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VOL. 23 NO. 3 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 15, 2026

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Tri-Valley Lions January 5, 2026 at Casa Mia in Hurleyville



Left to right is Lion Leah Exner who chairs the Tri-Valley Lions Community Service Award committee as well as the Peace Poster Contest. Leah is the Liaison between the Tri-Valley Lions and the Tri-Valley School. Next to Leah is parent Marlene Osterhout, mother of Service Award Winner Katie Dauch, Service Award winner Lilliana Morton-Curry and her mother Sarah Morton-Curry. In rear of photo is Stephen Miller, President of the Tri-Valley Lions.

On Monday, January 5, 2026, the Tri-Valley Lions held their first meeting of the New Year at Casa Mia Restaurant in Hurleyville. We were delighted to have two of the Tri-Valley Lions Community Service Award students join us for this dinner meeting along with their mothers. Lilliana Morton-Curry is a Freshman at SUNY Oneonta and wishes to pursue a career as a Hospital Dietitian upon graduation. Katie Dauch is a student at SUNY Morrisville and aspires to work in the Environmental and Safety field upon graduation. Both young ladies received \$500 award checks from the Tri-Valley Lions to help them along with their schooling and future wishes. We were so glad that they could join us for the January 5th meeting while on break from school and to hear them speak about their future aspirations.

(Contd. Pg. 5)

Taverns in the Early United States VIRTUAL Program by Author Dr. Kirsten Wood Sunday, January 18th at 2 p.m.



Author Dr. Kirsten Wood

[Grahamsville, N.Y.] The Virtual Program, Taverns in the Early United States by Author Kirsten Wood will be held on Sunday, January 18 at 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.

(Contd. Pg. 4)

EverGreen Meadow Exec. Director Visits Monticello Kiwanis



From left - EverGreen Meadow
Exec. Dir. Adrienne Jensen
(Story on Pg. 5)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. Psalm 49:3

OBITUARIES



Lorraine Ganz, of Divine Corners NY, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. She was 95. She was the daughter of Lester and Hilda Drexler Greenstein. Predeceased by her husband Eugene Ganz and survived by her sons Warren of Miami FL, Jay of Divine Corners and brothers Allen and Mel.

Lorraine was born in NYC but grew up in Kansas City, KS and Independence Missouri. As a teenager, she and her family moved to Hurleyville where she went to Fallsburg High School. Later worked as a telephone operator as well at her Father's market.

After earning her Masters degree at SUNY Albany, she taught at Tri-Valley High School in Grahamsville for 20 years. Afterwards, Lorraine taught business courses at Sullivan County Community College for 10+ years. Also a former member of the Tri-Valley Lions.

Beloved and admired by many of her former students.

A funeral service was held on Friday, January 9, 2026 at the Joseph N. Garlick Funeral Home, 388 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701. Interment immediately followed at the Hurleyville Synagogue Cemetery, Cemetery Road in Hurleyville.

Arrangements are honorably entrusted to the Joseph N. Garlick Funeral Home - 845-794-7474 or www.josephngarlickfuneral-home.com.

DAYS OF YORE.... Today's History

January 11, 1956

Donald Erath of Grahamsville, was elected President of the Grahamsville Choral Society on Wednesday evening at the organization's first meeting of the season at Tri Valley School

Are you tired of carving
the same old thing?
Are you bored with
a January dinner?
To brighten the table,
try frozen foods
And your next meal
will be a winner.
KUM TO KRUM'S

January 12, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Leroy announce the engagement of their daughter, Dorothy Deagle, to James Durland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Durland of Rye, N.Y. Dorothy graduated from Tri Valley High School and is employed at Mayfair Trading Corp. in South Fallsburg. Her fiancé graduated from Port Jervis High School and served two years in the U. S. Tymers in Sparrowbush, N.Y.

Miss Nancy Seaman of Neversink has sold her general store to her niece, Mrs. Jessie Bailey. Mrs. Seaman will make her home there and we wish her many years of good health and happiness in her retirement. (Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History

(From Pg. 2)

January 14, 1976

Dr. Charles S. Rubenstein, 79, of Neversink, died at Community General Hospital, Liberty. He was born in Syracuse on August 27, 1896 to Abraham and Bessie Levine Rubenstein and was an 11-year resident of the area. He was married to the former Sylvia Komorsky. He is survived by his widow; two sons, Lionel of East Northport, N.Y. and Brian, at home; three daughters from out of the area; two stepsons, Steve and Glenn, and a step-daughter, Esta all of Neversink; one brother and one sister, also from out of the area.

January 23, 1986

Congratulations to Cecelia Rutkowski of Grahamsville who has been promoted to associate director for Community General Hospital of Sullivan County. Mrs. Rutkowski has been associated with Community Gen. Hospital since 1968.

Harry Rubenzahl of Neversink, a self-employed bulk mail distributor, and a 46-year area resident, died unexpectedly Monday, January 13th at Ellenville Community Hospital. He was 56. The son of the late Moe and Clara Morell Rubenzahl, he was born Nov. 29, 1929. Mr. Rubenzahl was a member and treasurer of the Neversink Fire Department and the Neversink Ambulance Corps, and the Neversink "Fireman of the Year" in 1975. He was also a former Cub and Boy Scout Master. He is survived by his wife, Marion Budow Rubenzahl, at home; four sons: Moe, Arthur and Murray, all of California and Marty of Puerto Rico

Household Hint:

Luminous Light Switch

A dab of glow-in-the-dark paint means no more groping for the light switch in the dark. You can buy glow-in-the-dark paint at hardware stores and home centers.

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

Sumac -a Gift from Nature

It definitely has been a white winter. One of the gifts of nature are the beautiful bright red berries on the Staghorn Sumac trees?

Some of the berries are still left, however deer and other wild animals have been eating the berries as many of the other seed producing plants that usually provide a Smorgasbord of winter staples for the birds and wild animals have been buried under the snow.

The Staghorn Sumac are considered shrubs and small trees that can reach a height of three to thirty-three feet. During late spring the leaves are spirally arranged. They are usually pinnately compound. That means the leaflets are arranged on either side of the stem, typically in pairs opposite each other. The leaves are 2 feet long and sometimes longer consisting of 9-31 leaflets. The petioles, the stalk that joins the leaf to the stem have scattered brown hairs; the central stalks are often tinted red. The leaflets grow up to 5" long and 1" across and are narrow and ovalshaped tapering to a point at the end of each leaf. They are serrated along the edges. The upper surface of each leaf is a shiny dark green that becomes red or burgundy during the fall and often remain deep red into winter. Some of the upper stems terminate in individual clusters of greenish yellow flowers. Each flower consists of 5 spreading petals, a calyx with 5 lobes, 5 stamens, and a central pistil. The blooming period occurs during early to mid-summer and lasts about 2-3 weeks. Each flower is replaced by a globose drupe about 1/6" long which is densely covered with bright red hairs. This drupe contains a single seed with a hard coating. The drupes mature during the fall and persist through the winter. If not eaten, the drupes will eventually become dark brown.



Sumacs propagate both by seed that is spread by birds and other animals through their droppings, and by the woody root system that can produce vegetative clones from long runners. The new shoots from rhizomes, forming large clonal colonies. The cloning habit is a blessing if you wish to have soft rounded mounds of growth with the mother stems, the tallest in the center, and younger stems subsequently shorter and shorter toward the edges.

The lower stems, the trunk and branches are brown, hairless, and woody. The short trunk can be up to 9" across in diameter.

Often Sumac are considered "Weeds" and a nuisance. But, amazingly Sumac is a versatile gift from Nature.

From the genus *Rhus* (Sumac), the Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) will be among the first trees in the seed bank to sprout and reach for light, or spread from a remnant stand, after mowing is stopped in a field or lawn.

They are late to lose their leaves and are the earliest and probably the most vibrant of the red fall colored foliage.

Now in the dead of winter, the fruits of the sumac have formed dense clusters of reddish drupes. Not only are they a winter food staple for the deer and wild animals the seeds can be dried and ground into a tangy crimson spice. The Native Americans used the red berries to make a beverage that tastes like lemonade. If you aren't into trying some exotic wild recipes that call for the berries, and if the deer and wild animals don't eat all of the red berries, we may enjoy looking at the attractive little red drupes right into spring!

And today, Sunday, the drupes on the sumac look especially pretty after that quick touch of snow this afternoon!

LOOKING BACK

Beatrice AkerleyPublished January 26, 1995

Where is the snow?

The beautiful sun shining on the ice glistening on the trees is a reminder that winter is here. As I sit here by my kitchen table looking out the glass door I can see the blue jays working so happily on the bread crumbs we put out in our flower boxed on the porch. This is a reminder that winter is moving ahead.

Now how's that for putting some warmth into our January day?

Some of my happiest memories of the good old days are closely tied to winter. Woolly itchy underwear, long button-up-the-side leggings, mittens, scarves, tam-o-shanters, shoe rubbers, evenings sitting in front of a wood stove as the wind blows down our chimney, sending little sparks shooting out from the front of the stove, and I move back just a little to keep my flannel dress from catching on fire... As the lamps are lighted the window shades are pulled down. These are on rollers and can be rolled swiftly to the top again with just a flip of the finger. "Good old days" - I can recall Mother sitting by the stove in her rocking chair reading "Illustrated Companion," and Dad sitting on the opposite side of the stove helping one of us kids with homework or playing a game with them. When this became a little boring Mother would put the tea pot on as Dad headed for the cellar to bring up a pan of apples. Friends often dropped in and children were sent up to bed early, always with good night kisses and hugs.

We had no radio or T.V. to tell us what the weather would be. Our "Dr. Jaynes Almanac" helped a little, but there was nothing like a snowfall to put a little excitement in a winter morning, when I could bring out my sled and ride all the way to school. That slope was thick, deep and long. From our home on top of the slope I could see our teacher come to the school house door to ring the bell, and I usually made it to school just in time to follow her inside. This was before school buses were even thought about, and children quite often made their own paths to school, wading through snow waist deep, and horses were used in plowing snow from roads.

How often I think of those horse-drawn sleighs through the postcard winters of yesterdays.

Taverns in the Early United States VIRTUAL Program by Author Dr. Kirsten Wood

(From Pg. 1) 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!

Admission to this VIRTUAL ONLY program is FREE for Museum Members and \$5 for non-members. To join the program, please register by email at info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org and put Tavern Talk in the subject line, or call 845 985-7700. A link will be sent to you. Non-members are asked to please first make a donation on the Museum's website: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate.

About the Author: Kirsten E. Wood is a specialist in the social and political histories of the early United States. In addition to exploring taverns, she has written about Peggy Eaton and Andrew Jackson's presidential sex scandal, enslaving widows' social and economic power, the harmonic ideal in patriotic music, and the opportunities for joy and pleasure in the young nation's public places. She is a professor of history at Florida International University and earned her PhD and MA from the University of Pennsylvania and her BA from Princeton University. She is associate professor of history at Florida International University and the author of *Masterful Women*:

About the Time and the Valleys Museum: Connecting Water People and the Catskills, the Museum is open Memorial Day through September, Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., and other times by appointment. Located at 332 Main Street in Grahamsville (St. Rt. 55), Sullivan County, admission for adults is \$10, children under 16 \$2, and children under six are free.

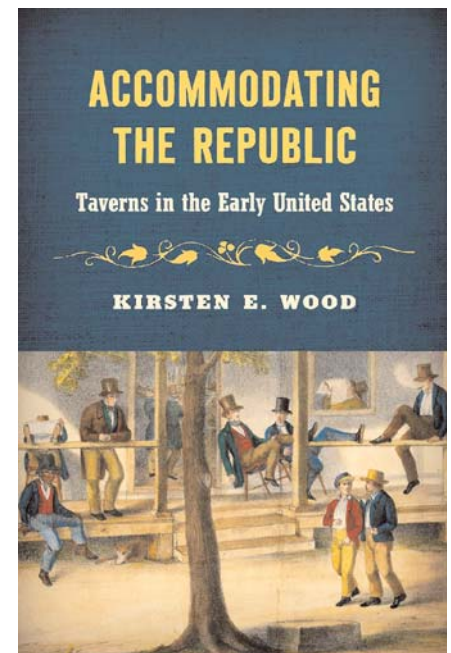
Museum exhibitions are interactive and both fun and educational for all ages:

o Water and the Valleys, an exhibit on the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th century. This exhibition includes interactives such as a Native American artifact guessing game, grinding corn with a mortar and pestle, videos and more.

o Tunnels, Toil and Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story, an interactive exhibit on NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system, which includes computer interactives, games, puzzles, videos and building a dam and tunnel.

o 1930s Lost Catskill Farm, a farmhouse, outhouse, barn, electric plant, milk house, working waterwheel and many other buildings help visitors experience life in the 1930s through displays, videos, games and hands on activities.

The Time and the Valleys Museum is proud to be a Blue Star Museum, providing free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information call 845 985-7700, e-mail info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org or visit www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. To schedule a field trip for schools, or group tour for children or adults, please call 845-985-7700.



Tri-Valley Lions January 5, 2026 at Casa Mia in Hurleyville

(From Pg. 1) In all, five Tri-Valley graduates were selected for the Service Awards and had to submit resumes, transcripts, recommendation letters, and proof of their community service hours which were then reviewed by the Community Service Award Committee. We wish them much luck in their future endeavors.



Also at that dinner, Lion Mike Ryan was awarded a pin by Lion President Stephen Miller for bringing in new members to our Club. (See photo) Patricia Menje, Lion Membership Chairperson, was also awarded a pin for bringing in new members to our Club but was unable to attend the January 5th meeting.

Lion Director Stu Wizwer is in process of setting up future eye screenings for Students. Treasurer Terri Delaney confirmed that the Daniel Pierce Library received a donation check in the amount of \$800, as well as a check to Michelle and Jim Gorman in the amount of \$500 to help rebuild after their home fire. We wish the Gorman family the best of luck during their rebuild.

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 49th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey for Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley Lions Club High School Community Service Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes,

Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, Payment for eye exams & glasses, assistance to local families for fires or health emergencies, and so much more. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvac-pat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or srecords@hvc.rr.com

Wishing one and all a happy, HEALTHY, and safe 2026.

EverGreen Meadow Exec. Director Visits Monticello Kiwanis



(From Pg. 1) Adrienne Jensen, Executive Director of EverGreen Meadow Services & Academy, was guest speaker at a recent Monticello Kiwanis Club Meeting. She shared an interesting and informative presentation describing EverGreen's support programs and services for adolescent girls who are struggling with emotional and behavioral impacts of trauma, anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges in our community as well as across the entire New York State. They are in the process of opening a residential treatment and middle school campus in Rock Hill to serve these young girls. They are also partnering with local schools and community-based organizations to help deliver empowerment and preventive programs.

The mission of EverGreen Meadow is to serve lives and open pathways to brighten futures, one girl at a time. Their mission is similar to that of Kiwanis, which is to improve the world one child and one community at a time.

The Monticello Kiwanis Club meets the first Monday of the Month at 6:00 PM at Albella's Restaurant in Monticello, NY. For further information regarding their activities, check out Monticello NY Kiwanis Club Facebook Page.



Happy New Year Everyone!

Here it is already 2026 and 2025 is just a memory. And NRAMA made some great memories in 2025.

We had our elections for our 2026 officers and board of directors. Bruce Arwe was elected to the Board of Directors which includes Chair Walt Zeitschel, Russ Turner, Pete Getzoni and Lloyd Greer. Everyone unanimously voted to keep our existing officers: Paul Kelly-president, Seymour Streigold-vice president, Kathy Kelly-Treasurer, and Eloise McKeon-Secretary. The Board of Directors also established a new Communications Specialist position with the responsibility of sharing NRAMA club information with our club members and to the communities. President Kelly appointed Cher Woehl to this position. And in 2025 we welcomed Justin Garlinghouse, John Melican, Larry Mueller and Ken & Michelle Richardson as new members to the club.

NRAMA was very excited to award two scholarships in 2025. Our well-deserved recipients were William Reilly of Swan Lake and Katie Dauch of Hurleyville.

2025 saw the club participating in several events including the Ellenville and Montgomery parades and the Ellenville Annual Wings and Wheels for Warriors. We held poker runs that were not only successful but a lot of fun for everyone. And of course we cannot forget our annual Tractor Show celebrating our 25 years. And what a successful show it was with record numbers of attendees, tractors and hit and miss engines, we had lots of show cars sponsored thru the Catskill Region AACA car club and we welcomed the return of the Sportsman Flea Market sponsored by the Ulster Heights Rod & Gun Club.

2025 was a very good year for NRAMA! But that year is over and we are gearing up for 2026. Plans for our annual tractor show are already in the works! We are so excited to have the Catskill Region AACA Car Club returning for this year's show. The Ulster Heights Rod & Gun club will be sponsoring the Sportsman Vendor Fair again and they have begun getting their vendors for the show. This year's featured tractors are the CASE, MOLENE and OLIVER tractors. All tractors are welcome and all tractors can qualify for trophies, except for the featured tractors trophy. So if you don't own a featured tractor, no worries---bring what you do own to the show. All tractors---all makes---all models---are welcome!

As the newly appointed Communications Specialist, I will be providing updates on the clubs activities and events throughout the year. And as we do every year, we will share that information through the Townsman and on our Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Association (NRAMA) Facebook page.

If readers have any suggestions for the club events or for the tractor show please let me know. I can be reached at cherwoehl@gmail.com. I look forward to bringing you the news about NRAMA and also to hearing from you on ideas you may have for the club.

Thanks everyone---Be safe and stay healthy

Cher Woehl,
NRAMA Communications Specialist



Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 163
The Warehouse
Mysterious Book Report No. 392
by John Dwaine McKenna
Published January 16, 2020

Seldom, if ever, does a genre novel manage to hit as many topics at once as *The Warehouse*, (Crown, \$27.00, 355 pages, ISBN 978-1--848-2379-3) by Rob Hart. The story is altogether plausible, frighteningly real, and a possible roadmap to where the world is heading if we don't do something to corral the corporate monsters that are gobbling every small business in sight growing fatter and fatter in our midst . . . while Congress does nothing. The prescience of this enjoyable and very readable novel is breathtaking.

The story begins when a broke young man named Paxton applies for a job at a Master Cloud facility. It's a shipping center for an on-line company called the Cloud Corporation . . . commonly "The Warehouse." It's only one of many such facilities, a place so large that once inside, it's impossible to see where the walls begin or end, while outside, the fleets of delivery drones are so massive that they blot out the sun.

Paxton is hired as a security guard and becomes one of three narrators who'll tell the tale. The other two are a young woman on a secret mission, whose name is Zinnia. She's a picker . . . someone who retrieves items throughout the voluminous building . . . and sends them on for shipping. The third, and last of the protagonists is Gibson, the founder of the Cloud Corporation. He's writing his memoirs as he travels the country in a luxury custom built bus, visiting various Mother Cloud centers and polishing his image . . . as he's dying of cancer.

Together the three disparate points of view reveal the whole account of a turbocharged Amazon-like company on steroids. It's one that has first readers, other writers and commentators of all kinds raving . . . while at the same time scaring the rest of us out of our shorts, because it appears to be so close to actuality. Read *The Warehouse* for yourself and see why Publisher's Weekly calls it "Rob Hart's Break out book." The MBR agrees. It's the most thought provoking of all dystopian thrillers we've ever reviewed!

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.

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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

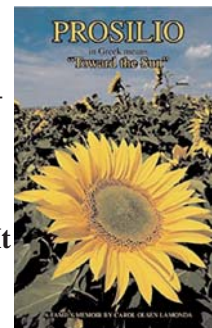
Joys and Petty Annoyances

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice.

Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!

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



So yesterday, I met my neighbor at the Library Annex in Shokan and she asked me, "How's the new year going for you?" I was taken aback because I did not know how to answer. The first nine days of January seemed like nine months long when I think of all of the events swirling around me.

Should I tell about how my cat Arlo jumped off a shelf and landed on the lever faucet in the bathroom sink and flooded the basement garage? Should I tell her how grateful we were to

return from Aruba just before Christmas (we could see Venezuela and the tankers and destroyers from our villa patio). Perhaps I could share how it feels like you are drowning internally from the new H3N2 strand of the flu which lasts three weeks to a month. I chose not to complain about the snow and ice and cold and gray weather.

Or should I share the wonderful gifts we received from family and friends? I could mention that we went to a fantastic New Year's Eve party and we old folk lasted until 10:30 p.m., a new record for me staying up late. I could have talked about the two kittens, now growing into

cats, that entertain us with their antics and their affection.

I could have commented on the political/economic chaos we are enduring, but I chose the high road and bit my tongue.

Answering in non-plussed pleasantries instead of anecdotes, I replied to Sharon after a long hesitation with a half-hearted smile/grimace and said, "Okay. How about you?"

Is it only the second week of January?



February Happenings at the DPL

Read to a bunny,
cut up a book...
just to name a few!

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE –Bring out your calendars, it's time to start taking note of some really spectacular programs and events going on at the DPL in the next few weeks.

First up, Cornell Cooperative Extension representatives are hosting a D.I.Y Energy Savings Session here on Thursday, February 5 from 6:00 to 7:00PM. Register through sullivanccce.org/events or by calling 845-292-6180 to join the program and learn valuable skills and information, such as: simple “do-it-yourself” actions that will save on your energy bill, all about heat pumps, insulation, and a variety of incentives for home energy upgrades.

Register now (through our website) to participate in Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow on Friday, February 13 from 1:00-2:30PM. Join Chris in exploring watercolor techniques with floral still life painting and learn all the ins and outs of this traditional art form from the local artist herself. No prior experience is necessary; however, space is limited so register as soon as possible. Additionally, there is a \$5 supply fee and the program is for Tri-Valley adult residents only.

While browsing all the incredible happenings on our website, don't forget to pre-order your Mardi Gras Donuts! We'll be in our baking glory on Tuesday, February 17 from 9AM to 3PM whipping up our deliciously popular donuts. Donuts can be ordered cinnamon sugar, plain or mixed for \$9.00 a dozen. To order, visit our website and fill out the quick order form, call us at 845/985-7233 or stop in and order at the adult circulation desk. Every purchase supports all the wonderful things we do here, so thank you for ordering!

Also on February 17, from 11:00-1:00PM, we'll be celebrating “Take Your Child to the Library Day.” Join us in celebration by participating in crafts, including really fun snowflake cookie decorating, other hands-on



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activities and reading fabulous books. If you're here from 12:00-1:00PM, you'll be able to read to a very special guest, Marke, a blue Holicer bunny! All Tri-Valley child residents are invited to attend this fun-filled afternoon at the library. While here, please register for our Spring Children's Programs: Mother Goose, Toddler Time and Story Hour. If your child attended in the fall, you would register them for the same program as then.

Have you seen that cool book art activity on Pinterest-where you cut words or cute designs into the pages? Have you wanted to try it? Well, now's your chance. Join us on February 26 from 6:00-7:00PM and find out how to do it. All materials will be supplied and no experience is necessary, so grab a friend or two and join in on this fun evening out at the library. Just remember to register on our website beforehand.

And that's just February-there's so much more going on, including our very popular 5 Hour Pre-Licensing Class for Permit Holders on Saturday March 21 from 10AM to 3PM-so always keep an eye on our website or social media platforms for upcoming program information.



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- How to measure artwork and plan mat openings
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- Tips for achieving crisp corners and professional results

What's included

- All materials provided or bring your own mat board and mat cutter and skip the materials fee!
- A new mat cutter to take home

Workshop Fee

\$15 ASK Members, \$25 Non-members.

\$35 materials fee

When

Sunday, January 25, 1:30 - 3:30

Enroll Here

https://askforarts.org/mat-cutting-workshop-enrollment/?mc_cid=75533cbb06&mc_eid=5bb4c202f9



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DEC Reminds New Yorkers to Stay Alert for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

*Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
in Wild Birds Expected to Increase
Over Winter Months*

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to infect birds and mammals across the U.S. and Canada, including New York State. With wild bird mortalities from HPAI increasing in late fall and peaking over the winter months, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds New Yorkers to stay alert.

"Under Governor Hochul's leadership, DEC is taking a proactive approach with our coordinated effort to monitor potential signs of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in wild birds," said DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. "We have a great web-based tool for the public to use to report any signs the viral disease is spreading to different areas of the state."

HPAI is carried by free-flying waterfowl and other waterbirds, such as ducks, geese, and shorebirds, but can also infect domestic poultry, raptors, corvids, and mammals. DEC's Wildlife Health Program is monitoring the spread and impact of HPAI throughout the state and has an online reporting tool the public can use to report suspected HPAI mortalities: NYSDEC Avian Influenza Reporting Form. Updates on HPAI can be found on the Cornell Wildlife Health Lab website.

DEC advises the public to avoid any contact with sick or dead birds and mammals that may be infected with HPAI.

There is no way to contain HPAI infection in wild birds. Be aware that the clinical signs for HPAI infection in wildlife are nonspecific and may be similar to other diseases or injuries. Waterfowl, waterbirds, raptors, and scavenging birds are at higher risk of infection, but any species could potentially be infected, including mammals. HPAI-infected birds may be asymptomatic or may exhibit signs of respiratory distress (sneezing or nasal discharge), lethargy, neurologic malfunction (ataxia, stargazing, or seizures), diarrhea, weakness, or sudden death.

State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "While avian influenza continues to affect wildlife, the risk to humans remain low. New Yorkers can stay safe by avoiding contact with sick or dead birds and animals and reporting anything unusual. We're keeping a close eye on the situation and will continue to share updates as needed."



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State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Department of Health, and the Department of Environmental Conservation are working together to ensure an aggressive, coordinated, and proactive approach in response to outbreaks of HPAI across the nation. Our department's proactive efforts to prevent the spread of HPAI, including implementing testing and import requirements for dairy cattle, remain in place. In addition, as we are in the midst of the migratory season, we encourage vigilance and remind our farmers to take precautionary measures with strong biosecurity practices on the farm."

DEC staff response to a suspected HPAI mortality event depends on the specific event. Because the disease is widespread in wild birds and cannot be contained, strategic surveillance is the best approach. DEC prioritizes response to significant mortality events for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, crows, ravens, or any eagles or other raptors in counties where HPAI has not been detected. With the exception of larger events, sensitive locations, or vulnerable species, a physical response by staff is not necessary or likely in most cases.

Where DEC staff do not provide a physical response and removal is deemed necessary by the landowner, DEC advises landowners to use disposable gloves, a mask, and eye protection. Additionally, DEC advises against direct contact with the carcass or carcass fluids by recommending the use of a shovel and washing hands and clothing with soap and hot water immediately afterward. Carcasses disposed of in this way should be triple bagged (garbage or contractor bags) and put in an outdoor trash receptacle for trash pickup or deposited at a local landfill.

There is no treatment for HPAI, and transporting suspected HPAI-infected birds to wildlife rehabilitation facilities is discouraged to prevent the spread of the disease to other animals in care. Guidance has also been provided to licensed wildlife rehabilitators to help them minimize risks to animals in their care and to aid them in their interactions with the public.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that the recent HPAI detections in birds pose a low risk to the public. HPAI H5N1 has been detected in more than 70 humans in the U.S., including two mortalities; most of these cases involved close contact with infected domestic birds or cows. There is likely little risk for the public, but people with close or prolonged unprotected contact with infected birds or virus-contaminated environments, especially immunocompromised people, are at greater risk of infection. No human-to-human transmission of the virus has been documented.

Status of HPAI in New York State

Since it was first introduced into New York State in January 2022, HPAI has been documented in captive birds in multiple counties and detected in free-ranging wild birds and mammals throughout the state. Wild bird mortalities from HPAI increase in late fall and peak over the winter months, then typically decrease in the late spring and summer months. At this point, it is widespread in wild birds and even suspected to be present in counties where it has not yet been detected. Species of wild birds confirmed as infected in New York State commonly include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, swans, other waterfowl, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, other raptors, crows, and shorebirds. Songbirds and other passerine birds do not appear to be highly susceptible to infection.

DEC Seeks Public Input on Draft Policy to Improve Access to Outdoor Recreation for People with Disabilities

• *New Policy Provides Framework for Identifying Opportunities for the Use of Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices*

• *Written Comments Accepted until Monday, March 9; Virtual Public Meeting on Wednesday, February 4*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced the release of a draft Commissioner Policy to improve access to the outdoors for people with mobility disabilities. The proposed policy guides the use of Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) on DEC-managed lands by consolidating and streamlining several existing DEC policies and procedures and establishes a framework to identify new opportunities for the use of OPDMDs by people with mobility disabilities.

“DEC manages nearly 5 million acres of land to conserve natural resources while providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, from hiking and bicycling, to camping and hunting,” Commissioner Lefton said. “Forests and natural areas provide physical and mental health benefits to millions of New Yorkers and this proposed policy would improve transparency and help ensure those benefits are available to people of all abilities.”

DEC welcomes all visitors to explore State lands and is committed to providing an ever-increasing range of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The new policy is part of DEC's ongoing efforts to making reasonable modifications to the State's general policies, practices, and procedures to ensure that people with disabilities are afforded equitable access, without taking any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs, services, or activities.

OPDMDs are battery or fuel-powered devices, other than wheelchairs, used for locomotion - including golf carts, scooters, e-bikes, and other personal mobility devices. DEC currently administers an accommodation program for people with mobility disabilities and is committed to advancing accessibility for people with disabilities.

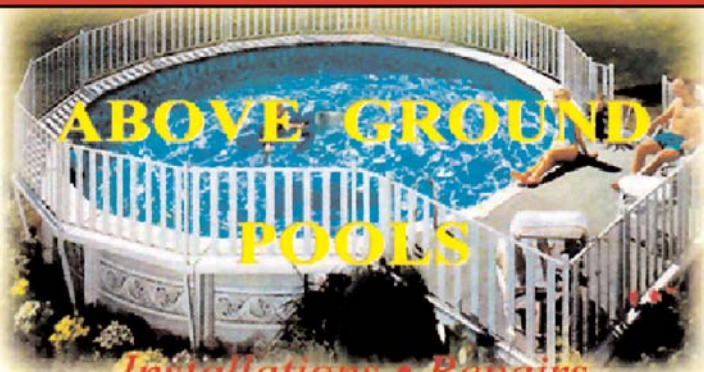
The new draft policy is intended to replace Commissioner Policy 3 (Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities), continuing the permitted opportunities identified under that policy for cars, trucks, and ATVs, while also expanding opportunities for a wider range of devices.

The proposal provides clear information about public recreation opportunities that allow OPDMD uses in select locations across the state, provide guidance for evaluating additional device uses over time. The proposal also identifies areas of DEC-managed lands where certain categories of OPDMDs would not be allowed due to public safety issues, risks to natural resources, or other concerns.

Written comments on the draft policy will be accepted through March 9, 2026. DEC is also hosting a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 6 p.m. for those interested in learning more. To register for the public meeting, or to access the draft policy and provide comments, visit DEC's website.

For information about DEC's accessible recreation destinations and explore the range of wheelchair-accessible opportunities statewide, including an interactive online map to identify accessible features on DEC lands, visit DEC's website.

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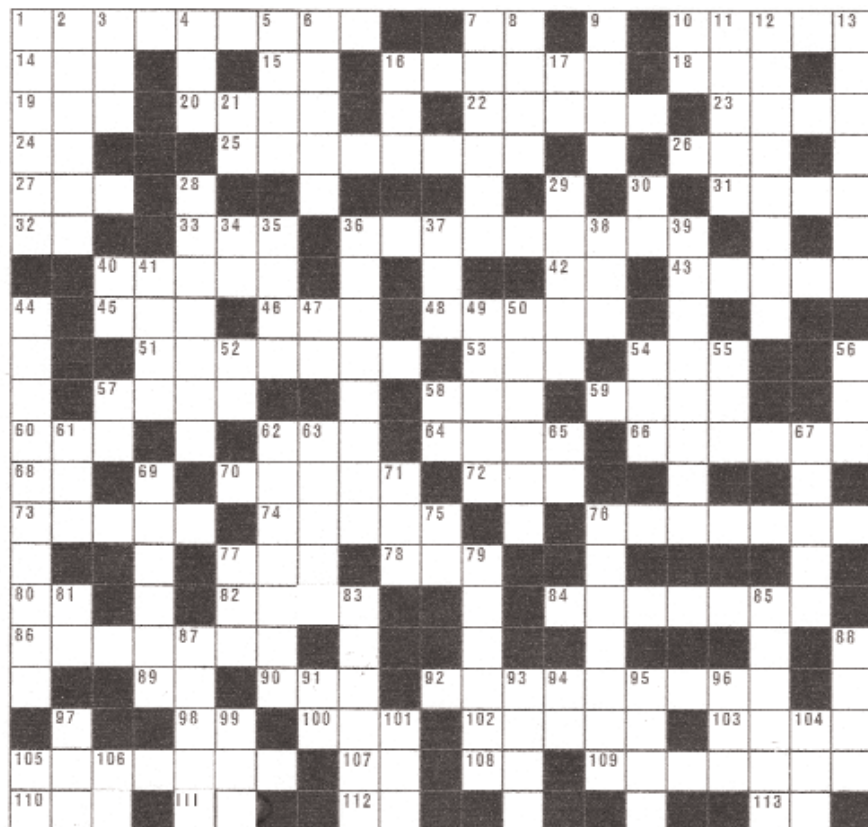
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ACROSS

1 Aware
7 Low rate
10 Vision
14 Exists
15 United States
16 Discourse
18 One of the slender curved bone protection the thoracic cavity
19 Nocturnal flying mammal
20 Large amount
22 Not silent
23 Relating to teenagers
24 Nearby
25 Study of the nature of God
26 Deca
27 Less than average height
31 Perceives with the eyes
32 Chem. element Argon
33 Staff
36 College attended by Martin Luther King, Jr.
40 Turned to ice

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

General of the U.N. from '58-'61
80 Northeast
82 part of the human psyche
84 Birthplace of Martin Luther King, JR.
86 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s wife
89 Regarding
90 Term for Cantonese language
92 Where Tom Smith was in 1958
98 Ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter
100 Short sleep
102 Yiddish dish
103 "___ & Andy"
105 Submissive
107 Modus operandi
108 Surrounded by something
109 Icons
110 Curved line
111 Delaware
112 Chem. element tellurium
113 Road

DOWN

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

34 Frank Baum's fantasy land
35 Not shallow
36 Cleric
37 The color of Black Alder berries
38 Employ
39 Egalitarianism
40 Florida
41 Capital of Italy
44 Refuse to comply
47 Exclamation of surprise
49 Belonging to Adam and Eve's garden
50 Relating to mental intellect
52 Mountain
54 Mutilate
55 Badger
56 Belonging to him
57 Trademark
58 Bachelor of Arts
61 Female saint
62 Celebration
63 Slender woodwind with a double reed mouthpiece
65 That thing

67 Small freshwater tropical brightly colored fish
69 Overseer
71 Organized and directed
75 South America
76 Seats of a few chairs
77 Excavation
79 Noted civil rights leader in India
81 Executive

Order
83 had a cherished aspiration
85 Quake
87 Lukewarm
88 Multitude
91 United Nations
93 Penny
94 Hour
95 Lines of light
96 Chat
97 Face value of a stock

99 I have (contraction)
101 Author of "The Raven"
104 Not new
105 Father
106 State that officially began to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as an official holiday in 2000

Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce

3 large eggs
1-1/4 cups milk
1/2 cup sugar
3 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon salt
1-1/4 cups raisins
4-1/2 cups day-old cubed brioche or Challah bread

Bourbon Sauce:

1/4 cup butter, cubed
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup light corn syrup
3 tablespoons bourbon

In a large bowl, whisk together first eight ingredients. Place bread in a greased baking dish. Pour egg mixture over the bread. Bake at 350° for 30 to 40 minutes or when a clean knife stuck into baked pudding comes out clean.

For sauce, place butter, sugar and corn syrup in a small saucepan; bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Cook and stir until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat; stir in bourbon. Serve warm with bread pudding.

数字は単数に限る

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

Answer on page 23

To play SUDOKO online:
<https://sudoku.com>

CRYPTOGRAM

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

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

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

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. - Word Search



FREEDOM
CULTURE
RACE
RELIGION
AGE

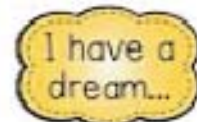
GENDER
DISABILITY
SPEECH
PRESS
LIBERTY



Find 5 differences between the two pictures?

Cryptogram Key

11	4	20	12	24	21	25	16	4	9	14	1	13	5	10	2	26	3	25	22	11	22	19	16	9	22
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



Start

Finish



Kids'
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Fun Page

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(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week
1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week
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Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week
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1st Friday BOOK CLUB



The first
Friday of
every month.

Daniel Pierce Library 1st Friday Book Club

Friday, February 06, 2026 • 1:00 PM

1st Friday Book Club Type: Adults

Location: Upper Level - Conference Room

Join our book club each month and
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LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Neversink Fire District 2026 Pool Staff Posting

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

Dana Vogler, Secretary

1/15 -RTF

LEGAL NOTICE

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, a meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Thursday, January 22, 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

LEGAL NOTICE

BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, a Board of Education Retreat will be held on **Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 5:45 p.m.** prevailing time, at the **Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School, Lower Level Collaboration Center.**

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

Heather Bonnell

Tri-Valley Central School District Clerk

SLAC Agenda January 30, 2026

Happy New Year all! Our next meeting will be held in the Legislators Meeting Room, at 10 AM, Friday January 30, 2026.

We will be evaluating the ACC, and the repeal of the staffing requirements established in a 2024 rule.

We will discuss the merger of the Garnet Hospital Systems with the Montefiore Hospital Systems. This is of great concern, since the major decisions will be made by Montefiore management, which could be disastrous for Sullivan County residents. We will discuss the Alliance for Integrity and Reform Coalition, which is applauding the reintroduction of the 340B Access Act, which prevents tax-exempt hospitals and their for profit partners from enriching themselves with program discounts while driving up costs for patients.

Last but not least, we will find out if the site of the Homeless Transition Shelter has been decided.

Hope to see you, and bring a friend.

DEC Announces Licensed Guide Program 2026 Exam Dates

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced upcoming dates for the New York State Licensed Guide exam. Licensed Guides offer services for hire, including directing, instructing, or aiding another individual in camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, whitewater rafting/canoeing/kayaking, rock climbing, and ice climbing. To provide enhanced access, DEC is offering these examinations online and free-of-charge.

“As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the customer experience, DEC is proud to offer these free examinations online,” said DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. “This process makes it easier for individuals to apply and take part in helping others safely and responsibly enjoy New York's incredible outdoor recreational opportunities.”

To become a licensed guide, a person must be 18 or older. Applicants are not required to be a resident of New York State to receive a guide's license. All exams will be online, except for the in-person exam offered at the New York State Outdoor Guides Association (NYSOGA) Winter Rendezvous meeting on March 28, 2026. Exam and registration instructions can be found on DEC's Licensed Guide Program webpage.

(Contd. Pg. 19)

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 Grahamsville 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.

DEC Announces Licensed Guide Program 2026 Exam Dates

(From Pg. 18)

2026 Licensed Guide Examination Schedule

Exam Date	Exam Times	Registration Must Received by:
Jan. 29, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Jan. 28, 2026
Feb. 20, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Feb. 19, 2026
March 28, 2026	NYSOGA meeting only	March 21, 2026
April 14, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	April 13, 2026
May 12, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	May 11, 2026
June 11, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	June 10, 2026
July 9, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	July 8, 2026
Aug 21, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	August 20, 2026
Sept. 15, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Sept. 14, 2026
Oct 23, 2026	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	October 22, 2026

To register, visit the Licensed Guide Exams Registration Website. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging registration with a one-time link to access the exam on the specified exam date. Upon successful completion of the exam, applicants will receive information on applying for the license, including an application form. Please do not send applications or fees prior to passing the examination.

An outline of exam content and a study guide can be found on DEC's Licensed Guide Program webpage. The "Scouting America Fieldbook" is also recommended as a reference and is available online.

For questions or assistance please contact:
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Email: SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov

Phone: 518-402-8985, Fax: 518-402-8925

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(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week
(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week
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Grahamsville Rod & Gun Club Elects 2026 Officers

Member Jayden Siegler Bags '2'

Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club female member JAYDEN SIEGLER got the "Hunting Daily Double" announced President Todd Brown at the Club's January Holiday Meeting on January 8, 2026.

During the past hunting season, Jayden bagged two deer, an 8 point buck with a bow and arrow and a 7 point buck during rifle season.

Carl Van Valkenburg received the club award for the largest 8 point deer by rifle. Jim Allison shot an 8 pointer with an exceptionally wide rack. By the Sullivan County Democrat's measurement it was estimated to measure over 70 inches. It was shot atop the mountain in Claryville.

The judges were William Siegler and former Neversink Town Judge Mike Scagnelli. There were no muzzle loader hunters this year.

All the 2025 Officers were re-elected this year. They are:

President - Todd Brown
Vice President - Jayden Siegler
Secretary - Tara Philhower
Treasurer - Gary Ter Bush
Trustee - Tom Mitchell
Trustee - Greg Ter Bush

Nineteen members met at the First Aid Building with refreshments.

Special mention must be given to the two large bulging apple pies, specially baked by Lee Brown (the President's wife). According to Todd, the pies were baked with three types of apples. Then she added some pears. The members finished both pies.

Written by,

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Brenner, Esq.

Carlye Bertholf Named Fallsburg Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel



FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce Ms. Carlye Bertholf as their new Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel.

Ms. Bertholf previously served as a Special Education teacher at the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School since 2010. She was among several teachers at Fallsburg that participated in the district's Grow Our Own administrative internship program, which allows teachers to explore a potential career in an administrative role.

Despite being a part of the internship, she stated that she was much more content with remaining as a teacher. However, she was reminded by fellow colleagues that she could make a significant impact as an administrator. When the opportunity was presented to her, she took advantage.

When asked about her long-term goals in her new role, she hopes to build on the many programs the department has to offer and share with the school community all of the important things it can offer. "I'm hoping to be more of an educational leader and grow the programs that are already here," said Ms. Bertholf.

The Fallsburg Central School District wishes her the best of luck in her new role.



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

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

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

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

If so, please call or email

Time and the Valleys Museum, Grahamsville
director@timeandthevalleymuseum.org 845 985-7700

All loans will be gratefully acknowledged in the exhibition

Thank you so much!



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

**INDOOR
YARD
and
CLOTHING
SALE**

Will be
opened
every
Friday
from
10 - 3

**Something
for
Everyone!**



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
Joyous
New Year!**

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

Mass Times

Sat: Vigil 4:00 PM • Sun: 9:00 AM

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

Parochial Vicar: Father Thomas

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

Pastor Kenneth Ronk

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

**Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church**

**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

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

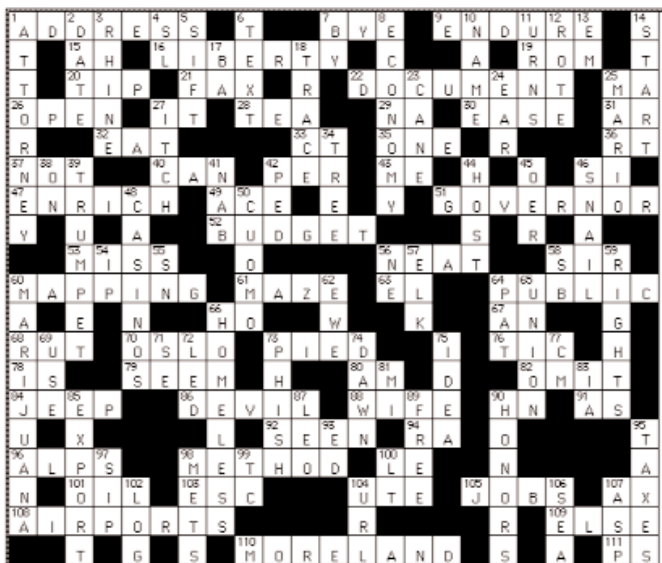
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

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

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

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!



Daniel Pierce Library Hours

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

\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/14/2026 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting
- 1/15/2026 Neversink Fire Commissioners' Meeting 7 pm
- 1/15/2026 Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting—6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
- 1/18/2026 Claryville FD **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** 8 am - 12 noon
- 1/19/2026 Town of Neversink Holiday **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**
- 1/20/2026 Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 1/9/2026)
- 2/4/2026 Town of Neversink Planning Board -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 1/23/2026)
- 2/10/2026 Denning Town Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
- 2/11/2026 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting
- 2/19/2026 Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting—6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY

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

January 12, 2026 - January 16, 2026

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

Monday, January 12

- **4:30 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Board**, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 813 4486 7408 Passcode: 425746
- **4:00 PM 4:30 PM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- **5:00 PM** (or immediately following UCIDA Governance Committee) - **Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Governance Committee**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- **5:00 PM - Ulster County Community Services Board, in the Ulster County Department of Mental Health**, 368 Broadway, 4th Floor, Kingston

Tuesday, January 13

- **5:00 PM - Ulster County Board of Health**, at the Department of Health, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Director's Conference Room, Kingston
- **6:00 PM - Ulster County Board of Ethics**, at the Ulster County Human Services Complex, 100 Development Court, Building #2, Veterans Services Entrance, Kingston

Wednesday, January 14

- **5:00 PM - Recycling Oversight Committee**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, January 15

- **5:30 PM - Ulster County Youth Board**, at the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

Friday, January 16

- No Meetings

ACCOMMODATING THE REPUBLIC

Taverns in the Early United States

KIRSTEN E. WOOD



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

UlsterCorps' 17th Annual Celebration of Service

**when: Saturday, January
17th, 2026, 12-2:30pm
where: Rosendale
Recreation Center
1055 NY-32, Rosendale**

A thank you event honoring all volunteers in Ulster County

Celebrating your service to the community and honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Volunteers from ALL Ulster County non-profits are welcome at UlsterCorps' 17th Annual MLK Day Celebration of Service at the Rosendale Recreation Center, 1055 NY-32, Rosendale, NY Saturday, January 17th, 2026 from 12-2:30pm (Monday, January 19th snow date). The event honors volunteers from service organizations throughout Ulster County for their hard work and dedication.

The event will celebrate the broad circle of kindness and generosity that knits us together as a community and demonstrates the value of the volunteer spirit across all generations. The event is free and will include live music by Ubaka Hill - Drumsong Orchestra and Women of the World, lunch and refreshments, and raffle prizes.

Attendees can choose to join us for a sit-down meal together, or simply stop by for a to-go box. There will also be an event program listing the names of all volunteers who pre-register by January 12th, as well as all businesses and agency partners contributing raffle items and supporting the event.

To register for this free event, please email register@ulster-corps.org or call/text (845) 481-0331. Please register by January 13th if you would like your name and the agency where you volunteer included in the event program.

Thank you so much to our sponsors and supporters: Hudson Valley Farm Hub; Ulster Savings Bank; Cornell Coopertative Extension of Ulster County; Hudson Valley Credit Union; Heidi & Ruth Froelich; Normann Staffing; Angel Food East; Bardavon; Blackboard Bistro; Blue Mountain Bistro-to-Go; Bread Alone; Bruderhof; Catskill Candle Studio; Damn Good Honey Farm; Deborah & Michael DeWan; Fidelis Care; Garden Cafe; GDB Adventure and Aromatherapy Soap; Green Cottage; Hash; High Falls Co-Op; Hudson Valley Catering; Hudson Valley Seed Company; Hurds Family Farm; Keegan Ales; LOUD - Latin Outreach, Unity and Development; Michael DeWan Appraisal & Assoc.; Main Course Catering; Max's Kansas City Project; Mohonk Preserve; People's Place; RCAL; Rondout Valley Growers Association; Rondout Valley Lions Club; Rochester Food Pantry; Seasoned Delicious; The Bakery; The Big Cheese; The Oldehoff Family, The UPS Store; Tops Friendly Markets; Town of Rosendale; Yum Yum Noodle Bar.

UC DEMS
ULSTER COUNTY DEMOCRATS

ANNUAL MLK DAY OF ACTION & REFLECTION

DROP-IN | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

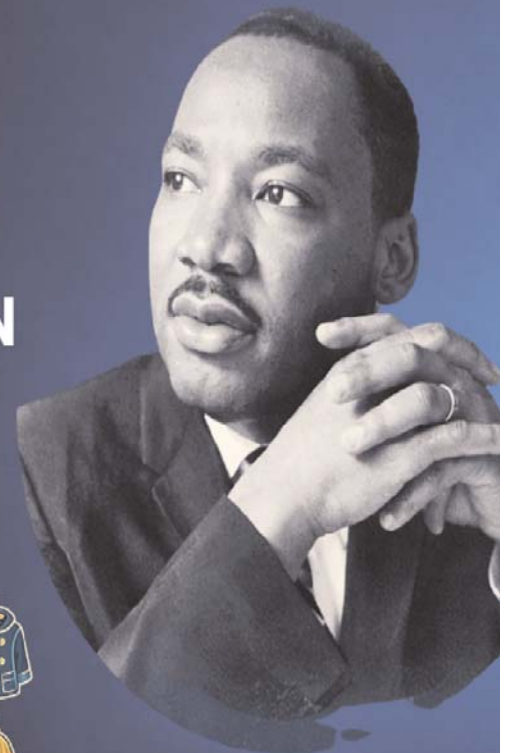
Monday, January 19th

Location: UCDC HQ
791 Broadway, Kingston NY

Winter Clothing Donation Drop-Off

Bring coats, hats, gloves, boots, scarves, and sweaters.

Donations will be distributed to those in need in the Ulster County community.



**On this MLK Day, let's come
together in solidarity,
resilience, and commitment
to democracy as we move
forward into 2026 and
beyond.**



Daniel Pierce Library
Mardi Gras
Donuts

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

Pre-
orders
Preferred

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

To order:



Call us at 845-985-7233



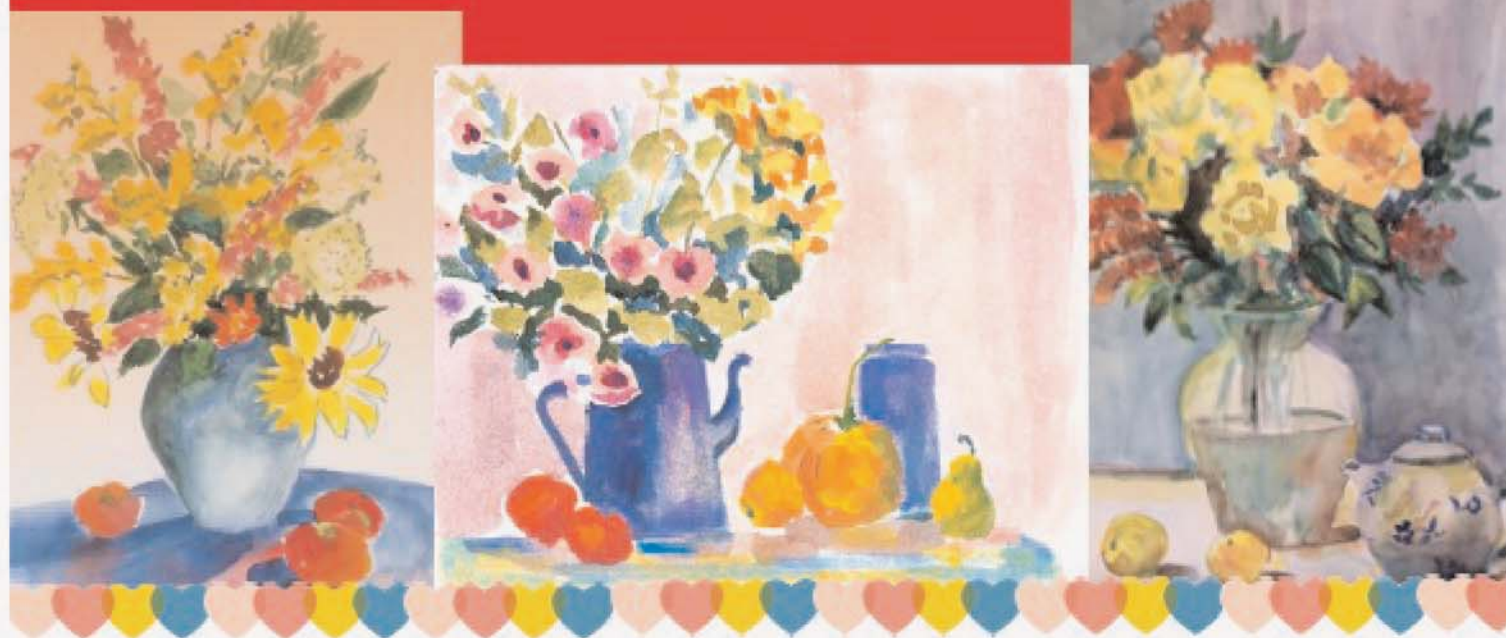
Place an online order at danielpiercelibrary.org



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

Thank You for your continued
support!

Daniel Pierce Library



Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow

Flowers speak the language of love ♥

Friday, February 13, 2026

1:00-2:30 p.m.

\$5 Supply Fee

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

No experience necessary, limited space available. Adults only.

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

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



Daniel Pierce Library

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

Sullivan 180 Supports Families and Promotes Wellness with Sixth Annual Peace, Love & Lights Walk Thru

[LIBERTY, NY] Sullivan 180 invited the community to step out of their cars and walk through the dazzling lights at Bethel Woods for the sixth annual Peace, Love & Lights' Walk-Thru Mondays. Guests were encouraged to explore the drive-through light installation up close while supporting great causes in our community.

This year's campaign continued its focus on promoting physical activity during the winter months while also benefiting the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless and other local organizations. Walkers who brought a new, unwrapped toy or non-perishable food item were given free admission, helping spread holiday cheer to families in need.

"The holidays can be a financially and emotionally challenging time for families already struggling to make ends meet," said Kathy Kreiter, Director of the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. "The support provided by Sullivan 180 and the community lets them know that people really do care."

Catskills Energy Future

World Premiere Screening:
Unfiltered: New York's Watershed Battle
January 17, 2026 • 2 to 5 PM

Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center
Tickets: \$12.50 (limited availability)

<https://nyenergyalliance.org/event/catskills-energy-future/>

Purchase tickets online 24 hours a day
or by phone 1-800-515-2171
www.foothillspac.org

Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center
is located at
24 Market St in Oneonta, New York.

To enhance the experience, four themed nights, including School Spirit, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, and Holiday Spirit Nights, added extra fun and excitement. The events brought over 990 community members out to walk who donated more than 480 gifts and over 180 non-perishable food and hygiene items. The toys have been wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas. Other items collected will be donated to local organizations.

Additionally, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the Finance Team at Granite Associates, Liberty Rotary and Mullally Tractor Sales of Jeffersonville each committed financial support for up to 600 walkers, further leveraging the impact of the event.

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Bethel Woods and the overwhelming support from our community," said Kellee Thelman, Sullivan 180 Marketing & Events Manager. "Together, we've created an event that unites the community, encourages a healthy activity, and provides support to those in need during the holiday season."

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

Tri-Valley Elementary School
"INSPIRE SUCCESS TOGETHER"



GO BEARS!

Tri-Valley Elementary School



UPK REGISTRATION

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

845-985-2296 ext. 5405

Or send an email to:

registration@trivalleycsd.org

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



Happy New Year and Winter Updates from CFFCM

We are excited to see what 2026 brings to our nets and to our campus here at CFFCM! We hope you had a great holiday season. The snow, ice and winter weather has begun to settle in here in the Catskills and will be here for quite some time! Ah, tying season! Our open tying begins here in our Rod Shop on January 10, at 10 am. Open to all levels of tying. We do have a theme-which is optional! Feel free to come tie what you like, but if you feel stuck, need some help with a technique or want to try something new, Seth Cavarretta will be on the vise prepared to answer questions or help you master the technique of the week. You can find our schedule here. Brand new to tying? While this is not a formal class, we do have vises and tools on hand if you don't have any and you are still welcome to join! Tying will take place in the lower level of the Wulff Gallery- in our Rod Shop. (And there is a class going on as well so there will be lots of activity!). The coffee pot will be on! Come get out of the house, tie some flies and share a couple stories. It will help make the winter go by a bit faster!

Also starting January 10, our campus will be open Saturdays and Sundays, weather pending. All updates on openings and closings will be posted by 9 am that morning on our social media as well as a "pop up" on our website. Not sure if we will be there? Send Laura an email lcolangelo@cffcm.com with any questions or just to be sure before you venture out. Hours will be 10am to 3pm Saturdays and Sundays- with a couple of exceptions you can find on our calendar.

2026 Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations for 2026 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame are now open! PLEASE NOTE! The process for nominations has changed slightly. All nominations should be emailed to HOFsubmittal@cffcm.com by April 15, 2026 to be considered for the 2026 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. Any nominations received after that will be voted on in 2027. If you need to mail your nomination, it must be post marked by April 15. For full information, check out our Hall of Fame page on our website or email HOFSubmittal@cffcm.com with any questions. Please do not call or email the office with Hall of Fame inquiries. Thank you!
Update!

Our HVAC equipment has been delivered and work will begin shortly. You may see workers on our campus during the week or weekends! We will keep you updated as this project progresses.

Mark Your Calendars! Dates added to our website!

Dates for the F3T Film Festival, Annual Legends

Dinner and more have been added to our website! Stay up to date with them here. More information on each event coming soon!

We look forward to seeing you across the bridge and on the stream in 2026!

Tight Lines,

Laura Colangelo- Director of Operations

Seth Cavarretta - Director of Facilities

Celebrate Winter at the 6th Annual SnO&W Snowshoe or Hike on the Historic O&W Rail Trail in Mamakating on February 1

[Mamakating, NY] - Come out and celebrate winter with the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance on Sunday, February 1st at 10:00 AM on the historic O&W Rail Trail in the Town of Mamakating.

The SnO&W started in 2020 as a snowshoe fun run and walk and rotates locations each year to feature a different segment of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail. Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes or similar gear if they have them. Limited snowshoes and microspikes will be available to rent, free of charge, on a first come, first served basis.

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

The event will begin at the Mamakating Environmental Education Center (MEEC) at 762 South Road, Wurtsboro, NY 12790. Participants will have the opportunity to choose from an "out and back" route from MEEC or be shuttled to the South Road DEC Bashakill Access to hike the 1.7 miles back to MEEC. Leashed dogs are welcome.

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

Visit www.SullivanOandW.com/Events or visit the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance on Facebook for up-to-date event information.

The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance is fiscally sponsored by Catskill Mountainkeeper, and is a partnership of local government entities, non-profits, and volunteers which serve as the stewards for the trail. For more information about the O&W Rail Trail and the work of the Alliance, visit www.SullivanOandW.com.

Come in from the Cold!

Arts Nest Concerts in Jan and Feb

The Arts Nest Concert Series continues on Sunday January 25th with singer-songwriter Scott Palermo. Our February lineup begins on Sunday February 1st with keyboard wizard Bob Malone followed by master guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto on Sunday February 8th. Get the full schedule for Feb below.

The weekly Arts Nest Open Mic hosted by Kathy Geary resumes on Tuesday January 13th from 6-8pm.

Scott Palermo - Sunday January 25, 2026 at 2pm

Doors open 1:30pm

Admission \$20 - Buy Now on My River Tickets

Scott Palermo - Singer / Songwriter / Guitarist

Scott Palermo is a retired educator who has always had music in his blood. Scott's brother took guitar lessons in high school and hated them. Scott picked up his guitar and said, "What can I do with this?". He is self-taught and brings to his music the rich folk tradition of the sixties and seventies. Scott takes that flavor, exemplified by influences such as John Prine, Cat Stevens, Gordon Lightfoot, and John Denver, and blends it with more contemporary folk artists and his own original compositions to create a program that is musical, historical, and pleasing to audiences of all ages. Join him on a musical journey that will bring joy to your heart, pleasure to your ears, and a lift to your spirit. Scott's album "Scott Palermo Covered and Uncovered" is available on all streaming platforms, and CDs will be available for sale at the concert.

Visit him online ScottPalermoMusic.com

Buy "Covered and Uncovered" on AMAZON

Follow Scott Palermo on FACEBOOK.

Scott Palermo Concert Buy \$20 Tickets

Bob Malone, Keyboard Wizard

Sunday February 1, 2026 at 2pm

Doors open 1:30pm

Admission \$20 in advance - Buy Now on My River Tickets

Admission \$25 at the door

Visit him online BobMalone.com

Called a "keyboard wizard" by The New Yorker, singer-songwriter-keyboardist-composer BOB MALONE has amassed a loyal international fan-base through twenty-five years of relentless touring and nine critically acclaimed album releases. He played keyboards with John Fogerty for 13 years, has been a session player for Ringo Starr and Avril Lavigne and his duo shows with fellow keyboard wiz and multiple BMA award winner Deanna Bogart are legendary.

His recording of "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" was the theme in the 2018 Illumination/Universal movie trailers for The Grinch. Bob combines unforgettable songwriting, refreshing reinterpretations of classic tunes, and a one-of-a-kind hybrid of rock, melodic pop, blues, and New Orleans R&B, delivered with high-energy piano virtuosity and a voice all his own. His last four albums, including the latest - Good People - have been in the top-10 Roots Music Report radio rock and blues charts, #1 on the IBBA UK blues chart, and his piano-driven take on Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well" spent two years on the SiriusXM Bluesville Top-50 Most Heard chart.

Bob Malone Concert Buy \$20 Tickets

Hiroya Tsukamoto - Sunday February 8, 2026 at 2pm

A Journey Through Strings and Stories

Doors open 1:30pm

Admission \$20 in advance - Buy Now on My River Tickets

Admission \$25 at the door

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

Rainshadow NEW Release on Jan 3, 2026 from Hiroya Tsukamoto.

Praised by Acoustic Guitar Magazine for his "delicate, fluid, and beautifully details" style, Hiroya's music weaves intricate melodies with poetic narratives, creating an unforgettable, soul-stirring performance.

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

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

Visit him online Hiroyatsukamoto.com

River Rep Theater Open Auditions

January 17 2026 Saturday

11:30AM 01:30PM

River Rep Theater Open Auditions

January 18 2026 Sunday

11:30AM 01:30PM

Arts Nest Concert - Scott Palermo, Americana and Folk
January 25 2026 Sunday 2:00PM

Arts Nest Concert - Bob Malone, Keyboard Wizard
February 01 2026 Sunday
02:00PM

Arts Nest Concert - Hiroya Tsukamoto
February 08 2026 Sunday
02:00PM 04:00PM

Arts Nest Concert - Emily Barnes, Contemporary Folk
February 15 2026 Sunday
02:00PM 04:00PM

Arts Nest Concert - AILÍSE, Irish Singer Songwriter
February 22 2026 Sunday
02:00PM 04:00PM

Delaware Valley Opera's productions and concerts are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Give the Gift of Membership!

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

Individual

\$25

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

Double

\$40

All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

Family

\$50

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

Patron

\$100

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

Patron Silver

\$200

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

Patron Gold

\$500

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

Name of Recipient: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Membership Level: _____

Your Name and Address: _____

Gift Message: _____

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

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



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

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

Rules Form

When: Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Snow, Rain or Shine

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

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

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

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

Regulations for Sellers:

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

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

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Registration Form

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Rain, Snow or Shine

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

Vendors Name: _____

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

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Description of Merchandise: _____

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

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

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

Signature of vendor: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make checks payable to Claryville Volunteer Fire Department

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

Attn: Jennifer Pisaniello

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

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

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

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

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



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

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

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



Time and the Valleys Museum P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740
845 985-7700 timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership

DON'T STAY COLD...

*Come in where
it's warm!*



A service of

Sullivan
COUNTY CATSKILLS
Mountains of Opportunity

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

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

NYS DEC 2026 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge

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 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.

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).

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.

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.

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

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

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

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM

46 North Street in Monticello

For information

contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
at (845) 701-0695

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.

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



ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

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

Caregiver

Cafe' Support Group

Jan-June 2026



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



1st Monday of
each month
10 am-11 am

Registration Required:

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

Take a break while you:

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



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

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

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



SULLIVAN COUNTY'S PRIORITIES FOR 2026

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

The new year did not sneak up on us - the County has had a number of major projects ongoing, some of which will be resolved in the next 12 months. Others will take a bit longer.

Here's a preview:

- **Broadband buildout** - Leveraging the largest single grant in our history (\$30M), our partner Archtop Fiber is right now laying fiber-optic cable to bring high-speed Internet to

the majority of Sullivan County, including a wireless signal that will emanate from a dozen of our emergency communication towers.

TIMELINE: Completion by the end of this year, as required by the grant from NYS' ConnectALL program.

- **Airport utilization** - Capable of sustaining itself, if not being a revenue source, the Sullivan County International Airport will be promoted to the business aviation community as a seriously attractive alternative to more congested, expensive general aviation airports closer to New York City. **TIMELINE:** Ongoing.
- **Courthouse expansion** - The State's Office of Court Administration has made it clear that we have to begin work on either expanding the County Courthouse or finding another Monticello location to construct a new court facility. **TIMELINE:** Not yet certain, but we should have details nailed down this year.
- **Comprehensive Plan update** - Last updated decades ago, the County's Comprehensive Plan is ripe for a full review and rewrite. Led by our Planning Division, this major update will touch on all aspects of life, play and work throughout our 1,000 square miles. **TIMELINE:** Significant efforts begin this year.
- **2027 Budget planning** - While the Legislature just adopted a County Budget, work on the next one has already started. Creating 2026's tentative budget was a challenge, and I expect 2027's to be the same, if not more so. Decreasing Federal funding (which decreases State funding), increasing costs, and major projects - like the Courthouse expansion mentioned above - will give me and our budget staff plenty to work on in the months to come. That said, my approach will be the same - to balance citizens' needs with taxpayers' abilities. **TIMELINE:** Work begins in earnest this June.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

BUDGET NOW IN PLACE
FOR 2026 - 2

HOW TO GET THOSE
GRANT DOLLARS - 3

STUDENTS SHARING
HOLIDAY JOY WITH ALL
OF US - 4

2026 BUDGET OK'D

Legislators in December passed a revised 2026 County Budget which manages to keep services intact with just a 2% property tax increase, underneath the State tax cap.

My proposed budget forecast much more than that, and while as a taxpayer I'm grateful not to face a double-digit hike, I have made the Legislature aware that prepping a 2027 budget will be that much harder.

Costs are always rising, but my concern is more that revenues are falling, particularly with sales tax - which, prior to this year, had been outpacing revenues from property taxes. Now, sales tax receipts are declining by the millions of dollars. Couple that with a major County Courthouse expansion being mandated by the State, plus necessarily large employee costs like healthcare and pension contributions, and we'll be looking at a significant property tax increase, cuts in what we offer, or an even deeper dive into our reserve funds (fund balance), potentially removing any financial cushion in future years.

I don't like those prospects any more than you do, but it's my job (and my staff's) to be fiscally responsible, and that means taking into account not only taxpayers but the services we provide and the staff who provides them. We'll know more as the year progresses...



NEW LANDFILL, NEW HAULER FOR COUNTY

With the potential closure of the upstate Seneca Meadows Landfill, we've been actively searching for alternatives. While composting, recycling, and a waste-to-energy plant are alternatives in their own right, we still need somewhere to send upwards of 100,000 tons of garbage every year. So it's with relief that I can share that as of the beginning of 2026, we've switched from Seneca Meadows to various other upstate landfills, to which our trash is being transported by MBI (a reputable vendor with whom we've long been doing business).

The \$10.5 million cost is about the same as with our previous waste hauling arrangement, which is good news for taxpayers as well.

This takes some pressure off the County while we continue to explore ways to otherwise handle and reduce the waste stream.

FAMILIAR FACES IN FAMILIAR COUNTY ROLES

Sullivan County voters chose two familiar faces to lead important County offices in 2026 and the years to come:

- **Kathleen Lara**, longtime deputy treasurer under Nancy Buck, assumed the mantle of County Treasurer in early January. A Sullivan County native and our unofficial "morale officer," Lara is full of ideas and ambition to move the Treasurer's Office ever farther ahead, and I look forward to



working alongside her and her team.

- **Michael Schiff**, known across the County as either "Mike" or "Sheriff," returned to his role as County Sheriff at the beginning of the year, continuing a lifelong career in law enforcement. As head of one of our largest departments, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, his experience and that of his team's will undoubtedly improve - and save - many lives.



HELPING YOU FIND THE MONEY YOU CAN USE

One of our lesser-known but incredibly important offices is Grants Administration, which falls under the Division of Planning. Overseen by Division Commissioner Heather Brown and Grants Director Arthur Hussey, the department ensures we don't miss any opportunity to relieve local taxpayers of having to shoulder every County initiative, employee or program.

Art and his team, however, also provide advice and support to non-County government entities, like nonprofits, businesses and municipalities. While they can't write your grant for you, they can make sure you know what you're doing to score those necessary funds.

I encourage you to consider signing up for one of their two upcoming workshops (at right)! Scheduled to be convenient, each seminar will focus on the same thing: competently and efficiently preparing to apply for grant funding. Register at sullivanyny.gov/departments/grants, or give them a call at 845-807-0527.



Sullivan COUNTY CATSKILLS
Mountains of Opportunities

Grant Workshop PROJECT PLANNING 101

*Presented by the Department of Grants Administration
for Non-Profits, Municipalities, & Small Businesses*

Interested in grants for your non-profit, business, or municipality? Don't know where to begin?

The first and most crucial first step in obtaining grants is effective Project Planning. In fact, in the absence of good project planning, most proposals fail. This workshop will provide a high-level introduction to the steps your organization should take to prepare for grant funding.

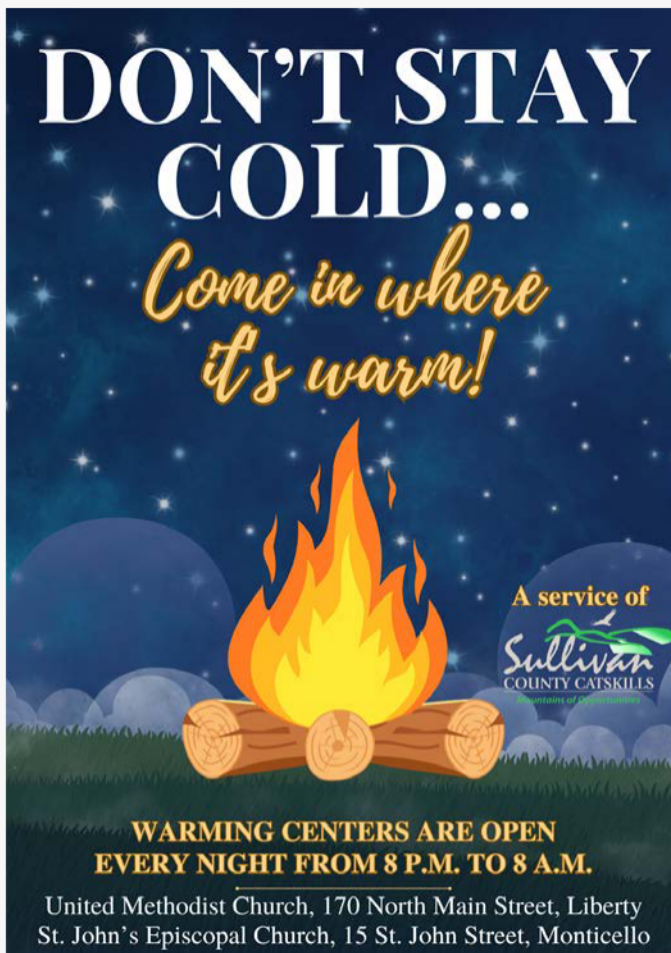
Tuesday, February 24th, 2026*
9-10 am or 6:30-7:30 pm

Legislative Hearing Room
2nd Floor, Sullivan County Government Center
100 North Street, Monticello, NY

***Snow Date: Wednesday, February 25th**
at 9-10 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Pre-registration requested.
Register at: www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/grants

For additional information, contact the Sullivan County Planning Division at 845-807-0527.



DON'T STAY COLD...

Come in where it's warm!

A service of
Sullivan COUNTY CATSKILLS
Mountains of Opportunities

**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

REMEMBERING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, and Sullivan County wasn't just close to some of the fighting - a notable battle occurred within our borders, now commemorated by our own Minisink Battleground Park near Barryville. That location will be one of the sites of events that a Delaware Company-led group is planning for this year and beyond. (The Revolutionary War lasted until 1783, so the 250th commemoration will continue every year into 2033.)

Stay up to date by following the "Sullivan County Rev War Semiquincentennial" Facebook page!



**Our own 250th logo,
designed by the
Delaware Company!**

THEY WISHED US A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Every local school district participated in our annual Holiday Concerts at the Government Center this year. From top to bottom: Rockland HS Band, Sullivan West ES Chorus, Mackenzie (Eldred) ES Chorus, Liberty MS Band, Monticello HS Emerging Ensembles, and Fallsburg Jr.-Sr. HS Instrumental Chamber Ensemble.



**NEW DIRECTIONS
FAMILY COUNSELING
PRESENTS...**

**BEGINNING
JANUARY
2026**

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

*New year
New Support*



Winter can feel long and a little lonely.

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kids and parents a chance
to connect & feel supported.

All in a warm, therapist-led environment.

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Auxiliary Gift Shop

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10:00AM - 4:00PM

ELLENVILLE REGIONAL
HOSPITAL MAIN LOBBY

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Action Toward Independence

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Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of
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from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

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For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*

Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



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Calling All Homeschooling Families!
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Connect with other families to:

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- Build a supportive homeschool network

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

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- Access the internet and online research databases
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Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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



Daniel Pierce Library

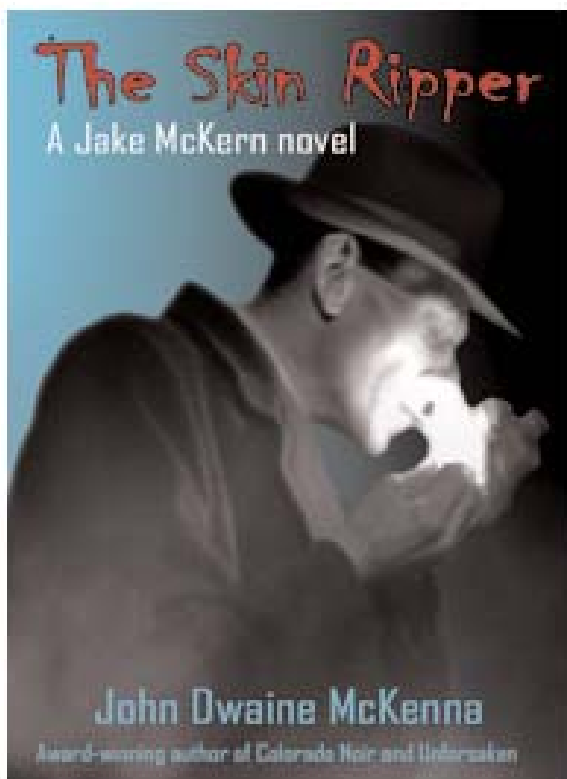
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John Dwaine McKenna

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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

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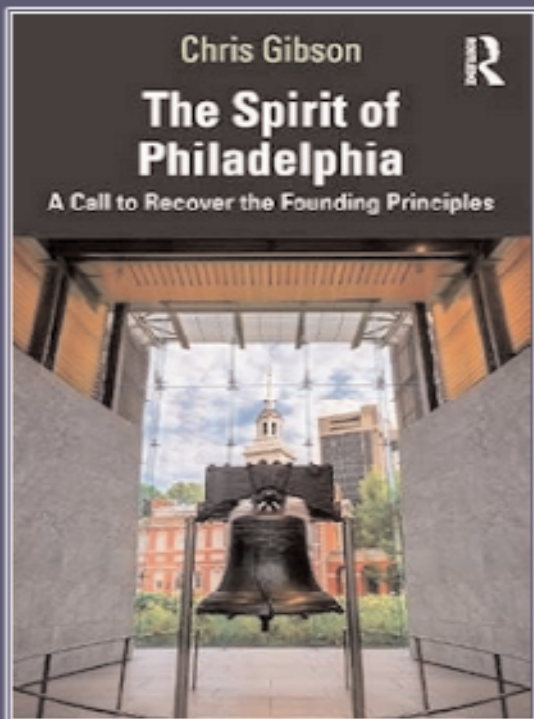
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Each sponsored flag is \$200, allowing you to create a stirring tribute to a person who has inspired you. Your contribution becomes part of an annual inspirational display that touches everyone who sees it.

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

Attn: Town Clerk
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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](https://www.TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com)

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson

Soldier



Scholar



Statesman



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!

Friends of the
Olive Free Library

**MUSIC
CAFÉ**

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.

**Family
Friendly!**

Register Now!

Scan the QR code, visit
www.sullivanccce.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/>

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

1. Fighting child care cuts

The Trump administration's decision to freeze up to \$3 billion in child care and social service assistance for New York is unacceptable. This is a brazen political attack that will hurt New York families, children, and child care providers.
Our children deserve better.

That's why Kirsten is demanding a reversal of this heartless decision. She will continue working with state and local partners to hold the administration's feet to the fire until they restore the assistance that New Yorkers rely on.

2. Curbing President Trump's authority to take military action in Venezuela

While he cuts health care, child care, and essential services in the U.S., President Trump is spending New Yorkers' tax dollars in Venezuela, trying to commit the United States to another protracted foreign regime change effort that he has said could last years.

Kirsten is fighting back against the Trump administration's dangerous actions in Venezuela. This week, she voted to advance a bipartisan resolution to block President Trump from further military action within or against Venezuela without congressional approval. This vote was about standing up for the Constitution, protecting American troops, and making sure foreign policy decisions are made transparently and responsibly.

3. Securing federal \$\$\$ for New York

This week, Kirsten announced that she helped secure federal dollars for several critical local projects across New York State in the most recent government funding package. The bill passed the House this week and is expected to pass the Senate next week.

This funding includes:

- \$10 million for drinking water infrastructure upgrades in Genesee County. [Read more.](#)
- Nearly \$7 million for quantum research at RIT and the University of Rochester, water infrastructure improvements, and other vital Rochester-Finger Lakes projects. [Read more.](#)
- \$5 million for water infrastructure improvements, restorations at Fort Ticonderoga, and biodefense research in the North Country. [Read more.](#)
- Over \$4.5 million for upgrades to research facilities, electrical systems, and more in the Capital Region. [Read more.](#)
- \$3.6 million to replace lead pipes and upgrade water infrastructure in Western New York. [Read more.](#)
- Over \$2 million for upgrades to water systems in the Southern Tier. [Read more.](#)

4. Supporting the families of fallen first responders

New Yorkers know that our firefighters and first responders are selfless heroes who rush into danger every day to

protect our communities. But we also know their fight does not end when their shift does, and that many are exposed to dangerous health risks that can surface years later.

This week, Kirsten announced that her bipartisan Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act was signed into law. This critical legislation expands access to federal support for the families of first responders who lose their lives or become permanently disabled because of service-related cancers.

5. Helping trafficking survivors

Human trafficking survivors have endured unthinkable hardship. Once freed, they shouldn't be held liable for non-violent offenses that their traffickers forced them to commit.

Kirsten has been fighting for almost a decade to help human trafficking victims clear their records of these offenses. This week, her Trafficking Survivors Relief Act was signed into law. This landmark legislation allows survivors of human trafficking to have nonviolent criminal convictions or arrest records they incurred while being trafficked vacated and expunged, shielding them from criminalization and helping prevent problems securing housing and employment as they work to reestablish their lives.

6. Funding New York arts organizations

The arts are what connect us. From theaters and dance studios to museums and music halls, New York State is the arts capital of America.

This week, Kirsten was proud to announce \$287,000 in funding for arts organizations in New York. These federal dollars are a meaningful investment in local organizations to advance art, music, and culture in our communities.

7. Helping New Yorkers with Social Security

An Albany County constituent contacted Kirsten's office for help when he experienced delays receiving his Social Security benefits despite having the necessary documentation on file.

Within a week of Kirsten's staff contacting the Social Security Administration on his behalf, the constituent received nearly \$70,000 in retroactive benefits. He is also set to receive \$2,500 monthly going forward.

OLIVE SENIORS

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

Where: American Legion Hall*

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

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

* 26-28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY; handicap accessible; bathrooms on site
** follows Ontario School District calendar and is cancelled when Ontario schools cancel due to a weather event



House Passes Funding Package Including Key NY-24 Water Projects

This week, the House passed a major appropriations funding package that includes key investments to improve water and sewer infrastructure across NY-24. Through the Community Project Funding process, this package advances targeted projects to strengthen clean drinking water systems, upgrade aging wastewater infrastructure, and protect public health in communities across Upstate New York. Working closely with local leaders, these projects were selected to address real needs, reflect responsible use of taxpayer dollars, and deliver long-term benefits for families, businesses, and local governments as the appropriations process moves forward.

Projects Included for NY-24:

- o Genesee County - \$10,000,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in Genesee County.
- o Town of Phelps - \$1,000,000 for their sanitary sewer distribution improvement project.
- o Village of Geneseo - \$1,000,000 for water and sewer system improvements.
- o Village of Waterloo - \$750,000 for sewer system improvements and wastewater treatment plant upgrades.
- o Town of Throop - \$750,000 for water improvement project.
- o Village of Mexico - \$750,000 for water system improvement project.

My Statement on Venezuela

Last weekend, the United States conducted a decisive military operation in Caracas, Venezuela, confronting Nicolás Maduro's illegitimate regime and reinforcing our commitment to security and stability in the Western Hemisphere. Below was my statement:

"Last night, under the leadership of President Trump, Secretary Marco Rubio and Secretary Pete Hegseth, the U.S. conducted a decisive and successful action against Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro and his illegitimate regime. This operation sends a clear message that the

United States will stand firmly against tyranny and corruption that threaten US security in our hemisphere.

I also want to recognize the brave men and women of the United States Military for carrying out a flawless operation with professionalism, precision, and strength. Their service continues to protect freedom and uphold American leadership on the world stage.

Nicolás Maduro was not only a brutal dictator, but an indicted drug trafficker. The people in Venezuela now have the opportunity to pursue freedom and prosperity."

Reintroducing the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women Act

This week, I reintroduced the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women Act with Congresswoman Fischbach to ensure states retain the flexibility to support pregnant women and new mothers through proven, community-based resources. This legislation would codify states' authority to use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to support pregnancy resource centers that provide medical care, parenting education, counseling, and essential supplies for women facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies. During the last Congress, I served as a co-lead on this effort as House Republicans worked to block the Biden administration's rulemaking that would have restricted these funds and limited access to care. This bill ensures that Washington does not stand in the way of states that choose to support pregnant and parenting women, protect unborn children, and strengthen families. During Pro-Life Month and every month, standing up for life means standing with women, families, and the organizations that serve them.

Nominating President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize

I formally nominated President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for the third time in recognition of his extraordinary record of delivering peace through strength and decisive diplomacy. In his first term, President Trump achieved what many believed was out of reach by securing the historic Abraham Accords, establishing normalization agreements between Israel and Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Sudan, marking the first such agreements between Israel and Arab nations since 1994. In his second term alone, his administration successfully negotiated settlements to eight international conflicts spanning Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, an unprecedented level of diplomatic achievement within a single year. These results were not symbolic gestures; they were concrete agreements that reduced violence, strengthened regional stability, and saved lives. President Trump's leadership reshaped global diplomacy, proved that American strength paired with principled negotiation delivers results, and made the world safer.

UlsterCORPS Building Culture of Volunteerism and Service in Ulster County

In early 2009, a small group of committed volunteers launched UlsterCorps to bring other volunteers together with the organizations in Ulster County that rely on their help. Since its inception UlsterCorps has connected thousands of people with dozens of Ulster County agencies that provide food, clothing, shelter, emergency services, literacy training, child and elder care, animal welfare, and more to the area's most vulnerable residents. UlsterCorps has become a vital, collaboration-building resource for nonprofit agencies, civic and religious organizations, businesses, schools, government and volunteers of all ages.

Since 2009, UlsterCorps volunteers have:

- Hosted an annual Service Summit which brings together over 70 community leaders from the nonprofit, business, higher education and governmental sectors to address the work and value of volunteerism and collaborative projects in Ulster County. 2025 Summit focused on volunteer opportunities and service in support of affordable housing. The 2024 Summit focused on Service in Support of the Environment, Sustainability and Climate Action. More information about this and previous Service Summits can be found here. The Summit, which is free to participants, is part of the on-going work of UlsterCorps to deepen the knowledge about volunteerism and to find ways to strengthen a culture of service and collaboration in Ulster County;
- Built a dedicated corps of over 200 volunteers, our Glean Team, to assist the Farm to Food Pantry Collaborative led by the Rondout Valley Growers Association and Family of Woodstock. Starting in 2009, the group has gleaned, collected and distributed over 1,443,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to soup kitchens and food pantries in the county. In 2024, the collaborative collected over 130,500 lbs. of produce from 23 donors and distributed it to 51 food pantries, shelters, and community meal programs in Ulster and surrounding counties.
- Served Together as the U-Team, an active and vital community of volunteers who serve as "first-call responders" for urgent events, projects and last minute community needs;
- Collected and distributed new or gently used coats, suits, hats, mittens, holiday gifts and other agency wish list items for those in need in our community;
- Matched thousands of volunteers with service opportunities during National Days of Service, including Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, I Love My Park Day, September 11 Day of Recognition and Service and throughout the year;
- Created an Online Database of 100+ agencies and their needs so volunteers can easily learn about available

opportunities and how to connect with them;

- Developed and maintained both interactive and printed maps of volunteer opportunities, food pantries and soup kitchens, farms and farmers markets to help volunteers, and those in need of services, connect;
- Built a community of over 4000 individuals who subscribe to our monthly e-news of upcoming long and short term volunteer opportunities throughout Ulster County;
- Brought together and honored volunteers who give their time and energy to agencies throughout Ulster County at our Annual MLK Day Celebration of Service. UlsterCorps initiates and supports creative collaborations that seek to educate, inspire, and explore causes and solutions to some of the challenges facing our community.

Map of Volunteer opportunities

<https://ulstercorps.org/for-volunteers/view-map-of-opportunities/>

Become a Volunteer

<https://ulstercorps.org/for-volunteers/>

Donate to ULSTERCORPS

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/1457395>

Ulster County Food Pantries and Meal Programs

<https://ulstercorps.org/for-volunteers/opportunities-by-agency-type/food-pantries-and-meal-programs/>

Ulster County Red Cross Blood Drives

Red Cross Blood Drives

Saturday, January 17, 2026, 8am-1pm

St. John's Roman Catholic Church

12 Holly Hills Drive

Woodstock, NY 12498

Monday, January 19, 2026, 12-5pm

Veterans of Foreign Wars

708 E Chester St

Kingston, NY 12401

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 8am - 12:30pm

High Falls Fire Department

333 Firehouse Rd

High Falls, NY 12440

More Information and Other Blood Drives

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=1240>

Upcoming Repair Cafes

New Paltz Repair Cafe

Saturday, January 17, 2026, 10am-2pm

New Paltz United Methodist Church

1 Grove Street, New Paltz

Saugerties Repair Cafe

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 10am-2pm

Saugerties Senior Center

207 Market Street, Saugerties

(Contd. Pg. 59)

Upcoming Repair Cafes

(From Pg. 58)

Gardiner Repair Cafe

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 11am-3pm

Gardiner Library

133 Farmer's Turnpike, Gardiner

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

Holistic Health Community

Healthcare Days

when: Third Tuesday of every month, 4-8pm

January 20th, 2026

where: High Meadow School, 3643 Main St, Stone Ridge

No walk-ins

The Holistic Health Community offers both In-Person Holistic Healthcare Days and Virtual Holistic Healthcare Weeks. It is people like you who make the success of our mission possible. Join us to make holistic healthcare free and available in our community. We are accepting applications for Practitioners and Administrative Volunteers. Join us!

<https://holistichealthcommunity.org/volunteers/become-a-volunteer>

Health Care is a Human Right Free Clinics

Since its inception, Health Care is a Human Right has offered free clinics in the Mid-Hudson Valley of New York. We work with dedicated professionals who volunteer their services and expertise in a range of holistic wellness modalities. HCHR coordinates free holistic wellness clinics in Woodstock, Phoenicia, and in Kingston.

Ways you can help:

You may join us at any clinic and help us in a variety of tasks, such as setting up, usually an hour or so before clinic, or by staying afterward to help us with the take down.

If you would like to join HCHR as a practitioner or to help us run the clinics, we welcome you! Email us at info@hchrny.org or use the form on this page, and we will get back to you promptly.

Woodstock Clinic

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 4:00_PM 7:00_PM

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 2578 S.R. 212, Woodstock

No appointment necessary; first come, first serve. Sign up starts at 3:30 p.m. Parking is available.

View Event <https://www.hchrny.org/clinics/woodstock-clinic-4s833-szw6s-ker99-wwkbj>

Kingston Clinic

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 4:00_PM 7:00_PM

The Fuller Building, 45 Pine Grove Ave., Kingston

Walk-in clinic, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. No appointment necessary; first come, first serve. Sign up starts at 3:30 p.m. Adjacent to the YMCA on Broadway. Public lot parking is available.

View Event <https://www.hchrny.org/clinics/event-five-924y2-2hngz-n2rg2-92274-ah6le-5s67f-39rk2-zxpn6-kllec-efjb8-8lpbm-wsreg-6ndg9-cgex6>

4-H Volunteer Training

February 21st 9:00am-11:30am

Have you ever considered sharing your skills or hobbies with local youth?

Whether you're into woodworking, sewing, photography, or any other interest, chances are there's a young person who would love to learn from you. You don't need to be an expert-just willing to share what you know. In 4-H, we believe in "Learning by Doing," and that applies to both youth and the adults who guide them.

If you enjoy working with young people, we'd love to have you join us at one of our upcoming trainings. No prior experience with 4-H is required to become a volunteer. What matters most is being a caring adult who's ready to mentor and support youth in a positive environment. There are many ways to get involved, with flexible roles to match your interests and schedule.

To ensure a safe and enriching experience for everyone, all 4-H volunteers must complete an application process before they are officially enrolled-especially those working directly with youth over time. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and not currently enrolled as a 4-H youth member.

Register for a training or contact 4-H at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office to learn more!

For more information contact 845-340-3990, or ulster4h@cornell.edu

Long-Term Volunteer Opportunities Rosendale Theatre

As a volunteer-run arts organization, we offer many opportunities to engage your passion, skills and can-do spirit. Whether you're interested in programming, marketing, or the nuts and bolts of running the day-to-day operations of a theatre, there's a place for you here.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed so please sign up here:

<https://www.rosendaletheatre.org/volunteer/>

Once we receive your application, our volunteer coordinator will contact you with details.

Should you have any questions about volunteering, email volunteer@rosendaletheatre.org.

Mentor Me of Ulster County Make a Difference That Lasts

The Power of Showing Up

One caring adult can change a child's entire future. Research shows that quality mentoring relationships lead to:

Improved academic performance

Stronger social skills

Better long-term economic opportunities

Enhanced self-confidence

Deeper community connections

Yet one in three young people grows up without this critical support. You can help change that.

(Contd. Pg. 60)

Mentor Me of Ulster County (From Pg. 59) **Who Can Mentor?**

Our mentors come from all walks of life, bringing diverse experiences and perspectives to our youth. The most important qualities are:

- A commitment to showing up consistently
- A willingness to listen without judgment
- An interest in helping young people discover their potential

We especially welcome mentors from communities currently underrepresented in our program, including men, BIPOC individuals, and LGBTQ+ adults. This diversity helps ensure every child can see themselves reflected in our mentor community.

Learn more or fill out an application:
<https://www.mentormeulster.org/becomeamentor>

HomeShare Ulster County **We need Volunteers! Can YOU Help?**

Housing is a critical issue for our neighbors and HomeShare Ulster County is one important solution. You can be a part of this community effort! Ours is an innovative program matching homeowners who have extra living space with home seekers looking for safe and affordable rental situations. It is the first home sharing program in the state outside of New York City. We have created thirteen matches involving thirty-four people since opening our doors in 2022. We serve northern Ulster County including Woodstock, Saugerties, Kingston, Hurley, Olive, Shandaken and Ulster.

We are excited to announce our recent partnership with Growing Homes' Room for a Farmer program. This partnership provides affordable housing to the community of farmers and farm workers in the Hudson Valley.

Growing Homes Property Listings

HomeShare Ulster County continues to grow and develop and we would welcome your help.

What do our volunteers do? They are the core of our service!

HomeShare Ulster County is a program of Family of Woodstock Inc. Our skilled volunteers conduct intake interviews and assist with background and reference checking. They work directly with our applicants to help create mutually-beneficial, supportive matches. If you have experience such as social work, case management or counseling, we would love to invite you to join our Team!

Contact homeshareuc@familyofwoodstockinc.org for more information, to sign up for our newsletter or to find out about more volunteer opportunities.

Ulster Literacy Association

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

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

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

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

Ulster County Office for the Aging **Seeks volunteers**

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

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

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

Volunteer drivers and dispatchers, with clerical office work for our Neighbor to Neighbor Medical appt driving program

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

Drivers for those pantries, and cooks

Caregiver group respite

Help at area nursing home for transporting, activities, companionship

Volunteers willing to be trained to be ombudsmen in nursing homes

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

Volunteer tech teachers - help older adults with computer skills

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

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

Statement from **Ulster County Executive** **Jen Metzger regarding** **federal freeze on Social** **Service Programs:**

"The freeze announced by the Trump administration has all the appearance of being politically motivated since it only targets Democratic-led states. Ironically, most of New York's counties, which administer these funds for their communities, are Republican-led and will be just as hurt by a funding freeze. If there is any fraud anywhere in the administration of these programs in New York, show the evidence so that it can be addressed, but don't punish families, seniors, and children who desperately need these supportive programs. Ulster County receives tens of millions of dollars in funding for these programs, which support our residents with everything from emergency housing, food, and utility assistance to child and adult preventive and protective services, domestic violence programs, and senior services.

At this time, state officials, to my knowledge, still have not received any of the necessary details from the federal government about this announced freeze to provide guidance to county governments, but I want to be clear that Ulster County will not let people go without emergency shelter or other basic needs. We will continue to protect our residents to the best of our abilities."

Governor Hochul Announces Investments to Deliver Universal Child Care for NY Children Under 5

Governor and Mayor Mamdani to Launch Free Child Care for Two-year Olds in NYC

- *Will Partner with Mayor Mamdani To Deliver Full Promise of City's 3K Program*
- *Affordable Childcare for Nearly 100,000 Additional Children Through Statewide Universal Pre-K, Launch of 2-Care, New Community Care Programs, and Expanded Access to Targeted Child Care Subsidies*
- *All Four-Year-Old Children in New York State to Have Pre-K Access by the 2028-29 School Year*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced an unprecedented investment as the next step to deliver affordable, universal child care for children under five years of age across New York State. The Governor will partner with Mayor Zohran Mamdani to deliver free child care for two-year-olds in New York City, in addition to strengthening the existing 3K program to achieve universal care and ultimately, serve all families across the city.

In 2026, the State will continue to expand access to high-quality child care programs throughout the state, through a diversity of models, saving New York families billions of dollars each year. Since taking office, Governor Hochul has already taken major steps to expand access to affordable child care for families through an investment of more than \$8 billion dollars in the State's child care infrastructure, dramatically expanding access, as part of laying the groundwork for the implementation of universal child care statewide.

"There's one thing that every family in New York can agree on, the cost of childcare is simply too high," Governor Hochul said. "As New York's first mom Governor, fighting for New York's families has always been at the core of my agenda. Since taking office, I've put families front and center, fighting to make our state more affordable and laying the groundwork to deliver universal childcare. Today, I'm proud to partner with Mayor Mamdani and leaders across our state to make this a reality, turning that foundation into a concrete roadmap that will transform the lives of working parents and kids across our state."

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said, "Over the past 14 months, a movement was born to fight for a city where every New Yorker could afford a life of dignity and every family could afford to raise their kids. Today, Governor Hochul and I meet that movement as we celebrate our joint commitment to universal child care. This victory represents much more than a triumph of city and state government working in partnership - it is proof that when New Yorkers come together, we can transform the way the government serves working families."

Governor Hochul's State of the State investments will commit to delivering affordable childcare for nearly 100,000 more kids. Through this \$1.7 billion increased investment, the total FY27 investment will be \$4.5 billion for childcare and prekindergarten services statewide.

As part of Governor Hochul's 2026 State of the State, this proposal will:

- Make Pre-K truly universal statewide,
- Partner with New York City to launch the new Mayor's signature 2-Care program and finally realize the promise of universal 3K access in New York City,
- Support other counties in building out new child care pilots that offer high-quality affordable care to families regardless of income, and
- Expand child care subsidies to tens of thousands of additional families.

Alongside these commitments, the Governor will launch an Office of Child Care and Early Education to steer the implementation of high-quality, universal child care for New York families.

Today's announcement builds on steps that Governor Hochul has taken to expand access to affordable child care for families, laying the groundwork for the implementation of universal child care statewide. Specifically, the State has already:

- More than doubled the number of children served by child care vouchers in just four years, with an almost 25 percent increase in the past 12 months alone.
- Provided more than \$8.6 billion for child care, including more than doubling funding for subsidies.
- Dramatically expanded the number of families who are eligible by increasing the maximum income from 200 percent of Federal poverty level (roughly \$64,000 for a family of four) to the maximum allowed under Federal law - 85 percent of Statewide median income (roughly \$114,000 for a family of four).
- Made child care more affordable by reducing the amount those receiving subsidy pay by capping costs at \$15 per week for most families.
- Increased reimbursement rates for providers by nearly 50 percent, helping providers retain staff and provide quality care for children across the state.
- Supported the future creation of thousands of child care seats and new centers through more than \$150M in capital funding.

Achieving Truly Universal Pre-K

While four-year-olds in some parts of New York have long had access to Pre-K, there are dozens of school districts that have not yet been able to make it available. Governor Hochul is providing additional support to ensure truly universal Pre-K for all four-year-olds in the State by the start of the 2028-2029 school year.

The State will not only fund additional seats to achieve universality but will also increase funding for existing seats, bringing them up to the greater of \$10,000 or the applicable school district's current selected foundation aid per pupil, so that districts have what they need to provide high-quality Pre-K. This combination reflects a commitment of roughly a half-billion dollars and will ensure that every child in New York State enters kindergarten ready to learn.

Launching 2-Care and Reaching Universal 3k Access in NYC -New York City has already launched universal Pre-K and 3K, and Governor Hochul will partner with Mayor Zohran Mamdani to age this program down and launch an unprecedented initiative to offer entirely free child care for two-year-olds within New York City. The Governor is committing to fully fund the first two years of the city's implementation. As envisioned by the incoming mayoral administration, the first year of the program will focus on high-need areas selected by New York City and expand to serve all interested families across the city by year 4. In addition, the Governor will partner with the Mayor to strengthen and fix the city's 3K program and ensure it achieves its promise of universal access.

(Contd. Pg. 62)

Governor Hochul Announces Investments to Deliver Universal Child Care for NY Children Under 5 (From Pg. 61) **Continuing Access to Low-Cost, Affordable Child Care Assistance Programs**

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York has more than doubled investment in the state's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which provides subsidies to help low-income families access child care. By dramatically increasing the State's investments in the program while expanding eligibility, the program now supports 2.5 times more children - an additional 100,000 - than when Governor Hochul took office; the number of children served has increased by almost 25 percent in the past year alone. Most of the families of the 170,000 children served by the program pay no more than \$15 a week for child care.

This year, Governor Hochul will continue to grow the State's investment in child care subsidies for those that need it most with a \$1.2 billion increased investment, bringing the total available for subsidies to over \$3 billion. This is more than 3.5 times more than the \$832 million provided prior to the Governor taking office, and a nearly 40 percent increase from what was made available in the FY 2026 Enacted Budget.

Piloting Innovative Community Care Models Across New York Counties

In 2026, Governor Hochul will launch innovative new pilot projects for children in counties outside of New York City that are also ready to launch child care in more expansive ways in their communities. The Governor will launch a new New York State pilot, designed to support counties in working towards universal access to affordable, year-round, full-day care for thousands of families across these communities, regardless of income. Programs will be a joint collaboration between participating counties and New York State.

Office of Child Care and Early Education

A new Office of Child Care and Early Education will drive the implementation of high-quality, universal child care in New York State. The Office will oversee and support roll out of universal Pre-K, continued investment in 3K, launch of 2-Care and other innovative care options, expansion and improvement of vouchers, and ongoing support for the workforce.

Supporting the Workforce Through Early Childhood Educator Preparation

Governor Hochul's plan to strengthen New York's early childhood education workforce includes expanding existing workforce scholarships, seeking opportunities for new Workforce Pell grants, and directing SUNY and CUNY to take a number of steps to expand and streamline early childhood education programs.

Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Credit to Better Support Families

Governor Hochul will expand and simplify the child and dependent care tax credit to provide an additional average benefit of \$575 for 230,000 tax filers. She will also undertake a thorough review of existing tax incentives for employers with the goal of helping them better serve the child care needs of their employees.

Statement from UC Executive Jen Metzger on Governor Hochul's State of the State Address

"There were a number of initiatives announced by Governor Hochul in her State of the State address that will address affordability challenges facing Ulster County residents, including expanding childcare, investing new funds in - and reducing regulatory hurdles to - construction of affordable housing, and tackling

the high costs of car insurance. I was also happy to see proposals for expanded mental health in schools, new protections for youth from harmful impacts of social media, a ban on 3D printing of guns and DIY weapons, and protections against aggressive immigration enforcement - all measures that will help protect public safety and well-being in our County."

Statement from UC Executive Jen Metzger regarding decision by NY District Judge Arun Subramanian Blocking Trump Funding Freeze for Social Services

"I applaud Judge Subramanian's decision requiring the Trump Administration to release vital federal funding for social services that were halted last week without any legitimate justification. These essential funds for County-administered programs will continue to flow while New York and other targeted states challenge the legal basis for the Trump administration's action. Ulster County receives close to \$15 million in funding for these programs, which support our residents with everything from emergency housing, food, and utility assistance to child and adult preventive and protective services, domestic violence programs, and senior services. Halting federal support for such life-saving assistance is an act of cruelty."

NYS Senator Peter Oberacker Response to State of the State

SCHENEVUS, NY - Senator Peter Oberacker, candidate for Congress in New York's 19th District, on Tuesday, released the following video statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's State of the State speech.

Click image for full video and see script below.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/59Y4voT0vmc>

"Today, during her State of the State Address, Governor Hochul spoke about affordability. I guess that's something. But after years of rising costs and families leaving New York, words just aren't enough.

Upstate families need lower energy bills, which is why I've introduced the Utility Ratepayer Bill of Rights.

We need affordable housing and safe communities, which is why I fought for and passed a residential construction tax exemption and why I have always stood with law enforcement and pushed back against dangerous bail reform.

And we need real economic opportunity for all New Yorkers, which is why I've fought so hard to protect taxpayers, as well as local business owners and farmers.

New York's affordability crisis is real, and it's sending our fellow New Yorkers to more affordable states. But the good news is that it is man-made by Democrats and therefore reversible.


Unlike Kathy Hochul, I am not just paying lip service to the challenges we New Yorkers are facing. I fight for change every single day. Together, we can make New York truly affordable. Now let's get to work."

Senator Peter Oberacker, candidate for Congress in New York's 19th District, today released the following video statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's State of the State speech.

For more information

: <https://www.peterforny19.com/>

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

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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!

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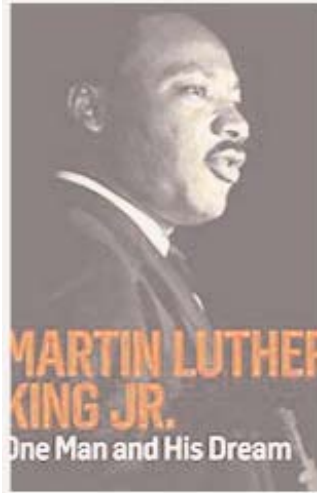


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**Answer to last week's Knarf's Trivia
Question: Wall Street**

This weeks' Trivia question: Charlie Sheen's character is willing to participate in illegal insider trading in what high-finance drama?