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## VOL. 18 NO. 3 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 20,, 2022 \$1.00

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Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia Pg 50

## Wilderness First Responder Training at Frost Valley YMCA



On Jan. 6 and 7, Forest Rangers took part in a Wilderness First Responder training at Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville. Forest Rangers are the only law enforcement members in New York State required to be certified as Wilderness First Responders.



Forest Rangers who also work for Wilderness Medical Associates International lead the training. These Rangers travel across the country to train other members of the force here in New York. A total of 25 Forest Rangers took part in the two-day training.

## State Funds Will Pay to Improve County's Fire Training Facility Gunther Helps County Land \$250,000 Grant



Sullivan County Fire Training Facility in use

Monticello, NY - Sullivan County and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther are pleased to announce State approval of a \$250,000 grant to rehab the County's heavily-used fire training tower and to build an adjacent equipment storage facility.

"I am very happy to have worked with the Sullivan County Division of Public Safety in securing a \$250,000 grant to upgrade and repair its fire tower and burn building," Gunther said. "Importantly, this facility is used by first responders across the County. They do a tremendous job in keeping our County safe and need the ability to train in a proper facility." (Contd. Pg. 4)

### YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

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

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman (USPS #009 398 - ISSN 1558-9013) will be published weekly for \$40.00 per year by Gnome Home Inc.

EDITOR: Linda Comando - 985-0501 NEVERSINK NEWS: Hulda Vernooy THE SCENE TOO - Jane Harrison OLIVE JAR - Carol La Monda MYSTERIOUS BOOK REPORT - John McKenna FALLSBURG NEWS - Larry Schafman MOVIE TRIVIA - Frank Comando a/k/a Knarf COMMUNITY NEWS - Sheila Lashinsky

### Email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com Website: thetownsman.com

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- 1. ALL submissions should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
- 2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word docu-
- 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 OldeTri-Valley Townsman or its staff.

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

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

ON THE FRONT BURNER: Praise ye the Lord, Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly his commandments.

Psalm 112:1

## **OBITUARIES**

Sullivan County for more than 40 Denman

Howard, Marcellus, NY and John St. Lawrence. nephew Michael Birkby, great-nephew was. Daniel Copeland and great-niece Tom is survived by his son, Gregson J. and former colleagues.

public servant, having served for many and Orange Counties.

Liberty, NY 12754.



home January long battle rounded death.

Tom was born on June 10, 1955 to the late John and Catherine O'Toole McKenna. He retired from the antique business which he learned from his parents at a very early age. in his local community.

Tom is noted for always being (Contd. Pg. 3) there to lend a hand for whomever

needed it. He was a member of the Grahamsville Fire Department, Elks **Joan Howard** of Liberty, NY passed Club, and current member of the Lyons away peacefully on December 31, Club. He loved the outdoors and was an 2021, after a long illness. Born in avid hunter and woodsman. He recent-Amsterdam, NY, Joan was a resident of ly purchased his dream cabin on Mountain Road Grahamsville. He sailed the open seas She is survived by sister Ann and traveled to many beautiful coun-Howard, Rochester NY; brothers Harry tries. He especially loved fishing on the He was an avid Howard, Delanson, NY; as well as NASCAR fan with Dale Earnhardt, Sr. nephew Noah Howard, niece Jennie being his man. He loved treasure hunt-Howard, niece Kathryn Copeland, ing for antiques no matter where he

Hannah Copeland; and many friends McKenna; his loving wife, Cynthia S. McKenna; a brother, John D. McKenna Joan was a dedicated and tireless and his wife June; a nephew, Grant McKenna II of Darlington; two nieces, years in public service roles in Sullivan Meredith McKenna Smith and her husband Kurt of Napanoch, and Shannon Funeral services will be private. A McKenna Schmidt and her husband 3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel Celebration of Joan's life will take Brian of Hoboken, NJ; a great-niece place at a later date. Memorial dona- Morgan Guerierre and her husband tions can be sent to Cornell Tyler; a great-nephew Gary Quick; and Cooperative Extension of Sullivan great-great-nephew, Atlas Guerierre County, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, who made him smile. He leaves behind a large group of special friends, family, and antique dealers who are grateful for **Thomas W. McKenna,** 66, of the memories they made with him; his Grahamsville, faithful dog, Bruiser, who was his shotpassed away at gun rider for a million miles; and his on new pup, Jack (Happy Jack) who sore-10, ly misses him. He will be deeply and 2022 after a sadly missed by them all.

The family wishes to extend their with pancreat- heartfelt gratitude to Hospice for holdic cancer. He ing Cindy's hand, and to Julie Starner was cared for for being an angel, for teaching, helpby his wife and ing, and supporting Cindy and Gregson son, Gregson, during a difficult time. In lieu of flowduring his ill- ers, donations in Tom's memory may be ness and sur- made to the food pantry at the United by Grahamsville Methodist them at his Church, PO Box 86, Grahamsville, NY 12740 www.GrahamsvilleUMC.org.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 11:00 am at the Grahamsville Reformed Church, State Route 55, Grahamsville. A man of many skills, he held many Social distancing guidelines will be in jobs, including plowing snow for the effect; masks must be worn at all times. Neversink Highway Department. He Arrangements are under the care of was co-owner of Miller Tree Service Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 396 in White Sulphur Springs, NY, a mas- State Route 52, Woodbourne, NY. For ter antique collector and dealer, and additional information, contact the he helped to complete many projects funeral home at 845-434-7363 or visit www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

## **OBITUARIES** (From Pg. 2)



ily on January 11, 2022. He was 64 years old.

John was born on February 16, 1957 in Shirley Davis. Liberty, NY to Charles Erts and Marie Sackett Erts. From a very early age, John showed mechanical aptitude; he assisted his father in the family business from as far back as he could recall. After graduating high school, he attended SUNY Morrisville where he obtained an Associates Degree in Electrical Technology. He was the proprietor of Erts Mechanical, a successful business that will now be carried on by his

long-time and experienced business partner, Thomas Halpin.

John lived a full life, and he enjoyed many hobbies. He liked to travel, he was a private pilot, and an avid photographer. He enjoyed skiing, boating, and other outdoor activities. He had a deep love for all animals. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

John is survived by his wife, Linda (Crawford) Erts; his children, Kendra and Ryan; his siblings, Sharon Klos and her husband John, Glenn Erts, and L. Richard Erts and his wife Brandy; his mother-in-law, Gail Bullock; his brother-in-law Kenny Bullock and his wife Kim; four nieces, one nephew, and three great-nieces.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022 from 2-6 pm at Colonial-Ramsay Funeral Home, 275 South Main Street in Liberty, NY. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 2 pm at Claryville Reformed Church, 946 Claryville Rd, Claryville, NY. The funeral service may be viewed livestream; the link is available on John's obituary page on the funeral home website: www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Vasculitis Foundation, PO Box 28660, Kansas City, MO 64188 or https://www.vasculitisfoundation.org.

Arrangements are under the care of Colonial-Ramsay Funeral Home, 275 South Main Street, Liberty, NY. For additional information, contact the funeral home at 845-292-7160 or visit the website at www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

**Debra L. "Debbie" Huggler,** of Grahamsville, passed away on January 13, 2022 at Garnet Health Medical Center. She was 65.

She was the daughter of Kenneth Curry and Margaret Gilles, born on July 25, 1956 in Monticello, NY.

Debbie graduated from Tri-Valley High School, and got an Associate's Degree in Business from Sullivan County Community College.

She worked at Sullivan County Community College for over 40 years, and retired as Assistant Director of Financial Aid.

Debbie was a volunteer member of the Grahamsville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, where she held several offices. In her free time, she enjoyed cooking, painting, traveling - especially camping - and had a love of all animals.

She is survived by her husband Jeffrey Huggler; her father Ken Curry; brother Kevin Curry; stepbrothers Jim, Mark and Chris McCarthy; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 3 pm on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 396 State Route 52, Woodbourne, NY 12788. Interment will follow at Grahamsville Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, for further information call 845-434-7363 or visit

www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com. (Contd. Pg. 4)

## **Household Hint:**

## Clean your toothbrush holder

Get the grime, bacteria, and caked-on toothpaste drippings out of the grooves of your bathroom toothbrush holder by cleaning the openings with cotton swabs moistened with white vinegar.

Nature Column - A tribute to the memory of all of the John Garry Erts, of Neversink, passed away surrounded by his fam- 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 and

## The Slate-colored Junco

Now that winter has settled in, getting out in the woods

may not be your choice to see busy wild live. However, if you are like us, you may have at least one birdfeeder that is lufing our winter snowbirds. We noticed the first ones at the feeder every morning is slate-colored Juncos. Watching them up close, we could see their tiny pink beaks crushing the seeds in true Sparrow style. The birds roll them over and over



in their beaks until the shells are soft enough to crack. Then they enjoy the tasty morsels inside the shells.

Juncos are members of the finch family, Fringillidae. Adults generally have gray heads, necks, and breasts, gray or brown backs and wings, and a white belly, but show a confusing amount of variation in plumage details. The white outer tail feathers flash distinctively in flight and while hopping on the ground. The bill is usually pale pinkish.

Males tend to have darker, more conspicuous markings than the females. The dark-eyed junco is 5.1 to 6.9 in. long and has a wingspan of 7.1 to 9.8 in. Body mass can vary from 0.63 to 1.06 oz. Juveniles often have pale streaks and may even be mistaken for vesper sparrows acquire adult plumat 2 to 3 months. Only young Juncos have the telltale Sparrow streaks. In the Catskills you may never get the chance to see the youngsters, as most young are hatched far away in the wilds of Canada or Alaska.

Since the first frosty days last fall, little families of Juncos came down out of the north. They travel from one weed patch to another, cleaning up weed seeds.

"Dark winter skies above and white snow below" —that is how the poets describe their colors. Their outer tail feathers are white, too, and the air is alive with the contrasting white streaks as the birds bounce and dart from one bush to another.

These lively Snowbirds have their own ways of keeping warm. They sleep in dense evergreen trees or burrow their way into a hay-stack. Then all night long they perch first on one foot and then on the other, so that four little toes are always tucked under downy feathers. It would be hard to hop on frost-bitten toes!

Morning finds their appetites sharp as icicles, and back they hurry to our dooryards. Where snow has melted, they have long cool drinks. and when the snow is dry, they take flutter baths, raising little clouds of powdery snow until the birds are screened behind a white shower curtain. After their baths, the cold wind ruffles their feathers and gives them a good dry cleaning.

In spring, before the flocks leave for their northern nesting grounds, they sing soft trills, entirely different from their low twittering. These trills are little samples of spring music for us to enjoy until the Orioles, Wrens, and Thrushes arrive from the south to give us full measure of Spring's song.

They will be with us for a while, and then one evening in April, these brave little Snowbirds will be off for adventures in the North. Their tails will flash white V's against the sky. Perhaps the 'V' stands for Victory -Victory over snow, and wind, and ice announcing Spring is really be here!

## **OBITUARIES** (From Pg. 3)

**Barbara Suslosky** of Liberty, NY a homemaker and a life long area resident, passed away Thursday January 13, 2022 at her home with her family by her side. She was 79.

The daughter of the late George Wade and Marion Reasin, she was born May 31, 1942 in Liberty, NY.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 60 years, James T. Suslosky; two sons, James L. Suslosky and his wife, Amy, of Witman, MA and Craig Suslosky of Grahamsville, NY; one sister, Carolyn Bauernfeind of West Windfield, NY; one grand-daughter, Kelcey Suslosky; two great granddaughters, Malaia and Amalia; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation amd funeral services was held at the Harris Funeral Home West Street at Buckley, Liberty, NY with burial in St. Peter's Cemetery in Liberty, NY. Memorial contributions in Barbara's name may be made to a charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home

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

**January 16, 1952** – The first broadcast of news of Grahamsville and the Tri Valley area went on the air Saturday from 1:20 to 1:30 p.m. over WVOS. If you have news, call your regular Townsman correspondent or Mrs. Charles Rose, Grahamsville 2385.

William Green, age seventy-eight, died at his home east of Liberty on Wednesday, Jan. 9th following a long illness. He was born in the Town of Denning on November 5, 1873, the son of Seth Green and Maria DeWitt Green. He was united in marriage to Alice Deveney at Liberty forty-one years ago. Surviving besides his widow are four sons: Kenneth and Peter of Woodbourne; Joseph and William of Liberty and one daughter, Ruth wife of Charles Cross of Grahamsville.

Carl Carlsen of South Hill was elected vice president of Clayton's Military Band of Ellenville recently. Carl has played the clarinet for several years.

The Rev. John Carter was moved up to the office of President of the Sullivan County Pastors Association to fill the unexpired term of the current president.

**January 17, 1962 -** Several works of art by Manville B. Wakefield will be exhibited in the Assembly Hall of the State Capitol Building in Albany7. Mr. Wakefield learned of his selection recently from State Assemblyman Hyman Mintz.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Yarned of Rock Royal have announced the engagement of their daughter, Dawn Irene to Peter Robert Pezzella, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Pezzella of Sundown Road, Grahamsville. Miss Yarnes is a graduate of Walton Central School and is employed by the National Bank of Liberty. Mr. Pezzella attended Tri Valley Central School and is employed by the N.Y.C. Dept. of Water Supply. No date has been set for the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Kowalik of Woodbourne announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara to Peter Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Holger Anderson Sr. of Oak Ridge. The prospective bride was graduated from Tri Valley Central School and attended Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Anderson is a graduate of Ellenville High School and Northrup Institute of Technology, Hawthorne, California.

**January 19, 1972** - The annual Tri-Valley F.F.A. speaking contest held on Thursday was won by Pat Gorman. Pat was one of ten contestants. The title of her speech was "The Fight Against Hunger."

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Messinger of Grahamsville wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen to Mr. Joseph V.

Provenzon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Provenzon of Sidney, N.Y. Karen, a 1968 graduate of Tri-Valley Central School, is now a senior at the State University College at Oneonta and will graduate in June. Her fiancé is a 1967 graduate of Sidney High School and a 1970 graduate in computer programming from Cybernetics Institute in Albany, N.Y. A fall wedding is planned.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Henderson, 7 years on January 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. Edward DuBois, 24 years on the 25th; and to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Buley, 8 years on the 26th.

January 21, 1982 - Grace W. Newman of Grahamsville, a 30-year area resident, died unexpectedly Wednesday in Hammond, La. She was 77. The daughter of the late Sam and Winifred Gallagher Britton, she was born Nov. 22, 1904 in N.Y.C. She was the widow of George Newman. Survivors include 3 sons: George Jr. of Ellenville, Ronald and Barry Newman both Grahamsville; 4 daughters: Sherri Joines of Georgia, Grace Marshall of Calif., Delores Smith of Texas and Rosalind Klinger of Walton, N.Y.; 22 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Grace Hamilton of Liberty, a lifelong area resident, died Tuesday at the Walnut Mt. Care Center, Liberty. She was 84. The daughter of the late Albie and Cora Hall, she was born Feb. 28, 1897 in Grahamsville. Mrs. Hamilton was the widow of Francis Hamilton. Survivors include 3 sons: Charles and Frank both of New Paltz and Clinton of Raleigh, N.C.; two daughters, Cora Greene and Alice Many both of Liberty; a brother, Archie Hall of Ellenville.

Francine and Carl Hornbeck of Myers Rd., Neversink, announce the birth of their daughter, Kristie Lynn Hornbeck on Dec. 25, 1981 at Harris Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz and was 19 \_ inches long. The proud paternal grandparents are Burr and Florence Hornbeck of Myers Rd. and equally proud maternal grandparents are Leo and Virginia Rexford, Jr. of Hasbrouck Rd., Woodbourne.

State Funds Will Pay to Improve County's Fire Training Facility

(From Pg. 1) Thanks to Assemblywoman Gunther's strong support, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York's State and Municipal Facilities Assistance Program will reimburse the County for up to \$250,000 of an estimated \$304,000 project, of which there are two parts:

o \$55,000 to address deterioration and make upgrades to the fire training tower at the Emergency Operations Center in Swan Lake, which is used by the Bureau of Fire to teach local firefighters how to properly battle structure fires

o \$195,000 to build a pole barn on the same property, to be used for storage, as the Emergency Operations Center's existing garage is at capacity

The County will contribute \$54,000 worth of in-kind services (labor and materials) and has allocated such in the 2022 Budget.

"I'm very grateful to the State and our Assemblywoman for ensuring our first responders will remain up-to-date on their technical skills," Sullivan County Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Farney said. "I'm also grateful to our Fire Coordinator John Hauschild and our EMS Coordinator Alex Rau for the many hours of effort they put into the successful application for these funds."

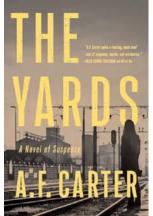
"John has taken our training to another level in Sullivan County, and this will help him take us even higher," noted Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty, in whose District 1 the facility sits. "We appreciate everything he does to keep our fire-fighters' skills sharp."



## The Yards Mysterious Book Report No. 473 by John Dwaine Mc Kenna

Told from three alternating points of view, *The Yards*, (Mysterious Press, \$25.95, 308 pages, ISBN 978-1-61316-235-4), by A.F. Carter, is hard-boiled crime fiction at it's best. It takes place in the imaginary mid-western city of Baxter, where the last of four meat-packing plants is on the skids and failing. It's closure will leave the already troubled area where crime is rampant and the citizenry

ravaged by poverty and drug-addiction, hopeless and destitute. That's where we meet Git, the first narrator, and a tough, single mom who grew up on the 'other side of the tracks' in a place locals call *The Yards* . . . where the poorest of the poor live. Her full name is Bridget O'Rourke, and she's out for a hard-earned —and scarce —night on the town, where she's hoping for some short-term male company. She hooks up at a local bar with



a guy named Brad Grieg and they head to a local motel for a quick bit of woof-woof and be gone that doesn't turn out so well.

When Brad, who's a heroin addict and a gopher for a local crime prince, (named Connor Schmidt, the second narrator), is found the next morning, shot dead and \$18,000 in cash missing . . . a Baxter PD Lieutenant and the lead investigator . . . a woman named Delia Mariola (the third narrator) is on the hunt for the killer. And that's only the first 75 pages of this fast-paced and well plotted yarn. As the story is told and the details become known, readers will almost smell the desperation, feel the grinding poverty and somehow, still retain a hopeful spark of redemption in this outstanding noir thriller. It's many twists and turns come fast, unexpected and often . . . riveting your eyes to the page. It's killer!!

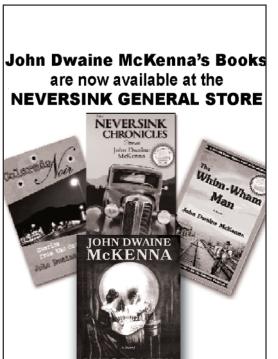
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Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments! We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

http://Johndwainemckenna.com or http://Mysteriousbookreport.com

## **Forest Bathing**

Forest Bathing is a concept that originated in Japan in the 1980's as an antidote to an increasingly technological and



alienating world. The idea is to mindfully walk in the woodlands and reconnect with the sounds, smells, colors and textures of nature. The recent Covid pandemic and its restrictions on indoor gatherings have forced a return to the outdoors creating a renewed appreciation for the forest habitat and its seasonal cycles. Inspired by the woodlands of upstate New York, this exhibition features artwork by Ashley Garrett, Anne Leith, Iain Machell, John Lyon Paul, Christy Rupp and Martin Weinstein.

As *Forest Bathing* is prescribed by Japanese physicians as a medical cure to calm stressed nerves and mitigate pain, this exhibition seeks to heal the soul by dissolving the gallery walls that separate outside from inside thus reuniting the self with nature. *Forest Bathing* opened with a reception for the artists on Saturday, January 15th, 2022 and runs through Sunday February 27th, 2022 at the Kleinert/James Art Center, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, 34 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY 12498

## Byrdcliffe Forum presents Forest Bathing Artist Panel -Moderated by Sara Lynn Henry Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6 pm on Zoom

Please join us on Zoom for a discussion among the exhibiting artists on the inspiration of the woodlands in their artwork.

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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 cho-

sen this local memoir as

their book choice. Feel

as you read Carol's

memoirs cuddled up in

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## the Olive Jar by Carol Olsen LaMonda Covid Analogies

Liberty, NY 12754

When I applied to graduate school, I had a choice of taking the dreaded GRE's, fact based multiple choice for left-brained, or the Miller Analogy test, which suited my right-brained dominance. For me, these little word comparisons were like little puzzles. Aced it.

An analogy is a simple comparison that reads "This is to that as another this is to another that." You just need to observe the relationship. The choices also helped narrow the missing "this" or "that."

For example, glove/ hand as \_\_\_\_\_ /foot. Choices might be SLIPPER, HAT, SCARF, or MITTEN. Easy, right?

As I ponder tomorrow or next week or next month in our Omicron super contagious pandemic, I try to use my analogical reasoning skills to predict what might be the future. Not acing it! I would have sworn we would be waning with vaccines available and anti-viral treatments. Masking and social distancing should be curtailing the spread.

What I neglected to factor into the relationship of prevention versus spread was the human factor of "self-choice" which, unfortunately, affects everyone's chance of catching the virus.

So the analogy should be vaccine/protection as medicine/cure. However, the analogy presents itself as vaccine /immunity as no vaccine / \_\_\_\_\_. Here are the following choices: a. A giraffe, b. A meatball, c. A jet ski, d. A pancake, or e. A squirrel.

Having trouble figuring it out? Me too! Makes no sense to me either.







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## "Over the Rainbow" Offers Bereavement Music Therapy



Melinda Marks Burgard and Action Toward Independence will offer "Over the Rainbow," a virtual music therapy bereavement group for Care Partners of those who lost someone to Alzheimer's Disease or dementia. The group starts on February 1st.

## Snow Plowing Woodie Cyr

Grahamsville, NY And Surrounding Areas

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MONTICELLO, NY - The diagnosis of a loved one with Alzheimer's Disease or any form of dementia brings with it an immediate onset of the bereavement process called "anticipatory grief."

To help "Care Partners" whose loved one has passed on express their grief in a supportive atmosphere, Action Toward Independence (ATI) and Melinda's Music are offering a free music therapy group called "Over the Rainbow." These Care Partners have unique and specific experiences and needs.

The group will meet virtually on Zoom the first Tuesday of every month beginning on February 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Formal music training is not necessary, but a love of music will be very helpful. Musical activities and virtual interaction will be offered. A computer, internet hookup and computer camera are required.

Melinda Marks Burgard, a NYS Licensed Creative Arts Therapist with a Master's Degree in Music Psychotherapy from NYU, has been practicing Clinical Music Therapy for over 30 years. With the support of ATI, she continues to offer a variety of music therapy programs. "Over the Rainbow" was created to assist Care Partners with support and aid in the grieving process.

For more information and to register for "Over the Rainbow," contact the Family Peer Advocate at Action Toward Independence. Call 845-794-4228 or email: info@atitoday.org.

## Statement from Senator Mike Martucci Response to Governor Hochul's Announcement of Third Party Testing for CDLs

"As the former owner and operator of a school bus company, I have always been an advocate for New York State to allow third party administration of CDL licensing tests. With the school bus driver shortages we are experiencing this step is vital now more than ever. Last fall, I even stepped in to assist my local school district as a driver because the situation had become truly desperate. That's why I am so excited Governor Hochul has taken up this important cause by directing the Department of Motor Vehicles to initiate a regulatory proceeding that will make third party testing a reality in New York.



"The Governor sees the struggles school districts and private operators are experiencing and has responded forcefully and appropriately in every instance. Her actions here are merely another example. When the process at DMV concludes, we will have a system that removes cost burdens from potential drivers, relieves testing bottlenecks, and puts more qualified drivers on the road. This is truly a win-win proposition. I look forward to working with Governor Hochul, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the school bus industry, and our local school districts to make this a reality."

For more information on Governor Hochul's announcement today and the upcoming DMV hearing and public commenting period, please see the following press release from her office: https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-plan-address-truck-and-bus-drivershortage



## Governor Hochul Announces Lighting of Niagara Falls in Support of Buffalo Bills

On January 14th, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that Niagara Falls would be lit light red, white, and blue on January 15, 2022, in support of the Buffalo Bills --ahead of the January 15th Wild Card Playoff game.

"Western New York is famous for its unwavering support of our Bills and as they kick off against one of our biggest rivals, we're making it clear - this is Bills country," Governor Hochul said. "From the freezing temperatures to the addition of a new chapter in the team's longstanding battle with the Patriots, this will prove to be a historic night. I, for one, cannot wait to cheer the Bills on! Go Bills!"

**ED NOTES:** As I learned late Saturday evening, my son-in-law Dan was walking on cloud nine when the final score came in: New England Patriots 17 and the Buffalo Bills 47!!! Way to go Buffalo Bills!

Does this mean another Pizza Dan?

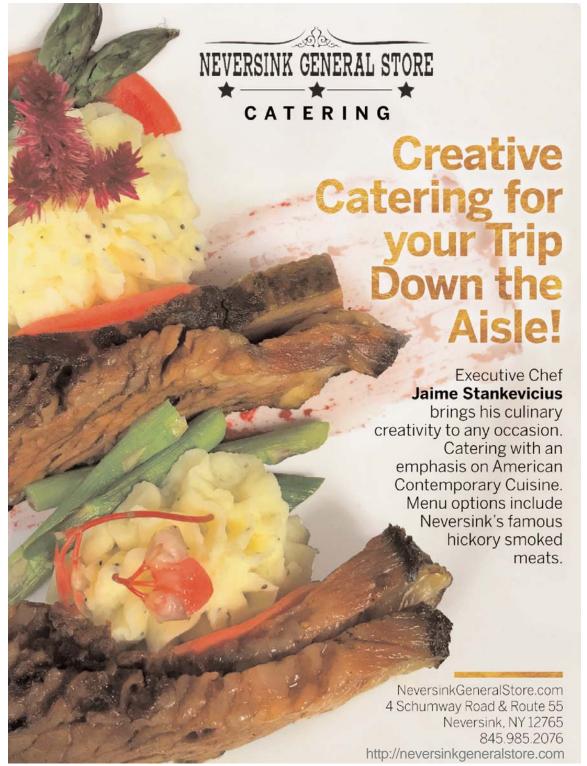
## Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Celebrates National Bagel Day and Announces The Bagel Festival for 2022!

Monticello, New York January 11, 2022 - Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce celebrated National Bagel Day, January 15, 2022. The Chamber is also opening up vendor registration for this year's Bagel Festival at last year's prices. If you are interested in becoming a vendor for this year's Bagel Festival, you can sign up online at http://www.thebagelfestival.org or call the office at 845-791-4200. This year promises to be bigger and better along with all the great 'bagel fun', games, scavenger hunt, and Bold Gold Music Festival!

## Recreational Program Sets New Record on Four NYC Reservoirs in the Catskills

Rentals propelled boating program to more than 1,800 visits

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that its recreational boating program on four reservoirs in the Catskills attracted 1,826 visitors in 2021, breaking the previous annual record by more than 150. The increase in use was largely attributable to



boat rentals from certified vendors. A total of 1,201 people rented a pre-cleaned boat to paddle on the reservoirs last year, outpacing the previous record by more than 250 rentals.

"The increased use of our recreation boating program reflects a broader uptick in the number of visitors to the Catskills," DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza said. "The pandemic has supercharged our neighbors' interest in outdoor recreation, as they sought safe and fun experiences with their families. We are happy that many have found that experience through paddling on four of our reservoirs in the Catskills, and by renting a boat from one of local businesses that make the process easy while also protecting water quality."

"Breaking participation records in the reservoir boating program despite less-than-perfect weather this season is a testament to the growth in popularity of outdoor recreation in the watershed," said Jason Merwin, Executive Director of the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC). "CWC is proud to participate and work with DEP and local vendors to ensure the program continues to grow. Environmentally friendly recreation and economic development in the region continues to demonstrate a compatibility with the protection of water quality, benefitting watershed communities in the Catskills and the millions of customers of the water supply." (Contd. Pg. 43)



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## Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Announces Their Annual Spring Tree & Shrub Program

The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce their annual spring Tree & Shrub Program. Landowners can choose from a wide variety of deciduous and conifer trees and shrubs and specialized packets such as Nut Tree, Flowering Tree & Shrub, Wildflower, Butterfly, and perennials. Seedling varieties allow for you, the purchaser, to select what's right for your needs. We offer a range of quantities at reduced costs to promote conservation plantings.

Other items available through the program are fruit trees and wildlife habitat housing.

Trees and shrubs offered through the District program can be planted for a number of purposes such as wildlife habitat, windbreaks, hedges, screens and streambank and road bank stabilization.

To order, please contact the District Office at (845) 292-6552 and request the brochure and order form or go online at sullivanswcd.org. The order deadline is April 11, 2022.

## The Scene Too

-Jane Harrison

Wasn't Sunday the quintessential winter day temp-wise? At sunrise, the temperature was a balmy negative number almost everywhere. Then, as the sun rose, the temperature bounced up at 5 degrees an hour....just enough for snowmageddon to begin as the sun set. You have to appreciate mother nature.

I know many of you were out there scraping their windshields at 7am, like I was, dressed like a Peanuts character (3 layers of clothing, heavy jacket, two hats and two mittens on each hand) so that you could barely move. Scraping and watching what you scraped freeze again almost immediately in little ridges. And the car, whose defrost and warm up capabilities are excellent, not even close to helping you.

So, what would possess me to risk being chilled to the bone (which I was) to do this? To drop a friend at the bus station to catch the first bus back to the city after they kindly came up Saturday to fix not one but both of my personal computers. With their car in the shop, this person took that ride up here to help me and it seemed the least I could do in return.

There is still music going on around here. CABERNET FRANK'S still has bands on Fridays and Saturdays and both nights when they can. CASWYN MOON still hosts Open Mics there on Wednesdays, and at THE DALE on Thursday nights. He was scheduled to host an Open Mic at the TANGO CAFÉ at the HURLEYVILLE ARTS CENTER on Mondays, but Hurleyville is all but shut down due to CoVid fears. Friends attended the Karaoke Night at CABERNET FRANK'S last Thursday, and told me there were very few people but fun was had by all.

So things are open, but sparsely attended. It's good that people are venturing out but the numbers can't be good for the business. Still, when the 'new case' numbers start to go down, I'm sure we'll all make up for it.

I steeled myself this last week and (finally) went to lunch with my friend KATHERINA...out...in a restaurant. I've been putting it off and putting it off to the point where I'm sure she was getting worried. But, you know what? It wasn't that bad. Quite a few people, but well distanced from each other. If you are in the world of the fine quilting arts, just her first name might ring a bell. Her quilts are not like the quilts my mom made out of old worn-out wool garments, cut into squares but absolute works of art, worthy of hanging on a wall, not thrown over a bed. And for this, she is well known world wide. We met when she was having trouble with a knitting project. What made it interesting for me, was the pattern was not in English, but in German, Dutch and French! So she would translate what the pattern said and I would show her how it was done and how it related to the overall project. Thus, a friendship was born.

She surprised me with one of her creations as a Christmas present. I am still speechless. And I will share this incredible piece with you all, when I get a chance to photograph it properly in all its splendor.

As for my own pandemic socks project, I am up to creating the heel. More on that too, next week.

But for now (I'm writing this on Monday), I'm watching my neighbor dig out his car and during this lull in the storm, I'd better get myself out there and at least brush the tons of snow off of mine.

Stay well, stay safe and mask up!!! Until next time.....

## Sullivan 180 and Partners Announce Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit at HPAC - NEW DATE

All Sullivan County Youth (Grade 9-12) are invited to the free, exciting event

[FERNDALE] - Sullivan 180 and partners announce "What's Your Blueprint?" a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Youth Summit, on March 18th, 2022 at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre. This is a free event, open to Sullivan County youth (grades 9-12) to participate from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The "What's Your Blueprint" MLK Day Youth Summit promises teens will be inspired by the importance of their VOICE, their ability to ACT for change, and help them CRE-ATE their personal blueprint for life. Students will experience interactive workshops and collaborative art projects designed to open their minds and hearts to greater service for themselves and their schools. The day will be centered on the famous Dr. King speech, A Blueprint for Your Life, with workshops around the principles from the speech; Belief in Oneself, Determination and Commitment. Also, each student in attendance will receive four hours of community service time to be used toward graduation requirements.

The event will also feature keynote speaker, Damola Akinyemi, who is a former international basketball player, world renowned body builder, founder of Ayo Fitness, creator of the Ayo Jam fitness program, inventor of the Hydra Glove and former co-lead of the award winning Warrior Kids program which taught thousands of children across the Hudson Valley about healthier choices.

The Summit is being hosted in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, Sullivan 180, Sullivan Renaissance, Sullivan Allies Leading Together, the Sullivan County Human Rights Commission, and The Center for Workforce Development.

This is a FREE event, but registration is REQUIRED. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hrs of the event is also required. Refreshments and a healthy, locally sourced lunch by A Single Bite will be provided. To register, please visit www.Sullivan180.org.

Sullivan 180's mission is to build a healthy, vibrant Sullivan County where everyone has a sense of purpose, connection to family and community and access to fresh foods and an active lifestyle.

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## Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan Announces Second State-Run COVID-19 Community Testing Site in Ulster County

The New York State-run Community
Testing Site, located at SUNY Ulster, will
open to the public starting Thursday,
January 20th, and run thereafter from
Monday through Friday
from 8:30am to 4pm

Based on requests from County Executive Pat Ryan to bolster COVID-19 testing availability in Ulster County, New York State has responded by opening two community testing locations - at SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Ulster

Stone Ridge, N.Y. - Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan today announced details on a second state-run COVID-19 community testing site on the campus of SUNY Ulster. Starting Thursday, January 20th, the site will be open to the public from Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4pm. The announcement comes days after a state-run site on the campus of SUNY New Paltz opened to the public. Both sites have come after County Executive Pat Ryan requested that New York State bolster testing availability and resources in Ulster County.

"I want to thank Governor Hochul and her team for answering our request and activating a second testing site here in Ulster County," County Executive Pat Ryan said. "The sites at SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Ulster will help ensure that our residents have access to critically-needed testing so we can keep our residents healthy, and continue to keep our schools and businesses open safely."

The SUNY Ulster Community Testing Site at the Senate Gym will be open from Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4pm. Residents can make an appointment for PCR testing by clicking here.

The New Paltz Community Testing Site at the College Terrace Building will be open from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4pm. Residents can make an appointment by clicking here. This site will maintain capacity for approximately 225 appointments per day and up to 50 walk-ins for PCR testing. For additional information regarding vaccines, boosters, and testing, please visit VaccinateUlster.com.

Last week, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan also held two free drive-through at-home test and KN95 mask distribution events at the Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz and at SUNY Ulster.

Additionally, County Executive Ryan announced that Ulster County will once again partner with local municipalities for both at-home test kit and mask distribution. Residents are encouraged to contact their municipality for additional details on how to obtain kits or masks. In total, Ulster County will distribute over 12,000 COVID-19 athome rapid test kits and 46,000 masks in this round of free distribution.

## SC COVID-19 Test Report Portal Opens Isolation and Quarantine Affirmation Forms Included

**Liberty, NY** - To meet exponentially rising demand for COVID-19 isolation and quarantine affirmation/release forms, Sullivan County Public Health Services today debuted a new test report-

ing portal for public use.

"In collaboration with our Information Technology Services team, we've developed a way for everyone to quickly and easily get the form they need to prove they have been or are isolating or quarantining," Public Health Director Nancy McGraw affirmed.

The forms can be found at

www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Publichealth/Coronavirus/A ttestation.

For those who have tested positive for COVID-19, an Isolation Affirmation Form is required and can be obtained via email by reporting test results to Public Health on the above page.

For those who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, a Quarantine Affirmation Form is required and can be filled

out, downloaded and printed from the above page.

Both forms can be used as proof of isolation/quarantine with local employers, school districts and other appropriate authorities. Any submitted information will be kept confidential.

"This is designed to streamline the process for all of usour staff and the public - during a very busy time in this ongoing pandemic," McGraw explained. "However, those who are unable to use or access these forms can call us at 845-513-2268, and we will make sure the needed forms are obtained."

"New York State is developing a portal as well, but there's an immediate need for this, so we've made our own," Sullivan County's Division of Health & Family Services Commissioner John Liddle related. "If and when the State opens its portal, people are welcome to access it, but at this point, we're encouraging all Sullivan County residents to use our portal to self-report a positive home test and obtain the necessary paperwork."

## Governor Hochul Announces New Testing Sites to Open on SUNY and Community College Campuses

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced nine testing sites will open on SUNY and community college campuses across New York State. This follows the 20 sites on SUNY campuses the Governor has announced throughout the month of January

"Through our winter surge plan we are building on our ongoing efforts to make testing more widely available, and that includes utilizing our SUNY campus facilities that are equipped to distribute more tests to New Yorkers," Governor Hochul said. "Expanded access to testing will ensure those who are positive with the virus can isolate to limit spread and keep others in their communities well. We're turning the corner on this winter surge

but we're not through this yet, so let's continue to use the tools that will help stop the spread: Wear a mask, wash your hands, get your vaccine, your second dose, and your booster. Get tested and stay home if you are sick - we are not powerless."

Beginning the week of Jan. 18, these sites will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sites to open include:

**SUNY Sullivan - The Paul Gerry Field House Upper Lobby** 

112 College Road , Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759 Beginning Jan. 18, Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appointments can be scheduled here: https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=24841

https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=248416 28&calendarID=6421122

**SUNY Ulster-Senate Gym** 

491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY 12484
Beginning Jan. 20, Hours of Operation 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Appointments can be scheduled here:

https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=248416 28&calendarID=6421175

## UC Executive Pat Ryan Announces Two Additional Drive-Through COVID-19 Test Kit and Mask Distribution Events

KINGSTON, N.Y. - "Our last round of at-home test kit distribution, delivering over 50,000 at-home kits, was a major success, and I am proud that we are able to provide even more tests and masks at this pivotal moment for our community," County Executive Pat Ryan said. "With positive cases on the rise, testing, wearing a mask, and getting your booster shot are essential tools to keeping our community safe and our schools and businesses open."

Additionally, County Executive Ryan announced that Ulster County will once again partner with local municipalities for both at-home test kit and mask distribution. Residents are encouraged to contact their municipality for additional details on how to obtain kits or masks. In total, Ulster County will distribute over 12,000 COVID-19 at-home rapid test kits and 46,000 masks in this round of free distribution.

Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan announced additional details on the state-run COVID-19 community testing site on the campus of SUNY New Paltz. The testing site is in the College Terrace Building at SUNY New Paltz and will be open to the public Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4pm. Residents should make an appointment by going to:

https://app.squarespacescheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=2 4841628&calendarID=6397542

Each site will maintain capacity for approximately 225 appointments per day and up to 50 walk-ins for PCR testing.

Ulster County will continue to hold regular vaccination PODs for residents who need to receive their 1st dose, 2nd dose, or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Appointments are recommended for the County's vaccination PODs, although walkins will be accommodated as capacity allows. Sign up for an appointment at VaccinateUlster.com.

Report positive at-home rapid COVID test results at covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/hometest/



Come join us for the

1st Annual Town of Neversink Winterfest

On Saturday, February 12th

(blizzard date-February 19th)

From noon till 7 pm.

At the Grahamsville Fairgrounds

We will have lots of vendors selling crafts and food.

Your school and sports organizations will be there selling snacks and other items.

We will have the Beer Garden, music and Ice Carving demostrations.

And we will have lots of fun things to do. If there is snow, bring your sleds, saucers and tubes for sledding. If there is no-snow, don't worry we have lots of other things to do.

The ICE RINK WILL BE OPEN FOR THE EVENT.

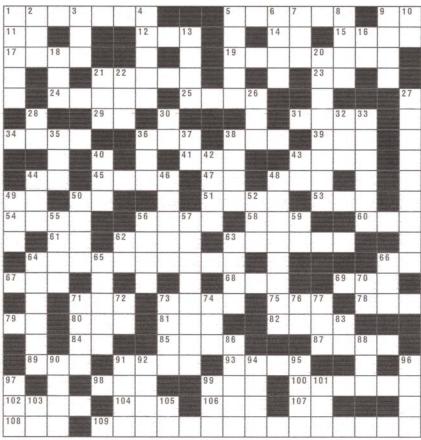
And there is NO ENTRY FEE for the event!

Check our Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Facebook page for updates.

Any questions please contact Parks and Recreation at <a href="mailto:cwparksandrec@gmail.com">cwparksandrec@gmail.com</a>



## When You Wish Upon a Star - L. Comando



ACROSS 1 What the little wishing star does 5 Hansel's sister 41 Earlier 9 'Hi- \_\_, it's off 43 Russian ruler 75 Noisy cry

36 Amusement

38 Frozen water

39 Originally

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51 Mountain

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response 15 First man 17 Archaic term 49 Southeast

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24 Tourist town in the White

25 Hindu goddess an wife of Rama

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34 Young lad

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69 Large constrictor snake 71 Democrat 73 Fruit of the 78 Future Farmers of America 47 Supported by 79 Advertisement 80 Hearing

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84 Exist 85 What Little Jenny was 54 Remunerated 87 Sweet pota-

89 Small woodland supernatural creatures 91 Tribulation 93 Informal 'obituary' 98 Friend

99 Lyric poem 100 Largest state in the U.S.A.

102 American humorist/colum Girl' nist noted for

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## **Impossible** Quesadilla Pie

The perfect snack for Sunday afternoon football!

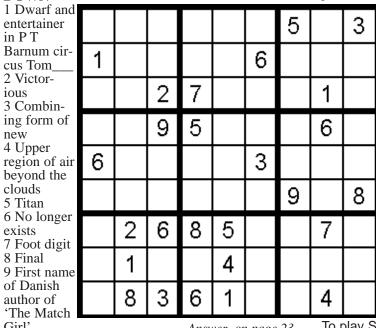
2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chiles, drained 4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese 2 cups milk 1 cup Bisquick 4 eggs

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

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

Serve with sour cream and guacamole if

## 数字は単数に限る



To play SUDOKO online: https://sudoko.com

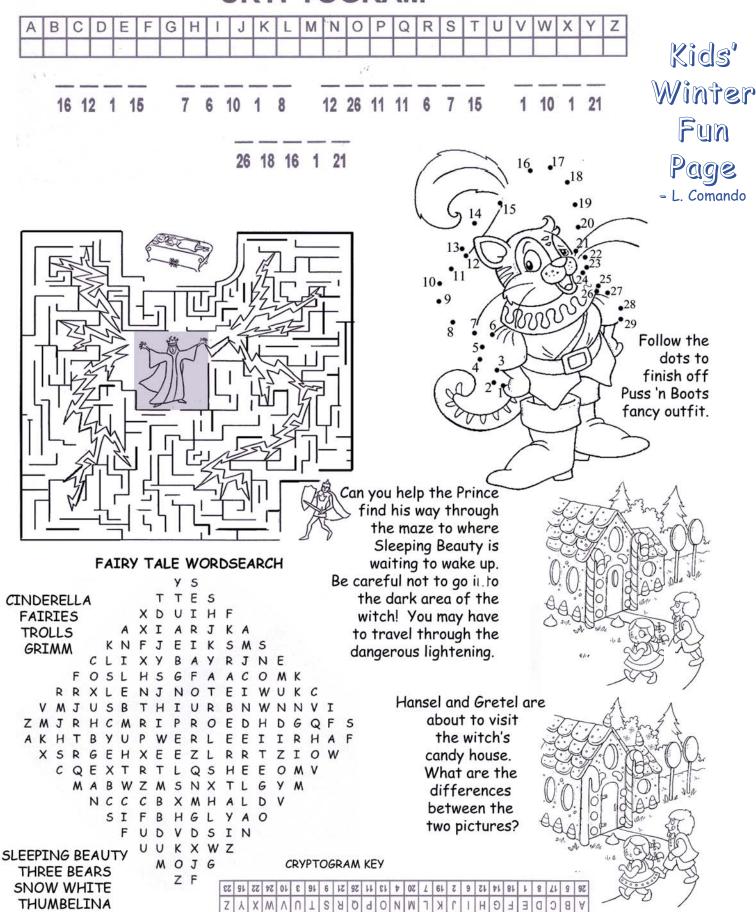
bird

Island

Police

Answer on page 23

## **CRYPTOGRAM**



# \$8 Billion in Low-Cost Financing Helps Strengthen Educational and Nonprofit Institutions in 2021 DASNY Financing\_Reduces Costs for School Districts, Universities, and Nonprofits Serving Vulnerable Populations

(Albany) - Reuben R. McDaniel, III, President & CEO of The Dormitory Authority of The State of New York (DASNY) announced \$8 billion in low-cost financing obtained through DASNY was issued in 2021 to help school districts and higher education, and not-for-profit institutions reduce costs through low-cost financing.

"DASNY works to help vital sectors invest cost-effectively to enhance the lives of New Yorkers. By supporting the growth of the critical education and non-profit sectors of our economy, we are strengthening our anchor institutions and creating opportunities in communities all across New York state," McDaniel said.

## Examples of institutions benefiting from low-cost financings include:

Educational Housing Services (EHS) Towers/City University of New York (CUNY) Student Housing (\$13.1 million). Partial refunding and restructuring of bonds to provide near term debt service relief due to the impact of the pandemic on dormitory occupancy.

Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) Student Housing Corporation (\$31.7 Million). Partial refunding and restructuring of bonds to provide near term debt service relief due to the impact of the pandemic on dormitory occupancy.

Interagency Council (IAC) Pooled Loan Program. Bonds were issued on behalf of agencies serving New Yorkers with developmental disabilities or other special needs

Citizen Options Unlimited, Inc./Community Services Support Corporation/Nassau County AHRC Foundation, Inc. (\$3.4 million). Supports acquisition and rehabilitation of properties in Smithtown, Greenlawn and West Islip for residences for adults with developmental disabilities.

Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc. (\$3.5 million). Supports acquisition and rehabilitation of properties in Selden and Smithtown for residences for adults with developmental disabilities, and for property in Smithtown for an intermediate care facility for adults with developmental disabilities.

HASC Center, Inc. (\$1 million). Supports the construction, renovation, furnishing, and/or equipping of property in Brooklyn for use as a day habilitation center for 77 adults with developmental disabilities.

HeartShare Human Services of New York (\$3.8 million). Supports the construction, renovation, furnishing, and/or equipping of property in Brooklyn for use as a day habilitation center for 120 adults with developmental disabilities, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of property on Staten Island for use as residences for adults with developmental disabilities.

The Institutes of Applied Human Dynamics, Inc. (IAHD) (\$4.5 million). Supports the acquisition and rehabilitation of

properties in the Bronx and White Plains for intermediate care facilities and a residence for adults with developmental disabilities

QSAC, Inc. (\$6.4 million). Supports acquisition and rehabilitation of properties in Jamaica, West Hempstead, Dix Hills and Wantagh for use as residences for adults with developmental disabilities.

Young Adult Institute, Inc. (YAI) (\$5.5 million). Supports acquisition and rehabilitation of properties in Astoria, Wheatley Heights, and Ozone Park for use as residences for adults with developmental disabilities.

Iona College (\$44.3 million). Bond proceeds were used to pay for the acquisition of real property in Bronxville, New York in order to establish a Bronxville campus for Iona college and to refund bonds in order to achieve debt service savings.

New York University (\$250 million). Bonds were issued to finance, refinance, or reimburse costs associated with numerous construction and renovation projects across the NYU system, including the construction of a new mixed-use facility at 181 Mercer Street.

School District Revenue Bond Financing Program (\$335.2 million). Bonds were issued to support a range of projects across 40 school districts statewide, including\_technology updates to promote innovation and collaboration,\_interior and exterior renovations,\_fire, security, and air quality systems upgrades,\_and others.

St. John's University (\$163.6 million). Bond proceeds were used to refund prior bonds and to fund new construction projects including a new health sciences center at the University's Queens campus.

State University of New York Dormitory Facilities (SUNY) (\$345.6 million). Bond proceeds were used to refund prior bonds, providing debt service savings to SUNY. About\_DASNY

Founded in 1944, DASNY - the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York - is New York State's capital project development authority. It finances and constructs sustainable and resilient science, health and education institutions that help New York thrive. It is one of the largest issuers of tax-exempt bonds in the nation with an outstanding bond portfolio of approximately \$59.3 billion as of\_December 31, 2021. DASNY is also a prolific public builder with a construction pipeline of\_more than\_1,000\_projects valued at\_approximately\_\$8.3\_billion as of\_November 2021.\_To learn more about DASNY, visit\_www.dasny.org.

## Phoenicia's Ancient Past: How The Esopus Munsee People Got Through Winter Before Electricity

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 AT 7 PM Click on Link: https://fb.me/e/45dYbQGG9

In this illustrated lecture, author Evan Pritchard (Mi'kmaq and Celtic descent) will introduce us to the ancient and icy history of winters long past in the greater Phoenicia area. Evan will focus on the winter lifeways of the Esopus Munsee, the Algonquian-speaking people who have long inhabited the Esopus river valley.

## **LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES**

## Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Warns of Scam

GRAHAMSVILLE - The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office is warning residents of a scam associated with the Town of Neversink Winterfest scheduled for Saturday February 12, 2022 at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds. According to Undersheriff Eric Chaboty, a fake profile on Facebook is soliciting vendors at a cost of \$60 each to reserve space at the festival. The scammers set up a phony paypal account to collect the vendor fee.

"The Town of Neversink does not charge vendors to set up at the Winterfest", said Chaboty. "There is an application process with the town, but it does not involve money".

Town officials alerted the Sheriff's Office to the scam just as the first person was about to send money. "We got the paypal account shut down right away but Facebook is refusing to disable the fake profile. They sent a message saying that the Facebook account does not violate community standards", said the Undersheriff.

Residents who have questions about the Winterfest are encouraged to contact the **Town of Neversink's Parks & Recreation Department** at 845-985-2262 Ext. 312

or email cwparksandrec@gmail.com

## **Please Take Notice:**

Covid-19
Home Test Kits
are available at
Town of Denning
Town Hall
1567 Denning Road
Claryville, NY

Mondays through
Thursdays
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
until they
are gone.

Call (845) 985-2411 for more information.

Full Time Residents
Only Proof of Denning
residency required
ONE kit per household
(2 tests)
Signature required

Ulster County is tracking distribution

## Fallsburg CSD Board of Education February Meetings

January 19, 2022 Meeting Cancelled

Next meeting February 2, 2022

## Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting

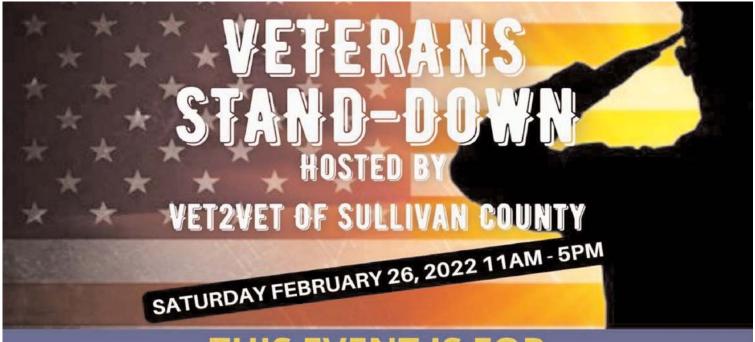
Regular Meeting #14 - Thursday, January 20, 2022

Call to Order - 6:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library Lower Level Anticipated Proposed Executive Session -

6:00 p.m. - Secondary School Library Upper Level Regular Meeting resumes - approximately 7:00 p.m. -Secondary School Library Lower Level

All Board Meetings will be broadcast on our YouTube Live Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl224vKQ8nAWhR6NVa o24w/live



## THIS EVENT IS FOR

VETERAN SERVICES \* VETERAN NETWORKING \* VETERANS IN NEED

\* HOMELESS VETERANS



## MONTICELLO

TED STROEBELE
RECREATION CENTER

8 JEFFERSON STREET MONTICELLO, NY 12701





## **FOOD PROVIDED BY LOCAL SPONSORS**









## **OVER 15 PROVIDERS & EXHIBITORS!**

BENEFIT ASSISTANCE (BY ACCREDITED OFFICERS) \*
MILITARY SURPLUS CLOTHING \* VA CLINIC











## FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT VET2VET OF SULLIVAN COUNTY AT (845) 794 - 4228 Vet2Vet@atitoday.org

## DEC Awards More Than \$766,000 to Support Rehabilitation of Dams in Capital Region, Finger Lakes, and Mid-Hudson Valley Funds Will Assist Dam Owners with Planning, Design, and Pre-Construction Activities

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced more than \$766,000 in funding was awarded to nine projects to improve dam safety in communities in the Capital Region, Finger Lakes, and Mid-Hudson Valley regions. The funding is provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 'High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program.' Of the dozens of states that applied to the federal program, New York was one of only two states that received the maximum amount of available funding. The funds awarded will support planning, design, and other pre-construction activities to rehabilitate 'high hazard' dams. New York State classifies dams as high hazard to recognize the potential for damage to infrastructure and communities if a dam were to fail. The classification does not connote a dam's potential to fail.

"DEC is dedicated to protecting lives, property, and the environment by helping dam owners comply with New York State's stringent requirements that help keep the public safe and keep dams in good condition," Commissioner Seggos said. "This funding provides much-needed assistance for municipal and not-for-profit dam owners to improve the condition of their dams over the long term."

DEC inspects High Hazard dams every two years, with limited exceptions such as dams regulated or owned by the federal government. DEC works closely with dam owners to address any deficiencies. When funding is available, DEC supports dam owners in making improvements through grants like the High Hazard Potential Dam grant program. DEC announced availability of this round of funding in April 2021.

The following projects in the Mid-Hudson received High Hazard Potential Dam Grants:

City of Kingston - Cooper Lake Dam, Design Project: \$100,000

Town of Chester - Loon Lake Dam, Alternative Analysis Project: \$87,659

Town of Kent - Lake Carmel Dam, Planning and Design Project: \$100,000

Town of Putnam Valley - Roaring Brook Dam, Planning and Design Project: \$30,109

Visit the DEC website for more information on New York State's Dam Safety program.

## New Year, New Incentives! (2022 Grants & Rebates to Afford Clean Heat)

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 AT 7 PM - 8 PM Click on Link: https://fb.me/e/51CR4mB71

Are you interested in cutting energy costs, improving the insulation in your home, or installing a heat pump? There are state and federal grants, rebates, and other incentives, many of which are for low to moderate income households. People who live in certain areas are eligible based on geographic location without showing proof of income.

Lindsay Speer (HeatSmart CNY) and Barb Henza (Clean Energy Advisor with Cornell Cooperative Extension) will share the latest on grants, rebates, and other incentives to help you to increase the insulation in your home or building or to invest in a clean heating and cooling system.

## Heat Pumps Q & A

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AT 7 PM - 8 PM

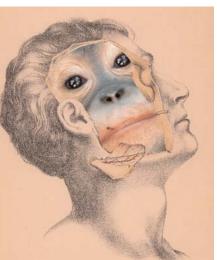
Click on Link: https://fb.me/e/1EFU3lzb6

Interested in switching to a heat pump but still have some questions? HeatSmart CNY representatives and our vetted heat pump installers will answer all of your burning questions

## "PaperWorks" at Marywood University

Paul Plumadore's solo exhibition, "PaperWorks", opens with a reception on Saturday,

J a n u a r y



"Anatomy Lesson #33"

29th, at the Mahady Gallery in the Shields Center for Visual Arts at Marywood University. The exhibition will consist of hand cut paper montages, shadowboxes, archival giclee prints, and books; a total of 90 works in all.

Mr. Plumadore has been creating collage and related artworks since the late 1970's. He has been a professional dancer (The Paul Taylor Dance Company) and an illustrator (The NY Times, RCA Records).

He first started showing his art in gallery settings at The 2015 Northeastern Biennial which, as fate would have it, was held at Marywood University. In 2021, his artwork was presented for the fourth time at Art of the State held at The Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg, PA.

"Paperworks" will be open to the public until March 4, 2022. Marywood University is located at 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA. More information is available at marywood.edu/galleries.

## Ulster County Announces Emergency Housing Action Plan as the State's Eviction **Moratorium is Set to Expire**

With New York State's eviction moratorium expired on January 15th, Ulster County is prepared to connect anyone served with a warrant of eviction with emergency housing

### **New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance** Program re-opened its application portal on January 11th

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan announced today that the County has established an Emergency Housing Action plan as New York State's eviction moratorium is set to expire on January 15th, 2022. Working in conjunction with the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Ulster County has a plan to coordinate with the Ulster County Department of Social Services (DSS) and other critical community partners in order to provide those evicted with emergency housing options. In addition, the County is prepared in the unlikely scenario that emergency housing reaches capacity by contracting with additional hotels and establishing emergency shelters.

'With the end of the eviction moratorium approaching, we are 100% committed to making sure no one in Ulster County is without a roof over their head," Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan said. "We have been working with the Ulster County Sheriff, the Department of Social Services, and our Emergency Management team to develop our Emergency Housing Action Plan. We are confident that with all the measures we have in place, we won't see a surge in homelessness due to the end of the

eviction moratorium.'

"In anticipation of the end of the eviction moratorium, this office is collaborating with DSS in order to give options to those in need of housing," Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa said. "This office is here to assist and to assure that these proceedings are fair and within the scope of the law."

As the eviction deadline looms, the Ulster County Sheriff's Office and DSS have developed a process to connect residents served with a warrant of eviction to DSS 14-days in advance of an eviction to make sure that they are offered emergency housing. These tenants in need will also be connected to Legal

Services of the Hudson Valley for legal aid.

As of December, DSS has already placed nearly 300 people in need of emergency housing. At this time, Ulster County has the capacity to place additional residents with emergency housing. In the unlikely scenario that the number of homeless exceeds current capacity, Ulster County DSS is prepared to contract with additional hotels and motels, and the Ulster County Emergency Management team is prepared to activate a shelter at SUNY Ulster, which would be open 24/7.

## For Emergency Housing:

o DSS Hotline at (845) 334-5360: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm o Family of Woodstock After Hours Emergency Housing Hotline at (845) 338-2370: evenings, weekends and holidays

Additionally, New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program re-opened its application portal on January 11th.

Tenants who have a qualified COVID-related hardship may reach out to local agencies partnering with the County for language translation, tech access, and general assistance in applying for the program. The agencies are:

o Family of Woodstock: (845) 331-7080 / 845-679-2485 (anonymous)

Catholic Charities: (845) 340-9170

RUPCO: (845) 331-2140

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley: (845) 331-9373

In addition, the Ulster County Warming Center remains open on a 24 hour per day schedule. Run by Catholic Charities, it is located at the 2nda Iglesia La Mision Church, 80 Elmendorf Street in Kingston. For more information, call 845-481-4029 or visit https://ulstercountyny.gov/emergency-services/warming-

In August, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan announced that through a partnership with RUPCO, Family of Woodstock and Catholic Charities of Ulster, Sullivan, and Orange, the Quality Inn on Route 28 in the Town of Ulster, will be renovated to provide supportive housing for families and individuals. In addition, Ulster County is currently in the process of tearing down the old County Jail located at Golden Hill and replacing it with 160 units of senior and workforce housing.

## **Sullivan County -**Warming Centers Opened Over the Weekend Through Monday Night

Monticello, NY - Due to dangerous wind chills this past weekend, Sullivan County opened its two warming shelters in Liberty and Monticello, continuing through the night of Monday, January 17:

## United Methodist Church, 170 North Main Street, Liberty

## Ted Stroebele Recreation Center, 2 Jefferson Street, Monticello

A comprehensive and interactive map of these locations is available on the County website at

### www.sullivanny.us/Departments/RealProperty/GISData

Click on the "Warming and Cooling Center Locator" app button at the bottom of the page.

In addition, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) which can provide funds for fuel and heating system repair/replacement - continues Countywide, including aid for emergency heating situations. For more information, call 845-807-0142.

During the daytime hours (12-1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, except holidays), the Federation for the Homeless at 9 Monticello Street in Monticello offers takeout food, and afterhours emergency food requests can be made to the Federation at 845-798-8774. The Federation's pantry is open to all (no documentation required) from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Friday, as well.

ST. MARK'S UMC Napanoch

INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3

Something for Everyone



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

LOCATIONS IN WOODBOURNE, LIBERTY, MONTICELLO, LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE 292-7160 794-2700 583-5445 439-4333 434-7363 http://www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com

MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES CREMATION MEMORIALS & BENCHES, MONUMENT LETTERING & CLEANING



Sundown United Methodist Church Hall



Thrift Sales will reopen in the Spring See you then



### ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION

The Little Church with the Big Heart ALL ARE WELCOME!

### Closed until further notice because of COVID

5277 State Rt. 42 • South Fallsburg 845-436-7539

For information contact:

The Reverend Diana Southwick Scheide Canon Missioner of the Delaware Catskill **Episcopal Ministry** PO Box 296 Callicoon, NY vicardcem@gmail.com

845-887-3201 • 717-870-7874 cell

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=R21JYUh yTVdsQWdMUXZvTEtCeGdLZz09

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

### Loucks Funeral Home

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

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

### 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 morning 8:50 am; Tuesday morning 8:50 am; Wednesday morning No Mass; Thursday afternoon 3:00 pm; Friday morning 8:50 am and Saturday morning 8:50 am.

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm

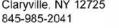
Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator (845) 434-7643

## Grahamsville Reformed Church 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

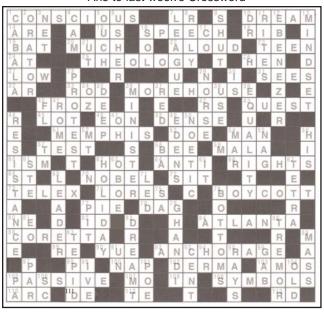


Worship Services @ 10:00 am

Rev. Ken Tenckinck, Pastor Church Hall available for rent Call - 845-985-2041 for information

### St . Augustine's Chapel

Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY Sunday Mass - 9:30 am Holy Days 5:30 pm Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor Ans to last week's Crossword





SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU

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

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

## Grahamsville United Methodist Church

The GUMC held their final 2021 Thrift Sale on November 6th. Even when we are closed we want the community to know that, by appointment, our Thrift items are always available to anyone in case of an emergency by calling 845-985-2283. Because of storage space we are **NOT ABLE** to receive items again until next spring. Please help us by storing your treasures at your house until then.

## ST. MARK'S UMC

## INDOOR YARD and CLOTHING SALE

Will be opened every Friday from 10 - 3 Something for Everyone



AL-ANON MEETINGS- http://www.al-anon.alateen.org
Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty • Thurs- 7:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty

**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**

1/18/22 Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
1/20/22 TVCS Board Meeting (See Pg. 18 for details)
1/25/22 SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE NEVERSINK FIRE DISTRICT 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Neversink Fire Station
2/1/22 Claryville Fire District Meetings 6:30 pm
1/2/22 Town of Neversink Planning Board Meeting 7:00 pm
1/2/22 Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm
1/2/22 Town of Neversink Zoning Board Meeting 7:30 pm

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

Please remember to send us your <u>Events Calendar for 2022</u> so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throu out the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

or Drop them in the Drop Box at the Grahamsville 1st Aid Building

### TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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

<u>Town of Olive Planning Board</u> meets the <u>first and third Tuesdays of each month</u>. 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.

During these uncertain times - PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF EACH ORGANIZATION for updates & changes

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

## **Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update**January 17 - January 21, 2022

Monday, January 17 o Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - County Offices Closed

**Tuesday, January 18** o No Meetings

Wednesday, January 19

o 9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors, Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 816 4111 9687, By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656

o 10:00 AM (or immediately following UC IDA) Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation, Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 816 4111 9687, By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656

o 4:00 PM - Periodic Compensation Review Committee, Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 837 3582 0415, Passcode: 231284, By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656

Thursday, January 20

o 5:30 PM - Youth Board, Powered by Zoom Meetings. Meeting ID: 997 2737 2088, Passcode: 178045, By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656

## Friday, January 21

o 12 Noon - Resolution Deadline

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

Classified ads - \$6.00 for the first 20 words/ 20 cents each additional word

1" Boxed ad (1" x 3")
- \$7.50 per week

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

(3" × 4") - \$30.00 per week (3" × 6") - \$45.00 per week (4" × 6") - \$60.00 per week 1/4 pg (4" × 5") -\$50.00 per week 1/2 pg (4"×8") -\$80.00 per week (6" × 8") - \$120.00 per week Full Page - 8" ×10" - \$150.00 per 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 to the week of the event)

Low Rates High Visibility! PAGE 25 THE TOWNSMAN JANUARY 20, 2022

## DMV at the Neversink Town Hall on 2/3/2022. \*This is a date change\*





You MUST go on the DMV Website to make a reservation.

Search sullivancountydmvscheduling

\* SULLIVAN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY \*\*

Please read all appointment types before selecting one. If you select the wrong appointment type you may have to reschedule due to time constraints.

## Now doing business at SIX locations:

Monticello Govt Center - 100 North Street, Monticello, NY (M-F 9-12, 1-4:30pm)

\*\*\*Neversink Town Hall - 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY (rotating schedule)\*\*\*

Callicoon Town Hall - 19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY (rotating schedule)

Rockland Town Hall - 95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY (rotating schedule)

Delaware Town Hall - 104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY (rotating schedule)

Mamakating Town Hall - 2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY (rotating schedule)

Customers <u>MUST</u> have all forms completed <u>PRIOR</u> to arriving for their appointment. You can access forms through the NYS DMV website - <u>dmv.ny.gov</u>

### \*\*\* IF YOU ARE LATE OR NOT PREPARED YOU WILL BE ASKED TO RESCHEDULE \*\*\*

ONLY THE PERSON COMPLETING THE TRANSACTION WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE DMV

The DMV will continue to take mail-in license renewals with proof of an eye exam and registration renewals to: Sullivan County DMV, 100 North Street, Monticello NY, 12701

For further information please contact us at: 845-794-3872

We reserve the right to cancel multiple appointments or appointments to out of county residents.

## **Assemblymember Cahill Introduces Legislation to Modernize the Bottle Bill**

(Albany, NY) - Today Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill (D-Ulster, Dutchess) introduced legislation that will update the New York State Returnable Container Law, expanding the list of redeemable bottles and raising the deposit to a ten-cent return (A.8668, Cahill).

"The Bottle Law is the most successful waste diversion and recycling program offered by New York State. Increasing the deposit and adding containers for wine, iced tea and sports drinks will further incentivize returning these materials and remove litter from our roads and waterways," said Assemblymember Cahill.

The concept for this overhaul, originally introduced to the state legislature in 2002, was passed in the Assembly in 2005 but died in the Senate. In 2009 plastic water bottles were added to the deposit. Now, this legislation will be revived and revised to include a five-cent increase to the deposit, expand eligible beverage containers to include certain wine and liquor bottles, dairy products, ice teas and sports drinks and increase the handling fee of redemption centers from 3.5 cents to 5 cents. These improvements to the bottle bill will prevent plastics from being sent to landfills, where they would emit greenhouse gasses as they decompose over centuries. These changes to the bottle bill will fight climate change and help keep our state's streets, parks and cities clean. The proposal has become a priority for environmental advocacy groups such as the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).

"Municipal recycling programs are suffering due to large amounts of glass breakage in recycling loads. Putting a deposit on wine and liquor bottles will significantly reduce the amount of breakage we see in our municipal recycling stream and boost recycling efforts immensely with an updated law," said Eric Wood, Hudson Valley Regional Coordinator at NYPIRG.

According to the New York State Department of Conservation, the current policy is responsible for a decrease in litter of up to 70% and a material redemption rate of 64% in 2020. A portion of unclaimed deposits are given to the Environmental Protection Fund, adding further benefit even if the return is not utilized by consumers.

"This much needed update will provide myriad benefits to the waste streams of our municipalities and our regional environment. I look forward to garnering the support of my legislative colleagues and seeing its expedient passage," said Cahill.

## Governor Hochul Announces \$230 Million in Additional Food Assistance for New Yorkers in January

- All SNAP Households to Receive the Maximum Level of Food Benefits
  - More than 2.77 Million New Yorkers Rely on the Supplement to Make Ends Meet

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that all New Yorkers enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will receive the maximum allowable level of food benefits for January. All households participating in SNAP -including those already at the maximum level of benefits -will receive a supplemental allotment later this month, bringing in roughly \$230 million in federal funding into the state's economy.

"As we continue to endure the difficulties of the pandemic, too many New Yorkers are struggling to make ends meet," Governor Hochul said. "These additional food benefits will play a critical role in eliminating food insecurity throughout the state. As the cold weather puts pressure on family budgets, these additional SNAP funds will provide much-needed relief."

The emergency assistance supplement is provided to households that do not ordinarily receive the maximum allowable benefit per month on SNAP - a federally funded program overseen by the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Those households already near or at the maximum benefit level --\$835 for a household of four -will receive a supplemental payment of at least \$95.

SNAP households in all counties outside of New York City should see these benefits posted between Wednesday, Jan. 12, and the end of the day Friday, Jan. 21. Those SNAP households in the five-county New York City region should see their benefits post between Saturday, Jan. 15, and the end of the month.

Struggling New Yorkers continue to rely heavily on SNAP as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact everyday life. In the first months after the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, New York saw a substantial increase in SNAP enrollment.

The initial spike has remained sustained, and recipient counts remain about where they were at the end of the initial surge, which is substantially higher than pre-pandemic levels. As of November 2021, there were nearly 1.6 million households totaling 2.77 million New Yorkers that were receiving SNAP benefits.

OTDA Acting Commissioner Daniel W. Tietz said, "The tremendous impact these food benefits have had for New York households cannot be overstated. The additional benefits SNAP households have received since the onset of the pandemic have helped millions of New Yorkers to avoid food insecurity and make ends meet during the ongoing public health emergency."

As with the prior months, the payments will be delivered directly to recipients' existing Electronic Benefit Transfer accounts and can be accessed with their existing EBT cards. Like regular SNAP benefits, the supplemental benefits can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. Any unused SNAP benefits will automatically carry over to the following month.

SNAP benefits also play an important role in New York's economic recovery, with every federal dollar invested generating up to \$1.54 in economic activity, according to a federal study quantifying the impact of SNAP on the U.S. economy. The study also found that an additional \$1 billion invested in new SNAP benefits could support roughly 13,560 jobs nationwide.

Find more information on the emergency supplemental SNAP benefits, including answers to frequently asked questions, here. New Yorkers can check their eligibility for SNAP and apply online by visiting mybenefits.ny.gov.

## **DROP BOX NOW**

## AVAILABLE AT NEVERSINK TOWN HALL

A drop box has been installed in the front of the Town Hall. It is to the left of the door, under the window. Please feel free to use this box for tax payments, dog license renewals and any other Town Clerk business.

PLEASE <u>DO NOT PUT CASH</u>
IN THE DROP BOX.

## Olive Free Library





## Governor Hochul Announce Plan to Address Truck and Bus Driver Shortage

- Proposal Will Enable Third Parties to Conduct Commercial Driver License Road Tests
- Public Hearing on January 26 to Allow Public Input on the Proposal Builds on State's Efforts to Eliminate Barriers and Create Pathways for New CDL Holders

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a plan to help address a critical shortage of truck and bus drivers by significantly expanding the availability of road tests for Commercial Driver License (CDL) applicants. The initiative would allow qualified third parties to offer the road tests, which would create more testing locations statewide and expand capacity at the existing state-run sites, reducing the time it takes to get qualified CDL drivers on the road.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 26, to hear and review comments on the plan. The hearing will take place virtually via WebEx from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will be open for public comments following a brief introduction by DMV representatives. Written comments may be submitted to CDLThirdPartyTesting@dmv.ny.gov from January 18 to February 4.

"As we continue to fight this pandemic, we remain committed to expanding opportunities for New Yorkers, supporting our schools, and doing all we can to address the supply-chain issues that have affected many businesses throughout our state and country," Governor Hochul said. "By enabling third parties to give the road test for truck and bus drivers, we will create new avenues for New Yorkers to begin exciting careers, for our children to get to school, and to ensure that vital goods get where they need to be."

During the public hearing, the DMV will provide an overview of the proposal that calls for a phased roll out of this initiative that would initially allow other state agencies and authorities that have large fleets of commercial vehicles to begin conducting CDL road tests. The second phase would include qualified private entities. The DMV will establish a rigorous monitoring system to ensure that qualified CDL trainers safely administer the road tests in compliance with state and federal regulations. The DMV will use the feedback gathered during the public hearing to evaluate and develop an implementation plan.

DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "We at DMV know how important it is to have qualified truck and bus drivers on the road, and we are committed to doing what we can to address the need. We look forward to gathering public input at this hearing and then acting to enable qualified third parties to offer CDL road tests to give New Yorkers greater opportunity to take the test and to get good jobs driving these essential vehicles."

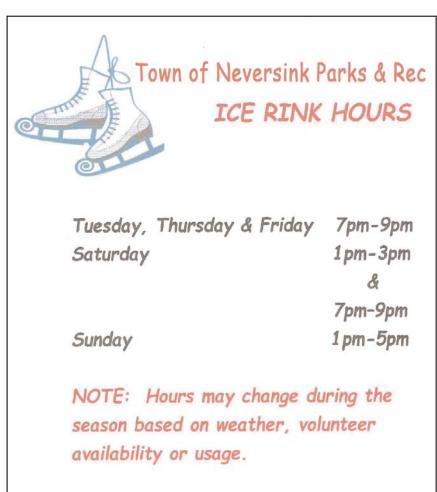
This new proposal is part of a series of actions taken by the State under Governor Kathy Hochul's leadership to remove barriers and recruit more drivers. In September, Governor Hochul introduced a variety of measures by multiple state agencies to address a shortage of school-bus drivers.

As part of that effort, the DMV expedited the process for obtaining a CDL by removing the 14-day waiting period between the permit test and the road tests. The state also increased capacity to administer road tests and, through cooperation with county-operated DMV offices, to increase testing capacity for written exams.

In addition, New York opened new CDL Driver Testing sites by partnering with SUNY, the Thruway Authority, New York Racing Association, and the Office of General Services to use large lots on their various sites for the road test. For school staff who held an existing CDL, the State set up expedited testing to obtain a permit that allows them to drive vans and buses temporarily.

Those interested in obtaining a Commercial Driver License can find more information at https://dmv.ny.gov/commercial-drivers.

For more information about DMV, visit dmv.ny.gov, or follow DMV on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



## Governor Hochul Announces \$7 Million Awarded in Round Two of New York's Workforce Development Initiative

Additional Applications Accepted on Rolling Basis with Training Organizations Strongly Encouraged to Apply at: workforcedevelopment.ny.gov

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that 42 organizations across the state have been awarded \$7 million as part of the Workforce Development Initiative. This series of awards is the first group made under the second round of funding, which began in August, and makes \$48 million available to support strategic regional efforts that help New Yorkers prepare for and find quality, well-paying jobs, meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, expand apprenticeships, and address the long-term needs of growing industries. Applications continue to be accepted through the rolling Consolidated Funding Application Process.

Funding and incentives provided in this round of awards by Department of Labor, SUNY and CUNY will support critical job training and employment opportunities in high-demand industries for more than 2,550 New Yorkers across the State.

"We need to deal with the harsh reality that the pandemic left too many New Yorkers suddenly out of work and searching for new skills to reinvent themselves and relaunch their careers," Governor Hochul said. "These workforce awards will provide critical skills training, connect New Yorkers with the high-demand and good-paying jobs of the future, and create harmony between education, business, and public investment that will accelerate our state's economic recovery. To the New Yorkers who were driven out of work by the pandemic, or deciding on their next career steps during these uncertain times, we are building a new New York worthy of your talents and ambitions."

New York's Regional Economic Development Councils have a key role in recommending applications for funding, based on regional economic needs and opportunities. Businesses and organizations receiving Workforce Development awards in the Mid-Hudson include:

### Nicholas Center Williams Lumber ShopRite Dutchess Community College

New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said, "Workforce development is an essential part of Governor Hochul's pandemic economic recovery plan. The Workforce Development Initiative puts New Yorkers on the path to in-demand careers through education, training and skill-building while also establishing a pipeline of skilled workers to help businesses meet demand. I applaud Governor Hochul for her continued commitment to long-term solutions that benefit workers and businesses and stimulate the New York economy."

### **Workforce Development Initiative**

The Workforce Development Initiative began in 2019 with a mission to invest \$175 million throughout New York State for innovative, creative, and regionally customized workforce development projects. Awards under this Consolidated Funding Application support strategic regional efforts that meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, address long-term industry needs, improve regional talent pipelines, enhance flexibility and

adaptability of local workforce entities, and expand workplace learning opportunities.

In the first round of WDI funding, over \$70 million was awarded to 225 organizations to support regionally significant industries in emerging fields with growing demands for jobs -- including clean energy, life sciences, computer science, and advanced technologies -- as well as efforts to improve the economic security of women, young workers, and other populations that face significant barriers to career advancement. Funding supports critical job training and employment opportunities in high-demand industries for over 51,000 New Yorkers across the State.

In this second call for applications, the Workforce Development Initiative is bringing together the resources, plans, and perspectives of multiple state agencies and authorities, the Regional Economic Development Councils, nonprofit training providers and private sector employers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information about the Workforce Development Initiative and the awards announced to date can be found at workforcedevelopment.ny.gov

## 'Pharma Bro No More': Attorney General James Scores Court Victory

Against Convicted Criminal Martin Shkreli, Banning Him From Pharmaceutical Industry for Life, Ordering Him to Pay Nearly \$65 Million

Shkreli and Vyera Pharmaceuticals Stifled Competition After Raising Price on Lifesaving Drug More Than 4,000 Percent

### Pharmaceutical Companies on Notice That OAG WillVigilantly Pursue Actions to Protect Against Anticompetitive Conduct

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced that a federal court ruled in favor of New York, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and six other states, finding that convicted criminal Martin Shkreli engaged in illegal and monopolistic behavior when he served as the CEO of Vyera Pharmaceuticals (previously known Turing Pharmaceuticals). The court found that Shkreli violated both federal and state laws by engaging in anticompetitive conduct to protect monopoly profits on the life-saving drug Daraprim (pyrimethamine) - banning him for life from the pharmaceutical industry and ordering him to pay nearly \$65 million. In January 2020, Attorney General James and the FTC filed a lawsuit against Vyera, Shkreli, and his business partner - Kevin Mulleady - for anticompetitive behavior that stifled competition and allowed the defendants to exorbitantly raise the price of Daraprim more than 4,000 percent overnight, to \$750 per pill. Daraprim is used to treat the parasitic disease toxoplasmosis, and, until relatively recently, was the only approved source of this life-saving medication by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"Envy, greed, lust, and hate,' don't just 'separate,' but they obviously motivated Mr. Shkreli and his partner to illegally jack up the price of a life-saving drug as Americans' lives hung in the balance," said Attorney General James. "But Americans can rest easy because Martin Shkreli is a pharma bro no more. (Contd. Pg. 29)

## 'Pharma Bro No More': Attorney General James Scores Court Victory

(From Pg. 28)

A federal court has not only found that his conduct was illegal, but also banned this convicted criminal from the pharmaceutical industry for life and required him to pay nearly \$65 million. This is on top of the \$40 million we've already secured from Vyera. The rich and powerful don't get to play by their own set of rules, so I it seems that cash doesn't rule everything around Mr. Shkreli. New Yorkers can trust that my office will do everything possible to hold the powerful accountable, in addition to fighting to protect their health and their wallets."

Daraprim was, until recently, the only FDA-approved drug for the treatment of toxoplasmosis, a parasitic disease which may pose serious and often life-threating consequences for those with compromised immune systems, including babies born to women infected with the and individuals with the Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Daraprim has been the gold standard for treatment of acute toxoplasmosis for decades - recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the HIV Medicine Association, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America as the initial therapy of choice for acute toxoplasmosis. Nevertheless, and despite being unpatented, a generic version of Daraprim was not sold in the United States until March 2020 - after New York and its co-plaintiffs filed their lawsuit against Shkreli and his co-conspirators.

Daraprim was cheap and accessible for decades. Then, in August 2015, Vyera purchased the drug, and increased the price dramatically overnight to a level that one former executive testified was "excessive", "crazy" and "irresponsible." Next, Vyera - under Shkreli's control -altered its distribution and engaged in other conduct to delay and impede generic competition. The high price and distribution changes limited access to the drug, forcing many patients and physicians to make difficult and risky decisions for the treatment of life-threatening diseases.

The illegal scheme perpetrated by Vyera, Shkreli, and Mulleady involved restrictive distribution and supply agreements, as well as data secrecy, with the intent and effect of delaying entry by lower cost generic competitors.

In April 2020, the states of California, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia joined Attorney General James' and the FTC's lawsuit.

A seven-day trial took place in a Manhattan federal courthouse last month, where live testimony concerning the purpose and effects of Vyera and Shkreli's anticompetitive scheme was provided by current and former Vyera employees, generic drug manufacturers, and experts. The court, today, issued a decision and order largely agreeing with the states and FTC, and provided relief sought - finding Shkreli liable on each of the claims presented in this action. Shkreli has been banned for life from participating in the pharmaceutical industry in any capacity, and is ordered to pay the plaintiff states \$64.6 million in disgorgement.





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

Please call for availability first

In the months leading up to the trial, the court also issued several important rulings in favor of the plaintiffs, including a ruling addressing the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) ability to obtain equitable monetary relief when individuals or companies repeatedly or persistently commit illegal acts in the state. That ruling confirmed the OAG's authority to seek disgorgement of ill-gotten gains - regardless of where obtained, when the conduct has a nexus to New York - in antitrust and other kinds of cases.

Last month, Vyera and Mulleady entered into an agreement that, among other things, required the company to pay up to \$40 million to offset ill-gotten gains and banned Mulleady from the pharmaceutical industry for seven years.

Last week's court decision that Vyera and Shkreli's conduct was anticompetitive and illegal, and its order banning Shkreli from the pharmaceutical industry and requiring a monetary payment reinforces and corroborates the agreement entered into in December with Vyera and Mulleady. In particular, the court's conclusion that Vyera's conduct to delay and thwart generic competition was illegal puts pharmaceutical companies on notice that such anticompetitive efforts violate the law. Similarly, the court's decision to hold Shkreli liable in this anticompetitive scheme puts corporate executives on notice that the OAG is prepared to vigorously seek personal accountability for anticompetitive conduct that harms or impedes people's access to affordable medicines.

The OAG wishes to thank the staff and leadership at the FTC for their partnership in this important matter, as well the assistance of the staff and leadership of its co-plaintiff states: California, Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The litigation was handled by Assistant Attorneys General Saami Zain, Bryan Bloom, Jeremy Kasha, and former Assistant Attorney General Mario Cistaro, as well as Paralegal Arlene Leventhal - all under the supervision of Antitrust Deputy Bureau Chief Amy McFarlane and Antitrust Bureau Chief Elinor Hoffmann. The Antitrust Bureau is a part of the Division for Economic Justice, which is overseen by Chief Deputy Attorney General Chris D'Angelo and First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

## UC NOW TRENDING... January 2022

Jan. 1-Dec. 31 2022 Catskills Fire Tower Challenge: Experienced hikers are encouraged to visit the region's six fire towers. Hike to all six Catskill Fire Towers between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Fill out the log of completed hikes along with one favorite photo. Download the Catskills Fire Tower Challenge log (PDF) and email it to catskillschallenge@dec.ny.gov or mail to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1010. Entries must be postmarked by January 7, 2023. Limit one entry per person. Participants will receive a commemorative patch and will be entered to win great outdoor prizes including hiking accessories. Catskills Visitor Center, 5096 Route 28, Mt. Tremper. 845-688-3369; catskillsvisitorcenter.org

**Jan. 30** Kingston Winter Farmers' Market: Indoors for winter. Locally-grown and crafted products. Vegetables and fruits, meats, dairy, wine and spirits, body care products and more. Feb. dates: 13 & 27. Senate Garage, 4 N. Front Street, Kingston; kingston-farmersmarket.

**Jan. Feb. 4** Saugerties First Friday: Every month in the village of Saugerties, businesses stay open late and offer special activities and discounts to visitors. 5-8 p.m. Partition, Market and Main streets, Saugerties; facebook.com/saugertiesscene

**Jan. 22** Volunteer Fireman's Hall & Museum: Known locally as "a little gem of a museum." Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every other Saturday; weather permitting. Free. Feb. dates: 5 & 19. 265 Fair St., Kingston.

kingstonvolunteerfiremensmuseum.weebly.com

Jan. 27 Hand Knitting Chunky Blanket Sip and Craft at Magnanini Winery: Learn to hand-knit chunky blanket. Includes one free glass of Magnanini wine. An experienced artist will help you as much or as little as you want. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be available for additional purchase. Small bites can be purchased in the Tasting Room. Limited quantities. Seats are limited; please book ahead. Starts at 6:30 sharp. \$60. 172 Strawridge Road., Wallkill. 845-895-2767; facebook.com/magnaniniwinery

**Jan. 21** The Hudson Valley's 13th annual Traditional Robbie Burns Supper/Celebration: Featuring the recitation of Burns' poetry, a traditional dinner with the entrance of the haggis, storytelling, songs and whisky toasts. Samplings of Hudson House whiskies. Several local hotels are offering special room rates. Seating is limited. Please call for reservation 1-914-299-0837- 1-845-834-6007. \$75.00pp+ tax & gratuity. Or reserve through Eventbrite: eventbrite.com/e/13th-annual-robbie-burns-suppercelebration-tickets

Jan. 21-22 Rock Academy Presents RUSH: 7 p.m. Tickets available through a Rock Academy student and at the door. Wall Street Music Hall, 323 Wall Street, Kingston. 323-538-3012; facebook.com/events/kingston-ny/rock-academy-presents-rush/404652028024563/

Jan. 22-24 24th Annual Catskill Ice Climbing Festival 2022: Choose from multiple clinics on all the skills and techniques. \$175 per person per event for all group events; \$200 for the backcountry day. Rock and Snow will offer 25% off for apparel and 15% off ice gear for all Icefest registrants up to the end of the event. Alpine Endeavors, PO Box 291 Rosendale. 877-486-5769; alpineendeavors.com

Jan. 28, 29 The Students of Rock Academy Present PRINCE! 7 p.m. Tickets available through a Rock Academy student and at the door. "Songwriter, producer, actor/director, multi-instrumentalist Prince was one of the greatest and prolific musicians of all time...." Director, Adrien Reju. Woodstock Playhouse, 103 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock. 845-679-6900; woodstockplayhouse.org

## Governor Hochul Announces Joint Letter to U.S. Treasury Calling for Additional Federal Rental Relief

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that New York State is joining California and New Jersey in calling on the federal government to prioritize additional rental relief funding for high tenant states that have exhausted their initial federal allocation. Today, Governor Hochul, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker sent a joint letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, imploring the Department to reexamine its methodology for reallocating rent relief funds in order to get assistance to states where the demand and urgency for relief is the greatest. "From the start of my administration, I pledged to deliver relief to struggling tenants and landlords who were still recovering from the pandemic," Governor Hochul said, "Since then, we've issued more than \$1.3 billion in rent relief out the door, made \$100 million in rent supplements available, signed an increase in rental voucher amounts into law, invested \$25 million for free legal services for tenants, and unveiled a number of bold, achievable proposals to address systemic housing needs. However, the harsh reality is that there are still too many New Yorkers in need of housing assistance. We were disappointed in the amount of additional rental relief funds available from the U.S. Treasury to be reallocated to New York, and given that our Emergency Rental Assistance Program portal already reopened this week, I am asking the Treasury to revisit its process. It is crucial that we not give struggling tenants and landlords false hope for longawaited financial relief when-without federal intervention-there is no funding to support them, and I thank California, New Jersey, and Illinois for joining us in this important effort."

Governor Murphy said, "The pandemic has created financial challenges for many across our state and nation, but no one should have to choose between paying for the roof over their head or putting food on the table. Additional federal funding will allow us to continue supporting hardworking New Jersey families during these challenging times."

In requesting the additional funding, the states stressed an immediate need to accelerate the redistribution of the estimated \$18 billion in unused emergency funding to help keep families stabilized and housed amid the recent surge of COVID-19. The governors indicated that the methodology for allocating the rent relief to states was based on state population totals, which do not take into consideration the number of low-income renters in each state.

New York State has issued more than \$1.3 billion in rent relief, totaling more than 104,000 payments to landlords. In total, the state has obligated all \$2 billion in available funding, covering roughly 161,000 applications and leaving roughly 85,000 unfunded.

Despite the funding shortfall, the state was legally compelled to fully reopen its application portal last week following a court injunction. Without additional funding to support the already existing backlog of applications, the state is at risk of giving struggling New Yorkers false hope for critical financial relief that simply doesn't exist without federal intervention.

After taking office in late August, Governor Hochul worked aggressively to streamline and accelerate the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program - eliminating bureaucratic red tape to accelerate payments. New York State either obligated or distributed more than \$2 billion in rental assistance before exhausting its federal allocation in November-less than six months after opening the program.

Under Governor Hochul's direction, the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance subsequently requested \$996 million in reallocation funds from the Treasury, which would have funded tens of thousands of additional applicants. Yet late last month, the Treasury indicated that New York would receive \$27 million from its initial reallocation-less than 3 percent of the state's request and enough to fund approximately 1,960 applications. (Contd. Pg. 43)

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## Gillibrand Leads 20 Colleagues in Calling on Biden Administration to Continue and Make Permanent OSHA'S Emercency COVID-19 **Protections for Health Care Workers**

Protections Have Been Allowed to Lapse As of This Week, the CDC Reported That 848,028 Health Care Workers Across the Nation Have Contracted COVID-19

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As the rise of the Omicron variant continues to threaten the safety of our nation's health care workforce, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is leading her colleagues in a letter calling on the Biden administration to continue and make permanent the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) emergency COVID-19 protections for health care workers. The letter addresses OSHA's announcement at the end of 2021 that it would allow the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to lapse, despite the fact that health care workers still face serious safety challenges and workplace risks. Today, more than 120,000 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 nationwide, further straining overworked health care workers and hospitals facing severe staffing shortages. Recent reporting shows that overworked doctors, nurses, and staff have been forced to continue working in unsafe conditions and are concerned for their health and safety.

"OSHA's emergency standard was absolutely necessary to protecting our nation's health care workers. Implementing a permanent standard will both ensure health care workers have the protections needed to continue their lifesaving work and mitigate the spread of COVID-19," said Senator Gillibrand. "I urge the Biden administration to take immediate action to issue a rule that will protect health care workers serving on the front lines of this pandemic. As we continue to see record burnout among our health care workforce two years into the pandemic, it is necessary to keep these protections in place to provide the accountability and transparency needed to keep our patients, work-

ers, and communities healthy."

'It is critical that the federal government ensures that nurses and other healthcare workers are getting the protections we need to do our jobs safely, without putting ourselves or our families at risk of Covid exposure," said NNU Executive Director Bonnie Castillo, RN. "We can't safely care for our patients if we are sick ourselves. We thank Senator Gillibrand, Leader Schumer, and every senator who signed this letter, for standing in solidarity with nurses across the country and fighting for the protections that we need to do our jobs safely during this pandemic. The Biden administration must quickly issue a final permanent Covid-19 health care standard-and retain the emergency temporary standard until the permanent standard goes into effect-before one more nurse is sidelined, lost to the profession, or lost to this world for good."

"As a frontline worker, I live around COVID, as a direct care worker, I and my coworkers deal with COVID daily. It's imperative that we're protected in order to take care of our patients, but also take care of the public. We love giving care to our patients, but we also need to be safe so that it doesn't spread and so that we don't take it home to our families," said Scheena Tannis, RN from Brookdale Hospital, 1199SEIU.

"These protections are critical to the health and safety of nurses and, in turn, the welfare of our patients. The nation is best served by a Department of Labor advocating for an OSHA standard that gives nurses here in New York -- in all the states -- the confidence in the protections from an airborne virus. We join Senator Gillibrand and others calling for all provisions of the Emergency Temporary Standard to remain in force while expeditious promulgation of a permanent standard is carried out," said Pat Kane,

RN, Executive Director, New York State Nurses Association

In June of 2021, OSHA issued an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to protect the workers who have shouldered the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide clear standards detailing health care employers' responsibilities to the safety of their workers. The standard requires employers to identify and control COVID-19 hazards in the workplace, provide access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and adequate ventilation systems, and ensure workers are notified of workplace exposures to COVID-19. This standard also gave health care workers a tool against which to measure their workplace practices, and recourse to OSHA if they felt their workplace was out of compliance.

On December 27, 2021, six months after promulgation of the ETS, OSHA announced it was not ready to issue a permanent rule and would let the non-recordkeeping portions of the temporary standard expire. When OSHA issued the ETS in June 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had reported that 491,816 health care workers had contracted COVID-19 and 1,611 had died. Today, those numbers have nearly doubled, with the CDC reporting that 848,028 health care workers across the nation have contracted COVID-19. Without a permanent rule, the health and

well-being of our nation's health care workers are at risk.

This letter is endorsed by the AFL-CIO, NYS AFL-CIO, SEIU, 1199SEIU, 32BJ SEIU, and National Nurses United.



## Why wear a mask?

Out of respect.

When you wear a mask you are saying, I respect my neighbors.

When you wear a mask you are saying, I respect nurses and doctors.

When you wear a mask you are saying, I respect other people.

We all need to show respect to one another in difficult times.

Wearing a face covering is a small inconvenience to protect others. We have gotten through this crisis by standing together and doing the right thing. The right thing - the respectful thing - is to wear a mask.

This letter is signed by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Bernie Sanders (D-VT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Tina Smith (D-MN), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ed Markey (D-MA), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Gary Peters (D-MI), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Chris Murphy

Congresswoman Dingell led a similar letter in the House of Representatives that has more than 100 cosigners. New York delegation co-signers include Representatives Jamaal Bowman (D-NY-16), Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13), Mondaire Jones (D-NY-17), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12), Grace Meng (D-NY-6), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14), Tom Suozzi (D-NY-3), Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15), and Nydia Velázquez (D-NY-7).

To read the letter please go to: https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Letter%20to%20W H\_DOL%20on%20Health%20Care%20Workers%2 0ETS.pdf

## Governor Hochul Kicks Off One-year Countdown to Lake Placid 2023 FISU Winter World University Games

- North Country Welcomes Elite Collegiate Winter Sports Athletes for the first time since 1972
- Public Invited to Take Part in Activities Celebrating One-Year from Winter Edition of World University Games

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the official kick-off to the One-Year Out Celebration for the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games. The winter edition of the 11-day cultural exchange and sporting event returns to the United States and Lake Placid January 12-22, 2023, after a 50-year absence.

"New York is proud to welcome the 2023 FISU World University Games to Lake Placid and showcase all we have to offer for the rest of the world," Governor Hochul said. "By hosting these games in our backyard, fans and visitors will not only have the opportunity to experience the majestic beauty of the

Adirondacks, but enjoy competition featuring some of the best athletes the world's universities

have to offer."

In March 2018, the International University Sports Federation (FISU) formally announced that Lake Placid and the North Country region would host the 31st edition of the Winter World University Games. The Games are the 2nd largest multi-sport winter event in the world, after the Winter Olympics, for collegiate-athletes between the ages of 17 and 25. Next January's event is expected to draw as many as 1,600 athletes from 50 nations and 600 universities to compete in 12 sports and 86 events, with an equal number of women's and men's medals.

The Games will also attract thousands of winter sports enthusiasts and fans to Lake Placid and surrounding North Country communities, including Canton, North Creek, Potsdam, Saranac Lake and Wilmington, as these elite athletes vie for medals in alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle & freeski, men's and women's ice hockey, Nordic combined, short track speed skating, ski jumping, snowboarding and speed skating (long track).

Acting FISU President Leonz Eder said, "It is humbling to see how a city like Lake Placid can create such a strong sporting legacy. That includes hosting both the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games, and the 1972 FISU World University Games. On behalf everyone here at FISU, we wish you all the best as you continue your preparations for these Games that are just one year away. I am looking forward to visiting Lake Placid on the occasion of the 2022 FISU World University Championship Speed Skating event and getting a personal impression of the preparations for the Games."

Lake Placid Organizing Committee Chief Operating Officer Ashley Walden said, "It's been 50 years since Lake Placid and the North Country region have last played host to the FISU World University Games. We are honored to have this opportunity to bring the world back together again in both sport and cultural exchange. (

We're looking forward to the countdown to the remaining days before the beginning of the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games."

To celebrate just one-year out from the Games, Lake Placid 2023 has organized several events throughout the region. They include:

- Saturday, January 15 and Sunday, January 16 Deck parties at Gore Mountain in North Creek and Whiteface Mountain in Wilmington. Between noon and 4 p.m. skiers, snowboarders and guests can enjoy music, contests and giveaways from each of the base lodge's deck. Adirondack Mac, the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games' official mascot, will also roam each of the resorts, pose for pictures and sign autographs.
- · Monday, January 17 Moonlight curling under the full-moon on Lake Placid's Mirror Lake from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The festivities also include live music, fire pits and hot chocolate.
- Friday, January 21 Adirondack Mac heads to Canton, where the SUNY Canton women's ice hockey team plays host to rival SUNY Potsdam. Mac will be on hand to greet fans and pose for pictures. The puck drops at 7:00 p.m. (Contd. Pg. 33)



## **Governor Hochul Kicks** Off One-year Countdown to Lake Placid 2023 FISU Winter World **University Games**

(From Pg. 31) Saturday, January 22 - The FISU World University Games flag raising ceremony. This event, scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at Mid's Park in Lake Placid, officially signifies the North Country as the next Winter World University Games host.

Olympic Regional Development Authority President and CEO Mike Pratt said, "ORDA staff have been fully committed to making the World University Games a tremendous experience for both athletes and spectators, and we are anxious for the competitions to begin. We are well-prepared for our trails and rinks to host the world once again."

Empire Development State Commissioner and President and CEO-designate Hope Knight said, "The Winter World University Games will showcase world-class international athletes in competition at venues and ski areas throughout the North Country. New York State has made unprecedented investments to support the region's tourism and winter sports infrastructure, and we're excited to start the countdown for this special event that will welcome even more residents and visitors to our Adirondack communities."

Fans can follow the preparation leading up to the Games on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with @lakeplacid2023, #lakeplacid2023.

For more information about the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games, log onto www.lakeplacid2023.com

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## **Monti Elks Bingo**

2:00 -pm Every Saturday

(Doors Open at 12:30)
at the Lodge • 46 North Street • Monticello

Full payout and a progressive jackpot with weekly door prizes • Food is also available in the Bingo kitchen

The Lodge supports local veterans, scouts, Little League and the Homeless Federation, as well as providing coats an gloves to elementary school children.

For information, contact Bingo Chair and Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell at (845) 701-0695.



## **VET 2 VET**

Vet 2 Vet is a peer networking program for veterans, by
Veterans in Sullivan County. Vet 2 Vet offers Veterans an
opportunity to participate in programs and a safe,
anonymous, and non-judgmental environment. We also offer
advocacy and assistance with navigating the VA System
and other services.

## **CORE SERVICES PROVIDED:**

Veteran Peer Support Advocacy

Benefit Advisement

Peer Counseling Finanical Literacy

Mental Health Support

## For more information contact:

Ryan Fuller at (845) 794-4228 Kevin Coates at (845) 794-4228

Visit our website at atitoday.org











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## SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



## NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE O

(IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

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

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

## More about our warrior Nick....

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

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

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



## Forestburgh Fire Department Assistant Chief Dies while Battling a Fire

It is with regret that the Forestburgh Fire District and the Forestburgh Fire Company, announced the death of Assistant Chief William J Steinberg of the Forestburgh Fire Company while operating at a mutual aid structure fire on January 15, 2022. Steinberg, also known as 'Billie', was 37 years old.

At this time the dates and times for the service are pending. Our thoughts and prayers go out to William J. Steinberg's Family and the members of the Forestburgh Fire Company.

# DEC Advises Backcountry Visitors of Winter Conditions in the Adirondacks and Catskills – Outdoor Adventurers Encouraged to Prepare for Snow, Ice, and Cold

Current snow and cold weather are providing good conditions for winter outdoor recreation in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and other backcountry areas, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today. To ensure a safe and enjoyable winter experience, visitors are advised to plan ahead and prepare with proper clothing and equipment for snow, ice, and cold.

"Winter conditions have arrived and it's a great time to take advantage of all of the winter recreation opportunities New York has to offer," Commissioner Seggos said. "While enjoying the outdoors this winter, remember that conditions can be dangerous if you're not properly prepared. Visitors exploring the outdoors should dress for the cold and use proper traction devices and skis to navigate trails."

Snow depths range greatly throughout the Adirondacks, with the deepest snow at higher elevations in the High Peaks region and on mountains over 3,000 feet. Snow depths are thinner in the southeastern and northwestern Adirondacks. Ice is also present on high elevation trails, as well as many low-lying trails. Much of the Catskill Mountains are covered in snow, with icy trail conditions.

DEC recommends visitors to the backcountry carry snow-shoes 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 the tree line in the High Peaks. In the High Peaks Wilderness, snowshoes, or skis are required where snow depth exceeds eight inches. For more information about the High Peaks region, visit DEC's Backcountry Information for the High Peaks Region webpage. DEC 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.

Although some seasonal access roads remain open, the use of four-wheel drive vehicles is strongly recommended and many seasonal access roads have transitioned to snow-mobile use. Visitors are advised to plan ahead and check local club, county, and State webpages and resources, including the NYSSA Snowmobile webmap, for up-to-date snowmobile trail information.

Ice has formed on ponds, bays of lakes, slow-moving streams, and backwaters of rivers. Not all ice is safe at this time. Although ice may have snow on the surface, it may not be thick enough to hold the weight of a person. When trying to decide whether ice is safe to walk on, always err on the side of caution. Test ice before putting full weight on it. Ice is always thinner where there are springs or other moving water, such as at the mouths of tributaries, near outlets and inlets, and along shorelines. It's better to remain dry and warm than to cross questionable ice just to save time.

Backcountry visitors should follow these safety guidelines:

Check weather before entering the woods. If extreme cold is predicted or the weather is poor, postpone the trip.

Be aware of weather conditions at all times and if the weather worsens, head out of the woods.

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.

Carry a day pack with the following: ice axe, food and water, extra clothing, map and compass, first-aid kit, flash-light/headlamp, 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.

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

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

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

### **Common Winter Challenges**

Challenges common to winter include avalanches, snow squalls, frostbite, and thin ice. Except for those who recreate in the backcountry, most people are unlikely to become victims of avalanches. However, almost everyone has experienced a snow squall, which can obliterate vision and create slippery surfaces. Squalls tend to be brief, so stay put if you're caught in one. Frostbite is the freezing of living tissues that causes a breakdown of their cell structure. It may affect the extremities after prolonged exposure to temperatures below freezing. Frostbite injury can range from superficial redness of the skin, slight numbness or blisters to skin discoloration, obstruction of blood flow or blood clots. Rubbing frostbitten skin, once a popular "remedy," can cause further damage; don't do it.

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 and Catskill Backcountry Information webpages provide current trail conditions and other important information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable backcountry winter experience.

#### Congressman Delgado Weekly Recap

As another week comes to a close, I wanted to give you an update on how I've been serving you.

Voting Rights Act

On Thursday, I voted to send the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act to the Senate for urgent consideration. This bill seeks to clean up Washington, protect and expand voting rights, restore integrity to government, and put the needs and priorities of the American people ahead of special interests.

This bill will help ensure our government is elected by the people and works for the people. As elected officials, it is our duty to protect, strengthen and grow our democracy. From anticorruption measures to increased voter protections, this legislation honors the lifelong commitment of civil rights leaders like John Lewis who fought tirelessly to empower all Americans and restore our fundamental right to vote. I am calling on the Senate to immediately consider this essential bill.

Otsego county state of the state

On Tuesday, I was honored to join the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce for their 2022 State of the State Event. I gave an update on my work in 2021 and outlined some of my goals and priorities for 2022.

I spoke about the importance of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the funding it will bring to our upstate communities. Washington has talked about infrastructure for decades, and finally in 2021 we were able to come together and get something done.

Based on formula funding alone, New York should get billions for highway repair and bridges, and \$100 million for broadband access across the state. We know how critical broadband is in our community and it's imperative that we keep making it a priority by investing and working to close the digital divide.

In 2022, I look forward to continued bipartisan work to rebuild and grow our local economies. I will keep advocating to deliver for NY-19 small businesses in the New Year.

Funding for Aviation education

This week, I joined U.S. Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) in announcing \$450,000 in grant funding for Dutchess Community College from the Federal Aviation Administration to support students pursuing careers in aviation maintenance.

Empowering young folks to take on an education and career in the aviation industry will support and maintain our country's transportation system for years to come. I am proud to join Rep. Maloney in announcing this funding that will help prepare New York students to pursue aviation maintenance careers. I will keep fighting for programs that support trade students as they enter the workforce.

This week, I also had the opportunity to speak with multiple district groups and organizations.

I joined Senator Martucci, Assemblywoman Gunther, and Mayor of Wurtsboro, Frank Sisco, to discuss the Village of Wurtsboro's water infrastructure needs. Clean water is a necessity and with bills like my Clean Water for Rural America Act, we can ensure every NY-19 community has access.

I also met with Executive Director of Hudson River Housing, Inc. Christa Hines to talk about the critical work they are doing in Dutchess County to improve lives and communities through housing and development.

I had a great conversation with Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood this week. I am a strong advocate for a woman's right to choose and a proud cosponsor of the House-passed Women's Health Protection Act.

I also joined SUNY Oneonta President Cardelle to hear

updates about campus and the school's community. The COVID-19 pandemic has been tough on students everywhere, so I appreciate hearing directly from folks about what we can do to keep supporting public higher education.

**Register for upcoming events** 

Next week, we have some exciting virtual events. Both events offer the opportunity to connect with me and ask questions. On Tuesday, I will be holding my 65th Town Hall. We are hosting a telephone town hall Tuesday, January 18th at 5:30 p.m. These town halls are a great opportunity to give folks an update on my work and for me to hear from every corner of NY-19. To join the call on Tuesday evening, dial 855-905-3295 or watch on my Facebook page.

**Telephone Town Hall** 

On Wednesday, January 19th, I will be hosting a virtual roundtable about prescription drug pricing in upstate New York. I would love to hear your questions, stories, and experiences on this issue and hope to see you there. In order to register and submit your questions, please click the links below.

Click the link below for more information:

https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safety-awards/documents

#### **IRS Child Tax Credit Letters**

Did you receive advanced Child Tax Credit payments in 2021? If so, look out for a letter from the IRS.

The IRS started issuing information letters to advance child tax credit recipients in December. Recipients of the third round of the Economic Impact Payments will begin receiving information letters at the end of January. Using the information in these letters when preparing a tax return can reduce errors and delays in processing.

People receiving these letters should keep them. Do not throw them away. These letters can help taxpayers, or their tax professional prepare their 2021 federal tax return.

**COVID-19 Booster Shot and Vaccine Update** 

**BOOSTER UPDATE**: The CDC expanded booster shot eligibility for 12-17 year olds.

If you received Pfizer-BioNTech: Everyone 12 years and older can get their booster at least 5 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most\* situations. Teens 12-17 years old may only get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster.

If you received Moderna: Adults 18 years and older can get their booster shot at least 6 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most\* situations

If you received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen\*: Adults 18 years and older can get their booster at least 2 months after receiving your J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most\* situations

\*Although mRNA vaccines are preferred, J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be considered in some situations. Learn more at CDC.gov or COVID-19 Vaccine | COVID-19 Vaccine (ny.gov)

#### **Get Covered**

The New York State of Health's Open Enrollment Period for 2022 is NOW going on. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, which I voted to pass, New Yorkers will be able to browse more plan options from more insurance companies and continue to benefit from lower healthcare costs.

2021 Open Enrollment has been extended through December 31, 2021. 2022 Open Enrollment will continue through January 31, 2022. (Contd. Pg. 38)

#### **Congressman Delgado Weekly Recap**

(FromPg. 37) If you are interested in signing up for health insurance, reviewing the options for you and your family, or changing your provider, you can visit https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ to look at your options. If you are currently uninsured, this window is an opportunity to get the coverage you need.

**Staying Healthy & Safe** 

Cold and flu season is upon us, make sure you keep yourself and your loved ones safe by getting your flu shot. Find out more about where to get the shot and what you should know about the flu in New York State at. https://www.health.ny.gov/

As always, it's an honor to represent you in Congress. Sincerely,

Antonio

I hope you'll connect with us soon. We're always here to help, and you can get in touch with us in the following ways:

Call 845-443-2930

Reach out online: https://delgado.house.gov/contact Come to one of my town halls or public events

#### Attorney General James Secures \$1.85 Billion FromDeceptive Student Loan Servicer Navient

Multistate Agreement Cancels \$1.7 Billion in Student Debt, • Recovers \$95 Million in Restitution for Thousands of Students Nationwide • New York Student Borrowers Will Have More than \$110 Million in Debt Cancelled

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced a \$1.85 billion agreement with one of the nation's largest student loan servicers, Navient, after it deceived thousands of student loan borrowers into costly, long-term, forbearance plans, causing students to pay more than they should have. A bipartisan coalition of 39 attorneys general negotiated the multistate agreement that cancels \$1.7 billion in private student loan debt and recovers \$95 million in restitution for thousands of students nationwide.

"For too long, Navient contributed to the national student debt crisis by deceptively trapping thousands of students into more debt," said Attorney General James. "Today's billion-dollar agreement will bring relief to thousands of borrowers in New York and across the nation and help them get back on their feet. Navient will no longer be able to line its pockets at the expense of students who are trying to earn a college degree. Student loan servicers that operate through deception and wrongdoing will not be tolerated and will be held accountable by my office."

A multistate investigation into Navient found that, since 2009, the company has been steering struggling student loan borrowers into costly, long-term forbearances instead of counseling them about the benefits of more affordable income-driven repayment plans. The interest that accrued because of Navient's forbearance steering practices was added to the borrowers' loan balances, pushing students further in debt. Had the company instead provided borrowers with the help it promised, income-driven repayment plans could have reduced payments to as low as \$0 per month, provided interest subsidies, and/or helped attain forgiveness of any remaining balance after 20 to 25 years of qualifying payments (or 10 years for borrowers qualified under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program [PSLF]).

The investigation found that Navient also provided predatory, subprime, private loans to students attending for-profit schools and colleges with low graduation rates, although the company knew that a very high percentage of those borrowers would be unable to repay the loans. Navient allegedly made these risky subprime loans

as "an inducement to get schools to use Navient as a preferred lender" for highly profitable federal and "prime" private loans, without regard for borrowers and their families, many of whom it unknowingly ensnared in debts they could never repay.

Under the terms of today's agreement, Navient will cancel the remaining balance on nearly \$1.7 billion in subprime, private student loan balances owed by nearly 66,000 borrowers nationwide. Additionally, a total of \$95 million in restitution payments, of about \$260 each, will be distributed to approximately 350,000 federal loan borrowers who were placed in certain types of long-term forbearances. Borrowers who will receive restitution or debt cancellation span all generations, as Navient's harmful conduct impacted everyone from students who enrolled in colleges and universities immediately after high school to mid-career students who dropped out after enrolling in a for-profit school in the early to mid-2000s. Navient will also be forced pay \$142.5 million to the states as part of today's agreement.

New York will specifically receive a total of about \$6.8 million in restitution payments for more than 25,000 federal loan borrowers. Additionally, about 4,300 New York borrowers will receive over \$110 million in private loan debt cancellation. New York state will also receive almost \$1.2 million in cash.

The agreement also includes conduct reforms that require Navient to explain the benefits of income-driven repayment plans and to offer to estimate income-driven payment amounts before placing borrowers into optional forbearances. Additionally, Navient must train specialists who will advise distressed borrowers concerning alternative repayment options and counsel potentially eligible workers concerning PSLF and related programs. The conduct reforms imposed by the agreement include prohibitions on compensating customer service agents in a manner that incentivizes them to minimize time spent counseling borrowers.

Finally, the agreement requires Navient to notify borrowers about the U.S. Department of Education's recently announced PSLF limited waiver opportunity, which temporarily offers millions of qualifying public service workers the chance to have previously nonqualifying repayment periods counted toward loan forgiveness - provided that they consolidate into the Direct Loan Program and file employment certifications by October 31, 2022.

As a result of today's agreement, borrowers receiving private loan debt cancellation will receive a notice from Navient, along with refunds of any payments made on the cancelled private loans after June 30, 2021. Federal loan borrowers who are eligible for a restitution payment of approximately \$260 will receive a postcard in the mail from the settlement administrator later this spring.

Federal loan borrowers who qualify for relief under this agreement do not need to take any action other than updating or creating their studentaid.gov account to ensure the U.S. Department of Education has their current address. Borrowers can learn more about today's agreement online. Consumers who are confused about or would like to learn more about their student loans can do so at the National Consumer Law Center's Student Loan Borrowers Assistance Project.

Until recently, Navient had a contract to service federal student loans owned by the U.S. Department of Education, including a large portfolio of loans made under the Direct Loan Program and a large portfolio of loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. On October 20, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced the transfer of this contract from Navient to AidVantage, a division of Maximus Federal Services, Inc. However, Navient will continue to service federal student loans made under the FFEL Program that are owned by private lenders, as well as non-federal private student loans.

Today's consent judgment is accompanied by a complaint naming Navient Corporation, Navient Solutions, LLC, Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc., and General Revenue Corporation as defendants. The agreement also requires court approval.

# NEW HERITAGE BAKING BOOK JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

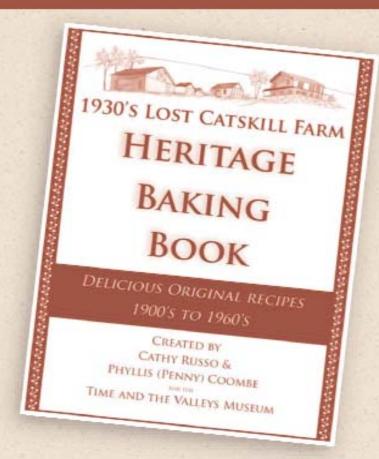
The new 68-page

#### Heritage Baking Book

has tried-and-true old time treasured recipes for cakes, muffins, pies, cookies and much more, all from local bakers of the past.

It includes a history of baking and information and photos of many of the early local bakers, including bakers from the Smith, Hornbeck, Sheeley and Erath families.

\$15 Each \$12 for Museum Members



IT MAKES A UNIQUE GIFT AND HELPS FUND PHASE II OF THE 1930S LOST CATSKILL FARM

Times and the Valley Marray

Baking Book Order Form				
Name:	Kinge was se			
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Phone #:	F-Mail:			
Please make check payable to:	Time and the Valleys Mus	seum, P.O. Box 254, Grah	amsville, New York	12740
# of copies:	Shipping/Handling plea	se add: \$5 for the first b	ook and \$1.00 for ea	ch additional book
Total enclosed: 985 7700 or email info@timeand		picked up by appointm	ent to eliminate shipp	oing - Just call 845

#### This Week in Washington Congresswoman Claudia Tenney

The Supreme Court Strikes Down Biden's Vax Mandate for Large Employers

This week, the Supreme Court stepped in to protect American workers and businesses from President Joe Biden's vaccine-ortesting mandate for companies of more than 100 employees. It was clear from the beginning that this requirement, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) outside the normal rule-making process and without authority from Congress, was an unconstitutional abuse of power by President Biden.

Unfortunately, healthcare heroes were hung out to dry when the court ruled to allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to require healthcare workers at institutions receiving Medicare and Medicaid funds to be vaccinated. While I support voluntary vaccination efforts through increased access and education, the heavy hand of the federal government must not be involved in the American people's personal medical decisions when it comes to this vaccine.

This is a big win, but the fight continues. In Congress, I support legislation like the Keep Vaccines Voluntary Act to prohibit federal agencies or recipients of federal funds from discriminating based on COVID-19 vaccine status. I also introduced the Employment Freedom for All Act to nullify non-compete agreements for employees fired for COVID-19 vaccine non-compliance. Americans must have freedom and choice.

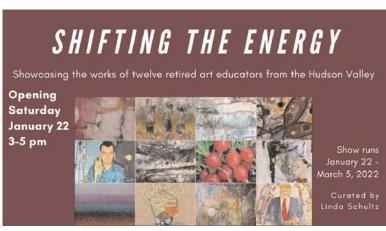
#### **Democrats Push Another Partisan Election Takeover**

Once again, Democrats in Congress are pushing a federal takeover of our elections, and they are spreading mass misinformation about voting laws to advance their partisan agenda. I am making it a priority to set the record straight about some of the worst parts of the so-called voting rights bill considered by the House this week.

States would be required to automatically register voters from databases like the state Department of Motor Vehicles without a clear process in place for even verifying citizenship or eligibility. Those who paid attention to the 2020 election in New York's 22nd Congressional District know why this is a bad idea.

Partisan, unelected bureaucrats at the Department of Justice would be empowered to throw away commonsense election security laws voted on by the people or passed by state legislatures

Photo voter ID laws would be banned, including for mail-in ballots.



Same-day voter registration, a proposal soundly rejected by New York voters last November, would be required in every state, making it nearly impossible to verify a voter's eligibility.

Your hard-earned tax dollars would be used to fund political campaigns, lining the pockets of career politicians like Speaker Pelosi and Senator Schumer.

This reckless effort to give the federal government control over our elections would be catastrophic for election integrity. The Election Integrity Caucus, which I am proud to cochair, is standing up to fight back. This week, five new members joined the caucus to underscore their commitment to election integrity.

#### **Tenney Questions SBA Inspector General Over Failure to Stop Illegal Planned Parenthood Loans**

Questioning Small Business Administration IG Over Failure to

Stop Illegal Planned Parenthood Loans

În a hearing this week with Small Business Administration (SBA) Inspector General Hannibal "Mike" Ware, I continued to press for answers on whether Planned Parenthood will receive loan forgiveness for taxpayer-funded Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans the organization illegally received. According to the rules of PPP, Planned Parenthood and its affiliates are ineligible from receiving loans under the program.

This questioning follows a hearing in November where I pressed SBA Administrator Guzman on whether she plans to deny loan forgiveness to the Paycheck Protection Program loans that were provided to abortion provider Planned Parenthood against the rules established by Congress.

We know that the SBA struggled at times throughout the pandemic, and that's one of the reasons I introduced the Transparency in COVID-19 Expenditures Act. Only through the full audit of COVID-19 emergency programs can we ensure these mistakes aren't made again.

#### **Continuing to Support Law Enforcement**

It was a privilege to sit down with the NYPD's Sergeants Benevolent Association to talk about rising crime in our communities, which has been heartbreaking to watch. Families should never have to worry about walking around our streets.

We discussed how to combat the tide of crime and legislation I introduced to support law enforcement in their jobs and protect qualified immunity, like the Local Law Enforcement Protection Act. This bill would protect qualified immunity for police officers, a vital legal protection that shields them from frivolous lawsuits simply for doing their jobs.

Recognizing the Importance of Peterboro, NY to the Abolitionist Movement

#### Tenney Recognizes the Importance of Peterboro, NY to the Abolitionist Movement

This week, I delivered remarks on the Floor of the House of Representatives recognizing the historical importance of Peterboro, New York to the United States' abolitionist movement. I also highlighted my recent visit to the home of Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York.

I joined Congressman Burgess Owens in telling the stories of America's abolitionist heroes, like Mr. Gerrit Smith of Peterboro. Smith was an abolitionist who spent nearly 40 years using his wealth and property to guide formerly enslaved persons to freedom. Congressman Owens and I were lucky enough to visit the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum in Peterboro in October 2021, as well as Harriet Tubman's home. (Contd. Pg. 41)

#### This Week in Washington Congresswoman Claudia Tenney

(From g. 40)

It is important to tell Gerrit Smith's and Harriet Tubman's stories. Now, more than ever, we must understand our shared history and learn from those who came before us. Our Great Nation was founded on the promise that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights. Among them are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Yet in the earliest days of our Nation's founding, it is clear we failed to live up to our ideals. We failed to end the slave trade or to free those who were tied down in bondage.

While this grave mistake will forever be a part of our history, so too will the courageous stories of Gerrit Smith, Harriet Tubman and so many more Americans of different races, creeds, and religions who fought for a better America, as we all do today. The way to improve this nation is not to cynically tear down our institutions or erase and rewrite our history, but rather to take inspiration from the ideals of our founding and those who persevered with great courage to fight for a better future.

#### My Votes Explained

I'm committed to restoring transparency to government, which is why I explain every vote I take on the House floor. While we may not always agree, you will always know where I stand on the issues and how I vote in Congress.

I voted "No" on H.R. 1836, the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021. As the mother of a Marine officer, I understand the sacrifices made by our service members and their families. One of my top priorities in Congress has always been to make sure that every American service member and veteran is well-equipped and properly taken care of, both while they are serving and after they return to civilian life. Unfortunately, while this bill may have been well-intentioned, it never truly received a hearing or due consideration in the Veterans Affairs Committee. It was rushed through committee on a party-line vote without any meaningful input from committee members on both sides of the aisle. It would cost tens of billions of dollars in mandatory spending without any offsets, threatening other vital Veterans priorities and programs, such as toxic exposure legislation. It also would extend Department of Veterans' Affairs Home Loan housing fees and would increase the fee for Interest Rate Reduction Refinanced Loans. This bill passed by a vote of 287 -135.

MYSTERY
BOOK CLUB
MONDAY JAN. 24TH 2 P.M.

We're meeting in-person at the library to discuss
A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee

I voted "No" on Concurring in the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746. This amendment focused on election reform was added in the dead of night to completely unrelated (and bipartisan!) NASA legislation. It is a cynical attempt by House Democrats to diminish the voting power of law-abiding American citizens. The legislation would federalize elections, even though Article 1 Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution clearly protects the rights of states to determine voting laws and practices. The legislation is an unconstitutional power-grab that would ban voter identification rules, mandate ballot harvesting, give the American people's hard-earned tax dollars to political campaigns they do not agree with, and open the door for all noncitizens to vote. This legislation passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 220-203.

#### Art Society of Kingston COVID Announcement Galleries Closed February 2022

ASK will be continuing online only programming during the month of February. A committee of board and staff met last night to discuss our plans for February, and in light of the continuing increase in case numbers in Ulster County and hospitalization rates climbing higher, we decided to maintain the gallery closure for another month. We do not know when it will be safe to open again, but we will continue to monitor the situation and act in a precautionary way to limit infections and illness in the community.

We will maintain the online gallery and every Saturday at 4pm have an online gathering of artists and patrons to discuss the work in the current exhibition. Art is also available to purchase via our website at https://www.askforarts.org/online-galleries/

ASK is extremely fortunate to be able to maintain some programming and staffing for a time while closing our physical space, although not for the long-term. While we sincerely hope that this current wave passes with minimal impact on the people in our community, health care facilities, and businesses we should all be

prepared (at least mentally) for disruptions that could reverberate throughout the next several months.

We encourage those who can to stay home/safe as much as possible. Many stores offer curbside pickup for groceries and other essentials. If you know of someone in need, offer what help you can. Community fridges in Kingston are in need of supplies and organizations that offer direct help to individuals can use your support (see below for a non-exhaustive list). If you are in position to allow others to stay home by temporarily closing a business or moving to an online-only platform, and still able to support workers, please do so. At the moment we have seen no offers of direct financial support from the city, county, state, or federal governments so we recognize this may not be possible for many.

#### **Hope this Makes You Smile**

We are hoping that all of the readers will smile a bit after reading this. It all began with an email to Barbara Barkley from a friend, Garry Rodford. Barbara then forwarded the email on to me on Saturday. It sparked a ray of hope that I haven't felt for a while. We are hoping it will do the same for you, too - especially to **The Townsman Ladies** who are still with us, waiting for that day we will once again be sitting around the table at the Neverink General Store having coffee!

Enjoy - it is long, but it might be worth it.

Yes, I am one of the One Percenters and thank God every day that I do remember all of this - the Good and Not So Good. Let us continue to Stay Safe-Healthy-Strong to enjoy each day.. Barbara

One percenters . . . . The 1% Age Group. This special group was born between 1930 &1946 = 16 years. In 2022, the age range is between 76 &

Are you, or do you know, someone "still here?" **Interesting Facts For You....** 

You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's. You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves. You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans. You saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available. You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch. You are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of grieving neighbors whose sons died in the War. You saw the 'boys' home from the war, build their little houses.

You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio. With no TV until the 1950's, you spent your childhood "playing outside." There was no Little League. There was no city playground for kids.

The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like. On Saturday mornings and afternoons, the movies gave you news reels sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons. Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy). Computers were called calculators; they were hand cranked. Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage and changing the ribbon. 'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words which did not exist. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening.

The Government gave returning Veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow.

Loans fanned a housing boom

Pent up demand, coupled with new instalment payment plans opened many factories for work.

New highways would bring jobs and mobility.

The Veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics.

The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands. Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined. You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad you played by yourselves until the street lights came on.

They were busy discovering the postwar world.

You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed ourselves and felt secure in your future although the depression poverty was deeply remembered.

Polio was still a crippler.

You came of age in the 50's and 60's.

You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland. The second world war was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease. Only your generation can remember both a time of great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.

You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better... You are "The Last Ones." More than 99 % of you are either retired or deceased, and you feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!" Amen! It's great being part of the 1% Special Group!

And I'll drink to that . . . yes it was good times .

... and my response to Barbara after reading the note.

Good Morning Barbara,

Brought tears to my eyes! What a great piece of writing. Thank you so much for sending this.

I am going to put it in *The Townsman* this week, and I will give Garry Rodford credit for sending it to you.

Yes, they were good times - times of hope and faith.

I am so shaken by what is happening today - but I must say for quite a few years over coffee, The Townsman Ladies saw the writing on the wall!!!

... however, I almost don't believe any of us thought it would go

It was more than a wake up call - more like we came to the edge of a cliff and were pushed off and everything either stopped or changed. I wonder if we will ever get back to some type of sanity where things begin to make sense? One thing our generation can still be thankful for is that we are a generation of hope. I can say with true humility to our children and grandchildren that we grew up in a time of disparity, sickness and compared to today's world – I may even say poverty – but we were happy because of our faith and hope.

That is missing today - so many do not believe; not in God, not in our government and above all, not in themselves which is not the same thing as being selfish, but rather a faith in overcoming life's adversities. Our train of thought was more along the line of, "I can do this, because I have to do this". We were happy being born either male or female, made the best of it and in fact once we became of age, kind of flaunted being either female or male and demanded respect for our God given gender. If I went to a school board meeting today and mentioned this, I would probably be on a terrorist list!!!

In a way, I guess I am still one of those serendipity optimists that look for the silver lining. COVID of course changed our lives in so many ways, and became a segue to so many other problems leading us to today. For me, I felt like the brakes threw us head over heals to doing the paper on line and the big change. I really wasn't ready for that - but now looking back I can say I don't miss the stress of the Monday a.m. deadline; running to Newburgh every Tuesday, especially in the winter and getting stuck on Shawangunk Mountain; I don't miss running around delivering the paper on Wednesdays -but I do miss the smiles along the way; I don't miss not having the time for housecleaning; and I don't miss that uncertainty each week of wondering if there would be a glitch and not get the paper out on time. Most of all I miss the Wednesday morning Townsman ladies and our coffee klatches with no masks to cover our smiles, or frowns - and sometimes tears. (Contd. Pg. 43)

#### Hope this Makes You Smile

(From Pg. 42) Although we promised once we retired we would take that train ride across country - I wonder when or if that would ever be possible? Who wants to ride across the country with a face mask on 24/7? In fact, who even wants to go to NYC to see a play like we used to?

But all that being said, we still are a generation of hope and belief in prayer. And I am sure I am not the only old foggy praying for things to return to a little normalcy and that the younger folks can go to bed with peace in their hearts instead of the constant fear of 'what next'?

When I read your email today, I felt this needed to be heard. A little bit of hope from everyone is about the only thing that will bring a little peace and love back to this world. Perhaps this will only affect a few - but that's a start.

Hopefully one day we will be able to at least have our Coffee Klatches, (the train ride?????? - a play in NYC????? - but we can still hope). I hesitate getting together for a while. Frank and I were fully vaccinated, followed all protocols, etc. and he came down with COVID on Christmas Eve. It caught up to me on New Year's Eve - so with that being said, we are happy to stay home for now. With the price of gas, who wants to go out anyway? We weren't terribly sick - more like a cold.

Yesterday was our youngest daughter's birthday, so we finally got to get out as we are considered 'safe' now. She purposely kept her Christmas tree watered, so we at least got to see their tree. Fortunately - (maybe - who knows) we were altogether for Thanksgiving and the weekend before Christmas we had all five of our youngest grandchildren over here to make cookies. Both our sons and their wives stayed to join the fun. Our youngest daughter, a nurse had to work and her husband took advantage of someone watching thier son so he could go Christmas shopping. It all worked out so well. Our tree was up, the village under the tree was lit and it was a fun holiday celebration, preparing goodies for the big night, Christmas Eve at both our daughters' homes. Well, that didn't work out - but, looking back, we did have a lot of fun planning and shopping for weeks before the All gifts were delivered safely, and we did Christmas rush. Facebook visits so we 'virtually' watched some of the little ones open their gifts on Christmas morning.

I guess we will do Christmas in July this year and finally be altogether to celebrate!!!

... and another thing I need to mention (and I think of your daughter all of the time) is all the gnomes that are popping up everywhere!! I remember when people would call me to report that the stamp on the back of their checks to *The Townsman* said, 'Ga - nome Home" and ask, "Who is that?" And now - gnome is not only a buzz word but taking over as the #1 holiday icon for every holiday, even today, Martin Luther King, Jr. gnomes... I just wonder?? Can we blame all of this chaos on the gnomes, too???

Thank you for sending this. It brought back so many memories and good thoughts.

I miss you much. Linda

#### Recreational Program Sets New Record on Four NYC Reservoirs in the Catskills

(From Pg. 9) 2021 marked the 10th year of recreational boating at Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie reservoirs. A total of 1,826 canoes and kayaks were registered with DEP or rented from local businesses last year. Of those, 1,201 boats were rented from local businesses and 625 boats were registered directly with DEP. Pepacton Reservoir led the way with 1,003 visits, followed by Neversink Reservoir with 526, Schoharie

Reservoir with 182, and Cannonsville Reservoir with 115. Of the boats registered directly with DEP, most were owned by residents of watershed counties and visitors from the New York City metro area. Boating tags were also issued to visitors from 12 states, including Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.

Rental boats were available at the reservoirs for the eighth year. The rental program, administered in partnership with the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), provides easier boating access for visitors and local residents who do not own a boat. CWC funded the acquisition of 30 storage racks for the rental boats, and it administers the process to vet and approve businesses that applied to participate in the rental program. CWC is currently looking for a business partner to offer pre-cleaned rental boats for Cannonsville Reservoir, which does not have a business providing that service. Any business owner who would like to provide rental boats for Cannonsville Reservoir can contact Barbara Puglisi at CWC by email at puglisi@cwconline.org.

Prior to 2009, DEP only issued tags for metal rowboats that were used and stored at the reservoirs for the purpose of fishing. More than 13,000 tags are currently issued to anglers who have rowboats at the reservoirs. Regular water-quality monitoring at each of these reservoirs has shown no impact from recreational boating. DEP's invasive species experts have surveyed every boat launch site and found no sign of aquatic plants or animals that can harm drinking water quality. Every boat that is used on the reservoirs is required to be inspected and steam cleaned to avoid the spread of invasive species.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than 1 billion gallons of high-quality water each day to nearly 10 million New Yorkers. This includes more than 70 upstate communities and institutions in Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties who consume an average of 110 million total gallons of drinking water daily from New York City's water supply system. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the watershed. In addition to its \$70 million payroll and \$168.9 million in annual taxes paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$2.7 billion in watershed protection programs-including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council-that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with \$20.1 billion in investments planned over the next decade that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on Facebook at facebook.com/nycwater, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/nycwater

#### Governor Hochul Announces Joint Letter to U.S. Treasury Calling for Additional Federal Rental Relief

(From Pg. 30) OTDA Acting Commissioner Daniel W. Tietz said, "The Governor's timely appeal to the Treasury represents our continued and vigorous advocacy for tenants and landlords still reeling from the financial impact of the pandemic. Absent these additional funds, we face the bleak prospect of not being able to grant the rent relief requests of tens of thousands of struggling New Yorkers who are trying to make ends meet amid this ongoing global health crisis. I applaud Governor Hochul's leadership and initiative to work with other states to help the Treasury recognize the overwhelming and immediate need for additional funding."



Due to the increased numbers of Covid-19 cases Claryville Fire Dept has canceled our January 2022 Pancake Breakfast.

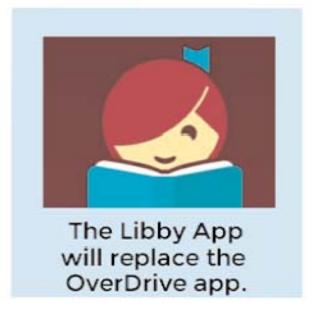
We hope to be open for February 2022!
Stay safe and healthy!

#### Important Announcement from OverDrive





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In February 2022, the OverDrive app will be removed from the Apple App Store, Google Play, and Microsoft Store. Then, only the Libby app will be available for download.

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## Daniel Pierce Library Patron

# WINTER READING "AlphaBOOKbet" CHALLENGE

December 1st - March 1st

Read (or listen) to a book--26 actually--with titles that start with every letter of the alphabet. Fill in the reading log provided after each book, return the completed log to the library by March 1st, and receive a book to keep!

> Visit the library to pickup a reading log or go to our website to print it.

> > https://danlelpiercelibrary.org





WIN PRIZE BOOKS | ALL AGES WELCOME TO READ

# Gillibrand Announces Application Period for FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, January 18, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced that the application period for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Program will be open from Tuesday, January 18th until Friday, February 18th.

The Fire Prevention and Safety Program, a part of FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program, awards grants directly to fire departments as well as academic, public health, and occupational health non-profit organizations to fund fire prevention programs and support firefighter health and safety research. In the 2020 fiscal year, FP&S awarded \$2,094,825 in funding to municipalities and non-profits across New York State.

More information about the Fiscal Year 2021 FP&S Program and application process can be found here. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 18th at 5PM.

#### **Governor Hochul Announce Highlights of FY 2023 Budget**

- \$10 Billion Plan Will Rebuild Healthcare Workforce and Build Healthcare System of the Future
  - \$31 Billion Plan Will Strengthen Teacher Workforce and Invest in Schools
    - Provides Tax Relief for Small Businesses and the Middle Class
- Record Five-Year \$32.8 Billion DOT Capital Plan Will Leverage Federal Funding to Support Major Infrastructure Projects Throughout the State
- \$900 Million in Childcare Stabilization Grants Will Cover Operational Costs for 15,000 Childcare Providers Statewide
- \$1 Billion to Fund Innovative Small Businesses and Tax Credit for COVID-Related Expenses
- Invests \$1.5 Billion in SUNY and CUNY Over Next Five Years and Expands TAP Eligibility
- Includes \$4 Billion for Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and \$500 Million for Offshore Wind
  - Launches a New Five-Year, \$25 Billion Comprehensive Housing Plan
- \$224 Million to Fund Law Enforcement and Community-Based Gun Violence Initiatives

Governor Kathy Hochul today, with Division of the Budget Director Robert F. Mujica Jr., outlined her Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Executive Budget. The FY 2023 Executive Budget maintains the Governor's commitment to passing a bold agenda that by rebuilds New York's healthcare and teacher workforces; provides tax relief to those who need it most; speeds up economic growth and creates good-paying middle-class jobs; strengthens the state's infrastructure and confronts climate change; secures public safety and protects communities; makes housing more affordable to ensure every New Yorker has a roof over their head; and enacts bold reforms to restore trust in State government.

"We have the means to immediately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as embrace this once-in-a-generation opportunity for the future with a historic level of funding that is both social-

ly responsible and fiscally prudent," Governor Hochul said. "As I said in my State of the State speech: It's time for a better, fairer, and more inclusive version of the American Dream. I'm calling it the New York Dream. We will make that New York Dream real - and ensure that it can be realized by every single New Yorker."

"Governor Hochul's Executive Budget makes historic investments in critical areas while ensuring that we are equipped for future shocks," Budget Director Robert F. Mujica Jr. said, "Never again will the State find itself unprepared for the opportunities - or challenges - ahead. After years of unprecedented hardship, this Budget makes the State, from a financial perspective, as resilient as its spirit. It is the Budget that New Yorkers deserve and expect."

#### A Balanced Budget

Governor Hochul's FY 2023 budget proposal reflects New York's solid financial footing. As tax revenues rebound the budget is balanced for the entirety of the financial plan leading up to FY 2027, has no budget gaps, and holds spending growth in FY 2023 below inflation.

#### Rebuilding the Health Care Workforce

To restore our depleted healthcare workforce and build the healthcare system of tomorrow, Governor Hochul will make a more-than-\$10 billion, multi-year investment in healthcare, including more than \$4 billion to support wages and bonuses for healthcare workers. Key components of this multi-year investment include:

- o \$1.2 billion of state support for healthcare and mental hygiene worker retention bonuses, with up to \$3,000 bonuses going to full-time workers who remain in their positions for one year, and prorated bonuses for those working fewer hours;
- o \$500 million for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) to help raise wages for human services workers;
- o \$2.4 billion for healthcare capital infrastructure and improved lab capacity; and
- o Other investments in workforce and healthcare access and delivery.

With these investments, Governor Hochul proposes to rebuild and grow the healthcare workforce by 20 percent over the next five years with a program designed to strengthen home care, improve the career pipeline, expand access to healthcare training and education, and recruit healthcare and direct support professionals to care for people in underserved areas.

#### **Strengthening the Teacher Workforce**

**School Aid:** The FY 2023 Executive Budget provides \$31.3 billion in total School Aid for SY 2023, the highest level of State aid ever. This investment represents a year-to-year increase of \$2.1 billion (7.1 percent) compared to School Year (SY) 2022, including a \$1.6 billion Foundation Aid increase and a \$466 million increase in all other School Aid programs.

Foundation Aid: Foundation Aid is the State's main education operating aid formula. It is focused on allocating State funds equitably to all school districts, especially high-need districts, based on student need, community wealth, and regional cost differences. The Executive Budget provides a \$1.6 billion (8.1 percent) increase in Foundation Aid, supporting the second year of the three-year phase-in of full funding of the current Foundation Aid formula and ensuring each school district receives a minimum year-to-year increase of 3 percent.

The Executive Budget provides SUNY and CUNY with \$106 million - \$53 million each - to hire additional full-time faculty at both four-year colleges and community colleges. This investment will fund an estimated 880 additional full-time faculty - 340 at SUNY and 540 at CUNY, including support for CUNY's plan to convert adjuncts to full-time faculty. (Contd. Pg. 50)

#### **Governor Hochul Announce Highlights** of FY 2023 Budget

(From Pg. 47) **Providing Tax Relief to Those Who Need It Accelerate the Implementation of the Middle-Class Tax Cut:** The eight-year phase-in of personal income tax cuts for middle-class taxpayers first began in Tax Year 2018 and is currently scheduled to be completed at the start of the 2025 Tax Year. The Executive Budget:

o Accelerates tax relief to middle-class New Yorkers by providing the fully implemented reduced tax rates beginning in Tax Year 2023.

o Provides relief to 6.1 million New Yorkers.

**Create a Tax Credit for Small Businesses' COVID-19-Related Expenses:** To continue the State's support for our small businesses, the Executive Budget includes a new capped refundable tax relief program targeting COVID-19-related expenses for small businesses. The program provides:

o Up to \$250 million in additional relief to small businesses.

o Eligible COVID-19-related capital investments include, but are not limited to, costs associated with expanding space to accommodate social distancing, HVAC equipment, expenses related to outdoor space expansions, as well as machinery and equipment to facilitate contactless sales.

**Provide Small Business Tax Relief:** Small businesses were hit particularly hard by the pandemic downturn. The Executive Budget provides much needed tax relief to these businesses by:

- o Increasing the small business subtraction modification from 5 percent to 15 percent of net business income or farm income, and o Expanding the benefit to include pass-through entities with less
- than \$1.5 million NY-source gross income.

o This proposal will aid 195,000 small businesses through one of the most challenging business climates in modern history.

**Provide a Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit:** The Executive Budget creates a new property tax relief credit, the Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit, to eligible low- and middle-income households, as well as eligible senior households:

- o Basic STAR exemption and credit beneficiaries with incomes below \$250,000 and Enhanced STAR recipients are eligible for the property tax rebate where the benefit is a percentage of the homeowners' existing STAR benefit.
- o This one-year program is, in general, an extension of the real Property Tax Relief Credit Program that expired after 2019, with benefits calculated as a percentage of a homeowner's STAR benefit. Additionally, homeowners in New York City will also be eligible for this credit.
- o Outside of New York City, the average benefit will be nearly \$970, providing relief to more than 2 million property tax-paying households. The New York City average benefit will be about \$425, with benefits reaching another 479,000 property tax-paying households.
- o For homeowners with income below \$75,000 the statewide average credit is estimated at nearly \$1,050, benefiting an estimated 837,800 recipients.
- o The benefit will be in the form of an advanced credit, instead of being claimed when tax returns are filed, thus getting benefits in the hands of New York homeowners more quickly. Credits will be an advance on Tax Year 2022 income tax returns, to be directly sent to eligible homeowners beginning in Fall 2022.

#### **Capital Plan and Infrastructure**

The new five-year, \$32.8 billion DOT capital plan will leverage Federal funding commitments made in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support final phases of major infrastructure projects, including Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement and the replacement of I-81 in Syracuse.

The new plan also supports new large-scale projects, including: modernizing the Livingston Avenue Bridge in Albany; reconnecting neighborhoods across the Kensington Expressway in Buffalo; converting Route 17 to I-86 in Orange and Sullivan Counties; and

assessing ways to improve road capacity at the Oakdale Merge in Suffolk County.

The Five-Year DOT Capital Plan also increases the existing BRIDGE-NY program by \$1 billion, adds a new \$1 billion Operation Pave Our Potholes program, and continues record commitments to funding local highway and bridge programs through the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).

#### **Child Care**

Building on \$832 million in existing subsidies and \$2.3 billion in Federal child care resources, the Budget includes new investments to support children, parents, and the child care industry.

- o Increase Eligibility for Subsidies- child care subsidy eligibility will be increased from up to 200 percent of the Federal poverty level to up to 300 percent of the Federal poverty level over three years. Fully phased in, more than \$535 million annually will allow an additional 400,000 children to become newly eligible.
- o Maintain Access to Child Care Providers-\$125 million in funding annually is included to maintain child care subsidies when rates increase in 2022.
- o Support Child Care Workers-\$75 million is invested in child care worker wages, an endorsement of the importance of their work.

#### **Small Businesses**

Governor Hochul is proposing a nearly billion-dollar plan focused on the State's small businesses, including targeted programs to address small business needs and ensure all types of small businesses prosper throughout the State. Key components of this plan include:

- o Funding for Small Businesses of the Future Capital and venture debt awards to emerging small businesses in the innovation sector, including minority-and-women-owned companies often overlooked by venture investments.
- o Seed Funding for Small Business A \$200 million flexible grant program for early-stage businesses recently opened despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
- o Small Business Lending Initiative Provide reduced interest rate and accessible loans to expanding small businesses.

#### **SUNY and CUNY**

\$1.5 Billion for SUNY and CUNY: The Executive Budget will invest more than \$300 million in SUNY and CUNY operations each year over the next five years. Governor Hochul also will partner over the next year with SUNY, its individual institutions, and key stakeholders to develop a plan to implement her vision to transform SUNY into the top statewide system of public higher education in the country. The Executive Budget will help start this transformation with funding for new engineering buildings to help the University at Buffalo and Stony Brook University become SUNY's flagship institutions.

The Executive Budget will increase operating support to SUNY State-operated campuses and City University of New York (CUNY) senior colleges by fully reimbursing colleges for the \$108.4 million cost of "Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Gap" tuition credits, providing additional State support of \$59.6 million to CUNY and \$48.8 million to SUNY. The university systems will also receive an \$18.6 million in additional operating revenue from Executive Budget legislation to raise the amount of State support that campuses receive for Excelsior Scholarship recipients, increasing operating support by \$13.7 million to SUNY State operated campuses, \$2.8 million to CUNY senior colleges and \$2.1 million to community colleges.

Expand Part-Time Students' Access to TAP: The Executive Budget includes \$150 million to expand TAP, which currently is largely unavailable for students studying part time, to cover students enrolled in six or more credits of study at a SUNY, CUNY, or not-for-profit independent college - an investment estimated to provide support to 75,000 additional New York students annually. (Contd. Pg. 49)

### Governor Hochul Announce Highlights of FY 2023 Budget

(From Pg. 48) Energy and the Environment

Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act: The Executive Budget includes \$4 billion for the landmark Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. This historic initiative will provide the support New York needs to restore critical environmental habitats; reduce flood risks; conserve additional lands and open spaces; protect and improve our water resources; and invest in climate change mitigation projects that will reduce pollution and lower carbon emissions. The Bond Act will also support a substantial investment in the Clean Green Schools initiative that will reach every public school located in a disadvantaged community.

**Offshore Wind**: The Executive Budget includes \$500 million investment to develop the State's offshore wind supply chains and port infrastructure. This nation-leading initiative will create 2,000 jobs in a growing industry, while helping to make New York the offshore wind capital of the country for years to come.

Housing

Launch a New Five-Year, \$25 Billion Comprehensive Housing Plan. The Executive Budget advances a new \$25 billion, five-year Housing Plan to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes, including 10,000 homes with support services for vulnerable populations, and electrify an additional 50,000 homes as part of the State's plan to electrify one million homes and make another one million electrification-ready. Funding includes \$5.7 billion in capital resources, \$8.8 billion in State and Federal tax credits and other federal allocations, \$11 billion to support the operation of shelters and supportive housing units and to provide rental subsidies.

**Combating Gun Violence** 

The Executive Budget includes \$224 million to fund initiatives that will strengthen the gun violence prevention efforts of law enforcement and community-based organizations. Through these actions, we will work to restore New Yorkers' sense of safety and community. Some of these actions include:

- o **Triple Resources for Crime Gun Tracing Efforts** The Executive Budget provides \$350,000 in funding to triple the state's gun violence intelligence resources by staffing the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) with a team of analysts necessary to process and investigate crime guns across the state.
- o **Strengthen Law Enforcement Partnerships** The Executive Budget provides \$13.1 million to expand the use of Community Stabilization Units that partner the most experienced State Troopers with local law enforcement agencies to combat community-specific crime problems.
- o Expand the State's Direct Support to Local Law Enforcement (GIVE) The Executive Budget increases funding to \$18.2 million for New York's nationally recognized Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative which supports local law enforcement efforts to stop the gun violence in New York. This investment will enable the launch of several new initiatives which will support law enforcement's ability to clear non-fatal shooting cases, engage in youth-centered community programming, and reduce recidivism for individuals under community supervision.
- o Triple Investment in Community-Based Gun Violence Response (SNUG) The Executive Budget sustains last year's emergency increase in funding for New York's SNUG Outreach program and further expand support to combat the spike in gun crimes. This investment of \$24.9 million will expand hospital-

based and street outreach programs to touch all corners of the state. It will facilitate the piloting of several new initiatives which provide wrap-around services for youth, jobreadiness and work-placement training.

o Respond to Regional Needs in the Aftermath of Gun Violence - The Executive Budget includes \$20 million in new funding to support the people and places that have been most impacted by the spike in gun violence. This will allow the deployment of innovative community empowerment and crime-reduction programming in high-need areas that will facilitate the repairing and rebuilding of regions victimized by crime involving guns.

**Addressing Addiction and the Opioid Crisis** 

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) will take significant steps to address the opioid crisis by improving access to addiction treatment services, removing barriers to treatment, developing new and innovative treatment models, and expanding the number of treatment facilities in communities around New York State.

The Executive Budget provides an increase of \$402 million (56 percent) in operating and capital support for OASAS to enhance prevention, treatment and recovery programs targeted toward addiction services, residential service opportunities, and primary prevention activities consistent with state opioid settlement agreements; and invests more than \$100 million in new resources from the Opioid Stewardship Tax and litigation settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. Of these funds, \$113 million will pass through the State to local municipalities, consistent with settlement agreements.

# Statement from Senator Mike Martucci Response to Governor Hochul's FY 2023 Budget Presentation

"I have long said that to blame all our problems, especially fiscal ones, on the pandemic would be a mistake. Before March 2020, our State was already on the edge of a fiscal cliff. Years of mismanagement and tax-and-spend policies left us worse off than previous generations and in a precarious position to confront the shutdowns and disruptions of pandemic politics. That Governor Hochul acknowledged this fact today is an encouraging sign. It is also a change in tone from the previous administration. A wholesale change in our state's trajectory, beyond recovery, will require self-awareness and prudence.

"When it comes to budgets, everyone knows the devil is in the details. So, I look forward to reviewing and analyzing the specific proposals put forth by the governor and the eventual budget bills to determine the true fiscal and policy impacts they will have on my district and the state. As those details emerge, I'm hopeful they will reflect a commitment to addressing inflation, taxes, crime, education, and other kitchen table issues - issues that are hurting all New Yorkers and driving our population loss. The last three State Budgets have been a downstate, progressive's dream but a nightmare for the rest of us. Governor Hochul can and should choose a new course."



Sundown, NY 12740 grahamsvillerealty@yahoo.com http://www.grahamsvillerealty.com

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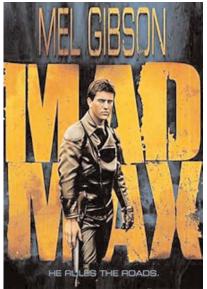
#### "KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

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#### Mad Max

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





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

Joanne Samuel, Hugh Keays-Byrne, Steve Bisley, Tim Burns, and Roger Wardalso star. James McCausland and Miller wrote the screenplay.

Mad Max: Fury Road - Rotten **Tomatoes** 

www.rottentomatoes.com Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome (1985) - IMDb

Thank you Mel Gibson for a world of entertainment. Let's see more.

(Contd. Pg. 48)



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(From Pg. 31)

## KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE OF THE WEEK II

#### **HEAVY METAL**

ONE OF THE VERY FIRST "NOT FOR THE KIDDIES" THIS IS AN ADULT ANIMATED



CLASSIC WITH SOME OF THE VERY BEST ROCK MUSIC EVER PLAYED, BLACK SAB-BATH, BLUE OYSTER CULT, CHEAP TRICK.

DENO, DONALD FAGAN, DON FELDOR, GRAND FUNK RAILROAD, SAMMY HAGAR,



J O U R N E Y ,
NAZARETH, STEVIE
NICKS, RIGGS,
TRUST, plays as
"TAARNA, THE
WARRIOR WOMAN"
smites the energy of
evil and its minons
from destroying the
energy's of good.





Knarf's note; The "storyline" doesn't quit.

(From Pg. 32)

## KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE OF THE WEEK III

#### **AMERICAN POP**

( 1981 · 1HR 36MIN · ANIMATION/HISTORY)

HTTPS://WWW.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT0082009/? ENCODING=UTF8



FEB 13, 1981 · "AMERICAN POP" IS THE ANI-MATED STORY OF A VERY TALENTED AND

TROUBLED FAMILY
STARTING WITH 19TH
CENTURY RUSSIA
AND MOVING
THROUGH SEVERAL
GENERATIONS OF
MUSICIANS. THE FILM
COVERS AMERICAN



POPULAR MUSIC FROM THE PRE-JAZZ AGE THROUGH RHYTHM AND BLUES, 1950S ROCK 'N' ROLL, DRUG-LADEN PSYCHEDELIA, AND PUNK ROCK, FINALLY ENDING WITH THE ONSET OF NEW WAVE IN THE EARLY 1980S.



Director: Ralph Bakshi Actors: Mews Small, Ron Thompson, Jerry Holland.

Stay safe and stay well, Knarf Odnamoc Gnome