



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



# Tri *Ye Olde* TOWNSDAN Valley

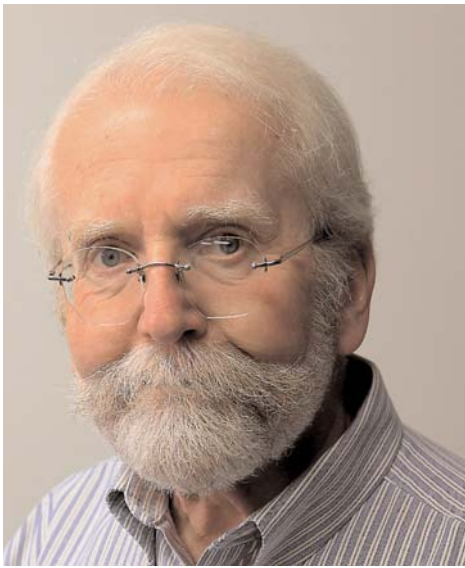
"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Sitz!"

**VOL. 20 NO. 3 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 18, 2024**

*Mysterious Book Report* John D. McKenna Pg 6 • *The Olive Jar* Carol La Monda Pg 7 • *The Scene Too* Jane Harrison Pg 11  
*Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia* Pg 69

## The Taking of Cannonsville

[Grahamsville, N.Y.] The Taking of Cannonsville a virtual program by Roger Luther, Broome County Historian, will be held on Sunday January 28th at 2 p.m. sponsored by the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville.



Roger Luther

Cannonsville was a community in Delaware County, founded in the late 18th century by Benjamin Cannon who built the town's first house and was its first Postmaster. Cannonsville was removed in 1964 by eminent domain along with other communities to create the Cannonsville Reservoir, which is part of the Delaware Water Supply System providing water to New York City.

The Taking: Not a tree was left standing. Every house, barn, business, church and school that remained was demolished or burned to the ground. At night fires glowed eerily throughout the smoke-filled valley. During the day bulldozers finished off whatever stone walls, chimneys and smoldering timbers remained. Trucks hauled away human remains disinterred from cemeteries and family graveyards. This is the story of Cannonsville - the Community, the Taking and the Reservoir. (Contd. Pg. 13)



## SYDA Foundation Donates to Fallsburg Central School



Dr. Ivan Katz and Gail Fairbank-Roch

FALLSBURG - On January 11, 2024, the SYDA Foundation donated \$4,000 to the Fallsburg Central School District. Gail Fairbank Roch, representing the SYDA foundation, personally delivered the check to Dr. Ivan Katz, Superintendent of Schools

The SYDA Foundation has remained a close supporter of the school district for many years and has made yearly donations to the Fallsburg Central School District for decades. The funds will go toward supporting educational programs.

Dr. Katz, wishes to thank the SYDA Foundation for their continuous support of the district and their generous donation. "The SYDA Foundation is a true school community partner and has been for many years," said Dr. Katz.

**YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN**

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

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EDITOR: Linda Comando - 845-985-0501

THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison

OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda

MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna

MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf

COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

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**POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS AND  
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

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

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

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

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

**More than ever, thank you for your continued support.**

**On the Front Burner:** Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

## OBITUARY

**Carolyn Russell Coombe**, 87, of South Hill Road, Grahamsville, NY passed peacefully at her home on



January 10, 2024 with her husband Philip Coombe Jr. and family at her side. She had celebrated her 87th birthday December 21.

Carolyn was born in Boston, MA on December 21, 1936, to Mary Merry Russell and John Benjamin Russell. She spent most of her youth, and attended schools in Tenafly, New Jersey and spent summers at her parents' vacation home in northern Massachusetts. Carolyn also lived for a short time in Fayetteville, NY where her parents had moved for her father's employment with General Electric. After graduating high school in 1955 she took a year off to be a full-time nanny to a family of four children. She then attended the University of Vermont for two years before transferring to Cornell University where she graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

While at Cornell, Carolyn met an ambitious young man eager to find the love of his life. On September 26, 1959, Carolyn and Philip Coombe Jr. were united in marriage in Fayetteville, NY.

Carolyn joined her husband Philip in starting their new life and farm called Thunder View Farms on South Hill in Grahamsville, NY. This life was the fulfillment of a dream for her as she had always wanted to live on a farm. Carolyn was a lover of animals of all kinds, but riding and caring for her horses was a central part of her life. She raised and sold many Arabians foals over the years, worked at numerous horse shows, and participated in competitive long distance trail rides of 50 and 100 miles in her favorite part of Vermont. She gave private riding lessons to many local children and was a leader of a local horse based 4-H club, the 4-H Fetlocks.

She loved the farm life where she participated in the farm's growth from one horse to up to five or more at a time, and six purebred Black Angus cows and calves to over 300 today. She contributed to the farm operation however she could whether it was providing meals, unloading hay, driving tractors in the field, or her particular favorite, raking hay.

Carolyn worked as an elementary school teacher in her first year of marriage before taking a leave of absence to start a family. For many years she worked as a substitute teacher for the Tri-Valley Central School district. Not one to avoid challenges, she took up running in her late thirties and worked for the US Postal Service starting in her forties as the substitute Grahamsville rural route carrier for nine years. She was a devoted member Grahamsville Reformed Church, the Ladies Aid, served as a Deacon, taught Sunday School, and loved singing in the church choir. She served several years as Secretary of the Neversink Agricultural Society, and more recently, assisted with the production and distribution of the local newspaper, *The Townsman*, where she enjoyed the comradery of her many friends.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Carolyn was an accomplished artist producing and selling many beautiful pieces of landscapes, horses, and portraits, mainly in pastels, her favorite medium. She enjoyed interior decoration, having remodeled all of the rooms of their farmhouse several times. She was meticulous at wallpapering and painting, which she would do to the wee hours of the morning to finish the task. Carolyn's artistic skill and accomplishments were performed in her humble way without expectation of recognition or support of an ego, just doing the good thing without saying another word and her work would speak for itself.

Carolyn was extremely proud of her four children, Philip Coombe III, John Russell Coombe, Dwight William Coombe and Catherine Merry Coombe. She worked tirelessly to make sure they were well fed, made it to swimming lessons, sports practices, games, cross country meets, track meets, and FFA events, many of which she attended. She was a very kind and supportive mother doing whatever she could to help her children be successful with their school work and life skills. (Contd. Pg. 4)

## DAYS OF YORE..... Today's History

### January 20, 1954

In spite of very impassable road conditions and snow drifts, a relatively large crowd was in attendance last Saturday evening at the Tri Valley School in Grahamsville. The occasion was a special meeting of voters to vote on the proposition of the consolidation of the Hasbrouck school district with that of the Tri Valley Union Free School District.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldred Marsh are parents of a daughter, born at the Hamilton Avenue Hospital Saturday evening, January 16th. The baby weighed seven pounds. The Marshes have two sons. The Townsman staff received a letter from staff member, Mrs Norman Misner who is in Florida. She writes, "Lovely and warm here in the sun...wish you were here!" So do we! 16 below zero is just a bit too cold for some of us not-so-hardy souls.

### January 15, 1964

Mr. Norway Houghtaling, son of Oscar Houghtaling and the late Mrs. Gladys Houghtaling, and Ethel Lowe, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sackett, were united in marriage on Friday evening at the home of Justice of the Peace, Harry Bailey in Claryville. A reception followed for the family and friends at Harold Cole's Restaurant in Hasbrouck. The groom is employed by Inter-County Farmers' Co-op at Woodridge.

### January 23, 1974

Patricia Regan and Kathi Walker auditioned Saturday at a State-wide competition held at the Performing Arts Center in Albany. This audition has made them eligible for acceptance and scholarship awards to the School of Orchestral Studies in Saratoga, New York. This is a special summer school program for extremely talented young musicians.

Adin TerBush, 79, of Cragsmoor died Wednesday, January 16th in Waterbury, Conn., after a long illness. Mr. TerBush, a retired farmer, was born in Sundown and was a four-year resident of Cragsmoor. He was born February 13, 1894 to the late Benjamin and Minerva Aldrich TerBush.

### January 19, 1984

(From the pen of Tom Higgins) Gladys Van Wagner called on Aunt Bessie Clearwater and her mother, Flossie Tillson in Kerhonkson last Wednesday. Got to talking to Gladys about the various methods people used years ago to keep warm. A popular way at the time was the placing of bricks in the oven of the old wood stove during the day. At night, before retiring, the bricks were removed and wrapped with several layers of newspaper. They were then placed under the covers near the feet. There was nothing warmer at night during the cold winter months. Gladys' mother was fond of rocks and had her own "pet rock", about the size of a melon, which she used in the same manner instead of a brick. Her favorite rock was always nearby, even during the summer months when it was used as a door stop.

## Household Hint:

### **Make Candles Last Longer**

Candles always help make the darkness of winter a little brighter. Make candles last longer: For any candle, if you place it in the freezer for three hours before burning it, it will last much longer.

## Nature Column - L. Comando

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

## Sumac –a Gift from Nature

While we are still not sure what to expect for the rest of winter, most of us (except those who got a snowmobile, or passes to a ski slope for Christmas, etc. ) are not complaining about the lack of snow.

Have you noticed all the red berries on the Staghorn Sumac trees? During harsh winters, the deer and other wild animals will eat the berries. This year the wild animals seem to be content with the convenient Smorgasbord of winter staples that is easy and within their reach.



The Staghorn Sumac are shrubs and small trees that can reach a height of three to 33 feet. During late spring the leaves are spirally arranged. They are usually pinnately compound. That means the leaflets are arranged on either side of the stem, typically in pairs opposite each other. The leaves are 2 feet long and sometimes longer consisting of 9-31 leaflets. The petioles, the stalk that joins the leaf to the stem have scattered brown hairs; the central stalks are often tinted red. The leaflets grow up to 5" long and 1" across and are narrow and oval-shaped tapering to a point at the end of each leaf. They are serrated along the edges. The upper surface of each leaf is a shiny dark green that becomes red or burgundy during the fall. Some of the upper stems terminate in individual clusters of greenish yellow flowers. Each flower consists of 5 spreading petals, a calyx with 5 lobes, 5 stamens, and a central pistil. The lower stems, the trunk or branches are brown, hairless, and woody. The short trunk can be up to 9" across in diameter. The blooming period occurs during early to mid-summer and lasts about 2-3 weeks. Each flower is replaced by a globoid drupe about 1/6" long which is densely covered with bright red hairs. This drupe contains a single seed with a hard coating. The drupes mature during the fall and persist through the winter; if not eaten, they eventually become dark brown.

Sumacs propagate both by seed (spread by birds and other animals through their droppings), and by the woody root system that can produce vegetative clones from long runners. The new shoots from rhizomes, forming large clonal colonies.

The cloning habit is a blessing if you if you wish to have soft rounded mounds of growth with the mother stems, the tallest in the center, and younger stems subsequently shorter and shorter toward the edges.

Often Sumac are considered "Weeds" and a nuisance. Sumac is amazingly a versatile gift from Nature. From the genus *Rhus* (Sumac), the Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) will be among the first trees in the seed bank to sprout and reach for light, or spread from a remnant stand, after mowing is stopped in a field or lawn. They are late to lose their leaves and are the earliest and probably the most vibrant of the red fall colored foliage.

Now in the dead of winter, the fruits of the sumac have formed dense clusters of reddish drupes. Not only are they a winter food staple for the deer and wild animals the seeds can be dried and ground into a tangy crimson spice. The Native Americans used the red berries to make a beverage that tasted like lemonade. If you aren't into trying some exotic wild recipes that call for the berries, and if the deer and wild animals continue to have plenty to eat in the fields, we may enjoy looking at the attractive little red drupes right into spring!

And today, Sunday, the drupes on the sumac look especially pretty with the light touch of snow!

## OBITUARY (From Pg. 2)

**Carolyn Russell Coombe** –She is survived by her loving and devoted husband Philip Coombe Jr, her sons Philip Coombe III (Patricia), John Russell Coombe (Della), and Dwight William Coombe, daughter Catherine Merry Coombe (fiance' Erik), grandchildren John Philip Coombe (Jacqueline), Alan Coombe (Beata), Victoria Mattracion, Elizabeth Mattracion, James Russell Coombe, Kaitlyn V. (Coombe) Gervais (Ian), Dwight Myles Coombe, Dustin Coombe, Nathaniel Bender (Jennifer), Autumn Bender, and Nicholas Bender, and five great grandchildren: George and Henry Coombe, Aurelia and Alexander Coombe, and Caroline Eve Gervais. Carolyn was an only child, but is survived by her adoring cousins in Massachusetts, Anne Thor (Carl) and Lois Davidson.

The Coombe family is very grateful to her caregivers, Betty Botsford and Sally Estes, who have become part of the family, and to our Aunt Phyllis Gillette for the generosity of her time. We also thank those who have shown their love with meals, visits, calls, cards, flowers and prayers.

A period of visitation will be held Saturday, January 27 10:30 to 12:00 at the Grahamsville Reformed Church, followed by a celebration of Carolyn's life beginning at 12:00pm. A luncheon and continued visitation will take place immediately following the celebration, in Memorial Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Grahamsville Reformed Church (PO Box 238, Grahamsville, NY 12740); the Daniel Pierce Library (PO Box 268, Grahamsville, NY); or Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, Inc (800 Stony Brook Court, Newburgh, NY 12550).

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, for further information call 845-434-7363 or visit [www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com)

**Kimberly Ann Taggart**, age 63, of Livingston Manor, NY passed away unexpectedly January 4th, 2024. She is survived by her loving husband, Willie, her mother Patricia Blevin, children,



Joshua and wife Sinta Ross, Ashley and husband Justin Bowers. Her heart was her grandchildren, Asher and Hudson Ross and Brady, Landon and Lennon Bowers and cats Mabel and Penelope. She is survived by her brother Kevin Wendle, twin sisters, Janet Wendle (Mike) and Jill Davis (Dean), Andy Taggart (Val), Terry LaPointe (Vic), John Taggart (Barb), and Gary Taggart (Claire) along with numerous nieces and nephews as well as countless close friends. She was predeceased by her father George Wendle and stepfather Jerry Blevin.

Forever a Jersey girl, she loved the beach, her paddle boarding sessions, cruising her vw bugs while wrapped head-to-toe in tie-dye, and loved to surround herself with her family and girlfriends at her pool. She seized any opportunity to dress up in a costume. She loved staying busy and was passionate about her painting business with partner Kaci, whom she adored. Her kitchen had an open door policy with a hot meal waiting for anyone who could stop in. She wore her heart on her sleeve and it knew no bounds.

Services were held at Colonial-Bryant Funeral Home, 29 Pearl Street, Livingston Manor, NY 12758 on Thursday, January 11th followed by a celebration of life at Courtyard Restaurant.

In lieu of flowers Kim's wishes were that contributions be made to her grandson's foundation supporting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: L&BMD Golf Tournament at Jeff Bank, PO Box 398, Jeffersonville, NY 12748 in care of the Livingston Manor Branch.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial-Bryant Funeral Home, for further information call 845-439-4333 or visit [www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com)

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Kimberly Taggart, please visit our Tree Store.

**Carol Nielsen Dexheimer** of Neversink, New York peacefully passed on to be with the Lord on January 9, 2024. She was 91 years old.



Carol was born in Brooklyn, NY to the late Charles and Anna Syrinne Nielsen. She is survived by her husband, of 71 years, George J. Dexheimer, two brothers Norman Nielsen (Nola), John Nielsen (Darlene), and sister Judy Livermore (Lynn). She was the loving mother of six children: Donna Myers (William), Christne Wegrzyn (Lori), Susan Manning (Paul), Alice Karsko (Mike), Tim Dexheimer (Tina) and Tom Dexheimer (Michelle). She adored her 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and was loved by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

After Carol's youngest child entered school, she enrolled in college and earned her degree as a registered nurse. Her early career in the labor and delivery departments of the Loomis and Harris Hospitals was followed by many years in the emergency department at Harris Hospital. A kind and highly respected nurse, Carol cared for many with skill, patience, and endless compassion.

Carol met her husband at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in 1947 when her family moved to Neversink. She was active in the church since that time, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school, serving on committees and working at the many dinners and celebrations.

Carol also served her community as a Girl Scout leader and as a member of the Neversink ambulance squad. She was loved and respected by many and will be greatly missed.

The Dexheimer family is so very grateful to those who have helped care for Carol over the past year and to all those who have bestowed their love through visits, meals, cards, flowers and prayers. We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the wonderful nurses and staff of Orange and Sullivan County Hospice for their compassionate care.

A Celebration of Carol's life will be held at 10:45 AM on February 10, 2024 at the Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 24 Chestnut St. Liberty, NY 12754. Following the service, we will gather at the Neversink Fire Department Community Hall for visitation and continued celebration of Carol's life. All are welcome to join us.

Memorial contributions can be made to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church or to the Neversink EMS Charles Nielsen Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Neversink Fire Dept. EMS, PO Box 468, Neversink, NY 12765.

Dignified cremation has been provided by Harris Crematorium, LLC. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home, West St. at Buckley, Liberty, NY. [www.Harris-FH.com](http://www.Harris-FH.com) 845-292-0001 or 845-439-5200.

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

## LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley

Published January 16, 1997

For many years, my dad was postmaster in Grooville and twice a year, heaping bags of Sears & Roebuck catalogs arrived and just before Christmas, the "Wish Book", a smaller edition, arrived. As I ponder, I wonder if the Sears, Roebuck Co. executives have any idea how much they enriched the minds of some children. My dad taught me to search the index for the items we were wishing for and if an item wasn't under the heading where we first looked, I learned to look for another category where it might be found. I also learned to check measurements from these catalogs. I recall the pages of tiny pieces of material which fascinated me and I learned the difference between different fabrics as to textures and colors.

Ordering from the catalog was a matter of deciding what was needed most for the common good of the family. Many years ago, we could sit down with our catalog and order anything our hearts desired, from a complete home to safety pins.

Although the catalogs are no longer printed, I'd like to thank the company's executives for all the childhood opportunities in learning that we received from these books.

Catalogs will always hold a special place in my mind and I wish that the Sears catalog was still available.

## I Remember When Weathering Winter was Easy

As the days of fall grew shorter, I realized that we would soon be in the icy grip of another winter. But it's not the weather that bothers me...it's the weathermen! TV meteorologists seem determined to stir my anxiety with ominous predictions and warnings to "keep up with the forecast" - as if that could miraculously make everything better.

How different things were back in the 30's, when I was a girl in a small Midwestern rural community. The extent of the weather forecast then, on the radio or in the newspaper, was simply "cloudy and cold", "fair and warmer"... or just plain "snow".

We never heard of highs and lows or where they were situated, or about fast moving arctic clippers or fearful panhandle hooks. And the temperature was never translated into numbing "windchills" for us.

Perhaps because of that, I don't remember anyone drastically altering plans because of the weather. True, no one traveled quite so far afield, in autos or otherwise. Still, I recall fathers fastening on their tire chains and driving us to the out-of-town basketball games. There was never a thought of missing or canceling them.

And school itself? I can't recollect it closing. Our mothers bundled us up in long underwear, heavy cotton stockings, galoshes, sweaters, coats and mittens -- with our eyes peering out of tiny slits between the edge of our stocking cap and the woolen muffler wrapped around our neck and way over our nose!

Once we were encased in all of that, and warned to keep moving briskly, our mothers had no hesitation about sending us off...especially after making sure we had something warm in our stomachs (invariably oatmeal and hot chocolate in my case).

At school, no one wanted to take recess in the gym. There was so much to do in the snowy yard. We played fox and geese, built snow forts and igloos and belly-flopped down hills on our Flexible-Flyers. I had a pair of snowshoes and some slat-like skis-one of my friends won my envy though, by training her dog to pull her on her sled.

Back at home, too, we were sent out in almost any kind of weather. "I don't want you to growing up to be a 'lounge lizard', my father told me. (Where he got the expression, I don't know to this day).

Realistically, I know winter brought its burdens besides. Car radiators and water pipes alike froze up. The old furnace had to be tended to so the fire wouldn't die out. And you could hardly avoid catching a cold. (Rubbing turpentine and lard on the chest was an unusual cure, but there's no question it heated a body up in a hurry!)

Even so, I look back on those winters with warmth and pleasure. Admittedly, we weren't as well informed all those decades ago. You won't find me complaining about that, however. Imagine the fun we would have missed if we'd had to "keep up with the forecast!"

(Peggy True, *Country Woman*, Nov./Dec. 1992)

## Celebrate National Popcorn Day

National Popcorn Day, January 19th, pops onto the scene with a crunch we all love to enjoy! Celebrate with one of nature's most extraordinary foods: popcorn! Popcorn has the unique ability to literally turn itself inside out, providing whole-grain goodness in a tasty snack.

As early as the 16th century, the Aztecs used popcorn in headdresses worn during ceremonies honoring Tlaloc, their god of maize and fertility. Early Spanish explorers were fascinated by the corn that burst into what looked like a white flower.

Popcorn gained popularity in the United States in the middle 1800s. By 1900 Charles Cretors, a candy-store owner, developed a machine for popping corn with steam that the tasty treat became more abundantly poppable. By 1900 he had horse-drawn popcorn wagons going through the streets of Chicago.

Around the same time, Louise Ruckheim added peanuts and molasses to popcorn to bring Cracker Jack to the world.

And in the early 21st century, Missy and Jim Rennison brought popcorn to new level when they started popping kettlecorn at local fairs. *What's Poppin'* is the best kettlecorn I have ever tasted, and is made right here in Grahamsville and is available at Neversink General Store.

Celebrate Friday (or any day) with *What's Poppin'*. Once you taste it, you will want to celebrate popcorn all year around!



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

## Light It Up

### Legacy Mysterious Book Report No. 71

by John Dwaine McKenna

### Mysterious Book Report No. 327

Published October 18, 2019

As a fifty-plus year resident here in Colorado, the question I'm most often asked by out-of-state friends is: *How has the legalization of marijuana affected things there?* The short answer . . . stoners love it and are flocking here in large numbers, as are criminals; government is ecstatic over the windfall from tax revenues; cops, school administrators and the armed forces are apoplectic about it. But, if you'd like to learn more about this controversial subject, while at the same time having an enjoyable, legal experience . . . and keep all of your clothes on . . .

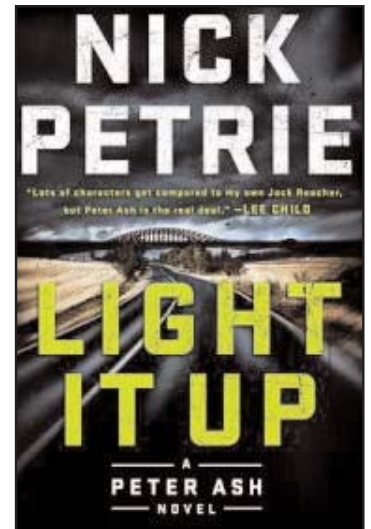
*Light It Up*, (Putnam, \$26.00, 384 pages, ISBN 978-0-399-57563-1) by Nick Petrie, will introduce you to Peter Ash, an ex-marine warrior who raises bad-assery to such a high-level that even Lee Child—who rose to international fame on the back of Jack Reacher—sat up, took notice and wrote a book blurb.

In this, the third Peter Ash novel, (after *Burning Bright* and *The Drifter*), finds him in Denver, “*Just for a few days, doing a favor for a friend*,” named Henry Nygaard, a man he met while repairing hiking trails up in Oregon's remote Willamette National Forest. Ash was supposed to hook up with girlfriend Juna Cassidy back in eastern Oregon, but puts the rendezvous on hold because trouble is brewing in Denver. That's where Henry's daughter, Elle runs a company called Heavy Metal Protection, which

performs armed escort duties for the cannabis industry. Because Federal law prohibits the use and sale of pot, weed, ganja, or whatever else it's called, banks refuse to deal with the entire industry. They're federally chartered and insured, so, all transactions with the cannabis crowd take place in cash. Cash only. Cash on the barrelhead. No checks, Visa, Mastercard, Diners Club, American Express, I.O.U's or promises of any kind. Cash means cash . . . and cash means trouble. Elle's husband Randy, her operations manager Leonard and three hundred thousand dollars in cash have gone missing. And by the end of his first day on the job, three of Peter Ash's friends, including Henry Nygaard, are dead, and Ash himself has killed four armed hijackers. And that, dear readers, is only the first few chapters in this explosive thriller that features one of the most compelling and deadly characters to come along since Clint played *Dirty Harry*. If you crave action, adventure and high drama that just never quits, Peter Ash is your go-to guy!

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

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



## John Dwain McKenna's Books are now available at the NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE



<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

or

# The Olive Jar

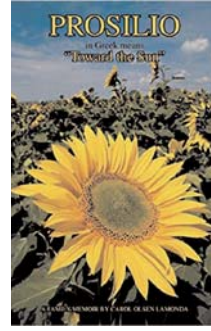
by Carol Olsen LaMonda

## Artificial Intelligence



### 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*



Before today, AI was one of my favorite initials because it stood for "all Inclusive" or "airfare included." Now AI refers to Artificial Intelligence.

AI, initials for Artificial Intelligence, is all over the news and social media. There are apps that one can try to experience it. Having tried it, I have some thoughts about it to share.

First of all I believe in the Multiple Intelligences theory. Intelligence is not just regurgitation of facts. It involves a thought process which integrates our own learned experiences. How can a computer THINK, gather information, and come to conclusions? Artificial Intelligence, in my opinion, is limited to what is, not what is possible.

For instance, could it come up with a new treatment for Cancer? Could it theorize what causes Dementia?

So I tried it. I asked it some tough questions about life after death, about artificial intelligence itself. The answers were diplomatically vague. However, if I asked it something factual, the quick response and result is mind-boggling. Below is the instantaneous response to "Write a sonnet about Artificial Intelligence." Sonnets, as you may know, are hard to write because of the rigid form of rhyme and iambic pentameter.

### Sonnet

In realms of circuits, where electrons dance,  
A new creation, born of human hand,  
Artificial intelligence, perchance,  
To shape the future, where new worlds expand.

With algorithms, vast knowledge it gains,  
From data streams, it learns and understands,  
Unfolding mysteries, it gently reigns,  
A guiding light, in uncharted lands.

Yet, in its brilliance, lies a subtle fear,  
Will it surpass our own, surpass control?  
Or will it aid us, as we persevere,  
To build a future, where harmony unfolds?

Artificial intelligence, we find,  
A double-edged sword, our destiny entwined.

Honestly, it read my mind about my mixed emotions about AI. Artificial Intelligence still cannot match Human Intelligence which can use knowledge to theorize, to incorporate emotion and empathy, and to assess validity.

However, it is amazing, and I expect it shall become a part of future vocabulary just as Google It is now.

This AI Haiku really sums up my thoughts:

"Bits and bytes unite,  
Artificial minds take flight,  
Infinite insight."



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*Daniel Pierce Library Presents...*  
**Take Your Child to the Library Day**

Saturday, February 10, 2024  
Open House 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Magic Show 10:00 a.m.**

Come visit the library and unveil the MAGIC of reading!  
Step into the world of wonder with the Amazing Mr. Mystic and be swept away by his amazing magic show.

*It's not a show, unless it's AMAZING!*

The magic of books and developing a life-long love of reading begins with pictures, stories and rhymes. After the show, take a tour of our beautiful children's floor. With a relaxing vibe and plethora of good books, you and your children will never want to leave. Peruse our picture books, check out our newest chapter books or grab a graphic novel...so much magic can be found between the pages of a good book. For older children and teens, come check out our teen room, featuring a well-stocked assortment of today's bestsellers and treasured classics!

Register your child for our Spring Children's Programs  
Mother Goose, Toddler Time and Story Hour  
In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.

**Daniel Pierce Library**  
**Valentine's Day Card Event**  
*for ALL ages*

*Want to make your heart smile too?*  
You can, by making homemade cards along with the Daniel Pierce Library for the residents at Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility!

DIY Valentine's Day cards will be available (while supplies last) at the library for pick-up starting Thursday, February 1st. You may also use your own supplies.

Please return cards to the **red box** in the library foyer by 1 p.m. Monday, February 12, 2024 for our special delivery.

**Thank You!**



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## The Scene Too

— By Jane Harrison

Brr-rr-r, no article tis week!

## Black History Month - Thurman Barker and Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky

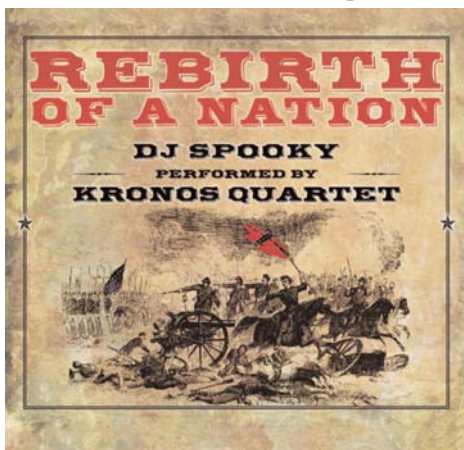
Livingston Manor, NY - Catskill Art Space is pleased to announce a multimedia evening of contemporary performance in celebration of Black History Month at Catskill Art Space, 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY, kicking off President's Day Weekend on Saturday, February 17th. The evening will begin with *African/American Composers, Then and Now*, a lecture and performance presented by Thurman Barker, from 4 - 5pm, followed by screening of DJ Spooky's multimedia film remix, *Rebirth of a Nation*, from 5:30 - 6:45pm. Both events take place in CAS's second floor River Gallery. Barker and Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky will be in attendance for audience questions and talk-back. The two performance events offer opportunities to reflect on the important artistic contributions of Black artists, while examining historic and present-day narratives around race and power in America.



Thurman Barker

Thurman Barker's presentation and performance, entitled *African/American Composers, Then and Now*, invites audiences to examine the impact of Black Jazz composers on compositional music today. The narrative intertwines historical context with Barker's own orchestral compositions, drawing on his experience writing for chamber orchestra and work with orchestras in Chicago and New York. The presentation includes live performance from the dynamic percussionist himself of selections from Barker's trio's latest release, *IMPACT!*.

Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky's *Rebirth of a Nation* reinterprets DW Griffith's infamously racist silent



Rebirth of a Nation, DJ Spooky

film, *Birth of a Nation*, to create a commentary on exploitation and political corruption in America's history and present-day society. Miller writes, "We live in an age where media across all platforms has come to reflect the toxic sensibility of an era dominated by a hyper-partisan political discourse. 'The Birth of a Nation' is generally considered one of the most controversial films of all time, and could be considered a precursor to the media landscape of our time." Miller's remix project encapsulates a new approach to thinking about applying the concept of "remix" to cinema-where "the director is the DJ." With an original soundtrack scored by DJ Spooky and performed by the Kronos Quartet, this multimedia film event provokes audiences to question the power structures propagating media of yesterday and today.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Thurman Barker** is a celebrated percussionist who built his career on innovation. As a professional musician, composer, and college professor, he brings endless passion and decades of experience together to entertain, educate, and expand the horizons of his art. Since creating Uptee Records in the early 80s, Barker has previously released six recordings as a leader. In 2016, Barker began writing for Chamber Orchestra. Barker's wealth of knowledge was built through his association with countless incredible collaborators. Most notable musical experiences have been with the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). As a charter member of the group, Barker first appeared in AACM productions with Joseph Jarman's pioneering ensembles. He then went on to record and play with many members, including Dr. Muhal Richard Abrams, Amina Claudine Meyers, Anthony Braxton, Leroy Jenkins, Roscoe Mitchell, and Henry Threadgill. After moving to New York in the late 70s, Barker worked and recorded with Sam Rivers and Cecil Taylor. Thurman Barker became a Professor Emeritus of Bard College in Music/Jazz Studies in June 2021. He is a recipient of a 2022 NYSCA award for composition as well as numerous Meet the Composer grants.

**Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky**, is currently Artist in Residence at Yale University Center for Collaborative Arts and Media (2023-2024, extended). He is a composer, multimedia artist, and writer whose work engages audiences in a blend of genres, global culture, and environmental and social issues. Miller has collaborated with an array of recording artists, including Ryuichi Sakamoto, Metallica, Chuck D from Public Enemy, Steve Reich, and Yoko Ono amongst many others. His 2018 album, DJ Spooky Presents: Phantom Dancehall, debuted at #3 on Billboard Reggae. Miller currently lives and works in Roscoe, NY.

### ABOUT CATSKILL ART SPACE

Catskill Art Space (CAS) explores contemporary art practices of emerging and established artists. Through exhibitions, performances, classes, lectures, and screenings, CAS fosters creative community in the Catskills. Established as Catskill Art Society in 1971, CAS reopened in October 2022 as Catskill Art Space following a major renovation and expansion of its multi-arts center, located in the picturesque hamlet of Livingston Manor in the Western Catskills. CAS presents a rotating slate of exhibitions, performances and other events featuring national and regional talents, alongside long-term installations of works by James Turrell, Sol LeWitt, Francis Cape, and Ellen Brooks.

Learn more at [catskillartspace.org](http://catskillartspace.org).

# DEC Releases Draft Water Quality Guidance to Address Emerging Contaminants from Publicly Owned Treatment Works

*Guidance Continues New York State's Nation-Leading Efforts to Protect Public Health and the Environment from Harmful Contaminants*  
**Draft Technical and Operational Guidance Series Available for Public Review and Comment through Feb. 9, 2024**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today released new water quality guidance that will advance the State's regulation of the emerging contaminants Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and 1,4-Dioxane. The draft guidance for Publicly Owned Treatment Plants (POTWs) builds upon guidance released last year for industrial discharges and supports the State's ongoing efforts to protect public health and the environment and prevent exposure to emerging contaminants through the protection of drinking water sources.

"The draft guidance released today builds upon New York State's nation-leading efforts to protect communities and prevent public exposure to emerging contaminants," Commissioner Seggos said. "DEC encourages the public to comment on this draft guidance and appreciates the ongoing partnership of local governments in creating cleaner, healthier communities and natural resources."

The draft Technical and Operational Guidance Series 1.3.14 "Publicly Owned Treatment Works Permitting Strategy for Implementing Guidance Values for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane" complements the State's efforts to implement DEC's previously announced water quality guidance values for these same contaminants. The new draft guidance outlines how DEC will collect additional information on these contaminants from POTWs and recommends utilizing pollutant minimization programs and compliance schedules in State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permits to address significant sources of these contaminants to POTWs.

The draft guidance is available on DEC's website. DEC is holding a 30-day public comment period, which ends on Feb. 9, 2024. Comments can be emailed to [EmergingContaminantsDOW@dec.ny.gov](mailto:EmergingContaminantsDOW@dec.ny.gov), or sent to New York State DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-3500, ATTN: Sara Latessa.

PFAS are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Fluoropolymer coatings are blends of resins and lubricants used in products such as water-repellent clothing, furniture, adhesives, paint and varnish, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces and insulation of electrical wires. Chemicals in this group include PFOA and PFOS. 1,4-Dioxane is a compound that has historically been used as a solvent stabilizer and has been found in trace amounts in some cosmetics, shampoos, detergents, and cleaning products.

The new guidance supports the State's ongoing efforts to safeguard public health, prevent exposure to emerging contaminants, and ensure New Yorkers have access to clean drinking water. Some PFAS do not break down easily and persist for a long time in the environment, especially in water. Their toxicity and persistence in the environment means they are a potential danger to public health and the environment. Information about PFAS is available on DEC's website.



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## The Taking of Cannonsville

(From Pg. 1) Construction on the Cannonsville Reservoir began in 1955 and was completed in 1967. New York City claimed 19,910 acres for the Cannonsville Reservoir and displaced almost 1,000 residents from the communities of Beerston, Cannonsville, Granton, Rock Rift and Rock Royal. Eleven cemeteries with 2,150 graves were relocated.



Admission to this VIRTUAL ONLY program is FREE for Museum Members and \$5 for non-members. To join the program, please register by email at [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) and put Cannonsville Talk Link in the subject line, or call 845 985-7700. A link will be sent. Non-members will be asked to please first make a donation on the Museum's website: [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org). For more information on the program, email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org)

**About the speaker:** Roger Luther is the Broome County Historian and Executive Director of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier. He has authored and co-authored several books and articles on Broome County History. Although Cannonsville is located just a few miles outside of Broome County, he was captivated by the story and has researched and photographed it for several years.

**About the Time and the Valleys Museum:** Connecting Water People and the Catskills, the Museum is open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Memorial Day through September and from October to May by appointment and during programs. Located at 332 Main Street in Grahamsville (St. Rt. 55), Sullivan County, admission for adults is a suggested donation of \$5, children under 16 \$2, and children under six are free.

**Museum exhibitions are interactive and both fun and educational for all ages:**

- **Water and the Valleys**, an exhibit on the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th century. This exhibition includes interactives such as a Native American artifact guessing game, grinding corn with a mortar and pestle, videos and more.
- **Tunnels, Toil and Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story**, an interactive exhibit on NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system, which includes computer interactives, games, puzzles, videos and building a dam and tunnel.
- **1930s Lost Catskill Farm**, a farmhouse, outhouse, barn, electric plant, milk house and working waterwheel help visitors experience life in the 1930s through displays, videos, games and hands on activities.
- **Bittersweet Memories:** Lost Towns of the Catskill Watersheds a collaborative augmented reality art exhibition of the buildings and homes taken for NYC's water system.

The Time and the Valleys Museum is proud to be a Blue Star Museum, a collaboration between the National Endowment of the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and over 1,500 museums across America to provide free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information call 845 985-7700, e-mail [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org) or visit [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org). To schedule a group tour for children or adults, please call 845-985-7700.

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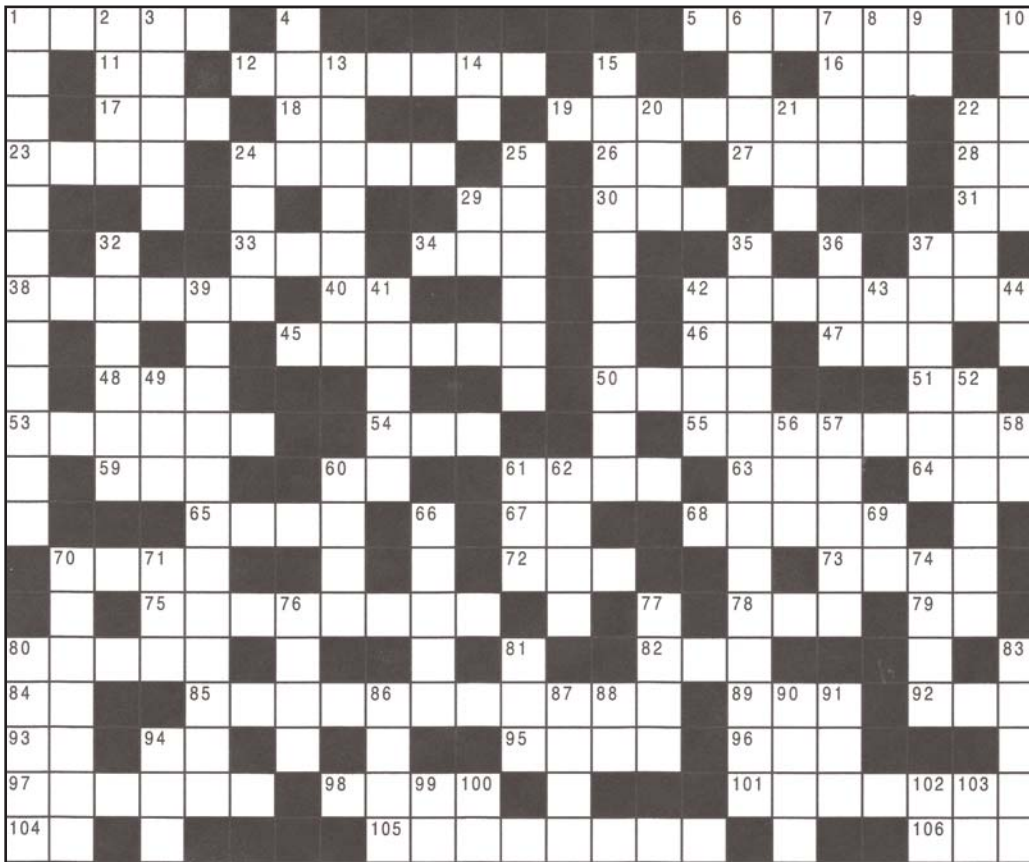
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## Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library  
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Come paint with us!

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



**ACROSS**  
 1 Celebration  
 5 Cope  
 11 Exclamation of surprise  
 12 Independence  
 16 Read only memory  
 17 Point  
 18 Railroad  
 19 Legal paper  
 22 Express surprise  
 23 Right of possession of property in lieu of a debt  
 24 Revise  
 26 Virginia (abbrev)  
 27 Proficiency  
 28 Either  
 29 Connecticut (abbrev)  
 30 Final part of something  
 31 New Testament  
 33 Swindle  
 34 In accordance with  
 37 Colorado (abbrev.)  
 38 Enhance  
 40 Half an em

42 Monument  
 45 Residents of an ancient Greek Island  
 46 Extraterrestrial  
 47 Indefinite long period of time  
 48 Human males  
 50 Tidy  
 51 Doctor  
 53 Newspaper magnate who advocated a day to celebrate American citizenship in 1939  
 54 Daughters of the American Revolution  
 55 State of supreme power held by the people and their elected representatives  
 59 Meshwork  
 60 Near  
 61 Seven days

63 Faster than a walk  
 64 Gamete  
 65 Part of the Louisiana Purchase located on the west bank of the Mississippi that became a stat in 1846  
 76 Advertisement  
 68 Poisonous  
 70 Watercraft  
 72 Sweet potato  
 73 Leave out  
 75 Gastronm-cetes  
 78 Male child  
 79 Used in comparison  
 80 Ice pellets  
 82 A rabbi  
 84 Father  
 85 Non-transferable  
 89 Behave  
 92 Pole  
 93 Registered Nurse  
 94 Post Office  
 95 Silent  
 96 Deep vocal sound of a cow  
 97 Oak nuts  
 98 Stopper

101 Planned series of future events  
 104 A hymn, “\_ Deum”  
 105 Person living nearby  
 106 French painter and co-founder of the Dada movement  
**DOWN**  
 1 Largest city in PA  
 2 Assess  
 3 Archaic form of yours  
 4 Unyielding  
 6 Title  
 7 Tall rounded vases  
 8 Automatically  
 9 Printer’s measure  
 10 Begin  
 13 Busy  
 Grahamsville  
 Income Tax office  
 14 Train (abbrev)  
 15 Manner of governing  
 20 Preserve food  
 21 Hearing organ  
 22 Esteem

24 Curve  
 25 Filament  
 29 Christian Era  
 32 33rd President of the U.S.A.  
 35 What the Swedes call giant edible puffballs  
 36 Lyric poem  
 37 Taper or votive  
 39 Social code  
 41 Very poor  
 42 One of Shakespeare's legendary kings  
 43 Missouri (abbrev)  
 44 Kentucky (abbrev)  
 49 Poetic form of ‘before’  
 52 Authority to perform  
 56 Peace (Latin)  
 57 Merger  
 58 Centigram  
 60 Spike  
 61 Method  
 62 Round Dutch cheese  
 66 Heartbeat  
 69 Centimeter  
 70 Stability  
 71 Primate

74 Metrical foot  
 76 Banner  
 77 Not encumbered  
 80 Small marine fish  
 81 Neversink, Rondout or Shokan  
 83 Trudge  
 86 Celebrity  
 87 Undergrowth  
 88 Lieutenant (abbrev)

90 Center  
 91 Also  
 94 Inquire impertinently  
 99 Regarding  
 100 Circulating life force  
 102 Egyptian deity  
 103 Chem. element Argon

**Hearty Crock Pot Beef Stew**

- 1 pound cubed beef stew meat
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 1/2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 1 stalk celery, sliced
- 2 potatoes, cubed
- 1/2 pound mushrooms, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bay leaf

Place beef stew meat into a slow cooker. In a small bowl, mix together flour, paprika, salt, and pepper; sprinkle over beef stew meat, stirring to coat.

Stir in beef broth, teriyaki sauce, onion, carrots, celery, potatoes, mushrooms, garlic and bay leaf.

Cover, and cook on Low 6 hours, stirring occasionally.

数字は単数に限る

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Cryptogram

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Kids' Fun Page

- L.Comando

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 X E K O F O H B J B V N  
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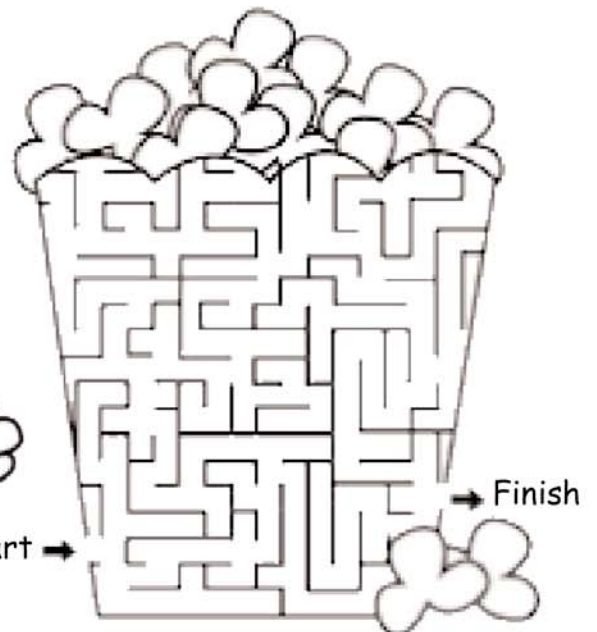
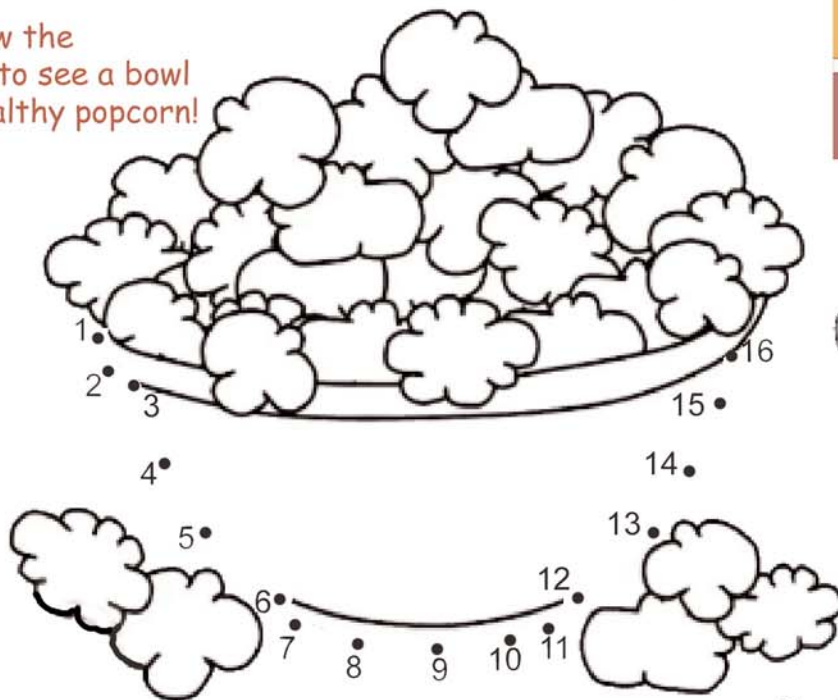


POPCORN    WHOLE GRAIN    FIBER  
 HEALTHY    KERNEL    SNACK  
 HULL    YUMMY    BRAN

Can you find five differences between the two pictures?



Follow the dots to see a bowl of healthy popcorn!



Cryptogram Key

|    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 19 | 21 | 5 | 22 | 17 | 12 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 24 | 8 | 23 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 25 | 26 | 15 | 6 | 16 | 14 | 10 | 18 |
| A  | B  | C | D  | E  | F  | G | H | I | J  | K  | L | M  | N | O  | P | Q | R  | S  | T  | U  | V | W  | X  | Y  | Z  |



Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation  
Ice Skating Rink  
**has opened for the Season**



**ICE RINK HOURS**  
**2023-24 Season**

*(effective 12/17/23)*

**Wednesday**

**7pm-9pm**

**Thursday**

**7pm-9pm**

**Saturday**

**1pm-3pm**

**Sunday**

**1pm-4pm**

**NOTE:** Hours may change during the season based on weather, volunteer availability or usage.



# Daniel Pierce Library

## PBS Nova Documentary Saturn



**Thursday, January 25, 2024  
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

(For adults and students ten and up)

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! It's been over 300 years since Galileo turned his telescope on Saturn and first saw its spectacular rings. We will be watching the PBS Nova documentary on Saturn, showing us its beauty and newly discovered mysteries. Our experts will give additional insight and take questions as we explore. Weather permitting we will head outside to view this beautiful planet. If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

**For Tri-Valley residents. Advanced registration is required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org).**

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



### Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268  
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233  
[www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)

To register go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXmDINZtGaxxwgAgT3euIOIH6mHIIIfRwXGCJaxV8zfsaezjQ/viewform>

## LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF NEVERSINK  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
Clerk to Planning and Zoning Boards**

The Town of Neversink is accepting applications for the position of Clerk to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The position is a paid part-time position.

The candidate would be required to attend and take minutes at the Planning and Zoning Board meetings which are held one evening a month. In addition to attendance at meetings, the candidate is required to perform regular clerical duties as needed.

Applications are to be received by Friday, February 2, 2024 and are available at the Town of Neversink Town Hall or on the Town of Neversink Website, [www.townofneversink.org](http://www.townofneversink.org) under documents.

Please send applications to: Chris Mathews, Supervisor, Town of Neversink, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740, or drop it off at the Town Hall.

**Ahead of Funding Shortfall  
that Could Leave 2 million  
Low-income Children and  
Pregnant and Postpartum  
Women -Including 124,000  
NY'ers - without Food  
Assistance, Gillibrand to  
Call for \$1.4 Billion in  
Emergency Funding for Wic  
Nutrition Program**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - TODAY, Wednesday, January 10th at 11:15 AM: Ahead of a funding shortfall that could leave nearly 2 million low-income children and pregnant and postpartum women throughout the United States without food assistance, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will hold a video press conference to call for \$1.4 billion in federal funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, health care referrals, and other important services to over 6.5 million low-income infants, young children, and pregnant and postpartum women nationwide.

But amid high food prices and growing need, WIC funding levels fall far short of what is needed for the upcoming year. If Congress does not increase these funding levels, up to 2 million children and pregnant and postpartum women could be turned away from the program, upending over 25 years of bipartisan support for this crit-

**Tri-Valley CSD  
Board Meeting**

The Tri-Valley CSD Board of Education will have their next meeting:

Regular Meeting #14  
Meeting Opening Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.  
Secondary School Library Lower Level  
Proposed Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.  
Secondary School Library Upper Level  
Regular Meeting #14 resumes - 7:00 p.m.  
Secondary School Library Lower Level

The Agenda will be available on BoardDocs 3 days before the Board Meeting.

This Board Meeting will be on Tri-Valley's YouTube LIVE Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl224vKQ8nAWhR6NVao24w/live>

ical program. Senator Gillibrand is calling for \$1.4 billion to remedy this shortfall and ensure that low-income families can continue to access the critical assistance that WIC provides.

**UC Public Works  
Department Announces Road  
Closure in Town of Kingston,  
January 16**

KINGSTON, NY - The Ulster County Department of Public Works will temporarily close County County Road #10, Sawkill Road in the Town of Kingston on January 16, 2024. This closure is necessary to ensure the safety of the roadway during embankment repair work. The road will be closed to all through traffic 0.5 miles west of the Sawkill Road - Ruby Road intersection.

Road Closure: County Road #10, Sawkill Road  
Location: Town of Kingston  
Start Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Repair work is expected to take place for approximately two weeks on weekdays from 8:30 AM - 2 PM. Traffic may use Sawkill Road - Ruby Road east for 1.1 miles to Hallihans Hill Road northwest for 2.3 miles to Sawkill Road.

# Dept. of Motor Vehicles dates for the Neversink Town Hall. Jan. 11, Feb. 8 & Mar. 7, 2024.



Go on the Sullivan County Website at  
[www.sullivanny.us](http://www.sullivanny.us) or search  
[sullivancountydmscheduling](https://www.sullivanny.us/sullivancountydmscheduling)  
to make an appointment.

## *Now conveniently doing business at 9 locations:*

*Grahamsville - 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Jeffersonville - 19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Livingston Manor - 95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Hortonville - 104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Wurtsboro - 2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Narrowsburg - 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Liberty - 15 Sullivan Ave. Liberty, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Bloomingburg - 13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY (rotating schedule)*

*Mobile Unit on Location 10:00 am to 3:00 pm*

Forms can be accessed through the NYS DMV website - [dmv.ny.gov](http://dmv.ny.gov)

For further information please call: 845-794-3872

# Elected Officials Unite in Call to Replace Owner/Operator of Hudson Valley Water Company Amid Service Failures

## *County Executive Metzger Pens Joint Letter to State Regulators Following Most Recent Service Interruptions and Poor Communications*

KINGSTON, NY - Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has called on the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) to take immediate action under Public Service Law 89-h (5) to remove the owner of Hudson Valley Water Company, Inc. and install a single operator in response to the company's ongoing service failures. Town Supervisors from HVWC's service area, including Hurley Town Supervisor Michael Boms, Olive Town Supervisor Jim Sofranko, Rosendale Town Supervisor Jeanne Walsh, and Saugerties Town Supervisor Fred Costello, signed on to a letter penned by the County Executive and filed yesterday with the Department of Public Service. County and State Legislators also signed on to the letter in support, including Ulster County Legislators Kathy Nolan (D-22), Eric Stewart (D-18), and Jeff Collins (D-23), and State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41) and Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha (D-103).

"For far too long, Hudson Valley Water Company customers have been plagued by service interruptions, poor communication, and the company's outright failure to follow its own Commission-approved Standard Operating Procedures and Emergency Plan," said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger. "It is unacceptable to leave hundreds of Ulster County residents with no access to safe running drinking water for days at a time, and it is high time for the Public Service Commission to find a new qualified operator to take over and operate this critical service."

Hudson Valley Water Company, Inc., operates five pumping and distribution systems throughout Ulster County, including in Mount Marion, High Falls, Pine Lane-Hurley, West Hurley, and Boiceville. After a system failure began on December 16, the Boiceville system was left without drinking water service for nearly a month. This extended outage is the latest in a long record of outages, service interruptions, and poor customer service, and demonstrates the company's inability to follow its PSC-approved Standard Operating Procedures and Emergency Plan.

The company's failures have repeatedly resulted in officials having to step in over the years to ensure residents

were properly notified of issues, including outages, boil water notices, service interruptions, and the provision of potable water during a system failure.

These issues were the basis of customer complaints about Hurley and Mount Marion systems, which prompted a Department of Public Service Investigation in 2019-2020. In June 2022, then County Executive Pat Ryan, together with Senator Michelle Hinchey and then Assemblymember Kevin Cahill, held a public hearing on HVWC's request for a 20.6% rate increase, drawing residents from all five systems to demand service improvements. The company was granted just a 2.8% increase, due in good part to numerous complaints by residents and officials, and the company's failure to comply with commission orders.

**State Senator Michelle Hinchey** said, "Access to clean water is a constitutional right in New York. Despite our repeated interventions as elected officials to safeguard this right, the Hudson Valley Water Company has consistently violated it, leaving our residents without drinkable water for years. This untenable situation, marked by frequent interruptions and extended outages, abysmal customer service, and questionable billing practices, cannot continue any longer. We are left with no choice but to urgently call on the PSC to replace the owner and restore safe, reliable water service to our communities."

**Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha** said, "The Hudson Valley Water Company has yet again left my constituents without drinkable water for weeks while seeking multiple double-digit rate increases. This latest series of failures by the HVWC offers yet another example of why essential needs should be invested in as public goods. Over the past year I've met with community groups, and county and local elected officials to figure out how we can bring immediate relief and long-term solutions to all those who have been affected. HVWC's brazen flouting of previous, recent investigations by the Public Service Commission clearly shows that more accountability is required in order to restore essential, reliable water services to those in the region. We are thankful to our constituents and elected leaders for coming together on this issue, and we look forward to the PSC's response to this urgent and necessary ownership transfer request."

"The inability of the Hudson Valley Water Company to provide safe and reliable potable water was extremely stressful for our residents in Boiceville over the holiday season. I applaud the efforts by the County Executive's Office to pursue a long-term solution to this ongoing problem and, hopefully, soon restore these family's lives back to normal" stated Olive Supervisor Jim Sofranko.

"The Ulster County Department of Health has fielded complaints from HVWC water customers over many years and has repeatedly tried to intervene to ensure appropriate measures are taken to provide adequate service and quality water to these residents. It is beyond time for a solution that will ensure a safe and reliable water supply for these residential customers," added Dr. Carol Smith, Commissioner of Ulster County Department of Health.

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

**INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE**

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

**Something for Everyone!**



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VETERAN'S CARE, MONUMENTS & ENGRAVING**

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MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE

434-7363 292-7160 794-2700 583-5445 439-4333  
<http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com>

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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  
Feb 3, 2024**

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

*Sundown United Methodist Church Hall*

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

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

**WEEKDAY EUCHARIST**  
8:00 AM Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM Saturday

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

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)  
6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY

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

**Daily Mass Schedule:** Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday  
Mass at 8:30AM.

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

**Grahamsville United Methodist Church**

**Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

**Grahamsville & Sundown United Methodist Churches  
House Worship Plan  
Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting - Worship Service & Tuesday Evening Bible Study Zoom Link  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2029912673?pwd=R2lJYUhyTVdsQWdMUXZvTEtCeGdLZz09>  
Meeting ID: 202 991 2673 Passcode: 012740  
Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**The Bible Study continues every Tuesday at 7 pm.**  
If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please feel free to contact the Pastor, Seung Jin Hong. 845-985-2283

*Grahamsville Reformed Church*

*The Church with a friendly welcome*  
**Pastor Kenneth Ronk**  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship Service 9:30 am  
P O Box 238 - Route 55  
Grahamsville, NY 12740  
845-985-7480

**Claryville Reformed Church**

Claryville Road  
Claryville, NY 12725  
845-985-2041



Worship Services @ 10:00 am  
Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor  
Church Hall available for rent  
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

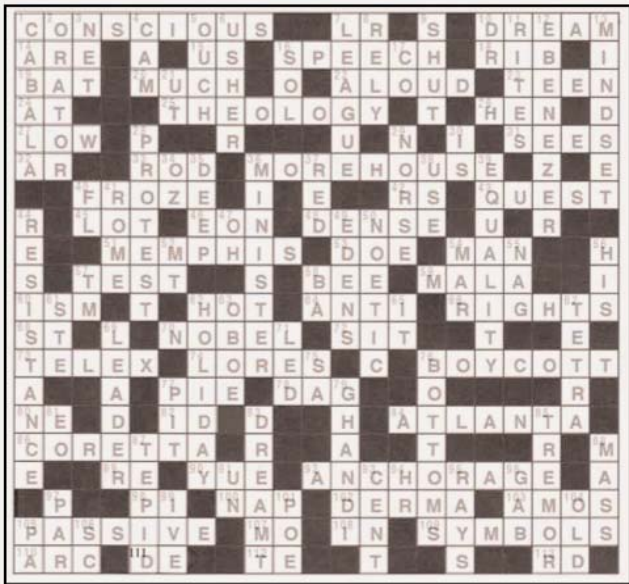
**Loucks Funeral Home**  
**Geoff and Heather Hazzard**  
**"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"**

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

**St. Augustine's Chapel**  
Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

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

Ans to last week's Crossword



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

Also  
**WANTED**  
 People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU  
 answer

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

**GRAHAMSVILLE**  
**UMC THRIFT MINISTRY**

We are no longer accepting donations for the Thrift Ministry. Thanks to all for your generosity which has helped to make a successful season. We look forward to returning in the Spring of 2023.  
**The Grahamsville UMC Mission Team**

<https://grahamsvilleUMC.org>  
 GrahamsvilleUMC@gmail.com—Seung Jin Hong, Pastor

**Sundown**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**Covered Dish Supper**  
**Saturday,**  
**February 3, 2024 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)*

**SCDW Casting Call**

The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is thrilled to have “She Kills Monsters” by Qui Nguyen, as its June live stage performance. “She Kills Monsters” explores themes of guilt, acceptance and identity - with wit and humor. Performances at the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallsburg on June 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23.

Looking to cast 9 actors - males and/or females, ages 16-30. Auditions will take place at the Senior Center, Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg on Friday, January 26, from 6-8pm, and on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 & 28 from noon to 3pm.

Please note that each actor should come prepared with a 1 minute monologue of their choice that strongly demonstrates their acting ability. Sides will be read along with other auditioning actors.

Contact Director Josh Rosengrant - 845-866-3878 - rosen-gra@yahoo.com - for information or to schedule an alternate audition date.

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

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

## LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1/9/24  | Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall |
| 1/11/24 | Town of Neversink Board Meeting 7:00 pm                         |
| 1/16/24 | Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm                  |
| 1/18/24 | Denning Town Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall   |
| 1/18/24 | Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm             |
| 2/3/24  | <b>Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper</b> 5:30 Church Hall         |
| 2/6/24  | Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm                |
| 2/7/24  | Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting                        |

**To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.**

Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2024** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year.

You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or  
USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

**TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

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

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

## Ulster County Legislature Weekly Calendar Update

### for the Week Of

January 15 - January 19, 2024

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

**Monday, January 15**

- o Martin Luther King Day - County Offices Closed

**Tuesday, January 16**

- o ~~RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee~~

**Wednesday, January 17**

- o 8:30 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 9:00 AM (Or Immediately Following IDA Governance Committee) - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Annual Meeting, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 9:05 AM (Or Immediately Following IDA Annual Meeting) - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Regular Meeting, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 10:00 AM (Or Immediately Following IDA) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Annual Meeting, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 10:05 AM (Or Immediately Following UCCRC Annual Meeting) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation Regular Meeting, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 5:00 PM - ~~CANCELLED Housing Policy Oversight Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston~~

**Thursday, January 18**

- o 1:00 PM - Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Reform Committee, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 5:30 PM - Ulster County Youth Bureau, in the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

**Friday, January 19**

- o No Meetings

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

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

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-  
\$6.00 per week

Business card ad ( 2" x 3")  
- \$12.00 per week

(3" x 4") - \$24.00 per week

(3" x 6") - \$36.00 per week

1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$40.00 per week

1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$64.00 per week

(6" x 8") - \$96.00 per week

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

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

**.. Full Page Flyer for  
Local Municipalities  
and Organizations -**

**one time fee- \$20.00**

(once the flyer is inserted  
we will publish it each week  
through the week of the event)

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

**Low Rates  
High Visibility!**



## Hudson Valley Pattern Progress announces independent research agenda for 2024

*Projects focus on civic issues that affect the quality of life in Hudson Valley communities; agenda includes studies on emergency housing, rural transportation, and re-use of malls*

NEWBURGH - Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress today announced its independent research agenda for 2024, including an analysis of the region's short-term and emergency housing crisis, a playbook for the adaptive reuse of large shopping malls, and an examination of the volunteer shortage facing fire districts and ambulance corps.

Independent research has been a hallmark of Pattern's work in the Hudson Valley since the nonprofit was founded in 1965 by the region's academic, business, and nonprofit leaders. Pattern selects a handful of civic issues to study each year, focusing on those that are most timely and relevant to challenges in the nine-county region.

Pattern's research and planning team will analyze the following topics in 2024:

**The short-term and emergency housing crisis in the Hudson Valley** - Counties have reported that the number of people living in temporary and emergency housing has increased significantly in recent years, along with the average length of stay. The increasing demand for temporary shelter has forced many counties to send their un-housed residents to live in hotels in neighboring counties, forcing children into long bus rides back to their hometown schools. This is a huge inconvenience for families that are already in distress, and a huge cost to taxpayers. Pattern will examine the uptick in demand for temporary shelter, and underscore practical solutions that might help.

**Solar energy and farmland** - With solar arrays being installed on more farmland throughout the region, Pattern will explore how these two uses might complement each other rather than competing for the same land. New agrivoltaic technologies are making it possible for farmers to cultivate energy and food at the same time. Pattern will explore the role of local governments in allowing these new technologies on working farms and preserved farmland, and the roles that regulations and zoning might play in their near-term viability.

**A playbook for the adaptive re-use of shopping malls** - This project will look at national and international examples that brought new life back to dormant shopping malls and their gigantic parking lots. Every county in the Hudson Valley has a mall that is empty or near empty, and parking lots that are unlikely to ever be filled again. This project will examine how others have revitalized these buildings and lands and put them back into productive use.

**An examination of gaps in rural transportation** - Several Pattern studies in 2023 underscored that gaps in rural transportation are exacerbating making it more difficult for our neighbors to access food, healthcare, and other necessities. Approximately 1 in 10 people who live in our rural areas do not own a car, and pub-

# Nicole Gorr, CPA

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Nicole.M.Gorr@gmail.com

b1/18-2/8

lic transportation options in these communities are often sparse. Pattern will examine new transportation models that could help people reach their destinations, and how technology might play an expanded role in the efficient and effective provision of rural transportation.

**The volunteer crisis facing fire districts and EMS** - A deepening shortage of volunteers has affected many of our civic organizations, but this pinch might have the most dire consequences on our fire districts and emergency medical services. Pattern will analyze the volunteer shortage, services deserts, and the long-term challenges connected to the current structure of service delivery for our valued first responders.

“Our independent research and planning projects aim to help civic leaders across the Hudson Valley make evidence-based decisions about our most salient challenges and opportunities,” Pattern CEO Adam Bosch said. “The Pattern team is excited to work this year on projects related to housing, adaptive reuse, transportation, and agriculture - all of which go to the heart of our wellbeing and the quality of life in communities throughout the region.”

“Every community in the Hudson Valley will benefit from some aspect of Pattern's independent research in 2024,” said Mary Beth Bianconi, chair of the Pattern Board of Directors. “With a broad range of issues identified by a diverse group of regional stakeholders, Pattern's fact-based, objective research on these topics will support regional and local leaders in municipalities, businesses and nonprofits in creating and implementing plans to address the pressing issues related to short-term and emergency housing, solar energy and farmland, adaptive reuse of shopping malls, gaps in rural transportation and the declining number of volunteer for vital local emergency services.”

“The 2024 research agenda was the result of a true constituent-based survey of the issues we in the Hudson Valley will face in the new year,” said David Cooper, a Pattern board member and co-chair of the organization's Research Working Group. “It was encouraging to see so many people participate in the feedback sessions leading up to selecting the topics covered in this year's agenda. It was a classic Pattern moment - bringing together so many thought leaders from throughout the region to identify a diverse range of challenges the organization can explore solving. I am proud to be a member of this great organization, and look forward to seeing Pattern's conclusions on each topic we selected.” (Contd. Pg. 26)

## Hudson Valley Pattern Progress announces independent research agenda for 2024

(From Pg. 25)

"I am honored to be a part of an organization dedicated to delving into the critical issues that deeply resonate within our communities," said Shannon Mannese, a Pattern board member and co-chair of the organization's Research Working Group. "Our collective commitment to addressing these concerns reflects a profound dedication to fostering positive change and progress."

In addition to the projects listed above, Pattern will also produce several annual reports including Out of Reach, its annual analysis of housing affordability; and Moving In, Moving Out, its annual analysis the movement of people into and out of the Hudson Valley.

Pattern's independent research agenda for 2024 was informed by significant input from civic leaders across the region who submitted more than 60 ideas for consideration. Those research ideas were whittled down to a final 10, and then voted upon by Pattern members. All the research projects are fully funded by Pattern members who support the nonprofit's mission to provide thorough, accurate, and objective research to civic leaders throughout the Hudson Valley.

Completed reports will be released throughout 2024 as they are finished, and Pattern will create opportunities for civic leaders to hear about the findings and ask questions of our professional planners and researchers. Recent research projects from Pattern have included The Great People Shortage and its Effects on the Hudson Valley, which analyzed our shrinking labor pool and its effects on the region; EV Charging in the Hudson Valley, which provided advice on the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and Overcoming Barriers to Affordable Homeownership, which outlined impediments and strategies related to homeownership in the region.

### About Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

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

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

## Nominate Your Favorite Older New Yorker! *Nominations of Locals 55 and Older Are Due by February 7*

Monticello, NY - The NYS Office for the Aging will celebrate Older New Yorkers' Day on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, and Sullivan County has an opportunity to include up to two local honorees!

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

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

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

The deadline for submitting nominees is February 7. Thus the Sullivan County Office for the Aging is seeking nominations of older adults from the local community to be represented at this event. These nominations can come from civic leaders, elected officials, and community organizations.

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

Nomination forms are available at <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/Aging> (click on "Nominate a 2024 Older New Yorker!") or can be obtained by contacting the Office for the Aging at 845-807-0243 or [sullivanofa@sullivanny.us](mailto:sullivanofa@sullivanny.us).

## Trivia at the Tango

TANGO TRIVIA is back!  
(It never really went away).  
Let's make 2024  
the most trivial year EVER!!!!

### UP NEXT:

Third Thursdays Trivia at the Tango  
January 18th  
7:00 pm at the Tango Cafe at  
Hurleyville Performing Arts Center,  
Hurleyville, NY

Second Wednesday Character Trivia  
at the Sullivan House Bar and Grill  
7:00 pm  
at 544 Wurtsboro Mountain Rd.

# “TRIVIA FOR A CAUSE”

hosted by the Kiwanis of Woodridge, NY Foundation, Inc.

**Saturday, January 27, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

Doors Open at 12:30 P.M.

**Casa Mia Restaurant**

**205 Main St., Hurleyville, NY 12747**

Come enjoy an afternoon of trivia, great food, fun, laughter, fellowship, and fantastic raffle prizes.

**Advance reservations required!**

**ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 Per Person includes delicious food, beverages, and entry for amazing door prize.**

**One to six players per team. Trivia winner(s) will receive cash prize.**

**Raffles and 50/50 tickets extra.**

Proceeds will go toward our local projects, including donations to local food pantries, winter outerwear for young children, dictionaries for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, scholarships for graduating seniors, summer reading books for children graduating from Head Start as well as kindergarteners and those entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade, as well as other projects that benefit FCSD students and families.

**\*Advance reservations must be made no later than 01/12/24.\***

**For questions or further info, please contact:**

**Deb Jacobsen at 845-798-8795 or Diane Garritt at 845-866-3204.**

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**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:  
KIWANIS OF WOODRIDGE, PO BOX 722, WOODRIDGE, NY 12789**

**Names attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$25.00 Each TOTAL DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

### "NY Swims" Beats them All!

Dear Editor,

Every week there seems to be a new "crisis" in the news, usually one that "disproportionately affects" some specified social group, and is somehow linked to climate change. The newest project by Governor Hochul, "NY Swims", beats them all! "Recognizing that drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 and that climate change will increase extreme heat events", the Governor has determined that "access to swimming [is] ... about public health and climate resiliency". And she has found almost 100 million dollars to fund "swimming access [in]... areas prone to extreme heat", to "reimagine how New Yorkers ... engage with water", and to "deploy pools in urban environments". I don't know who writes her copy, but if the Governor wants to fund pools throughout the state, why not simply say so? Why does everything need to be connected to a "crisis" and to climate change? And since New York State is facing a \$4.3 billion budget deficit, I would respectfully suggest that funding pools should not be a priority.

Nadia Maczaj  
nadiansmaczaj@earthlink.net

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### Politicians Propose Abandoning Ukraine

Representatives Gaetz of Florida and Greene of Georgia and joined by Senator Hawley of Missouri have made wild statements and taken absurd positions. The three of them want to abandon Ukraine, which will allow Russia to overrun Ukraine. Their geopolitical ignorance is astonishing. Greene stated "Under Republicans, not another penny will go to Ukraine, our country comes first". Gaetz proposed a resolution calling for an end to aid for Ukraine and Hawley said the U.S. policy of supporting Ukraine's survival has to stop.

Governor DeSantis of Florida has joined them by saying the Ukraine War is "not a vital national interest but a territorial dispute".

These government officials put politics first to the detriment of our country. They are trying to make President Biden look bad, and don't consider the impact of their positions on the world stage. Thankfully, the majority of our government officials understand the world situation and the need to stand up to Russian aggression. They should not allow politics to threaten our national security and the security of other countries.

Vital military funding for Ukraine is hung up in the House of Representatives because the republicans want to tie it to tightening U.S./Mexican border security. I agree we have to stop the influx of illegal immigrants entering our country. However, preventing Russia from conquering Ukraine, attacking NATO countries, and then drawing the U.S. into a major war with millions of casualties and costing hundreds of additional billions of dollars should be a very high strategic priority.

Donald Moskowitz  
Londonderry NH

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## Ahead of Funding Shortfall that Could Leave 2 million Low-income Children and Pregnant and Postpartum Women -Including 124,000 New Yorkers - without Food Assistance, Gillibrand to Call for \$1.4 Billion in Emergency Funding for Wic Nutrition Program

Ahead of a funding shortfall that could leave nearly 2 million low-income children and pregnant and postpartum women throughout the United States without food assistance, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will hold a video press conference to call for \$1.4 billion in federal funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, health care referrals, and other important services to over 6.5 million low-income infants, young children, and pregnant and postpartum women nationwide.

But amid high food prices and growing need, WIC funding levels fall far short of what is needed for the upcoming year. If Congress does not increase these funding levels, up to 2 million children and pregnant and postpartum women could be turned away from the program, upending over 25 years of bipartisan support for this critical program. Senator Gillibrand is calling for \$1.4 billion to remedy this shortfall and ensure that low-income families can continue to access the critical assistance that WIC provides.

# Moka Origins from Wayne County, Pennsylvania Named Finalist in Good Food Awards 2024

Honesdale PA, Jan 10, 2024 - Moka Origins, a renowned bean-to-bar chocolate company based in Pennsylvania, is thrilled to announce that it has been selected as a Finalist in the prestigious Good Food Awards 2024. <https://goodfoodfdn.org/awards/finalists/> The Good Food Awards celebrate excellence in food and drink, recognizing producers who exemplify the values of quality, sustainability, and social responsibility.

Moka Origins is honored to be acknowledged for its commitment to producing the highest quality bean-to-bar chocolate in Pennsylvania. The company prides itself on sourcing only the finest cocoa beans and crafting exceptional chocolate products that captivate the senses.



What sets Moka Origins apart is its unwavering dedication to fair and direct trade practices with farmers. By establishing direct relationships with cocoa growers, Moka Origins ensures that farmers receive fair compensation for their hard work and dedication. This commitment to ethical sourcing not only supports the livelihoods of farmers but also contributes to the overall sustainability of the cocoa and coffee industry. In addition to fair trade practices, Moka Origins is actively contributing to environmental sustainability. The company is proud to announce its initiative of planting thousands of trees each year, aligning with

its mission to make a positive impact on the environment. By focusing on reforestation efforts, Moka Origins aims to offset its carbon footprint and promote biodiversity. To date, Moka Origins has planted over 500,000 trees.

"We are truly honored to be recognized as a Finalist in the Good Food Awards 2024," said Jeff Abella, CEO at Moka Origins. "This acknowledgment is a testament to our commitment to producing exceptional products here in Pennsylvania while prioritizing fair and direct trade with our farmers. We believe in making a positive impact not only on the chocolate industry but also on the planet, and our tree-planting initiative reflects our dedication to environmental sustainability."

As Moka Origins continues to innovate in the world of chocolate, the company remains steadfast in its values of quality, ethical sourcing, and environmental responsibility. Being named a Finalist in the Good Food Awards is a milestone for Moka Origins, and the company looks forward to continuing its journey of creating delicious and socially responsible chocolate.

For more information about Moka Origins and its range of bean-to-bar chocolate products, please visit [MokaOrigins.com](https://MokaOrigins.com)

**About Moka Origins:** Moka Origins is a Pennsylvania-based bean-to-bar chocolate company known for producing the highest quality chocolate products. With a commitment to fair and direct trade practices, Moka Origins sources the finest cocoa beans to create delicious and ethically crafted chocolate. The company is also dedicated to environmental sustainability, planting thousands of trees each year to offset its carbon footprint.



## 2024 Virtual Caregiver Support Groups

Liberty, NY - Are you a caregiver of a family member or friend? According to Blue Cross Blue Shield, The Health of America, "Caregivers play an important role in the U.S. healthcare system. An often unpaid and invisible workforce, caregivers manage medications, administer care, assist with daily tasks and handle finances for their loved ones. The commitment of time, labor and emotional support this role requires can have a substantial impact on caregivers' physical, behavioral and emotional well-being." (BCBS, 2020, The Impact of Caregiving on Mental and Physical Health).

If you take a loved one regularly to the doctor, or buy their groceries, or have a sibling with special needs whom you support, advocate for an ill spouse, or engage in long-distance care of a loved one, you are a caregiver. The important thing to recognize is that your caring role is important and there is support and information available to you.

Bi-monthly virtual caregiver support groups will be offered, providing guidance, community resources and educational materials to individuals assisting an aging or ill family member or friend. These meetings will take place on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. and are open to all types of caregiving (not specific to any disease). These bimonthly meetings will take place on the following dates:

- January 17th
- January 31st
- February 14th
- February 28th
- March 13th
- March 27th

Registration is required to participate by Zoom or phone if unable to join by computer. Please call Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County's Caregiver program at (845) 292-6180 ext. 122 or by email at [sullivancrc@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivancrc@cornell.edu) for further information or register using CCE's website <http://sullivancce.org/home-family/caregiver-resource-center>.

Caregiver support groups are facilitated by the Caregiver Resource Center of Cornell Cooperative Extension in partnership with Office for the Aging of Sullivan County and the Alzheimer's Association.

## Make a Difference in our Communities Everyone Has a Role to Play

[LIBERTY, NY] Sullivan 180 will kick off an exciting season of grassroots community engagement with their Volunteer and Community Health Champion Orientation on January 31, from 6:00-7:30 pm at the CVI Building at 1 Cablevision Center Drive, Liberty.

Sullivan 180 is seeking volunteers to help with their mission to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy. Individuals can become a Sullivan 180 Volunteer, a Community Health Champion, or work with a Sullivan 180 project in the community.

"Volunteering is a way to stay connected to our communities; from the people in them, to the places within them," said Anne-Louise Scandariato, Sullivan 180 Volunteer Director of

Community Engagement. "The gift of time and talent serving others is healthy, exciting and can lift our spirits."

Opportunities are matched to an individual's skills, interests, and availability. These include beautifying schools and public spaces; teaching workshops; leading health and wellness programs; and outreach support. Everyone has a role to play. Discover how your talents and passion can help make Sullivan County a healthier place to live, learn, work, and play.

"I was born and raised in Monticello and it feels good to give back." shared Diane Moss, Sullivan 180 Volunteer. "I enjoy working with everyone involved. I volunteer because I want to make a difference where I live."

Research from the Corporation for National and Community Service indicates volunteering enables those participating to broaden social networks, enhance mental well-being, lower blood pressure, increase physical activity and reduce stress.

The orientation is also a chance to get to know Sullivan 180, meet the staff and learn about initiatives, projects, workshops, and community service opportunities. If you are unsure, stop in to find out more.

Pre-registration for this free event is requested at [Sullivan180.org](http://Sullivan180.org) or by calling the office at 845-295-2680.

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

## Grants Available!

Happy New Year! We are excited to announce that the 2024 grants are now available to support building a healthy community through several programs including:

Beautification to support the creation and care of public spaces.

School Beautification to enhance school grounds and entrances; and for the creation or care of outdoor gathering spaces on school property.

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

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

Grant amounts as well as criteria, deadlines, and eligibility vary. All of the Sullivan 180 grant programs place an emphasis on youth engagement or impact.

Sullivan 180 Volunteer &  
Community Health Champion Orientation  
Wednesday, January 31  
6:00 - 7:30 pm  
CVI Building

One Cablevision Center Drive, Liberty

Get involved as a Sullivan 180 Volunteer or Community Health Champion. Opportunities include beautifying schools and public spaces, teaching workshops, outreach and leading health and wellness programs in the community.

Sullivan 180 volunteers are ambassadors and an important extension of the mission to build a healthy community. They work alongside community volunteers or in support of special projects and initiatives.

## Fun school field trips close to home at the Time and the Valleys Museum in Sullivan County

[Grahamsville, N.Y.] - It's that time again for elementary and middle school teachers to start planning their spring field trips. Taking

students on a field trips is so important! The fun, hands-on learning connects them with local history in ways not possible in the classroom, and for many it is an experience to remember.

A great place to connect students with history and the environment is the Time and the Valleys Museum on St. Rt. 55 in Grahamsville, Sullivan County. The Museum provides three different interactive field trips to immerse students in the importance of water to all life, the history of how water has changed both the environment and our culture, and the life struggles on a 1930s Catskill family farm.

Guided by trained Museum educators, students handle million year old fossils and Native American artifacts, build tunnels, visit an outdoor 1930s farm with a farm house, barn, milk house and working waterwheel, experience an interactive exhibition on NYC's water supply system, and more. "Students enjoy our field trips and have fun while learning important historical and environmental concepts." according to Donna Steffens, Museum Director.

Each of the 2 1/2 hour programs provide in-depth information in fun



and exciting ways to stimulates student's learning. Comprehensive pre-visit information packets and fun activity sheets are also included.

The programs are available year round, Monday through Friday, for 1st to 12th grade students (minimum of 15 maximum of 100 students per day). The cost is \$5 per student with teachers and chaperones FREE. Title 1 Sullivan County Schools have FREE admission, with funding through the Make a Difference Grant from the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan.

For more information on the Museum's field trips, please go to: [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org). For questions or to book a field trip, please call Donna Steffens at 845 985-7700 or email [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org).

Connecting water, people and the Catskills, the Time and the Valleys Museum has three floors of interactive exhibitions, the 1930s Lost Catskill Farm, a local history research center and gift shop with fun and educational gifts, books and locally made crafts.



## DEC Forest Rangers - Week in Review

### Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Rangers respond to search and rescue incidents statewide. Working with other state agencies, local emergency response organizations, and volunteer search and rescue groups, Forest Rangers locate, and extract lost, injured, or distressed people from across New York State.

Long Lake –Hamilton County

**Ice Rescue Training:** On Jan. 8, Forest Rangers Adams, Milano, and Odell participated in ice safety rescue training at the Long Lake Town Beach. Long Lake is a widening of the Raquette River where local ice conditions constantly fluctuate. A minimum of four inches of solid ice is the general rule for safety. However, ice thickness is not uniform on any body of water. Since ice thickness can vary on a lake, outdoor adventurers are advised to check the ice periodically to stay safe. More information about ice safety is available on DEC's website.



*Forest Rangers Milano, Odell, and Adams at Long Lake ice rescue training*

**Indian Lake, Hamilton County Wilderness Rescue:** On Jan. 11 at 2:52 p.m., Forest Rangers Caswell, Scott, and Snye



*Ranger Snye warming hiker on Snowy Mountain*

responded to a call for a hiker having trouble making it down Snowy Mountain due to the cold and snow. The hiker's 911 call dropped out before the operator could get his location. Rangers located the 20-year-old from Syracuse approximately halfway down the mountain. The subject was wearing a light winter coat and did not have mountaineering boots appropriate for conditions. Rangers provided hand and feet warmers, socks, a hat, gloves, and a light. After warming and hydrating the subject, the Rangers hiked with him to his car. Resources were clear at 5:50 p.m.

**Town of Russia Herkimer County Ice Rescue:** On Jan. 13, at 11:30 a.m., Forest Ranger Bills responded to a report of a dog



*Ranger Bills during Hinckley Reservoir rescue*

that had fallen through the ice and a subject still on the ice at Hinkley Reservoir. The dog's owner, a 59-year-old from Cold Brook, saw his dog fall through the ice and went after the dog in a kayak, which then overturned. When Ranger Bills arrived, a 42-year-old Samaritan from Cold Harbor had rescued the dog in a second kayak. The man was nearby and had seen the dog and his owner before grabbing a kayak and rope to pull the dog's owner to shore before going back to get the dog. Once the Good Samaritan had the dog in the kayak, he was so cold he couldn't move. Ranger Bills put on ice rescue gear, brought a personal flotation device to the rescuer, and hooked a rope onto the kayak. Newport Fire Department and New York State Fire brought in water technicians and a rescue boat. Rescue crews pulled the second kayak safely ashore with the subject and the dog. Resources were clear at 12:30 p.m. Also assisting in the rescue were the Barneveld and Poland Fire Departments.

**Town of North Elba Essex County Wilderness Rescue:** On Jan. 13 at 9 p.m., Ray Brook Dispatch received a call from a hiker who had fallen into the water approximately 2.7 miles from the Northville-Placid trailhead. The 26-year-old from Brooklyn was able to get out of the water and back on the trail but was too cold to continue moving. At 9:42 p.m., Forest Rangers Corey, DuChene, and Rooney reached the hiker, warmed him, and helped him back to the trailhead.

Be sure to properly prepare and plan before entering the backcountry. Visit DEC's Hike Smart NY, Adirondack Backcountry Information, and Catskill Backcountry Information webpages for more information.



If a person needs a Forest Ranger, whether it's for a search and rescue, to report a wildfire, or to report illegal activity on state lands and easements, they should call 833-NYS-RANGERS. If a person needs urgent assistance, they can call 911. To contact a Forest Ranger for information about a specific location, the DEC website has phone numbers for every Ranger listed by region.

Ice Safety Guidelines before Heading Out  
<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2024/1/dec-encourages-anglers-to-safely-enjoy-ice-fishing-this-winter>



## Sullivan 180 to Host Upcoming Trainings on Vaping Prevention

[Liberty, NY] Sullivan 180 will be holding two trainings for individuals to become facilitators of the evidence-based CATCH My Breath Youth Vaping Prevention Program. The trainings will take place on February 16th and March 15th from 12:30 - 3:30 pm at the CVI Building in Liberty. Sullivan 180 is seeking school staff, youth workers, and community volunteers who are passionate about community health and are willing to lead this program with young people in school and after-school settings, as well as community youth organizations.

According to the Mid-Hudson Regional Community Health Needs Assessment, Sullivan County suffers from the highest rates of smoking in the Hudson Valley. The average age of a new smoker in New York State is 13 years old. The CATCH My Breath pilot study found that if implemented as intended, roughly 45% of students would NOT try an e-cigarette in a given year. The overall goal of CATCH My Breath is to prevent the initiation of e-cigarette use among students and is designed to help students:

- o Discover that non-use of e-cigarettes is the norm for adolescents
- o Identify reasons why young people might start using e-cigarettes
- o Recognize the subtle, and not so subtle, messages in e-cigarette advertising
- o Practice skills for resisting peer pressure and advertising pressure to use e-cigarettes
- o Decide on their personal reasons not to use e-cigarettes and set goals for future non-use

After completing the training, one trainee from the Boys & Girls Club recommended this training because “[they] are easy to understand and very informative. It gives [educators] a better understanding of how the youth may think when it comes to vaping.” A nurse from Fallsburg Central School District wrote: “Go to this training! The info is important and good to know.”

Adults trained will gain free access to the complete curriculum to guide young people, grades 5 -12, through the program which is known to reduce the chances of youth starting a lifelong addiction to nicotine. Educators will receive CTLE's for completing this training thanks to an agreement with Sullivan BOCES. Partnering organizations including Catholic Charities and Tobacco Free Action Communities Reality Check Program will also be on hand to provide schools with support and additional resources.

Registration for this training is required by contacting Nicole Blais, Sullivan 180 Prevention Coordinator, at 845-295-2684 or [nicole@sullivan180.org](mailto:nicole@sullivan180.org).

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

## Governor Hochul Launches Requests for Proposals Making up to \$950 million Available to Strengthen Access to High Quality Health Care Across NYS

Governor Kathy Hochul today launched a request for proposals making \$950 million in additional state funding available to support projects that will transform and secure New York State's health care delivery system. Administered by the State Department of Health and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program will help to improve patient care by supporting high-quality facilities serving the inpatient, primary care, mental health, substance use disorder and long-term care needs of communities throughout the state.

"New Yorkers deserve access to quality health care and a strong, stable, and equitable health care system," Governor Hochul said. "These grants will pro-

vide critical funding for improvements at hospitals and other facilities throughout our state to ensure they deliver the quality-of-care New Yorkers deserve."

The funding will award projects throughout the state. Interested organizations can find eligibility information through either the New York State Contract Reporter, or within the Grants Gateway.

Three requests for proposals (RFP) were issued, including:

- o Up to \$250 million from Statewide IV to drive transformative health care investments
- o Up to \$650 million to support investments in technology and cybersecurity in health care facilities
- o Up to \$50 million for nursing home innovation projects

The Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program is aimed at supporting efforts to reduce health care costs and improve the health outcomes of New Yorkers by expanding access to inpatient, primary, preventative, and other ambulatory care services as part of regionally integrated health care delivery systems. These funds are also focused on projects which will help ensure the financial sustainability of safety net health care providers, and the preservation or expansion of essential health care services.

The RFPs announced today include funding under the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program IV and the first phase of Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program V. In total, New York State has awarded nearly \$4 billion in total funding through capital programs.

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## Pause the Environmental Review Process, Environmental Leaders Request a Meeting with NYSDOT to Rethink Route 17

*State and federal officials should rethink how to spend earmarked monies on an alternative, sustainable mobility plan for the Route 17 corridor*

Hurleyville, NY - Despite strong local and statewide opposition, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced that they are planning to advance the NYS Route 17 Mobility & Access Improvements Project. Documents cited in the project background reference a \$1 billion proposal to expand Route 17 in both directions in Orange and Sullivan Counties - a move that will run afoul of state and federal climate laws, increase climate and air pollution, expand sprawl, contradicts documented transit/transportation needs in the area, and will fail to address their stated goal of reducing traffic congestion. The DOT and FHWA are holding a public information session on January 17, 2024 to unveil their next steps and gather public input.

A diverse group of local, state and national groups, representing thousands of New Yorkers and regional residents is calling for a meeting with transportation officials to rethink the transportation future for the Route 17 corridor before commencing any official environmental review. The organizations-including Catskill Mountainkeeper, Orange Environment, Earthjustice, Regional Plan Association, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Sustainable Hudson Valley-are putting forward an alternative transportation vision for the Route 17 corridor that meets the state's climate obligations, creates needed jobs, and supports sustainable economic development for the Catskills/Lower Hudson region.

"New York State should not move forward with the outdated, \$1 billion proposal to widen Route 17 in Orange and Sullivan Counties. We call on our transportation agencies to hold off on initiating any official review process under federal law until they've developed a plan that will address the real transportation needs of this region - and with without increasing climate pollution, jeopardizing our natural resources and spurring reliance on single-occupancy vehicles," said Ramsay Adams, Catskill Mountainkeeper's Executive Director.

"Right now, the state and federal governments are proposing to begin the official environmental review process for their misguided plan in January. We're calling on them to instead stop and develop an alternative approach that considers the real needs of our region's residents," said Michael Edelstein of Orange Environment. "There's a billion dollar opportunity on the table to rethink how transportation works here in Orange and Sullivan counties. We don't need wider highways that will only increase the number of cars on the road and cause more congestion and air pollution. We need local and regional transit options that serve our neighbors who don't have a car, make our roads more climate-resilient, and not unfairly burden disadvantaged communities along the Rt 17 corridor."

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In a previous letter to the state and federal agencies about the Route 17 plan, the groups cited three major problems:

- o Expanding the highway will not solve any existing, limited traffic problems. Instead, repeated transportation studies across the country have documented that while adding additional lanes might bring some short-term relief, it very often increases traffic congestion over the longer-term due to so-called "induced demand."

- o Largely because of this induced growth, expanding Route 17 will increase greenhouse gas emissions. Remarkably, without any support to their claims, DOT suggests that expanding Route 17 would somehow reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An initial analysis finds that the proposal to expand Route 17 would induce hundreds of millions of vehicle miles traveled per year-with a total increase of as much as 2 million tons of greenhouse gas pollution (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e) through 2050. This pollution increase is inconsistent with the mandates of the New York State's landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) as well as national, climate-related transportation policies including the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

- o Widening Route 17 will pose other environmental threats to the region, unnecessarily paving over existing greenspace and slicing through nationally and regionally significant natural areas along the corridor-including the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, the Shawangunk Mountains, and the Neversink River basin.

By taking the time to pause the environmental review process and instead solidify a better path forward for the Route 17 corridor that centers these communities' needs for better local transportation, job creation and economic growth, and environmental protection and climate mitigation, we can address each of these original concerns and make some real improvements in the region. We are deeply committed to rethinking Route 17 and are hopeful NYSDOT will be an eager and active partner in this visioning process.



# ANGER MANAGEMENT

**Mark your calendars! The course will run from Thursday, January 18, 2024, to Thursday, February 29, 2024. Class starts at 10:00 AM and ends at 12:00 PM.**

**Join us for this six-week course, which will provide you with effective tools for managing your anger. Learn how to identify anger re-activators and gain valuable tips to help you stay calm and in control.**

**For more information**

**and to register :**

**845-794-4228**

**[www.atitoday.org](http://www.atitoday.org)**

**[ati@atitoday.org](mailto:ati@atitoday.org)**



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JAN – FEB 2024



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**Children of All Ages**

- |   |                                   |  |  |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Read a book for 30 minutes              | Read a magazine                   | Take a walk  | Read aloud to someone                    | Read a book with a one word title       |
| Recommend a book to a friend            | Check out a picture book          | Read a new author  | Visit the library's website              | Read book 1 of a series                 |
| Work on our library puzzle              | Read a book with a blue cover     | Sign up for a DPL library card. Free space if you have a card. | Read a book under 200 pages              | Checkout a cookbook                     |
| Read a book from the year you were born | Recommend the library to a friend | Read a book with pictures                                      | Read a book with "winter" in the title   | A book less than 150 pages              |
| Read a book suggested by a friend       | Read a graphic novel              | Read a book that has won an award                              | Use our catalog and place a book on hold | Read a book with an animal on the cover |

Get your reading logs and bingo sheets here!

<https://danielpiercelibrary.org/Pages/Index/228365/winter-reading-challenge>



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CONTACT FOR TICKETS:  
RYAN BOLLIN 845.399.6703 - CLUB PRESIDENT  
ERIC AKERLEY 845.707.1483 - CLUB MEMBER

WINNER WILL BE CONTACTED BY PHONE WHEN TICKET SALES HAVE RUN OUT

## DEC Advises Backcountry Visitors of Winter Conditions in the Adirondacks and Catskills

Unpredictable winter weather and recent storms in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and other backcountry areas, are creating variable conditions, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today. Visitors should be prepared with proper clothing and equipment for snow, ice, and cold to ensure a safe winter experience.

“Winter conditions in New York's backcountry areas include beautiful, unpredictable, and sometimes treacherous weather,” Commissioner Seggos said. “While DEC encourages recreation year-round on State Forest Preserve lands, visitors are advised to pay careful attention to forecasted conditions when adventuring outdoors. Conditions can vary wildly across the state, as well as with elevation change, such as in the Adirondacks High Peaks region and the Catskills, where pleasant trailhead conditions can quickly shift into wet or frozen terrain as hikers advance up the trail.”

Snow depths range greatly throughout the Adirondacks, with the deepest snow at higher elevations in the High Peaks region and other mountains over 3,000 feet. Lower elevation trails have mixed conditions of snow, ice, and slush, including many of the Catskill Mountains where the potential for icy trail conditions exist.

DEC recommends visitors to the backcountry carry snowshoes and trekking poles and use them when snow depths warrant. Snowshoes or skis ease travel on snow and prevent “post holing,” which can ruin trails and cause sudden falls resulting in injuries. Crampons or other traction devices should be carried for use on icy portions of the trails including summits and other exposed areas. An ice axe may be necessary above tree line in the High Peaks. Forest Rangers strongly advise that current trail conditions will make travel without properly fitting traction devices extremely difficult. Check out DEC's Winter Hiking Safety webpage for further details on traction devices.

Some seasonal access roads remain road open. However, the use of four-wheel drive vehicles is strongly recommended. Some seasonal access roads have transitioned to snowmobile use. Check local club, county, and state webpages and resources, including the NYSSA Snowmobile Web map, for up-to-date snowmobile trail information.

While ice is beginning to form on some waterways, DEC advises outdoor enthusiasts to review ice safety guidelines before heading out.

In addition, backcountry visitors should Hike Smart and follow these safety guidelines:

- o Check weather before entering the woods. If extreme cold is predicted or the weather is poor, postpone the trip.
- o Be aware of weather conditions at all times and if the weather worsens, head out of the woods.
- o Dress properly in layers of clothing made of wool, fleece, and other materials that wick moisture (not cotton), including a wool or fleece hat, gloves or mittens, wind/rain resistant outerwear, and winter boots. Learn how to layer for a cold weather hike on DEC's YouTube page.
- o Carry a day pack with the following: ice axe, food and water, extra clothing, map and compass, first-aid kit, flashlight/head-

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|-------|--|-----------|
|       | Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan | 1.7 Miles |
| ←     | Turn LEFT onto Monument Road                 |           |
|       | Continue onto NY-28A West                    | 1.8 Miles |
| ←     | Turn LEFT onto NY-213                        | 1.1 Miles |
| →     | Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A         | 0.8 Miles |
|       | Gun Shop on LEFT                             |           |
| <hr/> |  |           |
|       | Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge    |           |
|       | -Going Towards Olivebridge                   | 7.5 Miles |
| ←     | Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A      | 0.8 Miles |
|       | Gun Shop on LEFT                             |           |

### Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge Every Tuesday at 7 PM 46 North Street in Monticello For information contact

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

lamp, sunglasses, sunblock protection, ensolite pads, stove and extra fuel, and bivy sack or space blankets. Hypothermia can kill even when temperatures are above freezing. A tiny emergency “space blanket” can save your life.

- o Carry plenty of food and water. Eat, drink, and rest often. Being tired, hungry, or dehydrated makes outdoor adventurers more susceptible to hypothermia.

- o Know the terrain and physical capabilities. Remember that it takes more time and energy to travel through snow.

- o Never travel alone and always inform someone of the intended route and return time.

Visit DEC's Winter Hiking Safety webpage for information, resources, and videos on hiking safely in the winter.

Traveling through snow takes more energy and time than hiking the same distance, especially in freshly fallen snow. Plan trips accordingly. In an emergency call 911. To request Forest Ranger assistance, call 1-833-NYS-RANGERS.

DEC's Adirondack Backcountry Information <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hiking/adirondack-backcountry> and Catskill Backcountry Information <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hiking/catskill-backcountry-information>

web pages provide current trail conditions and other important information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable backcountry winter experience.

## DEC Forest Rangers - Week in Review Recent Statewide Forest Ranger Actions

On Jan. 6 at 2:45 p.m., a subject walking his dog called 911 after seeing two ice fishermen fall through the ice on Basswood Pond. Forest Ranger Laymon was at the Jacobs Road trailhead one minute away from the pond. Ranger Laymon saw one of the men treading water, but lost sight of the other.

The ice was approximately one-inch thick, unsafe for fishing.

The Ranger entered the ice, crawled toward the 42-year-old from Richfield Springs, and used a throw bag to help the subject out of the water. The subject grabbed the rope and Ranger Laymon pulled him onto a sled. At 2:55 p.m., the Ranger pulled the sled to shore where he was



*Thin ice at Basswood Pond*

met by members of the Edmeston Fire Department, who used their truck to start the drying and warming process to help the subject suffering from hypothermia. Ranger Laymon headed back to the ice to search for the second man, the first subject's brother. At 3:05 p.m., Ranger Laymon located the 41-year-old from Richfield Springs in seven to eight feet of water. New York State Police, Otsego County Emergency Services, and Edmeston, Fly Creek, Schuyler Lake, and West Edmeston volunteer fire departments helped pull Ranger Laymon and the submerged man out of the water and onto shore. At 3:23 p.m., the subject was transferred



*Ranger Laymon during an ice rescue in Basswood Pond*

to EMTs who began CPR. Both subjects were taken to the hospital. The first was treated and released. The second subject was declared deceased by the hospital later that night.

Video of the rescue effort is available to download (16 MB).

Information about ice safety is available on DEC's website <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/ice-fishing>

## DEC Encourages Anglers to Safely Enjoy Ice Fishing this Winter

*Fishers Advised to Review Ice Safety Guidelines  
before Heading Out*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today reminded anglers to be safe when venturing onto the ice this season, especially given recent

variations in weather conditions. Outdoor enthusiasts considering ice fishing this winter season should be aware of essential safety guidelines during ice fishing season and anglers should make sure the ice is thick enough before venturing out.

"Winter in New York provides outdoor adventurers with some of the very best opportunities to enjoy New York's natural resources," Commissioner Seggos said. "While 2023 was the warmest year on record and the start of the current winter season has been fairly mild, as temperatures drop conditions are improving for activities like ice fishing. However, even as it gets colder, wintertime anglers need to exercise extreme caution and always put safety first when heading out onto the ice for fishing."

Before leaving shore, ice anglers are advised to check the thickness of ice. Four inches of solid, clear ice is usually safe for anglers accessing ice on foot. However, ice thickness can vary between waterbodies and even within the same waterbody, increasing the need to ensure thickness. Anglers should be particularly cautious of areas of moving water and around boat docks and houses where bubblers may be installed to reduce ice from forming. Checking the ice can easily be done with an auger or spud bar at various spots. Local bait and tackle shops are a great source for finding out where there is safe ice and what anglers are catching. In addition, fishing with family and friends is also encouraged for safety.

Those interested in trying ice fishing for the first time should mark the weekend of Feb. 17-18 on their calendars. As a designated free freshwater fishing weekend, the need for a freshwater fishing license is waived during these days. This free fishing weekend is also a great opportunity for experienced anglers to introduce someone new to fishing.

For some fish species, ice fishing can be more productive than open-water fishing. Given good ice conditions, anglers normally limited to shore fishing can access an entire waterbody. Beginning ice anglers can download the Ice Fishing Chapter of DEC's I FISH NY Beginners Guide to Freshwater Fishing for helpful information on how to get started.

For a more interactive option, DEC released a series of six ice fishing videos on the agency's YouTube channel. Visit the playlist to check out the brief instructional videos. Additional information, including a list of waters open to ice fishing, can be found on the DEC ice fishing webpage, and also through the new Tackle Box feature in DEC's HuntFishNY app. With the app, fishing regulations, access information, fish species present, and more can be accessed from a map-based interface, all from the convenience of a smart phone.

The use of bait fish is popular when ice fishing and may be used in most, but not all, waters open to ice fishing. For more information on bait fish regulations visit DEC's website. To protect New York's waters from invasive species and the spread of fish diseases, anglers are advised to take these critical steps when using baitfish while ice fishing:

- o Review and follow DEC baitfish regulations;
- o Ensure the use of baitfish is permitted in the waterbody by checking the special 'regulations by county' section of the fishing regulations guide;
- o Use only certified, disease-free bait fish purchased from a local tackle store (buyers must retain the receipt provided to them while in possession of the baitfish);
- o Personally collected bait fish may only be used in the same waterbody from which they were caught; and
- o Dump unused baitfish and water in an appropriate location on dry land.

Know before you go! The location and type of waterbody matters when it comes to ice safety.

DEC reminds anglers to make sure that they have a valid fishing license before heading out on the ice. Fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

# Spring 2024 Special Topics Course: **Creating & Activating Public Spaces**




**Are you interested in parks or public spaces? Want to know how these places can improve the health of your community? Looking to explore more of Sullivan County?**

Consider taking HUM1350 this spring, which will introduce students to the importance of public spaces for community health and wellness; careers and opportunities associated with caring for public spaces, facilities and grounds, parks and main streets; an understanding of the effort to engage citizens in creating public spaces.

**HUM1350 • 3 Credits**  
**Tuesdays 1 PM - 3:40 PM**  
**Main Campus, G120**  
Instructor: Shannan Cilento, AICP  
Community Development &  
Communications Manager, Sullivan 180

To register or for more details, scan the QR code.



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Please be advised that due to the cost of the rising food prices, we need to increase the prices of our monthly Pancake Breakfasts for 2024 year. **\*\*\*This will go into effect at the February 18th breakfast.\*\*\***

### **The new 2024 prices will be:**

Adults: \$13

Senior Citizens (age 65 +) : \$11

Children ages 5-11: \$5

Children under 5 yrs: Free

Take-outs: \$13

We are sorry for any inconveniences! Thank you for your continued support of our Volunteer Fire Department!

Sincerely,

The members of the Claryville Volunteer Fire Department



Sundown  
United  
Methodist  
Church



February 3, 2023

5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share  
Enjoy good food and fellowship

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

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

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

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# COMMUNITY TAKEOUT CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday, May 18, 2024  
4 to 6 p.m.

Museum and Library Parking Lot  
332 Main Street, Grahamsville

*Supports the  
Time and the Valleys Museum's  
Educational Programs*



Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville NY 12740  
845 985-7700 [info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org](mailto:info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org)

# Governor Hochul Updates New Yorkers on State Plans for the April 2024 Total Solar Eclipse The First Total Eclipse Over New York State in 99 Years

- *Nearly Two Dozen State Agencies and Authorities Have Been Working with Local Governments to Ensure a Safe and Enjoyable Experience*
- *Path of Totality Will Traverse 29 Counties, The Rest of the State Will See 88 Percent to Over 99 Percent Coverage*

With less than 100 days to go before the State's first total eclipse in nearly a century, Governor Kathy Hochul today updated New Yorkers and the State's expected hundreds of thousands of visitors on its plans to ensure a safe, enjoyable and awe-inspiring experience.

"Whether you live in New York or are visiting to witness this generational spectacle, ensuring everyone can take in this year's eclipse safely is our top priority," Governor Hochul said. "I encourage everyone to keep safety in mind so that all can savor this experience and make memories to last a lifetime. Come for the eclipse, but stay for New York and enjoy all our great state has to offer."

During the afternoon of April 8, 2024, a total eclipse will encompass the western and northern parts of New York State. In less than 15 minutes within a 3:15 to 3:30 window, the moon will pass between the earth and sun, turning day into night for 1 \_ minutes to 3 \_ minutes. The roughly 100-mile wide path of totality will enter in the southwestern part of the state at just after 3:15 PM, and will depart northern New York just before 3:30. Cities and towns within this path include Jamestown, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Watertown, Old Forge, Lake Placid and Plattsburgh. The entire event will last for up to 2 \_ hours, marking the time the sun is first obstructed to the last moments when the moon's shadow is cast.

For other areas of the state that are outside the path, there will still be quite a celestial spectacle. The minimum coverage in the state will be on Long Island, with the sun being shadowed at 88 percent there. New York City will see 89 percent coverage with 96 percent in the Capital Region.

For the last 15 months, an interagency task force, comprised of nearly two dozen state agencies and authorities, has been collaborating on plans to ensure a safe and memorable viewing experience for New York State's residents and visitors. It is focused on building awareness of the State as a prime location to experience

the eclipse by gathering important safety and preparedness information, amplifying and supporting region-specific viewing activities, and maintaining regular communication with local governments and municipalities, especially those within the path of totality. New York's public safety efforts align with the State's normal jurisdictional role over State parks and State roads and support to local governments in their planning and decision making in accordance with their own codes, laws and needs as this exciting event approaches.

Public safety challenges for such an event include traffic management, communications capabilities and public health and safety. State, county and local public safety and emergency management efforts have been and will continue to be tailored to the anticipated needs from an influx of those who come to view the eclipse from both inside and outside the state.

The state's goals surrounding the eclipse are to provide a safe, fun and enjoyable experience from start to finish. Alongside the focus on public safety is the promotion of New York State as an eclipse vacation destination. With so much to do and see in the path of totality, New York State and I LOVE NY are encouraging eclipse viewers to extend an eclipse viewing trip into a full vacation for a more enjoyable experience all around - including avoiding post-event traffic, like the massive backups after the Great Eclipse of 2017, which bisected the United States from Oregon to South Carolina.

April 8, 2024-and the days leading up to and following-mark an important opportunity to showcase New York State's splendor from its parks and attractions to its quaint towns and landscapes. I LOVE NY has launched the multi-platform "Come for the Eclipse, Stay for New York" campaign to present New York as THE place to be to witness this event. The campaign and a special eclipse website highlight viewing location information in the five regions that will experience the path of totality, a variety of attractions and special eclipse-related events happening across the state, and safety best practices across digital platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and Twitter/X, email newsletters, and digital displays in various highly trafficked locations across the state such as the Moynihan Train Hall and regional welcome centers. The website also includes resources for educators, families and kids, along with photos and frequently asked questions about solar eclipses. Visitors can download a special edition eclipse poster, created through an I LOVE NY partnership with acclaimed artist and professional astronomer Dr. Tyler Nordgren to help promote and commemorate the eclipse.

As this once-in-a-lifetime event approaches, meetings and briefings will continue with agencies and governments across the state to continue preparation. In addition, the Governor's office will be providing updates on relevant milestones and features to keep New Yorkers and its visitors informed on how to best prepare, be safe and enjoy the eclipse.

(Cont. Pg 47)

# Governor Hochul Updates New Yorkers on State Plans for the April 2024 Total Solar Eclipse The First Total Eclipse Over New York State in 99 Years

(From Pg. 46)

**New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Jackie Bray** said, "It's been nearly 100 years since New York last experienced a total solar eclipse and thankfully we will not have to wait much longer. With our state so uniquely positioned to view this celestial wonder, people from around the country will be flocking to New York to see it for themselves and we will be ready. As April 8 quickly approaches, we will continue to work hand in glove with our local partners to ensure it will be a safe and enjoyable experience for all."

**Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight** said, "The 2024 total solar eclipse will provide a historic opportunity for residents and visitors to experience this natural phenomena in several New York State communities. Under Governor Hochul's leadership, the state's tourism industry has generated record-breaking visitation, visitor spending and economic impact. This once-in-a-lifetime event offers a chance to invite even more travelers to experience New York's diverse regions, and support the communities and small businesses that make them unique."

**New York State Police Acting Superintendent Dominick L. Chimento** said, "The New York State Police is working closely with our local and state partners preparing for any potential increase in traffic and large gatherings that the eclipse may bring. We are making preparations to ensure the safety of the motoring public, including deploying additional troopers as needed. We also remind the public to watch the eclipse from designated viewing areas and to avoid stopping on controlled access highways unless there is an emergency. The New York State Police wants everyone to safely enjoy this rare event."

**New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez** said, "New York is well known for its natural beauty and majesty, so it is fitting that it will be front and center for this celestial spectacle. With the possibility of hundreds of thousands of people coming in for the event, the Department of Transportation's top priority is the safety of the traveling public during this time. We will be closely monitoring the roads in our Transportation Management Centers located across the State of New York for faster identification and response to incidents, as well as sending addi-

tional HELP vehicles to assist disabled motorists. NYS-DOT will consistently be communicating and updating drivers through 511NY, social media, and our Variable Message Signs to keep the public informed. We will also be working closely with our agency partners - state and local police, the New York State Thruway and other entities to help move people safely to and from their destinations. Those attending should also consider taking Amtrak, which provides passenger train service to the North Country as well as Buffalo. I urge all travelers to plan ahead; arrive early, stay late, and enjoy all that New York has to offer."

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos** said, "Viewing a total solar eclipse from our own backyards, neighborhood parks, and green spaces will provide upstate New Yorkers a once-in-a-lifetime, front-row seat to one of the most captivating natural wonders on our planet. DEC is proud to be partnering with our fellow state agencies to celebrate this rare celestial event and encourages those viewing the eclipse across our state to do so safely, observing all safety rules and regulations, and to be respectful of others and our shared environment at all times."

**New York State Parks Commissioner Erik Kulleseid** said, "We are so excited have the total solar eclipse line up as part of our Centennial celebration. Within days of announcing several parks along its path would open early, reservations filled up for campgrounds, cottages and cabins. We expect an influx of visitors headed to several regions across New York State to witness this extraordinary cosmic event."

**New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald** said, "While New Yorkers and visitors alike prepare to enjoy what promises to be a memorable event, it is important to keep health and safety in mind. In particular, take precautions to prevent solar retinopathy and wear an appropriate solar filter, like eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewers. We are excited to be collaborating with our state and local partners to help make this once-in-a-generation eclipse a safe and wonderful experience for all who observe it."

**New York State Department of Public Service Chair Rory M. Christian** said, "As the regulator of the state's electric grid, we have been working closely with New York's utilities since early last year regarding utility preparations and pre-event actions that will be taken to ensure utilities are able to maintain safe and reliable services as well as implement any contingency plans necessary to respond to emergent situations during a period of high traffic and potential congestion on roadways in Western and Upstate New York. As a member of the NYS Solar Eclipse Task Force created by Governor Hochul, we are confident that all possible contingency planning has been taken, and we look forward to joining New York as we enjoy this outstanding natural event."



# ELEMENTARY SOCIAL SKILLS

Registration is open for Grades K-5.

Action Toward Independence offers fun and interactive Social Skills groups for children with Autism and other developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities. These informative sessions cover topics that promote positive behavior, improve interactions with others and build confidence.

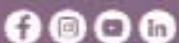
- Manners
- Listening
- Hygiene
- Emotions

Social skills classes will be held in person at ATI Main Office at 309 E Broadway in Monticello, NY. Parents may be required to attend some sessions with their child to offer guidance and support.

*Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.*

Visit our website at

[atitoday.org](http://atitoday.org)



SCAN ME!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Family Peer Advocate**

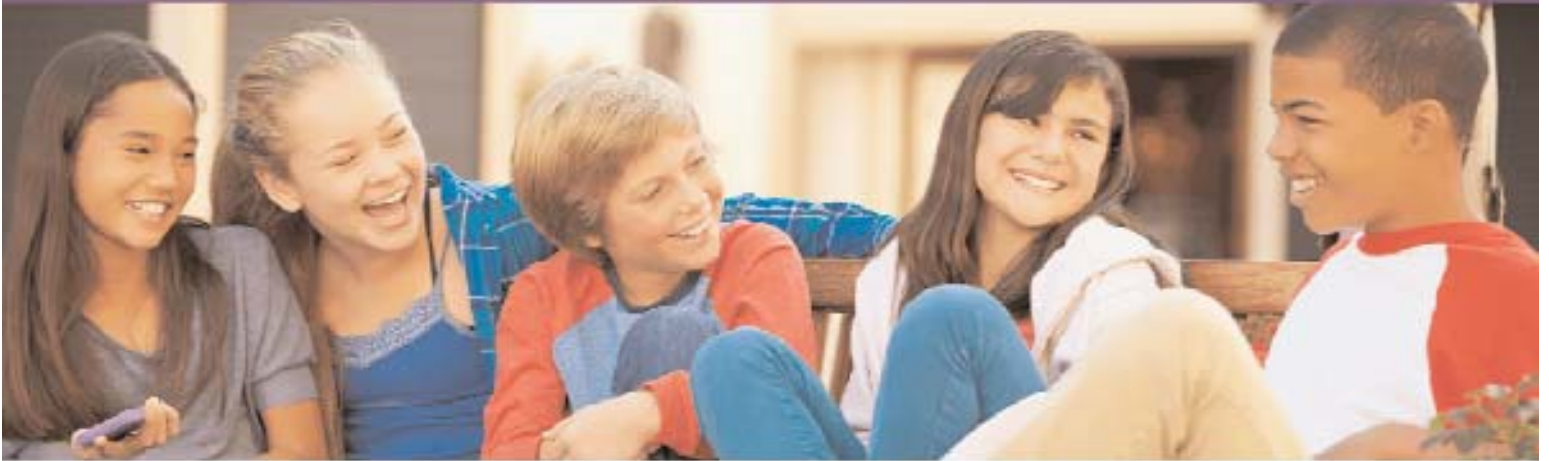
**(845) 794-4228**

**[info@atitoday.org](mailto:info@atitoday.org)**





# Middle School Social Skills



Action Toward Independence offers interactive and fun Social Skills groups for children with developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities grades 5 - 8.

The informative sessions cover age-appropriate topics for pre-teens and teens that promote positive behavior, respectful communication, and building confidence.

Social skills classes will be held in person at ATI Main Office at 309 E Broadway in Monticello, NY

**For more information:**  
Family Peer Advocate  
(845) 794 - 4228  
info@atitoday.org

*Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.*

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SCAN ME!



# SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



## NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE 0 (IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

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

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

### More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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

*For any other questions  
845.798.2077 [nickneedsokidney@gmail.com](mailto:nickneedsokidney@gmail.com)*

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



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PFC JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS  
PEER SUPPORT PROJECT**

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**VETERANS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES ARE WELCOMED**

**ALL ANIMALS ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT  
MUST BE ON A LEASH.**

For more information, or to register,  
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or email [smurphy@atitoday.org](mailto:smurphy@atitoday.org)

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**STARTS JANUARY  
2024!**

Are You Ready?



# *Life Skills Group*

## **WORK READINESS EDITION**

This series is tailored for 16 to 25-year-olds with developmental, learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities. It helps prepare individuals for the workforce by developing skills such as appropriate workplace behavior, social etiquette, time management, and interview techniques. Other topics include wearing proper clothing and using social cues, such as a good handshake.

**Every Friday from 5:00pm to 6:15pm**

**309 East Broadway**

**Monticello, NY 12701**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

(845) 794-4228

info@atitoday.org



**SCAN ME!**

*Funding is provided by OPWDD. There is no cost to the student or family of students on the Autism Spectrum who receive or are eligible to receive OPWDD services.*

Visit our website at

**atitoday.org**





With my first week back down in Washington, D.C. in 2024 in the books, I wanted to give you an update on how I've been fighting for Hudson Valley priorities.

### **CALLING FOR A LASTING PEACE**

Heart wrenching. The devastation that we've witnessed on October 7th and every single day since has been absolutely heart wrenching.

The people of Israel and Palestine have suffered incalculable tragedy and they both deserve a lasting peace.

That requires more than returning to the status quo of October 6th. A permanent peace for all people required preventing Hamas from regrouping, siphoning off humanitarian aid, exploiting Palestinian civilians, and repeating the horrors of Oct 7 as it has promised to do. Both Palestinians and Israelis deserve to be free from Hamas' terror.

I joined with colleagues in a letter to Secretary of State Blinken demanding Hamas' immediate surrender so that the building of a lasting peace and the rebuilding of Gaza can begin.

Please know that I hear you, I hear the cries of Israelis and Palestinians, and I will continue to work towards a lasting peace. Below is the letter, as well as my previous call for a lasting peace:

### **FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION**

The MTA's congestion pricing plan is unfair, uninformed, and unacceptable for Hudson Valley families. The MTA has failed to provide viable public transportation options for our community and, without allowing us to provide public feedback, is now putting some in our community at risk of paying up to \$5,000 per year to travel to work in NYC.

I'm demanding the MTA hold in-person hearings in the Hudson Valley to hear from the working class families whose opinions it has long ignored.

Hudson Valley families already don't get the service they pay for - we won't continue to subsidize New York City with nothing in return.

### **BRINGING MY OFFICE TO YOU**

Every Hudson Valley family deserves the direct assistance they need, right where they're at. The C.A.R.E.S. Van is on its way to every one of NY18's municipalities to bring assistance with federal agencies right to your neighborhood.

This past week, the C.A.R.E.S. Van made its first visits of 2024. This Wednesday, the Van is bringing assistance with everything from VA benefits to passports to multiple stops in Orange County. Thursday it will head over to the American Legion Post in Wingdale. Hope my team will see you there!

### **MAKING WATCHING THE BIG GAME MORE AFFORDABLE**

Have you ever gotten your friends together, bought the chips and salsa, put on your jersey, and sat down to watch the big game only to find out you still have to pay for it, on top of the cable and streaming services you already pay for?

It's a sports blackout, and cable providers, streaming services, and sports organization owners rake in the profits from these surprise add on fees. This past weekend's Dolphins-Chiefs game was one, with NBC requiring football and Taylor Swift fans

alike to shell out extra just to watch the game on Peacock.

How much more profit do Goodell and NBC need to make at the expense of hard working Americans? I'm demanding the NFL and NBC Sports end this Peacock bait-and-switch BS and offer the Dolphins-Chiefs game on TV.

### **COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE**

This past Monday marked 13 years since six lives were stolen when a gunman targeted former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords while she was meeting with constituents in Tucson, Arizona in 2011.

Her resilience, spirit, determination to save lives, and fierce advocacy in the years since are truly inspiring.

The day served as a reminder that we must come together to end political violence and continue to fight for the common sense gun reform that Gabby Giffords has now dedicated herself to.

### **WORKING FOR SAFER WATERWAYS**

Low-head dams in our waterways can create dangerous recirculating currents that can drag and trap swimmers, kayakers, and water recreationalists underwater.

However, recreationalists might not be aware of the presence of these hazardous dams, often referred to as "drowning machines" - currently there is no national inventory to track their location and condition.

This week, I was proud to join colleagues in introducing the bipartisan Low-Head Dam Inventory Act to require a national inventory of low-head dams and help keep Hudson Valley families safe.

### **MOURNING WITH KINGSTON**

This week, the Kingston community suffered an absolute tragedy.

Our hearts are with the families and friends of Dillon Gokey and Jack Noble and thoughts are with Joseph Sepesi for a full recovery.

Rebecca and I are here to provide any support you may need during this heartbreaking time.

### **THANKING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Our law enforcement officers undertake great risks to keep our families safe, and this past Tuesday, we celebrated our dedicated officers with National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

From securing funding for Ulster County's ORACLE team to bolstering Middletown Police Department's security technology, I'm fighting for the resources our law enforcement officers need and deserve every day!

### **UPLIFTING COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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

I couldn't agree more. Martin Luther King, Jr. this upcoming Monday is recognized as a National Day of Service.

### **PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY**

Last week marked three years since the attack on the Capitol and our democracy on January 6th.

As a West Point cadet and again as a member of Congress, I swore an oath to support and defend our Constitution against all enemies - foreign and domestic.

When an insurrectionist mob attacked our Capitol at the direction of Donald Trump, our democracy held because of the brave American patriots who put country over self, who valued our Constitution as sacred. We are forever indebted to Capitol Police, MPD, and all others who undertook heroic actions on January 6th. (Contd. Pg. 54)



## Pat Ryan

(From Pg. 53)

But all those who love our country and believe in our founding values must be clear-eyed about the grave threat that the far-right MAGA movement continues to pose to our democracy. Donald Trump is openly bragging that he'd be a dictator if elected President. Speaker Mike Johnson was the mastermind of Trump's plot to overturn the election, and has spent his life working to strip away rights from the LGBTQ community. An increasingly radical Supreme Court is dead set on attacking this country's foundational freedoms, including a woman's right to choose.

Democracy is not a given. We must actively work to protect it. I'll continue to do that every day, and I urge every Patriot to join me in the fight.

### CONGRATULATING A NEW COMMAND

Congratulations to Col. Ryan Dannemann for assuming command of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air Base last weekend!

Thank you to Brig. Gen. Gary Charlton for your leadership at the Base since 2022.

Glad my staffer, Joe, attended the ceremony to help celebrate.

### SUPPORTING HUDSON VALLEY DAIRY FARMERS

This past Thursday was National Milk Day!

Thank you to NY-18 dairy farmers for working day in and day out to provide the nutrient rich milk that our kids need to grow up strong and healthy. Here's how I'm fighting for you in Congress:

### GRANTS CORNER NEW!

The Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program provides critical funding to strengthen volunteer fire departments and districts statewide. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$1,000,000 if proposing projects for construction, renovation, or purchase costs for critical facilities (buildings, training facilities, etc.) that support fire operations, or up to \$500,000 if proposing projects for allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve their response capabilities. Application due April 30. See the following for more information and resources: Request for Applications (RFA), Application Worksheet, Frequently Asked Questions, E-Grants Tutorial

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) provides support to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. The FY 2023 AFG application period is expected to run Jan. 29 through March 8, 2024. The

AFG Program will conduct application development workshop webinars for the 2023 AFG starting on Jan. 8, 2024.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Specialty Crop Block Grant program is now accepting proposals for projects that work towards the following outcomes: improved pest and disease control, develop new seed varieties and specialty crops, expand specialty crop research and development, and improve environmental sustainability of specialty crops. The potential grant award was recently increased to \$250,000. Learn more about this grant and others here .

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications on a rolling basis for \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available through its Community Change Grants Program to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy. This opportunity will be available for a year, closing on November 21, 2024, and EPA will review applications on a rolling basis. This allows applicants to utilize technical assistance and possibly resubmit a new application if not initially selected. EPA encourages applicants to apply as early as possible.

New York was awarded \$13.5 million from the Inflation Reduction Act's Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program. This grant program is designed to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces in urban and community forests to support building a clean energy economy, advance environmental justice, and create economic opportunity. All projects must take place in disadvantaged communities as identified by any of three Federal and State tools listed in the Request for Applications (RFA). The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024. Learn more here .

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is now accepting applications for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2024. The popular program helps communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or regional impact. RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the state and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. Application due by February 28, 2024 .

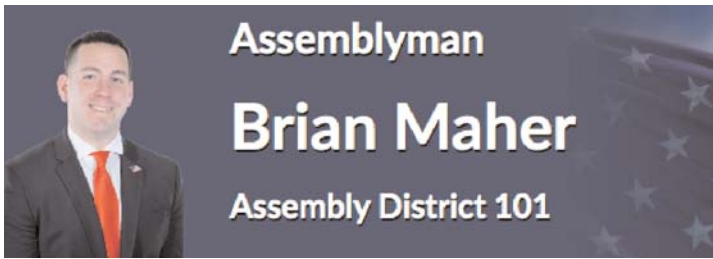
New York State's Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program has announced that \$1 million is available to support community growing spaces and fund projects geared toward the development and enhancement of urban farms, school gardens, and community gardens across the state. Learn more here .

New York State recently announced more than \$60 million in capital grant funding will be available to nonprofit human services organizations through the Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program to support the delivery of critical services to New Yorkers. Eligible nonprofit organizations that provide direct programs and services to New Yorkers may receive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for the completion of small- and large-scale construction projects. Learn more here .

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!



## Maher Hopes to Collaborate on Key Issues

### A statement from Assemblyman Brian Maher (R,C-Walden) on the 2024 State of the State speech

“During the State of the State address, the governor spoke about major investments and policy changes related to housing, crime, mental health and early childhood education. While I have not yet seen the results New Yorkers are looking for on these issues as well as affordability, I will work with anyone from any party to see what type of meaningful difference we can make moving forward.

“I am particularly interested in the \$275 million investment into Empire State AI Consortium that will allow our SUNY and CUNY community colleges and universities to participate in the advancements and applications related to Artificial Intelligence. Ultimately, I look forward to a more detailed report on the governor's many initiatives so my colleagues and I can get to work for our constituents.”

Assemblyman Brian Maher (R,C-Walden) today joined his colleagues to support the newest wave of bipartisan legislation attacking the fentanyl and opioid crisis. The package of bills aims to curb the rising number of overdose deaths in New York.

“The fentanyl crisis has devastated countless New Yorkers, their families and our communities,” said Maher. “As elected officials, we must do more to help our constituents. Supporting this bipartisan legislation is just one small step in our ongoing battle.”

This aggressive legislative package mirrors many of Maher's own bills and seeks to address some of the key issues related to the opioid epidemic, focusing on financial compensation for victims' families, designating Xylazine as a controlled substance, establishing a 'Death by Dealer' statute and allowing prosecutors to seek bail for certain offenses. This package is being presented after an estimated 110,757 individuals lost their lives to drugs in 2022, which equals over 300 lives lost per day.

“In 2022 we experienced over 300 overdose deaths per day nationally. We need to be able to come together on this kind of legislation regardless of what party we belong to,” Maher continued. “Working together with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle is the only way to get things done. I hope when this is taken to the floor everyone can put party politics aside and vote in favor of these potentially life-saving policies.”

“I am thankful our Assemblyman, Brian Maher, has signed onto these bills,” said Jody Nicoli, Founder of the Walden Overdose Memorial and a recovering addict herself. “We need to pass common-sense legislation while continuing to provide essential services within our communities. Compensating victims' families, designating Xylazine as a controlled substance, establishing a Death by Dealer statute and allowing prosecutors to seek bail on certain offenses is essential as we continue to fight this epidemic.”



## Here is my full statement in reaction to Governor Hochul's State of the State address:

Every day I hear from constituents who tell me they are packing their bags and leaving New York, and today's message from the governor will not change any moving plans.

People are struggling to make ends meet, small businesses are overburdened by crushing mandates, and crime continues to rise. The governor's ideas - mobile swimming pools for example - do not address the concerns of those who live and work in the 51st Senate District.


We need to cut taxes on hard pressed New Yorkers, improve economic opportunities, and increase affordability across the board. It is also past time to get a grip on the illegal immigration crisis, another area where the governor has failed.

The governor touted investments in our roads and bridges, but there is much more to be done on that front. I am also in agreement with her when it comes to the need for access to mental health treatment. However, that access needs to be statewide. Many rural areas, like those I represent, have been neglected.

One party rule in Albany has been a disaster and it is time for commonsense bipartisan solutions that will deliver the crucial changes that people deserve. I am pressing for initiatives to cap state spending, end unfunded mandates, halt the failed bail reform experiment, help our farmers, seniors and veterans, and ensure that people are excited about living in our great state.

Budget hearings are right around the corner here at the Capitol. I look forward to fully reviewing the details of the governor's proposals and will work with her when it makes sense for my constituents and oppose her when it does not. pressed

# Veteran Peer Support



**Vet 2 Vet offers  
Veteran Peer Support.  
Call to speak with our Veteran  
Peer Advocates.  
We didn't fight alone while  
we served, we don't need  
to fight alone at home.**

**Vet 2 Vet**



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NEW YORK**

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[vet2vet@atitoday.org](mailto:vet2vet@atitoday.org)

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701





Secretary of Defense Austin Jeopardized Our National Security Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin went AWOL and failed to inform the President, Congress, or the National Security Council about his extended hospitalization, jeopardizing our national security.

Following a complication from a medical procedure, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin was abruptly admitted to the ICU and was unable to discharge the duties of his office. He also failed to properly notify top national security officials, including congressional leadership, the Deputy Defense Secretary, the President, the National Security Advisor, and other members of the National Security Council, about his hospitalization until three days later. It is vital that our nation's national security infrastructure have clear communication, especially during these times of heightened international tensions.

While I am sorry to hear about Secretary Austin's cancer diagnosis and wish him a speedy recovery, his failure to disclose his recent hospitalization jeopardized our national security. The brave service members at Fort Drum, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, and beyond cannot leave without informing their superiors, and neither can Secretary Austin. That's why I sent a letter to Secretary Austin demanding answers for his lack of transparency and DOD policy regarding unreported absences. I remain committed to demanding transparency from the corrupt Biden administration while ensuring the safety and security of our nation.

**READ MORE:** Lloyd Austin hospitalization: House Republicans demand more details as pressure builds on Pentagon <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/lloyd-austin-hospitalization-house-republicans-demand-more-details-pentagon>

**PASSED:** Tenney's Pro-Life Legislation Adopted by Ways and Means Committee

Crisis pregnancy centers play a vital role in delivering crucial medical care, essential supplies, and unwavering support to pregnant women, new mothers, and both their unborn and born babies. The Biden Administration's efforts to divert Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds away from specific crisis pregnancy centers is a direct assault on pro-life institutions and jeopardizes access to invaluable resources for countless women. That's why I led the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act to prohibit the Biden Administration from limiting the ability of states to spend TANF funds on these pregnancy centers. By leading this bill through the Ways and Means committee, I reiterated my commitment to always standing with the unborn while further protecting our country's foundational values of life, individual rights, and freedom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnjvUrEh-Dg>  
Watch my full remarks - click the video above.

### Ensuring American Flags are Produced on American Soil

American Flags flown over our military installations, carried into battle, and draped over the caskets of our servicemembers who have made the ultimate sacrifice should be made in the land they so valiantly defend. The United States should never contribute to offshoring jobs, especially when it comes to purchasing American flags. I am thrilled that my bipartisan amendment, which ensures that only American flags made in the USA are purchased by the Department of Defense, was included in the FY24 NDAA. I will always fight to support American manufacturers, workers and the domestic production of critical goods, including American flags.

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

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

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023. H.R. 788 prohibits government agencies from entering or enforcing any civil settlement agreement that requires the other party to the settlement to make a donation to a third party. For decades, Democratic administrations have used legal settlements to funnel money to their favored partisan political groups. During the Trump administration this practice was terminated, but the Biden administration reversed course and allowed for settlements to be directed to far-left groups once again. H.R. 788 puts an end to this corrupt practice and will ensure that settlements in which the United States is a plaintiff are placed into the Treasury, unless funds are being used to provide restitution, remedy actual harm, or pay for services rendered in connection with the case. This commonsense bill upholds the constitutional responsibilities given to Congress and stops the partisan use of these funds at the expense of the taxpayer. H.R. 788 passed the House by a vote of 211-197.

I voted "Yes" on S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers". On February 21, 2023, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published in the Federal Register a waiver of Buy America requirements for EV chargers. Despite shelling out billions of dollars on grant programs for EV chargers, the Biden administration is pushing a Buy America waiver that would harm domestic manufacturers to the benefit of Chinese producers who dominate the EV charger supply chain. Simply put, this Biden administration rule rewards China's unfair trade practices at the expense of hardworking Americans. S.J. Res. 38 will overturn the Biden administration's misguided rule, protecting American manufacturers and businesses. S.J. Res. 38 passed by a vote of 209-198.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 839, the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act. For decades the People's Republic of China has intentionally devalued its currency to reduce the price of their exports and gain an unfair advantage for their manufacturing industry. This has devastated our own manufacturing industry, resulting in millions of lost jobs and a sever diminishment of our nation's production capacity.

(Contd. Pg. 58)

## This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 57)

To fight against unfair economic practice this bill will require the Treasury Secretary to encourage the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increase transparency and surveillance of China's exchange rate arrangements. It will also make it US policy to advocate for greater consequences for China at the IMF if they continue these unfair practices. As part of China joining the IMF they were required to commit to orderly exchange rates, avoiding exchange rate manipulation, and cooperating with the IMF in providing transparency over their exchange rates policies. It is time we hold them to account over their inability to follow this agreement. H.R. 839 passed the House by a vote of 379-1.

I voted "Yes" on H.J. Res. 98, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status". This bill would overturn the Biden administration's new radical joint-employer rule that will harm small businesses and kill jobs. The rule vastly expands the definition of "joint employer" to include all businesses that share even "indirect" or "potential" control of the employee, even if they do not exercise this control. This rule was initially proposed by the Obama administration, and it raised franchise operational costs by \$33 billion and killed 376,000 jobs in the franchise sector alone. I am glad that the Senate has already passed this critical resolution to overturn the new joint-employer rule and implore the President to sign this bill into law and to stop killing private sector job growth. H.J. Res. 98 passed the House by a vote of 206-177.

### Celebrating National Milk Day



January 11th is National Milk Day, and as one of the largest dairy districts in the Northeast, we take celebrating this day seriously! NY-24 dairy farmers work tirelessly to support our local economy and provide quality dairy products to our community, state, and country. That's why, in Congress, I am working to meet the needs of our dairy farmers. In response to pricing problems and increased consolidation in the dairy industry, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 1756, the Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act of 2023, which returns liquid milk pricing for farmers to the highest of milk prices used for butter and cheese, and requires a report on the margins for dairy producers.

Thank you to all the dairy farmers in our district and across the country!



**Welcome to the Molinaro Memo: catching you up on my latest moves and work for Upstate New York!**

### Visit To The Southern Border

I visited Eagle Pass, Texas where I received briefings from the Texas Department of Public Safety, local sheriffs, and Customs and Border Protection agents. I also visited migrant crossing hotspots and a migrant intake facility. One thing was clear - our system has totally collapsed. To stop fentanyl from reaching our communities and end the migrant crisis in New York, we need border security NOW.



Crime is killing small businesses, workers, and our local economy. I invited Norwich Police Chief Reuben Roach to share experiences from his 20 plus year career in law enforcement & shed light on how crime and policies like bail reform hurt our local small business economy. You can watch the entire hearing here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8AJUmkqPtY>  
(Contd. Pg 59)

## Following Visit to Southern Border, Rep. Molinaro Hosts Emergency Briefing with Local Officials

Binghamton, NY - U.S. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) last night held an emergency briefing for local officials on the border crisis. County Executives and City Mayors in Broome, Chenango, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Sullivan, Tioga, and Tompkins and Ulster Counties were invited to participate in the call.

During the briefing, Rep. Molinaro shared what he learned from his trip to the southern border on the rampant trafficking of drugs like fentanyl, the record breaking number of migrants crossing the border illegally, and the strain these crises have had on local communities and law enforcement. Rep. Molinaro also emphasized the importance of having emergency declarations in place, like the one in place in Broome County, to prevent New York City from bussing more migrants to New York's 19th Congressional District.

Rep. Molinaro said, "Local leaders deserve to know what's actually happening at the border and how it impacts us here. I saw firsthand just how bad the crisis is. There's unfettered fentanyl trafficking, record illegal crossings, and strained communities and law enforcement. We passed legislation in the House that will fix this. Now, we need to acknowledge that we have a bipartisan government and must do the difficult work of finding consensus to get a solution signed into law."

In Case You Missed It:

During Rep. Molinaro's trip he visited a migrant intake facility, received a briefing from the Texas Department of Public Safety and local sheriffs, and visited migrant crossing hotspots.

In Congress, Rep. Molinaro voted to pass a border security and immigration reform bill, joined Congressmen Pat Ryan and Mike Lawler in calling for the President to declare a Federal State of Emergency, and authored and passed bipartisan legislation to prevent Governor Hochul from transforming K-12 schools into migrant shelters.

## Rep. Molinaro Calls for Statewide Campaign to Help Upstate New Yorkers Find Jobs, Following Gov. Hochul's Campaign for Illegal Immigrants

Binghamton, NY - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) today called on Governor Kathy Hochul to launch a statewide campaign to identify job openings for Upstate New Yorkers. In October, Governor Hochul directed the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) to identify businesses that have job openings for illegal immigrants. The NYSDOL conducted an exhaustive search, asking all businesses in New York about potential job openings for illegal immi-

grants, and identified nearly 40,000 job openings.

In a letter to Governor Hochul, Rep. Molinaro called on Governor Hochul to launch a similar campaign, with just as much resources and effort, to help Upstate New York residents find good-paying jobs.

Rep. Molinaro said, "Upstate New York job seekers should come first. If Governor Hochul can have a campaign that identifies thousands of job openings for illegal immigrants, then it's within her authority to launch a similar campaign with just as much resources and effort to help Upstate New Yorkers land a job. When will Albany start paying attention to us?"

In Congress, Rep. Molinaro voted to pass a border security and immigration reform bill, joined Congressmen Pat Ryan and Mike Lawler in calling for the President to declare a Federal State of Emergency, and authored and passed bipartisan legislation he authored to prevent Governor Hochul from transforming K-12 schools into migrant shelters.

The full text of Rep. Molinaro's letter:

*Dear Governor Hochul,*

*I call on you to engage in a statewide campaign to promote the hiring of residents in Upstate New York.*

*This campaign should direct social service agencies to help those currently receiving government benefits to identify job opportunities, provide resume and interview assistance, teach financial literacy skills, and ultimately take a more active role in connecting job seekers with employers.*

*I call for this campaign in light of the recent report that the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) published, at your direction, which identified nearly 40,000 jobs open to migrants. As a result of your directive, the NYSDOL has asked all businesses in New York about potential job openings for migrants. I only wish your administration had this much enthusiasm for helping existing New Yorkers who have been struggling for far too long.*

*It's listed in the NYSDOL report that over 1,500 jobs are available for migrants in the Southern Tier. Yet, I will be the first to tell you that there are thousands of current residents in the Southern Tier who are barely getting by, living paycheck to paycheck, that deserve this job assistance your administration is providing for migrants. Your actions have made it clear where your priorities lie, but I will always stand to ensure Upstate New Yorkers are put first.*

## Rep. Molinaro Celebrates SUNY Cortland Football Team's First-Ever National Championship on House Floor

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) today honored SUNY Cortland's football team on the Floor of the U.S. Representatives for winning its first-ever national championship last month.

Rep. Molinaro's remarks, as prepared for delivery, can be found below, and viewed here.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=805941601292947>

*Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SUNY Cortland's football team for winning its first-ever national championship.*

*In a thrilling showdown at the 50th Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Red Dragons defeated the previously unbeaten and top-ranked North Central College by a narrow 38 to 37.*

*(Contd. Pg. 60)*

## Rep. Molinaro Celebrates SUNY Cortland Football Team's First-Ever National Championship on House Floor

(From Pg. 59) *This victory marks the culmination of a phenomenal season, where Cortland's junior quarterback, Zac Boyes, showcased brilliance with 349 passing yards, five touchdowns, and 123 rushing yards.*

*The championship game, a showcase of two prolific offenses, unfolded in dramatic fashion, featuring three lead changes and three ties. In the closing moments, North Central sought a comeback, narrowing Cortland's lead to 38-37 with a 60-yard pass. But, the Red Dragons held firm, stopping the two-point conversion and securing the win.*

*This triumph is not just a win for the team, but a testament to their resilience, defeating a program that held a 29-game winning streak and the defending Division III national champions. Cortland's journey through the playoffs, with five consecutive wins against Top-25 opponents, underscores their exceptional prowess.*

*As we applaud this victory, we also acknowledge the broader significance—the first New York school to reach the Division III title game since 1991.*

*In a season that saw them ranked 11th nationally, the Red Dragons soared to unparalleled heights, achieving their 26th team title overall. Today, let us recognize and celebrate their hard work, dedication, and the indomitable spirit that defines champions.*

*Congratulations to SUNY Cortland on this historic and well-deserved win. May their success inspire future generations to strive for greatness on and off the field. Thank you and I yield back.*

## Rep. Molinaro Slams Gov. Hochul For Failing to Address Migrant Crisis In State of State Address *Molinaro: Ignoring The Problem Doesn't Make It Go Away*

U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19) released the following statement reacting to Governor Kathy Hochul's State of the State address:

*"There's over 100,000 undocumented immigrants in New York City and the City is still attempting to bus more migrants to communities in Upstate New York. This is a crisis. It's baffling that Governor Hochul wouldn't even mention it in her State of the State address - or in her 180-page 2024 agenda.*

*"Ignoring the problem doesn't make it go away.*

*"In Congress, we have a plan: reinstate 'Remain in Mexico' and pass the Secure the Border Act. New Yorkers need the weight of the Governor's office behind us to compel the Biden Administration to act and end this crisis. Let's get to work."*

### Background:

Over 100,000 undocumented immigrants are currently in New York City, with more arriving each day. To alleviate the strain the migrant crisis has had, NYC has been bussing migrants to communities across Upstate New York, including in New York's 19th Congressional District. Counties like Broome County have responded by declaring states of emergency to stop NYC from sending migrants.

In Congress, Rep. Molinaro voted to pass a border security and immigration reform bill, joined Congressmen Pat Ryan and Mike Lawler in calling for the President to declare a Federal State of Emergency, and authored and passed bipartisan legislation to prevent Governor Hochul from transforming K-12 schools into migrant shelters.

## Olive Free Library New Director



*Olive Free Library Library new Director, Melissa McHugh*

The Olive Free Library is excited to introduce our new Library Director, Melissa McHugh. Melissa brings a tremendous amount of experience both in education and business. She has Masters degrees in both Education and Information Science. In addition, she has over 10 years experience as a teacher, including in the Onteora Central School District, and has run a successful family business.

The past two years, she has been serving as the archivist for the Olive Free Library Museum room and has done a fantastic job transforming the Museum exhibits as well as organizing and digitizing the collections to allow anyone to search and locate items. She has curated two successful exhibits about the Ashokan Reservoir and its impact on our community and the Town of Olive's 200 year history. She has hosted researchers and student groups to rave reviews.

Melissa and her husband John are long-time residents of the Olive Free Library and have raised their three children in the Onteora school district. Their son, Brian, worked at the Olive Free Library as a page before heading to college.

With Melissa's education, experience and local ties, we anticipate her taking the library to the next level while keeping in place all the things we have grown to love and depend on in this special place.

### 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

### Sullivan County Text For Teens

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

**ACCESS: SUPPORTS FOR LIVING** [Social media icons: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter] [accessupports.org](http://accessupports.org)

Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

### COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Who will you protect?



Friends

Amigos

Family

¿A quien protegerás?

Get the facts.



Familia

Obtenga los hechos.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the COVID vaccine.



Comunidad

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

**#VaccinateSullivan**

For more information, visit [www.sullivanny.us](http://www.sullivanny.us)



GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:  
Alyssa Wowk  
(845) 645-6544

[awowk@chowc.net](mailto:awowk@chowc.net)

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



## FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!



**WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A Daniel Pierce Library Card?**  
Explore everything your library card gives you!





**Read any way you like**  
Printed books, magazines, and newspapers, eBooks and audiobooks.



**Listen at home or on the go**  
eAudiobooks and music for streaming or download.



**Get online and get going**  
Free Wi-Fi

 Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more

**Learn something new 24/7**

Learn a new language FREE with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

**Borrow instead of buy**

Check out books, magazines, eAudiobooks and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS Libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

**Entertain your kids – or yourself!**

Passes to Mohawk Preserve and the Jimmie and Ina Valleys Museum

Unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga

There's even more to explore with your library card.

- Online programming, databases and research materials
- Expert reading recommendations
- Internet access and computers to use

**SIGN UP TODAY!** It's **FREE** and easy!  
Visit the Daniel Pierce Library for more details.

**SHARE THE NUMBER**

**SPREAD THE WORD**

CALL OR TEXT

**988**

CHAT

**988LIFELINE.ORG**



*There is hope.*



**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

# YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

**JOIN US!**




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

Contact Rebekah at [rumarbashar@asfl.org](mailto: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](mailto:afreitas@asfl.org) for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

**WEDNESDAY**

@ 6:30 PM

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** | Sullivan County

# Tai Chi for Arthritis & Falls Prevention

**Tuesdays &  
Fridays  
Jan 30– Mar. 22,  
2024  
4:00-5:00 pm**

A \$10 fee for the cost of the participant handbook is refundable upon completion of the series.



## What is Tai Chi?

Tai chi is an ancient Chinese practice that combines slow and gentle movements with deep breathing.

## Tai chi helps:

- Increase strength, balance, and posture
- Prevent the risk of falls
- Improve the mind, body, and spirit
- Reduce stress

All movements are adaptable to meet your needs and can be performed from a chair! This is an 8-week series; classes are held 2x week for 1 hour.

**Register:**



**[sullivancee.org](http://sullivancee.org) - [sullivan@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivan@cornell.edu) - 845-292-6180**

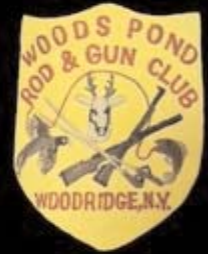
*This program is supported through funding from the NYS and Sullivan County Offices for the Aging.*

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Sullivan County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Contact CCE/SC to request special accommodations.



*Join the*

**WOODRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
&  
WOODS POND ROD AND GUN CLUB**



CONTACT: ERIC AKERLEY 845.707.1483

**FOR A CHILI LUNCHEON  
IN MEMORY OF JARED PROYECT**

**SATURDAY  
JAN. 20, 2024**



**1PM-5PM**

**WOODRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT - SOCIAL HALL  
2 GREEN AVE  
WOODRIDGE, NY 12789**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED  
AT GOODWILL**

**SALAD - CHILI - RICE - CORN BREAD - DESSERTS**

**RAFFLES**

**50/50**



**HOT COCOA  
STATION**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO JARED'S DAUGHTER,  
JOCELYN PROYECT'S FUTURE FUND.**



# ★ Daniel Pierce Library

## PBS Nova Documentary Jupiter



**Thursday, February 22, 2024**  
**6:00-7:00 p.m.**

(For adults and students ten and up)

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary on Jupiter, discovering this beautiful planet with additional insight from our experts. Weather permitting we will head outside for a viewing of this spectacular planet and its moons. If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

**For Tri-Valley residents. Advanced registration is required at [www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org).**

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



### Daniel Pierce Library

328 Main Street | P.O. Box 268  
Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233  
[www.danielpiercelibrary.org](http://www.danielpiercelibrary.org)



**GIVE THE GIFT OF THEATRE**

[shadowlandstages.org](http://shadowlandstages.org)

Gift an experience.

Share the love of live theater with a gift certificate to  
**SHADOWLAND STAGES.**

Innovative, unique, and inspiring entertainment for the whole family.

To purchase a gift certificate, visit or call our Box Office at 845-647-5511.

# Time and the Valleys Museum

## Grahamsville, NY

### Are you interested in local history?

Did you know that Museum membership is only \$25 a YEAR?  
Members receive:

- Free admission to all diverse in-person and virtual programs
- Free admission to the Museum and expanding Catskill Farm
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events  
*(there are TWO exhibit openings in 2023!)*
- *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter
- Monthly historical and informative emails
- 10% discount in the Museum Shop



## Join now & get 10% off!

Join at the \$100 (Patron) level for FREE admission to thousands of museums all across North America! You can use the form below, or go to [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org) to join with paypal.

Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740  
845 985-7700 [www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org)

|  |                                |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual    | <del>\$25</del> <b>\$22.50</b> | Name: _____                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double        | <del>\$40</del> <b>\$36</b>    | Address: _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family        | <del>\$50</del> <b>\$45</b>    | City: _____ State & Zip: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron        | <del>\$100</del> <b>\$90</b>   | Phone: _____ e-mail: _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Silver | <del>\$200</del> <b>\$180</b>  |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Gold   | <del>\$500</del> <b>\$450</b>  |                                |

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum.



## BONUS - Free Art Catalogue!

B"H

# Family Havdallah & Pizza Night

A fun and cozy evening  
to say good bye to Shabbat and  
hello to the new week!

SATURDAY JAN 20  
6:30 PM AT RJC

FRESH PIZZA  
CRAFTS  
MUSIC



Please RSVP

[RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com](mailto:RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com)

HEBREW  
SCHOOL  
AT THE RJC

## RENTALS

Store for Rent in Grahamsville (845) 985-7411

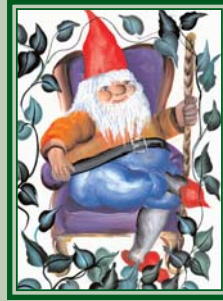
## FOR SALE

**Sundown Camp and Bait Shop!**  
*Firewood for sale*

## HELP WANTED

## Typing Help Wanted

Experienced or Student. Full/Part time. Work in Grahamsville. Busy Law Office.  
William Brenner  
(845) 985-7411



## “Knarf's Classic Movies”

*Great for kids of all ages  
on Amazon Prime*

### *Ella Enchanted*

2004 | PG | CC 4.7 out of 5 stars,  
Prime Video Included with your  
IMOB TV subscription

Watch now: Free with Ads,

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=streaming+children&i=instant-video&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=streaming+children&i=instant-video&ref=nb_sb_noss)

Ella Enchanted (4,468)IMOB 6.3, 1 h 40 min 2004X-Ray PG



Anne Hathaway is Ella in the charming fairy tale adventure *ELLA ENCHANTED*. On the day of her birth, Ella is given the gift of obedience, which is also a curse. Under no circumstances can Ella refuse anything she is asked to do. Tired of being taken advantage of, Ella leaves home to find her Fairy Godmother and return her unwanted gift. This simple errand soon turns into an amazing journey. **Directed by: Tommy O'Haver. Starring: Anne Hathaway, Hugh Dancy, Cary Elwes and Minnie Driver.**



(Contd. Pg. 70)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: *Kevin Klein*

**This weeks' Trivia question:** Who plays Melanie griffith's evil boss lady in Working Girl?



Sell your handcrafted items  
online from your own little  
virtual shop  
at the

## Gnome Home Virtual Mall

Interested?

Send an email to:  
[gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com](mailto:gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com)

... or if you just want  
to have some  
'gnome made' fun..

Visit the gnome's  
virtual on-line local shop  
at:

<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>

(From Pg. 69 )

**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE 2**  
ON AMAZON, NETFLIX, IMOB  
**Rebel Without a Cause**  
(1955, 1H 51M | DRAMA | TV-PG)



This is the cult classic teen film that defined our youth through generations. “*Rebel Without a Cause*” along with “*The Last Picture Show*” and “*American Graffiti*,” defined the youth of the nineteen fifties, and their folly in love, passion, intellect, and that aspect of the growth of finding yourself as you search for your dream in your selected reality. This film above all defined it for the kids of the 1950’s, classic role-modeling, defined by James Dean’s character as it set the plane of truth as a virtue in their choices in life. Expertly Directed by Nicholas Ray, and Starring James Dean, (James Byron Dean (February 8, 1931 – September 30, 1955) was an American actor. He is remembered as a cultural icon of teenage disillusionment and social estrangement, as expressed in the title of his most celebrated film, *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), in which he starred as troubled teenager Jim Stark) Also starring Natalie Wood and Sal Mineo. James Dean great method actor. Some say he died at the right time career wise. I just loved his work.



**KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE 3**  
ON AMAZON, NETFLIX, IMOB  
**Days of Wine and Roses**  
(1962, 1h 57m - Drama - TV-14)

The Academy Award went to the film's music theme, composed Henry Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer.

The film received four other Oscar nominations, including Best Actor, **Jack Lemmon** and Best Actress, **Lee Remick**. In 2018, *Days of Wine and Roses* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant. Directed by Blake Edwards. Starring **Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, and Charles Bickford**

A husband, Jack Lemmon, and wife Lee Remick, fight to conquer alcoholism.



*Days of Wine and Roses* is a 1962 American drama film directed by Blake Edwards with a screenplay by JP Miller adapted from his own 1958 Playhouse 90 teleplay of the same name. The film was produced by Martin Manulis, with music by Henry Mancini, and features Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, Charles Bickford and Jack Klugman. The film depicts the downward spiral of two average Americans who succumb to alcoholism and attempt to deal with their problems.

Stay safe and stay weel,  
Knarf Odnamoc  
Gnome