



VOL. 23 NO. 4 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 22, 2026

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Sullivan County Youth Participate in 5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit



Participants in the 5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

[Loch Sheldrake, NY] - The 5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit was held on January 9, 2026, at SUNY Sullivan. Over two hundred Sullivan County high school students, school faculty and nonprofit organizational leaders attended.

The day kicked off with a screening of "Blueprint for Life," the famous Dr. King speech focused on the principles of belief in oneself, determination and commitment to succeed. Students participated in workshops where they analyzed various MLK quotes and how they apply to themselves and their communities. They also engaged in activities and networking to open their minds and hearts to greater service for themselves, their schools and their communities. Several students from My Brother's Keeper Programs at Monticello and Fallsburg High School served in key roles during the Summit including master of ceremony, providing music and poetry. These students were Tobias Brown Jr., Julian Young, Anthony Ortiz, Evianne Beker-McBride, Marilyn Santos, Azon Laurel & Carmen Monto Velasco.

Dr. John Gaines gave the keynote reminding the audience that legacy is not what we leave for people, but rather legacy is what we leave in people. Also known as John "PUSH" Gaines, he is a former at-risk foster kid turned youth advocate, author, NCAA football champion and motivational speaker. Dr. Gaines shares his inspiring story on television, at universities, nonprofit organizations, youth conferences, NBA skill camps, churches, and schools. He has worked with NBA athletes, Congress, educators, coaches, and mental health professionals.

(Contd. Pg. 5)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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of Frank Comando

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 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 Telephone numbers will not be published.
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NO EXCEPTIONS. All press releases/articles sent by email should be sent as **Microsoft Word Documents**. Photos or graphics must be in jpg or pdf format

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

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

Psalms 49:3

OBITUARY

Charles N. Johnston, 75, of Shandele/Livingston Manor passed away peacefully at home, on Saturday, January 17, 2026, surrounded by his family.



He was born on December 22, 1950, to C. Nelson Johnston and Agnes H r e s k o

Johnston in Paterson, New Jersey.

Raised in Roscoe, Charles attended St. Aloysius School and graduated from Roscoe Central School. Charles was a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He went on to attend Cleveland State Law School for 1 year before returning home to join the family business, Johnston & Rhodes Bluestone Company in East Branch, New York. In 2000, he started his own business, Johnston Forest Products, Inc where he continued to run a sawmill and manage his own as well as other hardwood timber properties, until his retirement.

Charles previously served as Chairman of the Town of Rockland Planning Board, a member of NYSFA and other professional organizations.

An avid golfer, Charles was the happiest being on any golf course or in the woods cruising timber.

Charles was predeceased by his parents and brother, James. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Cynthia; his son, James; sisters-in-law, Linda Goldstein and her husband Greg and Debra Briggs and her partner Tom Morse; many cousins, nieces and nephews and a special lifetime friend, Douglas K. Bury.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to the Livingston Manor Volunteer Ambulance Corps or Ride to Survive/Sullivan County.

Visitation will take place on Friday, January 23, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 29 Pearl Street, Livingston Manor, New York. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Fr. Edward Bader, on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 22 Church Street, Livingston Manor, New York. Burial will follow in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Livingston Manor, New York.

Arrangements were under the care of Colonial Bryant Funeral Home. For further information please call 845-439-4333 or visit www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

DAYS OF YORE.... Today's History

January 25, 1956

Mrs. Hazel Tobias of Sunset Park announces the engagement of her daughter, Lois, to Franklin Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith of Lackawack, N.Y. The bride elect, a graduate of Saugerties High School, class of 1954, is employed by the Rondout National Bank of Kingston. Her fiancée, a graduate of Tri Valley High School in 1954, is at present self-employed. A June wedding is planned.

Mrs. Mamie A. Calkins of Deposit, N.Y., passed away on January 18th at the age of 63. Mrs. Calkins was born August 23, 1892 at Divine Corners, the daughter of John Lowe and Elmira Prince. On October 1, 1913 she married Wilbur Calkins. Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Katherine Hornbeck of Claryville; one son, Harry Calkins of Deposit; one sister, Mrs. Fannie Edwards of Divine Corners, and one grandchild. (Contd. Pg. 3)

DAYS OYORE

...Today's History (From Pg. 2)

January 16, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cypert of Oliveira, N.Y. have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nancy Myrtle to Robert John Demetry, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Demetry of Neversink. Miss Cypert is a graduate of Tri-Valley Central School and is a junior physical education major at the State Univ. at Cortland. Her fiancé, also a Tri-Valley graduate and also attended Orange County Community College. He is a senior at Syracuse Univ. in the School of Journalism.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Lagueux of Grahamsville, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Anne, to Robert William Olander, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Olander of Amsterdam, N.Y. Miss Lagueux graduated from Tri-Valley Central School and attended the State Univ. at Cobleskill. She is a graduate of Richard I. Beauty School and is employed at the Woodbourne Correctional Institution in the Division of Parole. Her fiancé graduated from Wilbur H. Lynch High School and the State Univ. at Cobleskill. He is employed as an assistant bookstore manager at the State Univ. at Cobleskill. An October wedding is planned.

January 28, 1976

Staff Sergeant Gerald W. Smith, son of Mrs. Laura Smith of Neversink, has graduated from the Air Training Command's basic course for electronic specialists at Keesler Air Force Base. Sergeant Smith is a 1962 graduate of Tri-Valley High School. His wife, Kathleen, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hussey of Hurleyville.

February 6, 1986

Thomas Arthur TerBush of Hall Road, Grahamsville, a corrections officer at the Woodbourne Correctional Facility and a life-long Grahamsville area resident, died on Friday, January 31, 1986 in Eldred. He was 27. The son of Arthur and Betty Ann Roberts TerBush, he was born December 2, 1958 in Monticello. Survivors include his wife, Cynthia Wicks TerBush; one son, Kyle TerBush; and one daughter, Kacie TerBush, all at home; his parents of Grahamsville; one brother, Gary TerBush of Grahamsville; his paternal grandmother, Mae TerBush of Grahamsville; and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Josephine Roberts of Alexandria, Va.

Household Hint:

Luminous Light Switch

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

Nature Column - L. Comando

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

Yes, There are Signs of Spring!

Spring is scheduled to arrive in 8 weeks from this coming Sunday!

Despite the weather, there is hope. There are signs to look for even during this bitter cold January days. First, you may have noticed the beautiful pink sunsets last week. This occurs when the sun shines on dust particles that are pushed by a high-pressure system, which brings warm, dry air. Another sign; when you pet your cat or dog and tufts of fur fall out without any effort, warm weather is on the way.

And watch those dried dead leaves that are still clinging on to the twigs of some young beech and oak trees. They bring a sign, too. All living trees shed their leaves. Every leaf has a limited life span and each leaf will change color and fall. There is great differences in the timing of the leaf fall. Evergreens are at one end of the spectrum and at the other end of the spectrum are deciduous trees, that shed their leafy summer coats in fall. Cells at the point connecting the twig and the end of the leaf stem release enzymes and form an abscission layer that naturally detaches the leaf—separating it from the vascular bundles, allowing it to fall free.

Evergreens were the first trees on the planet and for a very long time, all trees were evergreen. Populations of the early evergreen trees encountered changing growing conditions as they expanded their ranges over a long period of time. Trees gradually began to develop different ways of doing what trees do, including new ways of growing and shedding their leaves.

We still have evergreens, like pine, spruce, hemlock, and fir. And we have the relative newcomers with short-lived leaves – birch, maple, cherry, and poplar, for example. We also have a third class of tree between the evergreen and deciduous trees. Their leaves die, but many don't fall when they die. Botanists call this retention of dead plant matter marcescence. You may have noticed some hardwood trees still holding their dry withered leaves. This is most common with many of the oak species, American beech, witch hazel, hornbeam (musclewood), and hophornbeam (ironwood).

Deciduous leaf fall is considered an adaptation that evolved to allow trees in seasonally changing environments to reduce water loss and frost damage during unfavorable seasons while increasing their photosynthetic efficiency during favorable seasons. Each has its advantages and downsides. While physiologists agree that marcescence is a juvenile trait, most commonly observed on young trees and on lower branches, there is considerable debate about why some species would seem to be deciduous in all other respects except that they delay the physiological process of leaf shedding.

Some ecologists suggest that marcescence has adaptive significance for trees growing on dry, infertile sites such as those where we often see beech and oak growing. They believe retaining leaves until spring could be a means of slowing the decomposition of the leaves. Dropping them in spring delivers organic material (compost or mulch) at a time when it is most needed by the growing parent tree.

Others suggest that retained leaves, particularly on young trees and the lower branches on bigger trees, is an effective means of trapping snow like a fence, leading to more moisture at the base of the trees come spring. Still others have hypothesized that persistent leaves might provide some frost protection for buds and new twigs over winter. And at least one study suggested that marcescent foliage could be a deterrent to browsing deer. Buds hidden by clusters of dead leaves do not get eaten and thus live to become new shoots and green leaves in spring.

Marcescence may indeed be helpful to trees living in dry, cold, deer-infested environments. But it may also be simply a sign that beech and oak are evolutionarily delayed, still on their way to becoming fully deciduous from their more evergreen past.

Regardless the reason for marcescent leaves, when the new growth begins, the expanding buds will push the old leaves off and clothe the branches with new greenery. When the last of the brown withered leaves fall—we will know **Spring is on its way!**



Catskill Art Space Awarded \$80,000 Grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Livingston Manor, NY - Catskill Art Space (CAS) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded an \$80,000 grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, to be distributed over two years. This significant support will strengthen CAS's ongoing commitment to presenting ambitious contemporary art, supporting artists, and expanding access to innovative cultural programming in the Catskills.

The grant will provide vital operating and programmatic support, enabling Catskill Art Space to continue commissioning new work, presenting exhibitions and performances, and fostering meaningful engagement between artists and audiences in a rural context. The award recognizes CAS's role as a leading contemporary arts organization that connects local and international artistic practices while remaining deeply rooted in place.

"Catskill Art Space demonstrates how ambitious contemporary art can thrive outside major urban centers while remaining deeply connected to place," says Rachel Bers, Program Director of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. "It is an important space for experimentation, dialogue, and meaningful engagement, contributing significantly to the cultural vitality of the region and beyond."

Following Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The foundation manages an innovative and dynamic grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the foundation has given nearly \$330 million in cash grants to over 1,000 arts organizations around the country and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.

"This generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation affirms the importance of sustained investment in contemporary art spaces outside major urban centers," said Sally Wright, Executive Director of Catskill Art Space. "The grant will allow us to deepen our support for artists and continue offering rigorous, experimental programming that serves our community while contributing to national and international conversations in contemporary art."

Catskill Art Space extends its sincere gratitude to The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for this transformative support and looks forward to the continued impact this funding will have on artists, audiences, and the cultural life of the region.

Long-term Installations

Following a major renovation and expansion, Catskill Art Space reopened in October 2022 with a long-term presentation of James Turrell's *Avaar* (1982) in a custom-built gallery on the building's second floor. A room-sized installation, *Avaar* is an important example of the artist's early, wall-based "aperture" works, which function by creating two areas within a room. There is a "viewing space," where one stands to see and experience the work, and a "sensing space," which is an ambiguously defined area of diffused light. *Avaar* is one of the rare examples of Turrell's aperture works to make use of white lighting only; no colors will be present in the installation. This work is in the collection of the Seattle Art Museum, which has granted CAS a special long-term loan to exhibit the work. The presentation at CAS marks the first time the work has been shown since the 1970s, giving audiences from the Catskills and beyond the rare opportunity to experience a major Turrell work that has not been seen in

nearly five decades.

On the second floor's central landing, Sol LeWitt's vibrant *Wall Drawing #992* unfolds in three sections, each consisting of 10,000 straight lines drawn in color marker, to create a mesmerizing arrangement of primary colors. On the fourth wall, presenting LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #991*, straight, arced, and organic lines will encompass the wall in black marker and pencil. The conceptual, minimalist artist conceived guidelines for his two-dimensional works to be drawn directly on the wall. Much like Turrell's *Avaar*, the LeWitt works were realized for CAS's space; in this instance, they are generously loaned by the artist's estate. This work was overseen by a draftsman, who determines the length and placement of the lines, and executed by five artists local to the area over nearly two weeks.

The newly realized performance space on CAS's second floor hosts British sculptor Francis Cape's *A Gathering of Utopian Benches*-an installation of meticulous copies of benches built and used by communal societies. Cape's installations have always argued that design and craft express belief. *Utopian Benches*, which has toured extensively throughout the US, was built from poplar grown near Cape's studio in Narrowsburg, NY. To be considered both as contemporary sculpture as well as furniture that visitors can actively use, the benches reference the societies who first used them, inviting visitors to utilize them for exchange, discourse, and community. The installation, which is meant to be used by visitors both for contemplation and may be used for performance seating, overlooks an expansive wall of windows onto the Willowemoc Creek.

Ellen Brooks inaugurates an intimate gallery space, framed by a partially open staircase, with *Hang (2022)*, an installation suspending over 30 feet of scrolls of film negatives from the ceiling. The artist hangs transparencies and negatives in all formats and from clips attached to the ceiling, mimicking the practice of film photography. Hanging negatives reference the surrounding natural landscaping, evoking a cascading waterfall with coils of film collecting on the ground floor gallery.

About Catskill Art Space

Catskill Art Space (CAS) explores contemporary art practices of emerging and established artists. Through exhibitions, performances, classes, lectures, and screenings, CAS fosters creative community in the Catskills.

Established as Catskill Art Society in 1971, CAS reopened in October 2022 as Catskill Art Space following a major renovation and expansion of its multi-arts center, located in the picturesque hamlet of Livingston Manor in the Western Catskills. CAS presents a rotating slate of exhibitions, performances and other events featuring national and regional talents, alongside long-term installations of works by James Turrell, Sol LeWitt, Francis Cape, and Ellen Brooks. Learn more at catskillartspace.org.

Note the Following Dates:

Richard Barlow, Lisa Crafts and Ellen Driscoll Opening date: January 17, 2026, Address: Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. Livingston Manor, NY 12758

Opening: Saturday, January 17. Artists talk 3-4pm, Reception 4-5pm

Exhibition on-view: January 17 - February 28, 2026

Long-term installations on view: Long-term presentation (through 2027) of James Turrell's light installation *Avaar* (1982) and two site-specific wall drawings from Sol LeWitt, as well as solo presentations of well-established artists from the local area, Francis Cape (through 2027) and Ellen Brooks (through 2027)

LOOKING BACK

Beatrice Akerley

Published December 5, 1998

I miss the dark. I was raised up in Grooville where once the sun went down it truly got dark. This was the early 1900's when kerosene lamps, lanterns and candles were used. "Early to bed and early to rise" was an easy proverb to live by since lighting was something you had to prepare for. Not just pulling a switch or flipping on a light. Washing lamp and lantern chimneys was one of the women's most dreaded activities.

It did no good to be afraid of the dark at night because on most of them the darkness was thick enough to almost see. On a cloudy night absolutely black. I always looked forward to full moon nights, of course stars helped.

Today I observed a great many homes now have those security lights - you know, the kind that comes on at sunset and then shut themselves off at a certain time. It's a shame that we live in a world that demands such precautions. In the good old days we very seldom had a need to lock our doors, we just pulled down the window shades, picked up our kerosene lamps and marched to our beds. We then blew out the lights to total darkness. I am wondering will there ever be a time when I get a glimpse, albeit brief, of the time I could feel the darkness like back in the good old days? I am sure looking forward to it.

Sullivan County Youth Participate in 5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit

(From Pg. 1) To empower students to connect their experience with Dr. King and Martin Luther King Jr Day, they are heading back to their schools challenged with an idea and inspiration for a service project they can implement in their school community. Every participant was also gifted the young adult version of the Pulitzer-prize winning book *King A Life* made possible by Action Toward Independence Inc. and a commemorative sweatshirt.

"The Center for Discovery is proud to be the presenting sponsor of this year's 5th Annual MLK Day of Service Youth Summit as we believe in the power of young people to care for others and change the world," said Amanda Ward, Chief of the Center for Discovery Division of People, Operations and Educational Sustainability.

"Sullivan County's Youth Bureau is committed to providing the kind of opportunities-and hope-that Dr. King often spoke about," said Cathie Paci Youth Internship Program. "We want our children and teens to feel that their lives matter, that what they do and say is meaningful and that we value them as growing members of our community."

"The College community is so pleased to have hosted Sullivan County students for a second year and another inspiring event. The partners produced a wonderful program in celebration of Dr. King's legacy, filled with engaging activities and meaningful conversations designed to ignite the change-makers of tomorrow," said SUNY Sullivan President Dr. David Potash.

"What amazes me most, in this fifth year of the MLK Day of Service Youth Summit, is the growing number of organizations and community partners involved each year," said Amanda Langseder, Senior Director of Prevention Programming at Sullivan 180. "These partners come back year after year to make sure young people are reminded of the power of their voice and that they, indeed, have the ability to change the world."

The 5th Annual MLK Day Of Service Youth Summit was presented by The Center for Discovery and hosted by SUNY Sullivan. The event was partially funded by the County of Sullivan and the Office of Children and Family Services through the Sullivan County Youth Bureau. Additional funding was provided by NYSEG and Sullivan 180. In addition to funding support, Summit partners include Action Toward Independence, Bethel Woods Center For The Arts, Choosing Happy 365, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan, My Brother's Keeper, NAACP Sullivan County 2187-B, SALT (Sullivan Allies Leading Together), Sullivan County Human Rights Commission, Sullivan County Public Health, Sullivan County Workforce Development, and Tobacco Free Action Communities.

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

Nominate Your Favorite Older New Yorker! Nominations of Locals 55 and Older Are Due by March 2

Monticello, NY - The NYS Office for the Aging will celebrate Older New Yorkers' Day on May 26, and Sullivan County has an opportunity to nominate two local residents!



*Celebrating **Older New Yorkers Day** with close to 100 others in Albany in 2025 were, from the left, Sullivan County Office for the Aging Director Lise-Anne Deoul, Debbie Bradley, 2025 awardee Sabina Toomey, NYS Office for the Aging Director Greg Olsen, 2025 awardee Gayle Irving, Karin Pantel and Sullivan Volunteers Coordinator Monika Roosa.*

At the ceremony in Albany, all honorees will receive a package that includes:

- A commemorative pin
- A hard copy of the book of biographies
- A certificate

Additionally, they will be featured on social media and rightfully celebrated in local media.

The deadline for submitting nominees is March 2. Thus the Sullivan County Office for the Aging is seeking nominations of older adults from the local community to be represented at this event. These nominations can come from civic leaders, elected officials, and community organizations.

The nominee should be a volunteer aged 55 or older that has made a difference in the community through civic engagement.

Nomination forms are available at <https://sullivanny.gov/departments/aging> (click on "Nominate a 2026 Older New Yorker!") or can be obtained by contacting the Office for the Aging at 845-807-0243 or emailing sullivanofa@sullivanny.gov.



Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 164
Cherry
Mysterious Book Report No. 362
by John Dwaine McKenna
Published January 23, 2020

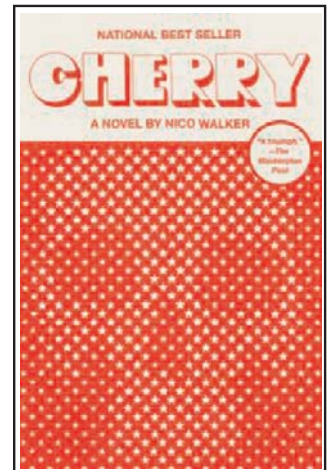
Every person in America today who pays attention to the news and current events is aware that we're dealing with an unprecedented drug and opioid crisis. The numbers are staggering . . . and the statistics sobering . . . there were more than 70,000 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. during the year 2017, according to the latest available figures from the CDC, or Center for Disease Control in Atlanta,

Georgia. Numbers like those are not only heartbreaking, they're absolute proof that the so-called *War on Drugs*, now fifty-plus years old, is an utter failure. Some are in favor of tougher laws and more enforcement with harsher penalties. Still others favor the legalization and decriminalizing of all illicit substances, including the synthetic ones like spice and Fentanyl . . . known causes of havoc and death.

That's one side of the story. But like all stories, there's another side to it, told in an unapologetic, matter-of-fact and gut wrenching way by a young former heroin addict and talented writer who's currently in prison for aggravated armed robbery.

Cherry, (Knopf, \$26.95, 313 pages, ISBN 978-0-525-52013-9) by Nico Walker, is the tale of a confused young man who sets off to college in Cleveland, Ohio, where he meets Emily, and they kinda, sorta, fall in love while fooling around on the periphery of the drug scene . . . much like a lot of young, dumb and confused kids do. But, the drugs and alcohol soon become overwhelming. Emily decides to transfer to a college in Canada, while the unnamed protagonist and narrator flunks out. Adrift and clueless, he joins the Army and trains as a medic, then gets sent to Iraq, where for him, there's no end of drugs, porno movies and death. He comes home to Cleveland with a raging case of PTSD, just in time to reconnect with Emily and meet the opioid pandemic head-on. Before long, they're shooting heroin every day and he's robbing banks to get the money to support their combined habit.

Told in visceral, raw and graphic language, this novel is not for the faint of heart, nor those easily offended by violence and coarse language. But for those who've shed their rose-colored glasses and want to know more of the real world, the opioid disaster and at the same time gain a better understanding of the society we live in today, you need to read this book. It's honest and tough, and it comes straight from Nico Walker's heart, holding nothing back, and making no excuses. It's a fascinating, sobering and heart-breaking testimonial that should be required reading for every member of Congress, the entire Department of Justice, as well as every Judge and Administrator in the country. Then maybe they'd do something about it . . .



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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Memory Lane

My memories today are of the Town of Olive that I lived in for fifty-four years. I am not considered a native, except by the newcomers. A native has to be born here, so my birth in Brooklyn, my childhood in State Island, my teenage years in Long Island, my college days in New Paltz, and my toddler-rearing in Massachusetts are discredited. However, I have lived here long enough to remember the following places that only exist in my mind, not on the map.

I remember OC's which was Ike's before that. I miss Kasey's Kafe where we often ate breakfast. I dearly miss the Pineview Bakery where the Heidenstrom and Grandia families became part of an extended family as did the many men and women who worked there. It was my breakfast club for my entire teaching tenure.

I remember Al Higley's meat market where one could get the best cuts of meat and the most vocal up-to-date political conversations. I can picture buying milk from Ester Sheeley's General Store in Boiceville. I still chuckle when Danny from D&M Market in Shokan told me my lifetime membership in VHS tape rental had expired.



boarding house, in Samsonville, but my friend Pat has shared so many of her memories that I almost felt like I threw a gutter ball and served breakfast to the guests along with her. In my non-native time, Olive had a railroad which brought Sears home kits to the area and many vacationers who stayed at the many boarding houses

This column, today, might not seem relative to the rest of you, but I bet it will spark some of your own memories of things gone but not forgotten because they are woven into your lives like tightly knit stitches. The places may be gone but they have attached to the memories of your friends, relatives, and neighbors and thereby always woven into the design of your life fabric.

Take your own trip down Memory Lane and a highway of memories will flood your soul.

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

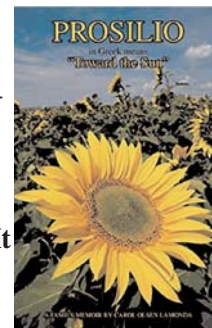
... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice.

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

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and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



I can recall when the Berry Patch was a vivid purple and one could buy lovely gifts that were gift wrapped so wonderfully that the gift could have been the Hope Diamond, not just a six-dollar scented candle.

I remember bringing field trips to Stucki's Lace and Embroidery factory by the Esopus. Before teaching, I worked at the Cracker Barrel next to the Boiceville Inn that sold wood stoves, cheese, and penny candy.

At one time we had a hardware store called Singer-Denman and a furniture store and a nightclub called Minervini's Chord Lounge.

I am not native enough to recall the bowling alley and Beaver Lake House, the famous

Child Care Providers Needed

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

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

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

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

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

- County wide - of 44 inquiries 31 were for Infant and Toddler care
- Requests for Infant and Toddler care through our agency have been made mainly for Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello
- Most of our providers have no infant or toddler spots available

For more information please visit our website: scchildcare.com, The Office of Children and Family Services at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/child-care/becomeaprovider.asp>, or give our office a call at (845) 292-7166.



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Take Your Child to the Library Day

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Join the Celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day!
It's the perfect opportunity to spark your child's imagination and inspire a lifelong love of reading.


Children of all ages are invited to join us for a few hours of fun, learning and creativity, including:

- ✱ Snowflake cookie decorating, crafts and hands-on activities.
- ✱ Read with our special visitor; Marek, a blue Holicer bunny from 12 to 1 pm
- ✱ Explore new books and discover exciting stories that fuel curiosity.
- ✱ Mardi Gras Donut Day - don't forget to order our famous donuts!
- ✱ Register your child for our Spring Children's Programs:

Mother Goose, Toddler Time & Story Hour

Bring your little ones and join the fun—let's ignite their imagination together!
Be part of this global celebration and discover why the library is a treasure trove for all ages. One visit may just turn into many!

Open to Tri-Valley residents. In case of inclement weather, please check our social media for program updates or cancellations.



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Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre Announces 2026 Senior Cinema Lineup and New Showtimes

Hurleyville, NY - The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is thrilled to unveil its 2026 Senior Cinema lineup, featuring a curated selection of beloved films and a new, convenient showtime of 1:00 PM. This cherished program, held on the second Thursday of each month, continues to provide seniors in the community with an opportunity to connect, engage, and enjoy a welcoming space for entertainment and socialization.

HPAC's Senior Cinema program has been a lifeline for many seniors in the area, offering more than just a movie screening. Each event includes a social hour, complete with coffee, board games, and a chance to share stories and skills with fellow participants. For just \$10, attendees can enjoy a full afternoon of entertainment and community—a vital resource for keeping seniors active and enhancing their quality of life.

The 2026 Senior Cinema lineup features an exciting mix of classic and contemporary films:

- o February 12: **Murder on the Orient Express** (1974)
- o March 12: **Annie Hall** (1977)
- o April 9: **Musical Chairs** (2012)
- o May 14: **You've Got Mail** (1998)
- o June 11: **Thelma** (2024)
- o July 9: **Julie & Julia** (2009)
- o August 13: **Nonnas** (2025)
- o September 10: **Manhattan Murder Mystery** (1993)
- o October 8: **Driving Miss Daisy** (1989)
- o November 12: **Notting Hill** (1999)
- o December 10: **The Holdovers** (2023)

In addition to the film screenings, Senior Cinema participants are invited to stay for Coffee Hour, which now brings together attendees from HPAC's three senior programs for added convenience. This enhanced offering fosters a sense of community and provides a relaxed environment for seniors to connect and unwind.



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

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

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Sullivan BOCES to Conduct Comprehensive Organizational Study Following Leadership Transition

LIBERTY: Sullivan BOCES has announced the commencement of a formal organizational study to evaluate its structure, service capacity, administrative functions, and physical facilities. This comprehensive review, required by the New York State Commissioner of Education, aims to identify institutional strengths and strategic opportunities to guide future planning.

The study follows the retirement of District Superintendent Dr. Robert M. Dufour in December. Per New York State Department of Education (NYSED) protocol, the vacancy triggered an initial stakeholder survey. Based on those results, NYSED determined that a more in-depth analysis is required before a permanent search for a new District Superintendent begins.

To lead this effort, BOCES has issued an RFP for an independent consultant. The final report is due to the State Education Department by June 30, 2026. While mandated, such studies are not unprecedented for Sullivan BOCES, having been conducted during previous leadership transitions. These studies ensure the organization remains best positioned to serve the region's educational needs.

During this transition, Commissioner Rosa has appointed Mr. Michael Rullo, District Superintendent of DCMO BOCES, to serve as Interim District Superintendent. Mr. Rullo's extensive experience in rural leadership will provide stability throughout the evaluation process. Stakeholder feedback will be a central component of the study, with more information regarding public meetings to be shared once a consulting firm is appointed.

About Sullivan BOCES:

Sullivan BOCES is an innovative, county-wide educational service agency, providing leadership,



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cooperative services, and collaborative opportunities for students, school districts, and community organizations. BOCES promotes student success, equity, and inclusion for all, while meeting the diverse needs of students and rural communities.

The BOCES Career and Technical Education Center offers 17 programs to over 725 11th- and 12th-grade students, while the Special Education division serves 250 students in a variety of programs. In addition, BOCES provides a wide range of instructional and instructional support services, including, but not limited to, alternative education programs, summer school, early college access, itinerant teachers, arts in education, cybersecurity risk management, distance and online learning, prevention services, staff development, learning technology services, and the school library system.

Sullivan BOCES also offers a broad array of management services, such as the central business office, cooperative bidding, facilities services, health, safety, and risk management, technology services, and telecommunications.

To support adult learners, BOCES partners with the County to offer adult trade courses and collaborates with local colleges to provide pathways for adults to continue their educational aspirations.

Happy National Bagel Day!



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2026 BAGEL FESTIVAL IS OPEN NOW!
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Pattern for Progress Welcomes Three Regional Leaders to its Board of Directors

NEWBURGH - Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress announced today the appointment of three regional leaders to its Board of Directors. The new directors bring diverse expertise from across the housing, planning, and labor sectors, strengthening Pattern's ability to deliver independent research and practical solutions for the Hudson Valley.

Board members support Pattern for Progress's nonprofit mission by guiding strategic planning and governance, advancing research and education efforts, supporting fundraising, and helping ensure the organization's work informs decision-making across the nine-county region.

The directors were nominated in the fall and formally elected in December by Pattern for Progress's membership, which includes businesses, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and local governments from throughout the Hudson Valley.

Monique Clarke is a mortgage officer with The Community Preservation Corporation (CPC), where she finances affordable and multifamily housing developments across the Hudson Valley. With more

than 20 years of experience in real estate, lending, and community development, she works with mission-driven developers and public partners to expand access to equitable, high-quality housing. She is active in regional housing initiatives through CPC and is a member of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors.

Tom Gandolfi is the business manager and financial secretary of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 373. He also serves on the executive boards of the Hudson Valley Building Trades and the New York State Pipe Trades Association. A graduate of Newburgh Free Academy, Gandolfi began his career as an apprentice with Local 373 and is dedicated to creating strong career opportunities for union men and women throughout the Hudson Valley.

Matthew Steinberg, AICP, is a senior associate at DTS Provident, where he leads environmental and land use planning for major development projects across the Hudson Valley. With more than 20 years of public- and private-sector experience, he has overseen high-profile initiatives including Broadview Senior Living at SUNY Purchase and the redevelopment of the former Reader's Digest campus in Chappaqua. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

About Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is a nonprofit organization that provides objective research, planning, and educational training throughout the region. Its work identifies civic challenges and promotes regional, equitable, and sustainable solutions to constantly improve the quality of life in Hudson Valley communities. Pattern develops its work upon a considerable foundation of facts and experience, without political aims or affiliations.

Pattern was founded in 1965 by the region's academic, business, and nonprofit leaders. It serves a nine-county region that includes Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Visit Pattern-For-Progress.org. Follow on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn @PatternForProgress, and on Twitter @HVPattern.

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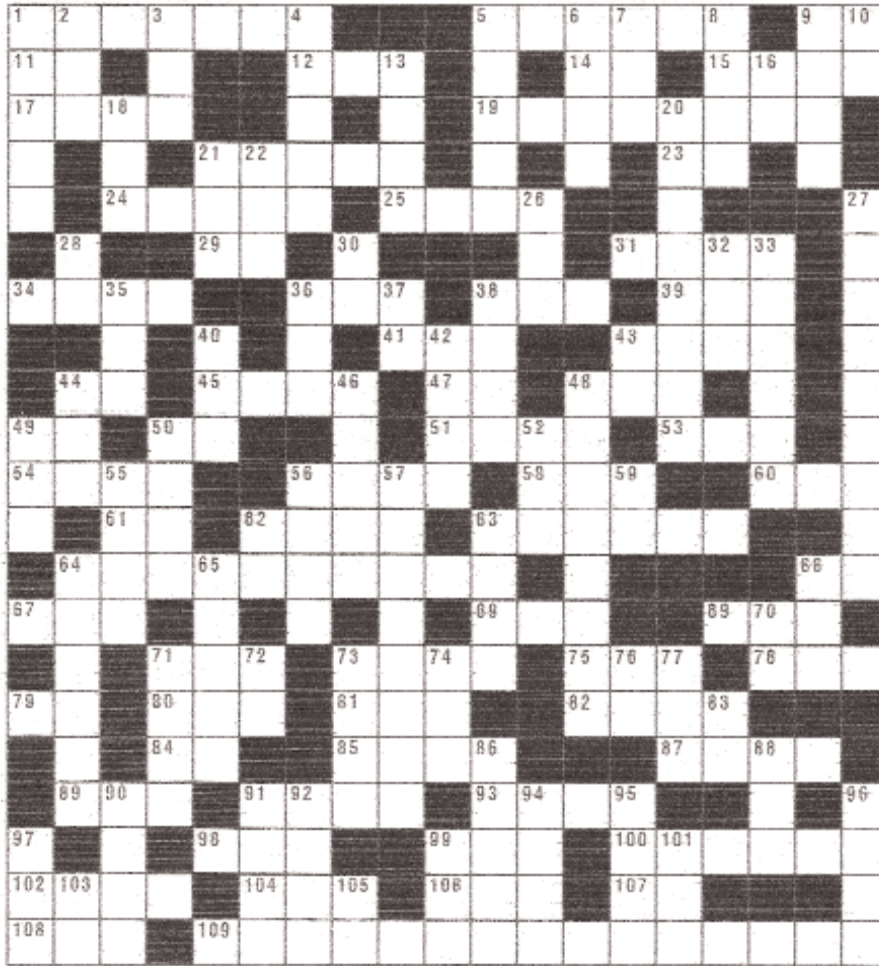
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It's Cabin Fever Time! - L. Comando



ACROSS

1 What the little wishing star does
5 Hansel's sister
9 'Hi- __, it's off to work we go!
11 Informal hello
12 Mr. Thumb's first name
14 Negative response
15 First man
17 Archaic term for to
19 Author of "The Snow Queen"
21 Discards
23 Expressing location
24 Tourist town in the White Mts. of Arizona
25 Hindu goddess and wife of Rama
29 Indefinite article
31 Incredible superhero of recent years
34 Young lad popular in fairytales and nursery rhymes
36 Amusement
38 In *Frozen*, what Arendelle is surrounded by

39 Originally called
41 Earlier
43 Russian ruler
44 Father
45 What is covering the Catskill Mountains this winter
47 Supported by
48 Four and twenty blackbirds were baked in one
49 Southeast
50 Exclamation of surprise
51 Mountain range in Saudi Arabia
53 Fabrication
54 Remunerated
56 Room over a stable
58 Outer edge
60 Fall behind
61 Combining form of two
63 Gretel's brother
64 Her foot fit in the glass

slipper
66 Either
67 Cushion
68 Mass of fish eggs
69 Large constrictor snake
71 Democrat (abbrev.)
73 Fruit of the blackthorn bush
75 Noisy cry
78 Future Farmers Association
79 Advertisement
80 Hearing organ
81 Exaggerated long period of time
82 Cinderella lost this
84 Exist
85 What kind of bird *Little Jenny* was
87 Sweet potatoes
89 Small woodland supernatural creatures
91 Tribulation
93 Informal 'obituary'

98 Friend
99 Lyric poem
100 US Arctic State
102 1950's TV show, *My Friend ____*
104 Lazy man
106 Small injury
107 Los Angeles
108 Combination of knitted stitches
109 A dwarf character in a fairy tale of the same name

DOWN

1 40" tall P T Barnum
2 Victorious
3 Combining form of new
4 Upper region of air beyond the clouds
5 Titan
6 No longer exists
7 Foot digit

37 North America
38 Electrically charged atoms
40 First Old English runic letter so named from the word of which it was the first letter
42 Zodiacal sign of Capricorn
43 Cirrus (abbrev)
44 Edible legume
46 Complete
48 Daughter of the king
49 Intelligence agent
50 Scandinavian god of myth who Wednesday is named after

52 Irish Republican Army
55 In the same place
56 Mythos
57 Legend
59 Title before a woman's surname regardless of marital state
62 Southeast
63 Rabbit
64 What Jack jumped over
65 Fantasy
66 Lamebrain
70 A preposition
71 Unable to hear
72 Mister
73 Fastened with stitches
74 Single unit
76 Used to express

surprise
77 Lad
83 Each
86 Places where lines intersect
88 Title of a married woman
90 Bough
91 An office worker; clerk
92 Aluminum and potassium compound
94 Crooked
95 More than the average height
96 Spun wool
97 Evergreen
99 Nocturnal bird
103 Rhode Island
105 Mounted Police

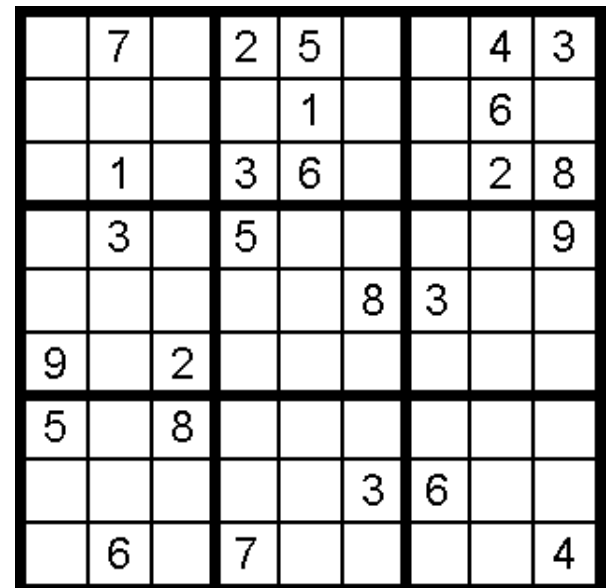
Saucepan Brownies

1/2 cup butter
2 sq. unsweetened baking chocolate
1 cup sugar
1/2 to 3/4 cup flour
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Melt the butter and unsweetened chocolate in a heavy saucepan. Remove from heat and stir in remaining ingredients.

Place in a 9 x 9 inch greased pan and bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

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

Cryptogram

Kids' Snow Time Fun Page

- L. Comando

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

21 1 18 19 19 23 24 3 2 18 21 24 21 14 24 25 24 18 5 21 12 1 28 18

11 8 1 16 26 4 18 9 24 2 21 2 11 8 24 3 24 11 11 18 23 12 21 1

11 21 18 8 22 1 6 21 2 8 21 14 24 3 1 4 19

It's Snow Time

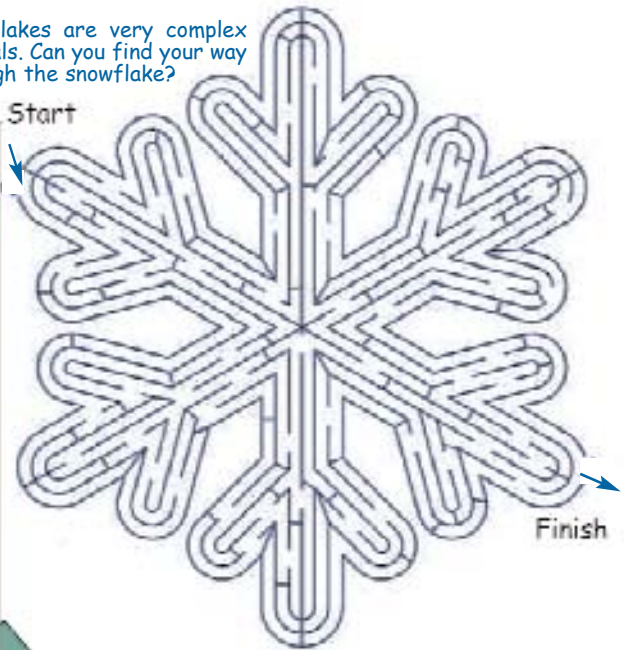
Word Search

SKIING
FREEZING
FROST
SNOWMAN
ICE
TOBBOGAN
BLIZZARD
JANUARY
COLD
DRIFTS
SKATES

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

Snowflakes are very complex crystals. Can you find your way through the snowflake?

Start



Finish



Follow the dots to see another snowman

Cryptogram Key

9	21	1	16	26	4	18	9	24	2	21	2	11	8	24	3	24	11	11	18	23	12	21	1
Z	A	X	M	A	N	J	B	D	P	O	N	N	T	K	F	I	H	O	F	B	O	B	V

Follow the dots to see who is greeting you on the path.



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(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

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Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday
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The first
Friday of
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All adults welcome!

Daniel Pierce Library 1st Friday Book Club

Friday, February 06, 2026 • 1:00 PM

1st Friday Book Club Type: Adults

Location: Upper Level - Conference Room

Join our book club each month and

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You will need to be a RCLS library card holder to participate and join in on
the fun! Please contact Mikki at (845) 985-7233 x103 with any questions.
Adults only.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

Neversink Fire District 2026 Pool Staff Posting

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

Dana Vogler, Secretary

1/15 -RTF

Gillibrand Statement on Passage of the Whole Milk for Health Kids Act

New York, NY - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand made the following statement on the passage of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. The bill changes the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) current meal program guidelines to permit schools to serve whole milk in addition to reduced-fat and fat-free milk, as well as nutritionally equivalent milk substitutes at the request of a parent or guardian. Senator Gillibrand is an original cosponsor of the bill in the Senate.

"Kids need nutritious meals to learn and thrive, and whole milk provides those critical nutrients. The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act invests in children's health and supports New York State's dairy farmers," said Senator Gillibrand. "By allowing schools to offer whole milk and milk substitutes that are equivalent in nutrition, we're making school meals healthier and ensuring that locally produced dairy continues to play a role in feeding the next generation. It's a win for students, schools, and New York agriculture."

New York State is the fifth-largest producer of dairy in the country, and the dairy industry is New York's largest agricultural sector. New York's nearly 2,800 dairy farms produce 16.1 billion pounds of milk annually, representing over 7% of total U.S. milk production.

Sullivan County Clerk's Office To Be Closed Afternoon of January 21 *Needed to Complete Hardware Upgrade*

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County Clerk Russell Reeves is advising the public that the County Clerk's Office will be closed to walk-in business after 12 p.m. on January 21, 2026 due to scheduled technology upgrades. Also, online transactions will not be able to be processed on that date, such as e-recording and e-filing.

"We are undertaking a major enhancement of our computer system to provide even better service to our taxpayers and customers," notes Reeves. "I ask for the public's patience as we complete this upgrade, as there is also a possibility for service interruptions on the 22nd and 23rd."

This closure affects only the Clerk's Office. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will NOT be closing during that time.

SLAC Agenda January 30, 2026

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

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

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

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

Hope to see you, and bring a friend.

Open Mic

Every Sunday:

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

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

Catskill Center Receives Grant to Enhance Interpretation and Accessibility at the Catskills Visitor Center

January 20, 2025-Arkillville, NY: The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development was awarded a \$31,033 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund's Park and Trail Partnership Grants program to improve accessibility and visitor experience at the Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center. The project will update and replace aging signage with a new entrance kiosk, enhanced interpretive signage along trail systems, an outdoor television providing orientation, stewardship, and safety information, and Adirondack chairs that invite the community to gather and enjoy the landscape outside of regular hours. The Catskill Center will contribute an additional \$4,486 in matching funds to reach a total of \$35,519 for the project.

The grant is one of 27 awards totaling \$2.25 million for organizations dedicated to the stewardship and promotion of New York's state parks and historic sites, trails, and public lands. The grants will be matched with private and local funding and will support projects to strengthen Friends groups and enhance public access and recreational opportunities.

Friends groups-nonprofit organizations often made up entirely of volunteers-are essential to the stewardship and promotion of our state park system. These dedicated groups raise private funds for capital projects, perform maintenance tasks, provide educational programming, and promote public use through hosting special events.

The Park and Trail Partnership Grants program, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, is administered by Parks & Trails New York, a statewide non-profit organization, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation. (Contd. Pg. 20)

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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 weekly ads with 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!**

Catskill Center Receives Grant to Enhance Interpretation and Accessibility at the Catskills Visitor Center

(From Pg. 19)

Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Paul Steely White said, "New Yorkers statewide are experiencing the benefits of restored trails, enhanced visitor centers, and engaging programs that foster a deeper connection with the outdoors. For the past decade, Park and Trail Partnership Grants have been instrumental in making these experiences possible by supporting the dedicated local organizations that steward our public lands. This year's record-breaking awards will ensure that these vital sites continue to educate, inspire, and warmly welcome all who visit."

This project addresses a critical first point of contact for visitors and residents entering at the Catskills Visitor Center, ensuring they receive clear, accurate, and welcoming information from the moment they arrive. Updating outdated and damaged signage will eliminate confusion, guide visitors to the full range of resources available, and provide essential orientation and safety information for recreating responsibly in the 700,000-acre Catskill Park, where wilderness conditions and limited cell service can pose challenges. New interpretive panels will deepen understanding of the region's natural and cultural history, while improved accessibility features such as multilingual and audio content will expand who can benefit from these resources. Together, these improvements strengthen the Catskills Visitor Center's role as a trusted, inclusive gateway that connects people to nature, to the Catskills community, and to the knowledge needed to protect both visitors and the landscape.

Jeff Senterman, Executive Director of the Catskill Center, said, "By improving how information is shared at the Catskills Visitor Center, we're helping people start their experience in the Catskills informed, prepared, and connected to the landscape. This investment supports safer recreation, a deeper sense of place, and a stronger relationship between the community and the region we're working to protect."

To view a list of all Round 11 awardees, please visit:

<https://www.ptny.org/ptpg-round-11-awardees/>

More information on Park and Trail Partnership Grants can be found at www.ptny.org or by calling 518-434-1583 x3.

THE CATSKILL CENTER

Since 1969, the Catskill Center has protected and fostered the environmental, cultural, and economic well-being of the Catskill region. It is the major force advocating for both the Catskill Park and entire region. Formed in 1969 and headquartered at the Erpf Center in Arkville, NY, the Catskill Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501C(3) corporation. It employs an executive director and staff and is guided by an all-volunteer board of directors with representation from local, regional, and New York City metropolitan areas.

For more information, visit www.catskillcenter.org.

Share Your Catskills Romance Story!

Borscht Belt 2026 Live Event Series – Saturday, Jan. 24 at 2 pm

Borscht Belt Museum, 90 Canal Street, Ellenville.

No reservations required

Do you remember your first dance in the Catskills? Your first summer crush? The moment you fell in love or celebrated your wedding in the mountains?

The Borscht Belt Museum is seeking stories, inspirational quotes, and photos for an upcoming exhibition exploring romance in the Catskills.

We're looking for photographs that capture romantic moments - courtships, fun dates and activities, dancing, weddings, and honeymoons.

We're also seeking ten individuals and couples willing to participate in portrait sessions with author and photographic artist B.A. Van Sise. We're especially interested in couples who met, married, or honeymooned in the Catskills (bonus if their children did too!) and resort owners or staff who played "Cupid" and helped guests fall in love with their better-or "This will do"-half.

Send photographs, stories, and/or interest in portrait participation to catskillsromance@gmail.com by Feb 15.

Include your name, contact information, a brief description of your Catskills connection and the story behind your photograph.

We'd be Bupkis Without You

No reservations required. Suggested donation \$15.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Borscht Belt Museum. Make your mother proud. No amount is too small.



The graphic features a collage of images related to healthcare: a hand holding a stethoscope, a person's arm being measured with a blood pressure cuff, and a pill bottle with spilled pills. A red circle with the word "Live" is overlaid on the images. To the right, the text "Medicare 101 Zoom Webinar" is displayed in large, bold letters. Below this, the date and time "Saturday, March 14, 2026 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M." are listed in a blue box.

Presented by:
James Farnham, MBA, MS
Licensed Agent

Will you be turning 65 soon? Are you eligible for Medicare?

Please join us for this free live webinar as we learn about Medicare basics including, When to join, Prescription Drug Plans, Medicare Supplement Plans, and Medicare Advantage Plans (HMOs and PPOs). This program will simplify the choices you need to make, help you make well-informed decisions and explain what Medicare means to you! This is an educational event.

Advanced online registration required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org. Those who register will receive an email prior to the event with a link and instructions on how to join the Zoom Webinar.



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



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

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

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

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

If so, please call or email

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

All loans will be gratefully acknowledged in the exhibition

Thank you so much!



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

**INDOOR
YARD
and
CLOTHING
SALE**

Will be
opened
every
Friday
from
10 - 3

**Something
for
Everyone!**



COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES



**PRE-PLANNING, FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
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MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES
CREMATION MEMORIALS & BENCHES, MONUMENT LETTERING & CLEANING

Sundown United
Methodist Church

**Covered Dish
Suppers will resume
in the Spring.**

**Wishing you a
Joyous
New Year!**

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

Mass Times

Sat: Vigil 4:00 PM • Sun: 9:00 AM

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

Parochial Vicar: Father Thomas

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

Pastor Kenneth Ronk

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

**Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church**

**Have a
a Happy
New Year!**

Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am
350 Main Street, Grahamsville
Pastor Harriet Wilkin
845-985-2283

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am

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



Loucks Funeral Home

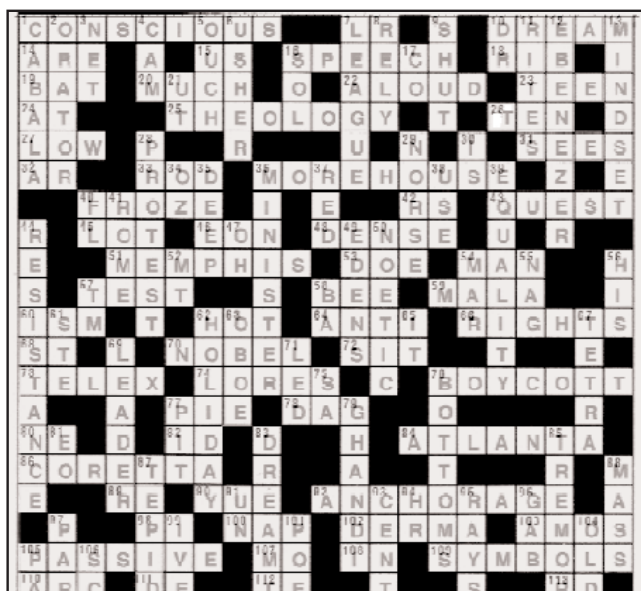
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

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

St. Augustine's Chapel
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also
WANTED
People to
play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

To learn more about
Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)
or to make a donation
please go to:

<https://www.nfxdetroit.org/>

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

Thank you

The Wurtsboro Board of Trade 2026 event dates are as follows:

Spring Fling, Saturday May 2nd 12-3pm
Street Fair, Saturday July 11th 11-5pm
Duck Race, Thursday August 13th 6pm
Halloweenfest, Saturday October 31st 12-3pm
Joy to Wurtsboro, Saturday November 28th 1-4pm

Music & Farmers Market in the park will run every Thursday, starting June 11-Sept 24 from 5pm-8/8:30pm.



Daniel Pierce Library Hours

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

\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/3/2026	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm
2/4/2026	Town of Neversink Planning Board -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 1/23/2026)
2/10/2026	Denning Town Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
2/11/2026	Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting
2/16/2026	Town of Neversink Holiday - PRESIDENTS' DAY
2/17/2026	Town of Neversink Zoning Board of Appeals -7 pm (Application Submission Due Date 2/6/2026)
2/19/2026	Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting-6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
2/19/2026	Neversink Fire Commissioners' Meeting 7 pm

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update

For The Week Of

January 19-23, 2026

Legislative Committee Meetings are Live
streamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Monday, January 19

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - County Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 20

- No Meetings

Wednesday, January 21

- **8:00 AM - Ulster County Workforce Development Board**, in the Office of Employment & Training, 521 Boices Lane, Kingston
- **9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Regular Board Meeting**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- **10:00 AM (Or Immediately Following IDA) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Regular Board Meeting**, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, January 22

- No Meetings

Friday, January 23

- No Meetings



SULLIVAN COUNTY CATSKILLS
Mountains of Opportunities

SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV

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



Scan QR Code to Schedule an Appt

2026 Winter Schedule

You can also Schedule an Appointment at
sullivanny.gov | County Clerk Russell Reeves

<p>JEFFERSONVILLE</p> <p>Tues January 6</p> <p>Tues February 3</p> <p>Tues March 3</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>19 Legion St Jeffersonville, NY</p>	<p>WURTSBORO</p> <p>Thurs January 22</p> <p>Thurs February 19</p> <p>Thurs March 19</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>2948 US 209 Wurtsboro, NY</p>
<p>LIVINGSTON MANOR</p> <p>Tues January 13</p> <p>Tues February 10</p> <p>Tues March 10</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>95 Main St Livingston Manor, NY</p>	<p>GRAHAMSVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 8</p> <p>Thurs February 5</p> <p>Thurs March 5</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>273 Main St Grahamsville, NY</p>
<p>NARROWSBURG</p> <p>Tues January 20</p> <p>Tues February 17</p> <p>Tues March 17</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>210 Bridge St Narrowsburg, NY</p>	<p>HORTONVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 15</p> <p>Thurs February 12</p> <p>Thurs March 12</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>104 Lower Main St Hortonville, NY</p>
<p>LIBERTY</p> <p>Tues January 27</p> <p>Tues February 24</p> <p>Tues March 24</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY</p>	<p>BLOOMINGBURG</p> <p>Thurs January 29</p> <p>Thurs February 26</p> <p>Thurs March 26</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>13 North Rd Bloomingburg, NY</p>

Daniel Pierce Library



Book Inspiration Crafting Event

February 26, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Do you love books? Then let's get inspired together creating these fabulous works of art. No prior experience needed, all materials will be supplied.

Grab a friend and join in on this fun night at the library.

**Advanced registration required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org.
Open to Tri-Valley adult residence only. Space is limited.**



Daniel Pierce Library

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

Governor Hochul Announces Child Care Expansion Pilot Partnership with 3 Counties as Part of Statewide Investments in Universal Child Care

- *Under New Pilot Program, State Will Partner With Dutchess, Monroe and Broome Counties to Expand Child Care in Their Communities*
- *Part of Governor Hochul's Statewide Plan to Deliver Universal Child Care For All New York Children Under 5 Through Statewide Universal Pre-K, Launch of 2-Care and Reaching Universal 3K Access in NYC, and Expanded Access to Child Care Subsidies*

As part of her \$4.5 billion investment to deliver statewide universal child care, Governor Hochul today announced the State will partner with Dutchess County, Monroe County and Broome County in a new State pilot program to help counties offer additional child care options in their communities. This pilot program will include a total of \$60 million in State funding, along with new investments from each of the three counties, as they expand child care access with a particular focus on serving children 0-3.

This pilot program is one of many investments that Governor Hochul is making to help deliver universal child care for all under the age of five across New York State, saving New York families billions of dollars each year.

"I'll never stop working to make life more affordable for New Yorkers - and that's why my plan will deliver universal child care for families all across New York," said Governor Hochul. "As part of my plan to support every county statewide, this new pilot program will help counties develop and expand new models for providing child care for families, regardless of their income status."

Monroe County Executive Adam Bello said, "I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for her leadership and for including Monroe County and our child care community in this innovative pilot program that will strengthen families, support providers, and help our local economy flourish. Access to affordable, high-quality child care is one of the biggest challenges facing working families in Monroe County and across New York State. It is essential infrastructure that allows parents to work, children to learn, and local economies to function, and demand has never been greater. Thanks to this innovative pilot program launched by Governor Hochul, Monroe County will be able to partner with New York State and

local child care providers to expand capacity and offer access to reliable, quality care without income barriers or unnecessary red tape. This initiative gives communities the tools they need to meet families where they are to help them overcome child care barriers."

Broome County Executive Jason Garnar said, "Governor Hochul's commitment to expanding universal childcare is exactly the kind of leadership working families need right now. By including Broome County in this new upstate pilot, the Governor is helping make life more affordable for parents who just want to go to work, provide for their families, and know their kids are safe and cared for. Thanks to Governor Hochul's leadership, Broome County will also be opening the largest childcare center in our county this fall, expanding access for hundreds of local families. This investment will help even more working families across Broome County get the affordable, high-quality childcare they need to thrive."

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers said, "This investment will make a meaningful difference for families in Poughkeepsie by expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care. Governor Hochul's partnership with Dutchess County will help parents participate in the workforce, support local child care providers, and ensure our youngest residents get a strong start in life. I'm grateful for the Governor's continued commitment to strengthening our community and supporting working families."

Under the plan, the state will provide each of these counties with \$20 million for their pilot, with the counties contributing an additional 10% in funding. The programs will support up to 1,000 seats for 0-3s in each county, with the first tranche coming online in 2027. These efforts build on existing, county-led efforts to support child care and the welfare of families in each respective community, including Dutchess's DAY ONE Teacher Apprenticeship program, Early Learning coalition, and childcare professional development program and Monroe's recent increased child care investments and eligibility awareness campaign and their ongoing Project Prospect anti-poverty program. Broome County will also be opening the largest childcare center in their county this fall, expanding access for hundreds of local families.

Governor Hochul's statewide plan to deliver universal child care for all New York children under the age of five also includes:

Achieving Truly Universal Pre-K

While four-year-olds in some parts of New York have long had access to Pre-K, there are dozens of school districts that have not yet been able to make it available. Governor Hochul is providing additional support to ensure truly universal Pre-K for all four-year-olds in the State by the start of the 2028-2029 school year. (Contd. Pg. 27)

Governor Hochul Announces Child Care Expansion Pilot Partnership with 3 Counties as Part of Statewide Investments in Universal Child Care

(From Pg. 26)

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

Continuing Access to Low-Cost, Affordable Child Care Assistance Programs

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

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

Launching 2-Care and Reaching Universal 3K Access in NYC

New York City has already launched universal Pre-K and 3K, and Governor Hochul will partner with New York City to age this program down and launch an unprecedented initiative to offer entirely free child care for two-year-olds within

New York City.

The Governor is committing to fully fund the first two years of the city's implementation. As envisioned by the new mayoral administration, the first year of the program will focus on high-need areas selected by New York City and expand to serve all interested families across the city by year 4. In addition, the Governor will partner with New York City to strengthen and fix the city's 3K program and ensure it achieves its promise of universal access.

Office of Child Care and Early Education

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

Supporting the Workforce Through Early Childhood Educator Preparation

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

Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Credit to Better Support Families

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

Senator Michelle Hinchey said, "Getting to Universal Child Care across New York will be incredibly important, and the Dutchess County Early Learning Coalition and the DAY ONE Program have been leading the way to find innovative models to get there. Today's announcement selecting Dutchess County as one of the State's first pilots is incredibly exciting, and I'm thrilled to see both the Coalition and DAY ONE recognized for their work. I thank Governor Hochul for elevating the expertise, creativity, and leadership here in Dutchess as a model, and for her commitment to achieving Universal Child Care across the state."



Daniel Pierce Library
Mardi Gras
Donuts

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

Pre-
orders
Preferred

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

To order:



Call us at 845-985-7233



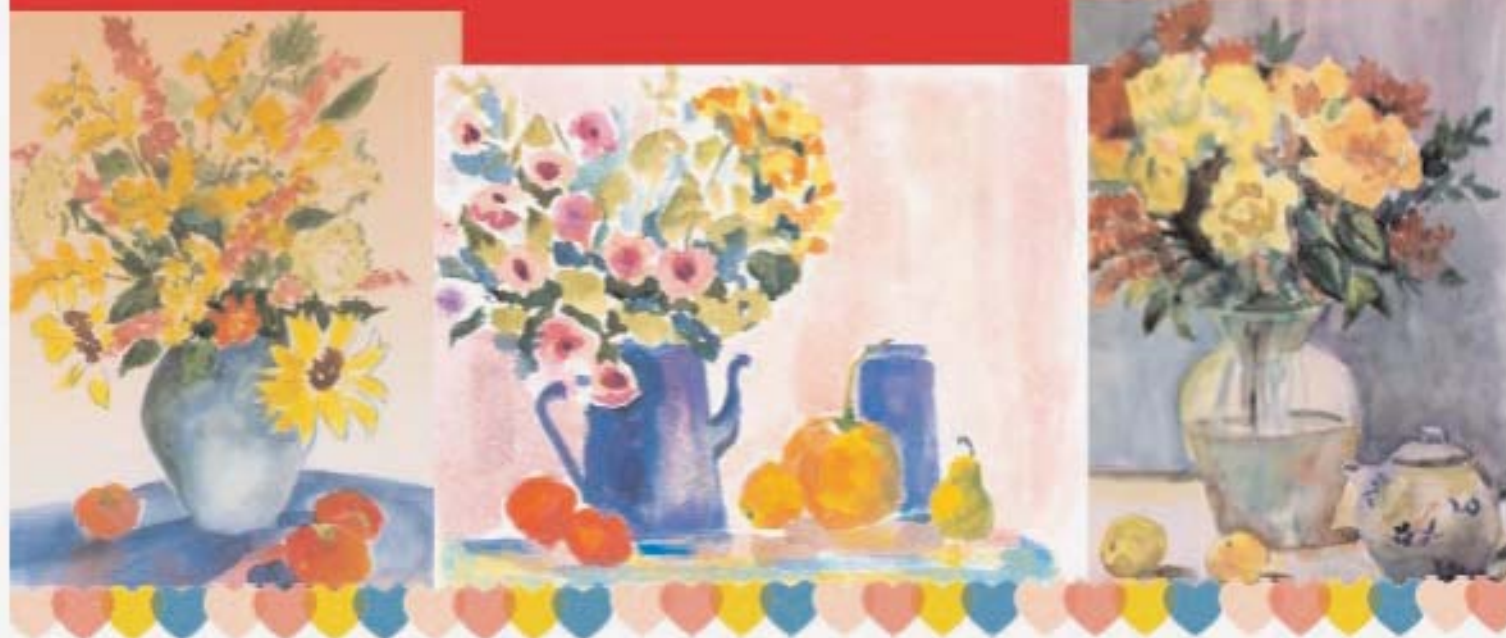
Place an online order at danielpiercelibrary.org



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

Thank You for your continued
support!

Daniel Pierce Library



Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow

Flowers speak the language of love ♥

Friday, February 13, 2026

1:00-2:30 p.m.

\$5 Supply Fee

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

No experience necessary, limited space available. Adults only.

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

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



Daniel Pierce Library

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

DEC Announces Fifth Round of Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grants

- **\$5 Million Available for Private Forest Landowners to Expand, Improve, and Restore Forests**
- **Projects Support Governor Hochul's 25 Million Trees by 2033 Initiative and New York State Climate Goals**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced that more than \$5 million is now available through the fifth round of the Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program. This grant program provides financial assistance to private landowners establishing new forests, improving the health of existing forests, and restoring forests that are heavily impacted by factors such as deer browse, invasive pests, or fragmentation. The funding for this round is made possible by the State Environmental Protection Fund's (EPF) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Program, the Forest Landowners Support grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, and the Arbor Day Foundation. New trees planted as a result of funded projects will contribute to Governor Hochul's 25 Million Trees Initiative.

"Regenerate NY reflects commitments by Governor Kathy Hochul and DEC to protecting and strengthening New York's forests for future generations," said Commissioner Lefton. "Private landowners own approximately 75% of our state's forestland, so it is essential that we support and invest in their ability to manage their forests sustainably. This round of funding will empower landowners to expand and restore their forests, support green jobs and local economies, and ensure these lands continue to provide clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, and resilient landscapes."

Private landowners may apply for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$1 million to conduct one or more of the following practices on their property:

- o Planting trees to restore or create new forests,
- o Creating young forest habitat to initiate natural regeneration and improve wildlife habitat,
- o Thinning to remove unhealthy or close-growing trees and to promote forest health or regrowth,
- o Removing competing or invasive vegetation, and
- o Installing tree protection to prevent deer browse of young tree seedlings.

Eligible applicants include any individual, trust, corporate entity or other for-profit organization that owns between 5 and 2,500 acres of undeveloped land that is forested or can become forested through tree planting or associated practices to

encourage forest regeneration. Not-for-profit organizations and Indian Nations or Tribes with 5 or more acres of undeveloped land are also eligible and are not subject to the 2,500-acre maximum requirement. Projects must be at least 5 acres and must be guided by a private forester or natural resource professional. There is no limit to the number of applications/bids that a landowner or organization may submit; however, they cannot be for the same land area. Projects must be completed by December 15, 2029.

DEC Director of Lands and Forests and New York State Forester Fiona Watt said, "This grant opportunity offers a flexible toolkit for landowners to create new forest habitat on open land, and to nurture young and struggling forests to greater health and resilience. Regenerating New York's private forests is a key pathway to supporting working lands, nature's benefits, and addressing climate change."

Portions of the grant funds will be reserved until March 11, 2026, for priority applicants, including new forest landowners, active military service members and veterans, and State or federally recognized Tribes and Indian Nations. Funds will also be reserved for priority projects, including planting trees on a large scale or restoring forests significantly impacted by invasive pests or diseases. Any funds not awarded by that date will then be available to all eligible applicants.

DEC will host a webinar on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, to provide information and answer questions about this funding opportunity. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Applications will be accepted until Thursday, August 27, 2026, and must be submitted through the Statewide Financial System (SFS). Applicants must register for an SFS account before they can apply, and not-for-profits must also prequalify by the deadline or their application will not be evaluated. For more details about the grant opportunity, visit DEC's website or email RegenNY@dec.ny.gov.

Regenerate NY supports New York State's 25 Million Trees Initiative, launched by Governor Hochul in 2024 to drive reforestation efforts and forest stewardship across the state. Trees planted through funded projects will be entered into the Initiative's Tree Tracker to count toward the State's goal. For more information about the 25 Million Trees Initiative, visit DEC's website.

Governor Hochul's 2026 State of the State address reaffirmed New York State's commitment to environmental leadership with a record proposal of \$425 million in funding for the EPF. This historic investment reinforces the State's role as a national leader in conservation and environmental protection, helping preserve New York's environment for generations to come.

A \$100,000 grant from the Arbor Day Foundation to the Natural Heritage Trust, the charitable partner for New York's public lands and waters, for plant material associated with these projects will fund up to 20,000 tree seedlings. Learn more about the Trust and donations.

DEC Announces Fifth Round of Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grants

- \$5 Million Available for Private Forest Landowners to Expand, Improve, and Restore Forests
- Projects Support Governor Hochul's 25 Million Trees by 2033 Initiative and New York State Climate Goals

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced that more than \$5 million is now available through the fifth round of the Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program. This grant program provides financial assistance to private landowners establishing new forests, improving the health of existing forests, and restoring forests that are heavily impacted by factors such as deer browse, invasive pests, or fragmentation. The funding for this round is made possible by the State Environmental Protection Fund's (EPF) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Program, the Forest Landowners Support grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, and the Arbor Day Foundation. New trees planted as a result of funded projects will contribute to Governor Hochul's 25 Million Trees Initiative.

"Regenerate NY reflects commitments by Governor Kathy Hochul and DEC to protecting and strengthening New York's forests for future generations," said Commissioner Lefton. "Private landowners own approximately 75% of our state's forestland, so it is essential that we support and invest in their ability to manage their forests sustainably. This round of funding will empower landowners to expand and restore their forests, support green jobs and local economies, and ensure these lands continue to provide clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, and resilient landscapes."

Private landowners may apply for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$1 million to conduct one or more of the following practices on their property:

- o Planting trees to restore or create new forests,
- o Creating young forest habitat to initiate natural regeneration and improve wildlife habitat,
- o Thinning to remove unhealthy or close-growing trees and to promote forest health or regrowth,
- o Removing competing or invasive vegetation, and
- o Installing tree protection to prevent deer browse of young tree seedlings.

Eligible applicants include any individual, trust, corporate entity or other for-profit organization that owns between 5 and 2,500 acres of undeveloped land that is forested or can become forested through tree planting or associated practices to

encourage forest regeneration. Not-for-profit organizations and Indian Nations or Tribes with 5 or more acres of undeveloped land are also eligible and are not subject to the 2,500-acre maximum requirement. Projects must be at least 5 acres and must be guided by a private forester or natural resource professional. There is no limit to the number of applications/bids that a landowner or organization may submit; however, they cannot be for the same land area. Projects must be completed by December 15, 2029.

DEC Director of Lands and Forests and New York State Forester Fiona Watt said, "This grant opportunity offers a flexible toolkit for landowners to create new forest habitat on open land, and to nurture young and struggling forests to greater health and resilience. Regenerating New York's private forests is a key pathway to supporting working lands, nature's benefits, and addressing climate change."

Portions of the grant funds will be reserved until March 11, 2026, for priority applicants, including new forest landowners, active military service members and veterans, and State or federally recognized Tribes and Indian Nations. Funds will also be reserved for priority projects, including planting trees on a large scale or restoring forests significantly impacted by invasive pests or diseases. Any funds not awarded by that date will then be available to all eligible applicants.

DEC will host a webinar on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, to provide information and answer questions about this funding opportunity. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Applications will be accepted until Thursday, August 27, 2026, and must be submitted through the Statewide Financial System (SFS). Applicants must register for an SFS account before they can apply, and not-for-profits must also prequalify by the deadline or their application will not be evaluated. For more details about the grant opportunity, visit DEC's website or email RegenNY@dec.ny.gov.

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Our Hudson Valley community has shown time and time again that when we come together with one voice, there's nothing we can't achieve or overcome. Your voice and experiences are what drive my work in Congress - hearing directly from you is critical. It's what motivates me day in and day out to fight for a more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley for you and all of our neighbors - here's some of how I did that this past week:

ASKING YOU TO JOIN THE FIGHT TO STOP THE PROPOSED ICE CENTER IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Trump's plan for a mass detention camp in the Hudson Valley is shameful, un-American, and the exact opposite of everything we stand for.

Hudson Valley Patriots are making our voices heard, demanding justice, accountability, and humanity for every member of our community.

The horrific murder of a U.S. citizen in Minnesota - by an agency with a budget bigger than most militaries, which the Administration absolutely refuses to hold accountable - is yet another example of their dangerous and un-American overreach. We're seeing law-abiding members of our community snatched off the streets with no due process, and whether that's at facilities in New York or across the country, we cannot accept it.

Especially given the total lack of coordination with our local government, our community needs to speak up - loudly - if we want to prevent ICE from moving in, terrorizing our neighbors, and making us all less safe.

So I'm asking each one of you to join me in standing together on the side of justice, accountability, and humanity by completing my survey here : https://iqconnect.house.gov/iqextranet/EForm.aspx?__cid=NY19PR&__fid=100059

Please forward this on to others you know who may want to join our effort, too.

FIGHTING TO LOWER THE COST OF GROCERIES

I've heard from countless families across our entire community who are spending too much of their income just to put food on the table - from parents worried their next paycheck won't be enough to feed their family to seniors on a fixed income forgoing vital nutrients, our community cannot survive like this. This is wrong on every level, and totally unacceptable. That's why I'm fighting back.

99% of respondents to my recent survey said they're feeling the burden of rising grocery prices. Your input has always been the main driver behind everything I do - from cutting through red tape to lower egg prices, to fighting for small businesses in Washington against Trump's tariff-induced trade war, to introducing the bipartisan "Lower

Grocery Prices Act."

I take your concerns to heart and put them into action. The President promised to lower costs on Day 1 - but as he continues to slash food assistance, blow taxpayer dollars on foreign bailouts, and impose tariff wars that are crushing our local economies, our community deserves the relief we were promised. I'll keep pushing relentlessly to ease the burden on hardworking Americans, and build the more affordable Hudson Valley all our families deserve.

COLLECTING VALENTINES FOR OUR VETERANS

Veterans put their lives on the line to keep us safe and protect our democracy - it's the ultimate expression of love for their fellow Americans and for our country. Our community has sent tens of thousands of Valentines for Vets the past 3 years. Each year, it's been remarkable to see the community's outpouring of gratitude to our local veterans.

I'm looking forward to rallying together again this year to show them how much the Hudson Valley values their heroism and service.

Please drop off your Valentines for Vets to my Poughkeepsie office at 29 N Hamilton Street, Suites 112 and 113, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 by Tuesday, February 10 or mail them by Friday, February 6 to ensure timely delivery.

STANDING AGAINST UNITEDHEALTH'S TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

UnitedHealth has gobbled up our local healthcare practices, creating a monopoly that directly hurts everyone in our community.

Now, they're telling a massive chunk of our community that they can't access care at their Optum practices - but where else are people supposed to go?

Refusing to cover care for folks on lower cost insurance plans is wrong and a prime example of why I'm leading the charge in Congress to break up UnitedHealth so that we can build something better, where everyone receives the care they deserve at a price they can afford.

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

Do you need help enrolling in Medicare, getting your IRS tax return, and more? Join my team at one of January's CARES Van events for one-on-one assistance with federal programs.

If you need help navigating a federal agency, but can't join an event, please call my team at (845) 443-2930.

KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE TO REIN IN TRUMP'S MILITARY ACTIONS

The American people have made it clear: no more forever wars.

(Contd. Pg. 33)

Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 32)

No more young American lives and taxpayer money being sent to another country to enrich oil execs.

That's why I'll keep pushing for my War Powers Resolution to be passed to rein in the Administration's unlawful military actions in Venezuela. Read more about it here.

https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2026/01/12/ryan-confident-war-powers-resolution-will-pass-house/?utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_medium=social&utm_social_post_id=650125612&utm_content=tw-dailyfreeman&utm_social_handle_id=97030466&utm_source=twitter.com

WORKING TOGETHER TO STAND AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND HAT

Thank you to Agudath Israel of America for a meaningful conversation about rooting out antisemitism and hate in all its forms.

I'm honored to have their partnership and to continue working together.

ENCOURAGING ACTS OF SERVICE

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve," - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day this upcoming Monday is also a National Day of Service.

Celebrate Dr. King's legacy by coming together as a community and serving neighbors. Find local volunteer opportunities here at volunteer.gov.

HELPING YOU SIGN UP FOR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Open enrollment to sign up for healthcare coverage through the New York State Health Plan Marketplace runs until January 31.

Learn more and enroll in the plan that's right for you here. https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPWNiVleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeNlKsUebAaW5oFBkqItqI3wBwdgojNJ-1XU75Uf7bLfFrzjIwDK87qi5TOWM_aem_Dkx71S0aeRmZwQWirDmVVQ

HONORING A HUDSON VALLEY HERO

Tyreek Johnson is an absolute hero. He recently sprang into action to save the life of a first grader who was choking by administering the Heimlich Maneuver - and this was the second life he's saved by administering the Heimlich Maneuver!

Tyreek, our entire community is grateful for you and inspired by your life-saving actions. Read more here.

<https://midhudsonnews.com/2026/01/09/newburgh-security-monitor-saves-first-grader-with-heimlich-maneuver-2/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPWM5RleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjB>

[mFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEe0GPhpNPHC1zFytWdJBGU8-j9EzanEEVh2HUVQvNy46anNrl0edQa0M6Y59Q_aem_OnvYJEP_kvCHWK64nqa8xw](https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2026/01/12/ryan-confident-war-powers-resolution-will-pass-house/?utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_medium=social&utm_social_post_id=650125612&utm_content=tw-dailyfreeman&utm_social_handle_id=97030466&utm_source=twitter.com)

CELEBRATING OUR KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

This past Tuesday, we celebrated Korean American Day - marking the day 123 years ago that the first Korean immigrants arrived to the United States and recognizing the invaluable impact that Korean Americans have made across this country.

THANKING OUR NEW YORK DAIRY FARMERS

Last Sunday was National Milk Day and I want to give a huge shout out to our Hudson Valley dairy farmers for their hard work to provide the nutrient rich milk that our kids need to stay healthy.

I'm proud that this year we can celebrate the passage of my Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act!

GRANTS CORNER

NEW!

NYS Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program is a state-funded \$25,000,000 competitive grant program that supports the enhancement of the security and safety of the citizens of New York State by providing critical funding to strengthen volunteer fire departments and districts statewide. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$1,000,000 if proposing projects for construction, renovation, or purchase costs for critical facilities (buildings, training facilities, etc.) that support fire operations, or up to \$500,000 if proposing projects for allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve their response capabilities. The application deadline is February 25, 2026, by 5:00 pm.

NYS Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program (MPR): \$10 million will be made available for the second round of the MPR Grant Program to fund the development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites statewide. Funds for the MPR Grant Program are provided by the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022. MPR funding is available for the construction of recreational facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites and parks. Examples include playgrounds, courts, playing fields, and facilities for swimming, biking, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping or other recreational activities. The application period opened on December 31, 2025 and applications must be submitted by February 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than May 22, 2026.

(Contd. Pg. 34)

Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 33)

NEA FY 2027 Grants for Arts Projects Guidelines Now Available! Guidelines and application materials for the National Endowment for the Arts' principal grants category, Grants for Arts Projects, are now available. These grants support projects taking place in any part of the nation's 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. jurisdictions. To simplify the application intake and review process, Our Town and Challenge America applicants will apply within the Grants for Arts Projects program and choose the "Design & Our Town" or "Challenge America" discipline. Other disciplines include Arts Education, Dance, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Museums, Music, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater & Musical Theater, and Visual & Media Arts. Application deadlines are February 12, 2026, and July 9, 2026, for projects taking place beginning in 2027.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

- Fiscal Year 2026 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MARC) Grants: EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Please visit the Types of Brownfields Grant Funding for an overview of the Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants. EPA has pre-recorded videos to provide an overview of the FY 2026 grant submission process, Application Information Sheet, and threshold requirements. The application submission deadline is January 28, 2026.

- New York State Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program: This new \$100 million Child Care Capital Construction Funding Program is designed to increase the availability of quality care and expand the capacity of child care, including school age programs, across New York State by funding the construction of new child care facilities or expanding existing ones. The initiative is expected to add between 6,000 and 10,000 new seats at child care programs for New York families. The program will provide funding for design, construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment, and other capital assets for existing or proposed not-for-profit or municipal OCFS-licensed child day care centers and OCFS-registered school-age child care programs. The facility must be intended to be used as a child care program for at least eight years and should be located in an area with a current shortage of regulated child care services. Applications will be accepted from January 12, 2026, through February 13, 2026. Awards will be announced no earlier than April 15, 2026.

- 2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) : \$97.4 million in new funding is available for active transportation-related projects and programs that support the advancement of healthy lifestyles across New York State. Projects selected under this solicitation will support the Department of Transportation's commitment to community-centered transportation by providing safe, reliable and resilient transportation systems. Selected projects, which include multi-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, will also connect communities, enhance the quality of life, protect the environment and support the economic well-being of New York State. TAP funding is made available to the State through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The application deadline is March 12, 2026. The application, program guidance and workshop schedules can be found here.

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/tap-cmaq>

- Brownfields 101 with the EPA: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Office recorded its "Brownfields 101" briefing for New York communities to provide an overview of the EPA's Brownfield Program. To view the recording, please contact Natalie Lincoln at natalie.lincoln@mail.house.gov or (518) 465-0700. Sign up for the EPA's Technical Assistance and Funding Resource Guide [here!](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USEPAREG2/subscriber/new?preferences=true#tab1)

- Each month Hudson Valley Regional Council publishes its Grants Guide focused on federal, state, and local funding opportunities related to economic development, water, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability. Each grant listing features the deadline, eligibility, and a short description including the amounts municipalities are eligible to apply for and any required match. To view past Grants Guides, click here. <https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/newsletter-2/newsletter-archive/>

To subscribe to the grants guide, please email epeck@hudsonvalleyrc.org.

- New York School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP) : Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$200 million in new funding for zero-emission school buses through the Environmental Bond Act of 2022. Distributed via the NYSBIP, the funds support electric bus purchases, charging infrastructure, and fleet planning to improve air quality and reduce pollution in communities across the state. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis with incentive amounts covering up to 100 percent of the incremental cost of a new or repowered electric school bus. This helps offset some or all of the difference in purchase price between zero-emission buses and comparable diesel or gasoline buses. All school bus fleet operators in New York State can also qualify for funding for fleet electrification plans, which provide a customized roadmap for electric bus adoption.

- Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest residential energy conservation program in the country. NYS WAP assists income-eligible homeowners and some renters* in our state by reducing heating and cooling costs through energy-conservation measures, while also addressing health and safety issues in their homes. Households with incomes at or below 60% of state median income are eligible for assistance. Program services are available to both homeowners and renters, with priority given to senior citizens, families with children, and people with disabilities. If a household contains a member who receives Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits or certain other forms of public assistance, the household is automatically eligible for NYS WAP services. Applications are accepted from renters, homeowners, and rental property owners. Potential program participants apply by contacting the WAP provider that serves their area.

RESOURCES:

New York Small Business Development Center (NYSBDC) - NYS Multi-Agency Small Business Resource Presentation: Watch this free session as representatives from several NYS agencies share information about resources and services available to assist small businesses. Topics include licensing, regulations, taxes, insurance, grants, training, and more.

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!



Micron Groundbreaking

This week, I joined industry experts and local leaders at the groundbreaking of the Micron semiconductor manufacturing complex to mark a major milestone for Central New York and a clear sign that America is rebuilding its manufacturing strength at home. Through the Trump Tax Cuts, Republicans focused on making the United States competitive again and bringing advanced manufacturing back from overseas. As part of that effort, I led the Building Advanced Semiconductors Investment Credit (BASIC) Act to extend and strengthen this critical incentive so chip manufacturing could happen right here in New York. This legislation helped pave the way for investments like Micron that will create thousands of good-paying jobs, strengthen local supply chains, and ensure America can compete globally with China.

My bill to enhance the investment tax credit was included in the Trump Tax Cuts, a key provision designed to expand domestic semiconductor production and restore America's leadership in this vital strategic sector. By boosting incentives for advanced manufacturing, these reforms bring production back to America, strengthen national security, and deliver real economic growth for Central New York. Competing with China requires decisive action and long-term investment, and these policies provide the certainty that innovators like Micron need to continue to invest, grow, and hire here at home while securing our country's technological supremacy in the future.

President Trump Signs the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act into Law

President Trump just signed the bipartisan Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act into law, legislation I cosponsored, delivering a big win for students, schools, and Upstate New York's dairy farmers. This law restores flexibility for schools in the National School Lunch Program to serve both flavored and unflavored whole milk, a nutrient-dense option that supports healthy growth and development with essential calcium, vitamin D, potassium, and protein. For NY-24, the largest agricultural district in the Northeast and the fifth largest dairy-producing district in the nation, this means stronger markets for family-run farms that anchor our rural economy and real nutrition for kids in the classroom. Expanding access to American dairy products supports healthier students, greater local choice, and a stronger future for the farmers who feed our communities.

Urging Action to Support Iranian Protesters Amid Internet Blackout

Alongside Rep. Min (CA-47), we recently led a bipartisan letter urging President Trump to take immediate action to support the Iranian people as they courageously protest a brutal regime that is trying to silence them through violence and a sweeping internet blackout. Peaceful demonstrations have

spread to cities across Iran, driven by economic collapse and years of repression, and the regime has responded by killing protesters, making mass arrests, and cutting off communications to isolate its people from the world. Access to information is not a luxury; it is a lifeline, and when authoritarian governments use censorship to crush dissent, the United States must stand firmly on the side of freedom. This letter urges the administration to leverage secure communications and emerging technologies to help Iranians stay connected, organize, and make their voices heard. The Iranian people deserve access to the world as they fight for freedom and dignity, and silence only empowers oppression.

Joining Bottom Line to Discuss Designating the Muslim Brotherhood as a Terrorist Organization

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYU0eU6ILwM&feature=youtu.be>

President Trump took decisive action to protect American lives and our allies by designating key branches of the Muslim Brotherhood as terrorist organizations, making clear that groups fueling violence do not get a free pass by hiding behind political movements or charities. The Muslim Brotherhood has long played a destabilizing role across the Middle East, with documented ties to Hamas and Hezbollah and direct involvement in the violence surrounding the October 7 attacks on Israel. With this designation, led by President Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the United States can finally impose sanctions, cut off funding streams, and hold these groups accountable in ways that were not previously possible. This is peace through strength in action, naming threats clearly, confronting extremism head-on, and sending an unmistakable message that the United States will not tolerate terrorism masquerading as legitimate political activity.

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

H.Res. 984, Supporting the recognition of January 9, 2026, as "National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day": This resolution would support the recognition of January 9, 2026, as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to protect public safety, uphold the rule of law, and serve their communities. Recognizing National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day honors the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women who protect and serve, while reaffirming our support for those who keep Americans safe.

H.R. 4397, the Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act: This bill would require the Secretary of State to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or to submit a detailed report to Congress explaining why the organization does not meet the criteria for designation. Specifically, the bill would direct the State Department to assess the Muslim Brotherhood's activities, affiliates, support of terrorism, and extremism. Designating foreign terrorist organizations is a critical national security tool used to combat terrorism financing, recruitment, and operations. This legislation strengthens oversight of this extremist group and ensures a clear, accountable determination regarding threats to our country.

(Contd. Pg. 36)

This Week with Claudia (From Pg. 35)

H.R. 797, the Ultrasounds Save Lives Act: This bill would require abortion providers to inform women of the availability of ultrasound imaging before an abortion and to ensure they have the opportunity to view the ultrasound if they choose. Access to complete and accurate ultrasound information for mothers is essential for understanding their alternatives to abortion. Defending the right to life remains one of my top priorities, and this change can potentially save millions of unborn lives.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional Republic. My constituents deserve to know how their members of Congress vote, which is why I have explained every vote I have cast in Congress since I was first elected.

To read more about my votes and see the full list with explanations of all the legislation considered this week by the House, please click here. <https://tenney.house.gov/about/my-votes-explained>

Monday, January 12

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 6500, the AGOA Extension Act. This bill reauthorizes the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through 2028. AGOA is a preferential trade program for developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to incentivize economic development and promote market-based reforms. AGOA is one of our strongest tools to combatting China's increased presence in Africa and it has one of the most stringent eligibility requirements of any trade preference program. I supported this bill when it passed through the Ways and Means Committee and I was glad to support its passage through the full House of Representatives. This bill passed by a vote of 340-54.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 2683, the Remote Access Security Act. This bill expands the Bureau of Industry and Security's export controls authority by including remote access, provision of access, or cloud-based exposure of controlled items. While BIS works hard to prevent sensitive goods from being transmitted to our adversaries, like China, they currently lack the authority to restrict remote access to sensitive goods. I cosponsored this bill to give BIS the necessary authority to keep our country safe and keep sensitive technologies out of the hands of the Chinese Communist Party. This bill passed by a vote of 369-22.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 6504, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act. This bill reauthorizes the Haiti Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement (HOPE) Act and the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP) Act through 2028. Haiti HOPE/HELP is a trade preference program that promotes economic development in Haiti and strengthens U.S.-Haiti ties. I supported this bill when it passed through the Ways and Means Committee and was happy to support its passage through the full House of Representatives. This bill passed by a vote of 345-45.

Tuesday, January 13

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 2262, Flexibility for Workers Education Act. This bill updates an antiquated provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act to allow employers to offer unpaid and voluntary professional development activities. Under current law, voluntary after-hours professional development must be paid and count towards hours worked, disincentivizing employers from offering these opportunities. This bill will create new opportunities for workers to learn new skills on a voluntary basis, which can unlock opportunities and increase upward mobility. Unfortunately, this bill failed to pass the House by a vote of 209-215.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 4593, the SHOWER ACT. This bill codifies the definition of a showerhead to be consistent with the

definition finalized under President Trump's first administration, and it would require the Secretary of Energy to issue a Rule to conform the conservation standards for showerheads. Specifically, this bill codifies President Trump's Executive Order (EO) 14264, Maintaining Acceptable Water Pressure in Showerheads. Historically, these standards and definitions were interpreted in plain terms until the Biden Administration changed common-sense regulations by asserting that the 2.5 GPM standard applied to the entire shower system, rather than to an individual faucet. This legislation provides certainty for manufacturers, improves water flow for consumers, and restores Congress's original intent. This bill passed the House by a vote of 226-197.

Wednesday, January 14

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 7006, the Financial Services and General Government and National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026. This two-bill "minibus" funds key federal agencies and makes targeted investments in our national security. This package cuts \$9 billion over current baseline spending, delivering real savings for the American taxpayer. This bill not only restores fiscal sanity, but also eliminates wasteful spending on DEI, woke programming, climate change mandates, and radical gender ideologies. This bill will strengthen our efforts to combat China and support our key allies, like Taiwan and Israel. Importantly, this bill also funds efforts to combat the flow of fentanyl and prohibits funding for any program that facilitates or encourages illegal immigration. House Republicans are delivering fiscally responsible appropriations bills that strengthen our national security and support the American people. This bill passed the House by a vote of 341-79.

Thursday, January 15

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 2988, Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act. This bill clarifies that under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), financial institutions may only make investment decisions based on economic factors. Under the Biden administration, financial institutions were pressured to make investment decisions based on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, instead of economic decisions. These decisions could have reduced returns for workers' pensions in the name of promoting radical and woke ideologies. Workers' pension returns should be financial institutions' only concern when it comes to making investment decisions, and workers' future financial security should not be placed at risk to implement the far-left's political goals. This bill passed by a vote of 213-205.

OLIVE SENIORS

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

Where: American Legion Hall*

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

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

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



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

1. Working to ban congressional stock trading

Members of Congress should be focused on serving their constituents, not growing their stock portfolios.

This week, Kirsten introduced a bipartisan bill to ban members of Congress and their immediate families from holding and trading stocks. This common-sense legislation would help hold elected officials accountable and restore New Yorkers' faith in government, and Kirsten is fighting tirelessly to get it passed. Read more.

<https://apnews.com/article/stock-trading-ban-congress-lawmakers-b25f05f409738ced1269f1c171420b76>

2. Fighting for New York children

By freezing billions of dollars in funding that helps thousands of families afford child care, the Trump administration is jeopardizing the services that New Yorkers rely on.

This week, Kirsten joined kids, parents, and child care providers in New York City and Rochester to demand that the administration unfreeze these vital funds. She will continue working with state and local leaders to reverse these cuts.

Read more.

<https://www.observertoday.com/news/local-region/2026/01/gillibrand-slams-trump-child-care-funding-freeze/>

3. Celebrating investments in New York chip manufacturing

This week, Kirsten helped break ground at Micron's new semiconductor manufacturing facility in Central New York.

This new facility will help bring chip manufacturing back to America, which will strengthen our economy, create tens of thousands of jobs in New York, secure our supply chains, and bring down costs for American families. It's a win for America and a win for New Yorkers.

4. Fighting for New York energy projects

Last month, the Trump administration halted five offshore wind projects, including New York's Empire

Wind 1 and Sunrise Wind. This decision threatened to kill good-paying union jobs, undermine grid reliability, and raise electricity bills for New Yorkers.

This week, Kirsten demanded that the administration reverse this reckless pause, and a court injunction was granted to allow the Empire Wind project to resume construction.

Read more.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/schumer-gillibrand-demand-trump-administration-immediately-reverse-reckless-pause-on-offshore-wind-projects-warn-move-will-raise-energy-costs-kill-jobs-threaten-grid-reliability/>

5. Passing legislation to support healthy kids

Kids need nutritious meals to learn and thrive, and whole milk provides those critical nutrients. This week, Kirsten's Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act was signed into law.

By allowing schools to offer whole milk and milk substitutes that are equivalent in nutrition, this legislation makes school meals healthier and supports New York dairy farmers. It's a win for students, schools, and New York agriculture.

Read more.

<https://brooklyneagle.com/361556/bill-will-allow-whole-milk-in-school-meal-programs>

6. Supporting New York farmers

As New York farmers face soaring input costs, trade uncertainty, and increasingly severe natural disasters, they cannot afford delays in critical assistance.

That's why Kirsten is pushing the Trump administration to expedite economic and disaster assistance payments for farmers, especially for New York's specialty crop farmers, which have been delayed significantly in recent months. New York's farmers are the backbone of our Upstate economy, and Kirsten will continue fighting to make sure they have the resources they need to thrive.

Read more

<https://suncommunitynews.com/news/123246/gillibrand-colleagues-urge-usda-to-expedite-farmer-assistance/>

7. Helping veterans get their benefits

A Dutchess County veteran contacted Kirsten's office for help after their Veterans Affairs (VA) disability case began to stall.

After Kirsten's team contacted the VA on the veteran's behalf, the agency granted a 100% service-connected disability rating. As a result, the veteran will now receive \$4,500 per month in benefits, along with a retroactive payment of \$11,000.

Individual casework is Kirsten's top priority. If you need help with any federal agency, contact her here . <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/help-for-new-yorkers/>

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

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

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

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

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



Join now by going to timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership, or send a check (\$25 for Individual, \$40 for Double and \$50 for Family) to the Museum at the address below. You will receive membership cards, a newsletter and special gift by return mail.

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



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



BLUE MOUNTAINS TROUT NEWS

JANUARY 2026



A January winter scene on a hidden brook trout tributary, deep in a Catskill hollow. Photo by Ed Ostapczuk.

January Meeting set for the 22nd

Our first chapter meeting of 2026 is scheduled for 7 PM, Thursday, January 22 at the Boiceville Inn, on NY 28 in Boiceville. After the initial business meeting of a new year, members and guests are invited to tie flies, or watch others do so, in anticipation of our upcoming fly-tying classes. See below for additional information.

Once again, our chapter meetings occur the fourth Thursday of scheduled months. The January meeting is winter-weather dependent, so watch for updates should we need to cancel the event.



Spend Your Winter Saturdays Learning Fly Tying Skills!

Our chapter's popular fly-tying classes begin Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Olive Library in West Shokan; classes start at 10 AM and finish by 3 PM. Classes are free and run each Saturday in February, plus the first two Saturdays

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@hwc.rr.com

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

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

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM

46 North Street in Monticello

For information

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

in March. Class instruction is targeted at beginner and intermediate tyers of trout flies. As such, what's taught at each class lays the foundation for tying the next flies in future classes, so it is extremely important that beginners attend all classes.

If you have your own tying tools/materials, feel free to bring these, but it's not necessary. However, pre-registration is required so that we have an accurate headcount for materials, supplies, and instructors for each class. To register, please call Tony Coccozza at 845-657-6044. Members wishing to assist - or just tie flies themselves - are always welcome.



Underwater image of a brook trout

Heritage Brook Trout Study to be featured at TU's 2026 Northeast Rendezvous

Our chapter has been invited to participate in Trout Unlimited's Northeast Regional Rendezvous from April 10 - 12 at the Roscoe Mountain Club. (Contd. Pg. 40)

Blue Mountain Trout News

(From Pg. 39) On the 11th, Tony Coccozza and I will present information on our chapter's Esopus Creek Watershed Catskill Heritage Brook Trout Studies that we've been conducting since 2019. (Another study is anticipated in 2026.) To date, the chapter has done four study projects in partnership with the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Region 3 Fisheries, and Dr. Spencer Bruce. Chapter member Chet Karwatowski presented data and findings from these projects at the recent Catskill Environmental Research and Monitoring (CERM) Conference at Belleayre Mountain last October. More information on the Rendezvous event will be provided in future newsletters.

Four APWCTU-Sponsored Slots Available for DEC Summer Camps

Our chapter has reserved four slots for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Summer Camps. Slots are available to male or female youths expressing an interest in the outdoors. Two slots are for ages 11-13 and two slots for ages 14-17. Kids don't have to be members of Trout Unlimited, nor does the individual suggesting a name. We just want to sponsor young people who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in learning more about nature and trout fishing. For information on these camps, visit the DEC website at <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/summer-camps>. Our chapter will pay the \$350 registration fee, but transportation must be arranged by the individual attending the camp. To nominate a youth for one of these slots, submit their name, their age, plus a little about their outdoor interests to John Yanzek at jyanzek@gmail.com.



Sue and Tony Coccozza celebrate with Dana and Chris Hensley at the Boiceville Inn.

TU Members Celebrate the Season at December Holiday Party

Our year-end holiday party in December at the Boiceville Inn was well attended, with over thirty members and guests participating. The atmosphere

was festive, the food was great, the camaraderie better yet. Thank you to all our members and friends who supported our little TU chapter last year, and in times passed. And thank you Boiceville Inn for supporting us as well!

Update: Warehouse Project Endangers Neversink Tailwaters

Over 1000 letters/emails were received by the Town of Thompson planning board regarding a proposal to build a large warehouse on Heiden Road along the banks of the river, upstream of the Neversink River Unique Area. The planning board approved a scoping session, which our chapter will continue to follow, along with another possible river-side Neversink development. Thanks to all who responded to this request to provide input.

Precipitation Report

During December Jody Hoyt recorded 5.57 liquid inches of precipitation in Boiceville, including 24.2 inches of snow/sleet over seven measurable storms. These had a weighted 5.9 pH. By comparison, in December 2024, there were eight storms measuring 5.89 inches of liquid precip, including 9.9 inches of snow/sleet, with a 6.0 weighted pH.

Jody also noted during the entirety of 2025, 54.17 inches of liquid precipitation fell in Boiceville, including 47.6 inches of snow/sleet. For the entire year of 2024 61.09 inches of liquid precip fell, including 43.3 inches of snow/sleet. As we recently experienced firsthand, 2025 was a warm dry year, having some seven inches less of liquid precipitation than in 2024. Thank you Jody for years of effort collecting and analyzing local precipitation data on the Esopus Creek watershed.

Treasurer's Report

John Yanzek reported the chapter's total cash assets of \$20,675.38 of which \$19,484.86 was in the General Fund with \$1,190.52 in the Conservation Fund.

Membership

If you have membership questions or concerns, or know someone who wants to join our chapter, please contact Russell Martin at:

mail to:

rmartintu@gmail.com?subject=TU%20membership%20inquiry

Until next time,
Ed Ostapczuk
January 15, 2026



ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

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

Caregiver

Cafe' Support Group

Jan-June 2026



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



1st Monday of
each month
10 am-11 am

Registration Required:

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

Take a break while you:

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



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

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

Give the Gift of Membership!

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

Individual

\$25

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

Double

\$40

All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

Family

\$50

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

Patron

\$100

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

Patron Silver

\$200

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

Patron Gold

\$500

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

Name of Recipient: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Membership Level: _____

Your Name and Address: _____

Gift Message: _____

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

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



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

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

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

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

**BEGINNING
JANUARY
2026**

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

*New year
New Support*



Winter can feel long and a little lonely.

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

All in a warm, therapist-led environment.

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

**IN-PERSON
KINGSTON**

Advance registration required



newdirectionsfamilycounseling.com

(845) 202-3116



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

Rules Form

When: Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Snow, Rain or Shine

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

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

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

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

Regulations for Sellers:

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

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

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Registration Form

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Rain, Snow or Shine

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

Vendors Name: _____

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

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Description of Merchandise: _____

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

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

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

Signature of vendor: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make checks payable to Claryville Volunteer Fire Department

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

Attn: Jennifer Pisaniello

Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group

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

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*

Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



Find us on
Facebook





Homeschooling

Calling All Homeschooling Families!
Join a welcoming, self-guided homeschooling
group that meets monthly at the
Daniel Pierce Library.

Beginning
September 23rd

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

Connect with other families to:

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

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

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

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

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



Daniel Pierce Library

320 Main Street | P.O. Box 260
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0260 | 045-905-7233
www.danielpiercelibrary.org

Gillibrand, Colleagues Demand Trump Administration Restore Funding for Full-Service Community Schools

\$6 Million In Funding At Risk For New York Schools, Threatening Services For Rural Students

Washington, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) urged Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to reverse the Department of Education's decision to discontinue \$168 million in Full-Service Community Schools grants across 12 states, including New York.

Gillibrand joined Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and nine of their colleagues in opposing the administration's abrupt cuts to this funding in the middle of the school year. This will force schools to shut down essential programs that support students' academic performance and facilitate families' access to food, housing, and health care, among other services.

The senators also criticized the department's vague claim that the grants - which have existed for over 15 years - violate civil rights law and stressed that these grant cancellations run directly counter to congressional intent and long-standing bipartisan support for this program that serves students and families all across the country.

"As costs continue to rise for families across the country, the Trump administration should be strengthening support for students and families, not pulling the rug out from under them in the middle of the school year and disrupting essential services in underserved communities," said Senator Gillibrand. "Students and parents rely on the critical resources provided by community schools to help them succeed inside and outside the classroom. I am a strong supporter of the Full-Service Community Schools program and will keep fighting to restore this critical funding while working to ensure that our students have the resources they need to thrive."

In addition to Senators Gillibrand, Schumer, Van Hollen, and Sanders, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Andy Kim (D-NJ), and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD) also joined the letter.

"We write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Education's ("the Department") recent action on December 12th, 2025, to discontinue \$168 million in Full-Service Community Schools grants serving students across 12 states. Pulling expected federal grant funds from public schools in the middle of the school year, built around community partnerships and parent engagement, is just plain wrong. Congress authorized and appropriated funds specifically for the Full-Service Community Schools program because research shows community schools improve student academic achievement, reduce chronic absenteeism, and support student wellbeing. We demand that the Department fully reinstate all Full-Service Community Schools grants that were abruptly discontinued," the senators began.

"The Full-Service Community School grant program supports school districts and public schools in their mission to meet students' needs so they can succeed academically and in life, focusing on the school as a community center that can connect families to food, housing assistance, medical care, and other services," they

continued. "This unnecessary termination of education funding is alarming families, disrupting carefully-planned programs that support children, and jeopardizing services for thousands of students in underserved communities."

"The Department claims that affected grantees violate civil rights law or conflict with the administration's policy priorities, but this rationale lacks any specificity. Grant recipients received letters providing few details, and just one week or less to appeal. These discontinuations directly contradict bipartisan congressional intent for this program. In 2023, Congress increased annual funding for the Full-Service Community Schools program from \$25 million to \$150 million, which was maintained in fiscal year 2024 and 2025 appropriations laws, reflecting bipartisan recognition that schools serving high-poverty communities require comprehensive support. All federal grants must abide by applicable requirements, but the Department has failed to produce legitimate reasons, including any grantee performance-related information, to discontinue multi-year grants that Congress authorized and appropriated, that grantees are implementing successfully, and that provide essential services to our underserved students," they wrote.

"We demand that you reinstate all community school grants that have been abruptly discontinued and respectfully suggest that the Department refocus its efforts to support community schools in their efforts to meet the needs of and improve education outcomes for all students," they concluded.

Text of the letter can be viewed [here](#) and below.

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Education's ("the Department") recent action on December 12th, 2025, to discontinue \$168 million in Full-Service Community Schools grants serving students across 12 states. Pulling expected federal grant funds from public schools in the middle of the school year, built around community partnerships and parent engagement, is just plain wrong. Congress authorized and appropriated funds specifically for the Full-Service Community Schools program because research shows community schools improve student academic achievement, reduce chronic absenteeism, and support student wellbeing. We demand that the Department fully reinstate all Full-Service Community Schools grants that were abruptly discontinued.

The Full-Service Community School grant program supports school districts and public schools in their mission to meet students' needs so they can succeed academically and in life, focusing on the school as a community center that can connect families to food, housing assistance, medical care, and other services. Community leadership and school coordinators partner to co-locate services and provide cost-effective resources that are deemed necessary by the families they serve-a community-based approach that has been successful in both rural and urban areas. Multiple studies show that community schools lead to more positive academic outcomes for students and more successful schools. Discontinuing these grants puts students' progress in jeopardy.

On December 12th, 2025, the Department abruptly discontinued \$168 million in grants to community schools just two weeks before their next round of funding was set to arrive. Across the country, nineteen grant recipients received letters alerting them that, effective immediately, their projects would no longer receive future federal funding under their approved grant awards, including in many rural communities. Your decision is forcing schools and community partners to eliminate vital services for students and families in the middle of the academic year, with no transition period or alternative support. (Contd. Pg. 60)

Gillibrand, Colleagues Demand Trump Administration Restore Funding for Full-Service Community Schools

(From Pg. 48) Full-Service Community Schools grants are generally authorized for five years, providing schools and partners with the stability to plan for the reliable delivery of services. The grants that were abruptly cancelled had either two or three years remaining in their approved five-year projects. This unnecessary termination of education funding is alarming families, disrupting carefully-planned programs that support children, and jeopardizing services for thousands of students in underserved communities. Schools that built partnerships with community organizations, hired staff, and made multi-year commitments to families now face breaking those promises through no fault of their own.

The Department claims that affected grantees violate civil rights law or conflict with the administration's policy priorities, but this rationale lacks any specificity. Grant recipients received letters providing few details, and just one week or less to appeal. These discontinuations directly contradict bipartisan congressional intent for this program. In 2023, Congress increased annual funding for the Full-Service Community Schools program from \$25 million to \$150 million, which was maintained in fiscal year 2024 and 2025 appropriations laws, reflecting bipartisan recognition that schools serving high-poverty communities require comprehensive support. All federal grants must abide by applicable requirements, but the Department has failed to produce legitimate reasons, including any grantee performance-related information, to discontinue multi-year grants that Congress authorized and appropriated, that grantees are implementing successfully, and that provide essential services to our underserved students.

We demand that you reinstate all community school grants that have been abruptly discontinued and respectfully suggest that the Department refocus its efforts to support community schools in their efforts to meet the needs of and improve education outcomes for all students.



The Riley Report

I'M FIGHTING TO STOP WALL STREET FROM BUYING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Families in Upstate New York shouldn't have to compete with Wall Street hedge funds just to buy a home.

That's why I'm introducing the bipartisan Families First Housing Act, which will prevent institutional investors from pricing out hardworking buyers in the housing market.

This is how we keep homeownership within reach for working families.

Read More

<https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2026/01/08/riley-co-sponsors-bill-to-stop-wall-street-from-buying-up-foreclosed-homes/>

I'M USING EVERY OPTION AT MY DISPOSAL TO FIGHT RISING UTILITY BILLS

I've seen how greed on Wall Street and corruption in our politics

hurt my friends and neighbors.

When utility companies shipped millions of our hard-earned dollars overseas to pad the pockets of shareholders, I got in the fight.

I didn't come to Congress to protect the powerful-I came to take them on.

Read More

<https://www.notus.org/energy/house-democrat-josh-riley-affordability>

I INTRODUCED THE ROPS TRACTOR SAFETY ACT TO DELIVER FOR OUR FARMERS

I introduced the bipartisan ROPS Tractor Safety Act, because no farmer should have to choose between their safety and their livelihood.

Tractor rollovers are the leading cause of death on farms, and a simple rollbar can prevent it.

This bill saves lives, saves farmers money, and creates good-paying local jobs.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/738320112664433>

I'M READY TO GET TO WORK ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER, NOT...SHOWERHEADS?

Utility bills are soaring. Housing is unaffordable. And rural healthcare is hanging off a cliff.

But the first bill House Republicans are putting on the agenda in 2026 is about showerheads.

Upstate New Yorkers don't need new showerheads. We need lower costs, better jobs, and a square deal.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/25380414084977024>

BMWED

Good to sit down with Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWED) members from right here in Binghamton to talk about the rail workers who keep Upstate New York moving and safe every day.

Rail safety starts with union labor, not shortcuts or mergers that put profits first. I'll always stand with them for strong contracts, safer workplaces, and dignity on the job.

SMARTLAB

Great to tour the SmartLab at Sherburne-Earlville, which is providing opportunities for K-5 students to explore robotics, coding, and engineering.

Kids in rural communities deserve the same opportunities for STEM education as anyone else. That's why I introduced a bipartisan bill to help rural schools like ours recruit and train teachers with backgrounds in science and tech.

I'll keep fighting to make sure that no matter where our kids grow up, they have a fair shot at the jobs of the future.

CHENANGO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Chenango Memorial Hospital is setting the standard for what rural hospitals ought to look like: accessible, patient-friendly, and community-driven.

Touring their facilities in Norwich reminded me how important it is to continue defending healthcare in Upstate New York. I won't let up in 2026.

PRINCIPLE HOTEL

The Principle Hotel is more than just a place to stay, it's a major investment in Norwich's future.

I'm proud to support projects like this that create local jobs, more foot traffic, and new energy for Upstate New York.

Gillibrand Secures Major Wins for New York in Recently Passed Federal Funding Package

Bill Includes Funding for Environmental Conservation, Science, Technology, Research, Economic Development, and More

Washington, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that several of her priorities were included in the just-passed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Energy and Water Development, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Interior and Environment funding bills. In addition to the \$65 million in funding Gillibrand personally secured for New York projects as congressionally directed spending items, she secured the following big wins for federal programs and agencies that invest directly in New York via these appropriations bills.

“This funding package is a huge win for New Yorkers,” said Senator Gillibrand. “These federal dollars will help bolster economic development, aid in efforts to protect our environment, and preserve our state's historic sites for future generations. I was proud to deliver these funds despite the Trump administration's opposition to many of these priorities, and I will continue fighting to bring home critical federal funding for New York.”

Advancing Science, Technology, and Research

- o \$8.75 billion for the National Science Foundation, which will help counter the Trump administration's proposed cuts, providing support for nearly 10,000 new competitive research awards and more than 250,000 scientists, technicians, teachers, and students.
- o \$157.85 million for the construction of a world-leading Electron Ion Collider at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island.
- o \$111 million for the Laboratory for Laser Energetics Omega facility at the University of Rochester.
- o \$80 million for the National Sea Grant College Program, which will contribute to the research, outreach, and educational work of New York Sea Grant.

Investments in Environmental Conservation, Stewardship, and Remediation

- o \$528 million for geographic programs that help protect, restore, and improve New York watersheds and water bodies. Specifically, this includes:
 - o \$369 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
 - o \$93 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program
 - o \$40.5 million for the Long Island Sound
 - o \$25.5 million for the Lake Champlain Basin Program.
 - o Nearly \$90 million for the West Valley Demonstration Project to support the clean-up and remediation of nuclear waste at this site in Western New York.
 - o \$67 million for National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuaries, including the newly created Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Jefferson, Oswego, Cayuga, and Wayne Counties.

- o \$37 million for the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program to support growing and maintaining urban forests and green spaces.
- o \$11.75 million for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program to support wildlife, improve water quality, and enhance recreational access to the basin, which includes parts of New York's Southern Tier, Hudson Valley, Mohawk Valley, and Capital Region.
- o \$2.55 million for the National Estuary Program to protect and restore some of New York's most significant estuaries, including:
 - o \$850,000 for the Long Island Sound
 - o \$850,000 for the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
 - o \$850,000 for the Peconic Estuary Partnership.

Promoting Economic Development and Energy Affordability

- o \$329 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, of which approximately \$28 million is expected to help New York households increase the energy efficiency of their homes and lower their energy bills.
- o \$247 million to support three Federal-State Regional Commissions that operate in New York: the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and the Great Lakes Authority. These agencies support economic development in Upstate New York via targeted funding and technical assistance for a variety of economic development activities across the state.
- o \$175 million in funding for Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) nationwide. New York's ten MEP centers provide crucial technological assistance and support for manufacturing in New York, leveraging federal investment to create or save one manufacturing job for every \$1,490 in federal funding. Gillibrand also secured language to barring the Trump administration from defunding New York's MEP network throughout Fiscal Year 2026.

Promoting Historic Preservation and National Parks

- o \$36 million increase in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund, which provides grant funding and technical assistance to preserve and restore historical and cultural sites like Fort Ticonderoga and the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. This increase includes a \$4.9 million set-aside for grants to preserve historic sites like the many in New York that are related to the nation's sesquicentennial anniversary in 2026. \$4 million for memorial sites that honor the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks.
- o \$2.2 million for New York's four National Heritage Areas, including:
 - o \$709,000 for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
 - o \$500,000 for the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership
 - o \$500,000 for the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
 - o \$500,000 for the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

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



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

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



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Olive Free Library

SENIOR ART GROUP

Meets at the

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Monday 10-noon

A chatty, friendly group of seniors meet each Monday. At least monthly, we have a guest artist come for a workshop.

There is no cost. We have a limited supply of watercolors, oil pastels, water soluble oil paints, paper and canvas.

Brushes, too. Our crafty folk might paint or sew or knit or crochet or just hang out with friends. Our guest instructors have been Mia Fink and Sue De Sanna. Linda Schultz and Linda Champanier have been added to our possible guest instructors. MaryAnn Shultis has led us in sewing workshops to make bags and runners, and Donna Kopf has taught us quilt square patterns. We also stuff dolls for a project called MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that sends sweet dolls to Children's hospitals.

dolls for a project called
MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that
sends sweet dolls to
Children's hospitals.

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Conversations With Death

First Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Starting Saturday, January 3

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

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

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

INTRO TO BEEKEEPING
with Rob Overton

Saturday, January 10
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
snow date: January 17

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

Music Café

**WINTER
INTERMISSION**

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

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

D.I.Y. ENERGY SAVINGS SESSION

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

Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Smart Energy Choices — Mid-Hudson



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OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

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

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

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

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

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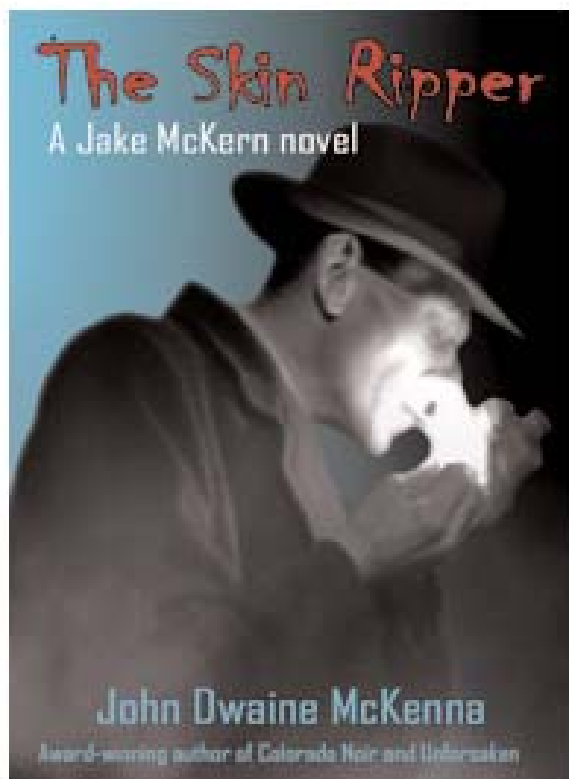
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John Dwaine McKenna

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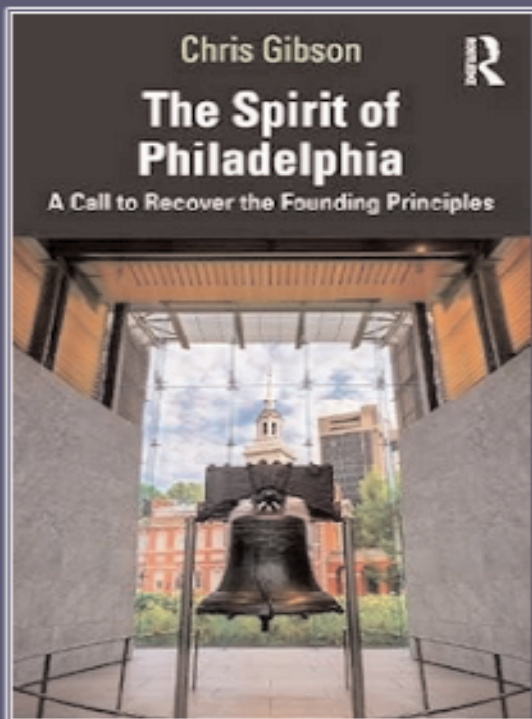
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The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

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

[TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com](https://www.TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com)

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson

Soldier



Scholar



Statesman





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10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Give us a call or send us a text and
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DEC's Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is Now Open

- *Free Seedlings Available Through the School Seedling Program*
- *Trees Planted Contribute to the State's Goal of Planting 25 Million Trees by 2033*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced that the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery's annual spring seedling sale is now open and will run through May 13. Each year, the nursery offers low-cost, locally grown trees and shrubs for sale to encourage plantings that help conserve New York State's natural resources and foster the next generation of forests.

"DEC's Saratoga Tree Nursery annual seedling sale is a simple, affordable way for New Yorkers to help create wildlife habitat, clean our air and water, reduce flooding, lower summer temperatures, and improve the quality of life in their communities," Commissioner Lefton said. "Every tree planted counts toward Governor Hochul's 25-million-tree-planting goal for the state, which will strengthen our forests and build more resilient communities. By planting native seedlings today, you'll be making a lasting investment in a healthier, greener future for generations to come."

DEC's tree nursery grows more than 50 conifer and hardwood species from local seed sources, creating seedlings that are well suited to New York State's climate. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 or more and there are several mixed species packets available. Seedlings are bare root, a minimum of 5 inches tall, and 1-3 years old (depending on the species). Call 518-587-1120, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to place your order. For more information, visit the Spring Seedling Sale webpage on DEC's website.

Make sure your planted trees count toward New York State's 25 million trees goal! Enter them into the Tree Tracker at on.ny.gov/treetracker. For more information about the 25 Million Trees Initiative, visit on.ny.gov/25milliontrees.

School Seedling Program Application Period Now Open

Applications are being accepted for the nursery's School Seedling Program until March 27. Schools and youth education organizations across New York State may apply to receive 50 free seedlings to plant with their students.

The goal of the program is to foster environmental stewardship at a young age and equip students to make informed decisions about natural resource use. The program is an excellent tool for educators to help meet the Next Generation Science Standards as it provides a hands-on opportunity for students to learn about natural systems and the valuable role that trees play, while building their awareness of conservation issues.

All schools (public, private, nursery, elementary, secondary, vocational, college, or university), home-school groups, and any youth education-based organization may apply, provided trees are planted within New York State. Individual homeschools must apply through a homeschool group, co-op, or other association. Seedlings are 2 -3 years old, about 4"-12" tall, and bare root. There are three species available-pitch pine, red oak, and silky dogwood-and up to two teachers/educators per school or organization may apply for a package of seedlings this year. Visit DEC's website for more information and to apply online. For assistance or questions, contact the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery at nysnursery@dec.ny.gov or 518-581-1439.

Sullivan County Christmas Tree Collection

December 26-January 31



Open to County
residents,
businesses, and
visitors!

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

Collection Sites:

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www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling

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VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL




YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

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

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

EVERY 1ST & 3RD
WEDNESDAY
@ 6:30 PM

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL




PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

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

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Days of Wine and Roses

American romantic drama film
(1962, 1h 57m - Drama - TV-14)

Days of Wine and Roses is a classic drama of depicting the downward spiral of two average Americans who succumb to alcoholism and attempt to deal with their problems.

A husband, Joe Clay (Jack Lem-mon) and wife, Kirsten Arnesen-Clay (Lee Remick) fight to conquer alcoholism..

Also starring: Charles Bickford as Ellis Arnesen; Jack Klugman as

THIS IS ITS OWN TERRIFYING WAY, IS A LOVE STORY.



Jim Hungerford;
Alan Hewitt as Rad
Leland; Tom Palm-er
as Ballefoy;
Debbie Megowan as
Debbie Clay; Max-
ine Stuart as Dottie
Jack Albertson as
Trayner; Ken Lynch
as Liquor Store
Proprietor; and
Katherine Squire as
Mrs. Nolan.

The Academy
Award **Best Original
Song** went to the
film's music theme, *The Days of Wine and Roses*, composed Henry
Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer. The film received four other Oscar
nominations, including Best Actor – **Jack Lem-mon** and Best
Actress–**Lee Rem-ick**.

In 2018, *Days of Wine and Roses* was selected for preservation in the
United States National Film Registry as being "culturally, historically, or
aesthetically significant.

A Thought

*We live on the thread of the continual present, where the future and the
past are just extremities of the mind, dreaming of what we will do tomor-
row, remembering yesterday, but the only thing that is really going on, is
what happening right now.*

– Frank Comando

Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome

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

This weeks' Trivia question: Where was the gap in
time in them movie *Kate & Leopold*?