

VOL. 23 NO. 6 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 5, 2026

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Ulster County Commemorates 100th Anniversary of Black History Month with Community Celebration

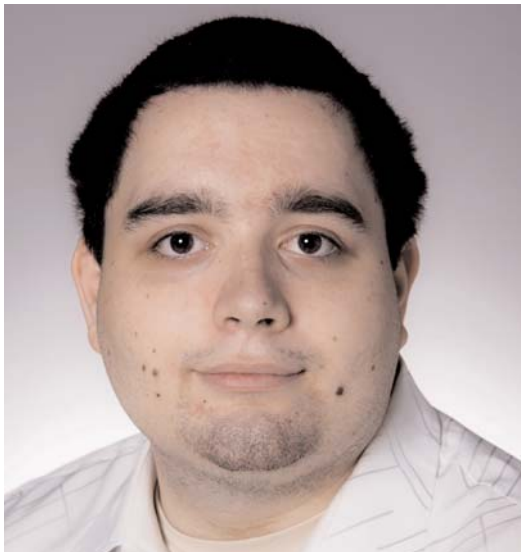
KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger joined elected officials, community leaders, cultural organizations, and local advocates to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Black History Month at a free public event on Monday, February 2 in the lobby of the Ulster County Office Building.



The program featured participation from Harambee, MyKingstonKids, Center for Creative Education, Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Center for Black History and Culture, SUNY New Paltz Black Studies Department, St. Paul AME Zion Church (Ellenville), the Ellenville NAACP, My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper (Ellenville), Riverview Missionary Baptist Church (Kingston), and former Ulster County Poet Laureate Kate Hymes. (Contd. Pg. 5)



New Hope Community Appoints Two New Members to Board of Directors



Lachlan Gray, New Hope Community resident and self-advocate

The nonprofit welcomes SUNY Sullivan President David Potash, PhD and Lachlan Gray, resident of New Hope Community to serve two-year board term

Loch Sheldrake, NY - New Hope Community is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Executive Board, David Potash, PhD, President of SUNY Sullivan, and Lachlan Gray, a self-advocate and New Hope Community resident. Both were unanimously approved to serve an initial two-year term. (Contd. Pg. 5)



David Potash, PhD,
SUNY Sullivan President

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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of Frank Comando

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

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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:

a reproach to any nation.

Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is
Proverbs 14:34

OBITUARY

Maynard Davis Jr. of Neversink, NY, a retired member of the Maintenance staff at Sullivan County Community College, died Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at Roscoe Rehabilitation and Nursing facility, Roscoe, NY. He was 93.

The son of the late Maynard and Hazel Vandermark Davis, he was born May 10, 1932 in DeBruce, NY.

Maynard was a veteran of the United States Army.

Survivors include his sister; Betty Anne Davis Krum of Livingston Manor, NY; his brothers, Carl Davis of Livingston Manor, NY and Robert Davis of Jeffersonville, NY; his stepchildren Howard, Michael, Olga, and Carol Gildersleeve; along with several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife Edith Wahl Peters and his second wife Anne McGuire, his brother, Herman Davis Sr, a sister Jean Stephenson, and a stepson Patrick Gildersleeve.

Memorial services will be private.

Dignified cremation provided by Harris Crematorium LLC.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home, West St. at Buckley, Liberty, NY 845-292-0001 or 845-439-5200 www.Harris-FH.com

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

February 1, 1956 -

Oland Erath of Grahamsville was elected a director of the Extension Service for three years in place of Max Rubenzahl. The election was held on Thursday evening at Liberty High School.

Matilda Curry of Sundown died at the Autumn Rest Home in Kingston a week ago Monday. Surviving is a son, James Curry of Woodbourne and two grandchildren.

The big news which was received a bit late for last week's edition and is now quite old, was the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Medwin Benton at Liberty Loomis Hospital on January 24th. The baby's name is Barth Jonathan and he weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz.

Barbara Krum and June Hasbrouck started their training at the Liberty Telephone office on Saturday in preparation for work this summer.

February 2, 1966

Word has been received at Tri-Valley Central School of the acceptance of three seniors for enrollment in September at Albany Business College. Ralph VanValkenburg, Donna Semo and Linda Cypert all plan to major in Business Administration and Accounting at the college.

Anniversary greetings to the Bruce Fullers, 48 years on the 5th; the Raymond Mickelsons, 7 years on the 7th; the Douglas Hasbroucks 8 years on the 8th.
(Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OF YORE

...Today's History (From Pg. 2)

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Coddington who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary a week ago Sunday, with an open house for their friends and relatives.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wright who were married on January 22nd at Lows Corners.

February 4, 1976 -

Eighteen students have been selected to represent Tri-Valley in the Junior High All-County Chorus this year. Mr. Robert's believes this to be the largest musical group ever to be accepted for this honor from Tri-Valley. Those chosen include: Beth Murray, Jenny Daggett, Roberta Johnson, Shirley Henke, Missy Blade, Ellen Hamilton, Amy Fuente Wendy Smith, Lisa Arielly, Linda Korcek, Dave White, John Kremer, Gary Carlsen, Tim Dexheimer, John Roberts, Chris Gallagher and Mark Davenport.

February 13, 1986

George Rubenzahl of Palm Springs, Fla, a retired poultry farmer (formerly of Neversink) died at home in Florida. The son of Louis and Hannah Sussman Rubenzahl, he was born March 7, 1907 in New York City. He was 78. He was one of the organizers, first vice-president and charter member of the Neversink Fire Department. He was also one of the organizers, first president and charter member of the Neversink Ambulance Squad. With his two brothers, Max and Moe, he was a partner in the Rubenzahl Brothers Hatchery in Neversink. Survivors include his wife, Pearl Wall Rubenzahl at home; a daughter, Linda Schuller; two sons, Ira and Joel; five grandchildren and one brother, Max Rubenzahl of Neversink; one niece and several nephews.

Household Hint:

Don't Spend Money on Expensive Chemicals

Clean store-bought fruits and veggies Mixed with water, baking soda can remove dirt and that waxy coating that comes on produce from the supermarket.

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

Six More Weeks of Winter and More Snow in the Forecast!

Now that we survived the 'big snowfall' many of us are hoping for all that snow to go away... but according to *weather.com* a bit more snow is on its way next week.

Remember when life was more simple –catching snowflakes on your tongue, sleigh riding, making a snowman or snow angels – as a child it was so much fun?

Not so simple, is the birth of each snowflake. A snowflake begins when a tiny dust or pollen particle comes into contact with water vapor high in Earth's atmosphere and coats the tiny particle. It freezes into a tiny crystal of ice forming the "seed" from which a snowflake will grow.

There are two basic ways that water vapor condenses to become a snowflake. The first way is to form facets, like a flat face on a 3D shape such as a prism. The crystal structure of frozen ice is a six-sided shape which is where the symmetry in a snowflake comes from. The second way a snowflake grows is to form branches as water vapor condenses on the first thing it touches.

The newly-formed ice crystal is heavier than the surrounding air and begins falling. While falling toward Earth through humid air, more water vapor freezes onto the surface of the tiny crystal. The water molecules of the vapor arrange themselves so that the hexagonal crystal structure of ice is repeated. The snowflake grows larger and larger as it falls. No two snowflakes are the same as each represents the conditions of temperature and humidity and water vapor the snowflake encountered during its fall. Some combinations produce flakes with long needle-like arms, flakes with wide flat arms or branching arms all emanating from the six-sided crystal structure of frozen ice.

Scientists have pondered the mystery of snow crystals since the early 1600s. In 1611 Johannes Kepler published a short treatise on the *Six-Cornered Snowflake*, which was the first scientific reference to snow. Kepler wondered why snow crystals always exhibited a six-fold symmetry. He speculated that the hexagonal close-packing of spheres may have something to do with the morphology of snow crystals. Kepler recognized that the beginning of crystalline symmetry was an interesting scientific question, and he also realized that he did not have the means to answer it. "Does some property of water vapor, or impurities in it account for its six-cornered shape, or must an external cause be sought? And why is the snowflake flat? Why does it not assume a three dimensional shape?" he wondered.

"Each single plant has a single animating principle of its own, since each instance of a plant exists separately, and there is no cause to wonder that each should be equipped with its own peculiar shape. But to imagine an individual soul for each and any starlet of snow is utterly absurd, and therefore the shapes of snowflakes are by no means to be deduced from the operation of soul in the same way as with plants." -- Kepler, 1611

During the mid twentieth century Ukichiro Nakaya performed a true systematic study of snow crystals by growing artificial snow crystals in the laboratory under controlled conditions. From his study Nakaya was able to describe the crystal morphology under different environmental conditions, which provided a clue, however, it still stands there is no complete scientific understanding of the physics of 'snow crystal formation' –the miracle of a snowflake.

Isn't it amazing with all of the technology of today, a tiny snowflake still keeps this secret a mystery? Perhaps that is why it seems so quiet and peaceful after a new snowfall. Maybe each little snowflake is put here just to let us know, we don't have all the answers –but rather just to enjoy its beauty and the magic of our own emotional memories.



LOOKING BACK

Beatrice Akerley

Published February 5, 1996

I don't remember what year it was when we were living on "Old Man Davis's" farm that one winter when snow fell steady for three or four days. Large lacy snowflakes fell to the ground, and each morning my husband measured the snowfall. "Three feet four inches," he announced one morning as he snapped our metal measuring tape back in its shell. He was proud of that measuring tape as it had been a gift to us from my stepfather, Ed Wright.

Dan and the boys shoveled paths from the house to the barn, henhouse, outhouse and spring and it was cold! We could hear the wind howling as we were getting ready for bed. We didn't have a thermometer but Dan said it was at least ten degrees outside. I warmed my flat irons and placed them in the kids' beds and used every cover I had as we lay in cocoons of quilts and blankets listening to the wind as it blew down the chimney. It seemed intent on finding every unprotected nook and cranny in its assault on our farm.

On the roof, loose shingles clattered resembling a misguided woodpecker working the midnight shift. It was the bright winter sunshine that caught my attention when I awoke.

I grabbed mother's old four block quilt and wrapped it around me then tiptoed over to our window. It seemed as though an unseen artist had etched a beautiful design on the frosted pane. With my fingernails, I scratched a space large enough to peek outside. I caught my breath in wonder as I saw high drifts lay across the fields where only a short time before, beautiful stalks of sweet corn were growing. The snow glittered like millions of diamonds, pure and clean. The apple tree branches, laden with a heavy coat of white, bent downward in submission to the elements. I went downstairs to our kitchen where I broke the ice in our water pail in order to make coffee. I made breakfast of bacon, buckwheat pancakes and syrup on our woodstove. Dan walked in with two pails of milk and as he set them by the separator, he said, "We are snowed in."

"How will we get to school?" one of the children asked, hoping for a holiday from school. "The snow is frozen hard and you kids can walk on top of it out to the main road," my husband said, "there the road will be open since the plows were going all night." We bundled the kids up in mufflers, sweaters, coats, mittens and boots. They grabbed their lunch buckets and books and with a hasty wet kiss, they were on their way to school.

Many years ago we would have thought it hilarious to close school because of snow. Looking back, those were "the good old days." I will let you be the judges.

Sullivan 180 Paid Internships Available Be a Changemaker in Your Community this Summer

[LIBERTY] - Sullivan 180 is recruiting interns for the 2026 season. Young adults ages 16-20 are invited to apply for paid summer employment, where they will have the opportunity to work alongside volunteers to help communities, organizations, churches, and schools bring their ideas to life.

In addition to their community-based work, interns participate in leadership and professional development and take part in a meaningful Day of Service project.

The summer employment program provides mentoring and a unique opportunity to earn money while making a meaningful impact in the community. Interns gain valuable real-world job experience, develop leadership skills, receive a paycheck, and contribute to positive change in their communities.

Last summer, Sullivan 180 interns contributed over 2,400 hours of work, supporting projects and local initiatives in communities across Sullivan County.

"I wanted to gain experience and be part of something greater, and I'm proud to say that I believe I made a difference. That sense of fulfillment is something that truly makes me happy," shared Howie Kiefer, a 2024 and 2025 Town of Bethel Intern. "I recommend that others consider interning with Sullivan 180. It's a chance to give back to your community while gaining valuable skills and experiences."

"In addition to connecting with peers, the internship program offers a wonderful way to learn about Sullivan County and build relationships with community members," said Anne-Louise Scandariato, Director of Community Engagement. "This experience helps strengthen interns' resumes, builds professional confidence, and supports the development of communication, interpersonal, problem-solving, and leadership skills while contributing to a collaborative team environment."

To apply for the Sullivan 180 Internship Program, contact Anne-Louise Scandariato at 845-295-2405 or Anne-Louise@Sullivan180.org. Applications must be submitted by March 30, 2026.

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.

New Hope Community Appoints Two New Members to Board of Directors

(From Pg. 1) Together, Potash and Gray bring diverse talents, experiences, and a shared commitment to New Hope Community's mission of empowering the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Their leadership, advocacy, and perspectives will strengthen the Board's ongoing dedication to strong governance, strategic growth, and long-term financial vitality.

David Potash, PhD, serves as President of SUNY Sullivan, and is a higher education leader committed to access, equity, and community engagement. He holds degrees from Rice University, New York University, and the University of Cambridge, and has served in senior leadership roles across CUNY, Curry College, and Wilbur Wright College in Chicago. His work has earned national recognition for student success and community partnerships.

On joining the Board, Potash commented, "I am honored to be joining the board of New Hope Community. A long-standing partner with SUNY Sullivan, New Hope does tremendous work. I look forward to doing all that I can to assist in their efforts, helping the team at New Hope as they continue their journey of growth and serving our community."

Lachlan Gray is a self-advocate and resident of New Hope Community who brings lived experience, creativity, and a strong interest in inclusion to the Board of Directors. He joined New Hope Community in 2023 after living in Westchester County, where he pursued college studies. Actively engaged in community life, Gray participates in meaningful employment at Hope Farm and enjoys building LEGO and playing Beyblade in his spare time. He is passionate about advocating for individuals with I/DD and looks forward to contributing his perspective to help strengthen New Hope Community's growth for future generations.

In reflecting on his appointment to the Board and the importance of being a voice for the people who call New Hope Community home, Gray stated, "It's very important for the Board to know what the residents are thinking, and I personally wanted to join the Board to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes and how I can make a difference."

About New Hope Community:

New Hope Community is a not-for-profit human services organization that, for 50 years, has been providing supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Established in 1975 to serve as a nurturing and caring alternative to large institutions that were found to have violated the most basic human rights and conditions, New Hope Community has become recognized as a leading provider in the human services field. In January 2020, New Hope Community merged with Select Human Services, Inc. (SHS) of Pleasantville, NY, a not-for-profit voluntary agency providing services in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties. New Hope Community's breadth of services include clinical and nursing care, resi-

dential services, day programming, community habilitation, self-direction, support brokerage, service navigators, education, recreation and leisure activities, a robustly supported employment program, summer programs for youths, and so much more. New Hope Community has always maintained a person-centered approach toward empowering the lives of people with disabilities and actively advocates for individual choice in a person's efforts to live, work, and participate fully in his or her community. New Hope Community and SHS combined provide services to over 1,100 people and employ more than 1,370 staff. Learn more at www.newhopecommunity.org.

Ulster County Commemorates 100th Anniversary of Black History Month with Community Celebration

(From Pg. 1) The event included brief musical performances, including contributions from local youth, before moving into proclamations and presentations from participating organizations. The program will culminate in the lighting of Black History Month lights in red, green, and



yellow on the Ulster County Office Building, where they will remain illuminated throughout February in honor of the contributions, history, and resilience of Black Americans.

Refreshments were provided by Di Sweet Spot.





Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 166

American Spy Mysterious Book Report No. 366 by John Dwaine McKenna

Published January 30, 2020

Near the end of the Cold War in the mid-1980s, the African continent was busy rediscovering itself. Having thrown off the restraints of colonialism, countries large and small were struggling to determine what form of self-governance best suited them . . . a struggle that promoted much bloodshed. Civil wars, coups and military takeovers were common, as was behind-the-scenes meddling by the world's superpowers, who were eager to gain

influence and easy access to the motherlodes of untapped natural resources the region had to offer. It's an epic awakening, and the setting for a searing new thriller by a much admired, talented and whip-smart debut novelist who's on a fast train to stardom.

American Spy, (Random House, \$27.99, 289 pages, ISBN 978-0-8129-9895-5) by Lauren Wilkerson, is an intelligent, complex, engaging, perceptive and chilling espionage novel that will, at times, make you think, make you uncomfortable, make you angry . . . and leave you squirming in place and wondering if you know anything, whatsoever, about another's point-of-view.

It's 1986 as the novel begins, and we meet a thirty year-old black woman named Marie Mitchell who's an intelligence officer working for the FBI in New York City. She's smart, ambitious and frustrated. Pushed aside and relegated to mundane, spirit-destroying, monotonous routine tasks by the "old boy" network she's surrounded with, Marie is desperate for action of a more meaningful kind. So when she's offered a chance to join a shadowy covert task force that's aimed at undermining the newly-formed government of Thomas Sankara, the charismatic-and communist-leader of Burkina Faso, (Formerly known as Upper Volta. It's at about 10 o'clock, if the African continent was a clock-face.) she jumps at the chance, even though she secretly admires what he's doing for his country.


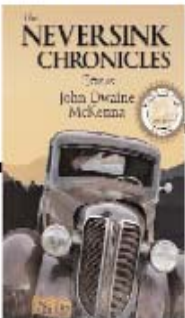


Marie Mitchell agrees to take the job . . . even though she's a woman in conflict over the untimely and mysterious death of her only sister, as well as a nagging belief that she's being used because of the color of her skin. So begins a year of subversion, seduction, treachery, revolution and a re-examination of what it means to be an American, a spy, a paramour and a traitor to love-all at the same time. Partially inspired by true events, **American Spy** is a powerful and compelling work set against the backdrop of the Cold War and the world's wildest continent. It's the much talked about, highly-praised first novel of an emerging world-class talent who, no doubt, will have much more to say to all of us in the future!


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

My Brother's Refrigerator

We are at my brothers's condo in Florida. I was impressed when I opened his fridge. All the essentials were in plain view. I could get the milk for my coffee without moving a single thing. I could see the sides, back, and space around each food item.

Thinking of my fridge at home, I would have to search for the creamer like a treasure hunt. After using it, I would have to move around six other items like musical chairs to, hopefully, fit it back on the shelf.



My sibling only has the essentials. I, on the other hand, have some furry science experiments and stages of penicillin growing in the fourth line back in the hinterlands of the fridge. In the next closest lane of items are the various leftover containers that are stacked like a Jenga tower with mysterious food that I try to identify by color and texture. Sometimes chili turns out to be spaghetti sauce so the menu du jour has to be flexible.

My brother has one jar of mustard, one of catsup, and one of mayo. I am embarrassed to say I have at least two catsups, spicy mustard, Dijon mustard, grainy mustard, yellow mustard, and a squeeze bottle of mustard.

I have multiple bottles of salad dressing in every flavor. I do have too many, but my friend Judie holds the record; her children counted seventeen opened varieties just on the side shelves.

Again, my brother has only what is fresh and needed. I own unidentified exotic items like truffle flavored balsamic glaze that a fine chef might use to decorate a \$39.00 piece of Salmon the size of a deck of cards.

I think the first thing I will do when I get home will be to PURGE the fridge.

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

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

It also makes a great gift! *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



Passionate about books and the DPL? Join us as a volunteer!

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-Would you like to be a part of something special?

If yes, then there's no better time than the doldrums of winter to join the incredible volunteer group at the Daniel Pierce Library. Our fabulous volunteers have saved our bacon a time or two and we're very appreciative of all their hard work, their passion, and their commitment in making the DPL the amazing place it is.

There may be a few reasons you're looking for a place to volunteer your time, abilities and interests. Perhaps you are newly retired and are looking for an organization that offers a flexible schedule-just enough to keep you from getting bored but not feel like work-that's us. Maybe you're the parent/caregiver of young children and need just a few hours away to keep your sanity-we could be that. If you're a Tri-Valley Secondary Student in need of hours for honor society or if you're in need of hours for other reasons-we've got you covered. Whatever your reason, we have many volunteer positions available. Doing what, you may ask.

Well, the sky really is the limit. If you're interested in the books themselves then shelving (putting books back in the stacks where they belong upon their return) is an option. So is shelf-reading, where you would make sure the books are where they're supposed to be. Both these jobs require alphabetizing and use of the Dewey Decimal System (super easy...it's like numerical alphabetizing). But also, really fun because then you get to see all the cool books we have in our collection; a great way to add to your TBR (to-be-read) pile. Covering books is also an option; that's where we wrap the books in different protective plastic wraps to preserve them. If assisting patrons with their library needs is more interesting to you, we'll give you a bit of training in our operating system. This is definitely more of an interactive position. If you really like working with people, then volunteering with our children's programming may be the best place to start. There you could help our staff with programs like Story Hour, on a regular basis or, intermittently with programs like LEGO. In the spring and summer, we also need help with gardening and outside activities. And, there are opportunities like Grahamsville's Little Worlds' Fair and Giant Pumpkin Party or donut days to volunteer for just the day. There are many, many ways to lend a hand. When you fill out your volunteer application, there is a section to share your interests and we take that into consideration.

To establish your role as a DPL volunteer, your first step would be to visit our website. There's a link for adult/teen volunteers that brings you to more information, including examples of volunteer services as well as the application. If you need further information, please give us a call at 845/985-7233 and we can discuss it. Afterwards, you would turn your application in. It's easy-peasy!

Being a DPL volunteer is rewarding in a lot of ways. First off, the books. Again, you're surrounded by a plethora of amazing books and if you're a reader, that's like catnip to a cat. Also, we're a pretty jolly group, so if you're looking for an interesting group of people to spend time with, that's us! And, your assistance, whether it's helping with a craft during Story Hour, shelving books in the YA room, or spreading mulch on the garden beds is a huge help to the staff here. There is no action too



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Ben Knight
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Don't be undercut by the rest
Check out our website:

<http://www.bloominggreenlawnandlandscape.com>

small to have a substantial impact...and like the saying goes, many hands make light work.

In other news:

Orders for our delicious Mardi Gras donuts are rolling in. Don't be left out in the cold, order your today! They're \$9 a dozen and come in cinnamon sugar or plain. To order, call us at 845/985-7233, place an online order or stop in and pre-order at the adult circulation desk. Donuts will be ready for pick up on February 17.

Big news-Save the date! -our popular Pocketbook Bingo will be on Friday, April 10, 2026. More information to come, but just pencil it into your calendar for now.

There are only a few spots left for both of our upcoming crafty programs. There's Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow on Friday, February 13 and Book Inspiration Crafting on February 26. If either interest you, please register as soon as possible. However, there's still plenty of supplies available for our Valentine's Day Card take-and-go event. Just stop by the library lobby and pick up some supplies to craft a beautiful Valentine's Day card for an Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility resident. The residents truly appreciate the sentiments!

And finally, on Tuesday, February 17-when school is closed-we're hosting our Take Your Child to the Library Day. From 11AM to 1PM, Tri-Valley children and their families are invited to come to the library and partake in a variety of activities centered on creativity, literacy and fun! Help spark the love of reading and libraries by bringing your child to this awesome event. From 12PM-1PM, there will be a special guest, Marek, a blue Holicer bunny, that children will be able to read to...and he really enjoys stories!



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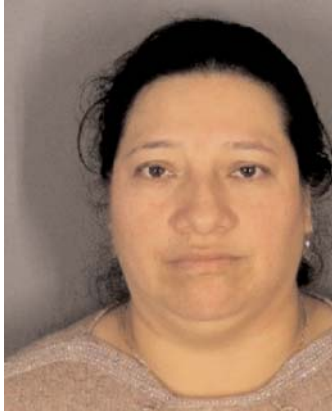
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Fraud Task Force Announces Arrests

Liberty, NY - The Sullivan County Welfare Fraud Task Force has made the following arrests:

- **November 21, 2025 - Olga Espinoza, 43, of Monticello,** was arrested and charged with Welfare Fraud in the 4th Degree, a Class E felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that between April 1 and September 30, 2023, Espinoza was in receipt of SNAP Benefits issued by the Sullivan County Department of Social Services. It is also alleged that on March 30, 2023, Espinoza filed a SNAP



Olga Espinoza

Recertification with Sullivan County DSS and failed to disclose her husband's employment (he resides in the home) during the time frame indicated. This failure to disclose truthful and accurate information to the Sullivan County Department of Social Services pertaining to income in the home resulted in Espinoza receiving \$2,814 in SNAP Benefits to which she was not otherwise entitled. Espinoza was released pending a future court date in the Town of Liberty Court.

- **December 16, 2025 - Tito J. Smith, 52, of Middletown,** was arrested and charged with Welfare Fraud in the 4th Degree, a Class E felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that between May 1 and August 31, 2022 that Smith was in receipt of SNAP Benefits issued by the Sullivan County Department of Social Services. It is also alleged that on a SNAP Periodic Report dated July 26, 2022, Smith failed to disclose that he was gainfully employed during the time frame indicated for the SNAP Benefit period. This failure to disclose truthful and accurate information to the Sullivan County Department of Social Services pertaining to his employment and income in the home resulted in Smith receiving \$1,853 in SNAP Benefits to which he was not otherwise entitled. Smith was released on an appearance ticket pending a future court date in the Town of Liberty Court.



Tito J. Smith



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Written and Illustrated by Linda G. Comando

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

then type in *In the Spirit of Sumi-e*

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Public Health
Sullivan County
Public Health Services



S.A.L.T.
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LEADING TOGETHER


Meet Cole Patno: Frost Valley's New Camp Henry Hird Director!



Originally from South Burlington, Vermont, Cole attended Providence College where he earned a BS in Computer Science. Cole has been involved with overnight camps for over a decade, working his way up from camper, to CiT, to staff, and now Director! Prior to joining Frost Valley, Cole worked at YMCA Camp Abnaki in North Hero, Vermont for five summers as their Office Manager, and most recently as their Interim Assistant Camp Director.

Cole was drawn to Frost Valley's strong sense of community and its commitment to teen leadership development. He is passionate about supporting staff growth and creating meaningful camp experiences where teens can build confidence, independence, and lifelong connections. Cole looks forward to helping staff and campers alike fall in love with camp and have a summer they won't forget!

Welcome to the Team, Cole!



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TRAFFIC TICKETS: SPEEDING,
 LOSS OF LICENSE
 CALL FOR LEGAL ADVICE

Introducing the Frost Valley Booster Club!

The Booster Club is our new referral and recognition program that celebrates families who help welcome new campers to Frost Valley. There's no selling or hosting involved, you simply share the name of a family you think would be a great fit.

Here's how it works:

- o Submit a referral through the online Booster Form.
- o Our team connects with the family, answers questions, and supports them through enrollment.
- o When their child enrolls and completes their session, your camper receives a Booster level and recognition reward while they are at camp this summer.

That's it: one thoughtful introduction can bring a new camper into a community that changes lives.



Happy National Bagel Day!



VENDOR REGISTRATION FOR THE
 2026 BAGEL FESTIVAL IS OPEN NOW!
 SPACES WILL SELL OUT SO DON'T WAIT!

REGISTER AS A VENDOR!

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

GET MORE INFO!

<https://thebagelfestival.org/>

Fallsburg CSD Announces Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll List

FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce their middle and high school honor roll and superintendent's honor roll lists for the second marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. Honor roll students achieved an average of 85-91, and superintendent's honor roll students earned an average of 92 or higher.

7th Grade

Honor Roll: Janelli Anderson, Elias Blandon Rivera, Nyomi Canales-Fuentes, Rafael Carrasco Jimenez, Jeramiah Castro, Samantha Clark, Taylin Frunzi, Genesis Fuentes, Awa Gai, Emanuel Granados, Arayaah-Laurice Irby, Alexandria Mann, Nicholas Ortiz Jr, Hansel Pacheco Murillo, Dayana Padilla Orellana, Blinera Selimaj, Gabrielle Spruill, Gavin Suarez, Annabella Vences-Urquiza, Benjamin Wizwer, and Karla Zacapexpan-Reyes.

Superintendent's Honor Roll:

Armani Alencaster, Bryan Balcazar Lavin, Ava Berrios, Isaac Castillo Miranda, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Nelson Duque Moroy, Anthony Frunzi, Lithsy Fuentes Ardon, Madison Hernandez, Selina Lazroe, Grayson Mungeer, Harlow Oathout, Keylit Pineda Nieto, Katherine Reyes Serrano, Erick Rivera Moreno, Christian Robles-Hernandez, Kendra Rodriguez, Derrick Saravia, Blerina Selimaj, and Melanie Wang.

8th Grade

Honor Roll: Yasmina Aquil, Ellis Basic, Kaleb Cross, Aaliyah Deis, Franco DiCostanzo, Kimberly Duncan, Janary Fuentes Ardon, Kelvin Garcia Giron, Charlie Giron Saravia, Khloe Jordy, Angelique Marquez-Zacapexpan, Riot McCoy, Lila Odom, Kaylie Price, Logan Retana, Alexandra Reyes Lopez, Malika Rivers, Leon Rodriguez Morales, Leonardo Rojas, and Kevin Toledo.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Brianny Argueta Hernandez, Giselle Ascencio Martinez, Walker Budde, Darlin Chub Ujpan, George Di Napoli, Erika Garcia-Ponce, Genesis Gonzalez Alvarez, Sonja Henry, David Hernandez Martinez, Carsyn Hoefling, Margie Madrid Castro, Jackelyne Mariaca, Reja Meer, Sofia Navarrete, Ariel Payne, Kimberly Perez Castillo, Genesis Reyes-Robles, Jessica Saciolo, Anthony Santos Morales, Daylin Sierra Lizama, Zhara Snead, Holly Surerus, Ambar Vasquez, Daniel Vasquez-Nunez, Heaven Wilson, and Allison Yautentzi Reyes.

9th Grade

Honor Roll: Yasmina Bache-Seraphin, Adriel Canales Gonzales, Alyssa Florence, Amelia Forman, Leily Garcia Menjivar, Leyna Greenberg, Katherine Juarez Cadena, Michelle Maradiaga, Nelcy Orellana Mejia, Daniel Perez Martinez, Franklin Reyes-Rodriguez, Jeybi Rodriguez Canales, Samantha Saciolo, A'miyah Sellers, Samuel Vega Rosales, and Valery Villatoro Hernandez.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Damian Basden, Jack Bensimon, Evangeline Capicchioni, Nicolas Ciorciari, Maria Nardi, Lourdes Parham, Cristopher Rivera Flores, and Joshua Velazquez. (Contd. Pg. 14)

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Fallsburg CSD Announces Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll List

(From Pg. 13)

10th Grade

Honor Roll: Gianna Colombo-Gonzalez, Sophia Cordova, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, John Ketcham, Dalila Koljenovic, Alisson Lagos Guardado, Emely Latacunga Guaman, Maelyn Mann, Blanca Marroquin Vargas, Paola Melendez Deras, Ronny Mendoza, Kileen Milligan, Tatiana Parada Escalante, Payton Pisaniello, Brittany Reyes Serrano, Keily Rosales Charuc, Kayden Saravia, Marion Sesay, and Helen Vasquez.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Addison Alvarado, Autumn Atkinson, Maddelynn DeMondo-Gernant, Natalia Evangelista, Mariama Gai, Amhara Gillmer, Hannah Goldsmith, Melanie Gomez Perez, Isabella Gonzales, Eriberto Gonzalez Jr, Jancarlos Guardado, Camdyn Hoefling, Sophia Jacobs, Senaida Jeronimo Sanchez, Yasmel Leon Mota, Brandon Mariaca, Dayana Mendoza-Gallo, Dillan Padilla Avila, Joslyn Smith, and Zayd Snead.

11th Grade

Honor Roll: Michael Avelar Martinez, Juliana Barreto, Sarah Blume, Bethany Carvajal, Kaddyjatou Darboe, Blanca Flores, LeonJahnaeSkye Fountain, Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Fatoumata Gai, Madelin Gonzaga Moreno, Alison Granados-Fuentes, Chanel Han, Adryana Kozachuk, Cessy Lezama Rodriguez, Conner McManus, Jozyr McNeil, Dominic McPherson, Heysel Mejia Corcio, Glenda Mendoza Dominguez, Tristin Miller, Yulenh Phillip, Anselmo Pinzon, Daivion Ramos-Troy, Joshua Rosales, Shastelyn Sandoval-Melara, James Smith Jr, Marisol Vasquez-Nunez, Sierra Velazquez, and Rodrigo Zacapexpan Reyes.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: James Bensimon, Emina Cenovic, Jordyn Cerone, Carissa Ciorciari, Riley Gorr, Eric Moocz, Robert Perrera, Melanie Rivera, Efrain Rodriguez, Abigail Toledo, Alisha Tremper, Peyton Varner, and Xavier Young.

12th Grade

Honor Roll: Katherine Alvarado Castro, Edison Bastidas Avendano, Xzavier Berrios, Bintou Darboe, Olivia DeGraw, Marcos Deras Lopez, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Emmabella Ferreira, Sebastian Fowler, Bella Gomez Lopez, Angel Gonzales, Treyvon Hayden, Brian Ingber II, Jaxon Ingber, Hector Jami Cocha, Zoey Ketcham, Anastacia Ladd, Raphael Ladd, John Landaverde Rodriguez, Eric Li, Carmen Montes Velasco, Jarvin Nunez Mejia, Christian Pinelli, Iliana Pinzon, Isis Santos Berrios, Marilyn Santos, Mehakdeep Singh, Noelle Varner, Bryan Vazquez, Justin Yautentzi Reyes, and Carlos Zavala Garcia.

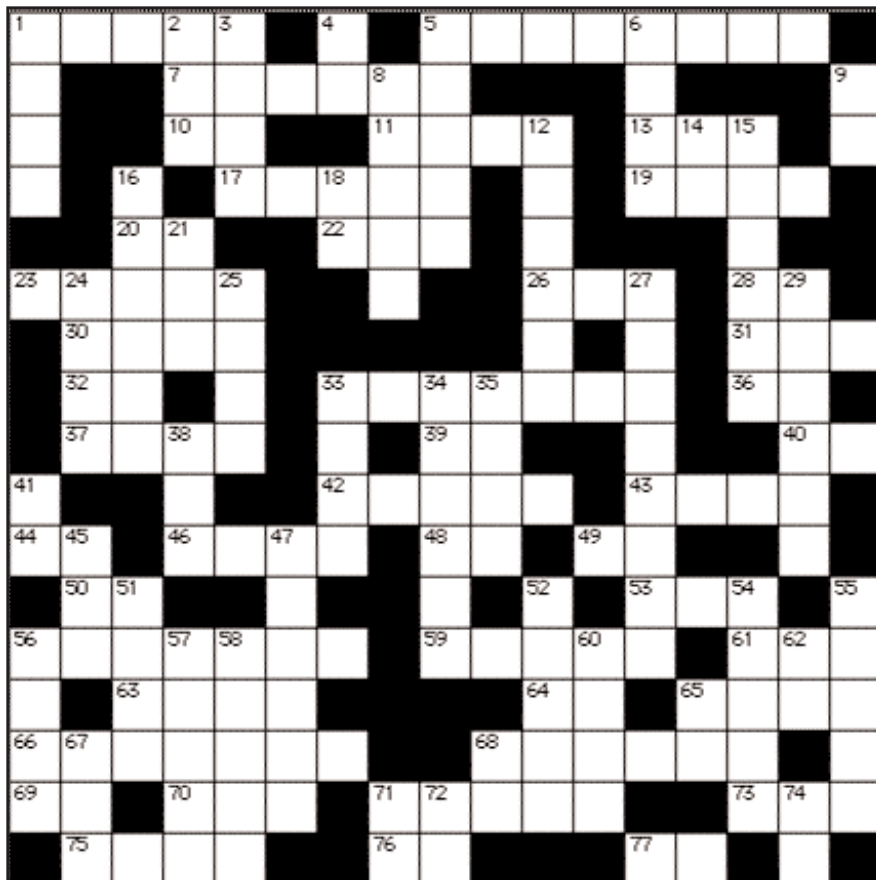
Superintendent's Honor Roll: Angelina Alvarado, Kyleigh Avery, Andrew Bensimon, Lee-Ann Di Napoli, Jacob Espinoza, Haley Mackerley, Douglas Medina Carcamo Jr, Allanah Owens, Madeline Pantel, Allison Rojas, Tracy Severino Paredes, Kierstyn Surerus, and Skylar Wright.

DEC Statement on Opposition Filings for Proposed Constitution Pipeline Project

On January 28, 2026, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) filed a notice with the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) to oppose Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC's petition to FERC to reissue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and override DEC's oversight authority under the Clean Water Act for the proposed pipeline project. Despite its proposed 99 miles of pipeline that would be crossing New York, the company is attempting to bypass critical environmental reviews and undercut New York State's regulatory authority. DEC did not waive its Clean Water Act Section 401 authority and will explore all available options to vigorously defend our state rights. New York will continue to take the reins to ensure the full protection of public health and our state's natural resources.

https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/docinfo?accession_num=20260128-5062

Magic of Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes - L. Comando



ACROSS

1 Boston's legendary publisher of *Mother Goose's Melodies for Children*
 5 In 1697 he set the stage for Mother Goose to become a household word
 7 Infant's bed
 10 Modus operandi
 11 Long poem
 13 Supernatural creature in folk tales
 17 Northern territory of India
 19 Of great height
 20 Form of to be
 22 Mythological god of flocks
 23 Neartic

26 Plowman's son who was as tall as a thumb
 28 I am (contraction)
 30 Low female singing voice
 31 Negative clause
 32 In the direction of
 33 Willow trees are used to make these
 36 Denoting a high performance car
 37 Special Weapons and Tactics
 39 Physical Education
 40 That man
 42 1650 French author who referenced Mother Goose
 43 Small island
 44 Toward a higher posi-

tion
 46 Actually existing
 48 Internet Protocol
 49 Intelligence Quotient
 50 Alternating Current
 53 Uninterruptible power supply
 56 Small banner
 59 Large waterbird with long neck
 61 Brewed hot beverage
 63 Not occurring often
 64 One's mother
 65 A model of the human figure
 66 Prepare and issue a written book
 68 Male goose
 69 One sort of

70 Allow
 71 Gas formed from oxygen by electrical charges; O₃
 73 Affirmative
 75 Belonging to a German grandmother
 76 Title used before a man's surname
 77 You and I

DOWN
 1 *Old Mac Donald had a*
 2 Electronic countermeasure
 3 Stomped
 4 Anno Domini
 5 Charlemagne the Great's Father, and wife of "Queen Goosefoot"
 6 Go along with
 8 Hungarian composer

famous for the "Merry Widow"
 9 Colorado
 12 Dress
 14 Los Angeles
 15 How Mother Goose is often seen with the gander
 16 Tree mentioned in *Psalms 137*
 18 Long Playing
 21 Abbrev for Saturday
 24 Grain plants
 25 Crushing defeat
 27 Fascinating aura of mystery
 29 Caring female parent
 33 Where Cinderella met the prince
 34 Season we are looking forward to
 35 Retain possession
 38 Substance we breathe
 41 Trade Union

45 A friend
 47 Stop
 51 Short for carbohydrate
 52 Adult human female
 54 Spoken or written account of events
 55 Fictitious or true narrated

stories
 56 One's father
 57 A plant of the arum family
 58 April sun sign
 60 A person of sound mind
 62 Elevated railway
 65 Delaware
 67 United Nations

Organization
 68 Move from one place to another
 71 Mystical syllable
 72 Chemical element zirconium
 74 Electromagnetic

OLD-FASHIONED OATMEAL COOKIES

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

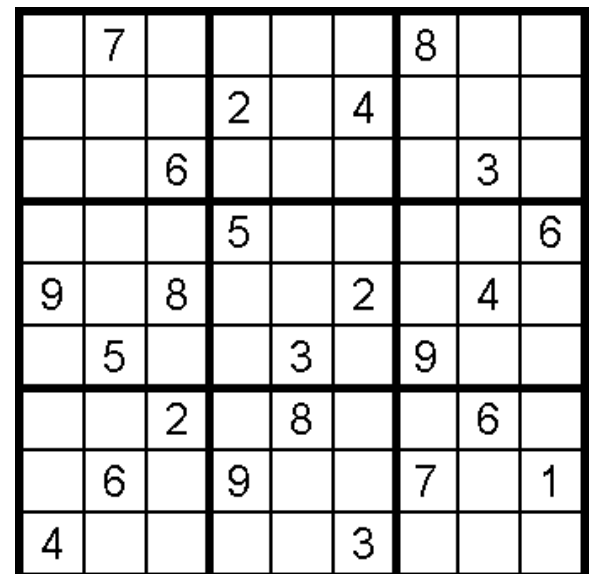
Heat oven to 375°F. Beat together margarine and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and spices; add to margarine mixture, mixing well. Stir in oats.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet.

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

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

数字は単数に限る



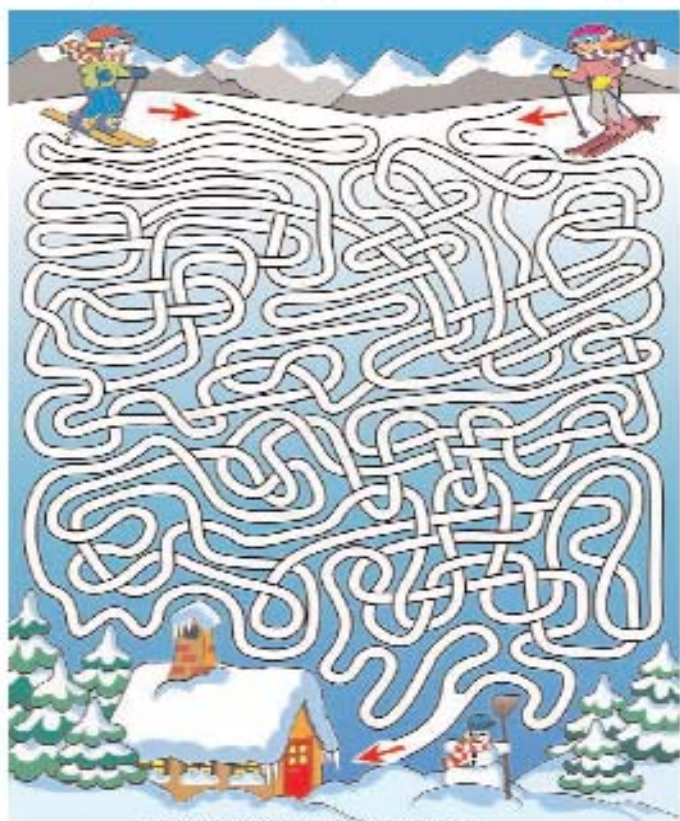
CRYPTOGRAM

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

8 10 8 24 21 8 24 23 8 11 3 10 8 24 6 2 11 10 25 14 18 24 2 11 3
1 18 2 17 25 11 14 24 2 8 23 8 11 3 18 7 25 17 25 1 25 22 11 24 14

2 5 1 3 8 10 25 14 5 10 25 1 5 19 6 25 3 14 25 - John Burroughs

Help the 2 skiers through the maze to the lodge.

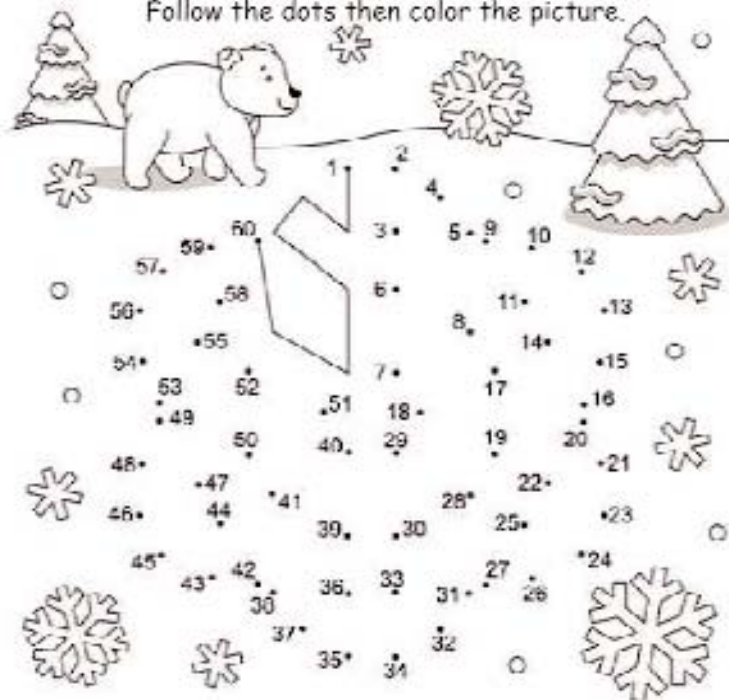


WINTER WORDSEARCH

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



Follow the dots then color the picture.



Kids'
It's
Still
Winter
Fun Page

L. Comando



CRYPTOGRAM KEY

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

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

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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

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Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library

Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30

Come paint with us!

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

Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday
BOOK CLUB



The first
Friday of
every month.

All adults welcome!

Daniel Pierce Library 1st Friday Book Club

Friday, February 06, 2026 • 1:00 PM

1st Friday Book Club Type: Adults

Location: Upper Level - Conference Room

Join our book club each month and

enjoy new reading and discussions.

You will need to be a RCLS library card holder to participate and join in on
the fun! Please contact Mikki at (845) 985-7233 x103 with any questions.
Adults only.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Neversink Fire District 2026 Pool Staff Posting

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

Dana Vogler, Secretary

1/15 -RTF

LEGAL NOTICE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, a meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 07:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School, Lower Level Collaboration Center. It is anticipated that an Executive Session will be held at the start of the Regular Meeting.

This meeting of the Board of Education shall be held at the time and place stated above.

Heather Bonnell
Tri-Valley Central School District Clerk

2/5

PUBLIC NOTICE January 28, 2026

Draft UCTC SFY 2026/27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) has initiated a 15 day public comment period on the SFY 2026/27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Unified Planning Work Program

The UPWP is UCTC's transportation planning work program that supports the goals, objectives and recommendations of the UCTC's Year 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. The UPWP is a federal requirement and is updated annually. The majority of funds used to support UPWP tasks come from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The 2026/27 UPWP programs \$2,040,611 in federal planning funds including all applicable state and local matches to support Council activities.

The Draft UPWP can be viewed online at:

<https://uctc.ulstercountyny.gov/core-documents/unified-planning-work-program-upwp/>

Public Comments

Written comments may be sent to the Ulster County Transportation Council, c/o Brian Slack, 244 Fair Street, PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402-1800 or emailed to bs1a@ulstercountyny.gov. The public comment period ends Wednesday February 11th, 2026 at 5:00pm.

The UCTC Policy Committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday February 24th, 2026 at 10:00 at the Rondout Municipal Center (Joint Marbletown/Rosendale Town Hall), 1915 Lucas Avenue, Cottekill, NY to discuss public comments received and consider adopting the proposed Draft SFY 2026/27 UPWP. All UCTC meetings begin with an open call for public comment.

Meeting notification and agenda packet will be posted ten (10) days prior at:

<https://uctc.ulstercountyny.gov/agendas/>

For additional information, please Call Dennis Doyle at (845) 340-3340.

<https://uctc.ulstercountyny.gov/core-documents/unified-planning-work-program-upwp/>

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.

Hiroya Tsukamoto - Sunday February 8, 2026 at 2pm

A Journey Through Strings and Stories

Doors open 1:30pm
Admission \$20 in advance -
Buy Now on My River Tickets
Admission \$25 at the door

Experience the spellbinding artistry of Hiroya Tsukamoto / a master of fingerstyle guitar and evocative storytelling that transcends cultural boundaries.

Rainshadow NEW Release on Jan 3, 2026 from Hiroya Tsukamoto -praised by Acoustic Guitar Magazine for his "delicate, fluid, and beautifully details" style, Hiroya's music weaves intricate melodies with poetic narratives, creating an unforgettable, soul-stirring performance.

Hiroya Tsukamoto is a Japanese-born fingerstyle guitarist who moved to the United States in 2000 to attend the Berklee College of Music. Needless to say, he's not only a dizzyingly agile fingerpicker, but a soulful and transcendent performer, with compositions that combine instrumental guitar work with lyrical performance and spoken stories from his life. Tsukamoto has been recognized for his talents on stages such as at Blue Note in New York City, NHK Television, International Storytelling Center and United Nations, and by scoring second place at the International Fingerstyle Guitar Championship both in 2018 and 2022.

"Fingerpicking is delicate, fluid and beautifully detailed" - Acoustic Guitar Magazine

"Hiroya Tsukamoto takes us to an impressionistic journey
"/em -Boston Herald

"...chops, passion and warmth. Zealously recommended!" -Jazz Review.com

Visit him online [Hiroyatsukamoto.com](https://hiroyatsukamoto.com)

Buy Now \$20 Tickets Now for Hiroya Tsukamoto

<https://myrivertickets.com/events/arts-nest-hiroya-tsukamoto-2-8-2026>

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for the first 20 words/
20 cents each additional word

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\$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
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.. 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!

Ulster County Clerk Announces Funding Opportunity to Support Revolutionary War 250th Anniversary Programming

The Ulster County Clerk's Office is pleased to announce the availability of funding to sponsor programs commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026. This funding is allocated in order to foster and support the rich variety of programming being offered by the history community in Ulster County during this milestone year in the history of the United States.



*British Soldiers marching in uptown Kingston during the
2024 Burning of Kingston re-enactment.*

Photo by Jon Palmer.

Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck stated, "The unique history of Ulster County is being preserved and interpreted by so many amazing organizations who have worked tirelessly at these efforts for many years. Our office has played an important part in that role since it was first established in 1683, and we see it as our responsibility to ensure these organizations get support in their efforts to bring rich programming to the public during the 250th." Bruck further stated "It is our hope that by providing these sponsorship funds, the public will be able to encounter some amazing programs that open their eyes to the history and legacy of the Revolution and the important part Ulster County played and continues to play in defining the story of our democracy."

Sponsorship funds will be given in awards of up to \$2,500 to eligible organizations submitting proposals between the date of this announcement and March 20, 2026. The complete announcement and application guidelines can be reviewed and downloaded at the following link: <https://www.ucrev250.org/>

Applicants are encouraged to review materials through the above link and to reach out to the awards review team through the provided contact information with any questions or comments during the application period. The application period runs from the date of this press release until March 20, 2026. Notice of approved funding will be given the week of April 6, 2026.

For further information, please contact the County Historian at countyhistorian@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 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!**



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**PRE-PLANNING, FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
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MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE
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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 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

**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

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

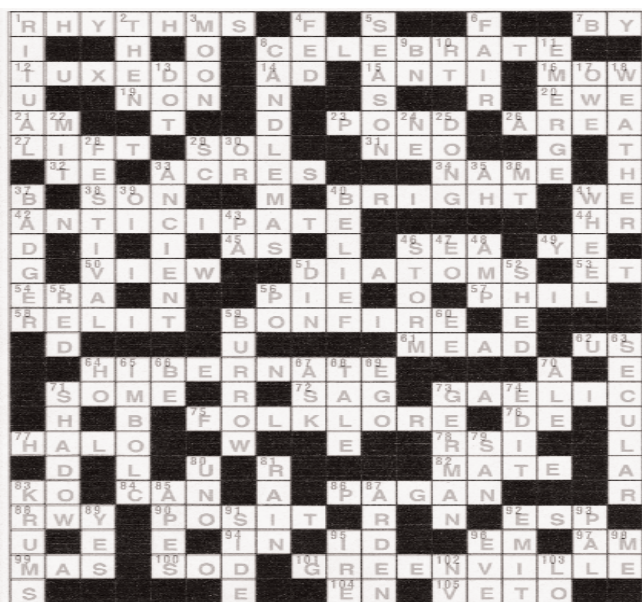
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

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

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

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: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mall
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After that time, voters may:

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

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

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Ulster County Board of Elections at 845-334-5470 or visit VoteUlster.com

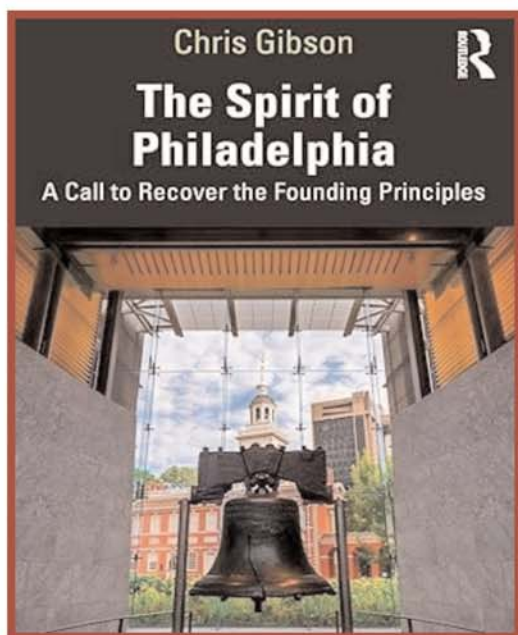
Jen Bloom, Deputy Commissioner
 Ulster County Board of Elections
 79 Hurley Ave, Suite 11



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

2026 Winter Schedule
You can also Schedule an Appointment at
sullivanny.gov | County Clerk Russell Reeves

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



The Spirit of Philadelphia

A talk by former Congressman and author

Chris Gibson

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



Time and the Valleys Museum
332 Main Street, Grahamsville

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

To join virtually, email info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org
and put *Spirit of Philadelphia* in the subject line.

Members are FREE, non members are \$5

Non members please go to timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate
to make a donation before requesting the link.

In person programs include light refreshments and Museum admission.

Lifeguard Courses Start in March

New and Recertifications Offered at Indoor Pool

Fallsburg, NY - The Sullivan County Parks, Recreation & Beautification Department is offering American Red Cross Blended Learning: Lifeguard Courses, Lifeguard Recertification Courses, and CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers Recertification Courses!



A County lifeguard at Lake Superior State Park in Bethel

Lifeguarding (Deep Water), CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers, First Aid, and Bloodborne Pathogens Training.

CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers (CPRO) Recertification Courses

Participants must bring current certification. CPRO Recertification is \$100 for Sullivan County residents and \$125 for non-residents. Upon successful completion, certification will include CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Bloodborne Pathogens Training.

See a full list of course dates offered and the registration form at the Parks & Recreation Department in the County Government Center or at <https://www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/ParksRecreation>.

Questions? Reach out to the Parks, Recreation & Beautification office at 845-807-0287 or email scparks@sullivanny.gov.

Throughout March-June 2026, Sullivan County Assistant Recreation Director Fiona Feltman will give these courses in the Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School Indoor Pool (115 Brickman Rd, Fallsburg).

New Lifeguard candidates must be 15 years old by the last day of the course. Recertifying Lifeguards must bring their current certification. Participants must be able to complete the prerequisite swim test.

Lifeguard Courses

The Lifeguard Certification course is \$350 for Sullivan County residents and \$400 for non-residents.

The Lifeguard Recertification course is \$175 for Sullivan County residents and \$225 for non-residents.

Upon successful completion, certification will include

Governor Hochul Hosts Roundtable on Nation-Leading Proposal to Keep Kids Safe on Line

Proposal Will Help Protect Kids from Predators, Scammers and Harmful AI Chatbots on Online Platforms

Builds on Governor's Nation-Leading Work To Enact Social Media Warning Labels, Restrict Addictive Feeds, Create Safeguards Against Harmful AI Companions and Restrict Smartphones in Schools

Governor Kathy Hochul today hosted a roundtable with parents from Common Sense Media to discuss her nation-leading proposal to protect children and teens online. The Governor's proposal will help protect kids from predators, scammers and harmful AI chatbots on online platforms. This proposal builds on Governor Hochul's nation-leading work to enact social media warning labels, restrict addictive feeds, create safeguards against harmful AI companions and restrict smartphones in schools.

"With evolving technology and online platforms allowing people to connect from anywhere in the world, it is important now more than ever to keep our kids safe online from any and all potential harms," Governor Hochul said. "This common-sense proposal will not only protect our children online, but also offer parents a peace of mind while their kids are gaming and scrolling on social media."

Common Sense Media Senior Director of Advocacy Campaigns Liz Foley said, "Common Sense Media

thanks Governor Hochul for her commitment to strengthening protections for kids online in New York. Headline after headline has shown us that our children's favorite online games and social media sites have become prowling grounds for predators. Expanding age assurance, ensuring privacy by default, protecting kids from unsafe AI chatbots and giving parents more power to keep their kids safe are the safeguards families need and deserve. The governor is continuing to lead New York in the right direction for our kids."

The Governor's proposed legislative package to keep kids safe from emerging threats on social media and online gaming platforms includes:

- o Expanding Age Verification: Expanding requirements for platforms to conduct age verification, including online gaming platforms.
 - o Privacy by Default: Kids will be set to the highest privacy settings on covered platforms by default, meaning non-connections cannot message kids, view their profile, or tag them in content. Location settings will be turned off by default, and children younger than 13 must receive parental approval for new connections.
 - o Disabling AI Chatbot Features: Disabling certain AI chatbot features on social media platforms for kids.
 - o Financial Oversight: Parents must be able to set limits on children's financial transactions, and view transaction history
- This State of the State proposal builds on Governor Hochul's ongoing efforts to address the youth mental health crisis statewide, which has established New York as a global leader in securing a safer online world for children. Initiatives include:
- o The SAFE for Kids Act, which restricts addictive features of social media for kids, and establishes important national precedent about age verification.
 - o The Child Data Protection Act that prevents online operators from collecting and monetizing children's data without informed consent.
 - o AI Companion legislation which set first-in-the-nation safeguards, diverting user conversations about self-harm to mental health resources and interrupting unhealthy addictive behaviors. The Governor also outlawed AI-Generated or Manipulated Child Sexual Abuse Material.
 - o The Unplug and Play Agenda which helps encourage the healthy socialization and child development by funding social infrastructure, physical sites like playgrounds, community centers and pools, and expanded youth programming.
 - o New York's Distraction Free Learning Policy which is already resulting in greater academic achievement, improved student well-being and safer school environments for students.
 - o The Warning Labels bill that will require social media companies post warnings about the platform's potential impact on mental health.

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Daniel Pierce Library
Mardi Gras
Donuts

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pre-
orders
Preferred

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

To order:



Call us at 845-985-7233



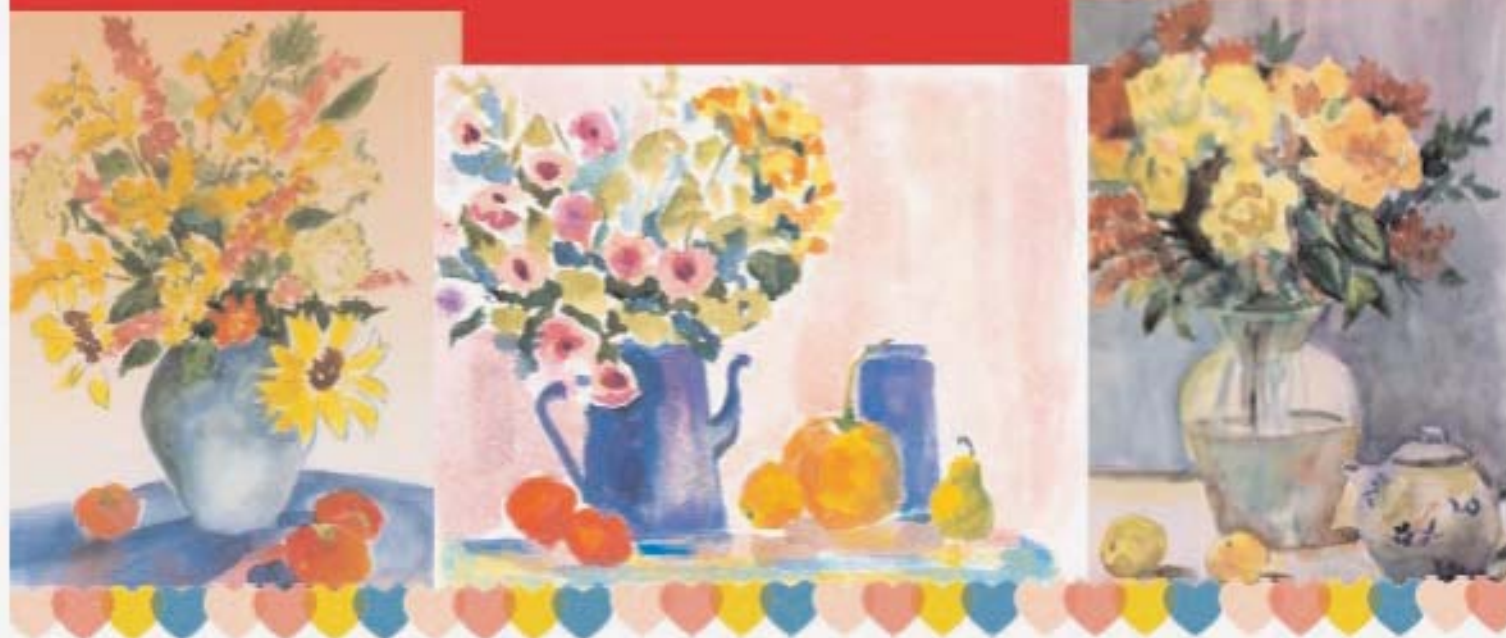
Place an online order at danielpiercelibrary.org



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

Thank You for your continued
support!

Daniel Pierce Library



Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow

Flowers speak the language of love ♥

Friday, February 13, 2026

1:00-2:30 p.m.

\$5 Supply Fee

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

No experience necessary, limited space available. Adults only.

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

Open to To Valley adult residents. Advanced registration required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org



Daniel Pierce Library

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

Governor Hochul Urges New Yorkers to Stay Prepared as Bitter Cold Streak Continues

- *Bitter Cold Continues Through Next Week, Increasing Risk for Frostbite and Hypothermia for Those Spending*
- *Time Outdoors Without Precautions*
- *Minor Snow Accumulation Could Cause Slick Roads Due to Cold*
- *New Yorkers Can Sign Up for Weather and Emergency Alerts by Texting 333111*

Governor Kathy Hochul today urged New Yorkers to stay prepared as the bitter cold weather impacting the state continues into its third week. Through the weekend, below normal temperatures and gusty winds will result in statewide feels-like temperatures below zero, bringing increased risks of hypothermia and frostbite for those who spend time outdoors without proper precautions. Additionally, an off-shore coastal storm could cause gusty winds and minor coastal flooding to areas across Long Island Saturday night into Sunday night. New Yorkers should dress appropriately for the weather if going outside and make sure to have an emergency kit with extra warm clothing, blankets, snacks, and water when traveling.

"This winter has been brutal, but we must keep ourselves prepared in order to stay safe," Governor Hochul said. "Accumulating snow and extreme cold poses a huge risk to those who may be out and about, so be sure to dress appropriately and have supplies on hand to keep yourself safe."

In response to the ongoing extreme cold, New York City will deploy 10 buses across the five boroughs to serve as warming shelters. From 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, three buses will be in Manhattan, two buses will be in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens, and one bus will be on Staten Island. New Yorkers can find more information on the location of warming spaces and warming centers on New York City's website.

New Yorkers should also remain prepared to protect against the dangers from the severe cold when participating in winter activities. Under state regulation, a Code Blue is automatically in effect whenever the temperature and wind chill equal less than 32 degrees. Local social services districts are legally required to take necessary steps to ensure those experiencing homelessness have access to shelter and that shelter hours are extended. New Yorkers also should check out these cold weather tips from the Department of Health; additional tips for preventing frostbite and hypothermia; information on Carbon Monoxide poisoning; information on the proper use of generators; and safe winter driving tips.

The New York State Department of Labor advises workers and employers to engage in extreme cold weather best practices such as:

- o Limit outdoor work, provide frequent breaks in warm areas and schedule outdoor work during the warmest times of the day.
- o Ensure access to clean drinking water.
- o Stay hydrated with warm beverages and avoid drinking caffeine.
- o Wear proper PPE, including at least three layers of clothing, gloves or mittens, thick socks, insulated footwear and a hat, hood or hard hat liner.

View more information on best practices for working in cold

weather.

Extreme Cold Warnings and Cold Weather Advisories have been issued, and New Yorkers should closely monitor their local forecasts and look for updates issued by the National Weather Service. For a complete listing of weather alerts, visit the National Weather Service website.

New Yorkers should also ensure that government emergency alerts are enabled on their mobile phones. They should also sign up for real-time weather and emergency alerts that will be texted to their phones by texting their county or borough name to 333111.

Agency Preparations

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

The Division's Office of Emergency Management is in contact with its local counterparts and is prepared to facilitate any local requests for assistance. State stockpiles are ready to deploy emergency response assets and supplies as needed. The State Watch Center, New York's 24/7 alert and warning hub, is monitoring the storm track and statewide impacts closely.

Department of Transportation

The State Department of Transportation is monitoring weather conditions and prepared to respond with 3,728 supervisors and operators. All residency locations in storm-impacted areas will remain staffed for 24/7 operations throughout the duration of the event and priority cleanup operations.

All available snow and ice equipment is ready to deploy. Statewide equipment numbers are as follows:

- o 1,621 large plow trucks
- o 149 medium duty plows
- o 54 tow plows
- o 336 large loaders
- o 37 snow blowers

The need for additional resources will be re-evaluated as conditions warrant throughout the event. For real-time travel information, motorists should call 511 or visit www.511NY.org or the mobile site at m.511ny.org, New York State's official traffic and travel information source.

Thruway Authority

The Thruway Authority is ready to respond with 685 operators and supervisors available. Statewide equipment numbers and resources are listed below:

- o 328 large and medium duty plow trucks
- o 10 tow plows
- o 54 loaders
- o 105,000+ tons of salt on hand

Variable Message Signs and social media (X and Facebook) are utilized to alert motorists of winter weather conditions on the Thruway.

Drivers are reminded that Thruway snowplows travel at about 35 miles per hour - which in many cases is slower than the posted speed limit - in order to ensure that salt being dispersed stays in the driving lanes and does not scatter off the roadways. The safest place for motorists is well behind the snowplows where the roadway is clear and treated.

The Thruway Authority encourages motorists to download its mobile app which is available for free on iPhone and Android devices. The app provides motorists direct access to real-time traffic information, live traffic cameras, and navigation assistance while on the go. Motorists can also sign up for TRANSalert e-mails and follow @ThruwayTraffic on X for the latest traffic conditions along the Thruway.

(Contd. Pg. 31)

Governor Hochul Urges New Yorkers to Stay Prepared as Bitter Cold Streak Continues

(From Pg. 30) Department of Public Service

The New York State Department of Public Service remains engaged with the regulated electric and gas companies to ensure timely and adequate preparation and response throughout the ongoing extreme cold and incoming weekend coastal storm. The Department's priority remains on safeguarding reliable and resilient electric and gas service for New Yorkers by maintaining regulatory oversight of the utilities' preparedness and response to any outages or supply issues that may occur.

New York's electric utilities currently have approximately 5,500 workers available statewide to engage in damage assessment, response, repair, and restoration efforts across New York State. Department staff will track utilities' work throughout the event and ensure utilities shift appropriate staffing to regions that experience the greatest impact.

The Department has additional information available on Winter Preparedness, including Winter Safety and current consumer protections available at: Winter Preparedness | Department of Public Service. The public is encouraged to contact the Department's Office of Consumer Services for complaints or concerns regarding their utility.

New York State Police

State Police is closely monitoring the forecast and coordinating with our state and local partners as winter weather moves into New York. Extra patrols will be added to affected areas as necessary, and specialized units and equipment are staged and ready to respond to any weather-related emergencies.

Department of Environmental Conservation

The Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Emergency Management staff, Environmental Conservation Police Officers, Forest Rangers, and regional staff remain on alert and continue to monitor weather forecasts. Working with partner agencies, DEC is prepared to coordinate resource deployment of all available assets, including first responders, to targeted areas in preparation for potential impacts due to extreme temperatures, high winds, freezing rain, snow, and ice.

DEC reminds those responsible for the removal and disposal of snow to follow best management practices to help prevent flooding and reduce the potential for pollutants like salt, sand, oils, trash, and other debris from affecting water quality. Disposal of snow in local creeks and streams can create ice dams, which may cause flooding. Public and private snow removal operators should be aware of these safety issues during and after winter storms. Additional information is available at Division of Water Technical and Operational Guidance Series: Snow Disposal.

Hiking Safety

Hikers are advised to temporarily avoid all high-elevation trails, as well as trails that cross rivers and streams during major storm events. Hikers are encouraged to check DEC's webpages for updates on trail conditions, seasonal road closures, and general recreation information. Unpredictable winter weather and storms in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and other backcountry areas can create unexpectedly hazardous conditions.

Visitors must be prepared with proper clothing and equipment for snow, ice, and cold to ensure a safe winter experience. Snow depths range greatly throughout the Adirondacks, with the deepest snow at higher elevations in the High Peaks region and other mountains over 3,000 feet. Lower elevation trails have

mixed conditions of snow, ice, and slush including many trails in the Catskill Mountains where the potential for icy and dangerous trail conditions exist.

In an emergency, call 9-1-1. To request Forest Ranger assistance, call 1-833-NYS-RANGERS. While some waterways may appear frozen, anyone venturing on waterbodies should review ice safety guidelines before heading out.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

New York State Park Police and park personnel are on alert and closely monitoring weather conditions and impacts. Response equipment is being fueled, tested and prepared for storm response use. Park visitors should visit parks.ny.gov, check the free NY State Parks Explorer mobile app or call their local park office for the latest updates regarding park hours, openings and closings.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is closely monitoring weather conditions to ensure safe, reliable service.

MTA employees will be poised to spread salt, clear platforms and stairs where ice exists, and keep signals, switches, and third rail operating, and respond to any weather-related issues.

Customers are encouraged to check mta.info for the latest service updates, and to use caution while navigating the system during winter weather. Customers should also sign up for real-time service alerts via text or email. These alerts are also available via the MTA app or the TrainTime app.

Port Authority

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is closely monitoring weather conditions and is working with airport terminal operators and other airport partners in preparation. Air travelers should check with their airlines for updated information on their flights before leaving for the airport or check the Federal Aviation Administration website for any FAA programs that may affect flight operations at their departure or arrival airport. Motorists who use the Port Authority's six bridges and tunnels are strongly encouraged to sign up for email alerts and allow for additional travel time. Midtown Bus Terminal users can use the MyTerminal app for real-time updates or check directly with their bus carriers for service changes. PATH riders can check train service information via the PATH mobile app, RidePATH.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

- o Monitor the forecast for your local area and areas you may be travelling to.
- o Avoid unnecessary travel.
- o If you must travel, make sure your car is stocked with survival gear like blankets, a shovel, flashlight and extra batteries, extra warm clothing, set of tire chains, battery booster cables, quick energy foods and brightly colored cloth to use as a distress flag.
- o If you have a cellphone or other communications device such as a two-way radio available for your use, keep the battery charged and keep it with you whenever traveling. If you should become stranded, you will be able to call for help, advising rescuers of your location.
- o The leading cause of death and injuries during winter storms is transportation accidents. Before getting behind the wheel, make sure that your vehicle is clear of ice and snow; good vision is key to good driving. Plan your stops and keep more distance between cars. Be extra alert and remember that snowdrifts can hide smaller children. Always match your speed to the road and weather conditions.
- o It is important for motorists on all roads to note that snowplows travel at speeds up to 35 mph, which in many cases is lower than the posted speed limit. (Contd. Pg. 32)

Governor Hochul Urges New Yorkers to Stay Prepared as Bitter Cold Streak Continues

(From Pg. 31)

- o Oftentimes on interstate highways, snowplows will operate side by side, to safely clear several lanes at one time.
- o Motorists and pedestrians should also keep in mind that snowplow drivers have limited lines of sight, and the size and weight of snowplows can make it very difficult to maneuver and stop quickly. Snow blowing from behind the plow can severely reduce visibility or cause whiteout conditions.
- o Motorists should not attempt to pass snowplows or follow too closely. The safest place for motorists to drive is well behind the snowplows where the roadway is clear and salted. Never attempt to pass a snowplow while it's operating.

Power Outage Safety Tips

- o Do not go near or touch fallen or sagging power lines: treat all wires as live and dangerous. Keep children and pets away from fallen electric wires. Never touch any lines or any items that are in contact with lines.
- o Check with your utility to determine area repair schedules.
- o Turn off or unplug lights and appliances to prevent a circuit overload when service is restored; leave one light on to indicate when power has been restored.
- o If heat goes out during a storm, keep warm by closing off rooms you do not need.

To Report an Electric Outage, Call:

Central Hudson: Electric: 800-527-2714 or Gas: 800-942-8274
 Con Ed: Electric: 800-752-6633 or Gas: 800-752-6633
 Corning Gas: 800-834-2134
 Liberty Utilities (St. Lawrence Gas) Corp.: 800-673- 3301
 National Fuel Gas: 1-800-444-3130
 National Grid:

- o Electric: 800-867-5222
 - o Long Island (gas): 1-800-490-0045
 - o Metro NYC (gas): 1-718-643-4050
 - o Upstate (gas): 1-800-892-2345
- NYSEG: Electric: 800-572-1131 or Gas: 800-572-1121
 O&R: Electric: 877-434-4100 or Gas: 800-533-5325
 PSEG-LI: 800-490-0075
 RG&E: Electric: 800-743-1701 or Gas: 800-743-1702

For more safety tips, go to www.dhses.ny.gov/safety.

NY Expands Electricity Discount Program

Monticello, NY - In mid-January, New York State announced the launch of the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program (EEAP), an expansion of the existing Energy Affordability Program (EAP), which provides discounts on electricity and gas costs to eligible residents.

“EEAP is a two-year pilot program meant to serve households who don't qualify for EAP, and it potentially offers some much-needed relief to people and families who wouldn't other-

wise be eligible for government benefits,” explained Nadia Rajs, chair of the Sullivan County Legislature. “All you need to qualify for EEAP is have an active residential electric or gas account with a participating utility, and be under the household income limits.”

NYSEG, Orange & Rockland Utilities and Central Hudson Gas & Electric all participate in both programs, though discounts vary with each. You can only be enrolled with one program at a time, either EEAP or EAP.

About EAP

Established by the NYS Public Service Commission in 2016, the Energy Affordability Program seeks to provide financial relief to low-income New York households by reducing their monthly electric or gas bills.

All large electric and natural gas utilities offer the EAP discount to households receiving benefits from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Veterans Disability/Survivors Pension, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Lifeline Telephone Service and Safety Net Assistance.

To inquire about enrollment, contact your utility:

- NYSEG: <https://www.nyseg.com/account/waystopay/help-with-bill/eap-and-eeap> or 1-800-600-2275
- Orange & Rockland: <https://www.oru.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-assistance/new-york/energy-affordability> or 1-877-434-4100
- Central Hudson: <https://www.cenhud.com/en/account-resources/assistance-programs/bill-discount-program/> or 845-452-2700

About EEAP

Launched last month, the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program offers utility bill discounts for income-qualified households that aren't eligible for EAP, as they don't participate in State or Federal benefits programs like HEAP or SNAP.

Households having annual income that's less than these levels are eligible for EEAP:

- o 1-person household - \$69,477
- o 2-person household - \$90,854
- o 3-person household - \$112,232
- o 4-person household - \$133,609
- o 5-person household - \$154,986
- o 6-person household - \$176,364
- o 7-person household - \$180,372
- o 8-person household - \$184,380

To apply for EEAP, no matter what utility provides your service, visit <https://nyeeap.com/program> or call 1-877-400-2501. You will need to provide proof of income earned in the past month for all household members (such as pay stubs, Social Security or pension statements, self-employment records, etc.). Be sure to also have your utility account number handy.

For information about both EAP and EEAP, visit <https://dps.ny.gov/energy-affordability-program>.

Tri-Valley Elementary School
"INSPIRE SUCCESS TOGETHER"



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

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



Ulster County EMS Division Hosts Statewide EMS Leadership Training

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Department of Emergency Services - EMS Division successfully hosted the New York State EMS Leadership Training Course on January 31 and February 1 at the Ulster County Public Safety Training Center in Kingston. The 16 hour program was delivered by instructors from the New York State Division of State Emergency Medical Services and developed with support from the New York State Office of Rural Health.



The training focused on strengthening leadership capacity within the EMS community, using the NEMSMA Seven Pillars of National EMS Officer Competencies as its foundation. Over the two day course, participants explored key leadership topics, including developing a learner's mindset, understanding the distinction between management and leadership, leadership styles, personalized change

planning, coaching and mentoring, and leadership in action.

A total of 22 EMS professionals from Ulster County and across New York State completed the program and received Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. Attendees engaged in reflective exercises, crafted personal leadership statements, and learned strategies for fostering psychologically safe and supportive organizational cultures.

"Hosting this training is an important investment in the future of EMS leadership in Ulster County and across the state," said Everett Erichsen, Ulster County Emergency Services Commissioner. "Strong leadership directly translates into stronger teams, better decision making, and ultimately better outcomes for the people we serve. We're proud to support this level of professional development and grateful to our state partners for making it possible."

Participants represented multiple Ulster County EMS agencies and fire departments, as well as departments from outside the County - reflecting a shared commitment to advancing excellence in emergency medical services statewide.

Given the success and value of the program, the EMS Division plans to offer the course again in the future to continue expanding leadership training opportunities for EMS professionals.

Ulster County extends its appreciation to all instructors, participants, and partner agencies for their dedication to strengthening emergency medical services and ensuring the highest level of care for residents and visitors.



CCE Sullivan is Offering Webinars on Livestock Management and Soil Health

LIBERTY, NY - Farmers, livestock owners, and agricultural community members are invited to attend two upcoming educational webinars this February focused on livestock management and soil health. These evening programs provide practical, research-based information designed to support resilient and productive farm operations.

The first webinar, Livestock Weather Stress: Hot or Cold, will be held on February 12, 2026, from 6:00-7:30 PM. This program will help producers understand how livestock respond to extreme temperatures and what management strategies can protect animal health and productivity. Topics include how animals regulate body temperature through behavior, metabolism, and physiology; why heat stress can reduce fertility and milk production; how cold stress increases feed requirements and energy loss; species-specific differences among cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs; and climate-related challenges facing modern livestock systems.

The second webinar, Understanding Cover Crops for Farms, will take place on February 26, 2026, from 6:00-7:30 PM. This session will focus on improving participants' understanding of cover crops and their role in enriching soil and strengthening farm systems. Attendees will learn how cover crops improve soil health, enhance nutrient cycling, support on-farm resilience, identify key cover crop species, evaluate their functions, and develop effective management plans.

Both programs are well suited for experienced farmers, beginning producers, agricultural students, and anyone interested in science-based agricultural education. To register for either program, please visit our events page at <https://sullivancce.org/events>.

Funding Acknowledgement: This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2024-70027-42540.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. The public can contact the office to request accommodations.

Governor Hochul Announces Empire AI SUNY Campus Partnerships to Expand Access to Artificial Intelligence Use for the Public Good

Governor Kathy Hochul announced Empire AI campus partnerships between SUNY's university centers, university colleges, technology colleges, and community colleges to advance artificial intelligence (AI) research and education for the public good. The partnerships will leverage the Empire AI supercomputer, housed at the State University of New York at Buffalo, to increase access to AI for research and professional development for SUNY students and faculty.

"Through Empire AI, New York is ensuring the power of AI is harnessed responsibly," Governor Hochul said. "By bringing together SUNY institutions through these campus partnerships, we are furthering the use of AI for the public good and shaping a brighter future for all New Yorkers."

SUNY's four university centers - the State University of New York at Albany, State University of New York at Binghamton, State University of New York at Buffalo, and State University of New York at Stony Brook - will partner with several of SUNY's university colleges, technology colleges, and community colleges to provide research experiences, professional development, microcredential courses, and other opportunities for students and faculty to effectively and ethically use AI.

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said, "Governor Hochul's continued leadership has placed SUNY and New York State at the forefront of harnessing AI for the public good. SUNY is proud to leverage the largest statewide comprehensive system of public higher education in the country to ensure that more students are able to drive research and move innovation forward. We are grateful to Governor Hochul for her leadership and investment to advance AI in New York State."

The SUNY Board of Trustees said, "Thanks to the support of Governor Hochul and the State Legislature, SUNY's students and faculty will have more access to cutting-edge AI technology. We thank Governor Hochul for her continued efforts to further New York State's, and SUNY's leadership in AI for the Public Good."

SUNY's four university centers are partnering with campuses throughout the SUNY System to advance AI research and education. Projects and partnerships include:

- o The State University of New York at Albany is partnering with SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech, and Hudson Valley Community College to increase institutional AI capacity across partner institutions by providing professional development for faculty and increasing experiential learning and research opportunities for faculty and students. Programs will include co-developing AI-infused microcredentials, courses, and material to enrich criteria and student experiences, as well as supporting interdisciplinary teams to collaborate on real-world challenges.

- o The State University of New York at Binghamton is partnering with SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oneonta, Broome Community College, and Tompkins Cortland Community College to launch the Advancing AI for the Public Good initiative that will include an online, free of charge AI Prep for Careers non-credit microcredential to introduce students to foundational AI principles, workforce applications, and ethical considerations.

- o The State University of New York at Buffalo is partnering with 11 campuses - Alfred State College, SUNY Brockport, SUNY Buffalo State University, SUNY Fredonia, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Erie, Genesee Community College, Jamestown Community College, Monroe Community College, and SUNY Niagara - across Central and Western New York to launch AI in Action: Transforming Higher Education through AI. Twenty-five fellows will be selected from partner campuses to participate in workshops, which will focus on curricular development and include important overviews related to ethics, compliance, and accessibility.

- o The State University of New York at Stony Brook is partnering with Farmingdale State College and Suffolk County Community College and launching AI Innovation and Diffusion, an 8-week research experience program for undergraduates that will recruit 40 students, 20 from each participating campus, from across all disciplines to receive a \$5,000 stipend and spend eight weeks at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, receiving mentorship from doctoral students or postdoctoral scholars. (Contd. Pg. 36)

Governor Hochul Announces Empire AI SUNY Campus Partnerships to Expand Access to Artificial Intelligence Use for the Public Good

(From Pg. 35)

Empire AI is the Governor's nation-leading initiative to advance AI research for the public good, led by an independent consortium of members.

Empire AI is backed by more than \$500 million in public and private funding, and is made up of 10 member universities and research institutions. In May 2025, Governor Hochul secured funding to expand access for SUNY researchers at the State University of New York at Albany, State University of New York at Binghamton, State University of New York at Buffalo, and State University of New York at Stony Brook, and support the addition of new members including the University of Rochester, the Rochester Institute of Technology, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. They joined the seven founding members of Empire AI: SUNY, CUNY, Columbia University, Cornell University, NYU, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the Flatiron Institute.

In her 2026 State of the State agenda, Governor Hochul proposed the launch of Empire AI Beta, which will accelerate Empire AI's performance to 11 times its former scale, making it the world's most advanced academic supercomputer. Governor Hochul also announced a record-breaking gift to the State University of New York at Binghamton to create the first independent university AI research center in the United States, the Center for AI Responsibility and Research at Binghamton University. The \$30 million philanthropic gift, the largest academic gift in the university's history, is coupled with a \$25 million research capital investment by SUNY.

Diversify the Artificial Intelligence Pipeline With AI Prep

To equalize access to AI careers, Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) will launch AI Prep: a workforce development initiative focused on the training and placement of disadvantaged college students into AI jobs. This free training will focus on applied problem solving and include mentorship support from leading technology companies, leading to internship opportunities at leading New York technology companies.

About the State University of New York

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the United States, and more than 95 percent of all New Yorkers live within 30 miles of any one of SUNY's

64 colleges and universities. Across the system, SUNY has four academic health centers, five hospitals, four medical schools, two dental schools, a law school, the country's oldest school of maritime, the state's only college of optometry, 12 Educational Opportunity Centers, over 30 ATTAIN digital literacy labs, and manages one US Department of Energy National Laboratory. In total, SUNY serves about 1.7 million students across its portfolio of credit- and non-credit-bearing courses and programs, continuing education, and community outreach programs. SUNY oversees nearly a quarter of academic research in New York. Research expenditures system-wide are nearly \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 2025, including significant contributions from students and faculty. There are more than three million SUNY alumni worldwide, and one in three New Yorkers with a college degree is a SUNY alum. To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunities, visit suny.edu.

About Empire AI

Empire AI is a bold partnership of New York's leading public and private universities to establish a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence computing center, housed at SUNY's University at Buffalo. The consortium includes Columbia University, Cornell University, CUNY, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY, and the Flatiron Institute, as well as philanthropic backers including Tom Secunda and the Simons Foundation. Empire AI is pioneering safe, equitable, and accessible AI research and development that benefits every corner of New York.

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 Onteora School District calendar and is cancelled when Onteora schools cancel due to a weather event



Leading Bipartisan Letter Urging EU to Designate IRGC as a Terrorist Organization

This week, incredible progress was made in holding Iran's terrorist networks accountable. Alongside Rep. Brad Sherman, I led a bipartisan letter urging the European Union to formally designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. The letter was delivered ahead of a key meeting in Brussels, where European officials acted to designate the IRGC under EU law. This decision follows years of bipartisan advocacy and growing international consensus, after France, Italy, Spain, and Luxembourg withdrew prior objections that had delayed action.

The IRGC is the engine behind Iran's global terror operations, responsible for training, funding, and arming groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, while carrying out attacks and assassination plots across Europe and beyond. Inside Iran, the IRGC has violently suppressed anti-regime protests, killing thousands of civilians, and it has even plotted attacks on U.S. soil. The United States, Canada, and Australia have already designated the IRGC as a terrorist organization, and Europe's decision sends a clear message that state-sponsored terrorism and human rights abuses will not be tolerated. This bipartisan effort builds on years of work to ensure our allies stand united against terror and in defense of freedom and human dignity.

Healthcare Update: Consolidated Appropriations Act

Last week, the House passed legislation I supported to strengthen our health care system, protect seniors, and prevent disruptions for patients and providers. The bill extends Medicare telehealth services, delays the expiration of Disproportionate Share Hospital funding for safety-net hospitals, and secures continued funding for Community Health Centers, rural hospitals, and ground ambulance services that many communities rely on for routine care and emergency services. It also includes bipartisan reforms to lower prescription drug costs by increasing transparency and reining in Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) middlemen that drive up prices for seniors at the pharmacy counter, while strengthening Medicare Advantage protections so seniors can more easily access the care they need.

In addition, the legislation expands access to innovative,

FDA-approved cancer screening tests, improves billing transparency, increases access to home-based care when clinically appropriate, strengthens safeguards against health care fraud, and fully funds the National Institutes of Health at \$48.7 billion, supporting lifesaving research and medical breakthroughs at institutions like the University of Rochester and the University at Buffalo.

Leading Amicus Brief in Supreme Court Case on Birthright Citizenship

This week, I led an amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in a major constitutional case that goes to the heart of birthright citizenship and the rule of law. The case, *Trump v. Barbara*, examines whether the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause was ever intended to grant automatic citizenship to the children of individuals who are in the United States unlawfully or only temporarily. The brief supports President Trump's executive order clarifying that citizenship requires being "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States, a standard rooted in the Constitution's text, historical practice, and longstanding legal precedent. The Fourteenth Amendment was ratified to secure citizenship for newly freed slaves and their children, not to create a permanent loophole that rewards illegal immigration. I will continue working to defend the Constitution as written, uphold Congress's authority over naturalization, and ensure that citizenship laws reflect lawful presence, allegiance, and accountability.

Energy Costs Are Skyrocketing in New York Because Albany Democrats' Climate Law Is Failing Families

New Yorkers are feeling the impact of Albany's failed energy policies every time they open their utility bills. Electricity costs in New York are now among the highest in the nation, not because of market forces, but because Albany Democrats rushed through sweeping climate mandates without a realistic plan for cost, reliability, or grid readiness. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was passed in 2019 with big promises and no workable path forward, and families are now paying the price through higher monthly bills, growing reliability concerns, and increased dependence on out-of-state energy.

Instead of delivering affordable and reliable power, the CLCPA has forced rapid electrification, restricted dependable energy sources, and required massive transmission upgrades that ratepayers are being asked to fund. State agencies and grid operators are now openly warning that New York's electric system is under strain, with thin reliability margins and growing blackout risks, especially during winter months. As these policies fall short, New York is importing more electricity from Canada, Pennsylvania, and New England, sending energy dollars out of state while missing its own climate deadlines.

(Contd. Pg. 38)

This Week with Claudia (From Pg. 37)

Cleaner energy does not have to mean higher costs or unreliable service, but Albany must change course before these reckless mandates inflict even greater harm on working families and small businesses.

Key Facts About New York's Energy Crisis

CLCPA passed in 2019 by Albany Democrats, mandating sweeping changes without a realistic implementation plan.

70% renewable electricity by 2030 - a deadline the state has already missed by more than three years.

85% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050, based on 1990 emissions data, not current conditions.

Creation of a cap-and-invest "superfund"-style system, imposing fees based on a company's carbon footprint - including emissions outside New York State.

The CLCPA has directly caused New York electricity prices (26.49¢/kWh) to far exceed the national average (17.78¢/kWh).

The Climate Action Council projected "net" costs of up to \$295 billion, but state data show \$4.9 trillion in total costs by 2050, masked by sketchy accounting assumptions.

Compounding Policy Failures

Albany Democrats have worsened the crisis by:

Shutting down Indian Point Nuclear Plant, eliminating up to 17 TWh of emission free, clean energy annually.

Banning safe, responsible gas drilling and restricting gas hookups, forcing greater reliance on electrification, further straining our electric grid.

Banning the 100-Foot Rule, raising costs for new housing and limiting access to affordable energy.

Mandating gas power plant shutdowns in New York City by 2030.

Allowing repeated utility rate hikes approved by a Public Service Commission dominated by gubernatorial appointees.

NYISO has warned that:

New York will become a winter-peaking electric system, with demand increasing by 14,000 MW by 2040.

Beginning in the summer of 2026, grid reliability margins will be extremely thin, increasing blackout risks during peak demand.

EPA Reinstating Animal Testing Phase-out Plan

The Trump administration is getting the EPA back on track by reviving a commonsense plan to phase out unnecessary mammal testing and accelerate modern, humane alternatives. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin recently announced a renewed commitment to ending mammal testing by 2035, restoring a goal first set during President Trump's first term and later abandoned by the Biden administration. This approach supports scientific innovation, reduces wasteful government spending, and reflects

advances in new testing methods that protect both public health and animal welfare. In 2024, I joined a bipartisan group of Members of Congress to press the Biden EPA to reverse course and uphold the original phaseout plan. Moving forward with responsible, science-based alternatives shows that environmental protection and ethical research standards do not have to be in conflict.

READ MORE HERE

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2026/01/22/trump-epa-commits-to-ending-testing-on-mammals-reversing-biden-admin-decision/>

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. 556, the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2025: This bill would prohibit federal land management agencies from restricting access to public lands and waters for hunting and fishing unless such restrictions are supported by clear scientific evidence and subject to appropriate public notice. Hunting and fishing sports are traditions that support conservation and outdoor recreation. This legislation helps ensure continued access for sportsmen while maintaining responsible wildlife management practices.

H.R. 5688, the Non-Domiciled CDL Integrity Act: This bill would increase federal oversight of non-domiciled commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) to ensure they are issued only to individuals who meet all eligibility, training, and language requirements. Specifically, it would require improved verification and enforcement measures to prevent abuse of the non-domiciled CDL process and ensure consistent application of federal standards across states. Maintaining the integrity of the licensing system by closing loopholes, improving accountability, and ensuring that CDL requirements are enforced fairly and consistently will increase public safety on our roads.

H.R. 4655, the United States-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act: This bill would authorize cooperative research between the United States and Israel on post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including joint projects involving academic institutions, medical centers, and researchers in both countries. PTSD has significant long-term impacts on individuals and families, and advancing research is critical to developing more treatment methods. This legislation strengthens an important international partnership while expanding diagnostics and possible treatment options for PTSD.

DEC Forest Rangers - Week in Review Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

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

In 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 and arrests. Also in 2025, 41 Forest Rangers were deployed to fire assignments in 10 different states.

“Our Forest Rangers are elite law enforcement leaders who put their lives on the line when they respond to a search and rescue, wildland fire, or State land violation,” DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. “We’re fortunate to have them patrolling State lands and keeping people safe. Their expertise and professionalism are valuable assets, not only in New York, but around the country wherever emergencies arise.”

Essex County

Wilderness Rescue: On February 1 at 5:35 p.m., Ray Brook Dispatch received a call about two hikers and their dog who were unable to continue their hike on Haystack Mountain. The hikers did not have proper traction devices for the icy conditions and didn't have headlamps to assist them in the dark. Forest Rangers Jansen and Lewis met the subjects on the trail and escorted them out of the woods. Resources were clear at 8:03 p.m.

Rangers suggest hiking with the 10 hiking essentials, including proper footwear, traction devices, and a light source.

Be sure to properly prepare and plan before entering the backcountry. Visit DEC's “Hike Smart NY,” “Adirondack Backcountry,” and “Catskill Backcountry Information” webpages for more information.

If a person needs a Forest Ranger, whether it's for a search and rescue, to report a wildfire, or to report illegal activity on State lands and easements, they should call 833-NYS-RANGERS. If a person needs urgent assistance, they can call 911. To contact a Forest Ranger for information about a specific location, the DEC website has phone numbers for every Ranger listed by region.

<https://dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/forest-ranger-rosters>

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

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

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM
46 North Street in Monticello
For information
contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
at (845) 701-0695



**Sullivan County
DRAMATIC
WORKSHOP**

Presents

Cabaret



Roulette

**Director: Tamika Smith & Dawn Perneszi
Producer: Sally Gladden**

**Fri Feb 27, 2026 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Sat Feb 28, 2026 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Sun Mar 1, 2026 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

Ticket: \$12.00

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scdw.net
1 845-436-5336**

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

This 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, 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

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. For more information about the 25 Million Trees Initiative, visit 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 or 518-581-1439.

Claryville Fire Dept.

15 Denning Road Claryville NY 12725

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, February 15th

Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon

Adults: 13

Senior Citizens age 65 +): 11

Children Ages 5-11: 5

Under 5 Yrs. Free

Take-outs: 13

Call 845-985-7270

We accept cash and checks only

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



11th Annual!



Wings & Wheels for Warriors



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

Saturday, May 16th 2026

Rain date: Sunday, May 17th
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 11th 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 27th**. 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.

****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 • 845-985-7270

E-mail: claryvillefd@gmail.com • Facebook: [@claryvillefd](https://www.facebook.com/claryvillefd) • Instagram: [claryville_volunteer_fd](https://www.instagram.com/claryville_volunteer_fd)

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

Rules Form

When: Saturday, May 2nd, 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.

Payment and registration must be submitted by April 1st 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 • Facebook: [@claryvillefd](https://www.facebook.com/claryvillefd) • Instagram: [claryville_volunteer_fd](https://www.instagram.com/claryville_volunteer_fd)

Registration Form

Saturday, May 2nd, 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 1st 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



PAT RYAN
PROUDLY SERVING NEW YORK'S 18TH DISTRICT

Every single day, our community is showing that we stand together on the side of justice, humanity, and freedom for all of our neighbors.

Your input is the main driver behind everything that I do to build a more affordable, safe, and free Hudson Valley for everyone that calls our exceptional community home.

It's an absolute privilege to fight alongside you and serve you each and everyday - here's some of how I did that this past week:

OUR COMMUNITY IS FIGHTING TO STOP THE PROPOSED ICE CENTER IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

When it was first reported that ICE was planning to build a mass detention center in Chester, our community immediately fought back.

Within one day, my petition opposing the proposed facility gained more than 1,000 signatures. Within a week, it had 10,000. Two weeks later, more than 20,000 members of our community have made their voices heard - and that number grows everyday.

The responses I'm receiving from you are among the strongest and most unified I've seen during my time in office and for good reason: Trump's plan for a mass detention camp in the Hudson Valley is shameful, un-American, and the exact opposite of everything we stand for.

And it's why I voted against funding ICE, to send a strong, united message from our entire community: we strongly reject ICE's abuse of power. This week hundreds of you joined me as we rallied together against the facility - and I'm incredibly proud of how we've shown up. Our community needs to continue speaking up - loudly - if we want to prevent ICE from moving in, terrorizing our neighbors, and making us all less safe.

Especially after ICE murdered another American citizen - a VA nurse - in Minnesota, and as ICE agents are given the green light to unconstitutionally and illegally come into people's homes, I'm asking Hudson Valley Patriots to keep making your voices heard by completing my survey here . Please forward this on to others you know who may want to join our effort, too.

Together, we will win this fight.

MEETING WITH SENIORS ACROSS THE HUDSON VALLEY TO FIGHT THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

I met with seniors across the Hudson Valley this week because your input has always been the main driver behind everything I do.

We're all feeling the burden of the affordability crisis - especially our seniors.

Just before the holidays, I released a survey to our Hudson Valley community asking folks how they're being impacted by the high cost of groceries.

The responses I got made it clear - the entire Hudson Valley is feeling this. 99% of respondents told me they're feeling the burden of high grocery costs, many of them seniors on a fixed income or who rely on Social Security.

One response stuck out to me:

"I'm a senior citizen on a limited income. I'm now paying over \$125 per week on groceries that used to cost between \$90 to \$100," said Sue, a constituent in Beacon. "I also help my granddaughter and her family who just lost their SNAP benefits."

People are cutting out protein, vegetables, and forgoing health-condition-specific diets just to put food on the table.

It's unacceptable, and it's why I'm fighting to pass my Lower Grocery Prices Act to help bring down costs for hardworking Hudson Valley families.

If you haven't already, please fill out my survey linked here . Your voice matters.

IMPEACHING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY KRISTI NOEM

Impeachment exists as a last resort, to be used for only the most

grave and egregious offenses against our country.

Weaponizing a federal agency with a budget bigger than most militaries to kill American citizens in the streets, deport US veterans, and illegally break into people's homes - and then lie about it all, repeatedly - most certainly meets that weighty standard.

The Department of Homeland Security was created to make Americans feel safe and secure at home. Secretary Noem has failed at this mission; and today, millions of Americans are living in fear because of the agency's actions. That makes us all less safe.

Secretary Noem had many chances to take accountability. The Trump Administration had many chances to hold her accountable. At every turn, they've doubled down on their cover-up of her egregious violations of the public trust. It is clear that action must be taken by Congress.

On behalf of my constituents, I am sponsoring articles of impeachment against Secretary Noem.

RECOGNIZING A SOLEMN INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

81 years ago this week, Auschwitz was liberated. It is our solemn duty to never forget the 6 million Jews and millions of others murdered during the Holocaust.

We must remember, so that such evil never returns to this earth.

FIGHTING TO LOWER UTILITY COSTS

For years, I've fought alongside our Hudson Valley community - first as Ulster County Executive, then as a Congressman, and always as a fellow ratepayer - against Central Hudson's exploitative practices.

We have to ask ourselves, what kind of system would let Central Hudson jack up its rates by 9.5%, give their own executives tens of millions in bonuses, and pretend it's a win for Hudson Valley families?

The answer is a fundamentally broken one, which puts the profits of foreign-owned corporate monopolies above the good of our community.

This week, I joined with colleagues to fight back against this system by forming the Lowering Utility Bills Caucus.

We're coming together to form a complete picture of how these monopolistic companies are ripping off our communities, hold these companies accountable, bring down costs for consumers, and fix the predatory system once and for all.

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

Do you need help enrolling in Medicare, getting your IRS tax return, and more? Join my team at one of this week's CARES Van events for one-on-one assistance with federal programs.

If you need help navigating a federal agency, but can't join an event, please call my team at (845) 443-2930.

MAKING SURE YOU STAY WARM AND SAFE DURING DANGEROUS COLD

With dangerously cold weather in the forecast for the Hudson Valley, please check on neighbors who may be at risk and spread the word about local warming centers:

Find information on Dutchess County warming centers here , Orange County warming centers here , and Ulster County warming centers here.

COLLECTING VALENTINES FOR OUR VETERANS

Veterans put their lives on the line to keep us safe and protect our democracy - it's the ultimate expression of love for their fellow Americans and for our country.

Our community has sent tens of thousands of Valentines for Vets the past 3 years. Each year, it's been remarkable to see the community's outpouring of gratitude to our local veterans.

I'm looking forward to rallying together again this year to show them how much the Hudson Valley values their heroism and service.

Please drop off your Valentines for Vets to my Poughkeepsie office at 29 N Hamilton Street, Suites 112 and 113, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 by Tuesday, February 10 or mail them by Friday, February 6 to ensure timely delivery.

CONGRATULATING A HUDSON VALLEY MIDSHIPMAN

GO ARMY BEAT NAVY always, but I have to hand it to Wallkill's own Zoe Mesuch for an incredible performance on the basketball court last weekend.

Congratulations Zoe, thanks for doing our Hudson Valley community proud!

(Contd. Pg. 47)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 46)

GRANTS CORNER

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

NYS Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program is a state-funded \$25,000,000 competitive grant program that supports the enhancement of the security and safety of the citizens of New York State by providing critical funding to strengthen volunteer fire departments and districts statewide. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$1,000,000 if proposing projects for construction, renovation, or purchase costs for critical facilities (buildings, training facilities, etc.) that support fire operations, or up to \$500,000 if proposing projects for allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve their response capabilities. The application deadline is February 25, 2026, by 5:00 pm.

NYS Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program (MPR) : \$10 million will be made available for the second round of the MPR Grant Program to fund the development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites statewide. Funds for the MPR Grant Program are provided by the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs

Environmental Bond Act of 2022. MPR funding is available for the construction of recreational facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites and parks. Examples include playgrounds, courts, playing fields, and facilities for swimming, biking, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping or other recreational activities. The application period opened on December 31, 2025 and applications must be submitted by February 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than May 22, 2026.

NEA FY 2027 Grants for Arts Projects Guidelines Now Available! Guidelines and application materials for the National Endowment for the Arts' principal grants category, Grants for Arts Projects, are now available. These grants support projects taking place in any part of the nation's 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. jurisdictions. To simplify the application intake and review process, Our Town and Challenge America applicants will apply within the Grants for Arts Projects program and choose the "Design & Our Town" or "Challenge America" discipline. Other disciplines include Arts Education, Dance, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Museums, Music, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater & Musical Theater, and Visual & Media Arts. Application deadlines are February 12, 2026, and July 9, 2026, for projects taking place beginning in 2027.

Fiscal Year 2026 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MARC) Grants: EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Please visit the Types of Brownfields Grant Funding for an overview of the Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants. EPA has pre-recorded videos to provide an overview of the FY 2026 grant submission process, Application Information Sheet, and threshold requirements. The application submission deadline is January 28, 2026.

New York State Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program : This new \$100 million Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program is designed to increase the availability of quality care and expand the capacity of child care, including school age programs, across New York State by funding the construction of new child care facilities or expanding existing ones. The initiative is expected to add between 6,000 and 10,000 new seats at child care programs for New York families. The program will provide funding for design, construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment, and other capital assets for existing or proposed not-for-profit or municipal OCFS-licensed child day care centers and OCFS-registered school-age child care programs. The facility must be intended to be used as a child care program for at least eight years and should be located in an area with a current shortage of regulated child care services. Applications will be accepted from January 12, 2026, through February 13, 2026. Awards will be announced no earlier than April 15, 2026.

2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) : \$97.4 million

in new funding is available for active transportation-related projects and programs that support the advancement of healthy lifestyles across New York State. Projects selected under this solicitation will support the Department of Transportation's commitment to community-centered transportation by providing safe, reliable and resilient transportation systems. Selected projects, which include multi-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, will also connect communities, enhance the quality of life, protect the environment and support the economic well-being of New York State. TAP funding is made available to the State through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS-DOT). The application deadline is March 12, 2026. The application, program guidance and workshop schedules can be found here.

Brownfields 101 with the EPA: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Office recorded its "Brownfields 101" briefing for New York communities to provide an overview of the EPA's Brownfield Program. To view the recording, please contact Natalie Lincoln at natalie.lincoln@mail.house.gov or (518) 465-0700. Sign up for the EPA's Technical Assistance and Funding Resource Guide here!

Each month Hudson Valley Regional Council publishes its Grants Guide focused on federal, state, and local funding opportunities related to economic development, water, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability. Each grant listing features the deadline, eligibility, and a short description including the amounts municipalities are eligible to apply for and any required match. To view past Grants Guides, click here. To subscribe to the grants guide, please email epeck@hudsonvalleyrc.org.

New York School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP) : Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$200 million in new funding for zero-emission school buses through the Environmental Bond Act of 2022. Distributed via the NYSBIP, the funds support electric bus purchases, charging infrastructure, and fleet planning to improve air quality and reduce pollution in communities across the state. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis with incentive amounts covering up to 100 percent of the incremental cost of a new or repowered electric school bus. This helps offset some or all of the difference in purchase price between zero-emission buses and comparable diesel or gasoline buses. All school bus fleet operators in New York State can also qualify for funding for fleet electrification plans, which provide a customized roadmap for electric bus adoption.

Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest residential energy conservation program in the country. NYS WAP assists income-eligible homeowners and some renters* in our state by reducing heating and cooling costs through energy-conservation measures, while also addressing health and safety issues in their homes. Households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income are eligible for assistance. Program services are available to both homeowners and renters, with priority given to senior citizens, families with children, and people with disabilities. If a household contains a member who receives Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits or certain other forms of public assistance, the household is automatically eligible for NYS WAP services. Applications are accepted from renters, homeowners, and rental property owners. Potential program participants apply by contacting the WAP provider that serves their area.

RESOURCES:

New York Small Business Development Center (NYSBDC) - NYS Multi-Agency Small Business Resource Presentation : Watch this free session as representatives from several NYS agencies share information about resources and services available to assist small businesses. Topics include licensing, regulations, taxes, insurance, grants, training, and more.

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

**Sip & Sweets: A Valentine's & Galentine's
Wine + Chocolate Pairing @ Robibero Winery**

11 am - 5 pm

Numerous dates - please see website!

714 Albany Post Rd, New Paltz

The Rock & Roll Playhouse: The Beatles & More for Kids

@ Bearsville Theatre

11 am, February 7th

291 Tinker St, Woodstock

Swan Lake - International Ballet Stars

@ UPAC

7 pm - 9:30 pm, February 7th

601 Broadway, Kingston

Valentine's Dinner Party with Shale Hill Events

@ Whitecliff Vineyards

6 pm - 9 pm, February 13th

4150 NY-23, Hudson

Friday the 13th Anti-Valentines Day Goth Prom

@ Colony Woodstock

10:30 pm, February 13th

22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock

FEBRUARY

ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

Winterfest @ The Cornell

9 pm, February 13th

100 Rondout Landing, Kingston

Hot Chocolate Fest 2026

@ The Ashokan Center

10 am - 4 pm, February 15th

477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge

HV Jazz Jam in the Underground

@ The Falcon

6pm, February 18th

1348 Route 9W, Marlboro

7th Annual Sojourner Truth Life Walk

@ Dietz Stadium

11 am - 5 pm, February 21st

170 N Front St, Kingston

A Recipe To Die For - Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

@ The Hudson House & Distillery

7 pm, February 21st

1835 Route 9W, West Park

FEBRUARY

Gillibrand, Schumer, Alsobrooks Demand Accountability for Trump Administration's Abuse of Social Data

Washington, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), the top Democrat on the Senate Aging Committee, along with Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD), demanded a full investigation into the Trump administration's mishandling of Social Security data.

This letter follows the Trump administration admitting in court documents that staff from the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) may have used Social Security worker and beneficiary data to work with an advocacy group seeking to “overturn election results in certain states.” Additionally, the court filing revealed multiple flagrant violations of federal data security and personally identifiable information requirements.

“The unauthorized harvesting of Americans' Social Security data is a breach of public trust and a violation of federal laws,” said Senator Gillibrand. “At a time when seniors trying to access their checks are already facing skyrocketing wait times and delayed benefits, the Social Security Administration must focus on serving the public, not handing over our private data to political extremists. I will keep holding the administration's feet to the fire until they fully investigate this incident and develop a comprehensive plan to protect our data in the future.”

“Americans work hard their whole lives, paying into Social Security, and deserve to trust their personal information will be kept confidential. Trump's own Department of Justice is now admitting that Trump granted 'DOGE' staffers unprecedented access to Americans' private information with a complete disregard for privacy protections, violating the law and hardworking Americans' trust,” said Senator Schumer. “This could leave tens of millions of Americans vulnerable to identity theft costing billions of dollars. We need an immediate investigation, a full accounting of all of DOGE's impropriety and a comprehensive plan to protect Americans' data to ensure their private information is not exploited like this ever again.”

“It is deeply concerning that after repeated denials, we now know that DOGE - through its reckless actions - compromised private and sensitive information of the public,” said Alsobrooks. “It is incumbent on the well-being of our citizens that an independent and immediate investigation is conducted so that we know the size and scope of this data transfer, and those responsible for it are held accountable.”

As the top Democrat on the Senate Aging Committee, Senator Gillibrand is a staunch supporter of Social Security. She recently introduced three bills

to boost and protect benefits for seniors:

- Social Security Emergency Inflation Relief Act: would provide a \$200-per-month increase to Social Security checks until July 2026.

- Boosting Benefits and COLAs for Seniors Act: would increase Social Security benefits by leveraging the formula used to calculate yearly cost-of-living adjustments to better account for seniors' expenses.

- o Keep Billionaires Out of Social Security Act: would help undo President Trump's damage to the Social Security Administration.

In response to Trump administration cuts and overhauls at SSA, Senator Gillibrand has rallied alongside seniors and unions to demand a reversal of staffing and service cuts and advocated against the closure of SSA field offices across the country and in New York. Following Senator Gillibrand's advocacy, SSA reversed its decision to restrict certain phone services that serve as lifelines to beneficiaries seeking to access and maintain benefits. She also invited Commissioner Bisignano to join her in a visit to an SSA field office in New York so they can evaluate the impact the Trump-era changes have had on SSA response times, communication, and outreach.

The letter can be found here and below:

Dear Acting Inspector General Anderson,

In a January 16, 2026, Department of Justice (DOJ) court filing, the Administration acknowledged that DOGE affiliated personnel improperly accessed and transmitted Social Security Administration (SSA) - maintained personally identifiable information to outside parties. The DOJ disclosure follows repeated assurances from the Administration and SSA that worker and beneficiary data had not been compromised in any manner by DOGE actions in 2025.

On November 20, 2025, we wrote to your office requesting a review of a series of disclosures made by former SSA Chief Data Officer Charles Borges regarding the violation of significant agency data requirements, as well as for a recommended remediation plan, if needed.

This subsequent disclosure further elevates the urgent need for the Office of the Inspector General to conduct its own investigation, and to present its findings to the U.S. Congress and to the American public. For over ninety years since its enactment in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Social Security has served as our nation's primary program to combat poverty. American workers, retirees, and families expect, and rely upon, the SSA to operate in compliance with relevant privacy and IT laws, regulations, and protocols, and most importantly, for their Government to act on behalf of their interests and to do its best to safeguard their sensitive, personal information.

We look forward to a prompt reply regarding our renewed request.

Sincerely,



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. Those who register will receive an email prior to the event with a link and instructions on how to join the Zoom Webinar.



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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.

dolls for a project called
MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that
sends sweet dolls to
Children's hospitals.

Come join us!

JOIN US FOR
STRENGTH, STRETCH & BALANCE: AN 8-WEEK SERIES
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with Kathy Carey

Fridays: 11:30am - 12:30pm
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\$6/class

- Muscular Strength
- Endurance & Toning
- Flexibility
- Balance
- Coordination
- Cardiovascular Health
- Bone Density
- Joint Health

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

INTRO TO BEEKEEPING
with Rob Overton

Saturday, January 10
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
snow date: January 17

See if beekeeping is right for you - no pressure, no sales. We'll cover the essentials for starting well in the Hudson Valley and how to keep healthy bees over the long term. Whether you're brand new or want a solid refresher, you'll leave with clear next steps and local resources. Registration required!

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**



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

1. Delivering for New York

After Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding was removed from the most recent government funding agreement, Kirsten was proud to vote for the package, which will deliver billions of dollars to New Yorkers for critical affordable housing and transit upgrades, quality child care, vital mental health services, and health care for 9/11 first responders and survivors.

The bill now heads back to the House of Representatives for final passage.

Read more.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/senator-gillibrand-statement-on-5-bill-minibus-appropriations-funding-bill-and-dhs-ice-reforms/>

2. Demanding ICE reforms

Following the murder of two U.S. citizens at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents in Minnesota, Kirsten announced that she would not vote to fund DHS without serious reforms to the agency and increased accountability for federal agents conducting immigration enforcement.

After her and other Senate Democrats' advocacy, funding for DHS was removed from the funding package that passed the Senate this week. Kirsten is committed to working across the aisle to secure meaningful reforms to ICE.

Kirsten has also made clear that the fatal shootings in Minnesota demand full scrutiny, transparency, and accountability from law enforcement authorities. She is committed to continuing to push for justice and accountability.

3. Fighting Trump's tariff threats

President Trump's threat to impose 100% tariffs on Canadian goods would be detrimental to New York's economy-driving up costs, killing good-paying jobs, and harming small businesses.

At a time when prices are already soaring, working families shouldn't have to pay more for what they need. That's why this week, Kirsten demanded that President Trump stop illegally threatening tariffs against American allies. She will continue to do everything in her power to hold the president accountable for the hardship he's causing for New Yorkers.

<https://www.audacy.com/wben/news/local/gillibrand-concerned-over-latest-tariff-threat>

4. Pushing for transparency in drug labeling

As the top Democrat on the Senate Aging Committee, Kirsten, along with Chairman Rick Scott, held a hearing to discuss the lack of transparency in labeling for drugs sold in the United States. Kirsten examined the potential risks this poses to patients and the drug supply chain and discussed potential legislative solutions.

This hearing follows up on a bipartisan Aging Committee investigative report detailing the need to strengthen oversight of America's pharmaceutical supply chains and expose the U.S.' dangerous overreliance on foreign-manufactured generic drugs.

Watch here.

<https://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/truth-in-labeling-americans-deserve-to-know-where-their-drugs-come-from>

5. Fighting for NY farmers

Farmers are the backbone of our Upstate economy. We must support our farmers to make sure they can continue to deliver fresh, healthy food to our communities.

This week, Kirsten reintroduced legislation that would promote sustainable farming and help eliminate the steep barriers that farmers face when transitioning to organic methods.

<https://suncommunitynews.com/news/123546/reintroduced-legislation-helps-farmers-transition-to-organic/>

6. Helping constituents get health care

The widow of a 9/11 responder contacted Kirsten's team after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. The constituent's insurance company was delaying her request to be transferred to a specialized cancer center despite her doctors approving the move.

Kirsten's team reached out to her insurance company, and the constituent was approved for immediate transfer so that she could start receiving the treatment she needed.

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/>

Gillibrand Statement on Car Ramming Into Chabad Headquarters

New York, NY -- Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand made the following statement regarding the attack on Wednesday night when a car rammed into the headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic Jewish movement in Crown Heights, Brooklyn:

"I am horrified by the violent scenes from Brooklyn on Wednesday evening, when a car repeatedly rammed into the Chabad Headquarters," said Senator Gillibrand. "This blatant act of antisemitism is not only an attack on this one building, but an attack on Jewish people across New York and the world. Chabad headquarters is a faith home for so many, and this is a deeply disturbing act of violence. We must root out antisemitism and hatred in all forms. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Chabad-Lubavitch

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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 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!

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FLAT SCREEN MONITORS - minimum size 32" for marketing.

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COMMERCIAL PAINT SPRAYER

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MIKITA 18v BATTERIES

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

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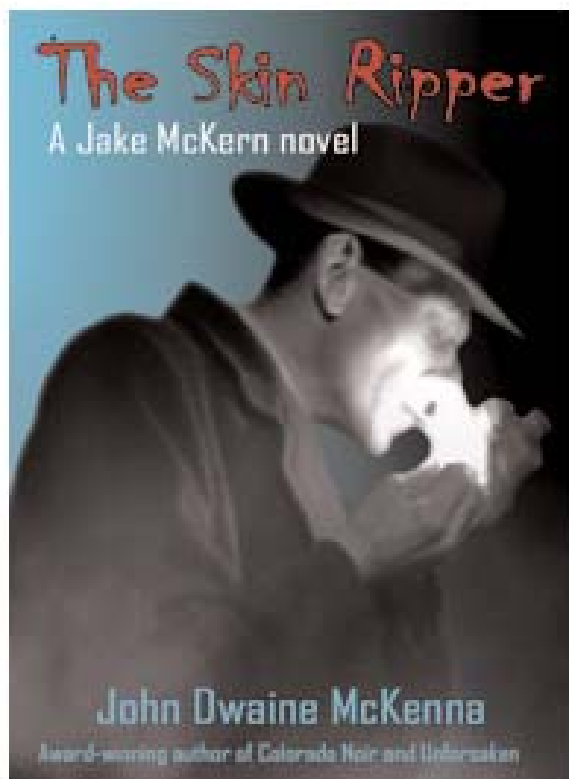
United Methodist Church, 170 North Main Street, Liberty
St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John Street, Monticello

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

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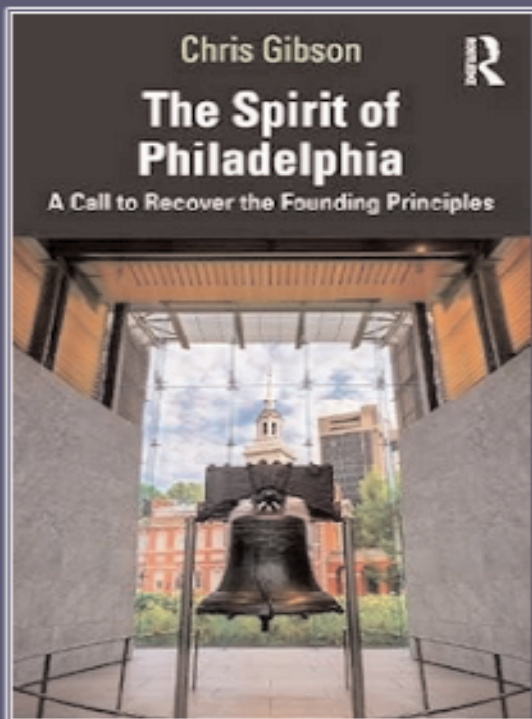
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The Spirit of Philadelphia

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



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.
Open to Tri-Valley adult residence only. Space is limited.**



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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



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Happy VALENTINE'S Day



Want to make your heart smile too?

Valentine's Day Card Event

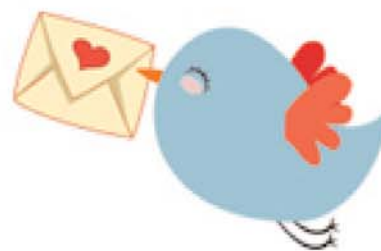
for ALL ages

*You can, by making homemade cards along with the
Daniel Pierce Library for the residents at
Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility!*

*DIY Valentine's Day cards will be available (while supplies last)
at the library for pick-up starting Monday, January 26th
through Thursday, February 12th during operating hours.*

You may also use your own supplies.

*Please return cards to the **red box**
in the library foyer by
Thursday, February 12, 2026
for our special delivery.*



Thank You!



I'M FIGHTING TO HOLD ICE ACCOUNTABLE

ICE under the Trump administration IS out of control. Masked agents tearing apart families, raiding schools, even shooting American citizens - this isn't who we are, it doesn't make us safer, and I won't support it.

That's why I'm demanding the Administration comply with a full, independent investigation into the killings in Minnesota. No one is above the law-especially those sworn to uphold it.

It's why I'm backing H.R. 4176, the No Secret Police Act, to ban federal agents from wearing masks and require them to clearly identify themselves, because accountability and transparency aren't optional in America.

It's why I voted against the DHS funding bill that green-lights ICE operations.

And it's why I'm backing articles of impeachment to remove Kristi Noem from office.

I LAUNCHED THE LOWERING UTILITY BILLS CAUCUS TO TAKE OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE UTILITY MONOPOLIES NATIONWIDE

No family in Upstate New York should feel like the power company owns them. But everywhere I go, that's exactly what I hear.

I'm taking on the utility monopolies to drive down your bills, and now I'm proud to launch the Lowering Utility Bills Caucus-bringing together folks from across the country to join the fight.

We're taking our power back.

I'M WORKING ACROSS THE AISLE TO KEEP THE AMERICAN DREAM ALIVE

Big investors are swooping in, buying up houses and pricing out regular families who've been working hard and saving up. My plan puts an end to it, because Upstate homes should be owned by Upstate families, not banks on Wall Street.

MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS FENTANYL HEARING

I was proud to bring together law enforcement, scientists, and families affected by the fentanyl crisis for a discussion on how to secure the border and crackdown on drug trafficking.

I will continue doing everything I can to stop the scourge of fentanyl in Upstate New York.

END CITIZENS UNITED

Upstate New Yorkers are feeling the impact of the Citizens United decision through higher utility bills, health insurance premiums, and grocery prices.

I spoke with Tiffany Muller of End Citizens United about the importance of getting corporate greed out of our politics.

DCEC LINE WORKERS

When storms hit, it's Upstate's amazing line-workers who pull us through.

It was great to be at SUNY Delhi with DCEC to see how they're training the next generation of workers for these good-paying union jobs right here at home. So when disaster strikes, we're ready.

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Had a productive meeting with the Tompkins County Legislature to discuss county priorities and see how I can continue delivering fed-

eral support to our communities. I'll keep fighting to make sure Upstate New York gets its fair share.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NAACP

Honored to join the Sullivan County NAACP in Monticello to celebrate Dr. King's legacy.

Washington runs on division. But back home in Upstate New York, I see neighbors doing the real work-lifting people up and bringing our community together.

That's the example I carry with me to Congress. Grateful for the welcome and the reminder that we're all in this together.

HUDSON COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Martin Luther King Jr. fought tirelessly for a future where every person has equal rights and opportunities, regardless of race.

At the community prayer breakfast in Hudson, we celebrated his legacy and reaffirmed our commitment to continuing that work.

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL CHURCH

Proud to stand with my neighbors at First Congressional Church as we honor MLK's legacy and continue fighting for a world where everybody is equal.

ELLENVILLE FIREFIGHTERS

Ellenville's volunteer firefighters show up for us every single day, but they're operating out of a rented garage and facilities that aren't safe. I'm working to change that.

Proud to support the push for a new, consolidated firehouse that will give these Upstate heroes the tools they need and the support they deserve.

BT-BOCES

Had so much fun talking with the BT-BOCES New Visions Law & Government class. The future of Upstate New York is in good hands!

SUNY CHANCELLOR

It was great to meet with SUNY Chancellor John King to see how I can continue supporting SUNY's federal goals.

SUNY has paved the way for so many in Upstate New York to get a quality education. I'm committed to having their backs in Washington.

GUTHRIE HOSPITAL

Great to visit Guthrie Hospital in Binghamton. With rural health-care under attack in Washington, the work they're doing to expand access and improve care has never been more important. I'm proud to have their backs.

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINEES

Whether it's volunteering at the fire department or carrying on a family legacy of service, Peter March and Nicholas Ferminian represent the very best of Upstate New York. I was honored to nominate them to West Point, and to take a few minutes to chat with them and their families in Jeffersonville.

Our country is in good hands.

STEWART PARK

Great to be at Stewart Park today to see the plans for the new Wharton Studio & Cafe. This amazing project will preserve Ithaca's history as a silent film pioneer and build a vibrant new space for the community to enjoy - I couldn't be more excited.

DELAWARE COUNTY LEADERS

Spent some time with Delaware County leaders discussing the issues that matter most: lowering the cost of living, protecting our communities from the chaos in Washington, and standing up for our farmers.



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Sullivan
Foundation
presents**

**The Met:
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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.

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Patron Silver

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All of the above benefits **plus** a private tour of the new Museum and a set of special Museum note cards.

Patron Gold

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

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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!

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Ulster County and Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Distribute \$130,000 to 32 Local Food Pantries Through Food Access Fund



Gail Bradney, at Woodstock Meals

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger and Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) announced today the distribution of \$130,000 in funding to 32 nonprofit organizations and food assistance providers through the Ulster Food Access Fund, a collaborative initiative launched by County Executive Metzger to address growing food insecurity amid federal funding uncertainty.

The grants support food pantries, meal programs, and community-based organizations working across the County to ensure residents have consistent access to nutritious food. Funding will help expand food purchasing capacity, strengthen distribution networks, and sustain essential services for individuals and families facing increased need.

Grant recipients include Angel Food East in Kingston; Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster; Church of St. Mary & St. Andrew in Ellenville; Family Outreach Food Pantry in Highland; Good Neighbor Food Pantry of Woodstock; Happy to Help Food Pantry in Kingston; Helping Hands Food Pantry in Gardiner; Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration; Kingston Emergency Food Collaborative; Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry at the Wallkill Reformed Church; Olivebridge Food Pantry; Rochester Food Pantry; Rosendale Food Pantry; SUNY New Paltz; the Salvation Army of Greater New York; Woodstock Meals, and more. In total, 32 food pantries

received support, with individual awards ranging from \$1,500 to \$10,000.

"Food insecurity is one of the most urgent issues facing our communities, and I am deeply grateful to every donor who stepped up to help following federal cuts to emergency food programs," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "We're lucky to live in a community that really steps up for those in need, and I want to thank Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley for partnering with us on this life-saving endeavor."

"Too many Ulster County residents are struggling to keep nutritious food on the table every day," said Laura Washington, president and CEO of CFHV. "This fund is about meeting that need with urgency and dignity. Partnering with Ulster County through the Ulster Food Access Fund is one meaningful way we are helping address this challenge. This collaboration demonstrates what's possible when local government and philanthropy come together to respond to urgent needs."

The Ulster Food Access Fund was launched in October 2025 by County Executive Metzger, in partnership with CFHV, to support frontline hunger-relief organizations who were struggling to meet demand during a period of heightened uncertainty surrounding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and following major federal cuts to the emergency food system. This effort builds on the \$350,000 in County funds County Executive Metzger dispersed earlier this fall to meet emergency food needs when federal SNAP benefits were halted during the government shutdown.

The Fund mobilized public-private partnerships between CFHV and the County to provide timely, flexible support. Thanks to the generosity of donors - including a combined \$20,000 contribution from O'Connor and Partners and the NYS Trial Academy - along with many heartfelt donations from community members, the fund is delivering essential support to help ensure families have reliable access to food.

"With all the financial pressures folks are facing with food insecurity and housing insecurity, we thought it was certainly important that we give back to the community and try to ease those pressures in any way we can," said Joe O'Connor, CEO and attorney at O'Connor and Partners.

"Funds from the grant will give our organization resources to accept more homebound, isolated, food-insecure elderly people than we've ever been able to accommodate before," said Gail Bradney, co-director of Woodstock Meals. "Woodstock Meals is here to meet the increasing demand we see all around us. This grant will make a real difference to many hungry, homebound neighbors."

"We are grateful for this generous grant that will help Rochester Food Pantry put food on the tables of families who are struggling now more than ever, where no family should have to choose between paying a bill or putting food on the table," said June Atherton, chairperson of the Rochester Food Pantry. "Based on an analysis of our food costs in 2025, we spend about \$0.95 per meal equivalent provided to our clients. Using this metric, the \$8,500 grant will provide for almost 9,000 meals."


Ulster County and CFHV will continue to work together to monitor community needs and identify opportunities for sustained investment in food access initiatives.



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YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

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

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

EVERY 1ST & 3RD
WEDNESDAY
@ 6:30 PM

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL




PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

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

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

EVERY 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAY
@ 6:30 PM



**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 to make
your lifesaving appointment today!

EAT WELL - HYDRATE - BRING ID

Walk-Ins Welcome - Appointments Preferred!





Homeschooling

Calling All Homeschooling Families!
Join a welcoming, self-guided homeschooling
group that meets monthly at the
Daniel Pierce Library.

Beginning
September 23rd

4th 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

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County **PRESENTS:**

D.I.Y. ENERGY SAVINGS SESSION

Thursday February 5, 2026, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Daniel Pierce Library
328 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Register now to reserve a FREE energy kit (\$45 value!) and learn how to take simple, D.I.Y. "do-it-yourself" actions to reduce energy waste and save money on your utility bills.

Also covered in the session: heat pumps, insulation, incentives for home energy upgrades, EmPower+, and HEAP. The do-it-yourself energy kit includes 2 LED light bulbs, weatherstripping, door sweep, power strip, window insulation, foam tape for windows/doors, and foam outlet & switch gaskets.

Register Now!

Scan the QR code, visit
www.sullivanccce.org/events,
or call (845) 292-6180.



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Smart Energy Choices — Mid-Hudson



**Family
Friendly!**



ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

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

Caregiver

Cafe' Support Group

Jan-June 2026



Jan. 5th Feb. 2nd March 2nd April 6th May 4th June 1st



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.



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**

Receive help on a variety of basic tech topics including:

- ▶ Smartphones
- ▶ Tablets
- ▶ Laptops
- ▶ Website navigation
- ▶ Downloading apps
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Messaging Apps
- ▶ Streaming platforms
- ▶ And more...

Bring your own device or use our computers!

We are here to help!




RAISE A READER.

Want to instill a love of reading in your children that will benefit them for a lifetime?

Get a library card.

You can fill your home with new reading material as often as you'd like, for **free**.

Sign up today!

For more information, stop at the checkout desk.

Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

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

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

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



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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

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

Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486

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



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



Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

accessupports.org

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

**Who will you
protect?**



Friends

Amigos

Familia

**¿A quien
protegerás?**

Get the facts.



Familia

**Obtenga los
hechos.**

**Talk to your
healthcare
provider about
the COVID
vaccine.**



Comunidad

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

#VaccinateSullivan

For more information, visit www.sullivanyny.us



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

**GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR
OUR UPCOMING
CERTIFICATION CLASS !!**

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

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544


awowk@chowc.net



**FOSTER HOMES
NEEDED!**



Veteran Peer Support



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

Vet 2 Vet



**Sullivan County
NEW YORK**

Pvt Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program

Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

[vet2vet@atitoday.org](mailto:veter2vet@atitoday.org)

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701

Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of
each month

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Discuss topics impacting women today, in a safe and judgement free environment. Opportunities to exchange ideas and share life experiences. Attend educational workshops and learn from guest speakers.

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*

Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



Find us on
Facebook



HELP WANTED**Blooming Green Lawn
and Landscape Sevice**

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Grahamsville,

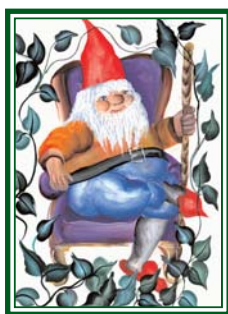
NY 12740. Phone 845-985-7411,

email: williamabrenner@hotmail.com

FOR RENT**2 Bedroom Apartment** with balcony,
Tri-ValleySchool District in Grahamsville.

Available Immediately.

Call 845-985-7411

Classified Ads**Only \$5.00 a week!****Gnome Home
Virtual Mall****gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com****... if you just want
to have some
'gnome made' fun..***Visit the gnome's
virtual on-line local shop**at:****<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>******Knarf's Classic Movies****Great for kids of all ages**on Amazon Prime****Ella Enchanted*****2004 • PG • CC • 4.7 out of 5 stars****1 h 40 min**Anne Hathaway is Ella in the charming fairy tale adventure *ELLA ENCHANTED*.On the day of her birth, Ella is given the gift of obedience, which is also a curse. Under no circumstances can Ella refuse anything she is asked to do. Tired of being taken advantage of, Ella leaves home to find her Fairy Godmother and return her unwanted gift. This simple errand soon turns into an amazing journey. **Directed by: Tommy O'Haver. Starring: Anne Hathaway, Hugh Dancy, Cary Elwes and Minnie Driver.****Answer to last week's Knarf's Trivia****Question:** Susan Sarandon**This weeks' Trivia question:** Who plays Melanie griffith's evil boss lady in Working Girl?