



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



Tri

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 21 NO. 6 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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New York State Troopers PBA Endorses Michael Schiff for Sullivan County Sheriff

The Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers, Inc. is proud to announce the endorsement of Michael Schiff for re-election as Sullivan County Sheriff.

Michael Schiff has more than 48 years of law enforcement experience and has led the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office with professionalism and integrity. He is a leader and mentor for all the members of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. As a retired Trooper with more than 27 years of service with the New York State Police, Michael Schiff continues to foster positive and cooperative working relationships between law enforcement agencies in the county.

Michael Schiff continues to be involved in the county in which he lives and works, and he takes great pride in serving as Sheriff.

It is with careful consideration that the PBA is endorsing Michael Schiff in the election for Sullivan County Sheriff. The PBA is confident that Michael Schiff will continue to guide the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office in a direction

that best provides law enforcement protection for residents.

More than 6,000 active and retired, uniformed members of the New York State Police from the rank of Trooper through the rank of Major are represented by the PBA.



SC Deputy Sheriff Dawson Returns Home After 14 Months Deployment at the California/Mexican Border



Deputy Justin Dawson of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division is welcomed home by his colleagues after a 14 month deployment with the NY Army National Guard. Dawson was deployed to the California/Mexico border in support of the U.S. Border Patrol and Customs. (L to R) Deputy Rachel Bitjeman, Deputy Rasidi Clarke, Deputy Bailey Mitchell, Deputy Justin Dawson, Deputy Ryan Lowe and Deputy Josef Haas.

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

Email: tytownsman@yahoo.com

Website: thetownsman.com

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

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

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

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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: Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation, my God will hear me.
Micah 7:7

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

February 2, 1955

Mr. and Mrs. Oral Goode of Grahamsville are the parents of a son, born at Liberty Maimonides Hospital on Thursday, January 20th..

February 3, 1965

Mrs. Edna Garritt, 78, of Woodbourne, died Saturday in Hamilton Avenue Hospital. Mrs. Garritt was born in Divine Corners on March 18, 1886 to George and Lucy Upham Turner. She was married to the late Oscar F. Garritt. She was a member of the Woodbourne Reformed Church. Survivors include two daughters: Miss Regina Garritt of Woodbourne and Mrs. Leila Kinch of Monticello; two sons: Leon Houghtaling of Roscoe and Carl Garritt of Woodbourne; two brothers and one sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Buley Jr. of the Woodbourne Road are the parents of a son born February 1st at Kingston City Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rose are the maternal grandparents. Mr. and Mr. Harold Buley Sr. are the paternal grandparents.

February 5, 1975

Judy O'Brien, who is a student at Cobleskill State Univ., made the Dean's List recently. Judy is majoring in Animal Husbandry, and fills her spare time playing guitar and enjoying music.

Paul G. Denman, 75, of Big

Hollow Road, Grahamsville, died Sunday in Middletown following a long illness. He was born in New Haven, Conn. on October 3, 1899 to William and Sarah Grant Denman. He married Martha Sutherland on Sept. 29, 1922 in Grahamsville. He was a retired farmer and Town of Neversink Justice. He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Donald Many of Sparta of N.C.; three sons: Paul W. of Napanoch, Raymond of Grahamsville and David of Hurleyville; five sisters and four brothers.

January 26, 1995

Elton e. Hynson a longtime resident of Grahamsville died Saturday, January 21. He was a Navy veteran of the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam War.

Congratulations to Kathi Smith of Neversink, one of 14 patient advocates at Community General honored for their work recently.

Students from Tri-Valley Junior/Senior High will have a chance to hear "big band" sounds of the 30's and 40's on Thursday, Feb. 9 in the school auditorium when the Swing Era Big Band of Englewood Cliffs, NJ will perform the original arrangements of such bands as Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Count Basie and Harry James.

The Third Annual Old Fashioned Ice Harvest at Frost Valley YMCA had to be postponed due to unseasonably warm weather. The event will take place on February 25th when guests will be helped by Frost Valley staff to take a turn cutting the ice from the lake using authentic ice cutting tools.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley
Published February 6, 1996

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

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

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

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

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

Household Hint:

Monetary Measurements

A dollar bill is 6.14 in. long. But you don't have to memorize that; just remember that a buck is about 6 in. long and you'll always have an approximate measuring tool in your wallet.

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 and Carolyn Coombe.

What are Bugs Up To These Days?

As cold-blooded creatures, insects are particularly susceptible to winter's freezing temperatures. To survive, this class of animals has developed a wide variety of unique adaptations and methods of surviving northern winters, including long migrations, creating their own anti-freeze and even purposely freezing portions of their bodies.

The Monarch Butterflies migrate south while the Woolly Bear Caterpillar goes through winter as immature larvae buried under heavy covers of leaf litter or a similar shelter where they are protected. Some simply burrow deeper into the soil to escape the cold.

Ladybugs snuggle together as they practice communal hibernation by stacking one on top of another on stumps and under rocks to share heat and buffer themselves against winter temperatures. Some ladybugs choose to overwinter in attics, and other out-of-the-way places in homes and other structures, as do a variety of wasps and flies, including yellow jackets, who are frequently found wintering in the eaves and attics of houses and barns.

A female grasshopper will tunnel into the soil and deposit her eggs as deep as possible in the soil in an attempt to keep her eggs safe through the winter.

The nymphs of dragonflies and mayflies live in ponds and streams, often beneath ice. They feed actively and grow all winter to emerge as adults in early spring.

A few insects lay eggs that survive the winter. In autumn the female Praying Mantis will lay her eggs before she dies. She often deposits them on a branch or twig, but also leaves them on walls, fences and eaves. They are surrounded by a frothy liquid, called ootheca, which hardens into an egg case about the size of a big marble. The following spring the nymphs hatch and burst out of the case in a small army of hungry youngsters, each the size of a small ant. Some insects like moths overwinter in the pupal stage, then emerge as adults in the spring.

Flies do not do well in cold weather. Once in a while you may find a common housefly in your house during the winter, but a housefly only has a life cycle of 20-30 days. Most flies survive in maggot or pupae form until the weather is warm enough for them to starting hatching and mating again.

Mosquitoes are out there even though we don't notice them. Certain mosquitoes lay winter hardy eggs in areas where the ground is moist. The eggs lie dormant in the soil until spring when conditions become favorable again and they hatch. Other mosquitoes can survive winter in the larval stage. All mosquito larvae require water, even in winter. As the water temperature drops, it induces a state of diapause (suspended development) in the mosquito larvae, stopping further development and slowing their metabolism. Development resumes when the water warms again.

Honey bees stay in hives during the winter, and form clusters when temperatures fall. They also are able to raise their temperature by vibrating wing muscles.

There are also insects that hibernate as adults. Many large wasps seek shelter in the eaves and attics of houses or barns. In some sophisticated insect larvae, the water content of their body is reduced, and they build up glycerol which acts as an antifreeze. This is one of the most interesting survival methods of Freeze-tolerant insects. They produce ice nucleating proteins. The regulated production allows insects to control the formation of ice crystals within their bodies. This allows the insect to moderate the rate of ice growth, adjust more slowly to the mechanical and osmotic pressures imposed by ice formation. Once freezing is initiated, ice will spread throughout the insect's body.

In general, insects are well adapted to survive cold temperatures in their winter habitats. Hearing the prediction from the groundhog in Punxsutawney, it looks like it will be awhile before most insects resume their non-winter lives.



Cluster of Ladybugs in Winter



Wasps in Winter

Fallsburg CSD Honors Scholar Athletes

FALLSBURG - On January 28, 2025, thirty-four Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School students were honored as NYSPHSAA scholar-athletes for the 2024 Fall season.



Each season, the NYSPHSAA honors teams and individuals who excel academically. To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, at least three-quarters of the students must have a grade point average of 90.00 or above. The Fallsburg girls' cross-country and volleyball teams were recognized as scholar-athlete teams.

Members of the girls' cross-country team that received the recognition were Autumn-Rain Atkinson, Joslyn Odell, Jaily Sebastian, Alisha Tremper, and Noelle Varner. Members of the volleyball team were Gelsey Aguilar Torres, Ashleigh Ardon Fuentes, Maya Ballard, Arslyn Cantave, Hannah Johnson, Zoey Ketcham, Brianna Noller, Madeline Pantel, Kaitlyn Pedersen, Dulce Rubio Granados, and Jordyn Wall-Carty.

In addition to team recognitions, students from the boys' cross-country, football, boys' soccer, and girls' soccer teams were named individual scholar-athletes. Those students are Jefferson Banegas Gallo, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Ethan Dunn, Treyvon Hayden, Hector Jami Cocha, Nicole Jimenez, Alisson Lagos Guardado, Nazier Lopez, Mayline Maldonado, Nazareth Manjarrez Paredes, William Martinez, Heysel Mejia Corcio, Dayana Murillo Madrid, Eric Mooch, Dalila Ortiz Fuentes, Colin Pavese, Robert Perrera, Marilyn Santos, and Jiahnnny Sebastian.

Have Fun, Food, and Be Trivial

Get ready for a fun afternoon at Casa Mia Restaurant, 205 Main Street in Hurleyville, NY for the Kiwanis of Woodridge's annual Trivia for a Cause. The date is March 1, 2025 from 1 - 4 P.M. (Doors open at Noon). This year's theme is Mardi Gras, so wear your best Mardi Gras mask if you like (1/2 masks only please). We will provide some other fun items.

Enjoy the fun and frivolity! There will be a Door Prize, a 50/50, and great Raffles to partake in. \$25.00 per person includes lunch and dessert, as well as entry for the Door Prize. Space is limited so please get signed up no later than February 20, 2025 to be assured a seat. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to assist students and families throughout the Fallsburg Central School District, which includes portions of the Towns of Liberty, Neversink, and Thompson as well as Fallsburg.

Registration for the event may be made by sending your check for \$25.00 each, along with each person's name(s), address, phone #'s, to: Kiwanis of Woodridge, PO Box 722, Woodridge, New York 12789.

Questions may be directed to Dawn at dawnkpln@yahoo.com or Diane at dsenn10151@aol.com

We are a non-profit 501(d) (3) organization. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your gift.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Live Music Returns to the County Museum!



Hurleyville, NY - On Sunday, February 16, at 2 p.m., the Frederick Cook Society will present an afternoon of live Americana and folk music featuring Hudson Valley favorites Annie and Mike Baglione.

Mike Baglione is a founding member of the bluegrass bands Tin Roof, Oxford Depot and the Jersey Mountain Boys. He has performed at coffee houses and on festival stages throughout the Northeast, and has also been heard live on radio stations WFDU, WJFF, WTBQ and WNYC.

Annie Baglione plays guitar, bass, concertina, and accordion. She performs throughout the Hudson Valley as part of the old-time band Breakneck Annie, and has performed on the famous Clearwater Sloop, as part of the Clearwater Music Festival.

Together, they perform traditional folk songs as well as the music of artists like Gillian Welch, John Denver and John Prine.

Carol and Aldo Troiani (aka Little Sparrow) will host this fun afternoon of bagels, coffee, tea and music, which will be held at the Sullivan County Museum, 265 Main Street, Hurleyville.

Admission is free - donations support the musicians and are much appreciated. Call 845-434-8044 for more information, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/littlesparrowny>.

Confirmed 'Bird Flu' Affecting Poultry on One Ulster County Farm No Known Human Cases have been Identified in New York State

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Department of Health was notified of a positive case of highly pathogenic avian influenza, also known as H5N1, or "bird flu," at a farm that housed approximately 50 chickens and ducks. All but two birds on the farm died as a result of the virus. As recommended by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the remaining two birds were euthanized in order to prevent further spread. Human contact with the birds was limited to the owners and a veterinarian, who will remain under surveillance by an Ulster County Department of Health public health nurse for symptoms over the next 10 days.

An outbreak of avian influenza began in the U.S. in early 2024 and has primarily affected wild birds, farmed birds, and dairy cows. Contact with an infected bird puts individuals at risk of exposure. Workers on dairy and poultry farms and culling operations are at highest risk.

"People working with poultry should consider wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when working in close proximity to the birds," said Ulster County Public Health Director Eve Walter. "All residents should avoid handling a wild or domestic sick or dead bird. The Ulster County Department of Health communicable disease staff is in direct contact with individuals potentially exposed to this confirmed case of avian influenza. If you or someone you know has questions or is concerned about a potential exposure, please call an Ulster County Department of Health communicable disease nurse at 845-340-3070."

Individuals who do not come into direct contact with sick animals are considered at low risk for avian influenza. National surveillance of milk is currently in place, and to date, no known human case has been identified in New York State. There are also no known cases involving domestic pets, but it's advisable to keep pets away from dead birds or animals to the extent possible.

Any birds demonstrating severe illness or die offs in backyard poultry should be reported to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502, or a local veterinarian.

Dead wild birds should be reported to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/wildlife-health/reporting-dead-wildlife>.

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

Sierra Six

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 118

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 475

Published February 10, 2022



Best-selling author, and a favorite of ours, Mark Greaney, has hit it out of the park with his newest "Gray Man" novel. Number

eleven in the series, it's a blockbuster in which the high octane action starts immediately and never stops.

Sierra Six, (Berkley Press, \$28.00, 528 pages, ISBN 978-0-593-098999-8), features Court Gentry, the aforementioned Gray Man –who's a principled assassin with a unique moral code –in two roles of what is actually a double yarn in one novel. In the first story, which takes place in the present time, Court is on a lone wolf mission in Algeria that he contracted for on the dark web through a broker.

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



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.

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

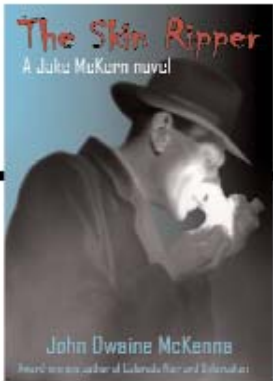
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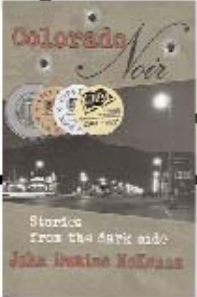
John Dwaine McKenna's Books
are now available at the
NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE













The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Flying is For the Birds

While my trip from West Palm Beach is still fresh in my mind, let me say this, "Flying is for the birds." I love to travel, but getting wherever is a hassle and takes a full day no matter where you go and when you go.

First of all getting to an airport is not easy. Whether you drive yourself or are driven, it involves parking at a big expense or paying gas, tolls, and a driver's wage. Why don't buses and trains go directly to an airport from someplace local. Where is our European or Asian network of fast trains, trams, and buses?

From where we live in the Catskills, the nearest airport is a good hour away. For a direct flight, one must go a few hours. Add that to a trip and the day is shot.

Luckily the drive to Westchester was about an hour and a half in good weather and traffic. Add the time to go through ticketing and security, and another few hours go by. Then the trip itself is under three hours. Then add another hour of Florida traffic to get to anywhere. There goes a day.

Coming home last night was a bit of a doo-doo show with one gate change, boarding, a short delay, then a notice that we needed to gather our luggage and deplane. As we were standing up to lug suitcases and bags, the pilot rescinded the order and said we should be leaving shortly. Nope. Wrong. Fifteen minutes later the next order was to deplane, so we grumbled and grabbed our belongings

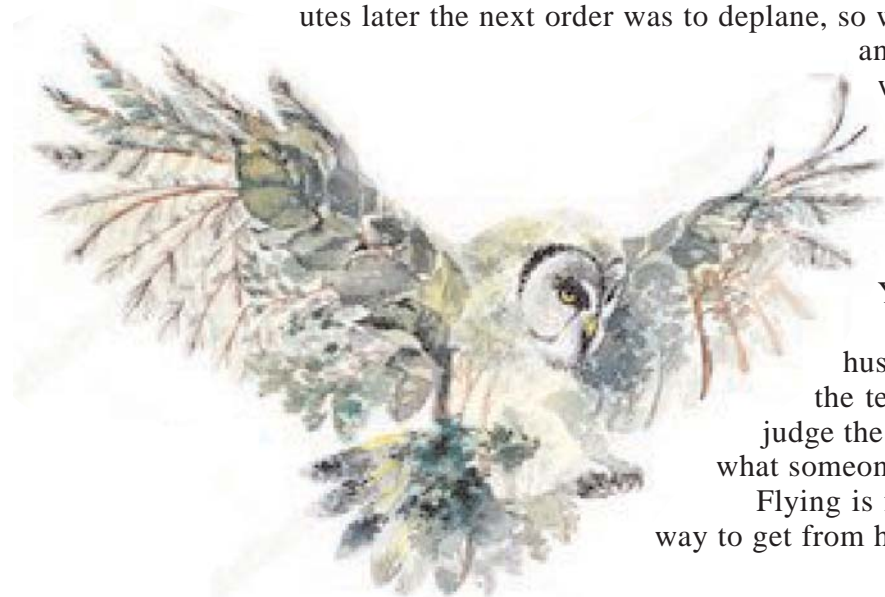
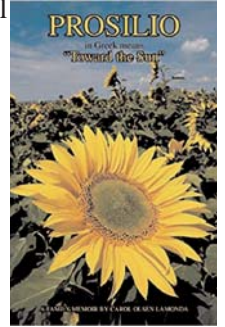
and headed back to the lobby where we were told not to go anywhere because an announcement would be forthcoming. Lo and behold, about seven minutes later, we were told we could board. Settled in, we managed to leave an hour and a half from original take-off time. Yay!

Not yay! At the other end, I had my husband ready to come fetch me. Imagine the texts that flew back and forth so he could judge the time to leave to pick me up. I wondered what someone would do without a cell phone.

Flying is for the birds. There just must be a better way to get from here to there.

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*



Another Successful 'Take Your Child to the Library' Day in the Books Thank you for participating!

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-The library was packed for our 14th annual 'Take Your Child to the Library Day,' celebrated Wednesday, January 29, with children and families participating in the many planned activities.



"Last week's 'Take Your Child to the Library Day' was another way for the DPL to welcome families to the library and encourage a love of reading for children. Despite the cold weather, we had 106 participants come to the library to enjoy the books, puzzles, blocks, trains, puppet stage, karaoke and more. My heart smiled all day with the constant flow of happy little ones!," Deirdre McHugh, DPL Children's Program Coordinator, said about the day-long celebration. (Contd. Pg. 8a)



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Another Successful 'Take Your Child to the Library' Day in the Books Thank you for participating!

(From Pg. 8)

It was the best way to spend a day off from school! It was truly amazing to see all our young friends come out and celebrate the library with us. In addition to the many activities offered, there were also crafts, including painting,

coloring and the Valentine's Day card making station. Of course, finding a quiet spot and reading was also encouraged as well as checking out books to enjoy at home. It was a very busy day!

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, now would be an excellent time to check out some love-inspired books. If you're looking for a rom-com that will keep you turning pages, look no further than *The Paradise Problem* by Christina Lauren. The story follows down-on-her-luck artist, Anna Green and her husband(?), buttoned up heir of a major grocery chain, Liam 'West' Weston and their unfortunate timing. If a week-long vacation with his hellish family doesn't implode their fake marriage, nothing will! This hilarious story takes a good close look at the age old question: exactly what are you willing to do for a massive inheritance? Come check it out or one of our many other excellent romantic reads. We have recommendations galore for anyone in need of a good pick. We've also started a rotating display of our 'staff picks' where we showcase books that we've loved. To find out why each book was chosen, you only have to read the included book-mark.

Speaking of Valentine's Day, we are asking our patrons to participate in our Valentine's Day Card Event. Every year we bring each resident of Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility in Liberty a special Valentine's along with a beautiful flower, thanks to the Tri-Valley Secondary School agriculture department. This year is no exception. To participate, come to the DPL for supplies (found in the library foyer) or use your own to make a Valentine's Day card. Drop the completed card off (to the red box in the foyer) by Wednesday, February 12th. We need a minimum of 130 cards so that everyone at Achieve can celebrate, so please stop by the library and pick up your supplies today!

In other news:

Registration for our Spring Children's Programs

is open. If you have a child between the ages of 12 months to four-years-old and reside in the Tri-Valley school district, please consider signing up for one of our three programs. If your child(ren) participated in the fall programs, they will need to be registered in the same program for the spring. For additional information regarding the specific programs please visit our website.

On Thursday, February 20th from 6:00-7:30 PM, we will be hosting one of our popular PBS Nova Documentary programs. Join local experts, John Kocijanski and Irene Pease, for an evening of exploration! We will be watching the PBS Nova documentary, *Inner Worlds*, which focuses on Venus and Mercury and getting additional insight from our experts. If you're curious about our galaxy, this is the program for you. Advanced registration is required (through our website).

Lastly, our hours have changed. They will now be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM to 4PM and Tuesday and Thursday from 9AM to 7PM. Please check our website and social media for any weather related delays or closings. It seems like February is setting up to be a snowy, icy mess.





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- **Stress Testing:** Measures how the heart responds to exertion, helping diagnose coronary artery disease.
- **Calcium Score Testing:** The calcium scoring test, also known as a coronary artery calcium (CAC) scan, is a non-invasive imaging procedure that measures the amount of calcium buildup in the heart's arteries.
- **Blood Pressure & Cardiac Risk Assessments:** Regular blood pressure checks and personalized heart health evaluations to identify potential risk factors.



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Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District District Fish Stocking Program

The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District is having their Annual Tree & Shrub Program. If you are interested, please visit the website at sullivanswcd.org or call us at 845-292-6552. Orders will be accepted online or in the mail. The District will be accepting orders until Friday, April 4th 2025, and pickup will be on April 25th and 26th. Please place your orders as soon as possible for better availability.

News from Frost Valley YMCA

It's been a snowy Winter in the Catskills and that means it's time for fun-filled snowy days and relaxing nights by the fire.

Join us for a full-range of outdoor Winter activities like snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and snow tubing!

When you're ready to warm up, you can cozy up indoors in your cabin or hotel-style room, playing board games or try our indoor climbing wall, pickleball court, and archery range. Visit our arts and crafts or woodworking studios to make your own mementos. At Frost Valley, there's something for every member of your family to enjoy.

Check out our upcoming themed weekends:

- Presidents' Weekend**
- Women's Wellness Weekend**
- Legends & Labyrinths Weekend**
- Memorial Day Weekend**

NOW is the time to register for Summer Camp 2025 - our programs are rapidly filling and several sessions are already full. Register today to secure your child's spot and avoid the waitlist. Learn more below and join us for an Open House on February 23, 2025!

Attention all Alumni: Registration is open for our upcoming BIG Alumni Reunion: August 29 - September 1, 2025.

We are also open to families most weekends September - June so if you don't see a date listed that you'd prefer, please contact us about availability. Call 845-985-2291 ext. 450 or email reservations@frostvalley.or to book your retreat today!



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Creating your own art is a form of meditation and a therapy unique to your own self. *In the Spirit of Sumi-e*, written and illustrated by Linda G. Comando, is an easily understood explanation including simplified drawings that will lead you on a path of relaxation and will reveal your own potentiality and creativity.

Now available on Amazon!
<https://www.amazon.com/Spirit-Sumi-Linda-G-Comando-ebook/dp/B077H87987>

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

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866-832-5575

NATIONAL: TEXT #HOPENY



Public Health
Sullivan County
Public Health Services



S.A.L.T.
SULLIVAN AGENCIES
LEADING TOGETHER

2025 Great Wall of Honesdale

Open call for artists in all mediums

This exhibit, a public art project of the Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA), is a high-visibility opportunity for artists from around the world to showcase their work. More than five million cars drive past the Great Wall of Honesdale (GWH) each year. "The Wall" is a physical display of twelve large-scale vinyl reproductions of horizontal artwork. The work of each selected artist is printed on an individual 11 x 17 foot vinyl panel. Chosen artwork is also displayed virtually as a permanent feature on the Great Wall of Honesdale's website, which includes links to artist websites and/or social media account(s).

There is no charge to selected entrants for reproduction/hanging/supplies related to the exhibit.

The twelve panels of newly selected artwork will be unveiled in June 2025.

2025 Theme: Connection

Definition(s):

- the state of being related to someone or something else; connection between, or to make a connection
- the act of joining or the state of being joined to something else, or the part or process that makes this possible
- a feeling that you understand, like, and are interested in someone or something

All interpretations are encouraged: what does "connection" suggest to you?

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

1. **SUBMISSION:** All GWH entries **MUST** be submitted through the CaFE portal: https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=14772

. Entrants must first register with CaFE at: <https://artist.callforentry.org/register.php>. There is no charge to register.

2. **ART:** Entrants may submit up to three (3) jpeg images for consideration through CaFE. Images must be at least 1,200 pixels on the longest side. Each file can be up to 5MB.

NOTE: Selected entrants will be required to submit a **HIGH** resolution TIFF image for printing (minimum 300 dpi and 5000 pixels on longest side), and must supply this digital file within two (2) weeks from notification (no later than May 15, 2025). This will be done separately from the CaFE application (via Dropbox, Google Drive, thumb drive, etc). Additional information will be provided to chosen artists.

3. **CRITERIA:** GWH selections must be **HORIZONTAL** (wider than high). Jurying is based on artistic quality, interpretation of the theme, and graphic strength. GWH is most often viewed from a distance, so strong graphic interest is important to be effective. All submissions must allow for minimal cropping, only as needed during the reproduction process.

4. **ENTRY FEE(S)/CHARGES:** The cost is \$30 for up to 3 entries. Selected artists will **NOT** pay for art reproduction and display on GWH, or for online promotion of work. Upon completion of the exhibit, artists may keep their own GWH panel, free of charge (must pay applicable shipping or arrange local pickup). Unclaimed panels become the sole property of WCAA.

5. **STUDENT ENTRIES:** In an effort to promote the visual arts and encourage future artists, one (1) of the twelve (12) panels on exhibit annually is reserved for a student entrant. Student entrants will be asked for additional information as a part of the CaFE submission process to identify educational level and institution. Student credentials will be validated as a part of the selection process.

6. **ENTRY DATES:** Call opens Monday, February 3, 2025. Deadline is midnight (MT) on Tuesday, March 31, 2025. Entrants selected will be notified by end of day (EST) on Monday, April 21, 2025.

7. **ELIGIBILITY:** Entrants previously selected for GWH in 2022, 2023, or 2024 are not eligible for GWH 2025. Entrants who do not adhere to the above rules will not be considered and forfeit any associated entry fees.

Please direct additional exhibit questions or inquiries to GWH Curators at: GreatWallEntry@gmail.com up until two weeks prior to submission deadline.

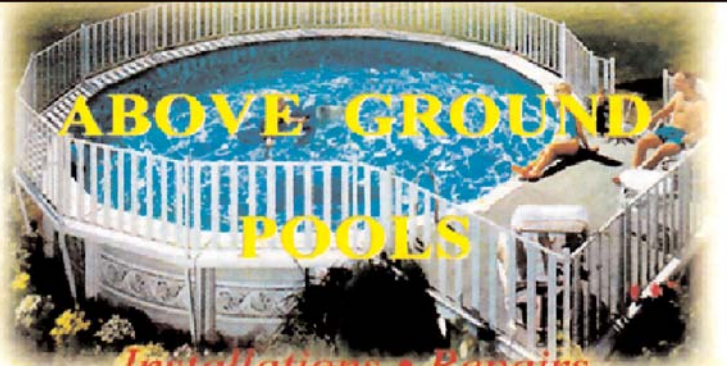
The Great Wall of Honesdale is a public art project of the Wayne County Arts Alliance, and is generously sponsored by businesses, organizations, and individual supporters. The Great Wall of Honesdale is located at the intersection of 4th Street and Main Street in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. To inquire about sponsorship of The Great Wall of Honesdale, please email GreatWallEntry@gmail.com.

Come see the gallery at Wayne County Arts Alliance (address listed below). To learn more about current art programs and community outreach, or for hours of operation, visit the Wayne County Arts Alliance website: www.waynecountyartsalliance.org. For specific questions or concerns, please email: waynecountyartsalliance@gmail.com.

Wayne County Arts Alliance is located at 959 Main Street Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431 US

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845-985-0501



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

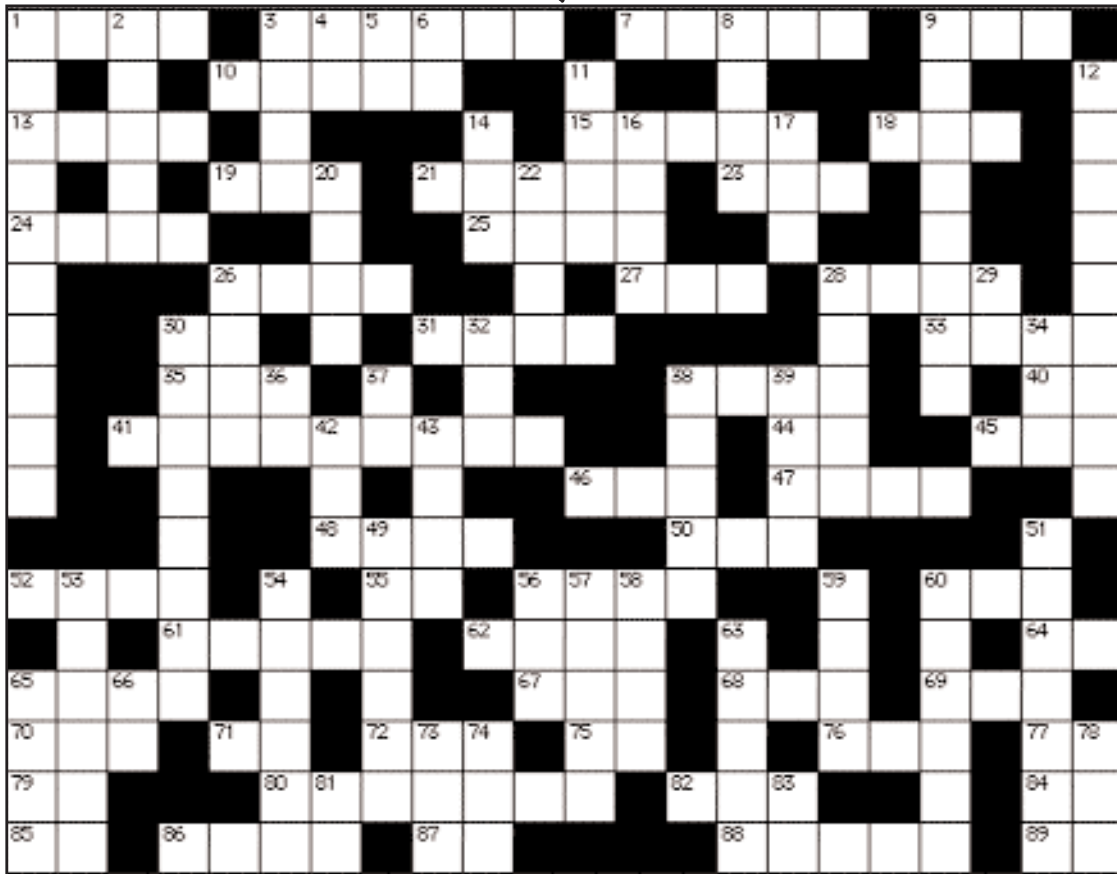
1st Friday BOOK CLUB



The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!

Our 16th President's Birthday - L. Comando



- ACROSS**
 1 Solid mineral
 3 Mostly
 7 Started
 9 Cost
 10 Snappy
 13 Cover with asphalt
 15 Being joined
 18 "Honest ____"
 19 Jewel
 21 Regular rhythm
 23 Mental sharpness
 24 Bundle of hay
 25 Decays
 26 Grow weary
 27 Compulsory contribution levied by the government
 28 Native of Thailand
 30 In the direction of
 31 Not confined
 33 Route
 35 Victorious
 38 Tatted trim
 40 Egyptian sun god
 41 Memorialize
 44 Before noon
 45 Still
 46 Excavate

- 47 Ability to look at words and comprehend
 48 American colonists who supported the Revolution
 50 Kept out of sight
 52 Mountainous
 Indonesian island
 55 Advertisement
 56 Abrupt stop
 60 Attribute of color
 61 Necessary items
 62 South American country
 64 To a great extent
 65 Old Glory
 67 Ritenuto
 68 Donkey
 69 Short sleep
 70 Not home
 71 To a higher position
 72 Consume

- food
 75 At the age of
 76 Cain and Abel's mother
 77 Extraterrestrial
 79 Ancient Sumerian city
 80 16th US President
 82 Writing instrument
 84 Colorado
 85 Regarding
 86 Not closed
 87 Chem element tellerium
 88 Small fried cake of sweetened dough
 89 Tennessee (abbrev)
DOWN
 1 Lincoln's political party
 2 Polite

- 3 Masculine
 4 Form of indefinite article used before vowel sounds
 5 Part of the mind
 6 New York
 8 Get bigger
 9 Second month
 11 A necessity
 12 Person nominated for election
 14 Short hair of some animals
 16 Bird's shelter
 17 Peck
 20 Lincoln's wife's name
 22 Folk tale
 26 Work extremely hard
 28 Pervading idea
 29 A Galilean moon
 30 Chirping noise
 32 A rodent
 34 Metric unit of measure equal to 100 square meters
 36 Northeast

- 37 Man's title before surname
 38 Source of illumination
 39 Comb and clean cotton fibers
 42 Tied knot with two loops
 43 Dry
 49 Hurry
 51 Deep admiration for someone
 53 Mysteriously attractive
 54 Human beings
 56 Third person singular feminine pronoun
 57 Born under the sun sign Aries
 58 Stringed instrument
 59 Dark pink
 60 Sincere
 63 Spoke with great enthusiasm
 65 Quartet
 66 Expressing location of a

- particular place
 73 Do something
 74 Foot digit
 78 2000 pounds
 81 Surrounded by
 83 Negative answer

Cherry Cream Cheese Dessert

CRUST:

- 3/4 cup graham cracker crumbs (about 12 squares)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

FILLING:

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling

In a small bowl, combine the cracker crumbs, sugar and butter. Divide among eight dessert dishes –about 4 rounded teaspoonfuls in each.

In another small bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually add milk until blended. Beat in lemon juice and vanilla. Spoon 1/4 cup into each dish.

Top with cherry pie filling, about 1/4 cup in each.

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Cryptogram

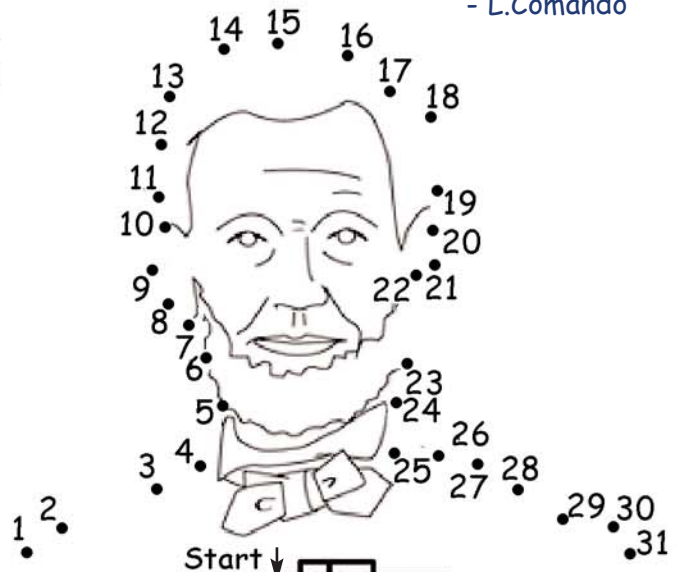
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Abe Lincoln's Birthday Fun Page

- L.Comando

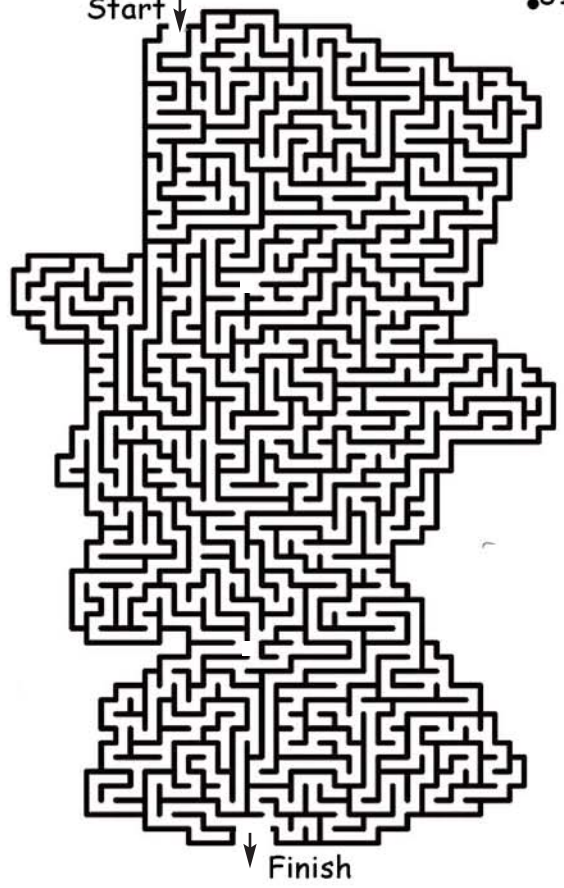
Find the 5 differences.



Lincoln's Birthday Wordsearch

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- PLANTATION
- UNION
- VICTORY
- ACRE
- CEMETERY
- FORDS THEATER
- CROP
- HONEST ABE
- REPUBLICAN
- PRESIDENT
- CONFEDERACY
- FRONTIER
- ILLINOIS
- ATTACK
- SLAVERY



Cryptogram Key

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LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The Town of Denning will hold a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2025, Titled: **“A Local Law providing for a Moratorium on Actions Subject to Special Use Permit Review for Applications Related to Short-Term Rental Uses for a Period of Twelve (12) Months”** on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 set to begin at 6 pm prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting.

At SAID meeting any and all interested person(s) will be heard either for or against the Moratorium which will allow the Denning Town Board, Planning Board and the Ulster County Planning Board adequate time to review and possibly make changes to Denning's Short-Term Rental Zoning Law.

A copy of the proposed law is available in the Town Clerks Office during normal business hours.

BY THE ORDER OF THE DENNING TOWN BOARD
Nancy Parrow
Town Clerk
January 28, 2025

1/30; 2/6

LEGAL NOTICE

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 Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School Lower Level Collaboration Center. The Board of Education is anticipated to enter an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. before the Regular Meeting begins. This Regular Board of Education Meeting shall be held at the time and place stated herein.

2/6

Notice to the Public:

The Village of Monticello Board of Trustees will be having an Executive Session at 5:00pm PRIOR to their Regular Meeting at 6:00pm on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 . All are welcomed to attend.

2/6

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting Thursday, February 13, 2025

at 7:00 p.m.

**at the Tri-Valley Central School District
Secondary School Lower Level Collaboration
Center**

**It is anticipated that the Board of Education
will enter into Executive Session prior to the
Regular Board of Education Meeting. The
Executive Session
will be held at 6:00 p.m**

<https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nAWhR6N%20%20Vao24w/live>

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

[LIBERTY, NY] - Sullivan 180 is now recruiting interns for the 2025 season! Young adults ages 16-20 are invited to apply for paid summer internships; where they will have the opportunity to work alongside volunteers to help communities, organizations, churches, and schools bring their ideas to life. Interns will also participate in a leadership, professional development and networking series and take part in a meaningful "Day of Service" project.

The program offers a competitive wage and unique opportunity to earn money while making a tangible impact in the community. Interns will gain valuable experience, learn new skills, and enhance their resumes-all while helping to brighten their neighborhoods.

“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 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. “Interns will develop their 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 27, 2025.



A Settlement Divided

Virtual Program by Sullivan County Historian John Conway

Sunday, February 2, 2 p.m.

Virtual Only

Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5

*T*elling the engrossing story of the Cushetunk settlement in the 1770s, as residents chose up sides in the American Revolution, and neighbors—even, in at least one case, brothers—who had for years depended upon each other for their very survival, took up arms against one another.

*F*rom Bezaleel Tyler and Moses Thomas—Patriots killed at the Battle of Minisink—to Joseph Ross and Robert Land—notorious Loyalists who befriended Joseph Brant—some of the settlement's most prominent men ended up on opposite sides during the conflict, which also severely impacted the women and children.

John Conway is an internationally recognized historian and historiographer who has served as the official Sullivan County Historian since 1993. He is a founding member and President of *The Delaware Company*, which operates Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg and provides historical programming at the Minisink Battleground Park in Barryville.

Time and the Valleys Museum

845 985-7700

Email: info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org to request link



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FAMILY WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

The MBK Family and Community Engagement Program in collaboration with Ellenville Regional Hospital RHN, SNAP-Ed New York & Cornell Cooperative Extension Invite Families and Students to take part in upcoming Family Workshops

Join Us For...

- Family Fitness Class
- Family Dinner & Nutrition
- Social Education Presentation
- Raffle Prizes
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2025 Dates:
February 10, March 10,
May 12, June 9

**5:00-7:00pm at Ellenville
Jr/Sr High School**

10th Annual

Wings & Wheels for Warriors

Saturday, May 17th 2025

Rain Date: Sunday, May 18th

9am to 3pm

Judging begins at 11am

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**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
March 1, 2025**

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday
Mass at 8:30AM.
Thursday, 3 pm Divine Mercy Chaplete followed by Mass

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

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

**Wishing you all
A Very Blessed
and Joyous
Christmas!**

Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am
350 Main Street, Grahamsville

Pastor Harriet Wilkin
845-985-2283

Grahamsville Reformed Church

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

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor
Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information



Loucks Funeral Home

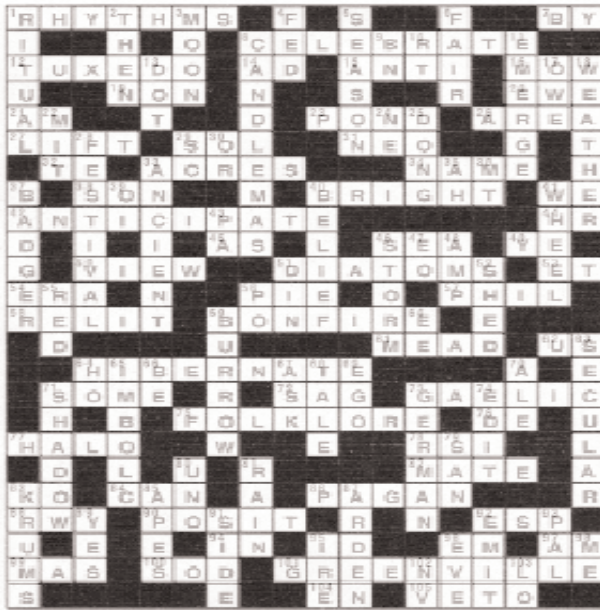
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

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

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also
WANTED
 People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
 answer

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



Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday,

March 1, 2025 5:30 pm
 at the Church Hall

Check out the tables with Yard Sale items
 available for sale

(Covered Dish Suppers are held the
 First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm
 at the Church Hall)

Order Your 4 Free At-home COVID-19 Tests

- Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests
- Do you want 4 free Covid Tests Kits?
 Go to: CovidTests.gov

COVID-19 testing can help you know if you have COVID-19 so you can decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce your risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower your chances of spreading the virus to others.

Your order of COVID tests is completely free - you won't even pay for shipping. Want to know when your tests are coming? Sign up to receive email alerts when you order!

\$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?
 Call us at 845-985-0501
 email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
 or visit our Virtual Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2/11/25 | Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall |
| 2/12/25 | Town of Neversink Organizational - Board Meeting |
| 2/12/25 | Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm |
| 2/16/25 | Claryville FD All You Can Eat Valentines Pancake Breakfast 8 am - 12 noon |
| 2/17/25 | Town of Neversink Holiday - PESIDENTS' DAY |
| 2/20/25 | Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town of Town Hall |
| 3/1/25 | Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church |
| 2/4/25 | Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm |

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2025** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsmen@yahoo.com or USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Ulster County Legislature**Weekly Update For The Week Of****February 3 - 7, 2025**

Legislative Committee Meetings are Livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>**Monday, February 3**

4:00 PM - Special Meeting of the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Board, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; 604 Bradford Court, Boynton Beach, Florida, 33436; 44 Bingham Road, Marlboro, 12542 & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 8373 5000 565 Passcode: 588644
 CANCELLED - Ulster County Traffic Board

Tuesday, February 4

4:00 PM - Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
 6:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee) - Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

Wednesday, February 5

5:00 PM - **Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
 6:00 PM - Ulster County Human Rights Commission, in the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston
 7:00 PM - Ulster County Planning Board, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, February 6

o 4:00 PM - Housing & Transportation Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream
 o 5:00 PM (Or Immediately Following Housing & Transportation Committee) - Health, Human Services & Human Rights Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Legislature Livestream

Friday, February 7

o 3:30 PM - Housing Policy & Oversight Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

**SONG CLUB at MISU**

Every last Saturday of the month
All ages and voices welcome

Song Club is a drop-in singing experience that builds community through singing original arrangements of familiar songs in a safe and welcoming environment.

The audience is the choir!
 For more information visit our website

40 Market St. Ellenville
www.misucatskills.org
 845.377.3727



@Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties

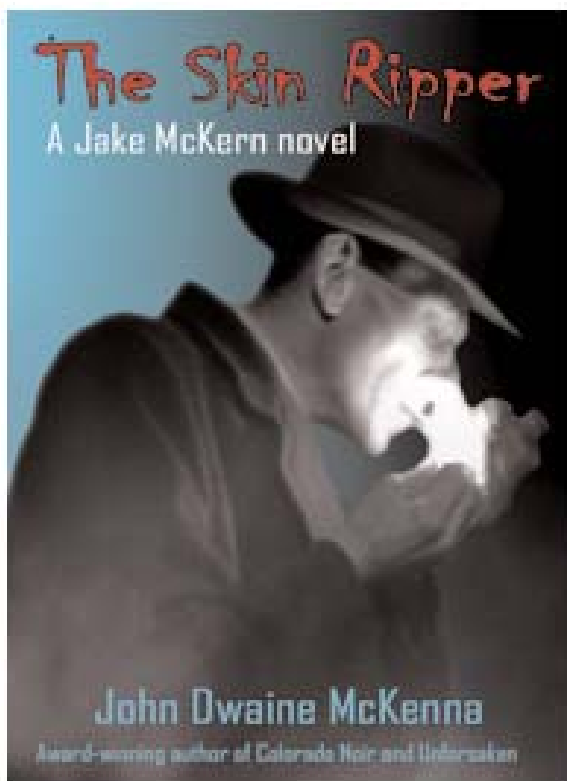
@misucatskills

The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

Neversink General Store

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple
And bookstores everywhere.

Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Presents:

Vendors Wanted!



Winterfest

2025

Feb. 8th
11a-4p

Ice Skating - Food Vendors
Snowman Build - Craft Vendors &
Much much more!

Now Accepting Vendor Applications!!
email: parksandrec@townofneversink.org

Alternate date: Feb 22nd

TRIVIA FOR A CAUSE MARDI GRAS STYLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(Doors open at Noon)

CASA MIA RESTAURANT

205 MAIN ST., HURLEYVILLE, NY 12747

\$25.00 per person

(includes lunch and dessert)

Door Prize; 50/50; Raffles.

Wear your best Mardi Gras mask if you like
(half mask only please)



Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to assist students and families throughout the Fallsburg Central School District.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
KIWANIS OF WOODRIDGE, PO BOX 722, WOODRIDGE, NY 12789**

Names attending: _____

Attending: _____ **@ \$25.00 Each TOTAL DUE:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Must be signed up by 02/20/2025 to be guaranteed a seat.

High School Graduation Rates Increase at Fallsburg CSD

FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District is excited to announce a significant milestone regarding their graduation rate.

According to recent data from NYSED, the district's overall graduation rate has increased from 66% to 78% from 2023 to 2024. Additionally, graduation rates for males and females increased from 67% to 71% and 65% to 84% respectively. The overall dropout rate also saw a noticeable decrease, with the rate decreasing from 18% to 13%.

"In 2006, our graduation rate was 50%. The current graduation results are certainly something the School District can be proud of as it represents a collective effort of students, staff, families and the school community as a whole," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz. "This team effort has been two decades in the making. Our efforts must continue until we have a near perfect graduation rate!"

The district credits this accomplishment to its staff and the broader school community for their relentless dedication to academic success and addressing the needs of students. They hope to continue building on this success for the foreseeable future.

River Rep's 2nd Annual Gala Benefit is Saturday April 26th at the DVO in Lake Huntington

This is our biggest fundraiser of the season, and the funds raised are crucial to bringing The Neverending Story to life: to create the theatre magic that is sure to entertain children of ALL ages; to pay the nearly two dozen theatre artists being employed on this project; and to allow River Rep to continue its 2025 season.

And we aren't asking for a handout here (not this time anyway). This will be a fun event with food, live entertainment, chances to win exciting silent auction items, and more.

So, please, mark your calendar. And I hope to see you on April 26th, if not before.

Oh, and if anyone has any goods or services they would like to donate to our silent auction, please let me know (that would actually be a much appreciated handout).

Two-Headed Trout Dinner - Saturday, April 5!

Mark your calendars! The 64th Annual Two-Headed Trout Dinner is just around the corner on Saturday, April 5! The theme of this year's dinner is "Celebrate Roscoe," and we can't wait until we're all back together at the Rockland House, honoring the people and the past times that make Roscoe so special. Tickets will go on sale soon, so keep an eye on your email inbox and on our social media channels (@visitroscoe on Instagram, and @Roscoe, NY - Roscoe Chamber of Commerce on Facebook).

Special thanks to local artist Jess Hild who created this year's artwork seen below!

For anyone interested in purchasing ad space in our program or donating an item to our raffle or silent auction, please reply to this email and we'll work out the details with you! See the flyer below for information on ad sponsorship levels, and don't forget to contact us by February 28 if you'd like an ad included in the program.

Sun Trail Storage 

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

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



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

Please call for availability first

Help your local business grow
Advertise locally in
The Townsman!

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

Display Ads

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

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

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

Low Rates
High Visibility!



2025 SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV winter schedule

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



| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>JEFFERSONVILLE</p> <p>Tues January 7</p> <p>Tues February 4</p> <p>Tues March 4</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY</p> | <p>WURTSBORO</p> <p>Thurs January 23</p> <p>Thurs February 20</p> <p>Thurs March 20</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY</p> | <p>NARROWSBURG</p> <p>Tues January 21</p> <p>Tues February 18</p> <p>Tues March 18</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY</p> | <p>HORTONVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 16</p> <p>Thurs February 13</p> <p>Thurs March 13</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY</p> |
| <p>LIVINGSTON MANOR</p> <p>Tues January 14</p> <p>Tues February 11</p> <p>Tues March 11</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY</p> | <p>GRAHAMSVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 9</p> <p>Thurs February 6</p> <p>Thurs March 6</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY</p> | <p>LIBERTY</p> <p>Tues January 28</p> <p>Tues February 25</p> <p>Tues March 25</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY</p> | <p>BLOOMINGBURG</p> <p>Thurs January 30</p> <p>Thurs February 27</p> <p>Thurs March 27</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>73 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY</p> |

Schedule an appointment on the county website sullivanny.gov | County Clerk Russell Reeves

Celebrate Winter at the 5th Annual SnO&W Snowshoe or Hike on the Historic O&W Rail Trail in Parksville on Feb 22

[PARKSVILLE, NY] - Come out and celebrate winter with the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance on Saturday, February 22nd at 10:30 AM on the historic O&W Rail Trail in Parksville.

The SnO&W started in 2020 as a snowshoe fun run and walk and rotates locations each year to feature a different segment of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes or similar gear if they have them. Limited snowshoes and microspikes will be available to rent, free of charge, on a first come, first served basis.

“The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail is a trail for everyone, and winter is a great time to experience the trail!” said Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Planning Director and member of the Alliance.

“February 22nd is a big day for Liberty. We are very proud that our Parksville segment of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail is being featured at this year’s annual SnO&W event. This stretch from Cabernet Franks to the Fox Mountain Trail Head parallels the pristine trout-loving waters of the Little Beaverkill offering users a unique and engaging trail experience,” said Town of Liberty Supervisor Frank DeMayo. “Additionally, we have the All Things Liberty Winter Festival event hosted by Liberty Central Schools happening between 10 AM and 2 PM in the middle and high school gymnasiums. This event will showcase local craft vendors and community organizations. Come out on February 22 and enjoy all Liberty has to offer!

Participating fire departments in the Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge will receive 3 points for attending with five or more active members.

The event will begin at the Parksville Rail Trailhead at 40 Main St, Parksville, NY 12768. The location can also be found on Google Maps as “Parksville Rail Trailhead B.” Visit www.SullivanOandW.com/Events or visit the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance on Facebook for up-to-date event information.

Olive Free Library

OLIVE FREE LIBRARY

Tiny Art Show

Come join us during library hours to see the tiny artwork on display!

on view February 1 - 28



Saturday
Movie Matinee
at the Library
February 8 at 1pm
Fly Me to the Moon

FLY-TYING SERIES

SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
 FEBRUARY 8, 15, 22 & MARCH 1, 8

Come once, come twice, come every time!
 Learn to tie flies for fly-fishing from Trout Unlimited
All materials provided. Space is limited—please register!



CHAKRA CLASS

WITH HUDSON VALLEY MEDITATION & REIKI

February 15th at 11 a.m.

Space is limited; please register!



Daniel Pierce Library


HAVE A QUESTION?

Join us Thursday, February 13th from 9-12 p.m. for an opportunity to meet with Ellenville Regional Hospital Representatives to hear and ask questions on services they provide to the community.

Including:

- Men & Women's Health
- Sports Medicine
- Physical Therapy
- Patient Care Planning
- Digital Imaging
- Cardiac Rehab
- Specialty Services

ASK



....and much more!

Multiplicity: Together and Apart



featuring 11 regional artists whose works are presented as multiple pieces that are intended to work together or work individually

Curated by Jan Sosnowitz

January 18 – March 1, 2025

Opening Reception: Sat., January 18, 3 – 5 pm

Artists' Meet & Greet: Saturday, March 1, 2:30 – 4 pm

Artists in the show: Lowell Miller, Robert Ohnigian, Vincent Pidone, Alan Samalin, MJ Shepard, Frank Tagariello, Nova Darkstar, Ted Dixon, Robin Factor, Pat Hough, Sarah Mecklem

OLIVE FREE LIBRARY
 4033 Route 28A
 West Shokan, NY
 olivefreelibrary.org
 845.657.3482

Olive Free Library

6 Weeks

SATURDAY YOGA SERIES

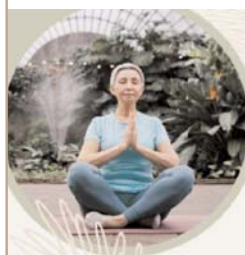
Limited time ONLY 9-10 A.M.

Instructor: Kathy Carey

Saturdays
 Feb. 8, 15, 22
 March 1, 8 & 15

\$36

Sign up in advance.
 Pay for series at first meeting



Local Native American Portage Routes

Virtual Program by Author Evan Prichard

Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m. Virtual Only
Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5



A presentation on the Native American portage routes of Rondout Creek, Chestnut Creek, Neversink River, Callicoon Creek and Delaware River.

Evan Prichard is a descendant of the Micmac people, founder of Center for Algonquin Culture, and former Professor of Native American history and ethics at Marist College. He is the author of *Native New Yorkers*, *The Legacy of the Algonquin People of New York*. He is also the author of the widely praised *No Word For Time*, *The Way of the Algonquin People*, and many other books, including an Algonkian language series.

Time and the Valleys Museum

845 985-7700

Email: info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org to request link



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



March 1, 2025

5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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



Please Help Save Our School!

The Claryville Reformed Church and the Time and the Valleys Museum
are working together to preserve and open
the historic 1848 Claryville One Room School, and we need your help.

A donation of ANY amount will go directly to the 1848 Claryville School and help:

- inventory the many historical items.
- purchase acid-free storage supplies for artifacts, photos and documents.
- repair the building and restore the one room school interior.
- open the school to the public on a regular basis.
- provide programs for children and adults.

PLEASE make a tax-deductible donation today using the form below or go to www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. This historic building is an important part of our fading past and should be preserved and enjoyed by all - your donation will make that happen!

Thank You!

Yes! I would like to make a donation to preserve and open the 1848 Claryville School.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other

Please mail your check to:
Time and the Valleys Museum
P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740
or go online:
[www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/
support/donate](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Thank you so much for your donation.
Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Got History?

Get Museum Membership & FREE Admission to over 30 Museums for only \$25 a year!

- ◆ Free admission to all in-person and virtual programs
- ◆ Free admission to the Museum and Catskill Farm
- ◆ Invitations to exhibit openings and special events
- ◆ *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter
- ◆ Monthly historical and informative emails
- ◆ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- ◆ FREE admission to over 30 other museums in New York State



Join NOW and get a free art catalogue!

Join at the \$100 (Patron) level for FREE admission to thousands of museums all across North America!

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

- Individual \$25
- Double \$40
- Family \$50
- Patron \$100
- Patron Silver \$200
- Patron Gold \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum

Time and the Valleys Museum

P.O. Box 254, 332 Main Street, Grahamsville NY 12740

★ Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Inner Worlds



Thursday, February 20, 2025
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Snow Date March 6th

Recommended for adults and students ten and up

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary,

Inner Worlds focusing on Venus & Mercury.

Lets discover these planets together with additional insight from our experts.

If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org.

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



Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-386-7233
www.danielpiercelibrary.org

2025 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge Off To a Hot Start as the Temperature Drops!

[LIBERTY, NY] - The Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge kicked off a third year on January 1, 2025. To date, 15 of Sullivan County's Volunteer Fire Departments have signed on to participate. As temperatures dropped during the wintery months of the challenge, departments braved the icy waters of White Lake at the Freeze for A Cause Polar Plunge in support of Alzheimer's research.

"Sullivan 180 offering Turtle Points for fire company participation is what really helped push this event over the top. The donations from departments, members and spectators have brought in over \$2000.00 to the Alzheimer's Association. Having seven fire companies participate was amazing," said Terry Grafmuller, 11-year jumper in the Subzero Hero Alzheimer event.

2025 Participating Fire Departments: Bloomingburg, Callicoon Center, Gramsville, Hortonville, Jeffersonville, Kauneonga Lake, Liberty, Livingston Manor, Lumberland, Monticello, Narrowsburg-Lava, Rock Hill, Roscoe-Rockland, Smallwood-Mongaup Valley, White Lake, and Woodbourne.

"In just the first few months of the Challenge, our dedicated volunteer firefighters have completed an impressive 200 health-focused activities!" said Lindsay Wheat Sullivan 180 Outreach Program Manager. "They have powered through 100 physical activities to stay active outdoors; and prioritized wellness through screenings, completing mental health training videos, and turning up the heat in the kitchen by swapping out pizza for nutritious, home-cooked meals!

The challenge calls attention to the mental and physical health of our firefighters. Firefighting is physically and emotionally demanding from the moment the tones drop. More than half of all firefighters have elevated blood pressure; are obese and pre-diabetic. 90% or more have poor diet or exercise habits, additionally, suffering from heart disease, PTSD and lead in suicide more than any other first responder. Firefighters are consis-

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Counsel in the
Catskills*



25 Darbee Lane, Liberty



**REAL ESTATE • CIVIL • FAMILY • DWI
ESTATES & TRUSTS • INJURY & MORE**

tently managing the balance between family, work and serving their community. Absorbing the trauma of each call has impacts that are not always visible or obvious.

To make this challenge fun and competitive, departments receive credit in the form of 'turtle points' for each health focused activity they complete. The department that earns the most turtles will be eligible for grant funding through Sullivan 180 and our partners.

The grant level is based on the final points completed by September 1, 2025. The two departments that earn the most turtle points will be eligible for a grant in the amount of \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Additional grants will be awarded based on a tiered point system. Winners will be announced at the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Parade in Monticello on September 6, 2025.

Last year, Monticello Fire was named the Healthiest Fire Department and awarded a well-deserved grant in the amount of \$15,000. Roscoe-Rockland Fire was awarded a \$10,000 grant, coming in second. To follow the challenge and its participating departments, visit Sullivan180.org.



Want to make your heart smile too?

Valentine's Day Card Event

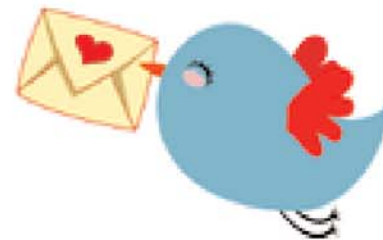
for ALL ages

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 Wednesday, January 29th through Wednesday, February 12th during operating hours.

You may also use your own supplies.

*Please return cards to the **red box** in the library foyer by 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 12, 2025 for our special delivery.*



Thank You!

Don't Miss DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE Off-Broadway!

After a critically acclaimed run at SHADOWLAND STAGES and Penguin Rep Theatre this summer, Ken Ludwig's *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* is moving Off-Broadway to 59E59 Theaters! Presented by Penguin Rep Theatre and SHADOWLAND STAGES, the production runs January 18-February 16 and features the original cast and director: Alexandra Fortin, Michael Liebhauser, and director Stephen Nachamie.

This heartfelt play tells the true story of Ludwig's parents, who fell in love through letters during World War II. With Ken Ludwig's signature warmth and humor, *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* captures the enduring power of hope and connection in trying times.

What the critics say:

"A letter-perfect love story" - *BroadwayWorld*

"A delightfully warm-hearted romantic comedy... brimming with infectious optimism." - *Talkin' Broadway*

If you loved it at SHADOWLAND or haven't had the chance to experience this beautiful production, now's your opportunity to see it at 59E59 Theaters!

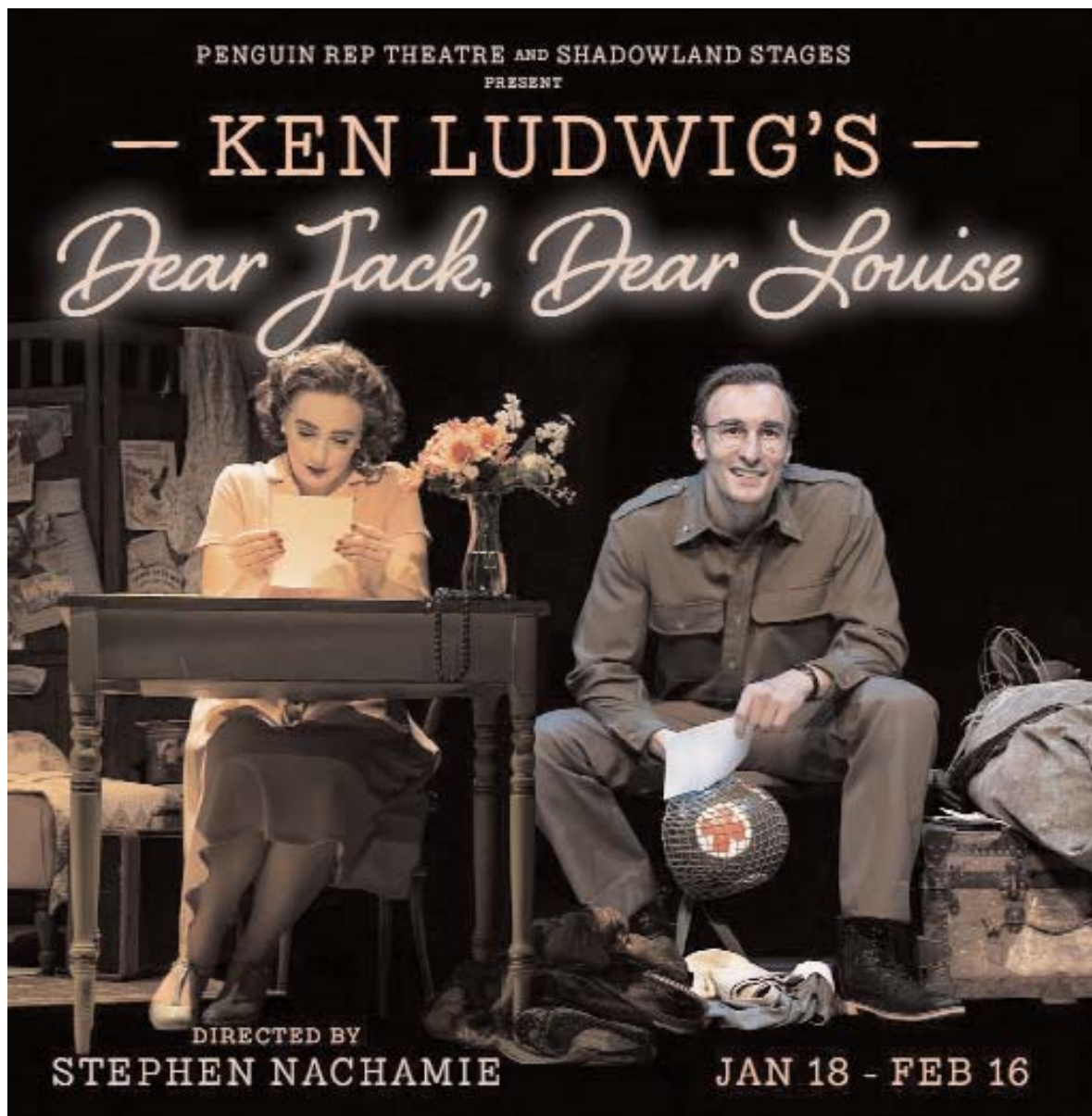
Special event - Join a post-show talkback with Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig and Joe Brancato, Artistic Director of Penguin Rep Theatre, on Friday, January 31, following the 7:00 PM performance.

Details: January 18-February 16 Run Time: 1 hour, 45 minutes

59E59's Theatre A Tickets: \$66-\$86

Click here for tickets

https://59e59.org/shows/show-detail/ken-ludwigs-dear-jack-dear-louise/?mc_cid=71fdf21bcc&mc_eid=138a9b9d06#schedule-and-tickets





BLUE MOUNTAINS TROUT NEWS

Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed
Chapter of Trout Unlimited:
Blue Mountains Trout News
JANUARY 2025

By Ed Ostapczuk



A quiet Mother's Pool winter scene.
Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Chapter Meetings in Early 2025

As mentioned in the December newsletter, no chapter meeting is scheduled for January. The next chapter meeting will be held on February 27 at the Boiceville Inn. That will be a fly-tying evening, in conjunction with our fly-tying classes happening during the month. See below for information on those classes. There will be another newsletter in February prior to that meeting.

December Chapter Holiday Party

We had a very nice turnout at the Holiday Party held December 18 at the Boiceville Inn. The food was grand and the atmosphere very festive. Over two dozen folks attended. Thanks rendered to the Boiceville Inn and everyone involved.



Holiday Party at the Boiceville Inn
Photos by Ed Ostapczuk



Participants may learn to tie a Royal Wulff, pictured above. Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

Chapter Fly Tying Classes Start in February

Forget the Polar Vortex and get ready. In the revered tradition of the late Hank Rope, and Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection, our chapter's winter fly-tying classes begin at the Olive Free Library - on NY 28A in West Shokan - on the following dates: February 8, 15, 22, and March 1 and 8, 2025. All are Saturday events with classes held from 10 AM to 2 PM.

All classes are FREE, open to chapter members and nonmembers alike. No experience or fly-tying equipment/materials are needed; the chapter will supply these for new tyers wishing to learn. However, registration is required for those seeking instruction, in order to ensure that we have sufficient materials and instructors, making this a positive experience for everyone. To register email Tony Coccozza at: <mailto:Flyfish@hvc.rr.com>. (Contd. Pg. 40)



Chapter of Trout Unlimited

(From Pg. 39) These classes are sequential in nature, in that tying skills taught each week build upon techniques learned in prior weeks, so beginners should try to attend all classes. Experienced tyers are always welcome to assist or just tie flies in the comradeship of other tyers. See ya there, and let's get tying!

Sad News: Noting the Passing of Two Angling Giants

By now, most folks have probably learned of the passing of Ed Van Put. Ed, a retired NYS Department of Environmental Conservation fishery technician, was quite the conservationist, fly fisher, author, and lover of our Catskill waters. Many know Ed for his definitive book on one of our most iconic Catskill trout streams - "The Beaverkill: The History of a River and Its People." However, many may not know that without Ed's efforts, much of our Catskill Public Fishing Right (PFR) waters would not exist today, especially all along Esopus Creek. All anglers owe Ed our eternal thanks; we were graced by his presence. Ed's obituary recounting a life well lived is found here:

https://www.harris-fh.com/obituaries/edward-van-put?mc_cid=1ab6008f26&mc_eid=e188ef47b9

And perhaps the passing of renowned fly-fishing author John Gierach may have gone unnoticed. He passed last October, and a shortened variation of his obituary can be found here: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/longmont-co/john-gierach-12023530>
Rest in peace our good friends.

NYC Delaware Aqueduct Update

Scheduled work on NYC's Delaware Aqueduct was a casualty of this past summer/autumn prolonged drought. The project took an expensive hit when work was stopped and the aqueduct prematurely brought back online, as it is now. Read more about this on the NYC DEP website.

https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/news/121724/paul-rush-deputy-commissioner-new-york-city-department-environmental-protection-before-new?mc_cid=09e00bb1a5&mc_eid=e188ef47b9

Watch the AWSMP Video on Esopus Creek

During these cold winter days, viewers might enjoy this video from the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) entitled "Exploring the Upper Esopus Creek Watershed." Hope you find it educational with some spectacular scenery and photography. It's available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkuhZVIK8k>

Save these Dates for Chapter and AWSMP Events

While still several months away, please save the following dates. Our 2025 chapter Annual Fund Raiser will be held again at the Phoenicia Diner on the evening of September 13. The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) announced their Catskill Environmental Research and Monitoring (CERM) Conference will be held October 22-24, 2025 at Belleayre Mountain's Discovery Lodge in Highmount with the theme of "Shared Ground: Collaborative Approaches to Catskills Environmental Research." Definitely worthwhile events to look forward to!

<https://cermconference.org/>

Precipitation and Acid Rain Report

Jody Hoyt reported during December there were eight measurable storm events in Boiceville. These events brought us 5.89 liquid inches, including 9.9 inches of snow, having a weighted pH average of 6.0. By comparison in December, 2023 there were five storms measuring 9.07

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 ← 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

liquid inches, including 0.7 inches of snow, having a 5.6 weighted average pH. For the entirety of 2024, 61.09 liquid inches of precipitation fell in Boiceville, including 43.3 inches of sleet and snow. Thank you Jody for the longtime, ongoing efforts on your part.

Treasurer's Report and Call for Your Input

At our January board of directors' meeting, Treasurer John Yanzek provided the following year-end financial report. The chapter had \$14,060.06 in cash assets, \$12,769.54 of which is in the General Fund and \$1,290.52 in the Conservation Fund.

John needs to generate an end-of-year report for Trout Unlimited National that includes all volunteer hours expended by chapter members on Trout Unlimited's behalf. Please send your input to John at: apwctu@gmail.com. Hours expended should include meetings attended, travel time, phone calls, and work projects; the only thing they should NOT include are monthly scheduled chapter meetings. Thank you and please respond by February 8.
Membership

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

**Governor Hochul and
Senator Schumer
Announce First-of-its-
Kind Children's
Specialty Hospital in
New York State for
Children with Complex
Disabilities Now Open
Under the Center for
Discovery
Hospital's Innovative
Care Model
Will Provide
Comprehensive Medical
Care for Children,
Providing Relief to
Families and Leading to
Better Health Outcomes**

Governor Kathy Hochul and Senator Charles Schumer today announced the opening of The Center for Discovery's Children's Specialty Hospital in Rock Hill, New York. This innovative facility is dedicated to supporting children and adolescents with complex disabilities, including autism, through specialized short-term inpatient care. Developed by The Center for Discovery's multidisciplinary team over the past decade in close partnership with the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), it introduces a new care model focused on proactive treatments to reduce long-term residential placements.

"New York State is devoted to improving health outcomes for all children, particularly those with developmental disabilities whose families face challenges in accessing suitable medical care for their child's needs," Governor Hochul said. "By bolstering this continuum of care through The Center for Discovery's Children's Specialty Hospital, families will spend less time apart and remain connected to their communities following treatment."

Senator Charles Schumer said, "The Center for Discovery's Children's Specialty Hospital will provide critical life enhancing care to children and teens and be a beacon of hope in Sullivan County for generations to come. The impacts of the discoveries and systems of care made at this facility will stretch far beyond the Hudson Valley to help thousands of kids across America and the world. I was proud to deliver the historic federal investment to jumpstart this new first-of-its-kind

**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

hospital paving the way for a healthier future for vulnerable young patients and brighter future for the Hudson Valley, and I deeply appreciate the partnership of Governor Hochul and New York State legislative leaders in making this facility a reality. The Center for Discovery is a pillar of the Sullivan County economy, and this new hospital will create 400+ jobs while expanding the world class care provided here at the Center. Governor Hochul has been a tremendous partner and thanks to our team effort the dream for this facility that started so many years ago is finally a reality."

Funding for the Children's Specialty Hospital project was made possible through a \$48 million low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Rural Development's Community Facilities Program, that Senator Schumer a longtime TCFD advocate helped secure, as well as a \$4 million investment from New York State's Empire State Development. The project also received critical support from the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the New York State Department of Health (DOH), and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). (Contd. Pg. 42)

Governor Hochul and Senator Schumer Announce First-of-its-Kind Children's Specialty Hospital in New York State for Children with Complex Disabilities Now Open Under the Center for Discovery Hospital's Innovative Care Model

(From Pg. 41) Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State has made significant strides with this innovative initiative, positioning itself as a national leader in preventive and holistic care for people with developmental disabilities. The launch of this facility reflects Governor Hochul's dedication to improving the lives of families across New York.

The Specialty Hospital is designed for children ages five to 21 who meet OPWDD's eligibility criteria and require medical care, in addition to supporting their developmental disabilities. The Children's Specialty Hospital will provide inpatient treatment and conduct comprehensive medical, behavioral, and clinical assessments over a maximum of six months. Through a collaborative approach, this program is designed to help children and adolescents thrive at home, in school, and remain integrated in the community.

New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities Acting Commissioner Willow Baer said, "Achieving health equity for people with developmental disabilities is a priority for the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and ensuring access to complete medical care for children, in an appropriate setting, is a part of that goal. We're so excited for The Center for Discovery's new Children's Specialty Hospital to begin to help New York families and are grateful to our state and federal partners for making this vital resource possible for children and teenagers with complex medical conditions."

Designed with both medical and therapeutic needs in mind, the new facility where the Children's Specialty Hospital is located includes classrooms, a health clinic, sensory rooms, a therapeutic gym for physical and occupational therapies, a café, and a training kitchen. The 15-acre campus also offers outdoor walking trails, healing gardens, and a Food is Medicine® greenhouse, all supporting TCFD's holistic approach to care.

After completing short-term treatment at the Hospital, patients will return home with a specialized care plan that includes training for families, caregivers, and school districts. TCFD's team of experts will continue to support families as they build on the progress made during their child's stay.

The Center for Discovery President & CEO Dr. Terry Hamlin said, "The Center for Discovery is deeply committed to supporting children and adolescents in innovative and expanded ways. With the launch of our new Children's Specialty Hospital, we are thrilled to extend our reach and impact, providing a lifeline to families in search of answers. The children admitted to our hospital face extraor-

dinary challenges. They live with co-occurring medical conditions that make their developmental disabilities profoundly complex to treat. Many of these medical issues are accompanied by pain, which often leads to maladaptive behaviors that further impact their quality of life. Families have long needed a place where their children's complex needs are understood, and where there is integrated and coordinated care in one place. At The Center for Discovery, we are dedicated to addressing these medical complexities head-on, treating the root causes, and improving outcomes in ways that transform lives."

The Children's Specialty Hospital is poised to establish a new benchmark for specialized care and is projected to make a significant impact both nationally and internationally. This new facility will enhance the range of services available throughout New York State, offering a model of care that has the ability to revolutionize the treatment of children with complex disabilities while providing essential support for families statewide.

This groundbreaking initiative not only improves the level of care for children with disabilities but also aims to reduce extended hospital stays, enabling them to return home more swiftly.

Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara said, "As Chair of the Assembly Committee on People with Disabilities and as a parent of a child with autism who attends The Center for Discovery, I know firsthand the challenges families face in accessing specialized care for children with complex disabilities. The opening of this first-of-its-kind Children's Specialty Hospital is a monumental step forward for New York, providing critical medical care and much-needed support for families. This innovative model will not only improve health outcomes but also help reduce the need for long-term residential placements. I thank Governor Hochul, Senator Schumer, and all those who made this vision a reality."

About The Center for Discovery

The Center for Discovery (TCFD) is a leading provider of healthcare and education services for more than 1,200 children and adults with complex conditions, medical frailties and autism spectrum disorders, located 90 miles northwest of New York City. Named a Center of Excellence in 2016, TCFD has long been a leader in developing new models of care for individuals with complex conditions. Located on 1,500 acres of land in Sullivan County, TCFD houses school campuses, residences, medical and research facilities, organic and bio-dynamic farmland, and leased private businesses offering meaningful employment opportunities. Deeply focused on an individual's personal potential and possibilities, rather than a disability, TCFD strives to create better care and unique and challenging opportunities for the most vulnerable populations. For more information about TCFD, please visit www.tcfid.org/.

For more information about The Children's Specialty Hospital, please contact Michael Rosen, Executive VP of Development, Marketing, and Strategic Communications, at Mrosen@tcfid.org.

SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

For any other questions
845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com

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

The Daniel Pierce Library

Spring Children's Programs 2025

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

Calling all caregivers and their little ones, ages 12 months to 4 years, who live in the Tri-Valley Central School District! We've got some awesome programs lined up just for you. The spring session will kick off the week of April 21st and run for eight fun-filled weeks. It's completely free, thanks to the kindness of our amazing community! Registration is a must.

Mother Goose Time (12-23 months)

Beginning Wednesday, April 23rd

Toddler Time (24-35 months)

Beginning Thursday, April 24th

Story Hour (3 and 4 year-olds)

Beginning Friday, April 25th

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Story Hour

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

*Register
Today!*



P.O. Box 268 • 328 Main Street • Grahamsville, NY 12740
845-985-7233 • www.danielpiercelibrary.org



Montigram President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

So much is happening and we are Rotary Strong! Whether you are currently in Sullivan County or a snowbird, you can make a difference in what is going on with Monticello Rotary.

Choose a way to show your support and help us achieve our goals.

I need to extend a thank you yet again. I was glad to attend our meeting last week, but suffered a slight set-back. Long COVID is not easy, but I am improving every week. Thank you to President-Elect Dr. Peter A. Chester for checking in on me and stepping up to keep things moving forward. Also, to Crystal Tweed for Zoom meeting to put final touches on the Monticello Rotary Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair during the Heart-a-thon on February 21st from 10am - 4pm.

Speaking of which, we will need assistance on that day to handle the Welcome Table to the Heart-a-thon, Blood Drive, & Wellness Fair. In addition, we will need assistance at the Smoothie Bike Table as well. The workload is easy, but coverage is needed at all to make the overall events a success. Please use this link to sign up today:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pj0yATuz5R_2HwKm2yWF8eF7VtCPz53/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113789192360592953299&rtpof=true&sd=true

If you need assistance signing up, please reach out and I am happy to help.

Heart-a-thon/Joint Blood Drive/Health Fair

Speaking of Heart Health, The Monticello Rotary will be hosting the Monticello Rotary Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair from 10am - 4pm during the 47th Annual WSUL 98.3 Heart-a-thon on February, 21st at Resorts World - Catskills. This event is open to the public for free and includes mini-class sessions in Tai Chi with Pedro Tweed, Mindfulness in Motion with STEAM (a multigenerational movement class), No Equipment/No Problem with Coach Maggie Fitzpatrick, Hypnotherapy for Good Health with Licensed Hypnotherapist Albee Bockman, Hands Only CPR with Lee Karasik, Blood Pressure Screenings by SUNY Sullivan Nursing Students, the ever popular Sullivan 180 Smoothie Bike, NAMI - Healthy Mind and Stress, Sullivan County Public Health, New York Blood Center - Needs for a Healthy Heart, Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT), Gift of Life, and more. If you know of an agency wishing to participate or have additional questions, please contact RotaryMonti@gmail.com

Of course we our participation in the 47th Annual WSUL 98.3 Heart-a-thon is going strong. We ask that you make your donation through Team Rotary at <https://www.givegab.com/p2p/47th-annual-98-3-wsul-heart-a-thon/montirotary2025>

During the Health Fair, we will hold our Joint Club Blood Drive as well. We are excited to announce that Sheriff Mike Schiff has accepted our request to serve as Honorary Chair for this Blood Drive. Sheriff Schiff has been a staunch supporter of all of the Rotary Blood Drives donating at all that we have done over the last few years. As Honorary Chair, he will assist in getting new donor sign-ups and spread the word to help us reach our goal which is so important as we are officially in a Blood Emergency in the Hudson Valley and New York State. When asked to help, Sheriff Schiff immediately said, "Yes.!" He said, "a Blood Drive is a way for everyone to save a life. You don't need to be a First Responder to save a life." He is happy to lend his name and voice in helping us meet this important need in our community. Anyone wishing to donate blood should register for a time at https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/321501

And, welcome and thank you to Sheriff Schiff for taking on this

role. **Be Like Mike! Save A Life! Donate Now!**

In addition, we are assisting at Resorts World to sell Heart Cards over weekends leading up to the Heart-a-thon on February 21, 2025. Thank you to those who already have signed up and participated this last weekend. Please take a look on this link and sign up for an available time(s) to help out.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1406liV8Y4jTedMvQ1QPz-Lpn-NvmRGVUMHjEWRBuxus/edit?gid=178320377#gid=178320377>
If you need assistance in doing this, please let me know and I am happy to help.

Coldest Night of the Year

The Coldest Night of the Year is a National Program supported by Rotary International held annually on what is, by the calendar, The Coldest Night of the Year. This year, we are pleased to create a team called Monti Rotary & Friends. Jodi Goodman and Lori Orestano-James will be co-chairing this event which is being run locally by The Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. Members of Rotary or friends may join the team by clicking here: <http://tps://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/ReturningRegistrantOptio.n.aspx?eventid=389906&langpref=en-CA&TeamID=1026771&Referrer=https%3a%2f%2fsecure.e2rm.com%2fregistrator%2fTeamFundraisingPage.aspx%3fteamID%3d1026771%26langPref%3den-CA> To donate directly, click here: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026771&langPref=en-CA>

You may join the team virtually for the walk as well...1.2 miles. Just walk with us from where ever you might be on that night (Florida, North Carolina, your treadmill in the middle of your living room), you can still participate. Just join the team, help us to raise funds, and we will create a live on our Rotary Facebook Page for you to join us.

Remember - for us, we will wrap ourselves in warmth in many ways. For many, the cold brutal nights exist regularly. Help us to help those keeping so many warm on those nights through their warming centers. By doing so, you are saving lives, and in some cases, of people you may know. Make a difference and join our Monti Rotary & Friends team today.

District Team Learning Seminar

District Team Learning Seminar will take place on February 22, 2025, at New Paltz High School from 9am-2:15pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for us as a group to deepen our knowledge, build on our understanding of our roles, and connect with fellow District Leaders from across the district. Please sign up today at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRa7bikPH-HpFjIY7PNBLI-KOBwVtqcNWL3r1D5ByLCi9jTw/viewform?usp=sharing>



Dr. David Potash, President of SUNY Sullivan spoke to the Monticello Rotary Club sharing all the new initiatives happening at SUNY Sullivan. The focused change is that SUNY Sullivan is shifting to meet the needs of its students as well as the community at-large. There is need in Sullivan County to fill jobs and assist in the economic development of the county. In addition, the Promise Scholarship is available to all graduating students in Sullivan County High Schools which allow them to attend the college free of charge. To find our more visit the college website. SUNY Sullivan is a foundational institution in our community. Find out and support our local college that supports us. (Contd. Pg. 46)

(From Pg. 45)
Meet Shana!



We can't wait to have Shana Bruestle attend her third meeting with us. Shana is the Principal of the Fallsburg Junior/Senior High School and Les Kristt is her sponsor. Shana has attended two meetings already, jumping in to help with Taste of Sullivan and helping with the Fallsburg Interact Club. Stop by to our meeting and welcome our soon to be newest member. And don't forget - you too can sponsor a new Rotarian!

Program for February 4, 2025 - Rotary Spotlight - Ask Not What Rotary Can Do For You, Rather What You Can Do For Rotary (All Things Rotary)

Agenda for February 4, 2025

1. Meeting Called to Order - President Lori Orestano-James
2. Pledge Of Allegiance - Past President - Les Kristt
3. Introduction of Guests of Members - Full Membership
4. Guest Speaker -
5. Committee Reports:
 Taste of Sullivan - Helen Diehl
 Heart-a-thon/Blood Drive/Health Fair - Lori Orestano-James, Crystal Tweed/Les Kristt
 SCFH Coldest Night of the Year Event - Jodi Goodman & Lori James
- Rotary Radio - Rick Stein
- Interact/Ryla - Cris Spinner
6. Regional Updates/District Updates - District Team Learning Seminar
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Happy Dollars
10. 50/50 Raffle
11. Adjourn

Link for Zoom Meeting Sign-on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M21CSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

Looking forward to seeing you all for our meeting at Albella on Tuesday night at 6:30. For those needing the Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M21CSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

- Heart-a-thon (see above)
- Blood Drive (see above)
- Healthy Heart Blood Drive (see above)
- Coldest Night of the Year (see above)

All noted as see above so you sign-up and donate for all the events!

With Rotary Pride,
 Lori Orestano-James
 President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

Stories

Be Like Mike! Save a Life! Donate Now!

EMERGENCY!!!! It is official that we are in a Blood Shortage Crisis and you can make a difference," says Sullivan Rotary's (Monticello, Liberty, Livingston Manor) Honorary Blood Drive Chair Sheriff Mike Schiff. Sheriff Schiff has donated at every blood drive held by the Rotary Clubs over the last 5 years - and that is a lot of blood. When it was announced last week that Sullivan County is in a Blood Crisis Emergency, the Sheriff was asked if he would help to reach the goal of this Blood Drive. Without hesitation, he accepted the request to serve. Sixty percent of the Sullivan County population is eligible to donate blood to any blood drives



held. In total, only 2% of those eligible donate. Sheriff Schiff is proud to lend his support as this year's Honorary Chair sharing, "You don't have to be a First Responder to save a life! Donate Blood Now!" The Sullivan Rotary Clubs Annual Heart-a-thon Blood Drive during the Heart-a-thon is scheduled to take place from Noon until 6pm on Friday, February 21st at Resorts World - Catskills. Please sign up to donate blood remembering that each pint collected saves 3 lives. Sign-up today at https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/321501.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On February 22nd from 4:00-7:00 Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless is hosting the Coldest Night of the Year. The event begins at Dos Gatos, located in the Alder-Resorts World Catskills. From there we will embark on a 2k (1.2 mile) walk with the intention of feeling solidarity with those who experience this harshness of weather so very often through lack of shelter. This particular event is hosted in more than 40 cities across America on this night. We will be supporting the work done right here in Sullivan County for people who experience hurt, hunger and homelessness. Jodi Goodman and Lori Orestano-James have create a team for the Monticello Rotary. To join the Monti Rotary & Friends Team please click here: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026771&langPref=en-CA> To donate directly to the team, click here: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1026771&langPref=en-CA>

Any questions or if you need assistance with the links, contact Lori Orestano-James at LoriJames.Rotary@gmail.com

So, circle the date and get ready for a brisk walk on the Coldest Night of the Year!

ROTARIANS SING FROM THE HEART

Get ready for a Sunday Funday like no other! "From The Heart" a wonderful event produced by Joanna M. Gass Music and brought to you by Gary Siegel, the STEAM Fund and Rotary Club of Liberty NY will take place from 2:00-5:00 at Bridge and Tunnel Brewery in Liberty New York to benefit the 47th Annual 98.3 WSUL HEART-A-THON. It's an afternoon packed with incredible music from a stellar lineup of amazing local musicians featuring Joanna M. Gass with special guests Cris Spinner, Brad Rutledge, Beth & Scott Bierko and Gary Siegel all backed by the fabulous Search and Rescue Orchestra which boasts the talents of Steve Schwartz, Ken Windheim, Eric Nies, Billy Paschal & Gregory Fiske! And there's more! Healthy Heart light fare will be provided by A Single Bite and there's exciting raffles, great prizes and a cash bar! All proceeds from this event will benefit the 47th Annual 98.3 WSUL Heart-A-Thon, with every dollar raised staying right here in Sullivan County to support the prevention, education, and treatment of heart disease in our community. Your "suggested donation" of \$25 will go directly toward saving lives and improving heart health in Sullivan County.

You can purchase tickets to this great community event at <https://www.givegab.com/campaigns/from-the-heart>

You're not going to want to miss "From The Heart"! Everyone involved can't wait to see YOU there!

So what's the extra Rotary connection? Performers Joanna M. Gass & Gary Siegel are Liberty NY Rotarians and Cris Spinner & Brad Rutledge are proud Monticello NY Rotarians! Service With Music above Self!



Supporting ICE Operations at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Maximizing every available resource is crucial to carrying out President Trump's executive orders to detain and remove illegal aliens swiftly and efficiently, particularly those who pose security risks to our country. I am so grateful to the ICE agents who are stepping up to protect our nation and address this pressing crisis, and want to ensure they have all the resources they need to carry out these deportations. Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS) can play a valuable role in hosting detention beds and serving as a point of departure for deportations, supporting ICE's work in deporting these criminals. This week, I sent a letter alongside Rep Langworthy, urging Secretary Hegseth to authorize NFARS to assist in securing our borders and upholding our nation's safety by allowing ICE to utilize this station in its fight against criminal illegal aliens that threaten the safety of our communities. NFARS can play a vital role in the fight to protect our borders, and I look forward to working with Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Noem to make this a reality.

Introducing the Protecting School Milk Choices Act

Throughout the United States, local governments are attempting to replace nutritious dairy products with less healthy artificial alternatives. I introduced the Protecting School Milk Choices Act to ensure schools continue to offer students at least one flavored milk option, such as chocolate milk. Flavored milk is a delicious and nutritious choice that kids enjoy, helping them get the essential nutrients they need. At a time when many students are struggling to meet their nutritional needs, we should focus on expanding healthy natural drink options in schools instead of promoting artificial, highly processed alternatives. As the Representative of the leading dairy-producing district in the Northeast, I am committed to championing legislation that supports our dairy farmers and ensures children across the country have access to wholesome, nutritious dairy options.

Reaffirming Israel's Rightful Claim to Judea and Samaria

The Israeli people have an undeniable historical and legal claim over Judea and Samaria. This past month, I have taken multiple legislative actions to support this. By introducing the RECOGNIZING Judea and Samaria Act and creating the Friends of Judea and Samaria Caucus, we are working to reaffirm Israel's rightful claim to its territory. I am dedicated to working with President Trump, Secretary of State Rubio, and Ambassador Huckabee to support communities in the region while opposing the establishment of a hostile state that promotes terrorism in Judea and Samaria. I remain committed to defending the integrity of the Jewish state and fully supporting Israel's

sovereignty over Judea and Samaria.

READ MORE: Congressional Republicans Finalize Bill Recognizing West Bank as 'Judea and Samaria'

<https://freebeacon.com/israel/congressional-republicans-finalize-bill-recognizing-west-bank-as-judea-and-samaria/>

Congratulations to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin

Congratulations to Lee Zeldin on his confirmation to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Administrator Zeldin understands that in order to restore prosperity in our country, we must reinvigorate domestic energy production of the U.S. while reversing the policies of the Biden Administration that harmed our energy sector and created sky-high energy prices. President Trump has already enacted multiple executive orders to lower energy prices and combat the foreign stranglehold that we suffered under Biden. I am confident that Administrator Zeldin will work alongside the President and Congress to deliver commonsense solutions that promote cleaner, safer, and healthier air and water while pushing back against the far-left's Green New Deal agenda and safeguarding our energy independence.

His bold, America-first vision to lead this agency will unleash domestic energy production, bring back American jobs, and cut bureaucratic red tape that restricts economic growth.

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. 722 - The Life at Conception Act - This bill affirms that the right to life guaranteed by the 14th Amendment extends to every human being from the moment of conception. By recognizing the Constitutional and inalienable rights of the unborn, this legislation provides a foundation to protect life at the federal level. As a mother, I recognize the sanctity of life and I believe that to protect our freedoms, we must protect the lives of those most vulnerable.

H.Res.57 - Recognizing the benefits of natural gas to the United States economy and environment, and recognizing natural gas as an affordable and "green" energy - This resolution recognizes the critical benefits of natural gas to our environment and economy. American produced natural gas is the cleanest in the world, and this resolution affirms the critical importance it plays in driving down costs, and global greenhouse gas emissions.

H.R 817 - Educational Choice for Children Act - This bill provides an annual tax credit to incentivize individuals and businesses to fund scholarships for K-12 students, helping cover tuition, fees, books, and educational supplies for public, private, and homeschool settings. By expanding access to scholarships, the bill empowers parents with greater educational choice, ensuring students-regardless of income or ZIP code-can attend the school that best meets their needs. This approach enhances educational opportunities, fosters competition, and improves overall academic outcomes, giving millions of students a pathway to a brighter future.



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Here's what she's been up to this week:

1. Combating chaos

President Trump's order to freeze grants and loans from the federal government caused complete chaos, threatening to harm millions of New Yorkers.

This week, Kirsten called on the Trump administration to immediately reverse the freeze to ensure that federal dollars continue to support our nation's families, first responders, veterans, health care providers, and other essential service providers that rely on federal funding. Kirsten will never stop fighting to protect essential funding for New York.

If you operate an organization that receives federal funding and were affected by this week's order, please reach out to casework@gillibrand.senate.gov. Read more. <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/federal-funding-freeze-nyc-impacts/>

2. Kirsten becomes ranking member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee

This week, Kirsten announced that she will become the ranking member and top Democrat on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations.

This position is an opportunity to address some of our state's most pressing issues, including aging infrastructure and the skyrocketing cost of housing. Kirsten is committed to using this position to deliver major federal funding to revitalize New York's roads, bridges, and rail infrastructure and to expand affordable housing nationwide.

In addition to her role on THUD, Kirsten will serve on the following subcommittees, which control crucial sources of funding for New York:

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Appropriations requests can be directed to appropriations@gillibrand.senate.gov.

3. Fighting for financial security for seniors

As the population of older Americans grows, it is vital that we strengthen federal programs like Social Security and Medicare to ensure that seniors can age with financial security.

On Wednesday, Kirsten held a U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing to discuss the impact of inflation on seniors and explore fiscally sound policy solutions to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

Watch the hearing here. <https://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/making-washington-work-for-seniors-fighting-to-end-inflation-and-achieve-fiscal-sanity>

4. Advocating for better brain health

Brain health is important to us all, especially as our children grow and our parents age.

This week, Kirsten joined brain health leaders and advocates to discuss her Strategic Plan on Aging, which prioritizes key factors in cognitive well-being such as nutrition and mental health to ensure that Americans can age with dignity.

5. Attention students: Cyber Service Academy scholarship applications close this week!

Building a skilled cyber workforce is critical to protecting our country's national security.

Kirsten created the Cyber Service Academy scholarship program to help fill the nearly 30,000 open cyber positions within the Department of Defense. By granting one year of free college for every year of subsequent public service, this program will create a pipeline for a talented, highly trained cyber workforce to help protect our nation from cyberattacks.

Applications for the Cyber Service Academy scholarship program close at 11:59pm ET on February 1, 2025. Learn more. <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/cyberacademy/>

6. Helping constituents get their benefits

When an Erie County constituent needed help securing her Social Security Disability benefit payments, she contacted Kirsten's office for help. Kirsten's team contacted the Social Security Administration on her behalf, and she received over \$60,000 in retroactive benefits.

Individual casework with federal agencies 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, Schumer, Blackburn, Fisher, Clark, Garbarino, Langworthy, and Torres Reintroduce E-Bike Safety Bill

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Deb Fischer (R-NE), along with Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY), Congressman Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY), and Congressman Nick Langworthy (R-NY), reintroduced the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act. The bipartisan bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to publish a final consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and other micromobility devices to protect against the risk of fires caused by such batteries. The bill is being reintroduced at a time when fires from lithium-ion batteries have become widespread in New York City. The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) reports rechargeable lithium-ion batteries have caused more than 850 fires since 2021, resulting in more than 450 injuries, 34 deaths & damage to hundreds of structures. In 2024, there were 279 e-bike and e-mobility device battery fires in NYC, a dramatic increase from the 44 that occurred in 2020.

"Far too many innocent lives have been lost in New York City and across the country to fires caused by faulty and improperly manufactured lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and other micromobility devices," said U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. "The Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act is a commonsense solution that brings us one step closer to stopping preventable fires, and I encourage my congressional colleagues to pass this bipartisan bill and create the first-ever mandatory consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices."

"We are in a time where technology is outpacing federal safety action in many ways, moving faster than the measures we need to keep the public safe, and there might be no better example of this dilemma than with the cheap, China-made lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes, e-scooters and other devices," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. "The fires and injuries caused by these batteries have resulted in tremendous loss across New York and federal action is needed to protect consumers and our brave firefighters who are on the front lines of this new paradigm in fire prevention spurred by these unpredictable, and often times, very dangerous batteries-and that's why we are reintroducing the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act to create a consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries."

"Battery fires in e-bikes have caused far too many devastating injuries and deaths," said U.S. Senator Deb Fischer. "We need effective, sensible safety standards for the batteries in motorized devices like e-bikes and e-scooters. Our bipartisan bill will protect people across America from these preventable tragedies."

"Since 2021, we've seen far too many avoidable deaths and injuries due to unregulated, unsafe lithium-ion batteries in e-bikes, e-scooters, and other mobility devices New Yorkers use to travel throughout the city delivering goods and services, said Rep. Yvette D. Clarke. "I fully support this legislation to improve public safety and ensure safety guidelines and standards to prevent fire risks - protecting our constituents and businesses from injury and loss of life."

"Unregulated lithium-ion batteries are one of the leading causes of fatal fires in New York, posing a serious threat to both the public and the firefighters who respond to these emergencies," said Rep. Andrew Garbarino. "As the use of lithium-ion batteries

in devices like e-scooters and e-bikes continues to grow, so do the risks. This legislation is a critical step toward preventing these fires and improving public safety."

"The safety of American consumers must always come first. Rechargeable lithium batteries power so many aspects of our daily lives, but without proper standards, they pose serious risks of fires and explosions," said Rep. Nicholas Langworthy. "This legislation sets clear safety guidelines to protect families, first responders, and businesses from preventable hazards. I am proud to support this commonsense measure to ensure that these products meet rigorous safety standards before they reach the market."

"For years, it has been clear that unregulated lithium-ion batteries pose a clear and present threat to the public's safety, and it's long past time that we do something about it," said Rep. Ritchie Torres. "My district specifically is acutely aware of the unmitigated disaster that urban fires pose and the urgent need for stronger safety standards. My colleagues and I fought throughout the last Congress to advance this legislation, and we will continue pushing it toward the finish line in the 119th -- no matter the national political scene."

"Keeping our country safe from the dangers of lithium-ion batteries is incredibly important, because as we have seen time and time again, they present unique safety risks to the public and to first responders," said NYC Fire Commissioner Robert Tucker. "We're grateful to our partners in government for bringing back this legislation we know will save lives. We will continue to beat the drum on safe usage and best practices of these devices to help prevent tragedies in the future."

"I thank Senator Gillibrand, Representative Torres, and their allies for their continued leadership and perseverance on the Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act," said Chief Josh Waldo, President and Chair of the Board, the International Association of Fire Chiefs. "Fire departments across the country face numerous challenges when responding to these preventable incidents. We have gone far too long without any impactful changes to ensure the safety of humans around these devices. As we have seen, further injury and property damage is the result of inaction. It is time for Congress to act together and pass this life-saving legislation."

"Lithium-ion batteries, especially those of inferior quality, can be prone to explosion, thermal runaway, and other hazards. As devices powered by these batteries have become more common, so have the risks associated with them. I applaud Senator Gillibrand and Rep. Torres for introducing this bill, which would require lithium-ion batteries powering certain mobility devices to meet quality and safety standards, thereby reducing the fire risk these devices pose," said Steven W. Hirsch, Chair, National Volunteer Fire Council.

"Lithium-ion battery fires burn intensely, last longer than most fires, and release toxic fumes, putting fire fighters and the public at risk," said International Association of Fire Fighters General President Ed Kelly. "The Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act is an important step toward preventing these fires, protecting our communities, and keeping fire fighters safe. The IAFF thanks Senator Gillibrand for her leadership on this critical issue."

"Lithium-ion battery safety has rapidly become a top priority for property owners and managers across the country, as we're on the front lines of making sure that office buildings and other commercial spaces are kept safe," said Manuel Moreno, Chair and Chief Elected Officer of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International, the professional association representing the commercial real estate sector. "This legislation will help protect the safety of millions of people in the nation's commercial buildings as well as the safety of first responders who have to confront these intense chemical fires. This legislation will save lives." (Contd. Pg. 50)

Gillibrand, Schumer, Blackburn, Fisher, Clark, Garbarino, Langworthy, and Torres Reintroduce E-Bike Safety Bill

(From Pg. 49) “We applaud Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Representative Richie Torres, and their Congressional colleagues for taking decisive action to address substandard lithium-ion batteries flooding in from overseas and help ensure that everyone can safely use these devices without fear that they may lack necessary safeguards,” said John Horton, Head of North America Public Policy at DoorDash. “DoorDash will continue to work with all stakeholders to help ensure certified safe lithium-ion batteries are used in our communities, but a safety floor must be put in place to keep unsafe batteries from the marketplace to begin with, and this bill does just that.”

“Addressing the dangers posed by uncertified lithium-ion batteries is essential to protecting public safety,” said Kara Kelber, Grubhub's Director of Federal Affairs. “Grubhub applauds Senator Gillibrand, Senator Schumer, Senator Blackburn and Senator Fischer for their continued leadership on this critical issue. The Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act shows a strong, bipartisan commitment to tackling this urgent safety concern and keeping unsafe products from infiltrating our streets and communities. We are eager to see the bill pass and ensure safer micromobility options for communities across the country.”

New Yorkers will Feel the Freeze: Gillibrand, AG James Sound the Alarm on Disastrous Ramifications of What a Trump Administration Federal Funding Freeze Could Mean for New Yorkers' Safety and Economic Well-being

NEW YORK, NY - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and New York State Attorney General Tish James sounded the alarm on the disastrous ramifications of President Trump's ongoing attempts to freeze grants and loans disbursed by the federal government. A federal funding freeze would severely harm New Yorkers, from aid to seniors to funds to address food insecurity and homelessness to critical money for law enforcement.

“The chaos, uncertainty, and disorder fueled by the Trump administration is wreaking economic havoc on families and communities across New York,” said Senator Gillibrand. “A government funding freeze would put both the public safety and well-being of New Yorkers at risk. The Trump administration seems intent on harming New York families. While so much remains in question from this past week, it is imperative that everyone know what is at stake for our city, state, and nation.”

“The public servants who go to work every day to care for New Yorkers and keep them safe rely on federal funds to do their jobs,” said New York Attorney General Letitia James. “This administration is putting New Yorkers in danger by pushing massive cuts to resources that support our most vulnerable communities and public safety efforts statewide. I am leading a coalition of attorneys general to end this destructive policy, and I thank Senator Gillibrand for her partnership as we fight to protect these funds that keep our communities safe.”

“From our non-profits to our public schools, Trump's reckless funding freeze would have devastating consequences for New Yorkers, particularly with regard to low-income students and the innumerable programs and services they rely upon,” said New York State Senator John Liu. “It's politics at its worst that puts par-

tisanship before the wellbeing of the most vulnerable among us who depend on federal aid to access essential support services.

“The ill-conceived White House budget freeze continues to cause great fear, uncertainty, and worry for tens of thousands of community-based nonprofit organizations nationwide -- as well as for the tens of millions of the most vulnerable Americans whom we collectively serve,” said Joel Berg, CEO of the nonpartisan nonprofit organization Hunger Free America. “Any threats to nutrition assistance programs are especially counterproductive, undermining the Administration's claim that it wants to improve public health.”

“The chaos and confusion caused by the Trump Administration's freeze on contacts is having an immediate and harmful effect on older New Yorkers and family caregivers” said Allison Nickerson Executive Director of LiveOn NY. “Federal programs, like Meals on Wheels and housing assistance, provide life-sustaining support and relief to older adults who are already struggling to make ends meet. Older New Yorkers and citizens across the country expect their government to support them, not pull the rug out from under them. LiveOn NY is grateful Senator Gillibrand continues to fight for the fundamental services that New York's older adults rely on every day.

While some federal programs are still accessible for the moment, others have been suspended, such as select United States Department of Justice grants. A federal funding freeze has the potential to block billions of dollars in federal grants for New York State. For example:

Federal Counter-Terrorism Funding

1. \$290M was allotted to New York for State Fiscal Year 2025.

Senior Nutrition/Meals on Wheels

1. \$66M was awarded to New York State-based entities in FY2024 for senior nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels.

1. These grants include HHS' Older Americans Act Title III Part C Nutrition Services and HHS' Nutrition Services Incentives Program.

Homeless Shelters

1. \$368M was awarded to New York State-based entities in FY2024 to fund homeless shelters, including \$227 million for entities in New York City.

1. These grants include programs HUD's Continuum of Care Program and HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant Program.

Food Banks

1. \$15M was awarded to New York State-based entities in FY2024 for programs that distribute food to people in need, such as food banks.

1. The funding was awarded through USDA's The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Disability Programs

1. \$60B in Medicaid grant funding was awarded to New York State in FY2024.

2. On top of Medicaid, New York State-based entities were awarded \$70 million in federal grants for programs, research, and services benefiting people with disabilities in FY2024.

1. This includes at least \$9 million for entities in New York City. FEMA Assistance to Firefighters

1. \$13.6M in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants was awarded to New York municipalities and fire departments in FY2024 to help recruit and train firefighters.

2. \$17.8M in Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) was awarded to New York municipalities and fire departments in FY2024 to help purchase firefighting vehicles and equipment.

1. Since FY2023, the FDNY has been awarded over \$2M in AFG funding.

FEMA Port Security Grant Program

1. \$14.1M was awarded to New York State in FY2024.

1. This included \$3.8M for the FDNY, \$6.6M for the NYPD, and \$880K for the Port Authority.



Senator Oberacker's First Annual Coat Drive Warms Thousands; Over 2,000 Coats Collected and Distributed to Families in Need



ONEONTA- State Senator Peter Oberacker announced today the successful conclusion of the First Annual 51st Senate District Winter Coat Drive with more than 2,000 coats distributed to families and individuals in need.

"I'm humbled and inspired by the support of our neighbors," said Senator Oberacker. "Thousands will have warmth and comfort during the harshest months of the year because of their generosity. This effort is a powerful testament to what we can achieve together."

The success of this coat drive was made possible through the dedication of our partner organizations:

- o Monticello Rotary Club
- o United Way of Sullivan County
- o The Angel Network of Cooperstown
- o Delaware Opportunities
- o United Way of Broome County
- o The Joshua Project of Schoharie County

Key locations throughout the 51st District served as drop-off points thanks to the generosity of local busi-

nesses and community hubs:

- o Jeff Bank of Monticello
- o The Sullivan County Government Center
- o The Liberty Police Department
- o The Callicoon Town Call
- o Senator Charles D. Cook Delaware County Office Building
- o The Laundry Basket of Cobleskill
- o Ellenville Regional Hospital

This effort would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of key community leaders who went above and beyond:

- o Assemblyman Chris Tague
- o Assemblyman Joe Angelino
- o Otsego County Sheriff Rich Devlin
- o Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond
- o Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar
- o Delaware County District Attorney Shawn Smith
- o Eric Northrup, Delaware County District Attorney's Office
- o Delaware County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Tina Molé

Finally, Senator Oberacker extends a heartfelt thank you to Helmut Michelitsch of Metro Cleaners in Cooperstown, whose commitment to the cause was instrumental in making this effort possible. Helmut personally picked up, cleaned, and delivered thousands of coats.

"This initiative showcased the very best of our community-neighbors stepping up for neighbors in need," said Senator Oberacker. "I am proud to represent a district where compassion and action come together. Thank you all for the incredible support and for making a real difference in the lives of so many."



Governor Hochul Announces Crackdown on Impaired Driving During Super Bowl Week

One of Several Annual Alcohol- and Drug-Related Enforcement Campaigns Funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Special Enforcement Campaign Runs from February 3 to February 9

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that State Police and local law enforcement agencies will participate in the national enforcement initiative on impaired driving in the week leading up to this year's Super Bowl. The campaign which runs from Monday, February 3, 2025 through Sunday, February 9, 2025, is funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and targets underage drinking enforcement, along with increased patrols and sobriety checkpoints to deter, identify and arrest impaired drivers.

"As football fans gather across our state to watch the game on Sunday, I'm directing State Police and local law enforcement to elevate their enforcement action to protect New Yorkers from the dangers of impaired and reckless driving," Governor Hochul said. "We have no tolerance for anyone endangering themselves or others on the road, and I encourage everyone to take the responsible steps necessary to keep our communities safe."

During the 2024 Super Bowl weekend campaign, law enforcement officers arrested 262 people for impaired driving and issued 8,388 total tickets.

New York State DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "The easiest path to victory is planning for a safe ride home during Super Bowl celebrations. We're asking all drivers to plan for a sober ride home, watch their speed and avoid distractions behind the wheel. When you follow these basic rules and expectations, everybody wins."

New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James said, "During this campaign, drivers can expect to see sobriety checkpoints, dedicated DWI enforcement patrols, and operations targeting underage drinking and illegal sales to minors across New York State. Our Troopers will also focus on keeping motorists and pedestrians safe by identifying drivers illegally using hand-held devices. Partnering with local law enforcement is essential to saving lives and keeping drunk drivers off our roads."

Whether you are hosting or attending a celebration, the New York State Police, the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offer these tips to help your guests get home safely:

Always drive 100 percent sober. Even one alcoholic beverage could be one too many.

Plan ahead: You have options to get home safely. Designate a sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare. Getting home safely is always worth it. Ask all of your guests to designate their sober drivers in advance or help them arrange ridesharing with sober drivers. If you don't drink, offer to drive guests home.

If it's your turn to be the designated driver, take your job seriously and don't drink.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact local law enforcement.

If you have a friend who is about to drink and drive, take the keys away and let a sober driver get your friend home safely.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and the New York State STOP-DWI Foundation "Have a Plan" mobile app, is

available for Apple, Android and Windows smartphones. The app enables New Yorkers to locate and call a taxi service and program a designated driver list. It also provides information on DWI laws and penalties, and a way to even report a suspected impaired driver.

Remember, if you serve a guest alcohol and he or she gets in a crash that night, you could be held liable.

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police President and City of Batavia Police Department Chief Shawn Heubusch said, "As Super Bowl Sunday approaches, we want to remind everyone that there is no excuse for impaired driving. Law enforcement agencies across New York will be increasing STOP-DWI patrols and enforcement efforts to keep our roads safe. If you're celebrating, make the right call-plan for a designated driver, use a rideshare, or take public transportation. Let's work together to prevent tragedies and ensure everyone gets home safely. Don't fumble with impaired driving-your choices save lives."

Chautauqua County Sheriff and President of the NYS Sheriffs' Association James Quattrone said, "There will be some big plays during the Super Bowl. The biggest play you can make is driving safe and sober. If you drive impaired the penalty won't be a loss of 10 yards; it may be the loss of your license, fines, and even jail time. The Sheriffs of New York State want you to enjoy the big game and have a plan to get home safely and not drive impaired."

Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger Invites Applications for 2025 Climate Corps 10-Week Paid Summer Internship Provides Hands-On Experience in Government

KINGSTON, NY - County Executive Jen Metzger invites applications for the Ulster County Climate Corps - a paid, project-based summer internship program, now in its third year, to give students hands-on experience working on climate-related projects in County government. This year, Climate Corps interns will choose from among more than a dozen projects that advance the County's Climate Action Commitment and bolster community resilience to the impacts of climate change. The program runs from June 9 to August 15 and pays \$18 per hour. The application window opens today, February 3, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through the end of March, or until the program is filled.

"We're kicking off the third year of the Ulster County Climate Corps, and we've got a lot of exciting projects lined up for summer interns to fight climate change and strengthen our resilience to its impacts," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "This is a great opportunity for young people to make a difference in their community and help build a more sustainable future while gaining hands-on experience in government."

"I was lucky enough to participate in the Climate Corps in the summer of 2023, and learned so much through this experience," said Naseem Haidaoui, Climate Corps Alumni and recent graduate of SUNY New Paltz, who now serves as Confidential Secretary to the County Executive. "For my project, I helped develop the County's climate justice outreach plan, and I also had the opportunity to learn from professionals in and outside of government through the program's weekly professional development sessions. (Contd. Pg. 53)

UC Executive Jen Metzger Invites Applications for 2025 Climate Corps 10-Week Paid Summer Internship

(From Pg. 52) I am excited to have the opportunity this year to bring my experience with the Climate Corps to help coordinate the program."

The program is open to individuals aged 16 and over, and interested high school, college, and graduate students and interested community members are encouraged to apply. Through a blend of hands-on experience, professional development, and community engagement, interns will gain insights into public service and government operations while actively contributing to tangible climate solutions.

This year's Climate Corps projects include:

- o Sustainable Farming Practices (Economic Development)
- o Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Emergency

Services)

- o Climate Smart Communities Program (Environment)
- o Energy and Electrification GIS Mapping (Environment)
- o Better Homes for All Program (Interdepartmental)
- o Graphic Design and User Experience for Climate Initiatives (Executive's Office)
- o Ulster REConnect Map development (Information Services)
- o Transportation System for Elderly Residents (Office for the Aging)
- o EV Charging Stations Mapping (Planning/Tourism)
- o Waste Reduction and Education for County Facilities (Public Works)
- o Ulster County Sustainable Purchasing Best Practices (Purchasing)
- o Youth Climate Education (Youth Bureau)

To learn more about the Ulster County Climate Corps Program, and to apply, visit

<https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/climate-corps>.



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Liberty NY Rotary Club Strengthens Disaster Preparedness in Puerto Rico



Liberty, NY – February 2, 2025 – From January 26th to February 1st, 2025, the Liberty NY Rotary Club (LNYRC) Disaster Preparedness and Relief Team made a significant impact on disaster readiness in Puerto Rico, a region that has historically faced devastating hurricanes and earthquakes. The team, consisting of Irving Kaplan, Dan Parkhurst, Gary Siegel, and Gary Silver, traveled to the island with the mission to enhance resilience and preparedness in the face of future natural disasters.

The team's efforts included participation in the three-day Puerto Rico VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Conference, where they connected with key organizations such as FEMA and VOAD. These vital meetings focused on fostering collaboration, cooperation, coordination, and communication, which are essential for improving disaster preparedness across Puerto Rico.



"Puerto Rico's challenges are immense, particularly with a fragile power grid that often leaves communities vulnerable during and after disasters. Our team is committed to making sure the island's Rotary clubs and communities are better equipped to respond and recover when the next disaster strikes," said Irving Kaplan, Member of the LNYRC Disaster Preparedness Team.

In collaboration with Rotary District 7000 leadership, the Liberty Rotary team developed a comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Plan, which lays the groundwork for strengthening local disaster response efforts. The team identified and met with six pilot Rotary clubs across Puerto Rico, located in San Juan, Mayagüez, Yauco, Manatí, Guayama, and Quebradillas. These clubs were selected as the first to implement disaster preparedness strategies, with a goal to spark broader engagement from their members and local stakeholders.

"The response from the pilot clubs was incredibly positive. Some clubs were already in the process of forming their disaster preparedness committees, while others have made tremendous strides by reaching out to community stakeholders to establish priorities and goals for the next six months," said Dan Parkhurst, a member of the team. "Our goal is to ensure that Rotary clubs across the island are ready—not if, but when—disaster strikes."

The Liberty NY Rotary team's visit was met with overwhelming gratitude, and the work of the team was formally recognized. During their trip, each of the LNYRC team members were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Rotary District 7000 Governor, Marco Bilén-Thillet, in acknowledgment of their invaluable service and collaboration with local Rotary clubs in Puerto Rico.

"The efforts of the Liberty Rotary team have not only helped prepare Puerto Rico for future challenges but also provided a spark of hope and urgency for ongoing community involvement in disaster preparedness," said D7000 Governor Belén-Thillet. "This partnership will go a long way in ensuring the island's resilience for years to come."

As the Liberty NY Rotary Club Disaster Preparedness and Relief Team continues to work alongside Puerto Rico's Rotary District 7000, the lasting impact of their mission will strengthen the island's ability to survive, recover, and rebuild after disasters.



For more information about the Liberty NY Rotary Club and its Disaster Preparedness efforts, visit libertynyrotary.org.

Contact: Gary Siegel – Co-Chair

Liberty NY Rotary Club Disaster Preparedness & Relief Committee

Email: libertynyrotaryclub@gmail.com

Phone: (845) 798-2188



Join the DPL 2025 Reading Challenge!

Read ALL year and you could win a book or two!

Ready to dive into new adventures, explore fresh ideas and discover exciting worlds? The 2025 Book Challenge is here and it's open to readers of all ages! Whether you're a child just learning to read, a teen devouring every novel in sight or an adult looking for your next great read, this challenge is for you!

Make sure to stop by the library and grab your reading log!

- Set Your Goal – whether it's 5, 10 or 30 books, there's no limit!
- Read – explore new genres, authors and topics.
- Track Your Progress – add the titles as you go.
- Celebrate Your Success – complete the challenge by December 31, 2025 and be entered to win a book each time you fill out one side of your reading log!

Challenge yourself and your family.

Expand your horizons with new books.

For ALL ages!

Read adventurously!



Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, February 16th

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. ATM now available on-site!

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

\$50 from the Breakfast Is Donated to the Claryville Reformed Church Food Pantry

New to the Daniel Pierce Library this year...

Introducing
Pages & Percs

Join us for a brand new experience at the DPL
Now you can sip, relax and read all in one place.

Get cozy and caffeinated while you enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and browse our book sale selection, located in our beautiful 1902 Room.

You can:

Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee from Happy Belly for \$2. Choose the perfect coffee pod for yourself at our front desk.

Pick out a book to buy and take home or dive into it right here.

Sit back, sip your coffee and enjoy a peaceful moment.

Whether you're looking for your next page-turner or just need a break, Pages and Percs is your perfect spot to relax and recharge.

Enjoy!

Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

We invite all homeschooling families to join a self-guided group that meets monthly at the Daniel Pierce Library.

Together this group will share lessons, network, set up future field trips, have various guest speakers and programs.

You can also... borrow books, check out DVD's, access the internet, research online databases and utilize library space! (If you have a RCLS library card).

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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



**Beginning
September
24th**



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A
Daniel Pierce Library Card?
 Explore everything your library card gives you!





Read any way you like
 Digital books, magazines, and newspapers, eAudiobooks, and audiobooks



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Learn something new 24/7

Learn a new language: HLL with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

Borrow instead of buy

Check out books, magazines, eAudiobooks and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

Entertain your kids – or yourself

Passes to Mohawk Preserve and the Jim and Ina Valley Museum

Unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga

There's even more to explore with your library card:

- ▶ Online programming, databases and research materials
- ▶ Export reading recommendations
- ▶ Internet access and computers to use

SIGN UP TODAY! It's FREE and easy!
 Visit the Daniel Pierce Library for more details.

SHARE THE NUMBER

SPREAD THE WORD

CALL OR TEXT

988

CHAT

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There is hope.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!




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

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

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!




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

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

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

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

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

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



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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



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

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

Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486

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



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



accessupports.org

Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Who will you protect?



Friends

Amigos

Family

¿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.sullivanny.us



GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

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



FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!



Vet 2 Vet

Caffeine & Camaraderie

✦ **Every Monday** ✦
10:00AM - 11:00AM

Come join us along with other
Vets to share some coffee and
some stories.

**Place: 309 East Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701**

**Call 845-794-4228 for more
info, ask for Matt or Vinny**



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



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**

NYC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program

Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

vet2vet@atitoday.org

309 E Broadway Suite A

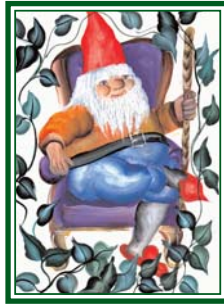
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and Landscape Sevice**
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Salary based on experience.
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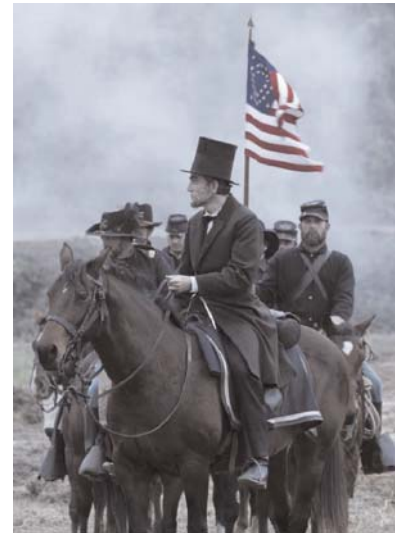
KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2
NETFLIX & AMAZON PRIME

Lincoln

(PG · IMDb; Amazon Prime; Appletv; Fandango
2012 PG 13 2h30m

Lincoln is a 2012 American biographical historical drama film.

It takes place as the Civil War thunders on. President Lincoln struggles with continuing slaughter on the battlefield. He battles with many of his own cabinet with his idea to emancipate the slaves and Lincoln's efforts in January 1865 to abolish slavery and involuntary



servi-
tude by
having the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution passed by the United States House of Representatives.
It was nominated for seven Golden Globe Awards, including Best Motion Picture - Drama, Best Director, and winning Best Actor (Motion Picture - Drama) for Day-Lewis. At the 85th Academy Awards, it received twelve nominations, including Best Picture and Best Director; it won for Best Production Design and Best Actor for Day-Lewis, his third in the category. It was also a commercial success, grossing over \$275 million at the box office It has since been cited as one of the best films of Spielberg's career and one of the greatest films of the 21st century.



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gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com
... or if you just want to have some 'gnome made' fun..

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<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: False - there will be 6 more weeks of winter.

This weeks' Trivia question:

True or false: What movie features the song, *As Time Goes By*?

(From Pg. 64)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #2
NETFLIX & AMAZON PRIME

Hook

(PG · 1991 · 2hr 22min · Fantasy)

While *Hook* was critically derided when it hit theaters in 1991, Spielberg found something special when retelling Peter Pan. Many still maintain it's one of Spielberg's great movies for kids of all ages, the affect it had on an entire generation of children is undeniable. Robin Williams plays a grown-up Peter Pan who's forgotten all about his time in Neverland, until Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman) steals his children and forces Peter to go back. It's a struggle, as Peter keeps trying to deny any semblance of

magic, and indeed at heart this is a story about reconnecting with your inner child.



Perhaps that's why it works so well for kids. Well that and the tremendous production design that brings Neverland to life in vivid fashion. Watch this one with your children and they won't be disappointed. It's also one of John Williams' best scores.

Written by Jim V. Hart and Malia Scotch Marmo. Directed by Steven Spielberg, starring. Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Bob Hoskins, Maggie Smith, and Charlie Korsmo.

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE #3

The Women

Comedy; Drama
 (PG1939 · 2 hr 13 min)
 IMDb · Prime



The Women – one of the funniest studies of the lives and romantic entanglements of various interconnected women.

A wealthy New Yorker, Mary Haines, seems to have it all. She doesn't believe the rumors that her husband is having an affair with Crystal, until her two best friends, Sylvia and Edith confirm the rumors. She struggles with the idea of a divorce. The fun begins when she heads to Reno for a divorce. On the way she runs into two women who happen to be having an affair with Sylvia's husband.. When Sylvia shows up at 'the ranch resort' in Reno seeking a divorce, Mary decides she will fight an win her man back.

No men appear in this film.

Directed by George Cukor. Based on a story written by Clare Boothe Luce. Screen play by Anita Loos and Jane Murnin. Starring Norma Shearer (Mary); Joan Crawford (Crystal); Rosalind Russell (Sylvia); Mary Boland (Phyllis); and Paulette Goddard; Joan Fontaine; Lucile Watson; Phyllis Povah; Virginia Weidler; Marjorie Main and Hedda Hopper.

Stay Safe,
 Knarf
 The Gnome