



PROUD TO BE
AN AMERICAN



VOL. 23 NO. 1 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 1, 2026

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg. 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg. 7
Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia - Page 66

Aktion Club Continues to Spread Holiday Spirit



Aktion Club displaying toys and games that will be delivered to the Sheriff's Dept.

Aktion Club of Sullivan County members were involved with exceptionally busy and heartwarming end of year projects. (Contd. Pg. 5)

Kathleen Lara to Be Sworn In As New Sullivan County Treasurer *Public Invited to Ceremony on January 2 in Monticello*



Monticello, NY - The County of Sullivan will officially welcome its newest County Treasurer, Kathleen Lara, during a swearing-in ceremony scheduled for January 2, 2026, at 10 a.m., taking place in the Legislative Hearing Room at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello.

Lara was elected County Treasurer by the voters of Sullivan County in November 2025, bringing more than a decade of experience within the Treasurer's Office. Prior to this election, she served as Deputy Treasurer for 11 years, where she played a key role in managing County finances and supporting fiscal operations.

A lifelong resident of Sullivan County, the new Treasurer has deep roots in the community she now serves. She currently resides in Sackett Lake with her husband Rick and her daughter Erin.

"I am honored and grateful for the trust the residents of Sullivan County have placed in me," she said. "Having served as Deputy Treasurer for more than a decade, I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of our County with dedication, transparency, and fiscal responsibility."

The swearing-in ceremony is open to the public, and all are invited to attend.

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 - **845-985-3215**

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA - From the notes of Frank Comando

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

Email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com

Website: [the townsman.com](http://thetownsman.com)

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

POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

- ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
- Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
- Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
- Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
- 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.
- Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

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

To renew or receive a new subscription

to the *Virtual TOWNSMAN*, sent to your email every week, print this form then fill out and mail it to: **Townsman**, P O Box 232, Grahamsville, NY. Make checks payable to: *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. You may also sign up online with **Paypal** Go to our website: <http://thetownsman.com>

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS: **\$40.00 PER YEAR**

NEW RENEWAL/DATE EXP.

Check # _____

Subscription/renewals **must be received by the last Saturday of the month** preceding your renewal date to avoid interruption of your subscription.

A **change of an email address must be received a month prior to change** in order to make the necessary changes in our computer system. All changes are the responsibility of the subscriber.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

3:00 P.M. MONDAYS – FIRM

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

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

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for your people Israel.

Luke 2:29-32

OBITUARY

Patricia "Pat" Althouse

January 22, 1941 - December 17, 2025



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Patricia "Pat" Althouse age 84 of Napanoch, New York. She passed away on December 17, 2025, at the Care Center at Sunset Lake in Liberty, New York. Pat was born in Trenton, New Jersey on January 22, 1941 to Vincent Ambrose and Laura Williams. She is survived by her husband Roy Althouse whom she was married to on June 21, 1975.

Pat worked in bookkeeping for the majority of her adult life, which she picked up after a couple of years in college. She worked at Gillette Oil, Berger and Solomon Insurance Company, the Town of Wawarsing, and most recently Ellenville Regional Hospital. She was a lover of animals, especially dogs, and she devoted countless hours and years to the Napanoch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, where she was honored multiple times as Auxiliary Woman of the Year. Additionally, she managed the books for the Town of Wawarsing Knife Museum.

In addition to her husband Pat leaves behind three sons, and one stepdaughter. Bob Rue and his wife Trisha Rue, Michael Pasko, Phil Althouse and his partner Jennifer Davis Mirmelstein, and Nina Cox. Pat also had three grandchildren who she loved dearly. Samantha Rue and her partner Jesse Janas, Jonah Althouse, and Norah Althouse. She also leaves behind a brother Steven Caponey, several nieces and nephews, and she is predeceased by her sister Sandra Cruz.

A visitation was held at Loucks Funeral Home St. Ellenville, NY on Sunday, December 28 which included a firematic service. Funeral service was held on December 29, at the funeral home with burial following at Fantinekill Cemetery Route 209 Ellenville.

Pat's life was filled with love for family, friends and co-workers. Her wishes were for everyone to know how blessed she was to have shared her journey of life with all of you. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ellenville Regional Hospital, or the Care Center at Sunset Lake.

DAY OF YORE....

Today's History

December 27, 1950

Memorial Hall was filled to capacity last Thursday evening to hear the first concert of the Tri Valley School Band under the direction of Mr. Arlington Visscher, Music Supervisor at Tri Valley. It is to be hoped that a tradition, the annual Christmas band concert, was born last Thursday night.

A Grahamsville woman was injured on Tuesday as the car which she was driving, careened off Route 52 near Liberty and overturned twice. Ferndale State Police said that the woman, Pearl VanWagner, was treated at the scene for multiple abrasions and released. The car, a 1937 Buick, was badly damaged.

New England's oldest man - 111-year old Jeremiah Campbellton - died in his sleep on December 23rd. Mr. Campbellton was orphaned when seven-years old when the Micmac Indians raided the lonely cabin where he lived, killed his parents and carried him into captivity. For six years he lived with the Indians, learning their language and ways. After his escape, the Indian woodcraft knowledge stood him in good stead and he ultimately became one of Maine's best guides.

December 28, 1960

Mr. and Mrs. William H. VanBenschoten of Woodbourne Road celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary and his birthday on Dec. 26th.

(Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History (From Pg. 2)

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hansen of White Sulphur Springs announce the engagement of their daughter, Bertina Lee to Fred Nash, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Nash of Neversink. Mr. Nash is a graduate of Tri Valley Central School and is employed in construction. No wedding date has been set.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bailey celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary on Christmas Day with a family supper and invited guests.34

Movies will be shown at the Neversink Firehouse every week. On Wednesday, Dec. 28th, "The 39 Steps", "Three Stooges" and a "Captain Video" serial were shown. These movies are free to residents of the Neversink Fire District.

December 30, 1970

"Christmas 1970" was definitely white and deep. In answer to all of the soulful pleas for snow, nature answered with a convincing coverage of six to twelve inches.

Congratulations, a bit belated, to Mr. Ralph Hornbeck whose birthday was on the 24th and to Doris and Ralph Hornbeck on their 49th wedding anniversary, which was on Christmas Day.

From a long time former resident, Mrs. Lee (Delia) Dayton. She writes, "We oldsters should count our blessings and not even mention our aches and pains." Enough said, she is happy at Binghamton with her daughter and family, the J. Buswells and son, but she has moments of nostalgia for Grahamsville and the "garage" where she spent so many happy hours visiting with good friends.

Conservation facts:

The wall-eyed pike is not a pike at all, but is the largest member of the perch family.

A porcupine can destroy two trees in a single night and has been known to cause damages ranging from \$10 to \$100 per acre. They feed largely on conifer bark and when they girdle a tree, it dies.

The offspring from a single pair of flies, under ideal conditions, could produce in one year enough new individuals which if packed 1,000 to a cubic inch, could form a ball of flies 96,000,000 miles in diameter. (That's not a typo, folks, but I'd love to know where that statistic came from. B.S.)

December 18, 1980

Arnold C. Ackerley, 68, of Liberty, died Thursday, Dec. 11th at home. Mr. Ackerley, a lifelong resident of the area, was born February 2, 1912 in Morrisston to Daniel and Edith Davis Ackerley. Survivors include Margaret E. McGuire Ackerley at home; six sons, Wesley, Eugene and Roy, all of Liberty; Richard and Arnold Jr. both of Grahamsville and Donald of Aschbach, Germany; six daughters: Marion Wegman of Swan Lake, Marjorie Fairbairne, and Virginia Keefer of Liberty, Caroline Johnson of Grahamsville, April Crary of Youngsville and Cindy Barber of White Lake.

The Raymond Curry family welcomed a newborn recently.

Happy Anniversary to Eugene and Virginia Fuller on Dec. 21; and Happy 47th Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. George Krom on Dec. 31st.

Household Hint:

Great Idea to Store those Leftover Chocolate Chips

Using a funnel, pour the leftover contents of a bag of Chocolate Chips into a clean empty 12 oz plastic soda bottle. Finish by twisting the cap on top. Store until you need them.

Nature Column - L. Comando

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

Chickadees - Cold Weather Machines

Though any bird that survives winter in the Catskills amazes those of us that depend on furnaces and warm blankets, the black-capped chickadee may be the most incredible of all winter survivors.

This time of the year you will hear the Chickadees. They are one of our families favorite birds to visit the backyard during winter. Chickadees do not migrate and are equipped to survive harsh winter weather. Though chickadees are regular visitors to our feeders, over 75% of their winter food supply still comes from natural sources. They store food and remember where they have hidden it.

The black-capped chickadee is easy to recognize with its black cap and throat contrasted by white cheeks. Its wings and back are gray and its sides are buff in color. It is about five inches long and weighs about 1/3 of an ounce, that's less than the weight of two quarters. It has two common and cheerful songs; chick-a-dee-dee-dee and fee-bee-ee with the first note higher. It is much easier to find this bird by its song as your walking through the woods than it is to try and locate it by sight.

This time of the year Chickadees have dense winter coats, they diligently find excellent, well-insulated roosting cavities and most amazingly can perform a regulated hypothermia to conserve energy overnight. For years, scientists were intrigued by the ability of these tiny birds to survive and thrive during even the most frigid days. The chickadee's ability to go into regulated hypothermia enables it to actually lower its body temperature, in a controlled manner, to about 12 or 15 degrees F below its normal daytime temperature of 108 degrees F. This allows the bird to conserve almost 25 percent of its hourly metabolic expenditure when the outside temperature is at freezing. Scientist now know the lower the outside temperature, the more energy a Chickadee conserves. Chickadees seem to have a never-ending energy.

The Chickadee possesses many other interesting behavioral and survival traits that lend a bit more character to this little bird. You might want to explore them this winter while you watch the birds at your feeding station. There are several books and websites you can use to expand your knowledge during the remaining cold winter days while you sit inside and watch the cheerful chickadees flutter about and sing their song.

The Chickadee's inquisitive nature makes these little birds fun to watch.



LOOKING BACK

By Beatrice Akerley

Published January 7, 1999

This morning I am sitting here alone in my room. The little electric heater is humming away by my feet. It is December 30th and I am looking out at the first big snow fall of this season. I see no children out there with hand sleighs and it is vacation time from school.

When I was growing up, hand sleighs and ice skates were owned by every kid for winter fun. As I sit here, I am wondering if Orchard Lake up in Grooville is frozen over like it would have been in the early 1900's at about this time of year.

But then again, come spring out would come my baseball and bicycle. I recall one year when school recessed for the summer on my birthday, April 24th. It was great, no school until the day after Labor Day. We would get up and do what a kid does but Christmas vacation was the real fun time for us. We lived by a big hill and my sister Edith and I were always out sleigh riding after a storm. We'd be out there having a ball until our bodies were frozen and then we'd go home to thaw out and catch mom's wrath for not being on time for dinner. Ice skating on Orchard Lake was another fun pastime. At other times we would get a group of kids together for a game of fox and geese or a nice snowball fight.

In the early 1900's the worst part of winter for a good many children was having to walk several miles to school. It was especially hard when it was freezing cold, sleet or snowing. I didn't have that problem as my dad's property joined the school grounds.

Mom was easy to deal with, when she would scream that was the end of it, but dad –when he got mad at us girls, all he had to do was look at us reproachfully. He never beat us, in fact during our childhood I don't remember him ever hitting me once.

In the old days, school was like a second home and teachers were like parents. I had one in fourth grade, Ethel Schriber. She worked with me after school to help me with my math. I'll never forget her or the good old days of long ago.

Claryville Volunteer Fire Company elections were held on Thursday, December 4th. Congratulations to our 2026 Claryville Fire Department Officers!

Firematic Officers:

Chief: Paul Metzger

Assistant Chief: John Coombs

2nd Assistant Chief: Glenn VanDenberg

Captain: Mike Schiffer

Lieutenant: Mike VanDenberg

Fire Police Captain: Tom Matthews

Fire Police Lieutenant: Luis Fassi

Engineers: Appointed by the Chiefs

Engineers (Frost Valley Substation):
Appointed by the Chiefs

Department Officers:

President: Mike VanDenberg

Vice President: Carissa Pomeroy

Secretary: Frederick Doot

Treasurer: Glenn VanDenberg

Assistant Treasurer: Mike Schiffer

Trustees: Glenn VanDenberg, Luis Fassi, Said Drissate, Jim Letohic

Children's Event Coordinator: Jennifer Pisaniello

Chaplain: Dan Forger

Hall Rentals: Please call Glenn at 845-985-2943.

Leave a voicemail with your name and phone number

Aktion Club Continues to Spread Holiday Spirit

(From Pg. 1) They collected non-perishable food items from club members, agency reps and Kiwanis Co-Advisors and had fun decorating and filling baskets for Thanksgiving that were distributed to families in need in the Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello School Districts, Federation for the Homeless and United Way of Sullivan County. They delivered a basket containing both food and games to the Sullivan County Family Court Children's Center.



Aktion Club displaying toys and games that will be delivered to the Sheriff's Dept.

In addition, they collected toys and games that were dropped off at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department for disbursement to children in the County. They also collected and delivered gently used coats, gloves and scarves to the Federation for the Homeless.



2025-26 New Aktion Club Officers - From left - VP Robert Goss, Treas. Gary Walling, Sec. Latisha Moore and Pres. Tommy Abelson installed by Co-Aktion Club Advisor/Woodridge Kiwanian Sue Kasofsky

The November meeting included a thank you and farewell to the outgoing officers and installation of the new 2025-2026 officers and the December meeting began with the installation and welcoming of three new members.

The Aktion Club of Sullivan County is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge and is comprised of individuals with various degrees of disabilities who are affiliated with Arc the Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery. They are always thrilled to do what they can to help others and to spread cheer in the community.



Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 160

Ice Angel Mysterious Book Report No. 469 by John Dwaine McKenna Published December 16, 2021

Despite it's dumb-assed title, *Ice Angel*, (Pegasus Crime, \$25.95, 272 pages, ISBN 970-1-64313-811-4) by Matthew Hart, is a cool piece of crime fiction that has an exciting premise, a dynamic, fast-moving plot and an interesting cast of characters --all of whom

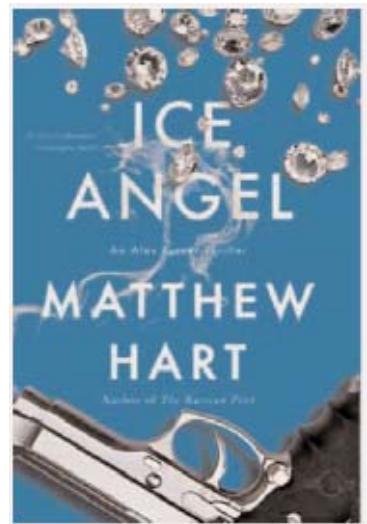
are trying to rob, swindle, outwit and kill each other somewhere north of the Arctic circle in the Canadian wilderness . . . where one of the world's greatest diamond fields has been discovered. It's an area teeming with oil, timber and minerals that are just waiting to be exploited.

The yarn begins with the disappearance of a legendary diamond prospector and ethically challenged stock market operator named Jimmy Angel. He's rumored to be sitting on an epic find, one of the richest diamond pipes ever discovered. Then he's gone. That's when a pair of Chinese billionaires-a playboy named Fan and his calculating twin sister Mei, who have ties to China's government and it's military-step in with a dubious maneuver to take over the missing diamond hunter's entire business and all of it's staked claims for leases. Because Angel is an American citizen who's already a subject of interest to the U.S. government, treasury agent Alex Turner is sent to find out what's happened to the missing man.

Turner's accompanied by his treacherous lover, a Russian diamond thief named Slav Lily, who may in fact be colluding with the enemy. With the takeover of the Angel Companies, higher-ups in Washington, D.C. fear that the Chinese Communist Government is trying to establish a land base on the North American Continent something they want to prevent at all costs. And, when Angel's daughter Mitzi enters the plot, all-out mayhem ensues with airplane chases, machine gun fights and a never-ending assortment of vicious thugs combined with lyrical prose and savage Arctic weather conditions all make this an electrifying hard-to-put-down read that will keep you guessing to the end!

Like the review? Let your friends know, You saw it in the Mysterious Book Report, because the greatest compliment you can give is to share our work with others. Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments! We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

Follow us on Facebook,
Twitter, Goodreads,
Instagram.



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

The Skin Ripper
A Jake McKenna novel
John Dwaine McKenna

The NEVERSINK CHRONICLES
John Dwaine McKenna

JOHN DWAINE MCKENNA
UNFORSAKEN

The Whim-Wham Man
John Dwaine McKenna

Colorado Noir
Stories from the dark side
John Dwaine McKenna

<http://www.Facebook.com/JohnDwaineMcKenna>

http://www.Twitter.com@MB_Report

<http://www.Goodreads.com/JohnDwaineMcKenna>

http://www.Instagram.com/mysterious_book_report <http://www.mysteriousbookreport.com>



The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

After the Holidays

Holidays are work, usually for the women of the house. We do the decorating, the shopping, the wrapping, the cleaning, and the cooking. It is exhausting and labor intensive. For that reason, my favorite holiday day is the day after... the day after whatever. I like to dress comfortably and move sloth-like through the detritus of the last week of festive chaos.



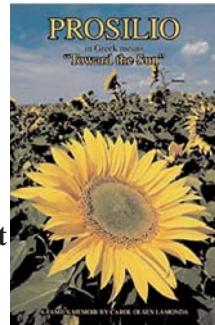
turkey, salmon, and shrimp leaving us craving a peanut butter sandwich or a cup of tomato soup. Leftovers are neatly nestled in plastic and glass containers in the fridge ready to grow their fuzzy green and blue jackets of mold as they get pushed to the rear.

Cookies are crumbling or getting eaten in priority of best to least. Amazon is no longer steaming up the driveway on its daily route.

The Family Memoir, 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*



By now, the tree is listing a bit starboard and ornaments have fallen in the hubbub. Surely, a few bulbs from the strings of lights have dimmed or quit in protest. Christmas music has been silenced. Wrapping paper and cardboard boxes are banished to the garage or garbage cans. Cards, few that I get because I no longer send them, get moved from here to there. Gifts are piled in the living room as new arrivals have yet to claim their final resting place in the household.

We have all eaten the top shelf of company dinners with prime rib, ham,

Ring in the New Year with a visit to the DPL!

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-The origins of New Year's resolutions date back over 4,000 years, starting with the ancient Babylonians who, during a 12-day festival called Akitu, promised the gods they'd pay off debts in favor of good fortune in the coming year, then moving on to the ancient Romans who paid homage to god Janus, whom would bestow blessings after a sacrifice was made in their honor. Then, for early Christians the beginning of the new year became a more secular celebration and an opportunity to review one's mistakes, ask for forgiveness and pledge to do better.

And now...the concept of New Year's resolutions seems as individualized as the people who create and try to carry them into the new year. These personal commitments run the gamut from focusing on health, to finances, to personal growth; with a resounding "New Year, New You" kind of slogan.

If, and no one says you have to participate, but IF you were interested in pursuing a New Year's resolution our adult nonfiction section is teeming with all kinds of "how to" books. How to raise chickens, how to play the piano, how to relieve the stress from your life and so forth and so on. If you're interested in learning how to play a new sport, brush up on survival skills or try a new bundt cake recipe, we've got you covered. We have literally hundreds of books to check out that would certainly fit the bill. And, if we don't have the book you're looking for, we have a system that allows us to search for and check out any book within the vast RCLS system. You just have to stop by! And, just like we have a remarkably varied adult nonfiction section, our children's non-fiction books are just as informative and interesting if you're committing to a whole family New Year's resolution.

By the by, you certainly could dismiss the whole concept of New Year's resolutions and keep on reading all our fabulous fictional books (in the adult, young adult and children's sections). There's nothing wrong with living vicariously through the lives of characters, whether they're facing down monsters, in the beginnings of a new romance or sailing the open oceans.

I guess, when it comes right down to it, I'm suggesting your New Year's resolution be to come to the library more often, to browse the stacks, to join our programs, to attend our events...because they really are amazing, special and informative...and that's certainly deserving of a celebratory promise to yourself.



BLOOMING GREEN LAWN AND LANDSCAPE SERVICE

Ben Knight
845-985-0516 • 845-665-3348

Fall Cleanups

Book Your Landscaping Jobs Now!
Trees, Shrubs, Perennials Planted
Pruning

- Shrubs • Fruit Trees • Ornamental Trees
- Custom Complete Lawn Care • Edging
- Raised Flowerbeds • Mulching • Light Landscaping

Over 25 years experience
Residential and Commercial
Fully Insured

Firewood

Buy from the best
Don't be undercut by the rest

Cheek out our website:
<http://www.bloominggreenlawnandlandscape.com>
"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"



DVD SALE!

Come & Get them!

Daniel Pierce Library

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

\$1.00 each



Catering

**BOOK YOUR NEXT PARTY
NOW!**

NEVERSINKGENERALSTORE.COM

4 Schumway Rd
Neversink, NY

845-985-2076





BRRRRRR! It's cold outside!

Time to **BUNDLE UP!**



Did you know bundling your home and auto could save you up to 20%, off your policies? Give our office a call today, for a quote.

845-647-9100

Ellenville, NY

TRUSTED LOCAL

INSURANCE AGENCY SINCE 1867

Follow us on Facebook 

A Perfect Musical Storm Hits Grahamsville

Dave Trestyn's 75th Birthday Celebration at Heartbeat Music Hall

Reported by
William A. Brenner, Esq.

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, amidst the previous days heavy snowfall and the freezing cold, starting around dusk at 5:00 pm, a large crowd of townsfolk, public officials, and parents with kids all bundled up, gathered around the Town of Neversink square for a magnificent colored electric lighting of the entire park and especially of the beautiful tall colorful bulb filled Christmas tree.

The large crowd cheered and sang Christmas songs, drank hot chocolate, apple cider and pumpkin donuts while the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department with all colorful lights flashing atop their cars slowed traffic through town.

After the lighting ceremony, much of the crowd crossed Route 55 and went into the Town Hall to defrost and continue the celebration. Others went to the musical birthday party just down the street.

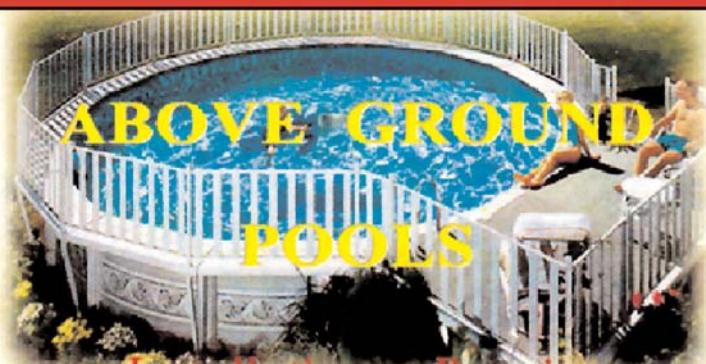
The Heartbeat Music Hall Celebrates Proprietor David Trestyn's 75th Birthday

As the Town of Neversink Christmas lighting celebration was winding down, around 6:00 pm, the wild and humongous Heartbeat Music Hall wild celebration of proprietor David Trestyn's 75th birthday was just beginning.

Musicians and friends from all over Sullivan County and far beyond jam packed the music hall to celebrate and pack the stage to perform. And, along with guitars, harmonicas, saxophones, etc., they brought tables full of hot food and cakes (including a large 75th birthday cake) set up buffet style.

Extra furniture was removed to put in more chairs and tables and for more standing room. Dave Trestyn, the creator of the Heartbeat Music Hall emotionally thanked all of the friends and all of the technicians and variety of musicians who con-

WOODIES CONSTRUCTION



Installations • Repairs

Liners Sold & Installed

845-985-2003 • 845-943-0024

*Pools
Installed*

*Liners
Installed*

*Filters
Installed*

*Pool Take
Down &
Take Away*

*Opening,
Closing &
Repair*

**Bought your pool/liner ON-Line
Call Us to Install It**

tributed to the Heartbeat's successes.

Aldo, Carol and Dave known as The Little Sparrow Band started the wild festivities with "The Robbery of the Glendale Train". During the singing, Bill Brenner yelled from the stage:

"Dammgumit! The Hole in the Wall Gang just robbed the Glendale Train! Tarnation! Call the Sheriff! Quick! Russell up a posse! Darn Varmit Critters!"

The lineup of performers included Debbie Fisher and Paul Kean; Cooper and Laura Greig; Jadetown Road, Jim McBride, and Edina (outrageous on drums).

Grahamsville's famous guitarist Albi cut his Monticello gig short to join and play at Trestyn's birthday party.

And interspersed throughout the evening was the Heartbeat Band with Latin Lover Rod Rigo, Eddie, and Dave himself.

And, of course, as the size of the stage allows, the performers, and singers from the audience jammed together.

Happy 75th Birthday to Dave Trestyn and his wife, Theresa, the Heartbeat Music Hall and Merry Christmas to the good folks of Grahamsville.

Forestburg Playhouse Looks Forward to Their 80th Anniversary

As the year draws to a close, we're reflecting on all that your support has made possible - and looking ahead to an extraordinary milestone: our 80th Anniversary celebration in 2026!

For eight decades, the Forestburgh Playhouse has stood as a cultural cornerstone in Sullivan County - a place where creativity, community, and joy take root year after year. Thanks to your generosity, our story has kept growing each and every year- with exciting additions to our annual programming like *In the Woods* and the Forestburgh Academy both launched in 2020.

In the *Works - In the Woods*: Our annual festival that supports the development of new works has already featured 20 new plays and musicals, giving playwrights and composers the resources and space to bring bold, original theatre to life.

The Forestburgh Academy: Our year-round arts education program has welcomed over 400 young artists since its founding, nurturing the next generation of performers and creators through immersive, professional theatre experiences.

Warm Holiday Wishes From All of Us at the Catskill Center

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for this supportive community. With your help, we protected the landscapes, stewarded the trails, and advanced the priorities that keep The Catskills both thriving and resilient. We wish you a peaceful and joyful holiday season and look forward to caring for the Catskills together in the new year.

Sketch Group at ASK

Monthly Drop-In Drawing is part of ASK Friday Nights, when Arts Society of Kingston stays open late and admission is free. ASK Sketch Group invites community members to explore sketching in a relaxed, welcoming drop-in session. These gatherings are about observation, curiosity, and creativity, not perfection.

Sessions are facilitated by ASK Gallery Committee members and guest artists and take place monthly in the ASK classroom and gallery. All skill levels are encouraged, from first-time doodlers to experienced artists.

Participants bring own art materials.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 7 - 9 PM

Drop in's & Sign ups.

And every third Friday

Sketch Group Sign Up

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFdROE3h5oGfw_h-1CfQ1N6KY4xnwehC192gd6E44to53tEw/viewform



First Class Formalwear

Tuxedo's & Suits
Gown Alterations
Gown Preservation
Wedding Invitations

Rentals & Sales

311 East Broadway • Monticello, NY 12701
(845) 796-1039
www.firstclassformalwear.com



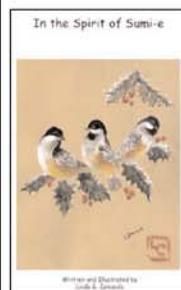
T. Halpin Mechanical Corp. DBA

Erts Mechanical

Plumbing – Heating – Air Conditioning

845-292-4571

Liberty, NY



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

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

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

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

24/7 LOCAL ADDICTION INFO & REFERRAL

866-832-5575

NATIONAL:
TEXT #HOPENY



What Hazards Exist Where You Live? Weigh in on Sullivan County's Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County's planners seek public input on an update to its Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In cooperation with New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYSDHSES), the County is in the midst of updating its hazard response plan so that local communities together identify risks, evaluate vulnerabilities and develop strategies to reduce those risks.

"It's crucial that we get feedback from local residents and businesspeople," notes Project Manager and County Planner Justin Rocque. "This plan prepares us for catastrophes and will permit the County to access crucial federal and State funds that can offset the economic impacts that follow these disasters."

Following review by the State, local towns and villages will be asked to formally adopt the Plan, so that everyone is on the same page when responding to hazards.

How to Participate

Sullivan County developed a Public Preparedness Survey, which can be answered quickly and anonymously:

<https://forms.office.com/r/wvs9v9m66R>

Also, stakeholders from local utilities, transportation companies, businesses, emergency services and health/medical providers are invited to weigh in on capabilities, vulnerabilities and potential projects:

<https://forms.office.com/r/UEFTriw865>

Find out more about the entire plan and updating process at

<https://www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/PlanningEnvironmental/HazardMitigation>

Sullivan County to Provide Free Grant Project Planning Workshops Learn How to Make Yourself 'Grant-Ready'

Monticello, NY - "Money may not grow on trees, but you can better equip your non-profit, small business, or municipality to obtain grant funding," says Sullivan County Grants Administration Director Arthur Hussey.

He adds that municipalities, for-profit businesses, and not-for-profit corporations are usually eligible for Federal, State, or private charitable grant funding but may find that they are not "grant ready" when an opportunity arises, due to lack of proper project planning.

"There are time-tested methods of approaching project planning to set an organization up for success," he notes, "and we're here to help in that regard."

The Sullivan County Department of Grants Administration will host two free Grant Project Planning Workshops on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, in the Legislative Hearing Room located on the 2nd floor of the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello. For the convenience of all, the workshops will be offered at two separate times, from 9-10 a.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, they will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 25, at the same times.

The workshops will include a high-level introduction to the steps necessary for thorough project planning and is ideal for municipal leadership, for-profit businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

Pre-registration is requested, but participants are welcome to attend the time slot that best fits their schedule.

Register online at www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/grants. Or contact the Sullivan County Planning Division at 845-807-0527 for additional information.

The Sullivan County Department of Grants Administration serves the divisions, departments, agencies and other units of the Sullivan County government. While they do not write grants on behalf of outside entities, they do provide resource information via periodic public-facing workshops and at <https://www.sullivanny.gov>.

Open Mic

Every Sunday:

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

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

Every Wednesday:

Heartbeat Music Hall, owned and operated by musicians David and Theresa Trestyn, in Grahamsdale at 290 Main Street, present "Open Mic Night" from 7PM-10PM. Open Mic Night often includes surprise traveling guests. This being their 5th year running, and are open through Thanksgiving. BYOB. Free Admission. Call (845) 985-5068 for further information.

Child Care Providers Needed

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

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

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

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

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

o County wide - of 44 inquiries 31 were for Infant and Toddler care

o Requests for Infant and Toddler care through our agency have been made mainly for Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello

o Most of our providers have no infant or toddler spots available

For more information please visit our website: scchildcare.com, The Office of Children and Family Services at

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

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 Grahamsdale, NY



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

Please call for availability first

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

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

Display Ads

1" Boxed ad (1" x 3") -
\$7.50 per week

Business card ad (2" x 3")
- \$15.00 per week

(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week
(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week

1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week
1/2 pg (4" x 8") - \$80.00 per week

Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week
Digital Flyer Insert - 8" x 10" - \$100.00/week

**Sign up for quarterly billing and get
a 20% discount**

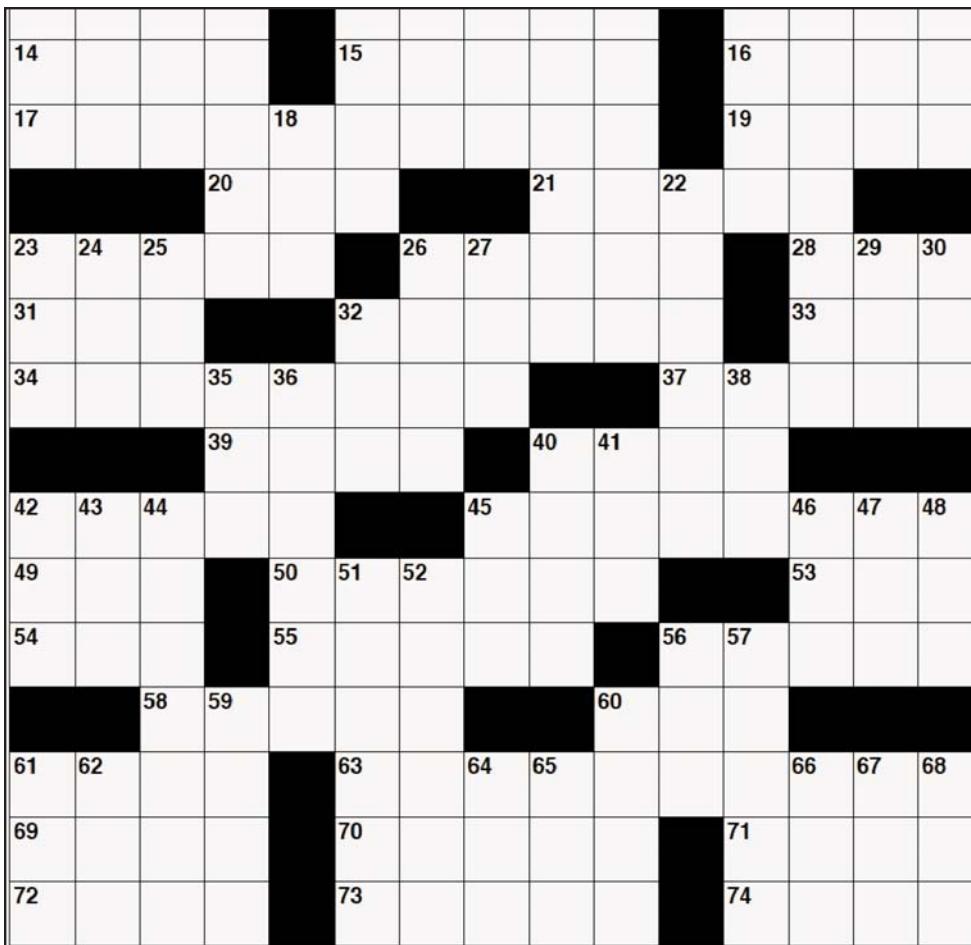
.. Full Page Flyer for
Local Municipalities

and Organizations -
one time fee- **\$20.00**
(once the flyer is inserted
we will publish it each week
through the week of the event)

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

**Low Rates
High Visibility!**

Welcome 2026! - L. Comando



ACROSS

1 Untied
 5 Errs
 10 Press with lips as a sign of love
 14 Portal
 15 Sporty car brand
 16 Colored part of eye
 17 Promise to change something in the future
 19 For fear that
 20 Sun's name
 21 Propel with oars
 23 Spread
 26 Applesauce brand
 28 Ripen
 31 Note of debt
 32 Citizen of libya
 33 North northwest
 34 Small pieces of colored paper
 37 Render able
 39 Injured
 40 Young deer
 42 Corset
 45 Tenor sings high

49 Party favor

50 Tapered spike of frozen water
 53 Present
 54 Extension (abbr.)
 55 Knobby
 56 Many times
 58 Villain
 60 Rio de Janeiro
 61 Harsh criticism
 63 Police cars (2 wds.)
 69 Factor of ten
 70 Architect Frank Wright
 71 Gets older
 72 Attorney (abbr.)
 73 Sugar-free brand
 74 Run

DOWN

1 Former president of U.S.
 2 Caviar
 3 Goddess
 4 Jagged
 5 Ancient European

region
 6 Fall month
 7 French "yes"
 8 Cold in manner or attitude
 9 Holy places
 10 Terminate
 11 Scotland neighbor
 12 Sister for short
 13 Supersonic transport
 18 Down
 22 " _____ and World Report" (2 wds)
 23 Attack
 24 Also
 25 Bolt
 26 Small amount
 27 Kimono sash
 29 African antelope
 30 Ram's mate
 32 Long-term memory
 35 Be airborne
 36 Alleviating
 38 North northeast
 40 Season
 41 Brew
 42 Her

43 Excise
 44 Allure
 45 Farm credit administration (abbr.)
 46 Explosive
 47 Foot extension
 48 Possess
 51 Two
 52 Utopian ideas
 56 Cooking fat
 57 Having focus
 59 Yes
 60 Traveled by car
 61 Those who make the food laws (abbr.)
 62 Permit
 64 Kid
 65 Seed bread
 66 Past
 67 Representative
 68 Compass

Hearty Crock Pot Beef Stew

1 pound cubed beef stew meat
 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 1 tablespoon paprika
 salt and pepper to taste
 2 cups beef broth
 1 1/2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
 1 onion, chopped
 3 carrots, sliced
 1 stalk celery, sliced
 2 potatoes, cubed
 1/2 pound mushrooms, quartered
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1 bay leaf

Place beef stew meat into a slow cooker. In a small bowl, mix together flour, paprika, salt, and pepper; sprinkle over beef stew meat, stirring to coat.

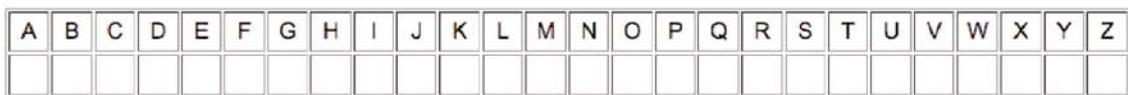
Stir in beef broth, teriyaki sauce, onion, carrots, celery, potatoes, mushrooms, garlic and bay leaf.

Cover, and cook on Low 6 hours, stirring occasionally.

数字は单数に限る

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

Cryptogram



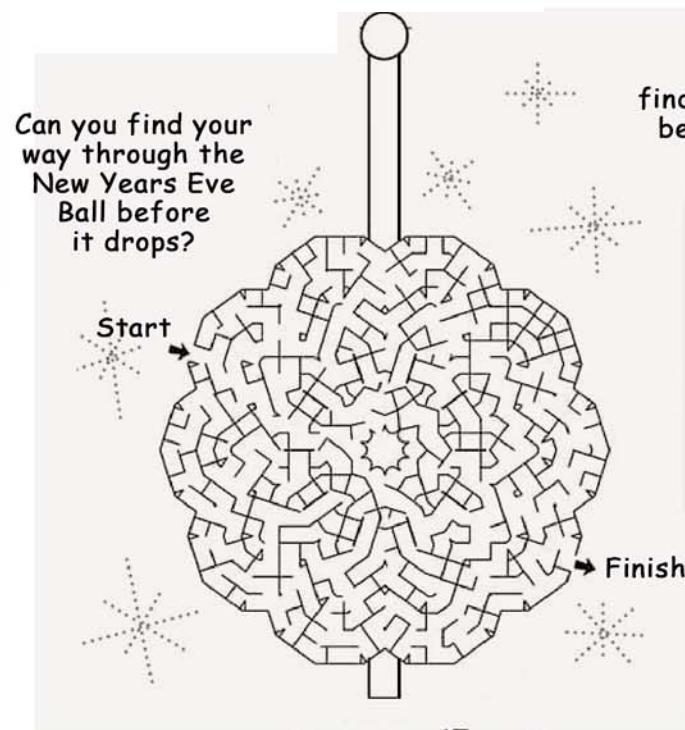
10 12 24 16 15 26 7 4 7 12 6 21 20

16 15 26 7 4 15 26 9 24 20 24 22 8 20

9 12 10 15 26 4 12 7 24 22 6 13

16 12 6 7

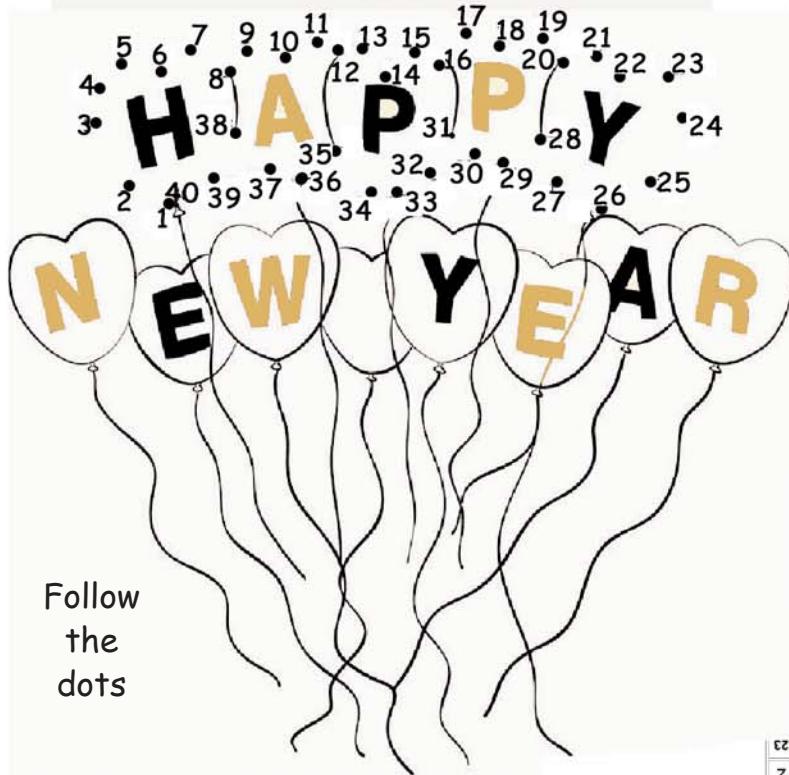
Find the differences Bonanza!



If you can
find 10 differences
between the two
pictures...



... keep looking
and see if
you can
find 5 more!



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	
6	9	17	14	12	2	21	8	5	25	10	13	15	11	3	7	20	24	26	1	19	18	16	15	13	1	23

Cryptogram Key

Kids'
New Years
Fun
Page
L. Comando

DENMAN CONSTRUCTION

Builders of Fine Custom Frame & Log Homes

Additions & Renovations
Heavy Equipment Work
Septic Systems
Drainage Work
Stone Work
Fireplaces
Flood Damage Repair



We Build the American Dream
Poured Concrete Foundations
Complete Site Work

Rick (845) 985-2212 DEC Approved Flood Control Contractor Jim (845) 647-4059
denmanco@hvc.rr.com

General Carpentry
Interior & Exterior
Painting & Staining
Tile Work
Wood Floors
Driveways
Road Building



gnomehomeinc.com

JAMES' General Store

Save time... Main Street • Napanoch
Call your order in!

We now accept

Open 7 Days • 6 AM to 7 PM
• Breakfast 6 am- 11 am

Coffee
Cappuccino
Hot Chocolate
• Lunch Specials
• Deli Sandwiches
• Hot Sandwiches
• DVD Rentals •

ATM
Machine



REAL ESTATE: SELLER OR PURCHASER
WILLIAM A. BRENNER
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

157 MAIN STREET BOX 369
GRAHAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 12740

(845) 985-7411
FAX (845) 985-0274
williamabrenner@hotmail.com

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



SHEELEY OIL & EXCAVATING INC

Driveways
Septics
Excavating
&
Bulldozing

P. O. Box 255
Claryville, NY 12725
PHONE: 845-985-2231
FAX: 845-985-0186

Fuel Oil
Kerosene
Budget
&
Pre Pay Plans

Email: suesheeley@gmail.com
<http://www.sheeleyexcavating.com>

Your ad could appear
here for as little as
\$12 per week!
Interested?
Send us an email at
tvtownsman@yahoo.com



Have some fun in the Gnome Neighborhood!

- Unique Handcrafted Items
- Gnomes • Kitchen Witchery
- Jewelry • Vintage,
- Collectibles
- Antique Items



(845)-985-3215

...a virtual on-line mall

gnomehomeinc.com

Email: gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com

or email us at gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com



Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library

Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30

Come paint with us!

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

Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday

BOOK CLUB



The first
Friday of
every month.

All adults welcome!

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that I, Staci Conjura, the undersigned collector of taxes of the Town of Neversink, County of Sullivan and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Neversink for the year 2026. I will attend at the Town Hall, 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, in the, Town of Neversink, from January 2, 2026 to March 31, 2026, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on each day, excepting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays for the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on the said roll. I will also collect on Saturday January 24, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2026 without penalty or interest.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the County and Town installment payment schedule is as follows: January - 50% due by January 31, 2026. February - 25% due by February 29, 2026 at 1% interest on remaining account. March - 25% due by March 31, 2026 at 2% interest and subject to a \$2.00 penalty.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of the law, the tax roll of the Town of Neversink will be returned to the County Treasurer of the County of Sullivan on the 1st day of April, 2026.

Dated: December 26, 2025 Staci Conjura, Collector of Taxes

Town of Neversink

1/1; 1/8

TOWN OF NEVERSINK ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2026

Please be advised that the Annual Organizational meeting of the Town of Neversink Town Board for the year 2026 will be held on January 5, 2026 at the Town of Neversink Town Hall at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to make appointments, set salaries and compensations, establish policies and procedures as well as to handle any other matter that may legally come before the Board.

Staci Conjura, Town Clerk

December 19, 2025

1/1

Learn to Snowshoe at the Catskills Visitor Center



Kick off the winter season with a fun and beginner-friendly outing at the Catskills Visitor Center (CVC) ! Join Moe Lemire, NYS Licensed Guide and founder of Hike On Guides, for an immersive introduction to snowshoeing on the scenic Interpretive Loop Trail complete with a stop at the Upper Esopus Fire Tower. Snowshoe rentals are available at the CVC, and all skill levels are welcome

Together, you'll learn the basics of snowshoe technique, explore the snowy forested trails around the CVC, and make your way to the Upper Esopus Fire Tower for a beautiful winter lookout experience. This program is designed for all skill levels, perfect for first-timers or anyone looking to brush up on winter hiking skills.

When: Friday, January 16, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Catskills Visitor Center - Interpretive Loop

Difficulty: Easy

A gear list will be emailed to participants before the hike, but please come prepared with non-cotton layers, a warm hat, gloves, a

winter coat, sturdy footwear, and enough water, snacks, and lunch for the day.

Join us for a refreshing winter adventure and learn a new skill that will open up endless snowy trail possibilities across the Catskills!

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

Click here to register and learn more. https://givebutter.com/MK2K31?mc_cid=67013bfaf8&mc_eid=741885eb1c

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The Town of Denning will hold its Organizational Meeting on Monday, January 5th, 2026 at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 scheduled to begin at 10 am.

No other business will be before the Board at this meeting.

By the Order of the Denning Town Board.

Nancy Parrow
Town Clerk
December 15th, 2025

12/25; 1/1/26

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, a meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 07:00 p.m.** prevailing time, at the **Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School, Lower Level Collaboration Center**. It is anticipated that an Executive Session will be held at the start of the Regular Meeting.

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

Heather Bonnell
Tri-Valley Central School District Clerk

TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Nancy A Parrow, Tax Collector for the Town of Denning, Ulster County, State of New York, have received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Denning for the year 2026.

Taxes will be collected at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, N.Y. 12725 on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., and by mail to the Town of Denning, P.O. Box 277, Claryville, N.Y. 12725.

Taxes will also be collected on Saturday, January 24th, 2026 from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Denning Town Hall.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE as pursuant to Ulster County Law No. 8 of 2012 an insert has been provided describing each Unfunded Mandate required by New York State.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that taxes paid on or before the 31st day of January or postmarked by that date are paid without interest. On all taxes received after such date there shall be added interest of one percent of the amount of the unpaid taxes for each month or fraction thereof until taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the Ulster County Department of Finance pursuant to law.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of law, the tax roll for the Town of Denning will be returned to the Ulster County Finance Commissioner on the date of expiration of the Collector's Warrant for 2026.

NANCY A PARROW
Tax Collector
Town of Denning

December 29th, 2025

1/1; 1/8/2026

Celebrating New York Teachers: Governor Hochul Announces STEM Teachers Chosen to Represent New York State's World Class Education System

- *More Than 175 Outstanding STEM Teacher-Leaders Selected To Inspire Next Generation of Educators Through Master Teacher Program; 27 Counselors Appointed to Inaugural Master Counselor Program*
- *Part of Governor Hochul's Comprehensive Strategy To Grow New York State's Teaching Workforce*

Governor Kathy Hochul today celebrated New York State's teachers through the selection of 177 STEM teachers for the New York State Master Teacher Program, as well as 27 counselors as part of the first cohort of the Master Counselor Program. Master Teachers and Master Counselors are leaders in their professions and serve as mentors for students and early-career teachers and counselors.

"Educators play a vital role in preparing the next generation for a successful future by not only teaching them, but also by caring for them at every stage of their education," Governor Hochul said. "I am proud to celebrate the exceptional teachers and counselors who are making an impact on New York State's students every day. We are grateful to our educators for their dedication to New York's children." (Contd. Pg. 19)

Celebrating New York Teachers: Governor Hochul Announces STEM Teachers Chosen to Represent New York State's World Class Education System

(From Pg. 18)

Governor Hochul has initiated programs to inspire more New Yorkers to join the teaching profession. In addition to the New York State Master Teacher Program, which encompasses a professional network of more than 1,700 public-school teachers with a passion for inspiring the next generation of educational leaders, Governor Hochul's landmark SUNY Reconnect program purposefully designates teaching in shortage areas as a high-demand field.

The Master Teacher Program is hosted at nine State University of New York (SUNY) campuses to leverage the expertise of the University's faculty and existing educator preparation programs, and SUNY counterparts collaborate regularly with local STEM career and industry experts.

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said, "Educators and counselors are an essential part of guiding students through their academic journey, and SUNY is proud to be New York State's largest preparer for the next generation of educators. Thank you to Governor Hochul for recognizing the excellence of New York's Master Teachers and for launching the Master Counselors recognition. This effort helps highlight the importance of all teachers and counselors in the state for helping students achieve their college and career goals."

The SUNY Board of Trustees said, "Thank you to Governor Hochul for her continued support of New York's teachers and counselors. SUNY prides itself in its programs and internships to set aspiring teachers on a path towards student success. New York State's teachers are among the best, and we are dedicated to ensuring more New Yorkers join their ranks."

The new members of the Master Teacher Program represent 151 school districts with a Master Teacher or Master Counselor among their faculty, with 48 program members from high-needs districts including in Buffalo, Binghamton, Mount Vernon, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, Yonkers and, for counselors, the New York City School District.

Master Teachers support students from kindergarten through high school (K-12) in the areas of science, technology, computer science, robotics, coding, engineering, math, integrated STEM and agricultural education. Many new Master Teacher and Master Counselor members have been recognized by their local school districts and community organizations for their work with students.

More than 60 percent of the new members have been in the classroom for more than 10 years, and 50 percent have been teaching for 15 or more years. The incoming group of Master Teachers is comprised of 25 percent elementary level teachers, 50 teachers with multiple teaching certifications, 28 teachers certified in Special Education, four teachers who hold a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) certification or Bilingual Education Extension, and two teachers who hold an Agricultural Education Certification.

The inaugural cohort of Master Counselors are active members of their professional associations, serving in leadership roles and regularly engaging with local industries to help students chart a path to success. More than half of the Master Counselors have been in a counseling role for longer than ten years.

The counselors serve in various district-level and state-level roles, joining the program as experienced leaders dedicated to developing and sharing best practices. More than 50 percent of the Master Counselors hold additional certificates or NYS trainings, including Disability Services and National Board.

The total number of teachers and counselors selected from each

region, and the respective partner SUNY campus, are:

- o Capital Region: 236 Master Teachers and five Master Counselors (The State University of New York at Albany)
- o Central New York: 225 Master Teachers and five Master Counselors (SUNY Cortland)
- o Finger Lakes: 256 Master Teachers and six Master Counselors (SUNY Geneseo)
- o Long Island: 234 Master Teachers and eight Master Counselors (The State University of New York at Stony Brook)
- o Mid-Hudson: 227 Master Teachers and eleven Master Counselors (SUNY New Paltz)
- o Mohawk Valley: 157 Master Teachers and seven Master Counselors (SUNY Oneonta)
- o North Country: 133 Master Teachers and nine Master Counselors (SUNY Plattsburgh)
- o Southern Tier: 271 Master Teachers and nine Master Counselors (The State University of New York at Binghamton)
- o Western New York: 265 Master Teachers and nine Master Counselors (SUNY Buffalo State University)
- o New York City: 160 Master Teachers (in partnership with Math for America) and nine Master Counselors (in the New York State program)

Throughout their four-year participation in the program, Master Teachers and Master Counselors will receive a \$15,000 stipend annually; engage in peer mentoring and intensive content-oriented professional development opportunities throughout the academic year; work closely with pre-service and early career teachers and counselors to foster a supportive environment for the next generation of STEM teachers and counselors; and attend required regional meetings to participate in and lead professional development sessions each year.

To Learn more about the Master Teacher Program, visit: www.suny.edu/masterteacher.

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky said, "New York needs our teachers and counselors now more than ever, and this program recognizes just how much they carry every single day. They are educators, mentors, leaders, and problem-solvers, supporting students in the classroom while helping young people navigate college, careers, and life. I thank Governor Hochul and SUNY for strengthening the profession and ensuring the next generation of New Yorkers has the support they deserve."

Assemblymember Alicia L. Hyndman said, "New York's education system is an ecosystem, and the connection between our SUNY campuses and our K-12 classrooms is the heartbeat of that system. As Chair of the Committee on Higher Education, I applaud Governor Hochul and Chancellor King for investing in the 'Master Teacher' model. By empowering these experienced educators to mentor the next generation, we are not just retaining talent; we are ensuring that every student - from Buffalo to Southeast Queens - has access to the world-class STEM instruction they need to compete in the future economy."

About The State University of New York

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the United States, and more than 95 percent of all New Yorkers live within 30 miles of any one of SUNY's 64 colleges and universities. Across the system, SUNY has four academic health centers, five hospitals, four medical schools, two dental schools, a law school, the country's oldest school of maritime, the state's only college of optometry, and manages one US Department of Energy National Laboratory. In total, SUNY serves about 1.4 million students across its portfolio of credit- and non-credit-bearing courses and programs, continuing education, and community outreach programs. SUNY oversees nearly a quarter of academic research in New York. Research expenditures system-wide are nearly \$1.16 billion in fiscal year 2024, including significant contributions from students and faculty. There are more than three million SUNY alumni worldwide, and one in three New Yorkers with a college degree is a SUNY alum. To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunities, visit www.suny.edu.

Yes, Virginia, We Recycle Christmas Trees! Retire Your Tree for Free at Any Sullivan County Transfer Station

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County will be collecting Christmas trees free of charge from December 26-January 31. Residents, businesses, and visitors can drop off their trees at one of six County transfer stations. For locations and hours, visit www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling/CountyLandfill.

“Residents, businesses, and visitors with limited access to open space are encouraged to take their trees to any Sullivan County Transfer Station for FREE disposal,” said Recycling Coordinator Kassie Thelman.

Sullivan County employees will chip the trees to incorporate them for use as mulch in County parks, landscaping and beautification projects. Repurposing wood chips helps to conserve natural resources and enhance the appearance of the County.

Or Do It Yourself!

“For individuals with access to backyards and open spaces, strategically-placed, spent Christmas trees offer welcome cover during the winter months for birds and wildlife,” Thelman explained. “However you choose to dispose of your Christmas tree, remember, they DO NOT belong in your home recycling bin. It is best to choose an option that will keep your tree out of the landfill.”

For additional information about waste reduction strategies, reuse and recycling, please contact the Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling at 845-807-0290. Check out online Materials Management resources at www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling.

The Department of Solid Waste & Recycling is also on Facebook! Like us at

www.facebook.com/sullivancountyrecycle

Happy Holidays from all of us at Sullivan 180

As we wrap up the year, we wanted to share our holiday greeting card and extend our sincere thanks for being part of the Sullivan 180 community. Your partnership, collaboration, and commitment continue to make a meaningful difference across Sullivan County. Wishing you a season filled with connection, reflection, and well-being.

Get Offline, Get Outside: Governor Hochul Announces \$10 Million Funding Available through Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program

- *Grant Program Complements Governor's Unplug and Play Initiative To Encourage Kids To Get Outside and Off of Their Phones*
- *Grant Applications Available Beginning December 31, 2025*

Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$10 million will be made available for the second round of the Municipal Parks and Recreation (MPR) Grant Program to fund the development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites statewide for the public to enjoy. Funding for this program is provided by the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act.

“This second round of Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant funding will help improve the state's social infrastructure to encourage New Yorkers to disconnect from their digital devices and reconnect with the outdoors,” Governor Hochul said. “Expanding access to quality parks and recreational facilities makes our communities healthier and ensures children have places to play, learn, and grow in a safe and engaging environment.”

The MPR grant funding is available for the construction of recreational facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites and parks. Examples include playgrounds, courts, playing fields, and facilities for swimming, biking, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping, or other recreational activities. Program guidelines, including how to apply, will be available beginning December 31, 2025, on the State Parks website. The first round of the MPR grant program awarded \$10 million to 17 projects across the state.

Eligible applicants include counties, cities, towns and villages within New York State that own the property where the proposed project will take place. Grants will primarily fund construction costs. Preconstruction activities, such as developing plans and design specifications, may be included in the project budget, but the grant cannot fund projects that are solely for planning and design without a construction component.

(Contd. Pg. 21)

Get Offline, Get Outside: Governor Hochul Announces \$10 Million Funding Available through Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program

(From Pg. 20)

To maximize accessibility to funding, the MPR grant opportunity can fund up to 90 percent of the total eligible project costs, with a matching share requirement of 10 percent. The maximum grant award is \$900,000. Grants are administered on a reimbursement basis.

The application period will open on December 31, 2025 and applications must be submitted by February 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than May 22, 2026.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Acting Commissioner Kathy Moser said, "Our agency is proud to support Governor Hochul's priority initiative to expand affordable recreational opportunities throughout New York State. Through this continued grant funding, we are helping more New Yorkers get outside to enjoy community-based parks and outdoor spaces year-round, while making it easier to engage in healthy activities that enhance overall quality of life.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Amanda Lefton said, "The Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program is another prime example of Governor Hochul's commitment to outdoor recreation opportunities for all New Yorkers. With \$10 million funded through the truly transformative Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, more youth will be able to unplug and play at new or upgraded parks and recreation sites statewide."

State Senator Jose Serrano said, "The Municipal Parks and Recreation (MPR) Grant Program is an important investment to fund the development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites statewide for the public to enjoy. The development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites allow for increased access to vital green spaces. As Chair

of the Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, I firmly believe that outdoor recreation can provide many physical and mental health benefits for New Yorkers. Many thanks to Governor Kathy Hochul, The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and my colleagues in government for working to maintain and expand this important initiative."

Assemblymember Ron Kim said, "The Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program is an important, impactful plan to create and develop public spaces in New York for recreation. We need to protect and expand the number of fields, courts, and playgrounds available in our state to people of all ages, and give New Yorkers as many opportunities as possible to reconnect with and enjoy the great outdoors. I thank Governor Hochul and our State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for their work in implementing this program and encourage all eligible applicants to apply."

The MPR grant program complements Governor Hochul's Unplug and Play initiative to promote kids' mental and physical health by continuing to rebuild the state's social infrastructure and help steer children away from the harms of social media and toward positive activities like youth sports, arts programs, civic engagement, and community building. Unplug and Play includes three grant programs that invest in swimming infrastructure, playground construction and renovation, and the building and renovation of community centers.

New York's Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act

On November 8, 2022, New York voters overwhelmingly approved the \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act. State agencies, local governments, and partners will be able to access funding to protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency, and create green jobs. Bond Act funding will support new and expanded projects across the state to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change. Progress on implementing funding continues, with New York State awarding approximately \$1.25 billion, or 25 percent, of Bond Act funds to date. For more information and to sign up for progress updates, go to the Environmental Bond Act webpage.

ST.
MARK'S
UMC
68 Clinton St
Napanoch NY

INDOOR
YARD
and
CLOTHING
SALE

Will be
opened
every
Friday
from
10 - 3

Something
for
Everyone!

COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES

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

LOCATIONS IN WOODBOURNE, LIBERTY,
MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE

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

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

Sundown United
Methodist Church

**Covered Dish
Suppers will resume
in the Spring.
Wishing you a
Blessed
Christmas
Season**

Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

Mass Times

**Sat: Vigil 4:00 PM • Sun: 9:00 AM
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Thursday, January 1st 10 am**

Confessions: Saturdays 3:15 to 3:45 pm
Or by appointment.

Call the rectory at (845) 434-7643.

Parochial Vicar: Father Thomas

Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church

**Have a
a Happy
New Year!**



**Grahamsville & Sundown
United Methodist Churches**

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am
350 Main Street, Grahamsville

Pastor Harriet Wilkin
845-985-2283

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

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



**Claryville Reformed
Church**

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am

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

Loucks Funeral Home

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

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

St. Augustine's Chapel

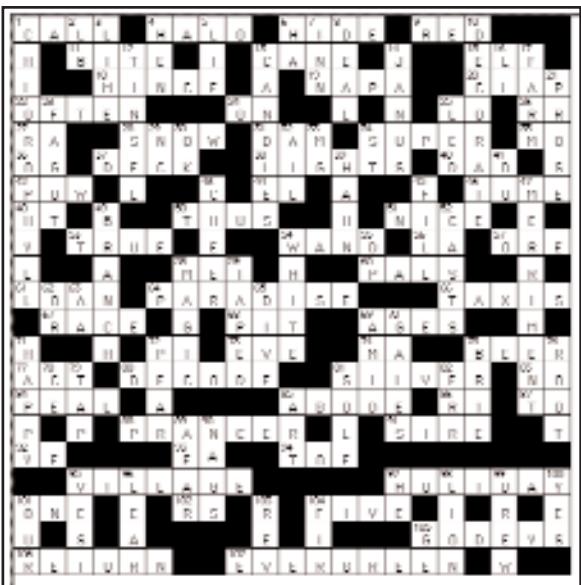
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am

Holy Days 5:30 pm

Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword



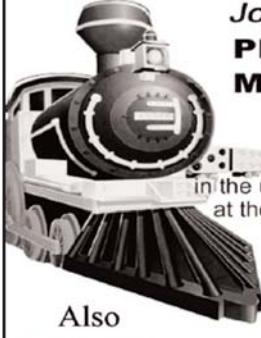
All Aboard!

Join the Fun!
Play
Mexican Train

FREE FUN
every FRIDAY 1- 4 pm

in the upstairs meeting room
at the Neversink Town Hall

Also
WANTED
People to
play cards





SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS
Need a place to show and sell your crafts?
email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mall
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

To learn more about
Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)
or to make a donation
please go to:
<https://www.nfxdetroit.org/>

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

Thank you



Sundown
United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
will resume in the Spring.
Date of next Supper
will be announced.
Wishing you all a very
Happy & Healthy
New Year!

\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

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

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

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

Temple Sholom Fundraiser Cruise to Nassau

Leave January 11 and return to Miami on January 18, 2026. Single cabin -\$2155; Couples-pay between \$3275 and \$4463 for a double balcony cabin with drinks and WiFi included. The higher price includes a dedicated restaurant and a cruise long pass to the spa for two. A \$500 deposit is refundable. Each cabin will receive \$100 in on-board credit.

For further information, contact Barry Gleen at
barry.gleen@cruiseplanners.com.
or (516) 281-5905

All commissions from this trip donated to Temple Sholom.

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

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/1/2026 - **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**- Immaculate Conception Church - 10:00 am
St. Rt. 42, Woodbourne, NY 12788

1/5/2026 Town of Denning Board Organizational Meeting -6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY

1/13/2026 Town of Denning Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY

1/15/2026 Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting-6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY

1/18/2025 Claryville FD All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast 8 am - 12 noon

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

Ulster County Legislature

Weekly Update For The Week Of December 29, 2025 - January 2, 2026

Legislative Committee Meetings are
Live streamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislaturestreams>

Monday, December 29

- o No Meetings

Tuesday, December 30

- o No Meetings

Wednesday, December 31

- o No Meetings

Thursday, January 1

- o New Year's Day - County Offices Closed

Friday, January 2

- o No Meetings

We offer our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year

**Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature**

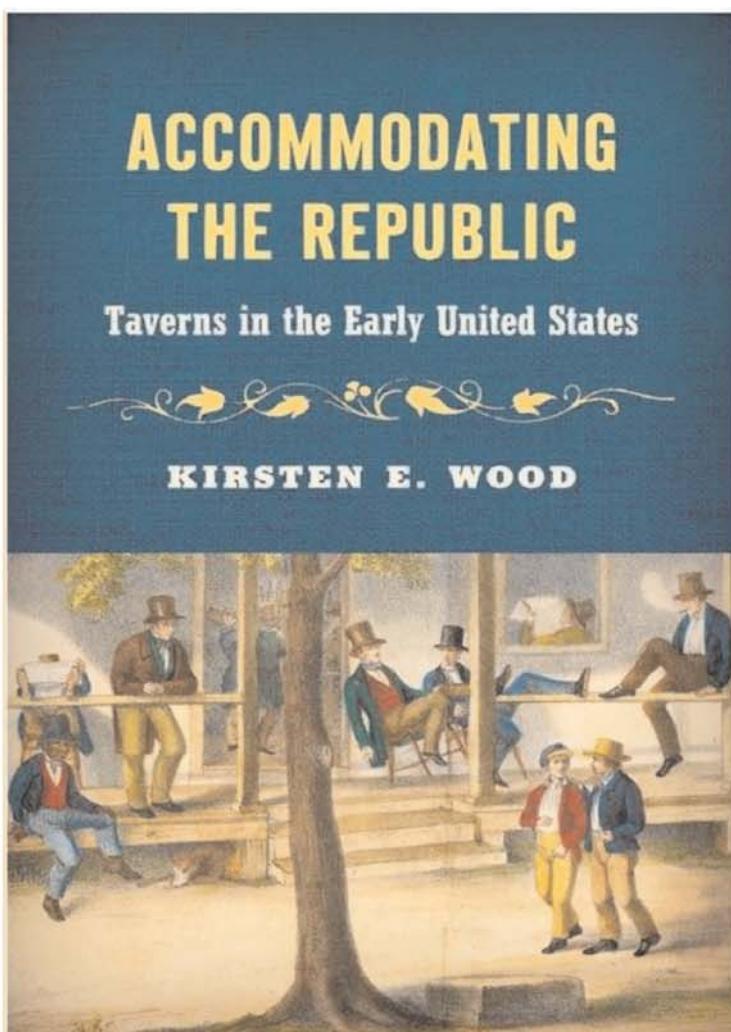
To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc. -

Please send us your Events Calendar for 2026
so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year.

You may email them to:
tvtownsman@yahoo.com

or Mail them to:
The Townsman
PO Box 232,
Grahamsville, NY 12740

Have a Happy & Healthy New Year!



Taverns in the Early United States

A Virtual Talk by
Dr. Kirsten Wood

Sunday, January 18, 2026
2 p.m.

People have gathered in taverns to drink, relax, socialize, and do business for hundreds of years. For just as long, critics have described taverns as sources of individual ruin and public disorder.

Dr. Wood argues that men integrated taverns into the nation's growing transportation network and used them to raise capital, promote businesses, practice genteel sociability, and rally support for favored causes—often while drinking staggering amounts of alcohol!

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY Kirsten E. Wood is associate professor of history at Florida International University and the author of *Masterful Women: Slaveholding Widows from the American Revolution through the Civil War*

Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740

Museum Members: FREE

Email info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org for virtual link. Put "Tavern Talk Link" in the subject line.

Non-Members: \$5 donation

Go to: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate to pay and then email as above.
This program is made possible through the Helen Coombe-Carol Smythe Educational Fund.

Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, January 18th

Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon

Adults: \$13

Senior Citizens (age 65 +): \$11

Children Ages 5-11: \$5

Under 5 Yrs. Free

Take-outs: \$13

Call 845-985-7270

We accept cash and checks only

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

DEC Announces Expansion of the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge 2026 Challenge Includes Two New Fire Towers in Delaware County

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the 2026 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge to highlight the world-class tourism destinations and recreational opportunities in the Catskill Park. Launched in 2019, the Challenge has drawn participants from every region of New York, as well as 11 other states and Canadian Provinces. This challenge also complements Governor Kathy Hochul's "Get Offline, Get Outside" initiative to promote physical and mental health by encouraging kids and families to put down their phones and computers, take a break from social media, and enjoy recreation and the outdoors.

"The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge introduces New Yorkers and visitors to the exceptional hiking opportunities available on New York State public lands," said Commissioner Amanda Lefton. "Each year, hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts take Governor Hochul's advice to get offline and outside by taking the Challenge and visiting the beauty of the Catskills from the heights of one of the historical fire towers. The Challenge is helping more people appreciate and enjoy all that this region has to offer, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards."

This year, the addition of Bramley Mountain and Mount Utsayantha fire towers celebrates community partnerships and provides an even greater challenge to take with friends and family. Participation by the two towers in Delaware County is made possible by a strong partnership between DEC, local communities, and not-for-profit organizations dedicated to enhancing public recreation, tourism, and conservation.

Mount Utsayantha Fire Tower, built in 1934 and restored in 2005, is located just outside of the Catskill Forest Preserve. Bought in 2015 for \$1, the fire tower is owned and maintained by the Village of Stamford. In 1900, the tower boasted views as far away as the Berkshires. Visitors to this tower have the option of hiking or driving a one-mile seasonal gravel road to the summit.

Bramley Mountain Fire Tower was recently reconstructed atop Bramley Mountain, an effort that spanned many years and completed thanks to the diligence of committed volunteers and community members. Open since May 2025, this tower offers sweeping views of the Catskills. The four-mile trail leading to the tower was built

ROURKELAW.COM

845.292.2000



ROURKE LAW

*Your Trusted
Counsel in the
Catskills*



25 Darbee Lane, Liberty



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

by the Catskill Mountain Club in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower provides educational and historical information at the tower on weekends and holidays during the summer months.

Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge continues to offer a unique way to encourage exploration of the region and its namesake mountains. The addition of Bramley Mountain and Mount Utsayantha to this year's challenge will expand the program's footprint and provide more reasons for visitors to plan a Catskills getaway, complemented by one-of-a-kind experiences that can only be found in New York State."

For nearly a century, observers watched the forests of New York State, including the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserve, from more than 100 fire towers perched atop the highest peaks to search for signs of forest fires. This Catskills Fire Tower Challenge highlights the park's remaining public fire towers.

The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge encourages experienced hikers to visit the region's remaining fire towers located on Balsam Lake Mountain (Hardenburgh), Hunter Mountain (Hunter), Overlook Mountain (Woodstock), Red Hill Mountain (Denning), Tremper Mountain (Shandaken), Upper Esopus Fire Tower (Catskills Visitor Center - Mt. Tremper), Mt. Utsayantha Fire Tower (Stamford), and Bramley Mountain Fire Tower (Delhi).
(Contd. Pg. 28)

DEC Announces Expansion of the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge 2026 Challenge Includes Two New Fire Towers in Delaware County

(From Pg 27)

For more information about the Catskills and to experience the easiest-to-reach fire tower in the region, visit the Catskills Visitor Center on Route 28 in the heart of the Catskill Park. Situated on 60 acres of forest, fields, and wetlands, the Catskills Visitor Center offers the tower, a visitor information center, gift shop, 1.5 miles of peaceful nature trails (including ADA-accessible trails), picnic areas, a covered pavilion, wildlife viewing, Esopus Creek access, and much more. Visitors can connect with staff and find valuable information, maps, and advice about all the activities available in the 700,000-acre forest preserve. The Catskills Visitor Center is open for the winter season Friday-Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New York City Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala said, "These towers are cherished landmarks that offer extraordinary opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to learn about the history of the Catskills while taking in some truly breathtaking views. DEP remains proud of our recent work with our community partners in helping enable the recent restoration of the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower and we hope the public enjoys using it for many years to come."

Delaware County Board of Supervisors Chairman Tina B. Mole said, "Delaware County is pleased and honored to be a part of the NYSDEC's Catskill Fire Tower Challenge 2026. Mount Utsayantha and Bramley Mountain are treasured places in Delaware County, representing both our natural beauty and the local history of our region. We are thrilled to be sharing these special spaces with visitors and locals alike."

Delhi Town Supervisor Maya Boukai said, "The Town of Delhi is excited and proud to see Bramley Mountain Fire Tower join the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge in 2026. This milestone is the result of countless volunteer hours from the Friends of Bramley Mountain and strong community support dedicated to restoring and caring for this special place. We're thankful to the DEC and everyone who helped make this happen, and we look forward to sharing Bramley Mountain with hikers and families from across the region."

Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower said, "We are excited to welcome the Bramley Mountain and Mount Utsayantha fire towers into the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge this year, deepening and expanding this beloved regional hiking experience. The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge is a powerful way to connect people with the history, landscapes, and communities of the Catskill Park, and the Catskill Center is proud to be a partner in that work through our Catskill Fire Tower Project. Through the volunteer staffing of the region's historic fire towers, and especially the Upper Esopus Fire Tower at the Catskills Visitor Center, we're able to welcome thousands of visitors each year, help them explore the Catskills safely, and inspire them to care for these mountains for the long term. At the Congressman Maurice D. Hinckley Catskills Visitor Center and through our Catskill Stewards program, our staff and volunteers engage tens of thousands of hikers annually with trail information, safety guidance, and Leave No TraceTM education, ensuring that as more people take on

the Fire Tower Challenge, the Catskills remain protected and welcoming for everyone."

Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower's Ann Roberti said, "The Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower are so excited to be included in the Fire Tower Challenge. We were thrilled to welcome visitors to the tower from around the Catskills, from around the country and from around the world in our first year. We know that being included in the Challenge will bring even more hikers to our corner of the Catskills, benefiting the local economy. We are looking forward to welcoming them."

Catskill Mountain Club Executive Director Peter Manning said, "The Catskill Mountain Club is elated that two more fire towers are being included in the challenge. These towers illustrate there is much more to discover and enjoy in the region. These opportunities also reflect the dedicated partnerships that support the tourism-recreation economy."

Village of Stamford Deputy Mayor Jim Kopp said, "The Village of Stamford is honored to now be included in the DEC program. On Mount Utsayantha is a 20-acre park with scenic trails, fire pits, a composting restroom, and the iconic Fire Tower at its summit. This is a great boost to tourism for all of Delaware County."

To complete the challenge, participants must visit all eight fire towers in the Catskills region between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026. Once completed, participants submit a log of their completed hikes along with a favorite photo to CatskillsChallenge@dec.ny.gov, or via mail. Entries must be postmarked by January 5, 2027. Full details can be found at the 2026 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge page.

All participants who complete the challenge will receive a letter and a commemorative Catskills Fire Tower Challenge patch designed with the 2026 completion year. The first 1,000 finishers will also receive a one-year subscription to DEC's Conservationist magazine and a gift subscription for a second person of their choice. Again, this year, finishers who completed the challenge multiple times will receive an additional commemorative Catskills Fire Tower Challenge prize. Upon completion, finishers will be able to download a customizable certificate and will be eligible to win prizes after the challenge period is closed. Finishers will be entered into a grand prize drawing.

To promote responsible recreation, DEC will offer a bonus prize entry to finishers who also submit a photo of themselves being safe, respectful, and responsible when enjoying the outdoors by practicing Leave No Trace™ while participating in the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge. Love Our New York Lands by picking up litter, carrying out what you carried in, planning and preparing for safe hikes, staying on the trail, and finding more tips available at DEC's website.

The 2025 challenge has more than 500 finishers to date. With DEC giving participants a full year to complete the challenge, hikers can complete it at their own pace. Hikers who would like to get a jump start on the Challenge for the new year can complete their first fire tower as part of a guided First Day Hike. The New York State Outdoor Guides Association, Catskills Visitor Center, and Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower will be leading hikes up Red Hill Fire Tower, Upper Esopus Fire Tower, and Bramley Mountain on January 1, 2026. Stewardship of the DEC fire towers is a partnership with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development.

The Catskill Center, through the Catskill Fire Tower Project, manages six fire towers in the Catskill Park for public access and interpretation under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with DEC. Dedicated volunteers help maintain and staff each of the fire towers on weekends and holidays throughout the summer and fall seasons.

JANUARY Rejuvenation

5 ways. 5 practitioners. 1 joyful start to the year, through movement, care, and connection.

THE ALCHEMY BLUEPRINT

REWIRE YOUR MIND FOR LOVE + TRANSFORMATION

January 24th + 25th WEEKEND IMMERSION

THE ARTS SOCIETY OF KINGSTON

#1 INTENSIVES with THE HART SCHOOL!

JANUARY: The Alchemy Blueprint is a weekend immersion for women ready to release old patterns in love and life and step into deeper self-trust and transformation. Through mindset and embodiment practices, you'll quiet the overthinking mind, reconnect with your intuition, release the past, and come home to your power - creating more clarity, confidence, and authenticity from the inside out.

L I N K :
<https://www.emilyhartcoaching.com/AlchemyBlueprint>

Use Code: "ASK10" at checkout for 10% off
 10% coupon code valid for BOTH programs at checkout!

FEBRUARY: Practitioner Training: Love + Relationship Mastery is a five-day immersive breakthrough and certification experience designed to create deep, lasting transformation.

Through subconscious reprogramming, emotional release, and embodied practices, you'll rewrite your internal story, dissolve limiting beliefs, and step fully into who you're meant to be. This training creates real, permanent change, not just insight, but identity-level transformation. You will leave forever changed,

THE HART SCHOOL PRACTITIONER TRAINING

LOVE + RELATIONSHIP MASTERY

FEBRUARY 20-24, 2026

FOR WOMEN WHO KNOW THEY WERE MADE FOR MORE

Break through the patterns keeping you stuck

Be, Do + Have what you deeply desire in life + love.

RECEIVE 4 POWERFUL CERTIFICATIONS

- ✓ NLP Practitioner
- ✓ Hypnotherapist
- ✓ Life Coaching
- ✓ Quantum Time Line Therapy®

equipped with four certifications and powerful tools to support both your own evolution and the transformation of others.

LINK: <https://www.emilyhartcoaching.com/the-hartschool>

Use Code: "ASK10" at checkout for 10% off

#2 QiGong

QIGONG EXPLORATIONS

Foundational movement & acupressure for all ages.

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am.

Starting November 5th, 2025.

7 class package \$85, drop-in class \$15.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS! Explore QiGong possibilities with simple movements, self-massage acupressure, and a unique combination of practice and discussion.

Let curiosity and willingness be your guide!
 Corinne Wolcott is a NYS licensed Acupuncturist,
 (Contd. Pg. 29)

JANUARY Rejuvenation

(From Pg. 29)

Certified QiGong Instructor, and Certified Yoga Teacher who is honored to share QiGong forms from two decades of practice

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am, Extended through March 4! –January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4
Entire 7 class package \$85. Drop-in class \$15. Sign-up with check/cash/paypal in-person.

3 HUDSON VALLEY IMPROV!



Hudson Valley Improv is right here at ASK. Jump into one of their improv classes, designed for adults of all levels, where you'll laugh, connect, and surprise yourself with what you can do. These classes sell out quickly! Sign up now! SIGN UP HERE!

https://hudsonvalleyimprov.com/class-schedule?mc_cid=65247b5eea&mc_eid=5bb4c202f9

MORE information at: www.hudsonvalleyimprov.com

#4 SWING DANCE!



TUESDAY NIGHTS! Got2Lindy SWING DANCE CLASSES every Tuesday night at ASK from 6 - 9 PM for people at all levels! beginners, advanced and intermediate.
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Beginner Swing
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Intermediate Swing
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Advanced Swing

REGISTER HERE!

https://www.got2lindy.com/calendar/month/2025-04/?hide_subsequent_recurrences=1&mc_cid=65247b5eea&mc_eid=5bb4c202f9

#5. OPEN SOURCE FORMS MOVEMENT WITH TERESA SMITH!



Open Source Forms / Dancing the Inner Landscape –Guided by embodied imagery as a powerful tool for transformation we'll learn to move with agility, transparency and depth. A remarkably effective and revolutionary way of learning, the OSF approach can catalyze learning and transformation in many kinds of practices and in daily life.

Teresa Smith is a certified teacher of OSF and studied the root form Skinner Releasing Technique for several decades.

Fridays 11:00 AM - 1 PM: January 16, 23, 30

REGISTER: Earthbodybreath@gmail.com

Learn more: earthbodyevents.com

DONATE Here:

https://askforarts.org/donations/?mc_cid=65247b5eea&mc_eid=5bb4c202f9

Join!

https://askforarts.org/membership/?mc_cid=65247b5eea&mc_eid=5bb4c202f9

Become a member or make a gift today! Your support will sustain ASK as a revitalized multi arts center in the Rondout.

Join. Support. Create. Repeat.



Happy Holidays!

Daniel Pierce Library

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Closed

December 24 - 27

**Closing at 3:00 pm
on December 31**

Closed

January 1 - 3

Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams Announce Groundbreaking for First-of-its-Kind Jobs and Education Hub, Celebrate Four Years of Delivering a Safer and More Affordable New York City

- **SPARC Kips Bay Will Create More Than 15,000 Jobs, Generate \$42 Billion in Economic Impact Over 30 Years, and Deliver State-of-the-Art Life Sciences Space to CUNY Community**

- **Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams Have Consistently Set the Tone for a Focused State-City Relationship that Delivers a More Affordable City for New Yorkers**

Governor Kathy Hochul, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) President and CEO Andrew Kimball, and The City University of New York (CUNY) Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez today celebrated progress on the Science Park and Research Campus (SPARC) Kips Bay project, a first-of-its-kind life sciences innovation, career, and education hub. Deconstruction of the current campus on the site is expected to begin in February 2026, with construction of the new SPARC campus expected to begin in 2027. Today's announcement is yet another example of the successful city-state partnership Mayor Adams and Governor Hochul have achieved for the last four years working together to address the affordability crisis, create new housing, lower taxes, and advance bold infrastructure projects.

"The new SPARC campus will drive innovation and research for New York's nation-leading life sciences ecosystem, ensuring that groundbreaking medical advances are done right here in this city," Governor Hochul said. "Over the past four years, Mayor Adams and I have made bold strides to uplift New York City's economy, create good-paying jobs for New Yorkers, address the affordable housing crisis head-on, and forge ahead with critical infrastructure projects - showcasing what can be accomplished through state and city partnership."

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said, "SPARC Kips Bay will transform an entire New York City block into a state-of-the-art destination for the life sciences and healthy industry. It will create more than 15,000 good-paying jobs and generate more than \$42 billion in economic impact for our city. We thank our partners, NYCEDC, CUNY, and, especially, Governor Hochul for her steadfast support and leadership. From day one, Governor Hochul has been a real partner in 'Getting Stuff Done' for our city and working people. Over the past four years, we have worked together to make our city more affordable, delivered the 'City of Yes for Housing Opportunity,' expanded the New York City Earned Income Tax Credit for the first time in nearly two decades, and eliminated the personal income tax for more than 500,000 New Yorkers through our 'Axe the Tax for Working-Class' plan. We have worked in partnership to get big, visionary projects planned, approved, and built, including the reimaging of the Kingsbridge Armory and our historic plan to turn the Brooklyn Marine Terminal into a modern maritime port.

Together, we have invested in a bold vision for the five boroughs that has made New York City safer, more affordable, and the best place to live and raise a family."

Addressing New York City's Affordability Crisis

Last year, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams worked together to pass "City of Yes for Housing Opportunity," the most pro-housing zoning proposal in New York City history. The citywide rezoning plan will enable the creation of 80,000 new homes over the next 15 years and invest \$5 billion - including \$1 billion from the State - towards critical infrastructure updates and housing. Additionally, in 2024, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams worked with the New York State Legislature to pass a comprehensive housing agreement as part of the FY25 Budget. That agreement - which included new tools to encourage more affordable housing, convert offices into homes, allow more density in housing, and create safe basement apartments - is already delivering more housing for New Yorkers across the city.

Additionally, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams worked together to establish the New York City Public Housing Preservation Trust, paving the way for the overdue repair, rehabilitation, and modernization of 25,000 apartments under control of the New York City Housing Authority.

Under Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams, the city and state worked together to deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in tax relief for working-class New Yorkers, including the first expansion of the New York City Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in nearly two decades and Mayor Adams' "Axe the Tax for the Working-Class" proposal to eliminate and lower city income taxes for more than 500,000 New Yorkers. When combined, both Axe the Tax for the Working Class and the new, enhanced NYC EITC would put more than a collective \$408 million back into the pockets of 2 million New Yorkers.

Delivering on Big, Bold Infrastructure and Economic Development Projects

Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams worked together to advance bold economic development and infrastructure projects that had languished for decades and bring new housing, jobs, and public space to New York City.

Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams - as well as local elected officials and community leaders - helped pass a historic vision plan to turn the Brooklyn Marine Terminal into a vibrant, mixed-use community. Backed by \$418 million in city, state, and federal investments, the ambitious plan will transform the dilapidated marine terminal into a 60-acre, all-electric maritime port as well as create 6,000 new homes, 28 acres of public space, 37,000 construction jobs, and 275,000 square feet of commercial space along the Brooklyn waterfront.

Additionally, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams helped pass a historic plan to transform the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx into a thriving, community-centered hub. With a state-of-the-art venue space for entertainment, new cultural and commercial space, light industrial manufacturing space, over 25,000 square feet of dedicated community space, and approximately 500 permanently-affordable homes, the new Kingsbridge Armory will deliver a more affordable Bronx for working-class New Yorkers.

Along with the "New" New York initiative to ensure an equitable economic recovery after the pandemic; a joint planning effort for the future of Roosevelt Island; an agreement to replace and expand the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Midtown Manhattan; a \$500 million investment from the Battery Park City Authority's Joint Purpose Fund into affordable housing; new incentive programs to encourage businesses to maintain offices in or move to New York City; and more, the Hochul and Adams administrations have consistently delivered a productive partnership and real results year after year after year. (Contd. Pg. 33)

Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams Announce Groundbreaking for First-of-its-Kind Jobs and Education Hub, Celebrate Four Years of Delivering a Safer and More Affordable New York City

From Pg. 32) CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez said, "SPARC Kips Bay will expand pathways into public health careers for our students and provide state-of-the-art facilities for our faculty who are conducting research for the public good. I'm pleased to mark this milestone and grateful to Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams for their leadership and support of this transformational project, which will strengthen our city and University."

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "SPARC Kips Bay will connect New Yorkers—from public school students to CUNY graduates—with careers in one of the world's fastest-growing industries. Empire State Development is proud to partner with NYCEDC on a project that invests in both cutting-edge research and the New Yorkers who will power our life sciences economy for decades to come."

New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) President & CEO Andrew Kimball said, "SPARC Kips Bay is a transformative project that represents a path-breaking approach to economic development in New York City - transforming an entire city block into a world-class hub that bridges together economic opportunity, cutting-edge innovation and research, while creating strong, accessible career pathways for New Yorkers of all backgrounds into the innovative sectors of today and tomorrow. As we officially mobilize for deconstruction, NYCEDC is thrilled to add SPARC Kips Bay to the list of major milestones accomplished with our city and state partners, and to celebrate advancing a project that will shape the region's innovation ecosystem for generations to come. From unlocking long-stalled projects like Kingsbridge Armory to advancing city-shaping projects such as the Brooklyn Marine Terminal and SPARC Kips Bay, we are laying the foundation for inclusive, long-term growth across all five boroughs."

Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York President Gary LaBarbera said, "The groundbreaking of SPARC Kips Bay marks a major step forward in strengthening our health care and life sciences infrastructure while creating thousands of good-paying jobs and long-term career opportunities for working-class people. By transforming Kips Bay into a state-of-the-art public health and education hub, this project will help solidify New York City as a leader in life sciences and provide accessible middle-class career paths to hard-working New Yorkers. We applaud Mayor Adams and Governor Hochul for their continued commitment to advancing projects that grow our economy, support our workforce, and improve the lives of all New Yorkers."

Representative Jerrold Nadler said, "The SPARC Kips Bay project will provide thousands of jobs and create a state-of-the-art life sciences innovation, career, and education hub right here in Manhattan. This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a major boost to New York's life sciences and health care sectors and a pathway to career opportunities for generations of New Yorkers."

State Senator Kristen Gonzalez said, "SPARC Kips Bay builds on the state of the art public health and education institutions in New York City and State to create an innovation center that will provide thousands of good paying jobs and increased educational opportunities in advanced sciences and technology. I applaud

Governor Hochul, and Mayor Adams for their work to bring this important project to Kips Bay and keep New York at the forefront of innovative industries."

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine said, "SPARC will be a game-changer for Manhattan's East Side, connecting innovative research facilities with job opportunities for the next generation of New York scientists and healthcare workers. This project will create thousands of jobs and establish our borough as a leader in life sciences for years to come."

New York City Councilmember Keith Powers said, "Today's milestone is another step forward for a transformational project to make New York City a destination for the life sciences industry. On top of the thousands of jobs and billions in economic impact this project brings, it bolsters our local community by adding new science and technology opportunities for our next generation of leaders. SPARC Kips Bay will leave a lasting impact on our community with crucial infrastructure and public realm improvements, as well as additional 3-K public school seats for our students."

New York City Councilmember-Elect Virginia Maloney said, "SPARC Kips Bay is exactly the kind of coordinated, future-focused economic development New York City needs. By bringing together public education, research, and private-sector job creation, the project builds on Kips Bay's healthcare legacy while creating real pathways to opportunity for New Yorkers. I'm thrilled to see this project moving forward, bringing cutting-edge life sciences and healthcare opportunities to our community."

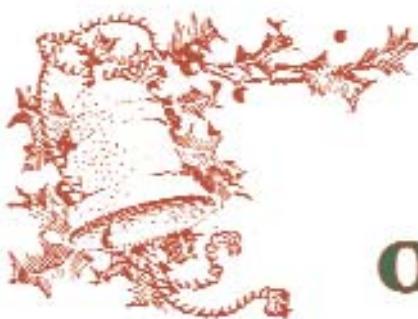
CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy Dean Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes said, "This is a significant moment for our school. We've experienced tremendous growth in the ten years that we've been an independent school, and we've now outgrown our current space. The new SPARC Kips Bay campus will give us the room we need with modern classrooms where our students can learn, proper lab facilities where they can get hands-on experience, and for the first time, wet lab space where our faculty can conduct the kind of research that's essential to a public health institution. This move isn't just about more square footage. It's about finally having the infrastructure to match our ambitions for training future public health professionals and advancing research that matters to communities across New York."

Next Steps for SPARC

The transformation of SPARC will bring over two million square feet of academic, public health, and life sciences space to the community. First announced by Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams, NYCEDC, and CUNY in October 2022, the historic project is expected to create more than 15,000 total jobs, generate \$42 billion in economic impact over the next 30 years, and establish a pipeline from New York City's public schools and public universities to future-forward and family-supporting careers in the life sciences and health care sectors.

The Innovation East development, located at 455 First Ave, will replace the former and obsolete Public Health Lab with a new state-of-the-art life sciences hub. The Public Health Lab will relocate to a new, modern facility in Harlem to continue its critical work, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2025. Demolition of the existing 455 First Avenue building is anticipated to occur in 2026, with construction beginning in 2027. SPARC Kips Bay passed the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) and received City Council approval in February 2025.

The SPARC Kips Bay and Innovation East projects are key initiatives to advance the LifeSci NYC goal of creating 10 million square feet of life sciences space, creating and attracting accessible jobs in life sciences, health care, and public health, and cementing New York City as a global leader in the sector.



Give the Gift of Membership!



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

Individual

\$25

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

Double

\$40

All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

Family

\$50

All the above benefits extended to children residing in the household under age 18.

Patron

\$100

All of the above benefits plus an invitation to a special higher category member's only reception.

Patron Silver

\$200

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

Patron Gold

\$500

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

Name of Recipient: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Membership Level: _____

Your Name and Address: _____

Gift Message: _____

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

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



Mail your check to: **Time and the Valleys Museum** P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740
or go to: <https://www.timcandthevalleysmuseum.org/support/membership> 845-985-7700

Donations and membership fees are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

Rules Form

When: Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Snow, Rain or Shine

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

Where: Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Rd
Claryville, NY 12725

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

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

Regulations for Sellers:

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

For more information or to register, please contact Jennifer at 845-807-6563; email at claryvillefd@gmail.com.

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Registration Form

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Rain, Snow or Shine

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

Vendors Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone number: _____ **Email:** _____

Description of Merchandise: _____

of 8ft tables needed: _____ **Electricity needed:** Yes No

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

Amount Due: _____ **Payment Method:** **cash** **check #:** _____

Signature of vendor: _____ **Date:** _____

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

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

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

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

Registration forms and payment must be submitted by April 1st to reserve your spot!

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

Make checks payable to Claryville Volunteer Fire Department

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

Attn: Jennifer Pisaniello

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

This July is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Time and the Valleys Museum is honoring our area's contribution to the struggles for independence by creating two new interactive exhibitions on the Revolution in 2026.

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

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

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



Join now by going to timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership, or send a check (\$25 for Individual, \$40 for Double and \$50 for Family) to the Museum at the address below.

You will receive membership cards, a newsletter and special gift by return mail.

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



DON'T STAY COLD...

*Come in where
it's warm!*



A service of
Sullivan
COUNTY CATSKILLS
Monticello and Surrounding Areas

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

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

Forest Rangers - Week in Review

Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

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

"DEC's Forest Rangers bravely protect State-owned and managed lands, as well as the people who use them. Whether conducting a search and rescue call or responding to a wildfire, Rangers are always ready when emergencies strike," DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. "Every day and in all conditions, Forest Rangers demonstrate their expertise and leadership in protecting the public and State lands, serving as role models for the next generation of environmental stewards. DEC encourages interested New Yorkers to visit DEC's website to learn how to become the next New York State Forest Ranger."

Town of Schroon Essex County

Wilderness Rescue: On December 24 at 11:30 a.m., the North Hudson Fire Department called Forest Ranger Quinn to assist with an injured hiker on Crane Pond trail. The 70-year-old from Fort Edward suffered an ankle injury after a fall and activated the SOS feature on a satellite device. Ranger Quinn responded with New York State Police, Schroon Lake Fire Department, North Hudson Fire Department, and Ticonderoga Emergency Medical Services. Rescuers stabilized the injury and used Schroon Lake Fire Department's tracked utility terrain vehicle to transport the patient to a Ticonderoga ambulance. Resources were clear at 1 p.m.

Schroon rescue



Town of Cooperstown Otsego County

Wilderness Search: On December 25 at 6:18 p.m., the Otsego County Sheriff's Office called Forest Ranger Laymon for assistance in the search for a patient who jumped out of an ambulance. The ambulance was transporting the 47-year-old Unadilla resident from Fox Hospital to Bassett Medical Center. Ambulance personnel pursued the patient but lost sight near Walnut and Linden Streets. Ranger Laymon assisted deputies in that area. At 9 p.m., Ranger France joined the search in a wooded area and at 10:20 p.m., three more Rangers joined the search along railroad tracks. At 11:20 p.m., a civilian notified Ranger Laymon that someone was pounding on the front door of a house on Linden Street. Ranger Laymon and two deputies searched that area. Deputy Benora found the patient sitting at the bus stop shelter and drove the patient to the hospital. Resources were clear at 12:45 a.m.

Town of Long Lake Hamilton County

Snowmobile Accident: On December 28 at 12:19 p.m., Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office requesting Forest Ranger assistance with a snowmobile accident off Uncas Road in Moose River Plains Wild Forest. Forest Ranger

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

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

JIM'S GUNSMITHING, INC.
www.Jimsgunsmithing.com

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

Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan	1.7 Miles
← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road	
Continue onto NY-28A West	1.8 Miles
← Turn LEFT onto NY-213	1.1 Miles
→ Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A	0.8 Miles
Gun Shop on LEFT	
Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge -Going Towards Olivebridge	7.5 Miles
← Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A	0.8 Miles
Gun Shop on LEFT	

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

Lieutenant Arnold and Ranger Milano responded with Raquette Lake Fire Department, Raquette Lake and Inlet Emergency Medical Services, New York State Police, and Inlet Police. Rescuers found the 61-year-old from Amityville approximately 10 feet off the trail, in the woods. The snowmobiler had been ejected from the snowmobile while rounding a corner. The patient had unstable pelvis and leg injuries. Rescuers packaged the patient into Raquette Lake Fire Department's tracked utility terrain vehicle (UTV). The UTV transported the injured snowmobiler to a nearby LifeNet helicopter that flew the patient to the hospital. Resources were clear at 1:50 p.m.



Long Lake snowmobile accident

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

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

Sullivan County Christmas Tree Collection

December 26-January 31



Open to County
residents,
businesses, and
visitors!

- ❖ **Live trees only!**
- ❖ **Remove lights,
decorations, stands,
& all other coverings**

Collection Sites:

- ❖ Monticello Transfer Station
- ❖ Ferndale Transfer Station
- ❖ Highland Transfer Station
- ❖ Mamakating Transfer Station
- ❖ Rockland Transfer Station
- ❖ Interim Western Sullivan
Transfer Station

Visit our website for additional information including hours of operation
Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling

www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling

recycling@sullivanny.gov

(845) 807-0291

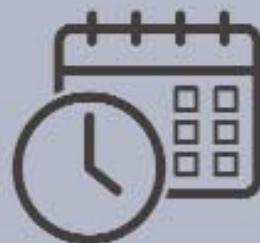


Caregiver

Cafe' Support Group

Jan-June 2026

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



**1st Monday of
each month
10 am-11 am**

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

Take a break while you:

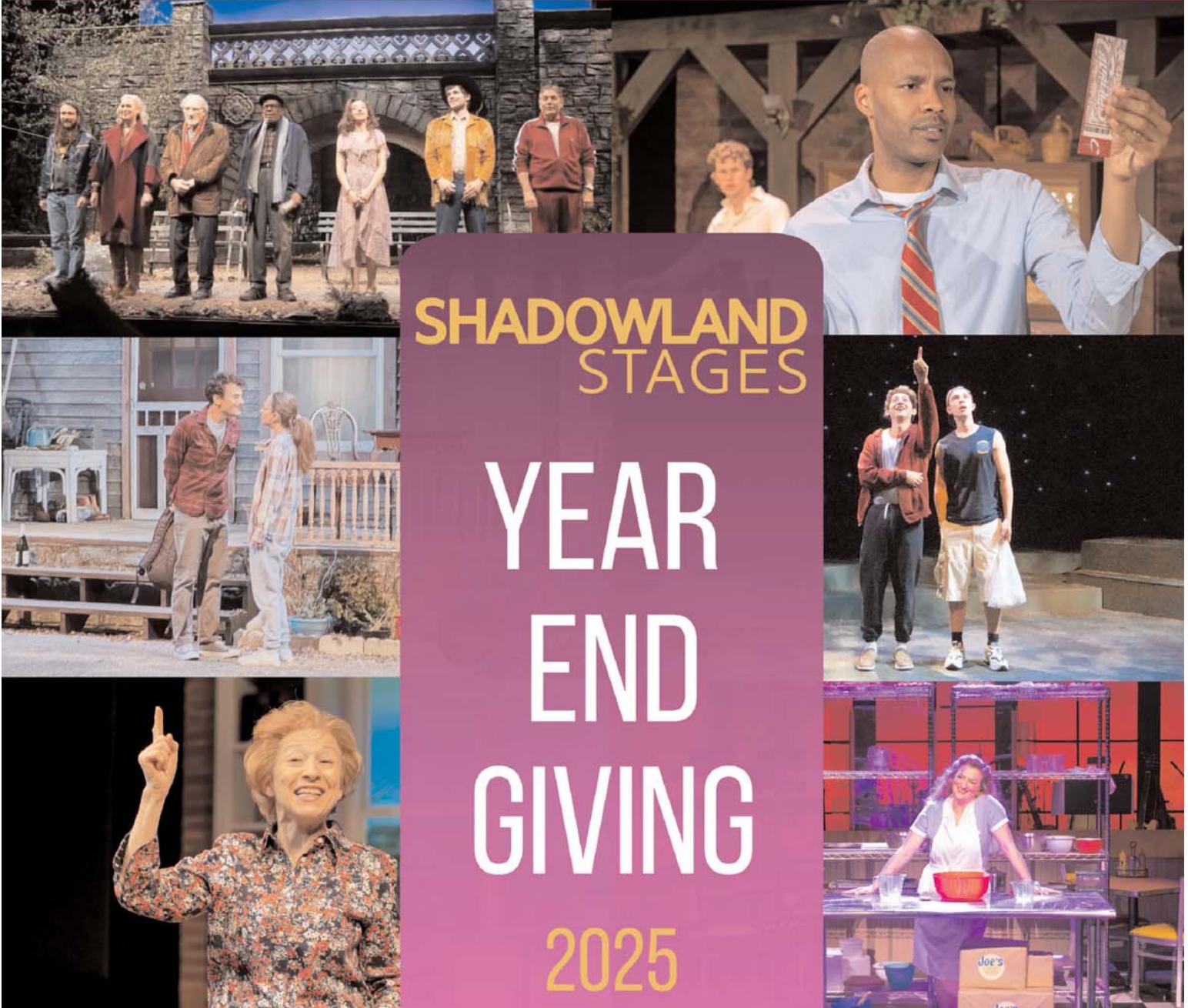
- **Learn about tips for self-care**
- **Share caregiving strategies**
- **Connect with others**
- **Enjoy a light snack on us!**



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

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

**Thank you for making our
40th Anniversary Season so special!**



**SHADOWLAND
STAGES**

**YEAR
END
GIVING**

2025

WWW.SHADOWLANDSTAGES.ORG/DONATE

NEW DIRECTIONS FAMILY COUNSELING PRESENTS...

10-WEEK WINTER
THERAPY GROUPS
FOR KIDS, TEENS
& PARENTS

*New Year
New Support*

BEGINNING
JANUARY
2026



Winter can feel long and a little lonely.

Our age-based therapy groups give
kids and parents a chance
to connect & feel supported.

All in a warm, therapist-led environment.

**SMALL AGE-BASED GROUPS FOR
CHILDREN AND A SEPARATE
PARENT-FOCUSED GROUP!**

Advance registration required



newdirectionsfamilycounseling.com
(845) 202-3116

IN-PERSON
KINGSTON

GIVE
THE GIFT

OF
THEATRE

WITH A SHADOLAND STAGES
GIFT CERTIFICATE!



SHADOLANDSTAGES.ORG

CAFFEINE AND CAMARADERIE VETERANS COFFEE HOUR



**EVERY MONDAY
10AM-11AM**

ACTION TOWARD INDEPENDENCE
309 E-BROADWAY • MONTICELLO, NY 12701
845-794-4228 | WWW.ATITODAY.ORG

Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group

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

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave
Middletown, NY 10940

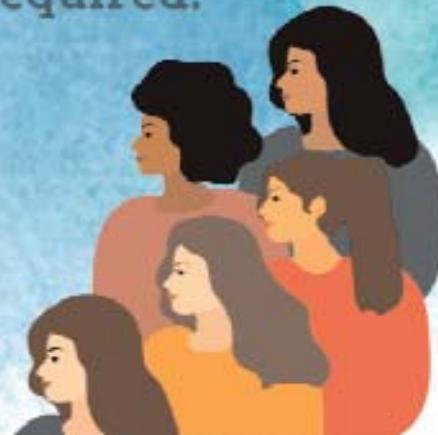
*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*

For More Information Call
845.343.4284

Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



 Find us on
Facebook





Homeschooling

Calling All Homeschooling Families!

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

**Beginning
September 23rd**

**4th Tuesday of each month
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Connect with other families to:

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

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

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

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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



Daniel Pierce Library

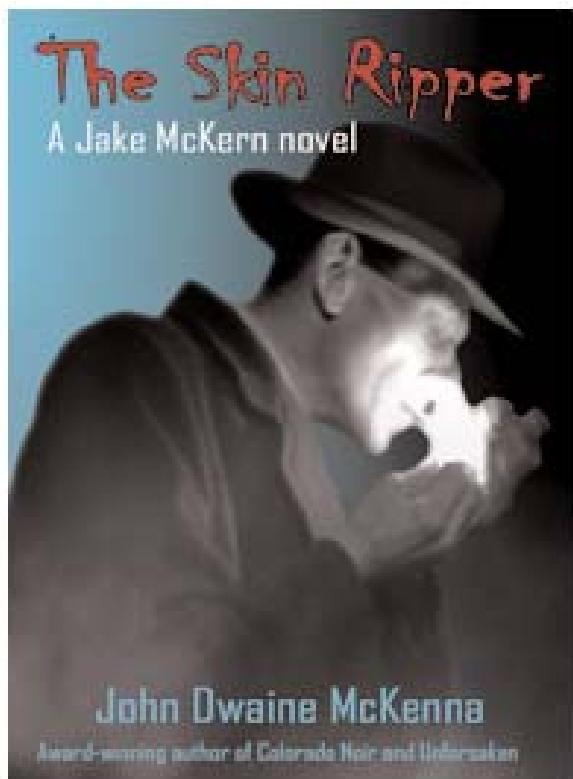
320 Main Street | P.O. Box 260
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0260 | 045-905-7200
www.danielpiercelibrary.org

The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

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



hour and his greatest adventure to date!

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

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

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

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

Neversink General Store

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple
And bookstores everywhere.



Sponsor a Flag in the Town of Neversink

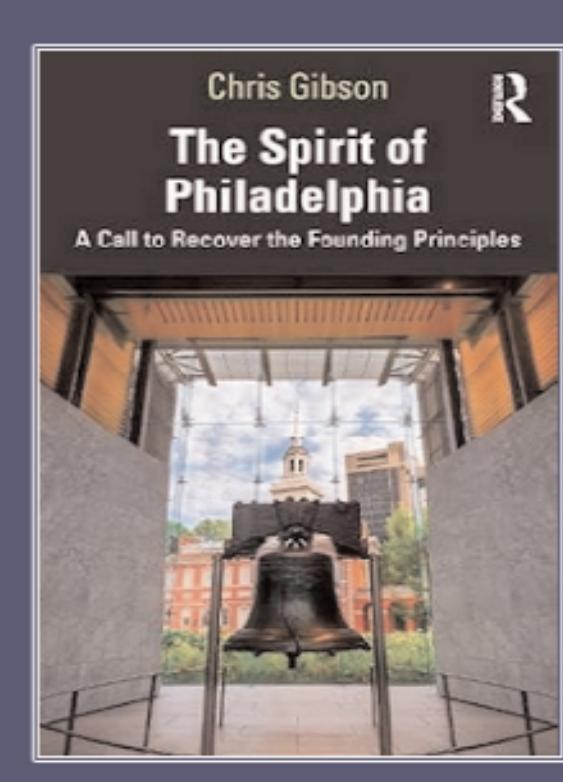
This is a unique opportunity for you to honor your hero. A loved one. A friend. Military. Non-Military. Maybe it is someone who changed your life.

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

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

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





The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

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

TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson

Soldier



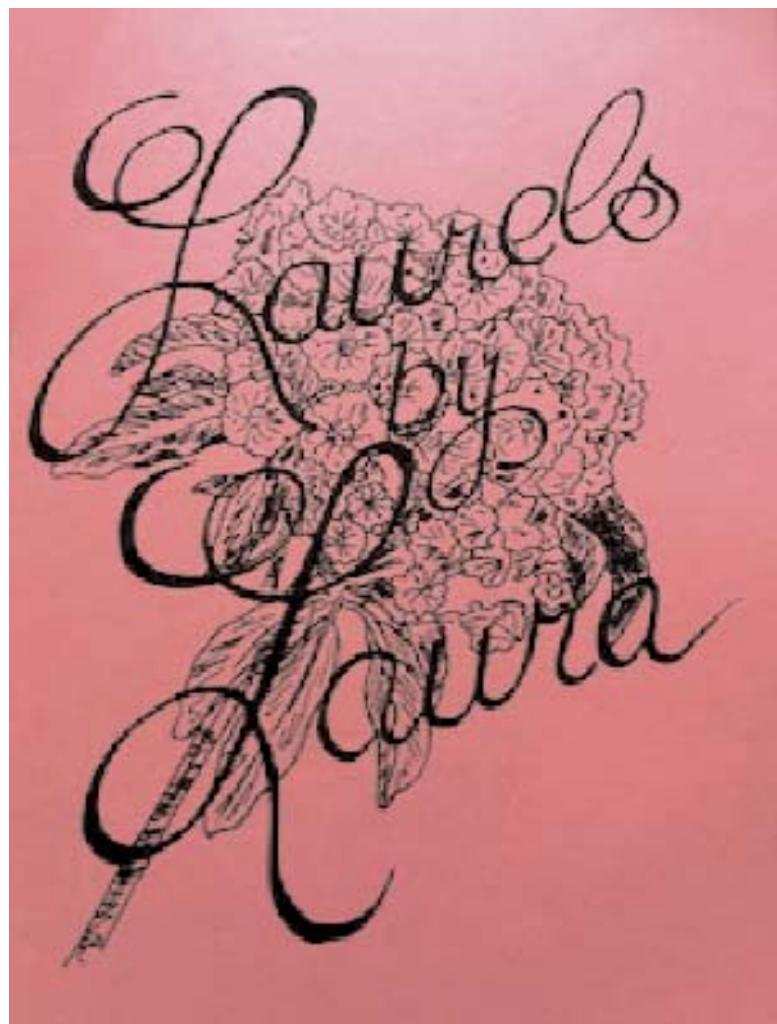
Scholar



Statesman



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



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

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



Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides
Like new! \$14,500.

845-434-5539

Leave a message and phone

Olive Free Library

SENIOR ART GROUP

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

A chatty, friendly group of seniors meet each Monday. At least monthly, we have a guest artist come for a workshop. There is no cost. We have a limited supply of watercolors, oil pastels, water soluble oil paints, paper and canvas. Brushes, too. Our crafty folk might paint or sew or knit or crochet or just hang out with friends. Our guest instructors have been Mia Fink and Sue De Sanna. Linda Schultz and Linda Champanier have been added to our possible guest instructors. MaryAnn Shultis has led us in sewing workshops to make bags and runners, and Donna Kopf has taught us quilt square patterns. We also stuff dolls for a project called MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that sends sweet dolls to Children's hospitals.

Come join us!

JOIN US FOR
STRENGTH, STRETCH & BALANCE: AN 8-WEEK SERIES
at The Shokan Branch!

with Kathy Carey

Fridays: 11:30am - 12:30pm
December 5 and
January 9, 16, 23, 30

\$6/class

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

Conversations With Death

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

Starting Saturday, January 3

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

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

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

INTRO TO BEEKEEPING

with Rob Overton

Saturday, January 10

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

snow date: January 17

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

Music Café

WINTER INTERMISSION

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



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

D.I.Y. ENERGY SAVINGS SESSION

Thursday February 5, 2026, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

Register Now!

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



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Smart Energy Choices – Mid-Hudson



Shadowland –Last chance to help us reach our goal!

DONATE HERE

https://shadowlandstages.org/donate/?mc_cid=3482b9f390&mc_eid=138a9b9d06

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

GIVE the Gift of Theatre with a Gift Certificate

shadowlandstages.org

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration!

WE'RE DREAMING OF:



MOVING VAN

REAMS OF PAPER - we love to print scripts!

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

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

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

FLAT SCREEN MONITORS - minimum size 32" for marketing.

PIPE THREADER

COMMERCIAL PAINT SPRAYER

WELDING SCREENS

MIKITA 18v BATTERIES

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

'Tis the Season! Governor Hochul Announces Completion of Holiday Food, Toy, Coat and School Supply Drive to Help New Yorkers in Need

**Volunteers Collected 4,298 Donated Items and
2,250 Pounds of Food to be Distributed by
Nonprofits Across New York**

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the completion of New York's annual statewide donation drive. Donations of non-perishable food items, new unwrapped toys, new or gently used coats and new school supplies were collected to assist community-based organizations during the holiday giving season.

"When times are tough, New Yorkers show up for each other with a generosity and giving spirit that is unmatched," Governor Hochul said. "I'm proud of every New Yorker who contributed to this year's holiday drive, looked out for their neighbors and helped spread kindness this season. With the holidays underway, State agencies are working diligently to deliver donated items, bringing warmth and joy to families across New York State."

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy said, "I am honored to join Governor Hochul in giving my sincere thanks to everyone who helped their neighbors by giving to New York State's Holiday Food, Toy, Coat and School Supply Drive. Every holiday season, OGS is proud to partner with the New York State Department of Transportation to support making the season brighter for New Yorkers in all corners of our state."

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "The spirit of giving in the service of others is what the holidays are all about and thanks to the generous donations of so many New Yorkers, DOT and OGS are able to help facilitate the distribution and delivery of many gifts - gifts that will truly make a difference in the lives of hundreds of New Yorkers in the form of toys under the Christmas tree, food on the table, supplies for the schools and coats to brave the elements of winter. My sincere thanks and appreciation to our DOT team members, our OGS partners, and all the state employees from Brooklyn to Buffalo for their generosity and giving spirit this holiday season."

Each giving season, New Yorkers contribute to the drive by donating items at drop-off locations set up by the Office of General Services, shipping them to the Empire State Plaza, or through other outlets. The Department of Transportation worked with the Office of General Services to transport hundreds of toys, coats, school supplies and food from state office buildings in New York City, Utica, Hornell, Syracuse, Watertown, Buffalo, Rochester and Binghamton, and deliver them to community-based organizations across the state.

This year's drive has collected 4,298 items and 2,250 pounds of food. The Compassion Coalition, a nonprofit based in Utica that focuses on community-based giving, donated 1,295 pajamas and toys this year.

The breakdown of total donations received by category:

Food: 2,250 pounds

Toys: 1,880

Coats and Jackets: 341

School Supplies: 510

Miscellaneous Apparel: 1,567

Donations are being distributed to:

Capital Region

United Way of the Greater Capital Region

Sheridan Hollow Affordable Housing Partnership

Grassroot Givers

Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region

Mohawk Valley

Integrated Community Alternatives Network

North Country

Joint Council for Economic Opportunity Warehouse

Southern Tier

Pro Action of Steuben and Yates

Broome County Urban League

Long Island

Cops 'n Kids Long Island

Western NY

Chautauqua County Rural Ministry

Boys and Girls Club of Buffalo

Finger Lakes

Center for Youth

Central NY

La Liga

Hudson Valley

Family Services of Poughkeepsie

New York City

Project Hospitality

State Senator Roxanne J. Persaud's Office

City Council Member Farah N. Louis' Office

New Settlement Community Center

New Jerusalem Worship Center

Henry Street Settlement

OLIVE SENIORS

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

Where: American Legion Hall*

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

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

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

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

Happy Holidays from Comptroller DiNapoli



Happy Holidays! May the spirit of the season bring you peace and happiness. My team and I wish you a joyful holiday filled with the warmth of tradition and the company of family and friends.

Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute! Holiday greetings and Happy New Year! From my family to yours, happy holidays.



As 2025 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect. This has been a challenging year for many New Yorkers. Costs are up, essential services have been undermined, and a Republican government shutdown left workers struggling and families facing higher health care costs in the new year.

And yet, even in the hardest moments, I remain hopeful. Across New York, neighbors showed up for each other. Local organizations stepped up to help families stay afloat. Advocates fought for a better tomorrow.

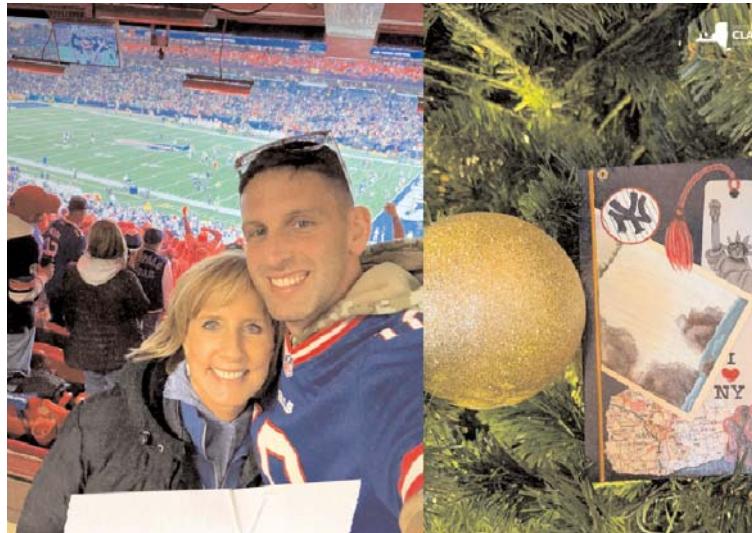
This year reminded us of our shared responsibility to care for one another and work toward a future rooted in dignity, fairness, and opportunity. It is that mentality that I am bringing into 2026.

As we look toward the new year, I remain committed to fighting for New Yorkers.

Wishing you all a peaceful New Year filled with blessings, joy, and love.

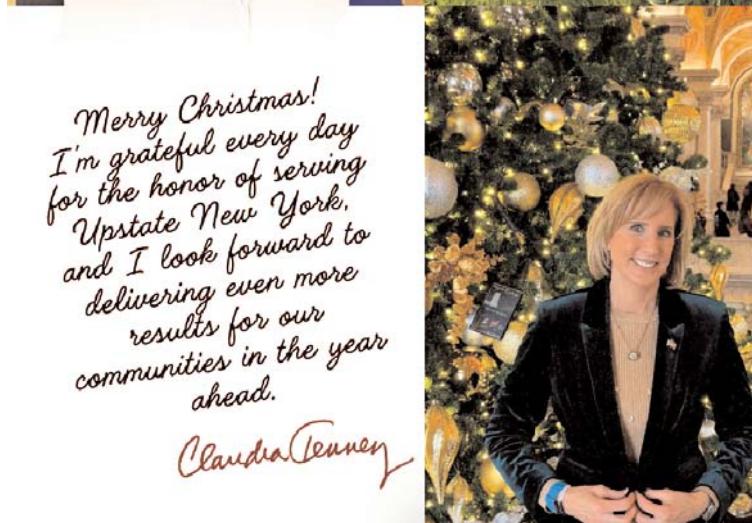
Best,
Kirsten

This Week with Claudia Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



*Merry Christmas!
I'm grateful every day
for the honor of serving
Upstate New York,
and I look forward to
delivering even more
results for our
communities in the year
ahead.*

Claudia Tenney



As we celebrate Christmas across Upstate New York, families and communities throughout NY-24 are coming together to reflect on the blessings of the season. Christmas is a time for gratitude, faith, and renewal, and a reminder of the values that bind us together: family, service, generosity, and hope. Whether gathered around the table, attending church, or spending quiet moments with loved ones, this season invites us to pause and appreciate what truly matters.

To everyone across our district, thank you for the kindness, resilience, and spirit that make our communities so special. May this Christmas bring peace to your home, joy to your heart, and comfort to those in need. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Governor Announces More Than \$67 Million Awarded to 57 Projects Advancing Safe Swimming Access Across New York State

- Through Two Rounds of NY SWIMS Funding, \$200 Million Awarded to 57 Projects Advancing Safe Swimming Access Across New York State
- Supports Municipal and Nonprofit Aquatic Facility Improvements; View Full List of Awardees Here <https://www.dasny.org/swimsround2>
- Part of Governor Hochul's 'Unplug and Play' Initiative Encouraging Families To Stay Active and Outdoors

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced more than \$67 million in capital grants have been awarded to fund 21 projects across New York State through the second round of the New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS) Initiative. Administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) and overseen by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NY SWIMS provides competitive matching grants that help communities build and improve swimming facilities, giving more New Yorkers safe and modern places to swim. Through two rounds of the NY SWIMS program, New York State has awarded \$200 million to support 57 projects.

"NY SWIMS has already shown how transformative safe swimming facilities can be for families and neighborhoods," Governor Hochul said. "This next round of awards continues that progress by giving more communities the resources they need to build and improve the pools and aquatic spaces that support health, safety and year-round recreation. Through Unplug and Play, we're creating opportunities for New Yorkers to enjoy the outdoors, stay active, and come together."

Over \$34 million is awarded to underserved communities to expand access to safe and reliable public swimming facilities in areas where options have long been limited. These projects will help address long-standing gaps in recreation infrastructure and increase opportunities for water-safety education, youth programming, and warm-weather outdoor activity.

The 21 awarded projects in the second round of NY SWIMS funding include 13 municipal applicants and eight nonprofit organizations, representing more than \$87 million in total construction investment and leveraging nearly \$25 million in local and philanthropic contributions. Together, these awards span eight Economic Development Regions and will help communities strengthen recreation resources, improve water safety, and create more opportunities for families to stay active.

NY SWIMS supports projects that modernize or build aquatic facilities, including swimming pools, natural

swimming areas, bathhouses, mechanical systems, shade structures, lighting, and accessibility upgrades. Applications were evaluated based on community need, public benefit, planning, and readiness for implementation.

The program also advances Governor Hochul's broader Unplug and Play initiative, which invests in recreation infrastructure and encourages families to spend more time active and outdoors. These improvements will help communities stay cool during extreme heat, expand opportunities for swim instruction, and provide welcoming spaces for year-round and seasonal programming.

Regional Highlights

A full list of awardees is available at dasny.org/swimsround2. Highlights include:

Capital Region - More Than \$15 million

- o City of Schenectady - \$8.08 million: Construction of a new pool complex, including a lap pool with activity area, zero-entry section, shallow water features, and a new bathhouse.

- o City of Watervliet - \$7.4 million: Replacement of the existing pool and bathhouse with a modern facility at Town Park.

Central New York - More Than \$7 million

- o City of Cortland - \$3.8 million: Renovation of the Yaman Park swimming facility, including an ADA-accessible bathhouse, shoreline restoration, improved beach access, and new shade structures.

- o YMCA Fulton - \$2.4 million: Renovation of the therapeutic pool, steam room, sauna, and locker room facilities.

Finger Lakes - \$3.2 million

- o City of Rochester - \$2.4 million: Improvements to the Trenton and Pamela Jackson R-Center pool, including new lighting, a rebuilt pool deck, HVAC upgrades, and ADA-accessible features.

- o Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County - \$800,000: Construction of a new outdoor pool and pool house with unisex restrooms, outdoor showers, and a shade pavilion.

Long Island - More Than \$427,000

- o Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center - \$427,358: Upgrades to pool HVAC systems, refinished pool surfaces, ADA lift enhancements, and modernized UV and chemical treatment systems.

Mid-Hudson - More Than \$17 million

- o Village of Kiryas Joel - \$6.5 million: Construction of a new indoor and outdoor aquatic complex at Kinder Park.

- o Town of Cornwall - \$5.58 million: Replacement of the existing pool with a larger, modern facility and new bathhouse.

- o Ichud Shlomo, Inc. Swan Lake (\$1,580,000.00) New Pools and Pool House Construction:

Mohawk Valley - \$2.6 million

- o City of Sherrill - \$2.6 million: Reconstruction of the Al Glover Pool, including a new zero-entry pool, splash pad, and renovated pool house.

New York City - \$5 million

- o NYC Department of Parks & Recreation - \$5 million: Reconstruction of the Haffen Park Pool Complex in the Bronx, including improved accessible entryways, pool deck renovations, and upgrades to the pool house.

Southern Tier - More Than \$10 million (Contd. Pg. 59)

Governor Announces More Than \$67 Million Awarded to 57 Projects Advancing Safe Swimming Access Across New York State

(From Pg. 58)

- o YMCA Ithaca & Tompkins County - \$6.26 million: Reconstruction of multiple pools, locker room upgrades and addition of a hydrotherapy spa.
- o Village of Horseheads - \$4 million: Replacement of the Thorne Street Park pool and renovation of the pool house.

The NY SWIMS Initiative provides matching capital grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$10 million to help municipalities and nonprofit organizations modernize aquatic infrastructure. Projects must demonstrate site control, matching funds, and plans that expand public access to safe swimming.

DASNY President & CEO Robert J. Rodriguez said, "This second round of NY SWIMS awards shows how communities across New York are stepping forward with well-planned projects that will make a real difference for families. DASNY is proud to administer this program and support municipalities and nonprofits as they move from vision to construction. These investments will create safe environments for swimming and recreation while fostering healthier, more connected communities."

New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Acting Commissioner Kathy Moser said, "Through Governor Hochul's leadership, the NY SWIMS program is investing millions of dollars to build and revitalize pools and swimming facilities across the state. This ongoing effort helps New Yorkers learn to swim and stay safe in and around the water. Swimming supports the mission of the 'Get Offline, Get Outside' and this next round of grants will restore vital community resources while expanding access to safe, affordable swim opportunities for New Yorkers of all ages."

State Senator Jose Serrano said, "The New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS) Initiative is a vital investment for municipalities and nonprofit organizations to expand access to safe swimming facilities across the state. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, I firmly believe NY SWIMS will build and improve swimming facilities to give New Yorkers safe and modern places to swim. Many thanks to Governor Kathy Hochul and my colleagues in government for working to maintain and expand this important initiative."

Governor Hochul Announces Results of Toll Enforcement Operations on New York State Thruway

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that the New York State Police Troop T, in partnership with the New York State Thruway Authority, seized 170 vehicles and issued more than 1,000 tickets during four statewide enforcement details on the Thruway system that targeted drivers who persistently violated tolls, and had ghost plates and illegible or missing license plates. The details occurred this fall along the

Thruway in Albany, the Hudson Valley and Syracuse. The owners of 30 vehicles that were impounded and had suspended registrations owed nearly \$82,000 in unpaid tolls and fees to the Thruway Authority. The Authority has since recovered almost \$38,000, representing 46 percent of the total owed, from 16 vehicle owners.

"Cracking down on persistent toll-evaders makes driving on the Thruway system fairer and more affordable for New Yorkers, all while funding critical infrastructure improvements that make our roads safer and more reliable," Governor Hochul said. "Initiatives like these get bad actors off our roads and allow us to continue making historic investments in our roads, bridges and tunnels, giving everyone a better, safer ride."

This is the second major operation on the Thruway this year, following a coordinated enforcement campaign consisting of three enforcement details that took place over the summer, resulting in State Police seizing 140 vehicles and issuing 711 tickets. The summer and fall enforcement details resulted in the Authority recovering \$116,000 of the \$207,000 owed (56 percent) from 37 vehicle owners.

New York State Thruway Authority Executive Director Frank G. Hoare said, "These enforcement crackdowns send a clear message to drivers who don't pay their tolls that we're not going to tolerate illegal behavior. We will continue to protect our tolling customers who follow the rules. We thank Governor Hochul and New York State Police Troop T for making this issue a top priority along with our partners who took part in this operation, including the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles."

New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James said, "These enforcement details affirm our commitment to holding accountable those who use fake, stolen and obscured license plates. These offenders are not only breaking the law, but they are also putting other motorists at risk. I thank Governor Hochul for her sustained support and the Thruway Authority for its steadfast partnership. We also appreciate the Department of Motor Vehicles for its participation in these important enforcement efforts."

Across the country, there has been a notable increase in the use of fraudulent or "ghost" plates over the past few years to avoid cameras used to collect tolls without stopping. Additionally, some motorists also intentionally cover, obstruct and deface license plates, or use fake temporary tags, or "temp tags," to make it harder for cameras and license plate readers to identify the vehicles.

- o On Tuesday, Sept. 30, State Police impounded 59 vehicles from motorists crossing the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (GMMCB), which connects Westchester and Rockland counties, 25 for toll evasion. Troopers issued 206 tickets as part of the operation, including 128 for license plate violations.
- o On Thursday, Oct. 16, State Police impounded 14 vehicles from motorists on I-90 in Syracuse, 1 for toll evasion. The operation resulted in 195 tickets, including 60 for plate violations.
- o On Tuesday, Oct. 28, State Police impounded 35 vehicles from motorists on I-87 in Albany, 4 for toll evasion. Troopers issued 308 tickets, including 145 for plate violations, during the operation. (Contd. Pg. 60)

Governor Hochul Announces Results of Toll Enforcement Operations on New York State Thruway

(From Pg. 59)

o On Thursday, Nov. 20, State Police impounded 62 vehicles from motorists crossing the GMMCB, 17 for toll evasion. Troopers issued 329 tickets as part of the operation, including 153 for license plate violations.

Date	Location	Total Tickets Issued	Tickets for License Plate Violations	Total Vehicles Impounded	Vehicles Impounded for Toll Evasion
9.30.25	GMMCB	206	128	59	25
10.16.25	I-90 in Syracuse	195	60	14	1
10.28.25	I-87/90 in Albany	308	145	35	4
11.20.25	GMMCB	329	153	62	17
	TOTAL	1,038	486	170	47

Troopers focused on suspended registrations, many of which had been suspended for unpaid tolls or lack of insurance, which resulted in the vehicle being towed. Additionally, Troopers issued tickets for fraudulent and obstructed license plates, as well as speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, cell phone use, driving with an expired driver's license or expired registration, and other violations. The Troop T Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit (CVEU) also participated to enforce safety standards and regulations for trucks, buses and other commercial vehicles. In addition to violations referenced above, over the course of the four targeted campaigns, troopers also made several arrests for driving while intoxicated (DWI), drugs and warrant-related charges. During the Nov. 20 operation on the GMMCB, investigators from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles joined with State Police to help identify non-compliant vehicles and motorists.

State Police Troop T led the operation while the Thruway Authority's Traffic Safety and Maintenance teams in all four of its Divisions assisted with traffic control.

E-ZPass and Tolls By Mail

Motorists can avoid violation fees and registration suspensions by paying their toll bills on time either through E-ZPass or Tolls By Mail.

With a New York E-ZPass, passenger and commercial vehicles receive up to a 75 percent discount on New York State Thruway Tolls (discount applies to E-ZPass NY Tag transactions only). Visit e-zpassny.com for more information or to create an account. If you don't have E-ZPass, an image of the license plate is used to send a toll bill to the vehicle's registered owner using the address on file with DMV. You can use the free Tolls NY app to manage your E-ZPass account or pay your Tolls By Mail bill.

Toll bills are mailed to the vehicle's registered owner within 30 to 40 days of travel using the address on file with

the DMV. Motorists can sign up for text alerts at e-zpassny.com to be notified when their tolls are available to pay sooner. Toll bills must be paid by the due date to prevent additional fees. If unpaid, a second bill is issued with a \$5 late fee. If still unpaid, the bill escalates to a violation which includes a \$50 per notice fee and may be sent to collections after 30 days.

The Thruway Authority has also established an Office of the Toll Payer Advocate to assist customers who are unable to resolve toll issues relating to their Thruway travel through the E-ZPass/Tolls By Mail Customer Service Center. The Advocate helps to ensure that all toll payers receive fair and responsive treatment.

About the Thruway Authority

The Governor Thomas E. Dewey Thruway, built in the early 1950s, is one of the oldest components of the National Interstate Highway System and one of the longest toll roads in the nation. The maintenance and operation of the Thruway system is funded primarily by tolls. The Thruway Authority does not receive any dedicated federal, state or local tax dollars and is paid for by those who drive the Thruway, including one-third of drivers from out of state.

In 2024, the Thruway Authority processed more than 400 million toll transactions and motorists drove 8.2 billion miles on the Thruway. The Authority's 2026-2030 Capital Plan invests \$2.8 billion into infrastructure and equipment, an increased commitment of \$860 million into the system, or 45 percent since the approval of a multi-year toll adjustment plan in 2023. The increased investment will lead to work on approximately 60 percent of the Thruway's more than 2,800 pavement lane miles as well as the replacement or restoration of 18 percent of the Thruway's 819 bridges.

The Thruway is one of the safest roadways in the country with a fatality rate far below the nationwide index, and toll rates are among the lowest in the country compared to similar toll roads. The Thruway's base passenger vehicle toll rate is less than \$0.05 per mile, compared to the Ohio Turnpike (\$0.06 per mile), the New Jersey Turnpike (up to \$0.39 per mile) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike (\$0.16 per mile).

The lives of Thruway Authority employees, roadway workers and emergency personnel depend on all of those who travel the highway. Motorists should stay alert and pay attention while driving, slow down in work zones and move over when they see a vehicle on the side of the road. The State's Move Over Law, which was expanded in March 2024, requires drivers to slow down and move over for all vehicles stopped along the roadway. Safety is a shared responsibility.

For more information, follow the Thruway on Facebook, X and Instagram, or visit the Thruway website.



**BECOME
SOMEONE'S
Angel**

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

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

Tech Tuesdays

A program for DPL Patrons

Every Tuesday
9 am - 12 pm

Receive help on a variety of basic tech topics including:

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

Bring your own device or use our computers!

We are here to help!



RAISE A READER.

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

Get a library card.

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

Sign up today!

For more information, stop at the checkout desk.

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**

Joe 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

**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, e-books, and audiobooks



Listen at home or on the go

CDs and music in streaming or download



Get online and get going

Free WiFi



Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more



Learn something new 24/7

Learn a new language with HelloTalk

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

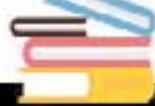
Download the RCLS Gateway App



Borrow instead of buy

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

Download the RCLS Gateway App



Entertain your kids – or yourself

Passes to Mohonk Preserve and the Home and Valley Museums

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

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

SHARE THE NUMBER

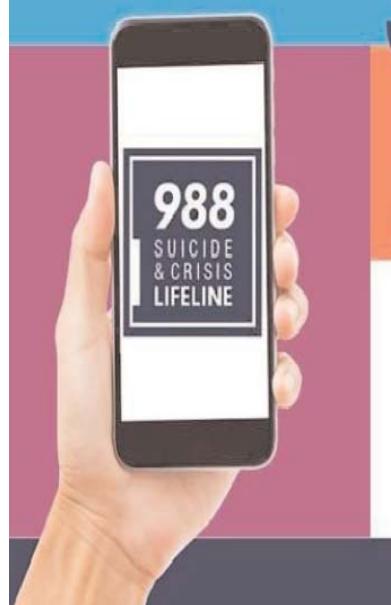
CALL OR TEXT

SPREAD THE WORD

988

CHAT

988LIFELINE.ORG



988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

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
@ 6:30PM





**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
@ 6:30PM





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.



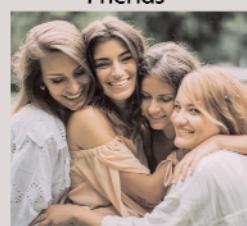
**Text 845-372-1817
Call 866-372-2336**

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

**Who will you
protect?**



Friends

**¿A quien
protegerás?**

Get the facts.



Amigos

Family

**Obtenga los
hechos.**

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



Community

Comunidad

#VaccinateSullivan

For more information, visit www.sullivanny.us



Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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

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

**Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486**

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



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



Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk

(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

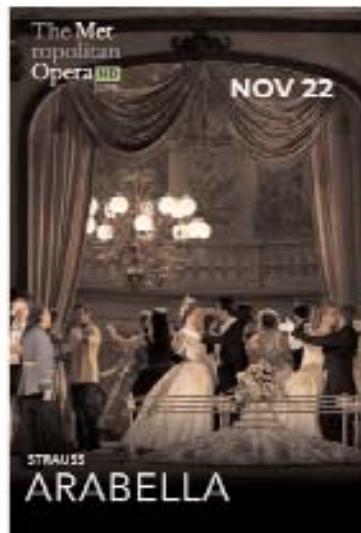


**GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR
OUR UPCOMING
CERTIFICATION CLASS !!**

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

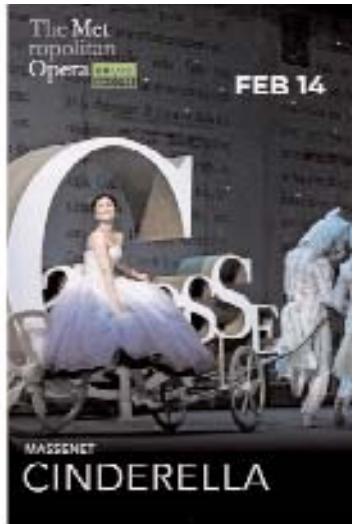
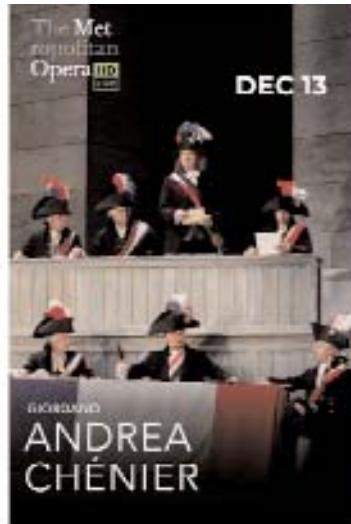
FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!





**SUNY
Sullivan
Foundation
presents**

The Met: Live in HD



**at
SUNY
Sullivan's
Seelig
Theatre**



DVD SALE!

Come & Get them!



Daniel Pierce Library

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

\$1.00 each



