



VOL. 23 NO. 2 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 8, 2026

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

Grahamsville Gorilla

By David G. White, January 5, 2025

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream." Or maybe something else: The childhood song takes on new meaning in connection with the area's newest ice cream parlor and restaurant, the "Grahamsville Gorilla." Turns out there are two, very different stories behind the name.



GG ice-cream sandwiches
Photo by GG

Clark Road in Grahamsville. One spring evening after dark, Dave and Dale were playing in the bedroom when they were startled by tapping at the window. Peering in was a giant...gorilla! "It was so big it had to bend over to look in," said Dave. He describes it as huge, wide, with long arms and covered in shaggy reddish-brown fur. "I got the hell out," he said, followed closely by his brother. (Contd, Pg. 4)

The first is told by Dave Donovan of Neversink. He explains that in the 1970s, he and his brother, Dale, were living with their mother, Nancy, on



GG black raspberry soft serve
Photo by GG



GG iced coffee
Photo by GG



GG chillin'
Photo by GG

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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 Telephone numbers will not be published.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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

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

Psalm 49:3

OBITUARIES

Vincent Raymond Ziniewicz



passed away on January 2, 2026, at G a r n e t Health Medical Center. He was 81 years old. Vincent was born on June 27, 1944, in A s h l a n d ,

Pennsylvania, and was the son of the late Ruth Freed. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam war before beginning a lifelong career in education and service to others.

Vincent started his professional career as a physical education teacher at Tri-Valley Central School, where he also coached football and basketball. He later became the Recreational Supervisor at Woodbourne Correctional Facility. Even after retiring, Vincent's love for teaching never faded, and he returned to education as a substitute teacher in the Ellenville School District. He truly loved working with children and took great pride in encouraging and motivating them to follow their dreams.

An avid reader and lifelong advocate of staying physically active, Vincent enjoyed running, swimming, golfing, and spending as much time outdoors as possible. Even during the winter months, he could often be found bundled up in blankets outside, enjoying the fresh air with his daughter's dog, Olympia, faithfully by his side. He also enjoyed building and landscaping his beautiful property in the woods. He often would call it the Ziniewicz resort. He had a special fondness for cars—especially BMWs. Over the years, he owned several vehicles, each one telling a story of a different chapter in his life.

Vincent loved camping, biking and hiking particularly when his daughter was younger. As his family grew, he cherished spending time with his grandchildren and traveling with his beloved wife. He enjoyed the aspects of cruising, whether watching the waves,

exploring new destinations, or simply sharing the experience together. Among his favorite travels were visits to the Panama Canal, Hawaii and Alaska. His absolute favorite destination was visiting his daughter and family in Methuen, Massachusetts. He loved spending time in their backyard oasis complete with a pool for swimming laps.

Spiritual by nature, Vincent found comfort in journaling and reflection. He was adventurous, family-oriented, and known for his fun-loving and determined personality. One of his favorite sayings was, "Never quit, never give up on your dreams." That philosophy guided his life and inspired those around him.

Vincent will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He leaves behind his devoted wife of 54 years, Rosey Ziniewicz; his daughter, Melanie Ricupero, and her husband, Ben; his cherished granddaughters, Isabella and Grace Ricupero; his sister, Linda Levine, and her husband, Alan; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers- and sisters-in-law, and dear friends.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass followed at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Interment took place at Grahamsville Rural Cemetery with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Vincent's name to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, the Wounded Warrior Project, or any veterans organization of your choice.

Arrangements are under the care of Colonial Family Funeral Home. For further information, please call 845-434-7363 or visit their website.

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Vincent Ziniewicz, please visit our flower store.

Rose Marie Cuttita, 87, of Divine



C o r n e r s , passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones on January 2nd, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer. (Contd. Pg. 5)

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History

January 4, 1956

At chore time on Friday afternoon, Archie Dean Jr. was putting the milking machine onto a three-year old cow when something frightened the cow and she kicked, hitting him. Dr. Tomkins was called and it was found upon examination that the right leg was broken above the ankle. He was taken to Liberty Loomis hospital for treatment and will probably be laid up for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander La Hanco of Lackawack are the parents of a son, Keith Allen, born at Veterans Memorial Hospital on December 28th.

For a New Year's resolution
That is smart and clever too,
Resolve to shop and save at home,
It's the thrifty thing to do.
KUM TO KRUM'S

January 5, 1966

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Nash of Neversink, born on January 3, 1966 at Liberty Maimonides Hospital, has been hailed as Sullivan County's first baby of the New Year. The new miss weighed in at almost 7 lbs. She is the Nash's fourth child. The proud maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edwards Sr. and the proud paternal and the proud paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Nash all of Neversink.

January 7, 1976

Anniversary greetings to Richard and Caroline Dickerman on January 17th and to George and Joan Stailing on the 22nd.

Earl D. Sheeley died Friday in Ellenville Hospital after a long illness. He was 72. Born in Eureka on Nov. 16, 1903 to Otis and Hattie Low Sheeley, he was a lifelong area resident. He was retired from the Earl D. Sheeley Trucking and Fuel Co. He is survived by a son, Horace of Grahamsville, and a daughter, Mrs. Frances Ter Bush; eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild and many nieces and nephews.

January 9, 1986

The engagement of Wendy Anne Moshier and John Joseph Diaco, son of Mario and Phyllis Diaco of Monticello, has been announced by Edward and Carol Moshier of Grahamsville, parents of the future bride. Miss Moshier is a graduate of Ellenville High School and is a customer service assistant at the Rhulen Agency, Monticello. Her fiancé is employed by Diaco Construction, Monticello. Wedding plans are incomplete.

Household Hint:

Stop Winter Static Cling

Fabric softener or dryer sheets are commonly used to reduce static cling. To remove static cling that plagues you after you're already dressed, rub a dryer sheet directly onto your legs, socks, or tights to remove static cling and stop skirts from riding up your legs..

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

Canada Geese - Real Traffic Stoppers!

If you are driving along the Sundown Road, near the eagle watch, have you noticed the gaggle of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) that has wintered over. In recent years, we are seeing an increasing number of Canada geese year round. These geese are referred to as "resident" Canada geese. Resident geese are descended from captive populations. Until the 1930s, waterfowl hunters often kept tame flocks of geese and ducks to act as live decoys. When that practice was outlawed in 1935, some of those geese, which had no natural inclination to migrate, ended up living as wild birds. Resident birds have little reason to migrate during winter as it is not about the temperature, it's about the food supply. As long as they have a food supply, they will weather the winter storms.



Canada geese are large birds, 20 to 50 inches long with a wingspan of 50-68 inches and generally have plenty of fat reserves to survive harsh winters. Canada geese have long black heads and necks, with a distinct white mark near their chin. Their plumage includes brown-grey feathers on their back and cream or white feathers on their belly and rump. They have a short black tail and black legs with webbed feet.

Canada Geese are known to maintain a life-long mate; however a widowed goose will usually choose another mate. A soon as there is open water for mating and snow-free nest sites, a clutch of eggs will be laid. The mother goose incubates them with her warm body for about 26 days while the gander (male) guards the nest. Should you accidentally wander into a nesting male's territory, he'll come after you hissing with wings spread.

At the end of the incubation period, the baby geese peck at their shells with the 'egg tooth' found at the end of their bill. It will take the baby gosling 1 to 2 days to free themselves from the egg. After the babies have hatched, the family will move away from the nesting site on foot toward a more favorable feeding area. The newly hatched goslings are able to swim immediately. The young are tended by both parents, but feed themselves. Their first flight varies, usually between 7-9 weeks. Five weeks after the goslings hatch, the adult females begin moulting. The males begin right after mating. During this time, the adults are unable to fly until they re-grow their new flight feathers which is about the same time as the nine week old baby goslings are learning to fly.

Both the male and female goose accompany the babies during their swims. Goslings can dive and swim 30-40 feet underwater and they eat almost continuously. Their diet is almost entirely plant material including stems and shoots of grasses, sedges, aquatic plants, also seeds and berries. They will consume many cultivated grains and on occasion will eat some insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and even small fish.

Canada Geese have become quite a common sight in city parks and in urban areas, are permanent residents.

Canada geese add beauty and diversity to the environment and increase recreational opportunities wherever they are found. These majestic birds provide us with a connection to the wild even in urban and suburban settings.

Grahamsville Gorilla (From Pg. 1)

The creature returned the next night. Again, it tapped on the window, only this time it was more aggressive. Donovan said it circled around the house and tried to break in through the back door. John Brackman unloaded a 35 caliber Remington through the door, driving it away. But not completely. "It ran up the hill," said Donovan, "ripped a big boulder out of the hillside and threw it at the house." As he describes it, the boulder was some three feet across. A search afterwards found no blood but a small patch of coarse, reddish brown hair was stuck on a fence.

Dave connects his experience to the mysterious deaths of cattle at Ralph Slader's farm on Rt. 55. "That was the third night," Dave recounts. "Three cows had their necks broken. The police investigated. They thought we were nuts."

Ken Irwin of Zanetti's Service Center, indirectly corroborates Dave's story. In about 1994, he and a friend "saw a red



Ken Irwin of Zanetti's holds up his "gorilla" hat.

Photo by Jenny Lee

he obtained and wore a gorilla suit to conceal his identity and put a fright into his wayward spouse.

Dave Donovan disputes this. "Couldn't have been him," he said, shaking his head. "That gun would have killed him."

The Tinker Donovan version of the legend has two endings. In the first, a gorilla suit is located at Bill Brenner's place, where Tinker had been staying. In the other, the State Police find the suit in Tinker's car. Mike Dean from Claryville said he has no



The Grahamsville Gorilla ice-cream stand in Grahamsville

Photo from GG

one" near the ski lodge at Mt. Peter in Warwick, further south in the Hudson Valley. The description is a close match to Dave Donovan's, "seven feet tall and wide," he said, emphasizing the girth with his hands. The demonstration was particularly effective because Irwin delivered it wearing a gorilla hat, although he contends it was a "Chewbacca." In mufti, Irwin continued, "It had black eyes and fingers covered in fur, like a dog's tail."

The second story also involves the Donovan family but with a twist. The legend is that Duane Donovan aka "Tinker," Dave and Dale's father, decided to get creative about surveilling his wife after they separated. To that end,



Ken runs the auto repair shop when he's not roaming the hills of Grahamsville

Photo by Jenny Lee

personal knowledge of the story but added, with a chuckle, "I knew Tinker, and he was the kind of guy that would do that." So whether the inspiration for the restaurant's name is cryptid or domestic contretemps, the Grahamsville Gorilla serves up some fine ice cream and burgers. And both versions make for good stories.



A gorilla named Kidogo takes a stroll in the snow

Photo from Dewar Wildlife

OBITUARIES

(From Pg. 2)

Rose Marie Cittota

Rose was born on November 30, 1938. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who devoted her entire life to her family. She was a source of love, warmth and strength to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed and forever in our hearts. She was an avid reader, loved gardening and was always doing yard work, even while battling cancer she trimmed the hedges. She loved taking care of her chickens. When she told us she got chickens we all thought, that's nice, how many did you get? She told us 50, we were all surprised but not surprised! She also loved feeding the wild birds, always buying feeders and bird seeds. She was forever trying to outsmart the squirrels. We were always waiting to see who would win the most recent battle.

"You don't know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have." Rose was always a strong, independent woman, and she fought valiantly against the deadly foe. "It is not the strength of the body that counts, but the strength of the spirit." Cancer claimed her body, but her spirit soars free and she is now at peace.

She was preceded in death by her parents Edwin Fredenburgh and Esther Thomas, her first husband Carl Huebsch and her son William Huebsch.

She is survived by her devoted husband Frank Cuttita of 53 years of marriage, her children Nancy Brey of New York (husband Daniel), Wendy Moss of North Carolina (husband Shelley), Cynthia Willams of New York (husband Shawn), Steven Cuttita of Vermont (wife Kaitlyn), Teresa Butler of New York (husband Bill), and James Cuttita of Florida (wife Kristy). Nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Richard Fredenburgh of Florida.

Visitation will be on Friday, January 9, 2026, at Colonial Ramsay Funeral Home, 275 South Main Street, Liberty, NY 12754 from 11:30am-1:30pm. A funeral service will begin at the funeral home at 1:30pm. Interment will follow at Laurel Hill Cemetery, White Sulphur Springs, NY.

Arrangements are under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home. For further information please call 845-434-7363 or visit www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

Flowers are accepted or a memorial donation can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org/donate.

LOOKING BACK

Beatrice Akerley

Published December 4, 1997

For most of us folks in this day and age, about the biggest threat a winter storm poses is a few hours of inconvenience. We just turn up the heat and wait for the snow plows to push away the drifts and then we resume our daily schedule.

Sometimes we may pause a few minutes to listen as a neighbor brags about how quickly he wiped his driveway clean with his new snow blower. This wasn't always so.

There was a time when getting through a blizzard was much more than an inconvenience. It could even be a struggle for survival. I can recall some of those days. Going into the forest with dad during a blizzard while he chopped and us kids were the carriers. The sound of that ax ringing in the frosty air mingled with our laughter made it an enjoyable job, an activity spurred only by visions of the crackling fire that we would all enjoy a little later on in the day.

If you were snowbound in the early 1900's you generally stayed that way for days. It wasn't that the storms were more severe or the snow deeper back then, in spite of what you tell your grandchildren. The truth is that our snow removal equipment wasn't anything to brag about. Our township cleared our roads with a grader and horses and they paid a dollar a day to anyone who would show up with a shovel. We had no snow shovels in those days, only grain shovels, but they worked and our winters were no longer than they are today.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Israel Always Fighting For Survival

Israel, our important strategic ally in the Middle East, and Hamas have approved a ceasefire and a potential peace plan. The United Nations approved the U.S. sponsored plan. President Trump and administration negotiators secured the ceasefire and peace plan, which could possibly lead to wider stability and peace throughout the Middle East. Undoubtedly, Jews around the world and our 60 million Evangelical Christians in the U.S. appreciate the efforts of President Trump to increase Israel's security in the region.

The Middle East is fraught with competing nationalities, religions, factions and ethnicities vying for power who do not get along. Israel has forged alliances and good relations with a number of Middle East countries and some of these religious factions and groups, but there will always be some animosity between Arabs and non-Arabs.

The mindset in Israel is probably affected by the Jew hatred passed down through millennia. The Spanish Inquisition and the Holocaust are prime examples of the institutional Jew hatred perpetuated in Europe. A survey of a few years ago revealed Jew hatred infected 20% to 45% of the populations of various European countries. It could be based on jealousy and contrived myths espoused in religious teachings. European countries with low Jew hatred are Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Great Britain.

Against this backdrop Israel will always be fighting to survive. It is important for the U.S. to have a strong Israel to help counter Chinese and Russian influence in the Middle East and thwart Iranian aggression and anti-American behavior in the region.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 162

The Line That Held Us

Mysterious Book Report No. 316

by John Dwaine McKenna

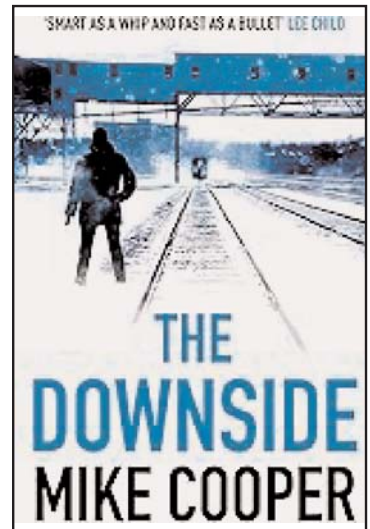
Published January 11, 2018



The MBR is kicking off the New Year 2018 with one of the best caper novels to come our way since *The Sting* was made into a movie back in 1973. It features one of the most unique bad guys in current crime fiction. His name is Finn and he's a professional thief who calls himself *the last of the hard hats*, that's because

he only steals big things . . . like a tractor-trailer load of new luxury automobiles, or heavy machinery . . . even a couple of railcars full of exotic ores for processing high strength steel. Finn's a guy who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, knows how to operate anything with a motor and has a hand-picked crew of men with calloused hands, dirty fingernails and larceny in their hearts. We meet them all in *The Downside*, (Mysterious Press/Open Road, PB \$14.99, 286 pages, ISBN 978-1-5040-4461-5) by Mike Cooper. Finn is fresh out of prison and flat broke. He's contacted by a beautiful woman named Emily who's the executive assistant to a shady Wall Street billionaire who wants to finance Finn's next job. It's easy . . . all he has to do is break into a high security commodities warehouse and make off with fifty million dollars worth of the precious metal Rhodium. Big and heavy, it's right up Finn's alley. He reassembles the very same crew from his last job, the one that put him in prison for seven years, and prepares to tunnel into an unbreachable vault. His only problem? Somewhere in his crew of construction workers is a turncoat . . . the rat who put him in prison. Determined, focused, and wary of everyone, Finn lays out a plan and starts buying heavy equipment to do the job. This novel moves at breakneck speed and never slows down, with a blue collar anti-hero you'll be rooting for, long before the novel comes to it's dynamic conclusion. The MBR is fascinated by Finn, and looking for more of him from the award winning pen of Mike Cooper, which is the pen name of author Mike Weicek. Like the review . . . let your friends know, You saw it in the *Mysterious Book Report* .

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



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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Prosperity

As we head into this New Year, be reminded that prosperity is not necessarily a bank balance. My wish for you is health, not wealth. May you have enough with left-over to share.

"Every day is a bank account, and time is our currency. No one is rich, no one is poor, we've got 24 hours each."

-- Christopher Rice

Our good friend, Gene Gormley, a mortician, once quipped, "There's no Brinks truck following the hearse, and there are no pockets in a shroud."

Actually we are equally rich when we are born. Each is given a lifetime to spend as we choose. Some may collect dollars or bitcoins or stocks and bonds and expensive possessions, but these things can be meaningless without the love and respect of others and the presence of good health and happiness. Steve Jobs final speech is a reminder that wealth, which I define as anything over "enough", cannot buy these things.

When my mom passed away, I found a check in her wallet. It was made out to herself with the amount filled in with the word "ABUNDANCE." It was signed "the Universe."



Watching the news now, pundits throw around amounts in millions and billions and trillions with umpteen zeroes I cannot even fathom. I remember being on a strict household budget and rejoicing when there was a cushion of double digits left over.

ABUNDANCE is having just a little more than ENOUGH. ABUNDANCE means you have security, and discretion to splurge or to share.

As I look around at the possessions I just had to covet and buy, I realize how few really have value. The Westmoreland milk glass pitcher worth about \$119. will probably wind up on a garage sale table marked \$2.00. My overstuffed wardrobe closet will be emptied into garbage bags and donated to some bin of used clothing somewhere.

Our idea of being "rich" changes over time. Our beginning decades are spent in wanting and craving; the middle decades in accumulating, and the final decades in downsizing and just plain being. We begin to realize how very precious our bank account of time is, and we become careful about how we spend it and with whom we spend it.

May your wallet or bank account hold enough to enjoy your life account. I wish you ABUNDANCE so you have enough to share.

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

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

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

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



"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

--Albert Einstein

Sullivan 180 Announces 2026 Funding and Programs

Grant Applications Are Now Available Online

[LIBERTY, NY] The 2026 Sullivan 180 grant programs are open, and the following applications are available: Community Beautification, School Beautification, Municipal Partnership and Community Development. Application deadlines, grant resources and eligibility vary. All grants require that youth be engaged in or impacted by the projects.

Community Beautification Grants fund the creation and care of gardens and public spaces where people live, work, and play, promoting vibrant and healthy communities.

School Beautification Grants support schools in enhancing their campuses and creating welcoming, natural environments for students and staff. Gardening, planting trees and creating gardens, outdoor learning spaces strengthens students' and staff connection to their school and fosters pride in place by engaging.

Municipal Partnership Grants assist Sullivan County towns and villages with the care of public spaces, supporting youth initiatives, and/or environmental stewardship.

Community Development Grants support public art, community events, trail stewardship, pocket parks and other initiatives that implement placemaking tools to build healthy communities.

"Sullivan 180 focuses on the social determinants of health by engaging volunteers to improve the built and natural environments of their communities," said Denise Frangipane, Sullivan 180 CEO. "Sullivan 180 grants provide resources for grassroots, volunteer and community driven efforts. This is the people and the places part of our mission to build a healthy community."

For more information or to download applications, visit www.Sullivan180.org/grants-scholarships or call (845) 295-2680.

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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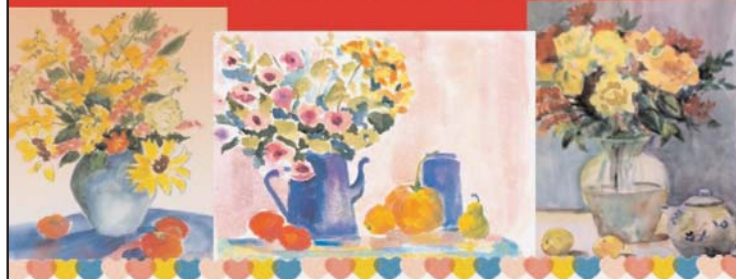
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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

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 Tully Valley adult residents. Advanced registration required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org



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Chicken Guru to Speak at Catskill Exotic Bird Club Meeting

Craig Russell, internationally renowned chicken expert, will be the guest speaker this Thursday, January 15th, at 7PM, at the meeting of the Catskill Exotic Bird Club. Russell is the undisputed authority on the history of heritage breeds of chickens and he will be bringing a selection of rare breeds to the meeting.

Russell, who was the long-time president of the Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities, has been involved with heritage and rare breeds of chickens nearly his entire life. He has travelled the world in search of "antique" chicken breeds and he is a much sought-after speaker. He is an entertaining raconteur; even if your knowledge of chickens is confined to the poultry counter at ShopRite, Craig will have you mesmerized with his stories of America's favorite bird. Craig will discuss and answer questions about all the breeds that we keep as backyard flocks.

The Club meets at 20 Crystal Street in Monticello. It is handicap accessible and there is ample parking. One of the oldest exotic bird clubs in the country, the Catskill Exotic Bird Club was founded 30 years ago as a means to offer a social setting and provide programs for owners of exotic birds, in particular parrots, and those who have an interest in birds in general. Everyone is invited free of charge. For more information, call (845) 794-7966 or (845) 807-6725.

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2026 Introduces the next iteration of the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) Workshop Series from CCE Sullivan, the CRC, and SALT

LIBERTY, NY - CCE Sullivan, the Caregiver Resource Center (CRC) and Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT) are kicking off 2026 with the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) workshop series. The series will take place from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM every Monday from February 9th to March 16th, at the Golden Park Apartments Community Room at 46 Golden Park Lane in Liberty.

All sessions in the series will be facilitated by Team Leader & Caregiver Resource Center Educator, Nancy McGraw as well as Prevention Programs Issue Leader, Martin Colavito. Topics to be covered include:

- The aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Risk factors and behaviors to avoid.
- How alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect older adults differently and how to avoid problems.
- Tools to empower your health and the health-care you receive.

Participation in this series is free to all attendees! Due to limited space, registration is required. If interested, please visit <https://sullivanvance.org/events> to learn more and to register. Those with related questions can contact the CCESC office at (845) 292-6180 or sullivan@cornell.edu as well as the Caregiver Resource Center at (845) 292-6180 ext. 122 or sullivanvancrc@cornell.edu. Many more caregiver programs and events are to come, so stay tuned!

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. The public can contact the office to request accommodations.



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LEADING TOGETHER

Arts Society of Kingston (ASK) - Call for Art Theme: H2O

The Arts Society of Kingston (ASK) invites member artists to submit work for H2O, a group exhibition exploring water as an elemental force at the center of life, culture, and community.

ASK is located in Kingston's Rondout waterfront district, an area shaped by the river and its long history of trade, movement, and exchange. This setting offers a quiet backdrop for reflecting on water's role in shaping place, labor, connection, and daily life-past and present.


Water is life-giving and finite-a source of sustenance, reflection, memory, and renewal. It moves through our bodies, landscapes, and histories. It can be gentle or overwhelming, abundant or scarce, freely flowing or carefully contained. Shaped by both natural forces and human hands, water is collected, bottled, diverted, protected, polluted, shared, and revered.

This exhibition invites artists to consider water as material and metaphor, natural force and poetic symbol, intimate presence and expansive system. We welcome work that reflects on water as a precious resource and a shared inheritance-one that connects us to place, to one another, and to the future.

Artists are asked to explore:

- Rivers, oceans, rain, ice, and groundwater
- Water as sustenance, movement, rhythm, and passage
- Relationships between abundance and scarcity
- Human interaction with water through care, use, memory, and ritual
- Water as reflection, transformation, and renewal

Work may be literal or abstract, personal or collective, quiet or bold. In keeping with ASK's mission, this exhibition values curiosity, accessibility, and a wide range of artistic voices and approaches.



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Eligible Media:

All visual media are welcome, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, ceramics, fiber, printmaking, installation, video, sound, and mixed media. (If doing video or sound, please be prepared to provide your own technical set up.)

Who Can submit:

Open to all ASK member artists of all backgrounds and career stages. Local, regional, and visiting artists are encouraged to apply.

Submission Requirements:

- o Up to 3 images or 1 video/sound links (ASK may only use 1 - 2 images, depending on demand)
- o Artwork details: title, year, medium, dimensions, price
- o Contact information

Key Dates:

- o Submission Deadline: January 12, 2026
- o Exhibition Dates: March 3 -29, 2026
- o Opening Reception: Saturday March 3, 3 PM

Art Intake Dates: Tuesday 3/3: 5-8 PM, or Wednesday 3/4: 1- 4 PM

Art Pick up dates: Tuesday, 3/31: 5-8 PM Wednesday, 4/1: 1 - 4 PM

Submission Guidelines

- o Artwork will be exhibited in Members Gallery.
- o Artist must be a current member of ASK.
- o Artists will submit 1 jpg/png/mp3/mov file per work.
- o Artists must have means to transport the work to/from ASK.
- o Artists receive 70% of sales during the run of the exhibition. ASK retains 30% of sales. All work must be for sale
- o All artworks will be exhibited as entered in form. This includes the Artist Name, Artwork, Title, Date, Medium, Dimensions, and Price. No changes and/or substitutions will be permitted. Please check your details carefully.
- o Label affixed on back with Name, Title of work, Price, Phone, Address, Email.
- o Provide 2nd Label on front with same info.
- o Each work must have proper wire.
- o All exhibitors must schedule 2 dates to gallery sit if physically able.
- o Artwork must have NOT been exhibited within the last calendar year at ASK.

*To prevent overcrowding, ASK may limit members to 1 work, if needed.

Open Mic

Every Sunday:

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

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

Every Wednesday:

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

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 Janette Kahil
 Tatana Kellner
 Kay Kenny
 Donald O'Finn
 Andreas Rentsch
 Elise Gold Sewall
 Carla Shapiro
 Janet Siskind
 Frank Tagariello

Curated by Carla Shapiro

Sage

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January 17 – February 28, 2026

Opening Reception:
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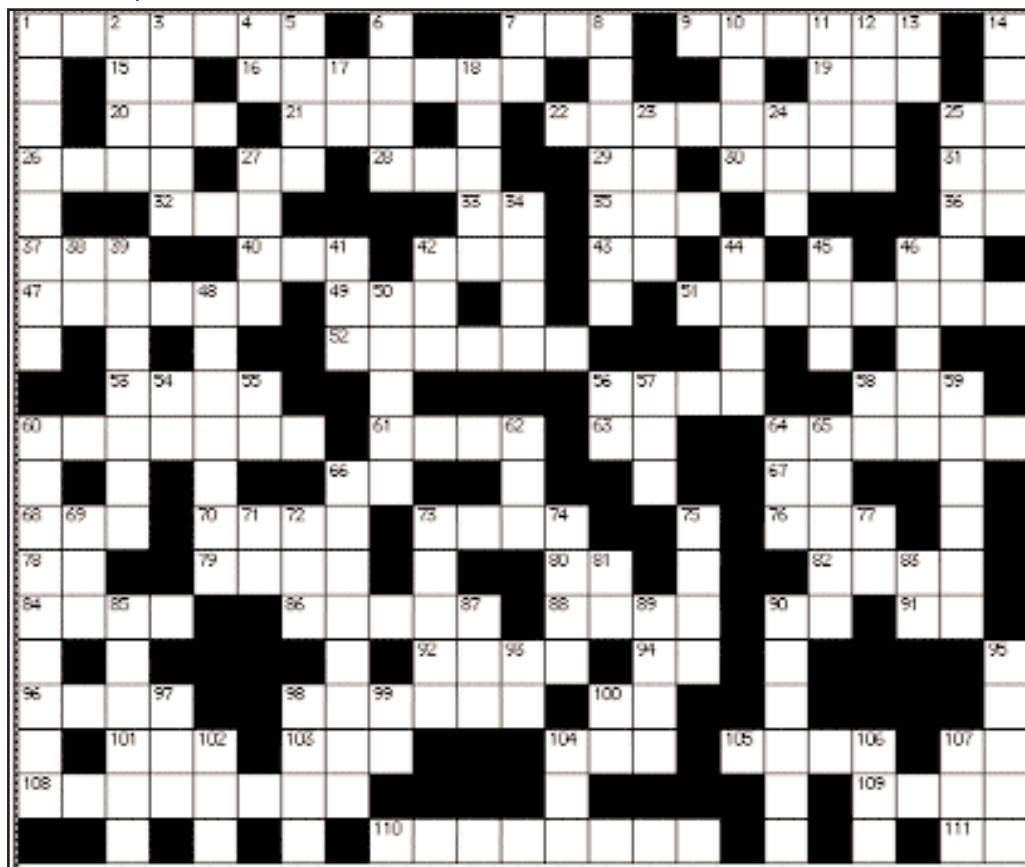
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 - \$15.00 per week
 (3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week
 (3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week
 1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week
 1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week
 Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week
 Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week
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.. 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)

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State of the State - L. Comando



DOWN
 1. Speech
 7 Short for goodbye
 9 Last
 15 Exclamation of surprise
 16 Independence
 19 Read only memory
 20 Point
 21 Used to transmit and receive documents electronically
 22 Legal paper
 25 Mother
 26 Not closed
 27 Referring to something previously mentioned
 28 Hot brewed beverage
 29 North America
 30 Proficiency
 31 Chem Element
 Argon

32 Consume food
 33 Connecticut (abbrev)
 35 Lowest cardinal number
 36 Radiotelegraphy
 37 Used with a verb to form a negative statement
 40 Be able to
 42 In accordance with
 43 The person speaking to you
 46 Staten Island
 47 Enhance
 49 Expert
 51 Elected head of a state
 52 Financial plan
 53 Title of unmarried female
 56 Tidy
 58 Polite way to address an adult male

60 Represent on a map
 61 Network of paths
 63 Elevated railway
 64 Concerning people as a whole
 66 Exclamation of triumph
 67 Indefinite article
 68 Furrow
 70 Capital of Norway
 73 Having two or more different colors
 76 Twitch
 78 To be
 79 Look to be
 80 Exist
 82 Leave out
 84 Sturdy small military vehicle
 86 Demon
 88 Female spouse
 90 Head Nurse

91 Used in a comparison
 92 Discern visually
 94 Egyptian sun god
 96 Swiss Mountains
 98 Procedure
 100 Language
 Engineer
 101 Petroleum
 103 Key that allows you to escape a computer program
 104 Utility vehicle
 105 Paid regular employment
 107 Tool used to chop wood
 108 La Guardia and Kennedy
 109 Besides
 110 Commission formed in 2013 to investigate public corruption
 111 Post Script

DOWN
 1 Legal representative

2 Occasion
 3 River that flows through Germany
 4 Source language
 5 Put through a sieve
 6 Way of sending electronic messages
 7 As a result of
 8 Wealth and resources
 10 Title
 11 Tall rounded vases
 12 Automatically
 13 Printer's measure
 14 Begin
 17 Bachelor of Arts
 18 Track down
 23 Walking stick
 24 Hearing organ
 25 Game platform series "Super"
 27 Irritation

34 Woody perennial plant
 38 Physically supported by
 39 Brass musical instrument
 41 Capture
 42 Performance enhancing drugs
 44 Announcer
 45 Archaic use for over
 46 "___mail" not email
 48 Public roc used for gaming
 50 1983 NYS Governor
 54 Internet Protocol
 55 Chemical element tin
 56 Northeast
 57 Large deer
 58 Chemical element antimony
 59 Authority to perform
 60 Herb

know for healing properties that is subject of controversy
 62 Female sheep
 64 Touch quickly
 65 Merger
 66 People without homes
 69 Utilize
 71 South-east
 72 Light emitting diode
 73 Illegal creation of commercial websites

74 First light
 75 Concept
 77 Centimeter
 81 Third note of the diatonic scale
 83 Iowa (postal)
 85 Ship abroad
 87 August sun sign
 89 Unenumbered
 90 Kudos
 93 Election District
 95 Compul-

sory contribution to state revenue
 97 Drink slowly
 98 NY Baseball team
 99 Chemical element technetium
 100 Lieutenant (abbrev)
 102 Record
 104 Uniform Resource Locator
 106 Ocean
 107 Viper

Best Meatloaf

3/4 c. dry bread crumbs
 1/2 c. milk
 1 1/2 lb. ground beef
 1/2 lb. pork sausage with sage
 2 beaten eggs
 1/s c. chopped onion
 1/4 c. chopped green pepper
 1/ 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. pepper
 chili sauce

Soak crumbs in milk; add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Pack into 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 2 1/2-inch loaf pan to shape. Invert on shallow baking pan. Score loaf diagonally with handle of wooden spoon. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Fill scored marks on top with chili sauce. Bake 15 minutes longer. Makes 6-8 servings.

数字は単数に限る

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

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

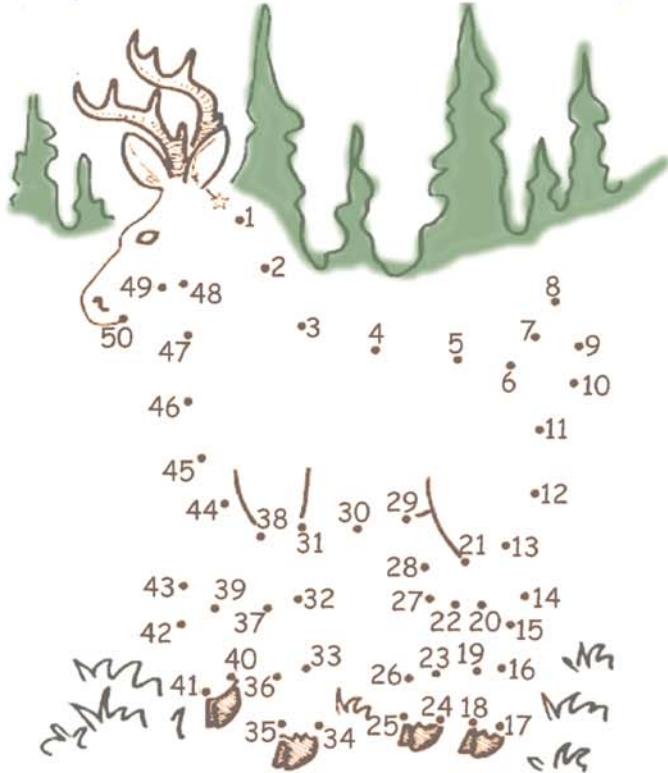
8 10 8 24 21 8 24 23 8 11 3 10 8 24 6 2 11 10 25 14
 1 18 2 17 25 11 14 24 2 8 23 8 11 3 18 7 25
 18 24 2 11 3 17 25 1 25 22 11 24 14 2 5 1 3 8 10 25
 14 5 10 25 1 5 19 6 25 3 14 25

- John Burroughs

Kids' Winter Fun Page
 L. Comando



Can you find 8 differences between the 2 pictures?



Follow the dots and you will see someone who makes their home in the Catskills.

CRYPTOGRAM KEY

16	9	13	6	4	18	2	14	7	26	15	5	10	3	20	12	11	17	22	23	25	19	21	1	8
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



Finish It looks like Frank is getting ready to ski down the mountain. Can you help him through the maze?

WORDSEARCH

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

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Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday
BOOK CLUB



The first
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every month.

Daniel Pierce Library 1st Friday Book Club
Friday, February 06, 2026 • 1:00 PM
1st Friday Book Club Type: Adults
Location: Upper Level - Conference Room
Join our book club each month and
enjoy new reading and discussions.

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

Town of Neversink

1/1/; 1/8/2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NANCY A PARROW
Tax Collector
Town of Denning

December 29th, 2025

1/1/; 1/8/2026

SLAC Agenda January 30, 2026

Happy New Year all! Our next meeting will be held in the Legislators Meeting Room, at 10 AM, Friday 1/30/26.

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.

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DEC Reminds New Yorkers of Expanded Waste Reduction Laws Taking Effect January 1, 2026 Includes Expansion of New York State's Polystyrene Foam Ban and Restrictions on Hotel Hospitality Single-Use Plastic Bottles

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is reminding businesses, organizations, and consumers of upcoming waste reduction law requirements taking effect on January 1, 2026. The provisions will help reduce pollution by expanding the State's ban on the sale or distribution of polystyrene foam food service containers to include cold storage containers and further limits the availability of single-use plastic bottles for personal care products at hotels.

"New York State's efforts to reduce polystyrene foam and single-use plastics continue to be success stories for preventing plastic pollution and improving recycling," DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. "Expansion of these restrictions will further benefit New York State residents and the environment and will encourage a switch to container and packaging options that are reusable, recyclable, and compostable."

New York State continues to advance comprehensive waste management efforts to address the impacts of solid waste on climate change and increase waste reduction, reuse, and recycling practices among New Yorkers. Through nation-leading research partnerships and policies that include the plastic bag ban, food donation and recycling law, post-consumer paint collection, and the State's Solid Waste Management Plan, among many other initiatives, DEC's ongoing efforts protect water and air quality, improve quality of life for communities, and prevent emissions that contribute to climate change. For more information about waste reduction, reuse, and recycling and steps New Yorkers can take, visit DEC's website.

Expanding the State's Polystyrene Foam Ban

Polystyrene foam is one of the top contributors of environmental litter, causing negative impacts to fish and wildlife, waterways, and other natural resources, as well as littering local communities and natural areas. Polystyrene foam is lightweight, breaks apart easily, and does not readily biodegrade. When polystyrene foam ends up as litter in the environment, it can persist for a long time and may also become microplastic pollution. In addition, polystyrene foam containers and packing peanuts are not accepted in most recycling programs in New York State because the foam is difficult to recycle

and has a low value.

Beginning January 1, 2026, no covered food service provider, manufacturer, or store will be allowed to sell, offer for sale, or distribute expanded polystyrene foam containers in New York State that are not wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable container, and are designed or intended to be used for cold storage, including, but not limited to, coolers and ice chests. New York State's foam ban prohibiting the sale or distribution of polystyrene foam disposable food service containers-including cups, bowls, plates, and trays - as well as polystyrene foam packing peanuts, has been in effect since January 1, 2022. The State's polystyrene foam ban does not include New York City, which implements a separate city-wide ban on these products.

For more information about the new requirements, including affected businesses and organizations, container types, and exemptions and how to submit a complaint, please visit DEC's Polystyrene Foam Ban Webpage or e-mail foamban@dec.ny.gov with questions.

Expanded Restrictions on Hotel Hospitality Personal Care Products in Plastic Bottles

The practice of hospitality properties providing small plastic hospitality bottles of personal care products in guest rooms and retail shops has proven wasteful in both natural resources and products. Many small, single-use plastic hospitality bottles of personal care products like shampoo, conditioner, moisturizers, and soaps/body wash, are often discarded. Plastic bottles are resistant to degradation and last many years in a landfill. As plastic bottles deteriorate, the residual contents of the products are released into the environment, while the packaging itself can also release micro and nano plastics that can negatively impact humans, wildlife, and local eco-systems.

Beginning January 1, 2026, New York State's existing ban on the use of small plastic bottles containing personal care products will be expanded to any hotel, apartment hotel, motel, or boarding house with less than 50 rooms. The new provision will prohibit these entities from providing any small plastic bottle containing less than 12 ounces of a hospitality personal care product. A hospitality personal care product is any product intended to be used on the human body for cleansing, conditioning, or moisturizing.

For more information or to file a complaint, please visit DEC's Small Plastic Hospitality Bottles Webpage or e-mail recycling@dec.ny.gov.

<https://links->

[2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fdec.ny.gov%2Fnews%2Fpress-releases/1/0101019b761fdfbe-d8144046-ecb5-4e2b-81bc-1da896f9f1ca-000000/LWDHdOkEouWzdsxok0rRMjNH5mRsEtREx B3Ny00gj_g=438](https://govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fdec.ny.gov%2Fnews%2Fpress-releases/1/0101019b761fdfbe-d8144046-ecb5-4e2b-81bc-1da896f9f1ca-000000/LWDHdOkEouWzdsxok0rRMjNH5mRsEtREx B3Ny00gj_g=438)



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

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

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

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

If so, please call or email
Time and the Valleys Museum, Grahamsville
director@timeandthevalleymuseum.org 845 985-7700
All loans will be gratefully acknowledged in the exhibition
Thank you so much!



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

**INDOOR
YARD
and
CLOTHING
SALE**

Will be
opened
every
Friday
from
10 - 3

**Something
for
Everyone!**



COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES



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

LOCATIONS IN WOODBOURNE, LIBERTY,
MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE
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MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES
CREMATION MEMORIALS & BENCHES, MONUMENT LETTERING & CLEANING

Sundown United
Methodist Church

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

**Wishing you a
Joyous
New Year!**

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

Mass Times

Sat: Vigil 4:00 PM • Sun: 9:00 AM

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

Parochial Vicar: Father Thomas

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

Pastor Kenneth Ronk

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

**Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church**

**Have a
a Happy
New Year!**

Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

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

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am

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



Loucks Funeral Home

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

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

St. Augustine's Chapel

Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am

Holy Days 5:30 pm

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also
WANTED
People to
play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

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

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS

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

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

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

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

Thank you



Sundown
United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
will resume in the Spring.

Date of next Supper
will be announced.

Wishing you all a very

Happy & Healthy
New Year!



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 direc-
tions and filing a claim, have received a check from the NYS
Comptroller's Office. It only takes a few minutes to find

Check the air quality where you are at:

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/14/2025 Town of Neversink Town Board Meeting
 1/15/2026 Town of **Denning Planning Board** Meeting—6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY
 1/18/2025 Claryville FD **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** 8 am - 12 noon
 2/10/2026 Town of **Denning Board Meeting** - 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Rd, Claryville, NY

To all **Local Municipalities, Fire Districts, Fire Depts. Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.**

Please send us your **Events Calendar for 2026**

so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year.

You may email them to: tytownsman@yahoo.com or Mail them to:

The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Thank you!

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 5, 2026 - January 9, 2026

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

Monday, January 5

9:00 AM - Special Meeting of the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District, at 5 Park Lane, Highland, NY 12528

CANCELLED - Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

Tuesday, January 6

6:00 PM - Caucuses, Democrats, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston; Republicans, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

The Following Organizational Meeting of the Legislature will be held in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & Via Livestream at [youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature](https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature):

6:30 PM - Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, January 7

5:00 PM - Ulster County Community Services Board People With Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Subcommittees, in the Ulster County Department of Mental Health, 368 Broadway, 4th Floor, Kingston

6:00 PM - Ulster County Human Rights Commission, in the Restorative Justice and Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

7:00 PM - Ulster County Planning Board, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Thursday, January 8

5:30 PM - County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 14 of 2025, A Local Law Opting The County Of Ulster Into The Real Property Tax Exemption Under § 421-p Of The New York State Real Property Tax Law For Qualifying Multifamily Rental Housing In The City Of Kingston, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

5:45 PM - County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 15 of 2025, A Local Law Amending § C-8 Of The Ulster County Charter And §A2-2 Of The Administrative Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Legislative Term Of Office, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

6:00 PM – County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 16, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Renaming Article XXXVI From Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management To Department Of Emergency Services, in the Legislative Chamber, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

6:15 PM – County Executive Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law 17 of 2025, A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Pursuant To The 2026 Ulster County Budget To County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms, in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

6:15 PM– Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Annual Organizational Meeting, at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, & Via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ucrra5008>

6:30 PM (or immediately following UCRRA AnnualOrganizationalMeeting) - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Regular Board Meeting, at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, & Via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ucrra5008>

Friday, January 9

No Meetings

ACCOMMODATING THE REPUBLIC

Taverns in the Early United States

KIRSTEN E. WOOD



Taverns in the Early United States

A Virtual Talk by
Dr. Kirsten Wood

Sunday, January 18, 2026
2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Museum Members: FREE

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

Non-Members: \$5 donation

Go to: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate to pay and then email as above.

This program is made possible through the Helen Coombe-Carol Smythe Educational Fund

Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, January 18th

Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon

Adults: \$13

Senior Citizens (age 65 +): \$11

Children Ages 5-11: \$5

Under 5 Yrs. Free

Take-outs: \$13

Call 845-985-7270

We accept cash and checks only

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



Daniel Pierce Library Senior Social!

Thursday, January 8, 2026
at 12:00 p.m.

Snow date is Friday, January 9th

Open to all community retirees & senior patrons

Join us for an afternoon of
conversation with fellow retirees
in our Community Room.

Soup and sandwiches will be served,
please bring an appetizer or
treat to share.

For more information contact Adele Barnard at
ambarnard57@gmail.com or (845)428-2383

Register at www.danielpiercelibrary.org



DEC Finalizes Regulations to Support Working Forests, Climate Resilience, and the Forest Economy

Forest Tax Law Changes Effective March 1, 2026

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced the finalization of regulation changes to the Real Property Tax Law Section 480a, also known as the Forest Tax Law. The comprehensive overhaul of the 50-year-old regulations streamlines processes and reduces administrative barriers on participating forest landowners, while strengthening sustainable timber management on enrolled lands.

“More than 75% of the 18 million acres of forests in New York are privately owned, making private forest landowners essential partners in meeting our State's environmental goals and supporting a stable, forest-based economy,” Commissioner Lefton said. “The 480a regulatory updates reinforce the role of private forests in achieving long-term forest stewardship, supporting rural economies, and conserving open space.”

New York State enacted the 480a Forest Tax Law in 1974 to encourage long-term management of forested land. The law provides a property tax incentive for private forest landowners who commit to managing their woodlands sustainably under an approved forest management plan. The updated regulations (PDF) modernize program requirements to reflect current forest management best practices and make participation more workable for forest landowners. By improving program clarity for enrollees and administrative processes, DEC is ensuring the 480a program continues to be a practical incentive to keep lands forested and sustainability managed.

The revised regulations:

- o lower administrative and compliance burdens for landowners and consulting foresters by extending the period that an approved forest management plan covers from 15 years to 20 years and requiring fewer plan updates;
- o provide greater flexibility in forest management work planning by moving away from an annual schedule;
- o strengthen sustainable forest management on enrolled lands by requiring efforts to establish adequate forest regeneration and explicitly banning harvest practices that remove most of the commercially valuable trees at the expense of future growth and future financial return; and
- o standardize program expectations, administration, and compliance by establishing a training requirement for consulting foresters working with enrolled and prospective landowners.

New York's forests play a critical role in carbon storage, climate resilience, clean water protection, and biodiversity conservation. At the same time working forests support a statewide forest products sector that provides employment in forestry, logging, manufacturing, and related services-particularly in rural regions.

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “The Department is proud to work with New York's forest landowners through the Wood Products Development Council. I'm glad to see that these updates to the State's Forest Tax Law will help to further that effort, supporting our unique wood products economies while promoting sustainable forest stewardship and protecting this treasured resource.”

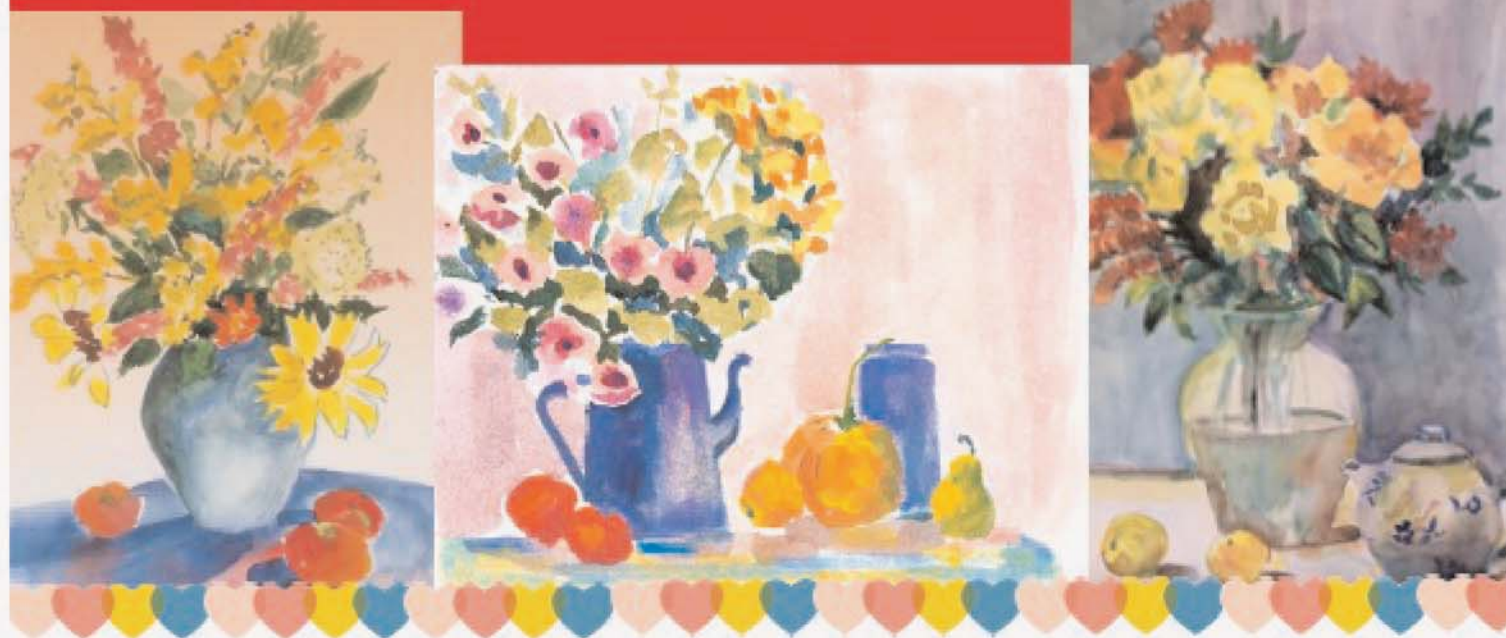
DEC released the draft regulations in 2024 and received 260 public comments from 33 separate organizations and individuals. A responsiveness summary document (PDF) is available on the DEC website.

Notice of the final regulation will appear in the State Register on December 31, 2025. The updated regulations will take effect on March 1, 2026. DEC will provide updated guidance and outreach materials to support landowners, foresters, and other stakeholders.

For more information about the new and revised regulations, as well as how to participate in the program, visit DEC's website.

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/private-forest-management/480a-forest-tax-law>

Daniel Pierce Library



Watercolor Painting with Chris Parrow

Flowers speak the language of love ♥

Friday, February 13, 2026

1:00-2:30 p.m.

\$5 Supply Fee

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

No experience necessary, limited space available. Adults only.

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

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



Daniel Pierce Library

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

Catskills Film Screening Sparks Debate Over NYC Water, Energy, and Land Use

A nearly sold-out public screening in Oneonta is drawing attention for tackling a subject most New Yorkers have never been told is changing: a shift in how New York City plans to use the Catskills once water filtration becomes inevitable.

On January 17, the New York Energy Alliance will host the world premiere of *Unfiltered: New York's Watershed Battle* at the Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center in Oneonta, followed by a live, in-person discussion on water, energy, land use, and who ultimately bears the cost of New York City's infrastructure decisions.

Organizers say the response reflects pent-up concern about a recently negotiated agreement between New York City and Delaware County that quietly opens city-owned watershed land to renewable energy development.

"For more than a century, the Catskills were told development had to be frozen to protect New York City's drinking water," said Alex Panagiotopoulos, founder of the New York Energy Alliance. "Now the city is preparing for filtration, and at the same time repositioning that same land as a renewable energy asset."

The film traces how New York City avoided building a filtration plant by purchasing and controlling hundreds of thousands of acres upstate, an arrangement that prevented population growth and economic development across the region.

According to the film and supporting research, city agencies are now planning for solar, battery storage, and future transmission infrastructure on land once considered too sensitive to touch.

That transition has already stirred debate.

Environmental groups were notably excluded from recent watershed negotiations. Local leaders were assured renewable projects would be "community-scale," yet no binding acreage limits or land-clearing caps were written into the final agreement. At the same time, Albany is advancing long-range transmission planning that could move large amounts of power from upstate generation zones to downstate load centers.

"The history that we're uncovering shows that these shifts begin quietly, and take decades for the consequences to be fully realized," Panagiotopoulos said. "If filtration is coming anyway, the Catskills deserve a real conversation about what comes next, before decisions are locked in."

The screening will be followed by a moderated discussion and audience Q&A focused on land use, grid reliability, transparency, and whether upstate communities will once again be asked to absorb the physical costs of New York City's growth without getting to determine their own future.

Event Details **Catskills Energy Future**

World Premiere Screening: *Unfiltered: New York's Watershed Battle*

January 17, 2026 • 2 to 5 PM

Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center

Tickets: \$12.50 (limited availability)

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

Purchase tickets online 24 hours a day or by phone 1-800-515-2171

www.foothillspac.org

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

Accomplishments of the Sullivan County Legislature 2025

INTRODUCTION

Comprising the governing body of Sullivan County, the nine members of the Legislature are elected by and beholden to the voters and taxpayers of the County. As such, it is the Legislature's desire to inform citizens of the work County government has accomplished on their behalf. This report is meant to fulfill that goal.

However, citizens of Sullivan County need not wait for an annual accounting of legislative activities. Any time of the year, their calls, questions, comments and concerns can be relayed to the Legislature as a whole or legislators individually. Complete contact and meeting information is available at www.sullivanny.gov/departments/legislature or by calling the Clerk of the Legislature at 845-807-0435.

2025 MEMBERS

- o District 1 - Matthew McPhillips, Democrat, Majority Leader, representing the townships of Bethel, Highland, Liberty and Thompson (hamlets of Mongaup Valley, Smallwood, White Lake, Kauneonga Lake, Bethel, Eldred, Yulan, Highland Lake, Barryville, Swan Lake and White Sulphur Springs)
- o District 2 - Nadia Rajs, Democrat, Chair, representing the townships of Forestburgh, Lumberland and Thompson, including the Village of Monticello (hamlets of Forestburgh, Glen Spey and Pond Eddy)
- o District 3 - Brian McPhillips, Democrat, representing the townships of Liberty, Neversink and Rockland (hamlets of White Sulphur Springs, Parksville, Neversink, Grahamsville, Claryville, Livingston Manor and Roscoe)
- o District 4 - Nicholas Salomone Jr., Republican, Minority Leader, representing the Township of Mamakating, including the villages of Bloomingburg and Wurtsboro (hamlets of Summitville, Phillipsport, Spring Glen and Burlingham)
- o District 5 - Catherine Scott, Democrat, representing the townships of Callicoon, Cochection, Delaware, Fremont and Tusten (hamlets of Youngsville, Callicoon Center, North Branch, Callicoon, Hortonville, Kenoza Lake, Fremont Center, Obernburg, Hankins, Long Eddy, Cochection, Lake Huntington and Narrowsburg)
- o District 6 - Luis Alvarez, Democrat, representing the townships of Bethel, Callicoon, Liberty and Thompson, including the villages of Jeffersonville and Liberty (hamlets of Ferndale, Harris, Swan Lake, White Sulphur Springs and Youngsville)
- o District 7 - Joseph Perrello, Republican, Vice Chair, representing the townships of Fallsburg and Mamakating,

including the Village of Woodridge (hamlets of Woodbourne, Fallsburg, Mountindale and Glen Wild)

- o District 8 - Amanda Ward, Republican, representing the townships of Fallsburg and Thompson, including the Village of Ateres (hamlets of Harris, Kiamesha Lake, South Fallsburg, Woodbourne, Loch Sheldrake and Hurleyville)
- o District 9 - Terry Blosser-Bernardo, Republican, representing the townships of Mamakating and Thompson, including the Village of Monticello (hamlets of Rock Hill, Thompsonville and Glen Wild)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Taxes and Finances

- o Adopted a 2026 budget which significantly reduced the proposed property tax increase without cutting services
- o Completely avoided short- or long-term borrowing in 2025, thus not creating any new debt
- o Oversaw a plateauing but substantial year of sales, mortgage and room tax revenues, collectively exceeding \$100 million
- o Updated Lodging Facility Room Occupancy Tax Law to more equitably and accurately address the burgeoning short-term rental industry
- o Sullivan County remains in best financial shape ever and free of fiscal stress, as ranked by the NYS Comptroller's Office

Infrastructure

- o Division of Public Works paved 34 miles of roads, chip-sealed 36 miles more, plus repaired three embankments, replaced 21,000 feet of guiderail and restriped all County roadways
- o Completed construction of new Airport Terminal, utilizing \$18.5 million State grant to create an attractive, revenue-producing facility
- o Switched to new hauler and landfills for municipal solid waste at no additional cost, in anticipation of eventual closure of a previously-utilized upstate landfill
- o Approved Local Solid Waste Management Plan, which encourages innovative thinking in managing the County's waste stream
- o Replaced worn-out, decades-old floor at Social Services (Travis) Building in Liberty
- o Undertook more than \$21 million for road and bridge-work in 2025, without any need for bonding
- o Three bridges replaced, two bridges rehabilitated, and one bridge eliminated by a road re-alignment
- o Allocated more than \$15 million for road and bridge-work in 2026

Public Health, Welfare and Safety

- o Continued an EMS fly car service that has already reduced emergency medical response times by an average of 15 minutes per call by supplementing and supporting the existing EMS agencies
- o Added a full ambulance to the fly car service during the busiest months of the year (Contd. Pg. 32)

Accomplishments of the Sullivan County Legislature 2025

(From Pg. 31)

- o Won a half-million-dollar grant from the NYS Department of Health to improve local emergency services
- o Authorized agreements to plan and design an emergency communications/cell tower in Jeffersonville, with construction to begin next summer
- o Approved rates of pay and benefits to successfully attract experienced NYS corrections officers to the County Jail and Sheriff's Office, filling nearly all open positions and significantly reducing mandated overtime callouts
- o Continued a bonus payment throughout 2025 for Care Center employees who volunteered to pick up additional shifts during specific days/times
- o Authorized the issuance of a request for proposals to undertake a comprehensive study of groundwater throughout the County
- o Resurrected the Human Rights Commission, adding a full roster of commissioners and employing the Commission's first full-time executive director
- o Continued funding for and operation of the Community Assistance Center, created during the COVID-19 pandemic and still a key connector between residents and the food, shelter and services they need
- o Authorized the addition of a weapons detection system and more Sheriff's deputies to the lobby of the Government Center, to protect both employees and the public
- o Reauthorized agreements to keep warming shelters in Liberty and Monticello available seven nights a week for the entirety of the 2025-2026 winter season
- o Added cannabis to the list of items covered under the Social Host Law, which holds social-gathering hosts accountable for the illegal provision and/or usage of drugs and alcohol at those gatherings by youth under age 21
- o Opposed the siting of a landfill by Ulster County along the border with Sullivan, a plan which was ultimately withdrawn

Economic and Workforce Development

- o Oversaw a year where Sullivan County consistently held a top-ten spot Statewide for job growth and low unemployment
- o Allocated \$250,000 of needed matching funds to the Town of Liberty in order to extend water/sewer infrastructure down Old Route 17 to create shovel-ready development sites
- o Enacted a \$300,000 tourism enhancement grant program (using room tax revenues) with the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association
- o Approved a second round of leadership development

training for County staff

- o Extended the County's Military Leave Policy for paid and unpaid leave time to all active-duty members of the U.S. military, not just those serving overseas
- o Continued the highly successful Sullivan Promise Scholarship Program, which pays for two full years of tuition for any Sullivan County high school graduate who attends SUNY Sullivan
- o Funded Electrical, EMT and CNA classes for local adults seeking to better their prospects and improve their skills, with graduates not having to pay any tuition
- o Continued the popular Move Sullivan public transportation service, which expanded to serve northwestern Sullivan County in early 2025 and added shorter loops in downtown Monticello and Liberty
- o Worked with the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, Partnership for Economic Development, and Town and Village of Liberty to provide resources and alternative employment for those displaced by the closure of the PepsiCo plant in Liberty

Community Initiatives

- o Finalized and began administering the largest single grant in County history - \$29.9 million - to bring wired and wireless broadband Internet access to the majority of the County's communities, with construction beginning this past fall
- o Allocated a record \$387,500 to various local organizations serving youth
- o Approved the replacement of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), which had been ended by the Federal government, with the County-funded Sullivan Volunteers program, open to all ages
- o Authorized the second annual Emergency Services Youth Academy, which exposed local teens to a wide range of emergency responders and response equipment this past summer
- o Coordinated well-received, well-publicized Black History Month and Juneteenth programs during Legislature meetings
- o Completed a pilot food recycling program, whose success has spurred the County to begin the permitting process for a composting facility at the Monticello Transfer Station
- o Continued a paint recycling program, at no cost to users or taxpayers
- o Authorized the formation of an Advisory Committee to prepare a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- o Disbursed more than \$341,000 to over two dozen non-profits and community groups to use for worthwhile projects, under the Legislative Discretionary Contract Funding Program
- o Continued funding of a Countywide roadside litter pluck (adding water bodies and shorelines) and Household Hazardous Waste Days
- o Authorized covering the Hudson Valley Rivermen basketball team's costs to utilize SUNY Sullivan's Fieldhouse for home games (which are open to the public at no charge)

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), homeschool 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.

Give the Gift of Membership!

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

Individual

\$25

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

Double

\$40

All the above benefits extended to an additional adult.

Family

\$50

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

Patron

\$100

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

Patron Silver

\$200

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

Patron Gold

\$500

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

Name of Recipient: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Membership Level: _____

Your Name and Address: _____

Gift Message: _____

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

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



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

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Claryville Volunteer Fire Department Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

Rules Form

When: Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Snow, Rain or Shine

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

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

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

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

Regulations for Sellers:

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

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

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



CLARYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1500 DENNING ROAD • CLARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12725

STATION 65 • 845-985-7270

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

Registration Form

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Rain, Snow or Shine

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

Vendors Name: _____

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

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Description of Merchandise: _____

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

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

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

Signature of vendor: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make checks payable to Claryville Volunteer Fire Department

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

Attn: Jennifer Pisaniello

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

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

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

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

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



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

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



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

DON'T STAY COLD...

*Come in where
it's warm!*



A service of

Sullivan
COUNTY CATSKILLS
Mountains of Opportunity

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

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

DEC Encourages Volunteer Campground Ambassadors to Sign Up for 2026 Camping Season Volunteers Help Less- Experienced Campers Enjoy their Stay and Make Lasting Connections with the Outdoors *Applications Due by January 30, 2026*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today the opening of the 2026 application period for the Campground Ambassador program to connect more New Yorkers with the outdoors. Like other campground host programs, volunteer Campground Ambassadors assist DEC campground staff in welcoming and assisting the millions of visitors who vacation in the Adirondack and Catskill parks each year. This program also complements Governor Kathy Hochul's "Get Offline, Get Outside" initiative to promote physical and mental health by encouraging kids and families to put down their phones and computers, take a break from social media, and enjoy recreation and the outdoors.

"Providing exciting programming for our campers all season long is integral to the ongoing success of DEC's affordable Adirondack and Catskill campgrounds," DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said. "Campground Ambassadors assist DEC staff by enhancing the customer service experience at our facilities and conduct fun, educational, and meaningful activities. We look forward to welcoming back our seasoned campers and introducing new campers to everything our facilities have to offer."

Ambassadors aid in connecting campers and day users to nature through environmentally themed activities and programming. DEC is encouraging New Yorkers that are passionate about camping and the outdoors to help us introduce new campers to DEC facilities and other outdoor activities through this volunteer opportunity.

Ambassadors will serve two weeks during DEC's core camping season (July through Labor Day). In consideration for services provided, a campsite will be provided for the duration of their stay at one of the following participating locations:

Catskills

Kenneth L. Wilson Campground and Day Use Area
North South Lake Campground and Day Use Area

Adirondacks

Ausable Point Campground and Day Use Area
Buck Pond Campground and Day Use Area

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Olive Bridge, N.Y. 12461

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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles

← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road

Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles

← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles

→ Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles

Gun Shop on LEFT

Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge

-Going Towards Olivebridge 7.5 Miles

← Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles

Gun Shop on LEFT

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM

46 North Street in Monticello

For information

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

Cranberry Lake Campground and Day Use Area
Fish Creek Pond Campground and Day Use Area
Frontier Town Campground, Equestrian and Day Use Area

Lewey Lake Campground and Day Use Area
Luzerne Campground and Day Use Area
Meacham Lake Campground and Day Use Area
Moffitt Beach Campground and Day Use Area
Nicks Lake Campground and Day Use Area
Northampton Beach Campground and Day Use Area
Rogers Rock Campground and Day Use Area

To apply for the 2026 program please visit:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DECamb26>

Applications must be received by January 30, 2026.

To view the full details of the program, please visit DEC's Campground Ambassador webpage or call 518-457-2500 x1.

DEC operates 51 campgrounds and four day-use areas in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. The summer camping season runs through the summer, with some facilities remaining open during fall foliage and hunting season.

For more information on DEC-operated campgrounds, including a list of campgrounds and schedules, visit DEC's website and go to the Camping link under the Outdoor Recreation section, or call DEC's Bureau of Recreation at 518-457-2500. To make reservations at any camping facilities, call ReserveAmerica at 1-800-456-CAMP (2267) or visit the ReserveAmerica website.

Sullivan County Christmas Tree Collection

December 26-January 31



Open to County
residents,
businesses, and
visitors!

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

Collection Sites:

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

Visit our website for additional information including hours of operation

Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling

www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling

recycling@sullivanny.gov

(845) 807-0291



ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

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

Caregiver

Cafe' Support Group

Jan-June 2026



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



1st Monday of
each month
10 am-11 am

Registration Required:

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

Take a break while you:

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



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

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



Start the year right –join us at the Woodstock Farm Festival January 10th!

We're kicking off the new year together and couldn't be happier to welcome you back to the market on January 10th, 10am-1pm at the Woodstock Community Center - 56 Rock City Road

Winter may be settling in, but our market is buzzing with warmth, community, and plenty of good things to stock your pantry and lift your spirits.

Come say hello to familiar faces, discover something new, and enjoy the simple joy of shopping local during the heart of the season.

We can't wait to see you there and start 2026 off right-together at the market!

VENDOR HIGHLIGHTS

VanRoy's Caribbean Grill

<https://vanroys.com/>

Brings their bold island flavors to the market! Stop by for vibrant, feel-good dishes made with rich spices and lots of love-plus plenty of delicious vegan and vegetarian options - so there's something for everyone.

Back Home Farm https://www.instagram.com/back_home_farm/?hl=en



Brings the best of the season straight from the farm to the market! Load up on fresh, local produce including crisp greens, hearty root vegetables, and so much more-perfect for winter cooking and keeping your meals vibrant and nourishing. Don't miss their beautiful, just-harvested bounty!

Be sure to follow us on social media for real-time market updates & weekly vendor spotlights!



Vendor List

Sign up for our newsletter for updates on current and pop-up vendors!

Back Home Farm (Every Market)

Located in the Hudson Valley on the banks of the Rondout River, Back Home Farm grows a diverse abundance of delicious, nutrient-rich crops with organic farming practices and a lot of love!

Four Sisters Kimchi (1/10, 2/24, 2/14, 3/28)

Authentic Korean kimchi made in small batches using nothing but the best ingredients, locally sourced when available.

Challah Pixie (12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14)

A home-based business providing artisan baked products indicative of Eastern European Jewish culture and beyond. Products include challah, babka, rugelach, scones and apple cake.

Garden House Rosendale (Every Market)

Flavorful authentic Mediterranean & Middle Eastern cuisine made with care and fresh, local ingredients!

Gnome Apothecary (12/27, 1/10, 1/24, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28)

Clinical herbalist Torin Murphy formulates broadly accessible herbal blends such as ZZZ Sleep Formula, Pain Relief Oil, All-Purpose Gnome Salve, Immune Boost Tincture, Fire Cider, Elderberry Syrup, Gnomish Beard Oil, and Digestive Bitters. All of Gnome's ingredients are organic, wild-crafted, or better.

Joan's Farm Market Vintage (12/13)

Quality vintage & gently worn clothing. Unique gift ideas, housewares and more!

Joppenbergh Gap Distilling (12/27, 1/24, 2/28, 2/28)

Moonshine Style NY Farm Distillery

Lorna's Naturals (12/13, 1/24, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28)

Products are made in small batches by the owner and many made with herbs that she has grown at her home in Woodstock.

Medicine Gardens (12/13)

Herbal body care, botanical art and plant-based and -inspired textiles and jewelry

Montauk Catch (Every Market)

Fresh local fish and seafood. Prepared fish soups and salads.

Nosh Woodstock (Every Market)

Locally sourced cheese, cured meats, and select regional foods from the Hudson Valley and New York State.

Platte Clove Naturals (Every Market)

Savory salad toppers, Gluten-free and Vegan granolas, made in small batches by hand with love.

Red Hook Dreams (12/13, 2/24)

Stone ground sunflower seed butters.

Rising River Bakehouse (12/27)

Small batch hand made bread and pastry

Sitsirya (Every Market)

A minority-owned, one woman business specializing in Filipino fusion baked treats. Filipino pastries with a modern twist.

Sustainable Sorcerers (Every Market)

Our work focuses on enhancing native habitats

and protecting biodiversity with the use of native plants, trees, shrubs, and, of course, mushrooms! Working alongside nature, our products are created seasonally in alignment with the bounty of each harvest.

The Salty Rose (12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14)

Aggressively Organic Herbal Skin and Body care crafted from local plant and fungi allies. Tinctures, topicals, and beyond.

Thistledown Farm (Every Market)

Thistledown Farm is a sustainability-focused livestock farm located in the Catskills. We raise sheep, poultry, and pigs in the forests, fields, and valleys above the West Branch of the Delaware River. We also sell prepared food that is delicious, nutritious, and fills our souls with comfort and joy.

Tink's Tempting Treats (1/10, 1/24, 2/28, 3/28)

Home Baker specializing in deliciously filled sandwich cookies.

VanRoy's Caribbean Grill (Every Market)

VanRoy's Caribbean Grill offers delicious hot, homestyle Caribbean food - jerk and curry chicken, curry goat, oxtail, and more!

Wuffy (12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14)

A dog treat company handcrafting all-natural treats with five ingredients or less. All made in small batches without preservatives by baking, dehydrating, or freeze-drying.

Yobs Island Co (12/13)

A woman-owned distribution company in the Hudson Valley specializing in Organic and Fair Trade Dreamy Coffee Co.

**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



Ellenville Regional Hospital
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ESTATE JEWELRY COLLECTION

FIND A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

10:00AM - 4:00PM

ELLENVILLE REGIONAL
HOSPITAL MAIN LOBBY

10 Healthy Way, Ellenville, NY
845.647.6400 | ERHNY.org



CAFFEINE AND CAMARADERIE VETERANS COFFEE HOUR



**EVERY MONDAY
10AM-11AM**

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

Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group

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

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

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

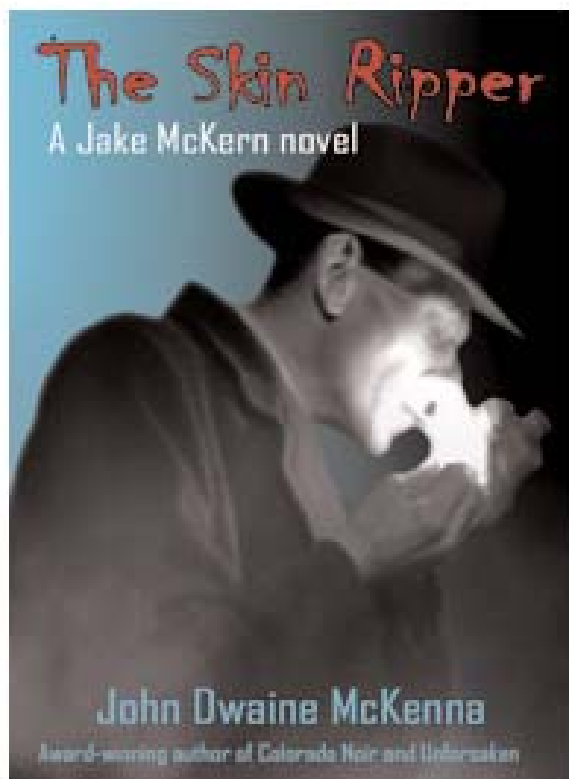
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The Skin Ripper

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:

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Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple
And bookstores everywhere.



Sponsor a Flag in the Town of Neversink

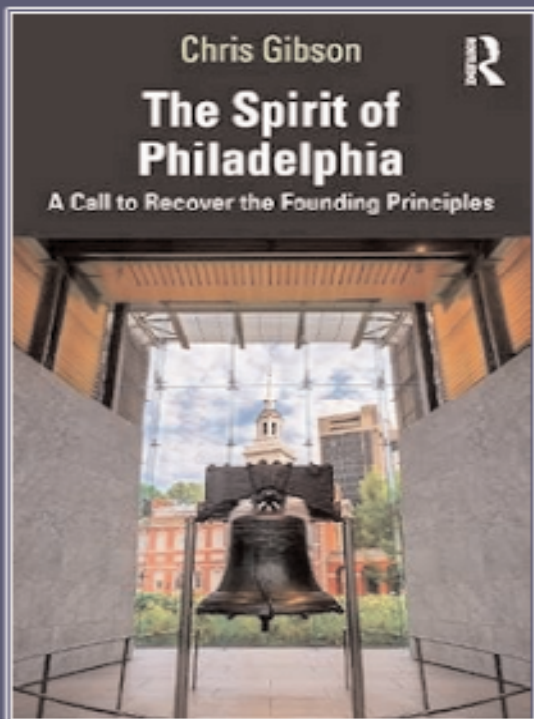
This is a unique opportunity for you to honor your hero. A loved one. A friend. Military. Non-Military. Maybe it is someone who changed your life.

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.

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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



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



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

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



Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides
Like new! \$14,500.

845-434-5539
Leave a message and phone

Olive Free Library

SENIOR ART GROUP

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

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

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

Brushes, too. Our crafty folk
might paint or sew or knit or
crochet or just hang out with
friends. Our guest instructors
have been Mia Fink and Sue De
Sanna. Linda Schultz and Linda

Champanier have been added
to our possible guest instruc-
tors. MaryAnn Shultis has led
us in sewing workshops to
make bags and runners, and
Donna Kopf has taught us quilt
square patterns. We also stuff
dolls for a project called
MY FRIEND RAGDOLL that
sends sweet dolls to
Children's hospitals.

Come join us!

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

with Kathy Carey

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

\$6/class

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

Conversations With Death

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

Starting Saturday, January 3

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

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

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

INTRO TO BEEKEEPING

with Rob Overton

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

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

Music Café

WINTER INTERMISSION

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



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

D.I.Y. ENERGY SAVINGS SESSION

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

Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY 12740

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

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

**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!

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

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

Happy New Year from the Delaware Valley Opera Center

We're looking forward to an exciting year at the Delaware Valley Opera Center in 2026. Wait until you find out about the repertoire for this summer's opera productions! Stay tuned for more information.

The Arts Nest Concert Series continues on Sunday January 25th with singer-songwriter Scott Palermo and Sunday February 1st with keyboard wizard Bob Malone. Get all the details below.

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

We hope you are planning to join us at the DVOC in 2026!

Scott Palermo

Sunday January 25, 2026 at 2pm

Doors open 1:30pm

Admission \$20 - Buy Now on My River Tickets

Scott Palermo - Singer / Songwriter / Guitarist

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

Visit him online ScottPalermoMusic.com

Buy "Covered and Uncovered" on AMAZON

Follow Scott Palermo on FACEBOOK.

Scott Palermo Concert Buy \$20 Tickets

Bob Malone, Keyboard Wizard

Sunday February 1, 2026 at 2pm

Doors open 1:30pm

Admission \$20 in advance -

Buy Now on My River Tickets

Admission \$25 at the door

Visit him online BobMalone.com

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

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

Bob Malone Concert Buy \$20 Tickets

Oh Well (Fleetwood Mac) · Bob Malone



Bob Malone and Ringo Starr 2017

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

New Year, New Laws: Governor Hochul Announces Affordable Health Care Laws in Effect on January 1

- *Reducing Costs for Consumers by Requiring Health Insurers To Cover Medically Necessary EpiPens and Capping Out-of-Pocket Costs at \$100 Per Year*
- *Expanding Insurance Coverage of Breast Cancer Procedures To Include Screening and Imaging*
- *Requiring Health Insurers To Cover Cost of Scalp Cooling Systems To Reduce Hair Loss During Chemotherapy*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that the new year will bring new affordable health care laws. Effective on January 1, 2026, Health insurers will be required to cover medically necessary EpiPens and cap out-of-pocket costs at \$100 per year, breast cancer screening and imaging, and the cost of scalp cooling systems to reduce hair loss during chemotherapy.

"New Yorkers shouldn't have to choose between putting food on the table or being able to afford life-saving medical devices and procedures," Governor Hochul said. "With these new laws going into effect, individuals will be able to focus on their health and wellbeing without having to worry about the financial burdens tied to treatments."

Insurance Coverage for EpiPens

EpiPen devices are used to treat life-threatening allergic reactions in individuals who are at risk or have a history of anaphylaxis, which can be caused by insect bites or stings, foods, medications, environmental exposures, exercise and other unknown causes.

The cost of EpiPen devices has far outpaced the rate of inflation, with some reports citing a 600 percent increase in price since the medication was first acquired by Mylan in 2007. While EpiPens once cost \$60 per device, they can now sell for upwards of \$600 for a pack of two pens. EpiPens have a relatively short shelf-life, expiring after 12 months on average, requiring those in need to purchase the medication repeatedly. Adding to their expense, users of EpiPens are also advised to carry two devices at all times, as a single dose of epinephrine may not be enough to treat a serious allergic reaction.

This new law will dramatically reduce the cost of these devices for consumers by requiring health insurers in the individual and group markets, including non-profit insurers and HMOs, to cover medically necessary EpiPens for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions and cap out-of-pocket costs for such coverage at \$100 per year.

Expanding Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening and Imaging

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among females in New York State. Each year in New York, at least 17,000 females are diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 2,400 die from the disease. It is estimated that one in eight females will develop breast cancer during their life. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among females in New York State. It is most often found in females ages 50 and older.

The new law changes parts of the Insurance Law to require individual, group and non-profit (including HMO) health insurance plans to cover breast cancer screening and diagnostic imaging. This coverage applies if a doctor recommends it based on nationally recognized clinical guidelines. The screenings include diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds and MRIs. The new law also clarifies that cost-sharing will not apply to these procedures except to the extent it would result in health savings account ineligibility under IRS guidelines.

Covering Cost of Scalp Cooling Systems

Scalp cooling is covered by Medicaid and Medicare, and three different cooling systems have already been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Without insurance coverage, patients must pay out of pocket, which ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per round of chemotherapy.

The new law requires health insurers in the large group market to provide coverage for scalp cooling systems that are used during chemotherapy treatment. As part of the treatment, patients wear a cooling cap before, during and after each chemotherapy session to reduce the amount of chemotherapy drugs that reach the hair follicles, which helps to preserve a person's hair.

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky said, "I introduced the scalp cooling bill year after year, and it really hit home for me personally in 2023 when my daughter-in-law, Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Preserving hair during chemotherapy treatment is essential and helps them hold onto a sense of identity and normalcy as a person, not a cancer patient. I want to thank Governor Hochul, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, the advocates, and staff at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center who helped bring this to reality. This landmark, first-in-the-nation law has been a long time coming."

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal said, "I am thrilled that the law I sponsored mandating insurance coverage for scalp-cooling devices that preserve the hair of those undergoing chemotherapy is now in effect. Cancer treatment must address the whole person, and by giving people access to hair preservation systems, we allow them the privacy to tackle their illness on their own terms, free of obvious signs of chemotherapy. This first-in-the-nation measure restores dignity and lessens the burden carried by New Yorkers going through cancer and treatment side affects."

Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter said, "No New Yorker should be forced to choose between their health and their finances. This law is about fairness, dignity, and basic common sense. By capping the cost of lifesaving EpiPens, expanding access to critical breast cancer screening, and covering scalp cooling for people undergoing chemotherapy, we are removing financial barriers that have no place in our health care system. These reforms will save lives, reduce stress for families, and ensure that medically necessary care is accessible to everyone, not just those who can afford it."

Gillibrand Announces National Endowment for the Arts Funding for New York State Arts and Culture Institutions

New York, NY - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced \$287,000 in funding distributed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to organizations in New York State. This funding will allow cultural organizations and nonprofits to support artists, musicians, exhibitions, educational programming, and public engagement and outreach to help grow these vital industries in communities across New York.

"New York State is the arts capital of America," said Senator Gillibrand. "Amidst destructive cuts to funding for cultural institutions across the nation, I am pleased to start off the new year by announcing \$287,000 in funding for organizations in New York. While this funding is by no means as high as it should be, these dollars are a meaningful investment in local organizations to advance art, music, and culture in our communities. I am proud to deliver this funding and will continue to fight to bring federal dollars home to New York."

Recipients of NEA grants across various regions in New York are listed below:

Fiasco Theater (New York, NY) - \$30,000

Funding will support artist fees and benefits for the development and production of *The Verge* by Susan Glaspell. Written in 1921 and set in New England, the play follows a woman grappling with modern American identity amid ancestral expectations. Fiasco Theater will reimagine the century-old work for contemporary audiences in New York City.

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. (New York, NY) - \$60,000

Support will fund artist fees for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's national tour celebrating America250. The tour will honor Ailey's legacy through performances of *Revelations*, works set to music by Duke Ellington and Charlie Parker, and new premieres by Matthew Neenan, Earl Moseley, and Maya Garcia, reaching communities across the country.

Lubovitch Dance Foundation, Inc. (New York, NY) - \$20,000

This grant will support the documentation and presentation of historic works from the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. Developed in partnership with the Dance Heritage Coalition and the New York Public Library, the project includes new recordings of historic dances, oral histories, digitization of archival materi-

als, and a restaging of *Othello* with American Ballet Theatre, expanding public access to American dance history.

Midtown Management Group, Inc. (New York, NY) - \$39,000

Funding will support *Inside Broadway's* touring musical *Grand Old Flag*, featuring the music of George M. Cohan. Designed for elementary and middle school students, the production blends American history with lessons on friendship and community, and it introduces students to live theater through performances, workshops, and post-show discussions.

Parsons Dance Foundation, Inc. (New York, NY) - \$48,000

Support will fund new dance works by David Parsons and Mayte Natalio. Parsons' site-specific piece *About Sprouts* will feature youth dancers alongside professionals at Battery Park, highlighting the site's Revolutionary War history. Natalio will premiere a new work inspired by America250, alongside student performances, talkbacks, and sensory-friendly workshops.

DreamYard Project, Inc. (Bronx, NY) - \$30,000

This grant will support poetry residencies for youth in underserved Bronx communities. Guided by teaching artists, students will write and perform original poems, participate in open mics and competitions, and explore identity, heritage, and visions for the future through poetry in connection with America250.

Strawtown Art & Garden Studio Inc. (New City, NY) - \$15,000

Funding will support free after-school and outdoor visual arts programs for youth in Haverstraw. Students will combine artmaking with environmental exploration, examining historical symbols, Indigenous history, and our founding documents before creating their own personal symbols using traditional materials like feather, quill, and ink.

Steven Myron Holl Foundation, Inc. (Rhinebeck, NY) - \$25,000

Support will fund a commissioned sculptural installation by artist Anne Lindberg at 'T' Space in Rhinebeck. Inspired by the Hudson River School, the immersive exhibition will explore perception, place, and American identity through thousands of colored threads woven into architectural space, alongside poetry, artist talks, and youth workshops.

Corning-Elmira Musical Arts, Inc. (Corning, NY) - \$20,000

This grant will support a free outdoor symphony concert by the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes in Elmira's Eldridge Park. The America250 celebration will feature a diverse program including folk, jazz, patriotic music, Broadway selections, and modern works, open to audiences across the region.

UC Unveils 2025 Community Health Assessment in New Interactive Format

KINGSTON, NY - For the first time, the Ulster County Department of Health is releasing its annual Community Health Assessment (CHA) in an interactive ArcGIS StoryMap format. This new approach makes local health data more transparent and accessible, enabling residents, community partners, health and medical professionals, and policymakers to explore health trends, disparities, and the social determinants of health across the County. What makes this year's CHA especially significant is the Department's work over the past year to compile more granular, up-to-date data than ever before - including health outcomes broken down by zip code - which allows the County to identify disparities at the neighborhood level and to better target resources and interventions to the communities that need them most.

The CHA serves as a "health report card" for Ulster County, compiling data from federal, state, and local sources - including a community survey conducted by the County's Department of Health - into a comprehensive snapshot of the health status of County residents.

This strategic shift invites broader community engagement as Ulster County begins setting priorities for the next four years through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), with a focus on improving health outcomes and reducing disparities so all residents can thrive.

Explore the 2025 CHA StoryMap at:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/health/2025CHA>

The CHA highlights opportunities for improvement across preventive care, chronic disease, communicable disease, mental health, and substance use. Here is just a sampling of some of the findings in the assessment:

Vaccinations: In good news, 64% of children aged 24-35 months completed the combined 7-vaccine series, exceeding the state average of 59.3% as well as the target of 62.3% set by the NYS Department of Health's Prevention Agenda for 2025-2030. However, the County is below the state average in girls aged 13 who have received the HPV vaccination (14.5% in our County compared to the state average of 25.7%). Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection, and it can lead to such conditions as cervical cancer.

Cancer screenings: The community health survey found that 71% of those surveyed recognized cancer screenings as "very important." However, screening rates in the County are below national goals.

Cancer: Lung and colon cancer mortality rates show a decline; however, female breast cancer mortality rates have not changed (reinforcing the importance of screening and early detection).

Chronic diseases: Disparities exist across race and ethnicity, and across zip codes, for mortality from heart disease, asthma, and Type 2 Diabetes. Average hypertension rates in Ulster County are below the statewide average (22% compared to 32% statewide), though within the County there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in emergency room visits and deaths associated with hypertension.

Communicable diseases: Tick-borne illnesses (primarily Lyme disease) in Ulster County far exceed the statewide average (for Lyme: 501.3 cases per 100,000 in our County compared to 109.1 statewide). Several sexually transmitted diseases have generally seen a decline, including a steep decline in gonorrhea cases in the Hispanic population, but there are disparities in trends by race and ethnicity.

Maternal & infant health: At 68.4%, Ulster County falls below both New York State, excluding NYC (77.3%) and the Prevention Agenda Goal (80.5%) for births with adequate prenatal care, which improves health outcomes for pregnant people and babies. In good news, in-hospital breastfeeding rates significantly exceed the state average (61.3% compared to the state average of 46.7%). Breastfeeding is linked to numerous health benefits for the parent and child.

Injury: The rate of hospitalizations from falls for older residents is 26 per 1,000, which is 50% lower than the national Healthy People 2030 goal. The estimated incidence of assaults was 9 in 1,000, with disparities by race and ethnicity. County rates for homicide fatalities are 66% lower than the state average (which includes NYC), and 90% lower than the national average. County suicide rates are lower than the national average, but higher than the state average. Half of suicides in Ulster County in 2024 involved a firearm; 85% were white males.

Mental Health & Substance Use: Mental health conditions and substance use disorders are significantly linked to higher mortality rates. These issues often co-occur, and factors like social isolation, stress, and barriers to care can exacerbate the risks. Ulster County's unintentional overdose death rate was 25.8 per 100,000 in 2024. This rate is well below that of the United States (44.7 per 100,000) but just above that of New York State (21.6 per 100,000).

Importantly, the assessment also includes data on social determinants of health. Economic instability and food insecurity emerged as major drivers of poor health outcomes. Forty two percent of Ulster County households fall below the ALICE threshold. ALICE - which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed - is a measure developed by the United Way to capture economic hardship among households living above the federal poverty line but still struggling to afford basic necessities. These families often face difficult tradeoffs between essentials like housing, food, healthcare, and transportation. In Ulster County, ALICE households are disproportionately Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous, as well as single parent families, young adults, and older adults.

Food insecurity affects approximately 13% of residents and is more than twice as high among Black and Latino residents compared to white residents. Geographic barriers to healthcare, transportation challenges, and uneven access to social services further compound disparities, particularly in rural and northwestern areas of the County.

"Good health is fundamental to individual and community well-being and to a thriving economy, and this assessment enables us to identify the areas of greatest need and target our public health investments accordingly," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "I commend Ulster County Public Health Director Eve Walter and her team for employing this innovative interactive format for presenting the data. It's a powerful approach that makes it easier for decision-makers, community-based partners, and the public to see the challenges we face and to be part of the solutions, and I am certain that this model will be replicated by other counties."

"By utilizing the most up-to-date, granular, zip code-level data - and presenting these findings in the StoryMap - our County Department of Health now has the unique capacity to identify and target health disparities in our County. These findings will guide our outreach and program planning to better meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents," said Eve Walter, Ulster County Public Health Director. "I want to thank the many staff members and interns who contributed to this Community Health Assessment over the past year. I am so incredibly proud of our team's work."

"I am looking forward to using this incredible, rich assessment of our community to engage with leaders, advocates, and residents of all ages to work together to make Ulster County a healthy, vibrant place to live," said Kristin Kessler, Director of Community Health.

The New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda requires Ulster County to perform a CHA every five years, however the Ulster County Department of Health intends to update its findings annually.

What's Next? Ulster County will develop the Community Health Improvement Plan in early 2026, guided by the CHA findings and informed by the Healthy Ulster Council and additional community stakeholders, including faith and school based leaders. The CHIP will prioritize strategies that are evidence based, equitable, and achievable, supported by clear evaluation and communication plans. Ongoing community engagement will remain central to ensuring transparency, accountability, and shared ownership of public health progress across Ulster County.



Happy New Year!

As the new year begins across NY-24, many families are marking the day in their own way; spending time together, setting goals, and looking ahead to what the months ahead may bring. The start of a new year is about fresh starts and renewed purpose, and it offers a moment to appreciate the people who keep our communities strong day in and day out.

Across Upstate New York, neighbors look out for one another, small businesses open their doors each morning, farmers prepare for another season, and volunteers step up when help is needed. That commitment to community is what defines NY-24. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and successful New Year, and looking forward to continuing the work ahead together in 2026.

Unveiling My 2025 Annual Report

This week, my 2025 Annual Report was released to provide a clear look at how our team worked for families, farmers, small businesses, veterans, and seniors across NY-24 over the past year. The report is about accountability and results, making sure constituents can see exactly how their concerns were addressed, how resources were secured for our region, and how we delivered for Upstate New Yorkers in Washington.

In 2025, our office returned \$27.5 million to constituents who were owed benefits, resolved 2,600 constituent cases, and responded to tens of thousands of calls and messages from people seeking help cutting through federal red tape. Legislative work focused on delivering permanent relief through the Trump Tax Cuts, supporting measures that strengthen public safety and border security, and advancing policies that protect family farms, expand advanced manufacturing, support rural hospitals, and make energy affordable and reliable. The full report lays out this work in detail and outlines where the focus remains as the new year gets underway.

READ THE FULL 2025 ANNUAL REPORT HERE.

<https://tenney.house.gov/services/annual-reports/tenneys-2025-annual-report>

No Tax on Tips and Overtime

Working families across NY-24 will soon begin seeing the benefits of the Trump Tax Cuts in a very real way. Through this bill, workers will be able to deduct up to \$25,000 in qualified tips and up to \$12,500 in eligible overtime pay, allowing more people to keep more of what they

earn when they file their 2025 taxes. This commonsense reform rewards hard work, supports service and hourly workers, and makes sure extra hours on the job are not punished by high taxes. The IRS has now issued guidance to help taxpayers claim these deductions, and updates to tax forms are underway to make the process easier. This is about fairness, recognizing the value of work, easing the tax burden on families, and delivering real relief at a time when costs remain too high for many households.

READ MORE HERE.

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/irs-releases-guidance-trumps-no-tax-tips-overtime-deductions-what-know>

Oberacker Adds Veteran Operative as Campaign Manager Pascocello Successfully Guided GOP to NY19 Victory in 2016

SCHENEVUS, NY -- Today Republican State Senator Peter Oberacker's (SD51) congressional campaign announced the addition of Dain Pascocello to the Peter for NY, Inc., team as its campaign manager. Pascocello, 45, a veteran of local, statewide, and congressional races, is expected to begin immediately.

Senator Oberacker announced his candidacy for the 19th Congressional District in early October following his hiring of the award-winning Casale Group as lead consultants on the race. CD19 contains all or portions of 11 counties in Upstate New York and is currently represented by first-term incumbent Rep. Josh Riley, a Democrat.

Pascocello, who most recently served as chief of staff to Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne, managed former Rep. John Faso's successful campaign for Congress in 2016 within the 19th District's previous lines. He went on to serve as Faso's chief of staff on Capitol Hill. He was also state Senator Rob Rolison's (SD39) chief of staff from 2023 to December 2024.

Pascocello is a 2003 graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University and a native New Yorker. In addition to effectively managing political campaigns at nearly every level of state and municipal government, he has been a consultant, advisor, ghostwriter, and occasional magazine contributor.

"Dain's experience and winning record, especially here in the 19th District, will be of immediate benefit to our campaign to take back Upstate New York. I'm thrilled to add Dain Pascocello to the team as we hit the ground running in 2026," said Oberacker. "Stay tuned for more staffing announcements from Team Oberacker in the coming days and weeks."



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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

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@ 6:30 PM

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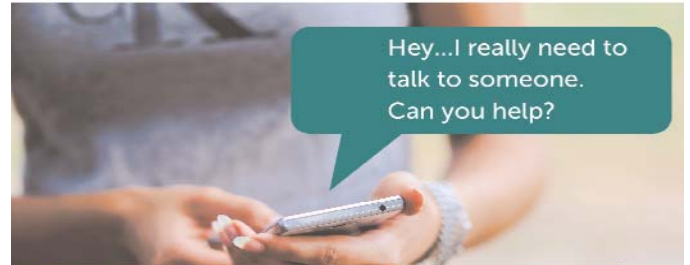
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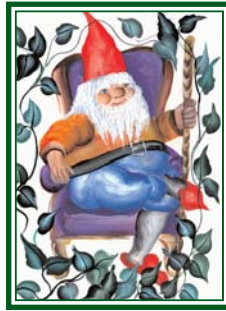


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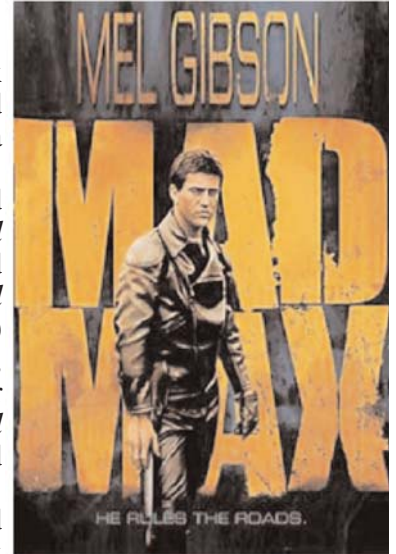
Mad Max

A young Mel Gibson began his career success as Mad Max in a 1979 Australian dystopian action-thriller film directed by George Miller and produced by Byron Kennedy.

Mel Gibson stars as "Mad" Max Rockatansky, a police officer-turned vigilante—in a near-future Australia in the midst of societal collapse.

The franchise, *Mad Max*, and was followed by three sequels: *Mad Max 2* (1981; released in the United States as *The Road Warrior*), *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* (1985) and *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015); Miller directed or co-directed all four films. A spin-off, *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, was released in 2024 and was also directed by Miller.

Mel Gibson, originally portrayed the series's title character, Max Rockatansky, in the first three films, while Tom Hardy and Jacob Tomuri portrayed the character in the later two films.



Any of the films can get your adrenal flowing and they are fun to watch the next day you are snowed in!

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: **Charade**

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