

## VOL. 21 NO. 1 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 2, 2025

Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 6 • The Olive Jar Carol La Monda Pg 7 • The Scene Too Jane Harrison Pg 11 Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia Pg 50

## **Tri-Valley Lions at Holiday Party at The Paper Mill**



All the Tri-Valley Lions who attended this year's Holiday Party The Paper Mill in Napancoch had a wonderful time.

## Retired Senior Volunteer ProgramWelcomes New Coordinator



Monticello, NY -Sullivan County Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley and Office for the Aging Director Lise-Anne Deoul are pleased to announce the appointment of Monika Roosa as Coordinator of the County's Retir-ed Volunteer Senior Program (RSVP) (Contd. Pg. 4)

## New Public Health Director Very Familiar with SC Jessie Moore Brings Deep Experience and Doctorate - to Role

Liberty, NY - Sullivan County's new Public Health Director, Dr. Jessie Moore, today joined the team at the Department of Public Health, but she's long been familiar with the County's health challenges and landscape.

"I've been overseeing 26 service lines at Garnet Health for the past year and a half," she related of her role there as Physician Liaison, maintaining close relationships with doctors, urgent care facilities, medical specialty groups and other healthcare organizations. (çontd. Pg. 4)



#### YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR

THE TOWN OF DENNING AND THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (ISSN 1558-9013) will be published weekly for \$40.00 per year by

Gnome Home Inc.

EDITOR: Linda Comando - 845-985-3215 THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

#### Email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com Website: thetownsman.com

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

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

1. ALL submissions should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.

2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.

3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.

4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.

5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the Gnome Home Inc. office. Telephone numbers will not be published.

6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted. Opinions expressed in Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman belong to the writers and are not necessarily the viewpoint of Ye OldeTri-Valley Townsman or its staff.

#### To renew or receive a new subscription

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

EMAIL
PHONE
SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$40.00 PER YEAR
NEW RENEWAL/DATE EXP.
Check #

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

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

#### ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

#### 3:00 P.M. MONDAYS - FIRM

Rates are based on Camera-ready copy. All advertising must be pre-paid unless other arrangements have been made. Please send your ad copy to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or by regular mail to: The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

**JANUARY 2, 2025** 

**On the Front Burner:** The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer.

Psalm 9:6

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

#### January 12, 1955

Mr. Dallas Swart of Ballston Spa announces the engagement and approaching marriage of his daughter, Marion, to Arnold Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Robinson of Grahamsville. Miss Swart is a member of the Tri Valley School faculty and Mr. Robinson is employed by the NYS Dept. of Correction as a guard the Napanoch at Correctional Institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Barringer of Samsonville are the parents of a baby Girl, Karen Jane, born January 6th at the Ellenville Hospital. Mrs. Flossie Van Wagner of Sundown is the maternal grandmother. Mr. and Mrs. John Coddington are the maternal great-grandparents.

#### January 13, 1965

William S. Grey, 93, died at Liberty on January 11, 1965. He was born in Newburgh on February 4, 1871. He was married on May 10, 1900 at Salisbury Mills, N.Y. to the late Emily F. Hauser who died on Sept. 29, 1946. Surviving are one grandson, Capt. James H. Grey of Cheyenne, Wyoming; one granddaughter, Mrs. Robert C. Wood of Napanoch and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Inghrim became the parents of a girl, Susan Marie, at Hamilton Ave. Hospital, Monticello on Tuesday, January 5, 1965. Mr. and Mrs. John McGuire are the maternal grandparents.

#### January 6, 1975

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moore of Neversink have announced the engagement of their daughter, Darlene Joan, to Allen F. Wachter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wachter of Callicoon. Miss Moore graduated from Delaware Valley High School and is employed by Dr. S.V. Jones of Ferndale. Her fiancé graduated from Delaware Valley High School and has attended St. Bonaventure University. He plans to attend Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as a pre-veterinary major. Wedding plans are incomplete.

#### **January 10, 1985**

Albert Moshier of Ulster Heights, a retired carpenter and lifelong area resident, died Saturday, January 5, 1985 in Kingston Hospital, Kingston NY after a long illness. The son of the late George and Lizzie M. Baker Moshier, he was born March 15, 1906 in Ulster Heights. The widower of Catherine Moshier, he was a member of the Ulster Heights U.M. Church. Survivors include five sisters and several nieces and nephews.

#### January 5, 1995

Anna Altbach's 5th Grade class at Tri-Valley held a read-athon to raise money for the Sullivan County SPCA.

Caroline Lippelt Bertholf died Tuesday, Dec. 7, She is survived by two sons, William Bertholf and Hames Bertholf and five daughters, Lynn Priebe, Shirley Kinney, Beverly Garzon, Eileen Whoitjen and Victoria Kurzrock.

#### THE TOWNSMAN

#### **JANUARY 2, 2025**

## LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley Published January 12, 1995

Wishing everybody a very happy New Year.

I'll never forget the "dollar down" salesmen of the good old days. Their brand of business seems to have vanished. The dollar down and dollar a week salesmen did business from their car, and your kitchen or living room was their showroom.

In the late 1930's, one of these salesmen, Bucky, came knocking on our door each week. He worked for Senak Company. We are still using the silverware we purchased through the dollar down and dollar a week company. I can still see Bucky laying out his wares. He sold everything from watches to handkerchiefs. After we paid him his dollar he would usually say, "I have something nice here, Mrs. Akerley, a real bargain here today" - not that we fell for it each week.

Senak Company sold their products with a straight¬forward guarantee. If something broke or wore out prema¬turely, they would replace it, and that's the way it was with most dollar down, dollar a week companies. Salemen were busy with economic survival, and they were also your friends. I have often wondered what became of those "dollar down and dollar a week" guys of long ago.

## **Household Hint:**

## Freshen the Air Naturally

Use 100 percent vanilla extract for deodorizing. Douse cotton balls with vanilla and hide them in plants, or rub one over a cold light bulb; when it heats, the room will smell great. It gives a clean, fresh scent instead of a chemical smell

## Nature Column - L. Comando

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

## Blue Jays are Here to Stay

Because of all the rain, we haven't had too much activity at the bird feeder. However the local Blue Jays don't seem to mind wet feathers. Their only competition this past week at the feeder were a few squirrels.

Blue Jays are notorious for gathering food and then storing it to eat at a later date. They will hide seeds, acorns and other nuts and then come back to retrieve the food at a later time. Because they like to bury acorns, Blue Jays are actually credited with helping expand the number of oak trees in North growing America.



The Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata) is a passerine bird in the family Corvidae, native to North America and are related to crows! Blue Jays reside througout most of eastern and central United States and southern Canada It is predominately blue with a white chest and underparts, and a blue crest. It has a black U-shaped collar around its neck and a black border behind the crest. Females and males are similar in size and plumage, and their plumage does not vary throughout the year.

Blue Jay nests are typically formed into a cup shape and are a little bulky. Made from grass, moss, twigs, leaves, roots and bark, these nests are often held together by mud. It's just another example of Blue Jay ingenuity. Blue Jays begin breeding in late spring or early summer. The clutch can contain two to seven eggs, which are blueish or light brown with brown spots. The 'couple' work together to keep their nest safe and their eggs secure. After the nestlings hatch, the male provides food for them as well. He's very busy feeding the extra 4-5 mouths for up to 2 weeks, but eventually the pair both gathers food for the growing brood. About three weeks after they are born, the baby birds are ready to fly. Even after they leave the nest, the family stays together for weeks, with parents helping the young birds as they become more independent. The family may even help raise a second brood later in the season.

After breeding season ends, Blue Jays will often join larger flocks, but unlike geese and other migratory birds, Blue Jays tend to stay in one area. and not migrate south each year like so many other birds do.

They are popular with birdwatchers due to their striking appearance and high activity level. They are fun to watch. When a Blue Jay eats a nut, it holds the nut with its foot and cracks it open with its bill.

Another fascinating fact about Blue Jays is their ability to mimic just about anything they are exposed to.

A Blue Jay will scream if it sees a predator within its territory. It has also been known to sound an alarm call when hawks or other dangers are near, and smaller birds often recognize this call and hide themselves away accordingly.

Usually Blue Jays are considered as loud and aggressive, however some cultures see them as lucky and a portent of good things to come.

Blue Jays live longer compared to other birds. The oldest recorded Blue Jay was 26 years and 11 months. The typical life span in the wild is 7 to 20 years.

One final fact about our feathered friends, the Blue Jays it is interesting to note that Blue Jays are monogamous!!

## Retired Senior Volunteer Program Welcomes New Coordinator

(From Pg. 1) "As a native of Sullivan County, Monika already brings a deep knowledge of the communities and people she'll be assisting," noted Quigley. "She's also enthusiastic, committed and capable - just like our RSVP volunteers upon whom so many citizens and organizations rely."

"I'm thrilled to have Monika on board - she's become part of a team that's focused on meeting the needs and exceeding the expectations of the thousands of seniors we serve," added Deoul. "I invite everyone to stop by our office in the Government Center and meet her!"

"My door is always open," confirmed Roosa. "I am very happy to be here, and my plan is to grow this valuable program and offer even more opportunities to seniors." (Contd. Pg. 4)

A graduate of Monticello High School and SUNY Sullivan, Roosa earned her bachelor's in elementary education from SUNY New Paltz and a master's in educational technology from the New York Institute of Technology. She taught science and reading at Ellenville Central School and subbed at Wurtsboro's Chase Elementary School but ultimately found her passion in working directly with adults, including handling human resources for 150 employees at a Middletown manufacturing facility.

"I liked being the person they could come see to help them," she explained.

Even San Diego, where she lived for a time, couldn't keep her from her hometown of Wurtsboro, where she now shares a home with husband Michael, son Preston, daughter Jovi and two rescue dogs, Sam and Ben.

In fact, it's Preston whom she credits for making her aware of the open RSVP Coordinator position, when he picked up an employment brochure at the County's table during this year's Monticello Bagel Fest.

"It just seemed like a perfect fit," Roosa acknowledged. "I'm a longtime volunteer myself, and since I've been on the 'other' side of things before, it's really important for me to show my appreciation to volunteers."

Now she's overseeing nearly 130 of them through Sullivan County's RSVP Office.

"It's a great thing, people helping people," she said. "We're getting seniors out and about, keeping them engaged and involved."

Those volunteers serve where they wish, from thrift shops to the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance to the Federation for the Homeless.

"We even have volunteers who are homebound and knit or crochet hats, mittens and blankets for us," Roosa related. "In fact, the RSVP application gives people the opportunity to list their interests, and we'll do our best to match them to a need or an organization."

She encourages anyone over 55 to apply, whether retired or not.

"We provide mileage reimbursement for your travel, plus supplemental liability insurance," she noted. "And we offer a fabulous luncheon for all our volunteers every year!"

To find out more, call Roosa at 845-807-0255 or visit https://sullivanny.gov/Departments/Aging/RSVPRetiredSeniorVo lunteerProgram.

## New Public Health Director Very Familiar with SC

(From Pg. 1) "I had a great opportunity to research and understand Sullivan County in the way people access - and have access to healthcare. I've also worked with key stakeholders on identifying where the needs and strengths are."

Sullivan is very different, she added, from Orange County, which is where she has spent much of her career - first as an HIV/AIDS outreach worker in Newburgh and Middletown, then as the health education coordinator and youth program facilitator for Maternal-Infant Services Network in Central Valley, followed by nine years as an educator and senior director for Planned Parenthood in New Windsor.

"I'm from Orange County, but I live right along the border with Sullivan," Moore said, referring to the Middletown home she shares with husband Greg and children Gregory, Clara and Leah. "Every job in my career has included working across county borders, and Sullivan County has always been a place I enjoy being!"

She'll be spending far more time in Sullivan than ever before, since as Public Health Director her office will be in Liberty and her duties will include overseeing 60 staff, many of whom daily travel the County to provide services to residents, schools and organizations.

One of Moore's passions, in fact, is meeting new faces and sharing her extensive knowledge of healthcare and healthy living. Possessing a doctorate in public health (Health Policy & Management) from New York Medical College's School of Public Health, she is a Certified Health Educator Specialist via the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.

Moore teaches at her alma mater as an adjunct assistant professor of public health, along with four other colleges - including Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine and SUNY Orange, both in Middletown.

"I've often brought in different representatives from Sullivan County to educate my students," she affirmed. "I look at it as a key opportunity to give them as much community data as possible before they become doctors."

In her role with Garnet Health, Moore relished a challenging but informative town hall-style meeting Garnet Health's leadership team held earlier this year with Sullivan County residents.

"Often, Sullivan County residents are relying on primary care or urgent care providers to manage health issues that would be better managed by specialists," she observed. "And they want services here, not just in Middletown."

It's her intent to follow through on that desire.

"I see the struggles, but I also see how many resources do exist here, a lot of which are being underutilized," Moore said. "I've also been watching the County's health numbers slowly improve. Seeing what Health & Human Services Commissioner John Liddle and his team have been doing, I wanted to be part of that."

"I am very excited to add Dr. Moore to our team," confirmed Liddle. "She brings an outstanding intellect and great passion for the three most important issues our Division focuses on to improve our community health: maternal/child health, substance use disorder prevention and treatment, and mental health."

"I'd also like to thank the County Manager's Office and the Legislature for recognizing the importance of investing in our public health leadership," Liddle added. "Raising the salary grade for this position has allowed us to bring in a Doctor of Public Health with superior leadership experience to support a very hard-working team with a wide range of goals and responsibilities. Jessie's leadership will accelerate improvements we have started to see in health outcomes in comparison to other counties around the state."

"I welcome Dr. Moore to Sullivan County and look forward to her leading an already outstanding group of caring, community-minded professionals," stated District 5 Legislator Cat Scott, who chairs the Legislature's Health & Human Services Committee. "We have a lot of work ongoing and more to do to improve the health of this County, and I think Dr. Moore will hit the ground running."

## Emergency HEAP Available Apply in Person or Over the Phone

Liberty, NY - New York State has announced an Emergency HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) benefit is available, beginning January 2.

"Applicants must have exhausted - or have unavailable to them - the original Regular benefit," notes Sullivan County Deputy Social Services Commissioner Giselle Steketee. "An emergency situation is when a client has less than a \_ tank of fuel, less than a 10-day supply of wood, coal or pellets, or has a termination notice from a utility company (if they have electric heat or if electricity is required to run a furnace)."

Applicants for the Emergency HEAP benefit must apply over the phone (845-807-0142) or in person. This benefit is NOT given automatically. In-person applications will be accepted at the Department of Social Services, but please call ahead to confirm.

Heating Type	Emergency Benefit Amount
Heat-Related Domestic	\$185
Natural Gas Heat Only	\$400
Natural Gas Combined with Heat-Related	ed Domestic \$585
Electric Heat Combined with Heat-Rela	ted Domestic \$585
Oil, Kerosene, Propane	\$900
Wood, Pellets, Coal, Corn, Other	\$635

#### **Regular HEAP Also Available**

For those who have yet to apply for HEAP at all this season, the Regular HEAP benefit - offering a one-time payment to help buy fuel to heat a home - remains available. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and whether or not the household has a member who is under age 6, over age 60 or permanently disabled.

You may qualify even if you think you won't, so to apply for a 2024-2025 HEAP grant, go to https://mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin

The Sullivan County HEAP Office can be reached at 845-807-0142 (hit option #2) or HEAP@sullivanny.gov. The fax number is 845-292-4651.

Applications can also be obtained from the County's community partners (please call first):

- o Action Toward Independence, 845-794-4228
- o Independent Living, 845-794-3322
- o Sullivan County Office for the Aging, 845-807-0241

## Trash Tipping Fees to Increase in 2025 Escalating Costs Compel Legislators to Act

Monticello, NY - Legislators this month authorized the increase of tipping fees for trash removal companies bringing waste to Sullivan County transfer stations.

"Since this has been something of interest and concern to the public, we want citizens to understand how and why we came to this decision," explained Legislature Chair Nadia Rajsz. "We were forced to raise rates because of our rising exportation costs. In the meantime, we are diligently looking at other means of handling our waste."

"With rumors and assumptions floating around, it's important for people to know the reality of our garbage disposal service, which is getting more expensive," said Vice Chair Joe Perrello, who chairs the Legislature's Public Works Committee. "We are spreading the cost of the system more fairly across actual users instead of taxpayers, and we intend to enforce our flow-control rules (waste produced in Sullivan County must be disposed in Sullivan County). Still, this is a burden on everyone, which is why I support seriously looking at a waste-to-energy plant."

"While no one's happy with increased rates, we continue to actively work on solutions to address the challenges ahead," District 1 Legislator and Majority Leader Matt McPhillips stated. "We share the concerns of our communities and businesses about rising costs. A more comprehensive solution is needed to secure our future ability to serve the public at a price that is affordable."

"We were notified of the rate increase at the last minute in December," said District 4 Legislator and Minority Leader Nick Salomone. "Due to public reaction, I think we need to find a solution next year to take the burden off the homeowner, perhaps using the sales tax surplus. I'd like to make that decision by or before July 1, when the higher rate kicks in."

#### What Is a Tipping Fee?

Like all waste processing facilities, Sullivan County's solid waste program charges a fee to receive a given quantity of trash from commercial trucking companies (typically referred to as "waste haulers" or "garbage trucks"). This is called a "tipping" fee - presumably because some trucks tip their beds to dump the garbage into a collection trailer, although the origin of the phrase is unclear.

Tipping fees are charged to offset the costs of providing a solid waste collection and disposal service. However, while individual users who bring their trash to County transfer stations are usually charged on a per-bag basis, commercial haulers are charged by the ton, since they are bringing much greater quantities collected from multiple households and businesses. (Contd. Pg. 11)

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



A Book of Bones Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 113 by John Dwaine McKenna Mysterious Book Report No. 400 Published Jankuary 9, 2020

All readers of fiction, and especially crime fiction, are ultimately interested in the eternal battle between the forces of good versus the forces of evil. It's the tension between those two opposing sides that creates drama, and drama is what we all crave, because we're curious . . . and because we're rooting for one side or the other. Whether it's Mommy Dearest, or The Devil himself, it's only a matter of personal taste as to how graphic one

likes their villains, but generally speaking, the baddest of the bad must have the greatest of the good as an opponent before either one can prevail.

So, what if . . . just suppose . . . there was an older, dormant God who was evil, just awaiting a wake-up call?

That's the premise behind A Book of Bones, (Emily Bestler Books/Altria, \$28.99, 673 pages, ISBN 978-1-9821-2751-0) by John Connolly, in his chilling, nineteenth Charlie Parker thriller.

The challenge and the conflict begins on the moors of Northumbria, England, when a young schoolteacher is ritually murdered, her body left at the site where the ancient, and evil, Familist Church was located before it was moved to Prosperous, Maine sometime in the seventeenth century. Then, an Iron Age mound to the south, is where a second victim, this time a young girl, is found murdered in a similar fashion. And not long after that a human skull turns up in the ruins of an abandoned monastery . . . all in an attempt to awaken an earlier, more brutal God known as the Green Man and re-impose chaos upon this world we know and love. But this world is only one of many worlds, all described in an ever-changing but incomplete, ancient hand-written tome called the Fractured Atlas which, if reassembled, will allow our world to be destroyed; replaced by an evil, choas-laden and unstable one.

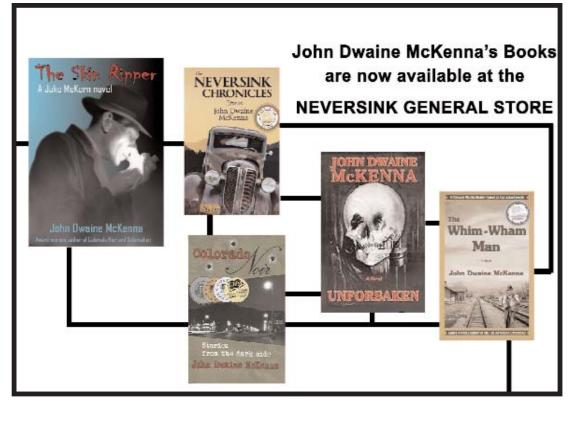
A diabolic English lawyer named Quayle is in possession of the atlas, which is missing a single page . . . a page that is in the hands of an otherworldly detective named Charlie Parker and his two unholy assistants; Angel and Louis who's the last of the Reapers. An all-out battle for the missing page ensues, with victim after victim falling at the hands of the evildoers until the final scene at a five hundred year-old church where Parker himself may not see the light of the next day.

Connolly shows once again, why he's the undisputed master of the uncanny thriller in this electrifying tale that'll make you double check all the locks, throw more wood on the fire and keep you nailed to the page far into the scary dark night!

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

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

or http://Mysteriousbookreport.com



**Thank You!** 



The Olíve Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

## For the Birds

Today is my father's birthday. He would be 107. His mother, my Nana, would always feed the birds. They didn't buy bird seed. The birds would get the heel (Skulk in Norwegian) and crusts and crumbs. "Go feed the birds," she would tell me.

#### 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* 

Birds fascinate me. I googled how long birds live in the wild, and the answer was four to 100 years! And they do not age. They do not get arthritic, or bald, or gray. Once they become an adult, they remain so. I always thought

because they were little, they had a shortened life span. Not true. Perhaps they will share their secrets with us.

Being ageless, they do not need to count birthdays. That may be why they sing, and fly, and raise families. They live each moment and don't count the hours and days as a limited bank account. They are so unencumbered and free.

Since my last column suggested giving seniors bird seed, Santa delivered big time. I must have over 150 pounds of sunflower seeds, finch seeds, and wild bird food in bins in the garage . (Don't tell the bear!), and my son and daughter-in-law got me a bird feeder that is AI wireless with a camera that can photograph and identify over a thousand species of birds. It even has a microphone to capture the song. It can all be viewed on a phone. My father and my Nana would be totally flabbergasted how we can now feed birds in the 21st century although I still scatter bread for the birds (and chipmunks, and squirrels) the old fashioned way.

Now, when someone calls you "Bird Brain", take it as a compliment. Eat, sing, and fly.



## A Humble Apology

By Lisa Carroll

Last week, in my Daniel Pierce Library column, I incorrectly spelled the name of the individual who presented the \$2500 grant to our staff. Her name is Allyson Morley of Hudson Valley Credit Union. I apologize for this mishap.



Maybe you're a student looking for some volunteer hours, a retiree looking to use your skills and passion to help others, or maybe you just LOVE your library and have an extra hour or two each week! Whoever you are, we appreciate your interest! To apply for volunteer opportunities at the DPL, please complete a volunteer application.



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

## CELEBRATE

000

your next event at the Daniel Pierce Library!

Reserve the Community Room or the Reading Room and make it an event to remember!

Call 845 985-7233 for availability or 🛛 🔸 go to our website for further details.

AHADOGA

Daniel Pierce Library 328 Main Straat J P.O. Box 268 Grnhamsville, New York 12740-0268 J 845-985-7233 dpl@rcls.org + www.danielpiercelibrary.org



## BLOOMING GREEN LAWN AND LANDSCAPE SERVICE

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

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

## • Shrubs • Fruit Trees • Ornamental Trees Custom Complete Lawn Care • Edging

Custom Complete Lawn Care • Edging Raised Flowerbeads • Mulching • Light Landscaping

Over 25 years experience Residential and Commercial *Fully Insured* 

## Firewood

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

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

## Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Inner Worlds



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

Snow Date March 6th

Recommended for adults and students ten and up Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary, Inner Worlds focusing on Venus & Mercury.

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

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

Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org. In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations



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

# NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE

FREE

Now Serving Italian Meals Cooked to Order Daily

Chicken Parm w Pasta Eggplant Parm w Pasta Fresh House Made Marinara

## 845-985-2076

Made with PosterMyWall.com

**BRRRRRR!** It's cold outside!



## Trash Tipping Fees to Increase in 2025 Escalating Costs Compel Legislators to Act

(From Pg. 5)

#### What Is the Current Tipping Fee in Sullivan County?

As of December 2024, Sullivan County charges \$120 a ton to deliver municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition (C&D) debris into its system.

Legislators have agreed to increase the fee to \$150 a ton in the new year, with an interim increase to \$136.50 from January 1 to June 30, 2025 for MSW only. The C&D tipping fee will become \$150 a ton on January 1, 2025.

#### Why Is the Tipping Fee Increasing?

Late in 2024, IESI - the company which transports garbage from County facilities to the Seneca Meadows Landfill in upstate Waterloo, NY - notified the County's Division of Public Works (DPW) that transportation rates would go up by 11%. The County is already operating via contract with IESI but was able to lower an even larger increase via negotiations.

As the County transports around 100,000 tons of trash a year to Seneca Meadows via IESI, the increase amounts to about \$1 million.

However, general expenses have been outpacing revenues in the solid waste program for years, especially since the Solid Waste User Fee ended. These expenses - nearly \$1.3 million in 2024 and anticipated to be \$2 million in 2025 - continually increase. Thus the County has had to transfer funds from other areas of the budget to offset any losses. (The County does not seek to make a profit on the solid waste system, but neither can it allow balances to go unpaid.)

Raising the tipping fees by \$30 a ton is therefore intended to balance revenues with expenses going forward.

#### Were Alternatives Considered?

Yes. Any immediate change would involve shipping garbage out of state, which would be more expensive.

Legislators are investigating long-term solutions, including a composting center and a facility that could convert garbage into energy by burning it. Earlier this year, they toured such a waste-to-energy facility that has long been permitted to operate in one of the most heavily populated areas of Long Island. The company which operates that facility - Reworld/Covanta - is submitting a proposal to Sullivan County for legislators to review.

The County also is designing and intends to apply to the State to build a composting center at the Monticello Transfer Station. However, these kinds of alternatives will take years to implement, requiring multiple meetings, hearings and regulatory approvals.

## UC Awarded \$558K Grant for Repairs to Historic Matthewis Persen House in Uptown Kingston

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger today announced that the County has been awarded a \$558,232 grant from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for repairs to the historic Matthewis Persen House in Kingston that will preserve its historical integrity. Owned by the County, the historic stone building is located in the Stockade National Historic District at the Corner of Crown and John Streets - the only intersection in America where the buildings on all four corners were built before the Revolutionary War. The building serves as a museum and cultural heritage center, with staffing and support from the County Clerk's Office.

The grant will enable the County to replace the deteriorated wood shingle roof and other exterior repairs to preserve the building's historic character for years to come.

Named after its longest resident, Matthew Persen (1739-1819), the Persen House has witnessed many important moments in Ulster County's history - it was burned at least twice, saw wars and revolution and was home to doctors, tailors, grocers, druggists and innkeepers. The earliest portions of the building date back to 1661.

Today, the Persen House serves as a museum interpreting the complex colonial history of Ulster County and the Hudson Valley. Damaged twice in colonial conflicts, the house serves as a backdrop to interpret the diverse experiences of the native Esopus People, free and enslaved Africans, and Anglo-Dutch Colonists.

The County has owned the Matthewis Persen House since 1914, and in addition to once housing the Board of Elections, County Food Conservation Bureau, and many more offices, for many decades it was also used to house Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE's) agricultural services. In 1999, CCE was relocated for emergency roof stabilization repairs, beginning a process of historic restoration and the conversion of the building to an interpretive space for the public benefit. The Persen House now welcomes more than 6,000 visitors annually and hosts reenactments, presentations, tours, musical performances, and historical exhibits, Burning of Kingston activities, and area student field trips.

Currently, the building, which is unheated, is open from Memorial Day through the end of October. The repairs, once completed, will extend the season of operation.

"The Persen House is a historical treasure we intend to preserve for generations, and I want to thank the State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for this significant grant to make needed repairs," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "To be able to learn about our past in a building steeped in over 360 years of that history is a truly unique experience, and through the dedicated efforts of the County Clerk's Office, we are making the most of this asset to enrich public understanding of our shared history."

"The Persen House has seen a fairly dramatic increase in attendance over the past five years, from roughly 3,000 guests per year to over 6,000 guests in 2024," said Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk. "As one of the oldest structures in the County, it was imperative that we properly care for it by fixing the leaky roof. This grant will go a long way in realizing that goal, and I couldn't be more proud of our staff and everyone who helped us preserve our important history."

"We are incredibly grateful for this crucial support toward the preservation of the Matthewis Persen House," said Eddie Moran, Ulster County Historian. "With its earliest portion dating to 1661, the house played host to, and continues to reflect, the diverse cultural groups who have called this land home, including Esopus native people, Dutch and English colonists, and free and enslaved Africans. Support for historic preservation such as this is vital to ensuring this important historic site and innovative museum can continue to introduce visitors to the complex history of Kingston and the surrounding region for generations to come."

More information on the Matthewis Persen House Museum and Cultural Heritage Center can be found at: https://clerk.ulstercountyny.gov/archives/persen-house

### THE TOWNSMAN

#### **JANUARY 2, 2025**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: We Need NATO

President Trump casually and unintentionally threatened the security of the world, including the United States, when he talked about NATO countries not meeting the guideline of 2% of GDP for defense.

On February 12,2024 a leader of a NATO country said to Trump "Well sir, if we don't pay, and we're attacked by Russia - will you protect us?" Trump said: "You didn't pay? You're delinquent? No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay."

Although this remark is probably a negotiating ploy by President Trump it might encourage Russia to continue the war in Ukraine, and if it defeats Ukraine, continue on and attack NATO countries. We should continue to provide military equipment and supplies to Ukraine.

The United States is a member of NATO, and by a treaty strengthened by Congress, required to come to the aid of any NATO country attacked by Russia. This would precipitate WWIII.

We need all of our leaders to understand the geopolitical status of the world. President Trump should stick with his sound policies, which are essentially quite good, and refrain from making provocative statements about international matters.

Donald Moskowitz Londonderry NH

## Step Into the New Year with the Catskill Center!

#### Sweet Support for the Catskills!

Gingerbread mountains are back-and giving back-at Bread Alone!

For every bag sold, Bread Alone will donate \$2 to support the Catskill Center's mission, with donations matched up to \$1,000 by a generous matching grant. Enjoy these treats while helping protect the region.

Available for a limited time at select cafes! https://www.breadalone.com/blog/bread-alone-x-catskill-cent e r - g i n g e r b r e a d - m o u n t a i n s - f o r good?mc\_cid=d76bcf367d&mc\_eid=741885eb1c

## Looking for the perfect gift for the book lover in your life?

The Catskills Visitor Čenter Shop is offering 20% off select books-from children's stories to local history, hiking guides, and more.

Explore these great deals and celebrate the Catskills!

Stop by the Catskills Visitor Center or visit our online store here

https://shop.catskillsvisitorcenter.org/shop/books/3?mc\_cid= 520b3c007d&mc\_cid=d76bcf367d&mc\_eid=741885eb1c&m c\_eid=741885eb1c



## First Class Formalwear

Tuxedo's & Suits Gown Alterations Gown Preservation Wedding Invitations

Rentals & Sales

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



T. Halpin Mechanical Corp. DBA

Erts Mechanical

Plumbing - Heating the Alfr Conditioning

845-292-4571 Liberty, NY



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

> Now available on Amazon: Go to: Amazon.com then type in In the Spirit of Sumi-e



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

Monticello, NY - The Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling is accepting retired Christmas trees at no charge from Sullivan County residents, businesses and visitors at the end of this Holiday season.

"For individuals with access to backyards and open spaces, strategically-placed, spent Christmas trees offer welcome cover during the winter months for birds and wildlife," noted Recycling Coordinator Kassie Thelman. "Residents, businesses and visitors with limited access to open space, however, are encouraged to take their trees to any Sullivan County Recycling & Transfer Station for FREE disposal."

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



Liners Sold & Installed 845-985-2003 • 845-943-0024

> Pools Installed Liners Installed

> > Filters

Installed

Pool Take Down & Take Away

Opening, Closing & Repair

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

## **Or Do It Yourself!**

If you have a real Christmas tree, choose from options that keep your tree out of the landfill and benefit wildlife:

• If you have space in your yard, consider using your tree as a brush pile for the birds. Not only will the pile provide extra shelter for feathered friends during the cold winter months, but it will also give you some excellent backyard birdwatching opportunities!

• Some farms accept Christmas trees for their goats to munch on the Vitamin C-rich needles. Be sure to confirm that the farm near you is currently accepting Christmas trees.

• Remember, Christmas trees (real or fake) do not belong in your home recycling bin.

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

http: sullivanny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling.

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

www.facebook.com/sullivancountyrecycles.

### **JANUARY 2, 2025**



## THE TOWNSMAN

## Reflection and Resolutions - L. Comando

1	2	3			4	5	6		7						8		9	Τ
10				11		$\top$								12		13		
14			15									16	17			1		18
19						20					21		+		-		22	
									23							24		+
25					26			27	-		T	_			28		$\vdash$	+
				29								-						
		30							-		31		32	33	34		35	36
37								38				39	+	-	-		40	+
-		41				42			43	Ē		44	+	$\vdash$	-		45	┢
		-						46	1	47	48						-	
	49		50		51			52	-	-		53		54		55		
56		57	-	-			58			-		59		-				60
_				61	-					62	63	-		64	4	-	65	-
66	67		68	-	-	69		70	71		72	-		-		73	-	
74			-						75		-	-	76		77		78	79
					80		81	82							-			
		83			84	-	-	-					85		_			-

#### ACROSS

1 Engrave 4 Stay in a seated position 7 Fracture 9 Resting atop 10 Compete eagerly 11 Period of time following now 12 Regarded as bringing about good or bad things 14 A printer's measure 15 Adult human male 16 Perfect happiness 19 Depend on 20 Do something 21 Neighboring Tri-Valley town 22 Egyptian sun god 24 Signal of distress 25 Wealthy 26 Post Office 27 Now for the first time 28 Every one of 29 Precipitation 30 To make a change 31 A date book 37 Indefinite period of time 39 Wander

40 California

41 New

44 Restricted course of food 45 Right (abbrev) 46 Swiss mountains 49 Mythological guardian of doorways 52 Not cloudy 54 Crowds 57 Taking place after the expected time 58 Exist 59 Epoch 61 Indo-European 62 Having three 64 Objects of a person's ambition 66 Integrated Circuit 68 Strategic position 70 Road 72 Chemical element silver 73 Perform 74 California evergreen of the Rose family 75 Wrote "Auld Lang Syne" 78 In the direction of 80 Political party not in office 83 Vermont 84 Passenger boat 85 Five cents

42 Urgent request

DOWN 1 Always 2 Indefinite continued progress of existence 3 Common Era 4 Star around which the Earth orbits 5 Expressing location of a place 6 Trade Union 7 Humbly ask for something 8 A trick 9 In good shape 11 Fourth tone in the diatonic scale 12 Reside in 13 \_. Lewis, famous visionary and author 15 A traditional story of history using supernatural characters 16 Nor'easter 17 Long Island (abbrev) 18 Money 20 Stop oneself from doing 22 Giant mythological bird 23 365 Days 24 Parenthetically suggested 25 Section of the Kalevala 26 Metal container used to cook food 29 Firm decision to do or

not to do something 30 Occurring once every year 32 Part of the lower body on both sides of the spine 33 Night before an event 34 Open meshed material 35 Units of land 36 Scoundrel **38** Tranquility 42 Father 43 Entire 47 Nuisance **48 South America** 50 North America 51 A person with supernatural insight 53 Be sovereign

54 Magician 55 Globule 56 Discontinue 60 Adverb used to emphasize an amount 63 Uncommon 65 A large amount 67 Domestic bovine 68 Paw 69 Genuine 71 Decibel 76 Male child 77 Curved shape 79 "Wise" nocturnal bird 80 Relationship between a part and the whole 81 Treasurer 82 Senior

#### HEARTY LENTIL SOUP

Onion, chopped 1/4 cup olive oil 2 carrots, diced 2 stalks celery, chopped 2 cloves garlic, minced 1 teaspoon dried oregano 1 teaspoon dried basil 1 (14.5 ounce) can crushed tomatoes 2 cups dry lentils 8 cups water (or chicken broth) Salt to taste Ground black pepper to taste Parmesan Cheese

In a large soup pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions, carrots, and celery; cook and stir until onion is tender. Stir in garlic, oregano, and basil; cook for 2 minutes.

Stir in lentils, and add water and tomatoes. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer for at least 1 hour. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

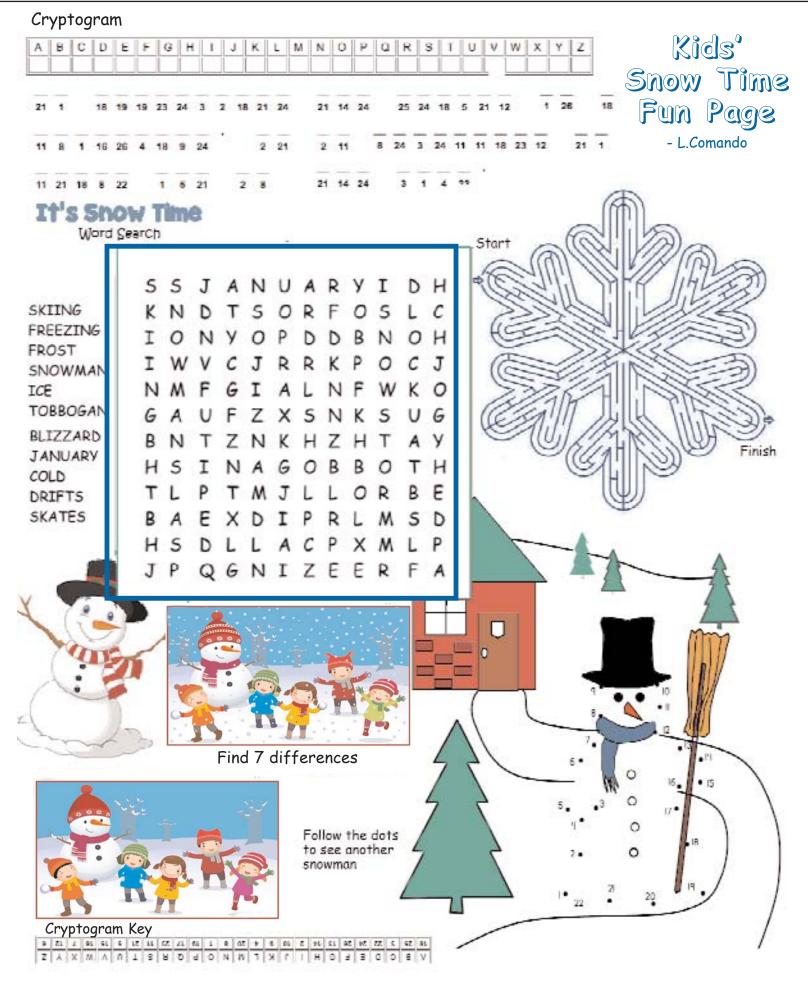
	-	Ţ3	.15	<b>₽</b> {	設に	晚	3	
1	7				3	9		8
		9	6		8			1
8							4	
2	4			1			6	
			8	6	2			
	6			9			1	3
	1							5
5			9		1	7		
6		7	5				8	2
Ansı	wer c	n		ay Sl	UDO			

page 23

https://sudoko.com

#### PAGE 16

#### THE TOWNSMAN



## EGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

#### TAX COLLECTION LEGAL NOTICE 2025 Staci Conjura, Town Clerk/Tax Collector 273 Main Street, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740 Email: townclerk@townofneversink.org Phone: 845-985-2262 x307

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Staci Conjura, will collect taxes in the Town of Neversink Town Hall, 273 Main St., Grahamsville, NY, according to the following schedule:

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

#### Closed Weekends and Holidays

I will collect taxes on Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Neversink Town Hall.

	** SCHEDULE OF FEES **																						
Janua	iry							+		+	+							+		-	+	Pa	
Febru																							
Marc	h.			e		+	÷		e		ė	69	ė	ė	e		e		9	e	e	2%	į

An additional \$2 penalty will be added to your bill when the unpaid notices are sent on or before March 3 (NYS Law).

After March 31, 2025 taxes are payable to the Sullivan County Treasurer; call 845-807-0200 for amount.

#### \*\* PAYMENT SCHEDULE \*\*

If paying in full, please return entire tax bill with your payment. It will be stamped paid and returned. *Installment payments* may be paid as follows:

January - 50% due by 1/31/2025 at 0% interest. Please send the "Payment #1" stub with your check.

February - 25% due by 2/29/2025 at 1% interest on remaining account. Please send the "Payment #2" stub. March 25% due by 3/31/2025 at 2% interest + \$2.00 unpaid notice fee. Please send entire bill and I will return it to you as your receipt.

RECEIPTS FOR JAN/FEB INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS WILL ONLY BE SENT UPON REQUEST.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Tax Collector MAIL PAYMENT TO: Town of Neversink 273 Main Street, PO Box 307 Grahamsville, NY 12740

#### Please include your phone number on the payment stub or on your check in case the collector needs to reach you.

You may obtain a duplicate tax bill/receipt, or check the status of your payment at www.townofneversink.org

If payments are not timely (i.e., postmarked) they will not be accepted. If you miss the January 31 (postmarked) deadline the installment payments are no longer an option. All tax payments postmarked after January 31, 2025 will be subject to late penalty as listed above. LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES STRICTLY ENFORCED.

Receipts will be mailed for full/final payment. There is a \$20 returned check charge.

IF YOU ARE A SENIOR CITIZEN AND/OR A VETERAN, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO A PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAXES. Eligible homeowners have until March 1 to apply for such exemptions. For further information please call or write our Assessor Bryan Delaney, 845-985-2262 x323 or assessors@townofneversink.org.

If you no longer own this property or if your address has changed, please call and we will adjust our records. To access the Town Code, meeting minutes, forms & other helpful information: www.townofneversink.org

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

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that I, Nancy A Parrow, Tax Collector for the Town of Denning, Ulster County, State of New York, have received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Denning for the year 2025.

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

Taxes will also be collected on Saturday, January 25th, 2025 from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Denning Town Hall.

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

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

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that pursuant to the provisions of law, the tax roll for the Town of Denning will be returned to the Ulster County Finance Commissioner on the date of expiration of the Collector's Warrant for 2025.

NANCY A PARROW Tax Collector Town of Denning

December 30th, 2024

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Secondary School Lower Level Library The meeting will be livestreamed on the District's

YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nA WhR6N%20%20Vao24w/live 1/2/2025

Notice is hereby given that DEC is extending the public comment period on revised rulemaking 6 NYCRR Part 375, Environmental Remediation Programs The public comment period is extended to January 31, 2025.

The proposed policy documents and instructions on how to comment can be viewed on the DEC website. For additional assistance, please write to Jennifer Dawson, Policy Coordinator, Division of Environmental Remediation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-7012 or e-mail derweb@dec.ny.gov with Part 375 in the subject line.

## **Statement from Governor Kathy Hochul**

"Like all New Yorkers, I was outraged and horrified after seeing footage of the senseless killing of Robert Brooks. I have been clear that it is the responsibility of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to provide appropriate care and protection for those in its custody, and I will not tolerate anyone who violates that responsibility. That is why I ordered an immediate and full investigation into the death of Robert Brooks and further directed DOCCS Commissioner Martuscello to begin the termination process for the 14 individuals who were involved in his fatal attack. The State of New York has zero tolerance for individuals who break the law, and I am committed to holding everyone involved fully accountable. Once again, I want to offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Brooks' family and loved ones as they grieve his tragic death. I am grateful to the Attorney General and her team, our State Police, and everyone working with us to ensure justice is served in this case."



**ERHNY.org** 845.647.6400

## **Advanced Care, Close to Home**

Our team of skilled specialists, cutting-edge technology, and compassionate care ensures that you receive the highest quality treatment. Trust Ellenville Regional Hospital for all your medical needs.

- Pain Management
- Physical Therapy
- Ambulatory Surgery
- Speech Pathology
- Wound Care
- Laboratory
- IV Therapy
- Subacute Rehab 
  Digital Diagnostic Imaging
  - Emergency Department
  - Cardiac Rehabilitation
  - Occupational Therapy

## Making Home Ownership Easier and More Affordable: Governor Hochul Awards \$51 Million in Grants Throughout the State to Support Homeownership for More than 1,000 Households

#### Awards Will Help Low- and Moderate-Income Homeowners Make Homes Safe and Accessible; Provide Downpayment Assistance for First-Time Homebuyers

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that 1,060 households will benefit from \$51 million in grants to support affordable homeownership. The awards will help low- and moderateincome families make repairs, accessibility modifications or safety upgrades to their homes, replace manufactured homes, and provide down payment assistance for first-time buyers. Today's announcement complements Governor Hochul's \$25 billion comprehensive Housing Plan which is on track to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes statewide.

"This investment will make the dream of homeownership attainable and manageable for more than 1,000 households, allowing families and individuals across New York to live safely and affordably in homes of their own," Governor Hochul said. "My administration is committed to increasing affordability for families and putting every tool at our disposal to work to address our housing crisis."

The grants - administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Office of Community Renewal - were awarded to nonprofit organizations and localities to help preserve affordable housing, support veterans and older New Yorkers, increase access to homeownership, and strengthen local economies.

A summary of awards by region is below:

## Region Amount Awarded Housing Units Assisted

The awards are made through state and federally funded programs including NYS HOME, NYS Community Development Block Grant, Access to Home, Access to Home for Heroes, Access to Home for Medicaid, Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement, and RESTORE.

Each program accepts applications in an annual competitive funding round.

o NYS HÓME Program funds can be used to acquire and/or rehabilitate single-family housing, provide down payment assistance, replace dilapidated mobile and manufactured homes as well as provide tenant based rental assistance to households with incomes at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income.

o NYS Community Development Block Grant Program pro-

vides federal funds to help localities with projects that improve communities and benefit their residents. Housing grants can be used to rehabilitate owner-occupied or renteroccupied homes, down payment assistance for low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers, and private water/wastewater system assistance for low- and moderateincome homeowners.

o Access to Home program provides financial assistance to make homes accessible for low- and moderate-income persons with disabilities so that they can continue living safely and comfortably in their residences or return to live in their residences instead of in an institutional setting.

o Access to Home for Heroes provides financial assistance to make homes accessible for low- and moderate-income veterans with disabilities.

o Access to Home for Medicaid provides financial assistance to make residential units accessible for Medicaid-eligible persons with disabilities.

o Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement program assists low- and moderate-income homeowners to replace dilapidated mobile or manufactured homes that are sited on land owned by the homeowner with a new manufactured, modular, or site-built home.

o RESTORE provides financial resources to assist senior citizens with the cost of making emergency repairs and addressing code violations that pose a threat to their health and safety or affect the livability of the home. Assistance for the cost of these critical repairs enables seniors to continue to live independently in their homes.

New York State Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas said, "Increasing access to housing and making homeownership an affordable reality is critical for all New Yorkers. The \$51 million we announced today through a variety of programs will provide resources people need to make necessary home repairs and accessibility modifications, provide help with down payments, replace manufactured homes, and allow more than 1,000 households to live safely and securely in their communities. Thank you to our partners on the ground who are putting this investment to work on behalf of New Yorkers."

## **Governor Hochul's Housing Agenda**

Governor Hochul is committed to addressing New York's housing crisis and making the State more affordable and more livable for all New Yorkers. As part of the FY25 Enacted Budget, the Governor secured a landmark agreement to increase New York's housing supply through new tax incentives for Upstate communities, new incentives and relief from certain state-imposed restrictions to create more housing in New York City, a \$500 million capital fund to build up to 15,000 new homes on state-owned property, an additional \$600 million in funding to support a variety of housing developments statewide and new protections for renters and homeowners. As part of the FY23 Enacted Budget, the Governor announced a five-year, \$25 billion Housing Plan to create or preserve 100,000 affordable homes statewide, including 10,000 with support services for vulnerable populations, plus the electrification of an additional 50,000 homes. More than 50,000 homes have been created or preserved to date.

The FY25 Enacted Budget also strengthened the Pro-Housing Community Program which the Governor launched in 2023. Pro Housing Certification is now a requirement for localities to access up to \$650 million in discretionary funding. To date, more than 250 communities have been certified.

## Daniel Pierce Library Senior Social!

Sponsored by Tri Valley Retired Teachers

Monday, January 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Snow Date: Monday, January 27th

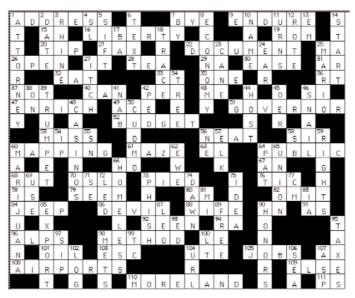
Join us for an afternoon of conversation with fellow retirees in our Adult Reading Room. Light refreshments will be served.

> For more information contact Adele Barnard at ambarnard57@gmail.com or to RSVP

fffffo



Ans to last week's Crossword





SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU answer

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

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS Need a place to show and sell your crafts? Call us at 845-985-0501 email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or visit our Virtual Mall http://gnomehomeinc.com



Covered Dish Supper Saturday, January 4, 2025 5:30 pm at the Church Hall Check out the tables with Yard Sale items available for sale (Covered Dish Suppers are held the

Sundown United Methodist Church

First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Church Hall)

## Order Your 4 Free At-home COVID-19 Tests • Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests Do you want 4 free Covid Tests Kits? Go to: *CovidTests.gov*

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

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

## **\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money**

Every day New York State returns \$1.5 million to those who file claims here. Is any yours? To find out, go to: *https://osc.state.ny.us/ouf or https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf* 

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

## Check the air quality where you are at:

## https://www.airnow.gov/

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.

## THE TOWNSMAN LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/4/25	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church
1/8/25	Town of Neversink Organizational - Board Meeting
1/20/25	Town of Neversink Holiday - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

#### TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc. Please remember to send us your Events Calendar for 2025 so that we may continue to post your meetings and events

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

## **Ulster County Legislature**

Weekly Update For The Week Of December 30, 2024 - January 3, 2025

## Monday, December 30

o No Meetings

Tuesday, December 31 o No Meetings

Wednesday, January 1 o New Year's Day - County Offices Closed

Thursday, January 2oNo Meetings

## Friday, January 3

o No Meetings



## SONG CLUB at MISU

Every last Saturday of the month All ages and voices welcome

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

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

> > 40 Market St. Ellenville www.misucatskills.org 845.377.3727

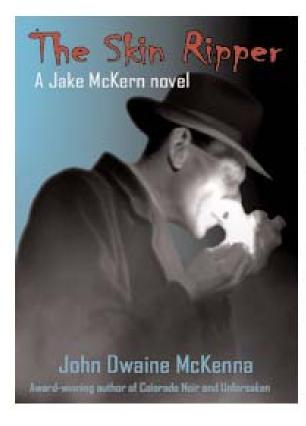


@Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Countles @misucatskills

## The Skin Ripper

A novel John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3 325 pages Price \$19.95 Available Now at: Neversink General Store Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple And bookstores everywhere.

## **Action Toward Independence**

## Presents

Momen's Empowermen Group Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

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

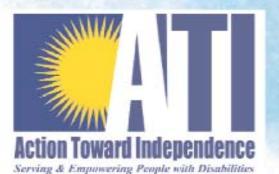
## Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location: 126 Seward Ave Middletown, NY 10940 Please RSVP Seats are limited

For More Information Call 845.343.4284 Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.

Find us on

Facebook



### THE TOWNSMAN







## COME SKATE DURING WINTER BREAK!

## Winter Break Schedule:

Monday, 12/23 6:30-8:30pm Thursday, 12/26 6:30-8:30pm Friday, 12/27 3:00-8:00pm Saturday, 12/28 1:00-3:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm Sunday, 12/29 1:00-3:00p & 6:30-8:30pm Monday, 12/30 1:00-4:00p SKATE IN THE NEW YEAR! 1/1 @1p-4p Thursday, 1/2 6:30-8:30 pm Friday, 1/3 6:30-8:30 pm Saturday, 1/4 1:00-3:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm Sunday, 1/5 1:00-4:00 pm

Contact Tanya with questions: 845-807-7502

## Lulu and Smokey -Two Beautiful Cats Need a Good Caring Home



Two beautiful cats are in need of a good, caring home. Lulu is a female black and white cat. She's about 13 years old. She is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. She is very lovable and loves to play and be petted.

Smokey is the gray male tabby cat. He is about 12 years old and a big boy. He just loves to play, be petted, and loves his food.

He too is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. I have been taking care of them for a month and have not let them outside, and they are fine with that.

Their owner was my brother who recentpassed ly away and he had both cats for at 12 least years. They have had all of their shots. and will come with a supply of food,



kitty litter and pans, bowls for food and water, and toys. The hope is to keep them together.

I would love to keep them, but have 3 dogs that would not take well to cats.

Only serious cat lovers will be considered.

If you are interested, please contact me. **Esta Jacob** 

856-866-1579 Cell 845-985-3937 Home ejacob4848@gmail.com Sun Trail Storage

Sun Trail is a local family-owned business God Bless America Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd

and Route 55 Grahamsville, NY



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

Please call for availability first

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

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

<u>Display Ads</u>

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

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

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

Low Rates High Visibility!

202 WILLIAM wint Sched	er on loca	N COUNTY mobile unit ation 10:00am - 3:00pm	DMV Store to Schedule as app
JEFFERSONVILLE	WURTSBORO	NARROWSBURG	HORTONVILLE
Tues January 7	Thurs January 23	Tues January 21	Thurs January 16
Tues February 4	Thurs February 20	Tues February 18	Thurs February 13
Tues March 4	Thurs March 20	Tues March 18	Thurs March 13
License & Registration Appts	Registration Appts Only	Registration Appts Only	Registration Appts Only
19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY	2948 US 209. Wurtsboro, NY	210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY	104 Lawer Main Street, Harlanvilla: NY
LIVINGSTON MANOR	GRAHAMSVILLE	LIBERTY	BLOOMINGBURG
Tues January 14	Thurs January 9	Tues January 28	Thurs January 30
Tues February 11	Thurs February 6	Tues February 25	Thurs February 27
Tues March II	Thurs March 6	Tues March 25	Thurs March 27
Registration Appts Only	License & Registration Appts	License & Registration Appts	License & Registration Appts
95 Main Street. Livingslan Manar, NY	273 Main Street. Grahamavilla, NY	15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY	13 North IId. Bloomingburg, NY

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

## Saturday, January 25 1pm: Friends Mixer 3pm: Friends Mixer

The Friends are a volunteer group whose mission is to benefit the Olive Free Library by raising money, providing volunteers for Library events and programs, raising community awareness of the Library, and advocating on behalf of the Library.



## THE TOWNSMAN

### **JANUARY 2, 2025**

## **News from Director of Olive Free Library**

The Olive Free Library staff, Director, and the Board of Trustees thank you for your continued support of all we do to make the Library the heart of this amazing community.

This year, we painted the Library's interior and exterior, collaborated with the Friends Group to purchase new furniture, added new custom book shelving, worked with the Catskill Watershed Corporation to upgrade the septic system, replanted the front garden, and planned for more landscaping improvements for next spring. With the help of an accessibility grant, we installed a beautiful, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramp at the front entrance, and made the bathrooms accessible to all. And, as always, we ran a full calendar of community programs and events for adults, children, teens, seniors, and families.

Now we turn our attention to the Library's lower level-home to the Rosalie Children's Room, the Donald F. and Edna G. Bishop Museum Room, the Book Sale Room, and the community meeting space. We'd like to give this important part of the Library a refresh that mirrors the main floor by replacing the flooring and refurbishing the seating area and community space so it is warm and inviting for years to come.

We strive to make every inch of the Library a place where all feel welcome and cared for. These 'beautification' projects are one of the many ways we can make the Library feel like home.

We hope you will consider making a year-end donation to support our lower level renovation and remodeling project.

Thank you for your continued support!

Saturday, January 25, 3-5 p.m.

Wishing you and your loved ones health and happiness throughout the year.

Community Mixer!

Melissa McHugh Director, Olive Free Library

Hosted by the Friends Group -Olive Free Library Clear the winter blues and come in from the cold. Join old friends, meet new friends, enjoy the good vibes of Olive over warm bowls of soup and stew, bread and other warm refreshments! We look forward to seeing you there!



Beekee with Rob Overton Saturday, January 18 10am - 4pm

INTRO TO

Olive Free Library

## Multiplicity: Together and Apart



Nova Darkstar Ted Dixon Robin Factor Pat Hough Sarah Mecklem

Robert Ohnigian COLIVE FREE LIBRARY Vincent Pidone Alan Samalin **MJ** Shepard Frank Tagariello

4033 Route 28A West Shokan, NY

olivefreelibrary.org 845.657.2482



Full-day FREE intensive seminar Designed for beginners, great refresher for all beekeepers! No prior experience necessary

## DEC Delivers Banner -Stay Connected with Your Environment

## DEC Announces 2025 Catskill Fire Tower Challenge Annual Hiking Challenge Highlights Catskills Region, Provides Prizes to Participants, and Encourages People to "Get Offline, Get Outside" The New York State Department of Environmental

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the 2025 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge to highlight the world-class tourism destinations and recreational opportunities in the Catskill Park. Launched in 2019, the Challenge draws participants from every region of New York, as well as 10 other states and countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom. This challenge also complements Governor 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.

"DEC is excited to renew the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge for 2025 to highlight the spectacular vistas found in this majestic park and introduce more New Yorkers and visitors to this awe-inspiring experience," said Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar. "The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge has drawn thousands of outdoor enthusiasts from all over New York and beyond to the unparalleled experience of viewing the natural wonders of the Catskill Mountains from one of the park's historic fire towers. The Fire Tower Challenge is introducing the next generation of environmental stewards to the Catskills and helping more people appreciate and enjoy all that the mountains and their surrounding communities have to offer."

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

The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge encourages experienced hikers to visit the region's remaining fire towers located on Balsam Lake Mountain (Hardenburgh), Hunter Mountain (Hunter), Overlook Mountain (Woodstock), Red Hill Mountain (Denning), and Tremper Mountain (Shandaken), as well as the newest and sixth fire tower opened in fall 2019. The 80-foot-tall Upper Esopus Fire Tower is located at the Catskills Visitor Center in Mt. Tremper and provides an opportunity for visitors who may not otherwise be able to undertake more challenging hikes to experience a fire tower in the Catskills high peaks.

Catskill Center Executive Director Jeff Senterman said, "With six very different experiences along the way, the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge welcomes visitors and residents alike to get out and explore the Catskill Park and have some amazing views and the opportunity for education and interpretation along the way. As the home of the Upper Esopus Fire Tower at the Catskills Visitor Center, the volunteers of the Catskill Fire Tower Project, and of the Catskill Stewards, the Catskill Center is always excited to be able to welcome, inform, and assist those who are coming to the Catskill Park to enjoy our amazing public lands and our communities. We value our partnership with the NYSDEC that makes all of this collaborative work to protect, preserve, and enrich the Catskill Park possible and look forward to welcoming the participants in the 2025 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge to the Catskill Park. 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. Grounds are open to the public every day during daylight hours. Situated on 60 acres of forest, fields, and wetlands, the Catskills Visitor Center offers 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.

Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "New York State's Catskills region is a natural treasure, and the Fire Tower Challenge offers visitors and residents alike another great way to experience it. I LOVE NY encourages participants to complement their hikes and fire tower climbs with other local outdoor activities like fishing, rafting, skiing and camping, plus other world-class regional amenities like cozy lodging, farm-to-table dining, historic sites and unique small businesses. Whether for a weekend getaway or an extended vacation, the Catskills provide so many reasons why it's easy to love New York."

To participate in the challenge, hikers must hike to all six DECowned fire towers in the Catskills between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2025. 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 Jan. 5, 2026. Full details can be found at the 2025 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge page.

All participants who complete the challenge will receive a letter and a commemorative Catskills Fire Tower Challenge patch designed with the 2024 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 practicing Leave No Trace<sup>TM</sup> while participating in the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge (e.g., picking up litter, carrying out, planning and preparing for their hikes, staying on the trail).

The 2024 challenge, which continues through the end of the year, has drawn more than 470 finishers to date. With DEC giving participants a full year to complete the challenge, hikers can take their time. Hikers who would like to get a jump start on the Challenge for the new year can complete their first fire tower of the Challenge as part of a guided First Day Hike. The Catskill Mountain Club, in partnership with DEC, will host a guided fire tower hike on Jan. 1, 2025, at the Mount Tremper Fire Tower. Preregistration is required for the hike. For additional details and to register, visit the First Day Hikes 2025 page.

Stewardship of the 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.

Under the Adventure NY initiative, DEC is making strategic investments to expand access to healthy, active, outdoor recreation, connect more New Yorkers and visitors to nature and the outdoors, protect natural resources, and boost local economies. Read more about Adventure NY on DEC's website. Sundown

Methodist

United

Church

Covered

Dish

Supper

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!



Bring a covered dish to share Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall (Intersection of Sundown Rd., Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)

## THE TOWNSMAN





## **Please Help Save Our School!**

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

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

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

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

## **Thank You!**

\$25 \$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	Other
Please mail your check to:	Name:				
Time and the Valleys Museum O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740	Address:				
or go online:	City:		State:	Zip:	
www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org/	cny		State	/ ap,	
support/donate	Email:				
		much for you			



## Get Museum Membership & FREE Admission to over 30 Museums <u>for only \$25 a year</u>!

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











## Join NOW and get a free art catalogue!

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

..... Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740 845 985-7700 or join online: www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org Name: []Individual \$25 [] Double \$40 Address: [] Family \$50 State & Zip:\_\_\_ []Patron \$100 City: []Patron Silver \$200 []Patron Gold \$500 Phone: e-mail: Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum 

## Time and the Valleys Museum

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

# in the still of the night

November 16, 2024 – January 4, 2025 Opening: Saturday, November 16, 3 – 5 pm

seventh annual small works show & concert fundraiser



## ARTISTS in the show:

Lucy Aponte, Judith Boggess, Linda Champanier, Marie Cole, Mary Connelly, Jerry Curtis, Maxine Davidowitz, Carol Davis, KP Devlin, Ted Dixon, Robyn Ellenbogen, Ena Firinn, Gail Freund, Lynne Friedman, Denise Giardullo, Melanie S. Gonzalez, Melissa Harris, Martha Hill, Sue Horowitz, Pat Hough, Janette Kahil, Ava Kaloz, Martha Klein, Lisa Kole, Robin Kornstein, Nick Lacy, Carol LaMonda, Maureen Lohan-Bremer, Kate Masters, Mary McFerran, Ashley Middleton, Wilma Miller, Laura Wynn Montgomery, Meredith Morabito, Ann Morris, Grey Morris, Sylvia Mueller, Raymond Negron, Sean Nixon, Jacqueline O'Malley-Satz, Jacqueline Oster, Gina Palmer, Carol Pepper-Cooper, Bryan Perrin, Susan Shaftan Perrin, Tracy Phillips, Regina B Quinn, Elaine Ralston, Joe Reilly, Lubi Ruiz, Aleksandra Scepanovich, Roberta Sickler, Gopika Sidhu, Janet Siskind, Jan Sosnowitz, Michelle Spark, Judy Stanger, Kevin Sterne, Melissa Styles, Kathleen Suess, Cindy Sumerano, Alyssa C. Toohey, K. Velis Turan, Steven Walkenshaw, Joyce Washor, Nancy Winternight



Curated by Nathalie Andrews and Susan Shaftan Perrin 4033 Route 28A West Shokan, NY olivefreelibrary.org 845.657.2482

## Governor Hochul Highlights 2025 Winter Events Schedule at Olympic Regional Development Authority Venues

World Championships and World Cups in Three Different Sports in 2025 Winter Schedule

 Lake Placid Celebrates 45th Anniversary of • Lake Placid 1980 Olympic Winter Games

• Lake Placid - New York State Is in Targeted Dialogue as the Plan B Back-Up Location For 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympic Games' Sliding Events

 Follows State Investment To Upgrade Olympic Regional Development Authority Facilities

• Lake Placid - Home of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Games - Continues To Attract World's Best Athletes to New York State

Olympic Authority's 'Buffalo Bobsled' Experience on December 29 To Highlight Lake Placid to Buffalo Connection For Upcoming World Sliding Competitions

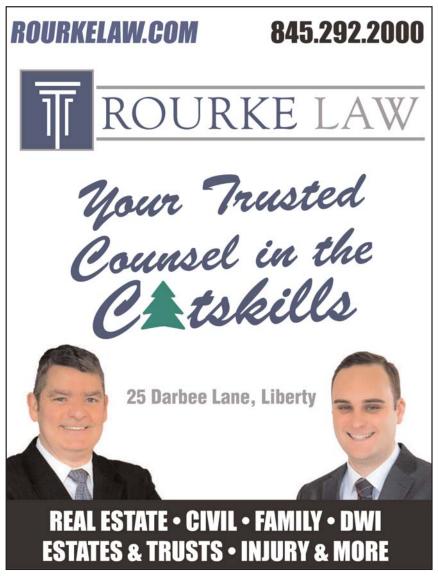
Governor Kathy Hochul today highlighted the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority 2025 winter

Governor Kathy Hochul highlighted the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority 2025 winter events schedule featuring World Cup events in three different sports and the International Bobsled & Skeleton Federation (IBSF) World Championships set for March 2025 showcasing the Olympic legacy that continues in Lake Placid. The announcement follows the recent news that Lake Placid has entered targeted dialogue as the Plan B backup for sliding events for the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Winter Games.

"For decades, New York State's commitment to winter sports has kept the Olympic flame burning bright in Lake Placid," Governor Hochul said. "This is a testament to the investment in the legacy that we continue to provide Lake Placid."

The 1980 Winter Olympics took place Feb. 13-24, 1980, and was the second time Lake Placid hosted the Games. The U.S. men's hockey team's improbable win over the Russians, known as "Miracle on Ice," and speed skater Eric Heiden's five gold medals made the 1980 Games one of the most memorable.

Highlights of the Olympic Authority's 2025 winter schedule include the return of International Ski and



Snowboard Federation (FIS) Aerials World Cup on Jan. 18-19, the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup, which will now include both men's and women's competitions on Feb. 7-9, and the FIS Nordic Jr. World Ski Championships on Feb. 12-16.

The IBSF Bobsled & Skeleton World Championships is the premier event of the bobsled and skeleton season - the Super Bowl of the sport - annually crowning champions and creating career-defining moments for the best sliders in the world. Hosting the event for the 11th time in its storied history, Mt Van Hoevenberg has established a reputation as one of the most technical and iconic tracks in the world. The 2025 World Championships takes on added significance and notoriety as athletes and enthusiasts set their sights on the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

The Lake Placid - New York State sliding events proposal outlined a solution to host and inspire a new generation in partnership with Milano Cortina 2026, utilizing the State's historic investments in Olympic Authority facilities and its ongoing legacy of international winter sport, with the fervor of New York City and its Little Italy neighborhood to celebrate the athletes and sport. The distance from New York City to Lake Placid is 290 miles and mirrors Milano Cortina 2026, which will be the first Olympic Winter Games to identify two cities as hosts, with sanctioned events taking place in numerous cities across northern Italy. If activated, Plan B will provide athletes with the best of both experiences - a fair and demanding competition venue, historic Olympic-village, and a New York City fan zone with a celebration center with medal ceremonies.

(Contd. Pg. 37)

### Governor Hochul Highlights 2025 Winter Events Schedule at Olympic Regional Development Authority Venues

(From Pg. 36) Olympic Authority President and CEO Ashley Walden said, "The Olympic Authority has hosted over 500 national and international competitions, 19 World Championships, and countless seasonal festivals, entertainment shows, skating competitions, ski races, youth hockey tournaments, and so much more. With the State's investment in the venues, we continue to host a robust schedule of events attracting the world's best athletes and a diverse range of spectators to our venues and mountains. This ultimately enables the Olympic Authority to continue to fulfill its mission of creating economic and social benefits for the region by responsibly operating the venues used during the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics."

The Olympic Authority will showcase the "Buffalo Bobsled" in the Billevard Fan Zone outside of Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park prior to kickoff of the Buffalo Bills' final regular season home game this Sunday, Dec. 29. NBC commentator Cris Collinsworth coined the term "Buffalo Bobsled" during a broadcast last season to describe a shortyardage play where a Bills player pushed quarterback Josh Allen from behind to gain critical yards. The play's alignment mirrors the start of a bobsled race, where athletes push the sled to build momentum at the top of the track. Visitors to the Billevard can explore this unique bobsled and enjoy a one-ofa-kind photo opportunity.

Fans will also have the chance to enter ticket giveaways, learn about Olympic Winter sports, the historic venues in Lake Placid, and hear about these upcoming events:

o Jan. 1-4: Jr. World Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined Qualifier (Olympic Jumping Complex)

o Jan. 13-19: FIL Continental Cup (Mt Van Hoevenberg)

o Jan. 18-19: Freestyle Aerials World Cup (Olympic Jumping Complex)

o Jan. 23-27: IBSF North American Cup Bobsled & Skeleton (Mt Van Hoevenberg)

o Jan. 30-Feb. 2: Empire State Games (all venues)

o Feb. 7-9: FIS Ski Jumping World Cup (Olympic Jumping Complex)

o Feb. 12-16: FIS Nordic Jr. World Ski Championships (Mt Van Hoevenberg)

o March 21-22: ECAC Men's Ice Hockey Championship (Olympic Center)

o March 29-30: SuperTour Finals (Mt Van Hoevenberg)

With the ski and snowboard season picking up momentum at Whiteface, Belleayre and Gore Mountains, racers and riders have a full slate of competitive events taking place. With different sized events and levels of competition for a wide variety of age groups, these events create a significant impact for the surrounding communities in the Adirondacks and Catskills and provide guests with the opportunity to spectate while they recreate. All three of the Olympic Authority ski areas will host freeride events, highlighted by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Holeshot Cross Tour on Feb. 27-March 2 and Masters Nationals March 16-20 at Gore Mountain. The U14 Easterns will be hosted at both Whiteface and Belleayre mountains March 18-21 and Whiteface will also host a number of men's FIS and women's FIS Eastern Cups, as well as the U16 NYSSRA Championships. Belleayre Mountain celebrates its 75th anniversary this winter season.

The Olympic Center hosts a series of youth and adult hockey tournaments, with almost every weekend filled with hockey action. These tournaments, which typically start on Thursday or Friday and end on Sunday, provide a significant economic boost to the Lake Placid region. In 2023-2024, Can/Am Hockey tournaments brought in approximately 20,000 multi-day visitors, many of whom visited during shoulder seasons.

Governor Hochul has maintained a strong commitment to supporting New York's tourism industry - one of the State's key economic drivers. As part of that commitment, the Governor has supported significant investments in the Olympic Authority facilities to help reposition the State of New York as a global winter sport destination. These investments have supported major sporting events like the 2023 FISU Winter World University Games held in Lake Placid last year. The major transformations and modernizations were executed with a focus on sustainability and financial responsibility.

Though the Olympic Authority's impact as a major driver of tourism and regional economies has traditionally occurred in winter, the investments made in these venues in recent years have greatly expanded that impact to one that's year-round. From scenic gondola rides at all three mountains to the Whiteface Veterans' Memorial Highway to the longest mountain coaster in North America at Mt. Van Hoevenberg to a new rail and zipline attraction being installed at Gore Mountain's North Creek Ski Bowl, and many other non-winter activities and attractions, Olympic Authority venues are offering a wellspring of adventure throughout the year for all ages and all abilities. More information can be found at www.lakeplacidlegacysites.com.

With the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, the Olympic Authority is planning a number of activities celebrating the 45th anniversary. Recently a flag mural was unveiled at Mt Van Hoevenberg which included 330 drawings from local students transformed into a large flag mural. Activities and events will be released at the beginning of the new year.

### About the Olympic Regional Development Authority

Established in 1982, the Olympic Regional Development Authority was created by the State of New York following the 1980 Olympic Winter Games to manage, market, maintain, and provide first-class facilities for training and competitions at all venues. The Olympic Authority facilities include Mt Van Hoevenberg, the Olympic Center, the Olympic Jumping Complex, and three ski areas: Belleayre Mountain, Gore Mountain, and Whiteface Mountain, as well as the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center, the U.S. Luge Association facility, and the Olympic Authority's Corporate offices in Lake Placid. The Olympic Authority manages the Lake Placid Olympic Museum and Lake Placid Conference Center.

The organization and its mission is still firmly in place today, providing an economic engine for the entire region through increased tourism and jobs. The Olympic Authority has a proven track record of orchestrating large-scale international events. The organization's multi-faceted management team oversees a spectrum of crucial planning and support functions and will be an invaluable supporting partner to ensure the smooth execution of the sliding events.

## SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

## More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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



For any other questions 845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com

### **JANUARY 2, 2025**



### Montigram President's Corner Lori Orestano-James

Now is the time to consider New Year Resolutions, reflect on what we have done, look forward of what is yet to be, and commit to the changes in ourselves in making us our best selves individually and as a club.

A new year ahead brings more of what Rotary means to and for each of us. And, today I ask you - What does Rotary mean to you?

Some of us are members because we enjoy the camaraderie; some for the socialization of a weekly meeting. Some joined for the common purpose of doing good things for others. And for others, the networking that being part of Rotary provides. There may be other reasons, but the underlying reason is based on our Rotary Motto: Service Above Self.

So, as we ring in 2025, I state in the style of JFK, ask not what Rotary does for you, but what you can do for Rotary. And I further ask that you commit to at least one change you can make to achieve that goal. Make your New Year's Resolution to bring in one new member. Or maybe, attend weekly meetings if not in person; at least via Zoom. Step up for an event that is planned and take action. Donate to the Rotary Foundation. Make a commitment to attend Rotary social events. Plan to work on as many Rotary events you are able to do.

Plan to restore your understanding of the "Why Rotary" and share it with those you know. Make your "Why," the true meaning of the Magic of Rotary.

We as a club and individually have done much in our community and beyond in the name of Rotary. What we do has value that makes a difference, and I can't think of better people to do this outstanding work with.

Wishing you and yours a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year with a focus for a better - even best - tomorrow.

### Please click here

*https://photos.app.goo.gl/GStmBEtwK2UU1xdp8* to see all the wonderful things we have done together the last 6 months. Looking forward to what the next 6th months will be.



Happy New Year!

### Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar: No Meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 31st due to the Holiday.

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

### Stories

### **Comfort Closet Delivery a Success**

Monticello Rotary Člub President Lori Orestano-James and President-Elect Dr. Peter Chester make the final stop of the Holiday Season by dropping off all the wonderful goodies collected during the Senior Comfort Closet Holiday Drive. The Delivery to Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility was welcomed so those clients spending the Holidays away from home would feel recognized and appreciated. Lap throws, big print puzzle books, personal care items, gripper



socks, shawls, and other items were part of the delivery which h o p e f u l l y brought smiles to those who need it most! Santa Visits

Hospital with Monticello Rotary Club Members of

the Rotary Club of Monticello, NY with Santa himself spent time at Garnet Health-Catskills visiting patients and greeting employees, volunteers, and visitors. Santa and the members distributed Care Bear Teddy Bears to patients and cookies baked by the

Fallsburg Junior Senior High School Interact/LEO Club and treats to all. In addition, the Monti Rotary Ramblers sang beautifully harmonized holiday songs through the travels of all the departments at the hospital. (All photos shown have received consent for distribution - Click here for link to all pictures: https://pho-



tos.app.goo.gl/pNqwWa1z8cJ38j8D8).

### Fallburg HS Interact/Leo Club Bakes for Heroes

The Fallsburg High School Intertact/Leo Club had a great

time doing good things during Baking for Heroes. The members baked and decorated 12 Dozen Holiday Cookies for Monticello Rotary Club President and Rotary District 7210 Youth Services Chair Lori Orestano-James to deliver to members of the



Fallsburg Police Department and Departments at Garnet Health-Catskills. The students wanted to show their appreciation to those who serve our community during the Holiday Season and all year.

### **Comfort and Joy Abounds with Monti Rotary**

Members of the Monticello Rotary Club brought tidings of comfort and joy to stock the Senior Comfort Closet during the Annual Rotary Holiday Party. From gripper socks, large print puzzle books, lap throws, lotions, hair care items, shawls, hats, fingerless gloves and more, the Giving Table filled through the night where items were placed with the Care Bear Teddy Bears that will be distributed at Garnet-Catskills. The Sr. Comfort Closet items will be delivered to area Senior Nursing Facilities throughout Sullivan County. Not only did the club have a great time at the event, but they were happy to be able to give a little something to Shivani Patel who is not only the waitress at Albella where the club meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, but also a member of the Monticello Rotary Club!

## **Forest Rangers -Week in Review Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions**

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

Town of Arietta Hamilton County: Snowmobile Crash: On Dec. 20 at 9:18 p.m., Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from the Hamilton

Sheriff's County Office requesting Forest Ranger assistance with a disabled snowmobile on a seasonal road in the Moose River Plains camping area. Rangers Miller and Savarie reached the subject who had struck a felled tree lying across the snow-covered trail. The 33-year-old snowmobiler from Gansevoort



Fallen down tree in snow after Snowmobile hits it

went airborne and landed on his shoulder. Rangers provided a sling to immobilize the shoulder and transported the subject via snowmobile back to his vehicle. The subject refused further medical care. Resources were clear at 11:59 p.m.

Town of Dresden Washington County: Wilderness Recovery: On Dec. 21 at 6:45 p.m., Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from a mother concerned about her son after not hearing from him for three days. Seven Forest Rangers responded to coordinate search efforts with the Washington County Sheriff's Department. The family indicated they often hiked Sugarloaf Mountain together, so search efforts focused on that area. At 10:20 p.m., Rangers found the 20-year-old from Whitehall deceased at the bottom of a cliff. Rangers conducted a carryout operation back to the trailhead to turn the subject over to the County Coroner. The Washington County Sheriff's Department is working with the DEC Division of Law Enforcement's Bureau of Environmental Crime Investigations to investigate the incident.



Town of Pawling Dutchess County: Ice Rescue: On Dec. 23 at 12:35 p.m., Forest Ranger Cowart responded to a call for a skater who had fallen through the ice on Lake Dutchess. When Ranger Cowart arrived, a Pawling Fire Department member had already secured the 31-yearold from Pawling in a kayak but was unable to get himself out of the water. Ranger Cowart worked with New York State Police, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department,

and Kent Police on a flat ice rescue. Ranger Cowart was secured to a 300-foot rope before entering the ice. The Fire Department rescuer was tethered to a short rope that Ranger Cowart grabbed to pull him to safety. Once on the surface of the ice, Ranger Cowart directed response personnel to pull all three individuals back to shore. The subject was taken to the hospital to be treated for hypothermia. Resources were clear at 1:43 p.m.

Town of Hunter Greene County Wilderness Rescue: On Dec. 27 at 10:24 a.m., Forest Rangers responded to a call for an ice-climber fall

JIM YORK. 163 Krumville Road, CR2A Olive Bridge, N.Y. 12461	State_and Federally Licensed (845) 657-6330 (Ph.) (845) 657-7031 (Fax) Email: jyork@hvc.rr.com
JIM'S GUNS	MITHING. INC
CUSTOM STOCK, MET	(845) 657-6330 (Ph.) (845) 657-7031 (Fax) Email: jyork@hvc.tr.com <b>S GUNSSMITHING</b> .com CUSTOM STOCK, METAL WORK, BLUEING, GENERAL REPAIRS, SIGHTWORK, ETC. BUY - SELL - TRADE - TRANSFERS at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles LEFT onto Monument Road nue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles Shop on LEFT at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge Ming Towards Olivebridge 7.5 Miles LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
Start at Route 28 and Reserv	oir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles
Tum LEFT onto Monument R	oad
Continue onto NY-28A West	1.8 Miles
Turn LEFT onto NY-213	1.1 Miles
Turn RIGHT onto Krumville R Gun Shop on LEFT	oad/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
Start at Route 209 and 213 in	Stone Ridge
-Going Towards Ollvebridg	e 7.5 Miles
Gun Shop on LEFT	Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles

### **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

in Kaaterskill Clove. The 62-year-old fell approximately 35 Rangers feet. worked with Haines Falls Rescue, Kingston Technical Rescue Team, Tannersville Rescue, and the Twin Cloves Technical Rescue Team on a technical rope rescue. Crews pulled the climber to safety and brought him to a waiting Hunter Ambulance. Resources were clear at 12:15 p.m.



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

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

### THE TOWNSMAN

## New Year, New Laws Protecting Workers: Governor Hochul Annouinces Increased Benefits for Employees and Lower Costs for Businesses in 2025

New York State Paid Family Leave Maximum Weekly Benefit Increasing by More Than \$300

Workers' Compensation Minimum Weekly Benefit Increasing Due to Legislation Signed by Governor Hochul

### Workers' Compensation Assessment Rate Decreasing by 22 Percent in 2025, Resulting in Savings for More Than 400,000 Small Businesses Across the State

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the new year will bring increased workers' compensation and Paid Family Leave benefits for workers, while also delivering savings for businesses. Effective January 1, 2025, the minimum weekly benefit for workers' compensation and the maximum weekly benefit for Paid Family Leave will both go up, while the workers' compensation assessment rate for employers drops.

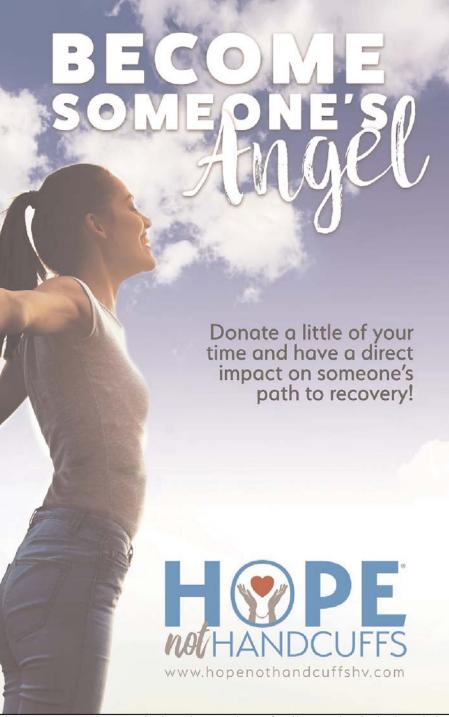
"Hardworking New Yorkers shouldn't have to worry about how they'll buy food or pay rent when they need time off to care for a new child or family member with a serious health condition, or get injured on the job. Likewise, business owners who have their own bills to pay and families to support also need affordable solutions," Governor Hochul said. "I'm proud that New York State is finding ways to put money back into the pockets of workers and those who employ them so both the economy and the people can thrive."

New York State Workers' Compensation Board Chair Clarissa Rodriguez said, "The Board is honored to join the Governor in celebrating a new year that will start with more money for workers and increased savings for businesses. Serving the people of New York is a privilege and we are proud to have a leader who wants to make this state safer, more affordable, and better for families."

New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento said, "I applaud Governor Hochul for prioritizing the needs of workers by implementing increases in the minimum workers' compensation benefit, and the maximum paid family leave benefit. Thanks to historic legislation passed by the Legislature and enacted by Governor Hochul last year, the minimum workers' compensation benefit will be increased and indexed so wage replacement benefits for injured workers will never stagnate. Increasing these benefits and lowering assessments shows that our workers' compensation system can better protect workers while reducing employer costs."

### Paid Family Leave

NYS Paid Family Leave provides eligible employees with up to 12 weeks of job-protected, paid time off to bond with a new child, care for a family member with a serious health condition,



or to assist loved ones when a family member is deployed abroad on active military service.

Starting January 1, 2025, New Yorkers taking Paid Family Leave may receive up to \$14,127.84 in total benefits - an increase of over \$300 from 2024. Employees taking Paid Family Leave receive 67 percent of their average weekly wage, up to a cap of 67 percent of the current New York State Average Weekly Wage (NYSAWW), which is \$1,757.19 for 2025. This means the maximum weekly benefit will be \$1,177.32, and the total possible benefit to an employee is \$14,127.84.

Employees will contribute 0.388 percent of their gross wages per pay period to pay for Paid Family Leave in 2025, with a maximum annual contribution of \$354.53 (0.388 percent of the NYSAWW). Employees earning less than the NYSAWW will contribute less than the annual cap of \$354.53, consistent with their actual wages. (Contd. Pg.

## New Year, New Laws Protecting Workers: Governor Hochul Annouinces Increased Benefits for Employees and Lower Costs for Businesses in 2025

### (From Pg. 41) Workers' Compensation

The NYS workers' compensation system provides critical financial and medical benefits to workers who are injured or

become ill as a result of their jobs, while protecting employers from costly lawsuits. Employers pay an annual assessment to the operating system.

Starting January 1, 2025, the minimum workers' compensation weekly benefit will increase to \$325 per week, in accordance with legislation signed into law by Governor Hochul in September 2023. That's up from \$275 per week in 2024. Prior to January 1, 2024, the minimum weekly benefit had been \$150 per week for more than a decade.

On July 1, 2026, the minimum weekly benefit will be indexed to the NYSAWW. The institution of annual increases in the minimum weekly benefit, and eventual indexing to the NYSAWW, will ensure the minimum weekly benefit is more equitable to injured workers going forward.

### Savings for Businesses

Additionally, as of January 1, 2025, the workers' compensation assessment rate for employers will be 7.1 percent of the standard premium or premium equivalent - a 22 percent decrease from 2024 - which is expected to save New York State businesses approximately \$191 million.

The employer assessment rates are determined by the NYS Workers' Compensation Board's need and budgeted statewide premium. The rate is calculated by dividing the Board's total estimated annual expenses by a base of total estimated statewide premium. Insurers are required to apply the assessment rate to their premium or premium equivalent.

The assessment rate has been steadily declining in recent years, largely due to prudent management in accelerating the runoff of special workers' compensation liabilities - known as special funds - which are funded by the assessments. The 2025 rate of 7.1 percent reflects an over 43 percent decrease since 2019, when the assessment rate was 12.6 percent.

### **More Information**

Complete details on New York State Paid Family Leave are available at PaidFamilyLeave.ny.gov. There is also a special page with updates for 2025 that includes benefit and deduction calculators, answers to frequently asked questions, and other resources.

For more information regarding workers' compensation, including benefits and the 2025 assessment rate, visit the NYS Workers' Compensation Board's website at wcb.ny.gov.

# **Daniel Pierce Library**

## PBS Nova Documentary Inner Worlds



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

### Snow Date March 6th

Recommended for adults and students ten and up

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of

exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary,

Inner Worlds focusing on Venus & Mercury.

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

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

Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org. In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.



### Daniel Pierce Library

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

# **Veteran Peer Support**

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



Call or email us to register! 845-794-4228 vet2vet@atitoday.org 309 E Broadway Suite A Monticello, NY 12701



Beginning

eptember

# Homeschooling Group 4th Tuesday of each month 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Daniel Pierce Library

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

Together this group will share lessons, network, set up future field trips, have various guest speakers and programs. You can also... borrow books, check out DVD's, access the internet, research online databases and utilize library space! (If you have a RCLS library card).

> Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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

### PAGE 46

### THE TOWNSMAN

### **JANUARY 2, 2025**



### Thank You, NY-24, for a Fantastic 2024!

As we begin 2025 and the 119th Congress, I am honored to have completed a full term representing our District. Over the past two years, I have worked tirelessly to advocate for fiscal responsibility and commonsense solutions in Washington, deliver thousands of dollars in federal resources and investment to our community, and champion transparency and accountability.

Throughout my time as an elected official, I have prioritized open and transparent communication in public service. This is highlighted by my mission to explain every vote I take on the House Floor. Even if we do not always agree, you will always know where I stand on the issues. So far, I have explained more than 800 votes in great detail. I will continue to prioritize a government that is transparent and accountable to you.

Starting January 3, 2025, with the beginning of the 119th Session of Congress, our district will reflect changes from New York's recent redistricting process. I will continue representing New York's 24th District, which now includes parts of Steuben County and Schuyler County. However, some areas currently in the district will be represented by Congressman-Elect John Mannion and Congressman Joe Morelle. For more information on who will represent you in Congress starting January 3, visit www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative.

I thank you again for the opportunity to represent you in Congress. I look forward to continuing to be a strong advocate for NY-24 in the 119th Congress, and I wish you and your family a very happy, safe, and healthy New Year! Sincerely,

As your voice in Washington, I will always stand up for what's right and serve transparently with honor, integrity, and compassion. With the start of 2025 and the 119th Congress among us, I want to hear from you.

Celebrating Justice Mike Norris and Justice Stacey Romeo

Last week, representatives from our office attended the swearing-in ceremony of Assemblyman Mike Norris, who will end his time in the State Assembly in the 144th district and join the bench as a Supreme Court Justice for the 8th Judicial district in January. Assemblyman Norris brings a breadth of experience to the bench; before his time in the Assembly he served as the City of Lockport's Attorney, and he brings important election law knowledge to the bench from his time as Niagara County's Republican Election Commissioner. Mike has the experience and temperament to be an outstanding Justice. While I will miss seeing Mike out and about in the district, our loss is the 8th Judicial District's gain. Best of wishes, Mike.

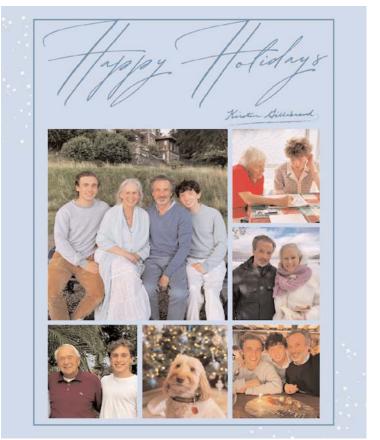
Additionally, last week, a member of our office attended the swearing-in of Judge Stacey Romeo, Justice Elect for the 7th Judicial District. Judge Romeo will be a fantastic addition to the 7th Judicial District; she has served as a Monroe County Family Court Judge for the past 8 years and was named Supervising Judge in January 2021. Before her time on the bench, she was a confidential law clerk for the New York State Unified Court System. I was looking forward to speaking at her ceremony, but unfortunately, votes kept me in Washington, so I missed out on the celebration-best wishes to my friend Stacey. Need Help with a Federal Agency? Call us today.

If you or someone you know ever needs assistance with a federal agency, we are just a phone call away and are ready to help you! Please contact my Victor Office at 585-869-2060, my Oswego Office at 315-236-7088, or my Lockport Office at 716-514-5130. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent you.



## Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Here's what she's been up to this week: 1. Happy holidays from the Gillibrands!



Happy holidays from the Gillibrand family! The holiday season is a wonderful time across New York, and I hope that all of you have a peaceful season filled with blessings, joy, and love. As always, I am grateful for everything that New Yorkers do to make our great state prosper.

- Kirsten

(Contd. Pg. 47)

### Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

(From Pg. 46)

2. Listen to Kirsten on the New York Times podcast "The Daily"

On Monday, Kirsten was featured on the New York Times podcast "The Daily" to discuss her efforts to persuade President Biden to direct the national archivist to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would enshrine equality and reproductive rights in the Constitution.

Listen here.

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/23/podcasts/thedaily/era-biden.html

3. Protecting Social Security benefits for public servants America's public servants deserve to receive the full Social Security benefits that they have earned.

This week, Congress voted to pass the Social Security Fairness Act, which Kirsten cosponsors. This commonsense bipartisan legislation will eliminate unfair reductions in Social Security payments for 2.5 million Americans.

Read more.

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/social-security-fairness-act-senate-vote-passed/

4. Protecting service members from traumatic brain injuries

Service members are our armed services' greatest asset, and they deserve to be protected from injuries caused by the firing of heavy-duty weapons.

This week, Kirsten announced that major provisions of her legislation to protect service members from traumatic brain injuries

were included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These provisions will require the Department of Defense to investigate the prevalence of blast overpressure brain injuries, standardize care across the DoD, and take steps to mitigate service members' blast exposure.

Read more.

https://www.wwnytv.com/2024/12/20/new-help-servicemembers-suffering-tbi-coming/

Help for New Yorkers https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/help-for-newyorkers/

## Gillibrand Statement on Passing of President Jimmy Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand released the following statement on the death of President Jimmy Carter:

"President Jimmy Carter was a devoted public ser-

vant, a lifelong activist, and a prolific humanitarian. I am devastated to hear of his passing, but I know that his legacy will live on through the work of the Carter Center and the thousands of people he influenced throughout his life. My thoughts are with his family today. He will be deeply missed."

## Governor Hochul Directs Flags to Half-staff to Honor Former President Jimmy Carter Flags To Be Flown at Half-Staff Until Sunset on January 28, 2025

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of former President Jimmy Carter.

"President Jimmy Carter embodied decency and integrity throughout his life of public service," Governor Hochul said. "I'll never forget as a teenager meeting him in Buffalo. He was an inspiration to me and so many Americans. Our hearts are with the Carter family during this difficult time."

Former President Carter died on December 29 in Plains, Georgia. He is survived by his children Jack, Chip, Jeff and Amy; 11 grandchildren; and 14 greatgrandchildren.



## Molinaro Statement on Passing of President Jimmy Carter

"President Jimmy Carter dedicated his life to service - building homes, promoting peace, and lifting up the most vulnerable. His humility and faith inspired generations to lead with compassion. We honor his life, legacy, and pray for comfort for his loved ones."

### PAGE 48

### THE TOWNSMAN

**JANUARY 2, 2025** 



UPPOR IOIN US!

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

EVERY 1ST & 3RD 6:30 P M





### **JANUARY 2, 2025**



### THE TOWNSMAN

### HELP WANTED

Part time Bookkeeper Call 845-321-1919

Blooming Green Lawn and Landscape Sevice Part time/Full time work. Salary based on experience. Call: 845-665-3348 or 945-985-0516

### Classified Ads Only \$5.00 a week!





## ON AMAZON, NETFLIX, IMOB TENSION AT TABLE ROCK (1956 / WESTERN / 1 h 33 Min/ Rated PG )

The murder of the owner of a stagecoach station is one of the reasons a gunman takes his place at the way station. Watch Richard Egan tame the west as he possibly falls for what may be the love of his life.



Directed by Charles Marquis Warren, and starringRichard Egan, Dorothy Malone, and Cameron Mitchell

(Cont. (Page 51)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: Gomez and Morticia

### This weeks' Trivia question:

Who hires, Dr. Indian Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark?

### THE TOWNSMAN

### **JANUARY 2, 2025**

### (From Pg. 50) "KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE II" ON AMAZON, NETFLIX, IMOB THE YOUNG GUNS (1956 / 1H 24M | WESTERN | TV-PG)

Not the best "YOUNG GUNS" film my opinion. The 1988 version is my favorite. However, in 1897 a typical bad boy youth falls in with the wrong crowd.



Directed by Albert Band, and Starring Russ Tamblyn, Gloria Talbott, Perry Lopez.

### KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE III ON AMAZON, NETFLIX, IMOB RIO BRAVO (1959 / 2H 21M | WESTERN | TV-14)



A sheriff enlists a long time "ole buddy," Dean Martin, who plays a great Sheriff who lost his nerve, and became the town drunk. A youngster, and an old man try to help fight off ruthless cattle men.

Directed by Howard Hawks. Starring John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson. The only nonmusical where the song fits. Great job guys. *"KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE IV"* ON AMAZON, NETFLIX, IMOB THE LEFT HANDED GUN (1958 / 1H 42M | WESTERN | TV-PG)

Up there with the best is Paul Newman's porytrayal of William Bonny alais "Billy the Kid," caught in the middle in an very political Linchon county cattle war.



Director Arthur Penn, starring Paul Newman, Lita Milan, John Dehner

Want the true story of William Bonny, aka Billy the kid, as told by one of his contemporaries Charles A. Sirango in his book published in 1915 "A TEXAS COWBOY," CHAPTER XXI (21) ENTITLED, "A TRIP WHICH TERMINATED IN THE CAP-TURE OF BILLY THE KID." It seems the shooting of Billy, was not a heroic killing for sheriff Pat Garrett, since Pat was crouched down behind a dresser in a dark room while Billy's body was silhouetted by the hall lantern behind Billy's head. As Billy was entered the doorway of the dark room, Pat shot him. Charlie also said that was the only way to kill Billy. He also said, "I could shoot as good as the Kid, but no where's near as fast."

> Stay safe, and stay well Knarf Odnamoc Gnome

### PAGE 51