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Tri

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 21 NO. 2 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 9, 2025

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Deputy Treasurer Kathleen Lara to Announce Candidacy

As Treasurer Nancy Buck Plans to Retire from Position Deputy Sullivan County Treasurer Kathleen Lara is excited to announce the launch of her campaign for the office of Sullivan County Treasurer. The announcement will take place on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 11:00 AM, at the Sullivan County Government Center.

Nancy Buck, the current Sullivan County Treasurer, has announced that she will be retiring effective December 31, 2025.

Lara has been praised for being a passionate advocate for governmental transparency and responsible stewardship.

As our next County Treasurer, Kathleen is committed to bringing fresh leadership, accountability, and a strong vision for the future of Sullivan County. With over 10 years of experience in the Treasurer's Office, Kathleen aims to implement innovative solutions that will benefit the County's residents.

Lara stated, "I have been fortunate to work with Nancy Buck, my boss and mentor for over ten years. I believe I can continue her strong fiscal policies and procedures to help move the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office into the future." (Contd. Pg. 4)



Tri-Valley Students Receive Recognition in School Bus Safety Poster Contest



Three talented Tri-Valley students from Mrs. Rowan's Elementary Art Club were recently recognized for their outstanding contributions to the 2024 Rolling V Bus Corp School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The contest, which took place during National School Bus Safety Week in October, was open to all elementary school students in the districts served by Rolling V. (Contd. Pg. 4)

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

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

Opinions expressed in *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* belong to the writers and are not necessarily the viewpoint of *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* or its staff.

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

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

OBITUARY

John Edward Bullock

June 7, 1964 - December 23, 2024

John Edward Bullock, 60, of Loch Sheldrake, tragically died on Monday, December 23rd because of an automobile accident. The son of the late Richard and Joyce Bullock, he was a graduate of Ellenville High School class of 1983. John played on the school's football team and the wrestling team.

John was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed traveling, camping, fishing, and hunting with his family. Family and friends would joke and call him the mayor, because you couldn't go anywhere where he didn't know someone. John is missed dearly already by those who loved him. John is survived by his wife Theresa "Terri" Bullock of Loch Sheldrake, daughters Krystal Shorette (Eric) of Montgomery, Melissa Bullock (Dave) of Napanoch, Lisa Bullock (Thomas) of Clifton Park, Victoria "Tori" Bullock of Liberty and John Bullock Jr of Loch Sheldrake. He was the beloved stepfather to Rhiannon Tiger, Amber Tompkins of Loch Sheldrake and Stephen Tompkins of Loch Sheldrake. He was also the loving father figure who raised George Hemion Jr of Grahamsville, Tyler Hemion of Liberty, and Samantha Hemion of Liberty. He also leaves behind his grandchildren Blake Shorette, Andrew North, Gisele Whalen, Amelia Bullock, Johnathon Baggata, and Frankie Campbell. He will also be missed by his siblings, brother Brian Bullock (Lisa) of Accord, sister Kim Capaci (Frank) of Sparrowbush, and brother Richard Bullock (Amy) of Mascotte, Florida, and several nieces and nephews.

He is proceeded in death by his daughter Brooke Lynn Bullock, his wife Holly Bullock, parents Richard and Joyce Bullock, and grandson Seth Whalen, along with several aunts and uncles.

John will be cremated by Loucks Funeral Home, Ellenville and a celebration of life will take place at a later date for his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the **go fund me account** to help ease the burden of medical bills
<https://gofund.me/a7fb6ddc>

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

January 19, 1955

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ackerley Jr. are the parents of a son, Wayne Danny, born on Sunday afternoon. The infant weighed 7 lbs. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ackerley Sr. of Grahamsville are the paternal grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Potter of Missouri are the maternal grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Muthig of Parksville became the parents of a son born early Monday morning at Liberty-Loomis Hospital. Mrs. Muthig is the former Dorothy Murray. Dennis, who weighed over 8 lbs. at birth, is the tenth great-grandchild of Mrs. Andrew George of Grahamsville.

The north wind doth blow,
and we shall have snow!
Shall we crank the tin lizzie
and roam?

The smart housewife knows where
each penny goes;
It is thrifty to shop here at home.

KUM TO KRUM'S

January 13, 1965

Monday the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution appropriating \$26,625 for the County Mental Health Board to establish an approved program for mentally retarded children, effective March 1. The training center will be tuition free. James Boyd, president of the Association for Retarded Children, said he hoped the program would be ready by spring.

January 15, 1975

Brice Moore, 79, of State Road, Grahamsville, Neversink Town Justice for the past twelve years, died Sunday at Liberty Loomis Hospital. He was born in Grahamsville on Nov. 7, 1895 to Sheldon and Helen DuBos Moore. Mr. Moore was an income tax consultant and was a licensed poultry judge for over fifty years. He is survived by two sisters, Miss Irene Moore and Miss Katheryn Moore of Grahamsville; two brothers, Harry of Grahamsville and Donald of Middletown.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley
Published January 19, 1995

When our children were growing up, each time we gathered up our furniture and moved to another house our long extension table always occupied the center of the living room.

Our extension table was much more than a place for family meals. It was also the site for tea and catching up on the gossip when friends dropped in, or for playing card games; and the children also used it for doing their home-work, as I had a large kerosene lamp which occupied the center of the table.

Our wood stove always sat near by -- I used this for cooking and baking all the year around, and it dried the kids' mittens and boots, and kept us all warm on nippy winter days.

When our family gathered around the extension table at meal time it was far from being a quiet place. The children often argued and told tales on each other and competed for attention. Their dad tolerated the noise to a point, but when that point came he pounded his fist down on the table and said, "I've had enough!" and that never failed to reduce their activity to mere glances and pinches. Around that table our children learned the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer; and they also learned life was not always fair, and to be quiet after Dad said, "Enuff."

That old extension table was long enough for us all to gather around, but small enough to keep us all close, and high enough to hide under when they were young and tried to run away from guilt. Our lives once revolved around that old kitchen table.

Household Hint:

Has Your Child Showed Their Artistic Ability on Your Freshly Painted Wall?

When your children's artistic efforts end up all over that wall you just repainted, scrub lightly with a damp sponge sprinkled in baking soda.

Nature Column - L. Comando

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

Adapting to the Cold

Until this past week the weather felt a little more like a soggy days in early spring. The forest in the backyard was busy with squirrels scampering around, a few chipmunks, noticeable paw prints in the mud from a raccoon family, of course, the deer, turkeys and winter birds. However, the last few days let us know it is definitely winter. The little blanket of white snow, the sharp drop in temperature and that wind let us know winter didn't pass us by.

Today the wind seems to be the only movement in the woods. The animals, whose bodies are well-adapted quickly fled to their winter retreats.

There are many types of adaptations. The birds that typically migrate in the fall have already left the area. They used the sun, moon and stars for direction and seem to have a compass in their brain for using the Earth's magnetic field. Scientists consider migration as part of a yearly cycle of changes a bird goes through controlled by changes in the amount of daylight and the weather.

Many mammals, build a thick fat layer and heavier fur coat over their body. The snowshoe rabbit's new fur is white to act as a camouflage in the snow. Deer also build a thick layer of fat and a heavy fur coat.

Animals may find winter shelter in holes in trees or logs, under rocks or leaves, or underground. Some mice will build tunnels through the snow and will huddle close together to stay warm. Raccoons have been known to spend winter in attics of homes they like!

Cold-blooded animals like snakes will find shelter in holes or burrows, often clumping together, almost in a ball. They spend the winter inactive, or dormant, similar to hibernation.

Water makes a good shelter for many animals. When the weather gets cold, frogs, turtles and many fish hide under rocks, logs or fallen leaves. Some bury themselves in the mud where they become dormant. Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water and the frogs and turtles can breathe by absorbing oxygen through their skin.

Earthworms move down into the earth, some as far as six feet below the surface!

Insects look for winter shelter in holes in the ground, under the bark of trees, deep inside rotting logs or in any small crack they can find. They may find a gall - a swelling on a plant caused by certain insects, fungi or bacteria that produces a chemical that forms a lump on a plant.

Other wild animals just sleep through the winter, or hibernate. Hibernation is an extended period of deep sleep, or torpor. Many hibernating species get ready for winter by eating extra food and storing it as body fat that is used for energy while hibernating. The reduction of their metabolic rate and lower body temperature enables them to survive through cold periods when food is scarce.

Bears, squirrels, skunks, chipmunks, and some bats hibernate or go into a period of torpor. The main difference between a torpor and a hibernation is that during a torpor the animal is easily awoken. Some animals hibernate for part or all of the winter. A squirrel sleeps for about 4 to 5 days at a stretch and will wake up, again eat some of the food it has collected all summer and then will go back to sleep for 4 to 5 days.

For us it is time to get out the winter coats, furry boots, fill the wood bin, put on the snow tires -grumble a bit -while we too, feel the chill in the air and look forward to an afternoon nap by the fireplace!



Raccoons are known to make their winter abode in an attic

Deputy Treasurer Kathleen Lara to Announce Candidacy

(From Pg. 1)

"As County Treasurer, my focus will continue to be on transparency, fiscal responsibility, educating taxpayers, and updating our processes. I look forward to sharing my vision and hearing about what matters most to the people of Sullivan County," Lara added.

During her January 10, 2025, announcement, Kathleen will outline her plans and goals for the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office. The public is encouraged to attend, learn more about the campaign, and get involved in her grassroots efforts to bring positive productive change to the office.

For further information about the event or to RSVP, please email KathleenLaraTreasurer@gmail.com.

Tri-Valley Students Receive Recognition in School Bus Safety Poster Contest

(From Pg. 1)

The winners of the contest were celebrated for their creativity in promoting the important message of school bus safety.

Each student was awarded gift cards, with \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place.

A big congratulations to the following Tri-Valley artists for their exceptional work:

1st Place: Aislynn Weyant

2nd Place: Mira Stanley

3rd Place: Yesenia Lazerka

We are proud of these young artists and their efforts in spreading the message of safety on school buses.



Sullivan County Aktion Club Continues to Spread Cheer



Aktion Club members and advisors proudly displaying toys and games to be given to Sheriff's Dept.



Toys and Games at Calvary Church to be distributed to children by Mayah Romero, Pastor Marisol Romero and Sheriff's Sgt. Justin McFadden

The Aktion Club of Sullivan County continues to remain active and spread cheer to many adults and children during the holiday season. They bought toys and games to present to the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department for distribution at the Calvary Church in Monticello to children in the area. They also collected a large bag of gently used coats which will be delivered to the Federation for the Homeless. It's hard to determine who is more thrilled by these events - the Aktion Club members - or the recipients receiving them.

The Aktion Club is sponsored by the Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs and is comprised of individuals with various degrees of disabilities who are affiliated with Arc the Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery.

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



The Warehouse Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 392

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 401

Published January 16, 2020



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

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

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

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

It's the most thought provoking of all dystopian thrillers we've ever reviewed!

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

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

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

or

<http://Mysteriousbookreport.com>

Thank You!

**John Dwaine McKenna's Books
are now available at the
NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE**

The collage features five book covers: 'The Skin Ripper' (A John Dwaine McKenna novel), 'The Neversink Chronicles' (Stories from the Dark Side), 'Colorado Noir' (Stories from the Dark Side), 'Unforsaken' (A Novel), and 'The Whim-Wham Man' (A Novel).



The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

The Founding Mothers

Our Founding Fathers did their best to create a Constitution for the future democracy of America. Thank goodness they left options for amendments as the world after them changed. They tried to see the future from a culture of a slave-owning Patriarchy where the "Founding Mothers" were home hauling water for cooking, cleaning with a broom, and nurturing broods of children to an early demise.

First of all the "Founding Mothers" would abolish the Electoral College which disenfranchised those who were not landowners, women, slaves, and minorities. The Founding Fathers may have been trying to appease the smaller states, but what they created is a system that can negate the one-person, one-vote necessary in a modern, media informed electorate. Women, with a history of being left out, would treat voting as fairly as portion sharing a loaf of bread. Everyone gets a slice.

Perhaps they should have included some women's perspective as to how to run a country. First of all, there should never be just two parties running in an election. It creates a scenario of competition and division. Everyone knows you need an odd number on any board that votes. So women, who manage through cooperation, not division, would have three major political parties that select a candidate through a primary.

Candidates would run at large with the top candidate elected President, the runner-up becoming VP, and the third candidate becoming Secretary of State. Boom! Since the three candidates would work together, it should eliminate the name calling and finger-pointing. Each candidate would need to toot his/her own horn.

With three parties in Congress, senators and Congressmen would be less likely to vote as a block. Besides, their leaders share responsibility for leadership, so it would eliminate the "YOU VS ME" voting and, hopefully, vote on the merits of the bill.

Founding Mothers would certainly agree to the Second Amendment which provides gun-protection of a "well-formed militia." However, they would limit guns to hunting for food and protection from predators. They certainly would not let their children play with assault weapons. Mothers have an innate sense of safety as they warn children, "Don't run with scissors."

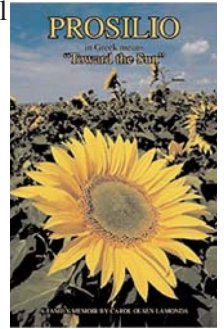
Since mothers care most about their children growing up healthy and smart, I am sure they would have opted for some sort of public education and universal health care.

Instead of war, women would opt for diplomacy. "Let's do lunch" would be preferred to sending America's children to kill some other nation's progeny.

It is just my opinion, but America could use some "motherly" guidance right now.

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*



The Perks of a New Year

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-So, the other day a gentleman walked into the library expressing an interest in obtaining a library card. While that in of itself is not surprising (it happens all the time) his reasoning-to turn over a new leaf in the new year and get back to reading-was refreshing. Here, someone was using their New Year's resolution-a practical genie wish granting moment -to join us at the DPL. Now that is a resolution I can get behind!

The act of making resolutions, of pledging to adopt positive changes to your life in the new year, dates back to the ancient Babylonians over 4,000 years ago, when during a 12-day creation/fertility festival called Akitu the Babylonians would resolve to return farming equipment to their neighbors or pay off debt to placate the gods. This practice continued to the ancient Romans, though the Julian calendar switched the beginning of the year from approximately March to January-named for the Roman god, Janus, who lords over beginnings, endings, transitions, time and duality. Romans offered sacrifices to Janus and made promises of good conduct the following year...and so on and so forth. The tradition of thinking of one's mistakes throughout the past year, repenting and promising to do better in the coming year continued on to today, when instead of sacrificing to the gods in hopes of a better summer crop, we vow to save money or lose weight. I guess it's all relative.

But back to reading as a New Year's resolution.

I think it's an excellent resolution to adopt as there are infinite positive outcomes, not particularly expensive and can be a lot of fun! If you find yourself two weeks into January and you haven't gotten onto the resolution bandwagon yet, I don't think this young man would mind you stealing his...and, we just got in a shipment of brand spanking new cards to boot.

Speaking of the new year and new things to try, we have a few things going on at the library.

First, we are putting final touches on our new "better books" used bookstore, Pages & Percs, and will be opening soon. Housed in the beautifully appointed 1902 room, Pages & Percs will offer self-serve coffee and a plethora of books for sale. It will certainly be worth a stop and browse. On your way to the 1902 room, you'll walk through our newly designed adult fiction section. Books have been rearranged for optimum shelving and additional bookcases have been incorporated, allowing us to display more books and to add more to the shelves.

Secondly, we have a lot of new books on display. If your New Year's resolution is to read more, we've got you covered. With the current cold snap, there's nothing better than burrowing under warm blankets with a good book. The cold, dark days of winter are also an exceptionally great time to dust off your culinary skills. Just borrow one of our many cookbooks and you can be one your way to a delicious meal.

New Year's resolutions don't have to be these big, daunting challenges! Instead, opt to try a new-to-you author or a new, different genre. If you're a fiction fanatic, give non-fiction a chance. If you really want to challenge yourself, pledge to read a certain number of books throughout the year or try one of those popular A-Z challenges. The sky is really the limit here.



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Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for Double Up Eatery in Parksville took place on Sunday, December 22nd, 2025



The Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce was joined by a group of supporters braving the arctic blast that came through on December 22nd to celebrate the grand opening/ribbon cutting for Double Up; the new eatery on Old 17 in Parksville offering both dine-in or take-out. The Chamber welcomed Rob and Kim Rayevsky. Before the ribbon was cut, everyone was treated



to a sampling of delicious delicacies including Pelmeni, a signature dish of pork & beef dumplings in a sour cream sauce and Khachapuri - a Georgian open faced 3 cheese pie. All their baking is done on premise by their baker Justin Edwards. Double Up is a must go to experience. Stop in and check them out at 268 Old Route 17 in Parksville, NY. They have WiFi and warm and cozy seating upstairs. Eat-in and take-out available. Follow them for special events!

BOARD THE DOUBLE DECKER

DOUBLE UP was a recurring dream to convert a London Bus

into an offbeat place. Rob & Kim Rayevsky owned and operated Rolling River Cafe Gallery Inn, with the help of their daughter Miriam, in Parksville NY from 2008 to 2018. Afterwards, they opened and ran the kitchen at Upward Brewing Company for 2 and 1/2 years, which Miriam left to start Jitterbug Sights & Sounds, and Rob & Kim left to turn Double Up into a reality.



They bought a 1980 Bristol double decker bus in 2022, which was a retired tour bus in Philadelphia, Kim's hometown. First Rob painted it, then they transformed it into a commercial kitchen on the 1st floor, concessions windows for take-out, and tables on the 2nd for a bird's eye view. DOUBLE UP is eat in and take out, responsibly & locally sourced in The Catskills, healthy food, and environmentally conscious. Double up works with local farmers to prepare quality food, served on the double!



THE TEAM

Rob Rayevsky was born in Moscow in 1955. He did not want to do sports or play piano. So, his mother took him to an art school for children when he was nine. Rob explored every corner of the former Soviet Union. Eventually, his curiosity took him as far as New York City, where he was very impressed by stretch limousines, which he had never seen before. He decided to stay.

Rob holds a BFA in Graphics Arts from the Moscow Polygraphic Institute and a BFA in Illustration from Parsons School of Design. His first children's book was published in 1985 and then he illustrated 23 more. His books have won numerous awards including the Gold Award in Children's Market Category from the Society of Illustrators Los Angeles. He also did some award-winning editorial illustrations. To know more of his artwork, see www.rayevsky.com. In 2008, Rob swapped his brushes for a kitchen knife & apron.

Kim Rayevsky was born in Philadelphia in 1956. She loved figure skating and playing piano. She traveled with her family all over the world on cruise ships, and learned French, Spanish & Russian languages.

Kim holds a BA in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. She was a computer programmer for many years until meeting Rob and discovered that a less hectic job was to help him with his children's books, and raise their 3 kids. She swapped writing computer programs for computer graphic design, managing a restaurant, a garden, and a flock of hens.

Justin Edwards was born in Livingston Manor in 1993. He loved running around outside in the woods and playing video games. He would run super-fast and pretend he was Sonic the Hedgehog.

Justin started his baking career in 2009 at the beloved Flour Power Bakery on the outskirts of town. He baked there until they closed in 2012. He then worked at local restaurants until he one day he found Rob at Upward in 2020 and joined him as his baker & sous chef. While waiting patiently for DOUBLE UP to open, Justin kept up with Rob & Kim with a plan to become their Master Baker.

Invitational Sculpture Exhibit through Jan 26th Arts Society of Kingston, 97 Broadway, Kingston

Arts Society of Kingston Presents: "State of Being" - A thought-provoking group sculpture exhibition curated by Gülnar Babayeva. This exhibition brings together the works of acclaimed Hudson Valley sculptors to explore the multifaceted interpretations of the concept of "being" in three-dimensions.

The exhibition runs through January 26, 2025.

"DEC Does What?!" Podcast Episode 18 Now Available: Don't Be Salty New York!

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released the latest episode of "DEC Does What?!", the bi-weekly podcast that features conversations with DEC experts about the agency's wide-ranging efforts to protect New Yorkers and the environment. Episode 18 - "Don't be Salty New York!" - focuses on the use of rock salt on roadways and sidewalks, which is necessary for safe and efficient travel during snowy New York winters but can have negative impacts on lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

DEC encourages New Yorkers to reduce rock salt use on private properties and support local highway departments in advancing strategies and choosing equipment that will help reduce the need for as much salt on highways. In this episode, hosts Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar and Chief of Staff Erica Ringewald are joined by Julie Berlinski, a research scientist with DEC's Bureau of Water Resource Management, and Division of Water environmental program specialists Alene Onion and Leila Mitchell, to discuss the need for salt use reduction and how to do it.

Julie, Alene, and Leila provide background on the Randy Preston Road Salt Reduction Act and the work of the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force, created in 2020 in recognition of the need to reduce the use of road salt in the Adirondack Park. The trio also discuss how, in 2024, DEC made up to \$15 million in Clean Water Infrastructure Act funding available to eligible applicants to support best management practices for road salt reduction and salt storage as part of the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program.

Episode 18 also spotlights the latest environmental news and DEC initiatives, including ice fishing, great winter hikes, encouraging New Yorkers to be aware of winter hiking safety, and DEC's paint collection program.

All episodes of "DEC Does What?!" are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube, Amazon Music, and all major podcast platforms.

For more information on "DEC Does What?!", visit the DEC podcast webpage.



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Free Tax Prep: Governor Hochul Announces Expansion of Free Direct File Program
Expansion of Direct File Program Can Help Millions of New Yorkers Save an Average of \$260

Program Will Open Later This Month; For More Information Visit

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/direct-file/>

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced New Yorkers will be able to file their taxes online for free thanks to Direct File expansion, a simple, self-service tool. The joint project with the IRS allows taxpayers to file their federal and state taxes online at no cost. Building on Governor Hochul's initiative to make New York more accessible and affordable, this program helps the average New York taxpayer save around \$260 in tax preparation fees.

“New Yorkers know all too well about the long processes that come with filing taxes, and that is why the state has put significant effort in our tax program to ease those burdens,” Governor Hochul said. “My administration and I have pushed to expand our Direct File program to provide a quick and easy way to file your returns for free - saving hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees.”

New York piloted Direct File with the IRS in 2024. In its first year, the program was open for a limited number of taxpayers - those with relatively simple returns. Some 14,000 New Yorkers participated and 96 percent reported a positive experience.

The 2025 program expands eligibility, covering more tax credits and different types of income. Acting New York State Tax Commissioner Amanda Hiller said, “We're improving and expanding Direct File because filing your taxes doesn't need to be daunting. With Direct File, you can answer simple questions instead of filling out forms or paying a preparer. It's a safe, secure system that taxpayers can access from a smartphone, laptop, tablet, or desktop computer.”

New Yorkers with 2024 income of up to \$200,000 - or \$250,000 if filing a joint return - may qualify to use Direct File to file their federal and state personal income tax returns for free. Direct File is a great option for those with basic returns - those with one or two main sources of income claiming the most common deductions and credits.

On average New York taxpayers saved \$260 in tax preparation fees by using Direct File. The Tax Department estimates that 3.4 million New Yorkers will be able to use Direct File this year. To find out whether Direct File is right for you, visit the Tax Department's website at: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/direct-file/>.

In addition to Direct File, the Tax Department offers other e-file options to file your taxes for free.

This year's tax filing season officially opens later this month and concludes on April 15th. The Direct File program will be available when the tax filing season opens.

Direct File builds on Governor Hochul's affordability agenda, a multi-billion dollar effort to provide direct financial relief to New Yorkers dealing with high costs of everyday products and services.

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845-985-0501



Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library
Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30
Come paint with us!

Join this collaborative group as we create and inspire each other. Please bring any art supplies that you plan to work with to create your piece. Adults only.

Daniel Pierce Library

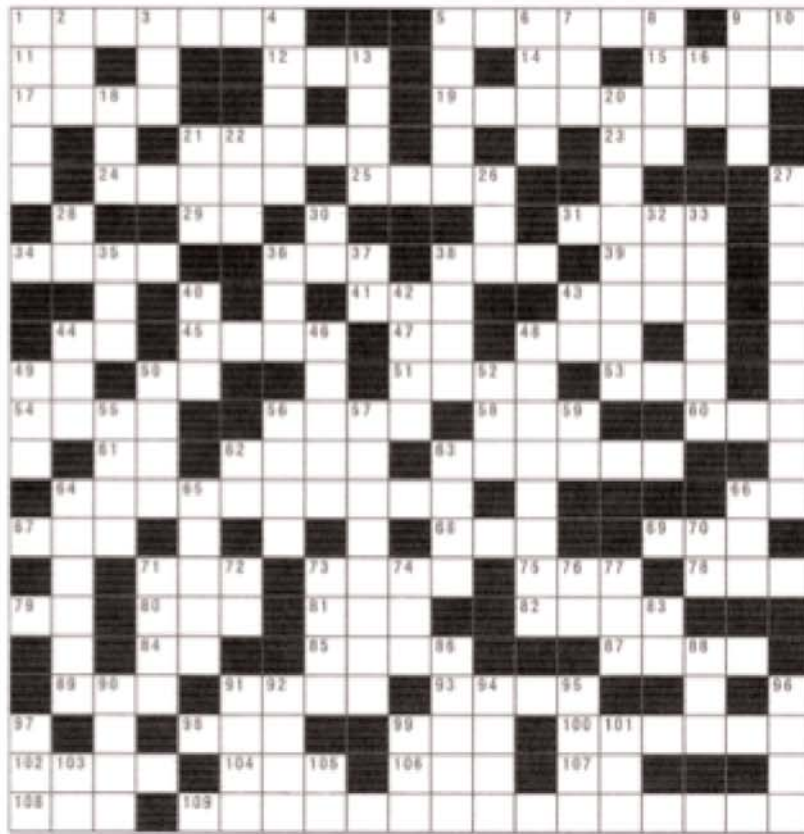
1st Friday BOOK CLUB



The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!

Fun with Fables & Tall Tales - L. Comando



ACROSS

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

- 36 Amusement
- 38 Frozen water
- 39 Originally called
- 41 Earlier
- 43 Russian ruler
- 44 Father
- 45 Winter precipitation
- 47 Supported by
- 48 Four and twenty blackbirds were baked in one
- 49 Southeast
- 50 Exclamation of surprise
- 51 Mountain range in Saudi Arabia
- 53 Fabrication
- 54 Remunerated
- 56 Room over a stable
- 58 Outer edge
- 60 Fall behind
- 61 Combining form of two
- 62 Alone
- 63 Gretel's brother
- 64 Her foot fit in the glass slipper
- 66 Either
- 67 Cushion
- 68 Mass of fish eggs

- 69 Large constrictor snake
- 71 Democrat
- 73 Fruit of the blackthorn bush
- 75 Noisy cry
- 78 Future Farmers of America
- 79 Advertisement
- 80 Hearing organ
- 81 Exaggerated long period of time
- 82 Cinderella lost this
- 84 Exist
- 85 What Little Jenny was
- 87 Sweet potatoes
- 89 Small woodland supernatural creatures
- 91 Tribulation
- 93 Informal 'obituary'
- 98 Friend
- 99 Lyric poem
- 100 Largest state in the U.S.A.
- 102 American humorist/columnist noted for

- her portrayal of suburban life
- 104 Lazy man
- 106 Small injury
- 107 Los Angeles
- 108 Combination of knitted stitches
- 109 A dwarf character in a fairy tale of the same name

DOWN

- 1 Dwarf and entertainer in P T Barnum circus Tom
- 2 Victorious
- 3 Combining form of new
- 4 Upper region of air beyond the clouds
- 5 Titan
- 6 No longer exists
- 7 Foot digit
- 8 Final
- 9 First name of Danish author of 'The Match Girl'

- 10 A mystic syllable
- 13 Living green carpet where fairies and elves hang out
- 16 Delaware
- 18 Label
- 20 She let down her long hair
- 21 Ocean

- 22 Female chicken
- 26 Part of a circle
- 27 Courier
- 28 Mother
- 30 An English bathroom
- 32 Meadow
- 33 Edible part of a seed
- 35 Central Intelligence

- Agency
- 36 To & ___; back and forth
- 37 North America
- 38 Electrical-ly charged atoms
- 40 First Old English runic letter so named from

- the word of which it was the first letter
- 42 Zodiacal sign of Capricorn
- 43 Cirrus (abbrev)
- 44 Edible legume
- 46 Complete
- 48 Daughter of the king
- 49 Intelligence agent
- 50 Scandinavian god of myth who Wednesday is named after
- 52 Irish Republican Army
- 55 In the same place
- 56 Mythos
- 57 Legend
- 59 Title before a woman's surname regardless of marital state
- 62 Southeast
- 63 Rabbit
- 64 What Jack jumped over
- 65 Fantasy
- 66 Lamebrain
- 70 A preposition
- 71 Unable to hear
- 72 Mister
- 73 Fastened with stitches
- 74 Single unit
- 76 Used to express surprise
- 77 Lad
- 83 Each
- 86 Places where lines intersect
- 88 Title of a married woman
- 90 Bough
- 91 An office worker; clerk
- 92 Aluminum and potassium compound
- 94 Crooked
- 95 More than the average height
- 96 Spun wool
- 97 Evergreen
- 99 Nocturnal bird
- 103 Rhode Island
- 105 Mounted Police

Impossible Quesadilla Pie

The perfect snack for Sunday afternoon football!

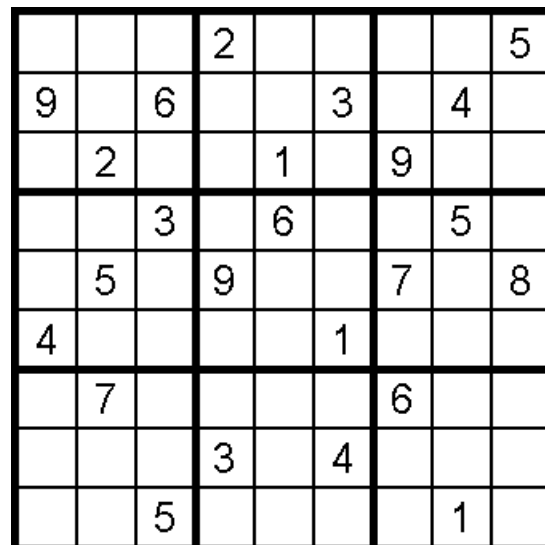
- 2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chiles, drained
- 4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup Bisquick
- 4 eggs

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Grease a 10-inch pie plate. Sprinkle chiles and cheese into plate.

Beat remaining ingredients until smooth, 15 seconds in blender on high or 1 minute with hand beater. Pour over chiles and cheese into the pie plate. Bake until knife inserted between center and edge comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool 10 minutes.

Serve with sour cream and guacamole if desired.

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

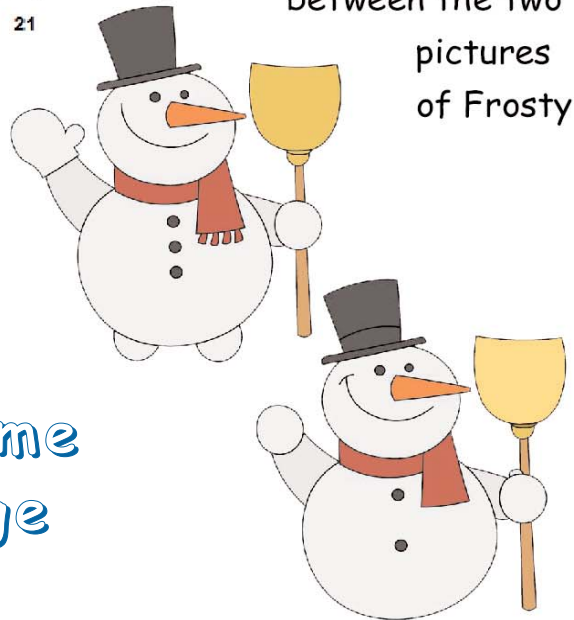
To play SUDOKU online: <https://sudoku.com>

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

23 24 9 12 12 2 6 8 5 9 23 6 23 25 6 15 6 9 4 23 7
 24 1 9 21 11 24 10 1 14 9 22 6 5 23 5 21
 11 6 8 6 21 21 9 2 7 23 24 21 23 9 11 17
 24 4 23 5 11 23 25 6 8 24 14 17

Find 7 differences between the two pictures of Frosty



1 3 5 7 8 10 12 14 15 17
 2 6 11 16
 4 9 13



Kids' Snow Time Fun Page

- L.Comando

Winter Wordsearch

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



Cryptogram Key

9	15	8	17	6	1	26	25	5	13	22	14	3	11	24	12	20	2	21	23	4	19	10	16	7	18
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

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, a Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School Lower Level Collaboration Center. The public hearing shall be held at the time and place stated herein.

12/26; 1/9; 1/16

TOWN OF NEVERSINK NOTICE: PARKS & RECREATION VACANCY

The Town of Neversink announces one vacancy on the Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Department Advisory Board. Vacancy is for the term ending 12/31/2029.

Please send a letter of interest to Chris Mathews, Supervisor, Town of Neversink, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740 or drop it off at the Town Hall. Letters of interest should be received by February 7, 2025. Please address any questions to Chris Matthews, Supervisor at (845)985-2262, ext. 301.

1/9

Neversink Fire District Sale of 2000 Volvo FireTab Tanker

Neversink Fire District will be accepting bids for purchase of the used 2000 Volvo FireTab Tanker. The specs of the vehicle are as follows;

2000 Volvo FireTab tanker 2,000 gallon tank
500 GPM pump darley
Cummins 350 HD
16,720. Miles
Allison HD 4060P 5 speed
Rear axle Meritor RS30-18, Ratio 5.380
Front axle 16,500 LB.

For any inquiries or questions please contact Commissioner Timothy Dexheimer at (845)701-0946

Bids must be received in writing to
Neversink Fire District
Attn: Tanker Sale Bids at PO
Box 394 Neversink, NY 12765

until Thursday, February 13th, 2025 for consideration. Bids will be opened at our February Commissioner meeting on Thursday, February 20th, 2025 at 7:00pm

Dana Vogler
Neversink Fire District Secretary

1/9; 1/16; 1/23; 1/30; 2/6; 2/13

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting Board Workshop Committee Meetings Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Secondary School Lower Level Library

**The meeting will be livestreamed on the
District's YouTube channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nAWhR6N%20%20Vao24w/live>

SC Government offices closed on Thursday, January 9 National Day of Mourning regarding the passing of former President Jimmy Carter

Please be aware (and share with your audiences) that Sullivan County Government offices will be closed on Thursday, January 9 for the National Day of Mourning regarding the passing of former President Jimmy Carter. This includes transfer stations and the DMV but does not include 24-hour facilities like 911, the Care Center and the Sheriff's Office. Legislature meetings scheduled for January 9 have been cancelled. All offices will be open normally on Wednesday, January 8 and Friday, January 10.

SC Sheriff's Office Responds to Two-car Collision in Loch Sheldrake

On Monday December 23, 2024 at approximately 5:00 pm, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a two car motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Divine Corners Road, at the intersection of Cignarale Rd. in Loch Sheldrake.

At the scene deputies found two vehicles that had collided head on. The investigation revealed that John Bullock, 60, of Loch Sheldrake was operating a 2012 Toyota Sienna mini van in a northbound direction when he collided with a 2015 Buick Encore driven by Benjamin DeVault, 19, of Hurleyville. The Buick Encore was traveling southbound.

The Loch Sheldrake and Neversink Fire Departments responded to the scene to extricate both drivers. Mobile Medic Ambulance, Neversink EMS, Sullivan County EMS and Hatzolah EMS responded as well. A medivac landing zone was set up at the Loch Sheldrake firehouse. Benjamin DeVault was flown to Westchester County Medical Center where he underwent surgery for internal injuries.

John Bullock, who was in cardiac arrest, was taken to Garnet Hospital in Harris where he was pronounced dead. A small dog who was in the Buick Encore was also pronounced dead at the scene.

Sheriff's Detectives are continuing the investigation and are looking for any possible witnesses who may seen the collision. They are asked to call the Sheriff's Office at 845-794-7100 option #1 or the confidential TIPS line at 845-807-0158. Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Fallsburg Police Department.

Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Presents:

Vendors Wanted!



Winterfest

2025

Feb. 8th
11a-4p

Ice Skating - Food Vendors
Snowman Build - Craft Vendors &
Much much more!

Now Accepting Vendor Applications!!
email: parksandrec@townofneversink.org

Alternate date: Feb 22nd



ICE SKATING

Schedule

THURSDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM

FRIDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM

SATURDAY: 1-3PM & 6:30-8:30 PM

SUNDAY: 1:00-4:00 PM

MUSIC | ICE SKATING | ALWAYS FREE!!

@ Grahamsville Fairgrounds



**Days & times subject to change, check
Facebook for updates or text
Tanya @ 845-807-7502**



Daniel Pierce Library

PBS Nova Documentary Inner Worlds



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

Snow Date March 6th

Recommended for adults and students ten and up

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary,

Inner Worlds focusing on Venus & Mercury.

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

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

Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org.

In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.



Daniel Pierce Library

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



Daniel Pierce Library Senior Social!

Sponsored by Tri Valley Retired Teachers

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

Snow Date: Monday, January 27th

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

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



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**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
Feb 1, 2025**

Many items from the Indoor Yard Sale will be available for sale at the Supper. Come check them out.

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
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Weekend Mass schedule:
Saturday afternoon: 4:30 pm
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday
Mass at 8:30AM.
Thursday, 3 pm Divine Mercy Chaplete followed by Mass

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm
Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator
(845) 434-7643

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

**Wishing you all
A Very Blessed
and Joyous
Christmas!**

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

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

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041

Worship Services @ 10:15 am
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor
Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information



Loucks Funeral Home

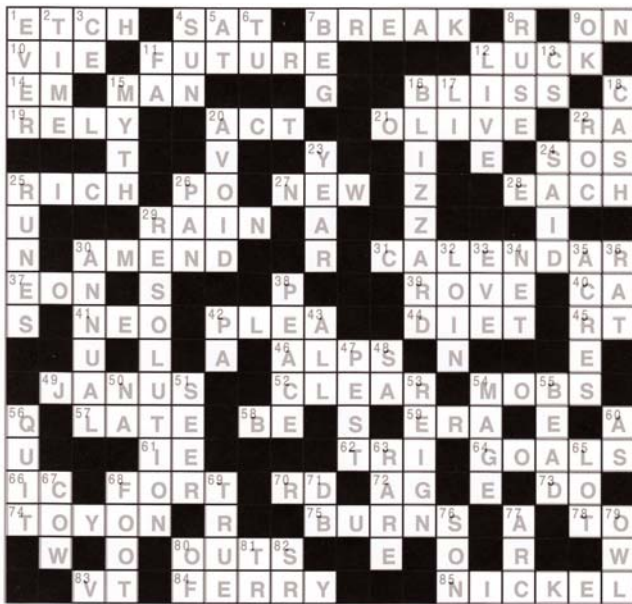
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(845) 647-4343

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

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



Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

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

Order Your 4 Free At-home COVID-19 Tests

- Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests

Do you want 4 free Covid Tests Kits?
 Go to: CovidTests.gov

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

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

\$17.5 BILLION in Lost Money

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

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

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

Check the air quality where you are
 at:

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

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

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

1/8/25	Town of Neversink Organizational - Board Meeting
1/20/25	Town of Neversink Holiday - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
2/1/25	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church

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.denning.us>
Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.
Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2025** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update For The Week Of January 6 - January 10, 2025

Monday, January 6

- o **1:00 PM - Ulster County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, in the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, 232 Plaza Road, Kingston**
- o **6:00 PM - Trails Advisory Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**
- o **6:00 PM - Ulster County Traffic Safety Board, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston**

Tuesday, January 7

The Following County Executive Public Hearings will be held in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston:

- o **5:30 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Modify Various Provisions Relating To Certain Departments And Duties**

- o **5:45 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on**

Proposed Local Law No. 15 of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XLIV From Each (Insurance Department), And Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code With Respect To Article XLIII (Safety Department)

- o **6:00 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And The Ulster County Administrative Code By Renaming Article XVI From Department Of Purchasing To Department Of General Services**

- o **6:15 PM - County Executive Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 17 of 2024, A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Pursuant To The 2025 Ulster County Budget To County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms**

Wednesday, January 8

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

Thursday, January 9

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

Friday, January 10

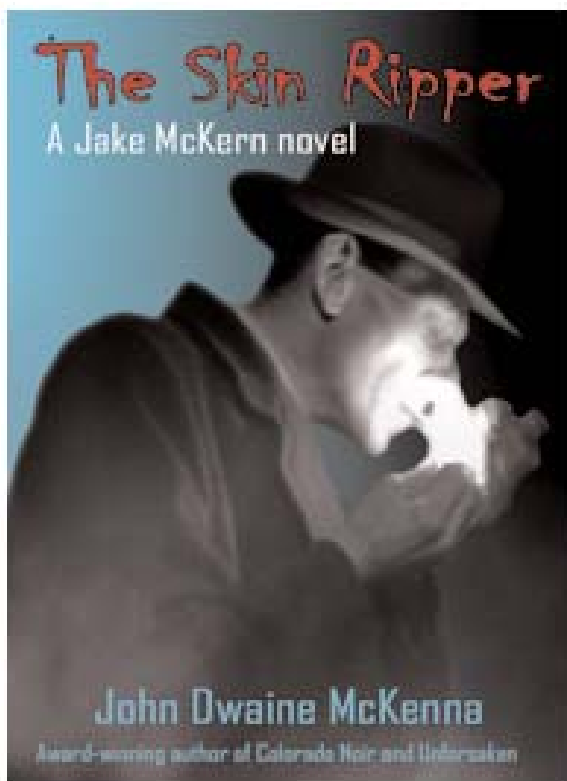
- o No Meetings

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.

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hour and his greatest adventure to date!

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Sullivan 180 Announces 2025 Grants Applications Are Now Available Online

[LIBERTY, NY] The 2025 Sullivan 180 grant programs are open, and the following applications are available: Beautification, School Beautification, Municipal Partnership and Community Development. Application deadlines, amounts and eligibility vary.

Beautification Grants support the creation and care of gardens and public spaces with an emphasis on youth engagement.

School Beautification Grants offer funding to transform school campuses into welcoming natural environments. This initiative supports projects that improve school grounds and entrances with gardens and trees and create or maintain outdoor gathering spaces, fostering a more inviting and inspiring atmosphere for students and staff.

Municipal Partnership Grants assist local governments with care of public spaces, support youth initiatives, and/or environmental stewardship.

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

“Sullivan 180 focuses on engaging communities to address the social determinants of health, many which can be affected through our built and natural environments,” said Denise Frangipane, Sullivan 180 CEO. “Sullivan 180 grants provide resources for grassroots, volunteer and community driven efforts. These are the people and the places part of our mission to build a healthy community. All grants require that youth be engaged or impacted by the projects.”

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, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat, Manor Ink and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org.

Forestburgh Playhouse opens New Works Festival Submissions

Forestburgh, NY - The Forestburgh Playhouse is excited to announce that the 5th Annual In the Works-In the Woods Festival will now be welcoming submissions of new plays and musicals. The festival will take place September 5th-7th, 2025 on the Playhouse campus.

“Our very own, home-grown theatre festival is turning 5 in '25 - and the word is out! Each year the In The Works~In The Woods Festival grows in reputation, recognition and scope” says Festival Artistic Director, Matt Lenz “...and as it does, opening the door to the new wave of submissions gets more and more thrilling every year. We can't wait to see what innovative and entertaining new plays and musicals come to us for our 5th anniversary.”

The In the Works-In the Woods Festival was created and founded in 2021 with the goal of nurturing, developing and celebrating new theatrical works - and the diverse writers and artists who bring them to life. Every September, dozens of creators from around the country gather on the enchanting Forestburgh Playhouse campus to rehearse, rewrite, commune, workshop and share their gifts with our Sullivan Catskills community. During the course of the Festival, staged readings of new plays, new musicals, and new cabaret acts are presented. The Festival also features “Off the Cuff” conversations with world-renown theatremakers, open-mic nights, tasting by local food and beverage artisans and many other surprises.

The submission guidelines are simple: (a) there must be a complete draft of a new musical or play for submission and review; (b) the piece has not yet had a full production; (c) the writers will be present on campus for the full span of Festival dates (Aug. 31-Sept. 7); and (d) the cast size should be 16 or smaller. Writers should go to www.fbplayhouse.org/itw for complete submission guidelines and utilize the submission form available on the website. The deadline for submissions is February 19, 2025. The Festival review committee will peruse submissions and contact finalists in late Spring. Questions can be directed to itw-itw@fbplayhouse.org or by calling 845-794-2005.

The 5th Annual In the Works-In the Woods Festival at the Forestburgh Playhouse will take place September 5-7, 2025. For more information, go to www.fbplayhouse.org/itw

SHADOWLAND STAGES

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Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop**

Friday, Jan. 17 - 10-3

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WINTER SALE CLOSEOUT!!!!!!!!!!**

**30% OFF
OUR ENTIRE WINTER STOCK**

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



Lulu

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

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

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

Their owner was my brother who recently passed away and he had both cats for at least 12 years. They have had all of their shots, and will come with a supply of food, kitty litter and pans, bowls for food and water, and toys.



Smokey

The hope is to keep them together.

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

Only serious cat lovers will be considered.

If you are interested, please contact me.

Esta Jacob
856-866-1579 Cell
845-985-3937 Home
ejacob4848@gmail.com

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

Sign up for quarterly billing and get a 20% discount

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

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

Low Rates
 High Visibility!



2025 SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV winter schedule

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



<p>JEFFERSONVILLE</p> <p>Tues January 7</p> <hr/> <p>Tues February 4</p> <hr/> <p>Tues March 4</p> <hr/> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p><i>19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY</i></p>	<p>WURTSBORO</p> <p>Thurs January 23</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs February 20</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs March 20</p> <hr/> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p><i>2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY</i></p>	<p>NARROWSBURG</p> <p>Tues January 21</p> <hr/> <p>Tues February 18</p> <hr/> <p>Tues March 18</p> <hr/> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p><i>210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY</i></p>	<p>HORTONVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 16</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs February 13</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs March 13</p> <hr/> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p><i>104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY</i></p>
<p>LIVINGSTON MANOR</p> <p>Tues January 14</p> <hr/> <p>Tues February 11</p> <hr/> <p>Tues March 11</p> <hr/> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p><i>95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY</i></p>	<p>GRAHAMSVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 9</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs February 6</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs March 6</p> <hr/> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p><i>273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY</i></p>	<p>LIBERTY</p> <p>Tues January 28</p> <hr/> <p>Tues February 25</p> <hr/> <p>Tues March 25</p> <hr/> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p><i>15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY</i></p>	<p>BLOOMINGBURG</p> <p>Thurs January 30</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs February 27</p> <hr/> <p>Thurs March 27</p> <hr/> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p><i>13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY</i></p>

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

Saturday, January 25

1pm: Friends Mixer

3pm: Friends Mixer

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



"A beautiful, bighearted treasure of a novel."
—LILY KING

HOW TO READ A BOOK

Olive Free Library
AUTHOR OF *THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION BOY*
MONICA WOOD
VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB
Saturday, January 18 • 4 pm

Multiplicity: Together and Apart

featuring 11 regional artists whose works are presented as multiple pieces that are intended to work together or work individually

Curated by Jan Sosnowitz

featuring 11 regional artists whose works are presented as multiple pieces that are intended to work together or work individually

Curated by Jan Sosnowitz

January 18 – March 1, 2025 **Opening Reception:** Sat., January 18, 3 – 5 pm

Artists' Meet & Greet: Saturday, March 1, 2:30 – 4 pm

Artists in the show: Lowell Miller, Robert Ohnigian, Vincent Pidone, Alan Samalin, MJ Shepard, Frank Tagariello, Nova Darkstar, Ted Dixon, Robin Factor, Pat Hough, Sarah Mecklem

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West Shokan, NY
olivefreelibrary.org
845.657.2482

Community Mixer!

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

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

Olive Free Library

Birds of Prey WITH Robinson's Wildlife

Join us for our annual Bird's of Prey show. Robinson's Wildlife will be here to talk with us about birds of prey and maybe even have a few flying friends for you to see!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST at 11 a.m.

INTRO TO Beekeeping

with Rob Overton

Saturday, January 18
10am - 4pm
Olive Free Library

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

DEC Lifts Drought Watch Statewide, Return to Normal Status in all 62 Counties

- *Localized Dry Conditions in Some Areas*
- *New Yorkers Encouraged to be Vigilant about Unnecessary Water Use*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) updated drought conditions across the state, returning all 62 New York counties to “Normal” status. In cooperation with the State's Drought Management Task Force, DEC updated drought status from “Drought Watch” to “Normal” statewide, including New York City, after assessing recent precipitation and elevated levels of ground and surface water. While statewide and regional hydrological conditions have notably improved, localized dry conditions may persist and despite encouraging hydrological conditions, New Yorkers are urged to continue reducing unnecessary water use and waste, fixing leaks, and choosing efficient water fixtures.

“Recent precipitation and the vigilance of New Yorkers who heeded calls to conserve water resources have alleviated dry conditions across the state,” said DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar. “DEC experts will continue to monitor conditions and work with New York City officials and localities across the state to identify any necessary steps and actions needed to help prevent additional shortages while New York State moves from a Drought Watch to Normal conditions.”

New York State drought Region IIA, which includes New York City and Westchester County, is among the regions moving to normal status due to the satisfactory storage levels and refill probability of the New York City reservoirs.

“The lifting of the drought watch underscores the critical role of DEP's strategic planning and adaptive management of New York City's critical water resources,” said New York City Chief Climate Officer and DEP Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala. “I'm grateful to our fellow City agencies for their partnership and to all New Yorkers for their conservation efforts, which helped us save water. Let's continue to use water wisely to ensure the resilience and reliability of the city's water supply system.”

According to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the City's reservoirs are at more than 75 percent capacity with over 420 billion gallons in storage. DEC continues to work closely with DEP to monitor reservoir conditions and encourage responsible water use, especially outdoors, regardless of the hydrological conditions or season.

Following the declaration, DEC briefed the State Drought Management Task Force and federal partner agencies. A map of New York State drought conditions is available on the DEC website.

New York State encourages ongoing water conservation to ensure adequate supply for all emergency uses. To protect water resources, homeowners are encouraged to voluntarily reduce water use and follow these tips:

- o Reuse water collected in rain barrels, dehumidifiers or air conditioners to water plants.
- o Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- o Fix leaking pipes, fixtures, toilets, hoses and faucets.
- o Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- o Take shorter showers or fill the bathtub partly.
- o Install water saving plumbing fixtures.
- o Don't run the tap to make water hot or cold.
- o Wash cars less frequently.

Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense for more tips on saving water indoors and outdoors. DEC has been a WaterSense partner since 2014.

Private Water Wells

For water wells that may be affected by drought, see the information and links below. Contact a registered water well contractor to discuss appropriate options for your individual situation.

- o Check that the well is dry due to drought and no other issues. Sometimes the solution is quite simple, like a broken valve or electrical issue. The only way to definitively tell if a well is dry is to measure the water level in the well.
- o Conserve water year-round to help prevent the effects of drought on water wells.
- o Consider adding a water storage tank to help get through dry periods.
- o Clean or redevelop existing wells.
- o Deepen existing wells or drill a new well. If drilling a new well, properly decommission the old well to protect groundwater quality.

State Drought Index

Drought stages are calculated using the State Drought Index, which evaluates whether several drought indicators have reached critical thresholds. DEC experts track and evaluate drought conditions based on stream flows, lake and reservoir storage levels, and groundwater levels. These factors, and the duration of the dry period, season, and other information such as past and forecasted precipitation, weather patterns, and local conditions, are used by DEC to evaluate drought conditions across the state. The State Drought Index is attuned to the specific attributes of New York and may differ moderately from some national technical drought assessments.

DEC and the U.S. Geological Survey are partners in evaluating hydrologic conditions across New York State. In addition, DEC supports efforts by local governments and stakeholders to undertake water conservation measures based on specific local circumstances.

For more water-saving tips, visit DEC's webpage. For more information about drought in New York, visit the Water Use and Conservation webpage.

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/water-use-conservation>

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/drought>



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



February 1, 2025
5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

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



Please Help Save Our School!

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

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

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

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

Thank You!

Yes! I would like to make a donation to preserve and open the 1848 Claryville School.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other

Please mail your check to:

Time and the Valleys Museum

P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740

or go online:

[www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/
support/donate](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Thank you so much for your donation.

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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- ◆ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
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Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740
 845 985-7700 or join online: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org

- Individual \$25
- Double \$40
- Family \$50
- Patron \$100
- Patron Silver \$200
- Patron Gold \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum

Time and the Valleys Museum

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

Governor Hochul Announces Nearly \$6.5 Billion in Food Assistance Delivered to Low-Income New Yorkers in 2024 *Federally Funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Provides About \$650 Million in Vital Support to Nearly 3 Million New Yorkers Each Month*

- ***SNAP Is New York's Most Important and Effective Tool To Fight Hunger and Food Insecurity***
- ***Continued Congressional Support Is Essential To Maintain This Core Program That Working Families, Families With Children, Seniors and Those With Disabilities Depend on To Purchase Healthy Food***

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that New York State has delivered nearly \$6.5 billion in vital food assistance to low-income working New Yorkers in 2024 through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the federally funded program that helps families with children, older adults, and those with disabilities across the State, afford the cost of purchasing healthy food. SNAP is New York's most effective tool in fighting hunger and food insecurity across the State, a core priority of Governor Hochul's administration.

“No New Yorker should ever go hungry, and no parent or caregiver should have to choose between buying groceries or keeping the lights on,” Governor Hochul said. “We need congressional leaders to step up and maintain funding for SNAP, an absolutely critical program that so many working families, families with children, and seniors across New York, depend on to purchase food, feed their loved ones, and make ends meet.”

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program overseen by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and administered by local departments of social services. Nearly 3 million New Yorkers, or more than 1.7 million households, receive SNAP each month. The average monthly SNAP benefit is \$376 per household. Through the end of October, nearly \$6.5 billion in SNAP benefits were issued in New York State in 2024.

SNAP benefits are a critical lifeline for New Yorkers in need, as about 18 percent of the State's population have received SNAP benefits in 2024. More than half of households receiving SNAP were families with children, and about 47 percent included an adult over the age of 55 or a person with a disability.

Every dollar invested by SNAP generates up to \$1.54 in economic activity, according to a federal study quantifying the impact of SNAP on the U.S. economy.

In recent years, New York has expanded SNAP by eliminating unnecessary requirements and simplifying the application process, removing key barriers to reducing hunger for children and adults, while continuing efforts to maxi-

mize benefits for all New Yorkers who are eligible.

- o The Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) simplifies the SNAP application, recertification and verification processes for eligible households, where all adult members are aged and/or disabled, thereby increasing access to and preventing interruptions in receipt of benefits for these households. Since ESAP was implemented in December 2021, OTDA has enrolled approximately 500,000 eligible households in the program.

- o OTDA continues to work closely with local departments of social services and community-based organizations to ensure potentially eligible individuals are aware of SNAP and are able to easily access assistance.

- o OTDA contracts with community-based organizations that provide SNAP outreach and prescreening services, application assistance and referrals to potentially eligible households, and provides direct client assistance to enable households to continue to receive SNAP benefits, including individuals with disabilities.

- o The SNAP-Ed nutrition education program teaches people how to shop for and cook healthy meals on a limited budget. This program is free to anyone who qualifies for SNAP, including people with disabilities, with the goal of giving SNAP households tools and tips to make nutritious food choices and choose a physically active lifestyle.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said, “SNAP is one of the most effective tools we have to decrease hunger and food insecurity, and these benefits form a crucial lifeline for thousands of low-income New Yorkers. No one deserves to go hungry, and I'm proud to have helped secure nearly \$6.5 billion in federal funding for New Yorkers through the SNAP program this year to increase the accessibility of healthy food for families across our state. As we enter the new year, I am committed to continuing to fight for funding for food assistance programs to make sure that all New Yorkers have the resources they need to put food on the table.”

SNAP is one of many programs through which New York State agencies work with the federal and local governments to address hunger and food insecurity across the State. Governor Hochul has made New Yorkers' access to affordable, healthy food a central priority and has created and supported numerous new policies and programs that help decrease hunger and food insecurity in New York.

Anyone can apply for SNAP online at myBenefits.ny.gov, if you live outside of New York City, or by using ACCESS HRA, if you live in New York City, in person at a local department of social services, or in a New York City SNAP Center. In many areas through the State, community-based organizations can assist with completing a SNAP application, answer any questions, or help current recipients recertify their eligibility to continue receiving SNAP.

SNAP benefits can be used to purchase designated items at authorized retail food stores. SNAP-eligible food can also be purchased online at participating retailers, but delivery charges and other fees cannot be paid for with SNAP benefits. The amount an eligible household receives in monthly benefits depends on income and household size. The maximum benefit is \$768 for a family of three and \$292 for an individual.

(Contd. Pg. 36)

Governor Hochul Announces Nearly \$6.5 Billion in food Assistance Delivered to Low-Income New Yorkers in 2024

(From Pg. 35) In 2024, New York also issued more than \$240 million in food assistance to families of more than two million low-income, school-aged children as part of the new Summer EBT program. Summer EBT is a new federally funded program that supports efforts to address food insecurity among children from low-income families, providing \$120 per eligible child to help families pay for healthy meals.

The Department of Health operates nutrition programs to reach underserved populations who often don't have equal access to abundant, affordable, healthy food options. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), provides a monthly prescription of nutritious foods tailored to supplement the dietary needs of participants. Participants receive valuable nutrition counseling and education to increase their knowledge of healthy choices and use their eWIC card to shop for nutritious food items at WIC approved vendors. In addition, the Child and Adult Care Food Program supports healthy meals and snacks served to children and adults in day care settings each day. These programs are essential to supporting nutrition security. Find more information about WIC here.

The Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program, along with the Nourish New York Initiative, support the provision of emergency meals that are provided through a network of about 2,500 Emergency Food Relief Organizations. These meals include nutritious New York State grown produce and dairy products. Learn more about the DOH's Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program here.

In 2023, Governor Hochul signed legislation that formalized the State's Council on Hunger and Food Policy, which is charged with providing recommendations on how to address food insecurity and provide residents with greater access to healthy, locally grown foods.

The Council's work further aligns with and supports many additional State programs focused on alleviating food insecurity and hunger.

The Nourish New York program helps food banks and other emergency food providers to purchase New York foods, such as milk, yogurt, cheese, vegetables, fruit and more, from local farmers and delivers meals to communities across the State.

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, run by the Department of Agriculture and Markets, provides low-income seniors and WIC recipients with coupons to use for fresh, local produce at participating farmer's markets, farm stands, and mobile markets. The newly modified FreshConnect

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ESTATES & TRUSTS • INJURY & MORE**

Fresh2You Initiative, which was announced by the Governor in spring 2023, doubles the buying power for SNAP recipients and Veterans and their families at participating farmers' markets.

The SNAP-Ed Food Box and Community Growers Grants programs provide funding to further expand access to fresh, affordable foods in underserved communities across New York State and support New York's agricultural industry, making it easier for low-income families to access fresh, affordable food in their community while better connecting New Yorkers with local farmers and growers.

Double up Food Bucks is a statewide nutrition incentive program that helps thousands of SNAP recipients gain greater access to and afford more healthy food by maximizing the purchasing power of SNAP recipients at a growing list of grocery stores and farmers markets across the State. The Field & Fork Network's Double Up Food Bucks program expands the purchasing power of SNAP recipients, enabling them to purchase more healthy, fresh produce for themselves and their families, while also supporting local economies and farms. The State's growing partnership with Field & Fork Network helps New Yorkers meet their essential needs and strengthens Governor Hochul's work to expand access to affordable, nutritious, locally grown food in underserved communities across the State.

Governor Hochul Celebrates NY's Stronger Than Ever Cannabis Industry Surpassing \$1 Billion in Retail Sales

- *New York State Cannabis Industry Hits More Than \$1 Billion in Retail Sales, Reflecting Robust Growth and Consumer Confidence*
- *Revenue Boosted by Over 50% of New York's Cannabis Licenses Awarded to Social and Economic Equity Applicants, Empowering Minority and Women-Owned Businesses*
- *Over 275 Licensed Dispensaries and 500 Supply-Side Licenses Contribute to Historic Milestone in Cannabis Equity*
- *Product Diversity and Innovation Accelerates as 500 Brands Now Serve the Market*

Governor Kathy Hochul today proudly announced that New York State's cannabis industry has reached a historic milestone of more than \$1 billion in retail sales. This achievement reflects the dedication of entrepreneurs, consumers, and communities who have embraced the legal market and helped to establish New York as a national leader in cannabis equity and innovation.

“Earlier this year, my administration took critical steps to promote progress and economic opportunity within New York's budding cannabis industry, including signing new enforcement powers into law that expedited the closure of unlicensed storefronts and, as a result, bolstered our legal market,” Governor Hochul said. “Today, we recognize the \$1 billion milestone as more than just a number—it's a testament to the hard work of those who helped build the strongest cannabis industry in the nation: one that prioritizes equity, ensures public safety, and empowers communities.”

New York's cannabis industry has set the standard for equity in action. More than half of all adult-use licenses have been awarded to Social and Economic Equity applicants, with significant representation from minority- and women-owned businesses. This achievement comes at a time of remarkable growth for cannabis consumption in New York. Over the past decade, adult use has risen significantly, with 19 percent of New Yorkers reporting annual use (+30 percent) and 12 percent reporting monthly use (+43 percent). Additionally, 67 percent of consumers who used cannabis in the past year reported purchasing from legal retail sources, reflecting growing confidence in the regulated market.

The announcement comes on the heels of a strong and transformative year for New York cannabis, as highlighted in the just released OCM Annual Report. Report highlights below:

2024 in Review:

- o Over 5,250 Licenses, Permits, and Registrations issued or provisionally approved to date in State Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
- o 221 Adult-Use Cultivator Licenses
- o 292 Adult-Use Processor Licenses
- o 569 Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses
- o 448 Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses
- o 185 Adult-Use Distributor Licenses
- o 272 Adult-Use Microbusiness Licenses
- o 3,265 Cannabinoid Hemp Licenses and Permits
- o 17 Registered Organizations
- o 269 Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries open for business
- o 54.1 percent of Adult-Use Licenses issued to social and eco-

nomie equity businesses

- o \$757.8 million in Adult-Use retail sales in 2024 as of November 30, 2024
- o \$80.2 million in tax, fee, and fine revenue in State Fiscal Year 2023-2024
- o \$67 million in tax, fee, and fine revenue by the mid-point of State Fiscal Year 2024-2025

EQUITY + COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS + TRAINING

- o OCM continued its support for equity applicants and licensees into 2024 through its programs, including the Cannabis Hub and Incubator Program (CHIP) SEE Application Assistance, collaborating with Technical Assistance Providers, CHIP Academy, and the CAURD Accelerator Program.
- o To significantly improve license processing, and enhance transparency, OCM implemented a single point of contact (SPOC) licensing review model.
- o In partnership with the Cannabis Advisory Board, opened the application window for Community Reinvestment Program grants, which will invest in neighborhoods that have been historically under-resourced, underserved, and over-policed.
- o In Feb. 2024, the OCM Veterans Taskforce was established to support, educate, and provide resources related to cannabis to the veteran population.
- o In 2024, 22 Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Trainings were conducted by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) with support from OCM, training 797 officers in necessary skills to identify impaired driving.
- o Additionally, four Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Schools were held by GTSC with support from OCM, adding 60 newly certified DRE officers to the force and bringing the number of active DRE-Certified Officers in NYS to 445.

MEDICAL CANNABIS:

- o Over 100,000 patients registered with the Medical Cannabis Program
- o Nearly 8,500 Registered Caregivers
- o 4,454 Certifying Providers
- o 21 Medical Dispensaries
- o 11 Medical and Adult-Use Co-located Dispensaries
- o 3,550 Lots of medical cannabis products laboratory tested
- o 2024 Medical Cannabis campaign earned over 9.8 million impressions, over 42,500 clicks, and prompted 1 million video completions

ENFORCEMENT:

- o 1,300 enforcement inspections conducted
- o 450 businesses padlocked
- o 16,900 pounds of illicit products seized
- o \$68.5 million street value of products seized
- o 8,700 Lots of adult-use cannabis products laboratory tested
- o 431 field hours of compliance inspections

New York's cannabis strategy ensures a safe and fair marketplace for small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state. In collaboration with local municipalities the OCM padlocked hundreds of illicit stores across New York, leading to seizures of over 16,000 pounds of unsafe cannabis products. The OCM has enhanced its capacity to tackle unlicensed operators while fostering strong relationships that benefit both the industry and New York communities as cannabis in the market continues to grow. New York remains steadfast in its commitment to equity and inclusion.

To learn more, read the Office of Cannabis Management's 2024 Annual Report, which provides an in-depth look at the work the OCM has done in the past year.

SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



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

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

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

More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

*For any other questions
845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com*

 Follow Nick
[@nickneedsokidney](https://www.facebook.com/nickneedsokidney)



Montigram President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James
Welcome to 2025!

So much to look forward to in the second half of this Rotary year. We have our Taste of Sullivan Event scheduled for April 22nd at SUNY Sullivan from 6pm - 8pm. The first committee meeting will be on January 14th, so if you are interested in being part of that work, please circle that date for a 5:30 meeting.

We have Rotary Day of Service on Saturday, May 17th where we will hold our Community Unity Health Fair in collaboration with SALT (Sullivan Allies Leading Together). We will be holding our joint club Blood Drive at that event as well.

We will be starting a Flags for Heroes Project at the Sullivan County Government Center, our Bar-B-Q in June, Scholarship Selections, RYLA selections, and so much more.

The event closest at hand is our participation in the WSUL 98.3 Heart-a-thon. A community event, but one with a strong Rotary presence. This year, Monticello Rotary will be hosting the Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair on February 21st from 10am - 4pm. Chaired under the very able Crystal Tweed, work is being done on scheduling of mini courses to be offered throughout the day along with agencies and organizations who will provide materials and resources on a myriad of health and wellness issues. During the Health Fair, we will hold our Joint Club Blood Drive as well. Anyone wishing to donate blood should register for a time at

https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/321501

In addition, we will once again be assisting at Resorts World to sell the Heart Cards over weekends leading up to the Heart-a-thon on February 21, 2025. Please take a look on this link and sign up for an available time(s) to help out.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1406liV8Y4jTedMvQ1QPz-Lpn-NvmRGVUMHjEWRBuxus/edit?gid=178320377#gid=178320377>

District Team Learning Seminar will take place on February 22, 2025, at New Paltz High School from 9am-2:15pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for us as a group to deepen our knowledge, build on our understanding of our roles, and connect with fellow District Leaders from across the district. Please sign up today at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRa7bikPH-HpFjIY7PNBLI-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRa7bikPH-HpFjIY7PNBLI-KOBvWtqcNWL3r1D5ByLCi9jTw/viewform?usp=sharing)

[KOBvWtqcNWL3r1D5ByLCi9jTw/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRa7bikPH-HpFjIY7PNBLI-KOBvWtqcNWL3r1D5ByLCi9jTw/viewform?usp=sharing)

So much is going on with more information on all events will continue to be posted in our MontiGram.

Looking forward to seeing you all for our meeting at Albella on Tuesday night at 6:30. For those needing the Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M21CSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

Our speaker this week will be Barry Plaxen - The Canvas!

Our Motto: Service Above Self - How have you meet that goal lately?

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

Taste of Sullivan Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 5:30pm Albella

Monticello Rotary Monthly Board Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:30 Albella

Humpback Friday - Friday, January 17, 2025 5pm - 7pm at The Brew in Rock Hill

With Rotary Pride,

Lori Orestano-James

President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

Stories

Comfort Closet Delivery a Success

Monticello Rotary Club President Lori Orestano-James and President-Elect Dr. Peter Chester make the final stop of the Holiday Season by dropping off all the wonderful goodies collected during the Senior Comfort Closet Holiday Drive. The Delivery to Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility was welcomed so those clients spending the Holidays away from home would feel recognized and appreciated. Lap throws, big print puzzle books, personal care items, gripper socks, shawls, and other items were part of the delivery which hopefully brought smiles to those who need it most!

Santa Visits Hospital with Monticello Rotary Club

Members of the Rotary Club of Monticello, NY with Santa himself spent time at Garnet Health-Catskills visiting patients and greeting employees, volunteers, and visitors. Santa and the members distributed Care Bear Teddy Bears to patients and cookies baked by the Fallsburg Junior Senior High School Interact/LEO Club and treats to all. In addition, the Monti Rotary Ramblers sang beautifully harmonized holiday songs through the travels of all the departments at the hospital.

(All photos shown have received consent for distribution - Click here for link to all pictures:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pNqwWalz8cJ38j8D8>).

Comfort and Joy Abounds with Monti Rotary

Members of the Monticello Rotary Club brought tidings of



comfort and joy to stock the Senior Comfort Closet during the Annual Rotary Holiday Party. From gripper socks, large print puzzle books, lap throws, lotions, hair care items, shawls, hats, fingerless gloves and more, the Giving Table filled through the night

where items were placed with the Care Bear Teddy Bears that will be distributed at Garnet-Catskills. The Sr. Comfort Closet items will be delivered to area Senior Nursing Facilities

throughout Sullivan County. Not only did the club have a great time at the event, but they were happy to be able to give a little something to Shivani Patel who is not only the waitress at Albella where the club meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, but also a member of the Monticello Rotary Club!



Shivani Patel and Lori Orestano-James

DEC Announces 2025 Exam Date for Licensed Guide Program, Falconry License, Wildlife Rehabilitator License, and Leashed Tracking Dog License

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the upcoming dates of examinations for individuals seeking select Special Licenses. To provide enhanced access, DEC is offering these examinations online and free-of-charge.

Exams being offered:

- o New York State Licensed Guide: camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, whitewater, rock climbing, and ice climbing;
- o Falconry License;
- o Wildlife Rehabilitator License; and
- o Leashed Tracking Dog License.

“As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the customer experience, DEC is proud to offer these free examinations online,” said DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar. “This process makes it easier for individuals to apply and take part in helping others safely and responsibly enjoy New York’s affordable outdoor recreation opportunities and undertake proper wildlife rehabilitation activities.”

New York State Licensed Guide Exams

A guide is a person at least 18 years of age offering services for hire, including directing, instructing, or aiding another individual in camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, whitewater rafting/canoeing/kayaking, rock climbing, and ice climbing.

Applicants are not required to be a resident of New York State to receive a guide’s license.

2025 Licensed Guide Examination Schedule

Exam Date	Exam Times	Registration Must be Received by:
Feb. 7, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Feb. 5, 2025
March 1, 2025	NYSOGA meeting only	Feb. 21, 2025
May 9, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	May 7, 2025
June 6, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	June 4, 2025
July 11, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	July 9, 2025
Sept. 12, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Sept. 10, 2025

All exams will be online, except for the in-person exam offered at the New York State Outdoor Guides Association (NYSOGA) winter rendezvous meeting on March 1, 2025. Exam and registration instructions can be found on the DEC Licensed Guide Program webpage.

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

An outline of exam content and a study guide can be found on the DEC Licensed Guide Program webpage. The Fieldbook, a reference book published by the Boy Scouts of America, is also recommended and available online.

Falconry, Wildlife Rehabilitator, and Leashed Tracking Dog License Examinations 2025 Falconry, Wildlife Rehabilitator, and Leashed Tracking Dog License Examination Schedule

Exam Date	Exam Times	Registration must be Received by:
April 11, 2025	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	April 9, 2025
Aug. 8, 2025*	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Aug. 6, 2025

*Please note: Registration for the August exams will open the week following the April exam.

To register, visit the Special Licenses Registration Website. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging registration and a one-time link to access the exam on the specified exam date. The link to the exam registration webpage can be found on each of the individual license webpages at: Division of Fish and Wildlife Special Licenses and Permits.

Apprentice Falconry License

Falconry has a rich history and tradition throughout the world and requires a significant commitment of time and effort. Apprentices are limited to possessing one bird, either an American kestrel or a red-tailed hawk. To qualify for the Apprentice Falconry License, applicants must:

- o score 80 percent or higher on the written exam;
- o be at least 14 years of age;
- o possess a valid New York State hunting license;
- o maintain DEC-approved facilities for housing falconry raptors; and

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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

o be a resident of New York State. A falconry study guide and examination manual are available on the DEC Falconry License webpage. The exam is free; the cost of a five-year falconry license is \$40.

Wildlife Rehabilitator License

Wildlife rehabilitators provide for the care of injured, sick, and orphaned wild animals for the purpose of returning rehabilitated animals to the wild. Prospective applicants are encouraged to gain experience by serving as an assistant to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. To qualify for the Wildlife Rehabilitator License, applicants must:

- o score 80 percent or higher on the written exam;
- o be at least 16 years of age;
- o be interviewed by DEC Regional wildlife staff; and
- o be a resident of New York State.

A wildlife rehabilitator study guide and examination manual are available on the DEC Wildlife Rehabilitator License webpage. The exam is free and there is no cost for the five-year wildlife rehabilitation license.

Leashed Tracking Dog License

Leashed tracking dog handlers provide a valuable service in aiding hunters in locating wounded big game that otherwise may go unrecovered. To qualify for a Leashed Tracking Dog License, applicants must:

- o score 80 percent or higher on the written exam; and
- o possess a valid New York State hunting license.

A leashed tracking dog study guide is available on the DEC Leashed Tracking Dog License webpage. The exam is free; the five-year leashed tracking dog license is \$50. Additionally, there is a \$25 non-refundable fee for first-time applicants.

For questions or assistance please contact:
 NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit
 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752
 Email: SpecialLicenses@dec.ny.gov
 Phone: 518-402-8985, Fax: 518-402-8925

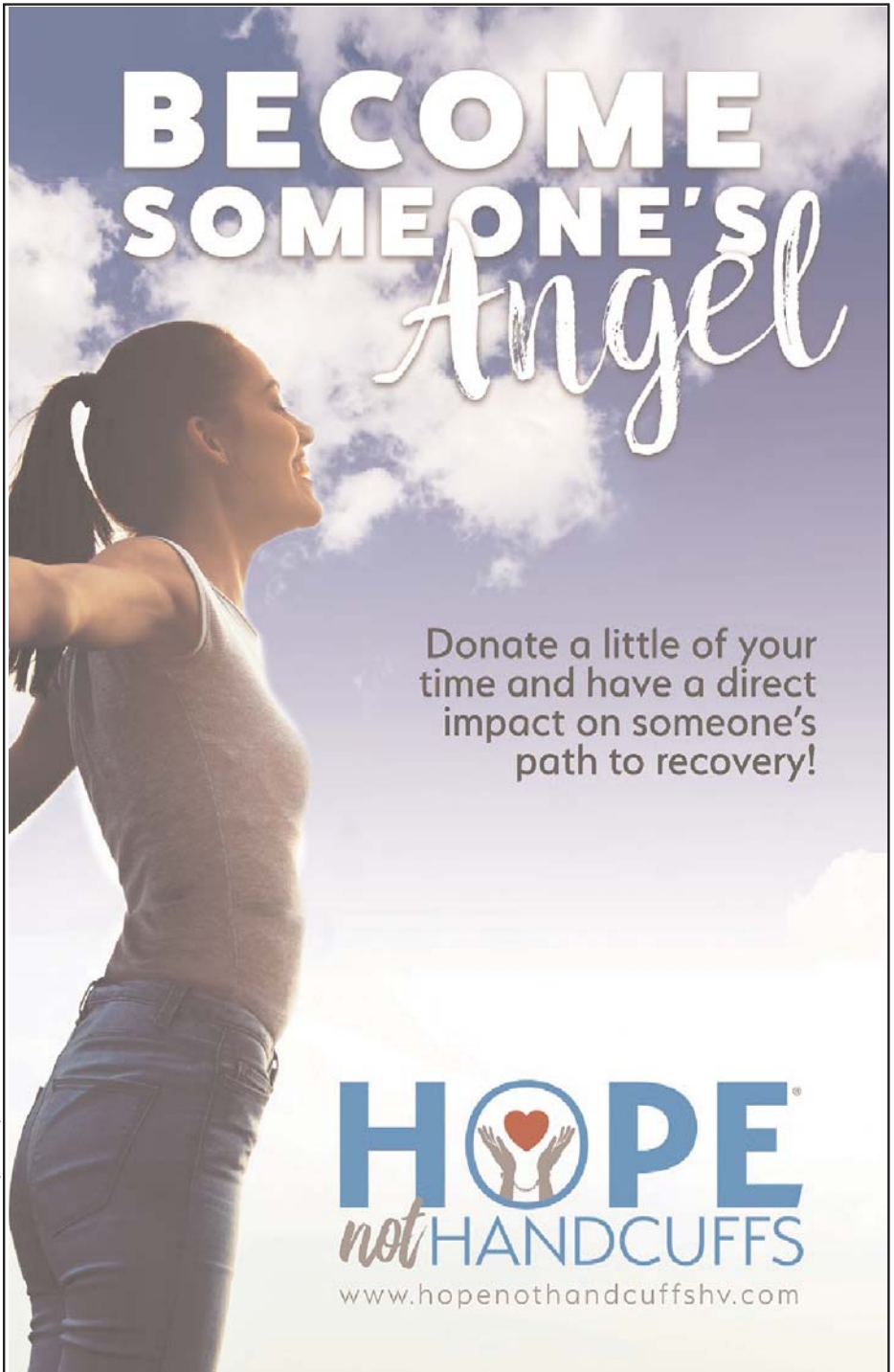
Governor Hochul Updates New Yorkers on Statewide Counterterrorism Preparedness Activities in 2024

- More Than 900 Joint Counterterrorism Training Exercises Completed Last Year
- Over 200 Mass Gathering Locations Assessed Statewide Including Stadiums, Campuses and Transportation Hubs
- Exercises Conducted at Businesses, Critical Infrastructure Sites, Rail Stations and Truck Rental Locations To Increase Vigilance and Reporting Related to Suspicious Activity
- Public Should Report Suspicious Activity to Law Enforcement at 1-866-SAFE-NYS (1-866-723-3697)

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT) in partnership with the New York State Police, conducted training exercises at more than 900 locations statewide in 2024 to increase public vigilance and reporting of suspicious activity. This included assessing more than 200 infrastructure locations across the State. Counterterrorism experts from more than 80 federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies completed exercises assessing the ability of businesses to recognize and report suspicious activity in nearly every county in the State. Law enforcement and OCT staff also completed 66 NY-SECURE rail counterterrorism details this year to remind travelers of the importance of the 'See Something, Say Something,' campaign. Governor Hochul also provided funding to deploy twelve additional investigators and two commissioned officers to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force groups in New York City, Albany, Buffalo, Rochester & Plattsburgh. Governor Hochul also funded an expansion at the New York State Intelligence Center, which included the addition of social media intelligence analysts & counterterrorism intelligence analysts.

"Keeping New Yorkers safe is my top priority - and in order to do that, we must always be prepared to act when disaster strikes." Governor Hochul said. "With these security training exercises and assessments conducted in partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement, we are ensuring first responders have the knowledge and resources they need to protect their communities, as well as making sure the public remains alert and vigilant."

Law enforcement teams across the State conducted exercises involving more than 350 law enforcement personnel in each of the State's 16 counter terrorism zones. As part of this process, teams assessed suspicious activity reporting and recognition at more than 700 retailers and businesses that sell chemicals, compounds, components, services, or rent space or resources that could be exploited by those with nefarious intent. These includ-



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ed 36 truck rental locations in 2024 and more than 600 since 2016. As part of the exercises, teams also assessed more than 200 infrastructure locations across the State, including stadiums and arenas, malls and shopping centers, colleges and universities, airports, transit hubs and other mass-gathering locations. Fifty-eight percent of the locations were new and not visited in previous years, which was an 18 percent increase from 2023. More than 7,300 total exercises have been conducted across New York since 2016.

OCT trained an additional 1,400 New Yorkers through more than 50 terrorism awareness presentations across New York, and OCT's Cyber Incident Response Team also provided cyber threat briefings to over 2,600 state and local government stakeholders to ensure awareness and preparedness.

(Contd. PG. 42)

Governor Hochul Updates New Yorkers on Statewide Counterterrorism Preparedness Activities in 2024

(From Pg. 41) Since the State-coordinated effort was launched in 2016, suspicious activity reporting to the NYS Terrorism Tips Line during these exercises increased 33 percent, demonstrating effective outreach and training, as well as increased public vigilance and reporting.

Operation NY-SECURE

The State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services also partnered with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in "Operation NY-SECURE" to conduct counterterrorism and incident response details along Amtrak routes and MTA commuter lines. These details improve coordination and response between the railroad police agencies responsible for each station, and the State and local law enforcement agencies that respond to emergencies at those locations. These visible, unannounced details included heightened platform patrols, increased security presence onboard trains, explosive detection canine sweeps and counter-surveillance measures.

In 2024, Operation NY-SECURE completed 66 details across the State. Teams conducted 54 single station details across the State, and 12 multi-station details at Amtrak and MTA stations along the Empire Line. Since the program's inception in 2018, law enforcement teams have conducted 513 details across the State. These details will continue in 2025.

"If You See Something, Say Something"

New Yorkers are reminded to stay alert to their surroundings and to report any suspicious activity. Reports can be made by phone or online to the New York State Intelligence Center's Terrorism Tip Line at 1-866-SAFENYS (1-866-723-3697). New Yorkers can also download the "See Something, Say Something" smartphone app on the Safeguard New York webpage. If there is an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Jackie Bray said, "We work closely with our local government and law enforcement partners year-round, conducting security trainings to prepare for potential acts of terrorism. The events in New Orleans and Las Vegas are tragic reminders of how important it is for us all to be vigilant, stay alert, and report suspicious activity to help protect our safety."

New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James said, "Educating businesses and the public on how to spot suspicious activity and notify law enforcement is critical for terrorism prevention. Planning, coordination, and training are all necessary to ensure local and state first responders are ready to work collaboratively to mitigate any type of emergency situation. These exercises are indispensable to our continuous efforts to protect and keep New Yorkers safe."

In the aftermath of the racist mass shooting that killed 10 people at a Tops Friendly Markets store in Buffalo on May 14, 2022, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order 18 establishing New York's first-ever Domestic Terrorism Prevention Unit at DHSES, which

now employs 18 people and requires each county in the State and New York City to develop plans to confront domestic terrorism. This has included \$20 million to date to support the development of local multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) teams in all 57 counties and New York City. There are now 47 TAM teams, and the remaining counties are taking steps to create theirs. These TAM teams help address concerning behavior in the early stages before people take the steps that lead to radicalization, and are comprised of local organizations such as law enforcement, schools, mental health professionals, and others to confront domestic terrorism, domestic violence extremism and targeted violence. In November 2023, Governor Hochul expanded the DTPU's mission to provide training and support to all colleges and universities statewide. Today, the New York State TAM team network has more than 800 stakeholders involved in targeted violence prevention efforts across the State - an increase of 25 percent from 2023.

About the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services provides leadership, coordination and support to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate disasters and other emergencies. For more information, find DHSES on Facebook, on Twitter or visit dhses.ny.gov.



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To apply for volunteer opportunities at the DPL, please complete a volunteer application.

Thank You!



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10:00AM - 11:00AM

Come join us along with other Vets to share some coffee and some stories.

**Place: 309 East Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701**

**Call 845-794-4228 for more
info, ask for Matt or Vinny**



Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

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

Together this group will share lessons, network, set up future field trips, have various guest speakers and programs.

You can also... borrow books, check out DVD's, access the internet, research online databases and utilize library space! (If you have a RCLS library card).

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

**Text or call Dana
for more information:
845 707 – 2489**



**Beginning
September
24th**





Honored to Represent NY-24 in the 119th Congress

On Friday, the 119th Congress officially began, and I was sworn in to represent NY-24 for the next two years. It is an honor and a privilege to be elected to serve the constituents of the newly formed New York District 24. I will continue to be a transparent and aggressive advocate on behalf of all of my constituents. Our team is deeply committed to delivering outstanding results for NY-24, by implementing innovative and common-sense solutions to the issues facing our communities. Our team will continue to provide top-tier constituent services. House Republicans are eager to begin implementing President Trump's agenda by making America secure and prosperous again. We are eager to hear from you and ensure that your views are represented in Washington. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I am committed to upholding our Constitutional principles and delivering meaningful results for our nation and especially New York.

Additionally, as a result of the recent redistricting process, NY-24 now includes parts of Steuben County and Schuyler County. Due to these changes, our district office in Victor is no longer within NY-24. To better serve constituents in the Finger Lakes Region, we are opening a new district office in Ontario County. For more information about who will represent you in Congress, visit www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative.

Thank you, NY-24, for entrusting me to represent you for another term. I remain committed to upholding our Constitution and delivering meaningful results for our region.

Highlighting Our 2024 Accomplishments

As we begin 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible year our office had serving the people of NY-24. Last Congress, we introduced 79 bills and cosponsored 577 bills, and in 2024 alone, we delivered more than \$5 million in benefits directly to constituents. Additionally, we secured \$19.7 million for projects across NY-24 through the Community Project Funding Program and explained hundreds of votes on my website to ensure transparency.

Throughout this past year-and my entire tenure as your elected representative-I have been committed to serving our region with compassion, tenacity, transparency, and accountability. It is an honor to represent this community, and I look forward to continuing this important work in Congress.

I encourage you to read our full report and, as always, contact our office with any questions or concerns. We are here to serve you!

One of my top priorities as your representative in Congress is ensuring the federal government works for you. Over the past year, our office assisted more than 2,500 New Yorkers with issues related to federal agencies. In 2024 alone, we helped NY-24 residents recover over \$5 million in benefits and back pay, advocated for veterans needing assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and worked with agencies, including the Social Security Administration, to expedite claim decisions. Additionally, we secured \$19.7 million for projects across NY-24 through the Community Project Funding Program.

To make our services accessible to everyone in the district, we hosted 26 mobile office sessions in areas without permanent offices, bringing assistance directly to all of our constituents. In 2025, we will continue these mobile office hours to ensure every resident in our sprawling district has access to in-person services.

In addition, our team has presented over 300 Proclamations, Congressional Record Extension of Remarks, and Certificates to deserving Veterans, Eagle Scouts, first responders, and community members for their positive impact on their community. This year, we partnered with the Vietnam Commemoration Committee to host two ceremonies for Vietnam-era Veterans in NY-24 to present Veterans with commemorative pins and thank them for their service. This Commemoration is dedicated to ensuring Veterans who served during this time are given the recognition they deserve. It is humbling to be in the presence of these heroes.

Maintaining a responsive office that is accessible and transparent is important to me. As part of this commitment to you, I explain every vote I take in the House of Representatives. I have publicly explained all of my votes on my website, so you will always know where I stand and why. I have also prioritized outreach and engagement.

This year, our team and I have traveled thousands of miles, attending over 305 community events, small businesses, and family-owned farms. We have also hosted numerous roundtables and held several Advisory committee meetings with stakeholders from across the district who provide regular feedback and updates.

In 2024, more than 33,000 residents of New York's 24th Congressional District have contacted our office to express their views, share their concerns, and ask important questions. I value this feedback and am honored to have responded to more than 60,000 messages this year. While we may not always agree, you have my commitment that I will always carefully consider your views as I represent you in Congress. If you would ever like to share a message with me, please visit my website at

tenney.house.gov/contact.

I am fighting to advance commonsense policies to improve our region, uphold the Constitution, and make our nation stronger than ever. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I'm focused on ensuring our tax code strengthens small businesses, puts more money in taxpayers' pockets, and allows families to thrive. This Congress, I introduced 79 bills and cosponsored 577 bills on a range of important issues. Eleven bills I cosponsored have been signed into law, while 105 bills I cosponsored have passed the House.

As a member of the prestigious Ways and Means Committee, one of my main focuses has been on preparing for the upcoming tax discussions and building on the success of President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. At the forefront of these discussions, I am advocating for Main Street businesses and family-owned farms that are the backbone of our economy and communities. As a small business owner and life-long resident of Upstate New York, I have consistently fought for small businesses, delivering real results to level the playing field and to help ensure their success. That's why I introduced the New Markets Tax Credit Extension Act, which supports critical investment opportunities for small businesses in Upstate New York. In addition, with NY-24 being one of the largest agricultural and dairy districts in the country, I supported legislation to advance pro-farmer policies that will support our farming communities and allow our farmers to thrive.

Results From Our 2025 Priorities Survey

The start of the 119th Congress marks a pivotal moment for our nation and a chance for our Republican Majority in Congress and the Trump White House to deliver on the America First Agenda that the American people overwhelmingly supported in the 2024 election. I am committed to leading efforts to secure our borders, deport dangerous illegal immigrants, lower prices, and support our courageous law enforcement officers.

Thank you to all who responded to our 2025 priorities survey. We greatly appreciate your time to share your thoughts. Above are some of the priorities you shared with me in the survey



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Here's what she's been up to this week:

1. Happy New Year!



Happy New Year from the Gillibrands! As we enter 2025, I'm wishing all New Yorkers a safe, healthy, and prosperous year. I am so proud to represent our great state, and I will continue working to deliver results for New York as we start this next chapter.

2. Ranking Member on Aging Committee

Over 59 million Americans are aged 65 years and older, and that number will continue to rise in the coming years. As this happens, it is essential that Congress leads the effort to invest in the well-being of our aging loved ones.

This week, Kirsten announced that she will become the ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee. In this role, she will continue fighting to bring down the cost of prescription drugs, protect Social Security and Medicare, guard against financial scams, and ensure that every American can age with dignity and financial security.

3. Joining Senate Appropriations Committee

This week, Kirsten also announced that she will be joining the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, which oversees federal spending and allocates funding to government agencies and programs. This role is an incredible opportunity to ensure that federal dollars are used to make life better for New Yorkers, support hardworking families, and address the pressing challenges faced by our nation at home and abroad, and Kirsten is excited to get started.

In addition to serving on the Appropriations Committee, Kirsten will continue serving on the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, and the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging.

4. Funding food aid programs

No one deserves to go hungry, and Kirsten is committed to

making sure that all New Yorkers have the resources they need to put food on the table.

That's why in 2024, Kirsten helped secure nearly \$6.5 billion in federal funding for New Yorkers through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is one of the most effective tools we have to combat hunger and food insecurity, and these benefits serve as a crucial lifeline for thousands of low-income New Yorkers.

5. Cap on prescription drug costs

It is unacceptable that so many Americans are forced to choose between paying for lifesaving medications and putting a roof over their heads.

That's why Kirsten is pleased to share that, as of January 1, Medicare Part D beneficiaries will now have a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket costs for their prescription drugs. This cap is a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, which Kirsten fought to pass in 2022.

Gillibrand Announces Assignment to U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

Washington, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand released the following statement announcing that she will be joining the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, which oversees federal spending and allocates funding to programs and government agencies:

"I am deeply honored to have been selected to serve on the Senate Committee on Appropriations. This role is an incredible opportunity to ensure that federal dollars are used to make life better for Americans, support hardworking families, and address the pressing challenges faced by our nation at home and abroad. As I assume this new position, I am committed to continuing to advocate for the needs of New Yorkers, and I look forward to helping deliver federal funding to programs and organizations in New York that help our great state thrive."

In addition to serving on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Gillibrand will continue serving on the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services. She will also serve as the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging.

Statement from Broome Republican Chairman Benji Federman: Josh Riley's First Action in Congress Betrays Upstate NY, Votes for Downstate Liberal Hakeem Jeffries

"Josh Riley just sold out Upstate New York in his very first action in Congress by attempting to give even more power to New York City by voting for downstate liberal Hakeem Jeffries for Speaker. Josh Riley is a coward who is already towing the party line, putting his DC advancement before struggling Upstate families who've been battling the ill-effects of downstate-crafted bail reform and cost of living crises for too long."



After More Than 70 Years, Fallen Korean War Hero Charles Johnson Awarded Medal of Honor, Follows Push from Congressman Ryan and Entire Hudson Valley Community

- *PFC Johnson, a Millbrook native and Arlington High School Grad, was killed in action June 12, 1953 on the frontlines in South Korea; his actions are credited with saving at least eight other American soldiers*
- *In May 2024, Ryan formally called on President Biden to award PFC Johnson the Medal of Honor, upgrading the previously awarded Silver Star*

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, following an extended push by Congressman Pat Ryan and the Hudson Valley community, fallen Korean War hero and Arlington High School graduate Private First Class (PFC) Charles Johnson's Silver Star will be upgraded to the Medal of Honor at a ceremony at the White House. On June 11, 1953, PFC Johnson and his fellow soldiers came under heavy fire while serving near the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. PFC Johnson was severely injured but disregarded his own condition to attend to the wounds of his comrades. Surrounded and without ammunition, PFC Johnson left the relative safety of his trench that he and his group were taking cover in to find weapons and single-handedly hold off the enemy front. PFC Johnson's self-sacrificing actions allowed reinforcements to rescue his fellow soldiers and are credited with saving at least eight American lives. While PFC Johnson's actions warranted the Medal of Honor, he received no military awards until 2011 when he was awarded the Silver Star, the third-highest military award for gallantry in combat.

"PFC Johnson is an absolute American hero - that's why I fought relentlessly alongside his family and countless advocates from Arlington High School and our entire Hudson Valley community to ensure he was awarded this long overdue Medal of Honor," said Congressman Pat Ryan. "His exceptional bravery and selfless actions that day were derived from a life firmly grounded in service to his country and his Millbrook community, as well as an unwavering commitment and sense of duty to his brothers in uniform. I want to thank everyone whose efforts ensured that his life has the elevated place in American history that it merits - for his family, for his community, and for every American who can draw inspiration from his selfless sacrifice."

"Charlie Johnson's heroic actions saved his classmate and men in his company during the Korean War. The study of his life and character has positively influenced thousands of Arlington students through the Charlie Johnson Legacy Project," said Arlington Central Schools Superintendent Dr. Phil Benante. "Our students, educators and community members have worked for over twenty years to advocate for Charlie to be honored with the Medal of Honor and today we feel an immense sense of pride

and gratitude in knowing that Charlie has been appropriately honored for his acts of valor at Outpost Harry on June 12, 1953."

In his letter to President Biden, Congressman Ryan called for the immediate upgrade, noting that PFC Johnson had long been denied the proper recognition for his heroic actions and the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (FY22 NDAA) included a provision to waive the standard five-year limit on awarding the Medal of Honor in PFC Johnson's case. Despite the FY22 NDAA being signed into law and Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recommending that PFC Johnson be awarded the Medal of Honor immediately, action had not been taken to rectify the injustice until Friday's ceremony.

PFC Johnson was a 1951 graduate of Arlington High School, where he was class vice president and a standout athlete before he joined the U.S. Army. Ryan visited Arlington High School's Johnson Hall and Wall of Remembrance that are dedicated to PFC Johnson's memory. Ryan also joined with the Millbrook and Arlington High School communities for a ceremony and lunch to honor the fallen hero.

In May 2001, five Arlington Middle School students conducted a research project about Arlington High School graduates who were killed during American military conflicts. Their project culminated in a Memorial Day presentation at the Dutchess County War Memorial. When the students recited Charlie's story, his siblings learned for the first time how their brother had died. They also met Donald Dingee, one of the men whose life Charlie had saved.

In 2004, Charlie's family, former classmates, Arlington administrators, and the men he saved began lobbying Congress to award him the Medal of Honor. The effort gained national attention in 2010 when actors Gary Sinise and Dennis Haysbert performed a dramatic reading about Charlie's heroism at the Capitol Memorial Day Concert in Washington, D.C. Following the performance, General Colin Powell spoke about the Charles Johnson Legacy Project, which urged Arlington students to live a "Charlie Johnson Moment" - helping others without expecting reward.

That same year, Arlington High School dedicated Johnson Hall and the Wall of Remembrance, honoring alumni who perished in military service. A statue of Charlie saving Don Dingee, designed and created by retired Arlington art teacher Arden Witherwax and donated by Arlington alumni, was also unveiled. It features eight character traits that defined Charlie: loyalty, brotherhood, selflessness, courage, compassion, responsibility, patriotism, and integrity.

During the dedication, Charlie was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, though many continued advocating for the Medal of Honor. The Silver Star Medal is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat.

In 2021, Congress passed a resolution waiving the requirement that the Medal of Honor be awarded within five years of the action it recognizes. This allowed a Pentagon review of Charlie's case, an effort championed by former Representatives Chris Gibson and Antonio Delgado, and later by Congressman Pat Ryan.

Congressman Ryan is the first West Point graduate to represent the Military Academy in Congress. He served two combat tours in Iraq as an Army intelligence officer and has long fought to deliver the recognition and benefits that veterans, servicemembers, and military families deserve. Last year, he secured replacement military medals for Vietnam veteran Sergeant Stephen Cole who had lost his original medals, and hand-delivered them in a ceremony.



Dear Friends,

From my family to yours, I'm wishing you a joy filled and hopeful New Year. May this season bring you peace, happiness, and renewed energy for the road ahead.

As the year closed, I reflected on the past two years during a speech on the House Floor. It was an opportunity to look back on the work we've done and challenges we've faced together. You can watch that speech at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZWhrBZjvS8

Public service isn't a job for me, it's who I am and what I believe.

Representing you has been an incredible honor, and while the future brings new roles, my dedication to fighting for issues we care about, communities we call home and country we love remains unshakable.

Thank you for your support and trust. Here's to another year of resilience, progress, and hope for a better tomorrow.

Happy New Year!

As we welcome 2025, I want to thank you. Serving Upstate NY in Congress has been the honor of a lifetime. Together, we tackled some of the toughest challenges facing our nation-fighting the fentanyl crisis, protecting our farmlands, and passing over 40 bipartisan bills that deliver real results. We made an impact because we stayed focused-not on the noise, but on the mission.

On January 3rd, my chapter in Congress came to a close. But make no mistake: my fight for our community, our values, and a stronger, safer America is just beginning. This is not an end-it's a new beginning. I'm ready to double down on the work that matters most, and I need you by my side.

Your support has always been my greatest source of strength. As we step into this new year, let's stand together and keep pushing for a better future.

Thank you for your faith, your partnership, and your belief in what we can achieve. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy, and blessed New Year.

With gratitude,
Marc Molinaro
Congressman

Signature Molinaro Bill Signed Into Law, Making Molinaro Most Effective Lawmaker in 118th Congress

Catskill, NY -- On Saturday, President Biden signed former Congressman Marc Molinaro's Think DIFFERENTLY Database Act into law, making Molinaro the most effective lawmaker in the 118th Congress. The bipartisan law creates a comprehensive national website for individuals, parents, and providers to access disability support services.

Molinaro's Legislative Results in the 118th Congress:

- 9 standalone bills passed Congress.
- 60 bills passed Congress as part of larger bills.
- 19 bills signed into law.
- #1 most bipartisan lawmaker in New York according to the nonpartisan Lugar Center.
- Most bills passed in all of Congress.

Former Congressman Marc Molinaro said, "The first bill I introduced - making it easier for individuals with disabilities and those who love them is now law. Having passed the most legislation of any member of the 118th Congress, I'm grateful we made a difference for so many Americans with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. There will be more to come, I assure you."

elle


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Standing with Champions for Equality, Gillibrand Calls on President Biden to Direct Archivist to Certify Equal Rights Amendment

President Biden can enshrine reproductive rights for millions of women into law by directing the archivist of the United States to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

NEW YORK, NY - Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand stood with elected officials and advocates to call on President Biden to enshrine reproductive rights for millions of women into law by directing the archivist of the United States to certify the Equal Rights Amendment before the end of his presidency. After the Supreme Court issued the Dobbs decision in 2022, it has become increasingly important to publish the ERA as part of the U.S. Constitution. The amendment would instantly provide the most effective safeguards to post-Dobbs attacks on women's health and would also serve as a bulwark against a national ban on abortion that President-elect Trump and congressional Republican leaders have threatened to enact.

The ERA has already fulfilled the criteria for certification: it was approved by two-thirds of Congress in 1972 and ratified by three-quarters of the states by 2020. The ERA is the only constitutional amendment ever proposed that has met the strict requirements, as spelled out in Article V, to be uniquely discriminated against and not certified and published by the archivist.

“President Biden has always been an advocate for women, and there is no better way to cement his legacy as president than to certify the Equal Rights Amendment,” said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. “During a time when women's rights are under systematic attack, we need the Equal Rights Amendment now more than ever. Today, more than half of all Americans do not have equal protection under the law and do not have access to the full range of reproductive care. Certifying the Equal Rights Amendment will be our best chance to ensure our hard-won civil liberties - same-sex marriage, the right to reproductive health care, access to birth control, fertility treatments, contraception - cannot be eroded. I strongly urge

President Biden to stand with the women of this country and do what is right.”

“With decades of progress on women's rights standing on the precipice, I join Senator Gillibrand in appealing to President Biden for this urgent certification,” said New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, lead sponsor of the ERA to the NYS Constitution, which voters overwhelmingly enacted in the 2024 general election. “President Biden must seize this opportunity to repel looming efforts at upending our civil rights and shield the gains he has long championed.”

“The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) stands as a critical safeguard for women's rights and is particularly significant to the future of women in this country, given the political horizon we are facing with the incoming administration. At this critical juncture, we all have a responsibility to the women who came before us to not only uphold and protect the rights secured, but to advance and institutionalize these rights in our government in the form of the Equal Rights Amendment. I am proud to join Senator Gillibrand's call for President Biden to direct the archivist to certify the ERA, so it is enshrined in our country's rights to serve as a bulwark against regressive policies and attacks on women's rights,” said New York City Council Member Julie Menin, Co-Chair of the NYC Council's Women's Caucus.

“The ERA was drafted by NYU law grad Crystal Eastman over 100 years ago and unveiled in Seneca Falls, New York in 1923. So, the women of New York and this country have been fighting for over a century to get ourselves into our own constitution. It is now or never. President Biden is the only one who has the power-right now-to put us in the constitution where we belong. It cannot ever truly be the 'people's constitution' until it reflects all of us,” said Kate Kelly, Center for American Progress.

The ERA was first proposed by Congress in 1923 as a constitutional amendment to guarantee equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex. A federal ERA would establish the premise that sex-based distinctions in access to reproductive care would be unconstitutional. As such, abortion bans would violate a constitutional right to sex equality since such restrictions would single out women for unfair denial of medical treatment based on sex. State-level Equal Rights Amendments have already been successful in providing the constitutional basis for reproductive equality and have been historically successful in defending against legislative infringements on women's reproductive freedom.

Delaware Valley Opera

**Arts Nest - Clown Daddy and
Kathy Geary
January 11 2025 Saturday
6:00AM 8:00PM**

**Arts Nest - Beat the Devil
January 18 2025 Saturday
6:00AM 08:00PM**

**Arts Nest - Lisa and Randy Light
January 18 2025 Saturday
6:00AM 8:00PM**

**Arts Nest Concert - Tshombe Selby
- Celebrate Black History Month
February 22 2025 Saturday
7:00PM 9:00PM**

**Clown Daddy | Kathy Geary
Saturday January 11, 2025 from 6-8pm
Doors open 5pm | Admission \$20**

Clown Daddy, also known as Ellie J, is an actress-turned-clown who has found her home in the wilds of the Catskills. An NYU Tisch honors graduate and a drop-out of the prestigious Lecoq clown school in Paris, her focuses are physicality, slapstick, and joy of the cathartic experience in live performance. "Clown Daddy" evolved somewhere between an accident and years of hard work developing a stage persona. She has happily and humbly become a staple part of the Catskills artist community, bringing fun to as many audiences as she can. You can find what she's up to at clowndaddypresents.com.

Kathy Geary released an EP of original Folk Rock music in 2022 Sky High, recording with her band named Cloud Cover. She produces a live weekly public-radio program on Radio Catskill on Saturdays at 3pm called Now & Then since 2013, focusing on singer songwriters, their history and the latest music they've released. She's performed operatically in Europe and the US and with the Delaware Valley Opera since 2012, when she premiered the company's production of Verdi's Otello as Desdemona. Kathy performs locally on a regular basis and is thrilled to live among the inspiring musicians who bring our community to life, with a serious commitment to music.

Beat the Devil

**Saturday Jan 18, 2025 from 6-8pm
Doors open 5pm | Admission \$20**

Beat the Devil are Doug Rogers (vocals, guitar, piano, accordion, writer), Annie Hat (vocals, bass, percussion, writer), Dave Milner (vocals, bass, guitar, writer), and Pam Arnold (drums and possibly banjo).

Beat the Devil is an eclectic, dirty, funky, country, bluesy folk band, voted River Reporter's best band three times.

Arts Nest offers a large variety of entertainment year-round in a comfortable, friendly setting - a fun place for serious artists. Come with your friends, take a table, have a few drinks, while enjoying the performances.

Lisa and Randy Light

**Saturday Jan 25, 2025 from 6-8pm
Doors open 5pm | Admission \$20**

Lucky Penny is Lisa Light aka El Elle's second full-length album. The album artwork features a much-memed photograph by David Henry Williams, entitled "Tiny Dancer" taken in 1984 in New Orleans of Lisa and Randy busking on the street. This photograph is featured in several museums in the Southeast. Having been raised by two musicians, this album is truly a full circle homage to the importance of music to the Light family.

This collection is a diary of Lisa's journey of uprooting from Oakland, CA in 2020 to the east coast to care for her mother for the last years of her life battling cancer. Along the way, she invited her father, Randy to join in the songwriting, and eventual recording of this highly emotional material. This album is entirely organic with simple, classic instrumentation and deeply thoughtful and subtle grace.

Lisa Light; Producer, Violin, Vocals, Synths, Composer, Randy Light: Electric Guitar, Backup Vocals, Composer

Arts Nest Open Mic Tuesdays

EVERY TUESDAY! It's official, we're back with a weekly open mic, sign-up at 5:30pm and music 6-8pm. Every week we can gather together in Lake Huntington with our friends and other musicians to explore performance and repertoire. A donation of \$5 for each is suggested and highly recommended to keep this thing going.

Bring your own food and drink and invite your friends!

Be there or be square!!

Ulster County Awarded \$2M Clean Energy Grant for New Emergency Communications Center

The Project is Now Out To Bid

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has announced that the County has been awarded a \$2 million NYSERDA grant for the energy-smart and resilient Emergency Communications Center to be built on Paradies Lane in New Paltz. The facility will include super-insulated walls, geothermal heating and cooling (a renewable resource), and solar with battery backup.

Bid documents have now been released to construct the state-of-the-art facility, which will house the County's Department of Emergency Services, including the Emergency-911 center, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the Divisions of Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services. During a natural disaster or other type of emergency, the EOC serves as the central point of coordination for emergency response and recovery. Depending on the type of emergency, the EOC may include personnel from federal, state, and local agencies, the utility, first-responders and others, in addition to County personnel. The 15,650 square-foot facility has been designed to operate during natural disasters, power outages, and other types of emergencies, greatly enhancing the County's emergency response capabilities.

Construction is anticipated to begin in late Spring/early Summer, with an 18-24 month timeline for completion.

The Legislature passed a resolution in December adopting and issuing a negative SEQRA declaration for the project - a determination that the project would not have significant adverse environmental impacts and can proceed as planned.

"The County's current emergency facilities are outdated, under-sized, and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as power outages during severe weather when those facilities are needed most," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "We have designed a new Emergency Communications Center that is energy-smart, resilient, and capable of withstanding any kind of natural disaster or threat, and I want to thank NYSERDA for investing in this worthy and much-needed project. I also want to thank our Emergency Services Director Everett Erichsen and Planning Director Dennis Doyle for all the careful planning and work they've put into this project, as well as the Legislature for recognizing the great benefits this new Emergency Communications Center will bring."

"This \$2 million NYSERDA grant is a transformative investment in Ulster County's emergency response infrastructure," said Everett Erichsen, Ulster County Department of Emergency Services Director. "The new sustainable facility on Paradies Lane will combine cutting-edge technology with environmental responsibility through features like geothermal heating and solar power. This represents another major step in our commitment to delivering modern, efficient emergency services that Ulster County residents deserve."

"The Ulster County team, including the County Executive's Office and the Departments of Emergency Services and Planning, created an ambitious and forward-thinking design vision for an Emergency Communications Center that is "carbon neutral" - the electrical systems exclude the use of fossil fuels," said Kristen Wilson, Deputy Director of Planning. "Geothermal heating and cooling, a roof solar system, and extremely insulated walls will strengthen the resilience of this building that will have a 100-year life span. It is always a pleasure when grant funding from NYS

and other sources can be secured to support innovative projects like this one and reduce the County's financial burden to provide essential and exemplary services to its residents."

"Ulster County is deeply grateful to NYSERDA for this transformative grant," said Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. "This funding allows us to build a sustainable, state-of-the-art Public Safety Communications Building that will significantly enhance our emergency response capabilities while exemplifying our commitment to environmental stewardship. With features like geothermal heating and cooling, solar power, and super-insulated walls, this facility will not only serve our community's immediate needs but also set a benchmark for resilient and sustainable infrastructure. We look forward to breaking ground this spring and advancing safety and sustainability hand in hand."

"This is a very exciting time for Ulster County," said Gina Hansut, Ulster County Legislator and Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee Chair. "As a county, we provide many services to our constituents, visitors etc. Not everyone benefits from all services. Our new Emergency Communications Center will provide services that everyone can benefit from. This building is long overdue, and I can't wait to break ground and to begin the building process."

The County purchased the 57.3-acre property in May 2024 for \$2.8 million - \$200,000 less than the 2022 agreed price between the property owner and the County. County Executive Metzger negotiated the price reduction to more fully account for environmental remediation costs, as the site is in the NYS Brownfield Program, and site remediation will be consistent with what is required by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

The 2024 Executive Budget created an \$18 million capital reserve for the Emergency Communications Center. By dedicating these funds from the County's excess fund balance in a reserve, taxpayers will save more than \$1 million annually in borrowing costs.

The New Paltz location provides access to reliable, uninterrupted power and redundant fiber optic infrastructure, and is also ideally located to provide quick access to major thoroughfares: the New York State Thruway, and Routes 32 and 9W.

Currently, the County's Emergency-911 call center answers more than 130,000 emergency and non-emergency calls per year.

Congestion Relief Zone tolling begins on January 5 in NYC

Starting on January 5, 2025, vehicles entering the Central Business District (CBD), popularly referred to as the Congestion Relief Zone (CRZ), will be charged a toll. The CRZ includes local streets and avenues at or below 60th St in Manhattan, and excludes trips entirely done on the FDR Drive, West Side Highway/Route 9A, and the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel connections to West Street.

The toll amount depends on several factors: the type of vehicle, time of day, whether any crossing credits apply, and payment method. For example, passenger vehicles with E-ZPass tags entering the CRZ at 60 Street will be charged \$9 in the peak period and \$2.25 overnight, once daily. To learn more, visit congestionreliefzone.mta.info.

Please review your E-ZPass account to ensure that it has your current license plate number. To receive appropriate discounts, exemptions, and crossing credits, your license plate number is required. Visit the MTA website to learn more about discounts and exemptions for Congestion Relief Zone Tolling at

<https://new.mta.info/tolls/congestion-relief-zone/discounts-exemptions>

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Governor Hochul Announces \$101.8 Million Available for Rail and Port Infrastructure Projects Statewide

- *Funding Supports Reliability and Resiliency Enhancements to Major Trade Corridors*
- *Applications Accepted through April 7, 2025*
- *Learn More and Apply for Funding on The Department of Transportation Website*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced \$101.8 million in state funding is available through the Passenger and Freight Rail Assistance Program. This program funds rail and port projects across the state, boosting New York's trade corridors and its position as a global commerce destination, while enhancing safety. Increased use of rail for the movement of people and goods is also good for the environment as it reduces emissions from the transportation sector and helps to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals established in New York's landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019. Funding applications will be accepted through April 7, 2025.

“New York State is committed to investing in our rail network to ensure that the raw materials and products that fuel so much of our economy continue to get where they need to go safely and as efficiently as possible,” Governor Hochul said. “This funding will help us further modernize our rail infrastructure, allowing our local businesses to get the products they need when they need them. I urge anyone with qualifying projects to apply and help us invest in the future economic well-being of our state.”

The Passenger and Freight Rail Assistance Program is administered by the New York State Department of Transportation. Winning projects will be selected through a competitive solicitation process and rated based on established criteria that include a benefit cost analysis, adherence to regional economic development plans, safety enhancements, compatibility with other private and public investments, and actions that enhance resilience and reduce climate risk. Previous awards have funded the purchase of low-emission locomotives and other equipment, track improvements and bridge rehabilitations across the state, including a

project to rehabilitate fifteen miles of the Voorheesville Running Track in Albany County; the rehabilitation of a rail bridge over the Delaware River and a project to mitigate congestion and increase capacity along the Fremont Industrial track in Queens.

Sullivan 180 Announces 2025 Grants Applications Are Now Available Online

[LIBERTY, NY] The 2025 Sullivan 180 grant programs are open, and the following applications are available: Beautification, School Beautification, Municipal Partnership and Community Development. Application deadlines, amounts and eligibility vary.

Beautification Grants support the creation and care of gardens and public spaces with an emphasis on youth engagement.

School Beautification Grants offer funding to transform school campuses into welcoming natural environments. This initiative supports projects that improve school grounds and entrances with gardens and trees and create or maintain outdoor gathering spaces, fostering a more inviting and inspiring atmosphere for students and staff.

Municipal Partnership Grants assist local governments with care of public spaces, support youth initiatives, and/or environmental stewardship.

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

“Sullivan 180 focuses on engaging communities to address the social determinants of health, many which can be affected through our built and natural environments,” said Denise Frangipane, Sullivan 180 CEO. “Sullivan 180 grants provide resources for grassroots, volunteer and community driven efforts. These are the people and the places part of our mission to build a healthy community. All grants require that youth be engaged or impacted by the projects.”

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

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VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!






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

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

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY


@ 6:30 PM

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!






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

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

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

Are you a parent struggling with your family?
Are you a teen having problems at home?

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

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



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

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



Hey...I really need to talk to someone. Can you help?



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

We're Here to Listen:
Bullying - Eating Disorders -
Self-Harm - Homeless/Runaway -
Pregnancy - Problems at Home -
Relationship Issues - LGBTQ+ -
Divorce - School Issues -
Substance Use -
Physical/Mental/Sexual Health -
and more!

**Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486**

OFF HOURS:
Call 1-888-750-2266, option 2



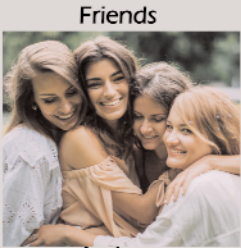
Text for Teens is supported by a Grant of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation

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Amigos

Family

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Familia

Obtenga los hechos.

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Comunidad

Hable con su proveedor de salud sobre la vacuna del COVID-19.

#VaccinateSullivan

For more information, visit www.sullivanny.us



GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

Sullivan County Department of Social Services is looking for families who can help fulfill the **DESPERATE NEED** for ages **8-18!**



FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ULSTER COUNTY IN JANUARY 2025

TRENDING

NOW TRENDING ... TOP EVENTS



- January 1: First Day Hikes, Kerhonkson & Highland
- January 10: Hot To Go – The Chappell Roan Party, Woodstock
- January 11: Robert Burke Warren's Bowie Birthday Bash, Woodstock
- January 11&25: Sail Tales, Kingston
- January 17: Cruel Summer – A Live Tribute to Taylor's Eras Tour, Woodstock
- January 17-19: JAM-uary Weekend, Olivebridge
- January 18: CPW Grand Re-Opening, Kingston
- January 19: State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine Presents - Swan Lake, Kingston
- January 31: Disco Chalet, Kingston
- January 31-2: Winter Hoot 2025, Olivebridge

DATE	TRENDING JANUARY 2025
Please Note	This calendar is now digital and is no longer printed for mass distribution. To receive a digital copy via email, please contact tourism@co.ulster.ny.us or call 800-342-5826. Provide your name and email address. Calendar listings are based on information received prior to publication. Changes may occur after distribution.
1	Minnewaska State Park 1st Day Hike: Start your New Year off with a 2.5-mile hike with Minnewaska State Park in their Peters Kill area! 9:30am-12:30pm. Please call for more information. 845-255-0752; tinyurl.com/2w22a2em . Minnewaska State Park, 5281 Route 44 55, Kerhonkson.
1	Walkway Over the Hudson 1st Day Hike: Start your New Year off with a short walk to the flagpole (3/4 of a mile) or a 3-mile walk around the Walkway's loop trail! 11am-2pm. Please call for more information. 845-834-2867; tinyurl.com/3seh52zt . Walkway Over the Hudson, 70 Haviland Rd, Highland.
5	Wolfman Jack – Primal Grateful Dead: Howl and groove while celebrating the primal essence of The Grateful Dead with Wolfman Jack! 7-10pm. \$15-\$20. 845-679-7625; tinyurl.com/3rxd33jh . Colony Woodstock, 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock.
8	Hands-On Cooking Class – Warm Winter Favorites: Kill the winter chill by learning how to make deliciously warm meals to kick off your New Year! 6-8:30pm. \$85. 845-419-2661; tinyurl.com/yppxvc5c . Watergrasshill B&B, 105 Phillies Bridge Rd, New Paltz.
10	Hot To Go – The Chappell Roan Party: Your favorite party's favorite party. Whether you're a "Casual" fan or a ride or die – this party is the one for YOU! Doors open at 7pm with showtime at 8pm. \$21.65. tinyurl.com/nrmanatj . Bearsville Theatre, 291 Tinker St, Woodstock.
10	Back 2 Mac & Tom Prettys – A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac and Tom Petty: Rock out to classic hits from Fleetwood Mac and Tom Petty! 7-10pm. \$25-\$30. 845-679-7625; tinyurl.com/2vdaw3fk . Colony Woodstock, 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock.

DATE	January 2025 Calendar of Events
------	---------------------------------

11	Robert Burke Warren's Bowie Birthday Bash: Help celebrate the legend, David Bowie's birthday with Robert Burke Warren and other guests! 7-10pm. \$25-\$30. 845-679-7625; tinyurl.com/3a9y9ssj . Colony Woodstock, 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock.
11	Woodstock Symphony Orchestra "New Horizons": Come see the Woodstock Symphony Orchestra play the works of Mozart and Grammy-winning, Jessie Montgomery's "Starburst". 7:30pm. \$10-\$40. 845-679-6900; tinyurl.com/ystm9am . Woodstock Playhouse, 103 Mill Hill Rd at Playhouse Ln, Woodstock.
11	Oxford Station Band: Stop in High Falls Café to see Oxford Station Band playing LIVE! 7:30pm. Please call to reserve a table. 845-687-2699; tinyurl.com/vvy6we7x . High Falls Café, 2842 Route 209, Kingston.
11&25	Sail Tales: Set sail to the Hudson River Maritime Museum for a delightful story time that will whisk the little ones into a magical world of maritime tales! 11:30am-12pm. FREE. 845-338-0071; tinyurl.com/mwjkjd6u2 & tinyurl.com/299c5p9x . Hudson River Maritime Museum, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston.
11&25	Woodstock Farm Festival Winter Market 2025: Celebrate Woodstock's local food, live music, and their rockin' community! 10am-1pm. Please visit website for pricing details. tinyurl.com/59vhxr7b . Woodstock Community Center, 56 Rock City Rd, Woodstock.
17	Cruel Summer – A Live Tribute to Taylor's Eras Tour: Calling all Swifties! Bring all your friends and jam out to Taylor Swift's Eras Tour music! 7-10pm. \$25-\$30. 845-679-7625; tinyurl.com/eh6zrw8x . Colony Woodstock, 22 Rock City Rd, Woodstock.
17	Books, Beer, and Bluegrass: Join Tilly Foster at Rough Draft Bar & Books for a fun end of the week gig! Just like the name – enjoy books, beer, and some bluegrass music! 6-7:30pm. 845-802-0027; tinyurl.com/vpt4adzc . Rough Draft Bar & Books, 82 John St, Kingston.
17-19	JAM-uary Weekend 2025: Do you play an instrument? Join guests at The Ashokan Center for their bluegrass jam weekend! 7:30-9pm on Friday, 9:30am-6pm on Saturday, and 9:30am-5pm on Sunday. \$250. 845-657-8333; tinyurl.com/5bp538pf . The Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge.
18	CPW Grand Re-Opening: Celebrate 4 new exhibitions, a community gallery, visitors lounge, library, and digital media lab all at The Center of Photography at Woodstock! 5-8pm. Please call for pricing information. 845-679-9957; tinyurl.com/23fu7vxn . CPW, 474 Broadway, Kingston.
19	State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine Presents – Swan Lake: Indulge in the mesmerizing spectacle that is Swan Lake and be left breathless by its enchantment and beauty! 3pm. \$41-\$91. 845-339-6088; tinyurl.com/4rnbuczc . UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston.
21	Winter Sugar Cookie Decorating: Just because Christmas has passed doesn't mean the cookie making has to end! Learn how to intricately decorate these delectable winter treats! 6pm. \$70. 845-419-2661; tinyurl.com/bdf434hu . Watergrasshill B&B, 105 Phillies Bridge Rd, New Paltz.
23	Bailen: Twins Daniel and David with their younger sister Julia who have been compared to The Fleet Foxes and The Staves will be performing LIVE at The Falcon! Dining at 5:30pm with showtime at 7pm. 845-236-7970; tinyurl.com/239w2k4f . The Falcon, 1348 Route 9W, Marlboro.
25	Junco Partners "Mardi Gras Show": The Junco Partners feature an all-star lineup of NYC talent playing New Orleans inspired funk, groove, jazz, and soul! Dining at 5:30pm with showtime at 7pm. 845-236-7970; tinyurl.com/239w2k4f . The Falcon, 1348 Route 9W, Marlboro.
31	Disco Chalet Day 1: Music, dancing, and a fabulous display of vintage après ski disco fashion! Please see website for time and pricing information. More details to come. tinyurl.com/dtjcvty . Assembly Kingston, 236 Wall St (3 rd Floor), Kingston.
31-2	Winter Hoot 2025: A winter weekend of exceptional roots music and down-home fun for all ages! Please see website for weekend schedule. \$0-\$250. 845-657-8333; tinyurl.com/4m5metke . The Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge.



ULSTER COUNTY TOURISM, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, 3rd Floor, Kingston
800-DIAL-UCO (800-342-5826) tourism@co.ulster.ny.us

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"KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE
ON IMOB, AMAZON PRIME, NETFLIX

SOYLENT GREEN
(PG · 1973 · 1HR 37MIN · CRIME / SCI-FI)
SEE IT ON IMOB
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0070723>

Interestingly enough the story takes place on in 2022 when *Soylent Green* a new food source from the sea turns out to be a nightmarish futuristic reality about the controlling power of big corporations and an innocent cop who stumbles on the truth. The cop Detective Thorn (Charlton Heston) discovers a tale of Earth in despair in 2022.

Natural food like fruits, vegetables, dairy products, chees and meat longer exist.



Earth is overpopulated. New York City has 40 million starving, poverty-stricken people. The only way they survive is with water rations and eating a

mysterious food called Soylent. A detective investigates the murder of the president of the Soylent company. The truth he uncovers is more disturbing than the Earth in turmoil. He learned the secret ingredient of Soylent Green.

Directed by Richard Fleischer. Starring Charlton Heston, Leigh Taylor-Young, Chuck Connors and Joseph Cotton.

The year the movie was set -2022! April 19 marks the 52nd anniversary of the film's release, and its futuristic, dystopian themes have some relevance today, so much so that four Arizona State University professors, all in different fields, could address the movie's, well, prescient takes.

In the movie, the food shortage is so extreme a jar of strawberry jam is \$150 and people weep at the sight of beef. Housing in New York City, where "Soylent Green" is set, is only affordable to the richest of the rich - the elite. Everyone else sleeps in their cars - or on the street.

According to the United Nations, nearly one-third of the world's population didn't have access to adequate food in 2020.

Just look at social media and how trends sort of stream across social media. Look at movements such as the anti-vax movement or conspiracy theories. All of those stem from increasingly complex communication technologies. You see how people, because of lies and misinformation, don't question things. There is that element of sheep-dom that we're seeing right now."

Is Soylent Green a future reality? Let's hope not. A cautionary tale? Perhaps.

(Contd. Pg. 60)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: The U.S. Government

This weeks' Trivia question:

What sport is featured in *Bang the Drum Slowly* with Robert Di Nero and Michael Moriarty?

(From Pg. 59)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

AVAILABLE ON TCM, AMAZON, IMOB, NETFLIX
NANOOK OF THE NORTH

(SILENT FILM / TV-PG / 1922 / 1HR 18MIN / DOCUMENTARY)

Nanook of the North, the life of Nanook –the Bear –a great hunter in the Eskimo fashion is cronicialized. A 1922 American silent film which combines elements of a documentary and a docudrama, at



a time when the concept of separating films into documentary and drama did not yet exist.

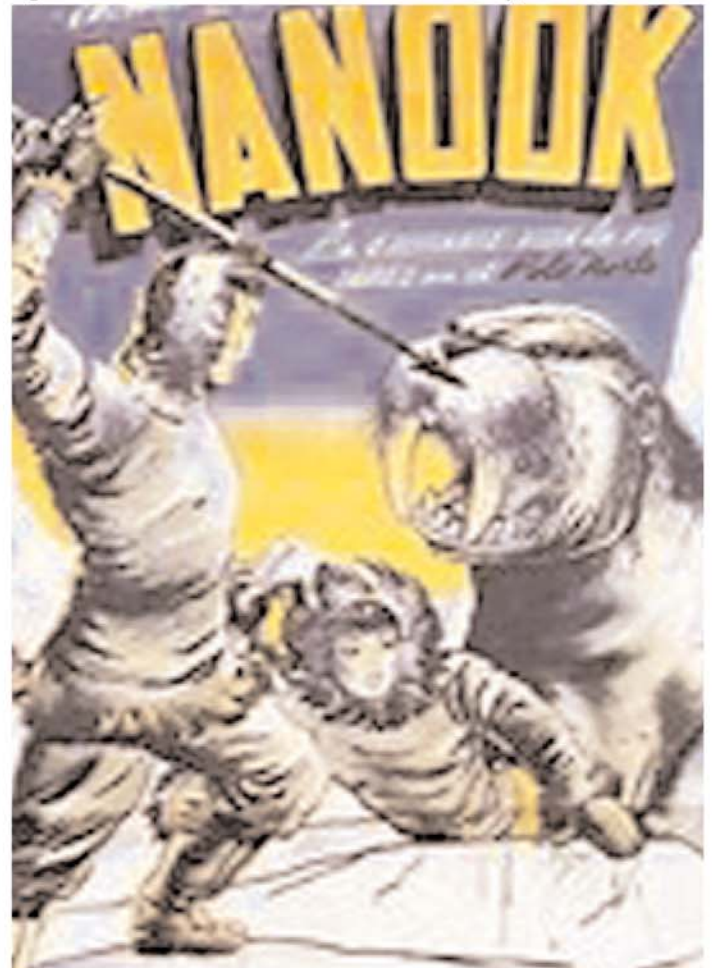
It was written and directed by Robert J. Flaherty, who also served as cinematographer, editor, and producer with Allakariallak, Alice Nevalinga, and Cunayou Allegoo.



In this silent predecessor to the modern documentary film-maker Robert J. Flaherty spends one year following the lives of Nanook and his family,



In the tradition of what would later be called *salvage ethnography*, the film follows the struggles of the Inuk man named Nanook and his family in the Canadian Arctic.



*Stay safe and stay well
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome*