

Ye Olde Townsman Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Sitz!"

VOL. 23 NO. 5 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 29, 2026

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Celebrate the Spirit of Groundhog Day at SC Museum



Hurleyville, NY - Celebrate the spirit of Groundhog Day a day early with an afternoon of live music and light-hearted fun at the Sullivan County Museum on Sunday, February 1st, from 2-4pm. This special pre-Groundhog Day event will feature an outstanding lineup of local and regional musicians performing a lively mix of Rock, Country, Folk, and Rhythm and Blues.

A new addition to our annual event will be the County's own weather predicting K-9, That Dog Named Gidget! Gidget's insightful ability to understand things beyond our own human capacity is legendary. Jonathan Charles Fox, Gidget's handler, has confirmed Gidget's forecasting gift. The state of New York will now make its first serious bid to upstage Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil. That Dog Named Gidget will let the world know, one day in advance, what the next six weeks of winter will entail. You won't want to miss this!

Guest musicians for the event include the Americana duo Mike and Anne Baglione, blues guitarist David Dan, and bass player Jay Brooks. The afternoon will be hosted by Little Sparrow, who will perform and also help out as MC during the weather forecasting part of the show.

The event takes place at the Sullivan County Museum, located at 265 Main Street, Hurleyville, New York. Music lovers of all ages are invited to enjoy a warm, community-focused gathering filled with great songs and talented performers! This event is free and sponsored by the Frederick Cook Society. Hot drinks and delicious refreshments will be served. Donations welcome.

For more information, please call 845-434-8044 or visit the Facebook page for That Dog Named Gidget. <https://www.facebook.com/ThatDogNamedGidget>

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA - From the notes

of Frank Comando

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

Email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com

Website: thetownsman.com

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

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: From the Elder. To the dear Lady and her children whom I truly love. I am not the only one, but all who know the truth love you, because the truth remains in us and will be with us forever. 2 John 1:1

OBITUARY

Agnes Post Van Put,



Livingston Manor's oldest resident, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, on the Feast Day of Saint Agnes, with her loving family at her side. She

was 109 years of age.

Agnes was born on August 15, 1916 in Prospect Park, NJ to the late Henry Richard Post and Johanna Carlough Post. She began working at the age of 15 to help support the family of eight after her father became ill, earning eight cents an hour sewing women's intimates for Garfinkle & Ritter, Inc. She had an incredibly strong work ethic, and took pride in never being late. She worked throughout her long life, well into her 100s.

When she was 18, Agnes's friend Anna introduced her to Emil Van Put; soon after, Agnes and Emil were married, and Anna married Emil's brother Arthur. Agnes and Emil raised two children, Edward and Russell, in northern New Jersey where Agnes worked a variety of jobs ranging from factory work to managing delicatessens.

In the 1970s, Agnes and Emil moved to the hamlet of Livingston Manor near their son, Ed, and converted a small barn into a cozy home where she resided throughout the rest of her life. They quickly settled into a new life in the Catskills, and Agnes helped set up the delicatessen section of the Pecks market that had recently opened in Livingston Manor.

In 1984, Agnes began a new career at the Catskill Fly Fishing

Center & Museum, where she became hostess in the gift shop. She became known for her delicious cookies and jams, and especially for her homemade soups, which she ladled out every year on Opening Day of the trout fishing season until she was 108. There, she furthered her interest and knowledge of fly-fishing, and learned from her friend Lee Wulff how to make his special plastic-bodied flies. For many years she supplied them to Royal Wulff, setting up a station at home to make them. Notably, in her 90s, she entered the Hardy Cup fly casting competition. She credited her longevity to staying active, embracing change, and enjoying life.

Among many honors and recognitions, Agnes was the first recipient of the Sullivan County Visitors Association's T.O.A.S.T. Award (Tourism Opportunities And Service Training) for her efforts and abilities to welcome visitors to the area and make them feel at home; and was inducted by the Catskill Fly Fishing Center as a "Catskill Legend" in 2019, celebrated for her warmth and dedication to the fly-fishing community as an institution at the Museum.

She was known for her sunny smile and optimism; her refreshing candor and unpretentiousness; her kindness and generosity; her wit and humor; her love of chocolate and sweets, and her penchant for being photographed with her many friends and celebrities, whose photos adorn the walls in her home. She loved music, especially polkas, country & western, and dancing to the "Alley Cat", which she did at her grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's weddings. She was an accomplished seamstress, who also loved knitting and crocheting, making clothing, sweater sets and blankets for all her grandchildren, great- and great-great grandchildren, and the children of many other friends and family. (Contd. Pg. 4)

DAYS OYORE**...Today's History** (From Pg. 2)**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 fiancé, 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.

January 16, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cypert of Oliverea, 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.

Household Hint:**Stop Crying Over Onions**

Put the onion in the freezer for a few minutes before you start chopping away. Not only will you not start crying, but no need to wear that unattractive eye gear.

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

What Will the Groundhog Do?

February 2nd marks the midpoint of winter. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, emerges from its burrow on this day, then spring will come early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and the winter weather will persist for six more weeks.

A biology professor from Pennsylvania State University discovered another reason besides weather forecasting for a male groundhog to wake up in early February. He will shuffle over several acres of his territory and check on burrows containing females. He ducks inside each one to cuddle for the night and leaves the next morning to continue the tour.

He doesn't mate on these getting-to-know-you visits, according to the professor. At the end of his walk-around the male groundhog returns to his own burrow, curls up into a furry ball for another month of hibernation.

Groundhogs or woodchucks wake up for good in late March to mate and then lead solitary lives. In April 2-6 babies are born naked and blind after a month gestation. The litter matures by autumn and lives 4-5 years if it escapes hunters, hawks, foxes and coyotes.

Groundhogs (*Marmota monax*) grow to twelve pounds and two feet long. They're brownish yellow furred animals with black feet and a short tail. Their flat top skulls with eyes and ears that are set low are perfect for not exposing much of their heads to poke above ground. This rodent's incisors never stop growing and can become a fatal danger unless kept worn down with constant chewing. Although groundhogs mostly graze on grass, they can climb trees and swim to forage for greenery.

They feed at sunrise and sunset, keeping out of sight during daylight hours. Groundhogs are forever alert to danger, and will race back to their burrow as they sound a shrill alarm whistle that earns them the nickname "whistle pig."

A groundhog digs a burrow 10-15 feet long with a front entrance, spy holes, a toilet chamber and a comfortable nest room for sleeping or a nursery.

The name woodchuck comes from the Indian legend of "Wojak, the groundhog" considered by them to be their ancestral grandfather.

In 1723, the Delaware Indians settled Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The Delaware considered groundhogs honorable ancestors. The name Punxsutawney comes from the Indian name for the location "ponksad-uteney" which means "the town of the sandflies."

During that same time when the German settlers arrived in Pennsylvania during the 1700s, they brought a tradition known as Candlemas Day, which had its origin in the pagan celebration of Imbolc. If the sun made an appearance on Candlemas Day, an animal would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of Winter. Germans watched a badger for the shadow, however, once in Pennsylvania, adapted the new tradition of watching a Groundhog.

According to German Folklore:

For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day,
So far will the snow swirl until May.
For as the snow blows on Candlemas Day,
So far will the sun shine before May.

What will it be? All eyes will be on the "Weather Capital of the World", Punxsutawney, PA, while waiting for the Prognosticator of Prognosticators, Punxsutawney Phil.



OBITUARY

Agnes Post Van Put (From Pg. 2) She loved to read with one of her beloved cats on her lap, and to travel, driving cross-country with her husband to visit nearly every state, including Alaska, fishing in many of them. She also traveled abroad to Europe and the Holy Land in the Middle East.

But it was her family that Agnes loved most of all, never forgetting a birthday, keeping track of her many descendents and proudly relaying what each grandchild, great-grandchild and great-great-grandchild was doing as they grew.

Despite a strong aversion to spiders and snakes, she was otherwise fearless, enjoying a neighborhood flight with Lee Wulff in his twin-engine Piper Super Cub; and years later, at the age of 104, taking a helicopter ride around Sullivan County with her dear friend Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, who fulfilled a wish she had expressed to Aileen some time before. In her 90s she even learned how to use a computer and the internet, but decided within a few years of active use that she'd had enough of that!

Agnes was a member of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum; the Livingston Manor Senior Citizens Club; an honorary member of the Woman Fly Fishers Club; and an honorary member of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild. Her legacy will live on in the stories, friendships, and traditions she helped build. Agnes will be deeply missed and always remembered.

Survivors include her daughters-in-law, Kathy Lebo Van Put of New Jersey and Judy O'Brien Van Put of Livingston Manor; six grandchildren, James (Brenda) Van Put of New Jersey, Russell Van Put (Susan) of Vermont, Lorine Agnes Lamerand Buchholz (Scott) of Wurtsboro, Brett Van Put of Bohemia, Lee Van Put (Anisha Arouza) of Livingston Manor, and Tyler Van Put (Tiffani) of Manhattan; nine great-grand children Heather (Dan) Greer, Jimmy (Alexandria) Van Put, Ben Van Put, Taylor Lamerand, Jay Van Put, Alana Lamerand and Carly Lamerand, Evie Van Put and Il_ Agnes Arouza Van Put; four Great-Great-Grandchildren Ava Greer, Ivy Van Put, Brady Greer, and Clayton Van Put; several nieces and nephews; her dear friend Joan Wulff, and many close friends and neighbors.

She was predeceased by her husband, Emil Edward Van Put; her sons, Edward George and Russell Henry Van Put; twin infant sons Clay and Arthur Van Put; three brothers, John, Raymond, and George; two sisters, Minnie and May.

Visitation will be Friday, January 30, 2026 from 3-7 PM in the Harris Funeral Home, Railroad Ave., Roscoe, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be performed on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 11 AM in

St. Aloysius Church, Livingston Manor, NY. Father Edward Bader will officiate. Burial will be in Lew Beach Cemetery in the Spring. A Celebration of Agnes's Life will take place at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center in August, coinciding with her 110th birthday during Summerfest, and all are welcome to attend.

Memorial contributions in Agnes' name may be made to the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home, Railroad Ave. Roscoe, NY 607-498-4929 or 845-439-5200 or www.Harris-FH.com (<http://www.harris-fh.com/>)

LOOKING BACK

Beatrice Akerley

Published February 5, 1996

Today, January 22, I am sitting in our living room watching the Weather Channel on TV. They are saying that a bad storm is coming our way. Today is also my daughter, Minnie's birthday. Of our five daughters, she is number three. It seems like only yesterday when she was three years of age and all the older children had gone to school and I decided to make cookies. Minnie climbed on a chair as my little ones always did when I was baking something. What I didn't realize was how much dough she had been eating until I offered to let her lick the beaters and she said, "I just can't lick another beater, my belly's too full of batter." How fast time flies. Minnie is now a senior citizen and a grandmother.

A commercial on the TV drew my attention and then another weather warning. Schools would be closed early today but there would be no one on the "Old sleddin' hill." Years ago just about every kid got into the action. How well I remember those belly floppers and crash landings into snow banks of long ago. There was nothing like a good snowfall to put a little excitement into your life. Out came the "Flexible Flyer" or "King of the Hill" or even your old homemade sled and you head for the hill. Nobody had to send out word or watch TV. When the hill turned white, just about all the kids turned up for action. What a hill that was! The slope was slick, steep and a half mile long when you were dragging your sled up but it was always much shorter when you came flying back down.

Just to go back once more and come flying down that hill with the wind in my face, the snow in my eyes and my best friend waiting at the bottom of the hill "saying "Beatcha."

Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre to Host Black Legacy Project for Black History Month



Hurleyville, NY - The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is proud to announce that it will host the nationally acclaimed Black Legacy Project on Friday, February 27, 2026, as part of its Black History Month programming. This free community event will take place in the HPAC Cinema and promises to be an inspiring evening of film, music, and meaningful conversation. The Black Legacy Project (Black LP), developed by the nonprofit Music in Common, is a musical celebration of Black history designed to strengthen understanding across communities and foster conversations about racial equity. The program brings together musicians and community members to explore the legacy of Black history, its modern-day relevance, and how shared artistic experiences can reduce division and hate. The evening will begin with a screening of the Black Legacy Project's documentary, which explores the stories and themes behind the music. Following the film, the Black LP band will perform a live set featuring reimagined songs tied to the Black American experience, original works created through their collaborative roundtable process, spoken word pieces, and an opportunity for audience discussion.

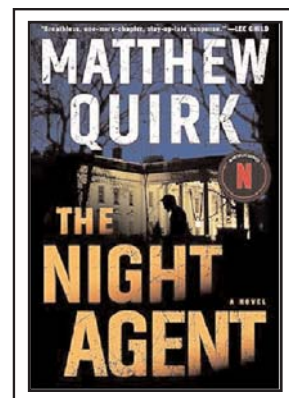
HPAC is actively seeking sponsors to help bring this impactful program to our community. Thanks to a generous discount from the Black Legacy Project, HPAC can host this event for a reduced artist fee of \$1,500, making local sponsorships critical to covering the remaining costs, including hospitality and promotional efforts. Sponsorship support will allow HPAC to offer this program free of charge, ensuring accessibility for all.

"This program is a perfect fit for our Black History Month schedule and aligns with HPAC's mission of inclusion, cultural engagement, and community access," said Megan Dewitt, Program Coordinator at HPAC. "We're thrilled to bring this nationally recognized project to Hurleyville and provide our community with an evening of music, history, and dialogue that bridges generations and perspectives."

Event Details: • Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 • Time: 7pm • Location: HPAC Cinema, 219 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY 12747 • Admission: Free community event (donations encouraged), Concessions and a cash bar available. **Sponsorship Opportunities:** Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to partner with HPAC to support this event. Sponsorships will help cover the artist fee, hospitality for the musicians, and promotional efforts, ensuring the program remains free and accessible to the community. Sponsors will be recognized in event promotions and materials, offering valuable exposure while supporting a meaningful cause. **About HPAC:** The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is a multi-arts venue dedicated to providing diverse, high-quality entertainment and arts education for the Sullivan Catskills region and beyond. Located in the heart of Hurleyville, HPAC offers a wide range of programming, including film, live music, dance, theatre, and community events, fostering a vibrant cultural hub for residents and visitors alike.



Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 165
The Night Agent
Mysterious Book Report No. 366
by John Dwaine McKenna
Published January 30, 2020



To all of our readers out there in newslandia, bookreviewburg, or elsewhere, lost somewhere in the electronic haze, who think that all the great spy and thriller novels ended with the deaths of Robert Ludlum and Tom Clancy . . . *they didn't*. And, if you think you'll just have to be satisfied with those cloned copies, written by second-rate writers 'licensed by the estate of,' and pimped by the publishers in hopes of squeezing a few more bucks out of the old cash cow . . . *you don't*. There's a ton of great new talent out there, and this week's MBR features one of the best of that new breed. His name is Matthew Quirk, and his latest work, *The Night Agent*, (William Morrow/Harper Collins, \$26.99, 422 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-287546-4) is an all-out, full throttle thrill ride from the first sentence on the first page. It's drawn rave reviews from the likes of Michael Connelly, Lee Child and Michael Koryta, as well as a bevy of other A-list authors.

As the novel begins, we meet FBI Agent Peter Sutherland who, much to his own surprise, interviews for a position in the White House and gets it in spite of the misgivings of all those he works with. That's because his father, who also worked for the US Government was suspected of selling secrets to the Russians . . . an allegation which cost him everything, including his life. It's a family shame Peter has spent his entire life trying to live down by always being squeaky clean in everything he says and does. Now, he's working at the very heart of the seat of government in the Situation Room at the White House, just steps away from the President of the United States. Peter's job – sitting next to a telephone all night long and waiting for it to ring, which it's only done once in the past year. When it does ring, his job is to get a code phrase and message from the caller and pass it on to two people . . . both of whom talk directly to POTUS.

Then a call comes in at 1:05am from a terrified young woman named Rose. Her aunt and uncle have just been killed. She's hiding in a closet and the shooter is still in the house hunting for her. Her uncle gave her the code and the number, along with the message, "Tell them that OSPREY was right. It's happening . . ." then the phone goes silent, thrusting Peter Sutherland into the heart of a conspiracy that reaches to the highest levels of government. It's diplomacy by other means, as the intrigue swirls, the assassinations continue unchecked, and the tension mounts higher with every page. *The Night Agent*, despite its innocent sounding title, is the one thriller you don't want to miss, because the plot could have been ripped right out of today's headlines. It's one helluva yarn!

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

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

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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Stormy Thoughts

A winter storm evokes our emotions and instincts for security, warmth, and safety. At one time, it sparked joy and excitement to go skiing, sledding, or just make a snowman and throw some snowballs for fun (or harbored revenge). Now is is one major nuisance.



Instead of getting my snow boots, insulated ski wear, gloves and hat ready, I am planning on wearing sweats, sweaters, slippers and comfortable "hunker-in" apparel. My friend called today to say she is ready. She has her vodka (for medicinal purposes!), toilet paper and snacks. She filled the bathtub with water, boiled some eggs, and is charging all her electronics. The call reminded me that a power outage is possible.

I am fortunate to have a husband with a plow on his truck and we have a generator that allows me to flush toilets. My fear is that the internet goes down. We have a wood stove and a pantry full of food. I consider myself fortunate to know I will be taken care of. My empathetic nature makes me feel for those less fortunate.

Our ancestors endured harsh winters with less than we have; their hardy stock and survival skills served them well because they relied more on themselves than all the electronic gadgets we own.

Stay safe and warm and find a good book. Everything else is on hold until we make it through this storm that is expected to dump twelve to eighteen inches of snow on our lives.

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.**

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Cold? A trip to the DPL is in order!

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-Of late, it's being unreasonably seasonal outside, with temps hovering around "it's time to move to Florida" degrees. The cold-the kind that takes your breath away while walking the dog, leaves your fingers numb just getting the mail, and seeps through every crack in the house-is unrelenting! But it's okay. The DPL has you covered in more ways than one. We'll get through this harsh winter together.

In a lot of ways actually...you're certainly welcome to visit us and enjoy the warmth of both the atmosphere and our company, you could stop in and peruse our display of romantic reads...which would undoubtedly lite your inner fire...or you could check out the Cornell Cooperative Extension D.I.Y Energy Savings Session we're hosting on Thursday, February 5, from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. It's the cold in the house that's especially troublesome this time of year, because not only are we stuck in some kind of arctic vortex, but home heating costs have skyrocketed, making every turn of the thermostat painful.

During the program, you'll learn valuable ways to take simple, "do-it-yourself" steps to reduce energy waste in your home and save money on your utility bills. Also covered in this session: information regarding heat pumps, insulation, different incentives for home energy upgrades, EmPower+ and HEAP. If you are interested in taking a proactive approach in weatherizing your home this season, and come away with valuable information to be at the ready next season, this is the program for you! And, if you register now (by scanning the QR code on the flyer on our website, by visiting sullivanccc.org/events or by calling 845/ 292-6180) you'll receive a FREE energy kit (\$45 value, limited supply)!

Want to keep the warmth going? Participate in our Valentine's Day card event!

Open to all ages, this take and go card craft is easy-peasy. Just stop in during regular operating hours from Monday, January 26 through Thursday, February 12 to pick up supplies in our main lobby (while they last). You can also use your own supplies, either way, just make sure you return the completed card to the red box in the lobby by February 12 for their very special delivery to Achieve Rehab and Nursing. The patients at Achieve are amazed each year by their goodies and, as Ms. Deirdre always says, "it makes our hearts smile!" This year, there are 135 patients and we'd really like to make sure everyone gets a beautiful, hand-crafted, Valentine's so stop in and pick up the supplies!

The very next day, February 13 from 1:00-2:30PM, we're holding a watercolor painting program with local artist, Chris Parrow. Register online for this adult-only floral still life painting class. No prior experience is needed as Chris will take you step-by-step through the painting process; going through technique, color mixing and composition. While there is a \$5 supply fee, this is a great way to get out of your house and still stay warm, engage in activity and conversation with fellow painters and bring home one-of-a-kind artwork.

And there's nothing like the warm, delicious aroma of freshly baked donuts to warm a person up. So, if you've been jonesing for our amazing donuts since Giant Pumpkin Party, stop in and order a dozen (or two!) They're \$9 a dozen and come in cinnamon sugar or plain (you can order them as either or a mixed dozen if you can't decide). To order: stop at the adult circulation desk and let us know, call us at 845/ 985-7233 or complete the pre-order form available on our website. And then, to experience the most delicious smell ever and to pick up your donuts, come to the library



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Don't be undercut by the rest
Check out our website:
<http://www.bloominggreenlawnandlandscape.com>

on Tuesday, February 17, from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

On the same day, from 11:00AM-1:00PM, we're hosting our popular "Take Your Child to the Library Day" festivities. Join in on this global celebration-a day of library and literary awareness-and the perfect opportunity to spark your child's imagination and inspire a life-long 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 guest, Marek, a blue Holicer bunny from 12:00-1:00PM, explore new books and discover exciting stories, and register your child for our Spring Children's Programs. This special day is open to Tri-Valley residents. In case of inclement weather, please check our social media for program updates or cancellations.

To round out our February offerings, check out our book inspiration crafting event on Thursday, February 26 from 6:00-7:00PM. If you like books and crafting, this is the program for you. No prior experience is needed and all materials will be supplied for this "Pinterest worthy" craft; creating artwork from the pages of a book. Advanced registration (on our website) is required and only open to Tri-Valley adult residents. And, as always, come check out our books on display! We've moved things around a bit; for instance, our cookbook section is right out front of our adult nonfiction section, sandwiching tables, which makes for a really great place to leaf through the books and be inspired (and have a place to take notes!). We've gotten in a lot of new books and have cool displays up (like our romance section) on the adult floor and upstairs, on the children's floor, there are book displays of winter, Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day, as well as, a whole slew of new books. With the unpredictable nature of the season, it's always good to have a small horde of books at the ready, so a stop at the DPL is a must!



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SCDW Trivia Night

Are you bored staying home every night? Do you crave some fun and mental exercise? The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop has the solution for you! On Tuesdays - February 3, and March 3, 2026, at 7PM, your inimitable host, Peter Nastasi, will conduct an evening of fun and cerebral calisthenics - at the at the Fallsburg Senior Center, in South Fallsburg. Come alone, come with friends, join a group, make new friends, test your knowledge, learn something new. And have fun!! Admission is free - donations always welcome. Prizes!

Plays in Development - 2026 - Call for Scripts

Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is seeking short plays, from five to thirty minutes, for its annual "Plays in Development" series. The theatre company is focused on showcasing local playwrights from Sullivan, Orange and Ulster counties. SCDW's hope is for local talent to be featured and to give the community an interesting opportunity to view and comment on new plays. Pieces that are chosen may be directed by the author, a director of their choice, or one of SCDW's resident directors. Auditions will be held at the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallsburg, in March. The deadline for submissions is February 25th. These minimally staged readings will be presented in May. After each performance, audience feedback will be encouraged for the authors, directors and actors. If you are interested in submitting a piece, submit a PDF of the play and include a cover letter and short author bio. Please contact: Jean Eifert: jeaneifert334@gmail.com or Peter Nastasi: Peternastasi1@verizon.net

Snow and Winter Weather Arts Nest Concerts in Jan and Feb

Due to the powerful snow storm approaching our area we must CANCEL the SCOTT PALERMO ARTS NEST Concert scheduled for this Sunday Jan 25 at 2pm. We will find a SNOW Date for Scott's concert and will keep you posted so you don't have to miss this talented and entertaining performer, what a voice.

The Arts Nest Concert Series continues on Sunday February 1st with keyboard wizard Bob Malone followed by master guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto on Sunday February 8th. Get the full schedule for Feb below.

The weekly Arts Nest Open Mic hosted by Kathy Geary on Tuesday January 27th from 6-8pm is tentatively happening, once again depending on the weather and the roads. Stay tuned!



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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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SC Chamber of Commerce Appoints Matthew Sush as President and CEO

[Monticello, NY], - The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the appointment of Matthew Sush as its new President, effective February 2, 2026. Matthew is a lifelong Sullivan County resident with deep professional and personal ties to the region's business and civic communities. He brings a strong background in relationship management, community engagement, and leadership development.

Most recently, Matthew served as a Business Relationship Officer at Jeff Bank, a community bank, where he worked closely with local businesses, built long-term partnerships, and provided consistent, high-quality relationship management and client service. His career has been centered on supporting entrepreneurs, strengthening local businesses, and building collaborative relationships throughout the region.

Matthew holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse, an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts from Sullivan County Community College, and is a graduate of Monticello High School. A dedicated lifelong learner, he has completed the Center for Financial Training's Universal Banker Certificate, participated in the Sullivan County Chamber Foundation's Leadership Sullivan program, and is an alum of Jeff Bank's in-house leadership development program, JBLead.

In 2021, Matthew was recognized with the Sullivan County Young Emerging Leader Award at the Chamber's Pride Awards Gala. His past community involvement includes serving as Treasurer of the Liberty Rotary Club, Board Member of the Sullivan County Chamber Foundation, Chair of the Town of Thompson Planning Board, and holding leadership roles with the SullivanARC Foundation and Sullivan County's Young Emerging Leaders initiative.

Matthew comes from a family of educators and small business owners. His parents operated a successful three-location coin-operated laundromat business in Sullivan County, shaping his early understanding of entrepreneurship and community-based business success. He lives in Sullivan County with his wife, Jennie, their son, Arlo, and their two dogs, Bari and Bruno.

"I care deeply about this community, I understand the responsibility of this role,



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and I'm ready to lead the Chamber with integrity, collaboration, and long-term stability," said Matthew Sush, President of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. "Sullivan County is home for me. I grew up in a family of educators and small business owners, and I've spent my career working alongside local entrepreneurs. The Chamber is in a healthy position with strong community support. My role is to provide steady leadership, build on that foundation, and help guide the organization toward long-term growth and greater impact for our members."

Matthew shared that his early priorities will focus on listening, learning, and building strong partnerships. He will work closely with Chamber staff, consultants, the Board of Directors, and community partners to move the organization forward with clarity and collaboration.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are thrilled to welcome Matthew Sush as President and CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. Matthew brings a rare combination of professional expertise, deep local roots, and genuine care for this community. He understands Sullivan County because he has lived it, learned from it, and worked alongside the people who power it. The Board is confident in his ability to provide steady leadership, strengthen partnerships, and guide the Chamber into its next chapter with clarity, integrity, and purpose." Keith Edwards, Co-Chair, Board of Directors

To contact the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, call 845-791-4200 or visit catskills.com

Happy National Bagel Day!



VENDOR REGISTRATION FOR THE
2026 BAGEL FESTIVAL IS OPEN NOW!
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<https://thebagelfestival.org/vendor-registration/>

GET MORE INFO!

<https://thebagelfestival.org/>

Fired Up for Health! The 2026 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge Begin

[LIBERTY, NY] The Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge kicked off its 4th year on January 1 with 11 departments geared up to participate! In the first three full weeks of the challenge, departments have completed almost 100 points, focusing on nutrition, physical and mental health. Working out, taking walks, stretching, setting health goals, and enjoying healthy meals together are just a few highlights from the first few weeks of the challenge.

The Healthiest Fire Department Challenge is a health and wellness competition for Sullivan County fire departments that encourages physical, nutritional, and mental health activities. Departments earn “turtle points” for completing health-focused events, workouts, and trainings, with at least five members participating. At the end of the challenge, these turtle points make the departments eligible for grant funding and awards, promoting healthier lifestyles while supporting the firefighting community.

Year 4 marks a renewed focus on encouraging consistency; establishing healthy habits that can be sustained over time. A new “point stacking” model makes it possible to earn points consistently; helping departments build healthy habits and routines over the full challenge through September.

“The point stacking model was designed to meet firefighters where they are,” said Sullivan 180 Outreach Coordinator Nicole Blais. “Even on the busiest days, small actions still count, and those small actions add up to lasting change.”

“This challenge provided great opportunities for our firefighters to participate in some healthy fun, healthy, creative meals, and thinking outside the box challenges. This is another opportunity to honor our brave Sullivan County firefighters and show the communities we serve the commitment and hard work their firefighters have completed during the challenge to remain healthy,” said John Hauschild, Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety and Sullivan County Fire Coordinator, Sullivan County Bureau of Fire, Division of Public Safety.

Departments continue to build momentum and are gearing up for two upcoming events: The Sue Bunce Memorial Sullivan Freeze for the Cure Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 31st and the 6th Annual SNO&W Snowshoe Walk & Hike on Sunday, February 1st along the historic O&W Rail Trail in Mamakating. These events are open to the public. Join the fun and cheer on your local fire department or follow along on Sullivan 180 social media for Healthiest Fire Department Challenge updates. It is not too late to join the 2026 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge! Reach out to Nicole Blais at Nicole@Sullivan180.org to sign up or learn more.

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.

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Sullivan County Treasurer Kathleen Lara's first "County Finance Explained"

January 2026 | Issue 1

KATHLEEN LARA,
SULLIVAN COUNTY TREASURER

COUNTY FINANCE *Explained*

THE 2026 TAX BILLS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2026 tax bills have now been mailed to taxpayers and/or their mortgage companies.

Didn't receive one in the mail? You can view and print them online here:

<https://taxlookup.net/index.aspx?county=sullivan>

REVIEW YOUR PAPER BILL CAREFULLY!

If the bill you received in the mail has this notation under the breakdown of taxes, **CALL OUR OFFICE!** This means you may have delinquent taxes from a prior year. **Remember - we are here to help!**

PROPERTY TAXPAYER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

The assessor estimates the Full Market Value of this property as of July 1, 2025 was: 243,500
The Total Assessed Value of this property is: 90,100
The Uniform Percentage of Value used to establish assessments was: 37.00



SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROPERTY TAXES	Total Tax Levy	% Levy Change from Prior year	Taxable Assessed Value or Units	Rates per \$1000 or Per Unit	Tax Amount
Taxing Purpose					
Medicaid	20,675.00	0.0	90,100.00	3.552893	\$320.12
NYS Welfare Mandates	13,993.02	-0.4	90,100.00	2.404458	\$216.64
Other NYS Mandates	21,525.90	-0.7	90,100.00	3.699117	\$333.29
County Levy	12,657.07	26.5	90,100.00	3.206122	\$288.87
Town to Highway	5,356.54	4.5	90,100.00	10.348507	\$932.40
School Relevy					\$2,147.38
Ambulance dist #1	35,155	-5.1	90,100.00	1.091692	\$98.36
Fire TOTAL	60,781	-3.5	90,100.00	2.597876	\$234.07

* DELINQUENT TAXES ARE DUE					
* SEE NOTICE OF ARREARS ON BACK					

DID YOU KNOW?

If your bill details include a "School Relevy" this means the prior year's school tax bill was not paid to the school and was added to the current year's tax bill with interest and penalties.

The Treasurer's Office is located at 100 North Street, Monticello, NY and open 9AM -5PM, Monday through Friday. You can reach us at (845) 807-0200 or via email at taxes@sullivanny.gov

Kathleen Lara, County Treasurer - Khris DiBartolo, Deputy Treasurer

January 2026 • Issue 1

<https://www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/Treasurer>

It's Cabin Fever Time! - L. Comando



ACROSS

1 Repeated patterns
7 Adjacent to
8 Commemorate
12 Donned by Phil's keeper on Feb 2nd
14 Advertise-ment
15 Against
16 Cut an area of grass
19 Prefix-not doing
20 Female sheep
21 Morning
23 Smaller than a lake
26 A region
27 Raise to a higher level
29 Sun
31 Combin-ing form of new
32 Ch. element
Tellurium
33 Units of

land
34 Word by which a person is known
38 Male child
40 Shining
41 Refer to you and I
42 Look forward to
44 Hour
45 like
46 Ocean
49 Archaic plural form of thou
50 Ability to see
51 Single celled alga with silica walls
53 Extra terrestrial
54 Epoch
56 A fruit-filled pastry
57 Punxsutawney groundhog
58 Light again
59 Large open air fire
61 Fermented drink made

with honey
62 United States
64 Spend the winter in a dormant state
71 Approximate-ly
72 Slump
73 Another term for Irish
75 Popular myth
76 Delaware
77 Circle of light around the sun
78 Common football hero injury
82 Life partner
83 Knockout
84 Being able
86 Agnostic
88 Brit's abbrev. for railway
90 Profound
92 Extra-sensory perception
94 Not out
95 part of the mind
96 12 points
97 Ante meridiem
99 Belong-ing to one's mother
100 Grass covered

soil
101 One of the two major roads in Sundown
104 Half an em
105 Reject

DOWN

1 Prescribed ceremony
2 At that time
3 Natural Earth satellite
4 Give food to
5 One of four divisions of a year
6 In accordance with the rules
8 February
2nd Christian Festival
9 Abbrev. for billion
10 Right (abbrev)
11 Become apparent

13 Small round mark
17 Obligation to pay
18 Atmospheric conditions
22 Glovelike handcovering
24 Northeast
25 Make a resonate sound
28 Celebration
29 South Carolina
30 Links alternatives
33 Belonging to the past
35 Exclamation of surprise
36 Mountain (abbrev)
37 Omnivorous nocturnal mammal
39 Informal exclamation
40 Confidence in someone
41 Circular object that revolves on an axel
43 Pennsylvania
46 Atmos-

pheric disturbance
47 Executive Order
48 Ampere
51 Unpleasant loud noise
52 Simple roofed structure
55 Warm primary color
56 Post Office
59 Tunnel dug by an animal
60 Electrical Engineer
63 Not sacred
64 Exclamation of surprise
65 Another name for Candlemas
66 Exist
67 Question something
68 Story
69 Self-importance
70 Bitter brew
71 Shaded part of a picture
73 A Germanic

language
74 Check
79 Bushman
80 United Nations
Organization
81 Condensed atmospheric moisture
83 Grocery store that once four-

ished in
Grahamsville
85 Large primates
87 Local chap accepted to
Alfred Ag & Tech Inst. in 1968
89 Affirmative
91 Edge

92 Radiate
93 Friend
95 Anger
96 Night before an event
98 Myself
102 Official Nevada postal code
103 Archaic exclamation

Chicken Pesto Pasta

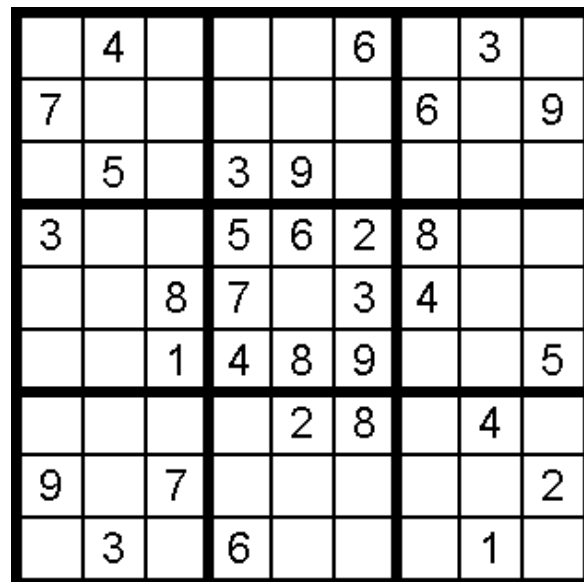
2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 (8-oz.) boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1" pieces
Kosher salt
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
1 3/4 cups water
3/4 cup heavy cream
8 oz. penne
1/2 cup Parmesan, finely grated
2/3 cup store-bought or homemade pesto
Fresh basil, for serving (optional)

In a medium skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add chicken; season with 3/4 tsp. salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until browned and an instant-read thermometer registers 160°, 4 to 5 minutes total. Transfer to a plate.

Step 2 In same skillet over medium heat, cook garlic and red pepper flakes, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add water, cream, and 1/2 tsp. salt and bring to a simmer. Add penne and cook, stirring occasionally, until pasta is al dente and liquid is reduced to a sauce that coats the pasta, 8 to 10 minutes.

Step 3 Stir in Parmesan and chicken and toss until cheese is melted and chicken is warmed through, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and fold in pesto; if sauce feels dry, add water, 1 Tbsp. at a time, until a creamy sauce forms. Season with more salt, if needed. Top with basil (if using).

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

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

Cryptogram

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

5 17 14 25 19 22 10 7 11 25 18 22 25 4 13 7 17 25 5 24 25 19 22

13 24 5 12 6 23 2 5 19 23 7 24 2 5 10 10 6 25 20 7

25 19 26 23 6 7 24 17 10 5 12 6 23 13 1 23 5 17

5 23 13 7 22 25 24 8 2 5 23 6 14 10 26 1 22 18

25 19 22 24 25 5 19 2 5 19 23 7 24 5 18

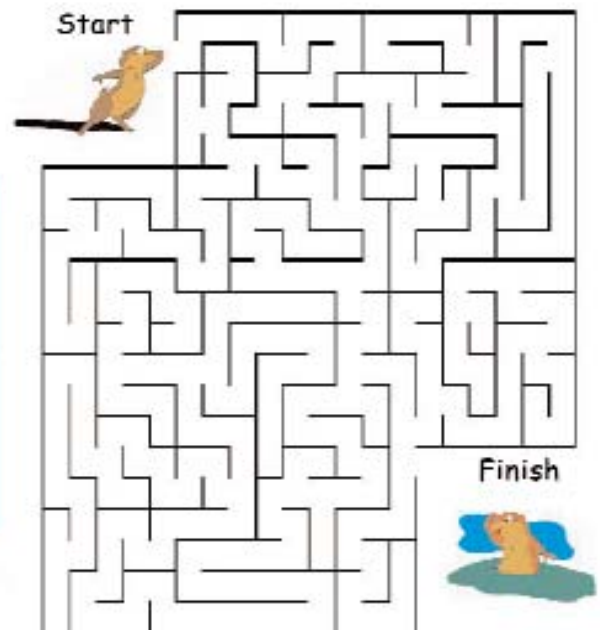
12 26 19 7 25 19 22 2 5 10 10 19 26 23

14 26 11 7 25 12 25 5 19

Kids'
Groundhog
Day
Fun Page
- L. Comando



Can you find 7 differences between the 2 pictures?

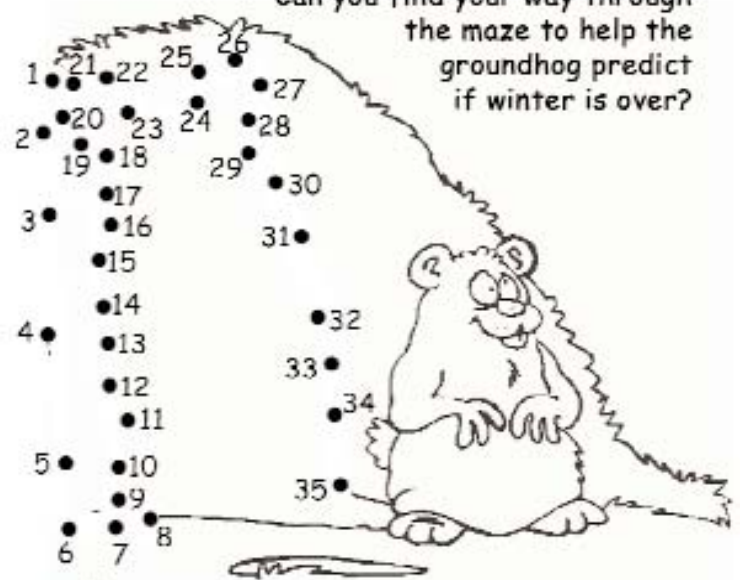


SPRING
WINTER
GROUNDHOG
SHADOW
FEBRUARY
FORECAST
HIBERNATE
HOLE
HOLIDAY
WEATHER
UNDERGROUND
PREDICTION
BURROW
CLOUDY
SUNNY
PENNSYLVANIA
SIGN
PUNXSUTAWNEY
EMERGE
WOODCHUCK

Ground Hog Day Wordsearch

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

Can you find your way through the maze to help the groundhog predict if winter is over?



Cryptogram Key

91	4	17	2	02	1	23	18	24	15	3	19	26	11	10	8	9	5	6	12	17	7	22	14	25	26
Z	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	

Connect the dots to see the Prognosticator of Prognosticators

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each other. Please bring any art supplies that you plan
to work with to create your piece. Adults only.

Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday
BOOK CLUB



The first
Friday of
every month.

All adults welcome!

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

enjoy new reading and discussions.

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 -RTP

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.

DVAA 2026 Exhibition Schedule Announcement

NARROWSBURG, NY - On Saturday, February 7th, 2026, DVAA will welcome the community to the first two shows from a packed and exciting schedule of exhibitions for 2026. This year marks DVAA's 50th Anniversary and among the usual high-quality exhibitions by emerging and established artists, late summer will see a series of group exhibitions celebrating the history of this pioneering institution.

First up in the Alliance Gallery will be Michael Salomon's (Rock Hill, NY) exhibition, Familiar Terrain. Salomon's photographs explore our world in our absence.

Fascinated by the minutiae of commonplace scenes, Salomon explores the details we reveal about ourselves in the marks we leave on our environment.

DVAA will be hosting a Coffee and Conversation event where Salomon will discuss his work and process at 2pm on February 7th.

This year's DVAA members group show will also open on February 7th, in DVAA's Loft Gallery. Titled Let It All Out, it is curated by Tanner Simon who has put together an expansive show that features local artists, writers and performers' explorations of their hopes, fears and anxieties about the year ahead.

Opening Receptions for both exhibitions will take place on Saturday, February 7th from 3-5pm.

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

For more information, visit DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org

2026 Exhibitions

Opening Receptions take place from 4-6pm on the first day of each exhibition, with the exception of February 7, which will be 3-5pm.

Saturday, February 7 - Sunday, March 15, 2026

Michael Salomon (Rock Hill, NY) - Familiar Terrain

Michael Salomon's photographs explore what our world looks like in our absence. Each scene is a meditation on the elaborate stages we set for ourselves.

*A Coffee & Conversation event with the artist will take place at DVAA on Saturday, February 7th, 2pm, followed by the opening party at 3pm.

Group Show - Let It All Out

DVAA's 2026 members show, curated by Tanner Simon, features visual artists, writers, and performers who share their hopes, fears and anxieties about the year ahead.

Saturday, March 21 - Sunday, April 26, 2026

Dean & Krista Scharf (Lake Huntington, NY) | How Two

The Scharf's collaborative work occurs wordlessly. Since 1977, they have been exploring a unique process, each work is started by one of them and then handed over to the other to change, add to, or delete from as they see fit, before being handed back, without comment. The works are exchanged over again until both artists feel that they are finished.

Susan Rostow (Fremont Center, NY) - Coddwomplex

'Coddwomple' is a slang word meaning "to travel purposefully toward an unknown destination", and this is the ethos that drives Rostow's artistic practice. Using printed paper, clay, pigments, and sand, her sculptures grow through layering, burying, and uncovering.

(Contd. Pg. 19)

Open Mic

Every Sunday:

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

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

DVAA 2026 Exhibition Schedule

Announcement (From Pg. 18)

Saturday, May 2 - Sunday, June 7, 2026

— SR Lejeune (Pine Plains, NY) | Murmuration

Addressing the idea of "fabrication" as both technical construction and fantastical invention, Lejeune's mesmerizing industrial sculptures live between hand and machine-made processes, between fiction and function, between mechanical engineering and poetry, between legibility and invisibility.

— Alejandro Mazon (East Branch, NY) | Stories in the New Baroque

Mazon's collages are assembled with discarded images, forgotten photographs and his own drawings to create a dialogue between past and present. His work exists in the nebulous space between yesterday and today, giving us hints of forgotten stories and never written Histories.

Saturday, June 13 - Sunday, July 26, 2026

— DVAA 50th Anniversary Exhibition: One For All

To kick-off DVAA's anniversary celebrations in our galleries, we are inviting area artists and makers of all forms to have their creative voices featured. In the style of the 19th Century Grand Salons, One For All honors the creative community that defines DVAA.

— DVAA 50th Anniversary Exhibition: Revolutions

It starts with a spark. It begins with a dream. It is the closing of a circle. It is the completion of a cycle. It is a beginning and an ending. It is a journey that takes you to a new start. In recognition of not only DVAA's milestone but the 250th Anniversary of the launch of the American Revolutionary War the exhibition will feature artworks that explore the dual meanings of the term, revolution.

Saturday, August 1 - Sunday, September 13, 2026

— DVAA 50th Anniversary Exhibition: (T)Here

(T)Here explores place (specifically this place where DVAA calls home) as a location and as a construct of ideals, mythologies, and interpretations. Explored through the work of three photographers, the exhibition also pays homage to the 200th anniversary of the invention of photography. (Contd. Pg. 20)

Sun Trail Storage

Sun Trail is a local family-owned business
God Bless America

Located on the Corner of Hill Top Rd
and Route 55 Grahamsville, NY



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

Please call for availability first

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

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

Display Ads

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-
\$7.50 per week

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

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

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

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

1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week

Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week

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

**Sign up for 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!**

DVAA 2026 Exhibition Schedule Announcement

From Pg. 19)

DVAA 50th Anniversary Exhibition: Fellows

A survey of recent individual artist fellowship recipients who live and work in Sullivan County. Fellows celebrates the breadth of talent nurtured through DVAA's commitment to supporting local artists.

Saturday, September 19 - Sunday, October 25, 2026

Steve Deihl (Narrowsburg, NY) | The Narrowsburg Series

"The Narrowsburg Series" began with the idea that "landscape" is more than representation; it is a physical entity with whom it is possible to creatively collaborate. The centerpiece of the exhibition will be Deihl's newest painting, Equinox, which will be placed outdoors over six months, from the Spring Equinox until the Autumn Equinox, to be reworked by the weather, light, and seasonal changes, before premiering at DVAA on September 19.

Heidi Jensen (Cranston, RI) | Landlooker

Jensen explores how logging in the 19th and 20th centuries impacted the landscape and communities in which it occurred. Using video, drawing, puppetry and more, Landlooker will seek to tell a complex and textured story about this period of time, and to draw parallels between historical and current landscapes and labor conditions.

Saturday, November 14 - Saturday, December 20, 2026

Art in Sixes, 22nd Annual Small Works Exhibition

Every November for 22 years, DVAA has mounted "Art in Sixes," an exhibition that celebrates and grows the region's artistic community. Each year, artworks by hundreds of artists fill the galleries of DVAA. Ascribing to the rule that no artwork be larger than 6" x 6", the beloved annual show is a must-see for artists and audiences alike - it's the biggest little show around!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

Interested in exhibiting at DVAA? Artists and curators are invited to submit an application for the 2027 exhibition season- now through January 31st, 2026. Emphasizing artists from the Mid-Hudson, Catskill, or Upper Delaware River Regions, the program welcomes diverse media, styles, installations, and



curator proposals, showcasing high-quality work by both emerging and established artists. More information: <https://delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/exhibition-call-for-entries/>

ABOUT DVAA

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

SUPPORT

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

Medicare 101

Zoom Webinar

Live


Saturday, March 14, 2026
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

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!**



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**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

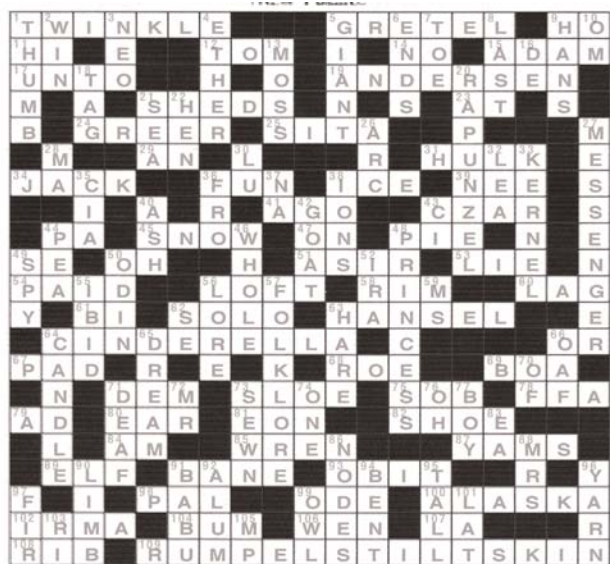
Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

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

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

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 Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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

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 26, 2026 - January 30, 2026

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

Monday, January 26

- CANCELLED: 6:00 PM - Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, January 27

- 12:00 PM - Ulster County Arts and Culture Advisory Council**, in the Office of Tourism, 3rd Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- 6:00 PM - Ulster County Transit Riders and Intermodal Advisory Committee**, Via Zoom Meeting ID: 862 5272 1551

Wednesday, January 28

- CANCELLED 9:00 AM - Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District Board**
- 3:00 PM - Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board**, in the Rondout Municipal Center, 1915 Lucas Avenue, Room M-1, Cottekill
- 6:30 PM - Ulster County Environmental Management Council**, at the SUNY Ulster Kingston Center, Room 104, 94 Mary's Avenue, Kingston, & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 974 4254 9615 Passcode: 278571
- 7:00 PM - Ulster County Fire Advisory Board**, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, January 29

- No Meetings**

Friday, January 30

- No Meetings**



SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV

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

2026 Winter Schedule

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

JEFFERSONVILLE

Tues January 6

Tues February 3

Tues March 3

License & Registration Appts

19 Legion St
Jeffersonville, NY

WURTSBORO

Thurs January 22

Thurs February 19

Thurs March 19

Registration Appts Only

2948 US 209
Wurtsboro, NY

LIVINGSTON MANOR

Tues January 13

Tues February 10

Tues March 10

Registration Appts Only

95 Main St
Livingston Manor, NY

GRAHAMSVILLE

Thurs January 8

Thurs February 5

Thurs March 5

License & Registration Appts

273 Main St
Grahamsville, NY

NARROWSBURG

Tues January 20

Tues February 17

Tues March 17

Registration Appts Only

210 Bridge St
Narrowsburg, NY

HORTONVILLE

Thurs January 15

Thurs February 12

Thurs March 12

Registration Appts Only

104 Lower Main St
Hortonville, NY

LIBERTY

Tues January 27

Tues February 24

Tues March 24

License & Registration Appts

15 Sullivan Ave
Liberty, NY

BLOOMINGBURG

Thurs January 29

Thurs February 26

Thurs March 26

License & Registration Appts

13 North Rd
Bloomingburg, NY

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

Tango Café Presents Women in Jazz Night in Celebration of Women's History Month

Hurleyville, NY - The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is proud to announce Women in Jazz Night, a special evening of live music at Tango Café on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM. This event celebrates Women's History Month by spotlighting the artistry, innovation, and lasting contributions of women in jazz.

The evening will feature the Hudson Valley Jazzwomen, an acclaimed ensemble of talented women jazz artists who have been captivating audiences throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond since their founding in 2023. Led by drummer and founder Kim Peralta, the group includes saxophonist Kate Anderson, bassist Jennifer Vincent, and pianist Sarah Jane Cion. Together, these accomplished musicians bring a dynamic and diverse repertoire, showcasing jazz, Latin jazz, classical, and contemporary styles infused with global influences.

Collectively, the Hudson Valley Jazzwomen have performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center, on Broadway, and alongside legendary artists including the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Abbey Lincoln, Betty Carter, and Wynton Marsalis. Their performance at



Tango Café promises to be an unforgettable celebration of women's contributions to the world of jazz.

Tickets are \$20, available for purchase through the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre Website-with food and drinks available for purchase during the event from the Tango Café.

HPAC is actively seeking sponsors to support this event and help celebrate the incredible contributions of women in jazz. Sponsorships will help cover artist fees, event production costs, and promotional efforts, ensuring the success of this unique celebration of Women's History Month. Sponsors will receive recognition in event promotions and materials, offering valuable exposure while supporting the arts and women's achievements.

"This event is a perfect way to honor Women's History Month and highlight the incredible talent and innovation of women in jazz," said Lourdesa Hunt, Director of Development at HPAC. "We're thrilled to bring the Hudson Valley Jazzwomen to Tango Café and provide our community with an evening of world-class music and celebration."

Event Details:

- o Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026
- o Time: 7:00 PM
- o Location: Tango Café, 219 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY 12747
- o Tickets: \$20 (food and drinks available for purchase)

Sponsorship Opportunities: Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to partner with HPAC to support this event. Sponsorships will help ensure the success of Women in Jazz Night while celebrating the contributions of women in the arts.

About HPAC: The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is a multi-arts venue dedicated to providing diverse, high-quality entertainment and arts education for the Sullivan Catskills region and beyond. Located in the heart of Hurleyville, HPAC offers a wide range of programming, including film, live music, dance, theatre, and community events, fostering a vibrant cultural hub for residents and visitors alike

Ulster County, Historic Huguenot Street, and the Margaret Wade-Lewis Center Honor Jack and Betty, First African Residents of New Paltz

New Paltz, NY - The Ulster County Clerk's Office is proud to support Remembering Jack & Betty: A Commemoration Ceremony Honoring New Paltz's First African Residents-a free community event taking place at 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Historic Huguenot Street, 74 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY.



The ceremony honors the lives, strength, and contributions of Jack and Betty, the first recorded African residents of New Paltz. In July 1680, Patentee Christian Deyo purchased an enslaved man named Jack from a New York City Doctor; nine years later, his son Pierre Deyo purchased an enslaved woman named Betty from a trafficker in New York City. These are the first recorded instances of enslaved people brought to the community after its 1677 founding. Permanent Witness Stone markers, installed on Huguenot Street in 2025, now commemorate their legacies and ensure their place in local history is recognized.

"We are honored to recognize Jack and Betty not just as names in the historical record, but as real people whose lives were intertwined with the early history of New Paltz," said Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck. "This ceremony reminds us that Jack and Betty lived, worked, and endured here, and that their stories matter."

Ulster County Historian Eddie Moran will also speak at the event, providing historical context about Jack and Betty's lives, the early New Paltz community, and the enduring significance of acknowledging these first African residents. "It's essential we honor Jack and Betty as members of New Paltz's founding generation whose lives, labor, and impact were integral to the establishment and growth of the town," said Moran. "Their story reminds us that people of color were present and shaped the community from its earliest foundations."

The event is free and open to everyone. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be postponed to Sunday, February 8, 2026. Community members are encouraged to RSVP in advance.

To RSVP to the event, visit www.huguenotstreet.org/programming.

For more information, please contact:

- o Historic Huguenot Street - info@huguenotstreet.org or (845) 255-1660
- o Margaret Wade-Lewis Center - info@mwlceneter.org or (845) 257-2761
- o Ulster County Historian Eddie Moran - countyhistorian@ulstercountyny.gov or (845) 340-3495



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



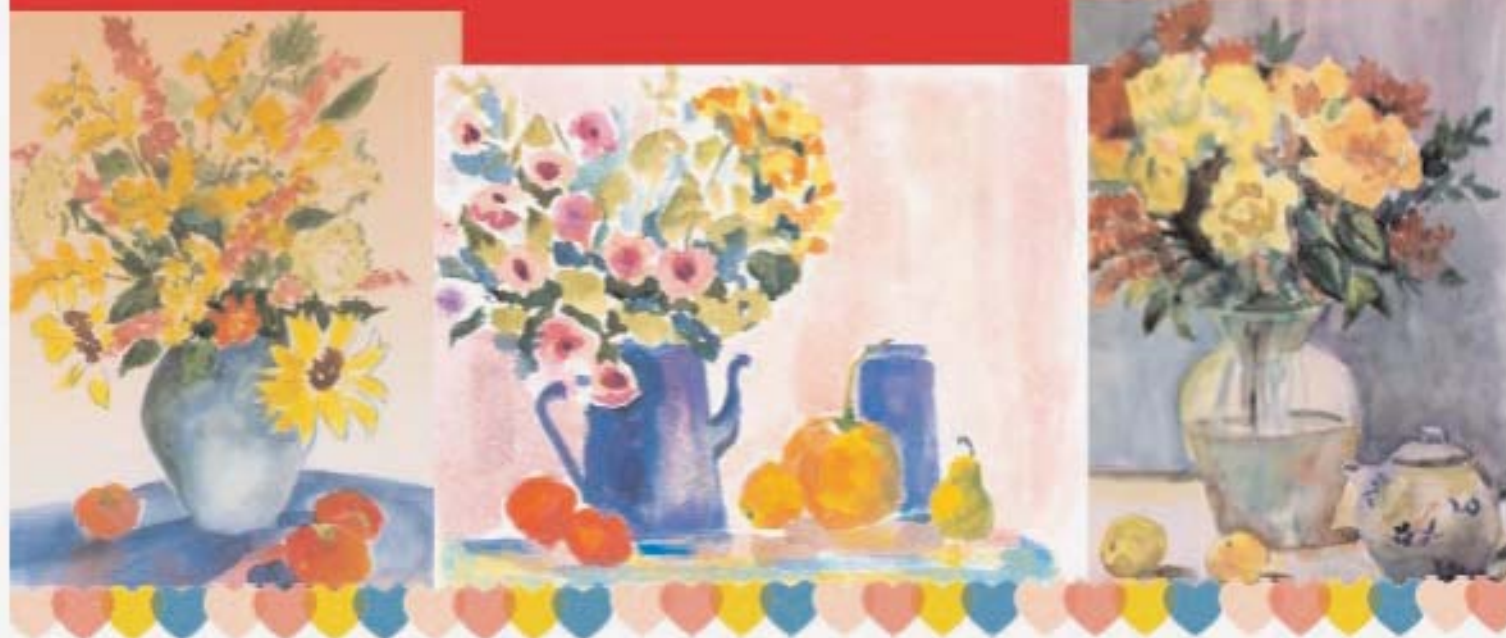
Place an online order at danielpiercelibrary.org



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

Ulster County Opens Crisis Support Center in Kingston to Provide 24/7 Behavioral Health Services

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger today announced the opening of the Ulster County Crisis Support Center, operated by People USA in partnership with the Ulster County Department of Mental Health. The Center will operate around the clock every day, providing immediate support for youth and adults of all ages experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. The Center is located on the first floor of the Ulster County Center for Well-Being at 368 Broadway in Kingston.

Services will include clinical assessments, timely intervention, peer support, and coordinated follow-up care, with the goal of reducing immediate risks and helping individuals move toward lasting recovery, while offering a safe and welcoming space where people can feel comfortable and supported.

The service will help avoid unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations by providing prompt, community-based crisis care in a less restrictive setting. The Center will also provide law enforcement with the ability to divert individuals with behavioral health or substance use challenges so they can receive appropriate and timely assistance and services.

"The Crisis Support Center represents a major step forward in how we care for our community, ensuring that our residents have access to compassionate, community based care in a supportive environment, any time of day or night," said County Executive Jen Metzger. "These around-the-clock services complement programs and services offered on other floors of the Ulster County Center for Well-Being, providing a continuum of care for children, families, and adults under one roof. Whether someone is seeking urgent behavioral health care, long term counseling, or support for a child in crisis, this building brings together the partners and programs that help our residents heal, build resilience, and thrive. I want to thank Mental Health Commissioner Tara McDonald, Deputy Commissioner Katrina Williams, Special Projects Director Joleen Darby, and our partners at People USA, for all their work to make the vision of a crisis support center a reality. We are also grateful to NYS Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan and her team for their support every step of the way."

"The opening of this vital 24/7 intensive and sup-

portive program is an example of the wonderful things that can happen when there is alignment between local government, state government, and strong partnerships with community-based organizations," said Tara McDonald, Department of Mental Health Commissioner. "The Ulster County Crisis Support Center operated by People USA has been in development for more than three years and there were many times that we questioned whether we would cross the finish line and make it to this day. But, knowing that the center will provide our County residents with a welcoming environment and qualified compassionate staff ready to support them during challenging times, makes it all worth it. After they move through the crisis, they can continue to receive support on an ongoing basis through the programs and services offered throughout the Ulster County Center for Well-Being. This is a hopeful time for the behavioral health system of care in Ulster County."

"The Support Center is a beacon of hope for so many in our community, often serving as their first step along their journey to recovery and wellness," said Steve Miccio, People USA's Chief Executive Officer. "We have redefined compassionate and effective care for those in crisis."

"When we first envisioned this initiative, our goal was to create a place where people could get help the moment they needed it - not weeks or months later," said Ulster County Public Health Director Eve Walter, who first proposed the crisis support center when she served in the Ulster County Legislature. "As chair of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, I heard repeatedly from judges and law enforcement that they had nowhere appropriate to bring people in crisis. At the same time, COVID had eliminated critical mental health beds in our region. After visiting the Dutchess County Stabilization Center with Legislator Criswell and seeing its impact, we knew Ulster County needed this. We secured ARPA funding to make it possible, and seeing this Center open 24/7 is a powerful reminder of what thoughtful investment and collaboration can achieve for our community."

"I'm thrilled to see the Crisis Support Center opening its doors in Ulster County," said Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. "When the Legislature dedicated federally allocated ARPA funds to this project, our goal was clear: to support our most vulnerable residents while investing in a facility that would serve our community for decades to come. This Center fills a long-standing gap in our behavioral health system by offering 24/7, walk-in access and peer-led support in a safe, welcoming environment. It is a perfect fit within the Center for Well Being, where multiple behavioral health programs now operate under one roof, ensuring people in crisis can access the compassionate care they deserve, right when they need it." (Contd. Pg. 31)

Ulster County Opens Crisis Support Center in Kingston to Provide 24/7 Behavioral Health Services

(From Pg. 30)

A Comprehensive Hub for Community Wellness

While the Crisis Support Center serves residents on the first floor, the Ulster County Center for Well Being houses a full spectrum of behavioral health and wellness services in the building:

Second Floor - Access: Supports for Living - Behavioral Health Urgent Care

The second floor provides walk in behavioral health urgent care for adults and children - no appointment needed. Services include immediate evaluation, counseling, safety planning, and referrals for longer term treatment. Licensed clinicians and certified peers offer compassionate, trauma informed care, including individual therapy, medication management, and support for both mental health and substance use needs.

Third Floor - Children's Way Counseling Center

Operated by the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie in partnership with the Ulster County Community Support Division, the third floor is home to the Children's Way Counseling Center, a new youth mental health clinic serving ages 5-21. Services include early assessment, psychiatric evaluation, crisis intervention, medication treatment, individual and family therapy, and complex care management. The program focuses on helping young people build resilience, stay connected to school and family, and receive care in the least restrictive setting possible.

Fourth Floor - Ulster County Department of Mental Health

The fourth floor houses the Ulster County Department of Mental Health, providing oversight, coordination, and support for the County's behavioral health system, including community programs, prevention initiatives, and partnerships with service providers across the region.

About People USA

People USA is a peer run mental health non profit that creates, provides, and promotes its own innovative crisis response and wellness services. Being peer run means that all services are developed and operated by people who have personally overcome mental health issues, addiction, or trauma. This makes People USA a valuable

addition and alternative to the traditional behavioral health care system. People USA's unique, peer led models are proven to significantly reduce hospital utilization, incarceration rates, and overall healthcare spending.

For more information, visit ulstercountyny.gov/center-for-well-being

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

World Democracies Under Threat

This letter is based on Alan Dowd's article in the July 2025 issue of the American Legion Magazine. He stated, " a world without American leadership is a world out of order --- and a world out of order is a threat to American interests ". We must maintain our leadership role.

Communist China, Russia and North Korea pose threats to the U.S. and democracies around the world. Their Communist ideologies promote authoritarian rule by decree without any of the freedoms encompassed by democratic governments, especially freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. They do not tolerate dissent, they investigate and prosecute their rivals and foes, and they rule by force and use their secret police and militaries to control their populations. They desire to impose their will by force in the world, e.g. Russia in Ukraine, China in the South China Sea, and North Korean vs. South Korea; and they are expanding their militaries. China now has more naval vessels than the United States.

European countries, Japan and Australia can provide some deterrence, but the United States is the only country capable of deterring China and Russia. We are the guardian of democracy in the world and have to continue to provide the leadership to prevent Communist expansionism and the possibility of WWII.

Venezuela and Cuba must be carefully monitored for their disruptive activities and thwarted from conducting any expansionism. Iran must also be deterred from its aggressiveness in the Middle East.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

Tri-Valley Elementary School
"INSPIRE SUCCESS TOGETHER"



GO BEARS!

Tri-Valley Elementary School



UPK REGISTRATION

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

845-985-2296 ext. 5405

Or send an email to:

registration@trivalleycsd.org

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



Governor Hochul Announces Construction Underway for New \$1.7 Billion Public Health Laboratory

- Department of Health's New Wadsworth Center Laboratory To Enhance State's Readiness To Respond to Public Health Crises
- State Releases Renderings Revealing Future Lab's State-of-the-Art Design

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/Wadsworth-Center-Renderings.pdf>

- Lab Expected to be Complete in 2030
- Wadsworth Center Has Grown Into the Largest and Most Diverse State Public Health Laboratory in the Nation, Protecting the Health of New Yorkers and Communities Far Beyond State's Borders

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced construction is officially underway for the planned \$1.7 billion state-of-the-art public health laboratory that will transform New York's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to emerging threats. The new Wadsworth Center facility will consolidate five unconnected sites across the Greater Albany area into one single, modern facility, strengthening the State's ability to effectively respond to future public health threats, support the next generation of scientists, and provide opportunities for collaboration across the country. The facility is expected to be completed in 2030. Since 1901, the Wadsworth Center has grown into the largest and most diverse state public health laboratory in the nation.

"The new Wadsworth Center Laboratory is a powerful investment in the health of every person in New York State," Governor Hochul said. "The lab will allow the State to better predict and prepare for emerging threats to public health and will be one of the most authoritative public health laboratories in the country, impacting public health policy and practice at the state, national and international level."

New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "The Department of Health's new Wadsworth Center Laboratory is testament to Governor Hochul's commitment to protecting public health by keeping New York State at the forefront of advancements in disease surveillance. This facility will help us ensure our nation-leading public health research laboratory remains on the cutting edge of biomedical and environmental research critical to protecting public health."

Dormitory Authority of the State of New York President and CEO Robert J. Rodriguez said, "DASNY is proud to deliver this transformational \$1.7 billion project for the Department of Health. As the state's construction and financing authority, we are committed to building infrastructure that serves New Yorkers for generations to come. This represents one of the most significant public health laboratory projects in the nation, and our team is

working closely with our design-build partners to ensure the Wadsworth Center receives a world-class facility worthy of its renowned scientific mission. We thank Governor Hochul for her vision and commitment to this critical investment in New York's public health infrastructure."

Today, the Wadsworth Center stands at the forefront of innovation, protecting the health of New Yorkers and communities even far beyond the State's borders. The Center is recognized by the CDC and other federal agencies as a national reference center for a wide range of infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and toxicological threats.

To be located on the W. Averell Harriman Campus in Albany, the Wadsworth Center will foster an even closer collaboration with the nearby SUNY University at Albany campus, building on academic partnerships that date back to the mid-1980s, as well as with the adjacent New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Laboratory. The laboratory will house nearly 800 staff and is being designed to adapt to evolving needs over its lifetime, with a strong emphasis on energy, efficiency, and sustainability.

The design-build team is a joint venture between Gilbane Building Company and Turner Construction Company, in association with HOK architects. The team's design for the new laboratory shows a five-story, 663,000 gross square foot laboratory.

The Wadsworth Center leads a wide array of nation-leading programs that have made New York a model for public health laboratories nationwide. Together, these programs have driven innovation, strengthened preparedness, and safeguarded communities from emerging threats.

- o Public Health Emergency Response: Led detection and surveillance of the 2022 poliovirus outbreak, including identification of the first U.S. case of paralytic polio.
- o Wastewater Surveillance and Diagnostics: Serves as New York State's primary wastewater surveillance laboratory for the detection of emerging pathogens and antimicrobial resistance.
- o Environmental Health Leadership: Functions as the State's lead Safe Drinking Water Act laboratory and a national leader in detection, monitoring, and reporting.
- o Innovative Diagnostic Testing Pipelines: The Center's diagnostic developments outpace the CDC in areas of testing for tuberculosis, Mpox, and influenza.
- o Newborn Screening Program: Advances the screening of newborns for more than 210,000 babies annually for 50+ disorders, enabling early diagnosis and life-saving care.
- o Regulatory and Oversight Programs: Sets and enforces rigorous statewide laboratory standards, exceeding federal requirements and serving as a national model.

The Wadsworth Center celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. The new laboratory will carry this proud legacy forward, ensuring the Wadsworth Center remains a world-class public health institution serving New York State and beyond for generations to come.



The House Passage of the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act

This week, the House passed my legislation, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act. This bill codifies states' ability to use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to support pregnancy resource centers that provide essential services, including prenatal care, parenting education, counseling, ultrasounds, and material assistance. These centers serve women with dignity and compassion, especially during some of life's most challenging moments. The legislation responds directly to the Biden Administration's efforts to limit state flexibility and override long-standing authority in how these funds are used. It protects states' ability to support mothers, protect unborn children, and strengthen families without federal interference. Advancing this bill through the House is an important step toward restoring commonsense, pro-family policies that put women and children first.

Standing Up for Victims of Non-Consensual Digital Exploitation

I joined colleagues and advocates in support of the DEFIANCE Act, bipartisan legislation I cosponsored to protect victims of non-consensual digital exploitation. As technology advances, so do the ways bad actors abuse it, creating explicit digital forgeries that can devastate lives, reputations, and livelihoods. The DEFIANCE Act gives victims real legal tools by allowing them to pursue civil action against those who knowingly create or distribute this content, while safeguarding victims' privacy and dignity. I stood alongside victims and advocates, including Paris Hilton, who courageously shared her story to shine a light on this growing threat. Our laws must keep pace with emerging technology, and I will continue working to ensure victims can fight back, hold perpetrators accountable, and reclaim control over their own identity.

Continuing the Fight for the Susan Muffley Act

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJ4X45yYeZk>

This week, I testified before the House Rules Committee to fight once again for the Delphi Salaried Retirees by pushing to include the Susan Muffley Act in the 2026 appropriations package. While my amendment was not ruled in order, I want you to know this fight is far from over. More than 20,000 Delphi salaried retirees had their pensions and benefits slashed during the 2009

GM bankruptcy, while union workers' pensions and benefits were protected behind closed doors, an injustice that has devastated families in our community and across the country. I shared the story of my constituent, Judy Fooks, whose late husband worked for Delphi for decades, believing his pension would provide security for his family, only to have that promise taken away overnight. After more than 16 years, these retirees have exhausted the courts and are relying on Congress to do what is right. The Susan Muffley Act would fully restore their earned pensions, with backpay, and even includes a responsible pay-for that saves taxpayers money. I will not stop fighting until this wrong is corrected and Delphi retirees finally receive the retirement security they earned and were promised.

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.R. 272, the Protecting Life and Taxpayers Act of 2025: This bill would prohibit federal taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortions or abortion coverage, including through federal health care programs and insurance plans that receive federal subsidies. Taxpayers should not be forced to finance abortion, and this legislation protects both unborn life and taxpayer dollars.

H.R. 1465, the Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act: This bill would prohibit U.S. foreign assistance funds from being used to perform or promote abortion overseas. U.S. foreign assistance should always reflect American values, such as upholding life. This bill ensures that foreign aid funding is administered consistently and in accordance with existing pro-life protections.

H.R. 5616, the \$2.50 for America's 250th Act: This bill would authorize the United States Mint to issue commemorative coins minted in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The 250th anniversary is a significant national milestone that offers an opportunity to reflect on the nation's history and founding principles. This legislation provides a voluntary way for Americans to support commemorative efforts and recognize the semiquincentennial of our nation's founding.

H.R. 6866, the Securing Smart Investments in our Ports Act: This bill would strengthen oversight of federal investments in U.S. ports to ensure funds protect our national security and supply chain resilience. Specifically, it would require additional reviews and reporting requirements to prevent federal port funding from supporting projects that could expose critical infrastructure to undue foreign influence or security risks. Safeguarding America's ports is essential to economic and homeland security and this legislation ensures that taxpayer-funded port investments are strategic, secure, and aligned with U.S. national interests. (Contd. Pg. 35)

This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 34)

H.R. 2226, the Let Pregnancy Centers Serve Act of 2025: This legislation would prohibit federal, state, and local governments from discriminating against pregnancy care centers because of their life-affirming mission, and it would provide pregnancy centers facing discrimination with a private right of action. This will help protect pregnancy resource centers from efforts by New York State, and other Democrat-led states, to cut off funding and harass pregnancy resource centers. We must ensure women have access to the resources pregnancy centers provide, empowering them to choose life.

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.

Tuesday, January 20

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 5764, the AI for Main Street Act. This bill equips Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) with the tools and training they need to help local employers understand, evaluate, and adopt artificial intelligence in ways that boost productivity and growth. By expanding proven initiatives like the SBDC AI U program, we're giving small businesses across the country the same kind of access to cutting-edge technology that's driving innovation in major industries. This bill helps ensure that Main Street can harness the benefits of AI to compete, grow, and thrive. This bill passed the House by a vote of 395-14.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 5763, the Main Street Parity Act. This bill modernizes the SBA 504 loan program by removing outdated rules that force businesses in limited or single-purpose properties, such as car washes or medical offices, to put up an extra five percent in equity compared to other borrowers. Small businesses in New York shouldn't face steeper financing hurdles just because of the type of property they operate in. By leveling the playing field and standardizing equity requirements across industries, the bill lowers barriers to entry, encourages investment, and gives more entrepreneurs a fair shot at expanding their operations. This is a practical step to help Main Street compete and grow. This bill passed the House by a vote of 383-8.

Wednesday, January 21

I voted "Yes" on H.J.Res. 140, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN. This bill rescinds the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management under President Biden that would have instituted a 20-year ban on new mineral and geothermal exploration and development activities covering 225,504 acres in the Superior National Forest in Northern Minnesota under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The

Superior National Forest in northeast Minnesota contains undeveloped deposits of critical minerals, including copper, nickel, and cobalt. In 2021, the Biden Administration canceled mineral leases held by the mineral company, effectively prohibiting mineral and geothermal exploration. Access to critical mineral resources is a national security priority, and this resolution is a necessary reversal of the Biden administration's agenda that stifled domestic industrial capacity. This bill passed the House by a vote of 214-208.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 6495, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act. This bill would prohibit any President from limiting the ability of states to spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds on pregnancy resource centers. Under the Biden administration, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed a rule that would prevent pregnancy resource centers from receiving TANF dollars to support their important work. This attempt was not only unconscionable but also exceeds their statutory authority. Pregnancy resource centers serve women with dignity by providing medical care, counseling, and practical support during some of life's most challenging moments. Advancing this bill through the House is an important step toward restoring commonsense, pro-family policies that put women and children first. I was honored to co-lead this important legislation and support its passage both through the House Ways and Means Committee and on the House floor. This bill passed the House by a vote of 215-209.

Thursday, January 22

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 7147, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026. This bill provides \$92.008 billion to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. Specifically, this bill funds various agencies organized within DHS, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at an increased \$3.27 billion above the FY 2025 enacted level. Additionally, this bill secures funding for key programs, including the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Furthermore, this bill upholds House Republicans' commitment to ensure that law enforcement receives the support needed to enforce our immigration laws, stop deadly fentanyl from entering our country, and safeguard our northern border. This bill ends programs that incentivize illegal immigration, such as the Shelter and Services Program used by nonprofits to facilitate alien transportation and housing and eliminates funding for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts. Supporting this funding helps protect our country and supports local communities in NY-24. This bill passed the House by a vote of 220-207.

(Contd. Pg. 36)

This Week with Claudia (From Pg. 35)

I vote "Yes" on H.R. 7148, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026. This package included four appropriations bills to fund the Departments of War, Homeland Security, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. These appropriations bills focus on what matters most: strengthening our national defense, supporting first responders, investing in infrastructure and innovation, and delivering real results for our communities. Our office worked with local leaders across NY-24 to ensure these bills included critical investments for local employers, military readiness, public safety, and workforce and education programs that families in our region rely on. In this package, I secured critical funding that benefits NY-24, such as \$200 million to recapitalize the New York National Guard's LC-130 fleet and \$5 million for five Community Project Funding projects. I also secured robust funding for key programs like Job Corps, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Impact Aid, AFG and SAFER Grants, and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This funding helps protect our country, strengthen our economy, and support the communities we represent. This bill provides no funding to NPR and PBS, rescinds funding for wasteful "high speed rail" projects, prevents the Department of Transportation from enforcing COVID-19 mask mandates and provides \$941 million to strengthen efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP. While this package has many great provisions, I am greatly disappointed that the Susan Muffley Act, which would restore the Delphi retirees' pensions and benefits, was not included in this package. I was disappointed that my amendment to add this provision was not ruled in order. I will continue working to get this legislation signed into law to right the egregious injustice that was perpetrated by the Obama Administration against the Delphi retirees. This bill passed the House by a vote of 341-88.

I voted "No" on H.Con.Res. 68, To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress. This resolution would require the President to remove U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela under the War Powers Resolution. For years under Maduro's autocratic regime, Venezuela served as a center for illegal operations such as human trafficking, narcotics trafficking, and illicit oil trade, activities that pose a direct threat to U.S. national security. President Trump took decisive steps

to bring Maduro to justice and hold him accountable. The Trump administration has also confirmed that there are currently no U.S. forces in Venezuela, making this resolution unnecessary. However, this War Powers Resolution would hamstring the President from protecting the United States should further action be necessary, effectively granting impunity to Venezuela to continue threatening American security interests. Additionally, some legal experts have raised serious constitutional objections to the War Powers Act, arguing that it improperly encroaches on the President's authority as Commander in Chief, a position with which I agree. For these reasons-both to safeguard national security and to address constitutional concerns, I voted in opposition to this resolution. This bill failed to pass the House by a vote of 215-215.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 6359, the Pregnant Students' Rights Act. This legislation requires colleges and universities to clearly communicate the support and accommodations available to students who are pregnant. It also mandates that institutions explain how students can file a complaint if their Title IX protections related to pregnancy are violated, and ensures this information is widely accessible, including in student handbooks, covered during orientation, posted on school websites, and made available through campus health and counseling offices. No student should be forced to choose between continuing a pregnancy and earning a college degree. This is a commonsense bill, and I strongly supported its passage in the House. This bill passed the House by a vote of 217-211.

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



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The New York State Legislature is back in Albany and the start of this year's session has already sparked important conversations about the direction of our state and the priorities being set for the months ahead.

Governor Hochul recently delivered her State of the State address and unveiled a record-high \$260 billion Executive Budget proposal. While there are areas worth discussing, many of the proposals rely more on rhetoric than real solutions to the challenges New Yorkers face every day. At a time when families, farmers, and small businesses are struggling with affordability, New York remains one of the hardest states in the nation to do business.

Although the Governor claims she is not raising taxes, the budget renews tax increases that were previously set to expire - further burdening small businesses and working families when combined state and local taxes are already among the highest in the country. These decisions have real consequences for our local economies and the people who power them.

When it comes to our children, investments in child-care are welcome but they must be paired with accountability and results. New York spends more per student than any other state, yet far too many of our children are still falling behind academically. We owe it to families to ensure that taxpayer dollars are producing meaningful outcomes in the classroom.

I remain focused on delivering results, not just talking points. That is why I have sponsored and cosponsored bipartisan legislation to provide tax relief for farmers, expand universal school meals, and create a Ratepayer Bill of Rights to hold utility companies accountable. These are practical steps that move New York toward greater affordability and opportunity.

As session continues, I will keep advocating for commonsense policies that support our communities and make New York a better place to live, work, and raise a family. As always, thank you for your continued support and outreach. If my office can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to call (518) 455-3131 or email me at

Oberacker@nysenate.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter Oberacker

Senator Oberacker's Response to Record-High Hochul Budget

WATCH HERE

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7AB-1BPoYh8>

What's Happening in Albany Hochul vetoes bill to hold utility companies accountable

Kathy Hochul's veto is a slap in the face to every ratepayer in the state and to call this bill "redundant" is laughable. If her government were actually protecting consumers, we wouldn't see costs exploding and the thousands of complaints pouring into my office.

The truth is simple: Albany's idea of 'oversight' is the fox watching the henhouse.

What's Happening in the 51st District?

Building Aquatic Leaders: Lifeguard Classes in Oneonta

LEARN MORE

<https://www.oneontaymca.org/main/american-red-cross/>

Celebrate Winter at the Sixth Annual SnO&W!

LEARN MORE

<https://www.sullivanyny.gov/news/celebrate-winter-sixth-annual-snow>

Tuthilltown Spirits Distillery: Celebrating NY's Favorite Grain All Month Long!

LEARN MORE

<https://visitulstercountyny.com/event/februa-rye-all-month-long-rye-day-2-28/>

Happy National Bagel Day!

Stopped by Bethel Market Cafe and grabbed a bagel from Monticello Bagel Bakery!

Grant Opportunities

AARP Community Challenge

Since its inception in 2017, the AARP Community Challenge has awarded 2,100 grants totaling \$24.3 million to projects that benefit residents - especially those age 50 and older - and accelerate community change.

Nonprofit organizations and local governments may find this grant opportunity useful and interest in apply. (Contd. Pg. 38)

Peter Oberacker (From Pg. 37)

Click below to learn more about the grant opportunities and eligibility.

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2026/2026-challenge.html>

NY PLAYS

Applications are now open for funding through the New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS) Initiative, a \$67.5 million competitive grant program that supports the design, construction, and renovation of public playgrounds across New York State.

NY PLAYS helps communities expand access to safe outdoor spaces that promote physical activity, emotional well-being, and in-person social connection for children and families.

Wellness Resources Donate Blood, Save Lives

Maintaining the U.S. blood supply takes all of us! Many blood collectors face winter blood & platelet donation shortfalls - but the need for blood to treat accident victims, surgical patients, people with cancer & others remains strong.

Click to book your donation or check out: WhereToDonateBlood.org

Get Screened, Stay Healthy

This month is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, a time to support and raise awareness for the brave women battling this disease and the families and friends who love and encourage them.

Regular screenings and early detection can help make all the difference - schedule yours today.

If you do not have insurance or cannot afford cancer screenings, the Cancer Services Program may be able to help you get a free cervical cancer screening. Call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262) to be connected to a program near you.

Residents of Broome and Chenango counties can contact the Southern Tier CSP directly at 607-778-3900.

Need Assistance? Call 211

211 connects New Yorkers to local resources and services -- including food, housing, mental health support, and more. It's free, confidential, and available 24/7 in multiple languages.

Simply dial 211 on your phone to reach one of their professional community resource specialists.

Senator Peter Oberacker Statement on Josh Riley's No Vote on Homeland Security Funding

- *Cravenly Political Congressman Votes AGAINST \$400 Million for Training Federal Law Enforcement Officers*

Oberacker: “Politics at its absolute worst.”

SCHENEVUS, NY - Senator Peter Oberacker, candidate for Congress in New York's 19th District, today released the following statement in response to Cravenly Political Congressman Josh Riley's no vote on homeland security funding.

“Josh Riley voted against security funding for the Paralympic Games and against \$400 million for federal law enforcement training just to make a craven political point. Not only did he vote to make every New Yorker less safe, he's trying to gaslight the people of New York's 19th District. Out of one side of his mouth he's making a political point about federal law enforcement policy and out of the other side he's voting against hundreds of millions of dollars for training our federal law enforcement officers. Josh Riley's vote is politics at its absolute worst.”

Here are just a few things Josh Riley voted against just to make a political point:

- \$400 million for Federal Law Enforcement Training
- Over \$10 million to fight human trafficking
- \$26.4 billion for disaster relief
- Almost \$200 million for pre-disaster mitigation
- \$3.8 billion for our first responders
- \$2.6 billion for cyber and infrastructure security
- \$40 million for development of a biological weapon threat detection system
- \$44.6 million for events security including 2026 FIFA World Cup, America250 and the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games
- \$14 billion for the US Coast Guard, including hundreds of millions to counter China
- \$12 billion to TSA, including hundreds of millions for baggage screening technology and tens of millions for flight crew training

Oberacker concluded, “Yesterday, Josh Riley put politics over people and tried to make every New Yorker less safe. I got into this race to put people first and as Congressman I will always vote to ensure our first responders, law enforcement officers and those responsible for our safety and security have the full resources they need.”

Environmental Conservation Police on Patrol

“DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) and Investigators enforce New York's Environmental Conservation Law to ensure the protection of public safety and our vast natural resources including air, water, wildlife, and New York's one-of-a-kind outdoor spaces,” DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. “This highly specialized and rewarding work is instrumental to upholding our stringent laws and making the great outdoors safe and enjoyable for everyone.”

Wildlife Officer of the Year

Congratulations to ECO Fuerch, who recently received the 2025 National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Officer of the Year award. ECO Fuerch was selected by the New York State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for her thorough and successful 18-month-long fish-and-wildlife investigation that led to the conviction of a serial deer poacher. ECO Fuerch's hard work and dedication on the case served as inspiration to many of her colleagues and the hunting community. In winning the New York State Wildlife Officer of the Year award, Officer Fuerch will represent New York State in Nashville, Tennessee, at the national ceremony and award banquet.



ECO Fuerch receives the Wildlife Officer of the Year award from the New York State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Bear Cub Released - Schoharie County

On November 12, 2025, ECOs Bohling and Burgess received a call from a trapper in Middleburgh reporting he accidentally caught a bear cub in a foothold trap and wasn't sure how to safely get the bear out. The individual explained that the trap was originally set for the lawful trapping of coyote or fox. He brought the Officers to the bear's location and the ECOs held a board between the trapper and the bear cub to shield the trapper from any potential injuries while he worked to release the bear. The trapper successfully released the bear without incident, and the cub ran off seemingly unharmed. It is unlawful to intentionally set traps for bears.

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

State and Federally Licensed
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(845) 657-7031 (Fax)
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BUY - SELL - TRADE - TRANSFERS

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

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

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM

46 North Street in Monticello

For information

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

Holiday Helpers - Franklin County



ECOs Garrand and Hovey partnered with the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity to distribute gifts to children in Franklin County during the holiday season

On December 17, 2025, ECOs Garrand and Hovey assisted the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity with transporting gifts in Franklin County. The gifts were distributed to families in the Saranac Lake area to help make it a memorable holiday season. Items were donated by local businesses and distributed by the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity's Holiday Helpers program, a not-for-profit organization based in Franklin and Clinton counties.

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



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

ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

**Sip & Sweets: A Valentine's & Galentine's
Wine + Chocolate Pairing @ Robibero Winery**

11 am - 5 pm

Numerous dates - please see website!

714 Albany Post Rd, New Paltz

The Rock & Roll Playhouse: The Beatles & More for Kids

@ Bearsville Theatre

11 am, February 7th

291 Tinker St, Woodstock

Swan Lake - International Ballet Stars

@ UPAC

7 pm - 9:30 pm, February 7th

601 Broadway, Kingston

Valentine's Dinner Party with Shale Hill Events

@ Whitecliff Vineyards

6 pm - 9 pm, February 13th

4150 NY-23, Hudson

Friday the 13th Anti-Valentines Day Goth Prom

@ Colony Woodstock

10:30 pm, February 13th

22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock

FEBRUARY

ULSTER COUNTY'S TOP 10 EVENTS

Winterfest @ The Cornell

9 pm, February 13th

100 Rondout Landing, Kingston

Hot Chocolate Fest 2026

@ The Ashokan Center

10 am - 4 pm, February 15th

477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge

HV Jazz Jam in the Underground

@ The Falcon

6pm, February 18th

1348 Route 9W, Marlboro

7th Annual Sojourner Truth Life Walk

@ Dietz Stadium

11 am - 5 pm, February 21st

170 N Front St, Kingston

A Recipe To Die For - Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

@ The Hudson House & Distillery

7 pm, February 21st

1835 Route 9W, West Park

FEBRUARY

Money in Your Pockets: Governor Hochul Highlights Proposals to Bring Down Costs of Vehicle Insurance Rates and Tackle Fraudulent Claims

**Taking Steps To Battle Fraud, Limit Damages Paid
Out to Bad Actors and Ensure Consumers, Not
Insurance Companies, Are Prioritized**

Governor Kathy Hochul today highlighted her proposals to bring down costs of vehicle insurance rates and tackle fraudulent claims across New York State. The Governor is taking common-sense steps to battle fraud, limit damages paid out to bad actors and ensure that consumers, not insurance companies, are prioritized. These proposals build on Governor Hochul's ongoing efforts to make the state more affordable and put money back into the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers.

"Since taking office, my top priorities have been to make New York more affordable and protect New Yorkers - and that's why I proposed measures to bring down auto insurance costs and battle fraudulent claims that are driving up costs for everyone," Governor Hochul said. "These common-sense proposals will not only increase auto insurance transparency for New Yorkers, but they will also put money back into people's pockets, especially during a time when the cost of living is just too high."

New Yorkers pay some of the highest car insurance rates in the nation - totaling just over \$4,000 annually on average, nearly \$1,500 above the national average. Car insurance rates are driven up by a combination of fraud, litigation, legal loopholes, and enforcement gaps, with staged crashes and associated insurance fraud inflating everyone's premiums by as much as \$300 per year on average according to some estimates.

Cracking Down on Fraud To Lower Rates for Everyday New Yorkers

Increasingly sophisticated actors stage elaborate accidents, designed to allow for "jackpot" payouts from insurance companies or jury awards, and these scams are becoming more prevalent. In 2023, there were 1,729 staged crashes in New York State, which ranks second highest in the nation for incidents of staged fraud. In total, insurance carriers reported 38,270 incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud to the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) Insurance Frauds Bureau in 2023 - a record high. This is up from 24,238 incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud from 2020, a 58% increase in three years. According to the Insurance Information Institute, staged crashes and associated insurance fraud inflate everyone's premiums by as much as \$300 per year on average.

To combat these organized criminal efforts, Governor Hochul is taking a whole-of-government approach to cracking down on auto insurance fraud, including:

- o Reinvigorating the State's Motor Vehicle Theft and

Insurance Fraud Prevention Board, empowering it to better support the ability to investigate and prosecute insurance fraud across the state

- o Legislation to ensure prosecutors can seek criminal penalties against any individual responsible for organizing a staged accident, not just the particular individual behind the wheel

- o Partnering with District Attorneys across New York to help build cases that put an end to the organized fraud that's robbing New Yorkers via elevated insurance rates

- o Strengthening efforts to take on medical providers who participate in fraud by signing off on phony medical diagnoses that result in enormous payouts

- o Taking action when New York drivers illegally register their vehicles in other states, which artificially decreases their coverage and raises costs for law-abiding New York drivers

Strengthening Insurer Anti-Fraud Programs

Current law handcuffs insurers' ability to protect their law-abiding customers against fraud and abuse by capping the time they have to identify and report instances of fraud to just 30 days. To ensure fraud is being identified and punished, Governor Hochul will increase the time-frame insurers have to report fraud and reduce barriers to alleging fraud in court, giving insurers more time to investigate claims and avoid paying fraudulent ones. Legislation will balance increased flexibility to crack down on fraud with the need to preserve crucial consumer protections.

Limiting Damages for Individuals Engaging in Unlawful Behavior at the Time of an Accident

When drivers are engaging in unlawful behavior at the time of an incident, they shouldn't be able to win sizable insurance payouts. However, current law permits individuals committing crimes, including impaired driving, to receive generous payouts for pain and suffering and emotional distress, which are paid from the premiums contributed by law-abiding drivers. Governor Hochul will cap the payout on these types of non-economic damages for drivers engaging in criminal behavior at the time of the incident, including uninsured motorists, individuals convicted of driving while impaired at the time of the incident, and individuals committing a felony (or fleeing one) at the time of the incident.

Limiting Damages for Individuals Who Are "Mostly" At Fault in Causing an Accident

New York is in a minority of states that allow drivers that are deemed "mostly" at fault in an accident to still collect extensive damages, including non-economic damages mentioned above. This means that in New York, even the driver deemed mostly at fault for an accident can walk away with a sizable payout for that accident. Most states have common-sense rules which only permit recovery of non-economic damages if a plaintiff is not primarily at fault for the accident. The Governor is seeking changes to the state's laws that will limit the non-economic damages a driver can obtain if they are mostly at fault for an accident, introducing a measure of accountability for who is compensated by insurance after an incident. (Contd. Pg. 51)

Money in Your Pockets (From Pg. 50)

This means that in New York, even the driver deemed mostly at fault for an accident can walk away with a sizable payout for that accident. Most states have common-sense rules which only permit recovery of non-economic damages if a plaintiff is not primarily at fault for the accident. The Governor is seeking changes to the state's laws that will limit the non-economic damages a driver can obtain if they are mostly at fault for an accident, introducing a measure of accountability for who is compensated by insurance after an incident.

Tightening the Serious Injury Threshold

New York's no-fault insurance law allows for individuals injured in an auto accident to make claims for compensation that stretches beyond reimbursement for the medical expenses or lost wages associated with an injury. This additional compensation is intended to offer support for the pain and suffering of victims with serious injuries. New York's legal definition of serious injury is vague, applied inconsistently, and can include temporary injuries that only sideline an individual for a short time following an accident rather than the more significant injuries that would merit further payouts. Without a fair and firm definition of serious injuries, individuals without significant harms may try to game the system to win astronomically high "jackpot" awards from courts associated with these harms - raising rates for everyone else.

Governor Hochul will reform the serious injury threshold by proposing objective and fair medical standards for what actually qualifies as a serious injury. This reform will create clear and objective criteria for what constitutes a serious injury, avoid unnecessary and expensive litigation, and help stop individuals from exploiting the system to win payouts that are not aligned with the severity of their injuries and push everyone else's rates up.

Reforming Joint and Several Liability

In New York, in cases with more than one defendant, each defendant can be held responsible for the entire amount of non-economic damages, regardless of their allocation of fault, if the other defendants fail to pay.

New York would join 28 other states in adopting a rule that would change this standard for defendants who are less than 50 percent at fault, so that these defendants are held responsible only for the damage they caused. This will allow insurance companies to price premiums lower, since they will only have to account for damages caused by the people they are insuring.

Ensuring Consumers, Not Insurance Companies, Benefit From Savings

Since the 1970s, DFS has maintained the Excess Profit Law as a critical consumer protection against auto insurers making excess profits on the backs of consumers. This law acts as a "circuit breaker" by requiring auto insurers to return any profit exceeding a certain threshold directly to policyholders. While carriers have recently operated at a net loss, reforms to the auto insurance law as proposed above would be expected to generate significant operational savings for the industry. If these reforms are enacted, Governor Hochul will direct DFS to re-examine the Excess Profit Law and in particular the current threshold trigger, ensuring consumers are prioritized.

Increasing Transparency For Policyholders in the Auto Insurance Market

Too often, auto insurance rates for policyholders rise without explanation, or relation to any identifiable change in context. In a time of high rates, New Yorkers deserve to understand when and why their insurance premiums go up. The Governor will increase transparency by requiring insurers to notify policyholders about rate changes and explain why the changes are happening.

Improving Incentives To Drive Safely

While guarding against bad actors gaming the system, insurance companies should also seek opportunities to reward drivers who play by the rules and keep themselves and others safe. Governor Hochul is seeking to reduce insurance costs by enlisting drivers as partners in her efforts to make our roads safer, leveraging technology to reduce insurance rates. The Governor will require insurance companies to offer discounts on insurance rates when drivers voluntarily opt into programs that have been shown to reduce unsafe driving and fraud.

UC Board of Elections Reminds Voters of Party Enrollment Change Deadline and Upcoming DMV System Outage Ulster County, NY

The Ulster County Board of Elections (BOE) reminds voters that the deadline to change party enrollment is Saturday, February 14, 2026.

The Board of Elections will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 14 to accept enrollment change requests. The Ulster County Board of Elections is located at 79 Hurley Avenue, Suite 112, Kingston NY 12401. This is a receipt-based deadline, meaning the BOE must receive a voter's request by the deadline in order for it to be processed.

Voters planning to change their enrollment online should be aware that the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has scheduled system maintenance beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026. The DMV's online portal will be unavailable from that time through the close of the February 14 deadline.

Voters who wish to use the DMV's online system are strongly encouraged to submit their request before 2:00 p.m. on February 13.

After that time, voters may:

- Use the New York State Online Voter Registration (OVR) system, or
- Submit their enrollment change in person at the Ulster County Board of Elections during business hours on February 14 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).

The safest way to ensure a change of enrollment is received on time is to appear in person at the Board of Elections before 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2026.

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Ulster County Board of Elections at 845-334-5470 or visit VoteUlster.com



Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides
Like new! \$14,500.

845-434-5539
Leave a message and phone

Olive Free Library

SENIOR ART GROUP

Meets at the

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

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

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

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

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

Come join us!

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

with Kathy Carey

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

\$6/class

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

Conversations With Death

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

Starting Saturday, January 3

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

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

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

INTRO TO BEEKEEPING

with Rob Overton

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

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

Music Café

WINTER INTERMISSION

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



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

D.I.Y. ENERGY SAVINGS SESSION

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

Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

**Family
Friendly!**

Register Now!

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



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Smart Energy Choices — Mid-Hudson



Shadowland –Last chance to help us reach our goal!

DONATE HERE

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

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

GIVE the Gift of Theatre with a Gift Certificate

shadowlandstages.org

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration!

WE'RE DREAMING OF:



MOVING VAN

REAMS OF PAPER - we love to print scripts!

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

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

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

FLAT SCREEN MONITORS - minimum size 32" for marketing.

PIPE THREADER

COMMERCIAL PAINT SPRAYER

WELDING SCREENS

MIKITA 18v BATTERIES

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

CAFFEINE AND CAMARADERIE VETERANS COFFEE HOUR



**EVERY MONDAY
10AM-11AM**

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

DON'T STAY COLD...

*Come in where
it's warm!*



A service of

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COUNTY CATSKILLS
Mountains of Opportunity

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

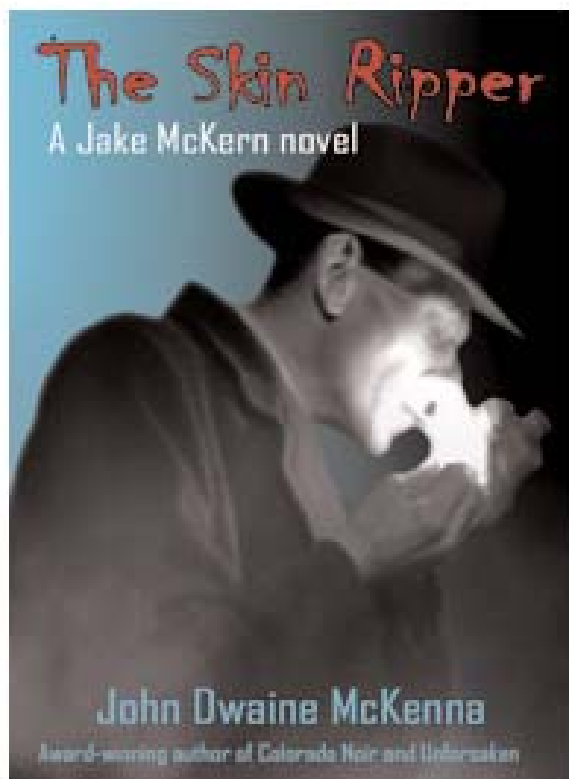
United Methodist Church, 170 North Main Street, Liberty
St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John Street, Monticello

The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

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



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

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

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

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

Neversink General Store

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple
And bookstores everywhere.



Sponsor a Flag in the Town of Neversink

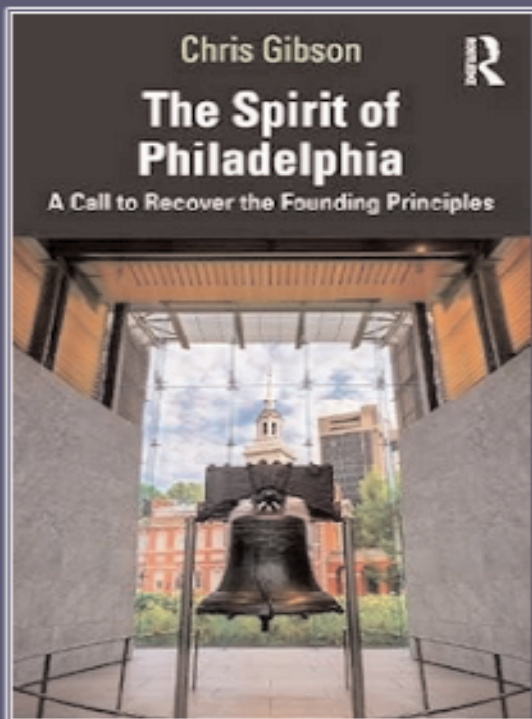
This is a unique opportunity for you to honor your hero. A loved one. A friend. Military. Non-Military. Maybe it is someone who changed your life.

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

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

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





The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

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

[TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com](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





**All blood types
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Donate Blood. Help Save Lives.

Daniel Pierce Library Community Blood Drive

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9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

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Walk-Ins Welcome - Appointments Preferred!



Daniel Pierce Library

5 HOUR PRE-LICENSING CLASS FOR PERMIT HOLDERS

DMV approved class and mandatory for unlicensed students 16 and up looking to get their license. Students must hold a NYS "photo" permit to attend.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

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

Looking to get your license? This 5 hour DMV approved course will provide you with a certificate good for 1 year. Brought to you by J & J Driving School, instructed and owned by La June Black with over 25 years experience.

Class fee is \$45 per student. To secure registration submit checks to DPL payable to J & J Driving School prior to class date. Please stop in to the library today. Space is limited.

- Become a safe driver
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- Get certificate valid for 1 year
- Gain confidence
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Are you a parent struggling with your family?
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Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

Give us a call or send us a text and
someone will always be there to listen
and help you deal with your situation.



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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

We're Here to Listen:
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Obtenga los
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Alyssa Wowk

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awowk@chowc.net

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- ▶ Messaging Apps
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Sign up today!

For more information, stop at the checkout desk.

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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- ❖ Mamakating Transfer Station
- ❖ Rockland Transfer Station
- ❖ Interim Western Sullivan
Transfer Station

Visit our website for additional information including hours of operation

Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling

www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling

recycling@sullivanyny.gov


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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!

Contact Anne-Marie at afreitas@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

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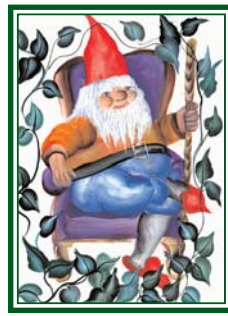


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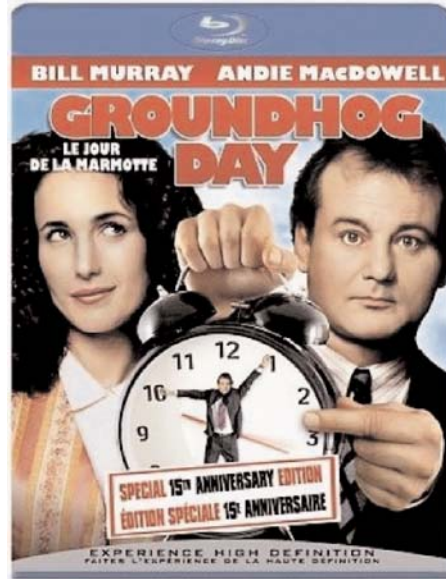
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GROUNDHOG DAY

Groundhog Day is a 1993 American fantasy and romantic comedy film directed by Harold Ramis from a screenplay by him and Danny Rubin. Starring Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, and Chris Elliott.



Phil Connors, (Bill Murray) a cynical self-centered television weatherman covering the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, becomes trapped in a time loop, forcing him to relive February 2nd repeatedly until he learns to become a better human.

Phil's producer, Rita, (Andie MacDowell) falls in love with him. The opposite of Phil, her eyes light up in wonder at the excitement of heading to Gobbler's Knob for the first time despite Phil's cynical

attitude of being totally annoyed with having to go every year, reliving the day he dreads - *Groundhog Day*.

Fun facts about *Groundhog Day* –the movie:

- Punxsutawney Phil was not used in the making of this film
- The film wasn't shot in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, but rather in Woodstock, Illinois
- Murray was bitten twice by the groundhog while filming and even needed to get rabies shots just in case.
- In 2016 *Groundhog Day* was made into a Broadway musical.

**Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome**

**Answer to last week's Knarf's Trivia
Question: *The Brooklyn Bridge***

This weeks' Trivia question: Who played Richard Gere's suspicious wife in *Shall We Dance*?