



Ye Olde
Tri GOOWNSMAN Valley
 "The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 20 NO. 2 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 11, 2024

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 7 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11
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Tri-Valley Graduates Austin Hartman, Thomas Houghtaling and Keegan Stroop - recipients of The Tri-Valley Lions Club High School Community Service and Achievement Award



Left to right: Austin Hartman, Thomas Houghtaling, and Keegan Stroop

On Monday, January 8, 2024, three of the nine Tri-Valley Graduates to receive The Tri-Valley Lions Club Community Service and Achievement Award attended our dinner meeting at Casa Mia. Austin Hartman, Thomas Houghtaling, and Keegan Stroop, along with their parents were in attendance. These were three of the selected winners to receive awards in the amount of \$300 each from The Tri-Valley Lions to assist with their ongoing education. Austin Hartman is attending Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT where he is majoring in Business Management. Thomas Houghtaling is attending SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica, NY where he is majoring in BSIMS Computer Science and pursuing a BS in Interactive Game Design. Keegan Stroop is attending Siena College and is a Computer Science Major.

This was a good opportunity to introduce Austin, Thomas, Keegan, and their parents to Lionism and to the mission of The Tri-Valley Lions. We are hoping to attract new youthful individuals to join The Tri-Valley Lions Club to ensure the longevity of our Club and to continue with the many charitable activities we do all year through. (Contd. Pg. 5)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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

EDITOR: Linda Comando - 845-985-0501

THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

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

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: For he hath said, it profiteth a man nothing that he should delight himself with God. Job 34:9

OBITUARY

Dale D. Ellis of Neversink, NY passed away on December 29, 2023 at home with his family by his side. He was 74 years old.



He was born in Newburgh, NY on May 4, 1949 to Dale and Kathren M. Ellis.

Dale dedicated 42.5 years of his life to Tri-Valley Central school, working in the maintenance department. Dale was an avid outdoorsman who spent his life enjoying his many interests. A lover of all things, he liked visiting boat museums, deep sea fishing and restoring his own boat. He also loved motorcycles and riding his Harley Davidson. Dale was a skilled hunter and fisherman and enjoyed time spent at his hunting lodge and salmon fishing. He loved camping and traveling with his beloved wife LouAnn. Other interests included antique tools, particular tractors and gardening. He was a gifted musician who enjoyed playing guitar and singing for his family and was a member of a country band in his younger days. Above all, Dale was a family man who loved his family and friends.

Dale was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, son, brother, and dear friend, who will be dearly missed, but the memories of him will always be cherished.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years LouAnn (Haas) Ellis; his children, Connie Hemmer (Terrell) of Hendersonville, NC, Naomi Rokaw (Eric) of Hendersonville, NC, Ernie Curless (Heidi) of Grahamsville, NY, Katrina Matthews (Matt) of Manassas, VA, and Janet Calangelo of Narrowsburg, NY; Siblings, George Ellis, and Suzanne Krom; Grandchildren, Zackrey, Ian, Dillon, Dalton, Allanha, Cheyenne, Britney, Jenna, Trey, Brendon, and Adrianna; Six beloved great grandchildren; Many loved nieces and nephews; and numerous dear friends.

He is predeceased by his dear Uncle Bill Newcomb and dear Aunt Sarah Newcomb.

In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Dale can be made out to either St. Jude or Hospice of Sullivan County and Orange County.

A Memorial Service to honor Dale will take place at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 396 State Route 52 Woodbourne, NY on Saturday, January 13, 2023, from 11:00am-1:00pm with the service taking place at 1:00pm. Internment of ashes to immediately follow at New Prospect Cemetery, NY-52 & New Prospect Road, Pine Bush, NY 12566.

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

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Dale Ellis, please visit our Tree Store

DAYS OF YORE.... Today's History

January 13, 1954

Mrs. Grant Jocelyn of Grahamsville and Mr. Norman Misner of Woodbourne were married January 7th at the Lows Corners parsonage by the Rev. J. Milton Harris. The couple left immediately after the ceremony for a two month stay in Florida. After they return, Mr. and Mrs. Misner will live in Woodbourne where Mr. Misner conducts an insurance business.

Here's the chance you've been waiting for,
Our annual sale with bargains galore.

Opportunity knocks for six days in a row,
Krum's the place, don't fail to go.

KUM TO KRUM'S

January 8, 1964

Airman Cecilia A. Trimble of Woodbourne, a member of the Women in the Air Force, is being reassigned to Westover AFB, Mass. for training and duty as an accounting and finance specialist. She is a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School, class of 1961 and she attended the College of St. Rose in Albany. Her guardians are Mr. and Mrs. Milton Turner of Ulster Heights Road, Woodbourne.

January 16, 1974

Sgt./Major (Ret.) and Mrs. Morris W. Robinson announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Ann Smith, to Peter J. VanScoy of Rome, N.Y. He is the son of Mrs. Ethel Van Scoy and the late Mr. Howard Van Scoy of Rome, N.Y. Mrs. Smith is employed at Tri-Valley Central School as a secretary. Mr. Van Scoy is employed by the New York State Dept. of Correction in Napanoch. A February 16th wedding is planned.

January 12, 1984

A bundle of joy was born on December 29, 1983, weighing in at 8 lbs. 8 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long. His name is Matthew Paul. The proud parents are Richard and Ilene Redmond, Jr. of Denman Mountain Road, Grahamsville. Maternal grandparents are Jack and Renee Saipher of New York. Maternal great-grandparents are Edward and Ann Saipher of New York. Paternal grandparents are Richard and Connie Redmond Sr. of Claryville. Paternal great-grandmother is Lucille Clark, also of Claryville.

Household Hint:

Keep bread from molding: Place a clean, dry paper towel under the bread in its original bag when storing it to prevent or delay mold.

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 and Hulda Vernooy.

The Winter Scene is Upon Us

With the background now white, the Catskill landscape is beginning to show off its winter evergreen foliage and red berries.

What are some of those red berries that we are seeing now?

The familiar Dog Rose a/k/a Wild Rose or Briar Rose (*Rosa canina*) is that rambling shrub, found in hedgerows, woodland edges, and grasslands. It is the most abundant of our native, wild roses. The dog rose that grows wild in the Catskills has thorns and clusters of sweet-scented five petaled white flowers that appear in June and July. By autumn they produce bright red rosehips that are high in vitamin C. They are one of the richest plant sources available and are used for herbal teas, jam, jelly, syrup, rose hip soup, beverages, pies, bread, wine, and marmalade.



Dog Rose



Black Elder

Another popular red berry grows on the Winterberry Holly a/k/a Black Elder (*Ilex verticillata*), a deciduous shrub that grows to 6 to 15 feet tall. It is a species of holly native to eastern North America and it decorates our winter scene in the Catskill's swamps, damp thickets, low woods and along ponds and streams.

The Winterberry Holly has abundant clusters of long lasting, bright red fruits and lustrous, thick, dark green leaves. The leaves fall off the shrub in autumn, making the berry display all the more showy in the winter landscape.

The attractive bright red fruit of winterberry is eaten by small mammals and more than 48 species of birds. The leaves and stems of winterberry holly are a source of food for the whitetail deer, cottontail rabbits, and snowshoe hare, however, the lustrous bright red fruit of this shrub are not for human consumption.

The little red berries on a barberry bush are dangling like tiny ornaments.

Japanese Barberry or Prickerbush (*Berberis thunbergii*) which grow from 2 to 8 ft high, is a spiny, deciduous shrub, with arching branches. They have pale yellow, dangling flowers from midspring to summer that mature into the edible fruit - a glossy bright red ovoid berry containing a single seed. They mature during late summer and fall and persist through the winter. Japanese barberry is found in old fields, open woods, on floodplains, ledges, along power lines, and on roadsides.



Japanese Barberry



Jack in the Pulpit

Don't forget, a little lower to the ground, the fruit of the Jack-in-the-pulpit. Now that the leaves are not present, all that is left is the stalk with the fruit, a mass of brilliant red or scarlet berries, each containing 1 to 5 seeds. You will find the red berries of the Jack-in-the-pulpit throughout open and dense moist woods. You may also find them in wood clearings and occasionally in pastures or at the edges of pastures that were formerly woodland.

Also low to the ground, the deciduous wintergreen berry that sport lustrous dark green leaves through winter as it is an evergreen. The clusters of vibrant red berries that are now present are the perfect contrast to its green leaves. The Wintergreen (*Gaultheria Procumbens*) plant was the original source of wintergreen oil. Also known as Checkerberry and Tea Berry, the berries, mature in late summer and last over winter and in early spring, even after the snow melts.



Wintergreen

Now that the first snow of the season has provided the ideal background for the winter scene, keep your eyes open and you too will see some of nature's red trimmings pop out against the white background that is oftentimes brushed with strokes of green from hardy evergreens.

With the variety of evergreens throughout the temperate Catskills and all the plants that produce bright red berries no wonder the colors of season in the northern lands are traditionally red and green.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published February 4, 1999

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

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

Our mail arrived Grooville by horse drawn wagon once a day at around 4 p.m. Our mail driver was Mary Conklin and she was a plump, not little lady and to me as a child, she was also mysterious. She wore ten-penny nails in her hair instead of hair pins like my mother wore. She quite often rode up front on the running board of her wagon when there were extra passengers enroute for Livingston Manor. She charged a 25 cent fare each way.

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

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

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

My parents quite often sent an order into New York City on Monday and receive their items on Wednesday by Parcel Post.

I loved to sit by dad and just watch him as he canceled stamps on outgoing mail and worked on his books. We had no speedy cars or trucks but our Ontario & Western Railroad brought our mail quickly. I sure miss that old railway.

Way back then postage on a letter cost 2 cents and a penny for a card and the United States mail was a very precious cargo.

Uncle Sam's mail pouches were made from sturdy leather and the first class pouches had a lock and key. The only one who had access to the mail pouches was our postmaster.

Janus/January

Look forward, look back.

Anticipate what's coming; contemplate what's past

Ski down the slopes of December
and smack onto the fresh, untracked
snows of January.

Look back... say your farewells,
then, move on.

Make your own marks on the new year.

Forget "resolutions."

Time and circumstance befuddle good intentions.

Rather, greet each day with resolve,
enthusiasm, hope, and confidence.

Go out and LIVE.

Learn from errors.

Accept help from others...give help in return.

Make new friends.....cherish "old" ones.

Be flexible.

After the snows come warmth and renewal.

Let it happen.

Flow with the seasons.

Savor each new one.

Remember this:

Collectively, days go by at warp speed,
irreversible
irretrievable,
suddenly a part of "history."

Eventually, the snows will return.

Anticipate the hills and valleys of each new day.

Negotiate it skillfully, moguls and all.

When the hills seem steep and long, and you feel yourself sliding.....

May you always find a ski lift waiting to take you back to the top.

Happy New Year.

Marilyn Vasko Laufer

ED NOTES:

Thank you Marilyn.

For those who do not know Marilyn, she is Beatrice Akerley's grand daughter.

Tri-Valley Graduates Austin Hartman, Thomas Houghtaling and Keegan Stroop - recipients of The Tri-Valley Lions Club High School Community Service and Achievement Award

(From Pg. 1) Thank you so much to Lion Leah Exner for her excellent coordination of the Tri-Valley Lions Community Service & Achievement Award and inviting Austin, Thomas, Keegan and their parents to our dinner meeting.

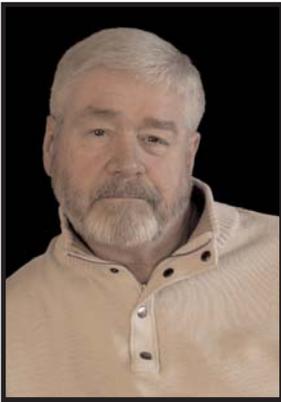


Left to right- Austin Hartman and parents Diana and Travis Hartman; parents Todd and Holly Houghtaling with son Thomas Houghtaling and Keegan Stroop with mom Danielle Penaly Stroop

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in the 47th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members.

Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey For Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley School Community Service and Achievement Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer and so much more.

Based on our ability to apply for and obtain matching funds, we received \$5,000 from the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation and contributed it to Phase II of the Route 42 Playground Project at the Neversink Ballfield. Additionally, we are waiting to hear if we were successful with a \$2000 grant application from the Brandel-Murphy Foundation which will permit us to increase our annual donation from \$500 to \$1000 for several food pantries that we support annually. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvacpat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com



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

Find Me

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 70

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 472

Published January 13, 2022

Hope Miller is the name adopted by a young woman who doesn't know her real identity...or where she came from. She was found fifteen years ago, in a wrecked and stolen SUV, unconscious and severely injured. The woman who discovered the accident in a remote area just outside of Hopewell, New Jersey, is Lyndsay Kelley—a young defense lawyer from New York City—who was visiting her parents, where they still live in the house where she grew up. Lyndsay has been protecting, guiding and looking out for Hope ever since.

As *Find Me*, (Harper Collins, \$26.99, 304 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-285336-3), by Alafair Burke begins, Hope has just announced that she's relocating to East Hampton, Long Island, where her mentor Lyndsay fears she won't be able to survive on her own. A short time after the move, those fears are realized when Hope disappears, leaving a single drop of blood as the only clue.

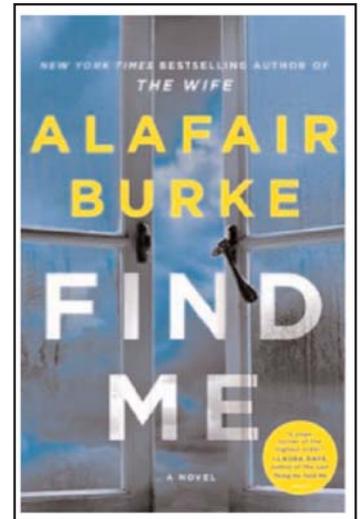
When CODIS, the national Combined DNA Index System available only to law enforcement, matches the sample to the DNA of a Wichita, Kansas serial killer, followed by the death of a local businessman soon after, lead police to believe that Hope is a killer and not a victim. That's when Ellie Hatcher gets involved. She's a NYPD homicide detective with roots in Wichita, where her father, also a homicide detective, was so obsessed with solving the serial killer case that he took his own life . . . an event

that Ellie refuses to believe happened. Thereafter, Ms. Burke skillfully weaves plot, subplot and back-story into a dynamic, irresistible cold case file and can't look away—twisty psychological thriller combined with a police procedural which will have readers racing to the conclusion—while at the same time wishing that the novel were several hundred pages longer. It's an incredibly difficult achievement most writers only dream of doing.

The MBR's advice: get your own copy of Alafair Burke's *Find Me* and join her ever-growing legions of fans. You won't regret it. Not ever!!

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

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



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



<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

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<http://Mysteriousbookreport.com>

The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

The First Snow



Last winter was one of the warmest ones on record, according to the weather news on television. This year, in fact tomorrow, the prediction is for heavy, wet snow in our area accumulating from 6-12 inches. With it falling on Little Christmas, Seis de Inero, the twelfth day

of Christmas, I plan to leave my tree up with lights twinkling as I watch the flakes come down. Since I will be snowed in on Sunday, it will be a good time to put away the decorations and put the house back in order.

There is something about “un-decorating” that spurs me on to tackle cupboards, drawers, and closets. My daughter-in-law gave me an organizing system for wraps, foils, bags etc. That started the winter clean-up. It only fit in my large “JUNK” drawer, so I started by dumping its contents and sorting through. I was amazed by how many “unidentifiable objects” there were. Those were easy to throw away. Next I looked for duplicates and found I was the proud owner of seven funnels. So funnels went into the give-away pile. I pared down to two shoe boxes: one of hardware and one of stationery items.



comb my hair. I brush it. Dows anyone ever use a comb? Some of the stuff really belonged in the linen closet, so on to that domain.

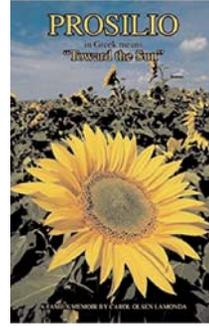
Organizing is a thankless job. No one notices it after you spend hours moving stuff around and paring down.

Putting away the holiday decorations will involve no disposal. Nope, my middle-aged son's paper French horn from Mrs. Turk's first grade will get put away with all the sentimental ornaments collected over the years. I can still picture the class singing the “Twelve Days of Christmas.”

I am secretly looking forward to the first real snow storm, but like Christmas decorations, I will soon tire of the snow and cold. I know my husband is not thrilled to put on the plow, bring out the snow-blower, and find the snow shovel.

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*



Where to put the contents? I decided to put the stationery stuff in the secretary, but that meant cleaning out the desk to make room. I was able to toss Christmas seals from 2003-2017 as an easy decision.

Can you see where this is leading? The hairbrush (who keeps a hairbrush in a desk?) could go in the bathroom vanity, which led to a purge of dozens of sample hand creams that smelled down-right medicinal. I did discover the Mother-load of shampoo and toothpaste tubes that will probably last me until 2026. So there I began to put like items together. I found over a dozen combs and realized I no longer





Daniel Pierce Library

Between the Bookends

'Save the Date' Winter Happenings at the DPL!

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-It's time to break in that new calendar with these not to be missed winter library programs! We started our winter Children's reading challenge which will continue to February 29. Bingo forms and reading logs can be picked up from our children's circulation desk or printed from our website. As soon as they are completed, please return to the children's floor. Children who complete the challenge will receive a book prize and help us fill in our tree!

Our collection of children's books is constantly growing. With a plethora of fictional picture books, chapter books and graphic novels, options are endless. Similarly, the non-fiction section is just as numerous-with a fantastic selection of everything from animals to outer space, biographies to historical accounts, and incredible art books that will teach anyone to draw cartoon characters, animals, monsters-you name it! The options are really limitless. And, let us not forget, our huge collection of Lego books. If the winter weather keeps your children inside, check out some Lego books and get the creative building juices flowing.

Often when parents or grandparents consider books for their children or grandchildren, they ask us for recommendations-which we gladly give-of popular reads but also for appropriateness of reading level. For that, we like to refer to our Five Finger Rule poster on display. To find a "just right" book using the five finger rule a child should choose a book at random and read the first page or two. While doing so, they put up one finger for every word they don't know, if all five of their fingers go up while reading, they may want to pick a different book if they were going to be reading it independently. If only two or three fingers go up, it would be considered a "just right" book.

On Wednesday, January 24 from 3-4:30PM, we will be holding a snowman painting program for Tri-Valley residents in grades 1-6. Pre-registration is required for this event and space is limited so please sign up through our website as soon as possible if your child is interested. Children will be painting their own unique versions of snowmen on canvas.

If space exploration is your thing, please register for one or both of our upcoming space programs. Local experts, John Kocijanski and Irene Pease will be at the library on Thursday, January 25 from 6 to 7PM to discuss Saturn. A showing of the PBS Nova documentary on Saturn will be shown followed by a Q & A session. Weather permitting; attendees will head outside to view this beautiful planet. The same format will be followed on Thursday, February 22 for a program on Jupiter. Both programs require pre-registration and is open to adults and children ten years old and up.

On Thursday, February 1, our annual Valentine's Day Card event steps off. Patrons of all ages are welcome to



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

pick up supplies to make homemade cards for the residents of Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility. Cards will be available (while supplies last) for pickup at the library starting the first and will have to be returned by 1PM Monday, February 12 for our special delivery.

On Saturday, February 10 we will be celebrating 'Take Your Child to the Library' Day! Open house will be from 9AM to 12PM and we will be presenting a very special program. Mr. Mystic, of The Amazing Mr. Mystic Show, will be performing a wonderful magic show for our young patrons. We are very excited! After this most amazing magic show, families will have an opportunity to tour our beautiful children's floor and check out books! (Keep in mind our reading challenge-that would be a great opportunity to return completed forms or start a new one.) While here, we are opening registration for our Spring Children's Programs: Mother Goose, Toddler Time and Story Hour! These programs are open to caregivers and their children ages 12 months to five years who are residents of the Tri-Valley CSD. The spring eight week long program begins the week of April 8, 2024. For more information on these very special Spring Children's Programs please attend the 'Take Your Child to the Library' Day, stop in the library during normal business hours to speak with Miss. Deirdre, DPL's Children's Program Coordinator, or watch our website and social media platforms for more information.

And last but not least, on Tuesday, February 13 we will be making our famously delicious cider donuts! So celebrate Mardi Gras by pre-ordering a dozen or two starting January 25. Plain, cinnamon and sugar will be available for order either online or in person at the library.



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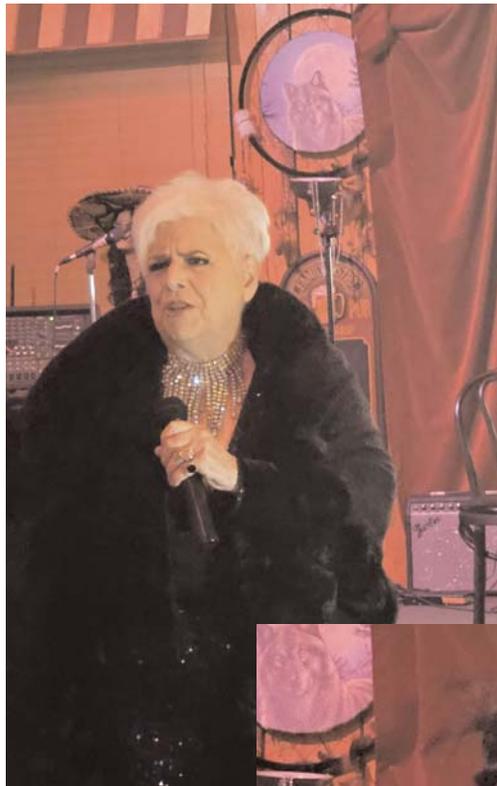
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The Scene Too

— By Jane Harrison

Boy, is winter sure making up for lost time! I have to admit that I'm writing this on Sunday Afternoon as a procrastination move against cleaning off or digging out my car. My friend who usually does it is busy with an ill mom, soooo.....

When I saw TERI PARIS at the CON QUESO performance a few weeks ago, I asked her a bit about her upcoming gig at CABERNET FRANK'S on December 29th. In that sardonic wistful way she has, she reminded me of the scheduled show the year before (2022), where her scheduled show was way-laid by freezing rain and ice. Well, the weather held, and I got to see what others had been urging me to see.



Teri Paris

imprinted. I have to stop doing that because I was so wrong!

TERI is a chanteuse in the truest sense of the word. Her repertoire is so vast she has something for everyone which was borne out by the packed house and packed by those who pretty much wouldn't let her off the stage! She makes each song a piece of performance art.



Teri Paris

TERI PARIS is one hell of a performer who takes to the stage, any stage, as if that it is a part of her. I have to admit that I wasn't sure what to expect, considering over the last few years I've only caught her in open mic bits. We met way back when, when she and the Sullivan County Theatre group came into the old NADIA'S after a closing performance, so I had 'show tunes'



Patti Greco Sunshine

she's breaking from 'professoring' she's making really mean drinks!

This weekend, thanks to the storm and increasing 'unwellness' taking hold here really put a kibosh on live music! CON QUESO, scheduled for Friday night at CABERNET FRANK'S had to cancel due to illness.

SCOTT PALERMO stepped in last minute. Then Saturday night, the duo of FISHER AND KEAN, made the wise decision to reschedule. I had planned to be in Pine Bush Saturday night for a night of Jazz with my good friend DON MILLER, but that too (wisely) was cancelled.

And the BAGEL FEST scheduled for Sunday (with the



Beauty of winter

Then seeing PATTI GRECO SUNSHINE, another performer I have a great deal of respect for, in the audience then on stage with TERI for a few songs, that just settled it. If you've ever longed for a real nightclub experience, keep your eyes open for TERI PARIS.

For all those who been asking where they can get a copy of 'FIRST TIME EVERY TIME', the book of poetry by LISA TITUS: it's available on Amazon. Or, you can visit CABERNET FRANK'S on Wednesdays for their LUCKY 7s Club for \$7 martinis or their equivalent. This week, you can catch CASWYN MOON and FAITH KELLY at 8pm and let LISA TITUS know you are interested in acquiring her fantastic book. When



One mean Cosmo

very first bagel making machine which I'm dying to see) was cancelled and rescheduled for this coming Sunday, January 14 2pm to 4pm at the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM in Hurleyville.

Looking ahead, on Saturday January 20, you can catch JAKE-TOWN ROAD at the HASBROUK TAV-ERN at 8pm.

The storm rages on and I need some tea!

Stay safe, stay well
Until the nex time...

FBPH 2024 Local Auditions

The Forestburgh Playhouse is so excited to invite the incredible young local talent from our Sullivan Catskills and surrounding counties to the annual FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE LOCAL AUDITIONS!

Forestburgh, NY - January 2, 2024 - The Forestburgh Playhouse is thrilled to extend an open invitation to the remarkable young local talent of Sullivan Catskills and the surrounding counties for the highly anticipated FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE LOCAL AUDITIONS.

Experience the excitement of working alongside our talented professional performers and be a part of world-class entertainment on our main stage!

WHEN: February 11th, 2024, from 10 AM to 5 PM

WHERE: Seelig Theatre at SUNY Sullivan, 112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759

HOW TO SIGN UP: To participate, please email production@fbplayhouse.org with the subject line "Local Casting Signup." In your email, specify whether you are auditioning for "Willy Wonka" or "The Prom." If you possess dance skills and wish to audition for "The Prom," kindly indicate your interest in joining the dancing PromSemble. Further information regarding audition times and requirements will be provided upon confirmation.

WHAT SHOWS CAN I AUDITION FOR?

This year presents exciting opportunities for young artists in two spectacular mainstage productions:

ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA THE MUSICAL

Ages 5-12

Seeking: The Playhouse is searching for talented young artists with singing abilities who are eager to have fun as members of the Wonka Factory Ensemble! Successful candidates will perform as Oompa Loompas and other magical characters in the production, participating in all the grand musical numbers. Singing and basic movement skills are required.

Audition Requirements: Auditioners should prepare a 16-bar selection (30-45 seconds) of their favorite song. If possible, please bring piano/sheet music for accompaniment. If sheet music is unavailable, no worries - just bring your favorite song to sing!

Rehearsals: Weekend rehearsals starting in late June. Morning and evening rehearsals closer to the opening day of July 11.

Performances: Thursdays and Saturdays at 11 AM, running until August 17th (12 performances in total). Cast members are encouraged to sign up for a minimum of 6 shows, with flexibility.

THE PROM! Broadway's Hit Musical Comedy!

Ages 13-17

Seeking: Talented teens to join THE PROMSEMBLE! The Promsemble will play featured high schoolers and ensemble members, participating in major production numbers alongside our professional cast. We are looking for singers who can move and singers who can dance.

Audition Requirements: Prepare a 16-bar selection (30-45 seconds) of your favorite song and bring piano/sheet music. For those interested in dancing, a dance call will be scheduled. Please mention your interest in dancing in your email for scheduling purposes.

Rehearsals: Typically from 10 AM to 5 PM (lunch provided) on Tuesdays through Saturdays. There is a Monday tech rehearsal on July 15 from 7 PM to Midnight and a final dress rehearsal on July 16 from 12:30 PM to 5 PM (dinner provided). (Contd. Pg. 14)



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FBPH 2024 Local Auditions

(From Pg. 12)

Performances: Cast members are required to attend every performance. The show runs from July 16-28, with performances on Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 PM, Wednesdays at 2 PM, and Sundays at 3 PM.

The Forestburgh Playhouse invites young, aspiring performers to showcase their talents and be part of these incredible productions, collaborating with our talented professional performers on the main stage.

ABOUT THE FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE

The Forestburgh Playhouse is the oldest, continuously running, professional summer theatre in New York State. Located in the Sullivan Catskills, the Playhouse was founded in 1947 by John Grahame and Alexander Maissel. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Franklin Trapp, FBP's mission is to present high-quality, professional theatre, including musicals, plays, cabarets and theatre for young audiences; to provide arts education programming for local youth; to develop and launch the careers of young artists; and to foster the development of new works through an annual new works festival. FBP attracts over 30,000 patrons each summer and was one of the first venues in the U.S. in 2020 to return to live performance with its popular Under the Stars concert series. The Playhouse celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2021.

Theatrical Arts at Forestburgh, Inc. d/b/a The Forestburgh Playhouse is a 501(c) (3) non-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting the arts in Sullivan County, NY. Federal ID #46-4432375 NYS Charities #44-50-97 NYS Tax Exempt #259887

Celebrate National Bagel Day with Bold Gold Media, The Sullivan County Chamber Of Commerce, and The Sullivan County Museum!

Hurleyville, NY - January 5, 2024 - In a delightful collaboration, Bold Gold Media and The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce are thrilled to announce their partnership with The Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, NY, for a special celebration of National Bagel Day on Monday, January 15, 2024.

This year's festivities are dedicated to commemorating the innovation of the Original Bagel Machine, created in the 1940's by Louis Wichinsky. This collaboration brings together history, culture, and culinary delight.

Broadcasting Live from History:

Join Sullivan County's favorite local morning show, Ciliberto & Friends, on Catskills News Talk 92.5FM & 94.9FM, as they broadcast live from the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum in Hurleyville, NY. From 6-9AM on January 15, tune in for engaging discussions, live updates, and exciting announcements about the upcoming Bagel Festival. This special broadcast from Main Street in Hurleyville promises to be a unique blend of historical insights and modern-day entertainment.

The Bagel Festival - A Fusion of Bagels, Art, and Music:

Mark your calendars for the highlight of the summer - The 2024 Bagel Festival, happening on Sunday, August 11, 2024. This year's festival, organized by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and Bold Gold Media, promises an enchanting experience on Bagel Boulevard, AKA Broadway in Monticello, NY.

Starting at 9AM, the festival will feature an array of activities centered around the beloved bagel. Attendees can look forward to a day filled with delicious bagel varieties, captivating art displays, and lively music performances, including the RadioBOLD Music Festival stage! The festival is not just a celebration of the bagel but also a showcase of the vibrant community spirit and cultural richness of Sullivan County.

Join Us in Celebrating a Legacy:

This joint effort by Bold Gold Media, The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, and The Sullivan County Museum aims to honor the legacy of inventor Louis Wichinsky and the timeless appeal of the bagel. We invite everyone to be part of these exciting events, celebrate our rich history, and enjoy the unique charm of Sullivan County.

For more information about the National Bagel Day celebration and the 2024 Bagel Festival, please visit:

<https://www.thebagelfestival.org>

Or

<https://sullivanny.us/news/see-original-bagel-making-machine-county-museum>

About Bold Gold Media:

Bold Gold is a Veteran owned and operated company. The mission of Bold Gold Media Group is to provide community focused broadcast and digital media programming for our entire listening area and contribute positively to the growth and development of the region through the power of local radio and digital media.

Locally owned, operated and programmed, Bold Gold was founded in 2005, with the aim of becoming the preeminent radio broadcast group in Northeast Pennsylvania and the Catskill Mountains of New York. Bold Gold serves the following regions: The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre & Pocono Lake Region of Pennsylvania and the Catskill Mountains & Hudson Valley Region of New York. Bold Gold has a total of 14 full power radio stations and 24 total broadcast frequencies as well as numerous state-of-the-art online and digital media platforms and services.

About The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce:

The Chamber was formed in 1974, as an advocacy group to combat escalating gasoline prices and their effects on the tourism industry. The Chamber has continued that tradition while expanding the Chamber's profile, reach and member base.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. is here to assist, support, promote and advocate on behalf of our member business community.

About The Sullivan County Museum:

Located at 265 Main Street in the hamlet of Hurleyville, the building is home to the Sullivan County Historical Society and the Frederick A. Cook Society. The museum is a three-story former school building that is owned and maintained by Sullivan County through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beautification.

The Sullivan County Historical Society was founded in 1886 and has the primary mission of preserving and presenting the history of Sullivan County for future generations. This is accomplished by the acquisition of historical records, documents and artifacts illustrating the history of the county, with the use of temporary and permanent exhibits.

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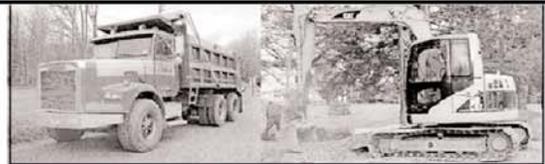
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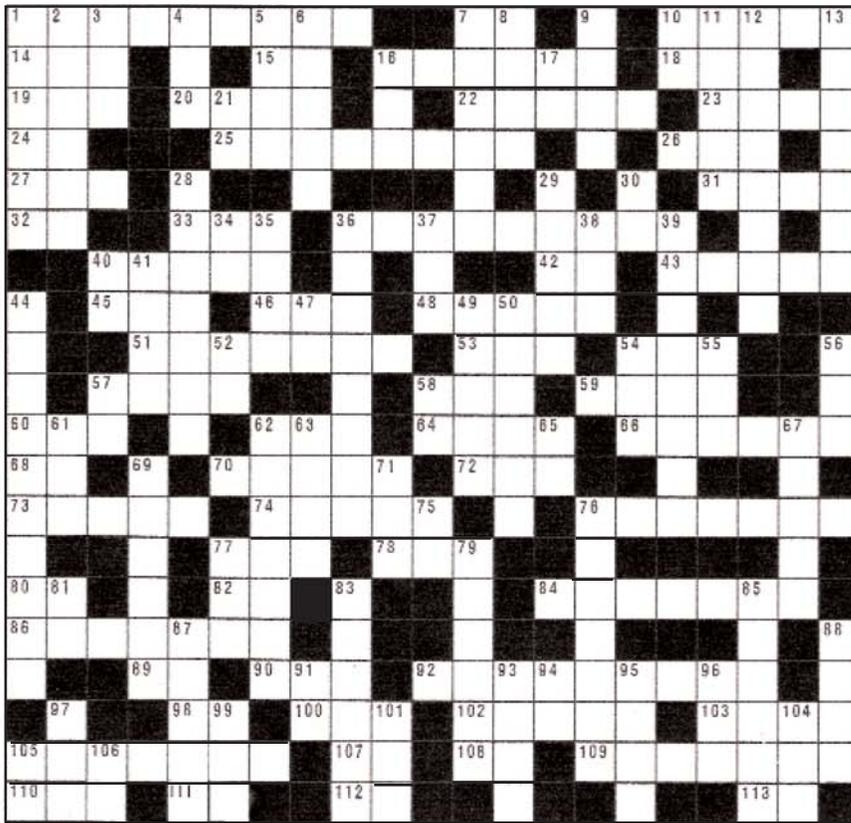
Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library
 Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30

Come paint with us!

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

"I Have a Dream" - L. Comando



ACROSS
 1 Aware
 7 Living Room
 10 Vision
 14 Exists
 15 United States
 16 Oration
 18 One of the slender curved bone protection the thoracic cavity
 19 Nocturnal flying mammal
 20 Large amount
 22 Not silent
 23 Relating to a teenager
 24 Nearby
 25 Study of the nature of God
 26 Female chicken
 27 Less than average height
 31 Perceives with the eyes
 32 Chem. element Argon
 33 Staff
 36 College attended by Martin Luther

King, Jr.
 40 Turn to ice
 42 Rupees
 43 Search
 45 A great deal
 46 Long period of time
 48 Thick
 51 City where Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated
 53 Female deer
 54 Male human
 57 Trial
 58 Honey-producing insect
 59 Hindu rosary
 60 Distinctive philosophy
 62 High degree of heat
 64 Against
 66 Legal entitlement
 68 Street
 70 Swedish chemist, entrepreneur and pacifist who invented dynamite
 72 Be seated
 73 International system of telegraphy
 74 Folk tradi-

tions
 76 Avoid
 77 Pastry
 78 Secretary-General of the U.N. from '58-'61
 80 Northeast
 82 Part of the human psyche
 84 Birthplace of Martin Luther King, JR.
 86 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s wife
 89 Regarding
 90 Term for Cantonese language
 92 Alaska's largest city
 98 Ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter
 100 Short sleep
 102 Yiddish dish
 103 "___ & Andy"
 105 Submissive
 107 Modus operandi
 108 Surrounded by something
 109 Icons
 110 Curved line
 111 Delaware

112 Chem. element tellurium
 113 Road
DOWN
 1 Jewish mystical tradition
 2 Skilled public speaker
 3 Overall
 4 Projection on a rotating part of machinery
 5 Cry of pain
 6 Escort
 7 Union
 8 Depend on
 9 Close
 10 Doctor
 11 Solemn ceremonial act
 12 King was the pastor of this church
 13 Someone's established set of attitudes
 16 Sun
 17 Colorado
 21 State that observed Human Rights Day until 2000
 28 Objection
 29 According to their mythology, the first humans were

55 Badger
 56 Belonging to him
 57 Trade-mark
 58 Bachelor of Arts
 61 Female saint
 62 Celebration
 63 Slender woodwind with a double reed mouthpiece
 65 That thing
 67 Small freshwater tropical

brightly colored fish
 69 Overseer
 71 Organized and directed
 75 South America
 76 Lower half of a two piece garment
 77 Excavation
 79 Noted civil rights leader in India

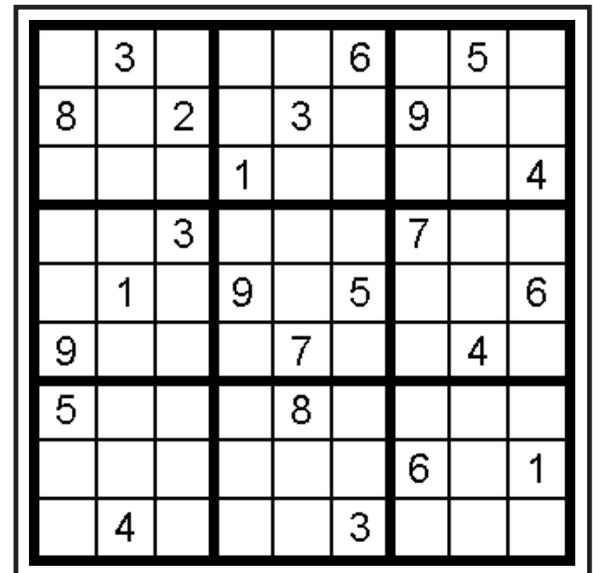
81 Executive Order
 83 Had a cherished aspiration
 85 Quake
 87 Lukewarm
 88 Multitude
 91 United Nations
 93 Penny
 94 Hour
 95 Lines of light
 96 Chat
 97 Face value of a stock
 99 I have (contraction)
 101 Author of "The Raven"
 104 Not new
 105 Father
 106 State that officially began to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as an official holiday in 2000

Broccoli Quiche

- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen broccoli
- 1 c. chopped onion
- 1 c chopped green pepper
- 1 1/2 c shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 c chopped parsley
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1 1/2 c milk
- 1 c. Bisquick
- 3 eggs

Grease 10 x 1 1/2 inch pie plate. Mix broccoli, onion, green pepper, cheese, Parmesan cheese, parsley, salt, pepper, garlic powder and oregano. Put in pie plate. Beat the milk, eggs and Bisquick until smooth (1 minute). Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes and serve.

数字は単数に限る



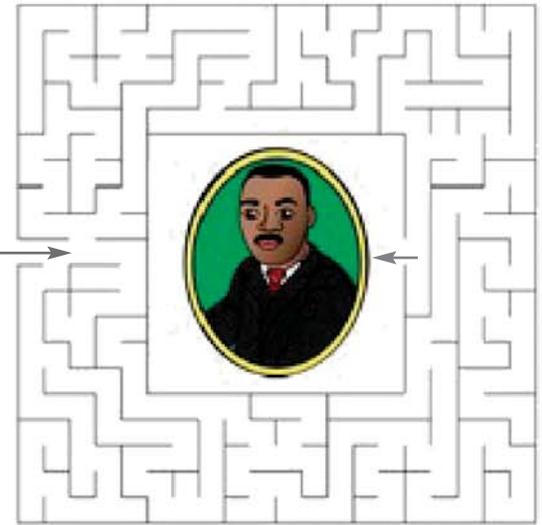
CRYPTOGRAM

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

15 26 24 11 13 11 7 14 8 18 21 26 18 11 22 7 14 8 18

6 14 14 18 7 14 8 18 3 8 22 22 5 11 22 13 19 25 25 11 25

7 11 19 18 1 26 1 15 21 14 16 18 11 19 21 3 11 23 18 11 11



Martin Luther King, Jr. - Word Search



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

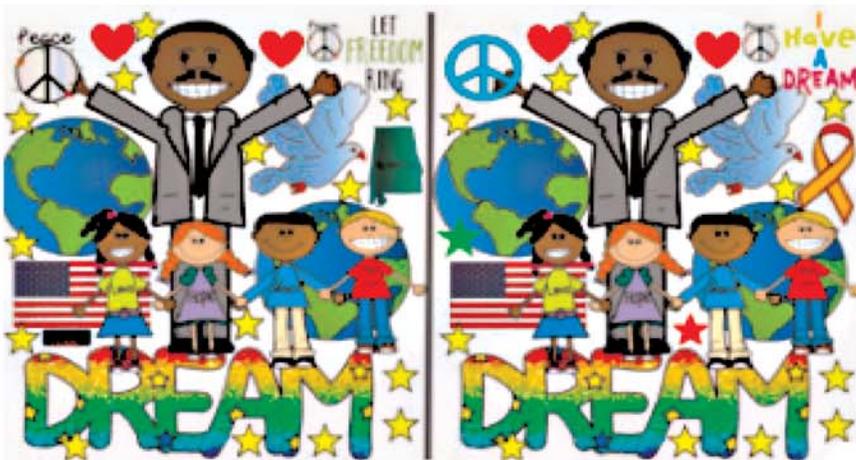
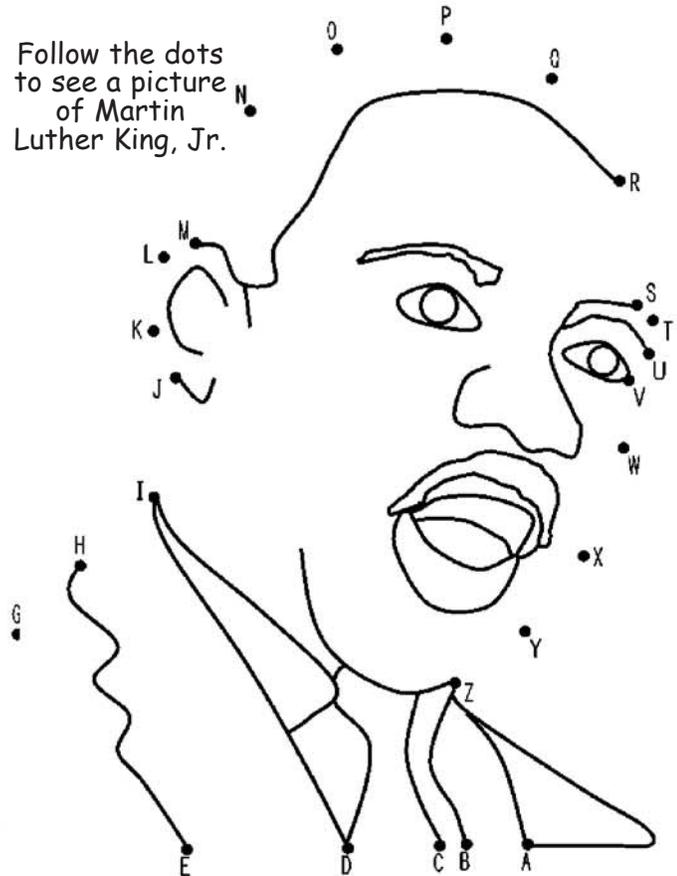


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Follow the dots to see a picture of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Find 5 differences between the two pictures?

Kids' Martin Luther King, Jr. Fun Page

Cryptogram Key

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

Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation
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Thursday

7pm-9pm

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Sunday

1pm-4pm

NOTE: *Hours may change during the season based on weather, volunteer availability or usage.*



Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Saturn



**Thursday, January 25, 2024
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

(For adults and students ten and up)

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! It's been over 300 years since Galileo turned his telescope on Saturn and first saw its spectacular rings. We will be watching the PBS Nova documentary on Saturn, showing us its beauty and newly discovered mysteries. Our experts will give additional insight and take questions as we explore. Weather permitting we will head outside to view this beautiful planet. If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

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

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



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To register go to:

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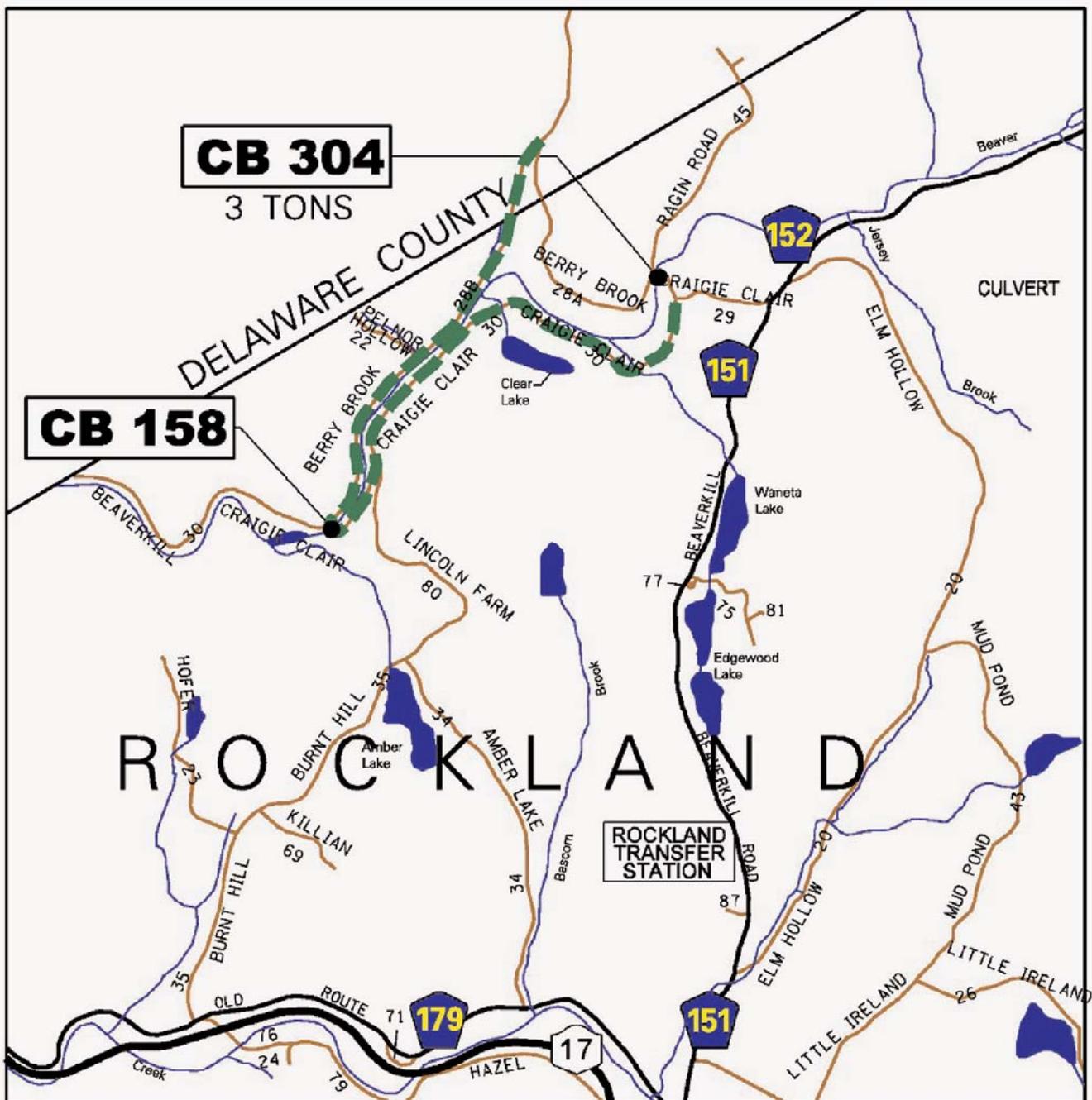
LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Livingston Manor ROAD CLOSURE TO REPAIR BRIDGE

Livingston Manor, NY - The Sullivan County Division of Public Works has closed a portion of Campsite Road in the Town of Rockland to repair County Bridge 304, which was damaged by a car accident this past weekend.

Better known as the Beaverkill Covered Bridge, County Bridge 304 is a 98-foot span across the Beaverkill north of Livingston Manor and Roscoe, near Lew Beach. Recently restored, the bridge has served traffic since 1865 and is maintained by the County.

The section of Campsite Road approaching both sides of the bridge will remain closed until repairs are completed. Traffic may detour using Craigie Clair Rd. to Berry Brook Rd. to Holiday and Berry Brook Rd.



DETOUR LENGTH: 4.9 MI. — — —

Dept. of Motor Vehicles dates for the Neversink Town Hall. Jan. 11, Feb. 8 & Mar. 7, 2024.



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Hortonville - 104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY (rotating schedule)

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information please call: 845-794-3872

Fallsburg Students Recognized as Scholar Athletes



(Left to right) Fallsburg varsity volleyball head coach, Amy Hobby, and scholar-athletes Gelsey Aguilar Torres, Hannah Johnson, Brianna Noller, Kaitlyn Pedersen, and Jordyn Wall-Carty

FALLSBURG - On January 3, 2024, thirty-eight Fallsburg CSD student-athletes were recognized as NYSPHSAA scholar-athletes for the 2023 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 Meredith Anderman, Cassandra Damms, Arianna Gonzalez, Angelina Levner, Shelby Lyons, Francely Maradiaga, Cecelia Norris-Yanes, Joslyn Odell, Iliana Pinzon, Jaily Sebastian, and Alisha Tremper. Members of the volleyball team were Gelsey Aguilar Torres, Maya Ballard, Arslyn Cantave, Emily Castro Ramos, Ashley Ingrassia, Hannah Johnson, Jennifer Morales Perez, Brianna Noller, Kaitlyn Pedersen, Georgia-Randle O'Brien, and Jordyn Wall-Carty.

In addition to team recognitions, sixteen athletes from the boys cross-country, football, boys soccer, and girls soccer teams were named individual scholar-athletes. Those students were Asly Avila, Nikolas Bonner, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Donovan Hart, Mia Irlbacher, Nicole Jimenez, Daris Koljenovic, Marco Mansanarez, Nancy Martinez, William Martinez, Adam Mednick, Eric Mocz, Dalila Ortiz, Emily Perna, Marilyn Santos, and Isaiah Young.

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

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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>

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Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

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

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

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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

Join Zoom Meeting - Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link
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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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

Grahamsville Reformed Church

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

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041



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

Loucks Funeral Home

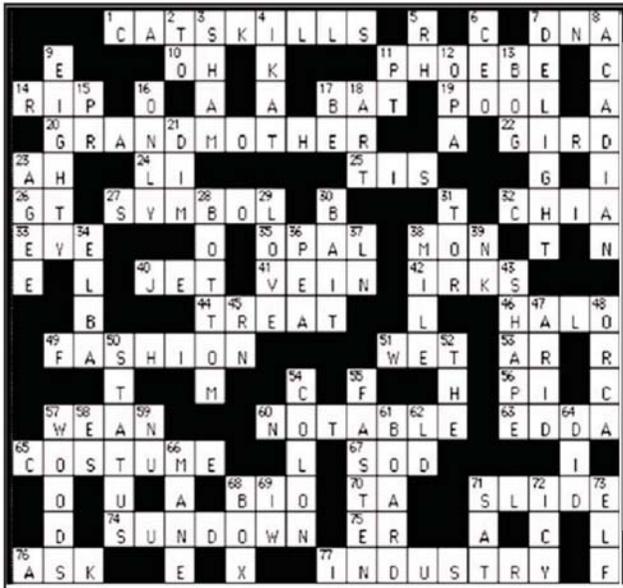
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

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

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

GRAHAMSVILLE UMC THRIFT MINISTRY

We are no longer accepting donations for the Thrift Ministry. Thanks to all for your generosity which has helped to make a successful season. We look forward to returning in the Spring of 2023.

The Grahamsville UMC Mission Team

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, February 3, 2024 5:30 pm at the Church Hall

Check out the tables with Yard Sale items available for sale
 (Covered Dish Suppers are held the First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Church Hall)

SCDW Casting Call

The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is thrilled to have “She Kills Monsters” by Qui Nguyen, as its June live stage performance. “She Kills Monsters” explores themes of guilt, acceptance and identity - with wit and humor. Performances at the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallsburg on June 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.

Looking to cast 9 actors - males and/or females, ages 16-30. Auditions will take place at the Senior Center, Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg on Friday, January 26, from 6-8pm, and on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 & 28 from noon to 3pm.

Please note that each actor should come prepared with a 1 minute monologue of their choice that strongly demonstrates their acting ability. Sides will be read along with other auditioning actors.

Contact Director Josh Rosengrant - 845-866-3878 - rosen-gra@yahoo.com - for information or to schedule an alternate audition date.

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.

1/9/24	Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
1/11/24	Town of Neversink Board Meeting 7:00 pm
1/16/24	Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
1/18/24	Denning Town Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
1/18/24	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
2/3/24	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church Hall
2/7/24	Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting

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

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2024**
so that we may continue to post your meetings and events
throughout the coming year.

You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or
USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Calendar Update

for the Week Of
January 8 - January 12, 2024

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

Monday, January 8

- o **CANCELLED** - Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

Tuesday, January 9

- o **5:00 PM - CANCELLED** Ulster County Board of Health, 239 Golden Hill Lane, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Kingston

Wednesday, January 10

- o **10:00 AM - CANCELLED** Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o **5:30 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 17 of 2023, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Modify Various Provisions, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**
- o **5:45 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2023, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Amend Article II Legislative Branch §C-21 Filling Membership Vacancies, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**
- o **6:00 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2023, A Local Law Amending Article III Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**

Thursday, January 11

- o No Meetings

Friday, January 12

- o No Meetings

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

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

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-

\$6.00 per week

Business card ad (2" x 3")

- \$12.00 per week

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

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

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

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

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

Full Page - 8" x 10" -

\$100.00 per week

Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week

.. **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!**

NYS Public Service Commission Chooses Litigation over a Negotiated Settlement in Fortis/Central Hudson Rate Case, as Urged by County Executive Metzger

ALBANY, NY and KINGSTON, NY - The NYS Public Service Commission has initiated formal litigation in the Fortis/Central Hudson rate case under Section 66 of Public Service Law, and today set an evidentiary hearing for Wednesday, January 24 at 10:00 am, continuing each successive business day as needed. The move follows a call by County Executive Jen Metzger for regulators to pursue litigation rather than enter into confidential settlement negotiations, as the Department of Public Service has done in past rate cases. The notice of Evidentiary Hearings was filed with parties to the rate case today and can be found on the Department of Public Service website at

<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CasMaster.aspx?MatterSeq=71378&MNO=23-E-0418>.

At the end of October, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger sent a letter to the New York State Public Service Commission urging the Commission to use its authority to pursue litigation to deny the exorbitant double-digit rate hike requested by Fortis/Central Hudson.

"As someone who has fought for our communities in past rate cases, it has been my experience in these closed-door negotiated settlement proceedings that the power dynamics tend to favor the utility and its army of lawyers over residential and small business customers," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "Given the egregious issues with billing and customer service that have plagued our communities for more than two years, we need this rate case litigated in public view."

The letter highlighted the ongoing investigation by the Department of Public Service into Fortis/Central Hudson's billing problems and poor customer service and emphasized the immense burden borne by Fortis/Central Hudson customers over the past 28 months due to the company's mismanagement.

Over the past 28 months, utility customers have grappled with a series of billing-related issues resulting from what Metzger described as "irresponsible business practices" by the utility company. These issues have led to financial stress and hardship for thousands of customers, with the Department of Public Service receiving over 20,000 complaints. At a public hearing held in the City of Kingston on October 19, residents voiced their frustrations, recounting their experiences with inconsistent and inexplicable bills and the challenging interactions, or lack thereof, with the company's customer service.

Metzger's October 31 letter highlighted that customer arrears greater than 60 days have grown by over a thousand percent since February 2020, as reported in the company's rate case filing. While recognizing the recent agreement to place an independent billing monitor with Fortis/Central Hudson as a positive step, Metzger renewed her previous call for a forensic audit of customer bills to ensure billing errors are corrected and customers can have confidence in the system's accuracy.

Wilderness Recovery Minnewaska State Park

On Dec. 22 at 1:15 p.m., Forest Ranger Rusher overheard a 911 call for a hiker who had fallen approximately 80 feet at Minnewaska State Park.

The 39-year-old from Singapore was severely injured, but conscious when State Parks staff reached her. Ranger



Forest rangers with ropes and harnesses preparing for a rescue

Rusher was joined by Lieutenant Slade and three additional Forest Rangers. Due to the severity of the injuries and complexity of the terrain, Rangers requested a New York State Police (NYSP) helicopter for a hoist mission.

While moving the hiker to the extraction point, her vitals crashed, and State Parks staff began CPR. At 3:10 p.m., the victim was successfully hoisted by Ranger Cowart and Pilots Bernardini and Leder. She was transferred to an ambulance that took her to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

An initial NYSP investigation indicates she and her husband were hiking on Beacon Hill trail and stopped to take pictures at the edge of the cliff when she lost her footing and fell.

Hikers should wear proper footwear for the current hiking conditions and pay attention to the inherent dangers of the outdoors.



Forest ranger rappelling down to the injured hiker



Minnewaska State Park terrain

“TRIVIA FOR A CAUSE”

hosted by the Kiwanis of Woodridge, NY Foundation, Inc.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Doors Open at 12:30 P.M.

Casa Mia Restaurant

205 Main St., Hurleyville, NY 12747

Come enjoy an afternoon of trivia, great food, fun, laughter, fellowship, and fantastic raffle prizes.

Advance reservations required!

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 Per Person includes delicious food, beverages, and entry for amazing door prize.

One to six players per team. Trivia winner(s) will receive cash prize.

Raffles and 50/50 tickets extra.

Proceeds will go toward our local projects, including donations to local food pantries, winter outerwear for young children, dictionaries for 4th graders, scholarships for graduating seniors, summer reading books for children graduating from Head Start as well as kindergarteners and those entering 1st grade, as well as other projects that benefit FCSD students and families.

Advance reservations must be made no later than 01/12/24.

For questions or further info, please contact:

Deb Jacobsen at 845-798-8795 or Diane Garritt at 845-866-3204.

=====

**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:** _____

Dig into Spring with our Two-part Series on Garden Design!

VIRTUAL - Research shows that spending time in a garden boasts a rich supply of physical, emotional, and mental health benefits! To inspire residents, homeowners, artists, gardeners, and garden enthusiasts who have ideas for their own gardens but need help planning, Horticulture Program Coordinator Katie Gasior will be hosting a two-part educational series through Zoom on Garden Design. Each class will take place from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 8th and Thursday, February 15th, 2024.

Participants will learn the logistics of plot planning and implementation that they can combine with visions of their own green oasis. Topics to be covered include site assessment strategies, and elements of design that will enable participants to start illustrating their ideas. Additionally, participants will receive tips and strategies on garden styles that will best fit their individual accommodations and selections of plants that will thrive where they live. A question-and-answer session on the topics covered will close out each class.

There is no fee, but preregistration is required to participate. Participants can register online at sullivance.org/events. After registering, participants will receive a Zoom link to join each session by computer or phone. Those with related questions can find more details at <http://sullivance.org/events>, can email sullivan@cornell.edu or call 845-292-6180 for assistance.

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

SULLIVAN 180 ANNOUNCES 2024 GRANTS Applications Are Now Available Online

[LIBERTY, NY] The 2024 Sullivan 180 grant programs are open and the following applications are available: Beautification, School Beautification, Municipal Partnership and Community Development. Application deadlines, amounts and eligibility vary.

Beautification Grants support the creation and care of public spaces with an emphasis on youth engagement.

School Beautification Grants offer funding to enhance school grounds and entrances; and for the creation or care of outdoor gathering spaces on school property.

Municipal Partnership Grants assist local governments with care of public spaces, support youth initiatives, and/or environmental stewardship.

Community Development Grants support community development goals such as public art, community events, trail stewardship, pocket parks and other initiatives that implement placemaking tools and build healthy communities.

“[These grants] provide opportunities for individuals and groups to collaborate, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared purpose. Moreover, engagement in community projects can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience, allowing individuals to make a positive impact in their neighborhood,” said Jodi Sibilla of Cohecton Volunteer Ambulance, a 2023 Beautification Grant recipient. “Getting involved not only beautifies the community but also enriches the lives of those who participate.”

For more information or to download applications, visit www.Sullivan180.org/grants-scholarships or call (845) 295-2680.

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

Trivia at the Tango

Due to the wintry mix and high winds Sullivan House Trivia planned for Tuesday, January 9th at 7pm. is moving to NEXT TUESDAY, January 16. Safety first, people. Safety first.

UP NEXT:

**Third Thursdays Trivia at
the Tango**

7:00 at the Tango Cafe at
Hurleyville Performing Arts
Center,
Hurleyville, NY

**Second Wednesday
Character Trivia at the
Sullivan House Bar and Grill**

7:00 at 544 Wurtsboro
Mountain Rd.

DEC Announces Summer Camps Registration Opens March 24, 2024 Families Encouraged to Register Early for Camps

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced that online registration for the 2024 Summer Camps program will open Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 1 p.m. Guardians can register youth for a week of camp, manage their account, and complete required forms and waivers through a link from the DEC Summer Camps webpage. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register early since many weeks fill up quickly and are advised to monitor the webpage for upcoming announcements on 2024 camp forms.

Commissioner Seggos said, "DEC's summer camps are a great way to introduce kids to the outdoors and everything it offers. DEC's summer camps provide children and teens with opportunities to experience outdoor activities and environmental stewardship, all while encouraging our next generation of conservationists."

Now in its 77th year, the DEC Summer Camps program offers week-long adventures in conservation education for children ages 11-17. DEC operates four residential camps for kids: Camp Colby in Saranac Lake (Franklin County); Camp DeBruce in Livingston Manor (Sullivan County); Camp Rushford in Caneadea (Allegany County); and Camp Pack Forest in Warrensburg (Warren County). Opening of specific camps is dependent on staff availability.

Camp Rushford will offer three weeks of programming for children aged 14 to 17, including an Outdoor Adventure Week, and four weeks for 11 to 13-year-olds. Camp Colby will operate six weeks of camp for 11 to 13-year-olds, and one week for campers aged 14 to 17. Camp DeBruce will offer six weeks for kids ages 11 to 13. Camp Pack Forest will host children ages 11 to 13 for three weeks, and 14 to 17-year-olds for four weeks with one Outdoor Adventure Week. Individual campers will be limited to one week of camp registration. If there are still spots at camps available after May 24, campers will be allowed to sign-up for additional weeks. The complete schedule of camp weeks and ages is available on the Summer Camps website Camp Weeks and Availability. <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/summer-camps/weeks-and-availability>

At camp, kids will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of outdoor adventures and are encouraged to try new things. Activities may include fishing, birding, fly-tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, camping, orienteering, and hunter safety education.

One hunter education program of gun, bow, or trapping is offered at each camp during four of the camp weeks. Class size is limited for hunter education programs and campers must sign-up during registration and complete required homework in advance.

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

Registered campers will receive booklets prior to their session at camp.

DEC campers engage in fun, hands-on activities and outdoor exploration focused on local field, forest, and freshwater aquatic ecological principles. Campers might collect insects in a field, use nets in a stream, investigate soil composition, measure tree sizes, or practice taking field notes and writing in journals. Trips to nearby state lands might include kettle bogs, State parks, fish hatcheries, or nature museums.

Camps Pack Forest and Rushford will offer "Outdoor Adventure Week" during Week 4 (July 21-26). DEC encourages teens ages 14 to 17 who love being outdoors to sign up for this popular program that will help deepen their enjoyment and widen their horizons. During this week, campers will develop hands-on outdoor skills that go above and beyond the traditional camp week. In addition to our typical camp activities, campers may be engaged in team and trust-building activities, forestry, citizen science, conservation science, and more. Guest DEC and natural resource professionals will introduce campers to a variety of career options.

All four camps offer at least six one-week sessions (Sunday to Friday) beginning June 30, 2024; Camp Colby, Rushford, and Pack Forest will operate for seven weeks. One week of camp is \$350 per child for 2024, and includes meals, trips, and a camp t-shirt.

In addition to inviting guardians to register children to participate in the DEC environmental education Summer Camps program, sporting clubs, civic groups, and environmental organizations are encouraged to sponsor one or more children for a week at camp. Information about becoming a sponsor and managing sponsor accounts is available at Sponsoring Youth to Camp on DEC's website.

For more information, please visit the DEC's website, email EducationCamps@dec.ny.gov, visit "NYS DEC Summer Camps" on Facebook, or write to DEC Camps, 3rd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4501.

A few shots from Donna Akerley while putting around Glen Spey!

While out and about last week in Glen Spey, Donna Akerley captured these beautiful 'shots' of our National Bird, the American Bald Eagle and a taste of pure nature with her camera.



Back in the '60's the American Bald Eagle teetered on the brink of distinction. The good news — the American Bald Eagle population has climbed up to its present count of 316,700 throughout 48 of the United States. In 2010 there were 173 breeding pair of eagles that fledged 244 young in New York State. Each year since New York's bald eagles fledge 10% more than the previous year.



We are very fortunate to have so many nesting sites in Sullivan and Ulster Counties considering the present number of eagles recorded in New York State is 1000.



DEC and NYSERDA Release Draft Disadvantaged Communities Investments and Benefits Reporting Guidance for New York State Entities

Interagency Guidance Supports Implementation of Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Equity and Justice Requirements

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) today released draft guidance for State entities to inform the investments and benefits reporting on compliance with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's (Climate Act) requirement that a minimum of 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the State's clean energy investments benefit disadvantaged communities. The draft Disadvantaged Communities Investments and Benefits Reporting Guidance is a blueprint for reporting energy efficiency and clean energy programmatic investments by State entities in disadvantaged communities and will advance consistency and transparency in complying with the Climate Act's equity provisions.

DEC Commissioner and Climate Action Council Co-Chair Basil Seggos said, "New York's Climate Act prioritizes advancing equity and inclusion through the implementation of programs and investments. The draft Disadvantaged Communities Investments and Benefits Guidance released today is the latest step in the State's sustained efforts to ensure all communities, but especially disadvantaged communities, benefit from the State's climate investments and the opportunities created by the state's transition to cleaner energy. DEC and our State partners are advancing comprehensive efforts to reduce climate pollution, create new green jobs, and build stronger, healthier communities, and I encourage New Yorkers to review and comment on the draft guidance to help ensure the State's investments succeed in removing barriers and promoting climate justice."

NYSERDA President and CEO and Climate Action Council Co-Chair Doreen M. Harris said, "This guidance is critical to helping NYSERDA and our partner agencies take the necessary steps to design and implement programs that demonstrate direct benefits to New York's most underserved communities. We welcome input from New Yorkers on this draft guidance so that, together, we can advance a clean energy future that maximizes accountability, advances climate justice, and stimulates economic development that allows all New York communities to prosper." Developed in collaboration with a number of New York State agencies and authorities, the draft guidance, when finalized, will provide the information state entities need

to comply with the Climate Act's equity mandate and account for energy efficiency and clean energy program investments in disadvantaged communities as defined and finalized by the Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) in March 2023. This will help ensure that disadvantaged communities receive a minimum of 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the overall benefits of the state's clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects, or investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low-income energy assistance, renewable energy, transportation, and economic development.

All New Yorkers are welcome to provide input on how the state tracks progress toward addressing the interests and priorities of historically marginalized communities as the state continues to transition to an inclusive clean energy economy that reduces pollution, addresses systemic inequities, and expands economic opportunity for all New Yorkers.

An overview of the draft guidance was presented to the CJWG on November 14, 2023, and is now available for a public comment period.

Written comments on the proposed guidance may be submitted until close of business February 23, 2024. Contact: Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, NYSDEC - Office of Environmental Justice, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1550 or email justice@dec.ny.gov. Include "Draft Disadvantaged Communities Reporting Guidance" in the subject line of the email.

A public information session will be scheduled to allow for additional stakeholder engagement before the draft guidance is finalized. For more information about New York's climate efforts, visit the Climate Act website.

New York State's Nation-Leading Climate Plan

New York State's nation-leading climate agenda calls for an orderly and just transition that creates family-sustaining jobs, continues to foster a green economy across all sectors and ensures that at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the benefits of clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities. Guided by some of the nation's most aggressive climate and clean energy initiatives, New York is on a path to achieving a zero-emission electricity sector by 2040, including 70 percent renewable energy generation by 2030, and economywide carbon neutrality by mid-century. A cornerstone of this transition is New York's unprecedented clean energy investments, including more than \$50 billion in 66 large-scale renewable and transmission projects across the state, \$6.8 billion to reduce building emissions, \$3.3 billion to scale up solar, nearly \$3 billion for clean transportation initiatives, and over \$2 billion in NY Green Bank commitments. These and other investments are supporting more than 170,000 jobs in New York's clean energy sector in 2022 and over 3,000 percent growth in the distributed solar sector since 2011. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, New York also adopted zero-emission vehicle regulations, including requiring all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold in the State be zero emission by 2035. Partnerships are continuing to advance New York's climate action with nearly 400 registered and more than 100 certified Climate Smart Communities, nearly 500 Clean Energy Communities, and the State's largest community air monitoring initiative in 10 disadvantaged communities across the state to help target air pollution and combat climate change.

Hygiene Drive



SULLIVAN CATSKILLS
FOOD SECURITY
— COALITION —

HELP PROVIDE HEALTH AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

Items collected will be distributed to food pantries throughout Sullivan County.

Items must be dropped off at a participating location by January 17, 2024. Look for a Donation Box at the following locations:

- Action Toward Independence, 309 E Broadway, Monticello, NY
- Callicoon Farmers' Market, A Dorrer Dr, Callicoon, NY
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, 64 Ferndale Loomis Rd., Liberty, NY
- CVI Building, One Cablevision Center Dr, Liberty, NY
- Kauneonga Post Office, 3584 State Rte 55, Kauneonga Lake, NY
- St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St John St, Monticello, NY
- Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North St, Monticello, NY
- The Tavern at the Arnold House, 839 Shandalee Rd, Livingston Manor, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MONICA PONCE-AGREDANO AT

845-292-6180 ext.112
or
mp2255@cornell.edu

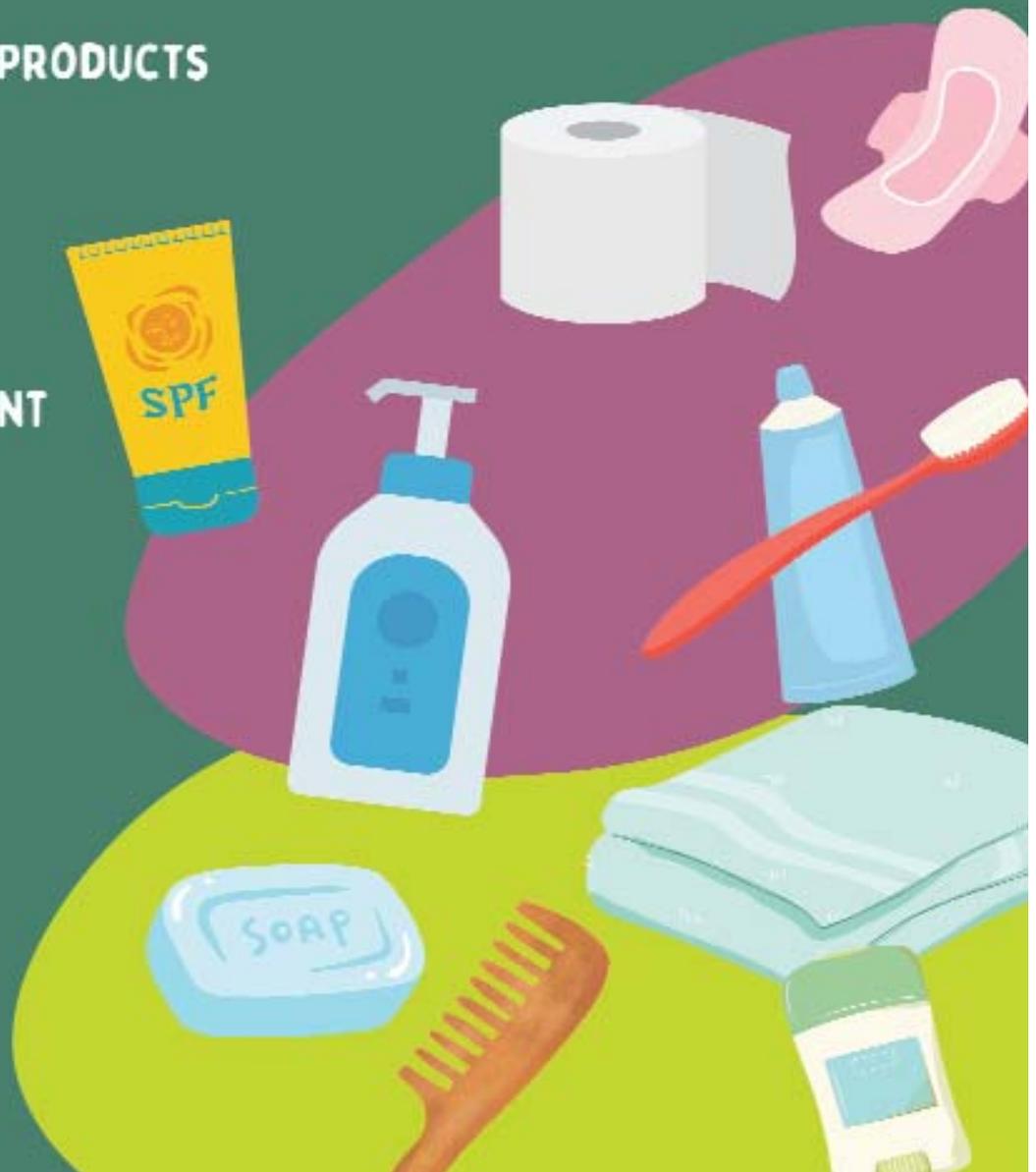


*The County Wide Hygiene Supply Drive is sponsored by the Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition. The Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition is a group of organizations that came together in 2021 with the mission to improve food access through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. For more information on the coalition visit our website at www.scfoodsecuritycoalition.org

HYGIENE ITEMS WE ACCEPT

*ALL AGES, TRAVEL SIZE & FULL SIZE, NEW, UNUSED, UNEXPIRED ONLY

- TOOTHBRUSHES
- TOOTHPASTE
- SOAP
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER (FOR ALL HAIR TYPES)
- CURL-HYDRATING AND CONDITIONING CREAMS, SPRAYS AND OILS
- HAIR TREATMENTS (HOT OIL TREATMENTS) AND HAIR BUTTERS
- DEODORANT
- TOILET PAPER
- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- RAZORS
- SHAVING CREAM
- BABY WIPES
- DIAPERS
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- LOTION
- SUNSCREEN
- MOUTHWASH
- DENTAL FLOSS
- COMBS/BRUSHES
- SUNSCREEN
- Q-TIPS
- BATH TOWELS
- WASH CLOTHS
- HAND SANITIZER



Governor Hochul Unveils Third Proposal of 2024 State of the State: Taking on the Maternal and Infant Mortality Crisis

Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled the third proposal of her 2024 State of the State: a comprehensive six-point plan to combat maternal and infant mortality in New York. Recent CDC statistics revealed an increase in infant mortality - for the first time in over two decades. To address this crisis, Governor Hochul will introduce new policies and legislation to expand access to high-quality prenatal care, reduce costs for mothers and families, fight postpartum depression and support infants in the first months of their lives.

"Make no mistake: we are facing a maternal and infant mortality crisis," Governor Hochul said. "As New York's first mom governor, this is personal to me. We are committed to tackling this crisis head-on with policies that lift up parents and children throughout the State of New York."

"In New York, we refuse to accept the maternal and infant mortality crisis - we're taking action to ensure women and babies have the lifesaving healthcare options and services they deserve," said Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado. "This is how we address existing disparities and support families statewide. We will proudly lead the way."

Creating First-In-The-Nation Statewide Paid Prenatal Leave

Governor Hochul will expand New York's nation-leading statewide Paid Family Leave policy (PFL) to include 40 hours of paid leave to attend prenatal medical appointments - making New York the first state in the nation to establish statewide coverage for prenatal care. Studies show that prenatal health care is highly correlated with improved health outcomes for mothers and infants; pregnant mothers who have access to regular prenatal medical visits are less likely to die in childbirth and their newborns are more likely to be healthy.

Under New York's current paid family leave law, short-term disability benefits are not available until 4 weeks prior to the child's birth after a seven-day waiting period. Adding prenatal care as a separate qualifying event under PFL will enable pregnant workers to ensure their medical needs are met without sacrificing their ability to support the household, or paid leave available for bonding following the birth.

This builds on Governor Hochul's recent actions to support new parents and improve maternal health outcomes including offering 12 weeks of fully paid parental leave benefits to more than 80 percent of the state workforce and extending postpartum coverage for up to a full year after the end of a pregnancy for Medicaid and Child Health Plus enrollees.

Expanding Access To Doula Care Through Standing Order

Governor Hochul will introduce legislation in her Executive Budget that would enable the Commissioner of Health to issue a "standing order" allowing New Yorkers to utilize doula services without a referral from a physician. Doulas are birthing experts who provide physical, emotional and informational support before, during, and after the child-birthing experience. By issuing a "standing order" for doula coverage, New York will eliminate an unnecessary hurdle for pregnant mothers to cross, especially low-income mothers who rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. (Contd. Pg.

In last year's budget, Governor Hochul secured doula coverage for Medicaid enrollees in New York, a change which took effect earlier this week on January 1. She also signed a new law creating the first New York State directory of doulas.

Eliminate Co-Pays And Other Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Essential Plan And Qualified Health Plans

To reduce barriers to access for maternal and infant health care, Governor Hochul will eliminate cost-sharing - including co-pays and other out-of-pocket costs - for pregnancy-related benefits for any New Yorker enrolled in the Essential Plan or Qualified Health Plans. Governor Hochul will also expand coverage for doulas within the Essential Plan.

Even for New Yorkers with robust health insurance coverage, co-pays and other cost-sharing are significant barriers that prevent pregnant and postpartum individuals from getting the care they need. While the approximately 7 million New Yorkers on Medicaid already benefit from low to no cost-sharing, approximately 1.3 million New Yorkers enrolled in the Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans still face cost barriers to accessing routine pregnancy-related care.

New Oversight Mechanisms To Avoid Unnecessary C-Sections

Cesarean births (or C-Sections) should be utilized only when the procedure is determined to be the best approach for the mother or the baby. However, some doctors perform these surgeries more frequently than clinical best practices recommend. While this can be for a variety of reasons, one factor is that it is often more profitable to perform a C-section, even when doing so is not necessary for the patient.

(Cont.d Pg. 38)

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SC Welfare Fraud Task Force Announces Arrests

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



November 2, 2023 - Ciera M. Hatch, 31, of Liberty, was arrested and charged with Welfare Fraud in the 4th Degree, a Class E felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that Hatch stole SNAP benefits from the Sullivan County Department of Social Services by failing to disclose on her SNAP re-certification application that she was employed during this same time frame. This unreported income resulted in an overpayment of \$1,119 in SNAP benefits that she would not have been entitled to. Hatch was processed and released on an appearance ticket to return to the Town of Liberty Court at a later date.



December 9, 2023 - Tiesajah M. Reynolds, 25, of Liberty, was arrested and charged with Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that Reynolds stole SNAP Benefits from the Sullivan County Department of Social Services by failing to disclose that she was employed during this same time frame. This unreported income resulted in an overpayment of \$1,500 in SNAP benefits to Reynolds that she

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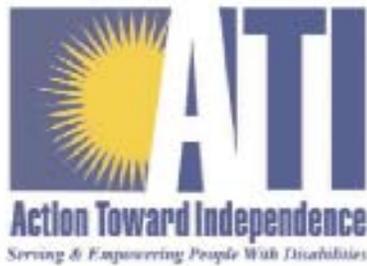


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was not otherwise entitled to. Reynolds was processed and released on an appearance ticket to return to the Town of Liberty Court at a later date.



December 27, 2023 - Aaron J. Minner, 26, of Monticello, was arrested and charged with Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that Minner stole SNAP benefits and Public Assistance benefits from the Sullivan County Department of Social Services by failing to disclose that he was employed during this same time frame. This unreported income resulted in an overpayment of the two assistance programs in the amount of \$1,495 that he was not otherwise entitled to. Minner was processed and released on an appearance ticket to return to the Town of Liberty Court at a later date.



ANGER MANAGEMENT

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

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

For more information

and to register :

845-794-4228

www.atitoday.org

ati@atitoday.org



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JAN – FEB 2024



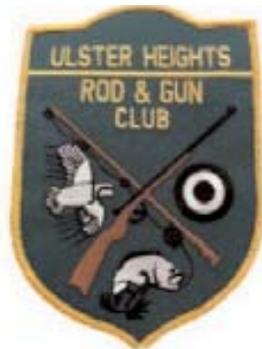
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Children of All Ages

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| Recommend a book to a friend | Check out a picture book | Read a new author | Visit the library's website | Read book 1 of a series |
| Work on our library puzzle | Read a book with a blue cover | Sign up for a DPL library card. Free space if you have a card. | Read a book under 200 pages | Checkout a cookbook |
| Read a book from the year you were born | Recommend the library to a friend | Read a book with pictures | Read a book with "winter" in the title | A book less than 150 pages |
| Read a book suggested by a friend | Read a graphic novel | Read a book that has won an award | Use our catalog and place a book on hold | Read a book with an animal on the cover |

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



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Governor Hochul Unveils Third Proposal of 2024 State of the State: Taking on the Maternal and Infant Mortality Crisis

(From Pg. 33) To address this critical issue, Governor Hochul has directed the Department of Health to launch new initiatives to reduce the rate of unnecessary C-sections. This will include new oversight measures to identify physicians whose behavior is out of line with clinical best practices, allowing the Department of Health to hold providers - including those overutilizing C-sections - accountable. It also includes a new Medicaid financial incentives for hospitals to reduce the number of unnecessary C-sections.

Address Maternal Mental Health And Post-Partum Depression

According to CDC data, approximately one in five pregnancy-related deaths (23 percent) are due to mental health conditions, and approximately one in eight women who have recently given birth experience postpartum depression. Maternal mental health conditions rank among the leading causes of maternal mortality in New York.

New York will train counselors answering the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline on issues related to maternal mental health, postpartum depression, and anxiety. This specialized training will ensure counselors will provide the compassionate care, support, and resources necessary to help mothers and birthing parents experiencing mental health distress. Starting in 2022, Governor Hochul helped successfully implement the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline -formerly called the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline -throughout the state.

In addition, Project TEACH's Maternal Mental Health initiative will expand to include support for additional patient-facing professions, such as therapists, lactation consultants, WIC staff, home visiting nurses, and other frontline practitioners so they may receive specialized training and access expert consultation to provide mental health support to the pregnant and postpartum New Yorkers they assist. This initiative is part of an existing training resource aimed at increasing treatment efficacy among prescribers, including general psychiatrists, primary care doctors, nurse practitioners, OB-GYNs, and others who may lack adequate maternal mental health expertise.

Reducing The Risk Of Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID)

Unsafe sleep deaths are the most common type of preventable child fatalities that come to the attention of state officials. Each week, roughly two infants die in an unsafe sleep setting, resulting in more than 120 infant deaths per year. Sometimes this is due to a lack of access to safety-approved cribs, particularly for low-income families.

Since safe sleep environments are crucial for reducing the risk of sleep-related deaths, Governor Hochul will provide funding for the distribution of portable cribs for under resourced New Yorkers at no cost. The cribs would be available to families via local county departments of social services and other local organizations. Medical professionals at birthing hospitals will also facilitate referrals where a need for a crib is identified.

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State has significantly enhanced its maternal health agenda. These nation leading state of the state priorities not only protect maternal mental health, they aim to minimize unnecessary c-sections. They also reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), establish paid prenatal leave, expand doula services, and eliminate copays and out of pocket maternal and infant medical costs for Medicaid members, providing families with emotional support during pregnancy, delivery and following birth."

OCFS Acting Commissioner Suzanne Miles-Gustave said,

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- 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
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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

"Governor Hochul continues to put the well-being of families first, and we are so grateful for this package of proposals that will provide them even greater protections. Our precious children are only able to thrive when their caregivers are given the necessary treatments and resources for healthy development both before and after birth. Once again, New York is proving itself to be a pioneer in maternal health, and we are excited to help lead these life-saving initiatives."

State Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "Pregnancy and childbirth are major life-changing events that can sometimes pose unique mental health challenges or exacerbate preexisting conditions. By providing specialized training to the professionals most likely to interact with these individuals and by ensuring our counselors at the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline are versed in maternal mental health, we can offer the additional support New Yorkers can rely on to maintain their mental wellbeing before and after their delivery. I applaud Governor Hochul for continuing to focus on maternal mortality and for providing these critical resources to help mothers statewide."

New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams said, "Racial disparities in New York's maternal health outcomes remain glaring, underscoring the importance of urgent actions from all levels of government to confront this crisis. The New York City Council is proud to have prioritized this issue, enacting 11 new laws to expand access to doula care and other critical services for birthing people. I'm encouraged by Governor Hochul's focus on investing in solutions to ensure pregnant people, mothers, and infants are safe and supported."

Spring 2024 Special Topics Course: Creating & Activating Public Spaces



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

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

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

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






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Please be advised that due to the cost of the rising food prices, we need to increase the prices of our monthly Pancake Breakfasts for 2024 year. *****This will go into effect at the February 18th breakfast.*****

The new 2024 prices will be:

Adults: \$13

Senior Citizens (age 65 +) : \$11

Children ages 5-11: \$5

Children under 5 yrs: Free

Take-outs: \$13

We are sorry for any inconveniences! Thank you for your continued support of our Volunteer Fire Department!

Sincerely,

The members of the Claryville Volunteer Fire Department

2023 – 2024
- WOODSTOCK FARM FESTIVAL -
WINTER MARKET

OVERLOOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
233 TINKER STREET

SATURDAYS, 10 – 2

EVERY OTHER WEEK
JANUARY 6 – MARCH 16



Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, January 14th

Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon

Adults: \$11

Children Ages 5-11: \$5

Under 5 Yrs. Free

Take-outs are available 985-7270

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



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



February 3, 2023

5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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

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UlsterCorps' 15th Annual Celebration of Service

when: Saturday January 13th, 2024, 12-2pm
where: Rosendale Recreation Center
1055 NY-32, Rosendale

A thank you event honoring all volunteers in Ulster County Celebrating your service to the community and honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Volunteers from ALL Ulster County non-profits are welcome at UlsterCorps' 15th Annual MLK Day Celebration of Service, Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 12-2pm at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 NY-32, Rosendale, NY (Monday, January 15th snow date). The event honors volunteers from service organizations throughout Ulster County for their hard work and dedication.

The event will celebrate the broad circle of kindness and generosity that knits us together as a community and demonstrates the value of the volunteer spirit across all generations. The event is free and will include live music, refreshments and raffles. Attendees can choose to join us for a sit-down meal together, or simply stop by for a to-go box. There will also be an event program listing the names of all volunteers who pre-register by January 10th, and all businesses and agency partners contributing raffle items and supporting the event.

Speakers/performers include: County Executive Jen Metzger; Esi M. Lewis, Esq.; Rev. Evelyn Clarke; Spoken Word Poet Andréa The Realxst; and Love is Love.

To register for this free event please email register@ulstercorps.org or call/text (845) 481-0331. Please register by January 10th if you would like your name and the agency where you volunteer included in the event program. If you'd like to sponsor the event or donate items for the raffle, please click here for sponsorship details or call/text Beth at (845) 481-0331.

Thank you so much to our sponsors and supporters: Adams Fairacre Farms; Angel Food East; Barbara Bash; Bardavon; Blackboard Bistro; Blue Mountain Bistro-to-Go; Chris Warren; Deborah & Michael DeWan; Green Cottage; Hannaford Plattekill; High Falls Cafe; High Falls Co-Op; Hudson Valley Farm Hub; Hudson Valley Seed Company; Hurds Family Farm; Kingston Candy Bar; Marysa Sacerdote Jewelry; Mental Health Association in Ulster County; Michael DeWan Appraisal & Assoc.; Main Course Catering; MyTown Marketplace; People's Place; Raising HOPE; RCAL; Rondout Valley Growers Association; Rosendale Theatre; Seasoned Delicious; The Alternative Baker; The Bakery; Top Taste; Tops Friendly Markets; Town of Rosendale; Ulster Literacy Association; Ulster Savings Bank; Yum Yum Noodle Bar.

Upcoming Repair Cafes

New Paltz Repair Cafe

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 10am-2pm
New Paltz United Methodist Church
1 Grove Street, New Paltz

Esopus Repair Cafe

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 10am-2pm
Ascension Church, 1585 Route 9W, West Park

Woodstock Repair Cafe

Sunday February 11, 2024, 10am-2pm

Woodstock Jewish Congregation,

1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock

A Repair Cafe is a free community event. You bring your broken but beloved items and together with volunteer repair coaches, WE FIX THEM! People bring all kinds of things to a repair cafe: clocks and other mechanical items; chairs, frames, and other wooden items; electrical items and small appliances; digital devices; clothing and textiles; dolls, stuffed animals, and toys, tools in need of sharpening; jewelry and watches; and so much more! Most items get fixed, and even when they don't - we have a good time trying!

We are looking for "Repair Coaches" to guide people in fixing all kinds of things. Repair coaches bring their own tools and supplies and offer repairs at no cost. If you would like to volunteer, the commitment can be on a per-event basis.

Questions? Contact suziefromer@gmail.com or visit www.repaircafehv.org.

Food Justice Film Series at the Rosendale Theatre

Common Ground

Thursday, January 25th, 7pm
Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main Street, Rosendale

Eating Our Way to Extinction

Thursday, February 22nd, 7pm
Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main Street, Rosendale

Food and Country

Thursday, February 22nd, 7pm
Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main Street, Rosendale

Join us for a collaboration between the High Falls Food Cop, the Rosendale Theatre, and other local organizations as we bring you three great films about our food system. Local experts will present ideas, facts, and reflections after each film to help us digest the information, and how you can get involved.

The series will consist of three dynamic, important films about different aspects of our world's food system.

Join Raising HOPE

Women Mentoring Women to Success

Raising HOPE (Help, Opportunity, Passion, Empowerment) is a free women's mentoring program United Way created in response to a community need. Mentors help Mentees develop and achieve educational, entrepreneurial or career goals to become financially stable and self-sufficient. Our experience has proven that having a mentor to guide, advise, and encourage is a powerful instrument of change. Mentees, apply here:

ulsterunitedway.org/raising_hope-main/mentees/

Spring Training is on 4/20/24 & Orientation is on 5/4/24, both from 11am-2:30pm.

For more information: (845) 392-4989
asummers@ulsterunitedway.org

ulsterunitedway.org/raising_hope-main/

(Contd. Pg. 46)

UlsterCorps' 15th Annual Celebration of Service

(From Pg. 45)

People's Place

New Year, New Beginnings! As you're tidying up after the holiday festivities, remember that your gently used items can make a big difference! At People's Place in Kingston, NY, we welcome your donations with open arms.

Transform your post-holiday cleanout into an act of kindness. Bring your pre-loved clothes, household items, and more to our Thrift Store. Your contributions support our mission to uplift the community through our Food Pantry and Community Cafe.

Please note: We accept donations only during our open hours to ensure every item is properly cared for. Check our website for our current hours and make your donation count!

Together, let's start the year on a positive note, creating a ripple of generosity in Ulster County!

Ulster Literacy Association

People who choose to volunteer with Ulster Literacy find an opportunity to engage in an immensely helpful and satisfying endeavor. Our tutors, like our learners, come from a variety of backgrounds and have many reasons for joining us. They all want to help others!

No teaching experience is necessary. If you are interested in sharing your love of reading and writing with an eager and motivated learner, then we can use your help.

Tutor Training is now 100% online. After you complete a 12 hour virtual curriculum, we invite you to a zoom meeting with other volunteers. This two hour session presents information about our organization, reviews lesson planning and tutoring requirements, and answers your questions about the matching process.

To get started, please call our office at (845) 331-6837, email us at info@ulsterliteracy.org or visit <https://ulsterliteracy.org/volunteer/>

Ulster Immigrant Defense Network

UIDN's mission: To provide a network of safety and support to immigrants, regardless of status. Some of our volunteer work is project-based and can be done at your convenience. Other tasks need to be done in person or on a regular schedule. Critical needs include:

Drivers to transport people to important legal and medical appointments, and to drive members of UIDN's new workers' co-op, Blooming Queens of Clean, to and from jobs that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Bilingual helpline volunteers (Spanish/English) to work remotely or in shifts at our Kingston office. After an orientation, volunteers provide assistance and referrals by phone, choosing their own hours. Must have access to a phone and computer. Minimum commitment: two hours a week for at least 10 weeks.

Volunteers with trucks or vans to pick up and deliver food and furniture.

Download a complete list of opportunities here. For details or to volunteer now, email uidn@ulsterimmigrantdefensenetwork.org.

Ulster County Office for the Aging seeks volunteers

Ulster County Office for the Aging seeks volunteers in the following areas:

Warm Callers - folks who are willing to call isolated seniors regularly so they hear a friendly voice, have someone to speak to

Volunteer drivers for our Neighbor to Neighbor Medical apt driving program

Help at various pantries like Angel Food East, People's Place, Rondout Valley Food Pantry

Drivers for those pantries, maybe cooks

Caregiver respite

Help at area nursing home for transporting, activities, companionship

Volunteers willing to be trained to be ombudsmen in nursing homes

Volunteers willing to assist as shoppers or with grocery pickup, chore doers, light maintenance volunteers for area seniors

Coaches for evidence-based programming which help folks learn to live more safely and wholly

To learn more please contact Sue Koppenhaver at skop@co.ulster.ny.us or 845-340-3456.

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/aging/volunteer-program>

The REST Program

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

The REST Program trains select volunteers to be companions and then matches companions to mutually suitable seniors. Companions are supported throughout their journey by the **REST Program Coordinator**.

In addition, the REST Program will partner with any community based organization or congregation already doing this work who is interested in additional training and support for their volunteers.

NEW OPTION #1:

Be trained as a Volunteer facilitator or presenter at a weekly event at the HUB for seniors who are care recipients at the Hub. We envision creating a warm and welcoming space where people could share their talents and their stories with our care recipient seniors.

NEW OPTION #2:

Be trained as a volunteer interpreter to assist caregivers, clarify discharge instructions, and schedule follow-up medical appointments.

Reach out to Judith Bromley REST Program Coordinator 845-559-5656

If you wish to make a donation to Ulster Corp go to: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1457395>

Looking forward to connecting to all of you!

Wishing warmth to all during this holiday season.

2024 Opens a New Season of Exhibitions at DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY - Across the region, main streets are growing quiet. The snow is settling in, marking the end of the bustling holiday season. Beneath the surface, our communities are humming along as we prepare and reset for the year ahead. At the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, that means packing up the 600+ artworks from their annual 'Art in Sixes' small works exhibition and prepping the gallery walls for the next year of shows.

Starting on Saturday, February 10th, 2024, DVAA will kick off the year with exhibits featuring the talents of local and regional artists. With new shows every six weeks, art enthusiasts are invited to mix and mingle at gallery openings, attend artist talks, and participate in workshops throughout the year. See the 2024 exhibition schedule listed below.

DVAA is located at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg, NY. Walk-ins are welcome, and our galleries are ADA-accessible. Gallery & Shop hours are Thursdays - Sundays, 11 am - 4 pm, and by appointment.

For more information, visit DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org or call (845) 252-7576.

2024 EXHIBITIONS

Saturday, February 10 - Sunday, March 17, 2024

Jaya Duvvuri, Jersey City, NJ

Duvvuri's abstract Sumi-e paintings (Japanese Ink Painting) examine the interactions of forms between nature and the material world and their impressions on psychological space.

#LoveWhereYouLive

This group members show, curated by DVAA's Gallery Manager, Signe Ballew, features nearly 50 local and regional artists whose work draws inspiration from the beauty inherent in everyday life, landscapes, architecture, and the distinct spirit that defines the Upper Delaware River and Sullivan County Catskills.

Saturday, March 23 - Sunday, April 28, 2024

Cadence Giersbach, Cochection, NY

Inspired by rocks, earth, and the tangled growth of vegetation, Giersbach's paintings, ceramics, and papier mâché sculptures create an organic world at once familiar and mysterious.

Warren Pardi, Barryville, NY

Pardi's wood sculpture and furniture designs explore the curvilinear form and its relation to linearity, functionality, and the physical world with playful and surprising results.

Saturday, May 4 - Sunday, June 9, 2024

Hanna Washburn, Beacon, NY

Washburn's "soft" sculptures made of recycled textiles will overtake DVAA's gallery space this Spring. Installed on walls and pedestals, the mysterious sculptures playfully gesticulate, sagging towards the floor or gesturing with animated buoyancy.

Catherine Chesters, Narrowsburg, NY

For her second solo exhibition at DVAA, we will present recent abstract paintings by Catherine Chesters that explore the world of fungus and the effects of Psilocybin, creating awareness of the connectivity between humanity, nature, and the larger ecosystem.

Saturday, June 15 - Sunday, July 28, 2024

Glenn Lieberman, Honesdale, PA

In his series "Repossession: The Borscht Belt," photographer Lieberman captures the decaying ruins of a glorious chapter in the history of the Sullivan Catskills.

Danielle Klebes, Amenia, NY

Inspired by a Hemingwayesque straight man's apartment, Danielle Klebes' paintings present intimate interior scenes featuring a queer female and her circle of friends.

Saturday, August 3 - Sunday, September 15

Julie Harrison, Ancramdale, NY

"Invisible Body / Self-Portrait" expands Harrison's exploration of the concept of self-portraiture, the science of representation, and what it means to live in a human body by looking inside the body & reimagining it.

Tatana Kellner, Kingston, NY

Known for her artist books and installations, Tatana Kellner will present a selection of monoprints from the series "Apart" that lies between abstraction and representation in the artist's efforts to deal with the struggles of our times while maintaining positivity in the promise of a new day.

Saturday, September 21 - Sunday, October 27, 2024

Dale Emmart, Honesdale, PA

Emmart's latest body of works features artist books that repurpose drawings and diaristic books that mark time or celebrate a simple line or shape. Some address environmental and social dilemmas, and many simply follow an impulse.

Margaret Inga Urias, Scarsdale, NY

In her exhibit "Of Cloud and Ash: Eons, Epochs, and Eras," Inga Urias' multimedia works on paper and glass, realized through research across various sciences, including planetary geology, evolutionary biology, and cosmology, explore the marking of time, seeking interconnectedness of all things, and telling the story of time, the cosmology of the universe, and Earth's evolution.

Saturday, November 16 - Saturday, December 23, 2024

Art in Sixes, 20th Annual Small Works Exhibition

Every November for 20 years, DVAA has mounted "Art in Sixes," an exhibition that celebrates and grows the region's artistic community. Each year, artworks by hundreds of artists fill the galleries of DVAA. Ascribing to the rule that no artwork be larger than 6" x 6", the beloved annual show is a must-see for artists and audiences alike.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

Interested in exhibiting at DVAA? Artists and curators are invited to submit an application for the 2025 exhibition season now through January 30th, 2024. Emphasizing artists from the Mid-Hudson, Catskill, or Upper Delaware River Regions, the program welcomes diverse media, styles, installations, and curator proposals, showcasing high-quality work by both emerging and established artists.

ABOUT DVAA

DVAA serves as a home in the Upper Delaware Valley and Sullivan Catskills Region, giving artists platforms to share their voices in our galleries, on our stages, and at our festivals, including Riverfest in July and the Big Eddy Film Festival held every September. DVAA funds Sullivan County creatives and cultural organizations through our role as the county's Arts Council.

SUPPORT

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



ELEMENTARY SOCIAL SKILLS

Registration is open for Grades K-5.

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

- Manners
- Listening
- Hygiene
- Emotions

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

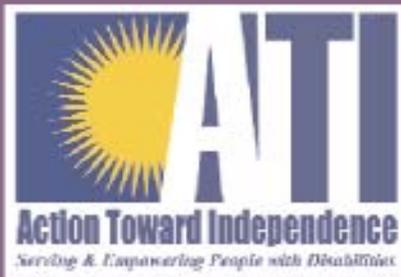
Family Peer Advocate
(845) 794-4228
info@atitoday.org

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

Visit our website at
atitoday.org



SCAN ME!



Middle School Social Skills



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

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

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

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

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

Visit our website at

atitoday.org



SCAN ME!



SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE 0 (IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

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

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

More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

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

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



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

WEEKLY WARRIOR WALK

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

THURSDAYS @ 1500 (3 PM)

**VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES ARE WELCOMED**

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

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

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





**STARTS JANUARY
2024!**

Are You Ready?



Life Skills Group

WORK READINESS EDITION

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

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

309 East Broadway

Monticello, NY 12701

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(845) 794-4228

info@atitoday.org



SCAN ME!

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

Visit our website at

atitoday.org





As we kick off 2024, I wanted to wish you and your family a healthy and happy new year. I also wanted to send another update on how I've been fighting for you down in D.C. and across the Hudson Valley.

HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

In November, a catastrophic gas explosion called the Hudson Valley's brave first responders into action.

Their heroism and selflessness saved lives that day.

This week, I proudly honored their courage and extraordinary service to our community. We owe them a debt that can never be repaid.

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

Every Hudson Valley family deserves the direct assistance they need, right where they're at. The C.A.R.E.S. Van is on its way to every one of NY18's municipalities to bring assistance with federal agencies right to your neighborhood.

This upcoming week, it will make its first visits of 2024 with stops at the Otisville Village Hall on Tuesday, the Greenville Town Hall on Thursday, and the Tymor Park Senior Citizen Center on Friday. Hope you'll join my team at one of the visits!

SUPPORTING A THRIVING HUDSON VALLEY ECONOMY

This week, I had a great time touring the GAP, Inc. factory.

The Fishkill site is the company's only distribution center on the east coast, its largest center by volume, and a major source of jobs for Hudson Valley families.

I'll keep working every day to bring more quality jobs to NY-18.

FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Thank you to Habitat for Humanity Newburgh Executive Director Jill Marie for the great tour of two of Habitat's sites.

I can't wait to see the final results of all of the hard work and am looking forward to continuing to fight together to create more affordable housing for Newburgh families!

WORKING TO END GUN VIOLENCE

In only the first days of a new year, students had barely returned to school when they were gunned down at a school breakfast in Perry, Iowa.

To those who claim to stand for public safety yet refuse to act to end the epidemic of gun violence, our kids are paying for your cowardice with their lives.

This week, I joined colleagues on the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force in sending a letter to Speaker Johnson recapping the terrible toll of gun violence in 2023 and again making an appeal for action on gun violence prevention legislation in the new year.

I will keep working every single day to save children's lives from the gun violence epidemic.

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

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

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

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

MAKING 2024 A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Are you planning on visiting Washington D.C. in 2024?

My office can help make it a trip to remember with tours of the Capitol Building, White House, and other federal buildings! I had a great time joining Tuxedo Park School students on their tour of the Capitol this past year.

You can request tours on my website .

GRANTS CORNER

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Specialty Crop Block Grant program is now accepting proposals for projects that work towards the following outcomes: improved pest and disease control, develop new seed varieties and specialty crops, expand specialty crop research and development, and improve environmental sustainability of specialty crops. The potential grant award was recently increased to \$250,000.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications on a rolling basis for \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available through its Community Change Grants Program to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy. This opportunity will be available for a year, closing on November 21, 2024, and EPA will review applications on a rolling basis. This allows applicants to utilize technical assistance and possibly resubmit a new application if not initially selected. EPA encourages applicants to apply as early as possible.

The USDA's Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools and help connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. Grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts. The deadline to submit applications is January 12, 2024.

New York was awarded \$13.5 million from the Inflation Reduction Act's Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program. This grant program is designed to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces in urban and community forests to support building a clean energy economy, advance environmental justice, and create economic opportunity. All projects must take place in disadvantaged communities as identified by any of three Federal and State tools listed in the Request for Applications (RFA). The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.

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

(Contd. Pg. 54)



(From Pg. 53) New York State's Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program has announced that \$1 million is available to support community growing spaces and fund projects geared toward the development and enhancement of urban farms, school gardens, and community gardens across the state.

New York State recently announced more than \$60 million in capital grant funding will be available to nonprofit human services organizations through the Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program to support the delivery of critical services to New Yorkers. Eligible nonprofit organizations that provide direct programs and services to New Yorkers may receive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for the completion of small- and large-scale construction projects.

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!



Norwich Police Chief to Join Rep. Molinaro in Washington For Small Business Committee Hearing

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) announced Reuben J. Roach, Chief of Police for the City of Norwich, has accepted his invitation to testify before a House Small Business Committee hearing. The hearing, titled 'Crime on the Rise: How Lawlessness is Impacting Main Street America,' will examine how crime and policies like Albany's bail reform law impact small businesses and the economy.

The hearing will start at 10am on Thursday

Chief Roach was appointed Chief of Police last year. He started in law enforcement in 2003 as a road patrol deputy with the Chenango County Sheriff's Office, and later transferred to the City of Norwich Police Department in 2005. In 2014, he was promoted to sergeant, and later to detective sergeant.

Rep. Molinaro said, "Crime has a depressing effect on small businesses, the workers they employ, and our local economy. To have economic opportunity, we must first have safety. With Chief Reuben Roach sharing experiences from his 20 plus year career in law enforcement, we aim to shed light on how crime and policies like bail reform negatively impact our local small business economy, and explore solutions to fix this mess."

Chief Roach said, "Seeing our neighborhoods deteriorate with drug houses, our business district swarmed with loitering, and arresting the same individuals over and over again, isn't working. Compromising the safety, security and peace of mind of our residents, by enacting bail reform, has changed our community for the worse. I look forward to shedding light on these troublesome policies."

Rep. Molinaro Calls for Statewide Campaign To Help Upstate New Yorkers Find Jobs, Following Gov. Hochul's Campaign For Illegal Immigrants

Binghamton, NY - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) today called on Governor Kathy Hochul to launch a statewide campaign to identify job openings for Upstate New Yorkers.

In October, Governor Hochul directed the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) to identify businesses that have job openings for illegal immigrants. The NYSDOL conducted an exhaustive search, asking all businesses in New York about potential job openings for illegal immigrants, and identified nearly 40,000 job openings.

In a letter to Governor Hochul, Rep. Molinaro called on Governor Hochul to launch a similar campaign, with just as much resources and effort, to help Upstate New York residents find good-paying jobs.

Rep. Molinaro said, "Upstate New York job seekers should come first. If Governor Hochul can have a campaign that identifies thousands of job openings for illegal immigrants, then it's within her authority to launch a similar campaign with just as much resources and effort to help Upstate New Yorkers land a job. When will Albany start paying attention to us?"

In Congress, Rep. Molinaro voted to pass a border security and immigration reform bill, joined Congressmen Pat Ryan and Mike Lawler in calling for the President to declare a Federal State of Emergency, and authored and passed bipartisan legislation he authored to prevent Governor Hochul from transforming K-12 schools into migrant shelters.

The full text of Rep. Molinaro's letter can be found here:

Dear Governor Hochul,

I call on you to engage in a statewide campaign to promote the hiring of residents in Upstate New York.

This campaign should direct social service agencies to help those currently receiving government benefits to identify job opportunities, provide resume and interview assistance, teach financial literacy skills, and ultimately take a more active role in connecting job seekers with employers.

I call for this campaign in light of the recent report that the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) published, at your direction, which identified nearly 40,000 jobs open to migrants. As a result of your directive, the NYSDOL has asked all businesses in New York about potential job openings for migrants. I only wish your administration had this much enthusiasm for helping existing New Yorkers who have been struggling for far too long.

It's listed in the NYSDOL report that over 1,500 jobs are available for migrants in the Southern Tier. Yet, I will be the first to tell you that there are thousands of current residents in the Southern Tier who are barely getting by, living paycheck to paycheck, that deserve this job assistance your administration is providing for migrants. Your actions have made it clear where your priorities lie, but I will always stand to ensure Upstate New Yorkers are put first.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

3rd Annual Sullivan County Youth Summit
for 11th and 12th Graders



Featuring returning
motivational speaker
Duncan Kirkwood



Registration opens
November 1, 2023
www.Sullivan180.org

January 12, 2024

9am-2pm

Hurleyville Performing
Arts Centre

“Faith is taking the first step even when
you don’t see the whole staircase.”
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Monticello, NY 12701



Our office hit the ground running this year, starting off the 118th Congress by introducing 54 bills, cosponsoring 324 pieces of legislation, and returning over \$13,000,000 in benefits back to our community.

It has been an honor to represent New York's 24th Congressional District for an entire year now. To celebrate, our office has come up with our 24 Wins for NY-24 Headed into 2024! These 24 wins, and many others, are detailed in our full 2023 Year End Report, which you can view here.

I'm honored to share that this year, my office assisted thousands of New Yorkers who had issues with federal agencies. We returned more than \$13.5 million in benefits or back pay to residents. Taking on the federal bureaucracy can be overwhelming, but you never have to do it alone.

The closure of over 1,500 federal casework cases demonstrates our office's unwavering commitment to serving and resolving the issues facing the constituents in our district. Through diligent efforts and a focus on effective governance, I have been able to provide tangible solutions and assistance to a wide range of individuals on their federal casework issues.

The grandson of a World War I Veteran from Cayuga County contacted my office about replacing his grandfather's headstone in a local cemetery. After contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on his behalf, the replacement headstone was sent to the cemetery for installation: "I am extremely happy with the fast response, excellent communication, and positive outcome I received in addressing the issue of a replacement veterans grave marker for my grandfather. I was told by others that it would be near impossible to obtain a replacement marker, however, with the help of Claudia Tenney and her staff, it is becoming a reality. Many thanks!"

My office was contacted by a Livingston County constituent who needed to get to Germany to visit a dying relative. The passport could not be renewed the traditional way in time for the trip, and my office was able to secure an in-person passport appointment in Buffalo: "Your service was rare in these days. Very personal, supportive, and effective. We were able to receive special help to receive an updated passport in good time - no stress, no missed flight. We are very appreciative that we have a politician who cares about people! Thank you!"

To ensure every resident of NY-24 can access the services they deserve, my office has a permanent mobile office hosted in Watertown and mobile office sessions in communities across the district. Since February 2023, we have hosted 20 mobile office sessions in each county where we don't have an office already in, bringing our services to thousands of constituents who otherwise may not have been able to make the trek.

This year, my office continued to host a seminar series that brings experts from federal departments and agencies directly to stakeholders in our community. My office has hosted the USDA and FEMA sessions on topics like flood mitigation, rural water infrastructure, and the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. These seminars have been an excellent opportunity

for local officials and stakeholders to receive information directly from federal agencies or offices and to ask specific questions they may have about various programs.

I am honored that this year, my office announced \$9,266,122.72 in federal grants and awards that were returned to New York's 24th Congressional District. This includes grants for restoring Krull Park in Niagara County, the Cayuga and Seneca Community Action Agency, and fire departments in Jefferson and Cayuga Counties.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional Republic, which is why I have explained the votes I cast in Congress since I was first elected in 2016. So far, I have explained 573 votes. Those I represent will always know where I stand, and I will continue to prioritize transparency, accessibility, and integrity in everything I do on behalf of NY-24.

It is vitally important to me that community stakeholders throughout our district provide their valuable input. This year, I launched several Advisory Committees comprised of stakeholders from across the district who provide regular feedback and updates. This includes the Agriculture Advisory Committee, the Service Academy Review Committee, and the Second Amendment Advisory Committee.

Since the beginning of this Congress, more than 28,000 residents of New York's 24th Congressional District have contacted my office to express their views, share their concerns, and ask important questions. I value this feedback and am honored to have responded to more than 43,000 messages this year. While we may not always agree, you have my commitment that I will always carefully consider your views as I represent you in Congress.

By being actively engaged with our community and attending a remarkable 285 events, our team and I have exemplified our commitment to connecting with constituents. Through these interactions, we have fostered a strong bond with the community, gaining valuable insights and addressing your concerns directly. I am dedicated to being accessible and responsive to the needs of NY-24.

Every five years, Congress passes legislation that sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policies. This legislation is commonly called the "Farm Bill." In order to ensure our agriculture communities' most important priorities are included, I hosted a series of roundtables to hear directly from farmers and producers about issues facing the agriculture industry in New York's 24th District.

Last year, I worked diligently to craft and release seven comprehensive legislative plans aimed at addressing the crucial issues impacting our constituents. These proposals reflect our commitment to finding practical solutions in areas such as healthcare, agriculture, and the economy. I am committed to working toward the goals outlined in these plans to benefit those I am privileged to represent.

I am honored to have introduced 54 bills in 2023, each aiming to advance the interests and well-being of the constituents I represent. These legislative initiatives reflect my tireless dedication to addressing a diverse range of issues, from economic growth and healthcare to education and border security. I am committed to ensuring that the voices of NY-24 are heard in the legislative process.

In 2023, I cosponsored 324 bills, 47 of which successfully passed the House, demonstrating our commitment to effective governance and policy driven solutions for NY-24.

Across the United States, there are 32.4 million family businesses, which generate 59% of American jobs and 54% of our gross domestic product. Yet despite their impact, family businesses are often overlooked and misunderstood. (Contd. Pg 57)

This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 56) As a small family business owner and co-chair of the Congressional Family Business Caucus, I am committed to working with this bipartisan caucus to continue advocating for our family-owned businesses in NY-24 and across the country.

I introduced the New Markets Tax Credit Extension Act of 2023. This bill would make the new markets tax credit a permanent part of the Internal Revenue Code, provide adjustments for inflation, and exempt investments from the Alternative Minimum Tax. Investors would be provided with a 39% credit against federal income taxes for certain investments made in underserved and low-income communities, such as rural areas. This bill would create jobs and revitalize rural economies, particularly those in Upstate New York.

This year, the Biden administration intentionally chose to warp Congress' intent by arbitrarily restricting federal funds for hunting and archery programs in schools. I introduced the Protecting Hunting and Archery in Schools Act to fix the language to make it crystal clear that the Biden administration cannot do this.

This year, I continued fighting for our military service members as well as our regional defense installations and assets, including Fort Drum, Rome Laboratory, and the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. I voted to pass the National Defense Authorization Act NDAA for Fiscal Year 2024 to provide a 5.2% pay raise in servicemember basic pay, the largest in over 20 years, and support our military families.

My bill, the Fairness in Vineyard Data Act, will require the USDA to perform a nationwide grape statistics survey and increase its annual grape data location collection. This will ensure our local vineyards in New York are included in the survey and are able to use its findings to guide their growing plans.

As one of the largest dairy-producing regions on the East Coast, ensuring federal producers meet the needs of our dairy farmers is a top priority. In response to pricing problems and increased consolidation in the dairy industry, I am an original cosponsor of the Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act of 2023, which returns liquid milk pricing for farmers to the highest of milk prices used for butter and cheese and requires a report on the margins for dairy producers.

Department of Homeland Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has failed to fulfill his constitutional duty to secure our border. Thanks to his failures, there have been at least 7.8 million illegal crossings of our Southern Border since Biden took office, turning all our communities into border communities. That is why I was one of the first members to call for his resignation or impeachment. It's time he is held accountable for his dereliction of duty!

This bill would create a National Heritage Area covering the Finger Lakes to recognize their unique heritage, geology, and contribution to American history. As a center for abolitionism, women's suffrage, and countless religious movements, it is vital these stories are preserved and shared for future generations.

The brave men and women of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency put their lives on the line every day to secure our borders and protect the homeland. Earlier this year, I visited CBP stations in Buffalo and Rochester to examine first-hand the challenges our CBP agents are facing at the Northern Border. I reiterated my

commitment today to our law enforcement officers at the border - I will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure they have the resources to do their jobs effectively and continue to keep our nation safe.

Assemblyman Brian Maher Announces \$75,000 Grant to Benefit Walden VFW Post

Assemblyman Brian Maher (R, C-Walden) announced today, in the heart of the holiday season, that his office has secured a \$75,000 grant that will benefit Walden VFW Post 2946 for the purpose of addressing significant infrastructure needs that have threatened to close the longtime veterans establishment over the past year. The Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program ("CREST") grant will be used to rehabilitate the longtime VFW Post, including but not limited to, a roof replacement project, according to a letter from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), addressed to Commander Dave Penney. There will be a formal check presentation ceremony this Friday, December 22nd at 6 p.m. at the site of the Walden VFW Post - 4 Oak Street, Walden. This will take place at the VFW regularly scheduled weekly community dinner. Representatives of Walden, Assemblyman Brian Maher and member of the VFW will be in attendance.

"Over the past several years, like many other VFWs and American Legions, our post has gone through some tough financial times," said Walden VFW Post 2946 Commander Dave Penney. "We met with Assemblyman Maher several months ago as we were continuing our fundraising efforts to save the Post and make sure it remained open to serve our veterans and the greater Walden community. We explained to Assemblyman Maher that we had to address major infrastructure needs but didn't have enough in our annual operating budget to take on such a large project and previous grant applications had been denied. Without an influx in fundraising or a grant we may not have been able to keep our doors open for much longer. The news of receiving this grant could not have come at a better time and we look forward to providing all of the paperwork necessary to receive the funding and keep our Post open."

"When I met with Dave and he explained to me the dire situation that the Walden VFW Post was in, we began brainstorming on how my office could help," said NYS Assemblyman Brian Maher. "First, we had a few vendors give us quotes to ensure we were prepared when certain grants presented themselves. My office submitted this project as part of the NYS Assembly Republican Minority Conference capital improvement program and we were so pleased to receive notification this week that the grant was awarded. By bringing back home our state taxpayer dollars in this way, we are making sure that this funding is spent on something that truly will make an impact on our community, especially our veterans."

There will be a formal check presentation ceremony in the coming weeks which will detail the entire project that will be funded, as well as several community partners that will help to address the long-term infrastructure issues that the Post will now be able to address. With this funding finally addressing capital improvements, the Post can now put all of their focus into its ongoing efforts to recruit, retain and enhance programs to serve veterans. Assemblyman Maher and his team will work with Commander Penney and the Walden VFW team to make sure they are given support throughout the paperwork filing process, which can be arduous.

"I will never forget where I come from," continued Maher. "I am a Waldenite through and through and as a Naval Reservist I will always fight to ensure our veterans and active service military personnel have the support they need."

Olive Free Library



CALL FOR ART

In Search of the Goddess

Submissions due January 27

[CLICK HERE](#) for submission guidelines

<https://www.olivefreelibrary.org/call-for-art/>

Governor Hochul Unveils Fourth Proposal of 2024 State of the State: 'NY Swims' - The New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming

Renderings for Reimagined State Parks and Pools at: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/Swimming-Enhancements-EBH-SoJo-Sebago.pdf>

Governor Kathy Hochul today unveiled NY SWIMS: the New York Statewide Investment In More Swimming, the fourth proposal of her 2024 State of the State. Recognizing that drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 and that climate change will increase extreme heat events, NY SWIMS will build out municipal pools in high-need areas, connect New Yorkers to the State's rivers and lakes, deploy pools in urban environments, and invest in State parks and pools. It will also promote initiatives to help more New Yorkers swim safely by addressing the statewide lifeguard shortage, increasing swimming instruction, and increasing amenities at pools and beaches.

"Access to swimming isn't just about recreation - it's about public health and climate resiliency," Governor Hochul said. "NY SWIMS will be the largest statewide investment in swimming since the New Deal, expanding access for underserved communities and improving safety for kids across New York."

NY SWIMS will invest in expanding swimming access across the State, focusing on underserved communities and areas prone to extreme heat. NY SWIMS will deliver \$150 million in grant funding for localities to build out 10 new landmark public swimming pools in areas most in need, drive innovation in pool designs, and deploy pop-up above-ground pools to combat extreme heat.

As New York State Parks celebrate their Centennial in 2024, NY SWIMS will reverse decades of disinvestment to ensure public parks offer new, state-of-the-art swimming facilities which can serve thousands of daily visitors.

New York State will also partner with New York City to bring the vision of +Pool, a filtered floating pool which can sit in New York's rivers, to life by jointly funding a demonstration project which will ensure this innovative model can safely provide access to swimmers.

Disparate access to safe and convenient opportunities for swimming has denied far too many New Yorkers the chance to engage with the water and learn foundational water safety skills. Drownings in New York State have reached record highs in recent years, claiming the lives of 230 New Yorkers in 2021 (the last year data is available) and more than 1,000 New Yorkers from 2017 to 2021. Drowning now ranks as the leading cause of death among children aged one to four years old in the United States, and it is the second-leading cause of death for children aged 5 to 14. Without equitable and widespread access to safe swimming opportunities, fewer people will develop foundational swimming and water safety skills, more people will swim in unsafe waterways without lifeguards, and more preventable drowning deaths will continue to occur each year.

Building Out Municipal Pools in High-Need Areas

NY SWIMS, overseen by State Parks and administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), will create a competitive \$60 million grant program to facilitate the renovation and construction of pools in high-need neighborhoods across the State. Through NY SWIMS, local municipalities can apply for grants for public pool projects. NY SWIMS grants can be used to fund the design and construction or renovation of swimming pools along with other related capital expenses, including site infrastructure, splash pads, diving boards and slides, bathrooms and changing rooms, concessions, land acquisition, and other features that create value for local communities.

Reimagining How New Yorkers Engage with Rivers and Lakes

To help reimagine how New Yorkers can engage with the water, including rivers and lakes, New York will create pathways and funding opportunities to encourage real innovation in swimming infrastructure. Governor Hochul will provide \$60 million in competitive grant funding to municipalities for the deployment of innovative, floating pools that can allow New Yorkers to safely swim in natural bodies of water. To help ensure floating pools meet all appropriate public health standards, the New York State Department of Health will provide guidance that will allow organizations to test the feasibility of innovative swimming pool designs within the state's natural waters.

New York State and New York City will collaborate on launching +Pool, a state-of-the-art swimming facility which would float in the waters surrounding New York City. Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams announced that the State and City would jointly fund a +Pool demonstration project which will be tested in the summer of 2024 and opened to the public in the following year.

Deploying Pools in Urban Environments

To combat hotter summer temperatures and help directly integrate swimming opportunities into urban environments, the State will create a \$30 million innovative municipal grant program to fund small, mobile, pop-up swimming pools. These pools would be movable or temporary facilities that could be dispatched to block parties, parks, events, or open spaces.

As recommended by New York State's Extreme Heat Action Plan Work Group, access to outdoor cooling opportunities and recreational resources such as parks and swimming areas is vital for disadvantaged communities and high-risk populations that do not have access to indoor cooling. Improving access to locations like pools that can provide temporary relief from extreme heat can offer added refuge for affected communities.

Pools could range in size from larger installations, like the larger-scale temporary pools and facilities that have operated over the past five years at Brooklyn Bridge Park, to smaller "container"-type pools, which can sit on surface streets.

Investing in our State Parks and Pools

In time for the New York State Parks Centennial celebration, Governor Hochul will advance a historic set of investments in public swimming facilities. Reversing decades of closures and cutbacks, the Governor's plan will restore or reconstruct facilities throughout the State, including:

- o Redesigning Harriman State Park's Lake Sebago Beach, which has been closed since 2011 due to damage from Hurricane Irene. Through this massive rehabilitation project, visitors and hikers alike can soon seek refuge to cool down and once again go swimming at Lake Sebago.

(Contd. Pg 60)

Governor Hochul Unveils Fourth Proposal of 2024 State of the State: 'NY Swims' - The New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming

(From Pg. 59)

o Jones Beach East Bathhouse, the last major piece of iconic and historic Jones Beach State Park infrastructure not yet touched by the revitalization of the past 10 years, will be redesigned and reimagined for future generations to enjoy. Through an infusion for the park system's centennial, State Parks will convert an abandoned pool complex into a destination spray park, introducing and incorporating a unique Learn to Swim feature to help children and inexperienced swimmers stay safe in a smaller, controlled environment.

o Sojourner Truth State Park, once the site of cement production, brick making, quarrying, and ice harvesting, the property has since been transformed into New York's newest park. Through additional investments, the park will be expanded to include a floating swim structure in the Quarry Lake.

In addition to these projects, Governor Hochul will grow the annual capital investments into our State's parks to build capacity while investing in existing infrastructure. This will bring more recreational resources to communities across the State. All of these important projects will expand direct access to swimming, helping more people learn how to swim and providing cooling opportunities for underserved communities.

Providing More Lifeguards and Swimming Instruction

To address the shortage of lifeguards that significantly constrains the provision of safe swim time, the State will offer a grant program through the Department of State to reimburse municipalities for expenses related to lifeguard compensation to help expand operating hours, increase staffing levels for swim programs, and widen access to public beaches and pools throughout New York State.

Reinvigorating the Free Learn-to-Swim at State Parks

State Parks will more than double the number of pools and beaches that offer water safety instruction programs in 2024 - from 7 to 17 - phasing in the additional beaches and pools in future years.

Getting Kids to the Pool

New York will partner with municipalities to assist with locating additional swimming facilities to utilize in the summer and shoulder seasons for aquatic swim instruction. State Parks will work to transport students and their families to facilities where swimming is offered through the Connect Kids programs.

Making SUNY Pools Community Anchors

Governor Hochul will direct SUNY to collaborate with schools, youth and community-based organizations and municipalities to increase learn to swim opportunities across every region of the State. In addition, New York will incentivize SUNY students who are skilled swimmers to become lifeguards by covering the cost of a lifeguard certification exam, and by giving college credit for lifeguard training courses.

Free Sunscreen

Governor Hochul will initiate a pilot program at State Park pools to offer free sunscreen to help families stay safe in the sun and enjoy the outdoors.

Statement from Senator Peter Oberacker



ALBANY, 01/09/24 -- State Senator Peter Oberacker (R/C - Schenevus) today commented on Governor Hochul's State of the State address:

"Every day I hear from constituents who tell me they are packing their bags and leaving New York, and today's message from the governor will not change any moving plans.

"People are struggling to make ends meet, small businesses are overburdened by crushing mandates, and crime continues to rise. The governor's ideas - mobile swimming pools for example - do not address the concerns of those who live and work in the 51st Senate District.

"We need to cut taxes on hard pressed New Yorkers, improve economic opportunities, and increase affordability across the board. It is also past time to get a grip on the illegal immigration crisis, another area where the governor has failed.

"The governor touted investments in our roads and bridges, but there is much more to be done on that front. I am also in agreement with her when it comes to the need for access to mental health treatment. However, that access needs to be statewide. Many rural areas, like those I represent, have been neglected.

"One party rule in Albany has been a disaster and it is time for commonsense bipartisan solutions that will deliver the crucial changes that people deserve. I am pressing for initiatives to cap state spending, end unfunded mandates, halt the failed bail reform experiment, help our farmers, seniors and veterans, and ensure that people are excited about living in our great state.

"Budget hearings are right around the corner here at the Capitol. I look forward to fully reviewing the details of the governor's proposals and will work with her when it makes sense for my constituents and oppose her when it does not."

Olive Free Library



CALL FOR ART

In Search of the Goddess

Submissions due January 25

[CLICK HERE](#) for submission guidelines

<https://www.olivefreelibrary.org/call-for-art/>

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



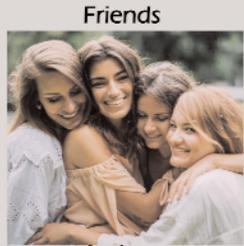
Text for Teens is supported by a Grant of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



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!



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





Read any way you like
Printed books, magazines, and newspapers, eBooks and audiobooks.



Listen at home or on the go
eAudiobooks and music for streaming or download.



Get online and get going
Free Wi-Fi

 Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more

Learn something new 24/7

Learn a new language FREE with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

Borrow instead of buy

Check out books, magazines, e-audiobooks and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS Libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

Entertain your kids – or yourself!

Passes to Mohonk Preserve and the Jimmie and Valleys 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

988LIFELINE.ORG



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





Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

Tai Chi for Arthritis & Falls Prevention

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

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



What is Tai Chi?

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

Tai chi helps:

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

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

Register:



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

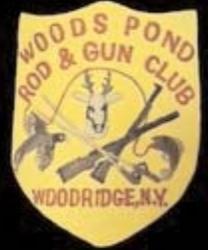
This program is supported through funding from the NYS and Sullivan County Offices for the Aging.

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



Join the

**WOODRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
&
WOODS POND ROD AND GUN CLUB**



CONTACT: ERIC AKERLEY 845.707.1483

**FOR A CHILI LUNCHEON
IN MEMORY OF JARED PROYECT**

**SATURDAY
JAN. 20, 2024**



1PM-5PM

**WOODRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT - SOCIAL HALL
2 GREEN AVE
WOODRIDGE, NY 12789**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED
AT GOODWILL**

SALAD - CHILI - RICE - CORN BREAD - DESSERTS

RAFFLES

50/50



**HOT COCOA
STATION**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO JARED'S DAUGHTER,
JOCELYN PROYECT'S FUTURE FUND.**



Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Jupiter



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

(For adults and students ten and up)

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

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

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



Daniel Pierce Library

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

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SHADOWLAND STAGES.

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To purchase a gift certificate, visit or call our Box Office at 845-647-5511.

Time and the Valleys Museum

Grahamsville, NY

Are you interested in local history?

Did you know that Museum membership is only \$25 a YEAR?
Members receive:

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



Join now & get 10% off!

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

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

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

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum.



BONUS - Free Art Catalogue!

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



NEW YEAR, NEW BUDGET, AND A NEW LEGISLATURE

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

New Year's Day always brings change with it, but 2023's turn to 2024 introduced a new group of legislators to leadership. Not only did we welcome five new legislators - District 1's Matt McPhillips, District 3's Brian McPhillips, District 5's Cat Scott, District 8's Amanda Ward and District 9's Terry Bernardo - we gained a new Chair of the Legislature (District 2's Nadia Rajsz), Vice Chair (District 7's Joe Perrello), Minority Leader (District 4's Nick Salomone) and Majority Leader (Matt McPhillips). And they're all serving redrawn districts, a result of the redistricting planning the previous Legislature undertook after the 2020 U.S. Census. (The County's founding document, its Charter, requires each district to serve approximately the same-sized population, as determined by the Census.)

The legislators are also overseeing the implementation of a \$291 million County budget that promises to make transformative changes in all our lives. We've devoted significant funds to expanding Move Sullivan, figuring out ways to increase our rental housing stock, raising our poorer health outcomes, and making the County as attractive as possible to residents, businesses and visitors.

As you'll see in this newsletter, Sullivan County has been riding high Statewide in employment growth. We are experiencing unprecedented increases in jobs, sales tax revenue and tourism, and we want to keep that positive momentum going.



Nadia Rajsz, left, is sworn in as the new Chair of the Legislature. Holding the family Bible are her daughter Deanna and husband Michael.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

CREATING A ONE-STOP
RESOURCE SHOP - 2

LEARNING A NEW SKILL
FOR FREE - 3

STATE-LEADING
JOB NUMBERS - 4

UNITING AGENCIES TO HELP EVERYONE IN NEED

Navigating the services in even a rural county like Sullivan can be daunting, and too many people go without services for which they're eligible. United

Sullivan aims to change that.

Led by our Division of Health & Human Services, United Sullivan is a collaboration of two dozen local nonprofits and government agencies seeking to help all who are in need. A website, unitedsullivan.com, is already up and is being further developed to become a one-stop resource locator. But you don't have to wait - we've already got a tool in action on the County website. Head to sullivanny.us/Departments/familyservices and scroll down to find a fillable form headlined by "How Can We Help You Get Services?"

Whether you or someone you care for is seeking food, housing, warmth, financial help or other assistance, just fill out the form and submit it, and it will automatically be shared with every agency and government office that might be able to help.

It's meant to be simple, for that is how we can make a true positive impact on the people we serve.

And stay tuned - more is coming to unitedsullivan.com...

WHAT'S YOUR PREFERENCE?

Sullivan County has more social media channels than you have fingers! In fact, as of this writing, we have 14 Facebook pages, 3 Instagram pages, 2 LinkedIn pages, a Twitter (X) feed, a Threads feed, and a YouTube channel.

How do you find what you're looking for? Search for these keywords to locate us on these platforms (and become a fan!):

FACEBOOK

- Sullivan County NY Government
- Sullivan County NY 911
- Sullivan County NY Office for the Aging
- Sullivan County NY Sheriff's Office
- Sullivan County NY Public Health
- Sullivan County NY Center for Workforce Development
- Sullivan County NY Bureau of Fire
- Sullivan County NY Bureau of EMS
- Sullivan County NY Recycles
- Sullivan County NY Youth Bureau
- Sullivan County NY Probation
- Move Sullivan
- Sullivan O&W Rail Trail
- Care Center at Sunset Lake

INSTAGRAM

- Sullivan County NY Government
- Sullivan County NY Health and Human
- Care Center at Sunset Lake

LINKEDIN

- Sullivan County NY Government
- Care Center at Sunset Lake

X (TWITTER), THREADS and YOUTUBE

- Sullivan County NY Government

How Can We Help You Get Services?

Supplemental Questions

MAY WE ALSO TEXT YOU AT THE PHONE NUMBER PROVIDED?

Choose...

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO CALL YOU?

Choose...

IS THERE ANOTHER PHONE NUMBER TO REACH YOU?

Choose...

ARE YOU COMPLETING THIS FORM ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE ELSE? THE CLIENT MUST SIGN THE CONSENT THEMSELVES. *

Choose...

Services

WHAT SERVICES ARE YOU SEEKING? *

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR SERVICES *

This easy-to-fill-out form can quickly connect you with needed services. Find it at sullivanny.us/Departments/familyservices.



Celebrating the welding students' graduation on December 21 were, standing from the left, BOCES District Superintendent Robert Dufour, BOCES Instructor Nick Conklin, BOCES Career & Technical Education Executive Principal Jeffrey Molusky, grad Ethan Williams, grad Peter Smith, grad Kevin Alvarado, grad George Santiago and Center for Workforce Development Director Loreen Gebelein; and sitting from the left, grads Dominick Furlipa, Ashley Male and Daniel Johnston. Missing from the photo are grads Isaiah McNeil and Steven Koskey.

LEARNING THE SKILLS TO GET RIGHT TO WORK

Following up on our successful Construction Trades course in mid-2023, our Center for Workforce Development (in conjunction with Sullivan BOCES) spent the fall training 9 carefully selected local residents in the high-demand field of Welding. What's so special about that? Students - all adults, all in the workforce - didn't pay a dime in tuition. We literally gave them a new skill that made them immediately employable. That's why we were selective in fielding the 60 or so applications. This was not a giveaway for a do-it-

yourselfer or someone uncertain about what they wanted to do next. This was specifically for local folks who fully intended to become a professional welder and apply their skills locally. And that's exactly what we accomplished. All 9 graduates either have or are about to have employment in the field. These two courses have demonstrated to us that there is a demand and a need for vocational skills in our adult workforce, so we'll be announcing another course later this year.

HAVE YOU MET 'SAIGE'?

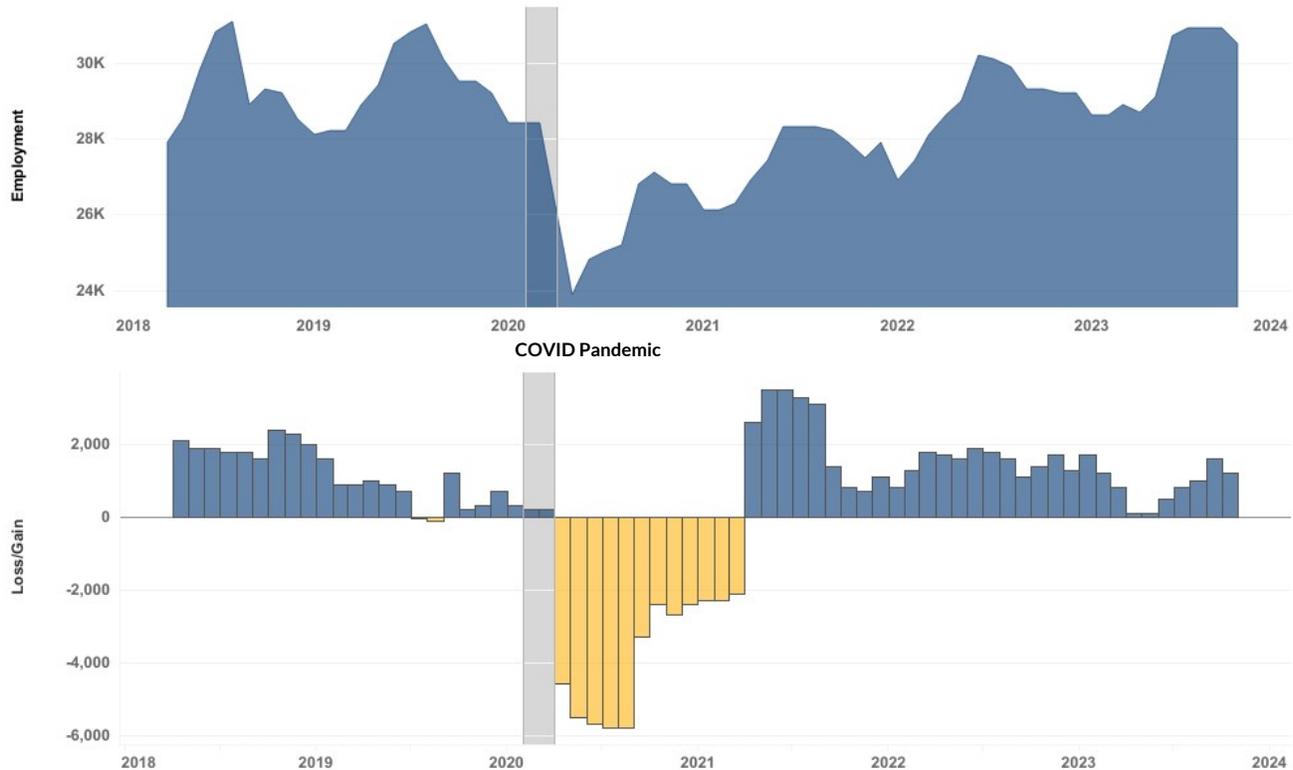
Saige is the new chatbot serving all who visit the County's website, sullivanny.us. She's a part of Google's generative artificial intelligence software (thus the "AI" in her name),

Welcome to Sullivan County Government, How may I help you today?

created to better help you quickly find the information you need. Don't forget to click on "Helpful" or "Not Helpful" after she answers a question—she really does learn from that feedback!

WE'RE LEADING MOST OF THE STATE IN JOB GROWTH

Sullivan County Total Nonfarm Not Seasonally Adjusted



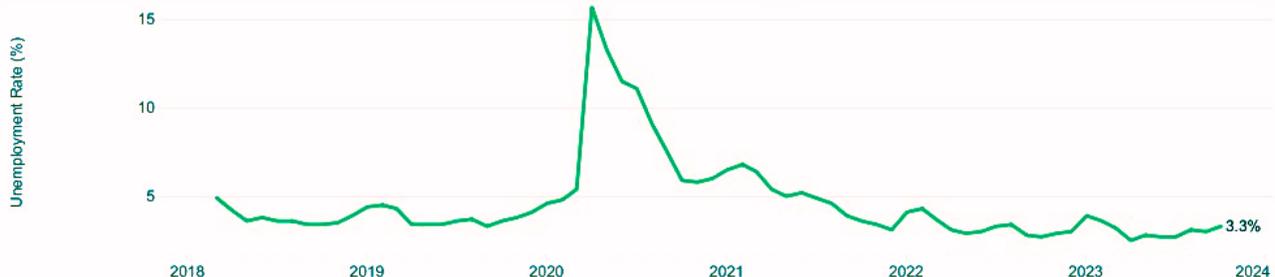
Graphs courtesy of NYS Department of Labor

Yes, this is part of a nationwide trend, but when compared to many of our upstate and downstate counterparts, Sullivan County has been seeing great (and, of late, phenomenal) numbers.

Most dramatic has been the swing in our unemployment rate. During the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020, nearly 16% of our workforce was out of a job – the highest such percentage since electronic recordkeeping began in 1990 (see graph below).

From there, the unemployment rate started falling, to an historic low of 3.1% by December 2021. And then it fell further, to 2.9% in May 2022, finally bottoming out

at 2.5% in April 2023, with only slight increases since. Meanwhile, our job growth rate has climbed stratospherically. In fact, we led the State for many months after the pandemic eased, and we've consistently remained in the top five job growth performers Statewide all of 2023 (see graph above). We came close to eclipsing our historic August 2018 high of 31,100 people employed (non-farm) in Sullivan County, as we reached 30,900 employed in July 2023. **However, unlike any year prior, we maintained that level of high employment for a full three months this summer.** (Typically, we spike in August, then rapidly fall.)



RENTALS

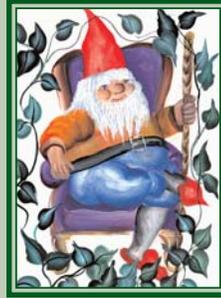
Store for Rent in Grahamsville (845) 985-7411

FOR SALE

Sundown Camp and Bait Shop!
Firewood for sale

HELP WANTED**Typing Help Wanted**

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

**“Knarf’s Classic Movies”**

IT’S KID TIME ON AMAZON PRIME

**DORA THE EXPLORER
IN
DORA AND THE LOST
CITY OF GOLD**



Deep in the Peruvian jungle, 6-year-old Dora Márquez (Madelyn Miranda), daughter of jungle explorers Cole (Michael Peña) and Elena (Eva Longoria), spends her days going on adventures with her monkey friend Boots, her 7-year-old cousin Diego (Malachi Barton), and imaginary friends Backpack and Map while thwarting Swiper (voiced by Benicio del Toro) the thieving fox. One day, Diego and his family leave to Los Angeles while Dora and her parents remain searching for the hidden Inca city of gold. This live-action adaptation of the Nickelodeon cartoon has no right to be as funny and as clever as it is. It helps that newcomer Isabela Moner is a delightful lead as Dora, but there’s also a delightfully self-aware tongue-in-cheek tone to this film, one that’s funny without every taking itself too seriously. It’s a sweet family adventure movie that works equally for parents and little ones. Directed by James Bobin Produced by Kristin Burr, Screenplay by Nicholas Stoller. This is a Matthew Robinson Story by Tom Wheeler, Nicholas Stoller, Based on Dora the Explorer, by Chris Gifford, Valerie Walsh Valdes, Eric Weiner Starring Isabela Moner, Eugenio Derbez, Michael Peña, Eva Longoria, Danny Trejo, Benicio del Toro, Music by John Debney, Germaine Franco, Cinematography Javier Aguirresarobe, Edited by Mark Everson, Production Company, Paramount Players, Nickelodeon Movies, Walden Medi MRC

(Contd. Pg. 73)

Answer to last week’s Trivia Question: *Tara*

This weeks’ Trivia question: Who plays *Sophie’s* tempse-tuous lover in *Sophie’s Choice*?



Sell your handcrafted items
online from your own little
virtual shop
at the

**Gnome Home
Virtual Mall**

Interested?

Send an email to:
gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com

**... or if you just want
to have some
‘gnome made’ fun..**

Visit the gnome’s
virtual on-line local shop
at:

<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>

(From Pg. 72)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE
WATCH WHAT YOU WANT
NETFLIX, IMOB, AMAZON PRIME

Lord Jim

(1965 - 2h 34m - Adventure)



Can any man, or any of us, escape our destiny? Think of a young British merchant seaman, who has just completed his apprenticeship to become a midshipman in the British Merchant Marine. Can he escape his destiny as he is thrust into the reality of a corrupt noncaring world, where people lie, con, cheat, steal, and mass murder is committed. A place where there are no friends. They lust for power, gold, and riches beyond imagination, while wrestling with the choices of living as a hero, or the other choice. Were we born as cowards and the payment in reality demands making us responsible for our actions regardless of our wishes – liking it or not.



Directed by Richard Brooks, and Roy Stevens, Starring Peter O'toole, James Mason, Curt Jurgens, Eli Wallach

Destiny

by Frank Comando

The *Illusions of Your Dreams*, so merrily pass your eyes at the very mention of the smell of just one rose, so work to fulfill your dreams my friend, and you can fulfill your destiny, for your dreams are your destiny, and your destiny is your path to peace of mind.

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIES
WATCH WHAT YOU WANT
STREAMING ON: NETFLIX

The Witcher

2019|TV-MA |1 Season|Fantasy TV Shows

Geralt of Rivia, a mutated monster-hunter for hire, journeys toward his destiny in a turbulent world where people often prove more wicked than beasts.



Starring: Henry Cavill, Anya Chalotra, and Freya Allan.
Creators: Lauren Schmidt Hissrich

Watch all you want. Get "Netflix"

Stay safe, May God Bless
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnomz