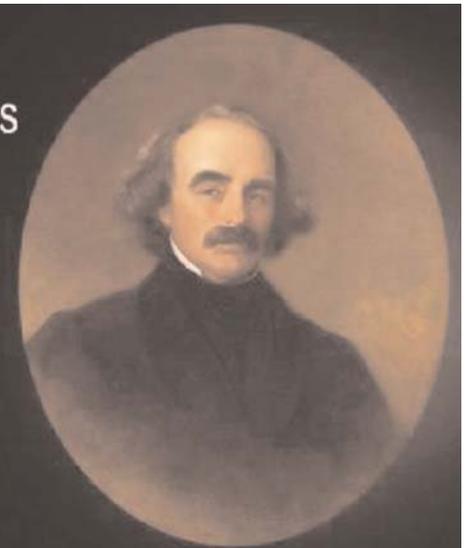
*Kindle*. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com>

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



## Thanks for Visiting Us!

By Lisa Carroll

GGRAHAMSVILLE-Thank you to all who attended our **Take Your Child to the Library Day** on Tuesday, February 17!

"It was so nice to see our families come out, and not only come, but to stay for the day; to play, to color, to decorate cookies and to see the bunny," DPL Children's Program Coordinator,



Deirdre McHugh, said. It's events like these, she added, that allow for budding friendships to develop, to serve as a catalyst for a life-long love of libraries and reading and as a way for families to gather, meet and chat-especially with how "wintery" it has been.



And a great, big thank you to Karen Coombe who brought Marek, a blue Holicer bunny! The children absolutely loved learning about him and getting to pet him.

In other news:

Pocketbook Bingo tickets are flying off the shelves, so to say. If you want in on the action, you'll have to purchase your \$40 ticket ASAP as this popular fundraising event sells out quickly. We're holding Bingo here, on Friday, April 10 with doors opening at



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6:00PM and calling starting at 7:00PM. The ticket includes 7 games, door prize entry and light refreshments. There are also tricky tray chances available (with an additional purchase).

A quick reminder: our book crafting event will be on Thursday, February 27 from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. There's no experience necessary, just grab a few friends, and get inspired together creating fantastic works of art. All materials will be supplied, just please register online (on our website) prior to the evening's activities.

In March, we'll be hosting our popular 5 Hour Pre-Licensing class. This is mandatory (and DMV approved) for unlicensed drivers looking to get their license. The class will be on Saturday, March 21 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM and costs \$45. Please bring your lunch with you. In order to attend, students must hold a NYS "photo" permit. At the conclusion of the course, students will receive a one-year certificate. You can register through our website or by stopping at the library's adult circulation desk.



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### America Absent From An Important Convention

The United States has been absent from belonging to the U.N. Convention On The Law Of The Sea (UNCLOS) for over 40 years. In the 1980s President Reagan's administration broached the possibility of joining UNCLOS if seabed mining close to our shores would be controlled by the United States, but the issue was not fully resolved over the years.

UNCLOS provides for input to maritime jurisdiction involving mining for strategic minerals and asserting navigational rights on the world's oceans. There are 169 member countries in UNCLOS, including NATO allies, the European Union, Russia and China.

China is taking advantage of U.S. absence from UNCLOS by securing licenses to mine strategic minerals from five deep seabed sites. These minerals are used in microchip production. China is also attempting to restrict navigation in the East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait.

The United States needs to approve UNCLOS so we can provide input to ocean laws and policy. UNCLOS should be part of our national security program. We cannot let adversarial countries supersede us in claiming mineral and navigational rights within the world's oceans.

Note: Information in this letter came from John Norton Moore's article in the January 2026 issue of The American Legion Magazine.

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## Shop Taste NY and Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center Celebrate New York Maple Month

CENTRAL VALLEY, NY - Shop Taste NY and the Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center is proud to celebrate New York Maple Month this March by highlighting the region's maple producers and the rich traditions behind one of the state's most iconic agricultural products. New York is the second-largest maple syrup producer in the USA. The Hudson Valley and Catskill region play an important role in that legacy.

Throughout March, visitors to the Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center-and shoppers browsing Shop Taste NY online-can explore and support New York's maple producers through featured products, tasting events, educational programming, and special in store promotions.

Maple syrup comes in a range of grades and colors, each offering its own unique flavor profile. Beyond syrup, maple is transformed into delicious spreads, creams, maple sugar, and an array of candies. Many producers also create infused varieties blending maple with fruit, coffee, and other complementary flavors.

By spotlighting maple products during March, Shop Taste NY and the Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center aim to encourage visitors to explore the region's maple farms, sugarhouses, small businesses and websites.

New York Maple Month aligns with the annual sugaring season, when producers tap maple trees and begin the process of collecting and boiling sap into syrup.

Many farms and sugar houses across the state welcome visitors for tastings, tours, and special events during this time.

Check out our social media pages for more information on locations:

- HVCWC: Facebook HVCWelcomeCenter / Instagram @hvcwelcomecenter
- Shop Taste NY: Facebook shoptasteny / Instagram @shoptasteny

### Upcoming Events:

The HVCWC & Shop Taste NY team will be visiting Catskill Mountain Sugar House in Grahamsville, NY. The team will learn about tapping maple trees in the Catskill mountains and see how the sap is made into syrup and other delicious treats. This company is NY Grown and Certified, which means it's local, safe, and produced to a higher standard.

The Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center will host Maple Product Tastings throughout the month of March, featuring maple producers from across New York State and offering special discounts on all maple items. Visitors can sample an impressive variety of maple syrups, infused syrups, maple sugar, candies, maple cream, and more showcasing the incredible range of flavors and craftsmanship behind New York's maple industry.

Meet us every Saturday in March 2026 at the Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center, located in the Market Hall in Woodbury Common Premium Outlets, Central Valley, NY from 2-4PM for sampling events.

### Check out:

Shop Taste NY's blog post about maple syrup & sugaring: Taste the Season: Authentic Maple Syrup from Upstate New York - Shop Taste NY to learn more about New York's maple history, producers, and how to spot authentic maple syrup. Shop featured products at shoptasteny.com.

### About Shop Taste NY - [www.shoptasteny.com](http://www.shoptasteny.com)

Shop Taste NY is an online marketplace that features agricultural food and beverage products made or grown throughout the eleven regions of New York State. The program supports local farmers and producers while helping consumers discover high-quality, New York-made goods from the comfort of their home.

### About the Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center & Taste NY

The Hudson Valley Catskill Welcome Center & Taste NY connects visitors with the region's rich agritourism offerings, showcasing New York State-made products, local producers, and small businesses while promoting tourism throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskills.

Location: Woodbury Common, Market Hall, 498 Red Apple Court Central Valley, NY 10910

Learn more about this and other Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County programs by calling 845-292-6180, emailing [sullivan@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivan@cornell.edu) or visiting [www.sullivanccc.org](http://www.sullivanccc.org). Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities.



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## Announcing a Series of Drop-In Writer Events at DVAA Write Here, Write Now

WHAT: Five drop-in writers' rooms

WHEN: 5-7pm

February 25th, March 11th & 25th,  
April 8th & 22nd.

WHERE: Krause Recital Hall, DVAA 2nd Floor  
37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY

NOTES: Everyone welcome, donations encouraged  
to cover refreshments.

Whilst writing is often a solitary activity, many writers opt to work in communal spaces when they can. However, any romantic visions of writers furiously scribbling away in the corner of a late-night coffee shop quickly disappear in an upstate winter where nothing much stays open past 3pm. Enter Write Here, Write Now, a new a drop-in, donation-based writers' room for writers looking for a "third place."

Local writers of all varieties are invited to gather at DVAA's Krause Recital Hall where tea, water, and soft music will be provided. Writing prompts will be posted for anyone looking for inspiration, although writers should feel free to work on their own projects.

The first Write Here, Write Now session will be on Wednesday, February 25th from 5-7pm.

### SUPPORT:

DVAA's programs are made possible thanks in part to the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency with support from the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; the Sullivan County Legislature; the Nancy Stevenson Memorial Fund; the Fair Games Fund; the Heartland Embers Fund, our Business Sponsors; DVAA members; and individuals like you.

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## CONNECTING WATER, PEOPLE AND THE CATSKILLS

*News From Time & the Valleys Museum #3*

Lynn M. Priebe



What was life like on the frontier at the time of the American Revolution? That question is one we at Time & the Valleys Museum have been researching to develop our new exhibit opening this season.

Sullivan County was definitely the frontier at that time and was not yet a county, but rather part of Ulster County. Ulster included the settlements in the Hudson River Valley and extended west to lands reserved to the Native Americans by the Fort Stanwix Line agreed upon by the British and Natives in 1768 after the close of the French and Indian Wars. Nearest to what is now Sullivan County, part of the line followed the west branch of the Delaware River.

There were settlers in the area at the time. They had come in the early 1700's to claim parcels in land that had been granted by the British government. There were numerous land grants that included Sullivan County land. The two most important to our story were the Rochester and Hardenbergh Patents. Both were formalized during the reign of Queen Anne. The Rochester Patent in 1703 and the Hardenbergh Patent in 1708 overlapped and included some of the same land. The earliest settlers most likely obtained rights to settle under the Rochester Patent, since the Hardenbergh lands were not finally surveyed and available for transfer until midcentury.

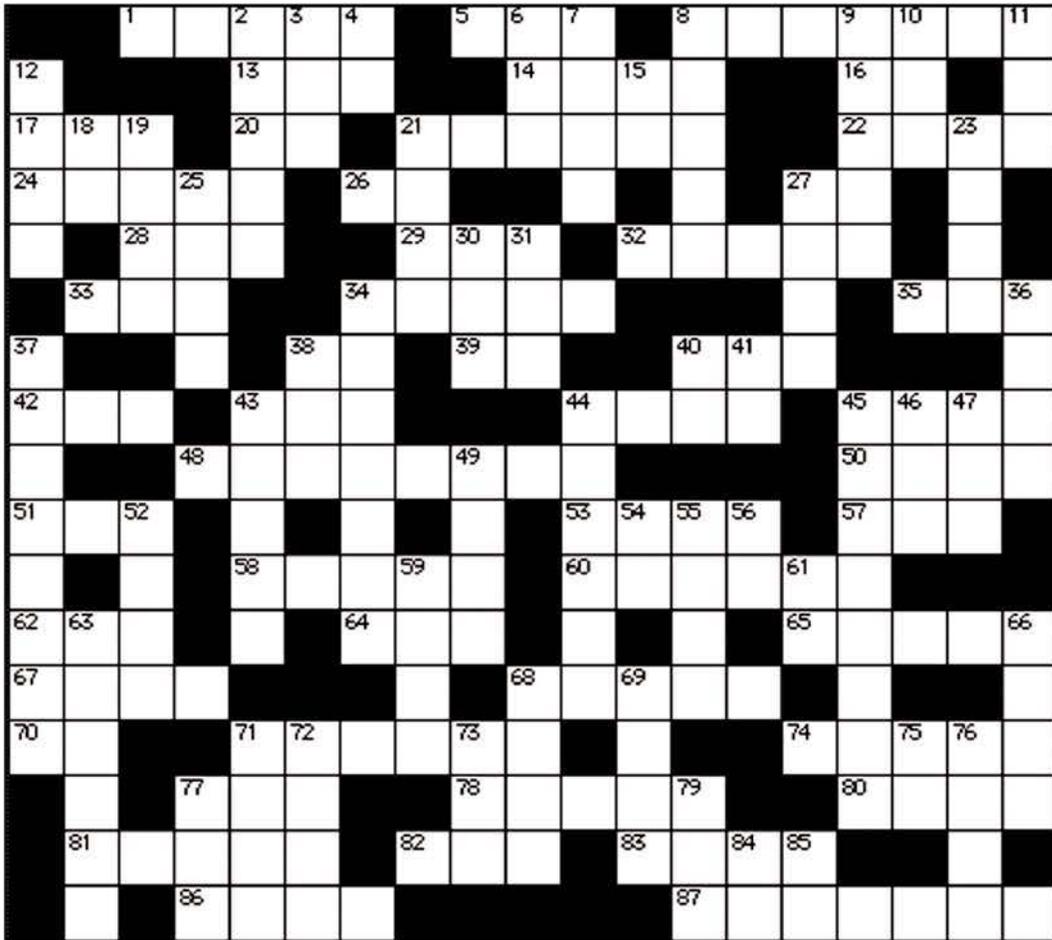
The Native American trails were natural routes to move into the area. The Sun Trail along the Rondout Creek, though not wide enough to accommodate wheeled vehicles, was a primary route west. Settlers in what would become Neversink and even some of those heading to the Delaware to settle used it.

The history of these early settlers is obscure. Some records have been found that include names, but most of these hardy pioneers are unknown. They established self-sufficient homesteads and raised families in the valley, despite extreme hardship. There were no close neighbors, no schools or stores, no doctors and many dangers. Wild animals, including wolves, bears and panthers, threatened the settlers, their crops and their livestock. Native Americans in the area also posed a danger. Extreme weather, a late frost, droughts or floods could end their attempt to survive in the wilderness. One crucial need was a place to have their grain turned into flour. The nearest early grist mill was that of Cornelius Vernoooy built very early in the 1700's, which used the power of the Vernoooy Kill, and was located in Wawarsing, along the Old Mine or Minisink Road (Rt. 209). Farmers from many miles away would travel with their grain and wait for hours as it was ground into precious flour to meet their needs. Another important type of mill using water power not readily accessed, was the saw mill. Until sawed lumber was available, homes had to be constructed of logs.

An early settler of the valley was Pieter Louw (Low, Lowe) who settled above Honk Falls along the upper Rondout in a place called Ragawack (perhaps a version of Lackawack) in 1708. He was the first of a large family. Lows Corners takes its name from members of his family. Other family names that predate the American Revolution are Hornbeck and Klyne. Many of these families left in the early 1770's and did not return until after the war had ended. Those who stayed suffered greatly during the war years. Our exhibit will let the visitor experience this early time. The dark forests of the frontier inhabited by animals, the lives of Native Americans and the early settlers and the war that tore that world apart will be presented. We invite you to join us in May to learn more about the frontier of 250 years ago.



Lion's Tale of the Wind - L Comando



- 44 One of four divisions of the year
- 45 Gusty
- 46 Considered one of the four elements
- 47 Male child
- 49 Conquer
- 52 Used to indicate something
- 54 Lieutenant
- 55 Northern or Southern end of the axis of rotation
- 56 Senior (abbrev)
- 59 Orderly
- 61 Title before a woman's surname
- 63 Food items
- 66 Prophet
- 68 Center line
- 69 Convergence
- 71 Climbing plant
- 72 Not sealed
- 73 Female sheep
- 75 Exist
- 76 Have supper
- 77 Neither
- 79 Wood cutting tool
- 84 Regarding
- 85 North America

Old Virginia Corn Bread

- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/4 cup cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup butter, soft
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all dry ingredients. Scald milk in a small pan and pour slowly over cornmeal mix in a large mixing bowl; mix well. Cream butter, eggs, sugar and salt until light. Combine with cornmeal mixture. Do not over mix. Mixture should be a little lumpy. Pour mixture into a 9-inch greased pan. Bake for 20 - 25 minutes or until brown on top and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

数字は単数に限る

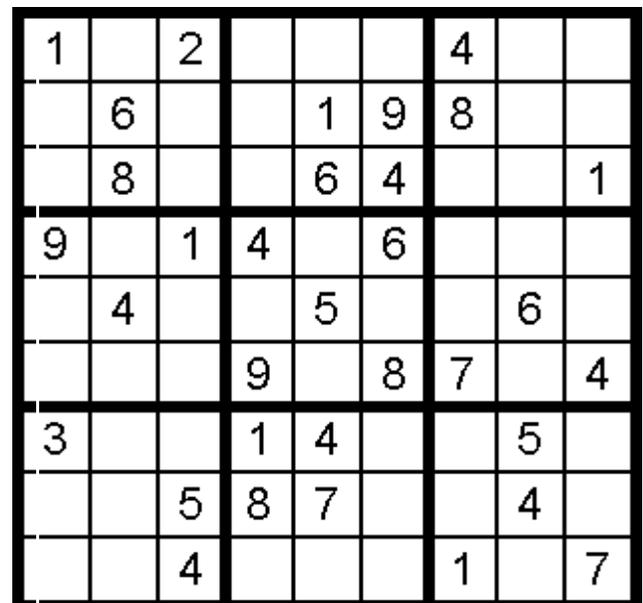
ACROSS

- 1 Burst of light
- 5 Respectful way to address a man
- 8 Female lion
- 13 Human male
- 14 Law
- 16 Chem element
- 17 Help
- 20 That thing
- 21 Largest US state
- 22 Long sturdy timber
- 24 Damp
- 26 Not out
- 27 Long-playing
- 28 Negative vote
- 29 Highest point
- 32 Savor
- 33 Gamete
- 34 Give fresh life
- 35 Picnic pest
- 38 Chem. element iron
- 39 Extraterrestrial
- 40 Lard
- 42 Nocturnal bird
- 43 Russian fighter plane
- 44 Luminous heavenly body
- 45 Lowest part of something
- 48 Not consistent
- 50 Large cat
- 51 Small round spot
- 53 Swiss mountains
- 57 Large vase used to hold ashes
- 58 Lily like flower
- 60 Violent atmospheric disturbances
- 62 Ultra-violet radiation

DOWN

- 2 Harmony
- 3 Betray
- 4 Half an em
- 6 Irish Republican Army
- 7 Oxidize
- 8 Acquire knowledge
- 9 Baby's diaper
- 10 Self-esteem
- 11 Scholastic Aptitude Test
- 12 Young sheep
- 15 Abbrev of third Gospel
- 18 Galilean moon of Jupiter
- 19 Make a ringing sound
- 21 Put up one's money
- 23 Cygnet
- 25 Bulges downward
- 27 Church gallery
- 30 Single unit
- 31 Domestic animal
- 34 Areas
- 36 Between 12 and 20

- 37 Low spirits
- 38 Evergreen tree
- 40 Fourth note of the diatonic scale
- 41 Arkansas (postal)
- 43 Comes in like a lion- goes out like lamb





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- (3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week
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## Daniel Pierce Library

### 1st Friday BOOK CLUB



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## LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

### Neversink Fire District 2026 Pool Staff Posting

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

Dana Vogler, Secretary

1/15 -RTF

## Child Support Unit Provides List of Child Support Payment Options Unit Itself Will No Longer Take In-Office Payments

Liberty, NY - Starting February 27, 2026, Sullivan County's Child Support Collection Unit will no longer accept in-office payments.

“There are plenty of ways to securely and conveniently make child support payments,” notes Division of Health & Human Services Commissioner John Liddle. “Making payments online, through the mail or in-person at participating retailers also frees up our staff to focus on ensuring those funds quickly benefit children and their caregivers.”

These are the methods by which the County and State will accept child support payments:

- o Online (debit/credit cards, digital wallets, electronic funds transfer, PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, Google Pay):
  - o ExpertPay.com
  - o ChildSupportBillPay.com/NewYork
  - o MoneyGram.com (code 14690)
- o Mail (check or money order, must include full name, case identifier, and county handling case):
  - o NYS Child Support Processing Center, P.O. Box 15363, Albany, NY 12212-5363
- o In-person (cash):
  - o Walmart, 41 Anawana Lake Road, Monticello
  - o Express Mobil Mart, 519 Broadway, Monticello
  - o Mexicana Supermarket, 5196 Main Street, South Fallsburg

## SLAC AGENDA for FEB 27, 2026 Meeting

SLAC will meet on Friday, 2/27/26  
at 10AM

in the Legislator's Committee Room.

We will be following the January 30th agenda, adding any updates.

This has been an awful winter, and here's hoping you all got thru it OK.

See you on Friday.

## 3 Easy Ways to Pay Your Child Support



### By Mail

Check or money order payable to **NYS Child Support Processing Center**. *Do not send cash.*

**Mail to:**  
NYS Child Support Processing Center  
PO Box 15363  
Albany, NY 12212-5363

#### Include the following:

- Your full name
- Case Identifier(s) (e.g., AB12345B1) and name of county handling each child support case.
  - This number is printed on court documents or official notices from the child support agency.



### In Person

**MoneyGram®** – pay with cash at participating retailers (including CVS and Walmart).
 

- Requires New York Receive Code **14690**.
- \$3.99 for in-person cash payment.
- Payments process in about 2-5 days.



### Online

**ExpertPay.com** – Pay with credit or debit card, directly from your bank account (direct debit) or with a PayPal account.

- \$2.50 one-time registration fee for all payment types.
- No transaction fee for direct debit payments.
- 2.95% fee for PayPal and credit/debit card payments (with a maximum service charge of \$60).
- Payment processing times depend on the payment method:
  - Direct debit: Up to **4 business days**.
  - PayPal and credit/debit card: **Next business day** for payments made before 5 PM Eastern Time.

**ChildSupportBillPay.com/NewYork** – Pay with credit or debit card, Digital Wallet (Visa Checkout, Mastercard®, Amex MOVE), PayPal and PayPal Credit, Venmo, Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, or Google Pay.

- There is a 2.90% fee for each transaction (with minimum fee of \$4.95).
- To set up recurring payments, register at **ChildSupportBillPay.com/NewYork** and pay online with a credit card or debit card.
- Payment processing time: **3 business days**.

**MoneyGram.com** – Pay with a debit or credit card.
 

- Requires New York Receive Code **14690**.
- Fee is \$3.99 for Credit or Debit Card payments.
- Payments process in about 2-5 days.

County Child Support

NY Case Identifier/Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Obligation Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency:  weekly  biweekly  semimonthly  monthly

First Payment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You are required to make payments until your employer starts to send them.



Office of Temporary  
and Disability Assistance

[childsupport.ny.gov](http://childsupport.ny.gov)

888-208-4485 (TTY 866-875-9975)

Pub-5116 (Rev. 03/23)

## Open Mic

### Every Sunday:

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

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

## Child Care Providers Needed

If you have considered working with or teaching young children, there is no better time to start! Sullivan County needs child-care throughout the county!

According to The U.S. Census Bureau, the population estimate as of July 1, 2023, is 79,920 people in Sullivan County. 6.1% of the county's population are children under the age of 5 (US Census Bureau, 2010). Making the under 5 population in Sullivan County, 4795 children. The current number of infant / toddler childcare spots available in Sullivan County is 1129. The bottom line is Sullivan County children and current providers NEED your assistance as childcare is filled with waiting lists.

Consider working from home and teaching children. You can run your own small business from home while contributing to and supporting the working families in Sullivan County!

If you're worried about start-up cost, we may be able to assist in supply costs through our Infant/Toddler program. Most training courses through our agency are FREE for Sullivan County providers!!! Please contact the Sullivan County Child Care Council for step-by-step assistance with the application process, business aspect of your program, as well as the programs and resources available when your program is established.

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. has determined an immediate need for Infant and Toddler childcare based on our referral services:

- County wide - of 44 inquiries 31 were for Infant and Toddler care
- Requests for Infant and Toddler care through our agency have been made mainly for Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello
- Most of our providers have no infant or toddler spots available

For more information please visit our website: [scchildcare.com](http://scchildcare.com), The Office of Children and Family Services at:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/becomeaprovider.asp>, or  
give our office a call at (845) 292-7166.

US Census Bureau, 2010.

Retrieved on 5/07/2019

: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sullivancountynewyork/AGE135217#AGE135217>

**Sun Trail Storage** 

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

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



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

Please call for availability first

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

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

**Display Ads**

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-  
\$7.50 per week  
Business card ad ( 2" x 3")  
- \$15.00 per week  
(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week  
(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week  
1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week  
1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week  
Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week  
Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week  
**Sign up for weekly ads with quarterly billing  
and get a 20% discount**

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

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

Low Rates  
High Visibility!

## Aktion Club Supports Heart-a-thon



*Aktion Club members proudly displaying paper hearts with Pres. Tommy Abelson kneeling and displaying check to Heart-a-thon.*

The Aktion Club of Sullivan County raised 303.00 for the 98.3 WSUL Heart-a-thon by selling paper hearts to their families and friends. The club is comprised of individuals affiliated with The Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery and is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge.

They look forward every year to presenting a check for the heart-a-thon to "Heart Man" Al Frangipane, who was unable to attend their meeting this year, but they displayed the hearts and know that Mr. Frangipane is very impressed and thankful for their ongoing contributions.

Both Kiwanis Clubs are so proud of the Aktion Club and how they constantly and enthusiastically get involved in so many activities to give back to the community.

## Fallsburg Honors Winter Scholar Athletes

FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to recognize its NYSPHSAA scholar-athletes for the 2025-2026 winter season. The NYSPHSAA recognizes teams and individual athletes who excel academically within each sports season. To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, at least three-quarters of the students must maintain a grade point average of 90.00 or above.

**Boys Basketball:** Xzavier Berrios, Jansel Rosa Gonzalez, Treyvon Hayden, and Xavier Young

**Girls Basketball:** Marilyn Santos, Joslyn Smith, and Alisha Tremper  
Cheerleading: Maria Nardi

**Boys Indoor Track:** Jansel Rosa Gonzalez, Treyvon Hayden, Eric Mooz, Robert Perrera, Efrain Rodriguez, and Zayd Snead

**Girls Indoor Track:** Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Autumn-Rain Atkinson, Kaddyjatou Darboe, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Isabella Gonzales, Camdyn Hoefling, Zoey Ketcham, Dalila Koljenovic, Alisha Tremper, Helen Vasquez, and Skylar Wright

Girls Alpine Skiing: Madeline Pantel

**Wrestling:** Eriberto Gonzalez Jr. and Samuel Vega

## Naturalization Ceremony for New Citizens at Historic UC Courthouse

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck is pleased to announce that a naturalization ceremony will take place at the historic Ulster County Courthouse, located at 285 Wall Street in Kingston, on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. These ceremonies, held several times each year, offer individuals the chance to complete their journey to U.S. citizenship by taking the Oath of Allegiance in their own county.



"It is a privilege to host these ceremonies here in Ulster County, allowing friends, family, and the community to celebrate alongside our new citizens," said Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck. "Each individual has worked incredibly hard to reach this moment, and these local ceremonies recognize their dedication while welcoming them fully into our community."

The Honorable Julian Schreiber, Justice of the Supreme Court, will preside over the ceremony and deliver the keynote address, officially welcoming the new citizens. Local

elected officials and community organizations will also be in attendance to present congratulatory certificates and provide valuable resources to support the new citizens in their transition.

For more information about the naturalization ceremonies or other programs offered by the Ulster County Clerk's Office, please contact County Clerk Taylor Bruck at (845) 340-3288 or via email at [countyclerk@ulstercountyny.gov](mailto:countyclerk@ulstercountyny.gov)



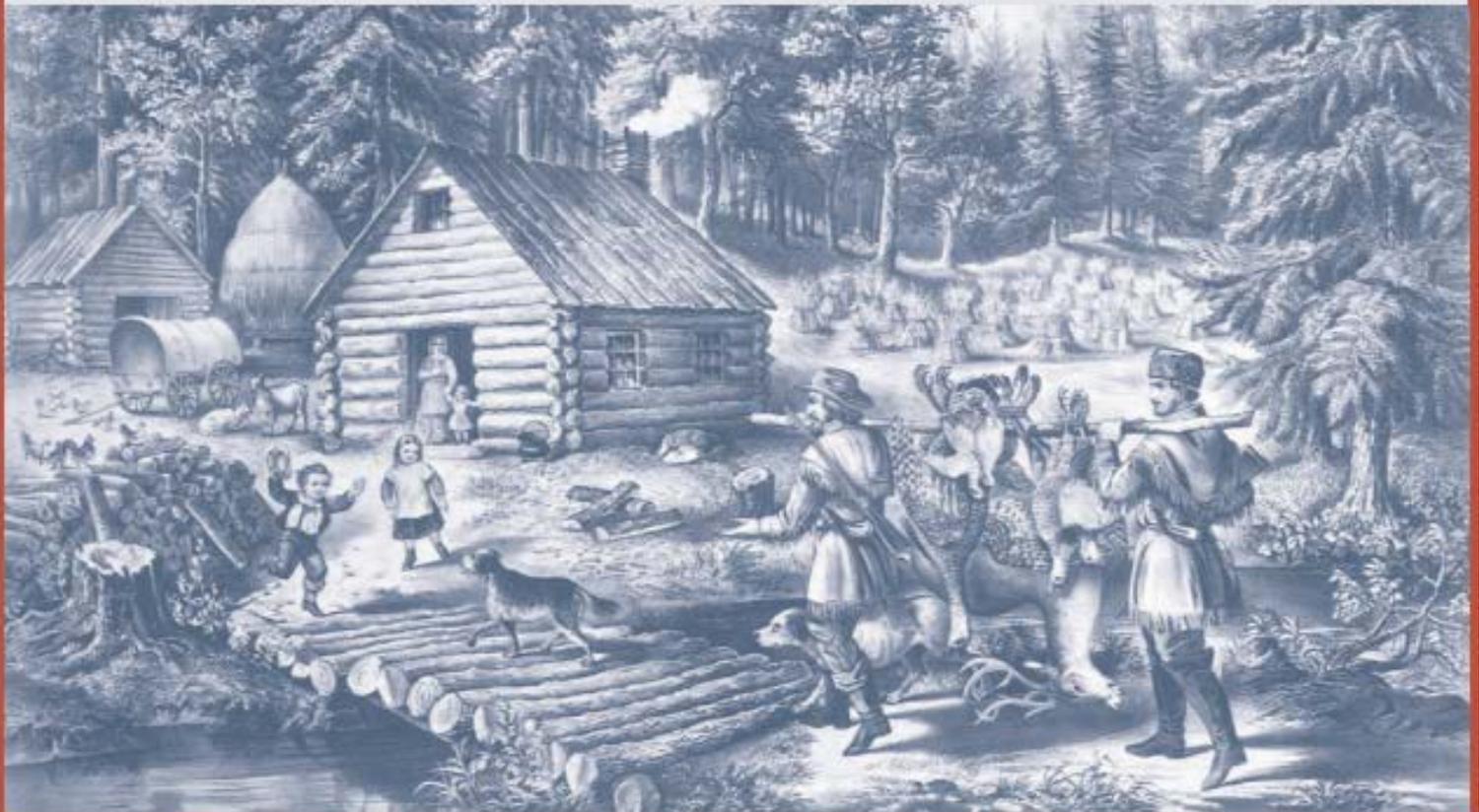
## 1700s Frontier Exhibit Opening in May & We Need Your Help!

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

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

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

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



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

**INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE**

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

**Something for Everyone!**

*COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES*

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

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MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE

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

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

**Sundown United Methodist Church**

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

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

*Sundown United Methodist Church Hall*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

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

**Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches**

Come and Join us for in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am  
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am  
350 Main Street, Grahamsville  
Pastor Harriet Wilkin  
845-985-2283

*Grahamsville Reformed Church*

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

**Claryville Reformed Church**

Claryville Road  
Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2041  
**Worship Services @ 10:15 am**

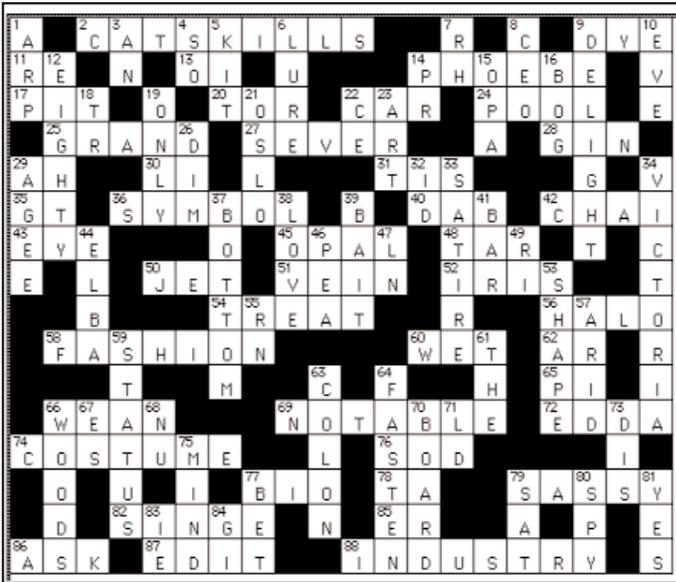


Church Hall available for rent  
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

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

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



**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

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

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

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

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

Thank you

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

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

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



**Daniel Pierce Library Hours**

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

**\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money**

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

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

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

Check the air quality where you are at: <https://www.airnow.gov/>

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

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Town of Denning - <http://www.denningny.gov>  
 Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

**Weekly Update For The Week of  
 February 23, 2026 - February 27, 2026**

**Monday, February 23**

- ~~CANCELED 6:00 PM - Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston~~

**Tuesday, February 24**

- 6:00 PM - Ulster County Transit Riders and Intermodal Advisory Committee, Via Zoom Meeting ID: 862 5272 1551

**Wednesday, February 25**

- 3:00 PM - Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board, at BOCES Career Academies, iPark87, 300 Enterprise Drive, Kingston
- 6:30 PM - Ulster County Environmental Management Council, at the SUNY Ulster Kingston Center, Room 104, 94 Mary's Avenue, Kingston, & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 974 4254 9615 Passcode: 278571
- 7:00 PM - Ulster County Fire Advisory Board, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

**Thursday, February 26**

- 9:00 AM - Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting, at the District Office, 5 Park Lane, Highland

**Friday, February 27**

- 4:30 PM - Special Meeting of the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Board of Directors, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 884 4914 1235, Passcode: 5433360



**SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV**

mobile unit  
on location 10:00am - 3:00pm

**2026 Winter Schedule**

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

**JEFFERSONVILLE**

Tues January 6  
Tues February 3  
Tues March 3

License & Registration Appts

19 Legion St  
Jeffersonville, NY

**WURTSBORO**

Thurs January 22  
Thurs February 19  
Thurs March 19

Registration Appts Only

2948 US 209  
Wurtsboro, NY

**LIVINGSTON MANOR**

Tues January 13  
Tues February 10  
Tues March 10

Registration Appts Only

95 Main St  
Livingston Manor, NY

**GRAHAMSVILLE**

Thurs January 8  
Thurs February 5  
Thurs March 5

License & Registration Appts

273 Main St  
Grahamsville, NY

**NARROWSBURG**

Tues January 20  
Tues February 17  
Tues March 17

Registration Appts Only

210 Bridge St  
Narrowsburg, NY

**HORTONVILLE**

Thurs January 15  
Thurs February 12  
Thurs March 12

Registration Appts Only

104 Lower Main St  
Hortonville, NY

**LIBERTY**

Tues January 27  
Tues February 24  
Tues March 24

License & Registration Appts

15 Sullivan Ave  
Liberty, NY

**BLOOMINGBURG**

Thurs January 29  
Thurs February 26  
Thurs March 26

License & Registration Appts

13 North Rd  
Bloomingburg, NY



Scan QR Code to Schedule an Appt

**To Renew or Sign up for your weekly digital copy to  
Ye Ole Tri-Valley Townsman (a/k/a The Townsman)  
follow these directions**

Print out this form

Fill out it out

Mail it along with a check for the **Annual Rate –\$40.00**  
payable to **The Townsman**

**The Townsman  
P O Box 232  
Grahamsville, NY.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: **\$40.00 PER YEAR**

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL/DATE EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

or

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Go to our website:

*<http://thetownsman.com>*

and follow the link to Paypal

**Thank you for your continued support.**

# Revolutionary Women



A talk by Phyllis (Penny) Coombe

Sunday, March 15th 2 p.m.  
In Person and Virtual

Time and the Valleys Museum

In honor of National Woman's month and the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, meet some of the many mothers, wives and daughters of their more famous fathers, husbands and sons who made significant contributions to the successful conclusion of the American Revolution. Learn about the girl who dressed as a man and served in the army, the wife who took over firing her husband's cannon, the slave who was a published poet, and more.

Time and the Valleys Museum, 332 Main Street, Grahamsville NY 12740

In person program includes light refreshments and Museum admission.

To join virtually, email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org)  
and put *Revolutionary Women Link* in the subject line.

Members: FREE Non Members: \$5

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

Call 845 985-7700 or email for more information.



## Mental Health Speaker Inspires Educators at Sullivan BOCES Professional Development Event

[LIBERTY, NY] - Sullivan 180 and Sullivan BOCES partnered to host a powerful professional development event focused on building healthier, kinder school communities. The training, titled "Owning Your Four Walls: How Everyday Actions Can Shift School Culture," brought together school staff from across Sullivan County, including teachers, counselors, social workers, and administrators, at the Sullivan BOCES Rubin Pollack Education Center.



*Brian Williams, founder of Think Kindness, during his presentation called titled "Owning Your Four Walls: How Everyday Actions Can Shift School Culture,"*

The session was led by nationally recognized speaker Brian Williams, founder of Think Kindness, a nonprofit organization that has inspired more than 1.5 million acts of kindness in schools worldwide. Through engaging storytelling, humor, and action-based challenges, Williams encouraged participants to reflect on the small, daily actions that shape school culture and student well-being. "This is one of the most impactful professional development trainings I have ever been to." Said a Fallsburg school social worker.

Participants learned science-backed strategies to promote kindness and respect, identified simple daily practices to foster inclusive and connected spaces, and developed practical ways to take immediate action within their own classrooms and school environments.

"This training reminded us that making a difference doesn't have to be complicated." Mylene Ortiz, Youth Mental Health Program Manager at Sullivan 180 "Small everyday choices are key, how we choose to handle tough moments and how we

show kindness can make a change in our schools."

Sullivan 180 supports schools through Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that fosters connection while breaking down the stigma of mental health; and SHAPE which brings staff together to strengthen school culture and enhance the quality of their school mental health system.

To learn more about Sullivan 180's work in the area of youth mental health, Hope Squad, or SHAPE, contact Mylene Ortiz at 845-295-2692 or Mylene@Sullivan180.org.

Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, Manor Ink, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org or Facebook.com/Sullivan180inc.

## Empower Youth to be Vape Free!

*Register for the upcoming CATCH My Breath Vaping Prevention Training*

[LIBERTY, NY] - Sullivan 180 will host a Facilitator Training for the CATCH My Breath Youth Vaping Prevention Program on March 13 from 12:30-3:30 PM at the CVI Building in Liberty. This training is open to parents, teachers, community volunteers, youth workers, community health advocates and anyone interested in helping young people steer clear of e-cigarettes.

Participants will be informed about the epidemic of youth vaping; and leave prepared to deliver an evidence-based program to youth in school, after-school, and in community-based settings.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that approximately one in five young adults vapes. Programs like CATCH My Breath give young people the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions and remain vape-free. There are currently more than 820 Sullivan County youth who have graduated from CATCH My Breath, demonstrating the program's growing reach and impact but more work needs to be done.

"We need more facilitators to ensure that every student in Sullivan has access to the resources and education they need to make healthy decisions," said Laura Avelino, Prevention Coordinator at Sullivan 180. "The training is engaging and accessible, helping participants understand how the problem got so out of hand and what we can do to make a difference."

"Unfortunately, candy and fruit-flavored vapes remain easily accessible to our children, which makes it imperative that we teach them early and often about the dangers of inhaling anything other than fresh air. I encourage anyone with an interest to attend the training and help us turn the tide on youth vaping," said Amanda Langseder, Sullivan 180 Senior Director of Prevention Programming.

Adults who complete the training will receive certification in CATCH My Breath, full access to the curriculum for grades 5-12, and the tools necessary to effectively guide young people through this proven prevention initiative. Educators will also receive CTLE credits through an agreement with Sullivan BOCES.

To register for the training or learn more about upcoming facilitator opportunities, email [trainings@sullivan180.org](mailto:trainings@sullivan180.org).

Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, Manor Ink, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org or Facebook.com/Sullivan180inc.

## International Women's Day at Farm Arts Collective

*Sunday March 8 at 2 PM*



Damascus, PA-- Farm Arts Collective will host a public gathering in celebration of International Women's Day on Sunday March 8th at 2 PM at the collective's agri-cultural center on Willow Wisp Organic Farm in Damascus, PA. International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrat-



ing the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action to accelerate gender parity. The 2026 theme for the International Women's Day is "Rights, justice, action for all women and girls" and calls for international action to dismantle barriers to equal justice: discriminatory laws, weak legal protections, and harmful practices and social norms that erode the rights of women and girls.

Last year, Farm Arts Collective celebrated International Women's Day 2025 with a gathering that attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd to its agri-cultural center on Willow Wisp Organic Farm in Damascus, PA. This year, the women-led collective continues the tradition, with a day that will feature presentations, conversation, food, and interactive activities. The program will begin with an excerpt from "Scattered Seeds of Troy" a new feminist anti-war performance being developed and devised by director Tannis Kowalchuk and Farm Arts Collective actors Jess Beveridge, Costanza Bugiani and Ginny Hack. Inspired by the ancient Greek tragedy *The Trojan Women*, the Farm Arts Collective play asks what seeds does each woman take with them when forced to leave their homeland?

International Women's Day at Farm Arts Collective will also feature a live interview with local farmer Erica Madden of Good Find Farm in Damascus, PA. The United Nations has named 2026 The Year of the Woman Farmer, and so Erica will talk about her journey as a farmer-how she started, her obstacles, achievements, and what it is like to run a small farm business in today's climate.

The event will also include an interactive seed planting table and a collective conversation and sharing of ideas, actions, and hopes for 2026. Participants are invited to bring a baked good or dish to share, coffee and tea will be provided. The FREE event is sponsored in part by Women In Philanthropy, Wayne County Community Foundation. Farm Arts Collective is located at 38 Hickory Lane, Damascus, PA 18415. For more information call FARM ARTS COLLECTIVE at 570-798-9530.

<http://www.farmartscollective.org>



## The Scholastic Art Awards for Sullivan, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties Honors Another Year of Excellence

(From Pg. 1) Sullivan County students had an outstanding presence in the competition, earning 14 Gold Keys and 26 Silver Keys.



*Drip, Drip, Splash* by Tyler Gorr. RCS

presence in the competition, earning 14 Gold Keys and 26 Silver Keys.

According to Allison Vasko, a Gold and Silver Key winner from Liberty Central School, "Being in the competition represents both my passion for my own work and my excitement to

see the creativity of others. Competing alongside students my age allows me to gain inspiration and new perspectives that continue to shape me as an artist. Bringing home seven Gold Keys and five Silver Keys was a huge accomplishment. Because art is so subjective, knowing that people who do not even know me value my work motivates me to keep pushing myself and growing."

"Art has brought much joy to my life. It allows me to show who I am and what I represent," said Sebastian Yupanqui, also of Liberty. "Through art, I've learned confidence, patience and how to see the world from a different perspective. Being able to express myself through photography is a surreal feeling, and sharing my perspective pushes me to grow as both an artist and an individual."

### Student Honorees:

#### **Liberty Central School**

Carlos Garzon-Cruz - 1 Gold Key, 2 Silver Keys  
 Misael Juarez Perez - 1 Gold Key, 1 Silver Key  
 Evelyn Molina - 1 Silver Key  
 Kourtney Perry - 1 Gold Key, 1 Silver Key  
 Lucio Ponce Vazquez - 1 Gold Key, 4 Silver Keys  
 Cassandra Porter - 1 Gold Key  
 Emma Stonick-Florez - 1 Silver Key  
 Allison Vasko - 7 Gold Keys, 5 Silver Keys  
 Giuliana Wagner - 3 Silver Keys  
 Sebastian Yupanqui - 2 Gold Keys, 5 Silver Keys

#### **Monticello Central School**

Daniela Loja - 2 Silver Keys

#### **Livingston Manor Central School**

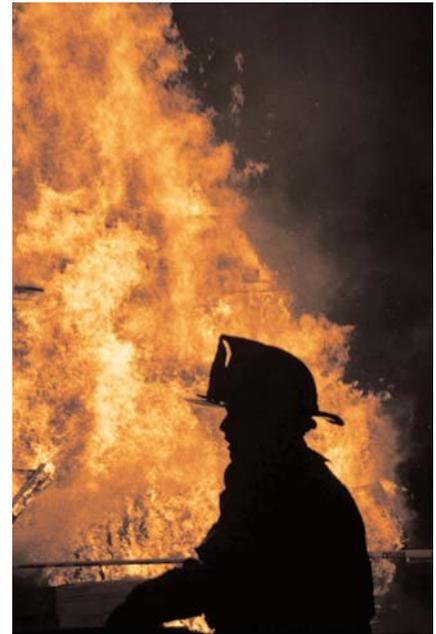
Tyler Gorr - 1 Silver Key

"Art has always been an important part of my life, and creating-whether through photography, painting, or making gifts for others-is something I truly love," Vasko added. "Having art as part of my coursework gives me a class to look forward to each day,

where I can express my thoughts and gain insight from my peers."

Hudson Valley-based artist Liz Nielsen, known for her innovative photographic work, served as the ceremony's keynote speaker. Her work, exhibited nationally and internationally, is recognized for its distinctive "light paintings," created without a camera in an analog color darkroom using traditional photographic processes. Each piece is produced by exposing light-sensitive paper by hand, resulting in vibrant, large-scale images.

Nielsen shared insights into her artistic journey, recalling how, as a child, she viewed the world through bags filled with water and food coloring to experience shifting colors and perspectives. Today, her work explores the idea of portals and themes that evoke emotion and personal connection.



*Heroes in the Flames* by Sebastian Yupanqui, LCS

She encouraged students to "surround yourself with people who believe

in you," remain committed to their craft, and "keep making your work-don't stop." She also advised young artists to keep a reminder of their ideas close at hand so they can continue creating and developing their vision.

Students receiving Gold Keys in categories such as architecture, ceramics, design, drawing, painting, illustration, photography, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, film, and conceptual or installation art advance to national adjudication by a panel of leading creative professionals. National Gold Medalists are announced in March and honored during a special awards ceremony in June. The American Vision Award, one of the program's highest honors, is presented to just five works that best exemplify originality and personal artistic style.

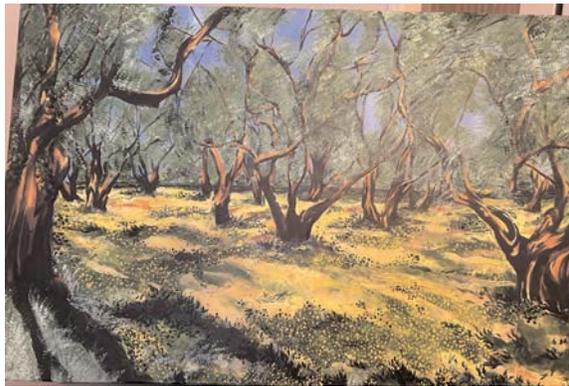
"On behalf of the Hudson Valley Regional Scholastic Affiliate, we are proud of the artistic accomplishments of our students and wish our Gold Key winners luck as their work moves through national adjudication," Paff said.

Parents and community members are encouraged to view the exhibition, on display in the Fine Arts Rotunda at SUNY New Paltz from Feb. 6 through March 1, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

### **History of the Scholastic Arts Awards**

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the country's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12. Since the program's founding in 1923, the Scholastic Art Awards have fostered the creativity and talent of millions of students.

Annually, 250,000 students in grades 7 through 12 participate in regional programs, and 50,000 receive regional awards and exhibition opportunities. More than 30,000 entries qualify for national adjudication, and 1,100 young artists and writers nationwide receive national awards. The Gold Portfolio Award recipients receive up to \$10,000 in scholarships, representing the highest level of achievement in the Awards.



*Forest* by Daniela Loja, MCS

## Dramatic Workshop

Have you heard the buzz about **Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop's** spectacular production of **Cabaret Roulette**? It's an event you absolutely can't miss! Secure your seat today by grabbing your tickets online. Join us for an unforgettable experience!

Details of the Event:

**Fri. February 27th 2026, 7:00 pm**

**Sat. February 28th 2026, 7:00 pm**

**Sun. March 1st 2026, 2:00 pm**

**Woodbourne Firehouse**

355 NY-52

Woodbourne, NY 12788

## DEC Announces 2026 Training Academies for New Classes of Environmental Conservation Police Officer and Forest Ranger Recruits

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced DEC is holding academies for its newest classes of Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Forest Rangers. The six-month training academies will prepare up to 50 of DEC's newest recruits for careers protecting New York State's natural resources in the Divisions of Law Enforcement and Forest Protection.

"DEC Forest Rangers and ECOs each have a rich history of conservation and public protection in New York, and that storied legacy will continue with the newest additions to our ranks," Commissioner Lefton said. "These specialized and rigorous training academies ensure graduates will have the skills needed to protect our resources and communities, and I am excited for all candidates having safe and educational starts to incredibly rewarding careers."

ECOs, originally called Game Protectors, were first appointed for service in 1880. The first Forest Rangers, originally known as Fire Wardens, were put into service in 1885 when the New York State Legislature established the Forest Preserve of New York State.

The ECO training for the 25th Basic School for Uniformed Officers began on February 15 at the DEC Division of Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pulaski, which has served as the home for the training program for the last several years. Forest Ranger training begins on March 15 at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) Huntington Wildlife Forest in Newcomb Campus, with transitions to the Ranger School in the Hamlet of Wanakena thereafter. Ranger recruits are also expected to have a short stint at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany.

ECO job duties are centered on the 71 chapters of New York State Environmental Conservation Law and range from deer poaching to solid waste dumping, illegal mining, the black-market pet trade, and emissions violations. In 2025, ECOs and Investigators across the state responded to more than 35,575 complaints and worked on cases that resulted in 15,673 tickets or arrests. Currently there are 279 ECOs serving statewide.

DEC Division of Law Enforcement Director Karen

Przyklek said, "ECOs enforce New York's Environmental Conservation Law that is protective of public health, our air, water, fish, and wildlife. As our new recruits embark on this strenuous training journey, I encourage them to work hard, follow directions, remain focused, and truly embrace the immense responsibility required to safeguard our natural resources and hold lawbreakers accountable."

Forest Ranger duties focus on the public's use of DEC-administered State lands and easements and can span from patrolling State properties to conducting search and rescue operations and fighting wildland fires.

In 2025, DEC Forest Rangers conducted 362 search and rescue missions, extinguished 202 wildfires covering 840 acres, participated in 68 prescribed fires that served to rejuvenate 1,649 acres of land, and worked on cases that resulted in more than 1,100 tickets or arrests. Also in 2025, 41 Forest Rangers were deployed to fire assignments in 10 different states. Currently there are 147 Forest Rangers serving statewide.

DEC Division of Forest Protection Director Melinda Seiden said, "We are looking forward to bolstering the ranks of our already impressive force of Forest Rangers to better protect the public and our natural resources. Rangers put their lives on the line when responding to search and rescue missions, wildland fires, and law enforcement. The Academy will prepare the recruits to join other Forest Rangers in the field."

DEC continues robust recruitment efforts to ensure police forces can successfully meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. The recruits in this newest class were selected from an eligible list of qualifications and passing scores generated from the nearly 10,000 applicants for the most recent Civil Service exam in November 2025.

To view job qualifications for ECOs, visit the "Environmental Conservation Police Officer" webpage; for Forest Rangers, visit the "Forest Ranger 1" webpage.

## Hike & Learn Series: Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower

Join Moe Lemire, NYS Licensed Guide and founder of Hike On Guides, for a winter ascent of Balsam Lake Mountain, home to the first mountain fire tower in New York State

Join Moe Lemire, NYS Licensed Guide and founder of Hike On Guides, for a winter ascent of Balsam Lake Mountain, home to the first mountain fire tower in New York State. Along the way, you'll learn about historic logging operations, log decks, and the point on the trail where you cross into remarkable first-growth forest. This hike offers both a unique educational experience and the beauty of a Catskills fire tower in winter.

When: Friday March 6, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Balsam Lake Mountain Trail

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Distance: 5.9 Miles Round Trip

A gear list will be emailed before the program, but please arrive prepared with non-cotton layers, a warm hat, gloves, a winter coat, sturdy footwear, and enough water, snacks, and lunch for the day. If snowshoes and/or microspikes are needed and you do not have them, rentals are conveniently available at the Catskills Visitor Center.

Join us for a rewarding winter hike rich with Catskills history and scenic fire tower views!

Advance registration is required, with a \$10 suggested donation.

Register Here:

[https://givebutter.com/jRREWc?mc\\_cid=ac2f82aa4f&mc\\_eid=741885eb1c](https://givebutter.com/jRREWc?mc_cid=ac2f82aa4f&mc_eid=741885eb1c)

# Corned Beef Dinner



## FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**  
**350 Main Street, Grahamsville**

**Time:** 4-7pm

**Cost:** \$15.00 for Adults

\$10.00 for children 10 and under

**Call to order tickets:**

845-985-0049 or 845-807-8272

Walk-ins are welcome

**Stay to dine in or take home to enjoy!**



DELAWARE VALLEY OPERA ANNOUNCES

# AUDITIONS

FOR UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS



HELD  
SATURDAY  
**FEB  
28**

**12 - 2**  
PM PM

MOZART'S

The

# MAGIC FLUTE

&

The

# MIKADO

BY GILBERT & SULLIVAN

**NYC**  
SATURDAY  
**FEB  
21**

**11 - 4**  
PM PM

DELAWARE VALLEY OPERA (DVO) ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR ITS UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS OF MOZART'S THE MAGIC FLUTE AND THE MIKADO BY GILBERT AND SULLIVAN. AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21. 11:00pm-4:00pm at 520 8th Ave Studio 17T, NYC. - Ripley Grier Studios & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28. 12:00pm-2:00 p.m. at the Arts Nest - 6692 State Route 52, LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY.

DVO IS SEEKING SINGERS TO CAST MULTIPLE ROLES IN BOTH PRODUCTIONS. PERFORMERS OF ALL VOICE TYPES ARE ENCOURAGED TO AUDITION.

IF INTERESTED SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS TO CAROL CASTEL AT  
**CCASTEL3749@GMAIL.COM**

- **A BRIEF BIO**
- **HEADSHOT**  
OR RECENT PHOTO
- **AUDIO CLIP**  
(IF AVAILABLE)
- **RESUME**



DELAWARE VALLEY OPERA IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING HIGH-QUALITY OPERATIC PERFORMANCES AND WELCOMES BOTH EMERGING AND EXPERIENCED PERFORMERS TO AUDITION.



Council on the Arts



Tri-Valley Elementary School  
"INSPIRE SUCCESS TOGETHER"



GO BEARS!

## Tri-Valley Elementary School



### UPK REGISTRATION

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

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

**Or send an email to:**

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

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



# **Fundraiser for St Judes**

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

# **Penny Social**

# **Sat Feb 28**

# **Snow Date March 1**

**For your convenience:**

**12:00 Kitchen Opens**

**1:00 Tables Open**

**2:00 Calling**

# **Lake Hill Firehouse**

**Rte 212 8 miles West of Woodstock**

**Information: 679 2982**

# UC Executive Jen Metzger Delivers 2026 State of the County Address to a Packed House at Rosendale Theatre

*Calls out Harmful Federal Policies; Highlights County Initiatives to Protect Public Safety, Improve Affordability and Advance Economic, Environmental, Public Health Priorities*

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger delivered her 2026 State of the County Address on Wednesday evening at the Rosendale Theatre, highlighting key County initiatives to improve affordability in housing, enhance mental health services, address environmental and public health hazards, and expand programs supporting local businesses, farms, and working families. In her address, the County Executive pointedly raised concerns about the conduct of federal immigration enforcement, tariffs, and federal spending cuts, and how these policies affect Ulster County.

“The State of the County is strong, despite these unsteady times nationally, and we remain focused on what our residents need - housing that’s affordable, communities that are safe, a healthy environment and local economy, and services that support our residents well-being,” said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger.

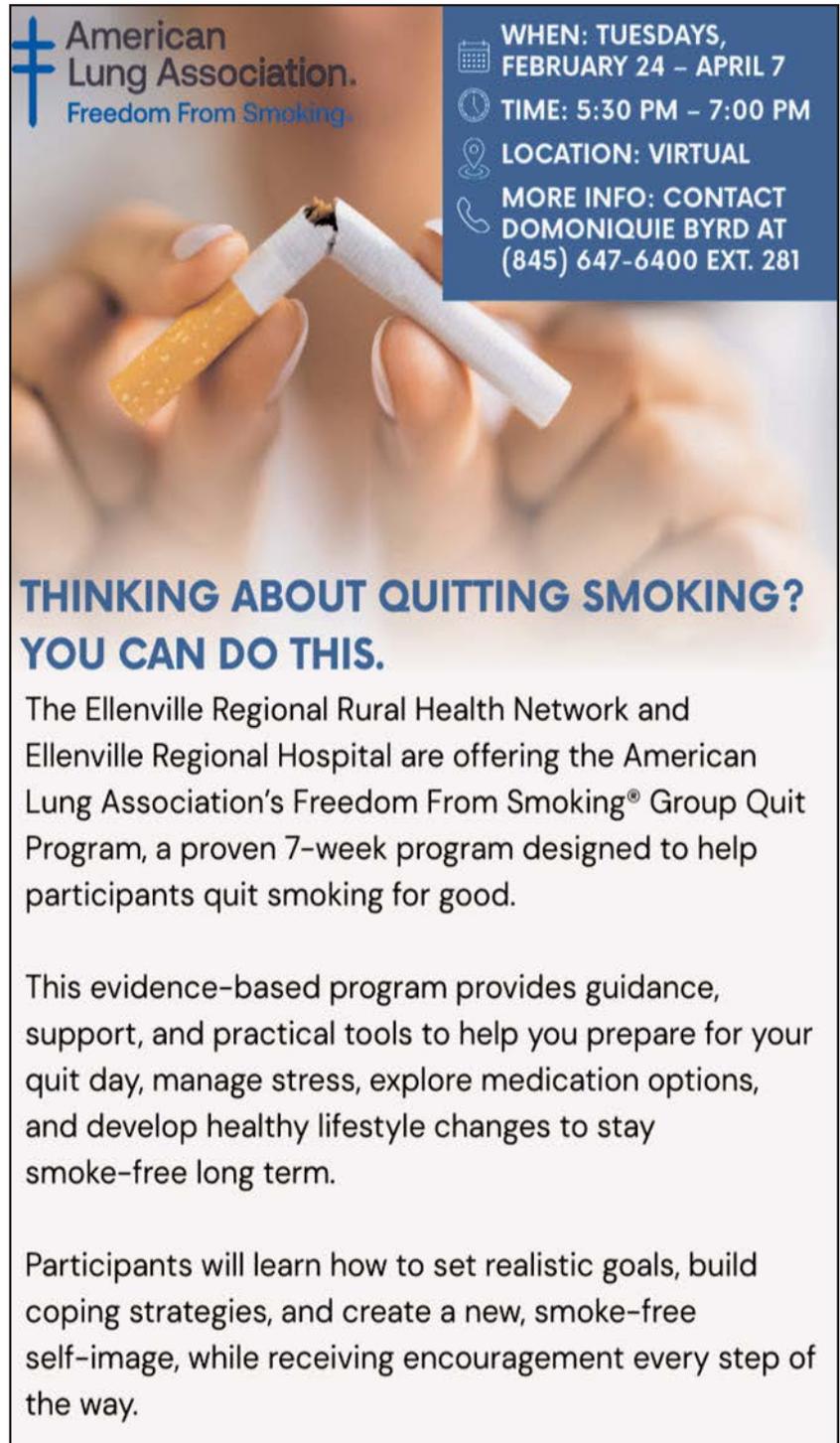
Among the initiatives highlighted in the address:

**Ensuring Accountability and Public Safety:** County Executive Metzger announced that she will work with the Legislature, Sheriff, and District Attorney to establish a Countywide standard for all law enforcement operating in Ulster County - including federal agencies such as ICE. This sets a standard that officers remain unmasked, and that they display a visible badge with their name and ID number, consistent with practices already followed by local and County law enforcement.

**Property Taxes:** County Executive Metzger and the Legislature have kept property taxes flat, despite increased cost-shifting from the federal government.

**Proposed 10% Property Tax Exemption for Full-Time Residents:** County Executive Metzger announced that she is partnering with Senator Michelle Hinchey to introduce state legislation piloting a 10% property tax exemption for full-time residents, shifting more responsibility to second-home owners and helping stabilize housing costs for working families.

**Leading by example:** County Executive Metzger negotiated new contracts with five unions that raised wages across the board this year, with additional increases for the lowest-paid workers. For non-union staff, the County Executive created the first-ever pay plan, establishing fair wages and clear pathways for advancement. The County Executive also created the County’s own 12-week Paid Family Leave Plan in



**American Lung Association.**  
Freedom From Smoking.

**WHEN: TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 24 – APRIL 7**

**TIME: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**LOCATION: VIRTUAL**

**MORE INFO: CONTACT DOMONIQUE BYRD AT (845) 647-6400 EXT. 281**

## THINKING ABOUT QUITTING SMOKING? YOU CAN DO THIS.

The Ellenville Regional Rural Health Network and Ellenville Regional Hospital are offering the American Lung Association’s Freedom From Smoking® Group Quit Program, a proven 7-week program designed to help participants quit smoking for good.

This evidence-based program provides guidance, support, and practical tools to help you prepare for your quit day, manage stress, explore medication options, and develop healthy lifestyle changes to stay smoke-free long term.

Participants will learn how to set realistic goals, build coping strategies, and create a new, smoke-free self-image, while receiving encouragement every step of the way.

2025, allowing employees to bond with a newborn or adopted child without financial hardship.

**Housing:** With County government support, Ulster County is adding close to 700 affordable homes - Three major affordable housing developments were completed this past year - Silver Gardens in Highland and Harmony Hall in New Paltz for seniors, and Golden Hill in Kingston for a mix of seniors and families.

The County’s Housing Action Fund, created in 2023, has supported 11 affordable housing projects for rent and home ownership around the County.

The Kingston Planning Board on Tuesday approved plans for the County’s first affordable housing cooperative on the County-owned Elizabeth Street property in Kingston. (Contd. Pg. 36)



Pine Hill · New York

## SHANDAKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENTS:

# Native American Drumming Event

26 Academy St.

Pine Hill, NY

845-254-4460

Saturday, Feb. 28 • 1:00 -3:00

Native American drumming,  
stories, friends, snacks and more.

## OLIVE SENIORS

When: 2nd Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m.

Where: American Legion Hall\*

What: Guest speakers covering topics like CPR, wildlife, Ashokan Reservoir, etc. & visits from local vendors like the Catskill Visitor Center and Fruition Chocolate

Shuffleboard: meets January-May every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon\*\*

\* 26-28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY, handicap accessible, bathrooms on site

\*\* follows Ontario School District calendar and is cancelled when Ontario schools cancel due to a weather event

## UC Executive Jen Metzger Delivers 2026 State of the County Address to a Packed House at Rosendale Theatre

(From Pg. 35) The former Quality Inn will open as Willow Landing before the end of the year, providing permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families. This RUPCO project, supported by the County, will offer wraparound services including mental health care, job training, childcare, transportation, and community amenities like a commissary kitchen and indoor pool.

The County is investing \$2 million to create small, community-based shelters operated by nonprofit partners, offering stability and dignity while families transition to permanent housing. Additionally, the County is excited to partner with Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha and Senator Hinchey on a social housing pilot that they've proposed in the state budget.

Transportation Beginning March 1, UCAT will launch new Sunday service in Kingston, connecting Stony Run, Kingston Plaza, Midtown, the Rondout, and points in between.

Later this year, the County plans to roll out the first phase of the Route Optimization Plan, expanding service to Pine Hill and Port Ewen.

UCAT has increased paratransit service by over 50% to meet the demand for transportation to medical appointments, and will use federal funding to purchase two small buses and hire dedicated drivers for the Office for the Aging and Veterans Services Agency.

Mobility for All Snow Angels Program: A new volunteer initiative pairing high school students and community members with elderly or disabled neighbors to clear steps and walkways of snow and ensure safe mobility during winter.

Through the ThinkDIFFERENTLY Ulster County initiative, the County will conduct a full accessibility self-evaluation of government operations this year to identify and begin to correct barriers to accessing programs, services, and facilities.

In addition, the County plans to launch a new voluntary accessibility certification program for businesses, recognizing establishments that meet accessibility and sensory-friendly standards. (Contad. Pg. 37)

## UC Executive Jen Metzger Delivers 2026 State of the County Address to a Packed House at Rosendale Theatre

(From Pg. 36)

**Economic Development and Local Business Support** Two New Revolving Loan Funds to expand business access to low-cost capital. A refreshed County loan fund will provide: Small loans (\$7,500-\$10,000) for equipment or repairs.

Gap financing for larger projects in partnership with local banks.

Bridge loans to businesses and non-profits for reimbursable grants.

A new Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund, administered in partnership with the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation, to support farm viability, climate resilience, and efficient energy and water use.

**Main Street Forward:** A \$2 million investment to support strategic corridor planning and revitalization in downtowns and hamlets across the County. The program will support municipalities in developing corridor plans, and provide funding for projects that attract investment while preserving each community's unique character.

**iPark:** With the West Campus in default by National Resources, the County is pursuing legal steps to regain ownership and market the property for economic development aligned with County priorities. Additionally, the County is in active discussions with a local food and beverage company to locate a production facility on a County-owned property on the East Campus of the former IBM site.

The County is also exploring a cold storage facility to support local farms - identified as a top agricultural need.

**Economic Futures Summit:** This year, the County will convene an Economic Futures Summit to strengthen partnerships among educational institutions, workforce organizations, and employers in key sectors.

**Reimagining SUNY Ulster:** A joint County-College committee has been initiated by the County Executive to advise on investments in line with the space needs of today, and help ensure SUNY Ulster remains a vital community asset well into the future.

**Arts and Culture:** Following completion of the County's first Arts & Culture Master Plan, a new Arts & Culture Advisory Council is guiding implementation under County Arts, Culture, and Open Spaces Director Sarah Kramer-Harrison. \_ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution: County departments will coordinate Countywide programming with schools, museums, and cultural organizations.

**2026 World Cup:** The County will publish a map of businesses hosting international-themed events and will host a Countywide Youth Soccer Tournament in New Paltz this spring.

**Ukrainian Sister Community:** The County signed a Sister Community Agreement with the Chernivtsi Region in 2025, and has launched joint programming, beginning with a virtual agricultural forum that brought together farmers and agricultural experts from both countries.

### Protecting the Environment and Public Health

**Climate Leadership** - County Executive Metzger recently issued an Executive Order reaffirming Ulster County's commit-

ment to New York's Climate Act and creating two new bodies to move the County's work forward. \_ A new Task Force will oversee the County's recertification as a Silver-level Climate Smart Community; and a new Local Government Climate Action Partnership - a subcommittee of Ulster County Environmental Management Council - will support the climate work of local governments.

The County has reduced government emissions by nearly 30% since 2012 and will continue working toward an additional 55% reduction by 2050. Ongoing investments include rooftop solar, heat pumps, electric buses, fleet electrification, and major efficiency upgrades. Improved energy management in buildings has saved taxpayers more than half a million dollars.

**Air Quality and Water Protection** In partnership with Bard College and JustAir, Ulster County will launch the first Countywide real-time air quality monitoring system in New York State this spring.

The Department of Health will pilot a PFAS testing and mitigation program for private wells, offering free testing and grants for remediation.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention** - With a \$4 million HUD grant, the County will inspect high-risk rental units and fund remediation to protect children from lead exposure.

**Community Health** - Under Public Health Director Dr. Eve Walter, the County completed a model Community Health Assessment, providing accessible, interactive data by ZIP code, race, ethnicity, and gender to better target public health solutions.

**Strengthening EMS** - Ulster County developed the first Countywide EMS plan in New York State in 2025, investing \$4.7 million to expand coverage and improve response times. Following Governor Hochul's designation of EMS as an essential service, other counties are now looking to Ulster County's plan as a model.

**Transforming Mental Health Care** \_ In January, the County opened a 24/7 Crisis Support Center in partnership with People USA at the Ulster County Center for Well-Being, ensuring compassionate, immediate care for residents of all ages.

Earlier this month, the County opened Children's Way Counseling Center, also at the Center for Well-Being, providing mental health services for children as young as five and their families, in partnership with the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

The evening's program included a ceremonial Posting of the Colors by the Ulster County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance delivered by Victor Cueva of the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network, an invocation by Rabbi Jack Sherratt of Congregation Emanuel, and a poem by Ulster County Poet Laureate Mike Jurkovic. The Rosendale Improvement Association Brass Band and Social Club played as guests arrived.

Recordings of the event will be available linked from the Ulster County Government and Executive's Facebook pages and will be posted on the Ulster County Government website and Ulster County Executive YouTube channel.

The County Executive's address was offered in real-time Spanish language translation and American Sign Language interpretation, a practice that started in 2023 with County Executive Metzger's first State of the County address.



# **Shandaken Historical Museum**

**26 Academy Street, Pine Hill, NY**  
**845-254-4460**

## **Native American Song and Music**

### **Saturday, Feb. 28 from 12:00-3:00**

Bring your drum, your rattle, your stories.  
Learn songs with us. Everyone is welcome.  
Bring a friend and a snack to share  
during this special event.



**Everyone is welcome to join us.**





## BLUE MOUNTAINS TROUT NEWS

### FEBRUARY 2026



Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

*Fly tying class at the Olive Free Library on February 14, 2026.*

#### February Meeting to Feature Author Mike Valla

Our February meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 26 at 7 PM at the Boiceville Inn, on NY 28 in Boiceville. We are fortunate to host noted Catskill angling historian, author, fly tyer, and angler Mike Valla. Mike is also a member of our chapter.

Mike was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum Hall of Fame in 2024. He is the author of Fly Fishing Guide to New York State, The Founding Flies, Tying Catskill-Style Dry Flies, Tying and Fishing Bucktails and other Hair Wings, Tying the Founding Flies, The Classic Streamer Fly Box, and Favorite Flies for the Catskills. He is the recipient of the Poul Jorgensen Golden Hook Award and is often invited to speak about fly fishing in local, national, and international fly-fishing events and gatherings. He is a frequent contributor to American Fly Fishing magazine, has published articles in Fly Fisherman, Fly Tyer, and American Fly Fisher and has served on the Board of Directors at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. Mike has been fly-fishing for well over 50 years and lives in the town of Cambridge, New York, just a few miles from Vermont.

His latest book is titled Fly Fishing Guide to Vermont. Mike will do a PowerPoint presentation on this topic. For those interested, books will be available, plus Mike will gladly autograph any of his books you already have. You don't want to miss this.

The February meeting is winter weather dependent, so watch for updates should we need to modify anything.

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

State and Federally Licensed  
(845) 657-6330 (Ph.)  
(845) 657-7031 (Fax)  
Email: jyork@hvc.rr.com

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CUSTOM STOCK, METAL WORK, BLUEING,  
GENERAL REPAIRS, SIGHTWORK, ETC.  
BUY - SELL - TRADE - TRANSFERS

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	
<hr/>	
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

#### Fly Tyers Brave the Cold to attend February Classes

The chapter's fly-tying classes began on February 7 - one, wicked-cold Saturday - at the Olive Library in West Shokan. Despite the extreme cold, many hardy tyers showed up. Thus far, classes have been well attended and we are very fortunate to have several chapter members assisting this activity and instruction. We are also very lucky Ed Rolle has volunteered to teach a few sessions, lending his valued skillset to this class. Saturday classes continue through March 14.

Now for some poetic fly-tying thoughts below from the Adirondack Trout Bum - Alvin Montana:

"A frozen morning in an Adirondack winter. The fly vise closes on a hook of hope, dreams of green grass and the first flowers of spring held tight between steel and thread.

Visions drift in - a meandering stream, the native ghost of cold water, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, a name as poetic as the fish itself.

As an artist lifts a brush, the cast becomes a dance of line, where the past meets the present, where time forgets to move.

The crackle of the fire reminds me that spring is not a promise but a memory, and yet these winter dreams pull me back to the truth of this cold morning.

One more sip of coffee. One more wrap of thread. Preparation for the season of awakening - the season when the world remembers itself."

Alvin is an involved member/officer of TU's Mohawk Valley Chapter, among other conservation activities, and a strong advocate for Adirondack brook trout. (Contd. Pg. 40)

## Blue Mountain Trout News (From Pg. 39)

As a sideline he produces various fishing YouTubes under the Adirondack Trout Bum moniker; the chapter's September newsletter included one featuring fishing headwaters of the Neversink watershed. Alvin's also a good friend of our oldest son and myself, we're proud to call him a friend.

### Reminder - DEC Summer Youth Camp Slots Are Available



Our chapter has reserved 4 slots for 2026 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Summer Camps. Slots are available to male or female youths expressing an interest in the outdoors. Two slots are for ages 11-13, and there are two slots for ages 14-17. Kids don't have to be a member of Trout Unlimited, nor does an individual suggesting a name. We just want to sponsor someone who enjoys the outdoors, and is interested in learning more about nature and trout fishing. For more information on these camps, check here: <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/summer-camps>. Our chapter will pay the \$350 registration fee, but transportation must be arranged by individual attending. Submit names of nominated youths, their age, plus a little about their outdoor interests to John Yanzek at: [johnyanzek@gmail.com](mailto:johnyanzek@gmail.com).

### Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Presents Winter Webinars

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) is conducting a series of winter technical webinars. On January 28, two USGS scientists presented findings regarding turbidity activities/studies conducted on Stony Clove, Bush Kill, and the Panther Kill. Among many others, chapter president Tony Cocozza and I participated; it was well done.

The second webinar will be held on February 25, featuring Jillian Cole (Stantec Consulting) and Adam Doan (SLR Consulting). Jillian and Adam will present, "Designing Resilient Road Stream Crossings."

Road stream crossings are essential infrastructure in the Ashokan Watershed, where roads and streams occupy the same valley bottoms. Resilient road stream crossings require less maintenance, maintain habitat continuity, pass storm flows and sediment, meet higher regulatory standards, and allow the crossing to meet structural lifespan expectations. AWSMP has supported municipalities designing and constructing resilient crossings that are informed by geomorphic assessment. Jillian and Adam will discuss how an investment in a design that is compatible with the geomorphology of the stream reduces long term costs and increases connectivity. The presentations will include case studies from the AWSMP-funded replacements of

the Mink Hollow bridge and Upper Boiceville e Road culvert.

For more information and to participate, please contact Max Kelly at [mk2397@cornell.edu](mailto:mk2397@cornell.edu) or 845-688-3047 x117.

### NYS DEC Fisheries Report

Chapter member Peter Marx recently made me aware of this relatively new New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) fisheries report addressing year-round trout fishing, since the extended no-kill trout season was implemented. The Esopus, Fox Hollow, and Woodland Valley Creek are included; the report is worth your read. Thank you Peter.

### Nick Lyons Featured in Recent Kaatscast Podcast

Recently Phoenicia Library's Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection made us aware of a highly entertaining Nick Lyons' Kaatscast Podcast by Brett Barry. Given the cold winter, ice, and snow, it's more than worth your while listening. Brett's other podcasts cover many aspects of life, nature and history in the the Catskills and can be found at [kaatscast.com/](http://kaatscast.com/).

Thoughts and Prayers for Catskill Conservationists:

### Some difficult and sad news to report.

Longtime chapter president, current chapter vice-president, and ardent trout conservationist Mark Loete has been battling health issues for a year and more. He is currently undergoing rehab at Golden Hill in Kingston, NY. He could use words of encouragement, a card, or a call. Current address is: Golden Hill, Mark Loete, Room 420, 99 Golden Hill Drive, Kingston, NY 12401. His cell number is: 845-532-5856.

Sadly Agnes Van Put, mother of the late Ed Van Put and the heart and soul, perpetual smiling greeter of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, passed on January 21. She was 109 years young. God Bless you Agnes. FYI: <https://www.harris-fh.com/obituaries/agnes-van-put>

### Precipitation Report

During January, Jody Hoyt recorded 3.41 liquid inches of precipitation in Boiceville, including 32.1 inches of dry snow during 10 measurable storms. These had a weighted 6.0 pH. By comparison, in January 2025 there were 7 storms measuring 1.54 inches of liquid precip, including 5.6 inches of snow/sleet, with a 6.0 weighted pH.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Yanzek reported at the end of January we had \$16,977.85, of which \$15,787.33 was in the General Fund, with \$1,190.52 in the Conservation Fund. Thank you John for all you do.

### Ideas for Blue Mountains Trout News?

We're always looking for input/suggestions for your monthly TU newsletter. If you have some, send them to me at [Tailwaters@hvc.rr.com](mailto:Tailwaters@hvc.rr.com).

### 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>. You can also join the chapter online at <http://tu.org/join559>.

Until next time,  
Ed Ostapczuk  
February 20, 2026

# Join Us to Celebrate Our Nation's 250th Anniversary!

**T**his July is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Time and the Valleys Museum is honoring our area's contribution to the struggles for independence by creating two new interactive exhibitions on the Revolution in 2026.

## Celebrate With Us - Become a Museum Member - It's Easy!

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

- ◆ Free admission to all in-person and virtual programs, exhibits and the Catskill Farm
- ◆ Invitations to all special member openings and events
- ◆ *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter and monthly historical and informative emails
- ◆ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- ◆ FREE ADMISSION to over 30 New York State Museums, and more!



Join now by going to [timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership](http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership), or send a check (\$25 for Individual, \$40 for Double and \$50 for Family) to the Museum at the address below. You will receive membership cards, a newsletter and special gift by return mail.

**2026 and beyond is sure to be exciting - be part of the excitement by becoming a member today!**



Time and the Valleys Museum P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740  
845 985-7700 / [timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership](http://timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership)

# UPCOMING SHARPS AND MEDICATION COLLECTION



Sharps Collection will now take place every Friday at Ellenville Regional Hospital's Emergency Department Entrance!

Sharps must be in a plastic puncture-proof container.

FREE sharps container and medication disposal products!  
For information, call (845) 647-6400 ext. 215

## UPCOMING DATES

**February 13**  
10:00 to 12:00PM

**February 20**  
2:00 to 4:00PM

**February 27**  
10:00 to 12:00PM

# UCAT Launches New Sunday Bus Service in Kingston Starting March 1

*New '2S Route' will Connect Stony Run, Kingston Plaza, Midtown, the Rondout, and Kingston Point*

KINGSTON, NY - Beginning Sunday, March 1, Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) will launch new Sunday service in the City of Kingston. The new route - 2S: Kingston Local Sunday Service - will connect key residential areas and destinations, including Stony Run, Kingston Plaza, the Broadway corridor in Midtown, the Rondout, and Kingston Point.

Service begins at 8 AM at Stony Run, with five runs throughout the day, ending with the last stop at Kingston Point Beach at 5:45 PM.

"I'm excited to announce this expansion of service, which will give residents and visitors more opportunities to shop and get around on public transit, and will connect all three downtown areas of Kingston, benefiting our local businesses in Uptown, Midtown, and the Rondout," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "The new Sunday service also stops at Kingston Point Beach, providing a convenient and cost-effective way to enjoy the park year-round."

In addition to expanding service, this route will act as a pilot for implementing the 2025 Route Optimization Plan (ROP). The schedule is a modified version of "Route 2" proposed in the ROP. Rider and driver feedback and other service monitoring data acquired from this pilot will inform future ROP route rollouts in Kingston, and across the County.

For a route map and full timetable visit <https://ucat.ulstercountyny.gov/notices/2026/02/kingston-local-sunday/>

## Gillibrand Statement on UAP Disclosure

Washington, D.C. - Today, after President Trump announced that he is directing his administration to release files related to unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAPs), U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand released the following statement:

"This is good news, and I am encouraged to see the president lend his support to this effort. I have been pushing for years for increased disclosure and transparency around UAPs. My work to establish and strengthen the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office has already brought about significant progress in improving inter-agency coordination, data collection, and engagement with the public, but there is still more to be done and the American people's interest in UAPs only continues to grow. I urge the administration to follow through on this directive and I will keep fighting to elevate this issue in Congress so that we can reduce the stigma around reporting and ensure UAP records are being properly disclosed and made public."

### CCE WEBINAR FIVE-PART SERIES



# GROWING FARM EXPERIENCES THAT WELCOME PEOPLE IN

**FEBRUARY 18 & 24 • MARCH 4, 18 & 25 • 6:00-7:30 PM**

A virtual workshop series designed to help Sullivan County farms build agritourism experiences that are safe, accessible, engaging, and ready for visitors.

Each session offers practical guidance, expert insight, and real-world examples you can use right away, whether you're just starting to welcome guests or looking to strengthen what you already offer.

**PERFECT FOR FARM OWNERS, AGRITOURISM OPERATORS & FARM STAFF**

#### YOU'LL GAIN TOOLS TO:

- Navigate NYS agritourism laws and safety requirements
- Improve visitor safety, flow, and biosecurity
- Create more welcoming, visitor-ready farm experiences



- FREE LIVE VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS (ZOOM)
- ATTEND ONE OR ATTEND THEM ALL
- Q&A INCLUDED
- RECORDINGS AVAILABLE AFTER EACH SESSION

For Registration, Contact Alan Carroll:

845-292-8180 ext. 108

anic588@cornell.edu

Or Scan the QR Code



**Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County**

Sullivan County Extension is a proud partner of the Sullivan County Public Accession.

11<sup>th</sup> Annual!

# Wings & Wheels for Warriors



Dash Plaques for first  
150 Vehicles Registered!  
Many Categories!  
Over 50 Trophies.

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Rain date: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
9am to 3pm

**JUDGING UPON ARRIVAL - 11AM CUTOFF**

**Joseph Y. Resnick Airport**

199 Airport Road  
Ellenville, NY 12428

**Benefiting the Disabled American Veterans**

Family Fun ★ Plane Rides ★ Food ★ DJ Brian  
★ Kid's Choice Award



Proudly Hosted by:  
**SPRAGUE & KILLEEN**  
INSURANCE



116 Canal Street • PO Box 506, Ellenville New York 12428-0506 • 845.647.9100 Fax 845.647.8660

*Innovation Integrity Insurance*

February 2026

Dear Friends of Disabled American Veterans,

Over the past ten years, **Wings & Wheels for Warriors** hosted by **Sprague & Killeen, Inc.** has grown into one of our community's most anticipated events. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and supporters like you, we have raised **\$220,000 for the Disabled American Veterans of NY**. Each year, we are reminded that when a community comes together, incredible things happen.

As we celebrate our **11th anniversary**, our goal is ambitious but heartfelt: to raise **\$50,000 in 2026 in support of the men and women who have sacrificed so much in service to our country**. There is no group more deserving of our support than our nation's veterans.

One of the most impactful ways to participate is by becoming a sponsor. We invite you to select a sponsorship level that works best for your business from the enclosed co-sponsor sheet. Every level of sponsorship makes a difference and helps ensure the continued success of this highly attended **car show and community event**.

Wings & Wheels for Warriors is a day full of family-friendly fun featuring:

- Plane rides with **Fly with Kate, LLC**
- Music by **DJ Brian**
- Craft tents and activities for children
- Raffles and prizes
- Food offerings
- A vibrant atmosphere celebrating community and patriotism

In appreciation of your support, **all sponsors receive recognition**, including:

- Placement in our exclusive Program
- Event signage and regular announcements throughout the day
- Promotion on our event Facebook page – Your business will be promoted to our large Facebook audience
- All recognition will feature your logo or business information. If needed, our design team will gladly create professional signage using your name, phone number, or website.

**Silver** sponsors and **above** are also invited to host a table at the event for an additional \$100 donation to **DAV of NY**, providing a great opportunity to engage directly with attendees.

Your contribution is **tax-deductible**, but more importantly, it represents a tangible show of gratitude and support for **Disabled American Veterans of NY**. Any level of participation is deeply appreciated.

We are also seeking **volunteers** to help make the day a success. If you or your team would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for considering being part of this special event. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact us at **845-647-9100**. We truly hope you will join us in honoring our veterans and strengthening our community.

With sincere gratitude,

Dwight Coombe and the Staff of Sprague & Killeen, Inc.  
 Proud Hosts of Wings & Wheels for Warriors  
 skmain@sprague-killeen.com  
 845-647-9100



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



### Co-Sponsor Levels

BRONZE – \$100 – 11" x 17" Sign

SILVER – \$250 – 18" x 24" Sign

GOLD – \$500 – 2.5' x 4' Banner

PLATINUM – \$1000 – 4' x 6' Banner

**DIAMOND – \$5000 – 4' x 8' Banner**

**All proceeds go to Disabled American Veterans!**

\*We encourage all sponsors to donate an item or basket for our silent auction.\*

**Thank you for supporting Wings & Wheels for Warriors and  
the Disabled American Veterans of NY!**

**\*Please make check or money order payable to  
the Disabled American Veterans of NY\***

If you wish to co-sponsor the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings & Wheels for Warriors, please fill in the form below and mail it to our office with a check or money order payable to the Disabled American Veterans of NY. Thank you for your support.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to guarantee signage be ready for event, please inform us of your commitment by April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to send a logo or brief description of how you would like your banner or poster laid out to [skmain@sprague-killeen.com](mailto:skmain@sprague-killeen.com)

**\*\*If no description is received, we will create your sign to the best of our ability.\*\***

**Sprague & Killeen, Inc. • 116 Canal St. • P.O. Box 506 • Ellenville, NY 12428**



## CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-885-7270

E-mail: [claryvillefd@gmail.com](mailto:claryvillefd@gmail.com) • Facebook: @claryvillefd • Instagram: claryville\_volunteer\_fd

# Claryville Volunteer Fire Department Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

## Rules Form

**When:** Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

**Snow, Rain or Shine**

(In the event of a blizzard or state of emergency, the fair will be rescheduled to Sunday, May 3, 2026.)

**Where:** Claryville Fire Dept.  
1500 Denning Rd  
Claryville, NY 12725

**Time:** 10 AM – 3 PM

**Setup begins at 8:00 AM. Vendors must remain until 3:00 PM.**

### Regulations for Sellers:

- Open to all crafters, artisans, and small business vendors only. No yard sellers or flea-market vendors permitted.
- **Maximum of two tables per vendor.** Tables and chairs are provided (8-foot tables). No outside tables allowed due to spacing.
- **Fee:** \$20 per table (8-foot). \$25 per table with electricity (limited availability).
- Food will be available for purchase throughout the day.
- **Claryville Fire Dept. is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen merchandise**

For more information or to register, please contact Jennifer at 845-807-6563; email at [claryvillefd@gmail.com](mailto:claryvillefd@gmail.com).

**Payment and registration must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> to reserve your spot. Payment will no longer be accepted on the day of the event!**



# CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

E-mail: [\\_claryvillefd@gmail.com](mailto:_claryvillefd@gmail.com) • Facebook: @claryvillefd • Instagram: claryville\_volunteer\_fd

## Registration Form

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Rain, Snow or Shine

*(In the event of a blizzard or state of emergency, the fair will be rescheduled to Sunday, May 3, 2026.)*

Vendors Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Merchandise: \_\_\_\_\_

# of 8ft tables needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Electricity needed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**\*\*\*spots are first come first serve based on postage date of application\*\*\***

Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Method:  cash  check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of vendor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$20.00 per 8ft table or \$25.00 an 8ft table with electricity. \*Please note vendor spot fee is nonrefundable \* Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Event time: is 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Setup begins at 8:00 AM. **Vendors must remain until 3:00 PM.**

**\*\*I understand that Claryville Fire Dept shall not be held responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen merchandise\*\*** Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendors are responsible for leaving their area in the same condition as they found it.

**Registration forms and payment must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> to reserve your spot!**

**\*\*Payment will no longer be accepted the day of the event! \*\***

Make checks payable to Claryville Volunteer Fire Department

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

Attn: Jennifer Pisaniello

# Give the Gift of Membership!

**Lasting all Year Long, it's the perfect gift  
for family and friends who have everything.**

**Individual** **\$25**  
 • A subscription to *Around the Reservoirs* newsletter  
 • Advanced notice and for all programs and events  
 • Invitations to special member receptions and openings  
 • FREE admission to the Museum  
 • A 10% discount in the Museum Shop  
 • FREE admission to over 30 museums throughout New York State!

**Double** **\$40**  
 All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

**Family** **\$50**  
 All the above benefits extended to children residing in the household under age 18.

**Patron** **\$100**  
 All of the above benefits **plus** an invitation to a special higher category member's only reception.

**Patron Silver** **\$200**  
 All of the above benefits **plus** a private tour of the new Museum and a set of special Museum note cards.

**Patron Gold** **\$500**  
 All of the above benefits **plus** a surprise historical publication and a reproduced historical photo from the Museum's collections.

Name of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name and Address:

Gift Message: \_\_\_\_\_

A notice of your gift and all the benefits will be sent to your recipient in a holiday card. They will receive mailings and notices of programs, activities and openings, plus other benefits.

**Solve your gift giving problems and support the Museum at the same time!**



Mail your check to: **Time and the Valleys Museum** P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740  
 or go to: <https://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership> 845-985-7700  
*Donations and membership fees are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Thank you for your support and best wishes for the holiday season!**



## RURAL HEALTH NETWORK FITNESS CLASSES

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

# FEBRUARY FITNESS CALENDAR



### Location Key

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00am		Breathe, Stretch, & Flex (ML)			
11:00am	FIT Class (TRF)		HIIT Class (TRF)		Cardio Beat Boxing (EPL)
12:00pm	<b>**NO CLASS 2/16**</b> ★  ★	Senior Power ½ Hour (SH)		Senior Power ½ Hour (SH)	
1:30pm	<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>	Senior Power ½ Hour (EHA)		Senior Power ½ Hour (EHA)	
2:00pm	Breathe, Stretch, & Flex (RF)				
4:30pm	Brain & Balance (ERH)		Strength Training (ERH)		Breathe, Stretch, & Flex (ERH)

- (ERH)**  
Ellenville Regional Hospital  
Specialty Services Lobby  
10 Healthy Way  
Ellenville, NY 12428
- (EPL)**  
Ellenville Public Library  
40 Center Street  
Ellenville, NY 12428
- (SH)**  
Ellenville Senior Housing  
15 Healthy Way  
Ellenville, NY 12428
- (TRF)**  
Trudy Resnick Farber Building  
Basement Community Room  
50 Center Street  
Ellenville, NY 12428
- (RF)**  
Ridgewell Fitness  
3555 Main St, Stone Ridge, NY 12484
- (ML)**  
Mamakating Library  
128 Sullivan Street  
Wurtsboro, NY 12790
- (EHA)**  
Ellenville Housing Authority  
199 Canal Street  
Ellenville, NY 12428

As the weather cools, check our Facebook for updates on class cancellations.



Classes do not require registration, for questions please call 845-647-6400 ext. 215



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd, Liberty, NY 12754  
(845) 292-6180 x 122 | sullivancrc@cornell.edu

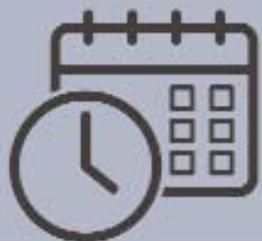
Caregiver

Cafe' Support Group

Jan-June 2026



Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> April 6<sup>th</sup> May 4<sup>th</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup>



1st Monday of  
each month  
10 am-11 am

Registration Required:

Use the QR code below or go to  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6mtpy4>

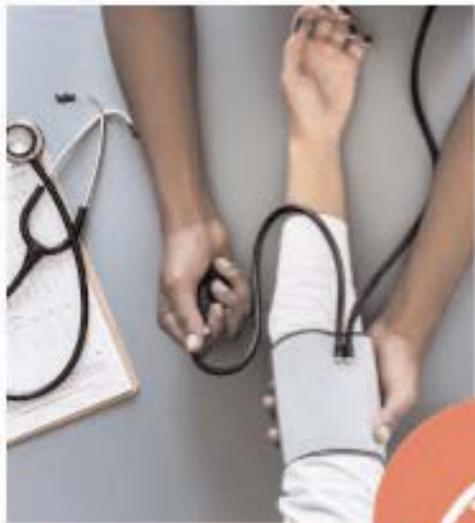
Take a break while you:

- Learn about tips for self-care
- Share caregiving strategies
- Connect with others
- Enjoy a light snack on us!



The Caregiver Resource Center is a co-partnered program between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Office for the Aging of Sullivan County and is supported by grants from the NYS Office for the Aging's Caregiver Program and the Alzheimer's Association.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County is an equal opportunity educator, provider and employer.



*Live*



# Medicare 101 Zoom Webinar

Saturday, March 14, 2026  
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Presented by:  
James Farnham, MBA, MS  
Licensed Agent

**Will you be turning 65 soon? Are you eligible for Medicare?**

Please join us for this free live webinar as we learn about Medicare basics including, When to join, Prescription Drug Plans, Medicare Supplement Plans, and Medicare Advantage Plans (HMOs and PPOs). This program will simplify the choices you need to make, help you make well-informed decisions and explain what Medicare means to you! This is an educational event.

Advanced online registration required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org). Those who register will receive an email prior to the event with a link and instructions on how to join the Zoom Webinar.



## Daniel Pierce Library

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



## Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute! Here's what she's been up to this week:

### 1. Fighting for paid sick leave

No one should have to choose between a paycheck and taking care of a sick loved one or themselves.

That's why Kirsten introduced legislation that would guarantee paid sick leave for workers across the country. Paid sick leave is a fundamental right and a commonsense protection that provides stability, economic security, and peace of mind to working families. Kirsten will do everything she can to get this legislation across the finish line.

Read more.

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2026/02/18/gillibrand-introduces-legislation-to-guarantee-paid-sick-leave-to-american-workers>

### 2. Strengthening rural economies

Rural communities are the backbone of Upstate New York's economy. We must do everything we can to help them grow and thrive.

This week, Kirsten introduced legislation that would help strengthen rural economies, expand opportunity, and support local efforts to create good-paying jobs and grow small businesses. The Rural Innovation for a Stronger Economy (RISE) Reauthorization Act would expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture's grant program for rural job accelerator partnerships that support in-demand job training and rural business formation and expansion efforts.

Read more. [https://www.wamc.org/news/2026-02-17/bill-introduced-to-help-rural-economic-development?\\_amp=true](https://www.wamc.org/news/2026-02-17/bill-introduced-to-help-rural-economic-development?_amp=true)

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

This week, Kirsten secured over \$50 million to upgrade bus transit facilities across Central and Western New York.

These federal dollars will enhance bus service, improve reliability, and help ensure that New Yorkers can get where they need to go safely and efficiently. Kirsten was proud to deliver these vital funds, and she'll keep fighting to improve transit and infrastructure across New York.

Read more.

<https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/local/nfta-gets-21m-for-bus-facility-upgrades/71-b83b07f9-bd7b-4b89-89bf-7f653de77375>

### 4. Opposing Trump's tariff chaos

President Trump's tariffs are a hidden tax on hardworking New Yorkers and small businesses. Kirsten has fought these tariffs since their inception.

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed that in addition to being reckless and vindictive, President Trump's tariff scheme was also unconstitutional. Kirsten demanded that President Trump respect this ruling, reimburse small businesses for these illegal taxes, end the tariffs immediately, and shift his focus to lowering costs for American families. Read Kirsten's full statement.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/gillibrand-statement-on-supreme-court-striking-down-president-trumps-tariffs/>

### 5. Helping New Yorkers get their tax refunds

A Queens County constituent contacted Kirsten's office for assistance after waiting over a year for the replacement of a stolen tax refund check.

Kirsten's team worked with both the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service to make sure the funds were released, and the constituent promptly received her refund of over \$8,000.

Individual casework is Kirsten's top priority. If you need help with any federal agency, contact her here .

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/help-for-new-yorkers/>



### My State of the Union Guest

This year, I am honored to announce that my guest for the State of the Union will be Wayne County Sheriff Robert Milby. Sheriff Milby is a lifelong resident of Palmyra who has devoted more than three decades to protecting the people of Wayne County. He began his career in 1995 and has since served in nearly every leadership role within the Sheriff's Office, providing steady, experienced guidance in public safety for more than 30 years. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, Sheriff Milby has advanced training in law enforcement leadership and operations and has been at the forefront of combating the opioid crisis and protecting vulnerable children through his work with the Wayne County Opioid Task Force and the Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board. He also serves as 2nd Vice President of the New York State Sheriffs' Association and chairs the newly formed New York State Border Security Committee.

(Contd. Pg. 53)

## This Week with Claudia (From Pg. 52)

Sheriff Milby represents the very best of Upstate New York: integrity, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to keeping families safe. At a time when law enforcement faces unprecedented challenges, it is important to highlight leaders who serve courageously every single day. His presence at the State of the Union reflects my strong support for the men and women who protect our communities and uphold the rule of law.

### Urging Hochul to Opt in to Scholarship Tax-break

<https://nypost.com/2026/02/16/us-news/ny-gop-urges-hochul-to-opt-in-to-scholarship-tax-break-despite-teachers-union-push-back/>

This week, I led a letter with my New York House Republican colleagues in urging Governor Kathy Hochul to opt New York into a new federal scholarship tax credit program created under H.R. 1. This commonsense program allows individuals to receive up to \$1,700 in federal tax credits for donations to qualified scholarship-granting organizations that support low and middle-income families. These nonprofits must direct at least 90% of donated funds toward scholarships and serve a minimum number of students, ensuring accountability and real impact. Importantly, this program does not divert a single dollar away from public schools. Instead, it incentivizes private donations to expand educational opportunity, including support that can benefit public school students with the supplies and resources they need to succeed. Twenty-eight governors have already opted in or announced plans to participate. If Governor Hochul fails to act, New York families will be locked out of this opportunity. Every child deserves access to educational options regardless of their ZIP code or family income, and I will continue fighting to ensure New Yorkers can benefit from programs that expand opportunity and strengthen our communities.

### Supporting the Susan Muffley Act

I led a letter to President Trump urging his support for the Susan Muffley Act to finally deliver justice to the Delphi Salaried Retirees who were wronged during the 2009 General Motors bankruptcy. Under the Obama Administration, more than 20,000 non-union Delphi salaried retirees saw their pensions slashed by 30 to 70 percent when their plans were transferred to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, while union employees received supplemental protections. Thousands of these retirees live in Western New York and across the country, and they have been waiting far too long for fairness. In 2020, President Trump took action by directing his administration to review the issue, but it has since been determined that only Congress can fully restore these lost pensions and benefits. The House previously passed the Susan Muffley Act with bipartisan support, and the legislation has been reintroduced this Congress. It would restore full pension and healthcare payments, provide backpay with interest, and, importantly, save taxpayers \$1.272 billion over ten years through a responsible offset. These retirees worked hard their entire lives and played by the rules. I will continue fighting to ensure their pensions are restored and that this injustice is finally corrected once and for all.

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine

which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

H.R. 1542, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2025: This bill would provide appropriations to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for the salaries and expenses of personnel who are required to continue working during a lapse in federal funding. Specifically, it would grant automatic authority to pay Coast Guardsmen during a government shutdown. The servicemen and women at the USCG put their lives on the line every day to protect the homeland, run search and rescue operations, and enforce maritime laws. It is imperative that USCG personnel and their families are cared for during their essential service protecting our communities.

H.R. 5260, the Pay Our Border Patrol and Customs Agents Act: This bill would ensure that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, including Border Patrol agents and customs officers, continue to receive pay during a lapse in appropriations. Specifically, it would provide automatic authority to pay these law enforcement officers during a government shutdown. Border security personnel are essential to national security and public safety, and their pay shouldn't be politicized and withheld during funding disputes by Democrats in Congress. This bill helps provide stability for the families of our men and women who are responsible for securing the border and keeping our communities safe.

H.R. 5517, the Northern Border Security Enhancement and Review Act: This bill would require the Department of Homeland Security to conduct more frequent and regular threat analyses of activity occurring on the northern border. Regular DHS analysis would allow the US to strengthen relations with the Canadian government while protecting our country from illegal aliens and creating unified air, land, and maritime oversight strategies. Under former President Biden's administration, failed open-border policies led to exacerbated challenges at our Northern Border, benefiting drug cartels, human traffickers, and known individuals on the terrorist watchlist. This legislation supports the Trump Administration's efforts to secure our borders and ensure law enforcement has the resources it needs to keep our communities safe.

H.R. 5023, the Fentanyl Kills Act: This bill would classify the production, manufacturing, distribution, transport, or sale of fentanyl as attempted murder and enable prosecutors to charge fentanyl distributors as such. Fentanyl is now responsible for 70% of all overdose deaths in the United States, and the DEA seized enough fentanyl in 2024 alone to kill every American multiple times over, making it a top threat to health and safety in the US. This legislation would help lessen the amount of illicit and dangerous drugs entering our country and ensure that those who attempt to distribute them in any way receive justice.

H.R. 7008, the Stop Insider Trading Act: This bill would restrict the ability of members of Congress, their spouses, or their dependents from purchasing publicly traded stocks and require a public seven-day notice before any lawmakers, spouses, or dependents may sell any stocks. This bill would close loopholes that make it possible for lawmakers to use their Congressional privilege for personal monetary gain. This legislation would help ensure there are no conflicts of interest when making legislative decisions.

# Governor Hochul Announces Fanatics to Expand NYC Operations, Creating 300 New Jobs

## Global Sports Platform Will Invest More Than \$50 Million To Support Continued Growth in New York

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that leading global sports platform Fanatics will expand its New York City operations. The project will create 300 new high-quality jobs over the next five years and includes an investment of more than \$50 million to fit out and equip an expanded Manhattan office footprint. Empire State Development will support the project with up to \$5 million in performance-based Excelsior Jobs Program tax credits. This expansion strengthens New York City's position as a global hub for technology, media, and digital commerce, supporting long-term economic growth and high-quality job creation across the region.

“Fanatics is one of the most innovative companies in the global sports and digital commerce economy, and their decision to grow here in New York sends a powerful signal that our state remains the premier destination for companies building the future,” Governor Hochul said. “By supporting their significant investment and the creation of 300 new good-paying jobs, we are reinforcing New York City's role as a global hub for technology, digital commerce, and creative industries and ensuring that the jobs of tomorrow are created right here at home.”

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, “Fanatics' growth in New York demonstrates the strength of our talent pipeline and the unmatched value of doing business in the Empire State. Through the Excelsior Jobs Program, we're proud to support a project that will retain hundreds of existing jobs, create 300 new ones, and deepen New York City's position as a global center for technology, media, and digital commerce.”

Fanatics, which currently employs approximately 650 people in New York City, has decided to take on an additional 95,000 square feet of office space at its 95 Morton Street location to accommodate its rapid growth across technology, product, corporate, and operations functions, fueling increased collaboration and all-hands capacity.

Founded in 2011, Fanatics is building a leading global sports platform that serves millions of fans worldwide by offering products and services across Fanatics Commerce, Fanatics Betting & Gaming, and Fanatics Collectibles, allowing sports fans to Buy, Bet, and Collect. The company has an established database of more than 100 million global sports fans and partnerships with more than 900 professional leagues, teams, and brands, allowing Fanatics to deliver personalized and immersive experiences on a global scale.

Fanatics' expansion advances Governor Hochul's broader efforts to grow New York's innovation economy, attract high-growth industries, and create pathways to well-paying careers across technology, media, and digital commerce. By continuing to invest in companies at the intersection of

sports, technology, and global consumer platforms, New York is strengthening its competitive edge and diversifying its economy for long-term growth.

Fanatics' expansion builds on a growing list of companies that have chosen to relocate or grow in New York City under Governor Hochul's leadership, including PayPal, Bilt, ElevenLabs, Figma, Kraken, Radical AI, and Roc360. Together, these announcements represent more than 2,500 new jobs and over \$180 million in private investment, reinforcing New York City's position as a global hub for technology, finance, and digital commerce.

Fanatics Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Glenn H. Schiffman said, “New York City plays an important role in growing our global platform by offering unmatched access to talent and connections across sports and entertainment. From continuing to grow our presence in the city to bringing fans together at events like Fanatics Fest - the world's #1 fan festival which is returning to the Javits Center for its third year in July, New York is key to how we serve fans around the world.”

### About Empire State Development

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, and promotes business growth, job creation, and greater economic opportunity throughout the state. With offices in each of the state's 10 regions, ESD oversees the Regional Economic Development Councils, supports broadband equity through the ConnectALL office, and is growing the workforce of tomorrow through the Office of Strategic Workforce Development. The agency engages with emerging and next generation industries like clean energy and semiconductor manufacturing looking to grow in New York State, operates a network of assistance centers to help small businesses grow and succeed, and promotes the state's world class tourism destinations through I LOVE NY. For more information, please visit [esd.ny.gov](http://esd.ny.gov), and connect with ESD on LinkedIn, Facebook and X.

### About Fanatics

Fanatics is a leading global sports platform that ignites the passions of fans and maximizes the presence and reach for hundreds of sports partners globally by offering products and services across Fanatics Commerce, Fanatics Collectibles, and Fanatics Betting & Gaming, allowing sports fans to Buy, Collect, and Bet. Through the Fanatics platform, sports fans can buy licensed fan gear, jerseys, lifestyle and streetwear products, headwear, and hardgoods; collect physical and digital trading cards, sports memorabilia, and other digital assets; and bet as the company builds its Sportsbook and iGaming platform. Fanatics has an established database of over 100 million global sports fans; a global partner network with over 900 sports properties, including major national and international professional sports leagues, players associations, teams, colleges, college conferences and retail partners, over 5,000 athletes and celebrities, and over 250 exclusive athletes; and over 2,000 retail locations, including Lids retail stores. Fanatics' more than 22,000 employees are committed to relentlessly enhancing the fan experience and delighting sports fans globally.



# The Daniel Pierce Library

## *Spring Children's Programs* 2026

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

Calling all caregivers and their little ones (ages 12 months to 4 years) in the Tri-Valley Central School District.

We've got exciting programs designed just for you!

Our spring session begins the week of April 6th and runs for eight fun-filled weeks. These programs are offered at no cost, thanks to the support of our amazing community. Registration is required.

We can't wait to learn, play and grow together!

**Mother Goose Time (12-23 months)**  
**Beginning Wednesday, April 8th**

**Toddler Time (24-35 months)**  
**Beginning Thursday, April 9th**

**Story Hour (3 and 4 year-olds)**  
**Beginning Friday, April 10th**

### **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.

*Register  
Today!*



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



# The Daniel Pierce Library

presents

# Pocketbook B I N G O

Friday, April 10, 2026

(Snow date Saturday, April 11th)

Doors open at 6:00 p.m

Calling begins at 7:00 p.m.

**\$40 per Person**

(Fundraiser, final sale)

Includes  
7 games, door  
prize entry &  
light  
refreshments

**7 PRIZES**

One winner per game



DOONEY & BOURKE



MICHAEL KORS

and more.....

**Tickets on  
sale now**

Must be 18 or older  
to participate

Tricky Tray chances  
available for an  
additional purchase



*Seating is limited. Stop in for  
tickets or call 845.985.7233 today!*



**Daniel Pierce Library**

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268

Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233

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

# GOT AN IDEA? GET A GRANT

Sullivan County teens can score up to



# \$250



For projects that make a  
difference in your community

## APPLY NOW:

[gracejohansenfoundation.org/spark](https://gracejohansenfoundation.org/spark)

**DEADLINE:  
DECEMBER 19**



**All blood types  
are needed.**

Schedule your  
blood donation  
appointment today.

**Donate Blood. Help Save Lives.**

## Daniel Pierce Library Community Blood Drive

**Friday, May 29, 2026  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make your lifesaving appointment today!

EAT WELL - HYDRATE - BRING ID

Walk-Ins Welcome - Appointments Preferred!





# Sponsor a Flag in the Town of Neversink

This is a unique opportunity for you to honor your hero. A loved one. A friend. Military. Non-Military. Maybe it is someone who changed your life.

Each sponsored flag is \$200, allowing you to create a stirring tribute to a person who has inspired you. Your contribution becomes part of an annual inspirational display that touches everyone who sees it.

For Details please email, call or visit the Neversink Town Clerk's office.

Attn: Town Clerk  
PO Box 307, 273 Main St  
Grahamsville, NY 12740  
[townclerk@townofneversink.org](mailto:townclerk@townofneversink.org)  
845-985-2262 Ext. 307

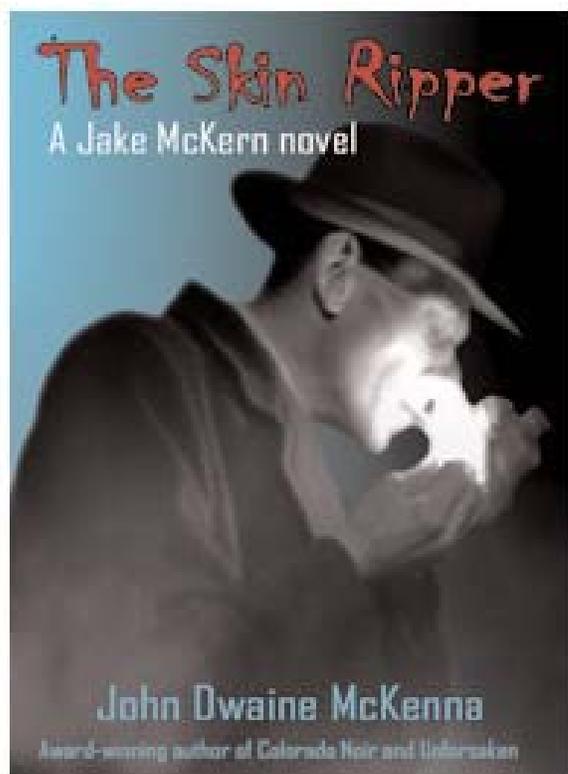


# The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

**Neversink General Store**

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple  
And bookstores everywhere.

# Daniel Pierce Library



## Book Inspiration Crafting Event

February 26, 2026  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Do you love books? Then let's get inspired together creating these fabulous works of art. No prior experience needed, all materials will be supplied.

Grab a friend and join in on this fun night at the library.

**Advanced registration required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org).  
Open to Tri-Valley adult residence only. Space is limited.**



### Daniel Pierce Library

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

# 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 21, 2026**

**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 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.

- \*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](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)



### Daniel Pierce Library

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

**SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
IS CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF**

**BLACK  
HISTORY**

---

*When:* Thursday, Feb. 26th, at 10:30 a.m.

*Where:* Legislative Hearing Room at the Gov't Center

Come in and join us for a special ceremony  
honoring and recognizing **Pedro Tweed**  
for his tireless commitment to the people of SulCo!

---

Special Guest Speakers: **Judge William Little, Jr.**, New  
York State Supreme Court, Third Judicial District,  
**Kayshawn Macharie**, Administrator, Adult Care Center  
and **Ramone Wilson**, Human Rights Director.

# Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger Invites Applications for 2026 Climate Corps

## 10 Week Paid Summer Internship Builds Knowledge and Skills in Climate Solutions and Public Service

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger announced today that the County is now taking applications for the 2026 Ulster County Climate Corps, a paid, 10 week summer internship program that provides students and emerging professionals with hands-on experience in climate action, sustainability, and local government. The program runs from June 8 to August 14, pays \$18 per hour, and is open to individuals ages 16 and up. Applications will be accepted through March 20.

Now entering its fourth year, the Climate Corps is part of Ulster County's broader effort to cultivate the next generation of public servants and climate leaders. Interns are placed in County departments and work on projects that support the County's climate and sustainability goals and help advance the New York State Climate Act. Participants also take part in weekly professional development sessions, guest lectures, community engagement, and fieldwork.

"The Ulster County Climate Corps gives young people a unique opportunity to contribute directly to local climate solutions and gain real world experience in government," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "We're building the bench of future public servants and problem-solvers."

### 2026 Climate Corps Focus Areas

Interns will have the opportunity to work within one or more of the following climate related focus areas:

- o Agriculture & Food Systems
- o Buildings & Energy Efficiency
- o Clean Energy
- o Climate Justice
- o Climate Policy, Planning & Governance
- o Conservation, Land Use & Natural Climate Solutions
- o Emissions Reduction
- o Green Economy &

### Workforce Development

- o Public Education
- o Resilience & Hazard Mitigation
- o Sustainability & Materials Management
- o Transportation & Mobility

Past intern projects have included mapping EV charging infrastructure needs, assisting with hazard mitigation planning, developing climate education materials for youth and community audiences, researching sustainable farming practices, analyzing building energy use, and assisting with conservation and land use mapping, among other projects.

To learn more about the Ulster County Climate Corps Program,

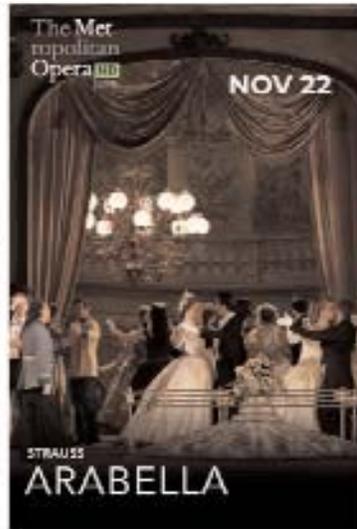


**RIVER REP**  
T H E A T R E  
*presents*  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
*Gala Benefit*  
27 artists — one special night!  
Saturday, April 11 at 6pm  
at the  
**DELAWARE VALLEY  
OPERA CENTER**  
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY  
Tickets \$50 in advance - \$65 at the door  
Purchase at [riverrep.org](http://riverrep.org)

*major sponsors:*




LEARN MORE AT [riverrep.org](http://riverrep.org)



**SUNY  
Sullivan  
Foundation  
presents**

**The Met:  
Live in  
HD**



**at  
SUNY  
Sullivan's  
Seelig  
Theatre**

Laura Aley's new book includes stories about people and places from long ago.



The book is available at the **Shandaken Historical Museum in Pine Hill** for \$10.00. Not only will you want your own copy, but *Laurels by Laura* will make a great gift -

The Shandaken Historical Museum is located at  
26 Academy Street, Pine Hill, NY 12465.  
The telephone number of the museum is 845 - 254 - 4460.

# DON'T STAY COLD...

*Come in where  
it's warm!*



A service of  
*Sullivan*  
COUNTY CATSKILLS  
*Mountains of Opportunity*

**WARMING CENTERS ARE OPEN  
EVERY NIGHT FROM 8 P.M. TO 8 A.M.**

United Methodist Church, 170 North Main Street, Liberty  
St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John Street, Monticello

# Olive Free Library

## SENIOR ART GROUP

Meets at the  
American Legion Hall on  
Mountain Road, Shokan,  
Monday 10-noon

A chatty, friendly group of seniors meet each Monday. At least monthly, we have a guest artist come for a workshop.

There is no cost. We have a limited supply of watercolors, oil pastels, water soluble oil paints, paper and canvas.

Brushes, too. Our crafty folk might paint or sew or knit or crochet or just hang out with friends. Our guest instructors have been Mia Fink and Sue De Sanna. Linda Schultz and Linda Champanier have been added to our possible guest instructors. MaryAnn Shultis has led us in sewing workshops to make bags and runners, and Donna Kopf has taught us quilt square patterns. We also stuff dolls for a project called MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that sends sweet dolls to Children's hospitals.

MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that  
sends sweet dolls to  
Children's hospitals.

Come join us!

## Conversations With Death

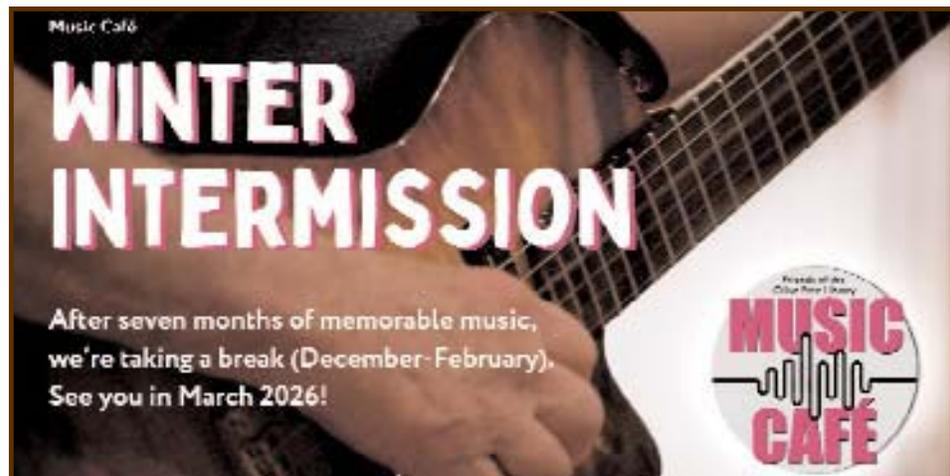
First Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Starting Saturday, January 3

Join three death doulas for Conversations with Death, a monthly circle that invites open dialogue about dying, grief, and the cycles of life.

Together, we'll open space for story, reflection, and connection, inviting curiosity, courage, and compassion into our relationship with death and dying.

Facilitated by Cory Smith, Jennifer Muir-Braunstein and Kirby Lee



Music Café

# WINTER INTERMISSION

After seven months of memorable music, we're taking a break (December-February). See you in March 2026!

Friends of the Olive Free Library  
**MUSIC  
CAFÉ**

# Shadowland –Last chance to help us reach our goal!

DONATE HERE

[https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc\\_cid=3482b9f390&mc\\_eid=138a9b9d06](https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc_cid=3482b9f390&mc_eid=138a9b9d06)

Please consider a year-end gift to SHADOWLAND STAGES to ensure the livelihood of our organization for years to come.

GIVE the Gift of Theatre with a Gift Certificate

[shadowlandstages.org](https://shadowlandstages.org)

## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

As a non-profit, we often find our organization in need of items that would help us fulfill our mission, but are beyond the constraints of our annual budget.

Your in-kind donation of any of the below items would be greatly appreciated!

If you are upgrading, moving, or work in an industry that could make any of these specific items available, please contact us at [info@shadowlandstages.org](mailto:info@shadowlandstages.org) or call us at (845) 647-5511.

Pick-up can often be arranged and your provision of these items will help us further stretch our resources.

Thank you for your consideration!

## WE'RE DREAMING OF:



MOVING VAN

REAMS OF PAPER - we love to print scripts!

SNOW BLOWER - to keep the sidewalks in front of our buildings safe for pedestrians.

GENERATOR - in case of power loss in our beautiful MainStage,  
to keep safety systems operational.

PORTABLE BALLET BARRE / GLASSLESS MIRROR PANELS - in order to be able to  
offer dance classes at the Academy in the future.

FLAT SCREEN MONITORS - minimum size 32" for marketing.

PIPE THREADER

COMMERCIAL PAINT SPRAYER

WELDING SCREENS

MIKITA 18v BATTERIES

<https://shadowlandstages.org/wishlist/>



**DVD**

**SALE!**

*Come & Get them!*

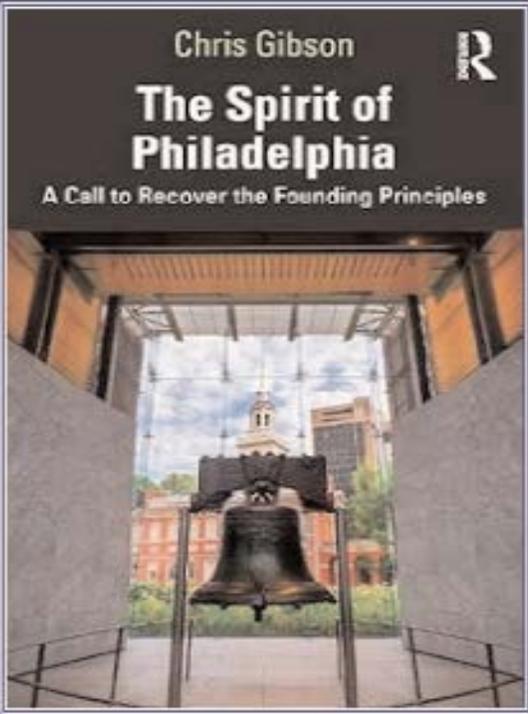
Daniel Pierce Library

**Wide variety from action,  
thrillers, mystery, romance,  
comedies, series and more!**

---

**\$1.00 each**





# The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

Rediscover the common ground  
of common sense through the  
wisdom of our founding principles.

[TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com](https://www.thespiritofphiladelphia.com)

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

I hope your summer has gone well. I'm reaching back out to you to share the news that our website has been refreshed and updated. It now features four new essays on the Founding era recently published by the Hoover Institution of Stanford University as we look forward next year to celebrating our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. One of those essays is on the significance of the Battle of Saratoga, which proved to be a turning point in the Revolutionary War. You can now read those essays for free on our website here.

<https://www.thespiritofphiladelphia.com/events>

We've also added links to some of our recent TV, radio and podcast appearances, relevant media coverage, and an updated listing of upcoming events (all of these can be found on the "media & events" page). All of the new items are marked with a green "NEW" banner. We've also updated the "what people are saying" section of the home page to include several new endorsements of the book by Americans from across the ideological spectrum.

As always, I'd welcome your thoughts and feedback on any of these items and/or your reactions to my new book. You can reach me by sending an email message from the "contact us" page on the website.

Finally, I hope you are enjoying the beautiful color as our leaves change across the region and country - it's shaping up to be a beautiful fall!

Sincerely yours,  
Chris Gibson

## Chris Gibson

Soldier



Scholar



Statesman



# CAFFEINE AND CAMARADERIE VETERANS COFFEE HOUR



**EVERY MONDAY  
10AM-11AM**

**ACTION TOWARD INDEPENDENCE**  
309 E-BROADWAY • MONTICELLO, NY 12701  
845-794-4228 | [WWW.ATITODAY.ORG](http://WWW.ATITODAY.ORG)



# Homeschooling

**Calling All Homeschooling Families!**

**Join a welcoming, self-guided homeschooling group that meets monthly at the Daniel Pierce Library.**

**Beginning  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month  
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Connect with other families to:

- Share lessons and ideas
- Plan field trips and activities
- Enjoy guest speakers and special programs
- Build a supportive homeschool network

While you're here, don't forget — with an RCLS library card, you can also:

- Borrow books and DVDs
- Access the internet and online research databases
- Use comfortable library spaces for learning and collaboration

**Please join in, the possibilities are endless!**

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



**Daniel Pierce Library**

320 Main Street | P.O. Box 260  
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0260 | 045-905-7233  
[www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)



# Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides  
Like new! \$14,500.

845-434-5539  
Leave a message and phone



**BECOME  
SOMEONE'S  
Angel**

Donate a little of your time and have a direct impact on someone's path to recovery!

**HOPE**  
*not* HANDCUFFS  
www.hopenothandcuffshv.com

# Tech Tuesdays

A program for DPL Patrons

**Every Tuesday  
9 am - 12 pm**

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## DEC's Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is Now Open

- *Free Seedlings Available Through the School Seedling Program*
- *Trees Planted Contribute to the State's Goal of Planting 25 Million Trees by 2033*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced that the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery's annual spring seedling sale is now open and will run through May 13. Each year, the nursery offers low-cost, locally grown trees and shrubs for sale to encourage plantings that help conserve New York State's natural resources and foster the next generation of forests.

“DEC's Saratoga Tree Nursery annual seedling sale is a simple, affordable way for New Yorkers to help create wildlife habitat, clean our air and water, reduce flooding, lower summer temperatures, and improve the quality of life in their communities,” Commissioner Lefton said. “Every tree planted counts toward Governor Hochul's 25-million-tree-planting goal for the state, which will strengthen our forests and build more resilient communities. By planting native seedlings today, you'll be making a lasting investment in a healthier, greener future for generations to come.”

DEC's tree nursery grows more than 50 conifer and hardwood species from local seed sources, creating seedlings that are well suited to New York State's climate. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 or more and there are several mixed species packets available. Seedlings are bare root, a minimum of 5 inches tall, and 1-3 years old (depending on the species). Call 518-587-1120, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to place your order. For more information, visit the Spring Seedling Sale webpage on DEC's website.

Make sure your planted trees count toward New York State's 25 million trees goal! Enter them into the Tree Tracker at [on.ny.gov/treetracker](https://on.ny.gov/treetracker). For more information about the 25 Million Trees Initiative, visit [on.ny.gov/25milliontrees](https://on.ny.gov/25milliontrees).

### **School Seedling Program Application Period Now Open**

Applications are being accepted for the nursery's School Seedling Program until March 27. Schools and youth education organizations across New York State may apply to receive 50 free seedlings to plant with their students.

The goal of the program is to foster environmental stewardship at a young age and equip students to make informed decisions about natural resource use. The program is an excellent tool for educators to help meet the Next Generation Science Standards as it provides a hands-on opportunity for students to learn about natural systems and the valuable role that trees play, while building their awareness of conservation issues.

All schools (public, private, nursery, elementary, secondary, vocational, college, or university), home-school groups, and any youth education-based organization may apply, provided trees are planted within New York State. Individual homeschools must apply through a homeschool group, co-op, or other association. Seedlings are 2 -3 years old, about 4"-12" tall, and bare root. There are three species available-pitch pine, red oak, and silky dogwood-and up to two teachers/educators per school or organization may apply for a package of seedlings this year. Visit DEC's website for more information and to apply online. For assistance or questions, contact the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery at [nysnursery@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nysnursery@dec.ny.gov) or 518-581-1439.

### 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

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

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Sullivan County  
Public Health Services

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Contact:

Alyssa Wowk  
(845) 645-6544

[awowk@chowc.net](mailto: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](mailto:rumarbashar@asfl.org) for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM





VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

# PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!



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

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

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

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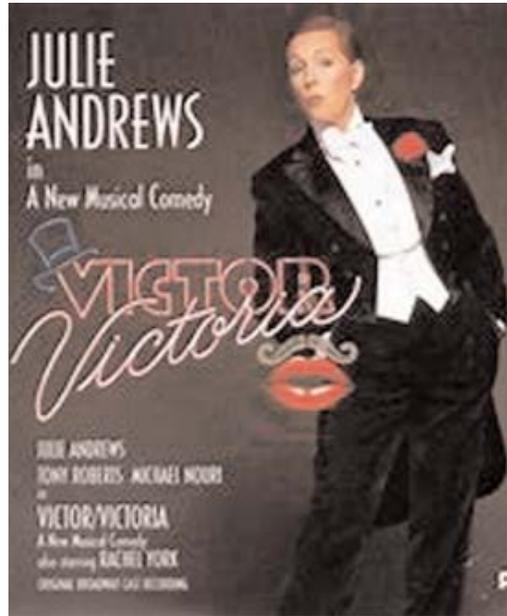


## Knarf's Classic Movies

Amazon • YouTube • Fandango at Home  
*One of the funniest films from the 1980's*

### Victor/Victoria (2h 14m / 1982 / Rated PG)

*Victor/Victoria* is a 1982 British-American musical comedy film directed by Blake Edwards and starring Julie Andrews, James Garner, Robert Preston, Lesley Ann Warren, Alex Karras, and John Rhys-Davies.



The film was produced by Tony Adams and scored by Henry Mancini, with lyrics by Leslie Bricusse. Released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, it was adapted in 1995 as a Broadway musical. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won the Academy Award for Best Original Score. It is a remake of the 1933 German film *Viktor und Viktoria*.

Taking place in Paris, it's 1934 –Carroll "Toddy" Todd, an aging gay performer at Chez Lui in Paris, sees Labisse, the club owner, auditioning a frail, impoverished soprano, Victoria Grant. After her failed audition, Victoria returns to her hotel room to find herself evicted, unable to pay rent. That night, when Richard, a hustler with whom Toddy is romantically involved, comes to Chez Lui as part of a straight foursome, Toddy incites a brawl. Labisse fires Toddy and bans him from the club. Walking home, he spots Victoria in a restaurant. She invites him to join her. As neither of them can pay for the meal, she dumps a cockroach in her salad to avoid paying, but it escapes and mayhem ensues. That is how this hilarious film begins!

*Stay safe and stay well,*  
*Knarf Odnamoc*  
*Gnome*

### Answer to last week's Knarf's Trivia

**Question:** Loretta Lynn

**This weeks' Trivia question:** What is the last word uttered by Charles Foster Kane in *Citizen Kane*?