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Home Of The Free Because Of The Brave: Walton Honors Veterans With Parade, Ceremony



Patty Wood/ *The Reporter*

The Walton community turned out for a Veterans Day parade and ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

WALTON - The Truman C. Toby American Legion Post 32 Walton and Frank Mead Eells Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 270 celebrated Veterans Day with a parade in Walton on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The parade began on Gardiner Place and traveled to the World War II Memorial at the former armory on Stockton Avenue, where a prayer was offered by lay speaker Bill Seneschal, representing Walton's United Methodist Church and the Walton Ministerial Association.

Boy Scout Graham Jackson of Troop 45, with the assistance of American Legion Post Commander Len Rutherford Jr., performed the flag raising ceremony, followed by a gun salute.

Retired U.S. Army National Guard Lt. Col. Joe Cetta, master of ceremonies, delivered a tribute to the nation's veterans, echoing sentiments of pride and brotherhood. As he noted, the tradition of honoring veterans dates back to 1919 - an anniversary that would evolve from Armistice Day to today's celebration of all who have served.

The Walton Central School marching band, Walton Scouts and American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, among others, participated in the parade and ceremony.

See **Walton Vets Day...** page 16

Delaware County Approves $600K Settlement in *Reporter* First Amendment Lawsuit

Agreement Restores Newspaper As An Official County Publication



Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors approved a $600,000 settlement Tuesday, Nov. 10, in a federal First Amendment lawsuit brought by Decker Advertising Inc., publisher of *The Reporter*, ending years of litigation over the county's decision to remove the newspaper from its designation as an official publication.

Under Resolution No. 165, the county agreed to the settlement, by a split vote, which includes $27,937.93 in compensatory damages, $148,764.15 in litigation costs and $423,297.92 in attorneys' fees.

As part of the agreement, *The Reporter* was designated as one of Delaware County's official newspapers through Dec. 31, 2026. A separate measure, Resolution No. 166, formally designated the newspaper as a third official county publication under state County Law §214(2).

Delhi Supervisor Maya Boukai abstained from the vote on both resolutions. When directed by Supervisors' Chairperson Tina Mole' to state a reason, for the abstention, Boukai stated that she was not required to state a reason, but continued, "Well, this lawsuit, and accusations against me, have been discussed and speculated about privately and publicly with the board and out of abundance of caution, I'm abstaining so as not to provide even an appearance of a conflict of interest."

See **Reporter Settlement...** page 4

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50 Years of Service

Three Honored at Middletown Hardenburgh Fire Banquet



contributed

Steve Finch, left, was recognized for 50 years of service to the Halcottsville Fire Department on Saturday, Nov. 7. Presenting the award were his children Stefanie Finch and Michael Finch, who each followed their father in fire service, and Dan Goodell, tirst assistant chief of the Halcottsville department.

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - The Middletown Hardenburgh Fire Department, which is also home to the Halcottsville Fire Department and the Margaretville Fire Department, held it annual recognition dinner and awards banquet on Saturday, Nov. 7.

President Jon Schebesta presided over the event, which was held slightly later than usual to accommodate those watching a Margaretville Central School girls varsity soccer championship game that began earlier in the afternoon. Steve Finch, Scott McMurray and Steve Williamson were honored for 50 years of service to the fire companies and the communities they serve.

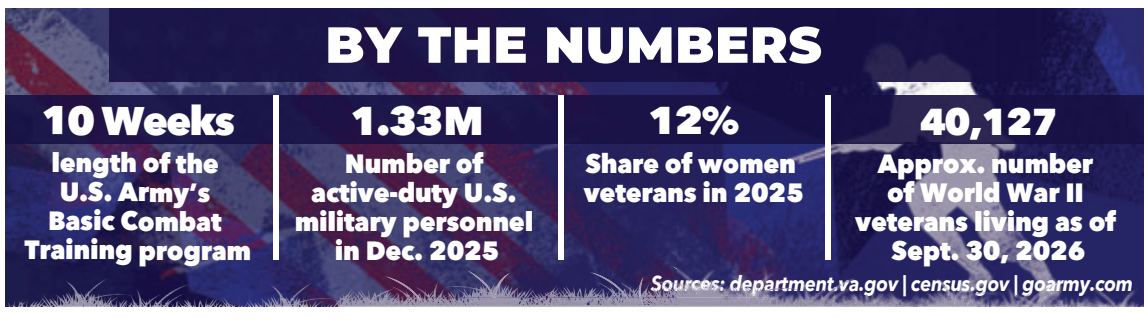
Finch was presented an award by his children Stefanie Finch and Michael Finch, both of whom followed in his footsteps in giving time for volunteer fire service. Stefanie is a member of the Halcottsville Fire Department and Michael moved from there to become a member of the Olive Fire Department. Dan Goodell, the first assistant chief at the Halcottsville Fire Department - and also a long time member - joined in presenting the award.

McMurray, who like many members followed his father into fire service, was honored for 50 years of dedication. In addition to the serious honor, he earned joyful cheers and a "golden chicken" to commemorate his decades of work on the chicken barbecues that help fund department needs.

Williamson, who retired early in the year from a post as Roxbury constable, and from an extended career of nearly 60 years of community service, was given an honorary membership in the department. In addition to showing up when needed to support fire fighters in emergency situations, Williamson was a security presence at the department's annual summer carnival fundraiser.

Like all area fire departments, the Middletown Hardenburgh Fire District with its stations in

See **Fire Banquet...** page 6



WALTON

By Patty Wood pwood2@frontier.com

There will be another meeting at WCS to discuss putting up the capital project vote again on Thursday, Nov 12 at 6 p.m. at the high school. Come out to hear the new proposition and see if there are changes from the defeated one.

Also, the next Board of Education meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. at the high school. Petitions are being circulated to save the Warrior mascot, and hopefully the public will be heard at that meeting.

The school has merged their sports programs with Downsville and that has enabled more students from Downsville to play, and bumped up numbers for our teams for some that were struggling with numbers. I'm all for school sports so the merger itself seemed like a good compromise. But now they are planning a new mascot for the teams, and doing away with the Walton Warrior. Except for varsity football, for whatever that means. But the Warrior has a long tradition and is steeped in history and should not be discarded in many people's minds. For that matter, I don't think the Downsville Eagle should be eliminated either. The teams have been merged in several sports for many years now. With both Delhi and Downsville. They just kept both mascots but combined names like WarDogs and WarEagles. That doesn't seem to be good enough now to some who want to change it all. If you want your voice heard, come to the meeting, or sign a petition and get the information directly from the school board.

Wreaths Across America is a national promotion that the Walton Vet's Club ran locally last year very successfully. For just $17 you can buy a wreath to be laid on a veteran's grave at Walton Cemetery. You can get the wreath and lay it yourself, or donate one that the auxiliary and volunteers will place.

You can also purchase a wreath to pick up for using at another cemetery. Pickups for those orders will be on Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. at the cemetery.

There will be a ceremony for the public at the cemetery on Dec. 19 at noon. To buy a wreath make a out check to Walton ALA and mail to 10 Park St. Walton, NY 13856. Or contact Linda Belmont at 607-865-5179 to pay cash, for cash apps or digital pay options.

The First United Methodist Church is holding its 20th Annual Basket auction at the church at 101 North Street on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Stop in for cake and a beverage with your entry fee and you will be able to bid on many wonderful gift baskets and gift cards donated by generous local merchants. Proceeds from the auction go to help local church missions.

A new event at the Trout Creek Schoolhouse, Sunday Swap, sounds like lots of fun. Bring anything homemade, homegrown, baked, canned, handmade to swap at the Trout Creek Schoolhouse on Sunday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Walton Fire Department will hold their annual Turkey Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14 with doors opening at 5 p.m. Event starts at 6 p.m. $2 entry fee, raffle table, 50/50 and food concessions. Cash only please. No saving seats, so get there all together.

Donations toward the raffle table are appreciated. Please reach out to a department member to donate.

For the first time, the Southern Tier Singers' Collective is bringing their music to Delaware County. Join them for an afternoon of beautiful Renaissance polyphony in celebration of All Saints, along with a few musical surprises.

This special performance will be on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 12 noon at the Walton United Presbyterian Church at 58 East St. You may be familiar with the STSC from seeing them in Binghamton, and now they want to share their love of choral music with a new community. Mark your calendars, invite a friend, and spread the word.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, Music on the Delaware will host singer/songwriter Jason Starr as guest at its Coffeehouse at the Walton Theatre series. The concert will take place from 6-8 p.m. and is free to the public. Drinks and desserts will be served, with donations to Music on the Delaware gratefully accepted.

Jason Starr, a resident of Franklin, is a guitar player and singer who has been performing in the area since he and his wife and daughter moved to the area in 2010. He has played at many local venues, including the Walton Theatre, and Castle on the Delaware. He plays both solo and with bands of varying line-ups. His music ranges from bluegrass, blues and Americana, to the Great American Songbook, Motown, and originals.

Save these dates, the Jan. 21, 2027, coffeehouse will feature the duo Blue Stone with Steve Eisenberg & Michael McGuane. A list of February through May 2027 coffeehouse concerts as well as Main Stage concerts can be found at www.musiconthedelaware.org. A note of interest: Cherish the Ladies Christmas Concert is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 21.

Music on the Delaware is excited to have Backtrack Vocals appear on the main stage at the historic Walton Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Backtrack Vocals is a New York City-based vocal group celebrated for their dynamic performances that blend heart, humor, and harmony. Their versatile repertoire—spanning current pop, Motown, Broadway, classical, original music, and more—offers something for everyone.

Education and community engagement are central to Backtrack's mission. They've led interactive programs at over 250 schools worldwide, from elementary assemblies to college workshops. Covering topics like beatboxing, group vocal improv, pop vocal technique, and a cappella arranging, their sessions help students discover their unique voices and foster a love of music. Workshops will be conducted with Walton schools on Friday, Nov. 20.

Tickets can be purchased for this in-person and live streamed concert on the Music on the Delaware website (www.musiconthedelaware.org), at select retailers and at the door. There will be a brief intermission and a 50-50 raffle drawing.

There will be an open bowling fundraiser for Lisa Kinch on Sunday, Dec. 6, starting at 11 a.m. at the Walton Lanes. There will be raffle baskets, bake sale and a 50/50 raffle.

There is also a gift card wreath, currently worth over $600 of gift cards, on sale for this event. Tickets are $5 each or 3 for $10. Tickets are available at the bowling alley or online. They can ship the gift cards to the winner if needed, so all can take a chance.

If you have something to donate to the raffle you can drop it off to the bowling alley or contact Laura Hitt on Facebook messenger, or stop in to Gramma D's in the evening to see Rebecca Halstead. People have been adding gift cards everyday too so it may go higher!

Let's rally for Lisa as she battles metastatic breast cancer and help her fight.

The New Hope Community Church's annual craft sale will take place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church on Stockton Ave. Come shop for beautiful gift options. Lunch will also be available for purchase.

The Spend the Day in Walton events have been posted and this year we have a full slate of fun events to do on Saturday, Nov. 28. Breakfast with Santa will start the day at New Hope Community Church and then you can shop at the craft show at the Castle, vendor market at the Grange, buy a tree from the Walton Fire Dept, drop off a letter to Santa at the Vet's Club mailbox.

The Common Room Community arts will have their grand opening with a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. that day, and they will have live music and a free craft to make for your tree. Yarn Over will also have a free make and take craft, and will hold beginner crochet classes on the half hour from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

There will be a free Make Yourself and Elf craft at the Ogden Library from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and pictures with Frosty at the Walton Historical Society from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We're looking for folks to gather on ATV's at Vet's Plaza at 5 p.m. to go caroling, and everyone can check out the Christmas Light show entries around the village. Remember not all streets are legal for the ATVs so please be sure you are on the right ones.

Walton Pond will finish the event with a bonfire and hot cocoa starting at 6 p.m. Walton Pond will finish the event with a bonfire and hot cocoa starting at 6 p.m.

Come spend the day in Walton and take in all these events while eating breakfast, lunch and dinner, and getting a jump on your shopping in our stores.

This year we will also be sponsoring our annual Christmas Lights contest for village and town residents. However, this year we would like to have the judging early, so that families that gather in Walton for Thanksgiving can all kick off the Christmas season together with the parade on Friday night and the lights contest being judged on Saturday.

One of my favorite traditions is driving around to look at lights. Since there are many families who travel for Thanksgiving but don't get back for Christmas, we want to bring a little Christmas tradition to them by staying in Walton an extra day.

So if you want to be entered in the lights contest, please contact me and be ready to light them up on Nov. 28.

We are also looking for painters for business windows for Christmas as these have been well received. The chamber will supply paint, you get the window approved for painting and have it done for the parade on Nov. 27. Windows will be washed after the holiday by the chamber. Please contact me to sign up for that as well.

And finally, the barrels. The barrels along Delaware and West streets will be decorated again in a contest. If you don't want to do the barrel you had in the spring, please contact me. Otherwise I will assume you will be changing them to Christmas by the parade.

Thank you all who participate in these events and contests to bring a Christmas feeling to our little village. We appreciate your help and enthusiasm.

The Walton Grange has several events planned for the holiday season. First up is the Vendor Market on Nov. 28 from 9-3, and then they will sponsor a Christmas Auction with merchandise provided from Local Lines Bargain Bins and Discount Warehouse on Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

And finally, there will be a Penny Social on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Grange with lots of new and gently used items. Doors open at 5 p.m. and calling starts at 7 p.m. The annual Walton Christmas Variety Show is back. The show will take place on Dec. 4, 5, 6 at the Walton Theatre by the Delaware River Stage Company. Tickets will be available soon and I will include that next week.

The Walton Central FBLA will sponsor two fundraisers on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the high school gymnasium. They will host a Vendor Craft Fair, and have a family holiday photo event. Price is $25 for 10 digital pictures.

Please call Denise Webler at 607-865-4116 x 6155 to reserve a spot for $20. You can also call to reserve a photo appointment.

There is a new committee formed to prepare a grant application to NY Forward for revitalization of Walton's businesses. The grant application needs businesses to apply for renovations for their businesses and if their project is picked by NYS for Walton, they would be eligible to receive 75% of the funding they need to accomplish the renovation.

A meeting was held last week at the fire hall and was well attended to hear the path to the application. However, NY changed the deadline from July 2027 to January 2027 and that is not long enough to prepare a well written grant.

There is a new website set up for everyone give their opinion and float their ideas. You can join the website as an anonymous member at waltonforward.com. We really need everyone's input. You also email the committee at nywaltonforward@gmail.com for more information.

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At The Reporter, we are committed to delivering accurate, timely, and comprehensive coverage of the stories that matter most to our community. In pursuit of this mission, we have integrated AI tools into certain aspects of our reporting and data gathering processes. These technologies assist with tasks like data analysis, fact-checking, transcription and streamlining workflows, allowing our team to focus on in-depth reporting and providing greater insights to our readers.

It is important to emphasize that AI does not replace original reporting or the essential work of our journalists. All stories, features, and investigative pieces are carefully researched, fact-checked, and written by our team of experienced reporters. The use of AI enhances our ability to bring you news efficiently but does not substitute the human insight, judgment, and dedication to accuracy that are hallmarks of our publication.

The Reporter remains steadfast in upholding the highest standards of journalism, ensuring that our readers receive trustworthy news while embracing new technologies that support, not replace, the hard work of our newsroom.

Weather Words with Frank Ward

Maybe Some Snow

"For four days after you read my article last week, we had some incredible temperatures out there. Remembering that our normal temperature should be 47 for our high, we had 73, 64, 68, 58. I mean, everything until just recently has been above normal. That's about to change.

But the one good thing that did happen in the last 3 or 4 days is we got some very useful rain. When you add it all together, we ended up with 7/10th of an inch. Doesn't sound like much, but it wet all those leaves and everything and we sort of removed the fire danger and things that was out there.

Believe it or not, over in Binghamton and Syracuse. They got almost nothing. So, I'm thankful for that. Now the next thing that's coming, when it gets here, is something called a nor'easter. There are two different scenarios. One says we will get some snow in the lower elevations. The other one says only the higher elevations will get it. The rest of us will get some very cold rain. We're also supposed to get wind. That always comes with the nor'easter. So expect something to happen because the storm hasn't even formed yet. They're making a good guess of what they think is going to happen, and it all depends on where it actually forms and where it actually goes. But something is going to happen, and the one thing I can promise, for at least the next 4 or 5 days, is just going to get cold out there. Nighttime temperatures, probably in the 40s and nighttime temperatures in the 20s. Maybe low 30s. Daytimes, maybe in the low 40s.


file
Walton Weather Observer Frank Ward

So just to be prepared, I put the snowboard out so I can measure the snow. I found my snow shovel and put it on the front porch. And since I was finding all that, I decided to pull out the snow rake also. Hopefully it won't need that until later in the year. Everyone always gets happy. Oh, look, it's snowing. And then come January and February, say, oh, it's snowing. It doesn't take long to get tired of looking at it, but usually in the beginning people get all excited over it. If you haven't winterized and things around your home, it's time and don't wait too long. Cover the air conditioners, lower the storm windows, take off the hoses, do all those things that you're going to say. 'Gee, I should have done it, but do it now, quickly.' Last week, the weather service came here, they cleaned all my equipment. They said sometime during the next year, they're going to upgrade things. That'll make me kind of happy. And they also presented me with a plaque for 30 years of being your National Weather Service observer for this area. They also told me there's something else will eventually get here. They're still waiting for it. I'll have to wait and see what that is. So what I can say is, get ready for what's coming, but believe it or not, next Tuesday, Nov. 17, they're talking about maybe hitting 50 again. There we go above normal. We'll just have to wait and see. Keep smiling and just get ready for whatever mother nature gives us. Talk to you next week." ~ Frank Ward

Walton Trustees Consider Truck Restrictions After Tractor-Trailers Get Stuck on Village Streets

Staff Report

WALTON - Walton Trustees discussed ways to address tractor-trailers traveling through residential neighborhoods and becoming stuck on village streets during its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Mayor Bjorn Eilertsen told trustees the village had received complaints about tractor-trailers attempting to reach various industrial businesses in the village. Some of the trucks have encountered difficulties navigating residential streets, particularly in the areas of Fancher, Marvin, and Holley streets.

Eilertsen said the problem had occurred several times, prompting village officials to consult the village attorney about what authority the village has to restrict truck traffic.

According to Eilertsen, the attorney identified two options: The village could issue an official order under its existing authority or have the Board of Trustees adopt a local law establishing the restrictions.

Eilertsen explained that the village has the authority to restrict trucks from designated streets without first obtaining a petition from residents. He also noted that an enforceable traffic restriction does not necessarily require a specific provision in the village code.

Under the existing authority, the mayor can issue an official order prohibiting trucks from designated streets. State traffic laws addressing speeding and unsafe vehicle operation can also be enforced without being separately included in the village code.

Eilertsen said he had asked DPW Supervisor Ernest "Butch" Smith and Police Chief Tahir Haqq to inspect the affected neighborhoods, identify the streets and entry points that should be protected, and determine where restrictions and signs may be needed. The proposed restrictions would focus on tractor-trailer combinations, the type of vehicles identified in residents' complaints. Exceptions would be made for necessary local deliveries and pickups, emergency vehicles, public works operations and utility work.

However, Eilertsen emphasized that trucks traveling to an industrial business within the village would not automatically qualify for an exception.

"Trucks going to local industry does not qualify as any local delivery, merely because destination is within the village," Eilertsen said.

During the discussion, trustees also considered whether existing truck restrictions and signage in other parts of the village, including areas around Perk Street and High Street, could serve as a model for addressing the problem.

Eilertsen said he favored first pursuing the official-order option rather than immediately moving forward with a local law.

Trustees discussed the need to identify additional problem areas and determine where signs should be placed to alert truck drivers before they enter residential streets.

Franklin, Margaretville to Receive State Grants for Water Quality Projects

More than $430K will support salt storage improvements in Franklin and stormwater planning in Margaretville.

Two Delaware County communities will receive a combined $430,000 in New York state grants to help protect water quality, reduce flooding risks and safeguard local waterways.

The town of Franklin has been awarded $380,000 to replace an undersized salt storage structure located within a 100-year floodplain, while the village of Margaretville will receive $50,000 to study green infrastructure improvements in the Swart Street and Orchard Avenue neighborhood.

The awards are part of a statewide investment of more than $249 million announced by Governor Kathy Hochul for 181 projects designed to protect drinking water, modernize aging infrastructure, reduce pollution and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Franklin's project will replace an inadequate lean-to structure with a properly sized salt storage facility outside the floodplain. Moving the storage facility will help prevent salt contamination of groundwater and nearby Ouleout Creek, protecting local water resources.

In Margaretville, the grant will fund a green infrastructure feasibility study and engineering report for the Swart Street and Orchard Avenue neighborhood. The work will identify improvements intended to reduce stormwater runoff, strengthen the area's resilience to flooding and help protect New York City's water supply.

Both awards are intended to address water quality concerns while helping the communities prepare for the effects of increasingly challenging weather conditions.

The Franklin and Margaretville projects are supported through state environmental grant programs administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Margaretville award comes through the DEC's Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Planning Grant program. The competitive, reimbursement-based program helps municipalities pay for preliminary engineering and planning work needed to advance water quality projects toward construction.

Such projects can include replacing undersized culverts, installing green infrastructure and developing stormwater management plans to reduce polluted runoff entering lakes, rivers and streams.

Franklin's award is part of the state's broader Water Quality Improvement Project program, which supports efforts to improve water quality, restore habitats, reduce flood risks and protect drinking water sources.

DEC Region 4 Director Sean Mahar said the state's investments are helping local governments address aging infrastructure and protect natural resources.

"Investments in water infrastructure are essential to safeguarding public health, while spurring economic development and community revitalization," Mahar said.

He credited Hochul and state legislators with supporting investments that provide local governments and nonprofit organizations with resources to improve infrastructure, protect drinking water and strengthen waterways.

The two Delaware County awards are among nearly $14 million distributed for 18 projects across DEC Region 4, which includes Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer and Schenectady counties.

The broader statewide announcement includes more than $206 million for projects benefiting environmental justice communities, which can be disproportionately affected by environmental pollution.

More than $42 million from the 2022 Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act will support 49 of the Water Quality Improvement Project awards.

The state also supports water infrastructure improvements through its Environmental Protection Fund and Clean Water Infrastructure funding. The 2026-27 state budget maintains the Environmental Protection Fund at $425 million and adds $25 million through the Sustainable Future Program, bringing total environmental program funding to $450 million.

County EMS Receives Nearly $1.5M In Grants For Emergency Communications

State Grant Funding To Upgrade, Maintain Emergency Communications Equipment And Support Public Safety Dispatch

Staff Report

DELHI - County supervisors unanimously approved two resolutions at their Nov. 10 meeting authorizing the Department of Emergency Services to accept the grants and amend the 2026 county budget to reflect the additional revenue and expenditures.

The largest award, totaling $1,168,150, comes through the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant program. The funding covers a five-year contract period from Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2030.

The grant will support equipment and related costs for the county's communications towers and Land Mobile Radio system. Eligible expenses include generators, shelters, antennas, microwave equipment and system maintenance.

Of the total award, $218,150 will be allocated for equipment, while $950,000 will go toward maintenance and repairs.

The second resolution authorizes the acceptance of a $319,990 award through New York state's 2026-28 Public Safety Answering Points Grant Program.

The three-year grant, covering Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028, provides state support for eligible public safety call-taking and dispatching expenses.

According to the resolution, the funding will be used for computer equipment upgrades and maintenance and repairs for Public Safety Answering Point equipment.

Of that award, $69,990 will be allocated for equipment and $250,000 for maintenance and repairs.

Together, the two grants provide Delaware County with $1,488,140 in state funding for emergency communications infrastructure, equipment and maintenance.

Signs Of Fall In Sidney



contributed

Sidney's Hill & Valley Garden Club members taking a break from working on the club's garden areas along the walking trail. Left to right: visiting friend, Aliya Pickens, Denise McCabe Edwards, Mary Jane Plummer and club co-president Gail Lamond.

SIDNEY - The trees have mostly dropped their leaves on the hillsides but as a reminder that fall is also a harvest season, a colorful array of pumpkins and gourds at the 'Welcome to Sidney' sign great travels as they enter the downtown district of the village. Elsewhere, garden club members have been busy adding other touches of fall decor to the planters at the library. The largest project for the club meant putting the gardens "to bed" for the winter season. Along the two large gardens flanking the Firemen's Monument at the walking trail in Keith Clark Park, a crew of garden club workers recently spent a morning in the cool autumn sun cutting down the spent flowers and plants and removing some unwanted weeds. In anticipation of spring 2027, clumps of daffodils bulbs were planted to provide sunny yellow welcomes to spring next March.

Summer upgrades that can be found throughout Sidney's Keith Clark Park include a new colorful welcome sign to the Friendship Playground, installation of seven security cameras which are linked directly to the Sidney Police Department, volunteer cleanup activities during the summer and fall and restroom upgrade installations which will be completed in the spring.

Plans and activities over the winter months include an Eagle Scout project to construct new benches for along the two-mile walking trail in Keith Clark Park. Sidney's department of public works will be finalizing plans for a new roof over the restroom building and the covered bridge along the trail. They will completing some overgrown brush removal and fencing projects



contributed

The circle of memorial bricks at the beginning of the walking trail was cleaned of the invasion of weeds and grass in the cracks between the bricks. A small crew of volunteers tackled this job with wonderful results.

which will provide viewing areas along the Susquehanna River. Sidney's Shade Tree Commission will be ordering trees for planting in the park and areas around the village. The commission will organize the 2027 Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday April 30. Students in Sidney's fifth grade are starting to create colorful posters with this year's theme Trees Make Our Park Beautiful.

Keith Clark Park is a popular destination which has evolved over many decades. It begun under the leadership of Ed Roelle with the support of the Sidney Community Foundation and Sidney Rotary Club. These organizations along with Sidney's United Way, the Village of Sidney and numerous clubs and volunteers have continued to support the park's transformation from a one-time farmer's field to a place to enjoy the beauty of our region.

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Reporter Settlement...

continued from front page



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Supervisors' Chairperson Tina Mole', right, and Clerk to the Board Penny Bishop, at the Tuesday, Nov. 10 meeting where the settlement of the First Amendment lawsuit brought by *The Reporter* against Delaware County officials, personally and in their individual capacity, was approved, with a split vote.

Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold voted against re-designating *The Reporter* as the county's official newspaper. When asked the reason for his no vote, Vernold said, "Because I'm from Hancock."

Meredith Supervisor James Ellis also voted no to the re-designation, saying he, "just didn't like it."

Roxbury Supervisor Allen Hinkley voted to approve the re-designation of *The Reporter* as an official paper, "reluctantly."

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield was not in attendance at the meeting.

The resolution states that the county maintains liability insurance and expects its insurance carrier to pay the costs incurred in defending the lawsuit, along with the substantial majority of the settlement amount. It does not specify the exact amount the county itself will be responsible for paying.

The settlement, according to the resolution, includes no admission of liability or wrongdoing by the county or any individual defendants. The resolution notes that no court has entered a finding of liability against the county or any defendant.

Decker Advertising representatives declined to comment on the resolutions, settlement or re-designation while the legal process remains active.

Of the settlement, Heather Murray of the First Amendment Clinic at Cornell Law School which represents Decker Advertising along with Foley Hoag LLP, said, "A free and independent press is a pillar of our democracy. That's why it's so important that news outlets remain free to publish without government interference. That's true with respect to all levels of government — national and local. This lawsuit was brought to vindicate that essential right."

The Dispute Over Official Newspaper Designation

The lawsuit dates to March 2022, when the Delaware County Board of Supervisors revoked *The Reporter's* designation as an official county newspaper. The newspaper had been one of two publications designated by the county in January 2022.

Decker Advertising filed suit against the county and individual officials in December 2023, alleging that the decision violated the newspaper's First Amendment rights. The lawsuit also challenged a May 2023 directive instructing county department heads to refer media inquiries to the county attorney and public information officer.

The newspaper argued that the actions were retaliation for its reporting on county government and interfered with its ability to gather news. County officials maintained that the newspaper designation change was based on publication costs and administrative concerns, while the media directive was implemented in anticipation of litigation and applied generally to press communications.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold voted against re-designating *The Reporter* as an official county newspaper saying it was, "Because I'm from Hancock."

Federal Judge Cleared Case for Trial

The case moved closer to trial in July 2026, when U.S. District Judge Anne M. Nardacci denied competing motions for partial summary judgment filed by both sides.

In a July 21 memorandum-decision and order, Nardacci found that key factual disputes - including whether county officials retaliated against *The Reporter* for its coverage - would need to be decided by a jury.

The ruling allowed the newspaper's First Amendment retaliation and unlawful newsgathering claims to proceed. The judge also declined to dismiss the plaintiff's request for punitive damages against individual defendants if a jury found that their conduct met the legal standard for such an award.

At the time, Murray said the newspaper welcomed the decision.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Meredith Supervisor Jim Ellis voted "no" to re-designating *The Reporter* as an official county newspaper, saying he "just didn't like it."

"We are pleased with the decision and look forward to bringing this case to trial to defend the right of *The Reporter* - and every news outlet - to report critically on government officials," Murray said in July. "Importantly, the Court also found that *The Reporter* is eligible to recover punitive damages in the event a jury determines that the evidence presented of County officials' retaliation violated the First Amendment."

The settlement resolution states that the county determined a settlement was appropriate after several years of litigation, including motions and dispositive motions filed by both parties, and as the matter was scheduled to proceed toward trial. The county cited the uncertainty, expense and additional costs associated with continuing the case.

Official Newspaper Designation Restored

Resolution No. 166 formalized *The Reporter's* designation as a third official county newspaper through Dec. 31, 2026, as required by the settlement.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Delhi Supervisor Maya Boukai abstained from the vote approving the settlement of the federal lawsuit against Delaware County, saying the county made accusations against her in the lawsuit. Boukai also abstained from voting on re-designation for the same reason.

Under County Law §214, counties designate official newspapers for publishing local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published.

The settlement brings the dispute over *The Reporter's* official newspaper status to a close, at least under the terms approved Tuesday, while restoring the publication to the county's list of official newspapers for the remainder of 2026.

Correction

In the Nov. 5 article titled "New Cooks Falls Justice Court Clerk Appointed," it was misreported that Melanie Huggins was appointed Cooks Falls Justice Court Clerk. Huggins was appointed as the Downsville Justice Court Clerk.





Walton Moves to Put Unsafe-Building Warnings Into Practice

Code enforcement officer outlines sign replacement policy, plans coordinated rental inspections and changes fire inspection notices

Staff Report

WALTON - Vacant buildings deemed unsafe for entry could soon carry a more visible warning in Walton, as Code Enforcement Officer Corey Steffen works to put state-required firefighter safety signs into use and strengthen the village's enforcement procedures.

Reporting to Walton trustees on Tuesday, Nov. 4, Steffen said the village has purchased the signs and is preparing to begin installing them on properties identified as unsafe. The signs are intended to alert firefighters and other emergency personnel to potential structural hazards before entering a building.

The move builds on an initiative Steffen introduced to trustees during a July 7 meeting, when he discussed two types of bright red, reflective signs designed to identify dangerous vacant structures.

Under state fire safety requirements, a sign marked with a single slash indicates localized hazards requiring caution, while a sign bearing a full X warns of serious structural dangers. In the latter case, firefighters are instructed not to enter unless there is absolute certainty that someone's life is in danger.

Steffen previously explained that the signs are intended to protect emergency responders rather than formally condemn properties. The distinction is important because the village does not want to assume responsibility for the costs associated with bringing privately owned buildings back into compliance.

During his November report, Steffan discussed establishing a policy for signs that are removed or damaged. If a property owner removes a warning sign or it is damaged through vandalism or other circumstances attributable to the owner, the owner could be responsible for the cost of a replacement.

The discussion also touched on the proposed charge for replacement signs. The signs themselves are intended to communicate one thing clearly: A building has been identified as unsafe to enter.



file

Structures, such as this one at 64 East Street, is vacant and considered unsafe by code enforcement, and will be posted with warning signs meant to alert firefighters and others.

Rental inspections to be coordinated

Steffen also reported progress toward coordinating building code and fire safety inspections of rental properties, a move that could reduce the number of separate visits property owners must accommodate.

He said he had met with fire officials to discuss combining their inspection efforts. Under the proposed arrangement, fire officials would provide code enforcement with a list of rental properties scheduled for inspection. The two departments would then coordinate their work so building code and fire safety inspections could take place during the same visit.

Rather than requiring property owners to accommodate multiple inspections over an extended period, the goal would be to make the process more efficient.

"One and done," Steffen said in describing the approach.

He said fire officials are expected to contact code enforcement within the next 30 days with their next inspection list.

More time for fire inspection notices

Steffan also addressed problems with the mailing system used to notify property owners of upcoming fire inspections.

Previously, notices were sent approximately two weeks before scheduled inspections. However, delays in the mail resulted in some property owners receiving their inspection notices late. In some cases, owners received a letter notifying them of a failed inspection at nearly the same time they received the notice to schedule the inspection.

After discussing the problem with Mayor Bjorn Eilertsen and Code Enforcement Officer Josh Morgan, a decision was made to extend the advance notice period to four weeks.

Steffen said he had already sent approximately 12 to 24 letters notifying property owners of upcoming fire inspections. Those who have responded have been able to begin arranging their inspections.

The longer notification period is intended to give residents and property owners more time to prepare and schedule appointments, reducing confusion and the possibility of missed inspections.

Hancock Overrides Tax Cap as 2027 Budget Faces Scrutiny

Staff Report

HANCOCK - Hancock council members moved to override the state property tax levy limit and considered its 2027 spending plan during its Nov. 4 meeting, as questions about rising taxes and the town's use of fund balance highlighted the budget discussion.

Council members held a public hearing on a proposal to authorize the town to adopt a 2027 budget with a property tax levy above the limit - 2% - established by New York's General Municipal Law.

The proposed law states that its purpose is to allow the town to adopt a budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2027, that requires a levy exceeding the state limit. State law permits municipalities to override the cap through a local law approved by at least 60% of the governing board.

No public comments were offered during the hearing before the council members took up a motion to adopt the local law.

Council members also discussed the preliminary 2027 budget, including the use of approximately $82,000 in prior-year fund balance to offset taxes.

During the discussion, incoming supervisor Sam Rowe questioned how the proposed budget would affect taxpayers and asked about the town's ability to continue using fund balance to help control taxes.

Supervisor's bookkeeper Monica Noble said the 2027 tax levy limit was lower than the previous year's limit, in part because of a $60,000 reduction related to payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTs.

Noble said the actual tax levy had increased 7.25% and that the town had used about $82,000 carried over from the prior year to offset the tax burden.

"That is a one time [thing]," Noble said, explaining that the money would otherwise have remained in the town's fund balance.

Noble said the town had healthy reserves as of Sept. 30, although the figures were estimates and could change before the end of the year. The general fund had about $200,208 in unappropriated fund balance, or 13.2% of expenditures. Other reported balances included about $20,593 in one fund, $263,694 in another and $584,188 in a fourth.

The town also expects nearly $1 million in FEMA reimbursements, though officials noted that additional work remains on emergency repairs and other projects that will require spending before reimbursement.

Total spending and the percentage of tax levy increase were not disclosed, though Vernold stated the budget is available for inspection in the clerk's office during normal business hours. As of publication, the 2027 budget was not available on the town's website.

In October, Noble estimated a tax increase of $2.29 per $1,000 of assessed value for residents outside the village and $3.85 per $1,000 for village residents, emphasizing, at the time, that the figures remain estimates because final assessment numbers were not yet available.

According to those statements, for a property assessed at $100,000:

- Residents outside the village: $2.29 per $1,000 of assessed value would see an additional $229 in their tax bill; and
- Village residents: $3.85 per $1,000 of assessed value would see an additional $385 in their tax bill.

Incoming Supervisor Asks Board To Remove Raise

Rowe asked council members to remove a proposed salary increase for the position from the 2027 budget, saying accepting a raise would be inappropriate while residents face higher property taxes and affordability challenges.

"I do not believe accepting a raise would be prudent when property owners are facing a significant tax increase and many of our senior citizens, working families and other vulnerable taxpayers are already struggling with affordability," Rowe said.

The request was to remove the increase, not eliminate the salary itself.

Rowe also addressed the East Branch levee, saying the current administration should provide a complete transition file so work can continue after the change in leadership Jan. 1.

The requested records include reports, inspections, agency contacts, correspondence, engineering documents and pending commitments related to the levee.

Rowe said a multi-agency working meeting involving the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and Delaware County would be more productive after the new administration takes office.

"I don't want a hurried meeting held simply so the town can say that one occurred," Rowe said.

Rowe said the goal is to pursue the matter until East Branch residents receive "an honest engineering determination and a realistic path forward."

Farmers Market Seeks Continued Town Support

Representatives involved in the Hancock Farmers Market and town square events, Paul Siegler and Richard Lowe, asked the town to provide funding again in 2027.

Siegler said organizers hope the Hancock Partners will enter into a three- or five-year agreement with the town for operation of the market, rather than renewing a one-year contract annually.

A representative cited attendance figures showing more than 13,462 people at monthly festivals held between Memorial Day and the Harvest Festival. From April 1 through the meeting date, the town square had recorded about 67,000 visits, according to data gathered through a third-party tracking service.

Lowe estimated the visits generated between $1 million and $3.61 million in economic activity.

Organizers said securing donations and grants remains a challenge. The chamber raised about $25,000 in grants, while one organizer raised another $10,000 to $15,000.

Town officials noted that it had provided $1,500 to the chamber the previous year.

Fishs Eddy Wells Meet Pumping Target

Bill Brown of Delaware Engineering, working on the Fishs Eddy water project, reported that pump tests at two wells conducted during the previous week showed each producing 50 gallons per minute, meeting the project's target.

Water samples have been sent to a laboratory to confirm quality.

Once the results are available, the project team plans to complete the design and submit it to the state Department of Health for review and approval of any required treatment.

The goal is to put the project out to bid over the winter and begin construction next year, including installation of water lines and well infrastructure.

Moratorium Drafts Completed

It was reported that the town attorney, Robert McKertich, sent draft versions of two proposed moratoria to town officials.

The update followed a resident's question about the status of a proposed moratorium on artificial intelligence-related development and data centers.

The town received the drafts along with an outline of the steps needed to move forward.

Highway Superintendent Neil Emerich also reported that crews had been working on Peas Eddy Road, patching and rolling blacktop, grading dirt roads and hauling millings from state work along Route 17. The town's winter sand supply has been prepared and stored.

Other announcements included a food drive benefiting local families before Thanksgiving, with a donor offering to contribute $5 for every bag collected, and a call for a volunteer to serve as the contact person for Riverview Cemetery.

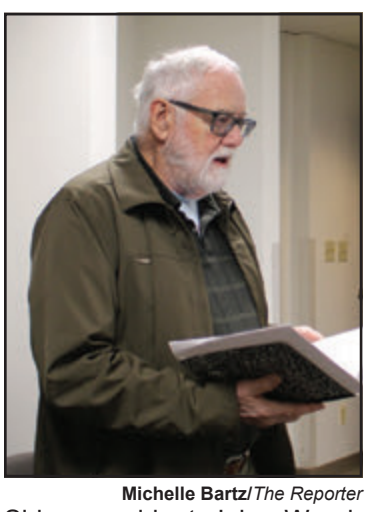
The meeting also included a reminder that Christmas on the Square is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 8 p.m. Organizers said the event is expected to draw about 5,000 people and will include a free carnival for children, a petting zoo, fire pits, s'mores and other activities. A Wreaths Across America ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Hancock Firehouse.

Sidney: Resident Questions Handling of Water Project 'Snafus'

By Michelle Bartz

SIDNEY - At the Sidney trustees meeting Monday, Nov. 9, retired village engineer John Woodyshek referenced an article about the October meeting published in the Oct. 22 edition of *The Reporter*, focusing on Lamont Engineers principal engineer Jason Preisner's use of the word "snafu."

"We have to take on an unexpected half a million dollar loan for two months. for the $9 million water project, and your consultant, if they've documented this accurately, has characterized this as a snafu. A $500,000 loan for two months has to cost thousands of dollars. I didn't do the math, I don't have the rates, but it has to cost thousands of dollars. One thing I know is that snafus cost money. What I don't know is, how many snafus it takes to figure out that you may have hooked your wagon to the wrong horse or horses. By my count, we're up to over 12 snafus. Where is the accountability?" Woodyshek asked.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*
Sidney resident John Woodyshek expressed concern over the cost of the new water system and the recent boil water advisory issued by the village, at a Sidney trustees meeting held Monday, Nov. 9

Woodyshek said that he wrote a Letter to the Editor of *The Reporter* (which was posted on the newspaper's online version on Oct. 7) and that he'd sent a copy to trustees, but had not received a response. The letter referenced the water valve replacement and subsequent boil water notice.

"It's incomprehensible to me how you could issue a boil water notice for a piece of Pleasant Street and Willow Street on a project that happened on Main Street with, as I said in the letter in *The Reporter*, within inundated water mains, it's incomprehensible to me how you can actually issue a partial boil water notice on a piece of the village. And that to me is a red flag," he said.

Mayor Ray Baker acknowledged that he had seen Woodyshek's letter to the editor and said that he would look into his "snafu list". He said he contacted Sidney water treatment plant Chief Operator Brett French after reading the article. French told him that the state Department of Health office in Oneonta directed him on where to issue boil-water notices.

Woodyshek voiced concern that he hadn't had a response from village officials or the health department and that it needs to be looked into as it's a public health concern.

Trustee Victor Tartaglia asked whether the village had any precedent for partially shutting off its water supply. Woodyshek said he was not aware of any.

Trustee Thomas Hoskins said it was his understanding that good results were found on all of the water samples taken except for one taken at a single house. Two samples were taken there and one of them did not pass. French discussed everything with the department of health and they directed him how to proceed. Because all of the other tests passed, the one that didn't was probably a sampling error.

Woodyshek countered, "Again, that's part of this whole thing. I'm not buying it. There's no question in my mind. I'm not buying that, but again, there's more to it than even the boiled water notice. There's the activity in itself."

Hoskins said that a representative from the engineering firm that was hired was present (for the water mains work), that they are professional engineers, and the firm believed that the work was done correctly.

Tartaglia asked if Woodyshek felt that the Department of Health was in error in the direction that they gave. Woodyshek said that he didn't know what the Department of Health knew and repeated that he felt it should be looked into. Baker acknowledged Woodyshek's concern.



Sidney Tri-Town Hospital Campus Nears Capacity as Tenants Move In

By Sara Andros



file

AO Fox Tri-Town Hospital Campus on Pearl Street, Sidney.

SIDNEY - There has been a lot of buzz surrounding the Sidney Tri-Town Hospital lately. At the regular meeting of the Sidney Town Council on Nov. 5, Supervisor Eric Wilson reported that there has been quite a bit of activity at the hospital; the space is almost full. The building is owned by the town with the Bassett Healthcare Network operating the health services and paying rent for the space. Wilson and other town employees have been working for years to fill the vacant spaces at the 43 Pearl Street location to offset operational costs.

The Tri-Town Senior Center relocated to the campus in February 2023. The Sidney village municipal offices, including the village clerk, code enforcer, and mayor relocated from the civic center location in October 2026. Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie County will be relocating there once renovation of their space is completed and CDO Workforce is in the preliminary phase of procuring office space there.

Wilson said that there has also been discussion about moving the town offices, Department of Motor Vehicles, the Sidney Historical Society and the town court offices to the building in the spring.

"At this point, I'm not sure if it makes sense," said Wilson. "We want to be certain that we can all fit up there, so we'll have to look at it closer."

Currently the expenses at the town hall run about $60,000 a year. The original idea was to relocate all of those offices to the hospital campus and rent out the town hall building as a cost saving measure. Councilmember Kevin Green is preparing a worksheet about the new tenants for town insurance Agent Bill Van Gorder to review. It is uncertain if there will be any changes to the coverage needed.

Fire Banquet...

continued from front page



contributed

Middletown Hardenburgh Fire Chief Nelson Delameter and his wife Pat Delameter at the annual department awards dinner, Saturday, Nov. 7. Both Delameters enjoyed long professional careers in fire and EMS work in the region.



contributed

Scott McMurray was honored for 50 years of service to the Margaretville/Middletown Hardenburgh Fire Department at its Nov. 7 awards dinner. He also received a "Golden Chicken" award for his longtime work at the department's fundraising chicken barbecues.



contributed

Retired Roxbury Constable Steve Williamson was given an honorary membership in the Middletown Hardenburgh Fire Department on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the annual dinner and recognition banquet.

Margaretville and Halcottsville, is a 100% volunteer operation. Members spend countless hours each year responding to every type of emergency the community experiences. In addition to turning out 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, members are required to spend countless hours in training, practice and fundraising activities to support the department efforts.

Recruits are always welcome and officials stress that people of all ages and ability levels can volunteer. While a core team of members handles intense indoor firefighting, battles, other volunteers are needed to help direct traffic, support communication, and run the offices of the departments. Those who wish to get involved are urged to reach out to any local firefighter for information.

Delaware County Adds $68,600 To Compost Facility Bioreactor Replacement

Staff Report



file

Delaware County Solid Waste Coordinator Tyson Robb at the compost facility in Walton.

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors unanimously approved a $68,600 increase to the purchase price of a replacement bioreactor for the county's compost facility, bringing the total cost of the equipment to nearly $2.37 million.

The change order was approved Tuesday, Nov. 10, and authorizes the Department of Public Works to execute Change Order No. 1 with A-C Equipment, the company selected for the sole-source procurement.

Resolution No. 83 of 2026 previously authorized the purchase of the bioreactor for $2,299,200.

According to the resolution, the additional expense will cover 48 more rows of wear bars on the second half of the drum. The wear bars are intended to help protect the drum and extend its useful life.

With the addition, the bioreactor will have 96 rows of wear bars extending throughout the entire length of the drum shell. The modification represents a 32% increase in the total length of wear bars supplied and installed by the manufacturer, resulting in a 17% price increase for that portion of the equipment.

The change order adds $68,600 to the original purchase price, bringing the revised total to $2,367,800.

Background On The Compost Facility

The bioreactor is a key component of Delaware County's Solid Waste Management Center in Walton, where the county operates a two-stage composting facility.

According to the county Department of Public Works, municipal solid waste and biosolids have been processed through the compost facility since 2005. The rotating bioreactor drum serves as the first stage of the process, where selected waste materials undergo approximately three days of controlled aeration, moisture management and tumbling to begin biological decomposition.

After leaving the drum, the material is screened before moving into the second stage, where it is combined with dewatered biosolids and composted in an aerated system. The finished product is marketed as Oxbow Hollow Compost.

The county has emphasized that composting and recycling are important to extending the life of its landfill, where available space is limited.

The existing rotating drum has been in service for many years and has required repairs, including work to address cracks. Previous reporting on the facility's equipment noted that the original drum was still in use despite its age and the need for ongoing maintenance.

The county's Public Works Committee had been discussing replacement options and working with engineering firm GHD on the procurement process before the county authorized the sole-source purchase from A-C Equipment.

The latest change order adds further protective equipment to the replacement drum in an effort to improve its durability and longevity.

Colchester Code Enforcement Issues 11 Permits in October

Monthly report shows $2,222 in permit fees, 14 inspections and one new complaint

Staff Report

COLCHESTER - The town of Colchester issued 11 permits and collected $2,222 in permit fees during October, according to the monthly code enforcement report submitted to the town council by Code Enforcement Officer Fred Becker.

The October 2026 report also documented 14 inspections, four house title searches and one new complaint received during the month.

The permits covered a range of residential projects. The town issued one new construction permit, generating $402.40 in fees, and one upgraded septic permit, bringing in $150.

Two major renovation permits generated $500, while two minor renovation permits accounted for another $300. The town also issued one permit for a seasonal, cabin or noncompliant dwelling, collecting $220.60, and one deck permit for $99.

Additional permits included one woodstove permit, generating $75; four permit renewals, totaling $300; two electrical permits, totaling $150; and one floodplain utility permit, generating $25.

Inspection activity included six framing or rough-in inspections, five footing or foundation inspections and two site and excavation preparation inspections. The report also listed two additional inspections, two roofing inspections and one final inspection or certificate of compliance.

Becker's report showed four certificate of occupancy title searches during October, with $300 collected in fees.



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Hamden Advances Oxbow Hollow Road Stabilization, Eyes $118K Bucket Truck Purchase

Hamden moves forward with a nearly $292K road stabilization project on Oxbow Hollow, preparing its Highway Department for winter and considering the purchase of a used bucket truck for tree work.

By Lillian Browne

HAMDEN - Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield provided updates on the projects and highway department operations following a town council meeting Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Council members authorized the town to proceed with a Federal Emergency Management Agency-approved stabilization project on Oxbow Hollow, where a section of roadway has been shifting downhill, causing guiderails to tilt and raising concerns about the road's stability.

The project will use soil nails inserted into the roadway to help secure the ground and prevent further movement, Marshfield reported. Marshfield said the specialized work is expected to cost approximately $291,000, and the contractor hopes to complete it this fall before winter weather arrives.

FEMA has approved the project for funding, with the federal agency covering 75% of the cost and New York state contributing 12.5%. The town will be responsible for the remaining 12.5%.

Marshfield explained that the affected section is a small stretch of Hamden roadway bordered by Walton roads.

In other Highway Department news, Marshfield reported submitting approximately $108,000 in completed CHIPs (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program)-funded highway projects to the state for reimbursement. He expects the reimbursement to arrive by mid-December.

The town also sold a sander attachment designed for a one-ton truck for $6,100. Marshfield noted that bids received during the previous offseason were only about $3,800, making the recent sale a better return for the town.

Winter preparations and road closures

The Highway Department has its snowplows installed and has nearly completed hauling in its supply of sand for the winter season, Marshfield reported.



file

The Hamden Highway Department is located on Covert Hollow Road.

As part of the town's seasonal road closures, council members agreed to close the following roads or portions of roads to through traffic through April 1:

• Blanchard Road, its entire length.

• Cobbe Cross Road, from the intersection where Miller's trailer was located to the former Gray residence on Gray Road.

-• Ridge Road, from Gray Road to the Gay Merrill residence.

Bucket truck purchase authorized

Council members also authorized Marshfield to advertise for bids on a 2021 used bucket truck owned by Delaware County Electric Cooperative.

DCEC has offered the truck for $118,000. Marshfield said the vehicle has approximately 30,000 miles, includes a dump box and would be used exclusively for tree work.

The town must advertise the purchase under municipal law to determine whether another comparable vehicle is available at a lower price. The council authorized the purchase if no competing bids are received. Marshfield abstained from the vote.

Highway garage septic system

The town is also moving ahead with replacing the septic system at the highway department garage.

Marshfield said the system is currently functioning, but a plumber who recently performed work at the department recommended having it evaluated. The system was not backing up, but the town decided to move forward with the replacement.

The council authorized Marshfield to sign the necessary agreements with the Catskill Watershed Corporation to complete the process.

Delaware County Senior Council Looks to Improve Finances, Fundraising and Outreach

Members discuss clearer financial reporting, reviewing certificate of deposit options and expanding volunteer support at community events

Staff Report

DELHI - Improving financial oversight, strengthening fundraising efforts and finding new ways to connect with members were among the topics discussed at the Delaware County Senior Council meeting Monday, Nov. 9, led by President Bill Moody.

Council members reviewed October financial reports as members discussed expenses from the recent Senior Ball and how event revenue is recorded. The October report showed a negative net income of $714, reflecting expenses that exceeded income for the month. Those costs included payments for the Senior Ball, such as the catering hall.

Members were reminded that the monthly figure does not mean the council is running out of money. The council has assets, and additional income related to events has not yet been processed.

The discussion highlighted differences between the council's bookkeeping system and the way the Delaware County Office for the Aging (OFA) tracks event revenue and expenses. Because some ticket sales and expenses are handled directly by OFA staff, not all transactions appear in the council's QuickBooks records.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Senior Council members discussed financial oversight and the need for volunteer support at functions at a Monday, Nov. 9 meeting. Pictured, from left are Renate Rennie, Delaware County Senior Council President Bill Moody and Patsy Moody.

Council members agreed that better coordination is needed to provide a clearer picture of the financial results of events. One member proposed meeting with OFA staff early in 2027 to establish consistent procedures for recording income and expenses.

"We will have a conversation about expectations and how to handle it, so that we can actually have an accurate report," the member said.

The council also discussed its certificates of deposit (CDs) and whether additional funds could be invested to earn more interest. Members approved a motion to review available rates and investment options for presentation at the December meeting. Future financial reports will also include information about the council's existing CDs, including their maturity dates and interest earnings.

The council discussed upcoming major payments, including transportation costs, and the importance of ensuring funds are available when needed.

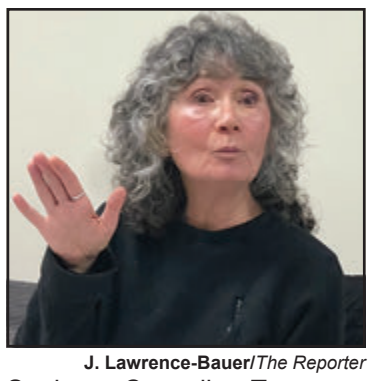
Another topic was the transition of financial responsibilities from outgoing treasurer Karen Marshfield to the new treasurer, Laura Leale. Banking paperwork still needs to be signed by the officers before the transition is complete. A laptop has been purchased, and financial records have been transferred to it. The new treasurer plans to visit the office weekly to collect mail, handle banking and process paperwork.

Beginning in 2027, the council also hopes to track income and expenses over time to identify financial trends. Initial reviews suggest that income has remained relatively steady in recent years.

Fundraising and membership

Members discussed ways to strengthen the council's presence at community events, particularly Fair on the Square in Delhi in July and the Bovina Farmers Market.

The council has traditionally held a booth at Fair on the Square, but its recent participation has been limited largely to a quilt raffle and informational brochures. Members agreed that the event remains a worthwhile opportunity to connect with the public and discussed forming a committee so the same volunteers do not have to staff every Friday evening in July.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Senior Council Treasurer Laura Leale gives a report on finances at a Monday, Nov. 9 meeting.

The council also discussed promoting quilt raffle tickets at the farmers market, potentially using posters of the quilt rather than bringing the quilt to each event.

Fundraising throughout the year remains a concern, particularly during the months between major events. Members discussed continuing outreach to local clubs and encouraging donations for events such as the pancake breakfast, pork dinner and golf tournament.

The council also reviewed membership dues and the need for better records of which clubs have paid. Members discussed sending reminders to organizations that have not submitted dues, providing receipts and issuing membership cards. They emphasized that clear documentation and thank-you notes can help maintain relationships with supporters.

Committees and communication

The council approved its committee appointments, with discussion about adding volunteers to help with fundraising and community outreach.

Members also reviewed the council's bylaws, which were updated May 11, 2026. They discussed distributing current copies to member clubs so organizations have access to the council's governing rules.

The possibility of using Zoom for future meetings was revisited. Members said remote access could help people participate when winter weather makes travel difficult and allow clubs farther away to follow the council's work. OFA already has the necessary equipment, but arrangements would need to be made to provide a meeting link and notify members.

The council also discussed improving communication and coordination among its member clubs, particularly as some organizations have changed or become less active in recent years.

December meeting and upcoming events

The council's next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 14. Members discussed holding the meeting over a meal in the senior dining area, with attendees bringing a dish to pass. They also plan to coordinate the timing with the OFA advisory committee meeting scheduled for that day.

Members were encouraged to share information about an upcoming free breakfast for veterans age 60 and older at OFA meal sites. The breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 9 a.m.

For more information about Senior Council, volunteer opportunities and to join a local senior club, call OFA at 607-832-5750.

Franklin Adopts 2027 Budget With 2.43% Increase

Public Hearing Draws No Comment

Staff Report

FRANKLIN - Franklin council members adopted their 2027 budget unanimously Wednesday, Nov. 4, following a public hearing that drew no comments from residents.

Supervisor Don Smith followed the hearing by asking council members whether they had reviewed the budget and if they had any additional comments.

All members voted in favor of the budget.

The adopted budget includes a 2.4% property tax levy increase, raising $1,495,140, according to figures presented by Budget Director Paul Warner during the board's Oct. 6 meeting. At that time, Warner said the increase remained $365 below the town's state-mandated tax cap.

The preliminary budget included increases in several general fund expenses, including salaries and benefits for town employees, insurance, retirement contributions, Social Security and medical insurance.

Highway spending also was a significant part of the budget discussion. Proposed increases included $21,000 for snow removal personal services and $15,000 for general repairs personal services.

The budget also reorganized funding for permanent road improvements to comply with a state requirement to establish a separate account. Of the $470,000 previously budgeted under general repairs contractual expenses, $420,000 was moved to the new permanent road improvements account, leaving $50,000 in the original account. An additional $3,500 was included for fuel.

Highway Superintendent Jamie Archibald also requested a larger salary increase during the October budget discussion. The board agreed to remove a proposed town board salary increase and redirect the money toward Archibald's pay, raising his proposed adjustment from $1,300 to $1,775.

The budget also includes an additional $38,500 in unappropriated fund balance.



Delaware County Reverses Tax-Related Budget Action After $28,937 Software Error

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors unanimously approved two resolutions Nov. 10 addressing property tax issues, including reversing a previous budget action connected to uncollectible special-district taxes resulting from a state database update error. The first resolution rescinds Resolution No. 38 of 2026, titled "2026 Budget Amendment Transfer of Funds Real Property Tax Services."

The original budget action was connected to an error that occurred when New York state updated its Real Property Services database to accommodate the new Volunteer Firefighter Exemption. According to the resolution, the update resulted in $28,937.23 in uncollectible taxes across certain special districts throughout Delaware County.

The issue was previously addressed in Resolution No. 35 of 2026, which approved corrections to the county's 2026 town and county tax rolls and deemed the affected special-district tax bills uncollectible because of the program update error.

The earlier resolution, approved in February, listed affected properties in numerous towns, including Andes, Bovina, Colchester, Davenport, Delhi, Deposit, Franklin, Hamden, Hancock, Harpersfield, Kortright, Middletown, Roxbury, Stamford and Walton.

The November resolution cites Section 558 of the New York Real Property Tax Law, which allows the county to charge back the affected special districts. Supervisors approved rescinding the earlier budget-transfer resolution.

Background on volunteer firefighter exemption

Delaware County adopted Local Law No. 20 of 2023 to provide a property tax exemption for qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers under Section 466-a of the state Real Property Tax Law.

The local law provides a 10% exemption on the assessed value of an eligible member's primary residence for county property taxes. To qualify, applicants must be enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or ambulance service that serves within the county, meet the minimum service requirements and maintain active status. The law also provides a lifetime exemption for qualifying members with more than 20 years of active service.

The county's local law specifically applies the exemption to county taxes and excludes special assessments.

The database update error resulted in incorrect tax bills for certain special districts, prompting the county's earlier tax-roll corrections and the subsequent budget action.

Sidney property tax correction

In a separate resolution, supervisors unanimously approved a correction to the 2025 and 2026 tax rolls for a property at 646 Budine Road in the town of Sidney.

The application was submitted by property owner Marx Vincent S. Delos Santos for tax map No. 164.-1-28.6.

According to the resolution, the property's inventory was assessed on two separate parcels because of an unlawful entry, resulting in an overpayment of property taxes.

The approved correction provides for a combined refund of $5,622.49 from Delaware County and the town of Sidney. The county's share of the refund will be $2,656.47.

DVH Celebrates Major Construction Milestone With Medical Neighborhood Beam Topping Ceremony

WALTON - UHS Delaware Valley Hospital (DVH) marked a significant milestone in the construction of its Medical Neighborhood project with a Beam Topping Ceremony celebrating the placement of the final structural steel beam, on Friday Nov. 6. Employees, donors, community members, project partners, and local leaders gathered to commemorate the occasion and sign the beam before it was lifted into place.

A longstanding construction tradition, a beam topping ceremony signifies the completion of a building's steel framework and honors the many individuals whose efforts have helped bring a project from vision to reality.

"This ceremony is more than a construction milestone," said DVH President and CEO Rolland "Boomer" Bojo.

"It's a symbol of our commitment to this community and our confidence in its future. This is what's possible when a community supports its hospital and a team comes together."

Before the beam was raised, hundreds of hospital employees, community members, and project supporters added their signatures and messages to its surface, creating a lasting tribute to the people who have helped make the Medical Neighborhood possible.

"To see so many people want to leave their mark on this beam is humbling," Bojo said. "It tells me they feel connected to what we're building here. The Medical Neighborhood is about more than a new facility. It's about expanding access to care, creating opportunities, and strengthening our community. Those signatures are a visible reminder that this vision belongs to all of us."

The beam was adorned with both an American flag and a tree, longstanding symbols in topping out ceremonies. According to Adam Green, vice president of LeChase Construction, the American flag represents patriotism and the American dream, while the tree symbolizes life, growth, prosperity, and good fortune for the project and the community it will serve.

During the event, Bojo shared the Latin phrase he signed on the beam: "Aut inveniam viam aut faciam" - "I will either find a way or make one."

"In many ways, that phrase reflects the approach we've taken throughout this journey," Bojo said. "When there's a need in our community, we have a responsibility to find a way to meet it. And if that way doesn't exist yet, we make one. That's what this Medical Neighborhood represents: a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and ensuring better health outcomes for generations to come."



contributed

The Medical Neighborhood project broke ground just over a year ago and has made substantial progress since construction began.

"I get goosebumps every time I drive into work and see the progress, our vision becoming a reality," Bojo said. "Right now we're looking at steel and structure, but soon we'll begin to see patient spaces, clinical areas, and all the details that will make this facility functional and welcoming. Every milestone brings us closer to opening the doors and serving our community in new ways."

Bojo also recognized the many groups whose support has helped advance the project, including hospital staff and physicians, the board of directors, UHS leadership, donors, community partners, architects, engineers, construction teams, and his family.

"Most importantly, I'd like to thank the community," he said. "Their trust and support have made this project possible. This facility belongs to them, and we're building it with their future in mind."

As construction continues over the coming year, the Medical Neighborhood will move from steel framework to interior buildout, bringing the vision of expanded healthcare services and enhanced patient access one step closer to reality.

"Today was a visible reminder that this project belongs to our community," said Hillary Zujovic-Gardepe, director of community relations and executive operations at UHS Delaware Valley Hospital.

"Seeing hundreds of signatures on the beam and so many people come together to celebrate this milestone reflects the pride, partnership, and shared vision that have driven the Medical Neighborhood from the very beginning," Zujovic-Gardepe said.

Cooks Falls Water Rates Set to Rise as Colchester Confronts District Shortfall

$125 Quarterly Charge Will Bring In Enough Revenue To Cover Expenses

Staff Report

COOKS FALLS - Residents of the Cooks Falls Water District may see their quarterly water bills increase by $50 following a public hearing Wednesday, Nov. 4, as Colchester officials work to address a revenue shortfall and prepare for improvements to the district's water system.

The proposed increase, from $75 to $125 per quarter, raises the annual charge per customer from $300 to $500. The hearing, held at the Cooks Falls Fire Hall, drew questions from residents about the size of the increase, the number of customers being billed and how the district's finances have been managed.

Councilmembers Janet Champlin and Julie Markert were absent, and due to their absense a vote on the measure is expected to take place at the town's next meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 5 p.m. in Downsville.

Before opening the hearing to public comment, Supervisor Robert Hafele explained that the proposed increase emerged during the town's preparation of its 2027 budget, when officials reviewed the financial records of both the Cooks Falls and Downsville water districts.

Although the districts are governed by the town board, each is expected to support its own operations and pay its own expenses.

Hafele said the Cooks Falls district has 82 customers, each paying a flat fee of $75 per quarter. That generates approximately $24,600 annually, while the district's projected expenses for the coming budget year total about $39,600.

After trimming some expenses during the budget review, the town still faced a revenue gap of approximately $14,000.

Increasing the quarterly rate to $125 would generate approximately $41,000 annually, providing enough revenue to cover the district's anticipated expenses.

"Nobody wants to increase anybody's rates," Hafele said, noting that residents are already facing higher costs for electricity, heating fuel and health care.

But he said the district could not continue operating with a revenue shortfall.

Residents question customer count and billing

One resident challenged the town's count of 82 customers, saying that based on his experience reading water meters over the years, the number of properties served was higher.

He offered to review the town's customer list and identify additional accounts that might have been overlooked. Hafele welcomed the offer and said the town would work with him to verify the records.

The resident also questioned why water district charges could not be collected annually through property tax bills, rather than through separate quarterly payments.

He argued that incorporating the charge into the tax bill could provide residents with a more straightforward payment method and make the expense easier to account for.

Hafele said the town could explore the possibility, noting that some municipalities in Delaware County already collect certain district charges through property taxes.

Another official raised concerns about the administrative complications of combining charges for the two water districts, particularly because Downsville uses metered billing while Cooks Falls has a flat-rate system.

The resident maintained that modern computer systems should make the arrangement possible and offered to help the town explore the option.

Officials explain history of financial shortfall

Another resident questioned why the quarterly rate had increased so sharply in such a short period. The charge had risen from $50 to $75 less than two years earlier, and the proposed $125 rate would represent a 150% increase from the original $50 charge.

He asked what had changed to justify the latest increase.

Hafele said the primary issue was not a sudden increase in operating expenses but a discrepancy between the revenue reported in previous budgets and the actual amount collected.

He pointed to the 2026 budget, which listed approximately $15,520 in reserve surplus revenue for the Cooks Falls Water District, money that was not actually available.

Hafele said the town's current review was intended to establish accurate figures and ensure the district could pay its own expenses.

A council member added that the district had previously fallen behind on required water testing, with some tests several years old and others never submitted. The district now faces additional testing requirements and higher laboratory costs.

The official said the Cooks Falls district had effectively been operating at a deficit, with Downsville helping compensate for the financial shortfall.

It was noted that most Cooks Falls customers are single-family residences, making a flat rate more practical than a metered system, which would require additional investment to repair or replace existing meters.

Well project could bring additional costs

The proposed rate increase also comes as the town moves forward with plans to rehabilitate a second water source for the Cooks Falls district.

As previously reported, the project received a $719,810 funding offer through New York's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, Supervisor Robert Hafele announced at the Oct. 21 town board meeting.

The financing arrangement provides 70% of eligible project costs through a grant, with the remaining 30% covered by a loan to the water district, expected to be repaid over approximately 30 years.

During the public hearing, officials explained that bringing the second water source online would require additional testing under state Department of Health requirements.

Once both sources are operating, water samples will need to be collected and tested from each, potentially doubling the district's testing expenses.

Hafele emphasized that the additional testing is required to ensure the water remains safe and that the town is following state regulations.

Officials estimated that the well rehabilitation process could take approximately 18 months before the second source is operational.

Residents also asked whether the loan portion of the project would result in another increase in water rates. Officials said the cost would be spread among district customers over the repayment period, with the additional charge ending once the loan is paid off.

Hafele directed residents seeking a more detailed breakdown of district expenses to the town's website, where the 2025 and 2026 budgets are available. The proposed 2027 budget was also expected to be posted.

Supervisors Set Hearing on 2027 Dept. Head Salaries

Pay Increases Slated For 12 Officials

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors are preparing another round of salary adjustments for the county's top officials - department heads - introducing 12 local laws Tuesday, Nov. 10, and scheduling a public hearing for later this month.

The proposed laws would establish annual salaries effective Jan. 1, 2027, for nine appointed department heads and three elected officials. Resolution No. 164 sets a public hearing for Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. at the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main St., Delhi.

The proposed salaries range from $67,979 for Election Commissioner Maria Kelso to $188,228 for County Attorney Amy Merklen.

Each proposed local law would be subject to a permissive referendum under Section 24 of the Municipal Home Rule Law. The laws also state that they would take effect 45 days after adoption.

Proposed 2027 Salaries

The 12 proposed annual salaries are:

- Election Commissioner Maria Kelso — $67,979
- County Attorney Amy Merklen — $188,228
- Director of Real Property Tax Services II Sherri Falcone — $103,247
- Personnel Officer Carrara Knoetgen — $107,878
- Director of Community Mental Health Services Douglas Elston — $127,235
- Commissioner of Social Services Keith Weaver — $124,503
- Director of Economic Development Glenn Nealis — $110,787
- Commissioner of Public Works James Thomas — $131,563
- Public Health Director Amanda Walsh — $131,436
- County Clerk Haley Gransbury — $91,915
- Sheriff Craig DuMond — $124,983
- County Treasurer Carli Pinner — $91,915

Compared with the salaries established for 2026, the proposed 2027 increases range from about 4.2% to 6.5% among the seven positions for which comparable figures are available. The Election Commissioner's salary would increase from $65,208 in 2026 to $67,979 in 2027, a raise of $2,771, or 4.25%. Personnel Officer Carrara Knoetgen's salary would rise from $101,892 to $107,878, an increase of $5,986, or 5.87%. Public Health Director Amanda Walsh would receive an $8,003 increase, from $123,433 to $131,436, or 6.48%. Public Works Commissioner James Thomas' proposed salary would increase by $5,313, from $126,250 to $131,563, or 4.21%. Real Property Tax Services Director II Sherri Falcone's salary would rise by $4,209, from $99,038 to $103,247, or 4.25%. Social Services Commissioner Keith Weaver's proposed salary would increase by $6,665, from $117,838 to $124,503, or 5.66%. County Clerk Haley Gransbury's salary would increase by $3,747, from $88,168 to $91,915, or 4.25%.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Meredith Supervisor James Ellis, left, introduced a resolution scheduling a public hearing for an increase of staff department head salaries on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Also pictured is Kortright Supervisor George Haynes.

A Look Back at Last Year's Salary Debate

The latest proposals follow a similar process in 2025, when supervisors introduced 13 local laws setting salaries for department heads in 2026. Those proposals included raises for leaders in emergency services, information technology, public health, social services and other county departments.

At the December 2025 public hearing, supervisors approved the salary package, but not without objections. Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield supported most of the increases while warning that the county's financial circumstances were not shared equally by residents. He cited local poverty and household income figures and concerns about families facing rising costs and potential reductions in assistance programs.

"We must not forget those who are trying to survive and are much less fortunate than we are," Marshfield said. "After all, these people are the payers for the salary increases."

Andes Supervisor Wayland "Bud" Gladstone, Delhi Supervisor Maya Boukai and Marshfield voted against the proposed salary for Public Defender Joseph Ermeti, which was the highest in last year's package at $203,939. The increase passed through weighted voting.

Public Comment Nov. 24

Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the 12 proposed local laws during the public hearing scheduled for Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. at the county office building in Delhi.

The proposed laws specify that each salary adjustment would be subject to a permissive referendum, allowing voters to petition for a public vote under state law.

Colchester Approves Variable Fuel Pricing

Highway Department Prepares For Winter

Staff Report

COOKS FALLS - Colchester council members approved variable fuel pricing for the town's fuel accounts and adopted an amended preliminary 2027 budget during its Nov. 4 meeting, as officials discussed the potential for changing fuel prices and continued preparations for winter.

Supervisor Rob Hafele introduced the fuel bids under unfinished business, asking council members whether they preferred to lock in a fixed price or accept variable pricing.

"I can't see it getting any higher," Councilmember Greg Lavorgna said, explaining that he favored variable pricing, at least for diesel fuel. He noted that the town typically locks in fuel prices but questioned whether doing so made sense given the current bids.

The bids offered different options. Mirabito submitted both fixed and variable pricing, while County Petroleum submitted only variable bids. The town has several separate fuel accounts, including kerosene, propane, fuel oil, heating oil and diesel.

Town Attorney Nick Cortese clarified that the council was not required to select the same pricing method for every account.

"If you want to accept variable for some, locked in for others, you can do that," Cortese explained.

Council members discussed the potential advantages of both options. A fixed price would provide more certainty for budgeting, while variable pricing could allow the town to benefit if fuel prices declined. Officials also noted that they had approximately 45 days from the bid opening to make a decision before bidders could withdraw their offers.

Hafele said he favored variable pricing across the board, reasoning that if prices declined, the town could benefit on all of its accounts.

After further discussion, a motion was passed to accept variable pricing across the town's fuel accounts.

Council members also addressed the amended preliminary budget for 2027. Hafele said the town held four or five budget workshops, with the final workshop taking place Friday. The amended preliminary budget was distributed to and approved by council members.

"I would prefer that we have it in place tonight, so that we can have it in place for the public hearing on the 18th," Hafele said.

The amended preliminary budget will move forward for a public hearing Nov. 18.

During his highway report, Highway Superintendent Ken Eck updated the council on equipment repairs, roadwork and preparations for winter.

Two medium-duty trucks continue to have issues, with repairs progressing. The screening plant also has a blown hose that crews are working to repair.

Several trucks need new tires. Tandem trucks No. 118 and 122 need a total of 12 tires, with some already in inventory. Truck No. 115 needs four tires, while truck No. 155 needs six.

Work on the new salt shed is moving forward. The forms are about halfway complete and ready for concrete, with a pour tentatively planned around Nov. 16. The town has ordered 200 tons of salt, which will be stored in the old salt storage facility until the new shed is operational.

Eck also reported that the haul truck is ready for winter.

Recent highway work included cutting trees near the water building by Charlie Mills' property, where growth had become overgrown; digging a water line in Cooks Falls for a hookup; and beginning tree clearing along the Park Paddle Trail. The department also assisted the town of Rockland with paving and helped town of Hancock with hauling.

Margaretville Rotary Honors Eric Van Benschoten for Service Above Self

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Community volunteer and Margaretville Rotary Club veteran Eric Van Benschoten was honored on Thursday, Oct. 22 with a Paul Harris pin and the accolades of fellow chapter members who lauded his years of service.

Van Benschoten, who joined the Margaretville Rotary in 2010 and has served as both the President and the Treasurer was credited by some of his fellow members for keeping the local chapter going at a time when many communities are losing their chapters to age and disinterest.

In his 16 years with the club, Van Benschoten has spearheaded accomplishments from planting trees in parks to installing a respite bench on Main Street. Community support has ranged from generous donations to area food pantries and support of everything from Toys for Tots to the Narcan Box Project.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Margaretville Rotary Vice President Jennifer Slauson presents Treasurer Eric Van Benschoten with a Paul Harris pin marking 16 years and thousands of hours and dollars donated to both local and international causes. Van Benschoten and his wife Sally are anchor members of the local club, founded in 1938.

Humbled and a bit surprised by the breadth of his own contributions, Van Benschoten noted that when he first attended a meeting, it felt like it was only a social hour and didn't feel substantive.

"When I did some research, I found that Rotary is an international organization and a service-above-self club that did amazing projects locally and internationally," said the volunteer. "I told my wife, Sally, that if we joined Margaretville Rotary, I would make sure we tried to accomplish something for our local and international communities at each Rotary meeting instead of spending money on just a social get-together."

Both Eric and Sally Van Benschoten joined and locally, their efforts have led to youth scholarship programs, sponsorship of students from Andes, Margaretville and Roxbury for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Program and support for MCS Art and FCCLA Clubs that have sent dozens of students to state-wide and national conferences and competitions.

Internationally, Van Benschoten notes that Rotary was responsible for eradicating 99% of the cases of polio across the globe. His favorite project is sponsorship of the Shelter in a Box program to help victims around the world who have lost their homes due to environmental events.

"The Shelter in the Box is a two-room, fast-setup, high-quality, wind-resistant tent, plus other essential survival items, all in a box," said Van Benschoten. International Rotary has deployed thousands of these worldwide in disaster zones. It's a great international humanitarian program that promotes world peace and helps our neighbors worldwide.

Other local beneficiaries of Van Benschoten's leadership include Open Eye Theater, Fairview Public Library, Catskill Recreation Center, New Kingston Community Center, Catskill Water Discovery Center and

Margaretville Hospital. The community volunteer has also served his homme community of Andes on the Zoning Board and now serves on the Town of Andes Planning Board and the Board of Assessment Review. A member of the Sacred Heart Church in Margaretville Van Benschoten was heavily involved with the repairs, upgrades, and cleanup efforts after Hurricane Irene damage.

As to favorite local efforts, Van Benschoten noted the Freshtown Grocery Run as high on his list. Each year the club underwrites the cost of every item one lucky person can throw into a Freshtown grocery cart on a three-minute run through the store. As a co-sponsor, Freshtrown adds a $200 gift card to the pot for the purchase of meat and seafood.

Van Benschoten said that with the price of groceries increasing significantly, the prize has more value than in prior years. He is especially thrilled that as raffle tickets have been sold throughout the summer, most out of town visitors supporting the effort have designated the Margaretville Food Pantry as the recipient of the prize if their tickets are pulled.

"That makes it a win for everyone," said Van Benschoten, who will pull the winning ticket at the Margaretville Freshtown on Nov. 12.

Information any activity of the local club, or on purchase of Freshtown Grocery Run tickets is available from Jennifer Slauson at NBT bank in Margaretville.

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Town of Sidney Keeps 2027 Tax Increase Low, Expands Senior Tax Relief

Approved 2027 Budget Includes A $4,915 Levy Increase As Town Officials Discuss Road Work, Seasonal Closures And Security Improvements

By Sara Andros

SIDNEY - Sidney town officials approved a 2027 budget that keeps the tax levy increase to 0.41%, expanded income eligibility for senior property tax exemptions and addressed several town maintenance and security issues during their Thursday, Nov. 5, meeting. The $1.2 million tax levy is $4,915 higher than last year's, remaining well below the state's 2% tax cap, according to Supervisor Eric Wilson.

A public hearing on the preliminary 2027 budget was held prior to the regular monthly meeting. Dan Bradshaw, an alternate on the town Planning Board, wanted to know if there was any consideration given to having the code enforcement officer go from part-time to full-time. Bradshaw said that there are quite a few things that the code enforcement officers needs to address. Supervisor Eric Wilson said that so far, the position hasn't warranted being full time, but that the town has a contingency in the accounts if it gets to be too much.

"We never know how busy it's going to be," said Wilson. Once the public hearing was closed, council members approved the 2027 budget as written. The total tax levy for 2027 is $1,207,387, an increase of $4,915 which is .41% over last year's levy. "We're well under the 2% tax cap," said Wilson. He reported that year to date the town has received $55,400 from the traffic diversion program and $112,753.31 from cannabis sales tax.

The 2027 wages for town employees are as follows:

- Board Members: $3,213 annually each, an increase of $63 from 2026
- Town Justice: $20,221 annually, an increase of $589 from 2026
- Justice Clerk 1: $22.07 per hour. This is an increase of $3.50 per hour. Hours were increased from 25 hours per week to 30 hours per week.
- Justice Clerk 2: $19.07 per hour an increase of 50 cents per hour. Hours were decreased from 25 hours per week to 10 hous per week.
- Supervisor: $10,000, no increase from 2026
- Assessor and Assistant Assessors: $20,703.50 each, an increase of $1,533.50 each
- Town Clerk: $55,391, an increase of $1,613 per year
- Deputy Town Clerk: $20.57, an increase of $2 per hour. Hours per year decreased from 1175 to 1150 hours per year
- Town Attorney: $30,000 annually
- Code Enforcement Officer: $16,725 annually
- Code Enforcement Deputy: $5,500 annualy
- Planning Secretary: $900 annually
- Highway Superintendent: $76,640 annually, an increase of $4,640
- Dog Control Officer: $7,000 annually, an increase of $1,010 per year
- Recreation Leader (Seasonal): $752 per week, an increase of $22 per week
- East Sidney Lake Maintenance: $21.86 per hour, an increase of 64 cents per hour

Council members approved an increase to the income levels for the Real Property Tax Exemption for seniors, allowing more seniors to qualify. Council members approved increasing the gross income level from $13,699.99 to $19,000 for the maximum 65% exemption. The greater the gross income, the lower the exemption percentage. Seniors can earn up to $30,399 and still qualify for a 5% exemption. Seniors with yearly incomes of $35,600 and over are not eligible for any exemption.

Postcards will be sent out to residents who may qualify next spring and there will be public announcements in the newspaper and other media outlets. Interested seniors need to submit an application to the assessor's office by March 1 for the following tax year.

Maintenance Mechanic Nate Ouimet said that a theft occurred at the town hall, the exact time is not known. Someone took the copper out of one of the air conditioner units and attempted to take copper out of a second unit. Both units were ruined. They looked at the camera footage but it was very dark in the area where it happened, so they couldn't see much. Wilson said that security lights should be installed in that area and will find someone to do it since Ouimet is busy with renovations at the hospital. An insurance claim will be submitted for the air conditioners; there is a $2500 deductible.

Highway Superintendent Codey Lambrecht said that the department has been installing a sub base on Hamlet View Rd. in preparation for paving it next Spring. He said they have also been hauling in sand and getting the equipment ready for the Winter season. Lambrecht also reported that two signs were damaged at the Pioneer Cemetery, and he said he would like to use leftover funds from other projects to replace the signs at a cost of approximately $1500. The board approved the sign replacement.

Lambrecht also asked for approval to post a notice of seasonal road closures in the paper, which the board approved. The following roads will not be maintained between Nov. 15 and April 15: The back side of Lawton Hill Road, which will be blocked off to the Franklin town line; Dumond Road; Arabian Way and a section of Gallop Hill Road to the Masonville town line.

- Councilmember Paul Muratore said he will be providing new Code Enforcement Officer Josh Morgan with a laptop computer to facilitate him doing the job efficiently. Muratore said there has been a complaint about a resident pointing a flood light at their neighbor's property. He plans to have Morgan speak with both parties. Muratore suggested that it could also be addressed at the zoning and planning meeting; the meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Council members approved the Code of Ethics and fund balance policies and authorized the posting of two job openings at the request of the Cemetery Association. The openings are for vice president and sexton.
- Council members approved the payment of vouchers totaling $179,634.33 for October.
- The town clerk submitted checks totaling $2,671 in fees collected in October.

The next town council meeting will be Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

Roxbury Officials Hear Feedback on Proposed Budget and Tax Cap Override

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

ROXBURY - Roxbury council members held a public hearing Thursday, Nov. 5, to lay out the town's preliminary 2027 budget and take comments on it along with a proposed local law to override the New York State tax levy cap.

Supervisor Allen Hinkley opened the session by clarifying that no final decisions or budget adoptions would occur during the hearing, emphasizing that the evening was intended solely for public presentation and community feedback.

As currently drafted, the preliminary spending plan carries a projected tax levy increase of 5.86%, well above the state-mandated cap of 2.15% Bookkeeper Beth Bush also noted the percentages in the draft budget are subject to change when Delaware County adds its budget obligations to the mix. To bring the spending plan under the allowable cap without an override, town officials estimated that approximately $100,000 would need to be trimmed from the budget.

Bush noted that council members and department heads have already shaved roughly $90,000 from earlier working drafts but cautioned that making further significant percentage reductions will remain a challenge before final figures are adopted. Bush also noted that for each 1% tax reduction at least $30,000 would have be cut from the spending.

Public discussion covered several specific line items and a back-and-forth dialogue between council members and residents all of whom were eager to figure out where savings might be found.

Renate Rennie opened the dialogue questioning proposed salary increases of 5% for town board members noting that the cost of living did not rise that much and elected are not under any sort of contract that demands such a big raise. Councilmembers Deanna Osborn replied that while she would be amenable to not taking such a raise, the dollar figure it would cost was minimal in terms of the overall budget.

Council members explained that non-highway raises historically mirror the percentages negotiated in the multi-year highway department union contract. While council members noted that eliminating council raises entirely would yield modest savings, residents urged elected officials to lead by example by capping non-contractual increases at inflation levels or instituting a raise freeze.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Grand Gorge resident Steve Martin expressed concerns that maintenance costs for the Grand Gorge Civic Center were not specifically named as such in the 2027 proposed Roxbury budget. Martin's remarks came at a public hearing on the preliminary budget on Thursday, Nov. 5

Revenue projections from the town building department also generated lively debate. The preliminary budget anticipates a $38,000 increase in building permit fees, bringing expected annual revenue from permits to over $60,000. Andrew Williams expressed concern over using building permits as a revenue driver, maintaining that permit fees are traditionally intended to cover operational inspection costs and the building inspector's salary rather than serving as a municipal revenue source. Town officials responded that the projection reflects heightened local development activity and recently updated fee schedules rather than an intentional surplus margin.

Questions were also raised regarding line-item transparency for town-owned facilities, specifically the Grand Gorge Civic Center. Steve Martin pointed out that maintenance, utility, and repair costs for the Civic Center lacked a dedicated line item, appearing instead to be grouped into general town building expenditures where the building is not specifically named.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Roxbury Supervisor-elect Tom O'Brien, who will take office in January, listened intently during discussions of the town's preliminary budget on Thursday, Nov. 5. O'Brien, who formerly served as Roxbury's school superintendent, will have to manage a budget approved before taking office.

Bush clarified that a single $75,000 line item on the budget's first page currently covers operational costs for both the Roxbury Town Hall and the Grand Gorge Civic Center combined. Following public requests for clearer bookkeeping, Bush agreed to update the budget document layout to explicitly name the Civic Center alongside Town Hall under that allocation.

Officials added that while grant funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) is slated to handle major capital exterior projects, including new windows for the Civic Center, routine maintenance remains part of the town's operational responsibility.

The highway department, which represents the largest portion of the budget, faced standard scrutiny as officials managed rising operational expenses. Town officials pointed to sharp spikes in fuel costs, with diesel and gasoline prices up 40 - 50% over prior budget cycles, along with increasing costs for vehicle repair parts.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Roxbury Supervisor Allen Hinkley listened to constituents during a public hearing on a proposed budget for 2027 held on Thursday, Nov. 5. The town council will meet Thursday, Nov. 12 with plans of adopting the budget for the next year.

Council members and residents discussed potential cost-saving measures in the highway budget including adjusting winter road maintenance protocols. Suggestions included scaling back overnight plowing operations during minor snowstorms of two to three inches, avoiding continuous overnight trips, and focusing crew schedules around school bus routes and peak commuter hours to significantly reduce overtime expense. It was noted that such actions would not only reduce staffing costs, but would also reduce costs for fuel and supplies used in the work.

Additionally, attendees raised questions regarding town parks and rental facilities, including the commercial kitchen, pavilion, and event barn. As in earlier budget meetings, the $20,000 salary of the Parks Director was called into question. Councilmember Lisa Ciaravino observed that the parks director earns more than the supervisor, while Hinkley defended the number. "She has responsibility to do all of the scheduling, all of the setups, and then during events, she's there at night to make sure the place is closed up and locked up. She's there in the morning to make sure it's done. She's making sure that somebody is getting it clean. So there's a lot to it in the summertime. It's not a nothing job," Hinkley said.

Residents asked whether user fees cover operating costs like utilities and insurance or if taxpayers subsidize private functions. Council members acknowledged that rental rate structures do not come close to covering the costs of the operations. Both council members and those in the audience leaned toward increasing fees charged for residents to use public facilities to brin them closer in line with actual operating expenses.

The town must adopt a final budget and submit its figures to Delaware County officials by Nov. 20. The town council will meet for its regular meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. and consider final budget adjustments and vote on both the spending plan and a tax cap override.

Town officials explained that the tax cap override is a routine precautionary measure used by many local municipalities. Because final property tax bills incorporate complex county-level budget calculations and local property assessment variations that are not fully finalized until late in the year, passing the local law protects the town from technical non-compliance should the final adopted levy exceed the formula.

Regular Advertisements In *The Reporter* Are Money Makers.

Public-Private Partnership Delivers $35K Transformation for Margaretville Central School Library

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Students at Margaretville Central School will soon enjoy a modernized, comfortable library space designed to foster collaboration and a love for reading, thanks to a unique joint funding effort between New York state and local philanthropic foundations.

Community leaders, school officials, and state legislative representatives gathered at the school on Friday, Nov. 6 to announce a fully funded $35,000 overhaul of the school's library. The project will replace institutionalized furnishings with brand-new comfortable seating, updated furniture, and hands-on STEM learning components.

The initiative came to fruition after Assembly Representative Brian Maher partnered with the Community Foundation of South Central New York (CFSCNY) and the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation to stretch state funding through public-private collaboration.

Maher explained that with limited funding available across his district's 20-plus towns and dozens of school districts in need, finding local partners to match funds was key to delivering full projects.

"Why give away $20,000, when you can have a project that's $35, and it's almost over completion," Maher said. "Without the O'Connor Foundation, the Community Foundation, I would not be here... I understand transformation and what it will mean to the children, to the families of the next generation."

Maher noted that unlike many state grants, which require reimbursement over one to two years, the grant funds will be delivered directly, allowing the school to move forward immediately without red tape.

The project held special significance for both foundations involved. Tina Barber of the CFSCNY noted that leveraging funding allowed her organization to expand its reach across five counties where needs consistently outpace resources.

"We have a great partnership established with O'Connor. So that's even more special that we get to work; that the three of us get to work together," Barber said.

Amy Warner of the O'Connor Foundation added an emotional personal note regarding the foundation's swift commitment to the project. "This came, especially at a good time for us, because we lost a board member who passed away over the summer, and she was an elementary school librarian... So, it was a no-brainer to make this happen."

For Margaretville Central School Superintendent Michelle Osterhoudt, the proposal was a passion project fueled by a 15-year background as an English teacher and guided by state library requirements created by school librarian Tina Kelder.

"We want kids to want to be in our library," Osterhoudt said. "Unfortunately, our library looks a little institutionalized... So we wanted comfortable seating. We want kids to want to be in that space. Collaborate in that space, read in that space, feel comfortable in that space." Officials estimated that the library had not had new furnishings for at least two decades.

Osterhoudt expressed deep appreciation to the funding partners for encouraging her to aim high during the planning stages.

"I never imagined when we got on the phone, you were going to say, 'I don't think this is enough money.' If you could have your dream library, what would it be? So, he put me a task, and that's what I did."

She also highlighted the spirit of collaboration driving the initiative. "It's about partnership and shared vision," Osterhoudt said. "We have a shared vision, and we all want the same thing for our students, and that's opportunities."

Osterhoudt added a special note of gratitude to Maher, who recently returned from military deployment: "You came back from deployment and got on the phone with me about this proposal in this project... That spoke volumes of who you are."

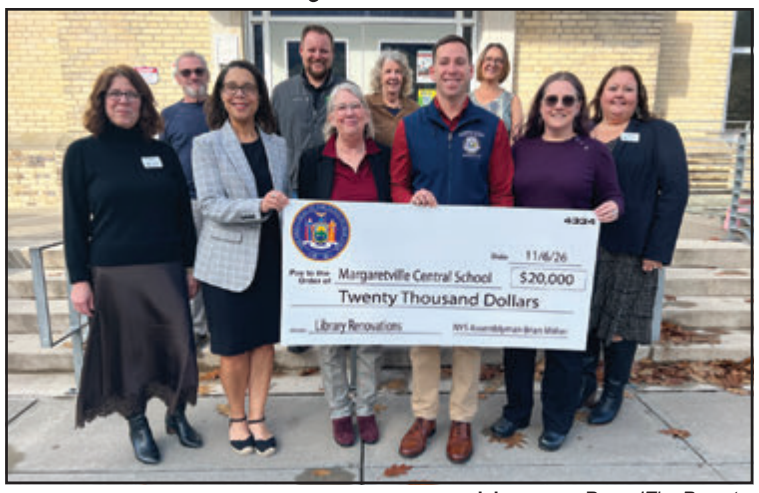
"Every student deserves a learning environment that inspires curiosity, creativity and a lifelong love of reading," said Maher. "When Superintendent Osterhoudt shared her vision for this library, I knew it was a project worth supporting. I'm incredibly grateful to the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation and the Community Foundation for South Central New York for stepping up and helping us make this investment possible. This is a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together to support our students and strengthen our communities."

With furniture vendors estimating shipment within 30 to 45 days, MCS expects work on the library transformation to begin quickly, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned upon completion.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

State Assembly Representative Brian Maher spoke with Margaretville Central School sixth grade students on Friday, Nov. 6 about state government and civic readiness.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Tina Barber, executive director of the Community Foundation of South Central NY (CFSCNY), Michelle Osterhoudt, Margaretville Central School superintendent, Doris Warner, Margaretville Central School Board of Education president, New York State Assembly Representative Brian Maher, Amy Warner, O'Connor Foundation executive director and Stacy Mastrogiacomo, program officer of CFSCNY, were joined by Margaretville Central School Board of Education members Marc Osterweil, Matt Steen, and Andy Cahill, with librarian Tina Kelder for a check presentation ceremony. The funds will transform the library, which has not been refurbished in more than two decades.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

The Margaretville Central School library will get a much needed refurbishment early next year thanks to a public/private partnership between two local foundations and NYS Assemblymember Brian Maher. Aging furniture will be updated and more modern equipment will be added.

Fleischmanns Appoints New CEO, Explains Water Rate Hikes

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

FLEISCHMANNS - During a Fleischmanns trustee meeting Monday, Nov. 10, Mayor Sam Gil led local officials through a comprehensive agenda, highlighting key municipal appointments, explaining recent water rate adjustments, and outlining ambitious beautification and infrastructure projects for the community.

Trustees Tvoted unanimously to appoint Darwin Savinon as the village's full-time code enforcement officer. Savinon will train alongside the current interim code enforcement officer throughout November to ensure a smooth transition and enhanced village safety. Gil emphasized that enhanced enforcement is crucial for public safety, property maintenance, and regulartory compliance, particularly regarding local building permits and short-term rentals.

"We need to comply with the law," Gil said during the meeting. "If anything happens to any property, the insurance company comes, and one of the first ones that they're going to look at is [the] code enforcement officer working on behalf of the village, and who's going to get sued? People don't understand that. People, they just think that it's funny, they want to get away with things. No, it's not easy."

A major topic of discussion centered on resident inquiries regarding recent water bill increases. Gil explained that the hikes are driven by an infrastructure loan originating from 2012 and 2013 totaling over $1 million. He noted prior administrations did not incrementally adjust rates to cover the debt service on the loan and the village recently faced a substantial annual loan payment exceeding $50,000.

"Somewhere along the line, we forgot to do the numbers properly and make sure that we were, every three months, getting enough money to pay that loan," Gil noted. Trustees implemented an assessment of $50 per EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit) to cover those legacy expenses and ongoing infrastructure repairs, noting that local rates for the water remain comparable to neighboring communities also facing infrastructure issues.

Gil added that the village is actively collaborating with engineering firm Cedarwood to pursue state grants for comprehensive water studies to identify new locations for replacement wells.

Reflecting on regional milestones, Gil pointed to the work of the Margaretville Hospital, which once faced threat of closure. Through coordinated letter-writing campaigns to the governor and community mobilization, residents secured the facility's future and supported a turnaround complete with a newly established helicopter landing pad located directly in front of the lobby.

"So, my point is, when you get together, we make things happen," Gil said. "Who ever thought about this? ... And now we have a helicopter landing. Can you imagine?"

The village is also turning its attention to local restoration and pride. Officials will create a plan to paint and install exterior lighting on the lower portion of the historic village movie theater, breathing new life into a long-neglected landmark. "We can just look away, let it keep rotting, or we can just give it some love and fix it and make it look better," Gil stated.

Additional municipal work includes Department of Public Works (DPW) garage enhancements, such as switching to energy-efficient LED lighting and upgrading outdated facilities, alongside the successful removal of a long-abandoned vehicle on Wagner Avenue and extensive creek debris cleanup to improve seasonal drainage. Trustees are also exploring grant options to reopen the municipal swimming pool next year.

Before adjournment, Gil welcomed *The Reporter* as the recently appointed official newspaper for the village.

The villages's next regular meeting is scheduled for Dec. 14.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Fleischmanns Trustee Stewart Cohen, left, and Mayor Sam Gil, expressed relief at the appointment of a new Code Enforcement Officer for the village during a monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 6. Darwin Savinon will take on the post on full time basis.

Walton Highway Department to Add $119,000 Roadside Mower

Staff Report

WALTON - The town of Walton Highway Department will add a purpose-built roadside mower to its equipment fleet after council members approved a $119,000 purchase during their meeting Monday, Nov. 9. Council members also approved selling two older dump trucks and listing other surplus equipment for sale.

Highway Superintendent Jeff Offnick presented bids received for the roadside mower, explaining that the options included two farm tractor-style machines and two purpose-built roadside mowers. Prices ranged from approximately $89,000 to $147,000.

After discussions with the highway committee, officials favored a purpose-built mower rather than a farm tractor-style machine, citing past experience with the latter.

Council members noted that new purpose-built roadside mowers could cost approximately $250,000. The selected machine is a 2021 MowerMax, a purpose-built roadside mower, priced at $119,000 delivered. It has approximately 1,200 hours of use and will come with a rotary mower attachment, which officials said was in good condition.

Officials also discussed whether the purchase could allow the town to sell an older tractor. Offnick said the department's Massey Ferguson remains useful, while an older New Holland has not worked for mowing this year and has required the town to rent equipment. However, the New Holland could still be useful for pulling a rake to work on road shoulders, depending on its repair costs and potential resale value.

The new mower is expected to make roadside work more efficient. Offnick noted that it would be easier to cut brush and see what is underneath the equipment while mowing.

Surplus Equipment Approved For Sale

Offnick reported that the town received bids through Auctions International for two older Western Star dump trucks, a 2009 and a 2010 model.

The bids were $9,500 for one truck and $9,600 for the other. Offnick said the offers were lower than those received during an earlier attempt to sell one of the trucks, when the town rejected the bid and made a counteroffer without success.

It was noted that neither truck was being used and both were in poor condition.

Council members accepted the bids.

Offnick also asked council members to declare two additional pieces of equipment surplus and list them on Auctions International.

One was an old dump box removed from truck No. 6. The department replaced it with a stainless-steel box from another truck, and the old box's sander and side-tilt mechanisms no longer function. Offnick said it might still have value to someone who could use it for another purpose.

The second item was a Chevrolet Colorado purchased for use by dog control personnel. Offnick said an inspection revealed that its frame was no longer serviceable.

Both items were listed for sale.

No License, No Transit, No Choice?

Public Defender Estimates Half of Delaware County Drivers Lack Valid Licenses

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI - Roughly half of all drivers in Delaware County are operating vehicles without a valid driver's license, according to a striking estimate shared by Delaware County Public Defender Joseph Ermeti during a meeting of the Delaware County Legislative Committee on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Supervisors, committee members - expressed shock with the number with Bovina Supervisor and Supervisors Chairperson Tina Mole commenting, "Oh, is that right? 50%?. That could be a front page story."

The estimate was raised during a discussion of local traffic enforcement and the county's traffic diversion program. District Attorney Shawn Smith concurred with Ermeti's assessment saying it sounded about right. He noted that in rural, vast jurisdictions like Delaware County, suspended or revoked licenses are exceptionally common, often driven by systemic financial hurdles rather than intentional malice.

Ermeti agreed, emphasizing the sharp divide between urban centers and rural communities when it comes to transportation penalties. In metropolitan areas like New York City, a license suspension is manageable due to robust subway and bus networks. In rural upstate communities, however, mass transit, taxis, and rideshare services like Uber are virtually non-existent. For many residents living on back roads, driving remains the only way to reach work or essential services, creating a cycle where individuals continue to drive out of economic necessity despite pending suspensions or unpaid fines.

Officials indicated that police know who the violators are but take a pragmatic approach to enforcement. Ermeti and Smith agreed that that violators will lose their jobs if they can't drive to work, exacerbating their inability to pay fines as they incur new ones. Absent other violations, police often overlook the licensing issue.

The topic arose during a broader presentation and discussion led by DA Smith regarding the county's traffic diversion program, which allows eligible motorists to resolve certain traffic infractions by paying a fee rather than accumulating points on their licenses.

Committee members spent considerable time examining how revenue generated from the diversion program is split between Delaware County and its towns, as well as the administrative costs borne by the district attorney's office.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Delaware County District Attorney Shawn Smith said police agencies do not ticket every driving without a license violation. Licenses are often suspended when people can't pay fines and without public transit infrastructure, losing the ability to drive can mean losing a job needed to pay fines.

Currently, the county retains a portion of the diversion program revenue, debated at the meeting as roughly 20%, to help offset operating costs within the district attorney's budget. Committee members relayed questions raised during recent county finance committee meetings regarding whether that percentage accurately reflects the actual cost incurred by the prosecutor's office to administer the program, or if a higher proportion should flow back to individual towns.

Smith explained that while the revenue offsets general tax dollars needed to run his department, the program's current fee structure remains exceptionally low compared to surrounding regions. Delaware County currently charges a flat fee of $317 per ticket for the program, whereas neighboring counties like Broome routinely charge between $400 and $600 depending on the violation.

Participation in Delaware County's diversion program continues to surge, drawing thousands more applications than initially budgeted each month. Smith proposed raising the county's diversion fee modestly, from $317 to $350, to keep pace with rising state Department of Motor Vehicles point penalties and administrative costs.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Delaware County Public Defender Joseph Ermeti shocked county leaders Wednesday when he estimated that approximately 50% of drivers in the county are unlicensed. Ermeti made the observation at a meeting of the Delaware County Legislative Committee.

First proposed by Smith in mid-2024 to modernize ticket processing across 24 local courts, Delaware County's voluntary traffic diversion program was modeled after long-standing programs in neighboring counties. The program officially launched in January 2025 to enable drivers with minor infractions to complete an online defensive driving course and pay a local fee in exchange for dismissed charges, sparing motorists points on their license while avoiding state surcharges.

After generating approximately $40,000 in revenue across its first quarter of operation, the program surged to collect $541,955 in just nine months of the year-to-date, turning a system designed to ease court backlogs into a significant revenue stream shared between the county and municipal courts. A total of $623,945 is expected by the end of December with $496,356 slotted to go to municipalities and $124,789 budgeted to stay with the county.

The biggest winners in the program are the towns of Colchester, Hancock and Sidney which see major traffic from interstate highways running in part through their communities. Rural towns like Bovina, Hamden and Tompkins get little to no revenue from the program.

Smith pointed out that an 8% to 10% increase in the base fee would boost overall revenue across the board. That shift would allow towns, such as Hancock, Colchester, and Sidney, which see high traffic volumes along major corridors like Interstate 88, to gain an 8% to 10% increase in their localized returns without requiring the county to reduce its existing 20% administrative share.

The discussion also touched on recent changes in state traffic law that have increased point values for minor offenses. For example, failing to obey a traffic control device recently jumped from a two-point to a three-point violation. Officials noted that higher point penalties make the diversion program even more attractive to drivers looking to protect their driving records and insurance rates.

In response to questions regarding whether high-point offenses like aggravated unlicensed operation (AUO) [driving with a suspended or revoked license] should be permitted into diversion, officials noted that resolving such cases through diversion often secures financial restitution for the local court system that state-level fine collection fails to recover.

To resolve the revenue split question, Walton Supervisor and committee chairperson Joe Cetta instructed Smith to conduct a comprehensive cost study of his office's administrative expenses and survey the fee structures of neighboring counties, including Otsego, Broome, Chenango, and Sullivan. Smith is expected to present those comparative findings and a formal fee recommendation at the committee's next monthly meeting.

In addition to discussing the impact of AUOs for registered vehicles, committee members noted related rural transit and traffic enforcement dilemmas, including the growing presence of electric bicycles and side-by-side utility terrain (or task) vehicles (UTVs) on public roads.

Committee member and Roxbury Supervisor Allen Hinkley asserted that the failure of the state legislative process to enact registration and/or licensing requirements for those vehicles makes it impossible to enforce local laws enacted.

Delaware County Clerk Haley Gransbury who heads up the local Department of Motor Vehicle office operations, indicated that New York state clerks have pushed for many years to have the laws changed.

"We've been trying since 2019 to get it passed, and it's still just sitting there. I think it's in the senate. It's been there since 2019, I believe. Just sitting there waiting for somebody to respond.

Gransbury noted that in addition to public safety, requiring all motorized vehicles to be registered would increase revenues for the state and counties. She noted it is, "obviously not about the revenue" and said she believed private property owners "up north" have lobbied against a change in regulations.

Colchester Residents Raise Questions About Police Patrols, Surveillance Cameras

Staff Report

COOKS FALLS - Questions about neighborhood safety, police patrols and the use of surveillance cameras prompted discussion at the Colchester Town Council meeting Wednesday, Nov. 4, where Police Chief Keith Gavette said the department has no plans to partner with Flock Safety, a company whose automated license plate readers have drawn growing privacy concerns nationwide.

One resident asked whether the police department offers programs to help protect seniors, children and neighborhoods, such as neighborhood watch groups or volunteer patrols.

Supervisor Rob Hafele asked whether the resident was interested in establishing a program and recommended speaking with Gavette to discuss the possibilities.

The issue of surveillance technology came up later in the meeting when another resident asked whether the Colchester Police Department had been approached by Flock Safety about installing its cameras.

The resident noted that communities across the country have been debating the technology and raised concerns about privacy and the potential for widespread monitoring. The resident also asked whether the public would have an opportunity to provide input if the department considered such an arrangement.

Hafele said there was no interest among board members in pursuing that type of relationship and asked Gavette to explain the department's position.

"We have not looked into going to Flock or anything like that," Gavette said. "We talked to them about two, three years ago, and it's not something that we would be interested in."

Gavette said the department recently received a technology grant that could have been used to purchase equipment from Flock, but the department did not pursue it.

He said the department has no current discussions or plans involving Flock.

Gavette explained that if a company approached the department with a proposal, he would bring the information to town officials for discussion. He agreed that the public would be informed through the appropriate committee if such a proposal arose.

It was noted that adopting the technology would require more than simply purchasing cameras, including developing department policies and procedures addressing citizen privacy and how the system would be used.

Chief Clarifies Existing Camera Technology

Following the meeting, Gavette provided additional information about the department's current equipment, distinguishing its existing Axon license plate readers from Flock surveillance cameras.

The town does not have surveillance cameras installed throughout the community, he said. The only security cameras are located at the police station and town court.

The department does use Axon automated license plate readers, which capture images of license plates as vehicles pass. Gavette said the initial alert does not provide officers with the registered owner's name or address.

Instead, the system generates a notification when a plate is associated with a potential issue, such as a suspended registration, a stolen vehicle or a registered owner with an outstanding warrant. The alert identifies the plate and vehicle information, including the expected state of registration and vehicle color.

When an alert appears, officers contact Delaware County 911 dispatch to verify the information. Dispatch confirms the alert and provides the reason for it and the registered owner's information, Gavette said. He described the process as the same one officers use during a routine traffic stop.

A National Debate Over Surveillance

Colchester's discussion comes amid growing debate over automated license plate readers and the privacy implications of collecting and sharing vehicle data. Flock Safety cameras have faced criticism from residents and officials concerned about how information is stored, who can access it and whether data can be searched by agencies outside the communities where it was collected.

Municipal responses have varied. Some communities have suspended or ended contracts with Flock, while others have considered stricter rules for data access, retention, public approval and oversight.

For Colchester, Gavette said, there are no plans to pursue a Flock agreement, and the department's existing Axon system operates differently from the technology residents were asking about.

Walton Approves Sheriff's Office Security Agreement for Town Hall

Town Will Pay $30 An Hour For A Deputy

Staff Report

WALTON - Walton council members approved an agreement with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office to provide security services at Town Hall, taking a step toward addressing concerns about courthouse safety and protecting employees and visitors.

At their meeting Monday, Nov. 9, council members authorized Supervisor Joe Cetta to sign an agreement with Sheriff Craig DuMond for a sheriff's office officer to provide security at the town facility.

Cetta said he and Councilmember Len Govern met with DuMond to discuss the arrangement. The proposed rate is $30 an hour, less than the $40 an hour the town had been prepared to pay to hire an outside security officer.

"So, oh yeah, it's a lot better," Cetta said. "Why we didn't think of this before, I don't know."

Govern said one of the biggest advantages of using a sheriff's deputy is the liability protection provided under the agreement.

"I think the biggest benefit is it relieves us of liability if the officer ends up having to shoot somebody or subdue somebody," Govern said.

Cetta explained that the sheriff's office and county would indemnify the town under the agreement. The officer assigned would come from the sheriff's office security team, which provides security at several county office buildings.

The arrangement is not limited to one specific officer. DuMond anticipates that the same officer will serve on a regular schedule, Cetta said, although the sheriff's office would determine staffing based on availability.

Cetta said the agreement had been sent to the county attorney for review. Following approval, he would sign it, with the county board chairman also signing the agreement.

A motion to authorize Cetta to sign the contract was made and seconded. The council approved it unanimously by roll call vote.

Security Concerns Have Been Building

The agreement follows several months of discussion about security at Walton Town Hall, particularly the town justice court.

In September 2025, Joshua Shapiro, special counsel to New York's Sixth Judicial District, told council members that the courtroom presented security risks because members of the public could access it when court was not in session. Shapiro cited increasing threats against judges and urged the town to limit unsupervised public access.

The issue returned to the council in February, when Shapiro and Judge Elizabeth Burns again encouraged officials to find a solution. They described having security present whenever court is in session as the "gold standard," while acknowledging that smaller communities have different resources and options.

Council members also raised concerns about the safety of town employees, particularly those who sometimes work alone. Councilmember Patty Wood argued that security measures should protect the entire building, not just the courtroom.

The town previously discussed options including hiring security during court hours, installing cameras and creating a controlled-entry system with badge access and an intercom.

PUBLISHERS' STATEMENT

The Reporter and Delaware County: Why We Took a Stand

An Open Letter from Randy and Kim Shepard

To our readers,

We are writing to share important news about *The Reporter* and explain why the outcome matters to all of us.

For years, you've heard pieces of the dispute between *The Reporter* and Delaware County. Because we have largely refrained from public comment, we know there may be questions about why we brought a federal lawsuit, what it involved and what we hoped to accomplish.

We believed it was important to let the legal process run its course before sharing our perspective. Now that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors has approved a settlement, we want to explain our decisions as openly as we can. We ask public officials to be transparent and accountable, and we believe we owe that same respect to our readers.

We are the owners of Decker Advertising, Inc., the family business that publishes *The Reporter*. Together with our staff, we've spent years producing a newspaper that covers the people, events and decisions affecting Delaware County. We never imagined that defending the paper's independence would become such a large part of our lives.

In March 2022, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors removed *The Reporter* as an official newspaper for county legal notices, ending a relationship that dated back nearly 140 years, practically to the newspaper's founding in 1881. The county cited financial considerations, including legal advertising rates. We believed dissatisfaction with our reporting also played a principal role.

In March 2023, 39 county officials signed a letter criticizing the paper's coverage. In our view, that letter connected those criticisms to the earlier decision regarding legal notices.

We don't expect everyone to agree with every article or headline. News coverage can be challenged, and factual errors should be corrected. We welcome information that helps us get a story right. But when officials are unhappy with reporting, the answer should be to raise concerns and provide facts, not to use government authority in a way that penalizes the newspaper.

What followed became a legal battle that neither of us could have anticipated.

With the extraordinary support of the Cornell Law School First Amendment Clinic and an exceptional team of First Amendment attorneys, we were able to defend principles we believed were too important to abandon.

In December 2023, Decker Advertising filed a federal First Amendment lawsuit alleging retaliation against *The Reporter*. The case also raised concerns about restrictions on communications between county employees and our reporters.

We knew the litigation would be demanding and uncertain. But simply accepting what had happened would have left us wondering what might come next, not only for *The Reporter*, but for another small newspaper facing a similar situation.

The legal process stretched over years. There were depositions, court proceedings, extensive document production, meetings with attorneys, travel and a great deal of time diverted from running our business. Attorneys, law students, witnesses, county employees and many others devoted substantial effort to the case.

It affected our work and our daily lives, and we recognize that others involved may have felt that strain, too.

Some of what we learned during the process was particularly troubling.

Through depositions and conversations with individuals involved in the March 2023 letter, we learned that some who signed or supported it did not regularly read *The Reporter*. Others told us they had no concerns about the accuracy or fairness of our reporting but had lent their support to the complaints of others.

That raised a question we believe is important: Before attaching your name to a public criticism of a newspaper, particularly one coming from county government, shouldn't you first be familiar with what you're criticizing?

We all rely on people we trust, but public officials have a responsibility to exercise their own judgment.

The county attorney provides legal advice, the board chair provides leadership, and staff provide information and recommendations. Ultimately, however, it is the supervisors who must weigh the facts and decide how to act on behalf of the residents who elected them.

That responsibility matters when signing a letter, voting on a resolution or accepting an explanation that something must be done a particular way.

Asking questions isn't an act of disloyalty. It's part of governing.

We believe a closer examination of the facts and more willingness to question assumptions could have prevented much of this dispute.

On November 10, 2026, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors approved a $600,000 settlement and the restoration of *The Reporter's* official county newspaper designation for legal notices through December 31, 2026.

The county did not admit wrongdoing.

We see the settlement as a meaningful resolution of a dispute that raised important questions about the relationship between government and a free press.

The county incurred legal defense expenses and other litigation-related costs. We believe residents should have a clear accounting of those costs, including what was paid by insurance and what, if anything, was paid directly from county funds. We don't want to speculate about figures we cannot substantiate.

People may reasonably ask whether pursuing the case was worth it.

That's a fair question.

We could have focused only on the loss of advertising revenue, but to us the issue was broader.

A community newspaper must be free to report on government without fearing that unfavorable coverage will bring official retaliation. That principle matters whether the publication is large or small, and regardless of who owns it.

Legal notices are also more than advertising revenue. They inform residents about public hearings, municipal bids, auctions and government actions that may affect them.

A contractor may find an opportunity to bid on a job. A resident may learn of a meeting and decide to attend. Keeping that information accessible is an important public service.

We know that many county employees and elected officials work hard for Delaware County. *The Reporter* has covered their accomplishments as well as difficult or controversial decisions. Both kinds of stories belong in a community newspaper.

We hope public officials will continue to share information openly with reporters, answer questions and recognize that scrutiny is part of a healthy relationship between government and the press.

Before closing, we want to recognize the extraordinary people who made it possible for us to see this case through.

Our deepest gratitude goes to attorney Heather E. Murray, Associate Director of the Cornell Law School First Amendment Clinic and Managing Attorney of its Local Journalism Project, who has been by our side from the very beginning.

Heather's unwavering commitment, extraordinary dedication and steady guidance carried us through years of challenges and uncertainty. She believed in the importance of this case, understood what was at stake for our newspaper and our community, and never lost sight of the principles we were fighting to protect.

More than anyone, Heather helped shape the path that brought us to this moment. We will always be grateful not only for her remarkable legal work, but also for the confidence and reassurance she gave us when the road ahead seemed overwhelming.

We are equally grateful to Mark H. Jackson, Director of Cornell Law School's First Amendment Clinic and Adjunct Professor of Law. Mark brought a remarkable depth of experience to our case, including his years as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Dow Jones & Co. His leadership, commitment to press freedom and willingness to put the clinic's considerable resources behind a small community newspaper meant more to us than words can adequately express.

Attorney Michael J. Grygiel, a partner and Chair of the First Amendment and Media Practice at Foley Hoag LLP, deserves our heartfelt thanks as well. A highly respected First Amendment attorney who also teaches at Cornell Law School, Mike brought exceptional experience, insight and dedication to our defense. His work alongside the Cornell team was invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for his commitment to our case.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to attorneys Christina Hernsdorf and Kelly L. McNamee of Foley Hoag LLP, and Cynthia E. Neidl of Greenberg Traurig LLP. Their contributions, together with the efforts of the entire legal team, helped carry this case forward. We are grateful for the time, expertise and commitment they brought to our defense.

We also want to recognize the many Cornell Law School students who worked on our case over the years.

Those students deserve special recognition. As they brought their knowledge, energy, thoughtful questions and dedication to our case, we had the privilege of learning alongside them. They learned from the realities of our experience, and we learned so much from their fresh perspectives and commitment.

We hope the lessons we shared will stay with them throughout their legal careers, just as their contributions will stay with us. Their work mattered, even when it happened far from public view.

Together, this extraordinary team demonstrated what access to justice can mean for a small, independently owned newspaper. Without their willingness to stand beside us, we may never have had the resources to pursue this case to its conclusion.

We also want to recognize our editor, Lillian Browne.

Throughout this ordeal, Lillian's professionalism, integrity and dedication to independent journalism never wavered. Much of the criticism directed at *The Reporter* was also directed at the reporting and editorial decisions made under her leadership. We know how deeply personal that criticism became and the toll it took.

We want to say clearly that Lillian has our unwavering respect, confidence and gratitude. She has approached her responsibilities with a commitment to accuracy, fairness and the public's right to know, even when that work has been difficult or unpopular.

We have stood behind her throughout this experience, and we stand behind her today. Her dedication to *The Reporter* and the community it serves deserves recognition.

We are grateful as well to our employees, families, friends and readers who supported us throughout these years. Your encouragement, patience and belief in the importance of local journalism meant more than you may realize.

While this experience was never one we would have chosen, it became an extraordinary learning journey for both of us. We gained a much deeper understanding of the First Amendment, the legal system and the responsibilities that come with defending a free press. We met remarkable people, developed lasting relationships and came away with perspectives we might never otherwise have gained.

We have always believed that life is about continuing to learn and grow. Even during difficult times, there is something valuable to be gained from new knowledge, new experiences and the people we meet along the way. That is one of the most meaningful things we will carry forward from this experience.

We hope something good comes from this case beyond its resolution.

We hope it encourages public officials to ask more questions, to listen to differing perspectives and to recognize that a newspaper doing its job is not an adversary of good government.

And we hope it reminds readers that a free press belongs to the community it serves. Its purpose is not to make everyone comfortable or to tell people only what they want to hear. Its responsibility is to report the news, ask questions and help residents stay informed.

That is what we believed was worth defending.

Thank you for reading, for supporting *The Reporter* and for allowing us to serve this community.

RANDY AND KIM SHEPARD
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THE REPORTER

Police Blotter

Incidents published in the Police Blotter come directly from reports provided by local law enforcement agencies. These reports are a record of the actions taken on a given day by these agencies. Nothing in the published blotter should be construed as a finding of guilt.

Sidney Police Department

• **Amber M. Astrologo,** 36, Sidney, was arrested Oct. 13 and charged with petit larceny.

• **Justin L. Cody,** 40, Sidney, was arrested Oct. 17 and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation.

• **Katie E. McKie,** 41, Mount Upton, was arrested Oct. 24 on a Sidney Village Court warrant for failure to appear.

• **Christopher J. Gardepe,** 46, Sidney, was arrested Oct. 27 and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance.

• **Anna Rausch,** 35, Sidney, was arrested Oct. 30 and charged with fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and endangering the welfare of a child.

Colchester Police Department

• **Joshua Meyer,** 36, no address provided, was arrested Nov. 3 and charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of motor vehicle. Meyer was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charge in Colchester Town Court.

New York State Police

• **Christian Claudio,** 25, Delhi, was arrested Oct. 30 by Margaretville State Police on a warrant and held for centralized arraignment.

• **Jeremy Jacobs,** 44, Sidney Center, was arrested Nov. 2 by Oneonta State Police and charged with second-degree aggravated harassment. Jacobs was held for centralized arraignment.

• **Brandon M. Dumay,** 26, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 7 by Oneonta State Police and charged with petit larceny and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Dumay was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charge.

• **Agron A. Bitci,** 38, Walton, was arrested Nov. 7 by Oneonta State Police and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Bitci was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charge.

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VETERANS DAY

Honoring the brave men and women who have served to protect our freedom.

Veterans Honored at Margaretville Central School

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Margaretville Central School staff and students from pre-K to high school seniors gathered in the auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 10 to honor more than two dozen veterans who turned out for the annual Veteran's Day ceremonies at the school.

The morning event, which featured the school band, a video compiled by the broadcasting students and an address by Army veteran Patt Svoboda also saw students serving veterans a hearty breakfast in the cafeteria. Principal Joy Holden kicked off the morning welcoming all to the school and administrator Jeremey Marks introduced each veteran, noting what branch of service they served in.

Local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance and the band played the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Sea to Shining Sea" for the event.

Svoboda related a story about Martha Cothren, a social studies teacher in Little Rock, Arkansas. According to Svoboda, on the first day of school in 2005, Cothren removed all the desks from her classroom. When her students arrived, they found an empty room and had to sit on the floor. When asked where their desks were Cothren replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk."

At the end of the day, 27 U.S. military veterans, dressed in uniform, walked into the room. Each veteran carried a school desk, set it down in rows, and stood against the wall. Cothren then explained the lesson to her students. "These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Delaware County American Legion Commander Patt Svoboda, an Army veteran delivered a Veterans Day address at Margaretville Central School on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Students in all grades attended the ceremony.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Gary Atkin, left, and Chuck Scully were among veterans honored at Margaretville Central School on Tuesday, Nov. 10 when staff and students gathered for Veterans Day ceremonies. Many of the veterans honored were alumni of the school.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Margaretville Central School teacher Max Brandt, left and student Owen Williams recorded Veterans Day activities at Margaretville Central School on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The broadcasting students also presented a video they produced using photos from prior events at the school.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Army Veteran Patt Svoboda, left, who serves as the Delaware County American Legion commander was joined by Air Force Veteran Megan Passarelli, an Margaretville Central School alumnae for Veterans Day ceremonies, Tuesday, Nov. 10



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Avery Fairbairn, Aurora Duque, Amorelle Gavette and Chyanne Barnett were among the students greeting veterans at Margaretville Central School on Tuesday, Nov. 10. More than two dozen veterans participated in the annual Veterans Day ceremonies at the school.

Nearly 80 Veterans Turn Out for Sidney Resource Fair

By Michelle Bartz

SIDNEY - Unseasonably warm autumn weather drew nearly 80 veterans and their guests to the Sidney Elks Lodge on Wednesday, Nov. 4, for the organization's fifth annual Veterans Resource Fair. Before entering, attendees were greeted by Bill May and Jason Davis of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Mobile Vet Center, one of 80 such units nationwide. The mobile center provides mental health, trauma, substance abuse and employment assessments, referrals and in-person counseling.

Upon entering the Elks Lodge, veterans and their guests signed in and received tickets for drawings and raffles. With 28 organizations represented, attendees found an abundance of information from federal and state organizations to local volunteer groups and vendors. Noel Goodspeed volunteered as a DJ for the event, playing a mix of music from the '50s and '60s, along with modern and country hits.

While connecting with organizations that offer services to veterans – such as help with heating assistance, finding caregivers, help with legal services, Medicare counseling, transportation, housing, loss of vision, and more, Attendees also had the opportunity to take home an assortment of complimentary items and door prizes.

Blood pressure screenings and haircuts were available free of charge and a complimentary delicious chicken and biscuit lunch was served.

The event was put on by more than 20 volunteers, many of them Elks members. One of the promises of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission is to be of service to veterans and those in the military, especially those in need. Co-coordinator of the annual event, Toni Gardner, said that a grant from the Elks National Foundation made the fair, as well as the other service projects, possible.

A number of the veterans who were asked what brought them out to the fair cited the helpful information they could easily access along with appreciation for seeing friends and enjoying a home-cooked meal.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Jennifer Ruling and Bernadette Gaiglio provided free haircuts to veterans Joyce Boyer and veteran Dave Hunter at the Nov. 4 veterans resource fair in Sidney.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Alicia Chase of Otsego County Office for the Aging listens to a veteran's questions about caregivers at the veterans resource fair held Nov. 4 in Sidney.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Jamie Carkees with Otsego County Veteran Services provided information and giveaways at the veterans resource fair in Sidney, Nov. 4.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Vietnam veteran Aldan Mulwane chats with NY Connects Specialist Stacey Leddy at the veterans resource fair in Sidney, Nov. 4.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Chicken and biscuits and homemade desserts were enjoyed by veterans and their guests at a resource fair held Nov. 4 in Sidney, at the Elks Lodge.

VETERANS DAY

Honoring the brave men and women who have served to protect our freedom.

'A Person of Good Character': Andes Students Pay Tribute to Local Veterans

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

ANDES - Andes Central School staff and students honored local veterans on Thursday, Nov. 5 with a pre-Veterans Day luncheon and ceremony in the school gymnasium. The event featured short speeches about the holiday from Andes alumnus Ed Tucker and National Honor Society member Mason Leal as well as instrumental and vocal musical numbers from the students.

Science teacher Ed McGee kicked things off by introducing Tucker, a long-time military service member, first in the Marines and then in the Army. Tucker reminded his audience of the origins of Veterans Day noting the "armistice to end World War I was signed on the 11th hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month." Tucker added, "that was supposed to be the end of the war that ended all wars" but noted "as we know, that didn't end all wars."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Ed Tucker, a double decade veteran of both the U. S. Marines and the U. S. Army was the guest speaker at the Andes Central School celebration of Veterans Day on Thursday, Nov. 5. Tucker talked about the history of the special day.

Tucker pointed out changes over the years, in the way the event is marked. "Back in the day," he said, noting that "back in the day" Americans would stop what they were doing for two minutes at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 to observe a moment of silence.

Tucker said there "was a brief moment when Congress decided that separate holidays like Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Columbus Day, would all be clumped into one. And the reason they did it was they figured people would travel and it would boost the economy." The holiday was tnen observed on October 25. Tucker said President Ford eventually signed a law so Veterans Day is now observed on November 11th, regardless of what day of the week that falls is.

Tucker closed his remarks saying "it doesn't matter if you're Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Army Reserves, or now we have the Space Force. It doesn't matter what you were in. The day you stepped off whatever bus [you took to] your initial military training, your whole world changed.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

From left: Andes science teacher Ed McGee, listened to Veterans Day speakers with other staffers including substitute teacher James Rodgers, Principal Elizabeth Celmer and maintenance official Sal Ventimiglia. Staff and students honored local veterans on Thursday, Nov. 5.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Middle and High School students at Andes Central School under the direction of Yasmin Reshamwala, performed a stirring medley of songs celebrating each branch of the United States armed services on Thursday, Nov. 5.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Mason Leal, a member of the Andes Central School National Honor Society spoke about the quality of character at the school's Veterans Day salute on Thursday, Nov. 5. He noted people of good character are always there to lend a helping hand.

Mason Leal, who was asked to speak about a National Honor Society "pillar" that might be shared with veterans, focused on character for his comments. Leal said he chose character as and important standard for both because "a person of good character will be there for you with a helping hand when you fall down and support you through difficult times."

Leal harkened back to a question he was asked during his National Honor Society about why he would be a good member of the organization. Saying he told interviewers "I will be a good role model at ACS because I am known for how nice and kind I am."

Leal told those assembled that "a person of good character will be there for you when it matters" adding that what one sees on the outside of another does not matter as much as what is on the inside, the real character.

Following the speakers, the high school and middle school chorus sand a medley of songs representing all of the branches of military service in the United States before the ban performed a series of patriotic songs.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Emily McGowan, center, was among the Andes Central School students serving lunch to veterans on Thursday, Nov. 5 at the annual Veterans Day salute for members of the community. Don Estus who served in the Marines from 1966 to 1972 said he remembers every minute that he served. He was joined at the luncheon by his sister Mary Matthews.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Joe Grieco, seated left and Ken Bauer were among the veterans at Andes Central School on Thursday, Nov. 5 when students and staff celebrated Veterans Day with a luncheon, speeches and musical performances.

Delaware Academy Honors Veterans

DELHI - Thirty four veterans and their guests were honored at Delaware Academy Central School at Delhi on Tuesday, Nov. 10, followed by a public program and assembly honoring them in the high school auditorium.

Members of the National Honor Society helped serve the breakfast to the guests, who sat at tables with patriotic placements created by the kindergarten art classes. Veterans and guests also received cards with artwork created by students in the Community Action Service Art Class. Following the meal prepared by the high school cafeteria staff, the veterans joined students and other attendees in the auditorium, where they were welcomed by Superintendent Carey Shultz. Patriotic musical performances were provided by the Chamber Orchestra, Senior Jazz Band, Fifth Grade Chorus, Senior High Choir, Senior Orchestra and the Concert Band. Senior Paisley Smith also performed an original song, "Soldier Like You," accompanied by junior Briannah Pringle on violin and music teacher Jacqueline Gibson on piano. During the concert band's performance, veterans were recognized by service branch, standing to applause from the audience.



contributed by Delaware Academy

Marine Corps veteran Staff Sergeant Michael Beiner of Delhi was the guest speaker at Delaware Academy's Veterans Day Program on Tuesday, Nov. 10.



contributed by Delaware Academy

Students, veterans and guests gathered in the Delaware Academy high school auditorium on Tuesday for a special program honoring the area's veterans. Veterans were recognized by individual military branch during the Senior Orchestra's performance of a military branch song medley.



contributed by Delaware Academy

Members of the Delaware Academy FFA presented a set of cornhole boards to the American Legion Donald W. Gleason Memorial Post at the veterans program on Tuesday. The boards were built by FFA students, designed by student Sarah Darlin and painted by students in the Community Action Service Art class. Pictured are (L-R): students Eric Blackman, Joshua Brandenburg, Emily Blackman, and Zachary Anderson; veteran Kelly Smith accepted the boards for the American Legion post.

Marine Corps veteran Staff Sergeant Michael Beiner of Delhi was the guest speaker.

Members of the Delaware Academy FFA presented cornhole boards to the Delhi American Legion. The boards were built by members of the FFA, designed by Sarah Darlin and painted by students in the Community Action Service Art class. National Honor Society members distributed a number of door prizes during the program, including a beautiful quilt with a pattern suggesting a moving American flag made and donated by Polly DellaCrosse. Other prizes were donated by local businesses.

This is the 13th year that Delaware Academy has held this special event to honor local veterans.

VETERANS DAY

Honoring the brave men and women who have served to protect our freedom.

Walton Students Honor Veterans With Music, Stories and Thanks

By Patty Wood

WALTON - Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Townsend Elementary School honored local veterans Tuesday, Nov. 10, with a Veterans Day ceremony featuring music, questions and stories from those who served.

The students performed the national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," along with the military service branch fight songs for the veterans in attendance. The musical groups were organized by Townsend music teachers Giancarlo Sidoli and Henry Fernandez.



Patty Wood/*The Reporter*

Students perform the national anthem and military branch fight songs for veterans at a ceremony held Nov. 10.

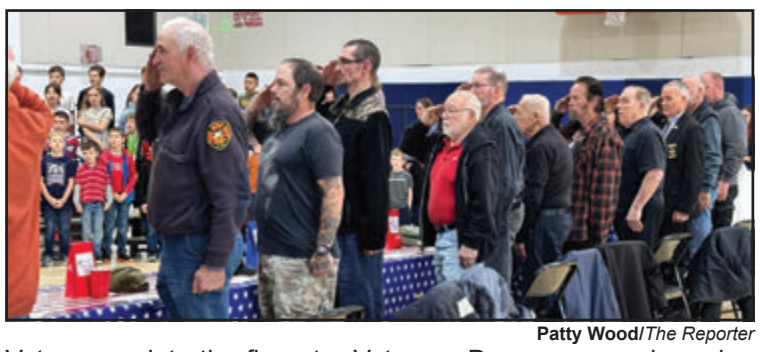
Students also had an opportunity to ask the veterans questions and hear firsthand accounts of military life, including what inspired them to serve.

Walton resident and veteran Ed Snow recalled that President John F. Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," inspired him to enlist. Dave Jackson offered a different explanation, joking, "Uncle Sam invited me," when describing being drafted to serve in Vietnam.



Patty Wood/*The Reporter*

Walton veterans were honored at a ceremony held at the Townsend Elementary School on Tuesday, Nov. 10.



Patty Wood/*The Reporter*

Veterans salute the flag at a Veterans Day ceremony honoring them on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond said he joined the military because he wanted to become a police officer at age 18, a career he continues today. Kevin O'Brien said his football coach inspired him to join the Marine Corps.

When asked about their favorite memories, veteran Steve Hodge recalled skiing in Australia in June, while Mayor Bjorn Eilertsen said the friendships formed in the military are unlike any others in life.

Veteran Jesse Thompson talked about the discipline military service teaches, from making a bed and showering properly to being punctual. "You'll never be late again once you've been in the military," he said.

The veterans agreed that basic training exercises were difficult, but they came to understand their value when deployed and required to carry heavy equipment. They also shared that loyalty, fulfilling their duty and love of country were among the strongest reasons they chose to serve.



Patty Wood/*The Reporter*

Walton veteran Kevin O'Brien, was among those honored at the Townsend Elementary School's Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 10. He is pictured with his daughter Brittany Fletcher.

Each veteran received a gift bag from the school, along with heartfelt thanks from students and staff for their service.

Historic Marker Unveiled in Trout Creek



contributed

Dale and Tina Utter at the newly restored gravestone of Sergeant Joseph Crawford.

On Friday Nov. 6, the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) hosted an unveiling ceremony for a Patriot Burials Historic Marker in the Reifinberg Cemetery in Trout Creek. The historic marker honors the burial of Revolutionary War veteran Sergeant Joseph Crawford, who served in the Mohawk Campaign of the Revolution in New York. Crawford is the only Revolutionary War veteran buried in the town of Tompkins with an existing headstone.

Crawford's original headstone was damaged and found lying on the ground by Tompkins historian Lynne Van Valkenburg, who worked with DCHA and cemetery experts Dale and Tina Utter to restore the stone. After restoration, the Utters applied for a Patriot Burials marker from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in partnership with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

Members of the Trout Creek community gathered to listen to remarks given by Van Valkenburg, Dale Utter, and Dr. Samantha Misa of DCHA regarding the history of the cemetery, the community, and Sergeant Crawford's service.



contributed

The Patriot Burials Marker recently installed in the Reifinberg Cemetery in Trout Creek in the Town of Tompkins

"We were glad to have the opportunity to commemorate Sergeant Joseph Crawford with this historic marker, especially given that his stone was in such bad shape initially. We hope it encourages more efforts to locate the final resting places of the nation's first patriots," Misa remarked.

Walton Vets Day...

continued from front page



Patty Wood/ *The Reporter*

American Legion and VFW Post member perform color guard duties at Walton's Veterans Day ceremony, Wednesday, Nov. 11.



Patty Wood/ *The Reporter*

Veterans listen to remarks at the World War II memorial on Stockton Avenue, Walton during the community's Veteran's Day commemoration.



Patty Wood/ *The Reporter*

Boy Scouts salute the flag during Walton's Veterans Day ceremony, Wednesday, Nov. 11.



Patty Wood/ *The Reporter*

Community members hold up signs honoring veterans during Walton's Veterans Day parade, Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Local Artist Honors America's 250th With Downsville Legion Gift



contributed

Local artist Diane DeAngelis, right, presents a painting of Betsy Ross sewing an American flag to Michael Frisbee, commander of Downsville American Legion Post 167, during a recent meeting. The artwork commemorates the 250th anniversary of the United States. Frisbee expressed appreciation for the gift.

SPORTS REPORTER

DA Football Tops D-H Eagles, 49-14, in Section IV Semifinals



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Delaware Academy's Lincoln Raba pulls in a catch that he scored for a touchdown during his team's win on Saturday, Nov. 7.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Delaware Academy's Andrew Nichols dives to narrowly miss an interception during his team's game on Saturday, Nov. 7.

ENDICOTT - A strong offensive performance and a defense that limited big plays carried Delhi to a 49-14 victory over Deposit/Hancock on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Delaware Academy scored 14 points in the first quarter and exploded for 28 more in the second to take a 42-6 halftime lead. The Bulldogs added a touchdown in the third quarter, while Deposit/Hancock scored in the fourth.

Saverio Prisco and Jeremy MacNeill led Delhi's ground attack, combining for 237 rushing yards and five touchdowns. Prisco ran for 118 yards on 16 carries and scored three times, while MacNeill gained 119 yards on nine carries and added two touchdowns.

Prisco opened the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run, followed by a Mason Reed extra point. MacNeill added a 12-yard touchdown run to make it 14-0 after the first quarter.

Delaware Academy continued to build its lead in the second. MacNeill broke loose for a 41-yard touchdown run, and Prisco scored on a 5-yard run. Johnny Wilson added an 8-yard touchdown run before Deposit/Hancock broke through with a 64-yard touchdown run. The two-point conversion failed.

Prisco answered with a 55-yard touchdown run, and Reed's extra point gave DA a 42-6 advantage at halftime.

In the third quarter, Cole Kivell connected with Lincoln Raba for a 32-yard touchdown pass. Reed's extra-point attempt was unsuccessful, leaving DA with a 48-6 lead.

Deposit/Hancock added a 65-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter and converted the two-point attempt for the final 49-14 score. Reed also attempted a 42-yard field goal for Delhi in the fourth, but it was no good.

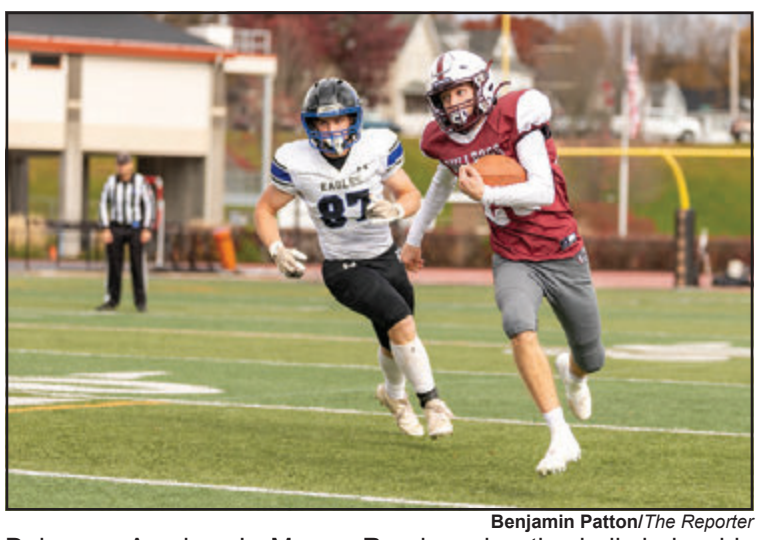
Kivell completed five of 10 passes for 89 yards, with one touchdown and one interception. Wilson led Delhi's receivers with three catches for 49 yards. Raba had one reception for 32 yards and a touchdown, while Levi Shephard caught one pass for 8 yards.

Wilson also made his mark on defense with three interceptions. Jack Mokay led Delhi with seven tackles, followed by Connor McVitty with six and Prisco with five.

Bulldogs coach Phil Neumann credited a strong week of practice and the work of the offensive line for the team's performance.

"We had a great week of practice and it showed," Neumann said. "Our offensive line executed really well - Liam Hillis, Liam Finnegan, Jack MacNeill, Connor McVitty, Ayden Dix and Levi Shephard. They played exceptionally well."

Neumann also praised offensive line coach Spange, saying, "A lot of the credit goes to Coach Spange who does a great job with the offensive line."



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Delaware Academy's Mason Reed carries the ball during his team's win over Deposit-Hancock on Saturday, Nov. 7.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

A team of DA defenders brings down Deposit-Hancock's Jake D'Elia during their game on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Defensively, Neumann said the team limited Deposit/Hancock to one major play but acknowledged missed tackles on the opponent's long touchdown run.

"Defensively, we only gave up one big play. We missed tackles, and their back had a great run," he said.

Neumann was especially pleased that all 34 players saw action.

"I was pleased that we were able to get all 34 kids in the game," Neumann said. "A lot of these kids do a great job on the scout team. I always say it takes all 34 to win a game."

Neumann said the team's heart, grit and focus have been important to its success as it prepares for its next challenge against Tioga.

"This team has a lot of heart and grit, and seems to be very focused," he said.

Neumann expects a demanding matchup Friday night, with cold weather and a larger Tioga team presenting challenges. Delhi defeated Tioga in the season opener, but Neumann said both teams have improved since then.

"Tioga's a lot bigger than us; we did beat them in the season opener. We know they've gotten better, but so have we," Neumann said. "This should be a great game. The boys are excited."



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Delaware Academy's John Wilson, right, and Saverio Prisco celebrate a Wilson touchdown during their win Saturday, Nov. 7.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Delaware Academy's Jeremy MacNeill runs into the endzone for a touchdown during his team's 49-14 win over Deposit-Hancock in the Section IV Class D semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 7.



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Margaretville's Girls Soccer Season Ends With 3-1 Loss to Lisbon in Regional Round

Blue Devils finish with 14-5 record



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Margaretville's River Williams takes a shot during her team's 3-1 Regional Championship loss to Lisbon on Saturday. Williams scored the lone goal in the loss.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Margaretville's Xandria Gavette dribbles the ball during her team's game Saturday, Nov. 7.

CHENANGO VALLEY - Margaretville's girls varsity soccer season came to an end Saturday, Nov. 7, with a 3-1 loss to Lisbon in the New York State Class D regional round.

The Blue Devils (14-5), representing Section IV, battled the Section X champions but were unable to overcome Lisbon's three-goal performance.

River Williams scored Margaretville's lone goal in the second half, giving the Blue Devils something to build on as they continued to compete late in the contest.

Despite the loss, Margaretville closes the season with an impressive 14-5 record and a successful postseason run that carried the team into the regional round of the state tournament.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Margaretville's Gabriella Sines makes a save during her team's 3-1 loss to Lisbon on Saturday, Nov. 7.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Margaretville's Amelia Marks heads the ball during her team's game on Saturday, Nov. 7.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Margaretville senior Cailen Passarelli hugs teammate River Williams after their season ending 3-1 loss to Lisbon in the NYSPHSAA Regionals on Saturday, Nov. 7.

XC: Sidney, Delhi-SK Runners Shine Section IV Cross-Country

Local runners turn in strong performances at championships in Greene

GREENE - Delhi-South Kortright senior Jaden Lewis claimed the boys individual title, while runners from Sidney and Delhi-South Kortright delivered several top-10 finishes at the Section IV Cross-Country Championships on Thursday, Nov. 5, at Chenango Valley State Park in Greene.

Lewis led the boys 5,000-meter field, crossing the finish line in 17 minutes, 18.10 seconds. Teammate Emmett Tweed, a sophomore, also earned a spot on the podium, finishing third in 18:00.60.

Delhi-South Kortright placed three more runners in the top 10. Freshman Augustus Green finished eighth in 18:49.70, followed closely by eighth-grader Liam Munro in ninth at 18:59.90. Junior Jason VanMaaren added a 13th-place finish in 19:23.90.

Other Delhi-South Kortright boys included eighth-grader Kyson VanMaaren, 32nd (20:43.40); senior Eric Blackman, 34th (20:53); freshman Kieran Walsh, 42nd (21:15.50); freshman Declan Briggs, 73rd (23:09.90); and senior Brennan Walsh, 111th (30:06.10).

Sidney senior Owen Mott led the Sabers boys team with a fifth-place finish in 17:39.90. Sophomore Kellen Begeal placed 16th in 18:50.70.

The remaining Sidney boys competitors were freshman Marcito Cole, 42nd (20:48.90); sophomore Brayden Strauss, 54th (21:39.70); senior Greg Bales, 56th (21:46); junior Carlos Garcia-Agustin, 58th (21:49.90); junior Alexander DeCarlo, 68th (22:32.60); sophomore Alexander Secor, 77th (24:05.70); and freshman Ebben Hensley, 87th (29:50.40).

For the girls, Sidney eighth-grader Olivia Beauchat paced the local contingent with a fourth-place finish in 21:12.20. Her sister, sophomore Grace Beauchat, followed in seventh in 22:04.10.

Delhi-South Kortright junior Aurelia Comer also turned in a top-10 performance, finishing sixth in 21:20.20. Teammate Kali Buttacavoli, a freshman, placed 14th in 22:54.40.

Other Sidney girls included eighth-grader Trinity Doherty, 20th (24:39.30); junior Rhian Gill, 30th (26:37.60); and freshman Marley Rutenber, 35th (27:32.60).

Delhi-South Kortright's remaining girls finishers were junior Lilly McGonigal, 16th (23:11.20); senior Emma Smith, 23rd (23:35.90); eighth-grader Olivia McGonigal, 25th (23:38); seventh-grader Violet Green, 26th (23:56); eighth-grader Skadi Gielskie, 35th (24:41.60); freshman Emily Blackman, 39th (25:28.90); senior Lilah Francisco, 67th (30:01.20); and junior Zooey Bartow, 69th (30:21.20).

Deposit-Hancock also had runners competing in both races. Freshman Kali Buttacavoli finished 14th in the girls race in 22:54.40, followed by freshman Alexis Axtell in 34th (24:37.10) and freshman Penelope Vernon in 80th (39:43.10).

The Deposit-Hancock boys were led by junior Daniel Ray, who placed 22nd in 20:00.80. Junior Eliot Dermitt finished 24th in 20:08.20. Other runners included freshman Marcel Harden, 70th (23:02.70); junior Parker Ballard, 71st (23:03); junior Chris Braun, 77th (23:33.10); and junior Krystian Lee, 79th (23:41.20).

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Delaware League 2026-27 Allstars: Varsity Boys Golfers

The Delaware League has announced its 2026-27 varsity boys golf all-star selections, recognizing players from eight area programs for their performances during the season.

The first team features 10 golfers representing five programs. Andes/South Kortright earned two selections, Ellis LiCalzi and Boston Quarino. Charlotte Valley/Schenevus/Milford also placed two golfers on the first team, Shawn Streeter and Tucker Whipple.

Gilboa-Conesville was represented by Shane O'Hara, while Hunter-Tannersville had two selections, Gideon Glennon and Teagan Mahoney. Roxbury's Erik Pettersen rounded out the first-team honorees.

The second team includes 10 golfers from seven programs. Gilboa-Conesville had two selections, Cody Ciaravino and Garrison Ross. The remaining honorees were Clark Smith of Charlotte Valley/Schenevus/Milford, Will Schneider of Hunter-Tannersville, Anthony Sarter of Jefferson/Stamford, Landin Amundsen of Margaretville, Cole Hamil of Roxbury and Jackson Storms of Windham.

Eight golfers received honorable mention recognition.

Andes/South Kortright was represented by Scout Lamport, while Ethan Ortega earned recognition for Charlotte Valley/Schenevus/Milford. Gilboa-Conesville's Payten Carr and Hunter-Tannersville's Lincoln Cameron also received honorable mention.

The remaining selections were Madelyn Eklund of Jefferson/Stamford, David Amundsen of Margaretville, Nick Ianniello of Roxbury and Jayden Palumbo of Windham.

Delaware League Recognizes Top Boys Soccer Talent for 2026-27

The Delaware League has announced its 2026-27 varsity boys soccer all-star selections, recognizing standout players from six area programs for their performances during the season.

Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury led the first-team selections with four players earning honors: Gavin Bohringer, Cody Ciaravino, Dominic Grieco and Garrison Ross.

Hunter-Tannersville placed three players on the first team: Blake Cameron, Ian Gilmore and Grady Maul. South Kortright/Andes also had three selections, with Skylar MacIntyre, Boston Quarino and Jansen Sturniolo earning first-team recognition.

Jefferson/Stamford had two first-team honorees, Charlie Miller and Tristen Thomson.

The second team featured players from six programs. Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury was represented by Chris Cox, Daniel Strauch and Liam Tyree, while Hunter-Tannersville had two selections, Dustin Falke and Leo Ligas.

Margaretville also placed two players on the second team, Wyatt Pacheco and Robert Sass. Rounding out the selections were Max Eisel of Jefferson/Stamford, Hans Stelmashuck of South Kortright/Andes and Owen Pellettier of Windham.

Honorable mention recognition went to 12 players representing six schools.

Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury honorees were Gabe Allen and Gavin Morales. Hunter-Tannersville was represented by Rupert Conybeare and Victor Guzman, while Jefferson/Stamford selections were William Eklund and Levi Hendrickson.

Margaretville's Rylan Palka, South Kortright/Andes players Evan Smith and Kody Weaver, and Windham's Jayden Palumbo also received honorable mention recognition.

Delaware League Recognizes Standout Girls Soccer Players for 2026-27

The Delaware League has announced its 2026-27 Varsity Girls Soccer All-Star selections, recognizing players from across the league for their performances during the season.

Charlotte Valley/Schenevus, Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury, Hunter-Tannersville, Margaretville and South Kortright/Andes were represented on the First Team.

Charlotte Valley/Schenevus selections included Jordan Odell, Carleigh Reed and Alexis Utter. Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury was represented by Quinnci Olmstead and Calleigh Porter, while Hunter-Tannersville honorees were Linsey Bellinger and Mason Streich.

Margaretville placed three players on the First Team: Vasilissa Hrazanek, Mackenzie Hubbell and Gabby Sines. South Kortright/Andes selections were Jaylee Kelley and Kennedy Quarino.

The Second Team included Hayden Marino, Elaina Miskell and Jaiden Wheeler of Charlotte Valley/Schenevus; Addison Bruck and Noelle McLaughlin of Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury; and Lily Constable of Hunter-Tannersville.

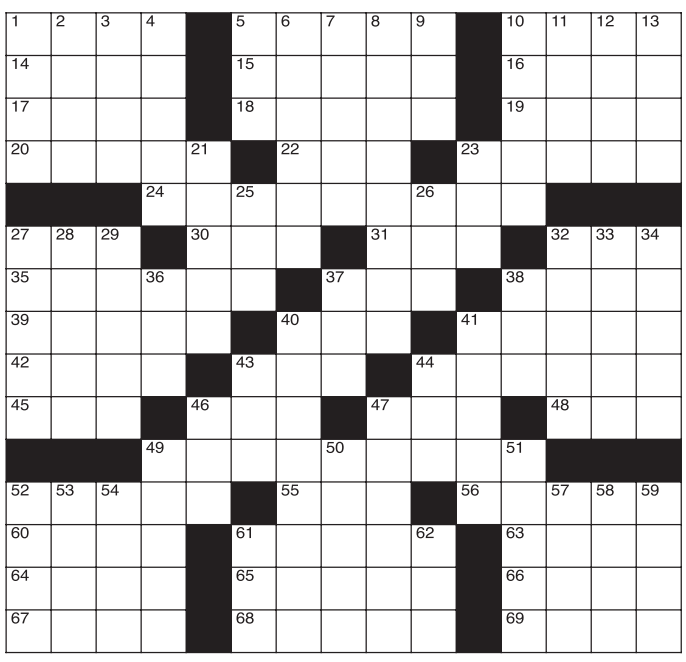
Margaretville was represented by Xandria Gavette, Amelia Marks and River Williams, while Lexi Hendrickson earned Second Team honors for South Kortright/Andes.

Honorable mention selections included Claire Clark and Lexi Keator of Charlotte Valley/Schenevus; Adrianna Breigle, Madison Burgwin and Ava Poniros of Gilboa-Conesville/Roxbury; and Aluna Velez of Hunter-Tannersville.

Margaretville honorees were Maria Colberg and Evie Curlew-Siclare. South Kortright/Andes was represented by Lily Mariglia-no and Emma Sicari.

Stamford/Jefferson selections were Lillian Eklund and Hailee VanZandt, while Gianna Garzone and Lada Svechnikova earned honorable mention recognition for Windham-Ashland-Jewett.

Reporter Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

Solution to last week's puzzle on page 24



Downsville Runners Go the Distance at Marine Corps Marathon



contributed

From left, Jeannie Langdon, Dawn D'Addezio and Sarah Hood of Downsville celebrate completing the 26.2-mile Marine Corps Marathon on Oct. 25 in Washington, D.C. Langdon completed her ninth marathon, including two virtual races in 2020 and 2021; D'Addezio finished her fourth, and Hood her third.

Delaware League Standings

Varsity Boys Soccer
(5 league games)

Gilboa Conesville/ Roxbury	5-0	13-3-1
HTC	3-1-1	10-3-1
SKCS/Andes	3-1-1	5-9-1
Jefferson/Stamford	2-3	2-11-1
Margaretville	1-4	3-11-2
Windham	0-5	0-10

Varsity Girls Soccer
(6 league games)

Charlotte Valley/ Schenevus	6-0	13-4
Margaretville	4-2	14-5
SKCS/Andes	3-3	9-6-1
Gilboa Conesville/ Roxbury	3-3	9-6
HTC	3-3	5-8
Stamford/Jefferson	2-4	3-10-1
Windham	0-6	0-11-1

Varsity Boys Golf
(7 league matches)

HTC	7-0	10-2
Charlotte Valley/Schenevus/ Milford	6-1	8-1-1
Gilboa Conesville	4-2-1	6-3-1
Roxbury	4-2-1	4-4-1
Windham	3-4	4-5
Andes/SKCS	2-5	3-6-1
Margaretville	1-6	1-9
Jefferson/Stamford	0-7	1-9

Sporterrifle League

In Match 8 of the New York State Sporterrifle League, Delhi lost to Burlington Flats 1412 to 1385. Top shooters for Delhi were Garrett Fitch 286, Kevin Gutliph 280, Bryan Fitch Jr 274, Kristy Fitch 273, and Kara Fitch 272. Also shooting was Sarah Keehr.

For the Heavy Iron League, Mabel Gutliph shot a 292.

Central Empire State Rifle and Pistol League

In Match VI of the Central Empire State Rifle and Pistol League for Nov. 6, teams from Walton, Stamdofrd/Richmondville and Rockdale notched victories.

Walton defeated Sidney: 1083-18X to 1041-15X. High scores for Walton were: Glenn Bowker 282-10X; Dennis Bennett 274-6X; Steve Dutcher 267-2X; and Ryan Boice 265-0X. Other Walton shooters were: Jeff Yambor, Michael Noviello, Kris Bowker, Carl Banker, Al Budine, and John Noviello.

High shooters for Sidney were: Mike Terzo 272-3X; Connor Sherman 269-7X; Jim Winn 254-3X; and Mike Pecoraro 246-2X. Others shooting for Sidney were: Chris Curtin and Bruce Gerken.

Stamford/Richmondville defeated Delhi: 1092-20X to 981-9X. High shooters for Stamford/Richmondville were: Gus Mueller 285-10X; Carl Tubbs 275-3X; Stephen Hansen 267-4X; and Larry VanDeusen 265-3X. Other Stamford/Richmondville shooters: Javin Traver, Steve Baker, and Pat Mattice.

High shooters for Delhi were: Mabel Gutliph 269-4X; Kevin Gutliph 258-4X; Bryan Fitch 230-0X; and Dennis Klimowski 197-1X. Other Delhi participants were: Jeremiah Anderson.

Rockdale beat Oneonta: 1072-17X to 1058-16X. Top shooters for Rockdale were: Dave Dewey 271-4X; Rob Gould 270-8X; Steve Ingalls 266-4X; and Brent Wessels 265-1X. Also shooting for Rockdale were: Gloria Galley, Cole Fleming (Jr.), Jason Fleming, Rick Braun, Pat Hawkins, Joe Ocasio, David Smith, Jennine Noxon, Dave VanValkenberg, Rick Jaycox, Ericka Fleming, Tom Rees, Bonnie Budd, and Gerry Palmer.

Top shooters for Oneonta were: Kevin Lord 273-6X; Scott May 265-5X; Carl Morganstern 261-2X ; and Adam Nichols 259-3X. Other Oneonta shooters were: Wes Fleming (qualifying), Charlie Lowe, Wayne Jones, Al Nichols, Ken Soden, Don Fleming, Bri May (Jr.), and Nate Lowe.

Stats

- Walton 6-0
- Rockdale 5-1
- Stamford/Richmondville 4-2
- Oneonta 2-4
- Sidney 1-5
- Delhi 0-6

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Hunters Urged to Take Precautions to Keep CWD Out of New York

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation urges hunters to take precautions to prevent chronic wasting disease from entering the state, warning that the fatal disease poses a serious threat to wild deer and moose populations and is nearly impossible to eliminate once established.

Hunters who pursue deer, elk, moose or caribou outside New York must follow restrictions on bringing carcasses and animal parts back into the state to help prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease, commonly known as CWD.

Only deboned venison and permitted parts may be imported, including cleaned skullcaps or antlers, raw or processed hides, cleaned teeth or lower jaws, and finished taxidermy products. The DEC will confiscate and destroy illegally imported carcasses and parts.

Hunters who harvest an animal in an area where CWD is known to occur are encouraged to submit samples for testing in that state before consuming the venison. If a test is positive, hunters should contact the DEC for instructions on proper disposal.


image courtesy of NYSDEC

The DEC recommends several additional precautions to help keep New York free of the disease:

• Use synthetic deer scents. Avoid natural deer urine-based attractants and lures, which could contain CWD.

• Hunt wild deer. Support fair-chase hunting practices. The spread of CWD has been linked to the movement of deer and deer products between captive deer facilities.

• Avoid meat from sick animals. Do not consume venison from deer that appeared ill or diseased.

• Do not feed wild deer. Feeding deer is illegal in New York and can concentrate animals in one area, increasing the risk of disease transmission.

• Dispose of carcass waste properly. Take waste to a landfill or leave it at the harvest site to avoid spreading the disease to new areas.

Autumn Foraging: Wild Turkeys Search the Forest Floor


image courtesy of John Lehmann

Three hen turkeys scratch through fallen leaves in search of seeds and acorns in the Red Kill Valley in Fleischmanns on Oct. 24th.

'Choose a Doe' This Season

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is launching its "Choose a Doe" campaign to encourage hunters to harvest more female deer and help keep populations in balance.

Before 2015, New York hunters harvested more does than bucks. That trend has reversed in recent years, contributing to growing deer populations across much of the state, according to the DEC.

High deer populations can harm deer health, damage wildlife habitat, affect hunting opportunities and increase risks to the public. The DEC highlights five reasons to choose a doe this hunting season:

• Help the herd: Overpopulated herds are more vulnerable to disease, and deer may have smaller bodies and antlers.

• Help the habitat: Too many deer can damage plants that provide essential food and shelter for other wildlife.

• Help the hungry: A donated doe can provide up to 200 nutritious meals for New Yorkers experiencing food insecurity.

• Help the hunt: An imbalanced buck-to-doe ratio can reduce breeding-season activity, making buck sign and sightings less common. Late breeding can also reduce fawn survival.

• Help the hometown: Deer cause at least 65,000 vehicle collisions annually in New York and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to farms, orchards and communities. High deer populations also contribute to the spread of tick-borne diseases.

The DEC said new deer hunting regulations offer hunters greater opportunities and incentives to harvest does.

The agency encourages hunters to choose a doe this season as a way to support healthier deer herds, protect habitat and reduce conflicts between deer and people.

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HUNTING GUIDE 2026

Every Harvest Tells a Story – Collect Yours

Hunters and trappers of any age can now commemorate their harvest with a species – specific sticker and a letter from DEC. Hunter Achievement Awards recognize hunters and trappers who harvest any of the 24 eligible game species and submit a picture on our entry form. Be sure to check out entry rules before entering your harvest. Entries must be submitted within 30 days of the season closing.

Deer Hunters: If you harvest a deer this season:

- Report your harvest
- Snap a photo
- Submit the Hunter Achievement Awards entry form to get your sticker, here: https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/new-york-hunter-achievement-awards



image courtesy of NYSDEC

Good luck to all New York hunters and trappers this season.

Big Game Hunting Regulations

It is illegal to hunt big game using:

- A fully automatic firearm
- A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target
- Any firearm equipped with a silencer
- An autoloading firearm with a capacity of more than 6 shells (one which requires that the trigger be pulled separately for each shot), except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length of less than 8”
- A firearm using rimfire ammunition
- A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shotgun loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile
- A bow with a draw weight less than 35 pounds or a crossbow with a draw weight less than 100 pounds
- Dogs
- Aircraft of any kind
- Bait or salt licks
- An air gun or air bow
- Traps or snares
- Arrowheads less than 7/8” at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges
- Arrows with barbed broadheads (see picture). A barbed broadhead is one in which the angle formed between the trailing or rear edge of any blade and the shaft is less than 90 degrees. A notch at the base of the blade extending no more than 2 millimeters from the shaft is not considered a barb. Broadheads with mechanical blades are legal if the blades freely swing into a non-barbed position without external force beyond gravity upon withdrawal of the arrow.
- Big game hunters are permitted to carry a .22 caliber rim-fire handgun during the regular deer season or early and regular bear seasons, if they possess a NYS pistol permit. The .22 caliber rim-fire handgun cannot be used as a primary or secondary weapon to take deer or bear. It is illegal to possess a firearm of any kind when bowhunting or when accompanying a person bowhunting during bowhunting seasons.
- It is illegal to harvest deer or bear while the animal is in water.
- It is illegal to sell deer or bear meat. Other than meat, the parts from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold only if tagged prior to sale. The tag must be provided by the hunter or the buyer and include the hunter’s license number, date of birth, signature, printed name and the town and county of kill.
- Bear gallbladders and bile cannot be possessed or sold unless the original copy of the bear carcass tag is attached. Taxidermists must also keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.
- A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is at least three inches in length measured from the base of the burr to the tip of the antler. Special regulations apply in Wildlife Management Units that have mandatory Antler Point Restrictions.
- In the Southern Zone, you may not shoot a cub or a bear that should be known to be a cub, shoot any bear from a group of bears, or shoot or take a bear from its den.
- Resident and nonresident hunters may take one bear by gun or bow each license year. The number of deer a hunter may take depends upon the licenses and privileges purchased. If a licensed hunter has the proper tags, they are permitted to shoot more than one deer in a day.

See Crossbow Hunting for additional information about hunting with a crossbow.

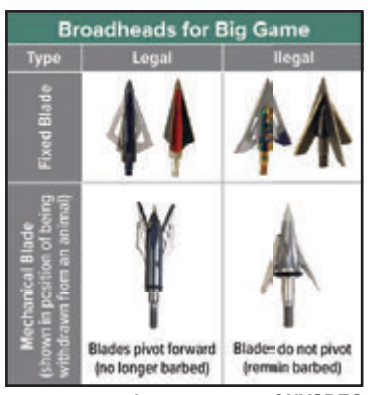


photo courtesy of NYSDEC
Barbed Broadheads

Featured Recipe: Squirrel Pot Pie

Small game seasons are in full swing, which means there’s no better time to try out new recipes using wild game meat. Below is a featured pot pie recipe that uses one of New York state’s most abundant small game species: squirrel!

Squirrel Pot Pie

Ingredients:

At least one squirrel*
Olive oil
3 tbsp butter
1 diced yellow onion
1 large carrot
2 celery stalks
½ pound of fresh button mushrooms
2 bay leaves
Black pepper and salt to taste
¾ cup dry white wine
½ cup heavy cream
3 cups of chicken broth
½ cup flour
⅔ cup frozen peas

**This recipe works using 1-3 squirrels. If using one squirrel, add extra carrot and celery for volume. For best results, use two or three squirrels. Alternatively, try the recipe with a cottontail rabbit or snowshoe hare.*


image courtesy of NYSDEC

Directions:

1. Prep the squirrel in advance. Brine in salt water in the refrigerator for at least 24 hours before cooking. For this recipe, hind legs, front legs, torso, and belly flaps work best. For even browning, quarter the squirrel rather than leave whole.

2. Set a large pot over medium heat and add enough olive oil to coat the bottom of the pan. When the oil shimmers, place the meat in and brown evenly on all sides. Remove the meat and set it aside.

3. Add butter to the pot. Once melted, add onion, carrots, celery, mushrooms, and bay leaves. Season with salt and pepper. Cook until the vegetables are soft and the onion is transparent, about 10 minutes. Pour in wine and deglaze the pan using a wooden spoon.

4. Add the squirrel meat back into the pot. Add cream and chicken stock and bring the mixture back to a boil. Cover and reduce it to a simmer. Leave to simmer on the stove for at least an hour, stirring occasionally. For extra flavor and softer meat, simmer for 1.5 - 2 hours.

5. Turn off heat, transfer meat to a plate and allow it to cool. Discard the bay leaves. Once the meat isn’t scalding, shred the meat off the bones, removing as much as possible. Once the liquid cools and the fat rises to the top, use a spoon to skim it into a measuring cup.

6. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

7. Combine half a cup of skimmed fat with flour until it forms a thick paste. Stir into the pot and bring it back to a boil. Reduce back to a simmer and cook until it thickens and no longer tastes like raw flour. Add shredded squirrel meat and frozen peas. Stir to combine, taste, and add salt and pepper as needed. Remove from heat.

8. Using either homemade or premade pie dough, roll out into a lightly greased glass pie dish. Add the filling and place a top layer of pie dough across the top. Cut slits in the dough to allow steam to escape. Place it on a baking sheet and cook for 30-35 minutes, until the dough is golden brown.

9. Let it cool and enjoy

Hunting Season Safety Tips

Hunting is a popular way to enjoy the outdoors and is a carefully monitored activity that places strict limits on game collected. Safety protocols must be followed when hunting. The following guidelines can help hunters and non-hunters remain safe.

Ensure you can be seen

Visibility is essential during hunting season. Wearing blaze orange can help minimize the chances of anyone being mistaken for game animals. Deer are not color-blind, but they lack the ability to distinguish colors like red and orange from green and brown, says the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Wearing blaze orange will not make hunters stand out to deer, but it can make them visible to other hunters.

Be safe in tree stands

Perching above the landscape can give hunters a clear view of game below. Permanent tree stands are more likely to deteriorate over time due to the weather; hunters should use temporary tree stands only for the season. Falls tend to be the most common cause of injuries, notes the Mayo Clinic Health Systems. Hunters should pay attention to their surroundings to avoid being startled by animals while in tree stands. Also, checking equipment and using safety belts can help prevent falls. The average fall from a tree stand is 15 feet.

Acknowledge your own physical limitations

Activities inherent to hunting, which include walking over rough terrain, carrying and shooting a rifle and dragging an animal carcass push the body to work harder. This may increase the risk of heart attack in people unaccustomed to strenuous exercise. Take frequent breaks, and hunters may want to go out in pairs so that someone can call for help or administer first aid or CPR, if necessary.

Dress accordingly

In addition to wearing blaze orange, hunters should be dressed for the weather to avoid frostbite and hypothermia. Layering clothing can be helpful, as layers can be taken off or added to stay comfortable.

Be sure of your target

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advises certifying a target before taking a shot. This can help ensure people, pets or other animals are not in the line of fire.

Recognize hunting seasons and lands

Non-hunters must practice safety during hunting season as well, even if they are not participating. FWS advises nature lovers to learn where and when hunting is taking place and plan recreational activities based on this information. Staying out of designated hunting areas is essential. It’s also important for non-hunters to choose bright clothing to be visible when in the woods. A brightly colored bandana or piece of fabric tied around a dog’s neck will help to protect the animal. Sticking to trails also improves the safety of the public and will reduce the likelihood of entering designated hunting areas.

Treat every firearm as if it is loaded

Hunters should treat every firearm as if it is loaded. The muzzle should be pointed in a safe direction, and the only time a finger should be on the trigger is when one is ready to shoot. Never assume a firearm is unloaded.

Fall is prime season for hunting, and hunters and non-hunters can benefit from a refresher course in hunting safety.

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HUNTING GUIDE 2026

Regulations for Tagging, Transporting, and Reporting Harvested Deer and Bear

Harvested deer and bear are in a hunter's legal possession only when they are tagged, transported, and reported appropriately.

E-Tag Users: Take It, Report It, Tag It If You Leave It

E-tags are electronic records of a hunter's unreported and reported carcass tags for deer, bear, and turkey in the HuntFishNY mobile app.

• Hunters using e-tags who harvest a deer or bear must immediately electronically "tag" the carcass by reporting the harvest via the HuntFishNY mobile app.

• Once reported, e-tag users do not need to attach anything to the carcass while in possession of it, including in their vehicle and at home. If the carcass is not in their possession (e.g., brought to a meat processor or taxidermist), the hunter must attach a tag that includes their name, hunter ID number, and reporting confirmation number (available in the mobile app).

• E-tag users who need to leave the carcass somewhere other than their home or vehicle can also print and use a paper carcass tag with confirmation number from their (DECALS) account.

• E-tags are not currently available for transferred DMPs or DMAP tags. Transferred DMPs must be paper tags.

Paper Tag Users: Take It, Tag It, Report It

1. **Tag the harvested deer or bear with an appropriate, completed, and legible carcass tag.** Follow the below steps to ensure your harvested deer or bear is legally tagged.

Step 1. Get your paper tags from a license-issuing agent or print them from the PDF sent to your email upon purchase of your hunting license.

Step 2. Cut the appropriate tag from the sheet of paper. Ensure you select the proper tag for the species and season you are hunting in.

Step 3. Fill in the tag with the required harvest information and sign it using ink that won't erase. The month and date of harvest must be marked in ink on the carcass tag.

Step 4. Place the tag in a weatherproof case or bag.

Step 5. Attach the weatherproof case or bag to the animal, keeping the tag visible. You do not need to attach the tag to the carcass while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp, home, or point where transportation is available. Attach the carcass tag immediately upon arriving at one of these locations.

Step 6. Keep the tag attached to the carcass until it is cut up and prepared for consumption.

Step 7. Report your harvest within 48 hours. DEC considers unreported deer and bear to be illegally taken. Hunters in possession of illegally taken deer and bear are subject to penalty.

2. **Transport the harvested deer or bear appropriately.**

• Harvested and tagged deer and bear may be transported either inside or outside a vehicle by the hunter who harvested the animal, or in their attendance. A hunter transporting their own e-tagged deer or bear does not need to attach a tag to the carcass.

• If someone other than the hunter who harvested the deer or bear is transporting the carcass, the hunter must attach an additional tag of their own making to the carcass that includes the names, addresses, and signatures of the hunter and person(s) transporting the carcass.

• All portions of deer or bear meat being transported must be individually labeled with the name, address, carcass tag Doc #, date that the portions were cut, and the signature of the hunter who harvested the deer or bear. Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one label with "venison" on the outside of the box. If someone other than the hunter is transporting the portions, the hunter must attach an additional label to each portion that includes the names, addresses, and signatures of the hunter and person(s) transporting the portions.

• A deer carcass with head removed can be transported as described above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and the hunter must attach a tag of their own making that includes the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent. A hunter transporting their own e-tagged deer without the head does not need to attach a carcass tag, but must attach a tag of their own making showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.

• Heads of male deer may be transported to a taxidermist only if a tag of the hunter's own making is attached that includes the hunter's address, signature, carcass tag Doc #, number of points on each antler, and the name and address of the taxidermist where the head is being sent. The head of a doe with antlers that are at least 3" in length can also be removed for mounting and transported following these same procedures.

• Hunters who harvest a deer or bear in remote areas may wish to quarter and pack out the meat. This is lawful, but you must retain the carcass tag with the quartered meat. A hunter transporting quartered meat from their own e-tagged deer or bear does not need to attach a tag to the quartered meat.

Share the Woods: Both Hunters and Hikers Recreate on Public Lands

With hunting seasons underway and fall hiking still at its peak, DEC is encouraging outdoor enthusiasts to follow safety precautions while recreating this fall and winter. Whether you are a hiker, nature photographer, mountain biker, hunter, or trapper, following a few simple safety measures can make your experience as safe as possible this season.

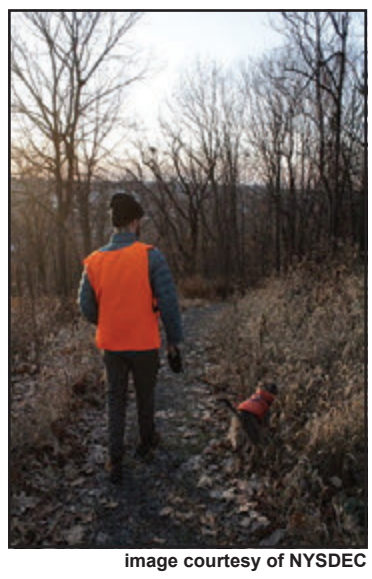


image courtesy of NYSDEC

Tips for both hikers and hunters afield this fall:

• Tell someone where you're going and when you're planning to return. If your plans change, notify them.

• Dress for the weather; account for both location and elevation changes.

• Become familiar with the trail you plan on hiking or the area you plan on hunting.

• Wear bright clothing; blaze orange or blaze pink. Bright colors allow others to see you more easily and from farther away.

• Make sure you pack your bag with the 10 Essentials, especially, a light source, map, and first aid kit.

Hikers should be aware that they may meet hunters bearing firearms or archery equipment while hiking on trails. Hunters are fellow outdoor recreationists and hunting occurs on most DEC lands. Though hunters use firearms and bows, hunting is exceptionally safe and accidents are extremely rare. This is a testament to DEC's robust hunter safety program and hunters' conscientiousness and care.

If you decide to adventure with your pet, make sure to keep them on a leash. Loose pets can cause problems with other recreators and can get into trouble with wild animals. Also, to make pets more identifiable in the woods, give them a brightly colored collar, leash, or other covering.

DEC maintains hiking trails and permits hunting in many areas of Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, as well as in State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Unique Areas.

Regulations to Keep Hunters Safe

New York is one of the safest states in the nation for deer and bear hunting. Regulations have been established to help ensure that strong safety record continues, and to reduce the likelihood for hunting-related shooting incidents.

Under these regulations deer and bear hunters are:

1. **Required to wear fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink clothing while hunting with a firearm.** Any person who is accompanying someone hunting deer or bear with a firearm must also wear fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink clothing. The clothing must be:

• a minimum of 250 square inches of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or

• a minimum of 250 square inches of patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink consisting of no less than 50% fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or

• a hat or cap with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material and visible from all directions.

2. **Only allowed to hunt deer and bear from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.** These hunting hours help ensure there is enough natural light for hunters to effectively identify their target and what's beyond it before taking a shot, while maximizing opportunities for hunters to harvest deer and bear during the times of day when these species are most active.

Refer to the sunrise-sunset table on the last page of the annual Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide to determine the exact legal hunting hours for where you hunt.

Learn more about the basics of hunting safety by visiting DEC's Hunter Education Program webpage.





OUTDOOR LIFE

ADK Chapter Receives a Leadership Award



contributed

Susquehanna ADK Chapter chair Tom Austin received the Award from Peter Manning.

The Catskill Mountain Club (CMC) presented its Leadership Award to the Susquehanna ADK Chapter at its Annual Dinner. CMC Executive Director, Peter Manning, told the story of the ADK Chapter contacting him about participating in a Delaware County tourism matching grant for trail infrastructure. With matching funds from the grant and discounted materials from Home Depot Oneonta store, the Chapter made a bench, four registration boxes and seven trail signs to improve the CMC Trails. Led by Chapter members Bob Bard and Laurie Pike, with an assist from Teri Bard, Jim Austin, Jim Ipsen and Tom Austin, the members built the items for the CMC

Catskill Mountain Club November Hike Schedule

Outdoor enthusiasts can explore the Catskill Mountains this month with a series of free, member-led hikes organized by the Catskill Mountain Club.

The nonprofit, grassroots organization has been promoting outdoor recreation for 22 years, offering member-led hiking, paddling and biking adventures throughout the region. The club also advocates for nonmotorized outdoor recreational opportunities.

Upcoming hikes include:

• Saturday, Nov. 14: Windham and Burnt Knob, Route 23 to Big Hollow, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Sunday, Nov. 15: Terrace Mountain, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Wednesday, Nov. 18: Long Path, Platte Clove to Route 23A, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Saturday, Nov. 21: Plateau and Sugarloaf mountains, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

• Sunday, Nov. 22: Hunter Mountain and Colonel's Chair, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Saturday, Nov. 28: Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Table and Peekamoose mountains, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For hike details, directions and registration information, visit catskillmountainclub.org

Stop Invasive Hitchhikers This Fall

Check Your Boots, Belongings, and Pets for Seeds

Seed dispersal is the natural method plants use to spread their seeds. Since parent plants cannot easily spread seeds on their own, they have adapted to take advantage of wind, water, and other species to help disperse their seeds.

Did you know that you could accidentally transport seeds while recreating outdoors?

Some seeds possess small hooks or barbs that can easily attach to animal fur and fabric. In fact, these plant features are what inspired the invention of Velcro. If you happen to brush past one of these plants, chances are you'll walk away with a few seed souvenirs on your clothes, shoes, or even your pet. Additionally, seeds that have fallen to the ground have the potential to get stuck in the grooves of your hiking shoes alongside mud and other debris.

Many of the native plants in New York state use these methods of dispersal, but there are invasive plants that have the same abilities. The tiny seeds that cling to your boots, clothing, gear, pets, or vehicle can spread invasive species which have negative impacts on your local ecosystems.

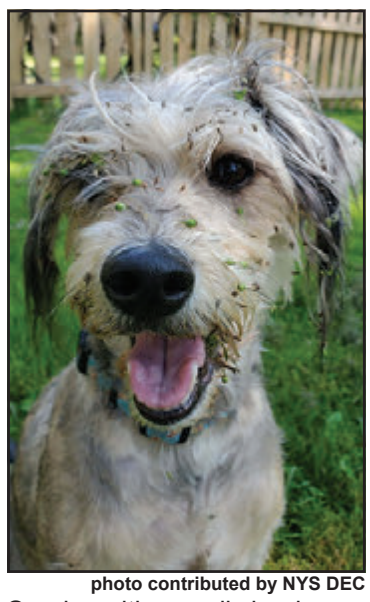


photo contributed by NYS DEC

Seeds with small hooks or burrs can easily attach to your pet's fur. To prevent the spread of invasive species, check if your pet is carrying any seeds before and after taking them out on a hike.

When hiking this fall, make sure to check your belongings and furry friends before and after your outing to avoid spreading invasive hitchhikers:

• Use a boot brush or visit a boot brush station to clean debris, seeds, and soil off your shoes;

• Check your clothing and gear for any seeds that may be stuck to fabric or any other material;

• If you bring your pet along for the adventure, check their fur for seeds; and

• Before entering or leaving a trail, brush off any seeds to prevent spreading invasive seeds to new locations.

Be Shrewed: New York's Tiny Venomous Predator



image courtesy of NYSDEC

New York has a venomous predator that weighs less than an ounce—and you have probably walked right past it. The northern short-tailed shrew looks rather unassuming: tiny eyes, velvety fur, and a long, twitching nose constantly searching the forest floor. Hidden behind that innocent-looking face is a surprisingly sophisticated weapon. Unlike most mammals, this shrew produces venom in its saliva, allowing this miniature predator to immobilize animals much larger than itself. If the venom wasn't impressive enough, the northern short-tailed shrew's teeth are stained a distinctive reddish-brown by iron deposits in the enamel, strengthening them against the wear and tear of its relentless hunting lifestyle. Earthworms, insects, spiders, slugs, and even small vertebrates can all find themselves on the menu. For a creature that spends much of its life beneath leaves and logs, the shrew is remarkably well armed.

The venom isn't manufactured for defense. It is a hunting tool. A shrew's metabolism runs so quickly that it must spend much of its waking life searching for food, and venom gives it an advantage when confronting prey that might otherwise escape or fight back. The northern short-tailed shrew is among the few venomous mammals in North America, making this tiny New York resident something of an oddity. A bite can cause pain and swelling in humans, but shrews are secretive animals and have little interest in encountering us. So, the next time a little pointed nose disappears beneath the leaf litter, remember, you may have just crossed paths with one of New York's smallest—and most unexpectedly dangerous—mammalian predators. Be shrewed.

Big Panfish Initiative – Five-Year Study Results and Survey Opportunity

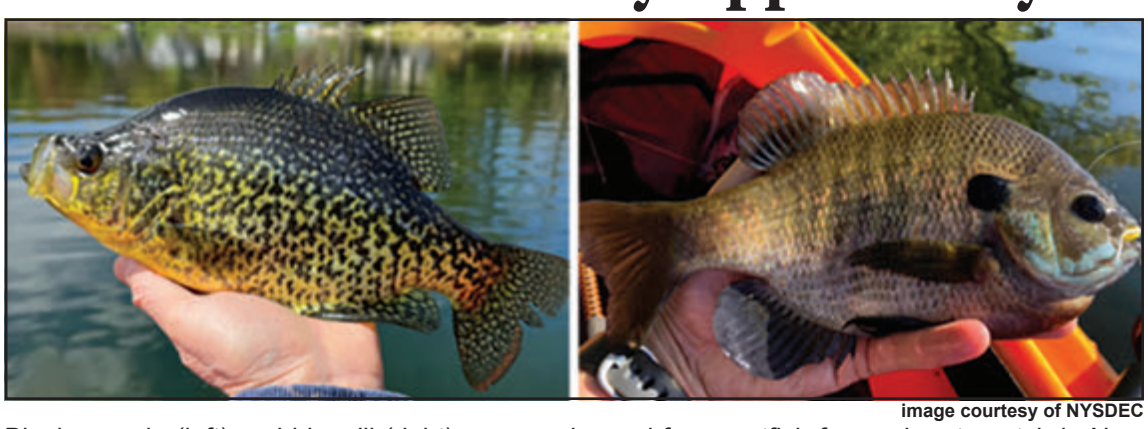


image courtesy of NYSDEC

Black crappie (left) and bluegill (right) are popular and fun sportfish for anglers to catch in New York state.

In 2021, DEC began a study to see if more conservative harvest regulations on 15 waters would lead to better opportunities to catch larger sunfish (bluegill and pumpkinseed) and crappie. The effects of the following regulations were recently evaluated at the conclusion of the 5-year study:

• crappie - 10-inch minimum size limit (statewide regulation),

• sunfish - 8-inch minimum size limit and 15/day possession limit (special regulation).

Some metrics that were evaluated included average fish length, proportion of sunfish that were at least 8 inches and proportion of crappie that were at least 10 inches.

Spoiler alert: improvements in one or more size metrics occurred for all species.

Be sure to check out the BPI summary and full report at https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2026-11/bpireportfinal.pdf to learn more about what species benefited the most from the regulations and which lakes produced the biggest panfish.

Stocked Trout Stream Access Verification Report

New York conducted a Trout Stream Access Verification Project from 2022 through 2025 to ensure that trout raised with public funds are only stocked into stream reaches where public access is available and anglers can be directed to accessible locations on those reaches by DEC. The goal of this project was: Trout raised with public funds will only be stocked into stream reaches where public access is available, and anglers can be directed to accessible locations on those reaches by DEC.

This goal was largely achieved. The percentage of verified public access on our stocked stream mileage increased from 38% in 2022 to 75% in 2025 when TSAV was completed. Doubling the verified public access mileage percentage is considered a great success in putting trout raised with public funds into places where public access is available.

Report is available at https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2026-11/troutstrmaccessreport.pdf

Best Practices for Using Firewood this Fall



Chillier days are on the horizon and fall activities are in full swing! Before you build a bonfire under the stars with friends and family or cozy up next to your woodburning stove on a crisp autumn day, it is important to know how to responsibly use firewood.

Help stop invasive pests and diseases from hitching a ride to a new area by following these quick tips from the New York State firewood regulation:

• Untreated firewood may not be imported into New York from any other state or country.

• Untreated, New York-grown firewood must stay within a 50-mile radius of its source of origin.

• If transporting untreated firewood and your destination is within 50 miles, you must fill out a Self-Issued Certificate of Origin.

• If purchasing and transporting untreated firewood, it must have a receipt or label that identifies the firewood source; hold onto your receipt until all the firewood is burned.

• Heat-treated firewood can be transported anywhere in New York, but it must have a receipt or label that says, "New York Approved Heat-Treated Firewood/Pest-Free", meaning it has been heated to 71° C (160° F) for 75 minutes.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

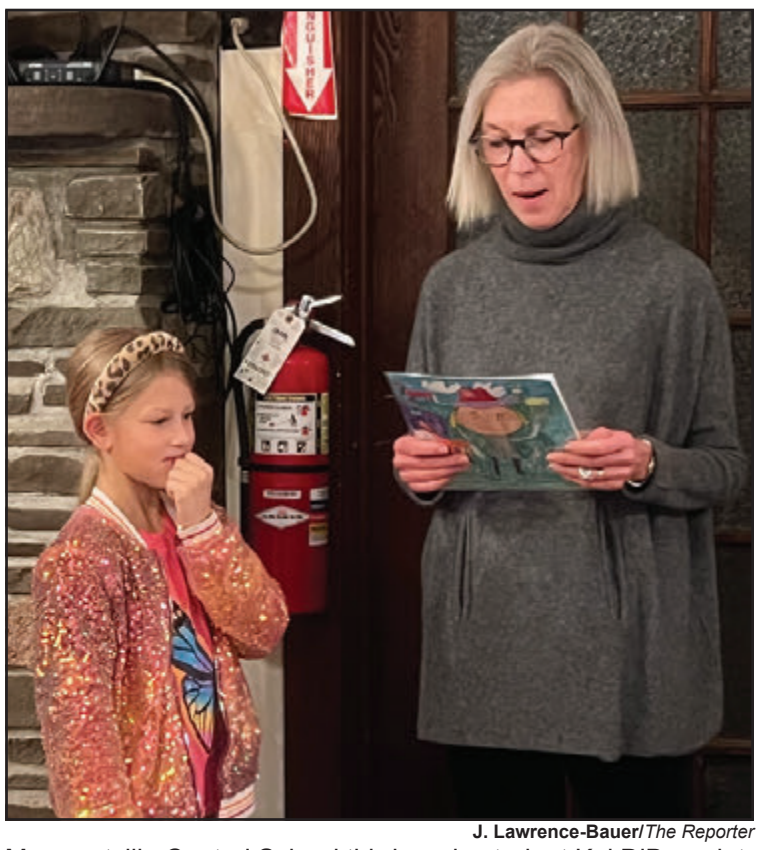
Keeping Catskill History Alive, One Story at a Time

Historical Society Of Middletown Reflects On A Year Of Community Programs, New Archives And A Time Capsule For Generations To Come



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Historical Society of Middletown Trustee Iris Mead spoke at the group's annual meeting about items that will be placed in a time capsule the group will bury later this month.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Margaretville Central School third grade student Kai DiBenedetto listened as Middletown Historical Society Trustee Suzanne Sluiter read a description of life 50 years from now that DiBenedetto created for a time capsule to be buried later this month. DiBenedetto was one of many students who participated in the project by drawing photos and imagining the future.

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Highlighting a robust financial standing and a packed calendar of community programming, the Historical Society of Middletown (HSM) celebrated another successful year during its annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 7 at its History Center on Cemetery Road in Margaretville.

In front of a crackling fire, President Diane Galusha reviewed the 2026 season which featured standout public events, anchored by the living history presentation Middletown on the Revolution: Voices from the Frontier, produced in collaboration with Open Eye Theater, and two standing-room-only screenings of the Anti-Rent War documentary Calico Rebellion. HSM also documented the lives of 40 local Revolutionary War veterans and added significant historical artifacts to its archives, including artist Parker Mann's easel and palette.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Diane Galusha, president of the Historical Society of Middletown, summarized a very productive year for the organization during its annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 7. Galusha noted standing room crowds for three events, one of which was a repeat because its first run was overfilled.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Dr. William "Bill" Birns delivered a keynote address about what history really means to him during the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Middletown on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Treasurer Pat Moore reported to members that the society's total assets have surpassed $509,000, bolstered by $106,893 in liquid assets, including a $75,000 Fidelity money market account generating steady monthly interest. Moore and the board presented healthy operating and building fund balances, though she noted that crossing the half-million-dollar threshold has brought increased IRS filing complexities.

Members re-elected three trustees whose terms were expiring, including Moore, Josef Schoell and Suzanne Sluiter. They will continue on the board with other directors including Gausha, Michael Fairbairn, Gary Smith, Jonathan Glazer and Iris Mead,

Galusha thanked them and the dedicated volunteers whose time and energy keep the History Center thriving.

In a folksy reflection on his arrival in the Catskills, Birns summarized his deep attachment to the area, also known as "topophilia," a profound love of place and articulated the enduring value of regional history.

Noting that local history is an ongoing, living process, Brins pointed to the Margaretville Central School varsity girls' soccer team, which was competing for a sectional championship 24 years after winning a 2002 state title. A sign marker outside the village notes the long ago title and that, said Birns, is history.

Birns transitioned from a 36-year teaching career to writing, and harkened back to a weekly column A Catskill Catalog, subtitled "History, Geography, and Day Trips," published in the *Catskill Mountain News*. Over the past 19 years, he has authored five books, including two poetry collections (The "Myth in the Mountain" and "Fleischmanns in Verse") and "Corning a Beaver, Like You Do."

He highlighted his role editing the newly published collection from Purple Mountain Press, "Peter Pan in the Catskills and Other Historical Essays (2025)." The volume features 33 essays by 28 regional scholars, covering subjects from Maude Adams, who originated Peter Pan in Tannersville, to local naturalists and revolutionary figures.

In closing, Birns underscored the central purpose of archiving memory, story, and primary documents. "Local history is the kind of study and writing that focuses most closely on the daily," he said. "We use memory and story, and primary sources... to help us reconstruct the lives and values of the people who occupy our community before we do."

He left the audience with a story, re-told from historian Alf Evers, about Margaretville physician Dr. William Gallo, who, when asked why he had never visited nearby Woodstock, replied: "Well, I guess I have everything I need right here in my valley."

Birns was followed by Mead and Sluiter who outlined a time capsule project developed during the year to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States. They reviewed items that will be buried which included a wide range of artifacts from throughout the town that might or might not still exist in 50 years.

The capsule will be buried on the HSM property under a lard rock, with a historic marker that will still be visible in 50 years. Galusha encouraged people at the event to pen messages for the capsule scheduled to be sealed next week. In classic humor, Galusha reminded participants to write legibly: "Just make sure you print... because nobody's gonna know how to read cursive in 50 years."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

A plaque noting the site of a time capsule burial was displayed by Historical Society of Middletown Trustee Suzanne Sluiter on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the group's annual meeting. The time capsule will be buried on the HSM property and retrieved 50 years from now.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Historical Society of Middletown Trustee Suzanne Sluiter looked on as President Diane Galusha displayed an artifact representing the Fleischmanns Wall of Peace that will be included in a time capsule slated to be buried this month and opened 50 years from now.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Fleischmanns historian John Duda, an active collaborator with the Historic Society of Middletown, listened intently at the group's annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 7. Duda, who often hosts visitors at the Fleischmanns Museum of Memories, has a significant collection of historical memorabilia.

Last Week's Crossword Answers

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Treadwell Methodist Church
ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
Sat., Nov. 21
10am-2pm
LUNCH Donations
11AM-1:30PM
Homemade Crafts
Christmas Tree Trims
Holiday Baked Goods
White Elephant Table
Baby Quilts

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Turn Winter Blues Into Wearable Art at Stamford Jewelry Workshop

Headwaters Arts Center class will teach participants to create one-of-a-kind jewelry from paper, wood and leather.

STAMFORD — With winter settling in, the Headwaters Arts Center is offering a creative way to brighten the season: turning everyday materials into handmade jewelry.

The center will host a mixed-media jewelry workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 2027, at 66 Main St. in Stamford.

Teaching artist Mary Frances Millet will guide participants through the process of making earrings, pins and necklaces using wood, art papers and leather. Participants also will learn how to seal their creations to make them durable and suitable for everyday wear.

Designed for beginners and experienced makers alike, the workshop will cover the process from construction to finishing. All materials will be provided.

Registration is offered at three suggested price levels: $10, $15 or $25. Participants can register online at givebutter.com/mixed-media-jewelry.

Millet incorporates recycled and vintage materials, including old books, letters, photographs and watercolor paintings, into her jewelry designs, giving discarded or overlooked materials a new purpose.

For more information, contact the Headwaters Arts Center at 607-214-6040 or headwaters@roxburyartsgroup.org. Additional details are available at roxburyartsgroup.org/workshops/mixed-media-jewelry

Cedar Ridge Bluegrass Band in Bainbridge Nov. 14



contributed

Fans of traditional bluegrass, gospel and old country music can enjoy an evening of live music when the Cedar Ridge Bluegrass Band performs Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Bainbridge Town Hall Theatre, 15 North Main St.

The 7 p.m. concert will feature the Clifton Park-based group, which has been playing together for 35 years. The band performs at bluegrass festivals during the summer and also brings its music to nursing homes, the Adirondack Bluegrass League and other venues and events.

Band members include John Hudson on rhythm guitar and vocals; Al Queen on banjo and vocals; Tom Benson on mandolin and vocals; and original member Ken Meyer on upright bass and vocals. All four contribute lead and harmony singing.

The works of artist David Baxter will be displayed in the gallery on the night of the concert. The gallery opens at 6 p.m. and remains open through intermission. Admission to the gallery is free, and artists will be available to meet visitors and discuss their work.

Tickets are available at the door, with advance reservations available by calling 607-288-3882. For ticket prices and information about upcoming events, visit jerichoarts.com.

Sidney Library to Screen 'Project Hail Mary' on Nov. 15

SIDNEY — Moviegoers can enjoy an afternoon of science fiction and popcorn Nov. 15 when the Friends of the Libraries present a screening of "Project Hail Mary" at the Sidney Memorial Public Library.

The movie will begin at 1 p.m. in the library's Smart Community Room. Popcorn will be provided.

Based on the science fiction novel by Andy Weir, the 2026 film stars Ryan Gosling as a lone scientist sent on a desperate mission to save Earth from a solar threat that could lead to the extinction of life on the planet.

The Friends of the Libraries invite the public to attend the free screening and enjoy an afternoon at the movies.

Sidney: Share the Bounty Nov. 19

The community is invited to enjoy a free meal at the Share the Bounty dinner Thursday, Nov. 19, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 15 Liberty St. Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 4937, the dinner menu will include lasagna, tossed salad, bread and dessert.

The meal is free, and everyone is welcome. Organizers invite residents to come share a meal and enjoy an evening of community.

Sidney Library Offers PowerPoint and Excel Instruction

The Sidney Memorial Public Library will offer instruction and assistance with Microsoft PowerPoint Thursday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m.

A session on Microsoft Excel is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m.

Registration is required. Call the library at 607-563-1200 or sign up at the circulation desk.

MASONVILLE

By Anne Scott
ahscotts1@gmail.com
607-265-3368

Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks, Country Musicians "We get caught up in what we need, and kindness is really about having grace for everybody, no matter what you happen to agree with or disagree with. That's not easy to do."

The week of Nov. 15-21 is American Education Week, let's try to thank all our teachers, office workers, cafeteria workers that keep us fed and ready to get going in the morning and lunchtime, and all the administration that have to make the decisions to keep the schools running in good order so all have a good education. Monday the 16th begins the Elementary School Session 2 of after-school program and Winter JV/Varsity Sports to start. Nov. 20 and 21st is NYSSMA Area All-State. Have a good week in school everyone. Here on the Farm the fellas have tested the cows with Dairy One this week and sent the milk samples back to the company. They will get the results of the milk production of each cow with the butterfat, somatic cell counts, milk protein, and other solids and whatever else they may need to know. They will also get a copy of each cow that has been bred for that month, when the cows are to freshen for the month, which cows are checked pregnant for calves, and who needs to be dried off to get ready to calve. They use these sheets to keep track of all cows in the herd for the vet check within the next week so she can keep them in good health and discover any with problems to be taken care of. With the weather getting colder, they have to check that if everything in the barns are in good shape and ready.

Deer hunting season is soon approaching and all hunters are warned to look out for any animals that are still out to pasture and don't shoot if you come upon some. Be very careful while hunting to keep your guns in a safe place if you have to cross a fence or get near a tree, be safe and good luck to all hunters for a good year.

As always keep on purchasing all the dairy products that you can for your use and enjoyment and have a great and healthy week everyone.

Birthday greetings this week go out to Garrett Monro Nov. 13, Todd Wormsley and Cassie Lynn Pierce 14, Chris Pierce 11th, Alaina Wagner 15, Tiffany Frazier 16, Marty Pritchard, Peter Masciave and Morgan Frances Ruff 17, and Anne Scott, Sharon Signor and Lucy Anne Warner 19th. Have a great day everyone.

Masonville Federated Church Sunday Services are at 11 a.m. with Rev. Dr. John Helgeson, Interim Pastor with Bible Study at 3:15 on Tuesday in the church dining hall. The third Wednesday of the month is the food bank from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. with a light lunch until 12:30 p.m. and the Share the Bounty the last Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Church in Sidney. This year the annual Hunter's Ham Supper will take place on the first day of deer hunting season, Saturday, Nov. 21st serving from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. All hunters are welcome to come as you are from the fields and enjoy a good meal with your fellow hunters and friends that attend. Welcome all.

News of the County Seat and Surrounding Communities.

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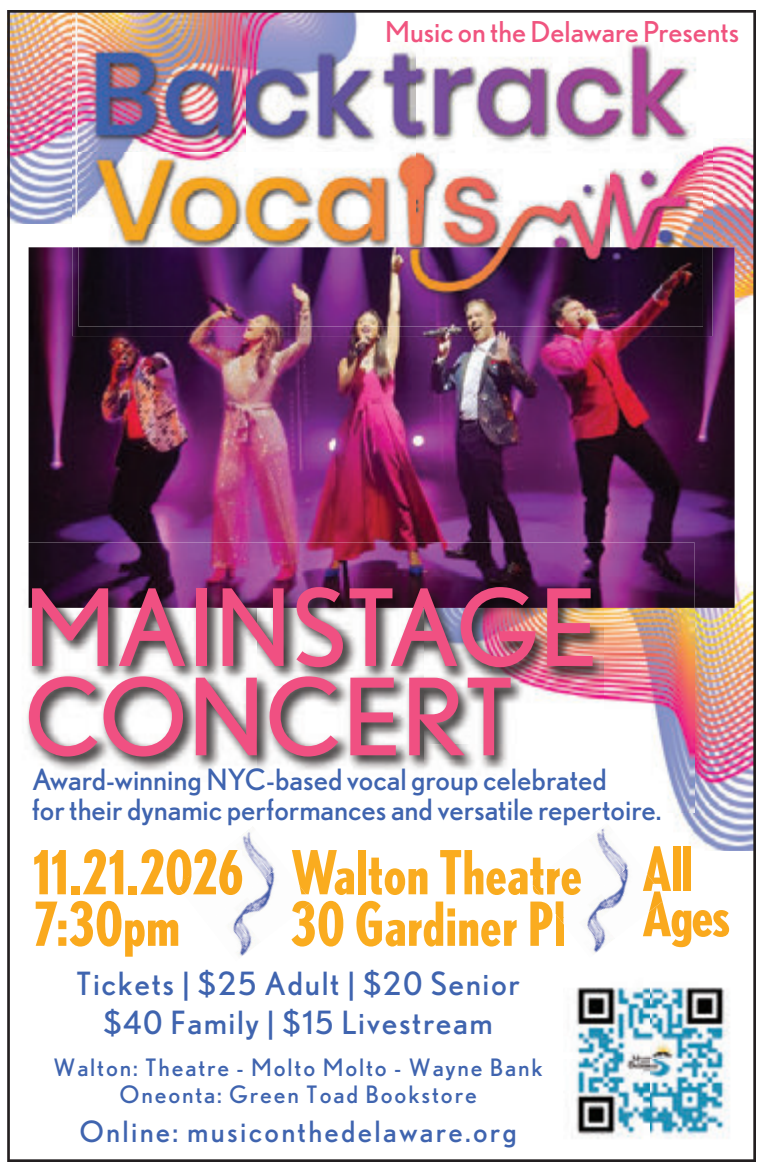
Sunday, November 15, 3PM

Suggested donation: $15; $10 seniors/students; FREE under age 13

friendsmusic.org

First Presbyterian Church
96 Main Street, Stamford





DELHI

By Christina Viafore
csviafore@gmail.com
607-746-3550

Last week's trivia question was when will the next round of Hometown Heroes banners go up? The banners on display right now and any new applications received before the end of April will go up before Memorial Day. If you are interested in purchasing a banner for your Hometown Hero, visit townofdelhiny.gov/delhihistoricalsociety to find the application and more information.

This week's trivia question is on Nov. 5 of what year did the demolition of Smalley's Theater on Kingston Street take place?

This week's community volunteer of the week is Ruthie Martanis and the Worn & Weathered Motorcycle Club, who held a fundraiser at the Legion last weekend. Thanks for organizing a fun event with live music, a chili-making contest and fun for all.

This week, the Delaware Academy Bulldogs play at home on Friday, Nov. 13, when the seventh and eighth-grade boys basketball team plays Sidney at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The varsity football team plays in the Section IV championship against Tioga in Chenango Forks at 8 p.m. On Wednesday, Nov. 17, the girl's seventh and eighth grade basketball teams will play Afton at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. All home DA varsity games and matches played in our gymnasiums or Dave Kelly Field are available to watch online through the free Hudl service. Away games held at schools using the Hudl service may also be available. Just search for "Delaware Academy High School" at www.hudl.com and start watching. You can also watch on your phone, just download the free Hudl app from the Apple or Android store. Let's go Bulldogs.

This week, the SUNY Delhi Broncos are home on Saturday, Nov. 14, when the men's basketball team will play Brockport at 4 p.m. On Friday, Nov. 20, the women's basketball team will face Keystone at 6 p.m. Visit delhibroncos.com to find links for live coverage. You can even watch games that have already been played at www.team1sports.com/college. Let's go Broncos.

There will be a Lleather stamping workshop at the Delaware County Historical Association on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. that will introduce participants to the historic art of leather stamping and decorating. Attendees will create three pieces that they will be able to take home – a coaster, a bookmark, and a keychain. All materials will be provided. Adults and children over 12 are invited to attend this workshop. Registration is required by Wednesday, Nov. 11. The cost is $15 per person. To reserve a spot, call 607-746-3849 or e-mail: dchadelhi@gmail.com.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County Board of Directors' Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 13, at Camp Shankitunk, at 2420 Arbor Hill Road from 6 - 8 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP by calling 607-865-6531 or email at delaware@cornell.edu by Nov. 6. This will be a "Pie Social"; bring a pie to share, no dinner provided.

Don't miss the Veteran's Pulled Pork Dinner Benefit hosted by the Delaware River Lodge #439 at 37 Meredith Street on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The suggested donation is $15, with all proceeds going toward local Military Veteran David Cobane and his family, in order to assist in offsetting medically induced transport costs to travel to and from various medical facilities.

The SUNY Delhi College Players' first student-directed play, "Clue", opens on Friday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. with Student Director Owen Matassa. On Saturday, Nov. 14, the matinee performance at 3 p.m. features Student Director Lexi Rufrano. The Saturday evening performance at 7 p.m. features Choreographer Nyla Hughes. The final performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15, will feature Club Advisor, Kari Haugeto. These performances are free and open to the community and take place in the Okun Theatre in the Farrell Student & Community Center.

Delaware County Office for the Aging, in collaboration with the Delaware County Veterans' Services Agency, is excited to host a special Veterans Breakfast on Wednesday, Nov. 18, beginning at 9 a.m., at each of our dining centers for veterans who are 60 years of age and older. This event is a heartfelt way to honor and thank our Veterans while sharing a delicious meal. Please secure your spot by contacting the Delhi Dining Center at 607-435-3503.

COLCHESTER

By Toni Vessey
ajvreports@gmail.com
607-363-7363

Hello friends, some of you may know I am also the coordinator for the Colchester Community Food Pantry located at the Colchester Community Church in Downsville. We are open from 10 a.m. - noon on Wednesdays and we have been serving our community for 14years. Last week I attended a meeting for all food pantry coordinators at Delaware Opportunities in Hamden. They supply almost all our food. Kelly Short is the coordinator at Delaware Opportunities and does a wonderful job of supplying our needs despite the many cuts they have been experiencing in funding with the current federal administration. There were five food pantries represented: Colchester, Hancock, Gilboa, Franklin and Roxbury. As I sat and listened to the reports of the other pantries, I was embarrassed because we serve so few people compared to the other pantries in Delaware County and I am wondering why. There must be a need somewhere in Colchester which includes Corbett, Colchester, Downsville, Cooks Falls, Horton, Gregorytown and Shinhopple. It would seem to me that there are people in these areas who could use some help with their food budgets, especially with the high cost of groceries these days. The food we offer is not surplus. We offer protein (chicken, pork, sometimes fish, etc), pasta, rice, tuna, canned vegetables and fruits, cereals, soups, juice, shelf milk (when we can get it), peanut butter and jelly, and other items as they become available or are donated. There is no salary requirement, there are no liens on properties, you are anonymous so far as record keeping is involved as I report only numbers of participants NEVER names. This does not interfere with any other assistance you may be getting. You are allowed to come once a month unless there is a greater need for assistance. If you can't come during regular hours, I have made it clear I am available to meet with you at another time that is more convenient. If you want to come and check us out, you are more than welcome any Wednesday; if you have questions or concerns you can call me at 607-363-7363. We have good food for FREE, and it doesn't get any better than that. We all need a helping hand every now and again and that is why we are there for you every Wednesday. If you have any comments as to how we might serve our community better, please contact me and share what you have heard or what you might suggest. We are hoping to get some pet foods in the future, too. We can't guarantee anything but dry food and it may take some time before we can offer that service. Please help us to help you. If you know someone who could use our services, please let them know they are welcome. Anyone in the Town of Colchester may come to the Food Pantry. We have plenty of food for everyone. We are grateful that the church allows us the space to offer this ministry without charge and we are more than grateful for the kindness we experience from the community donations of foods and funds. It takes a village; all you have to do is walk through the doors and bring your bags (we have extras if you forget).

So, are your plans down on paper? Do you have your supplies at hand? Got enough twinkle lights, greenery and tinsel? The Parade of Lights is coming up soon. The 18th Annual Downsville "Parade of Lights" will be Saturday, Dec. 12. Get your group or family together and start thinking about a float and join in the fun. Come out and celebrate the holiday, see Santa and stop in for some treats at the Firehall afterwards. It's a wonderful experience for all and the parade seems to get longer each year, thanks to Bill Reichert and Stacey Mattson and their band of merry elves. Be sure to contact Stacey about your participation.

Word has it that Bonnie Shaver will be spending some time with daughter Nancy Haynes when she is released from the hospital. Sending her lots of Get Well wishes. Nancy also reported the passing of Linda Fitch. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Youth Basketball has begun at Downsville Central School for grade 3-6 on Saturdays between 10 and 11:30 a.m. This is a free program to teach kids the basics and to enhance their skills. You can contact Lorraine Reed for more information at 607-643-1601

The Delhi Police Department Training Division is now accepting registrations for their upcoming New York State 18-Hour Pistol Permit Classes for December 2026, January 2027, and March 2027. This is the mandatory course required to obtain a full-carry permit in Delaware County. To sign up visit the Delhi PD Training page and click on the purple box, "Register for Class". Complete the form, submit your payment via "GovPayNow" or be sure to write training tuition in the "Other Fees" box along with the date of the class you wish to take. You must complete the registration form and the GovPay form separately. Once you submit the registration form, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive an email, your registration form was not completed correctly. Your spot is only secured once BOTH the form and deposit are received.

"Socktober" is now over at the William B. Ogden Library in Walton and the community donated 247 new pairs of socks for the community. Colchester Community UM Church was proud to be a part of this service project. Thank you to everyone who donated socks both at the church and at the library. Your generosity will make this winter a little warmer for someone in need.

Mark your calendars for a Chicken and Biscuit/Basket Raffle Fund Raiser for Matt Brock on November 20th at 4 p.m. at the Downsville Firehall. Matt is living with silicosis after many years of working as a quarry man. He needs a lung transplant, and this event can help to alleviate some of the financial burden from him and his family. If you would like to help in any way either to work or to provide a basket, please contact Sherry Becker. This is what a small town does, it takes care of its people when there is a need. Please be generous.

Supervisor Rob Hafele reports that since July, he has been recording the town board meetings and posting those video links on the town website (www.colchesterny.gov) right alongside the town board minutes. He encourages all to come and attend our town board meetings in person or at least keep abreast of what is happening by viewing the board meeting videos. If anyone has any questions or concerns about our town policies or how he conducts business, he is generally at the Town Hall often between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. so you can stop by and speak with him or you can call 607-363-7906.

Let's hope this mild winter hangs around for while to keep our heating costs down. Enjoy your week and be kind. Till next time, Peace~

SIDNEY/UNADILLA

By Anna Ritchey
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brauna43@yahoo.com

Sidney

The Rotary Club of Sidney will have a meeting on Friday, Nov. 13 beginning at noon with a light lunch. All Rotarians and guests welcome. Meeting at St. Luke's Church, 139 West Main Street.

The Sidney Elks Lodge will have a craft show and bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. located at 104 River Streeet.Scouts from Troop 99 and 88 will be Scouting for Food with food collection on Saturday, Nov. 14 starting at 10 a.m. All food bag donations are to to placed outside the front door for pick-up by the Scouts. Also, food can be dropped off at the Sidney United Methodist Church on Liberty Street from 10 a.m. to noon.

Donations for the Uplift Care kit boxes can be left at the following places through Dec. 4. These are given to children and their families who are going through difficult times such as cancer treatment, major surgery or other serious medical challenges. All items to be distributed through the Bassett Healthcare Network School-based health offices to those most in need. See list of items needed at Village Variety in Unadilla, SFCU in Bainbridge and Macho's Tacos, Trackside Dining, Club 55 and Tri County Senior Center all in Sidney.

The free Share the Bounty meal will be held one week earlier this month due to Thanksgiving. The meal by Knight of Columbus will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19 with serving from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Liberty Street. All are welcome. The menu will be lasagna, salad, bread and dessert.

Sidney Memorial Public Library, 8 River Street. Phone 607-563-1200. Open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Many programs for preschoolers and school age kids. For all programs visit website www.sidneylibrary.org

An Excel course will be offered on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. Call the library at 607-563-1200 to register. Crafts and creations for ages K-12 grades will be on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 19 Thanksgiving luminaries and Nov. 23 Crayon Melt suncatchers; and Nov. 19. The Photography Club will hold their art exhibit in the Smart Community Room know through Nov. 28. A Citizen Preparedness Training will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. in the Smart Community Room. This free program will give residents tools and resources to be prepared for any type of disaster, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible. This program is presented by NY Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Register by calling 607-563-1200.

The "In Stitches" quilting group will meet in the Smart Community Room on Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All levels of quilters are welcome to join.

Make a bookmark hunt for turkeys at the Masonville Branch Library on Tuesday, Nov. 17 and Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Nov 20 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Stop in and enjoy these fun crafts for more information 607-265-3330. The Yarn Club will meet on Nov. 14 and 28 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Tri County Senior Center in the back of the hospital building at 43 Pearl Street is open on Wednesday and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Carol Allen at 607-563-8065 and on Face book.

The Sidney Historical Association monthly meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at 44 Grand Street. All are invited to come and consider becoming a member. The hours to visit are Wednesday and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Lighthouse Cancer support group meets the Second Sunday of each month from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the East Guilford Presbyterian Church, on Route 8. Anyone of any faith with any type of cancer or in remission is welcome to attend. Call 607-563-7713 for more information and payment requirements.

Food Bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. located at the Sidney United Methodist Church, 12 Liberty Street.

The Catholic Charities Emergency Food Pantry is open by appointment Tuesdays,

Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. located at 21 Liberty Street. Regular hours for Catholic Charities are Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed for lunch from 12:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Birthright of Sidney serving Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties, 21 Liberty Street, Suite 10. Open Monday 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services are free, trained volunteers. Information is confidential 607-563-4321. Offering counseling, pregnancy tests, agency referrals, baby food and diapers.

The United Presbyterian Church of East Guilford has a Blessing Box that is regularly filled with non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for those in need. Available 24/7 at a drive-up location in the parking lot of the church. Take only what you need today and leave what you can for others in need. It is requested that the donations left in the box are food/hygiene.

Unadilla

Cub Pack 1 and Scouting America Troop 1 will be conducting their annual Scouting for Food drive in the village of Unadilla and surrounding areas on Saturday, Nov. 14. Food is to be left on your front steps by 8:30 a.m. so the Scouts can see it easily. They will sort and box all donated food to the Unadilla Food Pantry. At the same time, the scouts will also collect deposit cans, plastic bottles and glass. The donation will support the scout's advancement, camping and other activities. They will also be sorting cans and bottles at the firehouse, 77 Clifton Street from 8:30 to 11 a.m. If you live out of the village and wish to help, you may bring items there.

The last Sunday for the Annual Pancake Breakfast by the Unadilla Rod and Gun Cub will be Nov. 15. Serving ham or sausage, beverage, all the pancakes you can eat with real maple syrup from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 566 Butternut Road.

The Unadilla Community Food Pantry and Unadilla Methodist Church have coordinated to provide a Blessing Box for those in need in Unadilla. The box is located on the front porch of the Community House. If you would like to help to stock it, here is a list of some items needed. Pasta, rice, cereal, crackers, soup in box, instant potatoes, boxed mac and cheese, tea, coffee, toilet paper, paper towels, socks. All items to be brand new. If you wish to donate, you can leave items on the front bench in the Unadilla office or place them in the Blessing box.

A free breakfast in the basement of the First United Methodist Church, 170 Main Street is held on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 607-369-20 52 for reservations.

Village board meetings are being held on the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Firehouse, 77 Clifton Street.

The SFCU Mobile Branch comes to Unadilla on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. located at Jake Cotten Pavilion, 242 Main Street.

The Town board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the town municipal building 1648 State Highway 7

The Teen Center (Youth for Christ Central New York) 16 Watson Street is open every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. for all youth 11 to 18. A youth-friendly meal will be available. For more information call the YFC office 607-432-0594 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Unadilla Public Library Board open monthly meetings are every third Monday beginning at 6:30 p.m. 193 Main Street.

The Unadilla Food Pantry located at 172 Main Street is open Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month is 4 to 6 p.m. For more information call 607-267-5602.

The Unadilla Methodist Church has a clothing donation shed at the parking lot sponsored by Troop 1 BSA. You may stop anytime to donate clothing, shoes, blankets, sheets, curtains, stuffed animals.

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GENERAL

Wanted: proof of parents of Rachel Beeman Delamater. Father Solomon Beeman, Mother Deborah Goldsmith B: 09 Jul 1800, Freehold, Greene Co., d: 11 Apr 1849, Middletown buried Goldsmith Cemetery. geieralice@gmail.com 46G

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HELP WANTED

SPORTS WRITER

The Reporter is looking for a part-time sports writer that can cover local high school sports games and write sports features in and around Delaware County. Must have reliable transportation and be proficient with computers. Must be available to attend games and conduct interviews as assigned. Must be able to work on deadline. Hourly compensation, based on experience, starting at $17.25 per hour. To apply send resume to info@dckr.com or mail to: The Reporter, 39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 607-464-4009. Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am - 5 pm. O46HW

SUBSTITUTE DRIVER

Substitute Delivery Driver needed to deliver The Reporter Thursday, November 19. Approximately 8 hours starting at 7:00 a.m. Delivery route starts and ends at Delhi. The Driver is required to load, drive, deliver and collect money. Must be dependable, have a clean NYS driver's license, have reliable transportation, able to lift up to 40 pounds, and good with math. The volume of papers easily fit into an SUV. $16.80 per hour plus mileage. To apply, stop by Decker Advertising's office to fill out an application. Decker Advertising Inc. publisher of The Reporter 39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY. Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 607-464-4009. O46HW

TAKING APPLICATIONS for saw mill laborers. Please apply in person at Cannonsville Lumber Inc., 199 Old Route 10, Deposit, NY 13754 607-467-3380. Pay based on experience. BTFHW

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WANTED

SEASONAL EVENTS

SOMETHING HAPPENING THIS SEASON? LET EVERYONE KNOW! From holiday bazaars and craft shows to benefit dinners, concerts, parades, church services, and community celebrations, there's always something happening around here! Help spread the word by submitting your event to The Reporter's online calendar at The-Reporter.net. Click Submit under the Calendar tab to get started. Submitted events will be considered for inclusion in the print editions. OtfWT

IMMEDIATE OPENING
Multi-Media Sales Representative

Decker Advertising seeks an energetic, motivated, and goal-oriented individual to join our team as a **Multi-Media Sales Representative**. This position offers the opportunity to work directly with local businesses to help them grow using effective print and digital advertising solutions.

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DA Decker Advertising
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39 Elm Street,
Delhi, NY 13753

Community CALENDAR

For a complete description and full list of events and meetings searchable by date, category and location go to www.The-Reporter.net and click on calendar.

Friday, Nov. 13

Queer Joy Exhibit Opening Reception: The Community Arts Network of Oneonta (CANO) is pleased to present Queer Joy, a new group exhibit that celebrates queer experiences, confronts the barriers that can make joy elusive, and holds both realities at once. The exhibit opens with a reception on Friday, November 13 from 5-7p at the Wilber Mansion, 11 Ford Avenue in Oneonta. The opening reception is free and open to all and light refreshments will be served. Jenny Rosenzweig, jenny@canoneonta.org, 607.432.2070.

Saturday, Nov. 14

Emergency Preparedness: Saturday, November 14 at 2:00pm, Citizen Prepared ness Training. This Free program will give residents tools and resources to prepared for any type of disaster, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible. This program is presented by NY Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. To register for this event please call the library at 607-563-1200. This program will take place in the Smart Community Room. Sidney Memorial Public Library 8 River St., Sidney, NY.

First United Methodist church Basket Auction: 20th Annual Basket action at 101 North Street, Walton, on November 14th from 10 AM until 12 noon. Stop in for cake and a beverage. You will be able to bid on many wonderful gift baskets and gift cards donated by generous local merchants. Proceeds from the auction go to help local church missions. There is a $5.00 entry fee. (607) 437-0573. .

Yarn Club: Yarn Club meets at the Masonville Branch Library on Saturday, November 14 & 28, 10am-noon. All levels are welcome. Bring your project and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and good conversation while you work on your project at the library. Free. Ellen 607-265-3330. Masonville Branch Library 15565 St Hwy 8, Masonville, NY.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Shelest Piano Duo: The Friends of Music of Stamford, NY 40th Anniversary Season continues on Sunday, November 15, with a 3PM concert featuring the Shelest Piano Duo. Pianists Anna and Dmitri Shelest play works by Ukrainian and American composers to honor both their heritage and their home in the United States. The duo's inventive programs have taken them to major concert halls and international cultural and diplomatic events, prompting former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to praise their work as having "realized diplomacy through music." The couple is also known for their YouTube channel, "Shelest at the Piano," in which they explore a variety of repertoire and share their passion for the piano. This event is generously hosted by the First Presbyterian Church at 96 Main Street, Stamford, NY. Admission is by donation at the door; the suggested donation is $15 per person, $10 for seniors & students. There is no charge for those under age 13. Cash or check only; no reservations or advance sales. Visit https://friendsmusic.org for more information about this concert and the rest of the Friends of Music 2026 season.

Sunday Movie @ The Sidney Library: The Friends of the Libraries presents Project Hail Mary with Ryan Gosling, rated PG. Run time 2 hours, 36 minutes. The movie will be held in The Smart Community Room. Sunday, November 15, 1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. free. circulations staff 607-563-1200. Sidney Memorial Public Library 8 River St., Sidney, NY.

Tree of Lights Ceremony: This event is an opportunity to celebrate through music, poetry, and readings the lives of people in our region. Holiday trees will be lit and ornaments on display through the holidays. Ornaments can be purchased for $15.00. The program is at the Cobleskill United Methodist Church, 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill. All are welcome, free event. Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. free. kathryn.dailey@helioscare.org. Cobleskill United Church 107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill, NY.

Sunday, Nov. 22

Tree of Lights Ceremony: This event is an opportunity to celebrate through music, poetry, and readings the lives of people in our region. Holiday trees will be lit and ornaments on display through the holidays. Ornaments can be purchased for $15.00. Sunday, November 22, 12:00 p.m. - 1 p.m. free. kathryn.dailey@helioscare.org. Helios Care 297 River Street Service Road, Oneonta, NY.

Tree of Lights Ceremony: This event is an opportunity to celebrate through music, poetry, and readings the lives of people in our region. Holiday trees will be lit and ornaments on display through the holidays. Ornaments can be purchased for $15.00. All are welcome, free event. Sunday, November 22, 2:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. free. kathryn.dailey@helioscare.org. United Ministry Delhi Courthouse Square, Delhi, NY.

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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

1199 HOBART LLC. Filed 8/17/26. Office: Delaware Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: John Parker, 67 Chapel St, Kingstron, NY 12401. Purpose: General.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT- COUNTY OF DELAWARE

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF ABFS MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2001-1, MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2001-1 , Plaintiff,
AGAINST
GLORIA A. LAUREANTI A/K/A GLORIA LAUREANTI, ANN M. LAUREANTI AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALFRED LAUREANTI, and UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ALFRED LAUREANTI, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint; CHERYL L. STEWART A/K/A CHERYL L. LAUREANTI AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALFRED LAUREANTI; LAURA L. PORRETTA A/K/A LAURA L. LAUREANTI AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALFRED LAUREANTI; ALFRED LOUIS LAUREANTI A/K/A ALFRED LAUREANTI AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ALFRED LAUREANTI; et al. Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered on September 3, 2026.

I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Delaware County Courthouse, 3 Court Street, Delhi, NY 13753 on December 1, 2026 at 9:00 AM premises known as 50439 State Highway 30, Roxbury, NY 12474 A/K/A P.O. Box Route 30 State Road, Roxbury, NY 12474.

Please take notice that this foreclosure auction shall be conducted in compliance with the Foreclosure Auction Rules for the Sixth Judicial District, Delaware County, and the COVID 19 Health Emergency Rules, including proper use of masks and social distancing.

All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Roxbury, County of Delaware and State of New York. Section 200., Block 2 and Lot 11.

Approximate amount of judgment $74,011.95 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #EF2025-756.

Kelley M. Eckmair, Esq. , Referee,
Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LAVENDER FIELDS AT MAXWELL FARM LLC. Filed with SSNY on 01/05/2026. Office: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 21287 STATE HWY 28, DELHI, NY 13753. Purpose: Any Lawful

VILLAGE OF WALTON LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the next General Village of Walton Election for officers will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2027 and the Board of Trustees designates as vacant at the end of the current official year:
Trustee – two-year term,
Trustee – two-year term,
Mayor – two-year term.

Jody Brown, Clerk-Treasurer

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

HAGER MOUNTAIN REPAIR LLC. Filed 7/13/26. Office: Delaware Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 8856 County Hwy 33, Bloomville, NY 13739. Registered Agent: Legalzoom Usca, Inc., 45 Main St, Ste 238, Bklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: General.

DELAWARE COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the General Election for the Village of Unadilla will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2027, from 12:00 noon until 9:00 pm at the Community House Library, 193 Main Street, Unadilla, NY. To be elected are the following:

Trustee - 2 Year Term
Trustee - 2 Year Term

The first date upon which an individual may sign an independent nominating petition is Tuesday December 29th, 2026, Independent Nominating petitions may be filed at the Village Office beginning February 2nd, 2027, and must be received by February 9th, 2027 to appear on the ballot.

An official notice of this election will be published and posted at a later date.

Dated: November 3rd 2026
By the Direction of the Village of Unadilla Board of Trustees.
Kelly A. Jones
Village Clerk/Treasurer

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF DELAWARE
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST
Plaintiff,
Against
MARTIN HART A/K/A MARTIN J. HART; et al
Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered 08/06/2025, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, at the Delaware County Courthouse, 3 Court St., Delhi, NY 13753, on 12/8/2026 at 9:30AM, premises known as 2971 State Highway 28 S., Oneonta, NY 13820, and State Highway 28 S, Oneonta, NY 13820, and described as follows:

ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate in the Town of Franklin, County of Delaware and State of New York.

Section 59. Block 1 Lot 24 and Section 44. Block 1. Lot 36.2.

The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $135,478.73 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # EF2023-768

Michael J. Shultes, Esq., Referee.

MCCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, LLC, 10 Midland Avenue, Suite 205, Port Chester, NY 10573

Dated: 10/14/2026 File Number: 23-300726 CA

TOWN OF FRANKLIN BID NOTICE

"INVITATION TO BID"

The Town of Franklin solicits Bids for the following:

#1. Dyed Heating Oil- for purpose of heating Town Garage and Office building

#2. Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel #2 (ULSD 15 ppm) for on road use, summer

#3. ULS Kerosene, winter blend

-Fixed and Fluctuating prices for all if possible

CONTRACT DATES

January 1,2027-April 5,2027
All bidders shall certify that their bid is submitted without collusion with other sellers of the same merchandise.

SEALED BIDS may be mailed or delivered to the Superintendent of Highway @ T/O Franklin P.O. Box 124, Franklin NY 13775 and must be received by 12:00pm December 1, 2026. All bids will be publicly opened at the Town of Franklin December board meeting @ 6:00pm, December 1, 2026

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any and or all bids.

Jamie Archibald –Town of Franklin Superintendent of Highways

Tofhighwaydept@gmail.com
607-829-2211

TOWN OF TOMPKINS LEGAL NOTICE

TOMPKINS FIRE DISTRICT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Commissioners of the Tompkins Fire District shall hold the annual election on 12/08/2026 between the hours of 6pm and 9pm at the Trout Creek Fire Station located at 8695 County Highway 27 Trout Creek NY 13847 for the purpose of electing one (1) commissioner for a 5 year term commencing 01/01/2027 and ending on 12/31/2031.
Candidates for the district office of commissioner must file a letter of intent with the secretary of the fire district no later than 11/18/2026.
All voters registered with the Delaware County Board of Elections on or before 11/6/2026, who are residents of the district for thirty days preceding the election shall be eligible to vote.

Kim Holden, Secretary
Town of Tompkins Fire District
PO Box 44
Trout Creek NY 13847

VILLAGE OF WALTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing of the Village of Walton Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on December 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., in the Village Hall, 21 North Street, Walton, New York, for the purpose of hearing variance request from Amber and Donna Pierce for an area variance for 56 Delaware St. for not meeting the side yard set-back of 25' and rear yard of 50' per §260-13.
All interested parties and citizens will be heard who are either for or against said variance.
John D. Clark, ZBA Chairman

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of ANDES FAMILY TABLE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/14/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to The LLC: 160 Main Street, Andes, NY 13731, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

MIDDLETOWN-HARDENBURGH FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL ELECTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Election of the Middletown- Hardenburgh Fire District (which includes the Village of Margaretville) will take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM at the Margaretville Fire Station located on 1st floor, 77 Church Street, Margaretville, NY for the purpose of electing one Commissioner for a five-year term, commencing on January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2031.
Candidates for the District Office shall file their names with the Secretary of the Fire District, Barbara Funck, PO Box 201, Margaretville, NY 12455, or email mhfiredistrict@gmail.com, postmarked no later than November 18, 2026.
Barbara Funck, Secretary

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Atelier Ballard LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/07/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Atelier Ballard LLC: 739 Dancing Street, Bloomville, NY 13739. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Clara Clara, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/24/26. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to ZenBusiness Inc.: 41 State Street. Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Catskills Log Cabin Retreat, LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 10/23/26. Office location: Delaware Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY shall mail process to: United Corporate Services, Inc., 10 Bank St, Ste 560, White Plains, NY 10606, the registered agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful activities.

WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL INVITATION FOR BIDS

James & Russell Darling, 2816 Fall Clove Road, Delancey NY are seeking bids for roof runoff structure (feed alley ext) emergency repair (implementation Spring 2027) to be funded by the Watershed Agricultural Council. Prospective bidders will receive a bid package which contains a bid sheet with instructions to bidders, sample contract, plans and specifications. Bid packages may be obtained by contacting Chelsea Ingram at the Watershed Program Office, 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856 or by calling 607-865-7090 ext. 7019. Prospective bidders must be in attendance for the full group site showing at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at the Darling farmstead. Failure to attend will result in the rejection of your bid. Sealed bids must be clearly marked "Darling Sealed Bid" and will be accepted on behalf of the landowner at the Watershed Agricultural Program Office at 44 West Street, Walton, NY until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, where they will be opened and read. Small and minority owned businesses are encouraged to apply. The Watershed Agricultural Council, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids. E.O.E.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Dragonfly Mudworks LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 10/1/26. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 83 Walnut St, PO Box 1175, Margaretville, NY 12455. Purpose: any lawful activity.

TOWN OF WALTON LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ELECTION

OF THE

WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the annual election of the Walton Fire District will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2026. The electors of the Fire District will vote at the Fire Hall, 61 West Street, Walton, NY. Voting will be by written ballot and the polls will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing a Fire Commissioner to serve a term of five (5) years.

Letters of intent to run for office must be received by the District Secretary no later than November 18, 2026.

To be eligible to vote a person must be a resident of the Fire District (the Village and Town of Walton) and be registered with the Delaware County Board of Elections by November 16, 2026.

Walton Fire District
By: Lenore A. Dutcher, Secretary
Dated at Walton, New York
November 6, 2026

VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC NOTICE

VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
PO BOX 886
FRANKLIN , NY 13775
607-829-6776
clerk@villageoffranklinny.us
Website: villageoffranklinny.gov

Village of Franklin Election

Office to be filled at the General Election to be held Tuesday, March 16, 2027, is as follows:

· Trustee, two years

Independent nominating petitions are available at the Village office, 141 Water St., and must be filed by February 9, 2027.

Paula Niebanck
Village Clerk

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LEMLE RENEWABLES LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/25/2026. Office: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 18 E 12TH ST, #1A, NEW YORK, NY 10003-4458. Purpose: Any Lawful

VILLAGE OF WALTON LOCAL LAW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village of Walton Board of Trustees adopted Local Law #9-2026 regarding reimbursement of criminal defense expenses for police employees.
Jody Brown, Clerk-Treasurer

DELAWARE COUNTY RFQ

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
Professional Engineering Services for Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling
The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), 44 West Street, Suite 1, Walton, NY 13856, is seeking proposals from qualified professional engineering firms to provide hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, analysis, and related engineering services to support the DCSWCD in the protection of water quality and management of stream systems throughout Delaware County.
The purpose of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to establish contracts with qualified consultants to provide engineering and technical assistance for the planning, design, evaluation, and permitting of stream restoration, flood mitigation, and water resource management projects. Services will be provided on an as-needed basis and will not be limited to any specific project.
Specific services may include, but are not limited to: hydrologic analyses; one-dimensional and two-dimensional hydraulic modeling; sediment transport analysis; topographic and bathymetric surveying; field data collection and site assessments; hydraulic evaluation of bridges, culverts, and stream crossings; stream restoration and floodplain project reviews; regulatory permitting assistance; emergency flood response and recovery; flood hazard mitigation; and related technical consulting, training, and public outreach.
The anticipated contract term is two (2) years, with an option for renewal. DCSWCD may award up to three (3) contracts under this solicitation.
Request for Qualifications documents may be obtained at the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District office between the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM or electronically by contacting Donna Wood at donna-wood@dcswcd.org . Addenda, if any, will be issued only to vendors whose names and addresses are on record as having obtained the RFQ documents.
Proposals will be received by the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, 44 West Street, Suite 1 Walton, NY 13856, until **11:00 AM, prevailing time Monday, November 30, 2026** . Late proposals will not be accepted. E-mailed or faxed proposals will not be accepted. Vendors are responsible for the timely delivery of their proposals.
Minority-owned and women-owned businesses are encouraged to apply. The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or waive informalities in the proposals.
Questions should be directed to Graydon Dutcher, Executive Director, Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, 44 West Street, Suite 1, Walton, NY 13856, 607-865-5223 (phone), 607-865-5535 (fax), or e-mail: graydon-dutcher@dcswcd.org .

THE REPORTER
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or visit The-Reporter.net

TOWN OF HAMDEN BID NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Hamden will be taking bids on a 2021 Freightliner bucket truck with an Altec boom and 65 foot working height. Must also be equipped with chip dump and have less than 40,000 miles.
Non-collusive form must accompany all bids
Bids must be in separate sealed envelopes and marked for bid items
Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept the bid or bids for the best interest of the Town
Bids will be received at the Hamden Town Clerk's Office or by mailing to Hamden Town Clerk at 20 Covert Hollow Rd, Box 1, Hamden, NY 13782. Bids must be received by November 25, 2026.

Cathy Roloson
Hamden Town Clerk
November 5, 2026

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Gun House Hill Games LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 10/13/26. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 60125 NY-10, Hobart, NY 13788. Purpose: any lawful activity.

WALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fiscal affairs of Walton Central School District for the period beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026, have been examined by an independent public accountant and that the management letter prepared in conjunction with the external audit by the independent public accountant has been filed in my office where it is available as a public record for inspection by all interested persons. Pursuant to §35 of the General Municipal Law, the governing board of the Walton Central School District may, in its discretion, prepare a written response to the management letter by independent public accountant and file any such response in my office as a public record for inspection by all interested persons not later than December 14, 2026.

Dated: November 12, 2026
Walton Central School District
Walton, New York
By: S. Corey Phraner
District Clerk

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of a NY Limited Liability Company. Name: SULLIVAN ACRES LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 25 September 2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 44 Dearborn Dr, Old Tappan, NJ 07675. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws.

CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) is seeking qualified entities for removal of two underground storage tanks in the Village of Hunter, Greene County on a property purchased pursuant to the NYCDEP funded Flood Buyout Program and approved by the Village. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on November 10, 2026. Bids must be received at CWC by 3:00 PM, November 24, 2026. For bid documents please contact Eric Lane or Timothy Cox at 845-586-1400. EOE

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PUBLIC NOTICE

DOWNSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Commissioners of the Downsville Fire District shall hold the annual election on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, between the hours of 6 pm and 9 pm at the Downsville Fire Hall located at 15166 State Hwy 30, Downsville, NY 13755 or Cooks Falls Fire Hall at 116 Cooks Falls Road, Roscoe, NY 12776, for the purpose of electing one (1) commissioner for a 5 year Term commencing on January 1, 2027, and ending on December 31, 2031. Candidate for the district office of commissioner must file a letter of intent with the Secretary of the fire district no later than 11/20/2026. All voters registered with the Delaware County Board of Election on or before November 6, 2026, who are residents of the Downsville Fire District for thirty (30) days preceding the election shall be eligible to vote.

Colleen Griffith, Secretary/ Treasurer
Downsville Fire District
Box 341
Downsville, NY 13755

Public Notices

Public notices/legals submit online 24/7 at: **www.The-Reporter.net**

LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES • LEGAL NOTICES

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Songbird Rentals, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/20/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Pierro, Connor & Strauss, LLC, 43 British American Blvd., Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: any lawful activities.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of TEPLO Sauna Rituals, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/15/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Secretary of State of New York: 1492 Roses Brook Road, South Kortright NY 13842. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

DELAWARE COUNTY BID NOTICE

Public Notice

The Village of Sidney is offering for sale marked trees on their Pine Hill Property. The trees will be sold by a lump sum sealed bid at 10:00 AM, Friday, November 20, 2026. A formal prospectus with bidding requirements can be obtained from the Sidney Village Clerk or Rod Jones, Certified Forester, Northeast Timber Services, 20 Garden St., Walton, NY 13856, 607-865-5917 or rjones52@stny.rr.com

ATTENTION
Public Notice
Early Submission Deadline
12 Noon Monday, November 23
for the November 26, 2026, issue

WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL INVITATION FOR BIDS

Jeffrey Watters, 550 Winter Hollow Road, New Kingston NY is seeking bids for covered manure storage / feed area, hi-tensile fence, pipeline, trough and pasture hayland planting (implementation Spring 2027) to be funded by the Watershed Agricultural Council. Prospective bidders will receive a bid package which contains a bid sheet with instructions to bidders, sample contract, plans and specifications. Bid packages may be obtained by contacting Chelsea Ingram at the Watershed Program Office, 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856 or by calling 607-865-7090 ext. 7019. Prospective bidders must be in attendance for the full group site showing at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at the Watters farmstead. Failure to attend will result in the rejection of your bid. Sealed bids must be clearly marked "Watters Sealed Bid" and will be accepted on behalf of the landowner at the Watershed Agricultural Program Office at 44 West Street, Walton, NY until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, where they will be opened and read. Small and minority owned businesses are encouraged to apply. The Watershed Agricultural Council, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids. E.O.E.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of SNOWSERV LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/09/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Vincent Citarella: 3479 County Highway 26, Hamden New York, 13782, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE

Notice of formation of Trinity Contracting of New York, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/09/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Sean Hesse: 39-04 201st street, Bayside, NY, 11361. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of What if We Made LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/19/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Adam Brody / Isabel Kagan: Franklin NY. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

TOWN OF SIDNEY NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Sidney will hold a public meeting on **November 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
The meeting will be held at **44 Grand Street, Sidney (Town Building).**
By Order of the Zoning Board of Appeals
Dated: October 26, 2026

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NAIL BANGER CIGARS, LLC. Filed with SSNY on 10/13/2026. Office: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 45 MAIN ST, HOBART, NY 13788. Purpose: Any Lawful

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Lone Wolf Realty LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/17/2026. Office: Delaware County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, PO Box 158, Oneonta, NY 13820. Purpose: any lawful act.

VILLAGE OF DELHI PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Delhi wants to remind Village residents of the following:
Village Street Winter Parking Restriction
Parking is not permitted on Village Streets from December 1, 2026 to April 1, 2027 between the hours of 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM. All vehicles parked on Village Streets during this time will be issued parking tickets.

DELAWARE COUNTY INVITATION FOR BIDS

Invitation to Bid

The Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), 44 West Street, Suite 1, Walton, NY 13856 is seeking bids on behalf of Jill Pinkey, from qualified contractors for the CREP/CSBI Buffer Planting Program. The property and project site is located on **State Highway 10, Kortright, NY 13842** in the **Town of Kortright**. The planting area is approximately 8.42 acres in size and includes installation of native trees and shrubs. The expected performance date is between **April 1** and **May 15 of 2027**.

Bids will be received by the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District's office at 44 West Street, Suite #1, Walton, NY 13856 until **Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 1:00 PM** prevailing time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contractors are responsible for the timely delivery of their Bid Proposal. **Bidding and Contract Documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be obtained by contacting Catherine Skalda via email, or at (607) 865-7161.** Bidders are responsible for the timely delivery of their Bid Proposal. Only in-person delivery or mailed bids will be accepted. Interested contractors may request to review the site by contacting Catherine Skalda at 607-865-7161 or by email at least 5 business days prior to the bid deadline. Prospective bidders shall receive a bid package which contains a bid sheet with instructions to bidders, sample contract, plans and specifications. Minority- and Women-owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

Addenda, if any, will be issued only to those companies whose name and address are on record as having obtained Bidding and Contract Documents. The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District reserves the right to reject any and all bids or waive informalities in the Bidding.

Technical questions should be directed to Catherine Skalda and administrative questions directed to Jeff Russell at the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, 44 West Street, Suite 1, Walton, NY 13856 at (607) 865-7161 (phone), (607) 865-5535 (fax), or email: catherine-skalda@dcswcd.org or _jeff-russell@dcswcd.org.

Delaware County SWCD
44 West Street, Suite 1
Walton, NY 13856

NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the North Kortright Cemetery Association will be held on November 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Charlotte Valley Presbyterian Church, Davenport, NY for the purpose of electing 5 Directors and transacting any other business that comes before the meeting.

TOWN OF HAMDEN NOTICE OF MEETING

TOWN OF HAMDEN PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the Town of Hamden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 24 th at the Hamden Town Hall, 20 Covert Hollow Road, Hamden, NY 13782 at 7:15pm. To discuss the Site Plan proposed by Lloyd Sherman for a retail store: Ninth of June Home located at 591 County Highway 2, Delancey NY 13752 .
At which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.
DATED: 11/4/2026
Rachelle Rogers
Hamden Planning Board Secretary

TOWN OF WALTON PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Walton Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing that will be held November 16, 2026, for the application for an area variance to allow proposed subdivision that does not meet minimum lot size requirement and road frontage. The property is located at 188 Radio Station Road, Walton, NY 13856. (tax map ID 296.-1-49) Said hearing will held at 5:45 pm. at the Town of Walton Board Room, 129 North Street, Walton, NY 13856 , at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Dated: November 4, 2026
By order of the Town of Walton Zoning Board of Appeals

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

STONE LEDGE 1124 LLC. Filed 8/30/26. Office: Delaware Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: Victoria Mohar, 112 Nonset Path, Acton, NM 01720. Purpose: General.

VILLAGE OF HOBART ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for MAPLE AVENUE TEST WELL EVALUATION will be received by the VILLAGE OF HOBART until 11:00 AM local time on December 1, 2026 and then at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

VILLAGE OF HOBART, 80 CORNELL AVENUE, HOBART, NEW YORK 13788.
AND
LABERGE GROUP, 4 COMPUTER DRIVE WEST, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205.

An electronic copy of the documents may be obtained from Laberge Group by emailing bidding@labergegroup.com. The request must include the following information: the complete firm name, the contact person, phone number, and email address. Documents will be emailed to the address provided. There is no charge for electronic files delivered by email. Only bidders who requested and received the contract documents directly from Laberge Group shall be permitted to bid. Any bidder that is not on the Laberge Group plan holder list will have their bid returned unopened.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Each bidder must deposit with its bid security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders.

The attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements regarding the conditions of employment to be observed and the minimum wage rates to be paid under the Contract.

BIDDERS OF THIS WORK WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS #11246 AND #11375. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDERS AND CONTRACTORS UNDER THIS ORDER, WHICH CONCERN NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, ARE EXPLAINED IN THE SPECIFICATIONS.

Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, as well as Section 3 Business Enterprises, are strongly encouraged to apply.

All bidders must be in compliance with New York State Labor Law Section 220-i(6) to submit a bid for this project.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

November 3, 2026
Date

Katherine E. Sparkes
Hobart Village Clerk

DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF THE VOTERS OF THE SOUTH KORTRIGHT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SOUTH KORTRIGHT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the District on the August 3, 2026, a special meeting of the qualified voters of said School District will be held in the Gymnasium Lobby located at 58200 State Highway 10, South Kortright, New York 13842 on December 15, 2026 from Noon to 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:

CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSITION

Shall the following resolution be adopted:
RESOLVED, that the South Kortright Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of reconstruction, renovation and construction of improvements and upgrades to the District's Main School building and bus garage and the sites thereof, the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, all to include site, access, parking, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical improvements as well as payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work (collectively, the "Project") and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed $5,100,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for the Project by spending $1,000,000 on deposit in the Main Building Capital Reserve Fund approved by the District's voters on May 18, 2021, spending $500,000 on deposit in the Transportation Capital Reserve Fund approved by the District's voters on May 16, 2023, and the levy of a tax which is hereby voted in the amount of $3,600,000, subject to available State aid or to any other revenues available for such purpose, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed $3,600,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot or an early voting ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the absentee ballot or early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the absentee ballot or early voting ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot or early voting ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the office of the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during each of the 5 days prior to the election, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and shall also be posted at the polling place at the election.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that military ballots may be applied for by qualified voters by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 607-538-9111 x304 or bpost@skcs.org. Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 19, 2026. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail. An individual will qualify as a military voter if he or she (1) is a qualified voter of the State of New York, who is in actual military service, and by reason of such military service is absent from the District on the day of the election, or is a voter who is discharged from military service within 30 days of an election; or (2) a spouse, parent, child, or dependent of such service member who is a qualified voter and is absent due to accompanying or being with the military service member.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the South Kortright Central School District has previously complied with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (the "SEQRA Act"), Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, as amended, and the Regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation thereunder (the "Regulations"). No further action under the SEQRA Act and Regulations is required.

By Order of the Board of Education of the
South Kortright Central School District
Betty Ann Post, District Clerk
Phone: 607-538-9111 Ext. 304
Email: bpost@skcs.org
Fax: 607-538-9205

Legal Ad or Public Notice
Deadline: Tuesday by Noon
To Place Your Ad, Visit:
www.The-Reporter.net

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Ryan Lowry Pictures LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/08/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Ryan Lowry: 326 burke rd Delancey New york 13752. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Name: STAYWITHBONGO ENTERPRISE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/08/2024. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: James and Ann Bonner, 1025 Taylor Rd, East Meredith, NY 13757. Purpose: any lawful activity.

VILLAGE OF STAMFORD FORECLOSURE NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY COURT, DELAWARE COUNTY

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Proceeding In Rem Pursuant to Article 11 of the Real Property Tax Law by the Village of Stamford

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
Index No.: 2026-946

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 9th day of November, 2026, the Clerk and Enforcing Officer of the Village of Stamford, hereinafter the "Enforcing Officer," of the Village of Stamford, hereinafter the "Tax District," pursuant to law filed with the Clerk of Delaware County a petition of foreclosure against various parcels of real property for unpaid taxes.
Such petition pertains to the parcels described in Schedule A annexed hereto and made a part hereof, which identifies the parcels and the owners of record as of the date of filing of the List of Delinquent Taxes.
Effect of filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such petition are hereby notified that the filing of such petition constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the court specified in the caption above to foreclose each of the tax liens therein described by a foreclosure proceeding in rem.
Nature of proceeding: Such proceeding is brought against the real property only and is to foreclose the tax liens described in such petition. No personal judgment will be entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.
Persons affected: This notice is directed to all persons owning or having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such petition. Such persons are hereby notified further that a duplicate of such petition has been filed in the office of the Enforcing Officer of the Tax District and will remain open for public inspection up to and including the date specified below as the last day of redemption.
Right of redemption: Any person having or claiming to have an interest in any such real property and the legal right thereto may on or before said date redeem the same by paying the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereon, including all interest and penalties and other legal charges which are included in the lien against such real property, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be made to Jamison Hanway, Village Clerk and Enforcing Officer, Village of Stamford, at 84 Main Street, Stamford, NY 12167. In the event that such taxes are paid by a person other than the record owner of such real property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record.
Last day for redemption: The last day for redemption is hereby fixed as the _ 1st _ day of _ July ___, 2027.
Service of answer: Every person having any right, title or interest in or lien upon any parcel of real property described in such petition may serve a duly verified answer upon the attorney for the Tax District setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be filed in the office of the Delaware County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District, David S. Merzig, Esq., at the address set forth below, on or before the date above mentioned as the last day for redemption.
Failure to redeem or answer: In the event of failure to redeem or answer by any person having the right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all his or her right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described in such petition and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken by default.

Dated: __ November 9 ___, 2026

Sandra Collins
Treasurer and Enforcing Officer
Village of Stamford
84 Main Street
Stamford, NY 12167

David S. Merzig, Esq.
Attorney for the Village of Stamford
8-12 Dietz Street Suite 202
Oneonta, NY 13820

SCHEDULE A
Village of Stamford Tax Foreclosure Parcels
All parcels are situated in the Village of Stamford, Delaware County, New York.

Tax Map Number	Property Address	Owner of Record
54.10-8-25.2	8 South Delaware	Stephen Murtha
54.5-5-15.11	30 River Street	30 Street of NY LLC
54.5-4-20.1	136 West Main St	Greenport Consulting
54.5-2-2	157 West Main St (land)	Flerida Santana
54.5-2-3	157 West Main St	Flerida Santana
54.5-5-16.2	42 River St (land)	Delores Sneed
41.18-3-6	42 River St	Delores Sneed
54.9-3-3	27 West End Ave	Efstathios Vasilikos
54.6-1-19.2	110 Main Street	Melanie DelVecchio

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 Years Ago,
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1926

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

FIVE PEOPLE UNDER CAR

Putting Rock Rift Dirt Stretch in Condition-Buys Farm for Timber-Injured by Dynamite

H.E. Wieand, vice principal of the Walton high school, won the tennis championship of Walton this week by defeating S.H. Pond.

While helping take down a glass lined milk tank at the Sheffield creamery Tuesday Walter Gray was painfully injured when the cover of the tank fell on his left foot, crushing the big toe.

A thunder storm in the autumn is looked upon by weather prophets as a sign of warm weather coming. A thunder storm passed over this section Tuesday evening. The new moon is also a warm and wet moon. The signs may denote a lot of pleasant weather before winter.

The son of Frank Ostrander, Rock Rift, was struck by the Buick car of H.V. Alberta of Deposit Wednesday. Alberta in his report to Police Justice J.M. Peake in Walton claimed the boy ran out against the car. Dr. Morrow was called but found the lad had sustained no serious injuries. The windshield of the car was broken.

H.L. Levine plans to close the Economy store in Walton early in the year. Mr. Levine has a new store in Hancock which will require the entire attention of himself and wife and while the Walton store has been well patronized the change is found desirable. Mr. Levine also conducts the moving picture theatre in Oddfellows' hall, Hancock.

The annual prize-speaking contest of Walton high school is scheduled for Tuesday evening, Dec. 7, at Walton hall. Miss M. Janie Launt has charge of the coaching of the girls and D.E. Towne of the boys. An interesting program is being planned. At the present time approximately 12 girls are preparing for the elimination contest on Nov. 23.

Dennis Dougherty of Middletown, foreman of an O. & W. section gang, was painfully injured Saturday morning when a charge of dynamite exploded unexpectedly while the men were at work in the Northfield tunnel. Mr. Dougherty suffered severe bruises on the hands and face. Dr. W.B. Morrow, railroad surgeon, dressed the man's injuries.

Miss Reta Wolfe and Carl Hood, both of Walton, were quietly married Saturday, Nov. 6, at Maplecrest, N.Y., by Rev. J.E. Norris, a former pastor of the Free Methodist church in Walton. They motored to Maplecrest that day, accompanied by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Wolfe, her sisters, Miss Ruth Wolfe and Mrs. Harry Howland, and Mr. Howland.

John S. Lakin has bought the Marshall Holley farm, river road, and will cut the timber on the place. Maurice Hinkley has bought the house on High street owned by R.Q. Smith of Hamilton, Ohio, former farm bureau manager in Delaware county, who now holds a similar position in Ohio. Both sales were made through the agency of H.M. Robinson.

T.P. Howland, town superintendent of highways, has had a force at work this week improving the section of road between the ends of the state highway at Beerston and Rock Rift. This is the section of road which the grade crossing elimination project will do away with but as this work will not be done until next year it is necessary to do something with the old road if it is to be passable in the winter and spring. Ashes are being hauled by truck from the Miner-Edgar factory at Rock Rift where they are loaded into the machines with the Edgecomb company's steam shovel. The road below the barn on the Robert Woodburn farm, formerly the Barlow place, will doubtless be widened to provide better drainage.

A Chevrolet touring car driven by Mrs. Orion Smith and a Dodge car operated by Jay Cook of Franklin collided Thursday noon at the corner of Townsend and East streets. Mrs. Smith was driving westward along East street. In the machine with her were her husband, Ichabod Sprague, and Paul and George Lurenz, all employees of the novelty works, who were on their way home for dinner. Cook was driving northerly on Townsend street. The machines came together with a resounding crash and the impact overturned the Chevrolet. The machine landed bottom side up in the ditch in front of Loren Wakeman's store with the five occupants beneath it. Mr. Wakeman rushed out and with the help of Russell Cobb, Ralph Haynes and Delos Robinson lifted the car away from the people imprisoned under it. The ditch at this point is very deep and this fact kept the occupants of the car from being crushed as they lay in the depression. The rescuers state that when they reached the scene arms and legs appeared to be sticking out from every part of the car. Mr. Sprague's leg was badly bruised where it was pinned under the body of the car and the others in the machine suffered cuts and bruises. The left front wheel was smashed and the car was a general wreck. The Cook car was not badly damaged and after the collision was brought to a stop about fifty or seventy-five feet from the corner.

Farm Bureau Proves Value In Dollars and Cents

Farmers when considering the farm bureau sometimes ask, "What do I get out of it? Is it of any value to my personal business? Is the work of definite value to the agriculture of New York state?" Questions of this kind are pertinent. It is difficult and unsatisfactory to attempt to measure any educational work strictly in terms of dollars.

There are, however, a number of outstanding things which have been accomplished during 1926 on which a dollar value may be placed if one desires, according to Jay Coryell, county agent leader in New York state.

Dairy farmers have faced the problem of reducing feed costs. A few years ago the farm bureaus over the state started hundreds of demonstrations to show the value of growing mixed grains, peas, oats and barley or oats and barley. As a direct result of this demonstration work 110,494 acres of mixed grains were grown this year in forty-five counties with an average increase of 8.3 bushels per acre. This means 917,100 additional bushels of grain available for feed. At 60 cents per bushel this represents a saving in feed bills of $550,260 or an average saving of $12,226 per county.

The alfalfa work carried out by the bureaus has met with success. Farmers were given sound advice as to land suitable for alfalfa production, use of lime, inoculation, value of hardy seed, cultural methods, etc., with the results that previous failures have been turned into present successes. As a result of farm bureau work in forty-nine counties 20,327 acres of alfalfa are being grown. It is not unreasonable to estimate that two additional tons of hay per acre is being made available for feeding. At $15 per ton this amounts to $609,810 in a single year. The average value per county is $14,490.

Harvest weather forecasts were made available to farmers and records show that 24,501 farmers in forty-five counties used the service. If we may assume that an average of $5 per farm was saved as a result of this service it amounts to $122,505 or an average of $2,722 per county for the forty-one counties.

Poultry culling has been made available to farmers through the county farm bureaus. During 1926 in fifty counties, 419,479 birds were examined and 177,760 removed from the flocks as culls. Any poultryman will agree that the removal of a cull from the flock means a saving of one dollar or more. At this figure $117,760 were saved, an average of $2,355 per county.

An intensive woodchuck control campaign was put on in thirty counties. An average of 4,300 woodchuck burrows per county treated with cyanogas, remained unopened. The killing of at least 129,000 woodchucks in New York state as a result of a few weeks' work is no small accomplishment. If we may assume that each woodchuck would have destroyed $5 worth of crops, this piece of work alone saved New York state farmers $645,000 or $21,500 per county. The above figures were checked with a representative of the company selling the cyanogas and he feels that they are entirely too low as approximately forty tons of cyanogas was sold in New York state almost entirely for woodchuck control work.

Farm bureau programs are made as forward looking as is possible through the best judgment of thinking farmers who are directing the work in the various counties. This is well illustrated by the reforestation work. This year 22,000,000 trees were planted in New York state. Nothing approaching this number has ever been planted in one year in any state before. Our records show that 5,234,730 of these were planted directly as a result of farm bureau service.

If we can accept the figures above as being reasonable accurate, the farm bureau service on the six projects mentioned has been worth $2,297,682 to New York State farmers in 1926. This is an average of $43,352 per county for the fifty-three counties reporting.

COST OF RUNNING TOWN

Expenses for Various Purposes Close to $50,000

TOWN AUDITS ARE $8,710

Half Goes for Highways and a Fifth for Bond Principal and Interest

The general expenses of the town of Walton for the past year as shown by the audits approved by the town board Thursday amount to $8,710.20. In addition there are expenditures of $430.49 in the health fund which is levied on property outside the village of Walton. Of this latter amount $356.76 is for the salary and expenses of the health officer, Dr. C.S. Gould.

In addition to the town audits the town board has approved raising the sum of $25,000 for highway purposes, as follows: General highway fund, $12,000; machinery fund, $3,000; bridge fund, $5,000; miscellaneous fund, $5,500. The machinery fund is $500 more than last year, the bridge fund has been raised $3,000 to care for the moving of the Rock Rift bridge to its new location at the foot of Wakeman brook. The miscellaneous fund is $1,000 more than last year, as the town now has to pay for brush cutting, which was formerly done by property owners. The cost of snow removal is also paid from this fund. The general highway fund is raised by a tax on property outside the village of Walton, while the other funds are a tax on the entire town.

Other town charges are $650 for the Ogden library, $100 for Memorial day expenses, $2,000 principal of bridge bonds, and $3,500 principal of highway bonds; interest on bonds, $4,513.76; interest on temporary loans, $255; certificate of indebtedness for poor relief, $1,500; certificate of indebtedness in highway fund, $1,700. There are also outstanding two certificates of indebtedness amounting to $5,000 issued to pay the town audits. The town board has adopted the policy of borrowing money if necessary to pay the audits instead of making those to whom the village owes money wait until the taxes come in during January and February.

A summary of town expenses is as follows: Town audits, including health fund, $9,113; highway funds, $25,500; retirement of bonds and interest, $10,268; library, $650; Memorial day, $100; poor relief, $1,500; certificate to cover deficiency in highway fund, $1,700; total, $48,831. In other words the ordinary expenses of governing the town of Walton are about $50,000 and in addition the town pays $35,000 to $40,000 of the cost of state and county government.

COMMITTED AS VAGRANT

Laborer Sent From Hancock to County Jail

(From Hancock correspondent)

Chief Austin McGranaghan of Hancock last week took a laborer to Delhi jail on a vagrancy charge. For several days the man had been walking around not working when he could if he would. He was to be examined by the county physician as to his sanity. He had been employed by local firms and was considered a good workman until of late he got in his mind that he was not wanted and was despondent.

AUTOS THRONG NEW ROAD

Sunday's Fine Weather Brings Out Scores of Cars

(From Rock Rift correspondent)

The number of cars which passed over the new road on Sunday was immense. Several report seeing a group of nine cars at once and from the Elderkin house up on the hill fourteen were counted in sight at once. It was a mild wonderful autumn Sunday following several rainy ones and the number enjoying it evidently were choosing the new road as of first interest. Cars from Delhi, Walton, Readburn, Deposit were recognized. As one rides over this Delaware-Catskill highway with its silver ribbon of concrete road and its scenic grandeur, with four rock hewn engineering feats accomplished, on which much of the cost has been expended but which add to the perfection of the road, one also notices the poor condition of the farms, especially of the buildings. There are very few abandoned farms as compared with the upper part of the county, only one noted between Rock Rift and Deposit, on which even the hay had not been cut this year. The condition is sad and certainly some what alarming to the country at large.

A Fine Cactus Plant

(From Cannonsville correspondent)

Mrs. O.A. Seymour of Cannonsville has a Christmas cactus which has nearly 200 buds and blossoms. The plant has been in blossom for several weeks.

BREAKS HIP WHILE ON VISIT

Falls on Porch in Deposit on Return From Ride

(From Deposit correspondent)

Mrs. Mary Wiltsie of Tannersville, who was visiting her sister, Mrs. George Beilby, in Deposit, fell on the porch Saturday on her return from an auto trip and broke her hip. She was taken to the Binghamton hospital.

Campbell Must Support Wife

William Campbell, 38, of Deposit, formerly of Hales Eddy, has failed in his attempt to deny the parentage of his two boys.

This was Campbell's defense to the non-support charge preferred against him by Carrie Campbell, his wife, also of Deposit.

Police Justice A.L. Curtis of Deposit has decreed that Campbell is guilty of non-support and has entered an order compelling him to pay $8 a week to his wife until April 1 and $10 weekly thereafter. The couple are separated.

Worse Than A Horse Thief

In a review of the book of Will Rogers, the humorist, "Letters of a Self-Made Diplomat to President Coolidge," the reviewer of the New York Times expresses the opinion that "Rogers has done more to educate the American public in world affairs than all the professors who have been elucidating the continental chaos since the Treaty of Versailles."

In brief Rogers contends that European disarmament is a farce, and that the League of Nations is a piece of eyewash designed by some of the big powers to manipulate affairs to their own advantage. On the debt question he says;

"I could have prevented this whole debt argument," he says, "and all this hatred would never have come up. I wouldn't have let them had the money in the first place!"

His analysis of Europe's attitude toward America is expressed accurately:

"You know, of course, or perhaps you have had it hinted to you, that we stand in Europe about like a Horse Thief. Now I want to report to you that that is not so. It is what you call at Amherst, 'erroneous'. We don't stand like a Horse Thief abroad. Whoever told you we did is flattering us. We don't stand as good as a Horse Thief.

"We have become so unpopular that we are as bad off as every other nation. If you can find me one nation in Europe that has a real down-to-earth, sincere regard for any other nation, I will jump out of the top of the Washington Monument and see if Jackie Coogan can catch me as I fall."

TREADWELL HIGH SCHOOL

Proposed Consolidation of Districts Approved by Voters

(From Treadwell correspondent)

There was a large attendance at the school meeting in the I.O.O.F. hall, Treadwell, Saturday afternoon. As a result of the meeting the vote stood 99 to 61 in favor of establishing a central rural school in Treadwell. The following school board was elected: Wilber Hall, five years; H.A. Morrison, four years; Mrs. George Ulmer, three years; Edward Sutherland, two years; Fred Reynolds, one year.

The districts included in the proposed consolidation are Nos. 16,21, and 33 of the town of Franklin, Nos. 5 and 6 in the town of Meredith and Nos. 7 and 14 located partly in both the towns named.

A Pretty Severe Sentence

(From Delhi correspondent)

Ward Baker of Walton was taken from Delhi Monday to Albany to serve a term of sixty days in the penitentiary for public intoxication. Justice John Bramley, before whom he was arraigned for a hearing, also imposed a fine of $50. Baker was arrested in Delhi Saturday night by Officer Swanson.

Downsville Man Joins Army

Arthur H. Edwards of Downsville has enlisted in the United States army at the Binghamton recruiting station and will be assigned to the Eighteenth infantry now stationed at Fort Hamilton.

Notice

The village board have on trial at the intersection of Delaware street and Bridge street, and at the intersection of Townsend street and Mead street automatic signal lights for the purpose of regulating traffic at these busy corners.

I have had from many, words, and from some, letters of commendation, which would indicate that this means of preventing accident and possible loss of life has the approval of a great many taxpayers.

While the signals are observed by most drivers, the attention of the police and myself has been called to the fact that a few deliberately pass these places when the red light is against them. Because it is not possible to keep an officer at these places at all times, I ask the cooperation of the public. Any citizen seeing a driver disobey the signals will please report the same to the chief of police or myself.

Arthur J. Courtney,
President Village of Walton

The Pastor's Pen

Terms of Endearment

By William Seneschal

Perhaps one of the most well-known and favorite Bible passages is this one: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life!"

The very thought of such a gift we know is the ultimate gift of love and the same love which penetrated our hearts. It endears itself to us and in turn, endears us to the Great Giver of that gift. From the very start of our lives, we have been endeared to God. Consider the possibility that, equally so, is every being on the face of the Earth, and perhaps even those people who don't believe in Jesus Christ or even God. That may sound somewhat contradictory, but we need to remember that we are all, each one of us, a creation of God and therefore "endeared" by Him. That is, however, irrespective of the fact that, on occasion, we may disappoint Him.

The first two commandments (Love God and Love your neighbor) were not dictatorial and ominous, but instead were an act of guidance made in love. We are told the same thing which was told to the ancient Israelites: Fear God! Of course, we should "fear" God! He is all-powerful! Yet the word "fear" doesn't have to mean "cringe in terror." It can mean "stand in awe," show respect for a higher power than one's self! Shouldn't we obey God out of love and respect, rather than being terrorized by the thought of bodily harm or hardship. God isn't the "Boogeyman;" He is a loving parent, an endearing parent!

Even though God has tapped many souls to do His bidding here on Earth, none appear to be so prominent as Moses and Jesus. Since we know that Jesus is part of the Triune God, it is left for Moses to be the one who is pure human. He had earthly parents, both mother and father! God is the father of Jesus!

Both Moses and Jesus were vehicles of God's power by earthly means. In the parting of the Red Sea, God's power was channeled through Moses. In healing the leper, Jesus channeled God's power. Think about the contrast! When Moses parted the Red Sea, God endeared himself to the Israelites, but not so much for the Pharoah. When Jesus cured the lepers, the blind, the demon-possessed, he endeared himself not only to the recipients of the healing, but also their families, friends, and neighbors! Other than a few jealous Pharisees and Sadducees, there were very few people who weren't endeared to him, and in turn, God.

After reading the final chapter for Moses, Deuteronomy 34, we have now traveled with Moses through Exodus and arrive at the end of his life. God takes Moses home before the fulfillment of His promise to the Israelites, but He does allow Moses to see the future dwelling place of his people. Moses is instructed to climb to a mountaintop, so that he may view the far reaches of the land God has willed to the Israelites.

Still, Moses must atone for his prior sin of disobedience. The form of that atonement is entirely up to God! Moses is to be held accountable. He will not enter the land which is promised to his people. God's will may be stern, but is not heartless. By being allowed to view the Promised Land, Moses will know that he is endeared by God. The Israelites for whom he cared so much, are endeared by Moses. The promise to them will be fulfilled! We may be sure that this was comforting to Moses before he died. That comfort is also ours for the asking. We are also endeared by God!

Bill Seneschal, UMC - Certified Lay Speaker; member, Walton Ministerial Association.

–OBITUARIES–



Susan Earl

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Susan Earl, 63, a beloved wife, sister friend, and cherished member of the Masonville community. Born on July 27, 1963, to her parents James and Maxine Northrup, Susan filled her years with kindness and a deep commitment to those around her. She left us on November 4, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of love and warmth.

Susan will be remembered for her years of dedicated service as a clerk at Eckerd's Drug Store in Sidney, where her friendly demeanor and helpful spirit touched many lives. She had a knack for making people's days a little brighter, whether it was through a warm smile or a thoughtful conversation.

Susan enjoyed long rides, family gatherings, and a smile always over a cup of coffee. She also enjoyed helping her husband with firewood, she decorated cakes and attended all family reunions. Susan loved visiting with her family and friends and will be greatly missed.

Susan is survived by her beloved husband Douglas Earl of Masonville, her sisters; Sharon Harrington of Walton, Sandra Northrup of Walton, her brothers; Jerry (Debbie) Northrup of Unadilla, Thomas Northrup of Trout Creek, and her sister in-law Brenda Northrup of Bennettsville, NY. Susan is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Susan was predeceased by her parents James and Maxine Northrup, and her brother David Northrup.

A graveside service will be private for immediate family and will be held at the Walton Cemetery located at 55 Fancher Ave, NY 13856. We invite all who knew and loved Susan to join us in sharing stories and remembering the incredible person she was.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Courtney Funeral Home, Walton. To leave a message of peace and comfort for Susan's family, please visit her online tribute at www.courtneyfh.com



Walter Ray Jerauld

Walter Ray Jerauld is once again in the loving arms of his beloved parents, Kenneth and Mary (Hoppe) Jerauld. Born Nov. 19, 1944, Walter passed away on Oct. 30, 2026 peacefully at the age of 81, surrounded by family and his special people who loved him.

Walter was a fun-loving, happy, and mischievous soul with a personality all his own. He knew what he wanted and wasn't shy about letting others know! He loved good food, ice cream, going for rides, and being right in the middle of a gathering, greeting people and shaking hands. Santa Claus, dancing, and horses held a special place in his heart, and he took great pride in looking his best, especially in new clothes.

Walt was a master of the quiet prank, keeping his dedicated caretakers and support staff on high alert. Whether it was misplaced keys, a perfectly timed impish look, or a clever trick reserved for his favorite staff members, his playful spirit brought laughter to everyday life. Though Walt spoke without words, his cheeky smile, twinkling eyes, infectious humor, and endless affection communicated volumes. He had a remarkable way of turning ordinary moments into cherished memories.

Walt's life reminds us that connection doesn't require speech; it requires presence, love, and a willingness to share a good laugh. He gave unconditional love to those in his circle and leaves behind a legacy of laughter, affection, and stories that will be retold for years to come.

Walter was predeceased by his beloved parents, Kenneth and Mary (Hoppe) Jerauld; his sister-in-law, Joan (Bundy) Jerauld; and his brother-in-law, Paul Osborne. He is survived by his sisters, Elaine (Jerauld) Reed and her husband, Denton; Ellen (Jerauld) Osborne; and Linn (Jerauld) Collins; his brothers, Ronald Jerauld and Lloyd Jerauld and his wife, Judi (Usiatynski). He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins, along with the devoted caregivers who were an important part of his life throughout the years.

May Walt now enjoy endless rides, plenty of ice cream, lively gatherings, dancing, horses, and all the happiness his heart could wish for—once again surrounded by the loving arms of Mom and Dad.

Walter's Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Springbrook's Family Enrichment Center, 102 Penthouse Lane, Oneonta, New York. All are invited to attend and join in celebrating Walt's life and the joy he brought to so many.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Walter's name to Helios Care, 297 River Street Service Road, Oneonta, NY 13820 or for the needs and desires of individuals served by Springbrook at Springbrook Foundation,105 Campus Drive, Oneonta, NY 13820.

A separate family Celebration of Life will be held in July 2027, when his family gathers for the 10th Annual Jerauld Jamboree, a special opportunity to celebrate Walt's life and share memories surrounded by family. Share condolences with the family online at www.landersfh.com

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank the many friends, neighbors, and family members who came to show their respect for our loved one. Also, thanks to those who sent flowers and all the beautiful cards. Those who called, visited, and brought food are appreciated as well.

We also thank those who donated to Delhi EMS and other organizations in Roger's memory.

A special thanks to MacArthur Funeral Home for their care and concern at this difficult time. It meant so much to all of us.

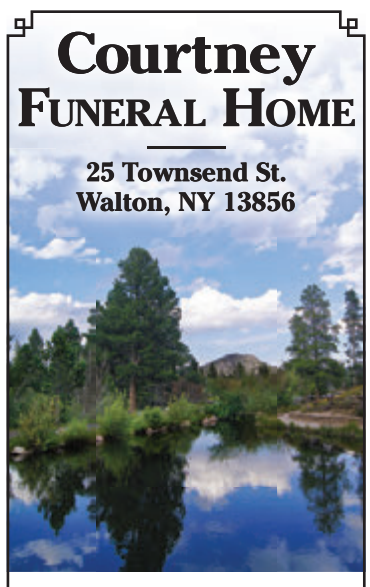
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Sincerely,
The Family of Roger D. Bown



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FRANKLIN

By Amber Gray
agray1795@gmail.com

Franklin Central School fall sports events can be found at https://www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/130. The Backpack Program is fundraising via the Regional Food Bank. Donations can be made online at https://give.regionalfoodbank.net/franklincs. There will be an audit committee and Board of Education committee meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5:30 p.m. The Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. Reservations are required by calling the district office at 607-829-3551 ext. 1517 by Friday, Nov. 13.

Franklin Community Education Foundation will meet Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., 574 Main Street. For details contact a member or email info@franklincommunity.org.

Franklin Head Start, 293 Main Street, is recruiting children ages 3 to 5 for their full day program. There will be a recruitment event at the Franklin Free Library at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19. Call 607-829-3312 for more info.

Greater Franklin Food Pantry, 574 Main Street, will be open Friday, Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Sign-ups are now open to new and returning pantry neighbors for the Dec. holiday food box. Please sign up for the Dec. box by Monday, Nov. 30, either at the pantry during open hours, by calling or texting the pantry, or by emailing the pantry. Franklin Head Start and Franklin Central School families can sign up with their Head Start staff or FCS counselor. The pantry provides food for members of our community and is sustained through non-expired food and monetary donations. Appointments outside of open hours are welcome. The pantry can be reached at 607-386-1601 or online at greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org.

Franklin Rotary will meet Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. at Open Doors Methodist Church, 475 Main Street. The meeting will also be held virtually at https://meet.google.com/acw-rajn-eer. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Compressor Free Franklin will meet on Monday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m. on Zoom. Send a message to their Facebook page or check the listserv for link to join.

Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, 572 Main Street, will host Senior Bingo in the Pearl Whigham Library on Monday, November 16, 1 p.m.

Franklin Free Library, 334 Main Street, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays, 2-8 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The library board will meet Thursday, Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. The Tomes and Scones Book Club will meet Saturday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m. to discuss The Constant Gardener by John Le Carre. In the afternoon, there will be a Zine Workshop Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. for all ages, with the workshop's zines on display through Thursday, Dec. 10. Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. there will be a Polymer Clay Workshop for ages 8-16. Space is limited and registration is required by calling or emailing the library. Game night will be held Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. On Thursday, Nov. 19, Girl Scouts are hosting a fun night, 4:30-5:30 p.m. for grades K-3. For more info about Girl Scouts, call or text Nicki at 607-442-6721.

Bright Hill Press, 94 Church Street, Treadwell. "Out of the Shadows: Slavery and Freedom in Delaware County, NY 1790-1870" is on display in the Word and Image Gallery through Nov. 15. Gallery hours are Mondays-Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Bright Hill Community Library, 94 Church Street, Treadwell, is open weekly, Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lego Club will be held Monday, Nov. 9, 3:30-4:30 p.m. for ages 5+.

Treadwell Community Improvement Club will host "Taste of Treadwell" on Sunday, Nov. 15. For details or to participate, contact Club President Neishia Mitchell at 607-829-2561.

Open Doors: A United Methodist Community, 475 Main Street, worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sundays with activities for children provided. Live streaming and recordings of worship are available at https://canva.link/clo0132etaklhpf. Tai Chi, sponsored by Delaware County Office for the Aging, is held Tuesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at no cost. Open Doors is looking for a keyboard musician for weekly worship services. Salary based on experience. Call 607-829-2250 and leave a message if interested. Save the date for the third annual Thanksgiving Potluck, Sunday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m. All are welcome. Messy Church will be held Nov. 15, 9:15-10:15 a.m., and includes a brief family friendly worship and activities for toddlers through grade five every other Sunday.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 307 Main Street. All faiths and families are always welcome to Sunday service in the chapel facing Main Street during the winter season beginning at 10 a.m. Save the date for A Hometown Christmas with the Catskill Brass, Saturday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

Franklin Fire Department is seeking new volunteer firefighters and EMS members. No experience needed – all training provided. Stop by any Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. or call 607-829-6822.

Community Bible Church, 89 Center Street, Sunday worship service starts at 10:45 a.m. Nursery care and Kingdom Kids Sunday School provided during the service. AWANA is open to all kids pre-K to sixth grade. Regular club meetings are held Thursdays after school. Community Ladies' Bible Study is held Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. at the train museum. All ladies are invited. Save the date for "A CBC Christmas Carol", a live production put on by church members and others in the community that will be presented on the evening of the Christmas Stroll, Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The church can be reached at 607-829-5471 or cbchurch@cbchurchfranklin.com

Aldrich Baptist Church, 2770 State Route 28, North Franklin, Sunday worship service is held 9:30-10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School is held during the service and dismissed after Children's Time.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Xi Delta Iota Chapter, is holding a pre-Thanksgiving bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Munson's Building Supply, 5662 State Highway 7 in Oneonta. If you have no time to bake, get your holiday pies, cakes and more. Gluten free bakes are available. Proceeds help fund local family services, veterans' services, food banks and animal shelters.

The Christmas Stroll House Tour, Saturday, Dec. 12, 1-5 p.m., will be here before we know it. Organizers are seeking Franklin homeowners and businesses that would like to open their space to appreciative visitors during the stroll. Host homes show only their main floor area decorated for the holidays and, if they would like to, may provide light refreshments such as cookies. This is an important fundraiser for the Franklin Improvement Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization. Contact candjmartin@fastmail.com for more info.

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Full Size Skidsteer Attachments: Wolverine brush cutters ~ trenchers ~ hydraulic & standard pallet forks, frames & blank plates ~ rotary tillers ~ grapple buckets ~ ripper ~ land leveller ~ dozer blade ~ post drivers ~ sickle bar mowers ~ augers ~ 72" buckets.
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Nov. 9th - Cull Dairy ave. $1.12, Top Cow $1.45, Maiden Heifer $1.35-$1.60, Organic Cull Dairy $1.10-$1.17, Bulls – over 1100# $1.43-$1.86, Dairy Feeders $0.47-$1.95, Feeder Bulls $1.70-$2.70, Feeder Steer $1.24, Bull Calves top $10.00, top beef calf $13.40, Heifer Calves top $5.00, top beef calf $13.20, Dairy Milking age top $2800.00, Bred Heifer top $3000.00, Open Heifer $2150.00

Mon. Nov. 23rd - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Organic Sale

Mon. Nov. 30th - Normal Monday Sale

Mon. Dec. 7th - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Fat Cow & Feeder Sale

Sat. Dec. 12th - 11:30 a.m. Holiday Breeders Showcase Sales at Hosking Sales. Featuring Oakfield Dairy, Currie Holsteins and Eaton Holsteins. Guest consignments from some of the BEST breeders in the Northeast. Holsteins, Jerseys & Ayrshires.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Grantor	Location	Grantee	Transfer Tax
November 3, 2026			
TSINTZELIS GEORGE (SEE INST)	DAVENPORT	MOUZAKITIS ELISSAIOS	0.00
MOUZAKITIS ELISSAIOS		BARDIS ELENI	
MOUZAKITIS ELISSAIOS	DAVENPORT	MOUZAKITIS ELISSAIOS	0.00
TSINTZELIS GEORGE (SEE INST)		BARDIS ELENI	
GLEASON DANA	BOVINA	MALLON JAMES	500.00
		MALLON DEBRA JEAN	
SHULTIS MELISSA A	MIDDLETOWN	HERRERA DENNIS	940.00
SHULTIS SHANNON J		HERRERA NETALIA	
		MCVITTY RYAN	
KWAK DUK WOON	DAVENPORT	CORYAT EILEEN	1,068.00
KWAK ESTHER		CORYAT CHRISTOPHER	
MCHUGH MICHAEL	KORTRIGHT	HEANNINGS MARGARET K (AKA)	80.00
		BUEL MARGARET A	
WARNER HARRY	DEPOSIT	SNELL SHAWN G	0.00
WARNER DARLENE		SNELL KERRY A	
SARRANTONIO RICHARD F	WALTON	VENTURA JAMES	500.00
SARRANTONIO RAIN L		DIMA JOHN L	
LAMA DECHHIN	DELHI	KAIZEN REALTY HOLDINGS LLC	0.00
November 4, 2026			
SAFFORD SHANNON M	TOMPKINS	WINTERS FREDERICK E	0.00
		WINTERS PATRICIA M	
GRIFFITHS DAVID	MIDDLETOWN	JOSEPH T BORTHWICK	2,380.00
GRIFFITHS JAILAN		REVOCABLE TRUST DATED 9/3/2026 (BY TR)	
		BORTHWICK JOSEPH T (TR)	
BISKOROWAY PETER	FRANKLIN	BISKOROWAY PETER	0.00
		BISKOROWAY NICOLE	
CLEMONS ROBERT J (EXR)	DEPOSIT	RICKERSON KURTIS	1,018.00
CLEMONS PATRICIA A (EXR OF/EST OF/AKA)			
CLEMONS PATRICIA ANN (EXR OF/EST OF)			
CLEMONS ROBERT E (SEE INST)			
MOORE TODD T	MEREDITH	WOLF NICOLE (TR)	0.00
MOORE JACQUELYN I (SEE INST)		CULBERTSON KAITLYN (TR)	
		TODD T MOORE IRREVOCABLE TRUST DATED AUGUST 14 2026 (BY TRS)	
FUNCK BARBARA J (FKA)	MIDDLETOWN	CASSIDY PATRICIA	900.00
LAWRENCE BARBARA J			
ACKERLEY DIANE			
BLISH KARI			
MATHISEN KENT M (CO TR)	ANDES	KINDERVATTER HENRY JAMES	1,060.00
BARKLEY SCOTT (CO TR)		KINDERVATTER LISA JANE	
MATHISEN & BARKLEY REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST AGREEMENT DATED MARCH 26 2022 (BY CO TRS)			

Grantor	Location	Grantee	Transfer Tax
49 HENRY LLC	STAMFORD	COMOLO LLC	1,280.00
POWELL RACHAEL V (BY ATTY)	BOVINA	KORAL REALTY SERIES I LLC	3,460.00
CHIOVARO LISA (ATTY)			
POWELL NIEL D			
HENRIQUEZ FERMIN I	ANDES	SPEVACK JENNA	740.00
HENRIQUEZ MADELINE F			
November 5, 2026			
GAO XIBAI (REF)	DAVENPORT	CHARLOTTE CREEK MOBILE	3,404.00
KISS STEPHEN T (BY REF)		HOME PARK LLC	
GATANAS ELIAS	SIDNEY	GATANAS FAMILY LIVING	0.00
GATANAS MARIA		TRUST (BY TRS)	
		GATANAS ELIAS (TR)	
		GATANAS MARIA (TR)	
November 6, 2026			
CASTLE CONWAY ANGELA (FKA)	DELHI	SCHENCK ZACHARY BRYON	1,112.00
CASTLE-STEVENS ANGELA		SCHENCK BRITTANY LYNNE	
SMITH WILLIAM R	KORTRIGHT	MATTICE BROCK	720.00
SMITH WILLIAM J			
VAN UNEN PROPERTY SERVICES LLC	HAMDEN	LEVITIN TARA	1,890.00
		THOMPSON JACK JR	
LJ2 BRAND INC	SIDNEY	P&J NORTON REAL ESTATE LLC	572.00
FENICE JOSEPH S	KORTRIGHT	KRAMER EVONNE	0.00
KRAMER EVONNE	KORTRIGHT	KRAMER EVONNE (TR)	0.00
		J&E HIGHWAY 23 TRUST DATED JULY 17 2025 (BY TR)	
BLAHO LAURENCE R	DEPOSIT	SWARTWOUT EARL III	806.00
BLAHO MARGARET M			
STEPHENS DALE J	WALTON	STEPHENS DALE J	0.00
STEPHENS DALE D			
November 9, 2026			
MILLER SANDRA J (SEE INST/AKA)	MEREDITH	SLIWA ACHIM	0.00
SLIWA SANDRA J (SEE INST)		SLIWA ELIZABETH A	
SLIWA ACHIM			
REISCHEL JULIA CLAIRE	STAMFORD	REISCHEL JULIA (TR)	0.00
		JCR LIVING TRUST DATED OCTOBER 21 2026 (BY TR)	
FRISENDA ARTHUR	TOMPKINS	PAFUMI SANDRO	1,240.00
DITIZIO REGINA		GALLAGHER MAURA	
SHAVER ALFRED L JR	MEREDITH	TAYLOR AMELIA GRACE	1,340.00
		SAWYER GAIGE WALTER	
BONACCI GABE V	SIDNEY	SEWARD LISA R	600.00