

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 22 NO. 47 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 NOVEMBER 20, 2025

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Tri-Valley Lions November Meeting



Lions Ilene Wizwer, along with Tom Cosentino, Stephen Miller & Esta Jacob spoke with Customers at Neversink General Store and handed at Diabetes Related Information on Nov 15, 2025

November has been a very busy month for The Tri-Valley Lions.

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, The Tri-Valley Lions attended the District 20-O Lions Convention at Resorts World in Monticello. Several of us attended educational seminars and got a chance to meet with several other District 20-O Lions and share ideas regarding fundraising ideas, and environmental concerns. There were over 130 in attendance, and The Tri-Valley Lions received a Recognition Award for having 13 members of our Lions Club in attendance. During the convention, Ben Wizwer was recognized for becoming a member of the Fallsburg Lions LEO Club. Ben attends all our Tri-Valley Dinner Meetings and at age 18 will become a member of the Tri-Valley Lions Club. Additionally, the District Governor recognized our two newest members Johnny and Sara Munoz. (See photos).

At the Convention, the District 20-O Peace Poster was selected. It is the first one on the left in the photo. Our own Tri-Valley Peace Poster Contest winner was Aubrey DeMondo, and although she didn't win the 20-O District Contest, her beautiful peace poster was on display at the Convention. As a reminder, all Tri-Valley School Peace Posters that were submitted are on display at the Daniel Pierce Library.

On November 3, 2025, we had our Dinner Meeting at Casa Mia. At this meeting, Lion Susan Miller did a presentation on Mental Health and spoke of all the resources available in our community. Susan, who is recently retired, spent almost 50 years working in and with Mental Health Organizations in New York State and she is still a member of the ARC Board of Directors. Wishing Susan much happiness and good health for her retirement. (Contd. Pg. 5)



Ben Wizwer presented with pin and is now member of the Fallsburg Lions LEO Club

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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of Frank Comando

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3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
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More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

John 3:33

OBITUARY

Margaret Lisa Coombe, 72, of Ellenville, NY, passed away peacefully at home on November 9, 2025, surrounded by her family after a long battle with dementia.

Margaret was born in Troy, NY, on May 29, 1953, to Harold and Dorothy Beatty. She spent most of her youth in Red Hook, NY, where she attended local schools. She went on to attend SUNY Oneonta, graduating in May 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree, and subsequently worked as a Veterinary Technician for Dr. Hammond in Hyde Park, NY. Margaret later furthered her education at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It was there, while completing work-study credits in the Cornell cow barns, that she met her future husband, Philip. Upon Phil's graduation, Margaret decided to leave Cornell to pursue a career in teaching.

Margaret and Phil settled in Grahamsville, NY, where Phil's family maintained a working farm. After they married, Margaret began her career as a science teacher at Fallsburg High School. She simultaneously attended SUNY New Paltz at night, earning her Master's in Education in 1984.

A dedicated and passionate educator, Margaret treasured her impact on the many students she taught during her tenure at Fallsburg High School. She taught biology, chemistry, and physics, and was known for devoting her time to after-hours tutoring and SAT preparation. Margaret kept a wide range of pets—from house cats and dogs to dozens of horses—but she was also famous for the unconventional animals she kept in her classroom. Her exhibits included lizards, a tarantula, cockroaches, snails, crabs, frogs, toads, tadpoles, and rodents. Her appreciation for life in all its varying forms highlighted her lifelong passion for nature.

Riding and caring for horses was a central theme of Margaret's life. Living on the farm allowed her to raise many horses over the years, including a foal she cared for from birth. She worked at numerous horse shows and participated in competitive long-distance trail rides, as well as trips throughout Vermont with one of her best friends and mother-in-law, Carolyn Coombe.

A faithful Christian, Margaret regularly attended church and taught Sunday School for more than 10 years. She was

an active member of the community, helping with fundraising dinners, weekly services, and organizing the annual Christmas show.

Margaret was extremely proud of her two children. Together with Phil, she worked tirelessly to ensure they were well-educated, appreciated the beauty of the world, and treated others with respect and empathy. She was a hands-on mother who ensured homework was done and practices were attended, but also played games, went for nature walks, and simply enjoyed the company of her family. She was a kind and supportive mother, teacher, partner, and friend, and she is and will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her loving and devoted sons, John Philip Coombe (Jacqueline) and Alan George Coombe (Beata); her grandchildren, George, Henry, and Genevieve Coombe (children of John and Jackie), and Aurelia and Alexander Coombe (children of Alan and Beata); her former husband, Philip Coombe III, sisters Ann Tipple and Jane White (Doug), brother John Beatty (Barbara), and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The family is very grateful to her caregivers, Edith Halmagyi and Beata Coombe, who provided support through her final years. We also thank those who have shown their love through meals, visits, calls, cards, flowers, and prayers.

A period of visitation will be held on Saturday, December 6, starting at 1:00 PM at the Grahamsville Reformed Church, followed by a brief burial service. A time of reflection and refreshments will follow at Memorial Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Grahamsville Reformed Church (PO Box 238, Grahamsville, NY 12740) or the Daniel Pierce Library (PO Box 268, Grahamsville, NY).

Cremation and funeral arrangements have been provided by Loucks Funeral Home Ellenville, NY www.loucksfuneralhome.com 845-647-4343

To order memorial trees in memory of Margaret Lisa Coombe, please visit our flower store.

<https://store.condolences.com/loucks-funeral-home/747fff46-57a7-4388-be72-c07e3f42a525/trees>

DAYS OF YORE....

Today's History

November 16, 1955

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a bungalow on the Hasbrouck Road between Neversink and Woodbourne, owned by Thomas Barkley, on Sunday evening. The Neversink Fire Dept. responded to the alarm at about 4 pm but was unable to save the building. The Woodbourne Fire Dept. was also called.

Alva Osterhout, age 65, passed away at Liberty Loomis Hospital on November 13th. She was born in Neversink, the daughter of Wilner Krum and Amie L. Irwin, on January 6, 1890. She was married in Grahamsville to Eugene Osterhout on January 6, 1909. Surviving are her husband; four daughters: Florence Eggler of Liberty, Dorothy Slater of Grahamsville, Marguerite Hotchkins of Curry and Amie Garber of Bradley; three sons: Eugene Jr. of Grahamsville, Howard at home and Vernon of Neversink; two sisters and eleven grandchildren.

November 17, 1965

Miss Karen A. Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Kelder of Grahamsville, was cited for academic achievement at the Tenth Annual Honors Convocation conducted at the State University College at Cortland on Saturday, November 6, 1965.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Eighmey celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Monday. Sunday afternoon an open house was held to celebrate the occasion.

Andrew W. Wakefield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manville Wakefield, was baptized at the morning service at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning.

December 10, 1975

Sorry, very scant "pickins" in this issue.

November 21, 1985

John William Carter, a retired 30-year minister of the Reformed Church in America in Sullivan County, died Thursday, Nov. 14, at St. Vincent's Hospital, New York City. He was 74. The son of the late John William and Eva Sutherland Carter, he was born Jan. 16, 1911. He attended Ohio State University and Ohio Wesleyan University. In 1942 he graduated from the New York Theological Seminary with a bachelor of theology degree. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Hughes Carter at home; one daughter, Evalyn Carter of Arlington, Virginia; one son, Philip Carter of Danbury, Conn., two grandchildren and one niece.

Household Hint:

Clean Baseboards

Use a dryer sheet like a baseboard wipe. After you vacuum the carpet or sweep the floor, wipe a dryer sheet along the baseboards to remove clinging dust and pet hair.

Nature Column - L. Comando

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

Wickedly Wild but Beautiful Barberry

Last week how could you not notice the beautiful colors on all the Barberry bushes that have invaded our countryside! Originally, Barberry was planted as an ornamental, but then escaped from its intended habitat.

Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), a popular ornamental deciduous shrub native to Japan and eastern Asia, and widely naturalized in China was introduced in the United States as an ornamental plant in 1875. Growing to heights of 3 feet and more, this is a small deciduous shrub has little green leaves that turn a beautiful red in the autumn. Its bright red fruit adds to the shrub's



desirability as an ornamental species.

Barberry, a perennial is a compact, woody shrub, that has deeply grooved, brown, spiny arched branches with a single very sharp spine at each shoot node. These spines are metamorphosed leaves of the shoots, bearing fascicles of small leaves in their axes. The roots are yellow inside and the inner bark is bright yellow. The small, spatulate to oval shaped leaves are green to blue-green during spring and summer. They are produced in clusters of 2-6 on a dwarf shoot in the axil of each spine. The flowers are pale yellow and look like a long drooping umbrella that grow in small clusters (2 to 5). The flowers have six petals, which are similar in appearance to the four sepals, but are usually smaller than the sepals and with two glands at the base of each. Flowers are bisexual.

Flowering is from mid spring to early summer.

Fruits are ovoid, dry or slightly juicy but solid berries, scarlet in color, and persist well into the winter

Each fruit contains a single seed that matures during late summer and fall and endures through the winter. Seeds are mainly dispersed by birds and small mammals. Sprouts from rhizomes and branches that come in contact with the ground can form a dense impenetrable mass.

The plant grows under a wide range of moisture and light levels. It is found in shaded woodlands, open fields, wetlands and disturbed lands. Sunny sites are preferred to shady areas but Barberry can survive with very little light.

In recent years, Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) has been recognized as an invasive species in many parts of the eastern United States. It is prohibited from being a seed contaminant in Michigan and banned from sale in Massachusetts. In New York State it is considered an invasive species.

Whereas deer avoid Barberry, the bushes do provide an exceptionally favorable environment for ticks due to the high humidity present in the Barberry's dense foliage. It is hypothesized that spread of barberry is correlated with the spread of Lyme disease. Tick numbers are higher in areas with thick barberry understories, as opposed to areas with controlled barberry or no barberry. Ticks wait on branches for an animal (you could be the animal) to leap on to.

I guess you could say the Barberry is wickedly wild, but beautiful!

It won't be long and this last splash of the colorful Barberry will meld into a winter scene when its showy crimson red berries will be enhanced by a white background of freshly fallen snow.

Dear Family & Friends,

It is with deep sorrow that we share the passing of our beloved Mother, Margaret, who died peacefully on November 9th at her home surrounded by loved ones.

We invite you to join us in honoring her wonderful life, and the joy she brought to all who knew her, at a memorial service at the Grahamsville Reformed Church on December 6th. The service will begin at 1:30 pm, though guests may arrive anytime after 1pm to visit with family members. The service will be followed by a reception in the adjacent Memorial Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

With love,
John (JP) & Alan Coombe

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley
Published November 17, 1996

Meat is like the star in a show. It is also the most expensive item in our food budget. Very soon now, hunting season will open and our hunters will be bringing home the venison.

I have a couple of venison recipes that I would like to share. I found them in my Aunt Bill's recipe book

Venison Steak

2 venison steaks, 8 oz. each
salt and pepper to taste
1/2 lemon
1/2 tsp Oregano
1 /4 pound butter
6 oz. Madeira or Italian wine
chopped parsley
flour to dredge

Prepare venison steaks. Dust with salt and pepper. Squeeze lemon on steaks and put oregano on both sides of steaks. Dredge them in flour. Put skillet with butter on the stove, and when butter is hot, add steaks. Fry until about medium. When ready, take skillet off fire and add wine. Put back on stove and simmer about five minutes. Serve on a platter, pouring the hot sauce over the steaks. Sprinkle with parsley and serve hot with your favorite potatoes and vegetables.

(George P. Gunns Retired Executive Chef, The Lord Baltimore Hotel, MD.)

VENISON STEAK

Wipe venison with damp cloth. Dredge with flour, salt and pepper. Pound with a heavy meat mallet. Fry slowly in an iron frying pan with a small amount of cooking oil. Turn only once.

(Emma Shultz).

Walk Through Peace, Love & Lights with Sullivan 180 *Bring a new, unwrapped toy and walk for FREE!*

[LIBERTY, NY] - Join Sullivan 180 and step into the holiday magic at **Peace, Love & Lights Walk-Thru Mondays at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts**. Experience this dazzling light show up close, out of the car, under the stars, and surrounded by community.

Now in its sixth year, Walk-Thru Mondays encourages staying active and connected during the winter months while supporting causes that serve neighbors in need. Each year, the walk benefits the **Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless** and other community organizations. Walkers who bring a **new, unwrapped toy or healthy non-perishable food item** will receive **free admission**, spreading holiday cheer one step at a time.

"The holidays can be a financially and emotionally challenging time for families already struggling to make ends meet. The support provided by Sullivan 180 and the community lets them know that people out there really do care," said Kathy Kreiter, Director at Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

To enhance the experience, four themed nights will add excitement and fun:

- **December 1 -School Spirit Night:** Schools are encouraged to showcase their colors and creativity.
- o **December 8 - First Responder Night:** Kick off the Healthiest Fire Department Challenge and celebrate our local heroes.
- o **December 15 - Healthcare Night:** Healthcare professionals are invited to unwind and walk with colleagues.
- o **December 22 - Holiday Spirit Night:** Dress in your most festive attire and bring a toy or nonperishable food item for one free adult admission.

In addition to collecting toys and food donations, Sullivan 180 will make a monetary donation for every walker, up to 600 participants, to further support local organizations and families this holiday season.

Join Sullivan 180 for Peace, Love & Lights Walk-Thru Mondays this December. Where lights, laughter, and community come together to brighten Sullivan County one degree at a time.

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.

Tri-Valley Lions November Meeting

(From Pg. 1) Also at the dinner meeting, several donations were approved as follows:

- \$100 donation to the Federation of the Homeless
 - \$250 donation to the District Youth Cancer Foundation
 - \$600 to the four food pantries- Grahamsville Reformed Church, Grahamsville Methodist Church, Ulster Heights United Methodist Church and Immaculate Conception Church, Woodbourne.
(Claryville Food Pantry is not currently opened, but when it reopens, a donation will be sent)
 - \$100 to purchase feminine hygiene products for the United Methodist Church
 - \$800 donation from our soda booth earnings at the Pumpkin Party to The Daniel Pierce Library will shortly be awarded.
- Also, at our Holiday Party on December 1, 2025, at the Liberty Diner, we will collect and donate pet food & items for the SPCA as well as additional toiletries for the Food Pantries.

On November 13, 2025, Lions Maryann Cosentino, Esta Jacob, Stu Wizwer and Patricia Menje performed Lion Eye Screenings (with special cameras) on 130 children in grades Pre-K to grade 6 at The Tri-Valley School in Grahamsville. Of



Lions Maryann Cosentino, Esta Jacob, Stu Wizwer and Patricia Menje performed eye screenings for 130 Tri-Valley Elementary School Students on Nov 13, 2025

the 130 children screened, 28 children received referrals which the school will then share with the guardians of the 28 children. Lions do free eye screenings as part of their mission to prevent vision loss and improve lives, especially for children. The free Screenings help identify potential vision problems early so they can be corrected with a full eye exam and proper treatment by an eye doctor. Early detection is critical because some vision issues can become permanent if not addressed before a certain age.

On November 14, 2025, Lions Ilene Wizwer, Tom Cosentino, Stephen Miller, and Esta Jacob were once again welcomed into The Neversink General Store where a table filled with information on Diabetes was displayed for customers coming into the store. The pamphlets,

brochures, and charts available to the customers focused on how to prevent and/or treat diabetes. This was National Diabetes Day, and the Lions wanted to disseminate as much helpful information as possible since diabetes prevention and treatment is also one of our missions. Thanks again to the customers who stopped by and to owner Mark McLewin who is an ongoing supporter of The Tri-Valley Lions.

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 48th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey for Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley Lions Club High School Community Service Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, Payment for eye exams & glasses, assistance to local families for fires or health emergencies, and so much more. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvacpat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com



Susan Miller presenting on mental health at Nov 3, 2025 dinner meeting

Wishing one and all a Happy and HEALTHY Thanksgiving.



Recognition of Tri-Valley Lions for attendees at District 20-O Convention



Tri-Valley Classroom where ey testing was held



Certificate of Recognition to Tri-Valley Lions at District 20-O Convention



District 20-O Winning Peace Poster Contest 1st on Left. Tri-Valley Peace Poster came in 3rd at Convention



Patricia Menje handing out orange segments for NYC Marathon Runners



Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 155

The Red Horse Mysterious Book Report No. 426 by John Dwaine McKenna Published November 19, 2020

A “Kill Chain” is the military description for combat in three phases: One, determining what's happening, Two, deciding what to do about it, and Three, taking action. It's also a term that's now used by electronic security experts to describe, intercept and prevent intrusion and theft from computer systems of information, money, or both. Simply put — the kill chain must be broken in order to prevent a successful attack from outside.


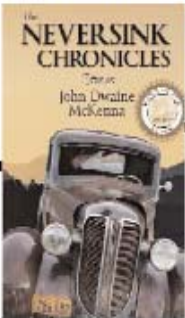


In author Dominic Martell's newest thriller — and fourth of the series — entitled *Kill Chain*, (Dunn, \$24.95, 336 pages, ISBN 978-1-9519-3804-8), the writer revisits a character named Pascual Rose, a former terrorist who's been living quietly in the Catalonia region of Spain for the past twenty years, regretting his former life, but not quite repenting from it, while eeking out a living translating legal documents.


His quiet, humble life is upended without warning however, when a menacing pair of operatives calling themselves 'Lila' and 'Felix', track Pascual down and offer him a carrot and stick deal he can't refuse. The carrot . . . one million dollars in an untraceable bank account in the Cayman Islands. The stick? “We will kill your wife and son.” All Pascual has to do is travel to various tax havens in Europe and around the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, where he'll open bank accounts using his real name, with seed money provided by the pair of thugs. Their plan is to steal an epic amount of funds in a cyber attack. As Pascual travels, he's approached by a tough and beautiful woman named Artemisa Pereda, who turns out to be a lawyer. She alerts Pascual to an international scheme of lies, corruption and murder involving several countries, informing him of dangers he's not likely to survive. And all of a sudden, Pascual is in the clutches of the German Police, the Spanish Police and some evil Russian gangsters . . . as well as the diabolic Lila and Felix . . . while the Kill Chain gets longer, and the attacks more frequent and deadly in this kinetic, propulsive and electrifying international thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the last page . . . and looking for the next caper from author Dominic Martel and the wily Pascual Rose!

Like the review . . . let your friends know, *You saw it in the Mysterious Book Report . . .* The greatest compliment you can give, is to like us and share it with others on Facebook.



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The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Traditions

Just one month to go. Christmas looms sparking a decorating and shopping frenzy. In my opinion, the celebration of Christmas has evolved into a huge retail extravaganza.

I was thinking back to the Christmas season of my childhood. Here are some memories of traditions that have gone away.

First of all we did not get a fancy ADVENT Calendar with chocolates or trinkets to mark the coming of Christmas. We crossed off days on a calendar with X's, and our parents reminded us that Santa is watching.

Next, our tree was real and it cost very little or we cut it down in the woods. Honestly, today a real fir tree requires taking out a second mortgage.

The tree went up the week of or the night before Christmas. I do know of people who have a decorated tree right now in their homes.

Our tree had big bulbs and a few glass ornaments. It always had lots of tinsel, metal and crinkly because my father tried to save it from year to year in a magazine. There was also a garland, silver or gold, made out of the same crinkly foil. We would decorate the tree together but only my father put the tinsel on...one strand at a time.

We also made cookies together. Always chocolate chip, spritz, and a Norwegian "krumkakke", which made my mom say bad words as she cooked the dough in the little waffle press. Under the tree would be something. A train, a little skating pond, or a manger. On Christmas morning, lots of presents.

There was mistletoe hung over a doorway.

Christmas Eve meant going to Mass with friends or to a church service.

The Norwegians celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve, so some years (Joy of Joy) we had two Christmases.

We had stockings filled with goodies and packages wrapped with holiday paper and bows. Now, packages show up in holiday bags or in their original Amazon shipping carton. There were no gift cards or checks. Sometimes, I feel like we are just sharing bank accounts. My dire prediction is that Venmo and Zelle might be the methods of choice this year. Easy peasy, but so stale and impersonal.

My mother always used the day after Thanksgiving, which is now known as Black Friday, to write our her greeting cards. Hundreds of them were hand-written and mailed by the following Monday. Now, with stamps so expensive and the accessible internet, we slap up a holiday greeting on social media.

The holiday season leading up to Christmas, and Hanukkah, is filled with gatherings with festive food and drink. I do not remember that as a child growing up in Long Island. In fact, I never remember my parents going out for dinner or to a party. They did, however, always have a New Year's party at our house in the knotty-pine basement room that my father dubbed "The Whoopee Room."

My husband and I escape much of the hoopla leading up to Christmas by going on a December vacation to Aruba. On our return, we get the best part of Christmas which is sharing love and presents with our family. And sharing the memories. Ah, the memories!

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*



Governor Hochul and Representative Tonko Call on Trump Administration to Release Federal Heating Assistance for 1.5 Million New Yorkers

Governor Kathy Hochul and Representative Paul Tonko today demanded that the Trump Administration release \$400 million in federal funds that 1.5 million New Yorkers are relying on to help heat their homes this winter. Even though the federal government has reopened, the Trump Administration has not yet released funds for the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). New York State will be ready to open the program for applications on November 24, but it will only be possible to start accepting applications if the federal government has provided the funds in the coming days.

"It's shameful that the Trump Administration is threatening to make New Yorkers pay more for their heating bills this winter - and I'm demanding the immediate release of federal funds to help 1.5 million New Yorkers heat their homes," Governor Hochul said. "I'll never stop fighting for affordability, and that's why my team is also helping millions more New Yorkers enroll in our state program to get monthly energy discounts."

Amid this ongoing delay in federal funds, Governor Hochul also urged more New Yorkers to enroll in New York State's Energy Affordability Program (EAP), which provides up to \$500 in annual discounts on energy bills. The State's EAP already serves approximately one million households statewide, but state officials estimate that approximately 1.5 million more households are eligible to receive a discount. New Yorkers can visit ny.gov/EAP to learn about eligibility and enrollment.

Demanding Release of Federal HEAP Funds

Due to the federal government shutdown, which has now ended after a record 43 days, New York's ability to open its federally-funded HEAP program has been delayed by weeks. This federally funded program cannot begin receiving and processing applications or making payments until the federal government provides New York with the necessary funding. At Governor Hochul's direction, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) is taking all steps needed to prepare for the opening of the HEAP program for applications on November 24, pending receipt of federal funds, including programming HEAP payments.

If the Trump Administration does not release Federal grant funds for HEAP by November 24, the program opening will continue to be delayed. Governor Hochul's actions ensure OTDA will be ready to open the program for applications within 48 hours of receiving the grant funds, so that New Yorkers can access their heating benefits as soon as possible.

Urging More New Yorkers To Enroll in State's EAP

The State's EAP is separate from federal HEAP. The State's EAP provides monthly discounts on energy bills throughout the year to households across New York. This program provides up to \$500 in annual savings per household.

Eligibility for EAP is based on household income. For example, a family of four is eligible to enroll in EAP if they make up to \$80,160 per year in household income. A family of five is eligible if they make up to \$92,988 per year in household income.

The State's EAP already serves approximately one million households statewide, but state officials estimate that approximately 1.5 million more households are eligible to enroll and receive discounts. New Yorkers can enroll in EAP directly through their local energy provider.

New Yorkers can visit ny.gov/EAP to learn more about eligibility and steps on how to enroll in the program.



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Additionally, Governor Hochul is expanding income eligibility for the State's EAP in 2026 to ensure that more households across New York can start receiving energy discounts in the coming year. The Governor will continue to update New Yorkers on this in the coming weeks.

Protecting EAP Discounts for New Yorkers

The delay in federal HEAP funds also threatened to disenroll many New Yorkers from their State EAP benefits. The Department of Public Service estimated this cruel action would lead to tens of thousands of customers being automatically disenrolled from receiving EAP benefits every month without State action. This is because most residential customers in EAPs are automatically enrolled in the program after their heating utility receives a HEAP grant on the customer's behalf, which the utility credits to those customers' utility bills. Generally, most utilities provide that those customers will remain enrolled in the utilities' EAPs as long as they received a HEAP grant within the preceding 12 months.

The delay in federal funds for HEAP and concurrent loss of EAP bill discounts would make utility services far more expensive for those customers during the coming winter heating season. Temperatures across the state continue to grow colder, some days hitting levels below freezing, increasing the need for heating assistance to protect the health and safety of families and households statewide.

That's why Governor Hochul took action earlier this month to ensure that New Yorkers struggling to pay their bills this winter will continue receiving EAP discounts regardless of Washington Republicans' cruelty. Without the Governor's action, thousands of those households would have automatically lost their November EAP discount, since enrollment in EAP is tied to enrollment in HEAP for many households across the state.



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A background image of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, with some leaves still attached to branches.

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FREE QUOTE

Sullivan County's Human Rights Office Holding Roundtable at SUNY Sullivan

*Join the Public Dialogue
from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Dec. 3*

Loch Sheldrake, NY - The Sullivan County Human Rights Commission warmly invites the entire community to its first Roundtable on Human Rights, to be held December 3 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at SUNY Sullivan's Seelig Theatre, 112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake.

"Our human rights commissioners and myself are intent on making sure we listen to the people we serve - answering their questions, addressing their concerns, advocating for them whenever and wherever we can," affirmed Ramone Wilson, executive director of the Commission. "This roundtable is a place for that dialogue to happen, and I look forward to welcoming everyone who wants to have an honest and productive discussion about all of our rights, safety and justice."

Members of the roundtable will include Sullivan County Court Judge Danielle Jose-Decker, civil rights lawyer Matthew Peluso, and local attorney Maria Zeno.

"From the workplace to the courthouse to our neighborhoods, together we can keep our communities safe and fair by always focusing on our shared civil and human rights," Wilson noted.

Registration is recommended (but not required) by calling the Human Rights Commission at 845-807-0189.

Warming Centers Opening for the Season Churches in Liberty, Monticello to Be Open 7 Nights a Week

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County will be opening its two warming centers this Friday, November 21, in Liberty and Monticello:

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

These facilities will remain open to anyone from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. every night through mid-April 2026.

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having a warm, safe place to stay is not a universal experience here," noted Sullivan County Health & Human Services Commissioner John Liddle. "The shortage of affordable and supportive housing inventory in the County, the increasing costs of living, and unexpected challenges continue to drive people to our warming centers. We welcome anyone who needs a place to stay for the night to come to either of these locations."

Warming centers in Sullivan County exist to protect unsheltered individuals from the cold of the winter. Staff are experienced and trained in working with people who have complex and severe service needs.

"These locations offer people more than a place to sleep, and human service providers from across the County chip in to help those in need gain access to medical care and other social service benefits," explained District 5 Legislator Cat Scott, chair of the Legislature's Health & Human Services Committee. "Warming centers also give the vulnerable a place where they can feel safe. The Liberty warming center is directly across the street from the Village of Liberty police station, and once again the Monticello warming center will provide onsite security."

Deputy Social Services Commissioner Giselle Steketee added, "We're very fortunate to have such strong community partners. The teams at the United Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church and the Federation for the Homeless have been exceptionally reliable and supportive."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

National Family Caregivers Month and Loved Ones With Dementia

November is National Family Caregivers Month. Throughout the U.S., nearly 12 million family caregivers are providing care worth over \$413 billion to loved ones with dementia. Although they are providing significant services to our country, they are not getting enough support in return.

Taking care of someone on the long journey through dementia is expensive and many of the expenses are for goods and services not covered by healthcare insurance. Many family caregivers cut back on their food, transportation and healthcare expenses to pay for a loved one's care. Additionally, they cut back their work hours or even quit working altogether as their loved ones' care needs to be increased.

As a facilitator for an Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, I have heard many stories about the caregiving struggles. These individuals are well respected citizens who helped out in their community; now, in their time of need, the community should support them. Unfortunately, we have seen too often where the caregiver passes before the loved one they are caring for due to their stress and health issues.

Please join me in thanking Rep. Josh Riley for co-sponsoring the Credit for Caring Act, which will provide real financial relief to caregivers by creating a non-refundable federal tax credit that could be used to offset some of the costs of caregiving, including such things as respite care, transportation and lost wages.

Caring for a loved one is emotionally and physically challenging; it should not cause financial hardship as well.

Sincerely,

Sheila Lashinsky, Monticello, NY

Volunteer Advocate for Alzheimer's Association



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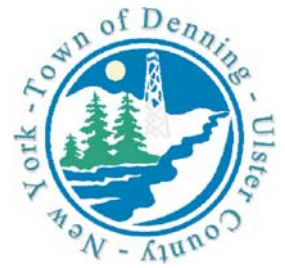
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Website: www.denningny.gov



FROST VALLEY YMCA and TOWN OF DENNING TEAM UP TO PROVIDE MEALS TO LOCAL FAMILIES

Frost Valley YMCA's administration and dining services have partnered with the Town of Denning to support local families who require meal assistance. The Town of Denning offers a confidential survey on the Town Website to be filled out by any residents interested in receiving meals through this program.

Participating families and individuals can receive frozen meals from the Denning Town Hall. These meals are delivered by Frost Valley to the Town Hall every Wednesday morning. Pick up or delivery options are available for those with transportation issues.

Frost Valley YMCA, a year-round camp and retreat center in Claryville, NY prepares the meals in its state-of-the-art kitchen and the Town works with local volunteers to help distribute the meals to Denning residents.

Anyone interested in participating as a meal recipient OR as a volunteer for meal delivery can access the survey form in the Resident link under Forms and Permits, you can email townclerk@denningny.gov, or call Town Hall @ 845-985-2411 for more information.

Open Mic Coming Up Every Sunday:

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

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

Every Wednesday:

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

Art's Nest –Songs, Stories and Sleighbells –A Holiday Concert

Sunday Dec 14, 2025 at 2pm • Tickets \$30 - Buy Now on My River Tickets • Featuring Craig Bickhardt, Jesse Terry, Halley Neal, and Sam Robbins.

Four highly acclaimed, award winning singer-songwriters team up and take the stage for an evening of festive & heartwarming holiday music!

Craig Bickhardt's songs have been recorded by Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, BB King, Martina McBride and about 125 others. He has written or co-written nine (9) top ten hits including four (4) #1s. "Precious Child - The Story of Christmas," Craig's collaboration with Thom Schuyler (Songwriter Hall of Fame), is considered a classic, must-have holiday album.

Jesse Terry is a Grand Prize winner of The John Lennon songwriting contest and the CMT/NSAI Song Contest. He plays over 125 shows annually from Bonnaroo to the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the 30A Songwriters Festival to AmericanaFest. Jesse's Holiday CD, "Peace-A Christmas Collection," his children's book, "If I Were The Moon," and his arrangements of timeless holiday songs, have people coming back for more every holiday season!

Halley Neal is an award winning folk singer and songwriter whose live shows center on themes of positivity and peace. The formerly-Nashville-currently-Boston-area-based artist has gained national recognition from touring across the country to listening rooms and folk music venues and from her performances at festivals, notably the Kerrville Folk Fest, Rocky Mountain Folks Fest and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. Her live shows are remembered for her effortless vocals and honest lyrics.

Sam Robbins is a Nashville-based singer songwriter, in the vein of classic writers like James Taylor and Jackson Browne, with an upbeat side. He's the 2021 Kerrville Folk Fest New Folk winner and he was the first to sing a Jim Croce song on The Voice. Sam and Halley's collaborative holiday album, "You and Me on Christmas Eve," was released in December or last year and quickly drew accolades from reviewers and fans alike.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy9Awq8Afr0>

All are Welcome to join us and get into the Holiday spirit!

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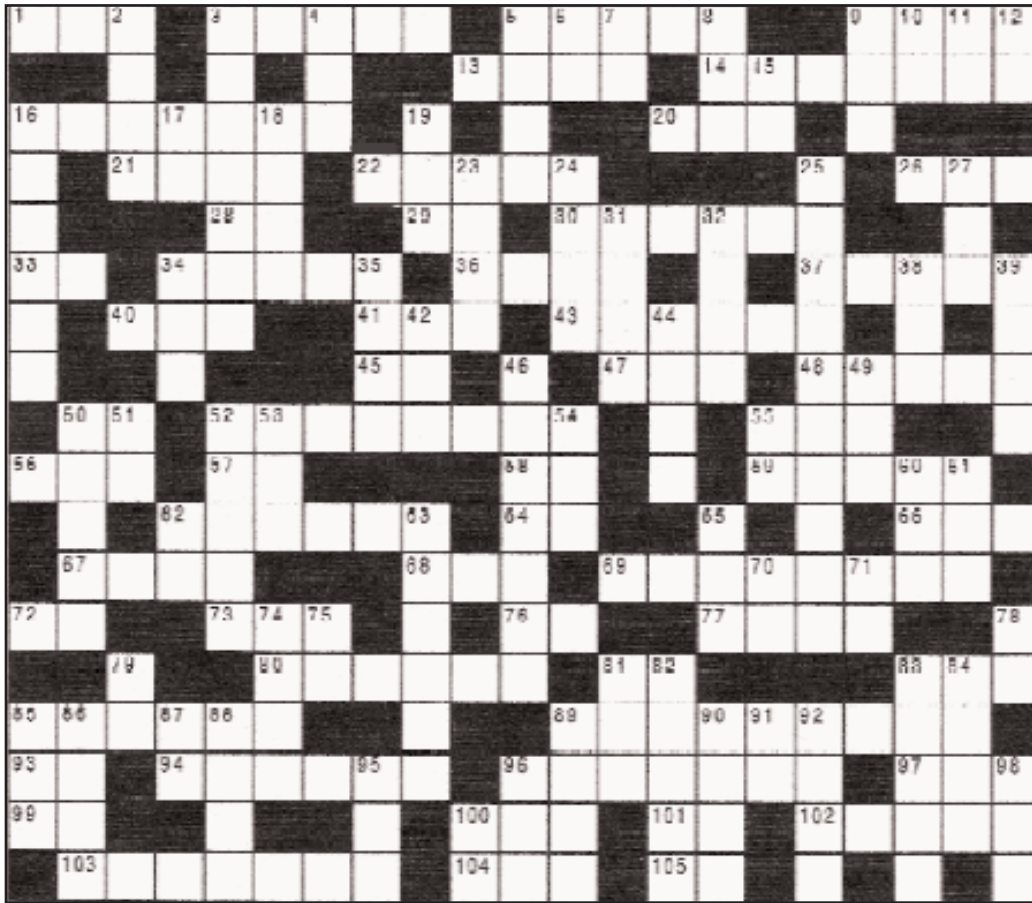
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-L. Comando

**ACROSS**

1 Weapon for shooting arrows
 3 Irregular surface
 5 Make a fabric on a loom
 9 Place where you may find a 'quilt block' in Neversink
 13 Faculty head
 14 Grant an official pardon
 16 Continue to exist
 20 Pigpen
 21 Product of 3 times 3
 22 Female author of *The Heat of the Day*
 26 Frozen water
 28 Combining form; having two
 29 Egyptian sun god
 30 Landward
 33 One's mother
 34 Hue
 36 Flat buoyant structure
 37 Have a particular idea
 40 Pull along

with a rope
 41 Equip
 43 Historically in England a partly wooded area owned by the sovereign kept for hunting
 45 Third note of the major scale
 47 Fastener
 48 Cloth woven from flax
 50 Bachelor of Arts
 52 Medieval military expeditions
 55 Limb used for standing
 56 Not new
 57 Used to draw attention to an amazing event
 58 Associated Press
 59 A mental interpretation of an idea
 62 Material
 64 Los Angeles
 66 Writing tool

67 Camp beds
 68 Make a choice
 69 Characteristic of a colony
 72 Informal acceptance
 73 Fasten with stitches
 76 Hour
 77 Creative activities
 80 Deserving respect
 81 A Brit's way of saying 'thank you'
 83 An object used for play
 85 Not complex
 89 Composed of different elements
 93 Resting atop
 94 Motif
 96 Woven fabric
 97 Crude metal
 99 New Testament
 100 Ocean
 101 Used to refer to some-

thing previously mentioned
 102 Book of maps
 103 American marsupial
 104 An insect that lives in a complex colony
 105 Common Era

DOWN

2 Tattered
 3 Arch of colors
 4 Employ
 5 Past subjunctive of be
 6 Each
 7 Indefinite article
 8 Consume food
 9 Wager
 10 Used in comparisons
 11 Right (abbrev)
 12 New York
 15 Belonging to the speaker
 16 Large edible game fish

17 Roman
 18 Something used to conceal
 19 Rocky peak
 23 Comfortably high temperature
 24 Brit's expression for lacking taste
 25 Where people establish a community
 27 Be able to
 31 Halt
 32 Unlatched
 34 Domestic bovine
 35 Male sheep
 38 A guest house
 39 Group of people with similar characteristics
 42 Long narrow inlet
 44 Small circular band
 46 Rich
 49 Independent Grocer's Association
 50 Absence of color
 51 Commer-

cial
 52 A group of students
 53 Steal
 54 Mineral spring
 55 Long Island (abbrev)
 60 Grade point average

61 Snakelike fish
 62 Foot (abbrev)
 63 Soft white fibrous substance
 65 Florida
 70 Otherwise
 71 Third person singular of be
 74 Young female lambs
 75 Warrant Officer (abbrev)
 78 Alongside
 79 A mystical syllable
 81 A heavy demand
 82 Loft
 83 Hobgoblin
 84 Used in gumbo or to thicken soups
 85 Male child
 86 In math, expressing division
 87 Paid
 88 Not as much
 89 Acidic boggy-like soil
 90 Mention as an example
 91 Hectoliters (abbrev)

92 Destroy by use
 95 Fitness center
 96 A decade
 98 Eastern Standard Time
 100 South America

Venison Sauerbraten

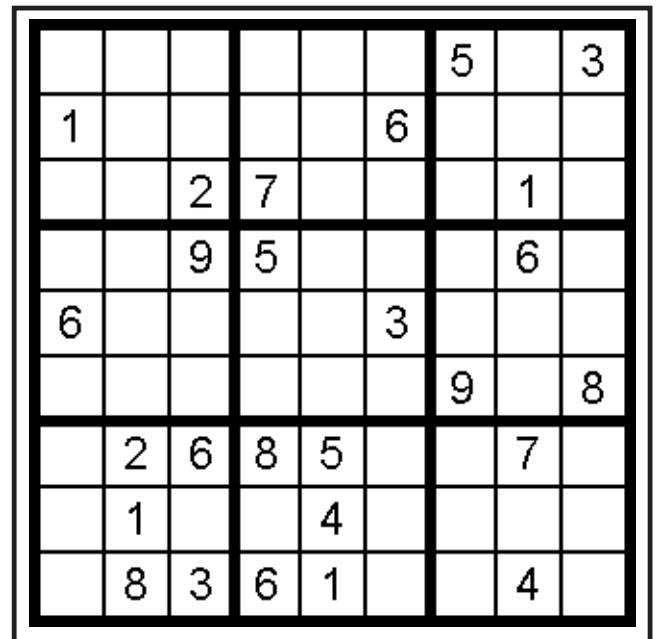
4 lb venison
 2 c vinegar
 2 c water
 1 c sliced onion
 4 bay leaves
 3 tsp salt
 2 tsp peppercorns
 1/2 c sugar
 1/4 c oil or fat
 1/2 c crushed gingersnaps

Place meat in an earthen dish or crock. Combine vinegar, water, onion, bay leaves, salt, peppercorns and sugar in a small saucepan; heat to boil. Pour hot mixture over the meat. Cover and store in the refrigerator for at least 3 days and not more than 10. Turn the meat once a day.

Melt the fat in Dutch oven. Add meat and brown well on all sides. Keep the heat down and watch it in the browning process as it tends to burn easily.

Add marinade liquid. Cover tightly and cook over low heat until tender, about 45-50 minutes per pound. Thicken the stock with gingersnaps and serve over the meat. Serve with noodles or potato dumplings.

数字は単数に限る



Answer on page 23

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

Cryptogram

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

17 22 15 8 21 3 25 4 3 21 25 17 17 16 18 8 4 25 14 25 22 9
12 19 8 9 22 3 14 8 3 21 6 4 22 21 1 22 9 3 19 8 15 25 17 17

- F.S. Fitzgerald

Kids'
Winter is
on its Way
Fun Page

- L. Comando

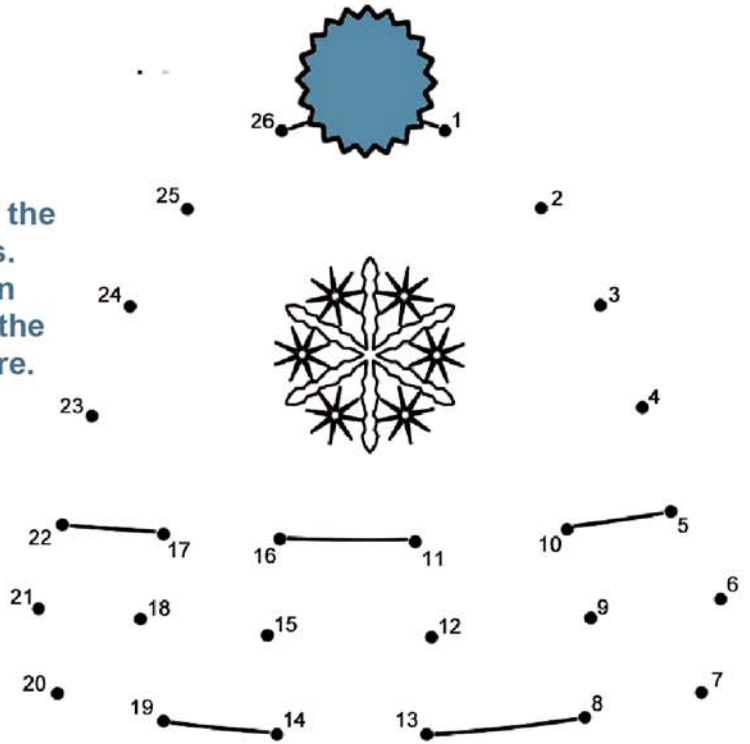
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O R H C F P T S
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T C J W O N B A
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Z N S N O W O F
S E V O L G T F
C O A T D N S X

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HAT
SCARF

COAT
GLOVES
ICE
SNOW

Follow the
dots.
Then
color the
picture.



Can you find 8 differences?



Hot Chocolate
Maze



Cryptogram Key

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

Annual Election of the Neversink Fire District Held on December 9th, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Election of the Neversink Fire District will take place on December 9th, 2025 between the hours of 6:00pm and 9:00pm at the Neversink Fire House located at 7486 State Route 55, Neversink, New York for the purpose of electing three Commissioners for the following vacancies;

- One, five year term, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31st, 2029.
- One, two year term, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31st, 2027.
- One, one year term, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31st, 2026.

All voters registered with the Sullivan County Board of Elections on or before November 17th, 2025 and residing within the Neversink Fire District will be eligible to vote.

Candidates for District Office will need to have filed their names and the office they are seeking in writing with the Secretary of Neversink Fire District, at the firehouse at Neversink Fire District, PO Box 394, Neversink, New York 12765, no later than 20 days prior to the election with the last day for a Candidate to file their name in writing being November 19th, 2025.

Dana Vogler, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners
Neversink Fire District
11/6; 11/13; 11/20; 11/27; 12/4

Advertisement

Please be advised that there are positions available in the Town of Denning including:

Recycling Center Manager - Part-time paid position. Requires completion and submission of an Ulster County/Town of Denning job application which is available at the Town Hall during regular business hours. Position available starting 1/1/26.

Zoning Board of Appeals Member - Volunteer for remainder of 5-year term to 12/31/27 (4 hours of yearly training) meetings are scheduled when necessary. Meetings are held at Town Hall, Claryville, NY when required. Time and date to be determined by Chairperson.

Planning Board Member - Volunteer for 7-year term (4 hours of yearly training) meetings are once a month on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6 pm Town Hall, Claryville, NY.

Ethics Board Member - Volunteer for 3-year term. No training required. Meetings are on an as-needed basis.

All Board positions require a letter of interest submitted to the Town of Denning by email at supervisor@denningny.gov or by mail at PO Box 277, Claryville, NY 12725.

Please consider volunteering for one of the open Board Member positions to play a vital role in preserving our Town's unique character. Contact Town Hall at 845-985-2411 for further information.

11/13; 11/20

TOWN OF NEVERSINK NOTICE: ALTERNATE MEMBER POSITION AVAILABLE ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Town of Neversink announces an Alternate Member position available on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The alternate member will serve when a regular member is unable to participate on an application or matter before their respective Board. Alternate members are expected to attend all meetings.

The Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals will be appointed by the Town Board. All provisions of state law relating to Zoning Board of Appeals member eligibility, vacancy in office, removal, compatibility of office and service on other boards, as well as any provisions of a local law/local ordinance relating to training, continuing education, compensation and attendance, shall also apply to the alternate member.

Please send a letter of interest to: Chris Mathews, Supervisor, Town of Neversink, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740 or send email to:

supervisor@townofneversink.org.

All letters must be received by December 3, 2025. Any questions should be directed to Supervisor at (845)985-2262, ext. 301.

11/20

TOWN OF NEVERSINK EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - (4) TEMPORARY SKATE GUARDS

This temporary position involves the performance of a variety of tasks including, but not limited to: rule enforcement, patrolling ice surface, skate distribution and disinfection. Applicant must be at least 16 years or older and have valid working papers OR driver's license.

The position is from December 15, 2025 to March 15, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$15.50 per hour, on an as is needed basis, up to 15 hours per week, paid bi-weekly.

Applications must be received as soon as possible. Applications are available at the Town Hall or on the Town of Neversink website. Please send applications to Tanya Huggler, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Neversink, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740 or drop it off at the Town Hall.

11/20



Town of Neversink

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*Tues. *12/31**

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350 MAIN STREET GRAHAMSVILLE, NY

SHADOWLAND STAGES finishes the Pride and Prejudice-inspired Christmas Trilogy with Georgiana and Kitty, Christmas at Pemberley



Ellenville, NY - December 2025 - SHADOWLAND STAGES, a cultural cornerstone of the Hudson Valley, proudly closes out its record-breaking 40th Anniversary season with the final installment of the “Christmas at Pemberley” trilogy, *Georgiana and Kitty, Christmas at Pemberley*- a fun holiday tale based on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, running from December 5th-21st on the MainStage.

After years of being overshadowed by their older siblings, Georgiana and Kitty are ready for their own adventures in life and love. With the unexpected arrival of two secret admirers, the ladies might find the Christmas joy they have longed for. You and your family won't want to miss this inspiring holiday story filled with music, ambition, sisterhood, and forgiveness.

SHADOWLAND STAGES' Artistic Director, Brendan Burke, helms the Holiday production, which will include many returning cast members from the “Christmas at Pemberley” trilogy, including SHADOWLAND STAGES' own Ben Williamson in the role of dashing Mr. Darcy. We hope you will spend the Holidays with us at SHADOWLAND. Get your tickets today!

Performance Schedule & Tickets

Performances take place at SHADOWLAND's MainStage Theatre, located at 157 Canal Street in downtown Ellenville, NY.

- Regular performances run Friday/Saturday at 7 PM, and Saturday/Sunday at 2 PM.
- “Pay What You Can” preview performances are offered on the first Friday at 7 PM and the first Saturday at 2 PM of each production.

Tickets can be purchased online at shadowlandstages.org, by calling the box office at 845-647-5511, or in person starting two hours before showtime.

With free parking, excellent local dining, and a deep commitment to accessibility and affordability, SHADOWLAND STAGES remains “one of the region's treasures” (Times Herald-Record).

As SHADOWLAND celebrates its 40th year, audiences are invited to be part of a season that honors the theatre's rich legacy while embracing the future of American theatre. Whether you're a longtime supporter or a first-time visitor, this is the perfect season to rediscover the joy of live performance in the heart of the Hudson Valley.

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

**INDOOR
YARD
and
CLOTHING
SALE**

Will be
opened
every
Friday
from
10 - 3

**Something
for
Everyone!**

COLONIAL FAMILY of FUNERAL HOMES

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

Sundown United
Methodist Church

**Covered Dish
Supper
5:30 pm
Dec 6, 2025**

*Sundown
United Methodist
Church Hall*

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

Mass Times

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST

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

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink,
Sundown and Ulster Heights)

Mass Times

Sat: 4:00 PM
Sun: 9:00 AM

Confessions may be heard by appointment.
Just call 434-7643.

Grahamsville Reformed Church

*The Church with
a friendly welcome*

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

**Grahamsville
United
Methodist
Church**

Thrift Sale

**Dec 6th –
Holiday Craft Fair
10 am- – 3 pm**



**Grahamsville & Sundown
United Methodist Churches**

Come and Join us for
in person Worship on Sundays.

Sundown UMC 8:30 am
Peekamoose Rd., Sundown

Grahamsville UMC 10:30 am
350 Main Street, Grahamsville

Pastor Harriet Wilkin
845-985-2283

**Claryville Reformed
Church**

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041



Worship Services @ 10:15 am

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

St. Augustine's Chapel

Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

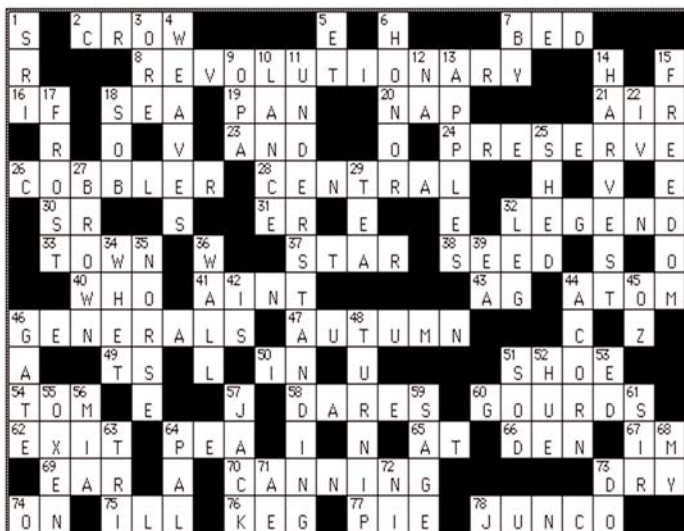
Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, **Pastor**

Loucks Funeral Home

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

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday,

December 6th, 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)

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

**To make a donation in memory of
Frank Comando
to NFX please go to:**

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

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

Thank you

\$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.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

Temple Sholom Fundraiser Cruise to Nassau

Leave January 11 and return to Miami on January 18, 2026.
Single cabin -\$2155; Couples-pay between \$3275 and \$4463 for a double
balcony cabin with drinks and WiFi included. The higher price
includes a dedicated restaurant and a cruise long pass to the spa for two.
A \$500 deposit is refundable. Each cabin will receive \$100 in on-board
credit.

For further information, contact Barry Gleen at
barry.gleen@cruiseplanners.com
or (516) 281-5905

All commissions from this trip donated to Temple Sholom.

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 Mall
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

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

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/19/25	Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Association Grahamsville Firehouse 7 pm
11/20/25	Town of Denning Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town of Town Hall
11/20/25	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm
11/27-28/25	Town of Neversink Holiday THANKSGIVING
12/2/25	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm
12/6/25	Grahamsville UMC Thrift Sale Holiday Craft Sale 10 am - 3 pm
12/6/25	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church Hall
12/10/25	Town of Neversink - Board Meeting
12/18/25	Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

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

Gillibrand, Kim, Pingree, Goldman and Anti-hunger Leaders Demand Increased Action to Fight Hunger 47 Million Americans- Including Roughly 2.4 Million New Yorkers-Experienced Food Insecurity in 2023

The press conference follows the Trump administration's repeated actions to cut food assistance and raise food costs, which are making it harder for Americans to put food on the table. Earlier this year, President Trump's so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-the largest food assistance program in the country-by \$186 billion. President Trump also refused to expeditiously tap into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) contingency fund to provide SNAP benefits during the Republican government shutdown, disrupting food aid for millions of Americans.

"Hunger Free America's new reports show just how pervasive hunger is in our country. But instead of stepping in to help Americans, the Trump administration is doing the opposite-cutting the very programs that feed hungry families," said Senator Gillibrand. "By cutting food aid programs like SNAP, the Trump administration is undermining a critical lifeline that nearly 3 million New Yorkers rely on to put food on the table. The administration must put the American people first and take action to curb hunger."

Senator Gillibrand was joined at the press conference by Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ) and Reps. Dan Goldman (D-NY-10) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), as well as Hunger Free America CEO Joel Berg and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

"Hunger Free America's new study confirms what I'm hearing from people across New Jersey - costs are too high and it's only getting harder to put food on the table," said Senator Kim. "A trip to the grocery or the pharmacy should never break the bank. We can solve hunger, but not while the Trump administration contin-

ues to cruelly weaponize hunger as a political tool. We owe the American people better, and I look forward to working with advocates like Hunger Free America to deliver a future where hunger is a thing of the past."

"The Trump Administration can try to bury the truth by canceling the annual food security report, spreading misinformation about SNAP fraud, and dismissing decades of research as 'fear-mongering,' but families across the country know all too well how real the hunger crisis is. And it's only getting worse under Trump and Republicans, who have hollowed out the safety net and driven basic costs beyond reach," said Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Food Recovery Caucus. "Hunger Free America is doing what this Administration refuses to do: document the lived reality of millions of Americans with credible, independent data that exposes the crisis Republicans in power are desperate to ignore. In Congress, many of us are fighting to protect SNAP, strengthen anti-hunger programs, and invest in commonsense solutions to reduce food waste and expand access to healthy meals. We're not backing down-no matter how hard this Administration tries to hide the reality of hunger in America."

At the press conference, Hunger Free America released two studies on hunger in the U.S. to fill the information gap created by the Trump administration's elimination of the USDA's annual U.S. Household Food Security survey. The reports can be found here.

Senator Gillibrand has been a champion of anti-hunger legislation throughout her career. When SNAP funding lapsed during the Republican government shutdown, Gillibrand championed the Keep SNAP and WIC Funded Act, which aimed to ensure that SNAP and WIC benefits would continue uninterrupted during the shutdown. Earlier this year, she also reintroduced the Closing the Meal Gap Act, legislation that would expand and strengthen SNAP benefits and help those with large medical and housing expenses to qualify for SNAP. She also reintroduced the Enhance Access to SNAP (EATS) Act, which would expand SNAP eligibility to all college students attending 2- and 4-year universities and other continuing education programs who meet traditional SNAP income and eligibility requirements. Furthermore, Senator Gillibrand champions the Healthy Food Financing Initiative Reauthorization Act, which would combat food deserts by providing financial incentives to establish grocery stores in areas where Americans lack easy access to fresh food retailers.

**We would like to thank the
Town of Denning
voters for their support.**

**David Brooks
Gregory Vurckio
Kevin Smith
Nancy Parrow
and
Len Johnson**

SLAC MEETING Friday November 28, 2025

Our agenda will address the fines imposed on the ACC, while it was under the Consulting firm Infinite Care, and managed by Sunset Lake. Two fines were placed on the ACC, involving patient harm, but the county is liable for paying them. Why?

Infinite Care still owes Sullivan County \$8 million. Where is it?

Why isn't our Legislation suing them, and why are they still in the picture?

These and the situation with Garnet Sullivan will be discussed.

Hope you have a great Thanksgiving.

UCTC - Ulster County Transportation Council *November 14, 2025 - Transportation News and Funding Opportunities*

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The New York State Department of Transportation has announced a statewide solicitation for the TAP. Ninety-seven million dollars are available for community-centered, active transportation projects across New York State.

Eligible Sponsors: Local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, tribal governments, and more.

Funding Range: \$500,000 to \$7 million per project. NYSDOT will provide up to 80 percent of the total eligible project costs with a minimum 20 percent match provided by the project sponsor.

Applications Due: March 12, 2026

Detailed information, including the Notice of Funding Availability, application, guidebook, FAQ, and workshop schedule, is available through the program website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/tap-cmaq>.

UCTC Unified Planning Work Program Call for Project

UCTC is pleased to announce the 2026 Call for Planning Projects. For more information please visit the UPWP page of our website where the UPWP Call for Planning Projects form (link goes to download of Word file) is now available.

Information pertaining to project and applicant eligibility are available on the application form. Deadline for applications is Friday December 12th. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Brian Slack, Principal Transportation Planner, at bsla@ulstercountyny.gov

Draft FFY 26-29 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

On November 11, 2025, the New York State Department of Transportation announced that the Draft STIP for FFY 26-29 is available for public review and comment. The comment period began on November 10, 2025 and will end on December 10, 2025.

The document can be reviewed in person at any NYSDOT regional office or MPO office during normal business hours.

UCAT Route Optimization Plan Final Draft Public Comment Period

On November 6 the Final Draft of the UCAT Route Optimization Plan was presented during two public meeting sessions. Visit <https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/ucat-route-plan> to learn more about the project, view final draft materials, and view the meeting presentation and discussion.

Please use this Comment Form to submit your thoughts on these final draft routes. Your comments will be reviewed by the project team and addressed to the best of our ability. All comments will be included in an appendix to the final report. Deadline for public comment is December 7, 2025.

All previous public information session slides and recordings can be viewed on Participate Ulster here; members of the public are also welcome to submit questions to staff through the Q&A tool. For more information, contact Brian Slack, Principal Transportation Planner, at bsla@ulstercountyny.gov

Hope Alive 845 Founder Issues Open Letter Urging Governor Kathy Hochul to Engage on Missing Persons Crisis

Monticello, NY - Hope Alive 845 Founder Domingo Ramos has released an open letter addressed to New York Governor Kathy Hochul, calling on the state to take meaningful action to support missing persons awareness, education, and family outreach efforts across New York. The letter highlights repeated attempts by the organization to engage with the Governor's office-efforts that have gone unanswered-while praising local leadership that has stepped up where the state has not.

Open Letter From Domingo Ramos, Founder of Hope Alive 845

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing to you as the founder of Hope Alive 845, a community organization based in Sullivan County, New York, that is deeply committed to raising awareness about missing persons and supporting the families who live every day with uncertainty, fear, and heartbreak.

Our work is difficult, but it is driven by love-love for our neighbors, for our children, and for those who deserve to be found and brought home. Over the past few years, Hope Alive 845 has reached out to your administration several times to seek collaboration, support, or even acknowledgment of the work we're doing. Sadly, we have yet to receive a response or any indication that this critical issue is a priority at the state level.

Governor, we need you to understand something important: Families of missing persons cannot afford silence. Our communities cannot afford indifference.

At the same time, I want to recognize and thank the local leaders who have shown true partnership and compassion for our mission.

We have seen leadership that listens and acts-right here at home-from:

- Sheriff Michael Schiff, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office
- Legislator Terry Bernardo, Sullivan County Legislature
- Legislator Catherine Scott, Sullivan County Legislature
- Town Councilman Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, Town of Fallsburg

These public servants have led with integrity and have been present for us-not just in words, but in action. They have demonstrated what real government partnership with community organizations should look like: accessible, accountable, and compassionate.

Governor Hochul, I am calling on you to follow their example.

Our organization-and the families we represent-need your voice, your platform, and your leadership. New York has the resources and the reach to help bring attention to the issue of missing persons in ways that small grassroots organizations like ours cannot do alone.

We're asking you to engage with us directly.

Visit Sullivan County. Meet the families. Hear their stories.

Let's work together to bring more awareness, more education, and more support to this cause that affects so many across our state.

We don't need politics-we need partnership.

We don't need promises-we need presence.

The people we serve, and the families who are still searching, deserve nothing less.

Respectfully,

Domingo Ramos

Founder, Hope Alive 845

Hope Alive 845 Calls on Governor Hochul to Step Up State Support for Missing Persons Efforts

Hope Alive 845, a community-driven organization based in Sullivan County, has worked tirelessly to raise awareness, provide outreach, and support families searching for missing loved ones across the Hudson Valley and beyond. Despite repeated attempts to engage the Governor's office, the organization has received no acknowledgment or indication that missing persons awareness is a priority at the state level.

"Our mission is about saving lives and bringing families peace," said Ramos. "We have reached out to Governor Hochul's administration multiple times seeking collaboration, visibility, and resources to strengthen our work. Unfortunately, those efforts have been met with silence. We are asking the Governor to do better-our communities deserve her attention."

Ramos again underscored the leadership of local officials who have demonstrated unwavering support:

- Sheriff Michael Schiff, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office
- Legislator Terry Bernardo, Sullivan County Legislature
- Legislator Catherine Scott, Sullivan County Legislature
- Town Councilman Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, Town of Fallsburg

"These public servants have shown what true leadership looks like-listening, showing up, and offering tangible support," Ramos said. "They've proven that real change happens when officials work hand-in-hand with community organizations. We're calling on Governor Hochul to follow their example and engage with us directly to make a lasting difference."

Hope Alive 845 is urging the state to open a dialogue with grassroots organizations like theirs, which are already on the ground doing vital work in education, prevention, and family support.

"New York's families deserve to know that their leaders care about the missing, the vulnerable, and those who feel forgotten," Ramos added. "We invite Governor Hochul to stand with us-not just in words, but through action."

About Hope Alive 845

Hope Alive 845 is a community organization based in Sullivan County, NY, dedicated to raising awareness about missing persons, providing resources for families, and educating the public about prevention and safety. Through partnerships, events, and advocacy, Hope Alive 845 works to bring hope and healing to affected families and communities.

Contact:

Tip Line (845)-866-0442

Hopealive845@gmail.com

Www.hopealive845.com

Fallsburg CSD Announces Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll List

FALLSBURG - The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce their middle and high school honor roll and superintendent's honor roll lists for the first marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. Honor roll students achieved an average of 85-91, and superintendent's honor roll students earned an average of 92 or higher.

7th Grade

Honor Roll: Dilver Aleman, Armani Alencaster, Janelli Anderson, Hayden Atkins, Elias Blandon Rivera, Rafael Carrasco Jimenez, Jeramiah Castro, Samantha Clark, Aleczandra Esparza, Genesis Fuentes, Selena Garcia, Emanuel Granados, Madison Hernandez, Arayaah-Laurice Irby, Kristty Izaguirre Chirino, Theresa Medina, Katherine Reyes Serrano, Nelly Roman Guarchaj, Gavin Suarez, Alydia Torres-Fitzroy, Annabella Vences-Urquiza, Benjamin Wizwer, and Anayeli Zaragoza.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Bryan Balcazar Lavin, Ava Berrios, Isaac Castillo Miranda, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Nelson Duque Moroy, Anthony Frunzi, Taylin Frunzi, Lithsy Fuentes Ardon, Awa Gai, Selina Lazroe, Alexandria Mann, Grayson Mungeer, Harlow Oathout, Charlot Riofrio Litardo, Erick Rivera Moreno, Christian Robles-Hernandez, Kendra Rodriguez, Derrick Saravia, Blerina Selimaj, Blinera Selimaj, Gabrielle Spruill, and Melanie Wang.

8th Grade

Honor Roll: Vanesa Ahmetaj, Giselle Ascencio Martinez, Ellis Basic, Nyona Bolding, Ever Canales Gutierrez, Annaliese Clark, Franco DiCostanzo, Kimberly Duncan, Janary Fuentes Ardon, Erika Garcia-Ponce, Te'yah McKenny, Gabriela Mota Archer, Brittany Murillo Moran, Sofia Navarrete, Dylan Osborne, Kaylie Price, Alexandra Reyes Lopez, Marco Sarmiento-Joya, Kenny Tenezaca Loja, Jayden Toxqui Hernandez, Daniel Vasquez-Nunez, and Jocelyn Zempoaltecatl.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Yasmina Aquil, Brianny Argueta Hernandez, Walker Budde, Darlin Chub Ujpan, Aaliyah Deis, George Di Napoli, Charlie Giron Saravia, Genesis Gonzalez Alvarez, Sonja Henry, David Hernandez Martinez, Carsyn Hoefling, Khloe Jordy, Margie Madrid Castro, Jackelyne Mariaca, Reja Meer, Ariel Payne, Kimberly Perez Castillo, Lourdes Parham, Genesis Reyes-Robles, Malika Rivers, Leon Rodriguez Morales, Leonardo Rojas, Jessica Saciolo, Anthony Santos Morales, Daylin Sierra Lizama, Claudia Smith, Zhara Snead, Holly Surerus, Ambar Vasquez, Heaven Wilson, and Allison Yautentzi Reyes.

9th Grade

Honor Roll: Blythe Adams, Xzander Berrios, Adriel Canales Gonzales, Evangeline Capicchioni, Cristian Chocolatl, Michael DeMondo-Gernant, Valery Falcones Moreira, Jamila Ferreira, Sara Flores Ramos, Leily Garcia Menjivar, Dina Gottlieb, Leyna Greenberg, Angelina Lara-Jones, Michelle Maradiaga, Victor Medina Orellana, Om Patel, Daniel Perez Martinez, Samantha Saciolo, Mason Stafford-Martinez, Samuel Vega Rosales, Jaylisa Williams, and Honor Wilson.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Yasmina Bache-Seraphin, Jack Bensimon, Nicolas Ciorciari, Alyssa Florence, Amelia Forman, Lindsay Landaverde Rodriguez, Maria Nardi, Nelcy Orellana Mejia, Lourdes Parham, Franklin Reyes-Rodriguez, Cristopher Rivera Flores, and Joshua Velazquez.

10th Grade

Honor Roll: Joseph Aguilar Torres, Elenora Ahmetaj, Keily Brizuela Fuentes, Jocelyn Brown, Dencer Camacho Riano, Zamari Carruthers-Little, Alajah Chambers, Sophia Cordova, Hannah Goldsmith, Stephon Harris, John Ketcham, Dalila Koljenovic, Emely Latacunga Guaman, Ashton Lowe, Maelyn Mann, Blanca Marroquin Vargas, Paola Melendez Deras, Melina Ortiz, Tatiana Parada Escalante, Ashley Romero Santos, Keily Rosales Charuc, Kiara Sauer, Marion Sesay, and Luca Sinigaglia.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Addison Alvarado, Autumn Atkinson, Gianna Colombo-Gonzalez, Maddelynn DeMondo-Gernant, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Natalia Evangelista, Mariama Gai, Amhara Gillmer, Isabella Gonzales, Eriberto Gonzalez Jr, Jancarlos Guardado, Camdyn Hoefling, Sophia Jacobs, Senaida Jeronimo Sanchez, Yasmel Leon Mota, Brandon Mariaca, Dayana Mendoza-Gallo, Kileen Milligan, Dillan Padilla Avila, Payton Pisaniello, Kayden Saravia, Joslyn Smith, Zayd Snead, and Helen Vasquez.

11th Grade

Honor Roll: Bryan Avelar Martinez, Juliana Barreto, Sarah Blume, Oscar Carranza Pineda Jr, Martina Carrasco Jimenez, Bethany Carvajal, Kaddyjatou Darboe, Maiya Davis, Blanca Flores, Allison Frunzi, Madelin Gonzaga Moreno, Hennis Gutierrez-Padilla, Chanel Han, Mykala Hines, Guiseppe King, Cessy Lezama Rodriguez, Ruth Mahnken, Dannels Maradiaga Diaz, Dominic McPherson, Heysel Mejia Corcio, Glenda Mendoza Dominguez, Tristin Miller, Dayana Murillo Madrid, Fabio Narkaj, Yulenh Phillip, Clarissa Pineda Loja, Anselmo Pinzon, Coben Pittaluga, Daivion Ramos-Troy, Nataly Reyes Pabon, Melanie Rivera, Joshua Rosales, Isaac Rubio Granados, Shastelyn Sandoval-Melara, James Smith Jr, Marisol Vasquez-Nunez, Sierra Velazquez, Helen Vera Litardo, and Rodrigo Zacapexpan Reyes.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Emina Cenovic, Jordyn Cerone, Carissa Ciorciari, LeonJahnae Fountain, Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Fatoumata Gai, Emily Garcia-Canteros, Riley Gorr, Alison Granados-Fuentes, Adryana Kozachuk, Conner McManus, Jozyr McNeil, Eric Moocz, Robert Perrera, Efrain Rodriguez, Abigail Toledo, Alisha Tremper, and Peyton Varner.

12th Grade

Honor Roll: Katherine Alvarado Castro, Ahtia Anderson, Kyleigh Avery, Allyia Best, Alexia Clark, Marcos Deras Lopez, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Sebastian Fowler, Natalie Fuentes Blandon, Angel Gonzales, Brian Ingber II, Addison Ingber, Hector Jami Cocha, Anastacia Ladd, John Landaverde Rodriguez, Tiffany Maccagli, Carmen Montes Velasco, Jarvin Nunez Mejia, Austin Olmsted, Iliana Pinzon, Oscar Portillo, German Romero Madrid, Isis Santos Berrios, Mehakdeep Singh, Thomas Vanidestine, and Bryan Vazquez.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Angelina Alvarado, Saladin Basic, Karrine Bennett, Andrew Bensimon, Xzavier Berrios, Bintou Darboe, Olivia DeGraw, Lee-Ann Di Napoli, Jaecob Espinoza, Emmabella Ferreira, Treyvon Hayden, Jaxon Ingber, Raphael Ladd, Eric Li, Haley Mackerley, Douglas Medina Carcamo Jr, Allanah Owens, Madeline Pantel, Allison Rojas, Marilyn Santos, Tracy Severino Paredes, Kierstyn Surerus, and Skylar Wright.



The Shandaken Historical Museum

26 Academy Street, Pine Hill, NY

845-254-4460

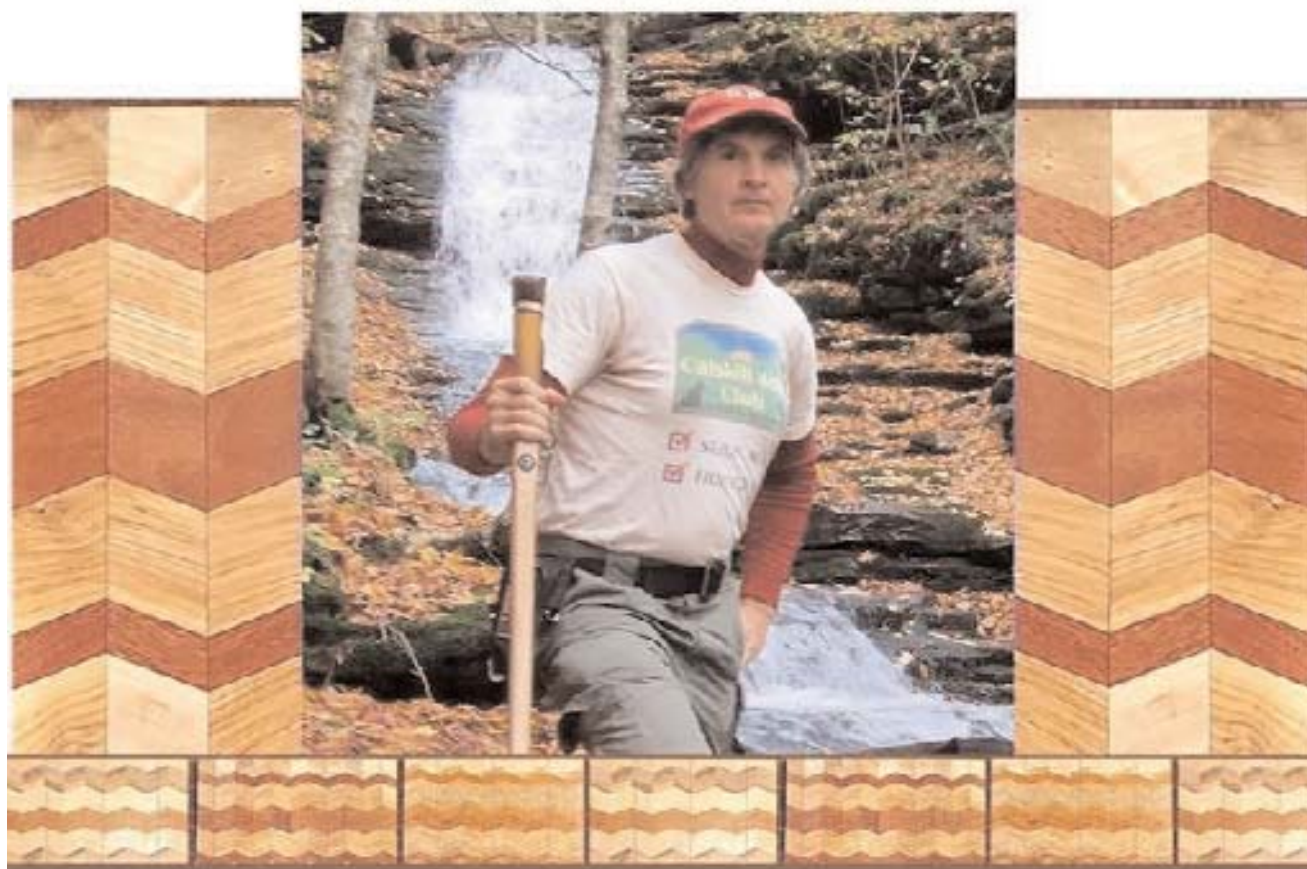
presents

Paul Misko

Catskill Carpenter, Hiking Expert and Historian

Woodworking in the Catskills

Saturday Nov. 22nd 1:00 - 3:30



Woodworker Paul Misko will give a multimedia presentation on Woodworking in the Catskills. His talk will include woodworking in olden days, as well as in current times. Harvesting the wood, milling the logs, and making the household items. He will show the various kinds of wood species the Catskills provides, and the characteristics of each.

Some examples of his work will be available for sale.



Free Admission

Refreshments Served



Jay Flight SLX 2019 by Jayco

No slides
Like new! \$14,500.

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Leave a message and phone



Gotsch

Christmas Tree Farm

Blue and White Spruce

Cut-Your-Own Tree: \$50 any tree

Fresh Pre-Cut Tree: \$50 any tree

Open: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Weekends Listed Below)

November 28, 29, & 30

December 6 & 7

December 13 & 14

December 20 & 21 (depending on supply)

Closed December 24

Weekdays by Appointment Only

Cash only. No credit cards.

86 Knight Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Phone: 845-985-7902

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

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

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

Membership is only \$25 for a FULL YEAR

- ♦ Free admission to all in-person and virtual programs, exhibits and the Catskill Farm
- ♦ Invitations to all special member openings and events
- ♦ *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter and monthly historical and informative emails
- ♦ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
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Join now by going to timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/membership, or send a check (\$25 for Individual, \$40 for Double and \$50 for Family) to the Museum at the address below. You will receive membership cards, a newsletter and special gift by return mail.

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Sundown United Methodist Church

(Sundown UMC Hall-Intersection of Sundown Rd.,
Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)

Covered Dish Supper

Saturday, December 6th
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 holiday items that will be
on sale!



Willow Wisp Organic Farm and Farm Arts Collective Addressing Food Insecurity in the Community

Willow Wisp Organic Farm will offer a FRESH VEGETABLE FOOD PANTRY

Monday, November 24 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at
Willow Wisp Organic Farm in Damascus, PA



Photo by Dar Yaskil

Damascus, PA- On Monday, November 24th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Willow Wisp Organic Farm in Damascus, PA will offer a FRESH VEGETABLE FOOD PANTRY for community members, families, and neighbors in need of fresh vegetables for the Thanksgiving holiday.

FREE Potatoes, carrots, roots, fresh herbs, and greens (weather permitting) will be available. Farmer-owners Greg Swartz, Tannis Kowalchuk and their son Simon Kowalchuk-Swartz want to lend a hand to address food insecurity this holiday season.

A farm stand will be set up at the farm in Damascus, PA, on the Monday before Thanksgiving, November 24. The stand will be located at the Farm Arts Collective barn on the property. Community members are welcome to come between the hours of 3 PM and 6 PM to pick up fresh produce to add to the dinner table. No registration is required.

If you know someone who could use a little extra help this holiday, please spread the word, or feel free to drop by and collect food for them. Willow Wisp Organic Farm wants everyone in our community to eat well this holiday season.

Please bring your own shopping bag.

Willow Wisp Organic Farm is located at 38 Hickory Lane, Damascus, PA 18415.

Contact: Tannis@willowwisporganic.com with questions or for more information.



Photo by Dar Yaskil

Call for Artists' Submissions: Iterations of Hope

Your artwork should address these themes: What is hope? Where do you find hope in your life? Is hope a person, place, thing, or emotion? Is hope multifaceted?



Iterations of Hope is an exhibit that will be on display at The Arts Nest in Lake Huntington, NY. The co-curators are Hope Blecher Croney and Jodi Sibilia.

Overview:

o All artwork submissions and this form are required.
Form: Link to form,

<https://forms.gle/CXCLNyNVkHJBqdMKA>

o Due date for this form and image is 6:00 pm, Friday, January 23, 2026, Eastern Time Zone.

o Artwork will be curated for this exhibit.

o Artists will be notified on January 26, 2026.

o All 2-dimensional artwork submitted must be finished and ready to hang on the wall.

o Dimensions of the ready-to-hang pieces are a total maximum height of 38".

o Accepted items must be 2-D, paintings, photography, multimedia, drawings, etc.

o The exhibit will be between March and May 2026.

o There is no submission fee for this exhibition.

Details:

o You may submit up to five separate pieces of artwork for this call.

o Images must be high quality, high resolution of just the artwork.

o Please include title, dimensions, medium, and price/NFS with each submission.

Contact Information:

Event Address: The Arts Nest, 6692 NY-52, Lake Huntington, NY 12752

Contact Hope at hope@drhopeshub.org, and the form: Events - Dr. Hope's Hub

About:

This concept came from Hope Blecher Croney, who conceptualized this exhibit. She has begun embracing her name, Hope, and expressing it through poetry, prose, and painting. In the exhibit, Iterations of Hope, artists express hope as a noun, verb, action, or other part of speech. Hope aspires for the audience to view, reflect, and share their impressions of hope through an interactive component of the exhibit.

This project is a collaboration between The Arts Nest at the Delaware Valley Opera Center and Hope's Compass, both are non-profit organizations. Find us at Hope's Compass and ARTS NEST Calendar - Delaware Valley Opera

Fraud Task Force Announces Arrests

Liberty, NY - The Sullivan County Welfare Fraud Task Force has made the following arrests:

- September 22, 2025 - Andrew D. Person, 39, of Canadensis, Pennsylvania, was arrested and charged with Welfare Fraud in the 3rd Degree, a Class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that between March 6 and October 31, 2020, Person was in receipt of Temporary Assistance Benefits issued by the Sullivan County Department of Social Services, but on a Temporary Assistance Application, Person failed to disclose that he was gainfully employed.



Additionally, the said defendant began collecting Unemployment Insurance Benefits but did not report that to the Sullivan County Department of Social Services. The failure to report truthful and accurate information about his income and receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits resulted in Person receiving \$4,068.18 in Temporary Assistance Benefits to which he was not otherwise entitled. Person was arraigned in the Town of Liberty Court and released on his own recognizance pending a future court date in the Town of Liberty Court.

- September 26, 2025 - Francis T. Ramirez, 42, of Monticello, was arrested and charged with Welfare Fraud in the 3rd Degree, a Class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that between July 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023 that Ramirez was in receipt of SNAP benefits issued by the Sullivan County Department of Social Services and during this same time period was gainfully employed. Additionally, Ramirez failed to disclose that her adult son was residing in her home and gainfully employed as well. It is also alleged that Ramirez filed a SNAP Periodic Report in 2022 and a SNAP Recertification in 2023 and failed to disclose her income, as well



as her son's income, on both forms. The failure to disclose truthful and accurate information about her income and her household composition with additional income in the home resulted in Ramirez receiving \$3,683 in SNAP benefits to which she was not otherwise entitled. Ramirez was released pending a future court date in the Town of Liberty Court.

- October 10, 2025 - Tearia M. Reynolds, 30, of Poughkeepsie, was arrested and charged with Welfare Fraud in the 3rd Degree, a Class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that between May 1 and December 31, 2023 that Reynolds was in receipt of SNAP benefits issued by the Sullivan County Department of Social Services while during this same time period, Reynolds was gainfully employed for a portion of the benefit period indicated and failed to disclose this employment on a SNAP Periodic/Recertification Report. It is also alleged that during the remainder of the benefit period, Reynolds found other employment and failed to report that income as well to the Sullivan County Department of Social Services. The failure to report truthful and accurate information about her income resulted in Reynolds receiving \$3,884 in SNAP Benefits to which she was not otherwise entitled. Reynolds was released pending a future court date in the Town of Liberty Court.



- October 13, 2025 - Melissa A. Watson, 45, of Hurleyville, was arrested and charged with Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, a Class E felony. It is alleged that between June 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, that Watson was in receipt of SNAP benefits issued by the Sullivan County Department of Social Services and that during this same time period, Watson became gainfully employed and remained so until her case closed for excess income. The failure to disclose her income to the Sullivan County Department of Social Services resulted in Watson receiving \$2,686 in SNAP benefits to which she was not otherwise entitled. Watson was released on an appearance ticket pending a future court date in the Town of Liberty Court.



Senators Michelle Hinchey and Peter Oberacker, Along with Big Indian Chief Derek Stapleton and Members of the Rossitz Family Unveil Sign in Honor of Jody Rossitz



SHANDAKEN - On Friday, November 14 State Senators Michelle Hinchey and Peter Oberacker joined by Chief Derek Stapleton and the Rossitz family to unveil a sign honoring longtime Ulster County volunteer firefighter and ambulance corp. member, John "Jody" Rossitz.



In 2022, State Senator Peter Oberacker announced legislation he sponsored honoring longtime Ulster County volunteer firefighter and ambulance corp. Member, John "Jody" Rossitz, and it was signed into law.

The Senate bill S7255 designates the bridge on State Route 28 over the Esopus Creek in the town of Shandaken as the "Chief John 'Jody' Rossitz Memorial Bridge." This sign commemorates the life of John Rossitz of Oliverea. He served 34 years as a volunteer firefighter and as Chief of the Big Indian-Oliverea Fire Department.

STATEMENT FROM SENATOR PETER OBERACKER

Sen. Oberacker:
I Don't Trust Kathy Hochul
Governor's Pause on
All-Electric Mandate Nothing
More than Political Games



"Bottom line -I don't trust Kathy Hochul."

The Governor's sudden "pause" on her all-electric mandate isn't leadership. It's political damage control. She hasn't discovered common sense. She's discovered bad poll numbers.

From day one I've warned that Albany's gas stove ban and one-size-fits-all energy mandates would drive up costs, strain an already shaky grid, and rip away choices from upstate families and small businesses.

If the Governor now admits this law can't stand up in the real world or in court, she shouldn't stall it until after Election Day, she should scrap it. I'm calling on Governor Hochul to pledge to the people of New York that her bad idea is dead for good and won't be back on the table the minute after the election.

We need new leadership in Albany that is honest about its agenda and focused on affordability, reliability, and consumer choice and not political games. Upstate families deserve a leader who is up front with taxpayers, unapologetic about defending affordable energy, and willing to say no when the extremists go too far.

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
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Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

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Text as often as you need!

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Substance Use -
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and more!

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**FOSTER HOMES
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UC and Partners Celebrate Completion of Golden Hill Apartments, a Landmark Affordable Housing Development in Kingston

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, together with New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), the City of Kingston, project co-developers Pennrose and Family of Woodstock, and other partners today celebrated the completed construction of Golden Hill Apartments, a transformative 164-unit affordable housing development built in Kingston.

Golden Hill Apartments is a cross-generational community designed to meet the diverse needs of Ulster County residents, with nearly half of the units reserved for seniors aged 62 and older, and 48 apartments set aside for households in need of supportive services. Family of Woodstock will provide onsite services such as case management, crisis intervention, and financial counseling.

The \$87 million project was supported by a \$10 million award from Governor Hochul's inaugural Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund, as well as funding from multiple state and federal sources. The development features all-electric buildings designed to meet the highest energy efficiency and green design standards, including a 700-kilowatt rooftop solar system funded through a Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities Grant secured by the County. Residents will also benefit from free broadband internet, childcare, a community garden, playgrounds, and a fitness center.



“This is a proud moment for Ulster County,” said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. “Golden Hill Apartments is exactly what community development should be - affordable, climate-responsive, and responsive to the diverse needs of our residents. We've transformed a former jail site into a vibrant, intergenerational community that offers not just housing, but services and amenities supporting a high quality of life for the seniors, children, families, and individuals who will call this beautiful community their home. I want to thank Governor Hochul, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, Pennrose, Family of Woodstock, and all our partners for helping make this dream project a reality. I also want to thank Congressman Ryan, who had the vision to initiate this project when he was County Executive, and it has been a great honor and joy to steward this project through to its completion.”

“I hear it from folks every day - costs, specifically housing costs, are way too high. Seniors across our community are under tremendous pressure trying to make ends meet, and far too many hardworking people are unable to afford decent housing in the communities where they work. That's why I spearheaded the Golden Hill Apartments project as Ulster County Executive, and why I am so proud to see it officially open today,” said Congressman Pat Ryan. “We have a full-scale crisis on our hands, and we have to embrace an all-of-the-above approach to address it. I am incredibly proud that the Golden Hill Apartments is officially opening, and am grateful to Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger for continuing to push this important project forward over the last few years. This is a huge step forward for our Ulster community - we have to keep up the momentum. No family should have to pick between putting food on the table and having a roof over their heads - I'll keep fighting every day to bring housing costs down.”

“It's an honor to help advance Governor Hochul and NYSHCR's plans to significantly improve affordable housing access across New York State,” said Dylan Salmons, president of acquisitions at Pennrose. “Golden Hill demonstrates how public and private sectors can work collaboratively to implement meaningful housing solutions - transforming an underutilized site into energy-efficient, multi-generational housing with on-site supportive services, connected community resources, and tailored amenities.”

“Ulster County is struggling with a critical affordable housing shortage,” said Michael Berg, Family of Woodstock Executive Director. “The problem stems from the fact that housing built during the past 20 years did not align with the income levels of county residents. The Golden Hill project is especially important because it is the first workforce housing built specifically to address the needs of that local population.”

“Golden Hill represents more than affordable housing,” said Ulster County Legislature Chair Peter Criswell. “It's a transformation from a place of confinement to a place of possibility. We literally tore down the walls of the old Ulster County Jail to build 164 homes where families, seniors, and individuals can reclaim their futures. This is what investing in community looks like: giving people not just a roof, but their dignity and their lives back.”

“We are thrilled to have a brand new 164-unit affordable housing development opening in Kingston. I thank County Executive Jen Metzger and all of our partners for their ongoing commitment to supporting Kingston's housing efforts, helping us to meet our ambitious housing goals,” said Kingston Mayor Steve Noble. “A project that allows for a former jail site to become home to seniors and local families and is done with sustainability in mind is a shining example of a public-private effort that benefits the entire community. The City of Kingston entered into a PILOT for this project as well as a community benefits agreement, and I hope to continue this work with all of our partners to bring more exciting projects like this to fruition.”

Golden Hill Apartments is now open and welcoming residents. For more information, visit: www.pennrose.com/apartments/new-york/golden-hill

BIG INDIAN-OLIVEREA AUXILIARY**HOLIDAY
FUNDRAISER
& BAZAAR****DECEMBER 6th
11AM-3PM****SANTA AT NOON!****Cookie Platters- Wreaths- Swags- Holiday Gifts****FOOD DRIVE-****BRING NON-PERISHABLES****Join us for** hot cocoa, and
cookies with Santa at noon!

DEC Announces More Than \$1.72 Million in Grants Through the Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts Program

Conserving Forested Land Maintains Open Space and Sustains Benefits to Local Communities Funded Projects Will Directly Contribute to State's Open Space Conservation and Climate Resiliency Goals

Program Video Highlight

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/fs/programs/press/Lands&Forests/FCELTGrantAnnouncementFINAL.mp4>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced more than \$1.72 million in grants to six land trusts for nine projects that help conserve local forests. The land trusts will purchase new conservation easements that will protect air and water quality, preserve wildlife habitat and biodiversity, support sustainable forest management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for the public.

"Under Governor Hochul's leadership, DEC continues to protect forests and bolster climate resiliency, quality of life for all communities, and the economy," said Commissioner Lefton. "With approximately 73 percent of New York State's forests being privately owned, this \$1.72 million in FCELT Grant Program funding will help landowners keep their forests as forests and maintain working forest landscapes. Through partnerships with land trusts and dedicated landowners, we're adding protections that keep trees standing, wildlife thriving, watersheds intact, and communities resilient."

The grants, administered by the Land Trust Alliance in partnership with DEC, were made available through the Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts (FCELT) Grant Program and contribute to the State's goal of conserving 30 percent of New York's lands and waters by 2030. These grants are intended to provide community benefits, advance ecosystem benefits and climate resilience, and work towards goals identified in the New York State Open Space Plan, the New York State Wildlife Action Plan, the New York State Forest Action Plan, and/or other local, regional or statewide land protection plans. Environmental justice and climate resilience are key components for project selection.

New York Senior Program Manager for the Land Trust Alliance Jamie Brown said, "Protecting forests offers so many benefits to all New Yorkers. The FCELT Grant Program is a vital tool that assists land trusts to do this important work. We are grateful to the State's support and leadership in protecting our natural resources and important places."

Funded Projects:

Genesee Valley Conservancy, Livingston County: \$227,220 to purchase a conservation easement on the 135-acre Pokey Moonshine Hallow property, located in the town of Springwater. This land is 99 percent forested and situated within the watershed of Hemlock Lake, a drinking water source for the City of Rochester. The landowners will contin-

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1.8 Miles

1.1 Miles

0.8 Miles

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-Going Towards Olivebridge

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0.8 Miles

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Every Tuesday at 7 PM
46 North Street in Monticello
For information
contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
at (845) 701-0695

ue to sustainably manage the forest.

Genesee Valley Conservancy, Steuben County: \$350,000 to purchase a conservation easement on the 841-acre Beckhorn property, located in the towns of Rexville and West Union. This is one of the largest forested parcels remaining in Steuben County and will connect to other protected land. The property's forest blends species found in both temperate and boreal climates, making for a diverse mix of trees and plants, enhancing biodiversity and providing habitat for numerous species of birds and mammals.

Hudson Taconic Lands, Rensselaer County: \$265,000 to purchase a conservation easement on the 288-acre Wheeler Mountain Escarpment in the towns of Brunswick and Grafton. The land is 100 percent forested and is adjacent to the 1,100-acre Camp Rotary Conservation Easement recently acquired by Hudson Taconic Lands. The easement will protect Wheeler Mountain and the Quaken Kill, home to critical habitat and part of a larger initiative to create a four-mile contiguous corridor of protected forest along the western escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau.

Otsego Land Trust, Otsego County: \$54,250 to purchase a conservation easement on the 41-acre Burr Forest property in the town of Westford. The land is adjacent to the popular Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park. The easement property is 90 percent forested, and includes wetlands and hemlock stands, along with large concentrations of native plants. The landowners will manage the forest for wildlife and the health of the forest.

(Contd. Pg. 40)

DEC Announces More Than \$1.72 Million in Grants Through the Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts Program

(From Pg. 39)

Roundout-Esopus Land Conservancy, Ulster County: \$160,850 to purchase a conservation easement that will protect 19 acres of diverse forestland adjacent to Minnewaska State Park in the town of Wawarsing. The easement will protect Mine Hole Brook, which contains brook trout and is a tributary to Roundout Creek. The easement will also ensure that the area surrounding the Mine Hole Trail, a popular and heavily used recreation area, remains in a natural state. The current owner is interested in proactively managing the woodlands for habitat, with a focus on improving the health and ecological diversity of the forest.

Scenic Hudson, Columbia County: \$250,000 to purchase a conservation easement on the 272-acre West Family Land property in the towns of New Lebanon and Canaan. The land was once part of a larger 19th century Shaker community and is adjacent to conserved land, including Bates Memorial State Park in Massachusetts. The forest is a mix of hardwood and softwood and includes habitat for several bird and mammal species.

Scenic Hudson, Dutchess County: \$125,000 to purchase a conservation easement on the 137-acre Royal Strawberry Hill Farm and Preserve in the town of Poughkeepsie. The property, once part of a network of farms, has mostly reverted to forest in an area under extreme development pressure. The City of Poughkeepsie identified the property in its Open Space Plan and designated the land as an urban greenway. The land hosts a limestone woodland forest community, wetlands and streams, habitat for birds, mammals, and amphibians, and connects some of the last remaining forests in the area.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT), Herkimer County (two projects): \$131,122 to conserve the 135-acre Kimak Forest property and \$161,175 to conserve the 182-acre Grafer Forest property, both located in the town of Russia. Both properties are part of a large, forested area that includes other conservation easements held by the land trust. These new easements will build on THTLT's conservation efforts surrounding Hinckley State Forest. Both properties are characterized by forested land that contains a mix of softwood and hardwood species, which play a crucial role in providing habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. Several streams cross the property and flow into West Canada Creek.

The grants are funded through the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Among the many environmental victories in the enacted 2025-26 State Budget, Governor Kathy Hochul and legislative leaders increased the historically high level of \$425 million in EPF funding. The EPF supports climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, improves agricultural resources to promote sustainable agriculture, protects water sources, advances conservation efforts like the projects announced today, and provides recreational opportunities for New Yorkers.

See video here for more on grants through the forest conservation easements for land trusts program.

Governor Kathy Hochul and New York Attorney General Letitia James recently announced a landmark agreement to modernize the process to secure and protect critical open spaces statewide. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) streamlines and clarifies the legal and administrative review procedures for fee and conservation easement acquisitions to facilitate and expedite open space projects that preserve water quality, protect wildlife habitat and diverse ecosystems, promote working lands and support rural economies, increase climate mitigation and

resiliency, and expand recreation and public access opportunities across the state.

About the Land Trust Alliance

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents approximately 950-member land trusts supported by more than 250,000 volunteers and 6.3 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington D.C. and operates several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available on the Land Trust Alliance's website.

DEC Forest Rangers Week in Review

Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

Town of Woodstock

Ulster County

Wilderness Rescue: On Nov. 4 at 12:30 p.m., Ulster County Dispatch requested Forest Ranger assistance for a hiker with a leg injury on Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest. GPS coordinates placed the hiker on a steep section of the long path just south of Warner Creek. Rangers Franceschina, Jeffery, and Rusher responded with Woodstock Fire and EMS. At 2:30 p.m., Ranger Rusher reached the 57-year-old hiker from Stony Point and stabilized the injured leg with a splint. Due to the cold weather and lack of movement, the patient was also shivering. Ranger Rusher provided layers of clothing and worked with the rest of the hiking party to start a fire. Woodstock EMS provided additional care including pain relief. Rangers used a wheeled litter to extricate the patient across Warner Creek. Rescuers made it out to a Shandaken Ambulance at 6 p.m.

Town of Hunter Greene County Wilderness Search: On November 15 at 8 p.m., Greene County 911 requested Forest Ranger assistance in the search for a lost hiker on Mount Mink near the summit of Slide Mountain Hollow. The 53-year-old from New Jersey became disoriented near the Mink Hollow lean-to and the subject's phone battery was dead. Thankfully, individuals already at the lean-to called 911 to request Ranger assistance in helping the hiker get back on the right trail. Ranger Fox responded and assisted the hiker out of the woods and then to Notch Lake. Resources were clear at 10:30 p.m.

Rangers suggest hikers and hunters bring light sources such as headlamps with extra batteries and not rely on phones for navigation and light. In the wilderness, cell phone batteries lose charge more quickly due to poor signal reception and temperature extremes.

Town of Shandaken Ulster County Wilderness Search: On November 16 at 12 p.m., Ulster County 911 contacted Ray Brook Dispatch to send Rangers to a call for a hiker with difficulty breathing near the summit of Slide Mountain Ranger Sweeney made phone contact with the 30-year-old from New Jersey. The original group was eight hikers-four were experienced and left the novice hikers behind. The hiker who needed help has asthma but did not bring an inhaler. While Rangers Horn and Stratton responded, Ranger Sweeney told the group to stay where they were and wait for help. Approximately 15 minutes later, Ranger Sweeney called the group again and the hiker was breathing much better. Rangers Horn and Stratton led the search with Big Indian Fire Department and Shandaken EMS responded to the trailhead. At 2 p.m., rescuers found the hiker in good health. The subject refused further medical attention. Resources were clear at 4:30 p.m.

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



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

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



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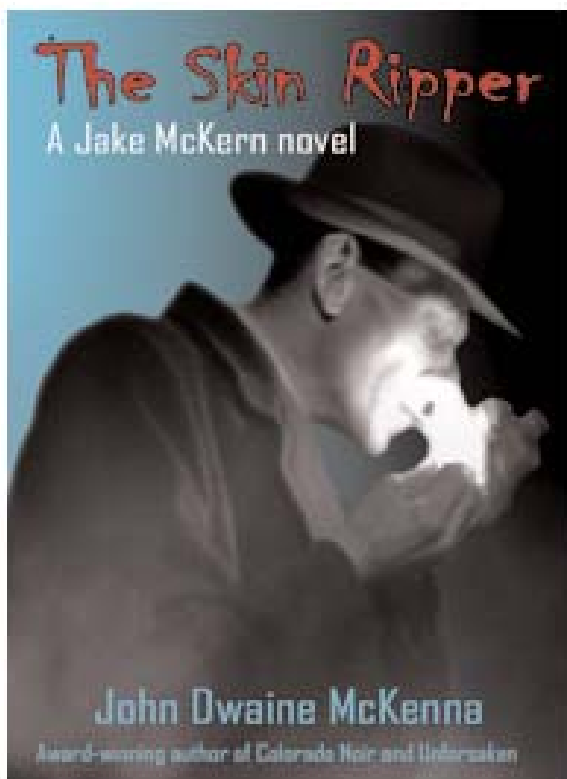
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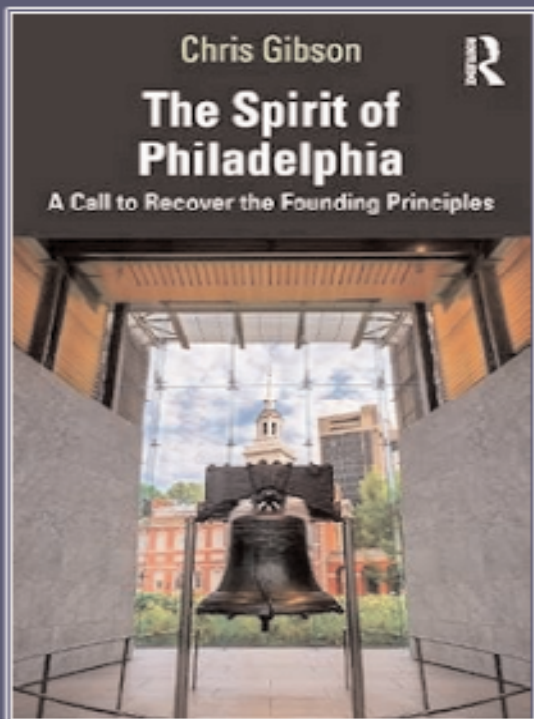
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The Spirit of Philadelphia

By Chris Gibson

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

TheSpiritofPhiladelphia.com

Greetings again from Kinderhook,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,
Chris Gibson

Chris Gibson

Soldier



Scholar



Statesman



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Delivering for Upstate New York and Reopening the Government

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDEshRDWvw0>

After more than six weeks of dysfunction and delay, Congress has finally acted to reopen the federal government and restore stability for families, small businesses, and our troops. This shut-down was entirely avoidable. Democrats manufactured a crisis to damage President Trump's America First agenda while federal workers went without pay and essential services were disrupted. House Republicans stayed focused on results, passing a clean plan weeks ago to keep the government open and pay our servicemembers, but Democrats blocked it repeatedly before ultimately accepting nearly the same terms they rejected from the start. While they wasted time on political theater and hypocrisy, we remained committed to delivering for the American people and for Upstate New York.

In addition to reopening the government, this package includes a three-bill "minibus" that makes critical investments in our region through the FY26 Community Project Funding and general appropriations process. I was pleased to champion several key projects that will deliver long-term benefits to our communities and upgrade local infrastructure across Upstate New York:

City of Oswego Police Department: \$1,000,000 for a new police station to enhance public safety operations.

Orleans County Public Safety Building: \$1,750,000 for vital safety and security upgrades.

Town of Torrey Water District #2: \$2,050,000 for infrastructure improvements expanding access to clean water.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station: \$16,110,000 for a new Combined Operations Airfield Facility.

Fort Drum: \$9,500,000 for the design of the Aircraft Maintenance Hangar Addition and \$8,300,000 for the design of the ORTC Transient Training Barracks.

These projects will strengthen public safety, expand access to clean water, bolster our national security, improve troop readiness, and deliver meaningful results for our region. While Democrats wasted weeks on political games, House Republicans stayed focused on solutions: reopening the government, funding essential services, and delivering for the people of Upstate New York.

Democrats Shutdown the Government to Defend a Broken Obamacare System

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

For 43 days, Democrats held the entire federal government hostage to protect a failing Obamacare system that has driven premiums through the roof, eliminated choice, and punished working families. Their obsession with extending temporary, COVID-era subsidies, bailouts that now cover up to 87% of exchange-plan costs and let nearly half of enrollees pay \$0 premiums, led to the longest shutdown in American history. They refused to fund the government unless taxpayers kept pouring billions into a system that rewards insurance companies for

raising prices and squeezes out the private market. Premiums have more than tripled nationwide since Obamacare took effect, and states like New York now face the highest premiums in the country, with regulators approving increases of 7-13% next year for individuals and small businesses. That's not affordability, it's government-driven inflation that families and job creators in Upstate New York cannot afford.

Obamacare is collapsing, and Democrats still chose to shut down the government in an effort to extort more taxpayer money for a failing system. The law punishes work and rewards dependency, driving an estimated 2 million Americans out of the full-time workforce, and it has devastated small businesses. Employer coverage at small firms has plummeted from 76% to 51%, forcing workers onto government plans with fewer doctors and narrower networks. New Yorkers are being pushed into state-run plans such as the Essential Plan, which offers less choice at a higher cost while enriching insurance companies. Instead of fixing the system, Democrats doubled down on political theater, demanding more subsidies, more bailouts, and more government control. House Republicans stood firm. We refused to tie government funding to a partisan healthcare fight, and Democrats ultimately achieved nothing but harm for the American people. I'll continue fighting for real reforms that lower costs, expand choice, and put patients, not bureaucrats or insurance companies, back in charge.

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

H.Res. 864, Honoring the service and sacrifice of America's veterans on Veterans Day, 2025: This resolution expresses the sentiment of Congress that all Americans should remember and honor our veterans this Veterans Day. America's veterans have risked their lives to defend our great nation and protect our freedoms. We owe our veterans dignity and support, and I remain committed to the men and women who served our nation and fought for our freedoms.

H.Res. 254, Recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps: This resolution honors and celebrates the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, which was celebrated this week. On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Marines, permanently founding the modern-day U.S. Marine Corps. For 250 years, Marines have stood guard for our nation, and we remain strong due to the commitment and service of our men and women in uniform. We are grateful for the bravery of the New Yorkers and other Americans who have worn the uniform and protected us all.

H.Res. 869, Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald: The S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald was a Great Lakes freighter, and at the time of its launching, it was the largest vessel to ever sail the Great Lakes. 50 years ago this week, the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald tragically sank in Lake Superior, killing all 29 crew members aboard. This resolution honors the memory of the 29 crew members that tragically lost their lives and recognizes the importance of Great Lakes Shipping to our economic strength, security, and cultural heritage.

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

Wednesday, November 12
(Contd. PG. 55)

This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 54)

I voted "Yes" on the Senate amendment to H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026. After weeks of senseless disorder and delay, the House has finally taken action to reopen the government and deliver stability to families, small businesses, and our troops. This shutdown was entirely avoidable. Democrats manufactured a crisis to damage President Trump's America First agenda while federal workers went without pay and essential services were disrupted. Their partisan games hurt the very people they claim to represent. House Republicans delivered a clean CR to fund the government and pay our servicemembers. Democrats blocked every effort and used hardworking Americans as political leverage. Only after weeks of using the American people as leverage did they finally accept nearly the same terms we offered from the start. This bill includes a continuing resolution through January 30, 2026 and a three-bill "minibus" includes the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill; the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill; and the Legislative Branch appropriations bill. This three-bill "minibus" included three of my Community Project Funding projects which will provide \$1 million for the City of Oswego Police Department for a new police station, \$1.75 million for the Orleans County Public Safety Building for critical safety and security improvements, and \$2.05 million for the Town of Torrey Water District #2 for resource and infrastructure upgrades. These projects will strengthen public safety, expand access to clean water, bolster our national security, improve troop readiness, and deliver meaningful results for our region. While Democrats wasted weeks playing politics, House Republicans remained focused on getting things done for the American people and for Upstate New York. The bill passed the House by a vote of 222-209.

Veterans Day

Each Veterans Day, we pause to commemorate the courageous men and women who have worn our nation's uniform and defended the freedoms we hold dear. Veterans in Upstate New York and across America represent the very best of us: patriotic, selfless, and steadfast in their love of country. To every veteran and military family, thank you. Your service and sacrifice keep our nation safe and free, and I will never stop fighting to ensure you receive the care, respect, and support you have earned.

This Veterans Day, it was an honor to go to VFW Post 369 in Mexico, Oswego County, where our community came together to celebrate the strength and patriotism of those who served. The event brought together veterans, Auxiliary members, local leaders, and youth from the Mexico CSD JROTC and local scout troops. It was remarkable to see our veterans' powerful legacy continue to inspire the next generation. Speaking with these heroes and their families reaffirmed my commitment to always stand with those who stood for us.

Our team also joined the Oakfield-Alabama Central School District for their Veterans Day Assembly, where students, teachers, and community members gathered to pay tribute to active-duty servicemembers and veterans in attendance. We presented a congressional proclamation recognizing the district's commitment to commemorating our veterans and preserving the values they fought to defend. Moments like this remind us that patriotism is alive and well in our communities, and that teaching our students to appreciate service is one of the greatest responsibilities we share.



We have an affordability crisis in this country and it's squeezing our community from every angle.

skyrocket as open enrollment begins and wondering if they can even afford insurance for the next year. From small business owners and farmers getting crushed by tariffs. From food banks struggling to feed our neighbors most in need due to devastating federal funding cuts.

These aren't separate issues and the \$1 trillion in tax cuts that Trump and the GOP just passed for the 0.1% would more than cover the cost to alleviate these burdens from our families.

I will not waver in standing against and fighting back against these harms. I cannot and will not vote for them to continue - which is why this week I voted against the GOP's bill to keep funding these harms through January 30, 2026. I am and always will be ready and willing to work with anyone who wants to seriously find solutions to bring down costs for Hudson Valley families.

Here's some of how I fought for a more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley for you this past week:

HONORING OUR VETERANS

As a nation, we celebrated Veterans Day this past Tuesday. To my fellow Veterans: Thank you for your profound selflessness, moral fortitude, and unwavering bravery.

You are the Patriots our country needs more of - we owe you a debt we can never repay and I will never stop fighting for you.

Our veterans are heroes - grounded in selfless service and risking their lives to protect us and our freedoms.

Thank you to the over 100 veterans from across the Hudson Valley who came to my Veterans Appreciation Luncheon. Another big thank you to the Orange County Veterans Center for hosting us.

It was a privilege to honor three Hudson Valley veterans at my luncheon for their outstanding service to our nation and community: Dan Dambrozio, Nate Grant and Gavin Walters.

I also want to thank New Windsor American Legion Post 1796 and Post Commander Charlie Baranyai for having me at their Veterans Day Breakfast.

I was profoundly grateful for the opportunity to meet with our Orange County veterans and personally express my gratitude for their heroism.

Heroes, Cowboys, and Companions gathered our Hudson Valley veterans community for an outstanding Veterans Appreciation Day Picnic at American Legion Post 1308 Pine Bush last weekend.

I want to give a special shout out to Dwayne and Jacque from Heroes, Cowboys, and Companions for organizing an outstanding event honoring our veterans, their sacrifices, and their service.

Marine Corps veteran Anthony Gray was a hero and selflessly served our nation.

Last weekend's Anthony's Walk honoring his memory and raising awareness of veteran mental health and homelessness was truly moving.

Thank you to Marist and Hudson River Housing for organizing this touching tribute & to everyone who joined the Walk in support of Anthony and all of our Hudson Valley veterans. (Contd. Pg. 56)

Pat Ryan (From Pg . 55)

We must leave no veteran behind.

We have a patriotic duty to take care of our veterans when they return home after protecting our nation and freedoms.

When Castle Point VA suddenly closed its acute inpatient care unit earlier this year, our entire Hudson Valley community stood up and with one voice, demanded better for our veterans. Together, we won. Watch how our community rallied for our veterans here.

<https://x.com/RepPatRyanNY/status/1989082803565416755?s=20>

FIGHTING FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

Every veteran should always be able to receive the mental health care they need.

I'm fighting to get the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act passed to increase funding for community organizations that provide crucial mental health services to our veterans.

I'll keep pushing with everything I've got to make sure our veterans have all the support and resources they need.

RALLYING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALI FAQIRZADA

Anyone who risked their life for our country deserves our respect, support, and a shot at the American dream.

It's exactly what the asylum process is for, and the fact that Ali - who risked so much to help our country fight the Taliban - is sitting in jail is deeply unjust and fundamentally un-American.

https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2025/11/10/ulster-county-man-detained-ice?cid=id-app15_m-share_s-web_cmp-app_launch_august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic

Since Ali's detention, my office has received a flood of community support speaking to his character, kindness, and impact on their lives. He has followed all guidance from our government, dutifully attends his hearings, and has been legally following the asylum process.

Not to mention that, according to an American judge, a return to Afghanistan could very well be a death sentence for him.

I am joining our community in rallying in force for Ali's release and will keep fighting for him to receive all rights afforded to him by our Constitution.

<https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-pat-ryan-leads-community-speak-out-continuing-push-release>

HEARING DIRECTLY FROM YOU: ARE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS INCREASING?

We're feeling the harms of Trump's cruel health care cuts and cost increases every day in the Hudson Valley.

I'm fighting back relentlessly against the devastating impacts to our community - but as hardworking families across the region face skyrocketing insurance prices, I'm asking for your help.

I want to hear directly from you: Have you received a notice that your health insurance premiums are increasing?

Please take my quick survey here.

https://iqconnect.house.gov/iqextranet/EForm.aspx?_cid=NY19PR&_fid=100056

If you know someone else impacted by increasing premiums, please forward this to them so they can complete the survey, too.

240,000 of our neighbors - seniors, veterans, and single parents - are at risk of losing their health insurance. 17,000 already

have. Nearly half of them are kids. An average 60-year-old couple on ACA insurance in our community could face a \$1,000/month increase to their health care bill.

These are burdens that our community simply cannot afford - and they shouldn't have to. That's why it's so important that I hear from YOU. We are not powerless - and together, we can build the more affordable, safe, and free Hudson Valley that our families deserve.

CONTINUING TO FIGHT FOR THE TRANSPARENCY YOU WERE PROMISED

While the House GOP spent months avoiding a vote to release the Epstein files, I've kept up the fight for the transparency you were promised.

<https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-pat-ryan-leads-bipartisan-push-force-release-epstein-files-slams>

Now, my colleagues and I have successfully forced a vote in the House to release the Epstein files, scheduled for next week.

You deserve answers, and folks from across the Hudson Valley overwhelmingly responded to my survey that all the files should be released. I won't relent on this fight for transparency you are owed.

BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU

Do you need help enrolling for Medicare, getting your IRS tax return, applying for federal student aid, or navigating another federal program?

My team brings one-on-one assistance directly to you in your own community with the C.A.R.E.S. Van.

This week is the last event in November - hope you can join! Stay tuned for the schedule of December events coming soon!

CONGRATULATING AN ORANGE COUNTY HERO

Orange County Deputy Sheriff Joe Carey is an absolute hero and it's a true privilege to know him.

I want to congratulate him on being awarded the State Division of Criminal Justice Services' Lifesaving Award for his courageous actions that saved a motorcycle crash victim. Read more about it here.

<https://midhudsonnews.com/2025/11/04/state-honors-orange-county-deputy-sheriff-with-lifesaving-award/>

Deputy Sheriff Carey: Orange County families are safer because of you. I, alongside our entire Hudson Valley community, thank you for your bravery and selfless service.

CHEERING FOR AN OUTSTANDING ULSTER BOCES STUDENT

Ulster BOCES student Caden Salamone recently achieved the huge accomplishment of winning the National Statesman Award from SkillsUSA, the nation's top workforce development organization. Read more here.

https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2025/11/01/port-ewen-resident-caden-salamone-earns-skillsusa-national-statesman-award/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_content=tw-dailyfreeman

Way to go, Caden - you've got a bright future ahead!

THANKING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

During this Military Families Appreciation Month, I want to thank our military families for the huge sacrifices they make in service to our country.

Every day, I'm working to make sure you have the full support that you deserve. (Contd. Pg. 57)

Pat Ryan (From Pg. 56)**SAVING YOU MONEY ON YOUR UTILITY BILLS**

Hudson Valley families are feeling the pinch from the skyrocketing cost of living - including rising electricity prices.

My team is here to help you lower your electricity bills with federal solar tax credits and more.

<https://hudsonvalley.news12.com/racing-the-sun-hudson-valley-homeowners-rush-to-beat-end-of-federal-solar-credit>

The federal solar tax credits can greatly reduce the installation cost of solar panels, saving you money upfront and on your utility bills in the years ahead, but these tax credits expire on December 31, 2025. Don't wait - reach out to my team by calling 845-443-2930 to learn more!

WISHING HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE MARINE CORPS

A huge Happy Birthday to the U.S. Marine Corps who celebrated this past Monday.

Thank you for 250 years of profound bravery and heroism. Here's to many more - Semper Fi!

GRANTS CORNER**APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) FY26 Conservation Program Funding: NRCS in New York is announcing that the fiscal year FY26 sign-up deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and EQIP Initiatives including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), Working Lands for Wildlife Golden-Winged Warbler (WLFW) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) is Oct. 24, 2025

While applications are accepted on a continuous basis, NRCS utilizes application cutoff periods to assess and rank applications based on their potential conservation impact. All applications need to be received by Oct. 24, 2025, to be considered for this first round of funding for FY 2026. Applications received after this date will be held and considered for subsequent rounds.

New York State Council on the Arts FY2026 Capital Projects Fund : Up to \$80 million in capital funding is now available to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts Capital Projects Fund. The Fund has three grant categories: Small and Midsized Capital Improvement Grants, Large Capital Improvement Grants, and Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture. The deadline is January 13, 2026, at 5PM.

Brownfields 101 with the EPA: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Office recorded its "Brownfields 101" briefing for New York communities to provide an overview of the EPA's Brownfield Program. To view the recording, please contact Natalie Lincoln at natalie.lincoln@mail.house.gov or (518) 465-0700. Sign up for the EPA's Technical Assistance and Funding Resource Guide here!

Each month Hudson Valley Regional Council publishes its Grants Guide focused on federal, state, and local funding opportunities related to economic development, water, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability. Each grant listing features the deadline, eligibility, and a short description including the amounts municipalities are eligible to apply for and any required match. To view past Grants Guides, click here. To subscribe to the grants guide, please email epeck@hudsonvalleyrc.org.

New York School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP) : Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$200 million in new funding for zero-emission school buses through the Environmental Bond Act of 2022. Distributed via the NYSBIP, the funds support electric bus purchases, charging infrastructure, and fleet

planning to improve air quality and reduce pollution in communities across the state. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis with incentive amounts covering up to 100 percent of the incremental cost of a new or repowered electric school bus. This helps offset some or all of the difference in purchase price between zero-emission buses and comparable diesel or gasoline buses. All school bus fleet operators in New York State can also qualify for funding for fleet electrification plans, which provide a customized roadmap for electric bus adoption.

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

RESOURCES:

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

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

**I DEMANDED INSURANCE COMPANIES ANSWER FOR CANCELLING HEALTHCARE PLANS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Insurance companies are pulling the rug out from under rural seniors by cutting the Medicare Advantage plans they've relied on for years, all while profits soar.

I'm demanding answers from UnitedHealth, Humana and CVS Health.

Upstate's seniors aren't a line on a balance sheet.

I VOTED NO ON THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET BILL THAT RAISES HEALTHCARE COSTS ACROSS UPSTATE NEW YORK

Last week I met a man at Home Depot grabbing every extra shift he can just to cover rent, groceries, and crushing healthcare bills and he's still falling behind.

(Contd. Pg. 58)

Josh Riley (From Pg. 57)

The Republican budget does nothing for him. I voted no because working people shouldn't suffer while billionaires cash in.

**I SPENT VETERANS DAY MEETING WITH UPSTATE HEROES WHO ANSWERED OUR NATION'S CALL
SUNY ONEONTA**

I spoke at SUNY Oneonta about what Veterans Day is about: remembering the names and faces our veterans carry with them, and recommitting ourselves to live up to their example.

Upstate New York has always answered the call to serve. Now it's on us to keep that promise alive.

<https://x.com/RepRileyNY/status/1988407934557016476?s=20>

WALTON VETERANS CLUB

At the Walton Veterans Club, I had the privilege of sharing a beer with local veterans who answered the call and still give so much back to our communities.

Their service reminds us what duty, honor, and love of country really look like. Grateful beyond words.

NORWICH VETERANS DAY SERVICE

We can never fully repay our veterans for their sacrifice, but we can start by honoring their courage and legacy.

Great to attend the Veterans Day service in Norwich and pay tribute to our heroes across Upstate New York.

HARPURSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION

Thank you to the veterans at the Harpursville American Legion for your service, great conversation, and AMAZING chili.

ENDICOTT FESTIVAL

My final stop for Veterans Day was back home in Endicott, where we're not divided by politics but unified in our support for our veterans. Thanks to all who came out!

**MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS
TOMPKINS HISTORY MUSEUM**

There's always something special about walking through a space that tells Upstate's story.

It was great to check out the planes, trains, and automobiles exhibit at the Tompkins Center for History and Culture.

The Southern Tier has a rich manufacturing and transportation history, and it's a history worth fighting for.

TOMPKINS COUNTY WHOLE HEALTH

One year ago, the Tompkins County Whole Health satellite clinic opened its doors.

Since then, it's helped countless neighbors get care close to home with dignity, compassion, and trust.

Was glad to be there celebrating all this team has built.

CENTRAL HUDSON ROUNDTABLE

Small businesses are the heart of our communities - but Central Hudson's rate hikes are making it harder for them to keep the lights on.

I sat down with local business owners and the Greene County Chamber of Commerce to hear directly from folks feeling the squeeze and keep up the fight for fair utility costs across Upstate New York.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

<https://x.com/RepRileyNY/status/1985420471664263519?s=20>

LEARN SOMETHING NEW ABOUT A COMMUNITY**NEAR YOU!**

Deborah from Unadilla: Did you know the Iron Bridge in Wells Bridge is the oldest standing iron bridge on the Susquehanna River? It was built in 1886!

Have a fun fact about Upstate New York you'd like to see in the Riley Report?

IN THE NEWS

Riley demands answers from insurance companies cutting upstate Medicare Advantage plans

Riley slams insurers for cutting Medicare Advantage plans in Upstate NY

Riley, Ryan among those voting against federal government funding bill

And as always, to stay up to date with the work I'm doing, follow along on my official social media pages at @RepRileyNY on X, Facebook, Instagram, and Bluesky! If there's anything my team or I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude and high hopes,

Josh Riley Signature

**Weekly Update: Ending the Painful Schumer Shutdown Cheered on By Kathy Hochul, Securing Millions for NY Fire Departments and Medical Centers, Honoring our Veterans, and more!**

It is my greatest honor to represent you in Congress. As always, my mission is to advocate for Upstate New York and the North Country's priorities at the highest levels of government.

Here is a look at my past week working for you in Congress and across the North Country.

Stefanik Votes to Reopen the Government & End the Painful Schumer Shutdown Cheered on by Kathy Hochul

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, House Republican Leadership Chair, released the following statement:

"As I have done throughout my time in Congress, I have voted consistently to fund the government and opposed government shutdowns. And today I voted for the bipartisan agreement to reopen our government and end the shameful Schumer Shutdown.

For more than 40 days, Kathy Hochul cheered on the shutdown and needless pain inflicted on New Yorkers as our troops missed paychecks, families went hungry, air traffic controllers worked without pay, and millions of constituents struggled.

New Yorkers are already facing an affordability crisis, but Kathy Hochul is rooting for more devastation.

In stark contrast to the Worst Governor in America, I have consistently voted to fund the government and lifeline programs like SNAP and LIHEAP throughout my time in Congress.

In tonight's funding bill alone I brought home key policy wins for New York's farmers, veterans, firefighters, and health care workers.

New Yorkers deserve a governor who will deliver bipartisan results to make life more affordable. We cannot afford four more years of failed policies and shutdown gimmicks that are crushing families with economic catastrophe, sky high taxes, unaffordable rent, soaring energy costs, and record-high grocery bills.

(Contd. Pg. 59)

Elise Stefanik (From Pg. 58)

New Yorkers deserve a governor who can deliver results and Save New York."

Read more here.

<https://stefanik.house.gov/2025/11/statement-on-my-vote-to-reopen-the-government-end-the-painful-schumer-shutdown-cheered-on-by-kathy-hochul>

Stefanik Secures Millions in Spending Bill to Support New York Firefighters, Medical Centers and End Devastating Schumer Shutdown

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, House Republican Leadership Chair, released the following statement:

"NY21 is thankful for the dedication and sacrifice of all of our hardworking first responders who keep our communities safe. Thank you for all you do 24/7 ! I voted for the bipartisan bill to reopen the government.

I have consistently opposed shutdowns throughout my time in Congress, unlike Kathy Hochul who cheered on the Schumer Shutdown and opposed this bipartisan agreement.

I also delivered key wins and results for NY21 that I have been working on with constituents over the past year.

Proud to deliver:

\$3,280,841 for Port Henry Fire District #3 to provide technical support for the firefighters who serve there

\$1,800,000 for Hopkinton Fire District to provide technical support for the firefighters who serve there

\$1,000,000 for NY21 hospital Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake to expand its dialysis center"

Read more here.

<https://x.com/RepStefanik/status/1989030496500637996?s=20>

Stefanik Honors Veterans Day

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, House Republican Leadership Chair, released the following statement:

"Happy Veterans Day!

We thank and honor the service of our incredible veterans all across the great state of New York. New York's 21st Congressional District is home to more veterans than any other district in the state, and I have been honored to work to deliver results such as millions in VA benefits, recovering medals and military honors, passing legislation to reform and improve the VA, increasing job opportunities, and expanding mental health and support for veterans' families. We are the Land of the Free Because of the Brave." See the post here.

<https://x.com/RepStefanik/status/1988245020256657708?s=20>

Social Media Highlights of the Week

In the News

FOX NEWS - Stefanik hits Hochul on energy ahead of \$800/year utility hikes; governor blames tariffs

"Kathy Hochul's billion-dollar Green New Deal policies that ban gas stoves and ban natural gas fracking are already driving up New York's energy costs, which are the most expensive in the country," Stefanik said. "At a time when New Yorkers are living in one of the most unaffordable states in the nation, Kathy Hochul's New York might get even more expensive." Stefanik called the energy situation in New York a paramount concern amid a greater "affordability crisis" statewide.

Read more here. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/stefanik-hits-hochuls-energy-ahead-800-year-utility-hikes-gov-blames-tariffs>

WRGB CBS6 - Federal package brings \$1M boost to Adirondack Medical Center from Stefanik bill

Stefanik said, "We extend our gratitude to New York's health care workers for the work they do to support the lives and livelihoods of those in their communities. It was my pleasure to secure \$1 mil-

lion in funding so the Adirondack Medical Center can expand its dialysis center and provide technical support to its dedicated medical personnel."

Read more here.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/stefanik-hits-hochuls-energy-ahead-800-year-utility-hikes-gov-blames-tariffs>

Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

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



1. Fighting hunger

No New Yorker should go hungry.

Kirsten was back in New York this week, and she was grateful to join the West Side Campaign Against Hunger to help distribute food to families in need. In the face of the Trump administration cutting food assistance and raising food costs, Kirsten is committed to doing everything she can to make sure that every New Yorker has the resources they need to put food on the table.

Learn more. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wLwxsgAMQ>

2. Celebrating development in Harlem

From connecting people with affordable housing and helping Americans find jobs to honoring the proud history of civil rights in Harlem and across the country, the work being done by the National Urban League (NUL) is remarkable.

This week, Kirsten was honored to celebrate the grand opening of NUL's new Empowerment Center in Harlem. Funded partially through federal grants that Kirsten secured, this new center will serve as a hub for NUL's transformative work, supporting economic growth and community in Harlem for years to come.

Read more. <https://pix11.com/news/local-news/manhattan/national-urban-league-opens-new-hq-with-big-names-in-attendance/>

3. Strengthening flood and infrastructure resilience

As the climate crisis worsens, making sure that communities have the resources they need to combat natural disasters is critical to ensure New Yorkers' safety.

This week, Kirsten introduced bipartisan legislation that would help communities make long-term flood prevention improvements and strengthen the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ability to help communities recover and rebuild after disasters.

Read more. <https://suncommunitynews.com/news/122199/legislation-boosting-long-term-flood-resilience-introduced/>

4. Supporting New Yorkers after the government shutdown

The government shutdown is now over, but Kirsten will never stop fighting to lower New Yorkers' health care costs.

As federal agencies reopen, individuals may experience processing delays and increased wait times. If you need assistance with a federal agency, contact Kirsten's office here . <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/help-for-new-yorkers/>

5. Helping New Yorkers navigate federal agencies

An Erie County constituent contacted Kirsten's office for help after she discovered that someone had gained access to her TreasuryDirect login and transferred all funds out of her account.

After Kirsten's team contacted the Treasury Department, the funds totaling over \$47,000 were returned to the constituent's account.

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

Video Statement from Senator Peter Oberacker on Ending the Riley-Schumer Shutdown

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4vA23shCHB8>

SCHENEVUS, NY - The following is the transcript of the video statement:

A bipartisan plan to reopen the government, pay our troops on time, restore SNAP for families, and get America moving in time for the holidays passed the House of Representatives. Josh Riley voted no - again.

That's not leadership. That's politics over people.

Sadly, Josh Riley continues to do the bidding of party bosses in Washington and appease the extreme left, ignoring the needs of Upstate families. He chose chaos at our airports over family holiday gatherings, Washington games over soldiers' paychecks, and party talking points over food benefits for moms and dads trying to keep their kids fed.

Josh Riley can spin this any way he wants, but the truth is simple: when it was time to choose between helping people here at home or pleasing his party, he chose the party.

This shutdown has been a gut punch to our communities. I grew up in a family business where you show up, do the work, and take care of the people who count on you. We don't hold paychecks and groceries hostage to help ourselves politically. Josh Riley did. I won't.

That's the difference in this race. In my lifetime of service, I've always put people first. I've never sold out the people for political gain.

The vote to reopen the government is a win for the American people and the people of the 19th Congressional District. Josh Riley wasn't on your side this time. Make no mistake, that ends soon, and I'll have your back every time.

You can also view the video by clicking here:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/4vA23shCHB8>

Ulster County and Chernivtsi Region of Ukraine Kick Off 'Sister Community' Exchanges with Agriculture Forum

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger and Chair of the Legislature Peter Criswell today hosted a virtual forum with representatives from the Chernivtsi Regional Council of Ukraine, marking the first official exchange between the two regions since signing a historic 'Sister Community' agreement in April 2025.

The forum marked the first meeting between Ulster County and the Chernivtsi Region focused on agriculture - a vital sector for both communities. The discussion explored agriculture's role in the local economy, opportunities and challenges facing farmers, and the ways local governments can support this essential work. The event launched what will be a continuing dialogue and mutual learning process, bringing together farmers, government officials, and cultural leaders from both regions to share insights, challenges, and best practices in agriculture, agritourism, and sustainable development.

"Agriculture is a key sector of the economy for both of our

regions, and we have a lot to learn from one another in terms of the challenges and opportunities facing our farms and how we are tackling them," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "By connecting our agricultural communities, we're not only sharing knowledge and strengthening our local economies - we're building relationships that transcend borders. I'm grateful to our Ukrainian partners and to our local farmers and experts who came together for this productive exchange. I think both sides learned a lot."

The virtual forum included presentations from Ulster County farmers and officials, including County Executive Metzger, Peter Criswell (Chair of the Legislature), Dina Suggs (Chief Diversity Officer, Deborah DeWan (Agriculture Services Coordinator), Lisa Berger (Director of Tourism), and Sarah Kramer-Harrison (Director of Arts, Culture & Open Spaces). Participating farmers included Wes Hannah (Solid Ground Farms), Oleh Maczaj (Founder of Rusty Plough Farm and Rondout Valley Organics), Jake Wedemeyer (Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District), Olivia Petrocella (Rondout Valley Growers Association), and Charles Hurd (Hurd Family Farm).

Representatives from the Chernivtsi Region in attendance included:

- o Yuri Bodnar, Head of the Department for International Relations and Cross-Border Cooperation of the Chernivtsi Regional Council
- o Liliia Bortych, Chair of the Agrarian Party of Ukraine faction in the Chernivtsi Regional Council, Chair of the Association of Agricultural Producers, Member of the Board of the Agrarian Union of Ukraine
- o Oleksandr Shkuridin, Deputy of the Chernivtsi Regional Council
- o Mykhailo Khmelevskyi, Deputy Director of the Department - Head of the Investment Policy and Tourism Department of the Chernivtsi Regional Military Administration
- o Hrytsku Yuliia, Servant of the People faction
- o Fochuk Svitlana, All-Ukrainian Association 'Batkivshchyna'
- o Dobrzhanskyi Serhii, European Solidarity faction
- o Malyshevskyi Ihor, For the Future faction
- o Skoreiko Petro, The People's Control Public Movement

"This agricultural and cultural exchange represents exactly what we envisioned when the Legislature unanimously supported our Sister Community partnership with Chernivtsi," said Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. "By bringing together farmers, producers, and cultural leaders from both regions, we're building meaningful connections that will benefit both our communities for years to come. I was particularly moved to learn about Chernivtsi's innovative programs connecting agriculture and farming to healing for soldiers - it's a powerful example of how working the land can restore and renew."

"It was wonderful to meet our counterparts from the Chernivtsi region of Ukraine and hear their stories, especially given the challenges they're facing," said Deborah DeWan, Agriculture Services Coordinator. "I was struck by how much we share when it comes to agriculture - from fruit and orchard production to small-scale farms nestled in mountainous terrain and valleys. Our similarities really highlight the potential for meaningful exchange and mutual learning. I especially appreciated that we were able to bring our farmers directly into the conversation, and I found the Chernivtsi region's approach to agritourism incredibly inspiring. The entire experience was deeply moving, and I look forward to continuing this dialogue in the future."

Ulster County's Sister Community agreement with the Chernivtsi Regional Council was signed in April 2025, making Ulster the first County in the United States to formalize such a partnership with a Ukrainian region.

This exchange marked the first in a series of planned collaborations between Ulster County and the Chernivtsi Region, with future forums expected to continue exploring agriculture as well as expand into additional sectors such as education, arts, and municipal governance. Today's forum was recorded and will be made available to the public soon on the Ulster County government website.

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Presents

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each month

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*

Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



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townclerk@townofneversink.org
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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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES OF VETERANS

**1st Wednesday
each month
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

Feb 5

Mar 5	Apr 2
May 7	June 4
July 2	Aug 6
Sept 3	Oct 1
Nov 5	Dec 3

**Action Toward
Independence
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Monticello, NY 12701**



An estimated 80% of veterans will have some need for long-term services and supports in their lifetime. Supporting caregivers helps reduce stress and caregiver burnout and improves wellness.

To register:


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or email sullivancsrc@cornell.edu.

**For more information or to talk
to a Veteran Peer Advocate,
please call 845.794.4228.**

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County**



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Cornell Cooperative Extension | Sullivan County

2025 Caregiver Resource Center Monthly Virtual Support Groups

For family caregivers caring for an individual with any illness, chronic disease or disability (including seniors or someone with early-stage dementia).

To register:

Use the QR Code, or use the link
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6mtpy4>
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**3rd Wednesday
each month**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Jan 15 Feb 19

Mar 19 Apr 16

May 21 June 18

July 16 Aug 20

Sept 17 Oct 15

Nov 19 Dec 17

Via Zoom or Phone



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This program is supported by a grant from the NYS Department of Health and is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County Office for the Aging, and the Alzheimer's Association.

2025 READING CHALLENGE

Join the DPL 2025 Reading Challenge!

Read ALL year and you could win a book or two!

Ready to dive into new adventures, explore fresh ideas and discover exciting worlds? The 2025 Book Challenge is here and it's open to readers of all ages! Whether you're a child just learning to read, a teen devouring every novel in sight or an adult looking for your next great read, this challenge is for you!

Make sure to stop by the library and grab your reading log!

- Set Your Goal – whether it's 5, 10 or 30 books, there's no limit!
- Read – explore new genres, authors and topics.
- Track Your Progress – add the titles as you go.
- Celebrate Your Success – complete the challenge by December 31, 2025 and be entered to win a book each time you fill out one side of your reading log!

Challenge yourself and your family.

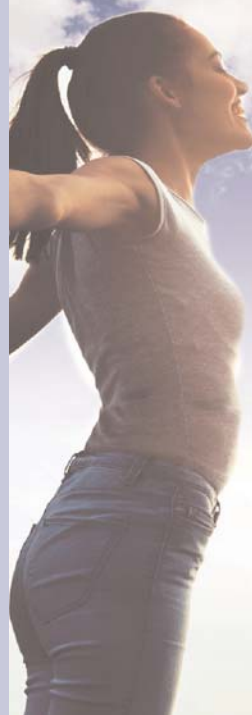
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* Learn about the Festival of Lights - Hanukkah,
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Take home the secret recipe to make your own!

Registration is open to Tri-Valley residents. Advanced online registration
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Register for latkes & applesauce

<https://www.danielpiercelibrary.org/pages/index/229696/latkes-and-applesauce>

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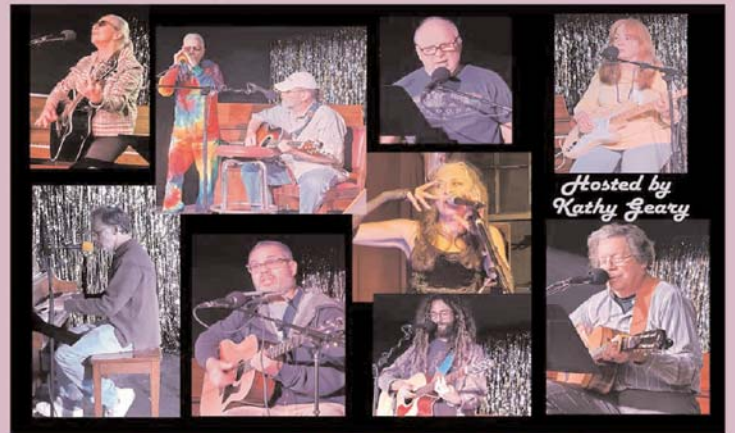
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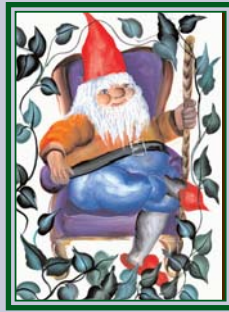


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Action Thriller

IMBd; Amazon Prime; Apple TV

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Directed by: Philip Noyce. Starring Harrison Ford, Willem Dafoe, Anne Archer, James Earl Jones and Benjamin Bratt.

*Stay safe, and stay well
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome*

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: False: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

This weeks' Trivia question: *Pride and Prejudice* is based on the book by what author?