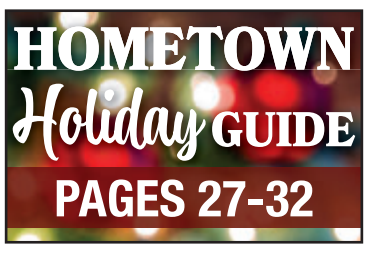
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Andes: A Small School Faces a Big Decision About Its Future

One-Year Tuition Plan Draws Strong Opposition From Parents, Residents and Students Amid Concerns Over Enrollment and Finances

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

ANDES - At a packed public meeting Monday, Nov. 16, Andes Central School Board of Education President Karen Bornarth and Superintendent Samantha Candreva outlined a controversial proposal to send students in grades seven through 12 to another school district under a one-year tuition agreement beginning in fall 2027. They said the proposal is driven by declining enrollment and concerns about the district's longterm financial stability.

More than 60 people filled the school's cafeteria to standing-room-only and struggled to hear throughout the evening as presentations were made and questions were asked without microphones.

Bornarth opened the meeting by introducing herself and saying other board members were present without naming them. She sought to quell rumors immediately.

"We're not closing the school, okay? So please cross that off your list of concerns," she announced, noting that prekindergarten through sixth-grade classes would remain in Andes. However, she emphasized the school must prioritize student opportunities over community nostalgia.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*
Wayne Reynolds was one of the few Andes residents who spoke in favor of making changes to the district that would provide more challenges for students. The Andes Central School graduate said he always dreaded a merger but was not prepared for college upon high school graduation.

"You may be a graduate, you may be a teacher, you may be an administrator. It's not about you," Bornarth said. "It is about our current and our future students."

Bornarth, who said there are similar issues in Chicago where she was raised, framed the district's struggles around statewide enrollment drops and an expensive local housing market that prevents young families from moving to Andes. Acknowledging that the proposal would bring "real costs," including staff layoffs and longer bus rides, she stated, "Money is the constraint, but students are our purpose."

When asked for specific ways in which students would benefit from the proposal, neither Bornarth nor Candreva responded with student-driven answers.

She said that pursuing a one-year pilot "...is the board's decision alone. It would not go to a community vote."

While board members declined to name the district students would attend, students later speculated it as South Kortright and challenged the premise of expanded opportunities by noting South Kortright currently lacks a math or Spanish teacher.

See **A Small School Faces...** page 14

A New Kind of Food Pantry Opens Its Doors - All Day, Every Day

Margaretville's New 'Give And Take Fridge' Offers Free Food And Essentials Around The Clock



Avi Rosentalis, left, and Jennifer Bentley celebrated the opening of The Give and Take Fridge in Margaretville with a "selfie" Sunday, Nov. 8. The refrigerator, located at Middletown Town Hall is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for those in need to use, or for donations to be made.

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Residents of Middletown (Fleischmanns, Margaretville, Halcottsville and Arkville), now have around-the-clock access to fresh food, produce, and basic essentials, thanks to a yearlong collaborative effort that culminated in the opening of a new community refrigerator called "The Give and Take Fridge" at the Middletown Town Hall on state Route 28 in Margaretville.

The initiative, spearheaded by Avi Rosentalis and other community volunteers, is a collabo-

See **A New Kind of...** page 6

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Art With Heart: Barn Quilt Supports Humane Society

By Lillian Browne

DELHI - For Ed Chytalo, inspiration can come from an unexpected place - even the cereal aisle at the grocery store.

As he walks past rows of brightly colored boxes at Price Chopper or Walmart, he studies the combinations of colors and the way they are arranged to catch a shopper's eye. Those observations can eventually find their way into one of the intricate geometric designs he creates as barn quilts.

His latest piece, a 3-foot by 3-foot painting featuring a complex arrangement of shapes and colors, is more than an exercise in creativity. It is also a gift to the animals at the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society, with 100% of the proceeds from its sale going to the organization.

The painting will be displayed in the humane society's lobby beginning Wednesday, Nov. 18, for 10 days. It is being offered for $750, with proceeds to help provide Thanksgiving treats and other necessities for the dogs and cats in the shelter's care.

Chytalo said the humane society, led by Deb Crude and supported by a dedicated staff and volunteers, is a worthy cause.

"I can't say enough good things about her [Crute's] staff and her volunteers," he said.

He thinks about the animals waiting for homes and the small comforts that can make their days better.

"They don't know when it's their birthday. They don't know when it's Christmas. They don't know when it's Thanksgiving," he said. "So this is my gift to them."



contributed
Heart of the Catskills Humane Society Director Deb Crute and Ed Chytalo stand with the barn quilt he created which will be sold to benefit the animal shelter.

In addition to holiday treats, he hopes the fundraising effort will help address the shelter's need for blankets and cleaning supplies.

The donation continues a commitment that has extended

See **Art With Heart...** page 9

BY THE NUMBERS

5,279	3,393	182	1,477
Delaware County's 2025 deer harvest.	Adult bucks harvested in 2025 in DelCo	Buck fawns harvested in 2025 in DelCo	Adult does harvested in 2025 in DelCo

Sources: dec.ny.gov

WALTON

By Patty Wood pwood2@frontier.com

The 39th annual Hunters' Dinner and Auction will be held at Castle on the Delaware Saturday, Nov 21. Auction starts at 7 p.m. and benefits Shriners activities in our area. Brought to you by the Delaware Shrine Club and Kalurah Shriners. Dinner buffet includes roast beef, chicken, falafel, sides, salad bar, dessert and coffee or tea - $30 for adults and $15 for those age 16 and under. Cash bar. Bid on sealed gift bags valued at $15 or more that range from crafts, hunting related items and other unique finds. Call to make reservations at 917-348-7890. This is the auction that is usually held at the Rainbow Lodge, but because they had to close early this year, the Savs have stepped up to host this year. Support them if you can.

The Congregational Church will host a Community Harvest Dinner Saturday, Nov. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church parlor. Free will donation.

New Hope Community Church (NHCC), 45 Stockton Ave., will host a Thanksgiving dinner Soup It Up Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 5-6 p.m. All are welcome for a great meal and time of fellowship.

For the first time the Southern Tier Singers' Collective will bring their music to Delaware County for an afternoon of beautiful Renaissance polyphony in celebration of All Saints, along with a few musical surprises. This special performance will be Sunday, Nov. 22 at 12 noon at the Walton United Presbyterian Church at 58 East Street. You may have seen STSC f in Binghamton, but 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.

Also Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the First Congregational Church there will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service for community worship at 6:30. All are welcome.

Plan to come out for Walton's annual Christmas parade Friday, Nov 27. Lineup at 5:30 p.m. at the bus garage - all are welcome. Floats, trucks, ATVs, or walkers are welcome but please, do not throw candy from the vehicles. Walking alongside the vehicle and throwing to the crowd is fine. Also, only one live Santa comes at the end of the parade with the Mrs. so please - no impostors! Parade starts at 6 p.m. and proceeds down Delaware Street, turns right at Bridge Street, and right again onto Water Street, ending at Vet's Plaza for the tree lighting ceremony. Santa and Mrs. Claus will stay around to meet the kiddos at the plaza. Contact me just so I have an idea of who is coming, but all are welcome - even if last minute.

The Spend the Day in Walton events have been posted and this year we have a full slate of fun events to do Saturday, Nov. 28. Start the day with breakfast with Santa at the NHCC, then shop at the craft show at the Castle, vendor market at the Grange, buy a tree from the Walton Fire Dept, and drop off a letter to Santa at the Vet's Club mailbox.

Have your picture taken with Frosty at the Walton Historical Society from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., where there will be basket raffles all day, and beautiful Christmas themed displays. Discounted books and membership deals, and the photo albums will be out to browse through.

Common Room Community Arts grand opening and ribbon cutting will be at 1 p.m. that day with live music by Acoustic Brew, and a free craft to make for your tree.

Yarn Over will also offer a free make and take craft and will hold beginner crochet classes on the half hour from 10:30-2:30.

There will be a free Make Yourself an Elf craft at the Ogden Library from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Walton Vet's Club will have an open house and seeks new members Saturday from 3-7 p.m. All new members will receive a free koozie.

Folks are invited to gather on their ATVs at Vet's Plaza at 5 p.m. to go caroling, and everyone can check out the Christmas light entries around the village. Remember, not all streets are legal for ATVs so be sure you are on the right streets.

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

Come spend the day in Walton and take in all these events: eat breakfast, lunch and dinner, and get a jump on your shopping in Walton stores.

This year Walton Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its 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 kickoff the Christmas season together with the parade Friday night and the light contest judging Saturday.

~ Card of Thanks ~

The First United Methodist Church would like to thank all of the local merchants for their generous contributions to our 20th annual basket auction. We would also like to thank the people that worked the event and all of those that attended. The event would not be a success if it was not for your support. We are looking forward to seeing you at next year's Basket Auction.

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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.

Franklin Highway Department Wraps Up Roadwork, Prepares for Winter

Staff Report

FRANKLIN - With its annual oil and stone work complete and winter approaching, the Franklin Highway Department is shifting its focus to preparing trucks for snow season and catching up on equipment repairs.

Highway Superintendent Jamie Archibald gave the update during the Franklin Town Council meeting Wednesday, Nov. 4, reporting that the truck purchased last month has arrived and is already in service.

"It is in service. We've been using it. It's working very well so far," Archibald said.

The department has completed its oil and stone work for the year, as well as a shoulder project on Sherman Hill Road. The Sherman Hill project still needs oil and stone, which Archibald said will be completed in the spring.

A few minor storm-related projects remain, including culvert repairs, but Archibald said the department expects to finish that work before the end of the year.

Crews are now preparing trucks for winter and working to repair several vehicles that are currently out of service.

Archibald also told the board that the town will need to seek new fuel bids next month for diesel, kerosene and heating fuel. He suggested the bids cover the period from Jan. 1 through April, when the propane bid schedule changes, bringing the fuels back onto the same schedule.

Utility Project and Transmission Line Work

Archibald reported that work has been completed on a Treadwell water line crossing at Case Hill Road and the road has been patched. The remaining work is to repair the sidewalk.

He said he spoke with a water district representative who hopes the sidewalk work will be completed this fall, although it could be delayed until spring. Archibald said he would contact the representative to emphasize the importance of finishing before winter.

Archibald also reported that a representative from NYSEG contacted him about the Jennison Transmission Project L949, an effort to update a main electric transmission line. The project is expected to extend over approximately two years and will involve access through some town roads.

Archibald planned to meet with project representatives the following day to review the proposed work and access routes.

He said he did not yet know the full scope of the project, including whether utility poles would be replaced, but expected to have more information after the meeting.

Archibald noted that the company recently completed a repair to a cross arm on one of the lines, which required construction of an access driveway. The company repaired a damaged road shoulder afterward, and he said it did a good job cleaning up and restoring the area.

Code Enforcement Update

Code Enforcement Officer Gregg Pitula reported continued interest from people looking to purchase property in the area, along with several new homes under construction and others expected to begin construction.

Pitula said he continues to conduct inspections and is working with the state on code compliance issues involving the former Treadwell school. Property owner Jonah Shaw seeks to pursue a new use for the building, but Pitula said converting a school into a hotel or motel involves more complicated requirements than a simple change of use.

He also reported that dog complaints have declined since residents began contacting the town's new dog control officer.

Pitula said he plans to discuss possible additions to town codes with the Planning Board.

Residents Raise Election Space and Pipeline Concerns

During public comment, Franklin resident Laura Leale thanked the town for providing space for voting but said the last presidential election was crowded and congested.

She suggested the town consider using the highway garage or another larger space for future presidential elections, noting that the close quarters can affect voter privacy and make it difficult to assist older residents and people with disabilities.

"It really, I think, infringes on people's privacy when they're here," Leale said.

She added that the town has two years to plan for the next presidential election.

Resident Gary Ott also commented on the election and thanked board members who ran for office, saying he appreciated their commitment to the community.

Ott reiterated his opposition to a proposed Constitution Pipeline, arguing that it poses environmental risks to the town and village.

"If the pipeline is built, those are all in danger," Ott said, referring to the community's rural character, clean air and water.

He acknowledged the possibility of tax incentives but said he believes the potential risks outweigh the benefits. Ott urged officials to protect residents and work together to preserve the community.

Ott also addressed remarks made at the previous meeting, saying he had been accused of libel and slander, which he denied. He said one of his vehicles was vandalized outside his home after that meeting and that he reported the incident to authorities.

"We all want the same things," Ott said. "I think we want a safe community. We want a clean community, a place that we can be happy and proud to live in for ourselves and for our kids and for our grandkids."

Weather Words with Frank Ward

Lots of rain and our first snowstorm

"Last Wednesday, Nov. 11, it was sunny until noon, then the clouds moved in, and everybody got ready for what was supposed to be some rain. The weather service really got this one wrong for this entire area. Wednesday night, we only had 8/100th of an inch of precipitation. But then it poured all day Thursday, Nov. 12, and as it did that, the temperature dropped; and depending on your elevation, it mixed with snow and then changed to snow completely.

Here, it changed the snow about 9.45 p.m. And when I got up Friday morning, Nov. 13, there was 2.8 inches of it on the ground, and it was still snowing out there. During the day, we got another 1.8 inches. So we got 4.6 inches of snow. What surprised me was when I went in and turned on the TV, you suddenly had all these schools with two-hour delays. Well, it turns out the higher elevations changed to snow a whole lot earlier than I did. Some of them were changing the snow by 6 o'clock at night, and those areas got 6 to 12 inches, and there was another very heavy wet snow.



file

Walton Weather Observer Frank Ward

It actually brought down power lines and things, and some of those people are still waiting to get it back today.

Anyway, another 1/10th of an inch of precipitation fell Saturday, Nov. 14. Sunday, Nov. 15, had on-and-off, little rain-effects, snow, and rain. And then the air pressure went up. And they were predicting warm weather. And that's quite true. We got the 40s on Monday, Nov. 16. We got the upper 40s to low 50s on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Then the clouds disappeared.

And Wednesday morning, Nov. 18, there were lots of stars, and it was 25 degrees out there. It sort of brings back memories of a week and a half ago where we had cold nights and really warm days. Wednesday afternoon it got into the mid 50s. In fact, for the next week we're going to have temperature in the 50s. And again, considering our normal temperature now should be about 46. We're looking at another week at least, of above normal temperatures, and it's also going to get dry, just like it has been before we got the storm.

That's okay because the woods are kind of wet and muddy and we got the moisture we needed as long as this doesn't last too long. But here's this wonderful week that you can get out during the day, put up all your decorations and things. I usually light them up on Thanksgiving day and get ready when you can still feel your fingers and not have to see your breath when you put them up. Check all your recipes and make sure you have everything you need for upcoming Thanksgiving. And just get ready, because the season is here, and this is the time. Hopefully people stay happy. So, understand that during this time of the year, it's really hard for weather observers, because anytime we get snow, the first thing I do is go out to the snowboard and measure how much new snow and clear it off. Then I go to three places in the yard and take a ground measurement, and average them together to report how much is on the ground. Then I take the precipitation collector inside and set it into a sink of warm water to melt what's in it, so they know how much moisture is in all the stuff that fell. And all that's needed so that the weather service can predict. Can the streams and brooks handle it? Do they have to issue any warnings? Well, fortunately, we don't have any of that, and let's keep it that way.

So stay happy. Contact relatives. Hopefully you're going somewhere or maybe you're doing the cooking and have a good time. Talk to you next week." ~ Frank Ward



Delhi Airbnb Host Challenges $500 Short-Term Rental Inspection Fee

Host Supports Safety Inspections, Asks Town To Lower Costs And Provide Owners With Guidance Before Inspections

Staff Report

DELHI - A Delhi resident who has operated an Airbnb for more than three years told Delhi council members Monday, Nov. 9, that she supports safety inspections for short-term rentals but believes the $500 fee is excessive and should be reduced to $100 annually.

Karen Graves addressed the council during the public comment portion of the meeting, sharing her support for the town's recently adopted transient rental regulations while asking officials to reconsider the cost of complying with them. Council members did not take action on her request during the meeting.

"I believe inspections are a very good idea, and welcome any information on how to make our home safe," Graves said.

Graves said her concern about fire safety is personal. As a child, she experienced a house fire that destroyed her home, making her particularly conscious of fire prevention.

She said she takes several precautions at her rental property, including safety ladders in both bedrooms, carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and posted notices in both bedrooms.

"I believe [Air] B and B hosts take their businesses very seriously and value their customers and property, and would gladly do whatever is necessary to keep them safe," Graves said.

Graves questioned whether the proposed requirements and costs place an unfair burden on short-term rental owners compared with long-term rental properties. Her online search found only 10 short-term rentals listed in the town of Delhi, though she said she would like to know how many long-term rentals operate in the town.

She said she had been told long-term rentals in Delhi pay an annual $100 fee for fire inspections.

Graves also questioned whether short-term rentals present greater fire risks than long-term rentals, citing extension cord use, smoking, lithium battery charging, space heaters and deep-frying turkeys as major causes of fires.

"No one shows up at my Airbnb with an extension cord, or with space heaters, and they're certainly not cooking turkeys or charging lithium batteries," she said.

Her primary objection, she explained, is the cost of the proposed requirements. Graves said she understood the regulations were modeled after Hamden's short-term rental law, but said Hamden charges $100 annually. She also cited the town of Andes, which she said charges a one-time fee of $150.

Graves referenced comments by Wayne Marshfield, Hamden supervisor, who noted that Hamden's inspector had been unable to complete inspections because of his workload.

She also questioned the argument that short-term rental properties may undergo more frequent changes than long-term rentals, saying an annual inspection would not necessarily address those changes. She added that changes could improve a property.

Graves shared figures from her own rental business to illustrate the financial impact. She said her gross income in 2025 was $6,000, with net income of less than $4,000.

"A fee of $500 is over 10% of my income," she said, noting that guests also pay a 2% bed tax and 6% sales tax.

"So there are fees being collected, and while I agree with the decision to inspect short-term rentals, I think the $500 fee is unjustifiable," Graves said.

She offered three suggestions to the council: Send property owners a list of inspection requirements before inspections take place so owners can prepare and help make the process more efficient; do not charge fees until an inspection is completed; and establish a $100 annual fee without additional first-time charges.

She said the lower annual fee would make the cost consistent with what she understood long-term rental owners pay.

"Thank you for considering my request," Graves finished.

Background On Delhi's Regulations

The town adopted its transient rental regulations following a public hearing Oct. 12. The law requires permits for dwelling units rented to one entity for 30 days or less, with separate applications and permits for each rental unit.

The regulations require each rental unit to undergo an inspection by the town's code enforcement officer to determine compliance with fire and safety codes. A certificate of compliance must accompany the permit application.

The law does not establish a specific permit fee. Instead, the town may set the nonrefundable application and renewal fee by council resolution, allowing the amount to be changed.

The regulations also establish requirements for occupancy, parking, liability insurance, emergency contacts and local management of properties when owners live more than 30 miles away. Owners must notify property owners within 200 feet of a rental when applying for new or renewal permits.

At the Oct. 12 hearing, a resident supported the regulations as a way to encourage responsible rental practices and prevent owners from putting profits ahead of neighborhood concerns. Supervisor Maya Boukai said the law was modeled on Hamden's regulations to promote consistency.

Graves' comments Monday brought attention to the financial side of implementing the new requirements, with her request for a lower fee and advance inspection guidance left for the council to consider.

Colchester Adopts Amended Preliminary 2027 Budget With 2.3% Tax Levy Increase

Town plans $5.14 million in spending, uses nearly $878,000 in fund balance and boosts highway funding while trimming police equipment costs

Staff Report

COOKS FALLS - The Colchester Town Council adopted its amended preliminary 2027 budget Nov. 4, approving a spending plan totaling approximately $5.14 million and increasing the overall amount to be raised through property taxes by about 2.3% compared with 2026.

The budget calls for total appropriations of $5,141,926.53, an increase of $371,377.34, or about 7.8%, over the 2026 budget total of approximately $4.77 million. The amount to be raised through taxes is $3,246,064.78, compared with an estimated $3,174,406.57 in 2026.

The increase in the overall tax levy is approximately $71,658, or 2.3%. The levy is the portion of the town's budget that must be covered by property taxes after accounting for other revenues and available fund balances.

To help offset taxes, the 2027 budget uses a combined $877,590 in unexpended fund balance from the general and highway funds. That includes $355,000 from the general fund and $522,590 from the townwide highway fund. The budget also anticipates $849,021 in estimated revenues from sources other than property taxes in those two funds.

The general fund, which covers town government operations and services, totals $2,036,070, up from $1,951,416 in 2026, an increase of about 4.3%. After $199,021 in estimated revenue and $355,000 in fund balance are applied, the amount to be raised through taxes for the general fund is $1,482,049.

The townwide highway budget is $2,608,971, compared with $2,347,300 in 2026, an increase of $261,671, or about 11.1%. The budget anticipates $650,000 in revenue, including $500,000 in consolidated highway state aid, and uses $522,590 in fund balance. The remaining $1,436,381 is to be raised through taxes.

Highway Spending Increases

Some of the largest changes in the 2027 budget are in the highway department, particularly in general road repairs, snow removal and employee benefits.

The general repairs account increases from $635,000 in 2026 to $730,915 in the 2027 budget. Personal services, which cover wages and related labor costs, rise from $455,000 to $550,915, an increase of $95,915. The contractual expense line remains at $180,000.

The improvements account remains unchanged at $500,000.

The machinery budget decreases from $385,000 to $250,000. The equipment line drops sharply, from $235,000 in 2026 to $80,000 in 2027, a reduction of $155,000. At the same time, the department is budgeting more for maintenance and repairs. Contractual maintenance increases from $80,000 to $90,000, while contractual repairs rise from $70,000 to $80,000.

Snow removal spending increases from $346,000 to $445,560, a jump of $99,560. The personal services line rises from $309,000 to $393,560, an increase of $84,560. Contractual maintenance remains at $25,000, while contractual repairs increase from $12,000 to $27,000.

Employee benefits for highway personnel also see a substantial increase, rising from $478,300 in 2026 to $676,996 in 2027. The increase reflects higher budgeted costs for state retirement, Social Security and health insurance, among other benefits. The health insurance line alone rises from $330,000 to $484,414.

The highway superintendent's personal services account increases from $63,000 in 2026 to $64,890 in 2027. The garage account remains at $75,000.

Police Budget Reduced

The police budget decreases from $403,351 in 2026 to $383,351 in 2027, a reduction of $20,000, or about 5%.

The personal services account remains unchanged at $287,200, as does the contractual expense line at $66,151. The reduction comes entirely from the equipment account, which drops from $50,000 to $30,000.

Other public safety accounts include $15,000 for traffic control, up from $14,000 in 2026. The dog control budget decreases from $2,000 to $1,600. Safety inspection and code enforcement remains at $36,500, with $30,500 budgeted for personal services, $1,000 for equipment and $5,000 for contractual expenses.

Together, the public safety accounts total $436,451, down from $455,851 in 2026.

Town Salaries and Operating Costs

The budget also identifies salaries for elected town officials. The 2027 salary schedule lists the supervisor at $16,000, the town clerk at $49,440, each of the four council members at $4,000, the highway superintendent at $64,890 and each of the two town justices at $15,744. The tax collector is listed at $8,528.

The budget's department account comparisons show the town board's personal services allocation remaining at $16,000. The town clerk's personal services account increases slightly, from $50,800 in 2026 to $51,000 in 2027. Each justice's personal services account remains at $41,300.

The supervisor's personal services account is listed at $17,375 for 2027, compared with $27,400 in 2026. The reduction is attributed to a transfer of $10,000 for the hiring of a bookkeeper.

The budget also includes $12,500 for the supervisor's contractual expenses, up from $2,500. Because the budget separates personal services from contractual expenses, those account changes should not be interpreted as a direct comparison of the supervisor's salary.

Other general government expenses include a $30,000 allocation for the town attorney, up from $25,000 in 2026. The buildings budget increases from $92,500 to $98,000, while central data processing rises from $62,575 to $64,273.25.

Employee benefits across the general fund increase from $414,500 to $498,176.80. The largest components are hospital and medical insurance, rising from $235,000 to $270,850.80, and police retirement, increasing from $71,000 to $98,076.

The budget also provides $108,620 for culture and recreation, up from $91,450 in 2026. The increase includes additional funding for playgrounds and recreation centers, whose combined budget rises from $77,000 to $93,900.

Home and community services decrease from $236,600 to $231,536. The cemetery budget drops from $118,000 to $112,000, primarily because its equipment allocation decreases from $18,000 to $12,000.

Water Districts and Fire Protection

The budget includes $130,219 for the Downsville Water District, slightly below its 2026 appropriation of $130,780. The Cooks Falls Water District budget decreases from $40,125 to $39,031.76.

The Downsville Fire District allocation increases from $287,018 in 2026 to $296,081 in 2027. Colchester fire protection remains at $13,000, while the Beaverkill Valley Fire Protection allocation is listed at $1,091.40, compared with $910.19 in 2026.

The spending plan reflects increases in several areas, particularly highway labor, snow removal and employee benefits, while reducing the machinery equipment and police equipment accounts. The use of fund balance helps limit the overall increase in the amount to be raised through property taxes.

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Andes Tackles Budget Questions, Radio Station Plans, and Infrastructure Updates

Staff Report

ANDES - Andes council members met Nov. 10, and addressed water district budget revisions, updates on a proposed community radio station, highway department progress, and contractual communications with New York City regarding wastewater treatment operations.

Water Budget and Supply Costs Tabled

Council members discussed the 2027 water district budget, noting discrepancies and missing data regarding material purchases and service costs. Officials agreed to table the budget item until updated figures are provided.

"I think what I need to do is put on costs of supplies that they purchased and of services that they receive," a speaker said, noting an anticipated increase of $2,000 from the previous year's $74,520 total. Complete figures were expected to be circulated to council members by the end of the week.

Community Radio and Tower Discussions

Council members received updates regarding a proposed local community radio station and potential arrangements for tower usage. Discussions touched on establishing a domestic nonprofit status and utilizing a small 100-by-100-foot square area near town property.

Project representatives proposed maintaining a live setup inside the Andes Rail Trial depot while housing the main studio in a separate mobile container outside. Officials also noted ongoing negotiations with utility providers regarding line configurations and primary versus secondary power lines required to run infrastructure to the site.

Highway Department and Safety Report

Highway Superintendent John Bouton delivered the monthly highway report, outlining seasonal maintenance including roadside mowing and culvert pipe replacements on Wolf Hollow Road, and routine shop work preparing trucks for New York state inspections.

Bouton also reported on a recent safety seminar regarding downed power lines, emphasizing coordination with local fire departments and highway crews to prevent accidents when clearing trees near electrical hazards. Additionally, the department addressed road shoulder repairs on state routes and the placement of new traffic signage and Jersey barriers to enhance safety.

DEP and Sewer Budget

Council members reviewed correspondence from New York City Department of Environmental Protection regarding the 2027 operations and maintenance budget for the wastewater treatment plant. The proposed total budget stands at $619,557.57, with DEP's share calculated at $536,107.35, subject to adjustments for heating and electric costs associated with the panel located on-site.

Delaware Engineering also presented an invoice totaling $11,025 for prior services related to historical project design modifications requested by environmental engineers.

Monthly Vouchers Approved

Following discussion, the board approved monthly fund vouchers:

- General Fund: Vouchers 351 to 371, totaling $21,333.26.
- Highway Fund: Vouchers 258 to 281, totaling $103,137.28.
- Sewer Fund: Vouchers 157 to 167 (10 vouchers), totaling $71,965.05.
- Water Budget: Vouchers 67 to 374, totaling $17,770.27.

Operating reports from Delaware Engineering and Cedarwood Environmental Services indicated that the wastewater treatment plant operated within compliance parameters for October, averaging 33,000 gallons per day, though collection systems continue to face inflow and infiltration challenges.

Sidney Plans Downtown Storefront Contest for Holly Jolly Parade

Timber to be Auctioned, NYSEG Easement Authorized

By Michelle Bartz

SIDNEY - Mayor Ray Baker announced the village of Sidney has more timber to put out for bid at a Sidney Trustees meeting held Monday, Nov. 9. The forester has provided paperwork to the village and interested parties are welcome to pick up bid packets in the village office on Pearl Street. Bids will be opened Friday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m. Following the current bid award, there will only be one more timber sale, officials said.

The annual Holly Jolly parade will be held on the first Friday of December – Dec. 4. It will start with the lineup on Steiner Road, as usual, and continue to the red light and Main Street. Trustee Luke Higley proposed a storefront decorating contest for downtown businesses, similar to the what village does for the home decorating contest. Higley donated $250 to get the new contest started. Judges for the decorating contest will be asked to judge the storefront.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Sidney Trustee Luke Higley proposed a storefront decorating contest to coincide with the annual Holly Jolly Parade and donated $250 to the effort at a Nov. 9 meeting.

Baker proposed the idea to the Chamber of Commerce and it was well received, Baker said. Higley also suggested a similar contest for storefront windows next Halloween.

After approving a social media policy for the village, trustees authorized Baker to complete requirements for a permanent easement for NYSEG and a dangerous tree easement for property located on Reservoir Road, Tax Map no. 139.-1-5.

The village will be compensated by NYSEG in the amount of $9,150.

Trustees also authorized tax foreclosure proceedings for delinquent properties. Payment of legal fees, title searches, filing fees, and other related expenses were also approved.

Walton Adopts 2027 Budget With 1.78% Tax Levy Increase

Town's $2.91m Spending Plan Uses $657,300 In Fund Balance; Highway Funding Rises, While Town Stays Below State Tax Cap

Staff Report

WALTON - Walton council members adopted their 2027 budget following a public hearing Monday, Nov. 9, where one resident offered a question about employee salaries and town officials reported that the budget carries a 1.78% increase in the town tax levy.

Bookkeeper Ronda Williams said the increase amounts to $23,911 over the 2026 levy. Town officials said the increase is below the state's allowable tax cap of 3.71%.

"Over the last 'X' number of years, this board has presented budgets that are absolutely favorable to the taxpayers of the town of Walton," Supervisor Joe Cetta said.

The increase was nearly offset by the two previous years, officials said. Williams also explained that appropriations increased, but the town plans to use more fund balance to help cover expenses. She attributed the town's ability to do so in part to increased interest earnings over the past couple of years.

The adopted budget lists $2,909,640 in total appropriations, compared with $2,461,829 in the 2026 budget, an increase of about 18.2%. That is the amount budgeted for spending across the town-wide general fund, general fund outside the village and the two highway funds. The town expects $882,708 in revenues and plans to apply $657,300 in unexpended fund balance, leaving $1,369,632 to be raised through property taxes. The tax levy is the amount collected from taxpayers after anticipated revenues and fund balance are taken into account.

The fund balance contribution is higher than the $443,000 budgeted in 2026. The 2027 plan draws $151,000 from the town-wide general fund, compared with $125,000 in 2026; $110,700 from the town-wide highway fund, compared with $70,000; and $395,600 from the highway fund outside the village, compared with $248,000.

Williams said the town's higher fund balance use was supported in part by interest earnings. The town-wide general fund estimates $10,000 in interest earnings for 2027, compared with $5,000 in its 2026 budget. The highway funds also anticipate interest revenue, although their 2027 estimates are lower than the amounts budgeted in 2026.

Highway Spending Increases

The two highway funds account for $2,159,550 of the 2027 budget, compared with $1,746,438 in 2026. The largest increase is in the highway fund serving areas outside the village, which rises from $1,023,338 to $1,412,250 - an increase of nearly 38%.

In that fund, the general repairs account increases from $476,427 to $651,000. The personal services portion, which covers wages, rises from $226,427 to $276,000. Contractual expenses increase from $250,000 to $375,000. The improvements account, which covers capital outlay, rises from $400,000 to $600,000.

The outside-village highway fund also increases its employee benefits allocation from $146,911 to $161,250. The budget includes $49,000 for state retirement, $21,000 for Social Security and $91,000 for health insurance, along with $250 for disability insurance.

The town-wide highway fund increases more modestly, from $723,100 in 2026 to $747,300 in 2027, or about 3.3%. Its machinery account totals $248,800, compared with $242,800 last year. Within that account, the equipment line remains at $120,000, while machinery personal services increase from $57,800 to $63,800. Contractual expenses remain at $65,000.

Snow removal in the town-wide fund rises from $318,000 to $327,700. The personal services line increases from $188,000 to $194,000, and contractual expenses rise from $130,000 to $133,700. Employee benefits increase from $160,500 to $169,000, including $67,000 for health insurance, unchanged from 2026.

The highway superintendent's town-wide personal services line increases from $70,828 to $72,953. The deputy highway superintendent/foreman line rises from $2,550 to $2,627. The garage contractual account remains at $12,000.

Public Safety and Other Town Salaries

The budget includes $10,850 for dog control, up slightly from $10,557 in 2026. The dog control officer's personal services allocation rises from $9,757 to $10,050, while contractual expenses remain at $800. The outside-village safety inspections account, which includes building inspection services, remains at $30,645, with $28,045 budgeted for personal services.

The 2027 salary schedule lists the supervisor's salary at $15,593, compared with $15,139 in the 2026 budget, an increase of about 3%. Each of the four council members is budgeted at $3,382, compared with a combined town board personal services allocation of $13,134 in 2026. The town clerk's salary increases from $54,763 to $56,406, also about 3%.

Town justices are budgeted at $15,095 each, up from $14,655. The court clerk allocation increases from $11,549 to $11,895. The bookkeeper's salary rises from $18,476 to $19,030.

The salary schedule also lists the sole assessor at $42.10 per hour, the assistant assessor at $22.66 per hour and the code enforcement officer at $22 per hour. The building maintenance position is budgeted at $10,685, up from $10,374, and the registrar of vital statistics at $1,660, up from $1,612.

The budget also sets hourly rates for highway employees at $29.02 for a heavy equipment operator, $28.29 for a motor equipment operator, $30.43 for a mechanic and $25.37 for a part-time laborer. Court security is listed at $35 per hour and deputy clerks at $20 per hour.

During the hearing, a resident asked whether the town clerk was being paid more than the assessor. Cetta confirmed hat the clerk's position is essentially full time, while the assessor's position is part time.

The resident said he had only recently seen the budget and did not have additional questions about it. He also asked how to access town meeting minutes and building permit records. Town officials directed him to the town website for minutes and offered to provide permit information by email.

The budget was adopted unanimously.


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Hometown Heroes Banners Coming to Roxbury

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

ROXBURY – When Memorial Day 2027 arrives in Roxbury, new Hometown Hero banners will be hanging on poles to honor dedicated veterans and first responders who have served country and community. The Grand Gorge Community Action Group (GGCAG) "took the bull by the horns" according to organizer Tim Douglas, who said all hamlets including Grand Gorge, Roxbury and Denver-Vega will be included in the effort.

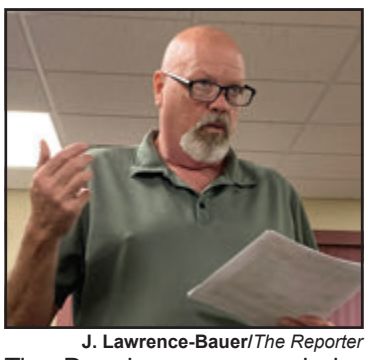
Douglas and his fiancée Jody Albano have taken a lead on the project. He said he began more than four months ago when he realized it was long past time to get service banners in his community like those in so many other towns throughout the region. In an effort as organized as a military campaign, Douglas and Albano did reconnaissance work, mobilized support, and are moving steadily toward the target.

To initiate the effort, Douglas and Albano did an extensive driving tour through the region looking at what other communities did and how it was done. While most local efforts recognize only veterans, Douglas said they saw some communities also honor first responders, an idea he wanted to deploy.

The next step was to do a pole-to-pole survey of every New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) pole within the town. They documented the numbers and locations of each pole, taking into account how visible each might be. Douglas noted that in Denver-Vega, most of the poles are set back far from the road and are not readily visible. The survey is a precursor to filing for permits from NYSEG to hang banners on the poles.

Douglas secured the support of GGCAG as the sponsoring organization giving him a non-profit organization with the ability to accept donations needed to do the project, then got enthusiastic support from Roxbury council members. They also reached out to veterans Marty Finch in Roxbury and Tom Miner in Grand Gorge, as well as to the fire and emergency services departments in the town.

"We are blanketing the community with information so loved ones can let us know if they have family members who should be honored," said Douglas. "But Jody and I did not have the information to determine who the veterans are or what criteria should be used for honoring first responders."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Tim Douglas announced details about a Roxbury Community Heroes program at a town council meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13. Douglas, working with the Grand Gorge Community Action Group, said response has been better than he might have imagined and banners should be up in time for Memorial Day.

Douglas said that when applications for veterans are received they will be cleared through Finch and Miner to ascertain veteran service and honorable discharge.

Douglas has asked each fire and EMS unit to develop criteria for how their members should be honored.

"They might want to say that you get a banner if you have served consistently for 20 years," said Douglas.

Other criteria departments might use could be people who have served in leadership posts in the departments, or who have donated the most hours of service. Whatever the criteria, the departments will advise Douglas as to who should be honored.

With all of the legwork done Albano designed ads, fliers and applications which now blanket the community telling residents about the program and how to apply and let everyone in the area know how they can donate funding to the project. Veterans may pick up and return applications at NBT Bank in Grand Gorge, Wayne Bank in Roxbury or Roxbury Town Hall. First responder applications are available through the fire and EMS departments. All application must be received on or before Feb. 1 because it will take at least 4 to 6 weeks to have the banners made.

The group is also seeking donations from everyone in the community to guarantee that everyone who deserves a banner, gets a banner. Each banner bears a cost of $200 for printing and for the bracket assembly to hang it. Applications allow residents to check one of three boxes: I need support to honor myself or a loved one; I am honored to support the banner for myself or my loved one; or I do not have an honoree but would love to support the program.

Application materials are well detailed with the information and photos needed for each person to be honored and organizers will help those who might struggle with the process.

Once all banners have been ordered, organizers plan to spend the four-to-six-week production time getting brackets mounted to poles. When banners are delivered, they will be ready to hang. Douglas noted that Denver-Vega hamlet-related banners are likely to be hung on Route 30 near the Roxbury Town Hall to be sure they are on poles that are visible to the driving public.

"We are getting so much support for this project," said Douglas the day after Veterans Day. "It is already much bigger than Jody and I ever thought it would be."

In addition to visiting banks or town hall, those seeking participation information and details on how to make donations can email communityheroestor@gmail.com or by call Douglas at 607-437-7797.

Middletown Approves $4.88M 2027 Budget Following Public Hearing

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Middletown council members opened their public hearing on the town's preliminary budget on Tuesday, Nov. 10, when Town Clerk Sarah Hubbell read the official hearing notice.

The public notice outlined proposed salaries for elected officers, including $20,980 for the supervisor, $6,212 each for the four councilmembers, $55,114 for the town clerk, $75,844 for the highway superintendent, and $32,928 for the town justice.

For the first time in the town's history, assessor salaries were not listed separately. The town has transitioned from an elected panel to a single appointed assessor structure. MegAnne Balcom, who will serve as the assessor chairperson, will receive a town-established salary of $55,377. Ken Taylor, a long-serving former elected assessor, will remain on staff as a part-time assessor's assistant at a salary of $18,900. The office budget also allocates $10,000 for a part-time clerk.

Supervisor Glen Faulkner provided a brief summary outlining key financial features of the proposal. Total appropriations are projected at $4,887,058, with $3,508,522 to be raised through property taxes. The tentative budget proposed a 2.43% tax increase, remaining below New York's 2% property tax cap allowance, which permitted a maximum increase of $84,157 or 2.46%. To bridge the remaining budget gap while maintaining cap compliance, council members applied $117,000 from the unappropriated fund balance.

On the revenue side, projected collections increase to $958,746. This growth is driven by interest earnings, mortgage taxes, traffic diversion program funds, new cannabis tax revenues, short-term rental registration and licensing fees, and anticipated highway CHIPs (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) reimbursements.

There are 5% salary increase for all town employees under the CSEA agreement, as well as matching 5% increases for the supervisor and council members and all others who work for the town. Salary lines across the deputy clerk, water clerk, bookkeeper assistant, and building and zoning administrative roles were realigned. The assessor's office saw a slight overall reduction in supporting staff hours due to its new structure, while public safety reflects a minor reduction in part-time code enforcement officer hours during a transitional certification period for the incoming officer.

General expenses saw upward shifts, led by a roughly 12% rise in employee health insurance premiums and a general town insurance increase from $111,000 to $122,000, which now covers a new cybersecurity policy. Facility expenses maintain robust funding to support transfer station needs and a proposed HVAC upgrade.

In public works, the New Kingston and Fleischmanns sewer districts are budgeted per LVDV terms approved by the town and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which are primarily reimbursable. Engineering expenses rose from $20,000 to $50,000 to cover ongoing transportation and water interconnect projects. The highway equipment line saw a significant increase as funds were reallocated from general road repairs into a dedicated equipment reserve account designed to smooth out future spending peaks.

Following Faulkner's overview, residents asked questions about specific line items, which were addressed by Faulkner and long-time Bookkeeper Beth Bush, who monitors town budgets. Officials clarified several shifts, including the removal of a $2,000 line item for the library because residents now pay that tax directly through their school tax bills. That former allocation was split: $1,000 was moved to support the town historian, and $1,000 was added to a planned $2,500 contribution for the Catskill Recreation Center (CRC), raising taxpayer support for the facility to $3,500.

The budget also details an $8,250 allocation for a Joint Youth Recreation Program, which anticipates additional contributions from taxpayers in the villages of Margaretville and Fleischmanns, as well as other county and state funding as may be available. Bush explained that these funds flow into a separate account managed, but not controlled, by the town. The money supports a ski program, a summer recreation program run by Margaretville Central School, and swim lessons at the CRC.

Resident Kurt Holcherr, a member of American Legion Post 216, noted a line in the budget for $2,000 for veterans services. He asked the board to increase it by $500 because the cost of buying flags for veteran gravesites in cemeteries has increased significantly. Councilmember Nelson Delameter objected to the request telling Holcherr that "if we have people who are looking to increase line items, we need to know before the budget process starts."

Other resident inquiries focused on the across-the-board 5% salary increases. Speakers noted that general cost-of-living indicators are running lower than 5% and pointed out that many taxpayers funding the pay raises are not receiving similar increases in their own household incomes.

Gary Mead summarized the concerns saying "I just wanted to mention that taxpayers costs of living went up too." He added that he's paying $6 a gallon for gas and everything else, saying "taxpayers are in the same boat. I guess we're just not respected as much." Mead suggested the town needed to adopt a philosophy to "learn to do more with less. That's how I survived, I have to say."

After nearly 40 minutes of discussion, the board closed the public hearing. In the regular monthly meeting immediately following, council members unanimously voted to adopt the preliminary budget as presented, establishing it as the town's official operating budget for the coming year.

Hamden Residents Invited to Vote for DO Board Representative

HAMDEN — Hamden residents who meet income eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to elect a representative to the Delaware Opportunities Board of Directors Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Wayne Marshfield is running for the seat, which represents the interests of low-income residents of the town.

Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to noon at the Hamden Food Pantry, 35430 state Highway 10. Eligible voters must live in Hamden and have household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Voters may cast a ballot for Marshfield or write in another candidate. Mail-in and fillable ballots are available upon request by calling Katie at 607-746-1603.



A New Kind of...

continued from front page

ration designed to amplify the efforts of the Community Pantry that serves income eligible individuals on Fridays and Saturday. The Give and Take Fridge is open 24 hours a day, every day and is accessible to anyone in need, any time, with no advanced signups or income requirements.

"With utility prices being so high and people struggling so much, we really want people to feel comfortable coming to the fridge," said Rosentalis, a Margaretville Hospital staffer and one of the volunteer coordinators of both the food pantry and the refrigerator operation. "It's for everybody. If you work in town hall or you're there for court, and you are feeling snacky, you can grab something. It doesn't matter what your budget is," he added, noting that if someone is headed home and realizes there is nothing for dinner, they can stop by and grab something from the fridge.

According to the fliers distributed about the project: "Our community fridge is a small structure with a big message: If you need something you belong here. If you have something, you can help!" Organizers go on to say, "Everyone is welcome to take something from the fridge. If your grocery budget is in good shape, we ask that you take only once in a while so there's more to go around."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

The Give and Take Fridge at the Middletown Town Hall bears a message to the community: "If you need something you belong here. If you have something, you can help." Donations and picks ups can be made anytime, any day.

A Year in the Making

Getting the refrigerator up and running is considered a triumph having required more than a year of planning, logistical maneuvering, and community outreach. Initially organizers envisioned a standalone structure housing a refrigerator and a bearproof cabinet. However, finding the right location proved challenging.

Rosentalis and his team wanted a spot close to Route 28 for maximum visibility and foot traffic, with reliable access to power. After exploring multiple sites and even considering placing it directly in front of the hospital, organizers turned to the town of Middletown.

Supervisor Glen Faulkner and council members approved the proposal, offering space in the front vestibule of the town hall. Because the unit is located at the entrance before entering the main part of the building, it remains accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is protected from freezing temperatures.

The Give and Take Fridge operates independently of the traditional food pantry setup to streamline regulations and maximize efficiency, and to meet a different type of need for the area population.

The food pantry, administered in part by Delaware Opportunities and in part by the Interfaith Council, is traditionally only open on Fridays and Saturdays and serves preregistered, income-eligible clients. Those in need have regularly scheduled pick-ups of frozen, refrigerated and non-perishable items in amounts determined by the number of people in their household. While people may stock up their pantries, the schedule leaves a gap for perishable items. The two day-a-week schedule can also be difficult for some who want to donate food but can't get there when it is open.

The new refrigerator is less about stocking up for the longer term than for meeting a short-term immediate need. People who find themselves in need of a meal can stop by and grab a sandwich or a dinner. Under the new system, surplus perishables such as milk, eggs, and fresh produce that might spoil while the pantry is closed are transferred to the refrigerator between Sunday and Thursday so nothing goes to waste.

The community refrigerator can accept a wider array of donations including commercially prepared foods in to-go containers labeled with ingredients and dates prepared. Local supermarkets and businesses have embraced the project. Major contributions of prepared foods are already arriving from Speedway and Freshtown which donate items at the end of a day that are still safe to consume but would otherwise be headed for a dumpster.

"The stores are over the moon about it," Rosentalis noted, explaining that employees at many commercial establishments are historically prohibited from taking home surplus food, even when it is perfectly fresh.

Non-commercial donors are also encouraged to drop off items like fresh fruits and vegetables, unopened, commercially packaged foods, unopened refrigerated foods within their use-by dates, individually portioned and prepackaged meals and snacks, and unopened beverages. Outside the refrigerator, toiletries and personal care items and baby food and infant supplies in original packaging are also accepted.

The site is also now a collection site for the nearby food pantry with items for that operation to be labeled and left in boxes or bags for the daily pick-ups by volunteers and coordinators.

Daily Oversight

To maintain safety and quality, a team of seven core volunteer operators check, clean, and monitor the refrigerator daily, ensuring that items past their optimal window are safely rotated out. They make sure that donations which have been dropped off meet the regulations and criteria. Raw meat, poultry or seafood are not allowed nor are spoiled, moldy or partially consumed foods. Foods with damaged or broken packaging should not be dropped off. Unlabeled, prepared and home-made foods are prohibited as are alcohol, medications and vitamins or supplements.

Organizers are also working to educate the public on expiration dates.

"When things say 'sell by' or 'best buy,' that's just a marketing signal for them to say when it's the optimal quality," Rosentalis emphasized. "It doesn't mean the food isn't good or that it is unsafe."

Expanding Beyond Basics

The project is backed by a fiscal infrastructure from the Gotham Food Pantry, which supports community fridges across New York state and uses a refrigerator donated by Whirlpool. It is being operated by volunteers in connection with a broad network of local groups including Catskill Agrarian Alliance, The Davis Farm, WMC Health and Margaretville Hospital, the HUBB, Froggy Love Farm, The Community Pantry and Kitchen Cheetah.

Locally the food pantry has earmarked funds in its monthly budget to consistently stock basics like butter, eggs, and milk. Plans are also underway to provide feminine hygiene products and explore partnerships with organizations like the Heart of the Catskills to include pet food for families struggling to feed their animals.

Organizers hope the new refrigerator will not only provide immediate nutritional relief but also help normalize asking for help and foster a greater sense of community connection across the region.

"The more this is something for everybody," Rosentalis said, "the less stigma or shame there is around needing help when you need to make ends meet."

More information on The Give and Take Fridge is available via email at TheGiveAndTakeFridge@gmail.com

Updates are also available on Facebook and Instagram.

Middletown: Time Capsule Buried for Future Generations



J. Lawrence Bauer/*The Reporter*

From left: Josef Schoell joined Historical Society of Middletown President Diane Galusha, Iris Mead and Gary Smith following the burial of a time capsule at the Middletown History Center in Margaretville Monday, Nov. 16. The four board members of HSM were relieved to complete the project which took most of the year to plan and execute.

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - The Historical Society of Middletown concluded its celebration of the 250th anniversary of the country's founding Monday, Nov. 16 when four of its board members gathered to bury a time capsule scheduled to be dug up and retrieved 50 years from now. With help from Harley Jenkins and Brian Faulkner, officials completed the year-long effort of collecting memorabilia and memories of area residents and their communities and encapsulating them for burial.

The activity took place at Middletown History Center on Cemetery Road with President Diane Galusha joined by board members Iris Mead, Gary Smith and Josef Schoell. The hard plastic container held a notebook of messages to the future with drawings and essays from Margaretville Central School third graders, photos, a telephone book, local street maps and issues of newsletters and newspapers, a school yearbook from 2026 and a brass bell donated by the Margaretville Rotary Club.



J. Lawrence Bauer/*The Reporter*

Gary Smith, left, and Josef Schoell were assisted by Brian Faulkner Monday, Nov. 16 as they buried a time capsule at the Middletown History Center in Margaretville. The project, chaired by Iris Mead and Suzanne Sluiter, helped celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.



J. Lawrence Bauer/*The Reporter*

Josef Schoell, left, and Gary Smith, board members at the Historic Society of Middletown made adjustments to a rock and plaque that mark the burial area of a time capsule installed Monday, Nov. 16. Officials hope it will be retrieved 50 years from now.

After being closed, the container was caulked and wrapped in layers of heavy duty plastic. Brian Faulkner operated a backhoe under the direction of Harley Jenkins to dig a hole, line it with crushed stone then refilled it. Smith, Faulkner and Schoell then placed a rock with a heavy plaque affixed to mark the location for future generations.

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Walton Opposes Proposed DEC Leachate Rules, Moves to Hire Code Enforcement Officer

Town Also Explores Bringing Sidney EMS Service To Walton

Staff Report

WALTON - Walton council members approved a resolution opposing proposed state regulations that could require Delaware County to build a wastewater treatment facility at its landfill, moved to hire a new code enforcement officer and heard an update on efforts to bring additional ambulance service to the area during its Monday, Nov. 9, meeting led by Supervisor Joe Cetta.

The resolution objects to proposed New York State Department of Environmental Conservation revisions to solid waste management regulations regarding leachate management.

Cetta explained that the proposed changes would require the county to treat landfill leachate on-site rather than continue to transport it to existing wastewater treatment facilities in Walton or Delhi.

"What DEC is looking at making Delaware County do is treat on-site instead of hauling it five miles down the road to Walton or seven miles up the road to Delhi to treat it in a facility that can treat it," Cetta said.

He said constructing a wastewater treatment plant at the landfill could cost millions of dollars, with substantial additional expenses for ongoing maintenance and operation.

"Millions and millions and millions of dollars to build a wastewater treatment plant at the Delaware County landfill, which is absurd. Absurd," Cetta said.

Council members also discussed potential effects on the villages, which receive revenue from accepting and treating the leachate. The proposed changes could mean lost revenue for those facilities in addition to the cost of building and operating a treatment plant at the landfill.

Cetta said the county has been transporting leachate to wastewater treatment facilities without known problems.

"It's never been an issue," he said.

He emphasized that the DEC proposal is still preliminary and said the board wanted to object before the state takes further action. Council members also questioned what authority would be needed to enact the changes, whether through legislation or regulation. Council members agreed that more research into the process and the state's reasons for proposing the changes would be useful.

Town Moves To Hire Code Enforcement Officer

Cetta told council members that the town received four applications for its vacant code enforcement position and recommended hiring Frederick Becker at the rate of $25 an hour.

Cetta said Becker is a certified code enforcement officer and floodplain manager who currently works in Colchester. He said he contacted Colchester Supervisor Rob Hafele, who gave Becker a strong recommendation.

"He absolutely recommends him," Cetta said.

The town had advertised the position at $22 an hour for an uncertified applicant. Cetta noted that the town previously paid $26 an hour for the position.

Council members discussed transportation for the new officer, as the town's existing vehicle is no longer usable. Options included purchasing another vehicle or reimbursing mileage. Members also discussed the need for a clear mileage-reporting process to avoid problems experienced in the past.

Cetta said Becker would not be available to begin immediately and had a previously planned vacation in December. Some members favored bringing him on as soon as possible so he could get up to speed, while the town works through the scheduling and transportation issues.

Council members approved the appointment, effective the following day, at $25 an hour. The vehicle and mileage arrangements remained subjects for further discussion.

Committee To Address Solar and Battery Storage Laws

Council members also discussed forming a committee to work on local laws governing commercial solar and battery storage facilities.

The town imposed a moratorium on those facilities approximately three or four months ago. Members discussed having representatives work with the Planning Board to develop local regulations during the moratorium.

Sidney EMS Service Proposed For Walton

There was discussion about bringing Sidney EMS' paid ambulance service to Walton.

The discussion comes as an ambulance provider associated with hospital transfers is reportedly closing its upstate New York operations following a purchase by a larger company. The closures could affect about eight facilities and approximately 168 employees, it was stated.

Cetta said he has spoken with a representative at the hospital about having Sidney EMS provide service in Walton. One obstacle is that Sidney EMS does not currently have the state Department of Health certificate of need required to operate in the area. Its application is not expected to be approved in time for the proposed transition.

The current proposal would have Sidney EMS operate under Walton's certificate of need through a contract arrangement. However, officials are still working through the necessary approvals, including a possible agreement between the fire district and village.

Cetta said he planned to discuss the proposal with the fire district board before moving forward with additional conversations.

Cetta expressed support for bringing the service to Walton, saying additional paid ambulance coverage would benefit residents and ease pressure on the local fire department and volunteer EMS providers.

"It relieves a lot of stress from the short numbers of providers and drivers that we have," Cetta said.

Members discussed the local fire department's workload, which includes approximately 650 calls annually. Volunteers are able to staff slightly more than half of those calls, according to the discussion.

The proposed Sidney EMS arrangement is expected to be a long-term service rather than a temporary measure, although the contract and certificate-of-need details still need to be resolved.

Cetta also reminded residents that applications are available through the fire district for people interested in joining as firefighters, EMS providers or both.

In other business, Dog Control Officer Chris Bodo reported 18 complaints were received in October, three dogs were returned to owners, five were taken to the humane society, two complaints about dangerous dogs were received and six tickets were issued for non-licensed dogs and or failure to restrain.

Accessibility, New Amenities Highlight Revised Delhi Pool Renovation Plan

Staff Report

DELHI - Plans for improvements to the Delhi swimming pool are moving forward, with a revised site layout incorporating accessibility requirements, grading changes and additional amenities, Delaware County planning staff member Sean Leddy told Delhi council members Monday, Nov. 9.

Leddy presented an updated design for the project, which is being supported through Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and Smart Growth grant funding. He said the revised layout builds on a conceptual plan previously presented to the council and reflects a closer evaluation of the property's grades and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

"This is what I would consider a final site plan layout," Leddy said.

The general arrangement remains similar to the earlier concept, with a pavilion near the parking area and improvements around the pool. However, the original entrance plaza was relocated because of the steep grade in that area.

The updated plan places an arrival area next to the sidewalk, with benches and trash receptacles. From there, a consistent grade will lead to the new entrance to the pool deck and pavilion.

Other changes include adjustments to access for overflow parking, an outdoor fitness area and additional gravel parking on American Legion property. Leddy said the Legion has agreed to allow the additional parking, which will include a loop configuration.

The pool deck expansion also has been adjusted slightly, extending farther in one direction to provide additional deck space.

Accessibility was a major consideration in the design. Leddy said the project must connect the sidewalk near the parking area with the pool deck without exceeding a 5% grade.

The design also calls for a different style of pool enclosure fence rather than traditional chain link. Leddy described it as a more attractive vertical-sided design with closing gates.

Council members discussed preserving existing trees as much as possible. One member pointed to a large tree near the lower portion of the property, noting that it is attractive but may need trimming and attention from an arborist. Leddy said the parking layout incorporates the existing trees into the design.

Some grading will be necessary, he said, but the project will largely follow the property's existing contours. A minimal amount of landscaping is also anticipated to frame the improvements.

Amenities and Project Timeline

Leddy displayed examples of proposed furnishings and equipment, including benches, trash receptacles, pool-deck umbrellas and a bicycle rack. The design specifies products from a higher-end manufacturer, with the hope that the project budget will allow the town to purchase them.

"We're gonna specify those in the hopes that there is enough money in the budget to allow for them, and then once the bids come in, if we have to value engineer them, then we'll address that at that time," Leddy said.

A council member raised concerns about whether the removable umbrellas would withstand strong wind gusts common in the area. Leddy said they would be secured, and another participant noted the benefit of selecting a higher-end manufacturer.

Leddy said work is underway on specifications and bid documents. The goal is to have the project completed or largely completed by the following season.

Supervisor Maya Boukai thanked Leddy for the presentation and said the updated layout looked good.

Grant Funding and Remaining Work

Boukai provided an update before Leddy's presentation, saying the town's next comprehensive plan meeting would be held virtually later in the week. Boukai also reported that grant reporting for the Appalachian Regional Commission had been submitted at the end of October.

Following Leddy's presentation, Boukai explained that many of the project components included in the Smart Growth grant are being covered through the EPF grant, while the Smart Growth funding helps make those improvements possible.

Once bids are received through the EPF grant process, the town will submit a Smart Growth budget based on the bid amounts and determine the next steps.

Two elements remain outside the current design: the chemical room and completion of the concession stand.

Boukai said the town is gathering information on the cost of having two different architectural firms design the chemical room. For the concession stand, she suggested completing the remaining interior work in-house as a winter project, potentially using town labor as an in-kind match.

She said the work is relatively basic and could be completed by a town employee, with the labor accounted for as part of the grant match.

Boukai said she would coordinate another meeting with Leddy, potentially after Thanksgiving, to continue discussions.

Andes Braces for Winter: Town Awards Snow Removal and Fuel Bids Amid Rising Costs

Staff Report

ANDES - Andes council members approved a slate of seasonal snow removal contracts and locked in winter fuel bids during its Nov. 10 meeting, as municipal winter maintenance protocols were outlined and notable price increases for heating oil and diesel were highlighted.

Council members voted unanimously to accept bids covering sidewalk clearing, municipal property snow removal and automatic fuel deliveries for town facilities.

During the meeting, the seasonal snow-clearing bids were reviewed and specific morning deadlines for town walkways and bridges to ensure safe passage for residents and students were noted.

Under the approved contracts, walkways and doors at the court building must be cleared daily before 6:30 a.m.

For homeowner sidewalks, it was noted that snow removal enforcement involves code enforcement officers and town officials, requiring documentation - including photographs, dates and times - for non-compliance, at a rate of $25 per instance.

Additional seasonal snow removal bids awarded include:

• Municipal walkways and bridges: Clearing the park sidewalk, library sidewalk, library emergency exit walkway and inlet bridges prior to 8 a.m. - specifically noting the bridge route used by school students - was awarded for $2,758 to Bill Drew.

• Andes Town Hall: Snow removal for both entrances before 8 a.m. was awarded for $725 for the season to Bill Drew.

• Andes Railroad Station: Plowing and shoveling the driveways, parking area, walkways and doorways was awarded for $1,100 for the season to Bill Drew.

Council members also reviewed and awarded bids for winter fuel supplies, with sharp year-over-year cost increases across several categories:

• Winter mix fuel oil (Highway Garage): Automatic delivery was awarded at $4.78 per gallon.

• LP gas (Propane): For automatic delivery to the wastewater treatment plant, town hall, library, railroad station and springw treatment plant, vendors offered a fluctuating price of $2.42 per gallon or a firm price of $2.35 per gallon.

"I wanted to accept the firm price $2.35," Bouton said. "I don't think it'll go much lower than that."

• Gasoline (Highway Garage): Awarded at approximately $3.41 per gallon ($3.418).

• Fuel oil / Diesel: A bid from Mirabito came in at a fixed rate of $4.099 per gallon, which Bouton noted was a significant jump from the previous year.

"Last year we paid $2.99," Bouton said, confirming to the board that the vendor only offered a fixed rate rather than a fluctuating account. Another winter mix fuel bid came in at $5.02 per gallon, up from $3.03 the prior year.



Double Assessments and Increasing Sales Tax on Agenda for DelCo Finance Committee

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI – Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, the Delaware County Finance Committee navigated property assessment errors and sales tax revenue updates, among other business. Chaired by Kortright Supervisor George Haynes Jr., committee members hashed out solutions for a long-standing town-line discrepancy, reviewed a notable drop in delinquent taxes, and advanced a solar payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement.

The session opened with a deep dive by Director of Real Property Tax Services Sherri Falcone into an administrative mix-up involving a "house and outbuilding that were assessed in two different towns."

She explained that a residential structure was built 18 years ago under Franklin codes and placed on its assessment rolls where it had remained for nearly two decades. She noted however that a new assessor in Sidney looked at the property, decided it was in Sidney, added the same buildings to the Sidney tax roll even as the property remained on the Franklin roll.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Director of Real Property Tax Services Sherri Falcone explained a double assessment charged to a taxpayer in a report to the county Finance Committee on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Falcone said a property taxed in Franklin for 18 years was added to Sidney tax rolls, creating a double assessment for nearly two years.

Under questioning from Haynes, Falcone clarified that it was two separate parcels divided by the town line. She noted it was impossible to determine exactly where the line was via aerial photography.

Sidney Supervisor Eric Wilson weighed in noting that the town's former assessor had had come "challenges" and that the new assessor likely assumed the property had just been overlooked. Wilson noted that the only way to really settle the dispute is to do a survey of just that line, which the town of Sidney will do.

"If you look at it on something like ChatGPT, using everybody's neighboring surveys, and maps and all... it clearly looks like it is in Sidney, so she [the new Sidney assessor] may be right, but until you physically do the survey, it's a guess," Wilson said.

Haynes questioned the need to provide a refund before knowing for sure where the line actually is. Falcone noted however that "one way or the other, it's been double assessed."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Sidney Supervisor Eric Wilson told Delaware County Finance Committee members that his town will pay for a boundary line survey for a property long taxed in Franklin. A new Sidney assessor says the buildings are actually in Sidney and Wilson said, "She may be right."

The property owner was caught in escrow with an extra $15,000 in duplicate tax bills for the 2025 and 2026 tax years. Officials agreed that a formal boundary survey is necessary for long-term clarity, though a refund for the affected taxpayer will proceed regardless.

Haynes said, "Going forward we'll clarify that they need to dig deeper before we can do that."

Shifting to county revenues, officials received an encouraging financial report from Clerk of the Board Penny Bishop. Sales tax collections continue to trend upward, most recently increasing by 7.9142%. A check received Nov. 6 showing collections through September totaled $2,454,751, an increase of $451,324 over the same period in 2025. The year to date total of sales taxes collected is $30,195,715, a figure $2,214,503 over the comparable period from last year.

The most recent increase was the second highest of the year behind an Aug. 7 state disbursement that increased by $526,856 for taxes collected in June over the amount received for the same period in 2025.

Walton Looks Ahead to New York Forward Grant, Holiday Events and Veterans Tribute

Town committee plans a stronger application for revitalization funding as wreath-laying ceremony and Christmas parade preparations continue

Staff Report

WALTON - Walton officials are looking ahead to a potential state grant that could help revitalize local businesses, while also preparing for the annual Wreaths Across America observance and holiday celebrations.

The updates came during committee reports at the Walton Town Council meeting Monday, Nov. 9, led by Supervisor Joe Cetta.

New York Forward Application Moves To Next Year

Councilmember Patty Wood reported that the local New York Forward committee plans to continue developing an application for the state grant program rather than rush to meet the revised January deadline.

The program provides funding for community revitalization projects, with individual businesses and property owners able to submit proposals for improvements. If selected, eligible projects could receive grants covering 75% of renovation costs, with the applicant responsible for the remaining 25%.

The grant is awarded to a municipality, with applications for individual projects compiled as part of a broader community proposal. The state reviews the proposals and determines which projects are eligible for funding.

Wood said the committee recently held a well-attended meeting at the fire hall to gather ideas about what residents would like to see in Walton.

"Anybody can submit an idea of what they think Walton should have," Wood said.

The original application deadline was in July, but the state moved it to January. Committee members decided they would need more time to develop a complete proposal and are now working toward submitting an application next year.

Wood said the program could provide a significant opportunity for local businesses to update their properties and attract visitors.

"I think a 75% cost share, that would entice building owners and businesses to refresh," she said.

The committee is encouraging residents and business owners to share ideas and learn more about the program. Suggestions can be submitted anonymously at WaltonForward.com or by email at newyorkwaltonforward@gmail.com

Wood said the committee includes representatives from the village and community, with members working to develop a diverse proposal. The effort is still in its early stages, and the group plans to spend the coming months reviewing the program requirements and gathering input.

Wreaths Across America Returns Dec. 19

Wood also reported that local volunteers are preparing for this year's Wreaths Across America observance, with wreaths available for purchase for $17 through the Veterans Club.

Residents may purchase a wreath and place it on a veteran's grave themselves, or volunteers from the local veterans organization and auxiliary can place it on a grave on their behalf.

The ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 19 at noon with additional details to be announced.

Wood said organizers are considering changes to the event's setup after last year's ceremony created congestion near the cemetery. A medical emergency made it difficult for an ambulance to reach the area because of the number of parked vehicles.

Organizers are considering holding the opening ceremony at Veterans Plaza and arranging transportation to the cemetery afterward. Possible options include a trolley provided by the Delaware Valley Agricultural Society and assistance from the Delaware County Four-Wheeler Club.

The final location and transportation arrangements have not been determined.

Wood said more than 100 wreaths were placed last year and described the ceremony as a meaningful community event honoring veterans.

Christmas Parade and Holiday Activities Planned

Wood also announced that Walton's Christmas parade is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m.

Additional holiday activities are planned for the following day - Nov. 28 - for chamber of commerce-led Spend the Day in Walton activities, including crafts, breakfast with Santa and activities around the community. The new Community Arts Center is also expected to hold its grand opening that day.

Organizers are planning other seasonal activities, including possible ATV caroling and a Christmas lights display, with additional information expected as plans are finalized.

Sidney Addresses Dog Rumors, Rat Complaints and Water System Concerns

By Michelle Bartz

SIDNEY - At the Sidney Trustees meeting Nov. 9, Mayor Ray Baker addressed rumors circulating on Facebook about dangerous dogs reportedly relocated to Sidney from Unadilla and an incident in which a dog was said to have bitten another dog.

"I'll state for the record, everybody's seen all the Facebook posts that have been going around about dangerous dogs that had moved from Unadilla to Sidney and that had bit somebody's dog. That is not factual," Baker said.

He clarified that the dog involved in the reported bite was not the same dog that had moved from Unadilla to Sidney. The village's animal control officer responded to the incident and issued summonses, Baker said. Baker said he verified the information with the Sidney Police Department, animal control officer, code enforcement officer and Unadilla's judge.



Michelle Bartz/*The Reporter*

Sidney trustees met Nov. 9 and provided updates on village-wide activity. Pictured are Trustees Tom Hoskins, Victor Tartaglia, Luke Higley and Barry MacPherson, Mayor Ray Baker and Clerk Michelle George.

Sidney Police Chief Eric Oliver complimented this year's trick-or-treaters, saying that they were well-behaved and that the event was successful. Oliver said the police department handed out candy for the first time in quite a while and the kids seemed to really like it.

Trustee Thomas Hoskins gave an update on the department of public works on behalf of Brett French, who was not in attendance at the meeting.

Hoskins reported Weekly sampling at the Sidney wastewater treatment plant shows low levels of COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), but elevated levels of influenza A, commonly known as the flu.

The wastewater treatment plant upgrade plans from Lamont Engineers have been received by The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Facilities Corp. and are under review. The project is expected to go out for bid in January 2027. A meeting was held with DEC and the design for the project was resubmitted in response to their recommendations.

Hoskins reported that 31 water meter pits remain to be installed, with work expected to be completed by next year.

Some residents continue to experience higher-than-desired manganese levels in their water, particularly as the village flushes its hydrants and water lines, he said. About 40 to 50 hydrants still need to be flushed, while roughly 50 older hydrants cannot be used for flushing. Although the fire department can still use the older hydrants, officials do not recommend opening them for flushing.

Ten new hydrants have been installed, and the remaining replacements will need to be included in next year's budget.

Code Enforcement Officer Jaime Cole reported that the village is currently addressing 45 property complaints involving issues such as squatters in vacant homes, homeless people living in a vehicle behind 15 Main Street, rats inside and around homes on Ritton Street and 15 unregistered vehicles, among other concerns.

Cole said the village is also working on regulations for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and short-term rentals, along with housing standards, rental agreements, inspections and affidavits.

Construction of the first house on Clover Hill Lane is expected to be completed by the end of November or early December, he reported.

Cole also provided an update on the rat problem, saying the issue is under investigation and some rats have been trapped. Following a water leak at a vacant house in the area, officials discovered the property was full of chicken feed, providing a food source for the rodents.

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Art With Heart...

continued from front page

well beyond this one painting. Chytalo said he has raised more than $11,000 for the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society over the past seven years, including through an annual birthday fundraiser in January.

> ***"I cannot do big things, but I can do small things with great amounts of love, and I think if everybody adopted that philosophy, it would be such a better world."***
> ED CHYTALO

Last year, one of his barn quilt paintings sold within two days of being offered as part of that effort.

The latest work has become one of his favorites, he said, and he believes it would look at home on a barn, inside a house or in the lobby of a business.

Art, Math and A Little Inspiration

Chytalo has created more than 60 barn quilts in the past two and a half years. His interest began after he admired the pieces displayed on a friend's front porch and asked how they were made. That friend introduced him to the basics, and he has continued learning and challenging himself ever since.

"I look for more complicated pieces to paint," he said.

The design chosen for the humane society fundraiser presented a particular challenge. Although circles are not visible in the finished painting, Chytalo used a technique involving four circles to create the underlying geometry.

He also draws inspiration from a book on barn quilt painting given to him by his sister. For shapes and arrangements, he turns to another resource: tangrams, an ancient Chinese puzzle made up of seven geometric pieces - five triangles, a square and a parallelogram - that can be arranged into numerous figures.

The puzzle book he uses contains more than 1,200 arrangements. Sometimes he moves the pieces around on a table until he finds a combination he likes.

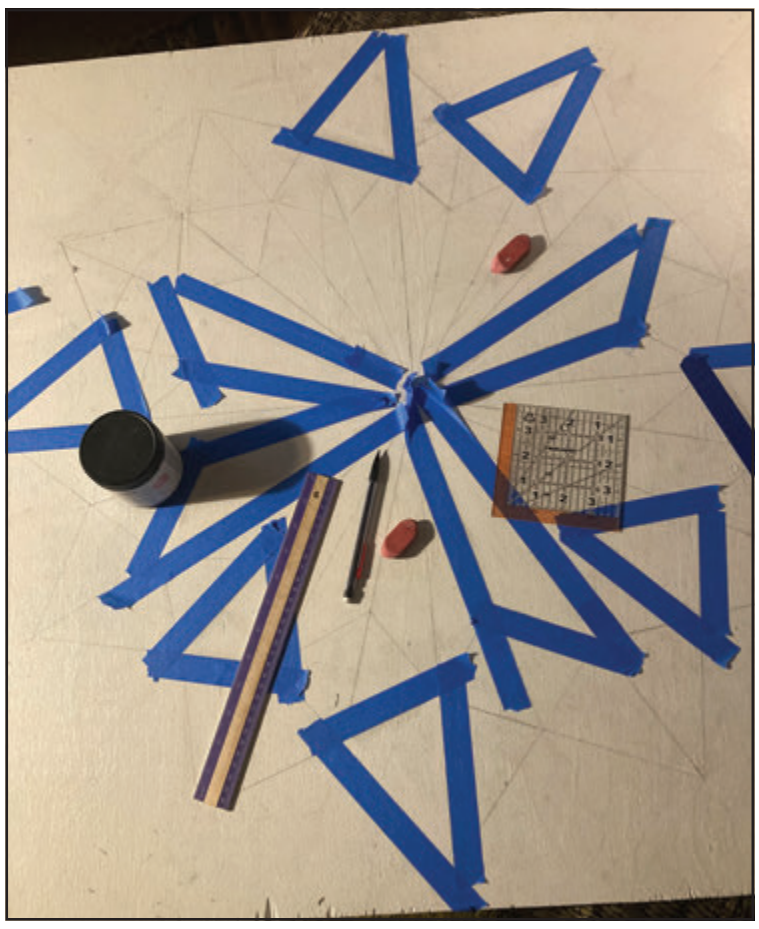
"Part art, part math," he agreed when asked to describe the process.

Before painting, he sketches the design on paper and uses crayons or markers to test different color combinations. If a scheme does not work, he starts again on another sheet.

Color is just as important as geometry. His grocery-store observations provide ideas, while his own surroundings sometimes offer an unexpected palette. The fundraiser painting includes many of the colors found on his home, which has a light purple exterior, cranberry shutters and lilac trim.

After displaying the piece outside his house, neighbors pointed out the connection.

"I looked at it from down the street. I said, 'Yeah, you know, you're right,'" he recalled.



contributed

Ed Chytalo's process in creating a barn quilt is methodical, using tape and multiple brushes.

The painting took approximately 15 hours to complete. Chytalo starts with finished plywood, applies two coats of primer and uses acrylic paint. Painter's tape helps define the edges, while seven to nine different brush sizes allow him to work through the details.

Each section is painted individually, often requiring two or three coats. The piece contains more than 100 separate tiles, making precise taping and careful application essential.

He works at his own pace, often painting for about an hour each day with soft, meditative music playing before stepping away and returning later. Once the painting appears finished, he checks it repeatedly and completes any necessary touch-ups. Two coats of polyurethane provide a protective seal.

Chytalo said the process takes patience and practice. Sometimes a project does not work and must be scrapped. But he has developed a personal test for deciding when a piece succeeds: He puts it on the display rack outside his home, walks across the street without looking at it, then turns around to take it in from a distance.

"It's either going to work or it's not," he said. "And the majority of the time, it does work."

A Tradition of Public Art

Barn quilts are painted wooden panels featuring geometric designs inspired by traditional quilt blocks. They are often displayed on barns, but can also be found on homes, businesses and other buildings.

The modern barn quilt trail movement began in 2001 in Adams County, Ohio, when Donna Sue Groves organized a project to honor her mother, quilter Nina Maxine Groves, and celebrate their Appalachian heritage. What began as a plan for a painted quilt square grew into a community project featuring 20 designs displayed along a driving route. The idea spread, bringing public art and rural tourism together. The National Endowment for the Humanities has documented how the movement expanded to quilt trails in numerous states and Canada.



contributed

An hour per day is the amount of time Ed Chytalo devotes to his craft of designing and creating barn quilts - usually at night, while soft meditative music is playing.

For Chytalo, the tradition offers a way to bring color and visual interest to places where people can enjoy it. Many of his pieces are displayed around Delhi, including in local businesses, while others can be seen on barns and buildings enroute to the Oneonta area.

He looks for locations with high visibility and regular traffic, such as restaurant and bank lobbies or buildings that can be seen from the road.

"I want these pieces to be seen by many people," he said.

He is not currently taking commissions, preferring to create when inspiration strikes rather than work under a deadline. He said he is busy with volunteering and other aspects of his life, and wants his artwork to remain something he does for the enjoyment of creating and to support good causes.

He is already working on another ambitious project: a 4-by-4-foot, three-dimensional cubist design featuring approximately 20 colors, with black as its main color. The piece is intended to make viewers look more than once as their eyes discover different shapes, colors and visual effects.

His approach to art reflects a broader philosophy about community service. He does not believe people have to undertake grand gestures to make a difference.

"I cannot do big things, but I can do small things with great amounts of love," he said. "And I think if everybody adopted that philosophy, it would be such a better world."

For the animals at the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society, that philosophy has taken the form of a colorful work of art - and the promise of a little extra care during the holiday season.

For more information about Heart of the Catskills visit heartofthecatskills.org

Water Infrastructure Dominates Middletown Council Meeting as Board Tackles Budget, Solar Law, and Local Upgrades

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MIDDLETOWN — Water infrastructure planning and operation dominated discussions at the most recent Middletown Town Council meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10, as officials balanced long-term utility projects alongside facility upgrades, regulatory reviews, and pressing community concerns.

Council members formally approved a community service agreement with RCAP Solutions, a non-profit operating under the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, to conduct a zero-cost income survey within the town. The survey serves as a mandatory prerequisite to establish eligibility for upcoming grant applications, specifically targeting funding for the proposed Margaretville-Arkville water system interconnection project.

Supervisor Faulkner reminded those present that the town is currently conducting a feasibility study to evaluate tying the Margaretville and Arkville water districts together. The two systems currently terminate near Margaretville Hospital and the cannabis dispensary on Route 28. Connecting them would create operational redundancy during emergencies while extending commercial water services to an area currently limited to sewer access, opening the door for future economic development. Town Bookkeeper Beth Bush noted that the interconnect project has been under consideration for over two decades, emphasizing that RCAP's non-profit status allows the town to complete the necessary preliminary studies at no expense to local taxpayers.

Infrastructure progress and setbacks varied across individual water districts. In Halcottsville, Margaretville Mayor John Hubbell, who supervises the district, reported that all Department of Health citations have been corrected and the chlorination system is running smoothly. A Homeland Security grant funded the installation of a new security perimeter fence around the system, and remote camera monitoring is being finalized to track tank water levels.

Bush added that she is formalizing a repayment schedule for $15,000 to $16,000 that was drawn down from a pre-approved loan allocation for storage tank repairs earlier this year. In related financial actions, the board approved returned, unpaid water rents as of Oct. 31 for both the Arkville and Halcottsville districts, authorizing those balances to be levied onto upcoming property tax bills.

For the Arkville water district, work awaits on more immediate hurdles. Hubbell reported that the Arkville system suffered potential pump or control switch damage following a weekend power failure, with technicians currently working on a final diagnosis. On a positive note, Aqualogic has signed off on project details for the Arkville well connection. Once final regulatory approvals are secured, construction and control integration will take eight to ten weeks. The timeline remains critical, as allocated grant funding will expire Dec. 31 if unspent.

Beyond water utilities, council members addressed several key municipal matters developed through its joint board-and-community committees. Supervisor Faulkner tabled the planned presentation of a draft solar law prepared by the town attorney after Councilmembers Nelson Delameter and Colleen Martin noted the draft had only arrived late the previous day and required thorough review. Martin emphasized that the entire committee needs to review the document to build consensus, adding that some members were unaware the draft had been received. Faulkner agreed the proposal must be well-vetted, setting the matter for the board's December agenda.

Residents were also reminded of an upcoming public hearing on a proposed Short-Term Rental law and fee schedule, set for Dec. 2 at 6 p.m., immediately preceding the town's monthly workshop meeting.

Regarding municipal facility improvements, Martin reported a strategic development specialist is actively pursuing grant opportunities that could yield over $1 million toward a $3.5 million overhaul of the local transfer station. Faulkner affirmed that town leadership will not proceed with the safety and regulatory overhaul unless at least half of the total cost is prefunded by grant money.

In other business, the board instructed Bush to draft a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) soliciting professional service proposals to conduct the town's 2026 financial audit. Faulkner also acknowledged written correspondence from local residents regarding excessive noise from a motorsport venue and repetitive firearm shots, confirming both items will be placed on the agenda for formal public discussion at the next meeting.

Council members audited and approved monthly vouchers before moving into an executive session to discuss a potential CSEA contract. Earlier in the evening it was noted that budget discussion had indicated a tentative labor proposal offering covered employees a 5% annual salary increase each year for the next three years.





Back Tax Collections Jump, Cannabis Tax Projections Rise in Delaware County

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI - Delaware County Treasurer Carli Pinner delivered an encouraging financial report to the Finance Committee on Tuesday, Nov. 10 highlighting a significant surge in delinquent property tax collections, updates on online tax auction preparations, and a projected upward revision for county cannabis sales tax revenues.

Pinner, who like her predecessor has faced scrutiny over unpaid property taxes, noted that total outstanding tax delinquencies have dropped by nearly $2 million from a social media-cited figure of $20 million in July.

"So everybody remembers that big $20 million number that went out on Facebook on July 24," Pinner told the committee. "So from July 24 to Nov. 5, for total delinquencies now we're down to a little over $18 [million]. Um, so that's a difference of $1.9 million, almost $2 million."

Pinner attributed part of the steady recovery to digital convenience, noting that monthly online payments processed via the county's online portal consistently bring in between $30,000 and $50,000. Crucially, she emphasized that property owners are not merely catching up on current obligations, but are clearing out deep-seated historical arrears.

"We have seen a huge increase in people paying—not just their '26s," Pinner said. "We're going into deep delinquencies that have really been paid off recently." She said services allowing people to pay their taxes via credit cards are helping, adding, "We're definitely looking up for recovering most of our taxes."

Turning to preparations for the long-delayed sales of tax delinquent foreclosed properties, Pinner reported that proposals have been submitted by two different companies. Pinner and county attorney Amy Merklen are currently reviewing the packets to verify that all administrative and



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Delaware County Treasurer Carli Pinner was pleased to report that nearly $2 million in late tax payments was collected between the end of July and early November of this year. She made the comments at a meeting of the Delaware County Finance Committee which continued to press on a restart of auctions for properties foreclosed due to tax delinquency.

legal criteria are met. Once finalized, the county will select an online auction provider and execute final policies and procedures.

Kortright Supervisor and Committee Chairperson George Haynes Jr. asked Pinner, "If you have your policies all set, finalized and done so everything is ready except deciding on a contractor?"

When Pinner responded "Yes," Sidney Supervisor Eric Wilson weighed in asking if she had talked to any neighboring counties that have used both contractors.

"The reason I ask is, I go to a lot of auctions and there's one company that you go from, specifically, they always keep much higher than everybody else. I don't know why, but for whatever reason, their final selling prices are substantially higher," said Wilson.

While Wilson said he knows nothing about real estate auctions, Walton Supervisor Joe Cetta jumped in to add, "It's all in the sales pitch!"

Director of Real Property Tax Services Sherri Falcone pointed to personalities as a key component.

"It's RT with Auctions International. He's very, very good," she said, adding, "He's got that personality that just wins anybody over.

Most of Delaware County's property tax foreclosure auctions have been delayed for roughly six to seven years, leaving a backlog of nearly 300 parcels dating back to the 2019 and 2020 tax cycles to be auctioned. As of late 2026, the county's last full tax auction only covered 2018 taxes.

Before leaving the topic, Haynes again pressed on: "What are we waiting on then to decide as far as which [company to choose]?"

When Pinner replied, "I just have to get with Amy and talk to her about it," Haynes added, "So that's something that could happen fairly quickly?" Pinner replied in the affirmative.

In other business, the committee addressed procedural questions regarding the Delhi solar payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement. Following clarification that the local school district opted out of the project, leaving the town slated for 75% and the county set to receive its established 25% revenue share under county resolution guidelines, the committee approved a motion to authorize the agreement. The agreement will formally take effect in 2027.

In a final budget update Pinner brought forward a positive revenue adjustment concerning county cannabis sales tax receipts. Noting that initial conservative estimates had pegged the line item at $40,000, current figures show collections already reaching approximately $83,000.

Before the meeting adjourned, Pinner advised committee members of some positive changes in the proposed budget for 2027.

"I looked at the cannabis sales tax, again, just to see if there, if there was anything that we could increase [in projected revenue]," noting collections have been increasing in value. "As of Friday we were around $83,000. Initially in my original budget, I only budgeted $40,000 for that revenue. So [then] I discussed it and just to be safe we increased that from $40 to I believe $55,000."

Committee members concluded the session by reviewing overall fund balance allocations and upcoming departmental schedules.

Andes Implements Transfer Station Permit Changes, Fees for 2027

Staff Report

ANDES - The Andes Town Council approved changes to transfer station permits and operating rules for the 2027 season during its Nov. 10 meeting, led by Supervisor Ritchie Gabriel.



file

The Andes Transfer Station on county Route 1.

One of the main discussions centered on permit fees and the number of stickers residents may receive. Gabriel proposed charging $5 for two stickers for 2027, an increase from the current $1 fee. Residents may currently receive stickers for up to three parcels, although officials said most households use only one or two.

Council members also discussed tightening the process for verifying eligibility. Gabriel said residents will need to provide proof of residency, such as a driver's license and/or a tax bill to verify property ownership or taxpayer status. The discussion included how renters would demonstrate eligibility.

The town clerk is expected to obtain the new stickers, with distribution planned to begin in December.

Gabriel also outlined proposed revisions to the transfer station's rules for construction and demolition debris, including changing the volume estimate from a 35-gallon container to a 50-gallon barrel. He said the rules would clarify that commercial haulers are not permitted to use the facility.

Council members also discussed an agricultural exemption for local farmers, including dairy, beef, goat and sheep farmers who may bring certain waste associated with their agricultural operations. Officials discussed clarifying that the exemption applies to agricultural use and does not allow farmers to dispose of general building materials.

The proposed language prompted questions about which materials would qualify including agricultural plastics, feed bags, twine and other farm-related waste. Council members discussed making the exemption specific enough to prevent the transfer station from becoming a disposal site for unrelated construction debris.

Council members also discussed possible improvements to the facility's recycling area. Officials considered relocating recycling containers to improve traffic flow and make it easier for residents to reach the containers without having to move other roll-off bins. The placement of a cardboard container was also discussed, with a suggestion that the rules specify corrugated cardboard only and require residents to break down boxes before placing them in the container.

Veterans Director Reports Busy Season of Claims and Community Events

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI - Delaware County Veterans Services Director Mark Dunlop reported a busy season of community outreach, survivor benefit processing, and a new countywide breakfast initiative during a Delaware County Department of Social Services meeting Monday, Nov. 16.

Dunlop reported that local 2026 Veterans Day observances were successful, with several additional community events scheduled through the end of November and into early December. He also highlighted a recent veterans resource event hosted at the Elks Lodge in Sidney, which staff member Rachel Bracchy attended.

"That was a really good turnout," Dunlop said of the Sidney event. "They've had like 70-something people, almost 80, something like that. It was really good. But that's a very high-traffic area."

Beyond public events, Dunlop noted that his office continues to see steady demand from local families navigating end-of-life and survivor benefits.

"I'm still doing a really good number of spousal claims for survivors, funeral benefit, burial expenses, headstone marker claims, and dependent indemnity claims," Dunlop said, noting he had processed a claim earlier that very morning before arriving at the meeting. "So that's just, that's a lot."

Looking ahead, Dunlop announced a new partnership with the Delaware County Office for the Aging (OFA) to launch a series of free breakfasts for local veterans. The inaugural event is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and will take place simultaneously across all OFA dining facilities in the county.

Dunlop clarified that the free meals are open to all veterans, regardless of whether they meet the standard age requirements for Office for the Aging programs.

"They don't have to be OFA age, they could be any veteran," Dunlop said. "They're just co-located at those dining facilities. I think that's great. Lyndsay [Komosinski] and I came together for that. It's gonna be a good thing."

As the department wraps up its November outreach, Dunlop said his staff is shifting focus toward preparing for the upcoming holiday season.

While the primary responsibility of the department is to provide entitlement information, advocacy, and administrative assistance to military personnel, veterans, and their dependents, Dunlop and his staff also seek frequent opportunities to connect veterans with the agency, each other and the community in ways that reduce isolation and depression. Details on the new breakfast initiative and other department functions is available by calling 607-832-5345 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Veterans Services Director Mark Dunlop announced the first of a series of free breakfast events for Delaware County Veterans at a meeting of the Social Services Committee Monday, Nov. 16. The free events will be staged at all county senior dining sites but are open to veterans of any age.

County Sees Sharp Drop in Criminal Competency Restoration Costs

$173K Spent in 2026 So Far, Compared With $821K in 2025

By Patti Cantamessa

WALTON - Delaware County has spent approximately $173,000 on court-ordered psychiatric competency restoration so far this year, a substantial decrease from the $821,000 spent in 2025, according to figures presented during the Nov. 16 Mental Health committee meeting.

Despite the reduction, county officials remain concerned about the financial burden and are exploring alternatives that could provide earlier mental health intervention while reducing the need for costly inpatient restoration.

Competency restoration, conducted under New York's Criminal Procedure Law, involves treatment intended to restore a defendant's ability to understand criminal proceedings and participate meaningfully in their defense.

Behavioral Health Services Director Doug Elston explained that restoration is not necessarily intended to provide comprehensive psychiatric treatment or achieve full recovery. Instead, the objective is to stabilize an individual's symptoms sufficiently to allow criminal proceedings to continue.

Elston reported that two individuals facing felony charges are currently involved in the restoration process. One is receiving treatment at a state forensic facility, while another remains in the county jail awaiting transfer.

Officials also discussed the challenges of treating individuals facing misdemeanor charges who may be released into the community without continued court oversight or consistent outpatient treatment.

Elston described a recurring pattern in which individuals stabilize during psychiatric hospitalization but discontinue medication or treatment after discharge. Some subsequently experience worsening symptoms, resulting in additional hospitalizations or encounters with law enforcement.

To address the problem, the department is considering expanding its use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and enhanced voluntary agreements, which provide coordinated mental health services without requiring the same court process.

A newly established, fully state-funded AOT coordinator position could also support efforts to identify individuals needing treatment during initial court appearances.

Elston said the approach would require cooperation from local judicial and legal officials and remains in the planning stages.

County officials also discussed newly enacted state legislation establishing a competency restoration working group to examine the process, including how quickly individuals unlikely to regain competency can be identified and transferred to appropriate civil treatment settings.

Such transfers could eliminate certain restoration costs currently charged to counties.

Committee members recalled that the state previously shared restoration expenses with counties and discussed advocating for renewed financial assistance.

Elston also suggested exploring whether a portion of state cannabis tax revenue could help offset restoration costs, although no formal funding proposal was presented.

State Review Praises Delaware County Mental Health Program

By Patti Cantamessa



file

Delaware County Behavior Health Facility, Delaware Street, Walton.

WALTON - Delaware County's Assisted Outpatient Treatment program received a favorable state review, with no corrective action required, as Behavioral Health Services officials continue working to fill clinical vacancies and expand access to mental health care.

Behavioral Health Services Director Doug Elston shared the results during the Nov. 16 committee meeting, reporting that state reviewers examined all five current Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) cases and expressed satisfaction with the program's coordination and communication.

AOT provides court-ordered outpatient mental health services for eligible individuals with serious mental illness who have difficulty maintaining treatment independently.

Elston said reviewers were particularly impressed with communication among case managers, clinicians and medication prescribers, noting that Delaware County's relatively small service network allows providers to coordinate care closely.

Under the program, case managers maintain regular contact with participants and provide written updates to treatment professionals. Concerns about medication adherence, treatment participation or changes in an individual's condition can be addressed through direct communication among providers.

Elston said the state review identified no concerns requiring a corrective action or improvement plan. A formal letter documenting the findings is expected.

Despite the positive assessment, staffing remains a challenge.

The department reports numerous vacancies.

Elston discussed difficulties recruiting qualified applicants, particularly through online employment platforms. Some applicants lack the required professional licenses, while others live outside the region or mistakenly assume the positions are remote.

Deputy Director Sarah Cirba also discussed the department's efforts to explore student loan repayment incentives as a way to attract and retain qualified clinicians.

Cirba reported recent successes in recruitment, including the hiring of a former intern as a social worker. She also announced a new intake coordinator is expected to begin Dec. 7.

The department continues to invest in professional development. Committee members approved a clinician's request for training in acceptance and commitment therapy, an approach designed to help individuals manage difficult thoughts and emotions while pursuing meaningful behavioral changes.

Cirba also outlined additional professional development opportunities, including clinical formulation training scheduled for the department's clinical team. The training is intended to strengthen assessment and treatment-planning skills, particularly among clinicians early in their careers.

She also reported improvements to the clinic's reception area, which now includes two operating reception spaces to improve patient flow.

Mental Health Committee Thanks Marshfield as He Prepares to Retire

By Patti Cantamessa



Patti Cantamessa/*The Reporter*

From left, Delaware County Behavioral Health Services Director Doug Elston, committee Chairman Joseph Cetta and longtime committee member Wayne Marshfield gather during the Nov. 16 meeting in Walton, where Marshfield was recognized for his years of service to Delaware County.

WALTON - As the Nov. 16 meeting of Delaware County's Mental Health Committee drew to a close, Chairperson Joseph Cetta, Walton supervisor, recognized Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield, a Behavior Health Department committee member's contributions to county government and the committee.

Marshfield choose not to run for reelection as a town supervisor and will leave his post at the end of the year.

Cetta thanked Marshfield for his dedication, acknowledging his many years of involvement in county affairs and the experience he brought to committee discussions.

Marshfield's service to the county spans more than three decades, including his work as a town supervisor and his participation in county government, officials said.

Behavioral Health Services Director Doug Elston reported Marshfield's involvement with the committee dating back to approximately 1999.

Cetta expressed appreciation for Marshfield's insight and participation over the years, noting the value of his contributions to the committee's work.

Marshfield responded by thanking those present for their support.

Delhi Weighs Plow Upgrades, Storage Options and Rental Inspection Fees

Staff Report

DELHI - The Delhi Town Council met Monday, Nov. 9, addressing highway equipment surplus bids, a push for winter road maintenance grants, ongoing short-term rental fee evaluations, and storage logistics for town recreational assets.

Highway Machinery Bids and Plow Discussion

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans updated the board on surplus equipment, noting that a relisted grader on Auctions International attracted a high bid of $6,900. While an improvement over previous offers, Evans recommended countering at a minimum of $8,000.

"We would definitely counter," Evans said. "It did work to our advantage with the dump truck last time. We'll have to see about relisting it."

Evans also introduced council members to the concept of live-edge plow blades - segmented one-foot, spring-loaded sections designed to contour to road surfaces, scrape more efficiently, and significantly reduce material usage. Noting that carbide blade costs have tripled due to tariffs on imports from China, Evans suggested applying for grants to help outfit the town fleet.

"The live-edge plows are segmented blades so it contours with the road, hits every high spot, low spot, wears evenly, and scrapes the surface better, which in the long run is going to significantly reduce the amount of material that we have to use," Evans explained.

Storage Solutions for Town Equipment

Council members reviewed pricing for temporary storage containers to house equipment ahead of the upcoming installation of a fitness court slated for May or June 2027. Officials evaluated containers ranging from $3,620 to $4,020 for a weather-tight unit with added ventilation.

After discussing potential local options - including utilizing space near the village water facility or concession stands - council members weighed temporary arrangements and potential grant funding opportunities for future permanent storage.

Building and Code Enforcement: Short-Term Rental Fees Tabled

Council discussed updates to local building and code enforcement regulations, focusing on administrative fees for campgrounds and short-term rentals.

Council members approved a standardized $100 commercial inspection fee structure, setting a $75 fee for campground inspections. However, officials opted to table a decision on short-term rental inspection fees and planning board procedures to allow further review.

"I think we should table it and really discuss it, like in our thoughts more because I do like hearing everything that everybody has to say," Councilmember Josh Morgan said, emphasizing the need to balance office and travel expenses with fair pricing for property owners.

Court Reports and Financial Approvals

Town Justice Mat Burkert delivered the court report, highlighting a smooth operational transition for the court clerks and noting positive feedback from court users.

Following reports, council members approved standard workday reporting resolutions for retirement system compliance, accepted an animal shelter inspection report from state Agriculture and Markets, and authorized monthly financial reports and abstract payments before adjourning into an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Child Welfare Numbers Improve as County Prepares for Winter Demand

By J. Lawrence-Bauer



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Tasha Amadon, director of Services for Delaware County Social Services, had good news to deliver on foster care numbers at a Social Service committee meeting Monday, Nov. 16. While there are still improvements to be made, Amadon said Delaware County is beating key state indicators in four different categories of foster care operation.

DELHI - It was a good news/bad news report at the monthly meeting of the county's Social Services Committee Monday, Nov. 16. Commissioner Keith Weaver reported an annual surge in homeless statistics as cold weather has started to settle in while Director of Services Tasha Amadon had good news to deliver on foster care numbers in the county.

With temperatures dropping, the department is bracing for winter demand across its housing and heating assistance programs, even as federal data shows Delaware County outperforming state and national averages in several key child welfare categories.

Amadon presented a child welfare performance report covering data from 2023 through 2025, which measures safety and permanency indicators across every county in New York. While Amadon noted that the data is not completely current, she emphasized that the trends show Delaware County moving in a positive direction.

"I really think Delaware County is headed in a really good direction, and in some of these areas, we're at or beyond the national or statewide performance," Amadon told the committee.

Among the brightest spots in the report was permanency, how quickly children in foster care are placed into permanent homes and placement stability. For children in foster care between 12 and 23 months, 47.4% of Delaware County children exited to permanency by the end of the year, outpacing the statewide average and matching the national rate. For children in care for more than two years, over 40% achieved permanency, compared to a statewide average of 34.2% and a national average of 36.5%.

Once children leave foster care, they are also less likely to return. Delaware County's reentry rate within 12 months stands at 5.9%, well below the state average of 7.2% and roughly on par with the national average of 5.8%.

The county excelled in minimizing placement moves for children in care, recording a rate of 2.71% compared to 4.21% statewide and nearly 5% nationally, Amadon reported.

"I always tell staff how awesome we are, and I think it's just nice when you can actually see it," Amadon said. "The statistics show that we do very well."

Despite the successes in permanency, Amadon flagged two areas requiring continued focus: the rate of children entering care and the recurrence of maltreatment. For every 1,000 children in the county, 3.91 entered foster care, a figure higher than both state and national averages. Additionally, 25.4% of victims of substantiated abuse or maltreatment experienced a recurrence within 12 months, compared to 16.8% statewide and 9.4% nationally.

Deposit Supervisor Rebecca Walley asked Amadon if the high recurrence rate meant children were being returned home too quickly. Amadon pointed to the low reentry rate as evidence against that theory. Instead, she advocated for stronger early intervention.

"I think that there's work to do in terms of maybe putting interventions in place sooner, in terms of preventive services," Amadon said. "So we can identify where the maltreatment is, put some services in place to avoid the foster care placement. I think that's where we can focus."

Weaver praised Amadon's grasp of the data and noted the correlation between preventing maltreatment and lowering foster care entry rates.

"When we see any kind of metric where we're at or above state or national averages, that's, I mean, we're Delaware County folks, right? I think that it's a reflection of the great work that we're doing in our services division," Weaver said.

Beyond foster care, Weaver updated the committee on seasonal operations, including the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Despite recent staff turnover, including the resignations of a clerk and a seasoned part-time examiner contracted through Delaware Opportunities - the program is operating efficiently as winter approaches.

"HEAP is running and it's running quite smoothly," Weaver said, crediting new Director of Programs Janelle Morrell, who has been in the role for four to five months, for already evaluating ways to streamline the program for future seasons.

"We want it to run as smoothly as we can so that as many people that are eligible get the benefit that they are eligible for."



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DSS: No Service Cuts Expected as 2027 Spending Plan Finalizes

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI - Delaware County's Department of Social Services is preparing to enter 2027 without cutting services, according to a presentation to the Delaware County Social Services Committee Monday, Nov. 16 by Commissioner Keith Weaver. Weaver said the department is relying instead on end-of-year equipment purchases and the elimination of funding for six long-vacant staff positions to balance its tentative budget.

Weaver said the department is in a strong fiscal position as it closes out 2026, allowing officials to absorb upcoming expenses before the new fiscal year begins.

"I think, for the most part, we're looking pretty good, at least from our department standpoint," Weaver said. "We didn't have to really cut any services, which I think is super important, and from a fiscal standpoint, we're well enough off in '26 that we'll be making some purchases for 2027, specifically in the equipment line of things."

To relieve pressure on the 2027 spending plan, the department will use remaining 2026 funds to purchase five all-wheel-drive Chevrolet Equinox vehicles to replace older sedans in the county fleet, alongside two years' worth of computers, printers, and scanners.

Fiscal officer Catherine "Cat" Noeth explained that because the department has not yet ordered its 2026 computer and electronics allotment, it will combine both the 2026 and 2027 technology orders before the end of the year. The department is currently awaiting final pricing from state vendors through its information technology staff, with formal purchase authorizations expected within the next week. Noeth noted that the technology purchases are partially reimbursable through the state, depending on the specific duties and divisions of the staff members using the equipment.

On the personnel side, Weaver worked with Personnel Director Carrara Knoetgen and the county finance committee to identify vacant positions that could be defunded in 2027 without disrupting daily operations. In total, the department is defunding six vacant positions in next year's budget: three caseworker slots (out of six currently vacant), one social services program specialist, one long-term care program specialist, and a typist position that has sat empty for 18 to 24 months.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Social Services Commissioner Keith Weaver said he expected no cuts in programs or services in his department during the coming year. He noted in a meeting of the Delaware County Social Services Committee Monday, Nov. 16 that budget reductions will be accomplished by eliminating staff positions that have been unfilled.

Weaver emphasized that the move is backed by a guarantee from county leadership that funding will be restored if caseloads or staffing needs shift or increase.

The department has been assigned a recommended allocation of $17,472,217 in the 2027 budget, up from $16,912,592 in spending for 2026, and representing just over 11.46% of the county's total tentative budget of $152,409,153 for 2027.

He noted that current caseload numbers in Child Protective Services and Family and Children's Services support the temporary reduction, and the department is still actively recruiting to fill other critical vacancies, including a senior account clerk and a principal social services program specialist.

The committee also reviewed several budget resolutions tied to 2027 operations. Officials are transferring $17,580 from the personnel budget line to the Youth Bureau to fund a modernized digital communications campaign. According to Noeth, the not-to-exceed allocation includes $7,500 in upfront website development costs with a local videographer, $195 to $260 per month for website maintenance, and roughly $455 per month for regular social media management, with unused funds encumbered for 2027.

Additionally, Weaver presented a resolution to renew funding for a 100% state-reimbursed family-centered case management position, which places a case manager in the field to help families overcome barriers to receiving public benefits.

"Much appreciation to our committee and the board for having good dialogue and discussions with us about what our needs were and making sure that those needs were met for the community," Weaver said.

Hamden Adopts $1.14M 2027 Budget, Exceeding State Tax Cap by 2.6%

Staff Report

HAMDEN - Hamden council members adopted the 2027 budget at a Nov. 3 meeting, approving a spending plan of $1,138,746 that exceeds the state-recommended tax cap by $29,113.

Supervisor Wayne Marshfield said the budget represents an overall increase of approximately 4.6% over the 2026 budget, or about 2.6% above the tax cap of $1,109,633. However, increased townwide assessments are expected to keep the tax rate per $1,000 of assessed valuation about the same as it was in 2026.

The General Fund increased by $6,483 over the previous year, while the Highway Fund rose by $45,250.

Marshfield identified several factors contributing to the increase, including heating oil and diesel fuel costs that are more than double what the town previously paid. The budget also includes a $6,000 increase in legal fees, approximately 6% more for salaries, a 5% increase in health insurance premiums and a 10% increase in retirement costs.

To help offset additional appropriations, the town will use $15,000 from its fund balance.

The budget also provides additional support for highway operations. The highway equipment fund was increased by $5,000, with another $5,000 added for equipment repairs. The snow removal allocation also increased by $5,000.

Although a relatively small increase in overall spending, the town also added $725 to compensation for Planning Board members in recognition of their service.

Fire Protection Costs

Council members also discussed fire protection costs and the renewal of the town's contract with the Delhi Fire Department.

Marshfield reported that the Delhi contract increased by $3,283 over the previous year. The renewal is scheduled for consideration at the council's Dec. 2 meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Fire protection for Hamden is provided through arrangements involving the Delhi, Walton and Downsville fire departments. Marshfield clarified that the arrangements vary by location, with some areas covered through protection contracts and others receiving modified fire service through the fire departments.

The Walton arrangement is handled through its fire district, while the Downsville amount remained unchanged, Marshfield said. The discussion focused specifically on the Delhi contract.

Council members also reviewed other routine matters, including charges for the Hamden and Delancey sewer districts that are placed on property tax bills rather than billed separately. Marshfield said the typical annual charge for a residential property in the Hamden sewer district is $140.

Council members also authorized unpaid fees for winter sidewalk maintenance to be added to the 2027 property tax bills.

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Marks 80 Years

Agency Established In 1946 Has Expanded Its Work To Include Watershed Protection, Flood Resilience And Agricultural Sustainability

WALTON - The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District is marking 80 years of protecting the county's natural resources, supporting local agriculture and helping communities address environmental challenges.

Established by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 18, 1946, the district was created to provide technical assistance for the responsible use and conservation of the county's soil and water resources. Its formation reflected growing concerns about soil erosion, water quality and sustainable land use.

The conservation movement gained momentum following the April 14, 1935, Black Sunday dust storm, which highlighted the consequences of soil erosion and the need to protect natural resources. President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed those concerns through federal soil conservation legislation. The Soil Conservation Act was enacted in April 1935 and amended in 1936 as the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, which provided payments to farmers who reduced production and adopted soil conservation practices.

New York state established its Soil and Water Conservation District Law in 1940, defining the powers, duties and governance of local districts.

Over the past eight decades, Delaware County's district has expanded beyond its original mission to include watershed protection, flood resilience and agricultural sustainability. Today, the district employs 26 full-time staff members across three programs: the New York City Watershed Agricultural Program, the Stream Corridor Management Program and the Susquehanna Program.

Together, the programs provide technical assistance, planning and conservation services to municipalities, landowners and farmers throughout the county.

The district's work helps protect drinking water in New York City's reservoir system, improve water quality throughout the Susquehanna River watershed, which drains into the Chesapeake Bay, and support conservation efforts in the broader Delaware River watershed.

Projects include restoring and stabilizing streams to reduce erosion and improve water quality, protecting farmland through conservation best management practices, and helping municipalities safeguard roads and other public infrastructure.

The district also plants trees and restores streamside vegetation to strengthen stream corridors, filter pollutants and provide wildlife habitat. Agricultural projects include designing and constructing barnyard improvements and manure storage facilities, promoting cover crops to protect soil during winter and supporting improved nutrient management through its Enhanced Manure Injection Project.

The district credits partnerships with local, state and federal agencies and organizations for helping make its work possible. Partners include the Delaware County Planning Department, Delaware County Emergency Services, municipal officials, highway departments, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, the Watershed Agricultural Council and the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

Through those partnerships, the district has implemented hundreds of conservation practices and watershed protection projects benefiting local communities and natural resources.

As it marks the anniversary, the district is also looking toward the next generation of conservation professionals. Its internship program provides hands-on experience and professional development for young people interested in conservation careers. Many former interns have become full-time district employees.

The district said the program helps prepare future professionals to continue conservation work throughout Delaware County.

O'Connor Hospital Contributes More Than $43,000 to Local Roots Program

Third year of partnership with Delaware County Office for the Aging brings fresh, locally grown produce to older adults

DELHI — O'Connor Hospital contributed more than $43,000 to support the Delaware County Office for the Aging's Local Roots Program in 2026, helping provide free, locally grown produce to older adults experiencing financial hardship.

The program recently completed its third year, distributing 2,310 produce boxes over a 10-week period during the late summer and early fall harvest season.

Older adults enrolled in the program receive a box of fresh produce each week at senior dining centers throughout Delaware County. The Office for the Aging also arranges home deliveries for participants who cannot pick up their boxes.

In addition to improving access to nutritious food, the program provides opportunities for social connection. Participants can share recipes, exchange produce and visit with others during weekly pickups, helping reduce social isolation.



contributed

"At O'Connor Hospital, we believe that food is medicine. Good nutrition is an essential part of good health," said Susan Oakes Ferrucci, president of O'Connor Hospital and chief hospital executive of Bassett Healthcare Network's Critical Access Hospitals. "By working with community partners like the Delaware County Office for the Aging, we want to help bring support to those in need so that they can eat food that is full of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and dietary fiber. We are happy we have been able to support this program for the past three years."

Peter J. Hamilton, chair of O'Connor Hospital's Board of Trustees and regional vice president of the Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network's Board of Trustees, said the program has been meaningful to many of the hospital's patients.

"For decades, O'Connor has been a steadfast member of the Delhi and Delaware County communities and the hospital's leaders, caregivers and staff are proud to carry that legacy forward each day through the care they provide and the community partnerships we cherish," Hamilton said.

The Local Roots Program is coordinated by the Delaware County Office for the Aging in partnership with NY Connects and Schoharie Valley Farms, with support from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education program in New York and O'Connor Hospital, which is part of Bassett Healthcare Network.

O'Connor Hospital has supported the program since it launched in summer 2024.

"Without the generosity and support of O'Connor Hospital, the 2026 Local Roots Program would not have been possible," said Lyndsay Komosinski, director of the Delaware County Office for the Aging. "This investment allowed Delaware County OFA and Schoharie Valley Farms to continue providing locally grown produce to hundreds of older adults at a time when access to nutritious food and opportunities for social connection are especially important."

O'Connor Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital at 460 Andes Road in Delhi. It provides inpatient and surgical care, along with outpatient services including cardiology, optometry, dentistry, podiatry, orthopedics and dermatology.

IT'S Academic

Walton School Board Addresses Mascot Concerns as Residents Call For Warrior Identity To Remain

Petition With 564 Signatures Presented; Parents Also Raise Questions About Athletic Uniforms, Equipment, Team Participation and Extracurricular Support

Staff Report

WALTON - A petition with 564 signatures asking the Walton Central School District to preserve its Warrior mascot was presented to the Board of Education during its Tuesday, Nov. 17, meeting, prompting a discussion about transparency, athletic identity and community involvement in decisions surrounding the district's shared sports programs with Downsville.

Before opening the public comment period, Board President Kevin Verweire read a statement clarifying that the district has no current plans to change or eliminate the Walton Warrior mascot.

"The Walton Central School District is aware of recent social media discussions and a circulating petition concerning expressing concern over a potential change to the district's mascot," Verweire said. "We want to clarify for our family, students, and community members that there is currently no active initiative, proposal, or board of education action to change or eliminate the Walton Warrior mascot."

Verweire explained that discussions during regular board meetings Dec. 9, 2025, Jan. 6 and Feb. 10, 2026, involved a potential combined athletic mascot and uniform concept for merged Walton-Downsville sporting events. The concept would have included student input from grades six through 12.

"At no point was this discussion intended to replace Walton's Warrior or Downsville's Eagle," he said.

During the April 14, 2026, board meeting, the district's Shared Services Committee decided to put the combined athletics mascot initiative on hold, Verweire said.

He added that the Nov. 5 Shared Services Committee meeting included discussion of potential revisions to the athletic handbook, an item also mentioned during the Nov. 17 meeting.

"We appreciate the community's deep pride in our schools and athletics," Verweire said. "Should any mascot-related discussions be revisited in the future, they will take place openly during public board of education meetings, with notice to the community."



file

Walton Central School, Stockton Avenue campus.

He encouraged residents to review official board minutes or attend meetings for accurate information about district business.

Petition calls for preserving Warrior identity

Savannah Wheeler addressed the board during public comment, saying she represented more than 500 community members who signed a petition asking the district to preserve the Warrior mascot.

"This is not fake news, and we are not against the sports merger with Downsville, nor are we against providing additional opportunities for students," Wheeler said. "What we are questioning is why those opportunities must come at the expense of the Walton Warriors' identity."

Wheeler said her concerns began after student athletes approached her about a mascot survey presented to them. She said students who asked whether they could select Warriors were told they could not.

Since March 9, Wheeler said she had made multiple attempts to communicate with the superintendent, attend meetings, address the board during public comment and contact the district clerk to request an opportunity to meet with board members.

After receiving little follow-up, she said she decided to bring the issue directly to the community through a petition.

Wheeler said many residents who signed the petition were unaware of the merger and how decisions were being handled. She emphasized that most people she spoke with were not opposed to the combined sports programs but questioned why Downsville students participating in Walton sports could not adopt the Walton Warrior identity.

"We understand that students should have a voice, but asking students in grades six through 12 to choose a new mascot and change the identity of athletic uniforms places an unnecessary burden on them," Wheeler said.

She said discussions should include students, staff, alumni, coaches and community members.

"Saying two schools, one family means little if the community is excluded from the decision that affects us all," she said.

Wheeler also questioned the financial implications of purchasing new athletic uniforms before the athletic handbook was finalized, suggesting the money could instead be used for equipment upgrades and other student-athlete needs.

She encouraged the board to examine participation numbers at the modified level, asking whether large teams and limited playing time might contribute to students dropping out before reaching junior varsity and varsity levels. She suggested additional modified coaches and more evenly divided teams could improve opportunities for player development.

Wheeler also questioned why football had been allowed to retain the Walton Warrior identity while other sports faced the possibility of a combined mascot.

"We can welcome Downsville students, support the merger, and provide opportunities for everyone without erasing what makes Walton Warriors special," she said.

Wheeler submitted the petition, which she said had been started 10 days earlier and contained 564 signatures. She asked that the minutes reflect its submission and said she hoped to be placed on the December meeting agenda to provide more detailed information.

Parents raise athletic concerns

Other residents used the public comment period to raise concerns about athletic opportunities and resources.

Mary Phraner, a Walton parent, congratulated the Lady Warriors on finishing second in a recent competition and asked the board to consider adding the team back to the Walton Central School roster.

"My daughter really enjoyed it," Phraner said, adding that she hoped the program could continue.

Ron Thompson, speaking on behalf of the baseball program, raised concerns about outdated and expired equipment, team sizes and access to school gymnasiums for practice.

Thompson said new varsity baseball coach Collin Pomeroy had identified equipment dating to 2016 that needed attention.

He also recalled difficulties last year when approximately 42 students were assigned to a modified baseball team, requiring the group to be split into separate teams.

Thompson said the program was seeking Sunday gym access for additional practice opportunities but had encountered difficulties coordinating use of the Walton and Downsville facilities.

He asked the board to address the concerns ahead of the upcoming baseball season, particularly as participation and the number of teams are expected to increase.

Trap Team Seeks School Support

A speaker also addressed the board on behalf of the school's trap team, which combines students from Walton, Downsville and Delhi.

The speaker said the team began in 2020 and has received limited support from the school board. She outlined several accomplishments, including second-place finishes in its conference for two consecutive years and multiple individual student achievements.

She said one student placed third at the state level, while another earned first place in conference competition. The team has also sent at least five students to competitions in Nashville and Michigan over the past three years, she said.

The speaker asked the district to provide more support and help publicize the program to encourage additional students to participate.

She described trap shooting as a safe sport, saying the team had recorded no injuries since its formation.

The board heard the comments but did not take action on the petition or the athletic concerns during the public comment period.

Walton Board of Ed Celebrates Student Achievements, Reviews Capital Project and Staffing Needs

Staff Report

WALTON - A record 51 Walton Central School District students received Superintendent's Awards for academic achievement, Superintendent Teresa Glavin announced during the Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17, as she recognized student accomplishments and provided updates on district operations, staffing, technology and strategic planning.

Glavin opened her superintendent's report with an "Orange Crush" celebration of student and staff accomplishments, including the district's 2025-26 Scholarship Achievement Award Ceremony, a Veterans Day breakfast and assembly, and an elementary band field trip.

The scholarship ceremony, held the previous Tuesday, recognized students for outstanding academic accomplishments. Glavin said 51 students received the Superintendent's Award, marking the highest number in district history.

She also congratulated students and staff who organized the Nov. 10 Veterans Day breakfast and assembly honoring local men and women who have served in the military.

Elementary band students traveled to the Walton Theatre to experience the American Big Band Experience and participate in a workshop at Townsend Elementary School with Dan Gable and his orchestra, along with award-winning vocalist Kimberly Hawkins.

Administrators report on discipline and student progress

Building administrators provided updates on student behavior, academic programming and staffing needs.

A middle school administrator reported a substantial decline in disciplinary referrals compared with the previous school year. Referrals dropped from 86 in September 2025 to 22 in September 2026, and from 150 in October 2025 to 49 in October 2026.

The administrator credited teachers and staff for their diligence but cautioned that maintaining the improvement requires considerable time and attention.

"Though our numbers look good, it is a need that we have right now that we are kind of struggling with," the administrator said, pointing to the absence of an assistant principal position.

The administrator said managing discipline has become a full-time responsibility and that the district is beginning to feel the effects of the vacant position.

Townsend Elementary administrators said discipline numbers remained relatively consistent but noted that the reported figures did not include frequent calls for assistance in special education classrooms, adding to staff responsibilities.

They also highlighted the district's adoption of a database system teachers are using to monitor student progress and identify specific skill areas requiring attention.

Teachers have been using the information to adjust instruction and curriculum to better meet students' individual needs.

Administrators praised staff for their work implementing the program and supporting student development.

Another administrator reported an increase in student behavior incidents during the previous month, including several fistfights. The incidents have required additional time to address and have affected administrators' ability to manage other responsibilities.

The administrator said plans are underway to develop presentations to help students better understand appropriate behavior in classrooms and throughout school buildings.

Administrators reiterated that additional support would be beneficial to the district.

Capital Project Survey Draws 266 Responses

Glavin reported that 266 people responded to the district's Capital Project Community Feedback Survey, offering opinions, raising concerns and asking questions. The district also held a public forum to gather additional community input.

She thanked residents for participating, saying the feedback will help the board revisit the capital project and determine its next steps.

"We heard that loud and clear, the board and myself," Glavin said of the community's request for greater input.

She acknowledged that misunderstandings and misinformation remain in circulation about the project and said the district plans to address questions raised through the survey and public forum.

Glavin said she had prepared a summary document for the board's Facilities Committee outlining community priorities, concerns and questions. The district's first step will be to share information with residents based on that feedback.

Townsend nursing coverage and shared athletics

Glavin reported that Townsend Elementary School has been without a registered nurse since Halloween. The district is working to ensure both school buildings have appropriate health coverage while addressing the staffing shortage.

The district's high school nurse is overseeing nursing services at Townsend School, where a licensed practical nurse and a health aide also provide coverage.

Glavin said state regulations require a district to have an RN, and the district is working to maintain appropriate coverage for students.

She also updated the board on the shared-services arrangement with Downsville Central School District, including a Nov. 5 advisory committee meeting attended by Downsville's superintendent and two board members.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review how the combined athletic programs have been operating since the merger.

A financial review is scheduled for Dec. 4. Glavin reminded the board that Walton covers 60% of the athletic budget while Downsville contributes 40%. The athletic coordinator's position is split equally between the two districts.

She also noted that Walton-Downsville continues to participate in a shared arrangement with Delaware Academy for girls wrestling.

Glavin closed her report by thanking community members and organizations for donations and assistance to families during the holiday season.

She recognized contributions ranging from turkeys and canned goods to winter clothing and wrapped gifts, as well as the efforts of local organizations and the Chamber of Commerce in coordinating community activities.

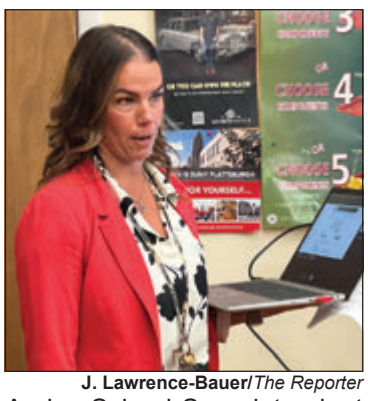
IT'S Academic

A Small School Faces...

continued from front page

Candreva followed with regional data showing a 19% projected 10-year enrollment drop across the 19-district BOCES region, naming Andes as the smallest district. Locally, Andes enrolls 71 students from prekindergarten through grade 12, including 21 out-of-district students. Twenty in-district students are in grades six through 11. Those students would attend another district next year under the proposal. Out-of-district students in those grades would return to their home district or have to find another school to attend.

Financially, Candreva delivered a stark warning from a Cornell-led optimization study, stating that if the district makes no changes, "We could potentially be without funding by the end of the 27-28 school [year]."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Andes School Superintendent Samantha Candreva presented a dire picture of funding cuts she predicted New York state would enact as early as next spring at a Monday, Nov. 16 meeting. State figures peg the cost of educating an Andes student at $92,000 though later showed budget figures that indicated $74,000 per student and said enrollment would have to rise from 71 students to more than 1,400 students to make the district viable.

She noted that New York's governor is again considering eliminating "save harmless" funding, which guarantees Andes $727,181 of its roughly $5 million annual expenditure. Candreva also cited a state figure placing Andes' per-student cost at $92,000, though she later conceded, "This is not our cost, by the way. That comes from the state," as data reflecting a $5.25 million budget across 71 students equated to roughly $74,000 per student.

Principal Elizabeth Celmer tallied up a long list of academic and extracurricular opportunities she said are offered in other nearby school districts that are not offered in Andes. She did not do a specific school-by-school comparison that might show which academics and activities students might expect if they were sent to another district.

Candreva next spoke more specifically saying that to fund tuition for students to attend another district, savings would come from reducing supplies, technology, and cutting teachers for grades seven through 12. She declined to discuss individual jobs that would be cut as "a personnel matter," while making it clear that all seven through 12th grade content teachers would be eliminated.

While not providing any specific numbers on costs, savings, or what the school's budget might be if the pilot went through, Candreva instead emphasized that the state is pushing regionalization rather than a formal merger. She did not define the term regionalization.

"I can tell you, first and foremost, that New York state does not want to continue to fund small rural districts the way they have," Candreva asserted.

Bornarth concluded by presenting the alternative: keeping grades seven through 12 in Andes would require a "significant tax levy increase well above the base," saying it would be so big it would require a 60% supermajority vote to pass. She also indicated that the board of education will make the decision with no vote from taxpayers and that they would decide by the end of the calendar year to provide "ample time" to prepare. "We don't want to be a community without a school. But it may mean that we have to make some hard choices."

Before the public comment session was opened, Dennis Fickeria pointed out that if the school gets rid of its grade seven through 12 teachers for a "one year pilot" there would be no alternative for getting them back should the pilot prove unworkable. Several other speakers echoed the sentiment in different ways.

Resident Peter Calvert later



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Margaretville resident James Rogers, who pays tuition for his son to attend Andes Central School, recommended searching for alternative solutions for financial problems, rather than sending students to another district next year. Out-of-district students would need to return to home districts or choose another district under the proposal.

agreed with Fickeria's characterization referring to the pilot as, "Like taking a one-year sabbatical and never coming back."

A woman who identified herself as a Hamden resident who pays tuition for her child to attend Andes Central School agreed with others that, "A pilot program for one year is absurd," and pointed out that the district does not charge a fee even close to what they could be getting for the students it takes in from other districts. "Maybe that's an avenue you could explore."

Lisa Marasa asked school officials if they had studied any other options, later asking fellow attendees if they, like her, felt that the decision had already been made.

Another parent said it felt like board of education members were doing a pilot so that district residents would not be able to vote.

James Rodgers, parent of an out-of-district tuition student at Andes said, "This is an unparalleled experience for children here. I think it would be such a crime to change anything." He went on to add that, "Nobody cares more about my kid than me, and I'm not making bad decisions for him, and I think whatever these other benefits might be, nothing outweighs the community here."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Grace Bacon, an Andes Central School employee and the parent of two former Andes students, urged officials to find creative ways of enhancing curriculum and activity opportunities instead of sending their students to another district.

Longtime resident and former school board member Suzanne Gladstone questioned the cost per student and urged more lobbying of state officials and representatives on behalf of the school. Candreva told Gladstone they had no specific numbers while Bornarth said they expected "a better than break even" between the costs to pay tuition for their students elsewhere and the money they would save.

Resident Derek Curl thanked board and staff members for the hard work they do, noting he has raised and contributed more than $112,000 in donations in recent years for what he called "the heartbeat of the community."

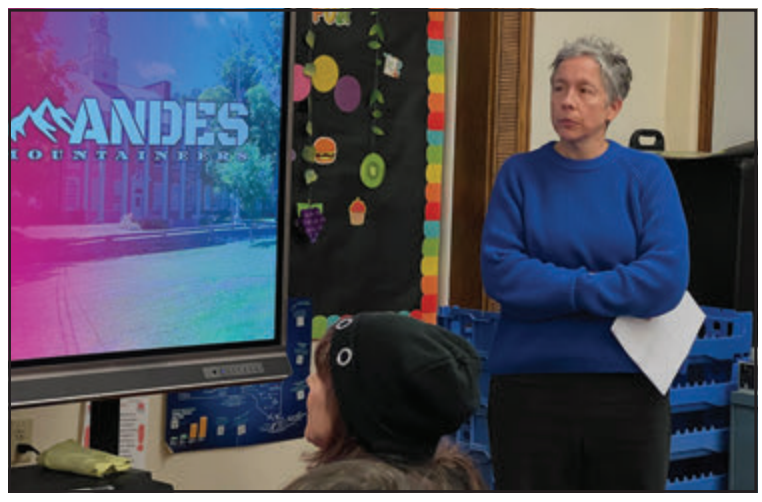
Curl then chided the board for its approach.

"I think the notion to not give the community more than 45 days before the decision's made is incorrect."

He suggested giving the community more time.

"We're not going to sink, we're not going to lose the school to totality." He concluded saying, "I really do believe that any school deserves a year before pivoting to a program that might decimate something."

Wayne Reynolds, the salutatorian of the Andes Central School Class of 1970, spoke in favor of some sort of change. While not explicitly supporting the pilot agreement, he urged fellow residents to challenge their students.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Andes Central School Board President Karen Bornarth presented a proposal Monday, Nov. 16 to send students in grades seven through 12 to a neighboring school next year in a "pilot" program that would eliminate teaching positions for those grades.

"My grandfather was on school board when this building opened," he said, adding, "Throughout my high school career, I lived in fear that we were going to merge with either Delhi or Margaretville, and I did not want to."

Reynolds said the school had not prepared him for college.

"I graduated from Clarkson with a 3.8 GPA in civil engineering, but I suffered for four years."

"If you love your kids, you've got to give them a chance. If they want to do something that takes a four-year degree, they need competition, they need responsibility. They can't have somebody looking over their shoulder every minute. They have to grow up," he said.

Resident James Andrews noted there was a merger study done 25 years ago that determined a merger was not feasible. Like Reynolds, he did not specifically support the pilot program but said changes must be made.

When three different students spoke, the room went silent.

Tristan Weaver, a junior, asked, "If the pilot thing does happen, how do you think the seniors who have been coming here since they were kids are going to feel; that the seniors of next year are going to a school to just do their whole senior year where like for a year like me, just go to a school for a year."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Andes Central School junior Tristian Weaver implored officials to think about the feelings of students before agreeing to send them to a different school next year.

Saying, "I can't be in that boat," Weaver noted students would probably not be happy. "As soon as I got here in sixth grade, my first time here, I was like, man, this place is way better than any other school I've ever went to. And I was like, I want to graduate here. And I like my friends I have here."

Darby Mondore, a ninth grade student, said, "I love this school. It's the best," before adding, "Hypothetically, if we did go to South Kortright, academically, how would that help us? They don't have a math teacher, and a Spanish teacher and those are some things we have here and I've already been talking about for next year." Mondore went on to say that she has been active and grown in the last year. "Hypothetically, if we did go to SK, that would go downhill slowly because we wouldn't have the education there that we have here."

The most emotional plea of the evening came from an eleventh grade student, "Lainey," who said, "If I wanted to go somewhere I would want this school because so far they have helped me through everything."

Becoming tearful as she spoke, she said, "I cannot ever have a better school, so if your gonna do it, I'm gonna drop out."

To questions about transportation, Candreva insisted no student would be on a bus more than an hour, a notion disputed by a district bus driver. Pointing to one student, the driver noted he is already on the bus for an hour just to get to Andes, then would be on a bus another 25 minutes to South Kortright, then would get on a third bus to go to BOCES.

Resident Eric Van Benschoten pointed out that the school building is primarily used eight hours a day during the week and urged officials to look for alternative, off-peak uses that could add revenue for the district, such as teaching adult or night courses there or offering training for fire and EMT personnel.

District employee Grace Bacon urged officials to find other ways to enhance student opportunities. Noting they go to other schools for activities like all-county chorus and band where they can be more challenged and meet others. She suggested similar opportunities could be created, perhaps on a quarterly basis, in other disciplines.

Asked by Alex McGowan if multiple districts have been considered for the pilot, officials indicated just one had been seriously considered. Officials indicated that merger talks were not considered because they had been done unsuccessfully in the past and would have to be with contiguous districts that include Margaretville, Delhi, or Downsville.

Asked repeatedly about transportation issues, Candreva conceded that the school would have to purchase new buses. When board member Jason Mondore said he thought the district was set on buses for the next five years, Candreva said no and indicated at least one new bus would have to be purchased next year.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Andes Central School student Darby Mondore challenged the suggestion that she and her classmates would have more opportunities if sent to South Kortright next year. She said the nearby school does not have math or Spanish teachers like Andes and it would cause a backslide in her education.

At 8 p.m., with people still raising their hands to speak and eager to discuss the matter, Bornarth declared that it had been a long night and concluded the meeting. Under protest, she agreed to take two more questions, but when she ended the meeting, there were still many unasked and unanswered questions.

SUNY Delhi Nursing Graduates Achieve 100% NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

Delhi's pass rate is well above the most recently published statewide and national averages for associate degree nursing programs

DELHI - SUNY Delhi's Associate Degree Nursing (AAS) Class of 2026 has achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), continuing the college's tradition of excellence in nursing education.

SUNY Delhi's 100% pass rate is well above the most recently published statewide and national averages for associate degree nursing programs. According to the New York State Education Department, the 2025 NCLEX-RN pass rate for first-time test takers was 81.51% statewide and 86.05% nationally.

Students in SUNY Delhi's Nursing Dual Degree program achieved an 82.14% pass rate, contributing to an overall nursing licensure exam pass rate of 88.3% for the college in 2026.

The NCLEX-RN is a national examination that nursing graduates must pass to qualify for licensure as registered nurses. The exam assesses the knowledge and clinical judgment required to provide safe and effective patient care.

About Nursing at SUNY Delhi

For more than 80 years, SUNY Delhi has prepared students for careers in nursing through hands-on learning, clinical experience, and personalized faculty support. The college offers a two-year associate degree in nursing, a four-year dual degree leading to both associate and bachelor's degrees, and flexible online programs for registered nurses pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees. Graduate offerings include Nursing Education and Nursing Administration, as well as post-graduate certificates. Students in on-campus programs develop their skills in nursing laboratories and simulation facilities and gain practical experience through clinical placements with healthcare partners. SUNY Delhi's associate degree and RN-to-BSN nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), while the master's programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Learn more at www.delhi.edu

IT'S Academic

After Football Forfeit, Delaware Academy Community Demands Answers

Superintendent Outlines District's Appeal Efforts As Parents, Coaches and Residents Call For Accountability and A Review of the Decision That Ended the Bulldogs' Season

Staff Report

DELHI - A week after a Section IV ruling stripped Delaware Academy's varsity football team of its playoff victory and a place in the championship game, Superintendent Carey Schultz told the Board of Education that the district had exhausted several avenues of appeal but intended to keep pressing for changes to the rules and procedures that led to the team's disqualification.

The controversy took center stage at the board's regular meeting Monday, Nov. 16, where Board President Tammy Neumann extended the public comment period to allow more community members to speak about the decision. Parents, residents and a member of the Bulldogs coaching staff addressed the board, expressing disappointment, questioning how the situation was handled and urging the district to learn from the experience.

"There's been a lot of emotion, a lot of conversation in our community this last week because of last week's football decision," Schultz said before outlining the district's response.

Schultz said the district learned of an eligibility concern Thursday morning, Nov. 12, after the athletic director contacted Section IV. About an hour and a half later, Schultz and district representatives were called to speak with Section IV Executive Director Jeff Ferrara and New York State Public High School Athletic Association Executive Director Robert Zayas.

According to Schultz, district officials were told that a waiver had not been filed for a student who played in the previous Saturday's game. The consequence, he said, was a forfeiture that ended Delaware Academy's postseason run.

Schultz said he and other district officials questioned the decision and requested an appeal, which was denied. The district then consulted its legal team, reviewed the applicable rules and submitted a formal written appeal to Section IV.

The section's executive board convened that evening. Schultz said she received a call around 7 or 7:15 p.m. informing him that the decision would stand.

The district also met with the football team and coaches that afternoon and sent a statement to the community as news of the ruling spread and the opposing team was notified.

On Friday morning, Nov. 13, Schultz said he spoke with the district's legal team about seeking an injunction similar to one pursued by Middletown. Attorneys advised that there was not enough time to complete the filing and bring it before a judge before the championship weekend.

The district then contacted state Senator Peter Oberacker's office, sent another appeal to Zayas and requested assistance from the state education commissioner. Schultz said the district also continued communicating with its legal team, but the courts were closed Saturday.

Middletown's separate effort to challenge a similar ruling was also unsuccessful, Schultz said. That decision removed any possibility that Delaware Academy's forfeiture would be reconsidered before the championship game.

The Bulldogs were consequently excluded from the Section IV championship against Tioga Sunday, Nov. 15. Deposit-Hancock took Delaware Academy's place and lost to Tioga, 33-8.

Schultz acknowledged the disappointment felt throughout the community, particularly by the players and seniors who lost the opportunity to compete for a championship.

"The outcome we were handed late last week was deeply disappointing to our players, coaches, families and the entire community, especially our seniors," he said. "We'll not get this opportunity again."



image with permission from Delaware Academy

The 2026 Delaware Academy varsity football team.

Schultz said the district did not intend to let the matter end with the forfeiture. He criticized the athletic association's handling of eligibility rules and the consequences imposed on schools.

"I don't think I've ever had an organization that didn't kind of look at maybe the gray areas and the outcomes of certain decisions that can affect more than just one person, but can affect an entire community, especially the players," he said. "The punishment does not fit the crime whatsoever."

He said the district also had lessons to learn, including the need to be better informed about athletic regulations and to ensure coaches understand the requirements.

"I will make that the challenge of making sure that we continue to pursue this," Schultz said. "As far as how we move forward, we need to be better and more informed, and inform our coaches better."

He called for a broader effort to challenge rules that he said disproportionately affect small and midsize school districts.

"If nothing changes, if we don't make a stand or we don't scream at the top of our lungs about this, then no one else is at this point," Schultz said.

Schultz also addressed reports of aggressive text messages directed at Section IV representatives, saying the district did not condone that behavior.

"As a district and as a superintendent, I don't condone any of that," he said. "I really hope that will stop."

He urged community members to express their concerns respectfully and professionally, as the district expects students to do.

Calls for an independent review

School board member Kim Shephard read a letter from Matthew and Sarah Burkert, whose sons Anthony and Gabriel are members of the varsity football team. The letter described the program as a source of "guidance, structure and a sense of belonging" for their children and said the forfeiture had affected families throughout the community.

The Burkerts urged the board to commission an independent review of the events leading to the ruling, including the district's handling of the eligibility issue.

They said parents and students deserved to understand what happened, whether safeguards failed and what steps would be taken to prevent a similar situation.

"Accountability matters, particularly where children are concerned," the letter stated.

The couple cautioned against allowing rumors to substitute for verified information and said the district should gather facts before making decisions about individual accountability.

They also noted that the board faced a difficult position because the matter could involve the conduct of people responsible for investigating and reporting what happened.

"We respectfully request that the district commission review of the entire event by an independent party whose impartiality is beyond question of community," the letter stated.

The Burkerts asked that everyone involved be interviewed and that a detailed report be provided to the board identifying any mistakes and recommending steps to protect future students.

"In short, we ask that you find the truth before taking any further action," they wrote.

Another speaker said the district should direct its scrutiny toward Section IV as well as its own procedures. The speaker questioned Schultz's account that the appeal went to the section's executive board rather than an appeals committee and challenged the manner in which the decision was made.

"Section IV, for a reason, decided not to support an appeal and of a state rule, so without that Section IV support, we were never going to go anywhere," the speaker said. "And it was their process that failed."

A separate speaker offered encouragement to the players, saying the team had done the right thing by bringing the eligibility concern forward.

"The lesson that I took from this is don't say anything next time, but I think that it's important to know that that's not the right way to go forward," the speaker said. "Stand on high moral ground, high ethical ground."

The speaker told the players that, despite the outcome, they could take pride in having acted responsibly.

Coaching staff acknowledges mistakes

A parent and community member said the team's season had been a source of pride and proposed that the district find a way to recognize the 2026 Bulldogs, particularly the seniors, regardless of what happens with any further state-level review.

The speaker described the months of preparation that began in August, including weight training, schoolwork and the commitment required of the players, and said the district should consider a permanent tribute, such as a display in the trophy case.

Abby Wilson said she was disappointed in the district's response and believed officials had not brought together enough people with relevant experience to develop a stronger strategy.

"As institutions that claim to be student-centric, I think that we were ill-prepared and we did not create an intense enough strategy," she said.

Wilson said the district should have called on people with expertise in athletics, both within the community and beyond it, to explore possible options.

An assistant coach with the Bulldogs said the situation had been difficult to process and acknowledged that mistakes had been made.

"I thought we were good to go," the assistant coach said, referring to his understanding that the student was eligible to play after receiving medical documentation. "Should I have reviewed all the policies, all the rules? Yes, I should have, and that's what my commitment at this point is, you know, going forward."

He apologized to the players and their families.

"We missed the ball. We dropped the ball here, and hopefully, it doesn't happen like that again," he said.

He also urged the community not to let the controversy overshadow the football program's accomplishments, crediting coach Phil Neumann with building a program that provides a positive environment and gives students a reason to play.

"One of our key models is: If you drop the ball, if you have a bad plan, what do we do? Play next, right?" the assistant coach said. "And I hope we can play next."

Board members did not announce a decision on an independent review during the public comment period. Schultz said the district remained committed to pursuing the matter and working to prevent a similar situation from affecting another school.

During board comments at the end of the meeting, several members expressed support for the football team and the district's efforts to challenge the Section IV decision, while emphasizing the need to prevent similar eligibility problems in the future. One board member thanked the administration for its work on behalf of the team and said the district should continue seeking accountability from Section IV leadership. Another praised the community support, including generous anonymous donations, and said the students appeared encouraged by hearing adults speak up for them during the meeting. A board member also supported a suggestion raised during public comment to create a permanent recognition for the 2026 team and its seniors. One senior board member, who said she was personally close to several players, asked to be involved in that effort.

Another board member cautioned that Section IV eligibility rules apply to all sports, not just football, and called for immediate safeguards ahead of the winter season, which had begun that day. With the next regular board meeting a month away, the member asked that the superintendent and winter coaches meet soon to clarify responsibilities for checking student eligibility.

Another board member described the response as having two parts: addressing the district's own mistake and challenging what the member called a misapplication of the rule by Section IV. The member said the eligibility issue involved no malice, was disclosed transparently once discovered and had no effect on the outcome of the game in which it occurred.

"I completely disagree with that penalty, especially because of the infraction," the member said, adding that Section IV's appeals committee had the ability to interpret the rule differently but chose not to. The member said the board should examine the section's policies and procedures and pursue changes to prevent similar outcomes for other student-athletes. "I think there are steps to be taken," the member said.

SUNY Delhi Awarded $1.35M to Expand Robotics and Automation Education

Funding will support the development of new coursework and the purchase of equipment for a state-of-the-art Robotics and Automation Training Laboratory

DELHI - SUNY Delhi has been awarded $1.35 million through the State University of New York (SUNY) Agritech Center initiative to advance robotics and automation education and prepare students for high-demand careers in advanced manufacturing and industries supporting agriculture.

The funding is part of a $5 million investment announced by SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. to support high-tech research, education, and training opportunities at four SUNY campuses. The initiative is designed to support New York state's agricultural workforce and promote the use of emerging technologies in agriculture.

At SUNY Delhi, the funding will support the development of new coursework and the purchase of equipment for a state-of-the-art Robotics and Automation Training Laboratory, including industrial robotic arms and training cells, programmable logic controllers, electrical and motor-control trainers, conveyor and material-handling systems, sensors, and other advanced technologies.

Instruction and laboratory activities will incorporate applications relevant to automated packaging, conveying and material handling, temperature and environmental controls, refrigeration-related controls, warehousing, and other industrial and agricultural supply chain operations.

The award adds to another major state investment in applied technology education at SUNY Delhi. In December 2025, the college announced a separate $32 million state investment to develop a new, 15,000-square-foot Applied Technology Facility, expected to open in 2030. The facility will provide additional instructional space and specialized equipment for mechatronics and other applied technology programs.

Together, the investments reinforce SUNY Delhi's position as a leader in applied technology education and its commitment to meeting New York state's evolving workforce needs. The college will also continue to pursue partnerships with employers to support curriculum development, internships, applied learning, workforce training, and employment opportunities.

The other campuses receiving funding are Alfred State College, SUNY Cobleskill, and SUNY Morrisville.

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support The Reporter As County Newspaper in 2027

I strongly support *The Reporter* remaining an official newspaper of Delaware County. The circumstances surrounding the county's decision to remove the publication deserve considerably more scrutiny than they have received. Although the Delaware County Board of Supervisors has cited financial considerations, I have serious doubts that saving taxpayers money was the actual motivation behind this decision.

When we consider the substantial amounts of public funding directed toward the foster care system, where evidence-based care is not consistently provided, while agencies and organizations continue to receive significant financial support without demonstrable success or meaningful outcomes, it becomes difficult to accept cost as a convincing justification for removing a local newspaper. If fiscal responsibility is truly the county's priority, perhaps greater scrutiny should be directed toward how public funds are allocated, how services are delivered, and who ultimately benefits financially. A newspaper that serves an important role in holding government accountable should not become a casualty of misplaced financial priorities.

Supervisor Jerry Vernold's explanation, "I'm from Hancock," is hardly an informed or substantive justification for voting against *The Reporter* and in favor of the *Hancock Herald*. Personal familiarity or geographic affiliation should never substitute for objective reasoning when decisions involve public resources and the public's access to information. Countywide decisions should be based on the merits of the publications, not personal loyalties or hometown affiliations.

The *Hancock Herald* is owned and published by Cindy Ray Argiros, whose name appears as a defendant in numerous civil proceedings in 2026 involving allegations brought by former students of the Family Foundation School. These proceedings reportedly involve allegations of sexual abuse, physical and psychological abuse, negligence, concealment of allegations, and racketeering. These remain allegations, not established findings. Nevertheless, the number and seriousness of these proceedings warrant public awareness and appropriate scrutiny when considering the individuals and organizations involved in public business.

There is another issue I believe deserves acknowledgment. My incoming Hamden Supervisor, whose term begins Jan. 1, 2027, is the brother of the owner of *The Reporter*, while our town clerk is his sister. These familial relationships raise legitimate questions about potential conflicts of interest and the importance of transparency in local government. In fact, these relationships were among the considerations that informed my decision not to support his election effort. I recognize that bringing this up adds another layer of complexity to an already contentious issue; however, that is precisely why disclosure, transparency, and consistent ethical standards must apply equally to everyone, regardless of personal or political relationships.

I strongly encourage the incoming Hamden Supervisor, Wayne Shepard, and every member of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors to look beyond personal relationships, political connections, and geographic loyalties when making decisions about our local news sources. Public office carries an ethical responsibility to act in the best interests of the community, not according to personal affiliations or relationships. Independent journalism is essential to that responsibility, particularly when it comes to scrutinizing the very institutions entrusted with serving the public.

A local newspaper should not need personal or political connections to receive fair consideration. Nor should public officials be able to disadvantage a publication simply because they disagree with its reporting. The public deserves an objective process, consistent standards, and decisions that can withstand scrutiny.

The people of Delaware County deserve independent journalism, government transparency, and accountability. I believe *The Reporter* serves an important role in fulfilling those responsibilities, and I urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision and support *The Reporter's* continued designation as an official county newspaper in 2027 and beyond.

DOTTI HOWE
HAMDEN

An Accounting is Due to Us

Congratulations to *The Reporter* for regaining its century-long status as an official newspaper of Delaware County. No other weekly paper comes close to fulfilling that role. Rescinding it seems an act of spite. And the Shepards have earned our gratitude for defending the First Amendment right to speak free of retribution from government.

We have read the Decker Advertising's side of the story. When will Delaware County enlighten us with theirs? Only then can citizens fairly judge cause and effect. In the meantime, townspeople should question their supervisors, many recently reelected. Is it coincidence that this settlement was announced after election day?

For their troubles of more than four years, Decker Advertising was awarded only $28 thousand. The bulk of the settlement went to court costs of $129 thousand and attorney's fees of $423 thousand. (While Decker Advertising/ *The Reporter* was represented pro bono by the Cornell legal clinic, it was assisted by two firms from Albany and New York.) However, those are only the costs to Delaware County from this settlement of $600 thousand. We await an accounting of the costs of a defense by our county. Confided by a supervisor months ago, that bill had reached $1.5 million. Likewise, unaccounted for is how much of these expenses would be covered by us taxpayers and how much by insurance – which taxpayers can expect to be compensating insurers for with years of higher premiums.

Also congratulations to our board of supervisors for finally coming to their senses. Had this case gone to trial, expenses would have continued to mount, and most likely the county would have lost. There is clear and robust precedent from the Supreme Court of the United States for protecting freedom of the press. You wonder who was advising them.

Their mismanagement had turned a restoration of status in 2023 into a restoration of status in 2026 and a bill of over $2 million. You would think that supervisors would have learned from their past mistakes. Seven years ago, likely a similar price tag came with their pyrrhic victory: firing the Director of Social Services only a few weeks short of the end of her contract. Besides paying for months of administrative hearings after Scuderi-Hunter's suspension, there were years of state and federal court cases and appeals after her firing.

Is this any way to run a county?

BRIAN BROCK
SUSAN BARNETT
MARJORIE B. KELLOGG
FRANKLIN

A Free Press and Responsible Government Go Hand In Hand

The recent settlement of the lawsuit involving Decker Advertising, publisher of *The Reporter,* and Delaware County provides an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between government, the press, and the people we serve.

On Nov. 10, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors approved a $600,000 settlement, restoring *The Reporter* as an official county newspaper through December 31, 2026. The county admitted no wrongdoing, and the resolution indicates that insurance is expected to cover the substantial majority of the settlement.

While the litigation has concluded, the principles involved deserve consideration.

Throughout our nation's history, a free and independent press has played an essential role in keeping citizens informed and holding government accountable. That responsibility is not always comfortable for those serving in public office, but it remains fundamental to our democracy.

President Ronald Reagan understood the importance of a free press and recognized that disagreements between government and journalists are inevitable in a free society.

During my 16 years as Town of Hancock Supervisor, I learned that public officials and members of the press will not always agree. Difficult questions, critical reporting, and differences of opinion are part of public service.

Elected officials have a responsibility to exercise independent judgment, ask questions, and make decisions based on facts rather than personal disagreements. Likewise, journalists have a responsibility to report accurately, fairly, and responsibly.

Neither responsibility diminishes the other.

This settlement should not be viewed through a partisan lens. The First Amendment protects everyone, regardless of political affiliation, and the principles of transparency and accountability belong to all Americans.

My hope is that this experience encourages greater communication, mutual respect, and thoughtful decision-making throughout county government.

Public officials should never view legitimate scrutiny as an obstacle to governing. Rather, it is an opportunity to demonstrate integrity, openness, and respect for those we represent.

Our communities are best served when government remains accountable, the press remains independent, and citizens have access to information necessary to make informed decisions.

A free press is not a Republican principle or a Democratic principle. It is an American principle.

SAMUEL N. ROWE JR.
HANCOCK

Delaware County Board Must Be Held Accountable for First Amendment Violations

In the case of *The Reporter vs. The Delaware County Board of Supervisors* I am glad to see an outcome that upholds the sacredness of freedom of the press as enshrined in the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

I am sorry that the Board of Supervisors chose to force the taxpayers of Delaware County to pay a fortune both directly and in future increased insurance premiums in its wasted effort to defend its First Amendment violations.

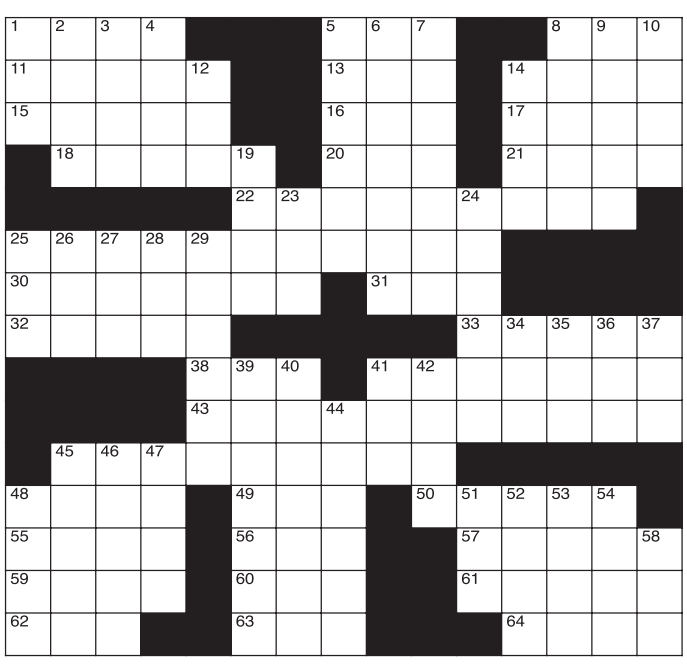
The Board has accepted the settlement while admitting no wrongdoing. Obviously the Board knew that had the case gone to court the Board was likely to lose because the First Amendment violations were blatant and egregious.

Since the Board has not been required to admit wrongdoing, what will stop them from doing exactly the same thing again in the future?

MARY VAN VALKENBURG
HOBART

The Reporter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification, but only the writer's name and town of residence will be printed. Letters to the editor are not to be used as a community calendar. The Reporter reserves the right to edit letters for length and / or content. Letters deemed inappropriate will be rejected. No more than two submissions within 30 days will be considered for publication. Opinions expressed in this section reflect that of the author, not that of The Reporter. Endorsement letters for political candidates are not accepted and are considered paid advertisements. Submit letters by email to editor@The-Reporter.net

REPORTER CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and east
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly

Solution to last week's puzzle on page 21

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

• **Michael W. Tucker,** 60, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 5 and charged with petit larceny and fourth-degree criminal mischief.

• **Kevin J. Roach,** 39, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 10 and charged with petit larceny and fourth-degree criminal mischief.

• **Angela M. Harrington,** 41, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 10 and charged with two counts of petit larceny and on a Sidney Village Court warrant for failure to appear.

Colchester Police Department

• **Bernard Reeves,** 21, Bronx, was arrested Nov. 1 and was charged with third-degree aggravated unlawful operation of a motor vehicle. Reeves was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charge in Colchester Town Court.

Delaware County Sheriff's Office

• **Logan J. Bryan,** 23, Port Crane, was arrested Nov. 5 on a Meredith Town Court warrant for failure to appear. Bryan was held for centralized arraignment.

New York State Police

• **Daniel T. Costello,** 26, Hancock, was arrested Nov. 12 by Deposit State Police and charged with petit larceny. Costello was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charge.

• **Kayla Courtney Stanley-Fuller,** 38, East Meredith, was arrested Nov. 13 by Oneonta State Police and charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. Stanley-Fuller was issued appearance tickets to answer the charges.

• **Trinity Angelica Rockwell,** 26, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 15 by Sidney State Police and charged with driving while intoxicated and aggravated driving while intoxicated. Rockwell was issued n appearance ticket to answer the charges.

• **Deysi E. Menedez Vasquez,** 32, Deposit, was arrested Nov. 15 by Deposit State Police and charged with driving while intoxicated and aggravated driving while intoxicated. Menedez Vasquez was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charges.

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SPORTS REPORTER

Tioga Tops D-H Football To Win Section IV Title



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Deposit-Hancock's Jake D'Elia breaks through the Tioga defense to score a first-half touchdown Sunday, Nov. 15.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter* →

Deposit-Hancock's Gavin Canedo and Tioga's Jackson Bombard fight for a pass during Tioga's 33-8 Section IV Class D championship win Sunday, Nov. 15.

BINGHAMTON - The Tioga Tigers defeated Deposit-Hancock by a final score of 33–8 Sunday, Nov. 15. The matchup was the NYSPHSAA Section IV Class D Championship played at Chenango Valley High School. With the victory, Tioga captured its 13th Section IV Class D title since 2011 and advanced in the New York state playoffs.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Deposit-Hancock's Caleb Hanrahan attempts to bring down Tioga's Jackson Bombard during their game Sunday, Nov. 15.



Benjamin Patton/*The Reporter*

Deposit-Hancock's Jack Arrigan carries the ball during his team's game Sunday, Nov. 15.

Delaware Academy Football Season Ends After Section IV Upholds Forfeit Decision

DELHI - Delaware Academy's varsity football team will not continue in the postseason after Section IV upheld a decision requiring the Bulldogs to forfeit their Nov. 7 victory over Deposit-Hancock and relinquish their playoff eligibility.

The decision was confirmed Friday, Nov. 13, in a statement from Delaware Academy Superintendent Carey Schultz, following the district's unsuccessful appeal to Section IV. Deposit-Hancock subsequently took Delaware Academy's place in the championship game against Tioga, falling to the team by a score of 33-8.

The district learned Thursday, Nov. 12, that the Bulldogs had been deemed ineligible to continue in the playoffs. The ruling stemmed from Rule 26A of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association handbook, which addresses eligibility and athlete representation.

In a message posted to the school website Friday, Schultz said the district disagreed with Section IV's decision and was pursuing additional remedies.

"Again, we strongly disagree that this rule should apply in this situation, and the failure to apply for a waiver should not hinder the entire team or sports season," Schultz wrote.

The district had requested assistance through state Sen. Peter Oberacker's office and was preparing another appeal through NYSPHSAA. Schultz acknowledged the limited time available to seek a reversal but said the district would continue advocating for the student-athletes.

"This ruling does not change what our athletes accomplished or how proud we are of them," Schultz wrote.

In a follow-up message posted to the school's Facebook page Saturday, Nov. 14, Schultz thanked community members, parents, athletes and neighboring school districts for their support during the appeals process.

"The many letters we received from various stakeholders have not gone unnoticed, and they were shared with decision makers outside of Delaware County throughout the process," Schultz wrote.

Schultz said the district took extensive steps to challenge the decision, contacting state government officials, its legal team, Section IV and NYSPHSAA, and ultimately sending a letter directly to the state education commissioner. Despite those efforts, the original forfeit decision remained in place.

Schultz said the district understood the rule being applied and the reasoning behind it but disagreed that the circumstances involving the Bulldogs were what the rule was intended to address.

"I do not agree that the situation our athletes are being punished for is what this rule was meant to address," Schultz wrote. "If NYSPHSAA feels that it is, then so be it, but the district should be penalized in some other appropriate way."

Schultz also questioned whether the decision reflected the stated goals of NYSPHSAA, including maintaining minimum eligibility standards and providing a means to resolve disputed athletic contests.

"In my opinion, neither of those was achieved in this situation, and they will continue to go unmet if the organization keeps punishing student athletes in situations like this one," Schultz wrote.

While acknowledging the disappointment surrounding the decision, Schultz said the district would continue advocating for changes to prevent other teams from experiencing similar circumstances.

"To our players and coaches, your hard work, dedication, and the season you put together will not be forgotten, and we could not be prouder of how you represented Delaware Academy," Schultz wrote.

Schultz closed by thanking the community for standing behind the team, saying its support demonstrated the strength of the Delaware Academy community during a difficult time.



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MAC 2026 Girls Soccer All-Stars

The Midstate Athletic Conference has announced its 2026 girls varsity soccer all-star selections, recognizing players named to the first team, second team and honorable mention list.

Greene coach Matt Butler was named Coach of the Year.

The first team includes Caitlin Walls, Hailey Butler and Quinlin Cavanaugh of Greene; Shannon Kingsbury, Harly Birdsall and Jordan Parks of Unatego Franklin; Tyler Abts and Jaylyn Prisco of Delaware Academy; Breegan George of Bainbridge Guilford; Trinity Lowe of Sidney; Madison Dix of Unadilla Valley GMU; and Jayne Fleury of Oxford.

Named to the second team were Miah Cragle, Ella Beach and Aliana Fisher of Greene; Zaeda Beadle and Peyton Woodard of Unatego Franklin; Addison Albright of Delaware Academy; Keelan Ammon of Bainbridge Guilford; Stella Smith of Sidney; Noelle Fernandez-Naughton of Unadilla Valley GMU; Appalonia Bushaw of Afton Harpursville; and Sadie Kaja of Walton-Downsville.

Honorable mention selections include Alexis Cloyd and Khloe Waltz of Greene; Isabella Stilson of Unatego Franklin; Danielle Ennist of Delaware Academy; Kamry Patten and Saige Barnard of Bainbridge Guilford; Addison Benedict of Sidney; Logan Lindholm of Unadilla Valley GMU; Aubrey Rickard and Paige Rickard of Oxford; Aisley Ruff of Afton Harpursville; and Kennedy Williams of Walton-Downsville.

Central Empire State Rifle and Pistol League

In Match VII of the Central Empire State Rifle and Pistol League for Nov. 13, teams from Walton, Oneonta and Rockdale notched victories.

Walton defeated Delhi 1100-18X to 1022-9X. Top shooters for Walton were Dennis Bennett 280-8X, Steve Dutcher 277-4X, Glen Bowker 278-5X, and Brian MacRabie 267-1X. Also shooting was Michael Noviello, Bill McAdams, Kris Bowker, Ryan Boice, Peter Green, Aubrie Green, Carl Banker, John Noviello, Sara Anderson, and Ben Green.

Top shooters for Delhi were Mabel Gutliph 274-6X, Bob Anderson 255-1X, Kevin Gutliph 247-1X, and Bryan Fitch 246-1X. Also shooting was Dennis Kilmoski and Jeremiah Anderson.

Oneonta defeated Stamford/Richmondville 1051-13X to 1013-12X. High shooters for Oneonta were Bri May 273-6X, Kevin Lord 271-4X, Al Nichols 255-1X; and Charlie Lowe 252-2X. High shooters for Stamford were Carl Tubbs 274-4X, Steve Baker 258-4X, Jim Hitt 241-2x; and Maynard Vance 240-1x.

Rockdale defeated Sidney 1070-20X to 1068-16X. Top shooters for Rockdale were Rob Gould 276-5X; Jason Fleming 265-8X; Steve Ingalls 265-4X; and Brent Wessels. High shooters for Sidney were Vinne Guglielmo 284-4X; Mike Terzo 264-4X; Mike Pecorello 263-6X; and Jim Winn 257-2X.

Stats

- Walton 7-0
- Rockdale 6-1
- Stamford/Richmondville 6-3
- Oneonta 3-4
- Sidney 1-6
- Delhi 0-7

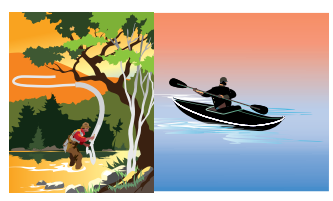
Sporterrifle League

Delhi defeated Rockdale in Match 9 of the New York State Sporterrifle League, 1406 to 1396.

Top shooters for Delhi were Mabel Gutliph 291, Garrett Fitch 287, Kara Fitch 282 Sarah Keehr 276, and Kevin Gutiph 270. Also shooting was Kristy Fitch.



OUTDOOR LIFE



Leaf Me Alone: Why You Should Keep Your Leaves In Your Yard

As the leaves continue to fall, many of us will use our time or money to rid our lawns of leaves. Keeping our leaves nearby is a simpler, more environmentally-friendly solution, as leaves contain nutrients that are good for the soil.

Here are some ways to make the most of your leaves:

- Mulch your leaves in place. Shred your leaves with a lawn mower and leave them on your lawn. It's faster and easier than raking or leaf blowing and adds nutrients to the soil.
- Add shredded leaves to your garden and landscaping. Shredded leaves can be used as mulch to help prevent weeds and keep moisture in the soil. The leaves will also slowly release nutrients into the soil.
- Save your leaves for composting. Fall allows us to collect and store a great carbon-rich source for our compost pile and that's leaves! Leaves balance out nitrogen-rich materials in your pile like food scraps and grass clippings. One of the biggest challenges to composting food scraps at home is the release of water into your compost pile as the food breaks down. One of the best ways to fix this is to add leaves every time you add food scraps (Compost tip: shredded leaves absorb water better than whole leaves.) Learn more about home composting.
- Insulate your compost bin for the winter. Place leaves around and on top of your compost bin. This will insulate your bin and allow the material to continue to break down throughout the winter. In the spring, you will have fresh compost without waiting for your pile to thaw out, and the leaves can be added to your spring compost pile.



image courtesy of NYSDEC

Audubon Chapter eBird Program Nov. 20

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will host a presentation on eBird, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's online bird-observation database, Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Birder and educator Pete Fenner will discuss how to use the free citizen-science platform to document bird sightings. The program will cover the basics of eBird, differences between its website and mobile app, and the benefits of recording observations.

Fenner also will explain the system's review process, the importance of adding comments, photographs and audio recordings, and how eBird works with Merlin, the Cornell Lab's bird-identification app.

Fenner lives in East Peoria, Illinois, but has family ties to central New York. A graduate of Colgate University with a degree in biology, he pursued a career in the west and is now retired from Caterpillar. He birds nearly every day and is among the top eBird contributors in his home area and Otsego County.

He has served for more than 20 years on the board of Peoria Audubon, where he is treasurer, and is a trustee emeritus of the Nature Conservancy of Illinois.

The program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit https://tinyurl.com/eBirding-Pete-Fenner

For more information, contact Susan O'Handley, publicity chairwoman for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, at 607-643-5680 or info@doas.us

Donate Your Deer Harvest

DEC partners with Feeding New York state to fund, promote, and facilitate the donation of venison by hunters to those in need. Each year, hunters help address food insecurity in New York by donating 50,000-70,000 pounds of venison. After your next successful hunt, consider donating all or part of your harvested deer through one of Feeding New York State's cooperating processors. You can also make a financial donation to Feeding New York State's venison donation program, or make a cash gift to support venison donation when you purchase your next hunting license.

To donate a whole deer:

- Make sure the deer is tagged or e-tagged and has been reported to DEC.
- Create and attach an additional tag to the carcass that includes the date of donation and the names and addresses of both the hunter who shot the deer and the recipient of the carcass.
- A donated deer carcass with head removed can be transported, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. Additionally, create and attach a tag to the carcass that includes the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.

To donate packaged venison:

- Create and attach a label to the packages of venison that includes:
- The names, addresses, and signatures of both the hunter who harvested the deer and the recipient of the venison.
- The hunter's hunting license number.
- The date that the portions of venison were cut.
- Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one label with "venison" on the outside of the box.
- This label must remain in possession of the recipient until the venison is consumed.

Catskill Mountain Club Announces Six Hikes for November and December

The Catskill Mountain Club has scheduled six member-led hikes across the Catskill Mountains in late November and early December.

The 22-year-old grassroots nonprofit offers free hiking, paddling and biking outings led by club members. The organization also advocates for nonmotorized outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the region.

Upcoming hikes include:

- Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Plateau and Sugarloaf mountains.
- Sunday, Nov. 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Hunter Mountain and Colonel's Chair.
- Saturday, Nov. 28, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Table and Peekamoose mountains.
- Sunday, Nov. 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Windham High Peak.
- Wednesday, Dec. 2, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Eagle, Big Indian and Fir mountains.
- Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Plateau, Sugarloaf, Indian Head and Twin mountains.

For additional details, directions and event information visit catskillmountainclub.org

DEC Announces 22nd Annual Middle School Student Poster Contest Theme: "Water Connects Us All"

Poster Contest Submissions Accepted Through Jan. 8, 2027

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton and the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) has announced the annual water conservation poster contest for middle school students. The 2027 "Water Connects Us All" poster theme challenges middle school students to learn about their role in the watershed they live in and what positive actions they can take to conserve, protect, and celebrate our water resources, now and for future generations.

Commissioner Lefton said for two decades, the water conservation poster contest has helped inspire New York's next generation of environmental stewards. This year's theme encourages young people across New York state to become guardians of their watersheds and reminds all New Yorkers of the everyday actions each of us can take to protect and conserve precious water resources.

Since 2004, DEC's annual poster contest has encouraged thousands of middle school students across New York state to learn about their role in protecting local watersheds and how to conserve and safeguard water resources. Previous themes include "Create a Watershed Superhero," "We All Live in a Watershed," "Conserve and Protect our Watersheds," and "The Importance of Wastewater Treatment."

New York state teachers, schools, and clubs are encouraged to visit DEC's website for more information about participating in the 2026-27 school year contest. Posters will be accepted through Jan. 8, 2027. The 14 winning posters will be featured in DEC and NYWEA's 2028 annual calendar.

The poster contest helps raise awareness of the importance of natural resources and the DEC programs that help reduce water pollution and improve water quality. DEC is one of several New York state agencies funding projects that protect and restore water quality through statewide grant funding opportunities.

To see if your area is covered by a Clean Water Plan, check out DECInfo Locator under the Environmental Monitoring layer category on DEC's Clean Water Plans page. To learn more about positive actions New Yorkers can take to protect and conserve New York's waters, visit DEC's Keep Water Clean and Water Quality Management webpages.

HUNTERS

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OUTDOOR LIFE

Delaware County Seeks Continued Watershed Funding, Advances Snowmobile Grant

Planning Committee Reviews $146,436 Snowmobile Allocation and $36,463 Grant To Support Engineering Internships

Staff Report

DELHI - The Delaware County Planning Committee advanced several resolutions Tuesday, Nov. 17, including requests for continued funding of a watershed stormwater program and acceptance of a grant to develop local engineering talent.

Planning Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett presented two resolutions at the meeting, one designating Delaware County as the sponsor for the annual state snowmobile grant and another accepting a $36,463.75 award from the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC).

The county's snowmobile grant allotment for the coming year is $146,436. Johnson-Bennett said the amount varies slightly from year to year, depending in part on trail maintenance performed by local snowmobile clubs.

The county serves as a pass-through for the funding, applying on behalf of the clubs, which provide documentation of their maintenance expenses. Johnson-Bennett said the grant generally follows a 70-30 payment structure, with 70% provided up front and the remaining 30% available after the clubs document their work.



file

Delaware Valley Ridge Riders-maintained snowmobile trail in Downsville, toward Money Point.

In some years, clubs have been unable to spend their full initial allocations, particularly when limited snowfall reduces the need for trail maintenance. In those cases, money must be returned to the state.

The committee advanced the resolution designating the county as the grant sponsor as a pre-filed resolution. It is anticipated that supervisors will approve the resolution at their Nov. 24 meeting.

Background

Delaware County has also administered state funding to support snowmobile trail maintenance, including trails maintained by the Hamden Hill Ridge Riders. In August 2026, county supervisors approved an additional $1,429.79 in state funding to cover administrative costs associated with the county's snowmobile trail grant program. The money supplemented a $143,636 grant accepted in November 2025 and distributed among seven local snowmobile clubs that collectively maintain nearly 300 miles of designated trails in the county. The county serves as the local sponsor and fiscal administrator for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation funding. Grant reimbursements to clubs are based on documented eligible maintenance expenses, with allocations varying according to trail mileage and work performed.

Johnson-Bennett also presented a resolution to accept the $36,463.75 CWC grant, which will support a pilot program providing engineering internships through a partnership involving the county, the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

The program is intended to introduce engineering students to professional opportunities in the region and encourage them to build careers locally.

"The idea here is to kind of show these engineering students they don't have to leave the area to be an engineer," Johnson-Bennett said. "We do have professional jobs, and so we can nurture that with this program."

Under the arrangement, the county will administer the grant, while the Soil and Water Conservation District will manage the interns. ESF will work with the interns to develop the curriculum and provide assessments.

It is anticipated that supervisors will approve the resolution at their Nov. 24 meeting.

Regular Firearms Season for Deer and Bear Hunting Opens Nov. 21

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that the state's most popular big game hunting season begins Saturday, Nov. 21 and continues through Dec. 13 in the Southern Zone. DEC encourages hunters to Choose a Doe to help keep deer populations balanced and healthy and to familiarize themselves with new regulations designed to increase antlerless deer harvest. DEC also reminds hunters that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected in a wild deer in Livingston County. Hunters who harvest a deer in the CWD containment area, which includes the towns of Conesus, Groveland, North Dansville, Sparta, Springwater, and West Sparta, must bring their deer to the DEC check station located at the Livingston County Office of Emergency Management, 3360 Gypsy Lane, Mount Morris.

This year's hunting season brings several important updates for New York hunters:

New Regulations to Increase Antlerless Deer Harvest – Choose a Doe This Hunting Season

In 2026, DEC adopted new regulations to increase the harvest of antlerless deer in areas where most needed. Under the new regulations, DEC:

• Added 10 wildlife management units (WMUs) to the nine-day season for antlerless deer in mid-September.

• Designated 23 WMUs as having unlimited Deer Management Permits (DMPs), where hunters who harvest and report an antlerless deer using a DMP are eligible to have the DMP automatically replaced with a bonus DMP.

• Modified the DMP application process to allow hunters to apply for up to four DMPs, two in WMUs with limited DMPs and two in WMUs with unlimited/bonus DMPs.

• Allowed unlimited consignment of DMPs between hunters.

DEC also created an incentive for hunters to harvest antlerless deer by establishing a statewide Earn-a-2nd-Buck (EA2B) system. Under the new EA2B system:

• All hunters will receive a first Antlered Deer Tag valid during any season (with appropriate privileges), except the September antlerless season, upon the purchase of a hunting license.

• Bow and muzzleloader privileges will include antlerless deer tags only.

• Hunters who harvest and report an antlerless deer using any valid tag for an antlerless deer will be eligible to receive a second Antlered Deer Tag.

• Hunters are required to retain evidence (photo or head) of the antlerless deer harvest for seven days and provide the evidence to DEC upon request.

DEC encourages all hunters to Choose a Doe this hunting season. Across much of New York state, deer populations have grown to levels that are harmful to the deer, the habitat, the hunting experience, and the public. DEC's "Choose A Doe" campaign reminds hunters of the important reasons why they should harvest does each hunting season:

• Help the Herd – High deer populations are more susceptible to diseases and produce deer with smaller antlers and bodies.

• Help the Habitat – High deer populations negatively impact many species of plants that provide important wildlife habitat.

• Help the Hungry – A single donated doe can provide up to 200 nutritious meals to people experiencing food insecurity in New York state.

• Help the Hunt – When the buck-to-doe ratio is out of balance, breeding season activity can decrease. Does can also be bred late, which reduces fawn survival.

• Help the Hometown – Deer-vehicle collisions, deer damage to crops, and the spread of tick-borne diseases negatively impact our local communities. **Take It - Tag It - Report It**

All New York state hunters who take a deer, bear, or turkey are required to report their harvest. Hunters can choose to use either a paper license and tags or the HuntFishNY mobile app as electronic proof of licensure and possession of tags for deer, bear, or turkey.

Paper tag users must report their harvest within 48 hours. Reports can be submitted through the HuntFishNY app, DEC's website, or by calling 1-866-GAME-RPT. Users of electronic tags (e-tags) are required to immediately report their harvest in the field with the mobile app. The app allows reporting even in areas without cell service. Upon reporting, the app provides hunters with a confirmation number proving that e-tagging is completed. E-tag users do not need to attach a physical tag to the carcass while it remains in their possession, including in their vehicle or at home. If they leave the carcass elsewhere, such as at a processor or taxidermist, they must attach a tag of their own making that includes their name, 12-digit DEC ID number, and harvest reporting confirmation number.

Reporting your harvest is required by law and provides critical data to inform DEC's management of deer, bear, and turkey populations.

Motorists Should Watch for Deer and Moose on or Near Roadways



image courtesy of NYSEDEC

Fall is an especially important time to be alert to the presence of deer and moose while driving. Fall is their breeding season and they become more active—and more likely to enter public roadways. Motor vehicle crashes with deer increase in October, November, and December.

Motorists should be aware that animals are especially active at dawn and dusk when visibility may be reduced and commuter traffic may be heavy. Moose can be difficult to see at night because of their dark coloring and their height, which puts their head and much of their body above vehicle headlights. DEC recommends these precautions motorists can take to reduce the chance of hitting a deer or moose:

• Decrease speed when you approach deer near roadsides. Deer can "bolt" into the road or change direction at the last minute.

• If you see a deer cross the road, decrease speed and be careful. Deer often travel in groups so expect other deer to follow.

• Use your headlights to warn other drivers when deer are seen on or near the road.

• When a deer or moose approaches the roadway ahead, honk your car horn to discourage them from entering the roadway.

• Use added caution on roadways marked with deer crossing signs.

• Use extreme caution when driving at dawn or dusk, when animal movement is at its highest and visibility is reduced.

• If you encounter an animal on the roadway, brake firmly but do not swerve. Swerving can cause a collision with another vehicle, a tree, a pole, or other objects. If an animal is hit, DEC advises motorists to stay away from the animal. A frightened, wounded deer or moose could use its powerful legs and sharp hooves to cause harm.

–BUSINESS DIRECTORY–

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SNOWPLOWING



FRANKLIN

By Amber Gray
agray1795@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving, Franklin.

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 Thursday, Nov. 19 and Friday, Nov. 20 are half days for students to accommodate parent-teacher conferences. Thanksgiving recess is Wednesday, Nov. 25-Friday, Nov. 27.

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, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 featuring a child-led process art painting activity. Call 607-829-3312 for more info.

Greater Franklin Food Pantry, 574 Main Street, will be open extended hours Friday, Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., for both regular pantry shopping and holiday food box pick up. Sign-ups are open to new and returning pantry neighbors for the December holiday food box until Monday, Nov. 30, either at the pantry during open hours or call or text 607-386-1601 or email. Franklin Head Start and Franklin Central School families can signup 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 by phone at or online at greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org

Franklin Rotary is bringing holiday magic to Franklin once more with the Main Street Christmas Tree Project. If you live or work on Main Street and would like a tree placed in your front yard or business, contact Rotary by Wednesday, Nov. 25. Email franklinrotary7170@gmail.com or message the Facebook page. This year, the club requires confirmation from everyone who would like a tree even if you have received a tree in the past. Tree installation will be Saturday, Dec. 5.

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 Zine Exhibit is on view through Thursday, Dec. 10. On Thursday, Nov. 19, Girl Scouts will host a fun night from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for those in kindergarten through grade 3. For more info about Girl Scouts call or text Nicki at 607-442-6721. Comics Club for ages 6+ will meet Tuesday, Nov. 24, 3:20-4:20 p.m. to work on comic books with supplied materials. The library will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving Day.

Bright Hill Community Library, 94 Church Street, Treadwell, is open Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Creative fiber artists are welcome to the Fiber Sitting Circle, Monday, Nov. 23, 2 p.m. for inspiration, conversation, and motivation while working on your art.

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. Netty's Flowers will host a Thanksgiving floral class Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. Cost is $40 and attendees are asked to bring scissors.

Open Doors: A United Methodist Community, 475 Main Street, worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sundays with activities for children provided. 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. The third annual Thanksgiving potluck will be held Sunday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m. All are welcome; bring an appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert to share if you can.

Treadwell Methodist Church will host a holiday bazaar Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. A luncheon will be served from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 307 Main Street welcomes all faiths and families 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.

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 prekindergarten 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 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 after children's time.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Xi Delta Iota Chapter, is holding a pre-Thanksgiving bake sale 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 baked goods are available. Proceeds help fund local family services, veterans' services, food banks and animal shelters.

Saturday, Dec. 12 is Franklin's Holidayfest. Visit the Holiday Market at the firehouse at 351 Main Street and shop with local artisans and vendors. Buy tickets for the Christmas Stroll House Tour at the Holiday Market. Stroll homes are open for touring from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person and $15 per couple. Proceeds benefit the Franklin Improvement Society, a 501(c)(3) organization. The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, Franklin Library, Open Doors Methodist Church and Community Bible Church also have festive happenings. Good Taste Epicurean Market at 438 Main Street will have complimentary cheese tastings all day, wine tastings 3-5 p.m., poetry readings and book signings 12-2 p.m., and art show 2-5 p.m. Santa will be everywhere — at the library at 11 a.m., in the park for the tree lighting at 5:15 p.m., and at the firehouse at 6 p.m. with Mrs. Claus to visit with the kiddos. Visit Facebook @FranklinNYStroll for more information.

Reminder that the Franklin Rideshare email group is still connecting riders with drivers. To subscribe to the group, send a blank email to FranklinNYRideshare+subscribe@groups.io

Village of Franklin general election Tuesday, Mar. 16, 2027. A two-year trustee position is up for election. Independent nominating petitions are available at the village office, 141 Water Street, and must be filed by Feb. 9, 2027.

COLCHESTER

By Toni Vessey
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607-363-7363

Hello friends. What is an elder? According to the Cambridge Dictionary, an elder is an older person, especially one with a respected position in society. "You should listen to the advice of your elders" is an example of how to use this 12th century word. Downsville has lost many "elders" in the 23 years I have lived here and each one has left a hole in the fabric of our community. These past two weeks we have lost highly respected and beloved elders, among them Luke Watson and Bob Kurdt, both in their 90s. I met Bob and his wife Joy at the Senior Citizens group many years ago. They were a lovely couple and what struck me most was how well Bob took care of Joy then and in her declining years. They were hosts for the bocce group of active seniors who met during the warm months at the Kurdt house. Bob always had a smile when we met at the Post Office but living alone took its toll. Hopefully he and Joy are reunited in the afterlife.

Luke Watson had called me just the week before he passed. He said how much he enjoyed reading *The Reporter* and thought he would like to sit down and have a chat with me sometime. I offered to check my calendar and set up a time for an official visit. Sadly, the next week he was gone and I never did get to have that chat. From all accounts, Luke was a character and a highly respected member of the James S. Moore American Legion Post #167. He mentioned to me in that last call how proud he was to be receiving his 70-year membership pin. He and wife Betty were quite the couple. Betty always brought a smile to see her drive that old tractor during town parades. Again, I regret not knowing them better while they were here.

Regrets - a reminder that our time here is very short even at 90+. Don't put off those visits or phone calls or cards you used to send. With the holiday season fast approaching, make the effort to connect with those you love but also with those who are alone or those you once knew but have lost that connection: an old friend, a coworker, a favorite teacher, maybe someone you are curios about, an elder who knows things about the community who would love to chat with you about the good ole days.

Tomorrow, Nov. 20, there is a chicken & biscuit dinner and basket raffle beginning at 4 p.m. at the Downsville Firehall to benefit Martin Brock.

Saturday, Nov. 21, there will be a holiday bazaar sponsored by the East Branch/Harvard United Methodist Church. There will be handmade crafts, baked goods, a basket raffle and an assortment of holiday items for sale. Lunch will also be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Looks like a good time to begin some of that holiday shopping.

Next Thursday, Nov. 26, is Thanksgiving. Are you all set for the big day? They don't have turkeys at the Colchester Community Food Pantry, but there are other groceries that can help with your holiday budget. They are open on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and noon.

A heads up for those in the Western Catskill Charge (Colchester Community United Methodist Church (CCUMC), First United of Walton, East Branch/Harvard United Methodist Church and Roscoe United), Sunday, Nov. 29 is a Unity Service Day. Worship will be held at 10 a.m. at the CCUMC for all four churches. It is also the first Sunday of Advent, and all are invited to come and to prepare for the real reason for the season. CCUMC is a welcoming church, and I hear there may be some time for fellowship and food after worship. Spread the word, bring a friend. You are most welcome.

Speaking of Advent, there is a four-week Advent study offered at the CCUMC. It will be held Mondays between 10:30 a.m. and noon and will begin Nov. 30. If you are interested call 607-363-7363 to reserve your spot. Books will be provided.

If you have something you want to share here let me know well in advance so I can get it into the column. Thanks for reading my musings. Til next week, Peace~

SIDNEY/UNADILLA

By Anna Ritchey
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Sidney

Volunteers to ring the Salvation Army bell are needed (inside) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sidney Price Chopper. If you are interested in volunteering call Marie 607-435-5882.

Donations for the Uplift Care kit boxes can be left at these places through Dec. 4: Village Variety in Unadilla, SFCU in Bainbridge, Macho's Tacos, Trackside Dining, Club 55 and Tri County Senior Center. Lists of items needed at these places, too. The care kits are given to children and their families who are going through difficult times such as cancer treatment, major surgery or other medical challenges. Items are to be distributed through the Bassett Healthcare Network School-based health offices to those most in need.

The free Share the Bounty meal will be held one week earlier this month due to Thanksgiving. The meal, hosted by Knights of Columbus, will be held Thursday, Nov. 19 serving from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Liberty Street. All are welcome. On the menu: 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 If you enjoy Mahjong or would like to learn to play, come to the library's Smart Community Room every Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. No registration required. The Photography Club art exhibit in the Smart Community Room now through Nov. 28.

Sunday, Nov 21 at 2 p.m. local historian Scott Payne will present a program in the Smart Community Room on the Revolutionary War in New York called "The snow Turned Red: The Cherry Valley Massacre." Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m., come and decorate your own fresh-cut green wreath. The non-refundable $15 fee includes all supplies including the wreath and is due upon registration. Sign up at the circulation desk at the library. A holiday card workshop will be held Saturday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Join Linda Shea to create four beautiful holiday-themed cards. The program is free - registration required. Both workshops are sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries.

Make a bookmark hunt for turkeys at the Masonville Branch Library Friday, Nov. 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. Stop in and enjoy this fun craft; for more information call 607-265-3330. The Yarn Club will meet Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Unveiling the mural painted by Keiko Howard will be held Friday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Sidney Community Cultural Center, Bridge Street.

A Thanksgiving dinner will be served at the Sidney American Legion, Union Street, Thursday, Nov. 26 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Holly Jolly Parade and Tree Lighting will be on Friday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. along Main Street. Following the parade see Santa at his headquarters at Limitless Dance Studio, 22 River Street.

The Sidney Central School Winter Band Concert will be held Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sidney High School Auditorium.

The Tri County Senior Center in the back of the hospital building at 43 Pearl Street is open 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 Facebook.

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.

At the Sidney United Methodist Church, 12 Liberty Street, the food bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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. at 21 Liberty Street. Catholic Charities hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Birthright of Sidney serves 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.

Unadilla

Parents of the Unatego Elementary School are reminded of the food drive to help the Unadilla and Otego food pantries stock their shelves for the holidays. Children may bring in nonperishable food through Nov.20.

The Unadilla Main Street Santa Parade will be Friday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. prior will be the tree lighting at 5:45 on the Community Lawn, 193 Main Street, along with hot cocoa served in memory of Tanya Martini. Parade line-up at I-88 access (opposite Westcott-Madden Funeral Home), with Limitless Dancers at start of parade performing on Main Street in front of Community House. Santa will visit children at the Wm. Bauer Community Center, 246 Main Street, after the parade.

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 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 607-369-2052 for reservations.

Village board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Firehouse, 77 Clifton Street.

Town board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month 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 (193 Main Street) board open monthly meetings are every third Monday at 6:30 p.m. .

The Unadilla Food Pantry, 172 Main Street, is open Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month hours are 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.

News of the County Seat and Surrounding Communities. *Subscribe today*. 607-464-4009

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Margaretville to Celebrate Holiday Season With Shopping, Parade of Lights

Shop Small Saturday, holiday parade and community tree lighting set for Nov. 28

MARGARETVILLE — Margaretville will welcome the holiday season Saturday, Nov. 28, with an afternoon of shopping, a Holiday Parade of Lights and a community tree-lighting celebration.

The festivities begin with Shop Small Saturday and the Pick a Card Shopping Challenge from noon to 4 p.m. More than 20 participating businesses will offer holiday specials, giveaways and activities.

Shoppers will receive a playing card with each purchase at participating businesses. The more stores they visit, the more cards they can collect. At the end of the day, the shopper with the best five-card poker hand will win a holiday gift basket filled with items and a gift card tree donated by local businesses.

The Holiday Parade of Lights will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will travel through the village along Main Street. Families, businesses, community organizations and individuals are encouraged to participate by entering decorated floats.

Following the parade, the celebration will continue at the Binnekill lot with a community tree lighting and other holiday activities.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for photos in a holiday photo tent. Joe Colwell will lead a seasonal singalong around a bonfire.

Food will be available for purchase. Margaretville Central School students will sell hot cocoa.

The event is intended to encourage residents and visitors to explore Margaretville's locally owned businesses while celebrating the community.

For more information, contact the MARK Project: Peg@markproject.org

Holiday Celebration Schedule

- Noon to 4 p.m.: Shop Small Saturday and Pick a Card Shopping Challenge at participating businesses.
- 4:30 p.m.: Holiday Parade of Lights through the village.
- Following the parade: Community tree lighting, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, bonfire singalong, food, beverages and other holiday activities at the Binnekill lot.

Longyear Gallery Holiday Invitational Exhibit Open Nov. 20

Longyear Gallery will present its annual Holiday Invitational Exhibit and members' group show from Friday, Nov. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 3.

An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m.

The festive annual exhibit brings together work by Longyear Gallery members and artists invited by each member to display their work alongside the group.

Gallery hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit longyeargallery.org



contributed

Artwork by Ricky Zia

Historic Barn Undergoes Renovations

DELHI - At the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) in Delhi, extensive renovation efforts are underway for the museum's historic Frisbee family barn. The barn, which was once open to the public and featured an exhibit on farming in the 19th century, was closed some years ago due to structural issues. However, thanks to funding provided by a private donor, DCHA has been able to move forward with its efforts to preserve the structure.

The Frisbee family barn was built in the late 1790s by Judge Gideon Frisbee, a Revolutionary War veteran who came to the Catskills from Connecticut and settled along Elk Creek. Judge Frisbee and his family first resided in a small log cabin while building their larger farmhouse, which was completed in 1797, and the barn, which was likely completed around the same time.

The barn was constructed in two main parts, with the first section dating from the 1790s, and then an addition built in the mid-1800s. At that time the original barn was also raised with the addition of a lower story to accommodate the growing importance of dairy cows. A third section of the barn was built by DCHA in the 1970s in an effort to add more storage space to the structure.



image courtesy of DCHA

The oldest portion of the barn is not only historic due to its age, but also due to the construction materials used. According to barn restoration experts, most barns in the northeast were constructed using small, easy to lift beams. However, the Frisbee family barn was constructed using enormous hemlock beams that are three to four times the size of an average barn beam.

"We do have some guesses as to why the barn was built using such large beams," said Samantha Misa, DCHA's Assistant Executive Director. "The best theory we have is that the builder of the barn had more experience building mills, which required much sturdier beams and support due to the shaking and vibrations of the machinery, and simply used those techniques here. Or perhaps after the building of a nearby mill, the Frisbees used leftover materials for this structure. The other possibility is that it was done to show off the status of the family."

DCHA is using the services of Benjamin Ingalls of Ingalls Restoration to stabilize and repair various sections of the barn. The restoration work will also include replacement of the roof and installation of authentic cedar shingles, and replacing some early- to mid-twentieth-century concrete foundations with more authentic laid stone.

According to DCHA Director Tim Duerden, "Our goal is to have the barn reopen to the public. We would love to have another exhibit in the barn, and display some of our historic items, and possibly host events there in the future." Duerden estimates that the work will be completed by next summer.

Anyone interested in learning more about this ongoing project is encouraged to contact DCHA at 607-746-3849 or dchadelhi@gmail.com

Margaretville Menorah Lighting Set for Dec. 5

Congregation B'nai Israel will host a public menorah lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 on Main Street in Margaretville, across from the Department of Motor Vehicles office - the Gottfried Building.

The ceremony will mark the lighting of the second candle on a 6-foot outdoor electric menorah. Although Hanukkah begins Friday, Dec. 4, the menorah will not be lit that evening because of Shabbat.

All members of the community are invited to attend. The event will include a brief presentation about the meaning of Hanukkah, along with jelly doughnuts, dreidels and chocolate gelt for attendees.

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in the second century B.C.E., following a Jewish revolt against oppressive rule.

During the holiday, an additional candle is lit each night on the menorah until all eight candles are burning. Jewish families also traditionally light menorahs in their homes.

RUMMAGE SALE
Catskill Mountain Christian Center
629 Main St., Margaretville
Nov. 21, 2026
10am-4pm Rain or Shine
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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

WALTON THEATRE
NOVEMBER 20, 22 & 25
WHALEFALL
- PG-13 -
FRIDAY - 7 PM
SATURDAY - NO MOVIE - LIVE SHOW
SUNDAY - 1 PM
ADULTS - $8; 12 & UNDER - $7
(MATINEE PRICE IS $1.00 LESS)
Wednesday Matinee 1 PM $6
Gardiner Place 607-865-6688
www.waltontheatre.org

The Pastor's Pen

The Schwan Man - Holy Spirit filled moments

Pastor Pam Washburn

I was heading to dinner at a friend's house—members of my small group. As a group, we had committed to praying for the people God placed in our paths. That evening, just as I arrived, their Schwan man pulled into the driveway. We had been praying for him for weeks. We met in the entryway, and I introduced myself.

He looked at me and asked, "Are you the one with the triplets?"

When I said yes, his face softened. He told me his wife was at home in tears; they had learned earlier that afternoon that another round of fertility treatment had failed.

I listened, then gently asked, "Can I pray for you?"

He said yes immediately, folded his hands in prayer and came close.

As I prayed, the presence of God settled over us. When I opened my eyes, tears were streaming down his face. I invited him and his wife to join us at our small group that week. They later told me they drove around the block several times before finally getting the courage to come in. But they came—and they kept coming.

A few months later, sitting at my dinner table, both of them accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Our group prayed over them for a baby that year, and God answered! Their daughter was born nine months later.

A prayer in a hallway. A chance meeting. A welcoming group. A miracle.

Every moment was woven together by God.

A simple invitation to pray with someone can change everything. In this case it led to meeting Jesus at the dinner table.

As Christians, we believe that the Holy Spirit of the living God comes to dwell in us upon our confession of faith in Christ making us the living body of Christ on earth. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity who leads us into all truth (John 16:13), comforts us (John 14:16), gives us power (2 Timothy 1:7), affirms our place in the family of God (Romans 8:16) and lovingly convicts us of the places in our life that need change (John 16:8).

God is always moving in the lives of people, everyday seeking to draw people to himself so none should be spiritually estranged from Him. As a believer, you have the opportunity to join the Holy Spirit of God in that work. Most of the time it requires moving past your comfort zone and into a space that may cause you to be rejected or ridiculed. Join Him anyway! People are hungry for the truth and searching for peace in all the wrong places. We were once far from God too and someone shared the truth and love of Jesus with us. Like a series of dominoes, God uses His people to bless others and draw them to Himself. Be a domino in the life of another to the throne of God!

Pam Washburn is interim lead pastor at New Hope Community Church in Walton.

Last Week's Crossword Answers

H	E	A	R	■	P	O	S	E	S	■	B	A	S	S
E	L	B	A	■	I	R	A	N	I	■	A	R	T	Y
R	E	I	N	■	C	A	R	A	T	■	S	A	U	L
R	A	B	I	D	■	T	O	M	■	R	A	B	B	I
■	■	■	■	D	A	R	E	D	E	V	I	L	■	■	■
A	C	E	■	R	A	D	■	L	I	B	■	R	E	M
R	A	B	B	E	T	■	P	E	A	■	S	E	M	I
B	I	B	B	S	■	R	E	D	■	S	E	A	M	S
O	R	E	L	■	R	U	G	■	R	O	A	M	E	D
R	O	D	■	T	A	T	■	S	E	N	■	S	R	O
■	■	■	S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E	S	■	■	■
R	A	B	I	A	■	B	A	T	■	S	A	B	E	R
C	L	U	B	■	P	A	L	E	A	■	B	A	R	I
M	A	R	I	■	A	G	L	E	T	■	I	B	I	S
P	E	R	U	■	P	A	Y	N	E	■	N	E	C	K

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Backtrack Vocals
MAINSTAGE CONCERT
Award-winning NYC-based vocal group celebrated for their dynamic performances and versatile repertoire.
11.21.2026 7:30pm
Walton Theatre 30 Gardiner Pl
All Ages
Tickets | $25 Adult | $20 Senior
$40 Family | $15 Livestream
Walton: Theatre - Molto Molto - Wayne Bank
Oneonta: Green Toad Bookstore
Online: musiconthedelaware.org

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- ☐ Home Heating
- ☐ Home Improvement
- ☐ Outdoor Power
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- ☐ Rec. Sport
- ☐ Rentals
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DEADLINE: Noon Tuesday

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GENERAL

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SKIPPY'S SERVICES NOW does free pickup on any type of scrap metal including vehicles. For prompt, courteous service, call Skippy for more details. 607-746-8319. 47G

HAVING AN EVENT

Having an upcoming community event? Posting it to The Reporter's online calendar is easy. Visit The-Reporter.net, click Submit under the Calendar tab, and enter your event details. It's a convenient way to inform the community and have your event considered for The Reporter and other Decker Advertising publications. The-Reporter.net OtfG

1570 Third Brook, Walton. Open Daily. Tools power washer, lawn mower, hardware, air compressor, siding, shutters, sand bags. Green Garage. 610-563-7044 X48G

COMMUNITY EVENT

Is your civic organization having a community event? Post it today in The Reporter's event calendar. Go to The-Reporter.net and click on submit under the calendar tab. This is the best way of having your event considered for inclusion in the print edition of The Reporter and other publications published by Decker Advertising Inc. OtfG

HELP WANTED

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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Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years ($849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496 Z47HI

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Walton NY. Huge, with classic w/wood floors in Walton Available. Last one we have. * LARGE. 6 room 2nd fl. 1150 sq. ft. * Suitable for Family of 3/4 persons. * Parking for 2 cars. ** Recently Refurbished. * Requires Credit / Background, rental & employment verification. **2 older "very quiet" gentleman on first floor. With ADA service animal. If interested PM. Reduced: $1495. Extra consideration For military W/ DD214. Principals Only please Text: 7186838224 for appt. info. RESPECTFULLY, no brokers or other third parties please. Thanks For Reading. 47FR

Walton NY. Gigantic Classic old full floor 1300 ft. Apartment. Walton. 2nd Floor. Recently updated, new washer dryer, off street parking. Requires credit/background check, income n employment verification, valid rental references.Suitable 3/4 persons, NO Pets NO SMOKING $1600. (Veterans Special Consideration on price w/dd214) Interested persons please text 7186838224. Respectfully no brokers or other third parties please. Thanks For Reading 47FR

House soon a TWO Family? But If you are interested in the one family text 7186838224 to view it now. Updated with Washer n dryer hookups. Off street parking for 2 cars Near park with nice yard. *$2200 month. No Pets. No Smoking. **house has hot water heat. Least expensive unless you chop wood yourself. (Jan 2026 $350 gas n electric). NOTE: There is a limited Time for this as we will start conversion by end of the week. Requires * Proof of availability of funds to take possession ASAP. *credit/background check and verifiable rental references /employment verification. *3 bedroom home suitable 4/5 persons max. *one qualifying dog (with papers n deposit) *All adults to be listed and responsible on up to a 2 year lease. *Sharing/ Group rental will not be accepted. ****Interested principal's Text 7186838224 for more info. *Respectfully no brokers or other 3rd parties please. Thanks for reading. 47FR

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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

ATTENTION
Public Notice Early Submission Deadline:
12 Noon Mon., Nov. 23
for the Nov. 26, 2026, issue

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 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.

VILLAGE OF STAMFORD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

November 12, 2026

Re: Public Notice

On Thursday November 30, 2026 at 7:00pm the Stamford Village Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Village of Stamford Offices located at 84 Main Street, Stamford, NY 12167 for the purpose of hearing an appeal to the Village Zoning Law.

Jamison Hanway
Stamford Village Clerk

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.

TOWN OF HAMDEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, The Town of Hamden will hold a Public Hearing on December 2, 2026 at the Hamden Town Hall, Hamden, New York at 6:30 pm to discuss the Fire and Ambulance service contract with the Delhi Fire District. Contract will be for one year from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

DATED: November 4, 2026
Cathy Roloson
Hamden Town Clerk

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.

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

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 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.

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.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Name: S T A Y W I T H B O N G O 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 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 LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the following positions will be filled at the 2027 Village of Sidney Elections to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2027:
Two (2) Trustee Positions for four (4) year unexpired terms.
One (1) Mayor Position for a four (4) year unexpired term.
Dated: November 9, 2026
Michelle George
Village Clerk-Treasurer

WALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice of Vacancies

Administrative Aide

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

HS Diploma or GED required. Previous office experience is required. Subject to civil service requirements. https://www.delcony.gov/departments/pers/docs/administrative%20aide.pdf

School Nurse

New York State Registered Nursing License

Applications available at: www.waltoncsd.org

Submit letter of interest to:
S. Corey Phraner, District Clerk
47-49 Stockton Avenue
Walton, New York 13856

All inquiries, please contact the Superintendent's Office at
607-865-4116 ext. 6130

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The successful candidate will help clients develop advertising strategies and marketing campaigns while building and maintaining strong customer relationships. This role includes both inside and outside sales responsibilities and offers flexible part-time hours.

Qualifications:
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- Professional phone and customer service skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication abilities
- Self-motivation with the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong organizational and multitasking skills
- Positive attitude and a desire to help customers succeed

Compensation:
- Hourly pay plus commission
- Starting wage of $16.80 per hour, based on experience
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If you're looking for a rewarding opportunity to work with local businesses and make a meaningful impact in your community, we'd love to hear from you.

Apply today. Email your resume to info@dckr.com or drop it off at the office in Delhi.

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Public notices/legals submit online 24/7 at: **www.The-Reporter.net**

Public Notices

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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

156GLENACRES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/12/26. Office: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, PO Box 180, Halcottsville, NY 12438. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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.

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 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

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

VILLAGE OF DELHI PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Delhi wants to remind Village residents of the following:
Snow and Ice Removal
It shall be the duty of the owner and/or occupant of every parcel of real estate abutting a public sidewalk, whether the parcel of real estate is occupied by a structure or not, to keep said sidewalk free from snow and ice for the full width and length of such sidewalk. Removal is required within 24 hours after a snowfall.
Failure to clear sidewalks will result in the Village removing the snow and ice at the expense of the property owner.

DELAWARE COUNTY SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DELAWARE
INDEX NO. EF2026-370

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Plaintiff,
vs.

JOYCE BERTRAND, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. CALLUCCI, if living, and if she/he be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; DONNA CALLUCCI, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. CALLUCCI; LINDA CALLUCCI, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. CALLUCCI; ROSEMARIE KILLIAN, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. CALLUCCI; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. CALLUCCI, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff;; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,

Defendants

Plaintiff designates DELAWARE as the place of trial situs of the real property

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises:
784 TURNER HILL ROAD, DAVENPORT, NY 13750

Section: 9, **Block: 1**, **Lot:** 50

To the above named Defendants
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff 's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT
THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of $225,000.00 and interest, recorded on October 06, 2009 , in Book 1625 at Page 22, of the Public Records of DELAWARE County, New York. , covering premises known as 784 TURNER HILL ROAD, DAVENPORT, NY 13750.
The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.
DELAWARE County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

NOTICE
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.
Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.
YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.
Dated: October 28th , 2026
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Matthew Rothstein, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590
516-280-7675

VILLAGE OF FLEISCHMANNS PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WILL BE ON THE BALLOT FOR THE MARCH 16, 2027, VILLAGE OF FLEISCHMANNS GENERAL ELECTION:
1 VILLAGE MAYOR – 2 YEAR TERM
2 VILLAGE TRUSTEES-2 YEAR TERMS

Diane Rossman
Village Clerk
Village of Fleischmanns

TOWN OF HAMDEN LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

By resolution of the Town Board, pursuant to Section 205-a of the Highway Law, the Town of Hamden designates the following as seasonal limited use highways to be posted for temporarily discontinued snow and ice removal from November 1 of any year and April 1 of the following year.
Blanchard Road
Cobbe Cross Road from former Miller's trailer at intersection to former Gray residence or intersection of Gray Road
Crystal Creek Road from Lee Lane to Franklin Town line
Ridge Road from Gray Road to Gay Merrill residence
Stevens Road from Jeremy Bobb's, the old Stevens farm, to Andes Town Line

By order of the Hamden Town Board
DATED: November 4, 2026
Cathy Roloson
Hamden Town Clerk

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.

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

Notice of formation of Rafter & Ridge Contracting, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/2026. 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: 578 Patent Line, Franklin NY 13775. 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.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DELAWARE COUNTY 2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 1:05 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, NY on the 2027 Tentative Budget.

Pursuant to Section 359 of the County Law, the maximum salaries that may be fixed and payable during said fiscal year to members of the Board of Supervisors and the Chairman thereof, respectively, are hereby specified as follows:

18 members of the Board of Supervisors (each) $18,538
1 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors $85,104

All persons interested in speaking concerning the proposed budget will be heard at the aforementioned time and place. Copies of the proposed budget are available in the office of the Clerk of the Board at 111 Main Street, Delhi, NY during office hours. Disabled citizens who require assistance in attending said public hearing or in furnishing comments or suggestions should contact the Clerk of the Board to request assistance at (607) 832-5110.

Dated: November 19, 2026
Penny A. Bishop
Clerk of the Board
Delaware County Board of Supervisors

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

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.

VILLAGE OF WALTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Walton Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing in the Village Hall on December 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. before the regular meeting to have Delaware Opportunities present a new administration plan and present HOTMA (Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act).
Jody Brown, Clerk-Treasurer.

DELAWARE COUNTY LOCAL LAW

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NOS. 18 THROUGH 29 OF 2026 SALARY INCREASE DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, concerning proposed local laws as follows:

Introductory No. 18 to set the salary of Maria Kelso, Election Commissioner at $67,979 per annum; No. 19 to set the salary of Amy Merklen, County Attorney at $188,228 per annum; No. 20 to set the salary of Sherri Falcone, Director Real Property Tax Services II at $103,247 per annum; No. 21 to set the salary of Carrara Knoetgen, Personnel Officer at $107,878 per annum; No. 22 to set the salary of Douglas Elston, Director Community Mental Health Services at $127,235 per annum; No. 23 to set the salary of Keith Weaver, Commissioner of Social Services at $124,503 per annum; No. 24 to set the salary of Glenn Nealis, Director Economic Development at $110,787 per annum; No. 25 to set the salary of James Thomas, Commissioner of Public Works at $131,563 per annum; No. 26 to set the salary of Amanda Walsh, Public Health Director at $131,436 per annum; No. 27 to set the salary of Haley Gransbury, County Clerk at $91,915 per annum; No. 28 to set the salary of Sheriff Craig DuMond at $124,983 per annum; No. 29 to set the salary of Carli Pinner, County Treasurer, at $91,915 per annum.

All persons interested in speaking concerning the proposed local laws will be heard at the aforementioned time and place. Disabled citizens who require assistance in attending said public hearing or in furnishing comments or suggestions should contact the Clerk of the Board to request assistance at (607) 832-5110.

Dated: November 19, 2026
Penny A. Bishop
Clerk of the Board
Delaware County Board of Supervisors

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.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Hasela Capital, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/2026. 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 Joshua Manson: 1950 Burroughs Memorial Rd Roxbury, NY 12474. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

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

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of True Mountain Contracting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Registered Agents Inc., 418 Broadway, Ste. R, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 Years Ago,

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1926

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Major Webb Not Looking for Snow--Co. F Organizes Basketball Team-Pumper Called to Northfield

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Foreman, who were recently married, have purchased the farm of John Middlemist, West brook.

Joseph Forrest of Park street shot a buck Saturday at Wakeman brook, near Rock Rift. The animal was an eight pointer, weighing 180 pounds.

O.W. Mills has started a freight and express service between Walton and Binghamton, operating under the franchise granted M.E. Atkinson of Deposit.

Earl Wilsey of Elk Creek, near Schenevus, Otsego county, who was killed in an automobile accident last week, was a grandson of Mrs. Jane Hall of Unadilla, formerly of Loomis.

An addition 16 by 36 feet in dimensions has been built onto his storehouse at West End by E.R. Howland. The additional space will be used for storing lime and other materials handled.

Members of the faculty of the Walton union school have been attending the sessions of the Southern Tier district meeting of the New York State Teachers' association in Binghamton. The meeting began Thursday morning.

The open season for trapping skunk, raccoon and mink began on Nov. 10. The muskrat season commences Dec. 1 and lasts until Mar. 31. The mink season closes Mar. 15 and the season for skunk and raccoon on Feb. 10.

The annual union Thanksgiving service of the Protestant churches in Walton will be held this year in Christ Episcopal church. The program of the service next Thursday, which begins at 10 o'clock, will be found on page six.

Major J.I. Webb, Walton's weather prophet, had this to say of the weather, when interviewed Tuesday: "This year of 1926 has given us the greatest number of dark, dismal, cloudy and sunless days of my remembrance. These warm day and night rains are keeping us from deep snows. I am not looking for much snow, if any, for the next month to come."

Rev. S.R. MacEwan, former rector of Christ Episcopal church in Walton, has resigned as rector of St. John's church in Oneida and has taken a parish in Easton, Maryland. The change is made largely on account of Mr. MacEwan's health, which has not been good. Friends in Walton unite in the wish that the change of climate may prove beneficial.

Company F is to have a basketball team this season. This will be good news to local fans. Many of the old players will be back in the line-up this season. D.E. Towne, physical director in the Walton schools, has been engaged as coach and the first game will be played in the armory on Thanksgiving night with Barnes All-Stars from Binghamton as the guardsmen's opponents.

Automobiles driven by Walter Coulter of Walton and Robert T. Kinch of Delhi collided on North street, near Walton Hall during the storm Tuesday evening. Mr. Coulter was driving from Gardiner Place to North street through the alley on the south side of Walton Hall. He states that the front of his car was partly out in North street when he saw the other car coming northerly along North street and had stopped his car when the collision occurred. Miss Olive Hasbrouck, who was with Mr. Kinch, was thrown forward and it is thought her face struck against a mirror. Her nose was painfully cut and she received medical attention at the home of Dr. J.A. Holley nearby. The fenders of both cars were jammed.

On Thursday evening of last week this community was quite thoroughly stirred up by fire in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Seely. At about two o'clock in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Seely found that their chimney was burning out and also that it was getting pretty hot. After they had worked at it for some time they decided they had it under control, and went about their work, keeping close watch of their chimney in the meantime. At about 5:30 it started up again and seemed to be burning harder than before. With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Webb Seely they again thought it was all right, but on going upstairs somewhat later in the evening they found that the fire had caught in some of the upstairs rooms. A call for help was given and all the Northfield men responded. The Walton fire department's pump engine and crew were called and responded. When they arrived it seemed that everything would be all right with a little watching. After they had gone, however, some of the men saw tiny puffs of smoke issuing out from between floors and partitions and when they finally began to chop away the woodwork it burst into little flames. When, at last, the men were satisfied that they had every spark the woodwork about the chimney was all chopped away from the first floor to the attic, marring about seven rooms. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

COUNTY HEALTH UNIT FAILS OF APPROVAL

Proposition Is Defeated by Supervisors Second Time

COST TO COUNTY $7,450

Budget of $15,200 Calls For Health Officer and Two Nurses As Assistants

The proposal to establish a county health unit in Delaware county was defeated by the board of supervisors Monday by a vote of 15 to 4. Those recorded in favor of the proposition were Supervisors Bruce, Gilbert, Stevenson and Carpenter. Those voting in the negative were Supervisors Storie, Garrison, Kenyon, Black, Latham, Sommer, Fowler, Elwood, Smith, Stephens, Tobey, Dugan, Blythe, White and Chamberlin.

At the session of the board of supervisors Friday J.J. Farrell of Walton, president of the Delaware County Tuberculosis and Public Health association, presented Homer Folks, secretary of the State Charities Aid, and a member of the Public Health Council of the State, and Dr. Plunkitt of the state board of health, who addressed the board in relation to the establishment of a health unit in Delaware county.

The proposal for a health unit in brief is for a full time county health officer with two public health nurses as assistants. A similar unit is now established in Cattaraugus county and Delaware county was selected by the state health authorities as suitable for another such unit because it has a tuberculosis death rate above the average.

The budget for the health unit calls for $15,200 toward which the Rockefeller Foundation will contribute $2,500, the state $5,250, while the county's share is $7,450. Proponents claim that the county is now paying $3,500 for work which would be taken over by the health unit so that the actual increase in cost would be $3,950.

Last year the proposal was defeated by a vote of 14 to 5. The principal objection then raised was that there could be no retreat from the project when once entered it. A law enacted by the last legislature is understood to cure this objection and permit dropping the health unit later if desired. The supervisors, however, saw the matter in the same light as last year and the resolution establishing the unit was defeated 15 to 4.

HIGH WATER TUESDAY CAUSE OF TROUBLE

Flood Undermines Bridge in Walton Village

SOME DAMAGE BY WIND

Railroad Traffic on Ulster & Delaware and Delaware & Northern Delayed by Heavy Rains

Regularly about twice a year, in spring and fall, Walton is visited by high water. The autumn flood this year came Tuesday during the driving rain, which set in Monday night and continued almost steadily until Tuesday evening. According to the records of the state school of agriculture in Delhi 2.6 inches of rain fell between 4 p.m. Monday and 4 p.m. Tuesday. The average monthly precipitation during the year is about 3.5 inches.

The river flats were flooded both above and below the Bridge street bridge, and the Stockton avenue school playgrounds were under water Tuesday and in no shape for use for several days afterwards.

The easterly abutment of the bridge over East brook connecting East street and upper Park street, was carried out and that end of the bridge dropped into the brook. Part of the road leading to the bridge caved in and was carried away. The bridge has been closed to traffic, and it will cost considerable to restore it. The water came close to the other bridges in the village and West brook over flowed its banks below Mead street. Tuesday afternoon and evening Delaware street was under water most of the distance from the Liberty street corner to the West brook bridge. Cellars along Delaware street were filled with water unless watertight.

The storm was accompanied by a high wind. Several windows in the "dogtown" section of Delaware street were broken by falling branches. A tool house 16 x 52 feet in dimensions on the Jenkins farm, Pines brook, was blown over and lay bottom side up. A true neighborly spirit was shown Wednesday when twenty men gathered at the Jenkins farm and put the tool house back on its foundation.

Traffic on the Ontario & Western was not delayed much. The Delaware & Northern and Ulster & Delaware railroads suffered, however, The Reporter's correspondent at Arena writes that the east branch of the Delaware on Tuesday afternoon reached the highest mark it has in twenty years. Roads in that section were flooded and impassable. The D. & N. electric car did not make the trip from Downsville to Arkville on Tuesday afternoon.

Traffic on the Ulster & Delaware was practically at a standstill Tuesday afternoon. At Phoenicia a railroad bridge was under four feet of water. Late in the afternoon the U. & D. company, which had kept traffic in motion during the larger part of the day, sent out warnings to all conductors and engineers to proceed with great caution, and shortly after its telegraph lines went out of commission and traffic was practically suspended. The west bound passenger train was annulled and the east bound milk, passenger and express train was flood bound west of Phoenicia. The five mile stretch of track between Shandaken and Phoenicia was inundated and the ballast of cinders washed out, causing the tracks to drop down. Bad slides occurred on the Stony Clove branch.

The downpour was especially heavy also in the watershed of the Schoharie creek and the Gilboa reservoir is reported to have risen four feet in five hours. The outflow from the Gilboa reservoir was shut off from the Ashokan system.

Prattsville reports that the temporary bridge over the Schoharie creek in the lower end of that village, constructed when the old one was condemned, was washed away late in the afternoon as a result of the creek overflowing its banks. The barn of Fred Hill, residing in the outskirts of the village, was partially destroyed by being undermined by the flood.

Haystacks and manure piles left on low land were carried away by high water all through this section. Reports indicate that many back roads were badly washed.

RECORDS ARE NOW SAFE

New Vaults in Court House For Surrogate's Use

OTHER CHANGES MADE

Cost of Improvements to Care for Priceless Papers Will Be Around $12,000

(From Delhi correspondent)

The changes and improvements in the chambers of county judge and surrogate in the Delaware county court house which have been under way for several weeks are now completed.

The Delaware court house is now fifty-seven years old. Some thirty years since an addition was constructed to provide a room for the supervisors and to accommodate the court library and this is the only important change in the original structure until the present year.

For some years past it has been recognized by court officials, by lawyers and by supervisors that something would have to be done to increase the filing space for estate documents in the surrogate's office and from time to time various plans have been suggested for this accomplishment and also to afford better fire protection to these valuable papers. One plan was to build a fireproof structure in the rear of the county clerk's office and another to build an addition to the court house covering the surrogate's necessities and also providing extra office room, which really is needed, for county treasurer, highway department and election commissioners. Plans were drawn and submitted for a court house extension which were very satisfactory and at an estimated cost of $60,000. This seemed out of reach for the county and had the plans been fulfilled the cost would have reached $100,000, as it was at a period when prices of material and labor were commencing to soar.

All concerned seemed a little timid about increasing the mounting tax budget of the county and from time to time the work of providing adequate room and fire protection for the valuable, and in fact priceless, papers of the surrogate's office was delayed until a point was reached that something had to be done, as the last inch of space in the surrogate's office had been filled. A building committee was appointed by the board of supervisors and authorized to do something to meet the crisis. After much consideration of various plans it was settled to utilize a portion of the basement of the court house. Now that the work is completed a section of the court house basement, about 20 feet wide and extending the entire length of the front of the building about 80 feet has been made absolutely fireproof, with the exception of a small office room fitted up for the use of lawyers and others who may wish to consult the records in the vaults. At the easterly end of the basement is a large vault, or perhaps it might better be called a large room, as fireproof as a bank fault. Here are placed the filing cases formerly in the rooms above with the addition of many new ones.

The first paper on file in surrogate's office was recorded 130 years ago and so now the accumulation of 130 years will be in systematic order and in fireproof quarters. Furthermore it is estimated that this room will take care of the surrogate documents for 75 years to come. Aside from this room mentioned another smaller vault, about the same size as the one removed from the surrogate's office has been constructed in this basement. Again another fireproof vault has been constructed in the extreme western end of the basement, which is for the use of the county treasurer.

These basement rooms are accessible by the main stairway from near the main entrance to the court house or by a spiral stairway leading from the surrogate clerk's office to the office in the basement. The judge's chambers have been enlarged by the space occupied by the vault removed. These rooms have been redecorated. All the old filing arrangements and furniture have been utilized in the new accommodations.

While the exact cost of this transformation with its new equipment, including all betterments, cannot be stated exactly at present, the total expense will be in the vicinity of $12,000. In commenting on the cost of these improvements to the surrogate's offices we cannot do better than to quote ex-judge Bruce of Andes and New York city, who inspected them within the last day or two. He stated it was the wisest expenditure ever made by Delaware county and would be a lasting monument to the present judge and surrogate of the county. When one comes to think that every man, woman, and child in the county is interested or may be in the safe keeping of the papers connected with estates the words of Judge Bruce seem none too strong.

Much credit should be given the building committee, W.S. Fowler of Hamden, James R. Stevenson of Stamford and J.B. Gilbert of Harpersfield for their unflagging interest and supervision of the work.

Didn't Need Rifle Practice

Ernest Allen, son of Jewett Allen of Berry brook, killed a ten-point buck near his home on Wednesday of last week. The young man was quite proud of the fact, since it was the second time he ever fired off a gun.

AN UNEXPECTED BATH FOR AUTO OCCUPANTS

Machine Goes Over Bank Into River When Steering Gear Locks

(From Fishs Eddy correspondent)

Friday was an unlucky day for Arnold McCarter and yet a very lucky day all things taken into consideration.

Mr. McCarter was on his way from his father's farm to Fishs Eddy driving his Willys Knight car. In the car with him were Harmon Brush of Fishs Eddy and Mr. Callard of Middletown, a cousin of Mr. McCarter. As they swung off the state road onto the approach of the river bridge the steering gear locked on the car and Mr. McCarter was unable to turn the car back. It went over the upper side of the bridge approach which is twenty feet high at this point and landed out in the river fifteen feet from shore and in about four feet of water.

The remarkable thing about it is that the car did not turn over but landed right side up and was not damaged to any great extent. The occupants of the car, aside from a cold bath and a few patches of misplaced cuticle, escaped injury.

Later a team of horses was brought from the McCarter farm and the car was pulled out of the river and up the bank to the state road.

A Thief Is a Thief

(From Fishs Eddy correspondent)

Sneak thieves have at various times during the past two weeks invaded the premises of Mrs. Ellen Fish at Fishs Eddy, and stolen several choice fowls. It may be that some one's family larder was low or it may be that some of the boys had a roast, but the fact remains: a thief is a thief.

A Good Time to Have Horses

(From East Branch correspondent)

John Williams of East Branch, while getting some wood away from the river during Tuesday's storm, got his truck stuck in the mud. James Allen went to his assistance with his Buick and was also held fast until Allen's horses were brought, which pulled truck and car from the mud.

OBITUARIES



Dr. John R. Fairbairn

Dr. John R. Fairbairn passed away Nov. 15, 2026, at his home in Rider Hollow at the age of 89. Dr. Fairbairn was born Sept. 12, 1937 in Margaretville Hospital to Mildred (Avery) and John Fairbairn.

Dr. Fairbairn grew up in the Dry Brook Valley community where his parents instilled in him the values of hard work and respect for education. He graduated from Margaretville Central School as valedictorian of the class of 1955. He attended RPI - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he graduated with a BS in Mathematics. He then attended Cornell University where he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1963.

He began his veterinary practice in his home area, traveling thousands of miles around the Catskills every year, attending to many herds of dairy cattle, and making friends of the many farmers. He later expanded his practice to Arkville and established the Central Catskills Veterinary Hospital. Concurrently, he worked for 39 years at the Monticello Raceway where he was supervisor of the drug testing program of the racehorses.

Dr. Fairbairn was also a dairy farmer.

In late 1970, he met his future wife, Sally (Scudder), while attending to an animal at Riverby, her family home in Margaretville. Sally and Dr. Fairbairn were married in 1971. Together they ran a dairy farm on their property in Halcott Center, where they raised their children. Later, they moved to Rider Hollow Road in Arkville. The Halcott Center dairy farm remains in operation today as Crystal Valley Farm owned and operated by Chris and Judy DiBenedetto and family.

While a great homebody, he and Sally traveled to several countries, seeking out farms and racetracks to visit.

He is survived by his wife, daughter Jaine, sons John Claude "Jake," and John R. III; also grandchildren Simone, Rain, Rune, Gunnar, Callum, Avery, Lochlan, Miller and Griffin, and great-grandchildren Emilia and Aletta.

He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Evelyn and sister Gail.

Calling hours will be at the Hynes Funeral Home in Margaretville Thursday, Nov. 19 from 3-7 p.m. There will be a funeral service Friday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m. at the Dry Brook Church, 5075 Dry Brook Road, Arkville, followed by a lunch at the Dry Brook Community Hall adjacent to the church.

Dr. Fairbairn will be buried in the Avery Cemetery, Dry Brook Road, Arkville.

In lieu of flowers donations to the local food bank would be appreciated by the family.



Rosemarie Tiesler

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Rosemarie Tiesler, a beloved wife, daughter, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Rosemarie was born Dec. 1, 1937, in Bohemia, now part of Czech Republic, to her parents Egon Montag and Maria Martinek. She lived a full and vibrant life until she peacefully departed this world Nov. 8, 2026.

Rosemarie was known for her warm spirit and adventurous heart, which led her to a fulfilling career with world travel at Lufthansa German Airlines then a second career in the arts as a partner of Montague Art Galleries, SoHo, New York. Her time in the skies and work in the arts allowed her to make connections around the world, but it was her family and friends who truly lit up her life.

Another lifelong love was music. As a true bohemian, Rosemarie enjoyed performing with her accordion and entertaining all with her electronic keyboard.

She is survived by her devoted partner and husband Roy Tiesler, who cherished her in every way, every day,

Rosemarie was preceded in death by her beloved parents Egon Montag, Maria Martinek and beloved brother Egon Montag.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Rosemarie's life in a warm gathering that will take place just over the bridge at the The Castle on the Delaware, 139 Stockton Avenue, in Walton Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m., with Rev. Dr. Janet Schwengber officiating. We invite family and friends to come and share stories, laughter, and the love that Rosemarie brought into our lives.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Courtney Funeral Home, Walton.

To leave a message of peace and comfort for Rosemarie's family visit her online tribute at www.courtneyfh.com



June Raymond Boice

It is with great sadness that the family of June Raymond Boice, 86, formerly of Walton, announces his peaceful passing at his home in Portsmouth, Virginia, on Oct. 22, 2026, following a brief illness.

June was born Dec. 1, 1939, in Walton to the late Wilford June Boice and Julia Loomis Boice. He attended school in Walton and joined the United States Navy at the age of 17, where he later earned his GED. He served his country honorably in both active duty and reserve capacities, retiring after 30 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his life, June enjoyed several careers. Among them, he was the owner and operator of June & Pat's Lawn Care Service, where his commitment to excellence was evident in every lawn he maintained. Even in his later years, he was known for keeping a meticulous and beautiful yard. He also retired from Newport News Shipbuilding and the City of Norfolk.

In his younger years, June had a passion for racing and competed in both local New York and Virginia racing events. He was known to have a true "need for speed." After many years behind the wheel, he developed a love for motorcycle riding that became a lifelong passion. Motorcycling was more than a hobby to June; it was a way of life. He spent countless hours on the open road, sharing adventures and fellowship with fellow riders. He was a proud member of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association and the Beacons of Tidewater, Chapter 217, of the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

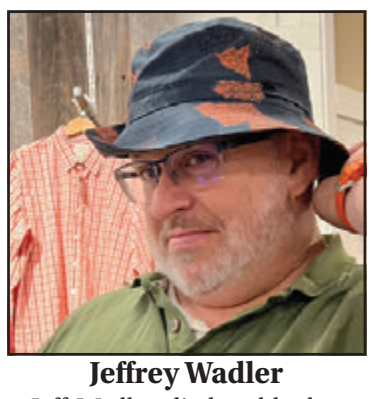
Above all, June was a devoted family man who took great pride in caring for those he loved. He will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith. A dedicated member of Pinecrest Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, he faithfully served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher for many years. June never met a stranger and was quick to ask his favorite question, "Do you know my Jesus?"

In addition to his parents June was predeceased by his wife Patsy Worrell Boice; his late wife Jean Dee, and his stepson Mark Dee.

Left to cherish his memory are his sister Ruth Reynolds of Walton and numerous cousins including Mary (Loomis) Balderson and husband Don and their family of South Carolina, and David Loomis and his family of Colorado; his nieces and nephews Art Reynolds, Ken Reynolds, and Julie (Reynolds) Parish along with their families; his stepchildren Pam Blanchard and husband Earl, Tami Harris, Kristi Hale and husband Tracy, Kevin Dee and wife Maria, and Keith Dee; and his girlfriend Edith Moore. He will be especially missed by his faithful feline companion, Simba. He is also lovingly remembered by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Virginia.

A military funeral service was held at the Pinecrest Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia on Oct. 28. A private military burial took place at Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery Nov. 17.

June's legacy of faith, service, family devotion, and friendship will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.



Jeffrey Wadler

Jeff Wadler died suddenly on Tuesday evening, leaving everyone who loved him bereft. Jeff was born on July 6, 1968, in Fleischmanns, which he referred to as "centrally located in the middle of nowhere," and lived much of his adult life in the Capital District. He worked for over 30 years as a healthcare professional, first as an EMT and paramedic, and later as a PA in emergency rooms and urgent cares in Hudson, Catskill, Amsterdam, and St. Johnsville. He loved sharing what he knew about medicine so others could make thoughtful, informed decisions. He was a former Trustee of Western Turnpike Rescue Squad, a beloved member of Congregation Ohav Shalom, and a former parent and Trustee of Hebrew Academy of the Capital District.

To know Jeff was to be consistently amazed by the depth and breadth of his knowledge of things both vital and trivial. He knew the answers to questions like "How does one stop a sucking chest wound?" and "How many times did Bones shout 'dammit, Jim, I'm a doctor not a…' in Star Trek?" His humor was dry, and while it sometimes leaned a little too far into gallows territory, nearly everyone who knew him can remember one singular moment of absolute hysterical laughter at one of his asides.

Jeff is predeceased by his father, Abraham Arthur Wadler.

He is survived by the loves of his life, his wife Bess, his children Abigail and Sam, his mother Elaine, his sisters Mimi and Nomie, nieces and nephews and a wonderful, extended family of choice. His communities - medical, Jewish, geeky - are all grieving.

Funeral services for Jeff were held Friday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. at Congregation Ohav Shalom, 113 Krumkill Road, Albany. Burial will follow at Ohav Shalom Cemetery on Western Avenue.

In lieu of flowers consider making a donation to Hebrew Academy of the Capital District, Congregation Ohav Shalom, or the Drexel Physician Assistant Program in Philadelphia.



George E. Bolles

George E. Bolles, 93, of Delhi, passed away Saturday morning, Nov. 14, 2026 at AO Fox Memorial Hospital, Oneonta, surrounded by his family.

Born Sept. 5, 1933 in Delhi, George was the son of the late Robert W. and Ethel (Moody) Bolles.

He married Janet F. Cope Dec. 7, 1957 in Oneonta. George was a graduate of Delaware Academy School. George proudly owned and operated the family dairy farms on Hamden Hill Spur, first on his own and later with his father and then with his son, Roger. George and Janet raised five children on the farm and cherished their time with their grandsons, Brandon and Justin.

George and Janet enjoyed traveling and looked forward to their family vacations in the truck camper and later the motorhome. They also enjoyed taking evening rides in the countryside. George loved auctions and garage sales; he had talent as a carpenter and mechanic, which allowed him to build his own home and fix anything on the farm or neighborhood. He was also a long-time member and served as an Elder at the DeLancey United Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his children Candy Bolles of Newport News, Virginia, Roger (Joan) Bolles of Delhi, John Bolles of Rochester, Kevin Bolles of Rochester and Sherry (Mike) Simonds of Delhi; two grandchildren, Brandon Simonds of Unadilla and Justin Simonds of Delhi; several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother Everett (Gloria) Bolles of Warrensburg, Missouri; sister-in-law Doris Robinson of Oneonta, and lots of nieces, nephews and cousins.

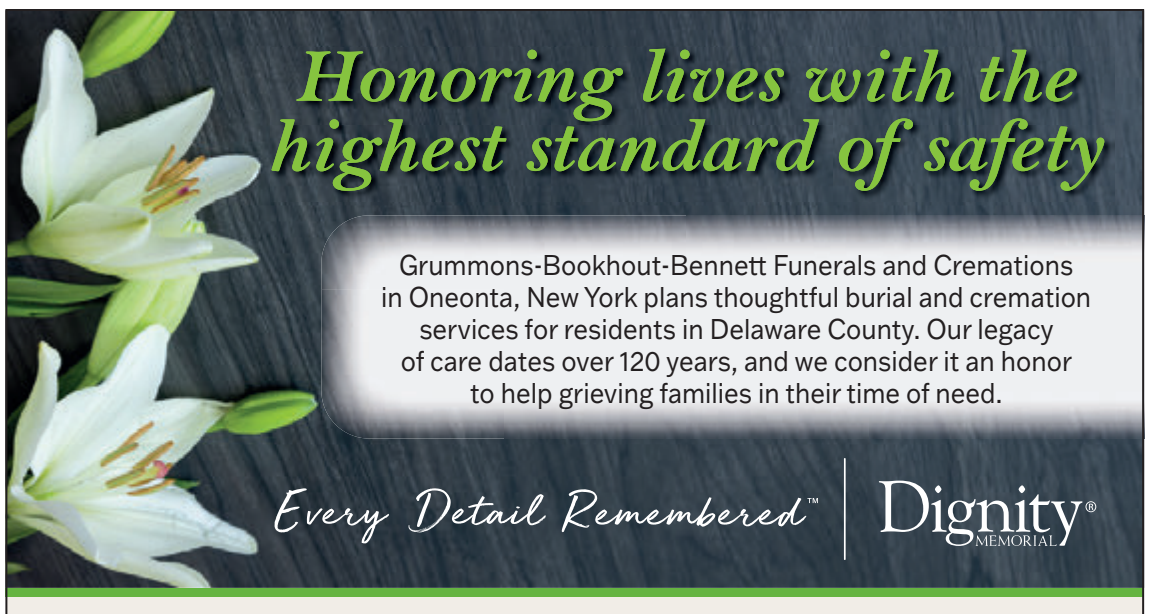
A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at the DeLancey United Presbyterian Church in DeLancey, followed by a coffee hour and time of sharing at the church. Burial will follow in Woodland Cemetery, Delhi.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of George can be made to DeLancey United Presbyterian Church, 444 County Highway 2, DeLancey, NY 13752.

Visit www.macarthurfh.com to share a condolence with George's family.

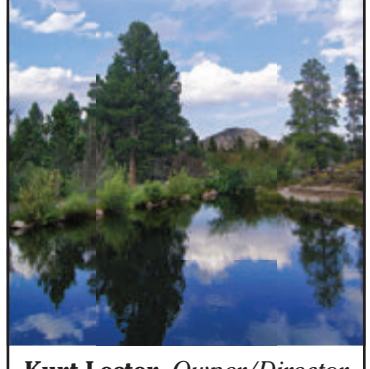


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Kurt Lester, *Owner/Director*
Natasha Tompkins, *Director*
Herb Bryant, *Director*
607-865-4383
www.courtneyfh.com

DELHI

By Christina Viafore
csviafore@gmail.com
607-746-3550

You may have already heard that Delhi's varsity football team was disqualified from playing in the Section IV championship game last weekend due to playing an ineligible player the week prior. Many thought that the punishment - to take away the remaining season from these gentlemen who worked so hard all year - seemed extreme. Over the weekend, the team showed up for their coach and for each other. They showed up in ways that mattered to each other. Go Bulldogs.

Last week's trivia question: November 5 of what year did the demolition of Smalley's Theater on Kingston Street take place? Smalley's Theater was demolished in 1990.

This week's trivia question is who will be the grand marshal for the Delhi Holiday Parade that will be held Friday, Dec. 4? Lineup will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the lower parking lot at SUNY Delhi. The parade will start at 5:30 p.m. and go to the Courthouse Square. The Greater Delhi Area Chamber of Commerce will provide the prizes for parade participants who decorate according to the theme Festival of Lights: $200 for first place, $100 for second place, and $50 for third place. Before the parade, the menorah will be lit to celebrate the first day of Hanukkah. Following the parade, the Jonesey Jubilee will be held on the square with Santa and Mrs. Claus and other activities. Sign up to participate at forms.gle/ew8tPfDfk9Yg1B4W8

Community volunteer of the week is Katherine Roberts. She frequently volunteers at the Heart of the Catskill Humane Society. Thanks to Katherine for giving her time to support the animals at the shelter who just need someone to love them. For more information on how you can become a volunteer call the shelter at 607-746-3080 or fill out the form at www.heartofthecatskills.org/volunteer Visit www.heartofthecatskills.org/adopt to find your next furry friend.

This week, the Delaware Academy Bulldogs play at home Friday, Nov. 20 when the seventh and eighth grade girl's basketball team plays Walton at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, the JV and Varsity girl's basketball teams play Susquehanna Valley at 5:30 p.m. All home DA varsity games and matches played in DA gymnasiums or Dave Kelly Field are available through Hudl. Away games held at schools that use Hudl may also be available - just search for "Delaware Academy High School" at www.hudl.com Let's go Bulldogs.

This week the SUNY Delhi Broncos are home Friday, Nov. 20, the women's basketball team will face Keystone at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 21, the women's basketball team takes on MCLA at 1 p.m., and the Delhi Fall Invite takes place in the pool for the swimming and diving teams. Visit delhibroncos.com to find links for live coverage. Watch games that have been played at www.team1sports.com/college Let's go Broncos.

Are you interested in applying for a Delaware County Arts Grant? Attendance at an information session is required for application to the Delaware County Arts Grant - it can be a complicated process. The Delhi info session will be at Bushel, 106 Main Street, Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m. This session will review the application, timeline, applicant and expense eligibility, budget, and more. For more information visit roxburyartsgroup.org/grants The Delaware County Arts Grant is a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group.

The Livestock Foundation will host Christkindlmarkt featuring over 30 local artisans Saturday, Nov. 21 from 3 until 6 p.m. at the beautiful Saint James Church, Lake Delaware, at 55 Lake Delaware Drive.

The Hamden Hill Ridge Riders will host a pancake breakfast Sunday, Nov. 22 from 8 a.m. until noon at the clubhouse, 1091 Covert Hollow Road, Hamden. A free-will offering is asked for payment. The club will also host a snowmobile safety course Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Participants must be at least 10 years old. This course provides fundamental information that all snowmobilers should possess in order to ensure the safety of riders and other trail users. Successful participants will earn a NYS Snowmobile Safety Certificate. Register at www.register-ed.com/programs/new_york/251-new-york-snowmobile-safety-course

The 42nd annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday, Nov. 26 from noon until 3 p.m. at the Delhi Fire Hall. This year's meal is hosted by the Delhi Community Church. Reservations are appreciated, but not required. Email delhicommunitychurch@gmail.com or call 607 746-3858. Takeout dinners will be available for pickup with a reservation - deadline is Friday, Nov. 20.

Sign-up is open for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County's program to create a fun Winter Pine Gnome perfect for your table Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 5:30 p.m. The program will be led by the Ag and 4-H staff and will be limited to 24 participants. Preregistration is required at tinyurl.com/pinegnome Participants are encouraged to bring their own snips if they have them, and their creativity. The class will take place at 34570 State Highway 10, Suite 2 in Hamden. There is a $15 fee to take the course.

ESTATE SALE - STAMFORD
Nov 20 (Fri) 9-4 and Nov 21 (Sat) 10-3
46 Main Street, Stamford, NY

Sale conducted by **The Green Giraffe** 607-369-3234
Hooiser Cabinet, RARE Pyrex Orange Butterprint, Quality Victorian Antique Furniture, Primitives, Melodeon, antique books, wall clocks, oil lamps, Antique & Vintage Collectibles an amazing sale. **Go to estatesales.net and search Stamford for pics.**

HOSKING SALES LLC
CERTIFIED ORGANIC MARKETING AGENCY

Weekly Sales Every Monday – Misc. items, produce etc. will start approx. 1:30 unless otherwise advertised (if we have a lot of dairy) before the Dairy follow with any sheep, lamb, goat & pigs. NOTE: CALVES WILL SELL AT 4-4:30 PM, FOLLOWED BY FEEDERS AND ENDING WITH BEEF.

Nov. 16th - Cull Dairy ave. $1.02, Top Cow $1.29, Maiden Heifer $1.13, Grassfed Organic Cull Dairy $0.88, Dairy Feeders $0.70-$2.50, Feeder Bulls $2.50-$3.15, Feeder Heifer $1.00-$2.90, Feeder Steer $1.02-$3.00, Bull Calves top $9.60, top beef calf $14.20, Heifer Calves top $5.50, top beef calf $13.70, Dairy Milking age top $2150.00

Mon. Nov. 23rd - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Organic Sale. 2 Organic Holstein cows, 5 Organic Holstein heifers.

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.

Let's keep the cattle in the marketplace to help the competition – sending direct gives you no competition. Beef prices have been strong, time to cull the bottom end, let us help you.

****OUR CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN EVERY SALE DAY!**

WATCH FUTURE ADS ON UPCOMING SALES WE HAVE IN THE WORKS IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL IF IT'S ONE OR A WHOLE HERD LET US HELP YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS.

**Trucking Assistance – Call the Sale Barn or check out our trucker list on our website. Call to advertise in any of these sales makes a difference. Watch websitse for any last-minute updates.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Grantor	Location	Grantee	Transfer Tax
November 10, 2026			
SERRANO ERNESTO	HANCOCK	DUGAN THOMAS JOSEPH IV	648.00
SERRANO LIGAYA		LUNDE PATRICIA ANN	
SIMMONS TRACY MARIE (TR)	MIDDLETOWN	SIMMONS TRACY MARIE (TR)	0.00
WALTER ELIZABETH ANNE GERARD (AKA/TR)		WALTER ELIZABETH ANNE (TR)	
WALTER ELIZABETH ANNE (TR)		SIMMONS WALTER	
CATSKILL TRUST DATED MAY 21 2020 (BY TRS)		REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 9 2026 (BY TRS)	
ROSE ERICKA A (FKA)	SIDNEY	SHERMAN BRANDY L	672.00
CHARLES ERICKA A			
CHENANGO DELAWARE OTSEGO LLC	SIDNEY	C2 VENTURE CAPITAL LLC	760.00
November 12, 2026			
BARNHOUSE DOROTHY	ROXBURY	JOHN S BALES 2026	0.00
BALES JOHN S		REVOCABLE TRUST (BY TR)	
		BALES JOHN S (TR)	
		DOROTHY BARNHOUSE 2026	
		REVOCABLE TRUST (BY TR)	
		BARNHOUSE DOROTHY (TR)	
DIAZ COSME C	TOMPKINS	BOWKER JUDY A	660.00
		JOHNSTON NICOLE T	
CANTOS GONZALO C	HANCOCK	TOIC MOLLY E (TR)	0.00
CANTOS MOLLY		CANTOS GONZALO M (TR)	
		GONZALO C CANTOS	
		IRREVOCABLE ASSET	
		MANAGEMENT TRUST DATED	
		NOVEMBER 2 2026 (BY TRS)	
		MOLLY L CANTOS	
		IRREVOCABLE ASSET	
		MANAGEMENT TRUST DATED	
		NOVEMBER 2 2026 (BY TRS)	
WILLIAMS LANETTE	SIDNEY	SCARDUZIO CARL R SR	440.00
		SCARDUZIO MARIANNE	
SHORT LINDA	ANDES	SHORT LINDA (TR)	0.00
		LINDA SHORT REVOCABLE	
		LIVING TRUST UAD 27	
		OCTOBER 2026 (BY TR)	
MOGOLLON CARLOS	TOMPKINS	PADMASAMBHAVA BUDDHIST	0.00
CHCIUK-CELT ALEXANDRA		CENTER	
BRUNO JAMES A	COLCHESTER	DUNAT JOHN PHILIP	968.00
PICKENS JEREMY G	DELHI	FISH LAWRENCE J	1,200.00
		LASOFF ELLEN R	
KAUFMAN THOMAS (BY ATTY)	DELHI	BARROWS ROGER WILLIAM II	960.00
STURDEVANT BARBARA (IND & ATTY)			
KAUFMAN WILLIAM (BY ATTY)			
KAUFMAN RUSSELL (BY ATTY)			
GRATTO KATHERINE (BY ATTY)			
KAUFMAN KATHERINE M (SEE INST)			
STRUNK MARK	ANDES	STRUNK MARK	0.00
		STRUNK CHRISTINE MAE	
MCKEON MARY	MIDDLETOWN	HERSH JONATHAN	1,560.00
MCKEON JOSEPH		HERSH DEBORAH	
REED DAVID A	COLCHESTER	TOWSLEY MARGARET	860.00
REED KIMBERLY D			
MAXWELL MICHAEL R (TR)	ANDES	MAXWELL ERIC P	702.00
FRANCES E MAXWELL LIVING TRUST			
DATED AUGUST 28 2007 (BY TRS)			
ARMSTRONG JOANN L (TR)			
WHITE WILLIAM R (CO TR)	MEREDITH	MARINO NICHOLAS	260.00
WHITE THOMAS FREDERICK (CO TR)		MARINO LAUREN	
IRREVOCABLE TRUST OF FREDERICK			
THOMAS WHITE AKA FREDERICK T WHITE			
AND AGNES WHITE AKA AGNES C WHITE			
DATED APRIL 4 2022 (BY CO TRS)			

Grantor	Location	Grantee	Transfer Tax
BLANCHARD ROBERT	MIDDLETOWN	MCADAMS SANDRA L	1,110.00
BLANCHARD GAIL S			
SOLE ANDREW L	MIDDLETOWN	DENVER PO LLC	960.00
HOFFMANN PETER R (EXR)	MEREDITH	MATHIESEN ERIC K	1,360.00
GUNTERT PAUL J (EXR OF/EST OF)			
GUNTERT LUCY DENISE (SEE INST)			
MASON THOMAS	HANCOCK	MAGIERA JERZY	1,080.00
MASON ALETA		KALINOWSKA EWA	
FONTAINE ANDREA	COLCHESTER	LILIEN ANDREW	4,000.00
		LILIEN CASANDRA	
November 13, 2026			
SNYDER ROBERT A SR	TOMPKINS	SNYDER STEPHEN WILLIAM	0.00
STAVROPOULOS NICHOLAS	HARPERSFIELD	KNAPP SHANNON	1,420.00
STAVROPOULOS ALEXANDER			
SAXON-SIMURRO MARILYN	STAMFORD	MUTHA AMIT	2,004.00
SIMURRO KENNETH G JR		MUTHA SHANTADURGA	
PETERSHACK SHARON N	COLCHESTER	PETERSHACK SHARON N (TR)	0.00
PETERSHACK MICHAEL C (SEE INST)		PETERSHACK FAMILY	
		REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST (BY TR)	
DENTER MICHAEL J	ANDES	DENTER ROBERT WHITE	0.00
DENTER ROBERT WHITE		DENTER MICHAEL J	
		DENTER THOMAS MICHAEL	
WYKA JUSTIN J T	FRANKLIN	ZAISER WILLIAM	880.00
WYKA GREGORY P			
WYKA JEANINE M			
HARRISON JAMES G			
HARRISON THERESE W (AKA)			
HARRISON THESESE W			
DIBBLE WAYNE	KORTRIGHT	EDMISON CAITLYNN	0.00
		DIBBLE HUNTER	
		DIBBLE WAYNE (LIFE USE)	
PACHECO JORGE R	MEREDITH	HIRSCH KERI	428.00
PACHECO XAVIER I		DEGRAFF JERRY	
TOBIN FANNY			
TRIPP BRADLEY	STAMFORD	WESTERN CATSKILLS	1,120.00
OCONNOR MAUREEN		COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION	
		COUNCIL INC	
KRAMER DIANA F	SIDNEY	PAVLACKA THOMAS	300.00
MARRON MARC L			
WILBUR CONSTANCE L	WALTON	DRUMM ARNOLD	500.00
		DRUMM BETSY A	
		WILBUR CONSTANCE L (LIFEUSE)	
November 16, 2026			
ADAMS WILLIAM H	STAMFORD	PROVENZANO PIERINA	1,200.00
ADAMS DIANA G			
LIBRIZZI REGINA MARIA (ADMIN/INDV)	DAVENPORT	SYMAN STANLEY	180.00
LIBRIZZI CHRISTOPHER NEMO		SYMAN LORRAINE	
(ADMIN/INDV)			
LIBRIZZI RICHARD CARL (AKA/ADMIN			
OF/EST OF			
LIBRIZZI RICHARD			
WARNER PAUL	DEPOSIT	HUELSENBECK ALFRED	184.00
		HUELSENBECK CHRISTINE	
SCARPA ALAN	BOVINA	OWEN MAXWELL	1,960.00
SCARPA MARILYN (FKA)		OWEN LINDSAY	
DEER MARILYN			
PERRY TRENT	ROXBURY	PERRY TRENT	0.00
		PERRY CASSIE	
MARINELLO JAMES F	DELHI	PINERY PALS LLC	120.00

THE REPORTER
HOMETOWN Holiday GUIDE

The reasons to stay local when shopping this holiday season

Holiday shoppers have no shortage of retailers competing for their dollars come December. The National Retail Federation estimated 2025 holiday spending exceeded $1 trillion, and there's little reason to suspect 2026 spending will not match or exceed that amount.

With so much money being spent, retailers have much to gain from attracting holiday shoppers. While big box stores and online retailers may beckon shoppers louder than anyone this December, there's plenty of reasons to look local when buying gifts for loved ones during the holiday season.

• **Buying local pays you back.** Communities benefit when shoppers spend their money at locally owned businesses. According to the Local Business Institute, $48 of every $100 spent at a locally owned business ultimately recirculates in the community. That means supporting one business in your community indirectly leads to supporting others. And residents should know that a thriving local business sector is great for property values, as buyers tend to be willing to pay more to live in locations with successful shops, cafes and restaurants.

• **Buying local encourages additional investment.** New Jersey-based Spencer Savings Bank notes the appeal of already thriving business sectors on other entrepreneurs seeking to open their businesses. By supporting existing local businesses now, residents are helping to establish a foundation for future economic growth within their communities. The holiday season is a particularly lucrative time for businesses of all sizes, so that makes it a perfect time for locals to support the establishments in their community.



• **Buying local offers more chances to find something unique.** Buying local also pays more immediate dividends come the holiday season. Big box stores and online retailers sell the same items to people regardless of where they live, whereas independently owned local businesses tend to feature more unique items that can only be found in their stores. Shoppers looking for unique gifts for their loved ones need look no further than Main Street to find such items.

• **Buying local benefits the environment.** Eco-conscious holiday shoppers should know that buying local is often beneficial for the environment. Locally crafted and purchased items will not require as much packaging as items purchased from big box stores or online retailers that must protect products from the wear and tear of long distance travel. And that travel also has a negative impact on the environment, as the longer distance it takes to get a product from a warehouse to a consumer's home, the more harmful the transaction typically is on the environment.

The holiday season is a lucrative time of year for retailers, and there are numerous reasons why shoppers should focus their buying power on local businesses this year and in the years to come.

Pet-friendly holiday decorating



Decorating is one of the great joys of the holiday season. Stores adorn their front-facing windows with amazing displays and homeowners often deck out residences from top to bottom with all measures of holiday wonderment.

Approximately 94 million households in the United States feature a pet, according to the American Pet Products Association. Many of those households will be decorating for the holidays and must figure out ways to keep homes safe for all residents — including those covered in fur. These tips can ensure a pet-friendly season with lots of holiday decor.

• **Choose shatterproof decorations.** Select shatterproof ornaments and other decorative items that are durable and non-toxic. Items made from felt, fabric or wood tend to be safer than items that can break.

• **Pick pet-friendly plants.** Poinsettias and mistletoe may be traditional, but they can be toxic to pets. Additional options like Christmas cactus can be safer. Artificial plants are another alternative to consider.

• **Opt out of open flames.** It is best to avoid traditional candles when pets are around. Instead, there are plenty of those powered by LED lights that even mimic the flicker of real candles.

• **Avoid tinsel and ribbons.** Digestive issues or blockages can affect pets who ingest tinsel or ribbons. Select pet-safe ribbons or garlands, and skip the tinsel entirely.

• **Avoid edible decor.** Candy canes on trees or popcorn garlands are festive, but they may prove too tempting for pets to resist. Animals can get sick and may knock over the Christmas tree or other items to access the food.

• **Secure decorative items.** Position the Christmas tree in an area that is not easily accessible. Avoid putting it near furniture that can be used as a jumping-off point. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to prevent tipping, and consider using wire or string to tie the tree to a ceiling or wall anchor for further stability.

• **Mind the scents.** Some fragrances can be overwhelming or irritating for pets, so use scented diffusers or plug-ins sparingly. A simmering pot of cloves, cinnamon sticks and orange rinds can create a welcoming, all-natural aroma.

• **Create a sanctuary.** Try not to move too many of the pet's creature comforts, such as favorite toys or bedding. If you must move these items out of the way, gradually introduce the pet to his or her new area, which can be set away from the hustle of the main entertaining area.

A pet-friendly holiday season involves being mindful of pets' safety while decorating.

Holiday Gift Shoppe
Nov. 27, 28, 29
Dec. 5, 12, 19, 23, 24
10am-3pm
or by appointment
Maple Syrup, Maple Cream, *Boxed* Maple Candy, Maple Cream-filled Chocolate Truffles, Rum Cashews, *Boxed homemade* Cookies, Christmas Soaps & Lotions
...and many more great gift items!
MAPLEWOOD FARM AND ORCHARD Gift Shoppe
74 Meredith St. (Rt. 28), Delhi Village • 607-746-6339
Look for the Red Signs!

Heart of the Catskills Humane Society
www.heartofthecatskills.org
Holiday for the Heart Tree Celebration
Saturday, December 5th • 11am - 3pm
Delaware County Historical Association
46549 State Highway 10, Delhi
Holiday Music - Bake Sale - Holiday Shopping
Seasonal Warm Refreshments
Preview holiday trees & other holiday items:
Monday, Nov. 30th - Friday, Dec. 4th
11am - 4pm
Raffle to win holiday trees:
Saturday, Dec. 5th at 3pm
For more information visit heartofthecatskills.org

Christmas Stroll House Tour & Holiday Market
Saturday, Dec. 12th
Franklin, NY
Christmas Stroll:
1 pm to 5 pm
Visit 5 homes in the Village of Franklin, beautifully decorated for Christmas!
$10 per person, $15 per couple
Get tickets December 12th
at the Firehouse Holiday Market, 10am to 3pm
Firehouse Holiday Market
10am-3pm
351 Main Street
Christmas Cookie Sale
Hot Soup, Drinks & Snacks
Gift Sale & Wrap for Kids
10am-2pm at Methodist Church
475 Main Street
Trees and Trains for Christmas
10am-5pm at the Railroad Museum
572 Main Street
Wine and Cheese Tastings
10am-6pm at Good Taste Market
438 Main Street
Holiday Stories and Santa's Visit
11am at the Franklin Free Library
334 Main Street
Tree Lighting, Carols & Santa's Arrival on the Fire Truck
5:15pm, Franklin Park, Main St.
Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus
6pm at Firehouse
351 Main Street
A CBC Christmas Carol
FREE Live Performance
by Local Children and Adults
7:30pm at Community Bible Church
89 Center Street
Info: franklinny.org/stroll26 or
Facebook @FranklinNYStroll

Bring Your Family to The Schoolhouse for
Thanksgiving Buffet 1pm-5pm
$36.95 Adults
$12.50 Children 10 & Under • 3 & Under Free
• Hand-Carved Turkey with all the Trimmings
• Hand-Carved Prime Rib
• Shrimp Salad Bar • Dessert Bar
~ Reservations Required ~
Still a few dates for your holiday party, call now!
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Downsville, NY 13755
~ Rooms Available ~
www.oldschoolhouseinn.com

Punch Up Your Holiday Beverage Menu

This time of year is all about food and sweet desserts, but don't forget to quench guests' thirst with a seasonal sip. This Christmas Cranberry Punch offers a slightly less sweet take on traditional punch so you can add a touch of tart to the beverage cart. Visit Culinary.net to find more delicious holiday recipe ideas.

Christmas Cranberry Punch

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"



1 package fresh cranberries
1 can pineapple chunks
3-4 rosemary twigs
6 cans lemon-lime soda, divided
64 ounces cranberry juice
20 ounces orange pineapple juice
1 orange

The night before, place four cranberries, two pineapple chunks and a few rosemary sprigs in each hole of silicone muffin pan or ice tray. Cover with 1 can lemon-lime soda and freeze.

Chill remaining soda, cranberry juice and orange pineapple juice overnight.

In punch bowl, mix remaining soda, cranberry juice and orange pineapple juice. Slice orange into 5-6 slices. Add lemon-lime soda ice cubes, handful of cranberries and orange slices. Serve.

#17304 Source: Culinary.net

A less traditional take on a family dinner staple

Fried foods are often characterized as guilty pleasures. Though frying might not be the healthiest way to make a meal, it's hard to argue against the flavor profile of fried foods.

Air frying can produce meals that call to mind the familiar flavors of fried foods and do so in a far healthier way. This holiday season, hosts can look to air frying as a means to crafting flavorful meals without a lot of the negatives of traditional frying. That's even possible with traditional family staples like roast beef. With that in mind, hosts can try their hands at this recipe for air-fried "Roast Beef" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Roast Beef

Makes 4 to 6 servings

1 2-pound beef roast, trimmed
2 tablespoons olive oil
Flaked sea salt
Freshly ground mixed peppercorns

1. Preheat air fryer to 360 F. Rub beef roast with olive oil and liberally season with salt and mixed peppercorns.

2. Tie at intervals with kitchen twine to secure.

3. Spritz air fryer basket with cooking spray. Place beef roast in basket and cook for 45 minutes for medium-rare; cook for additional 5-minute intervals for more well-done meat.

4. Remove beef roast from air fryer and cover loosely with aluminum foil, letting it rest for at least 10 minutes before slicing and serving.



Upcycle boxes to make a gingerbread village



Building gingerbread houses is a holiday tradition in many classrooms and households. But as any adult enlisted to help out with the project can attest, constructing gingerbread creations tends to be a messy business. Kids and counters are covered in sticky icing, candy rolls onto the floor, and unless the builders are especially adept, many gingerbread homes topple over before they can be appreciated. Plus, the recipes to create strong gingerbread for building tend to be dense and less palatable than others, meaning kids are not likely to munch on the gingerbread after the thrill of building is over.

Children can recreate the appeal of making gingerbread houses by turning to non-edible materials. Chances are most homes have plenty of shipping boxes and other cardboard around this time of year, especially since online shopping is so prolific. These boxes — with a few extra materials — can be transformed into entire gingerbread villages.

Collect the materials

Kids can begin by gathering the necessary materials. Depending on the desired size of the finished project, boxes can be small, like those that contain tea, hot cocoa or cereal, or larger shipping boxes can be utilized for more ambitious undertakings. Scraps of wrapping paper, postal paper, construction paper, colored markers, crayons, washable paints, and additional decorative materials also can be gathered.

Cut house panels

For thicker cardboard, adults may need to use a craft or utility knife to score through the cardboard and get kids started. Prepare gingerbread house "walls" and triangular portions that can be used to make roofs. Kids may be able to cut through thinner boxes with their own safety scissors.

Design and build

Before they are stuck together, children can be encouraged to decorate their gingerbread homes by drawing, painting or gluing items on, or adding whatever embellishments they desire onto the cardboard panels. Once ready to go, the house can be constructed by using masking tape to attach the corners of walls and roof pieces together. Painters tape is another option, as it is less sticky, and can be removed and repositioned more easily if a mistake happens.

Display and play

Children can take pride in displaying their homemade gingerbread villages among the rest of the holiday decor. Kids can use their imaginations and create stories and other play using their cardboard gingerbread houses as the backdrop. When the holiday season is over, the cardboard can be recycled and ideas for a new batch of gingerbread village creations can take root.

Upcycling cardboard boxes into materials to build gingerbread-style homes is a way to foster creativity among kids and add to the holiday magic.

NINTH OF JUNE
DELHI
SHOES ETC.

KEEP IT LOCAL ALL SEASON LONG!

Friday, November 20:
Early Black Friday
Special discounts just for our local community

Black Friday Weekend:
• 20% off all Red Wing Heritage styles
• Spend more, save more on shoes & clothing for all

Friday, December 4:
Holiday Glow-Ups:
A special collaboration with Heaven on Main Street
5:00 - 8:00 pm

Private Shopping
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Follow us @ninthofjunedelhi for news about sales and events this holiday season.

NINTH OF JUNE
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PATRONIZE THESE UNADILLA CHAMBER BUSINESSES

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Green's Long River Inn & Liquor Store 54 St.Hwy 357
The Green Giraffe 179 Main Street
Village Variety 233 Main Street
Brown's Pharmacy 225 Main Street
House of Consignment 214 Main Street
Kwik Fill Convenience Store/Gas Station 248 Main St
Mirabito Convenience Store/Gas Station 180 Main St
Covered Bridge Farm Market 331 Covered Bridge Rd
Sunshine House Alterations 16 Martin Brook St
Unadilla Beauty Studio 1004 State Hwy 7
Country Squire Realty 1639 State Hwy 7
Muse Gifts & Vintage 192 Main Street
Hannlore Kennels County Hwy 23
The Village Table 198 Main St
Gift Certificates Available

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS
IN THE VILLAGE OF UNADILLA
FRIDAY DECEMBER 11TH
TREE LIGHTING 5:45PM
COMMUNITY LAWN 193 MAIN ST
COME EARLY FOR FREE HOT COCOA
IN MEMORY OF TANYA MARTINI
SANTA PARADE 6PM
MAIN STREET UNADILLA
VISIT & PHOTOS WITH SANTA
WM. BAUER COMMUNITY CENTER (MASONIC TEMPLE)
246 MAIN ST. UNADILLA

Small touches make a big impact in apartments

Decorations are among the most notable signs that the holiday season has arrived. Stores are decked out in garlands and lights, and a quick drive around one's neighborhood will reveal a bevy of festively decorated homes. Some people display a lawn full of inflatables while others prefer a more subtle look of classic white lights wrapped around trees.

Apartment dwellers may wonder how they can make their abodes more festive for the holidays as well. Although not as visible to passersby as single-family homes, apartments can still be decorated. Apartment dwellers can employ a few tips to maximize space and decorating potential.

• Work within your existing square footage. A large Christmas tree can take up a lot of real estate in an apartment. As an alternative, people can set up a slim, miniature or a wall-mounted tree.

• Use damage-free mounting. Landlords may have strict rules about what can or cannot be hung on walls. Nail-free adhesive hooks are an option to hang wreaths and lights to minimize



damage.

• String lights everywhere. Lights can be strung around windows, mirrors or bookshelves to create a cozy glow.

• Invest in pillow covers. Instead of buying new pillows for the holidays, existing throw pillows can be tucked into holiday-hued covers.

• Go with miniature details. Decorating a small apartment is an opportunity to display small collections. An array of miniature trees or delicate glass ornaments on shelves is festive without overwhelming residents and guests, according to West Elm.

• Utilize the balcony. Apartment dwellers who have a patio or balcony can use it to enhance the holiday spirit. Dangling outdoor lanterns or string lights on the railing will add a touch of sparkle.

• Pick cohesive colors. A color palette of two or three tones will help smaller rooms look organized instead of cluttered, according to Food52.

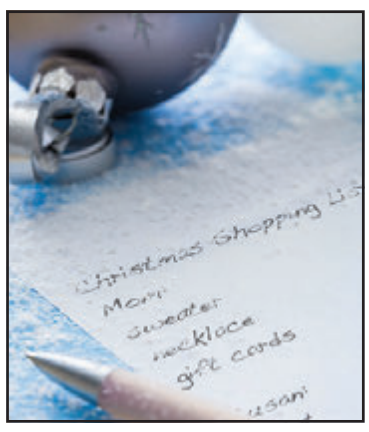
• Bring in nature. Even though an apartment may be in an urban area, that doesn't mean one can't enjoy a little nature. Display pine branches and real pine cones in vases to create an easy centerpiece.

• Display a seasonal doormat. A festive doormat is a simple way to spread cheer and welcome guests. It's also an inexpensive and impactful decorative item that can be used year after year.

• Dress up windows. Windows can be adorned with curtains that add a touch of glam or holiday colors. A simple string of lights across the curtain rod adds whimsy and illumination.

Apartments can be adorned in holiday finery with simple touches that won't overwhelm compact spaces.

Holiday shopping in an era marked by high prices



The holiday season is a special time of year when families and friends gather to celebrate their faith and enjoy opportunities to spend time together. Many a tradition has come to define the holiday season, and exchanging gifts with loved ones is among the most popular customs come December.

Shopping for holiday gifts commands a lot of attention. Holiday shopping also is a costly endeavor, particularly in an era marked by high prices. Despite the rising costs associated with inflation, consumers appear ready to spend this holiday season. According to the Basis 2026 Winter Holiday Shopping Trends study, 35 percent of consumers are planning to increase their holiday spending this season. But 57 percent of consumers acknowledge they intend to look for deals and discounts more actively this holiday season, while one in three admits they will shop while sticking to a stricter budget.

As high prices loom over the holiday season, shoppers can keep these tips in mind to avoid overspending.

• *Avoid blind shopping.* Starting a holiday shopping excursion without knowing what you're looking for can lead to impulse buying and overspending. Prior to shopping, make a list of the people you will be shopping for and the dollar amount you intend to spend on each person. Once that list has been made, jot down some gift ideas next to each person's name. Gift ideas should reflect how much you intend to spend on each person. This pre-shopping planning should not take long, and it can reduce the risk of overspending and even save time on shopping excursions.

• *Track your spending.* It's easy to lose track of holiday spending, particularly for shoppers who start months in advance of the holiday season. But tracking all gift-related spending, including dollars spent on items purchased months in advance of the holiday season, is vital to staying within your budget.

• *Take advantage of retail holidays at local businesses.* Many retailers, whether they're big box stores or locally owned independent businesses, participate in retail holidays like Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Such days offer plenty of opportunities to find great deals. This can be especially true when shopping at locally owned, independent retailers. Big box stores and online retailers may offer great deals, but only limited inventories. By the time shoppers get to the store or visit the website, many of the best deals might be gone, and shoppers will then settle for non-sale items. Smaller businesses may offer store-wide discounts on retail holidays, ensuring shoppers can find great deals throughout the day and not just during the small window when sale items are still available.

• *Coordinate with fellow shoppers.* Pooling resources with family members is a great way to find great gifts without breaking the bank. If someone on your list really wants a big ticket item like a new tablet or television, coordinate with your family members to pool your resources so that wish can be granted without anyone ending up in debt.

Holiday shopping when inflation is high can be difficult. But there are many ways to shop and save even when prices are high.



The many reasons to support Small Business Saturday

Small business is big business across much of North America. According to a 2024 report from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, nearly 98 percent of all businesses in Canada are small businesses, which the Government of Canada defines as firms with one to 99 paid employees. Small businesses boast an equally notable presence in the United States, where the Small Business Administration reports such establishments account for 99 percent of the nation's firms.



With such a profound presence in both Canada and the United States, it's no wonder small businesses are championed at a point in time when shopping takes center stage. Small Business Saturday occurs each year on the Saturday after American Thanksgiving, making it part of a weekend that is often characterized as the start of the holiday shopping season. With small businesses set to take their well-earned turn in the spotlight, consumers can ponder the many reasons to support Small Business Saturday this year.

• **Small businesses are significant employers.** The term "small business" can be misleading, particularly in terms of job creation. While small businesses are generally described as firms with fewer than 500 employees, recent data from the SBA indicated small companies accounted for two-thirds of employment growth across the U.S. over the last quarter century, ultimately generating around 13 million jobs during that time period. Small businesses also are big-time employers in Canada, where the ISEDC notes such firms employed 46.5 percent of the nation's total private labor force in 2023. Those jobs are filled by consumers' family members, friends and neighbors, and supporting these employers ensures those individuals can keep earning.

• **Small businesses help to fund vital local services.** Another notable reason to support small businesses is their role in creating strong local tax bases. The revenue generated by successful, local small businesses strengthens communities because it translates into tax income for local towns, which benefits schools, community organizations and public safety.

• **Small business spending is more likely to stay in the local community.** Another way supporting small businesses benefits communities relates to where consumers' dollars go once they're spent. Data from the American Independent Business Alliance indicates 48 percent of each purchase at a local independent business was recirculated locally. By comparison, just 14 percent of purchases at chain stores was recirculated locally. That means more than three times as much money is staying in communities when consumers buy from locally owned businesses compared to chain retailers.

There's no shortage of reasons to support Small Business Saturday. This year, consumers can do their part and give local small businesses, and the communities they call home, their unwavering support by shopping local on Small Business Saturday.

BLACK FRIDAY
SHOP LOCAL SATURDAY
NOV. 27 & 28 • 9am - 4pm
The Kirk Shoppe
4 Clinton Street, Delhi
MANY SPECIALS BOTH DAYS!

Remember When Donating:
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NO: car seats, helmets, electronics, or books.
Furniture accepted on staff approval.
Contact Kirk Shoppe with photos or bring to shop on Monday or Thursday A.M. for approval.
We need your cooperation so that The Kirk can continue to provide a low-cost shopping venue for local folks and financial support for local missions.

Thank you for your help & support.
May God bless you.



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MRC

Bake a tasty batch of gingerbread cookies this holiday season

The holiday season wouldn't be the same without the various traditions that make this special time of year so unique. Baking is arguably among the most cherished holiday traditions, as many cannot imagine what the month of December might be like without cookies. That's a reality those who love to bake need not confront, and this recipe for "Gingerbread Holiday Cookies" from Lines+Angles ensures holiday celebrants can meet their need for cookies this season.

Gingerbread Holiday Cookies



Makes 36 to 48 cookies

- 1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 11/2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 71/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for work surface
- 4 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

For Royal Icing:

- 4 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted (plus extra if needed)
- 3 tablespoons meringue powder
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ½ cup warm water with ¼ cup more, if necessary

In Addition

- Food coloring, gel paste preferred

1. Using an electric mixer set on low speed, cream together the butter and sugar until thoroughly combined. Add the eggs and molasses and mix until incorporated. Sift together the flour, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and mix well.

2. Divide dough in half and wrap each portion in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour, or until firm.

3. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two cookie sheets with cooking parchment paper.

4. Allow dough to sit at room temperature until pliable, about 15 minutes. Take about ½ cup of dough at a time and roll out onto a floured surface to a thickness of ⅛-inch. Cut out desired holiday shapes with cookie cutters. You can re-roll the scrap pieces. Transfer the cookies to the prepared cookie sheets, using a spatula.

5. Bake for 10 minutes, or until just brown around the edges. Transfer to wire rack to cool.

For Royal Icing:

1. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the confectioners' sugar and meringue powder until combined. Add the vanilla and ½ cup water and beat on medium to high speed for 5 to 7 minutes or until glossy and stiff peaks form. Test the consistency by spreading a small amount of icing on a cookie using a knife; if the icing runs off the edge of the cookie, add more confectioners' sugar until the desired consistency is achieved; if too thick, add more water.

2. Working quickly, divide icing between bowls and add food coloring. Decorate as desired. Icing hardens quickly when exposed to air. Store remaining icing in an airtight container.

Note: Yield will vary depending on the size of the cutters.

Holiday crafts for kids



Many people celebrate the holiday season, but perhaps no people enjoy this festive time of year as much as young children. Kids' eager eyes cannot wait to see homes transformed into winter wonderlands, and kids anxiously count down the days until they can tear into mountains of presents.

The weeks leading up to the holidays are among the most exciting of the year. When looking to wrangle kids' nervous holiday season energy, simple crafts are great at keeping little ones busy while parents tackle holiday responsibilities. These crafty projects can serve as new family traditions or a way to increase the number of holiday keepsakes. Here are several holiday craft ideas that the young (and young at heart) can enjoy, courtesy of Good Housekeeping, Women's Day and Chalk Academy.

Popsicle stick trees

What would a kids' craft be if it didn't include popsicle sticks? Cut colorful (or handpainted) popsicle sticks into pieces that gradually get smaller to mimic the triangle taper of a Christmas tree. Glue each cut piece to an intact, vertical popsicle stick, leaving a little space between "boughs." Attach a star on the top of the tree, and glue on rhinestones or metallic accents for some bling. A loop of ribbon or jute rope is the finishing touch glued on to the top so these adorable trees can be hung on the actual Christmas tree.

Paper plate angels

No tree is complete without a topper, and a smiling angel fits the bill perfectly. Visit a party store to purchase gold or silver paper plates. Also, pick up wooden balls for the face, wood dowels, glue, and ribbon. Pipe cleaners can be bent into a halo, too. Cut a V shape out of what will serve as the top of the angel, and the bottom left and right sides. This will make wing and skirt shapes from the plate. Glue the dowel to the ball, and then attach to the back of the cut plate. Add the halo and ribbon around the neck and any other embellishments. You also can draw a face on the wood ball with permanent markers.

Pipe cleaner garland

Kids can make festive garland to hang on the tree with something as simple as pipe cleaners. The pipe cleaners can be bent into circles or other shapes and linked together. Any extras can be turned into bows to use on presents.

Customized Christmas stockings

Kids can personalize their own stocking with some craft supplies. Provide a plain burlap or felt stocking and various decorations, including ribbon, pom poms, trim, cut-outs, stickers, and more. Fabric glue or another sturdy adhesive will keep all the items in place.

Bird feeder wreath

This idea blends crafting, science and a love of nature. Kids can place sliced fruit, berries, small sprigs of rosemary, and nuts into a bundt cake tray filled with water. Freeze the tray overnight. Then release the ice wreath and hang outside to add a festive touch and bring winter wildlife to the yard.

Holiday craft projects are a great way to keep little ones busy while parents tend to holiday planning and other seasonal tasks.







Turn Leftover Holiday Ham Into Crave-Worthy Meals

Ham is a traditional centerpiece of holiday feasts for many families. Once the festivities wind down, you might find yourself with a refrigerator full of leftovers ready to be transformed into quick, flavorful meals.

Bone-in holiday hams or single-serving ham steaks from Coleman All Natural Meats can become mouthwatering, savory leftovers for a variety of everyday dishes like these, with the bonus of having no antibiotics ever or added hormones.

For a protein-rich breakfast, crispy fried ham joins eggs, cheese and hash brown patties in these Crispy Ham Steak Breakfast Wraps with Hot Honey.

When it's time for lunch or dinner, these nutritious Ham Steak Grain Bowls with Honey Mustard Vinaigrette combine savory ham with tender roasted vegetables and wholesome farro or quinoa. Dressed in a tangy honey mustard vinaigrette, they get an extra pop of freshness from leafy greens and diced apples.

Discover more delicious ways to use leftover ham at ColemanNatural.com.

Ham Steak Grain Bowls with Honey Mustard Vinaigrette

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 30 minutes Servings: 4

- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and diced into small cubes
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced
- 1 small head broccoli, cut into florets
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional to taste, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- 1 cup dry farro or quinoa
- 2 Coleman All Natural Meats ham steaks, 6-8 ounces each, diced
- 2 cups fresh baby spinach
- 1 medium crisp apple, diced

Honey Mustard Dressing:

- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons plain Greek yogurt
- 1 garlic clove, finely grated
- kosher salt
- freshly cracked black pepper

Preheat oven to 425 F. Line large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In large bowl, add sweet potatoes, carrots and broccoli. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil and season with kosher salt and black pepper. Toss to coat then spread evenly on baking sheet.

Roast 20-30 minutes, stirring halfway through, until vegetables are tender and lightly caramelized. Remove broccoli earlier if finished before root vegetables.

Prepare farro or quinoa according to package instructions. Fluff with fork and set aside.

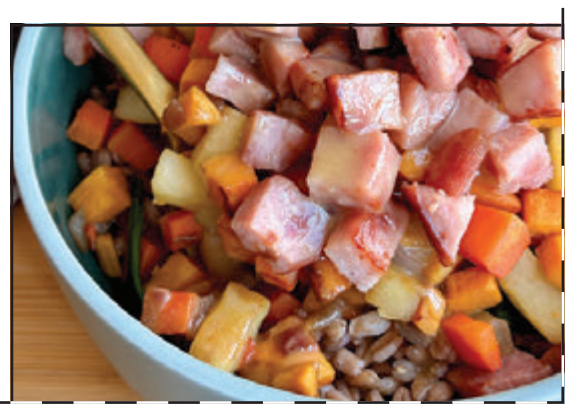
In large skillet over medium heat, heat remaining olive oil. Add ham steak and cook 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until edges are golden and crispy.

Divide cooked farro or quinoa among four bowls. Add roasted vegetables, ham steak, fresh spinach and apples.

To make dressing: In small bowl or jar, combine Dijon mustard, honey, olive oil, apple cider vinegar, Greek yogurt, garlic, salt and pepper. Whisk or shake until smooth.

Drizzle bowls with honey mustard dressing.

#17959 Source: Coleman Natural



Crispy Ham Steak Breakfast Wraps with Hot Honey

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 15 minutes Servings: 2

- 2 frozen hash brown patties
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, divided
- 1 Coleman All Natural Meats ham steak, 6-8 ounces, diced small
- 2 large eggs
- kosher salt
- freshly cracked black pepper
- 2 large flour tortillas
- ½ cup freshly shredded cheddar or Colby Jack cheese, divided
- 2 teaspoons hot honey, plus more for serving, divided



Cook frozen hash brown patties according to package instructions until golden brown and crispy. Set aside.

In skillet over medium heat, melt 1/2 tablespoon butter. Add diced ham steak and cook 4-6 minutes, stirring occasionally, until golden and lightly crispy. Transfer to plate.

Reduce skillet heat to medium-low then add remaining butter. Whisk eggs with salt and pepper; add to skillet. Cook gently, stirring occasionally, until just set.

Lay tortillas flat. Sprinkle approximately 2 tablespoons shredded cheese in center of each tortilla, leaving wide border around edges.

Divide eggs and ham between tortillas. Add one hash brown patty to each, drizzle with approximately 1 teaspoon hot honey and finish with remaining shredded cheese.

Fold tortilla edges inward, creating overlapping pleats until filling is enclosed. If necessary, use small piece of another tortilla to cover openings before folding.

Heat lightly greased nonstick skillet over medium-low heat. Place each wrap seam-side down and cook 2-3 minutes until golden brown and sealed.

Flip and cook 2-3 minutes until second side is crispy.

Transfer to cutting board, rest 1 minute then slice in half. Serve with additional hot honey, if desired.

Burn candles safely for the holidays and beyond

Candles are not in short supply come the holiday season. During Chanukah, candles are an integral component of celebrating the miracle of oil that burned in the Temple for eight days. Celebrants of Kwanzaa utilize candles to represent the seven principles of the holiday. Christians light candles during Christmas services and in their homes to represent the light Jesus brought to the world.



There is no denying the warmth and beauty candles can bring to a home when they are flickering delicately. But candles have open flames, so caution must reign supreme when they are in use. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says 85 percent of candle fires can be prevented by following some key safety precautions. The National Fire Protection Association says Christmas is the most dangerous day for candle fires. Here is how to burn candles safely.

- Always trim wicks to 1/4-inch before burning candles. Long or crooked wicks can cause uneven burning, dripping or flaring.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy and will not tip over easily.
- Use a long match or long lighter to light candles to prevent fingers and hands from getting too close to the flames.
- Run used matches under water to cool them down and prevent fires from occurring after matches are disposed in the trash.
- Never leave a candle unattended. It should be in sight at all times.
- Place and store candles beyond the reach of children and pets where they will be less likely to get knocked over.
- Never touch or move a candle while it is burning or while the wax is liquefied.
- Place candles on stable, heat-resistant surfaces.
- Keep candles away from drafts, vents and air currents.
- Follow candle manufacturers' recommendations on burn time and proper use.
- When utilizing multiple candles, place them at least three inches apart from one another. This reduces the chances for the candles to melt one another, or create their own drafts that will cause the candles to burn improperly.
- Extinguish a candle if the flame becomes too high or flickers repeatedly.
- Refrain from burning a candle longer than three hours at a time, and never burn a candle when there is less than one centimeter of wax at the base.
- Use a candle snuffer to safely extinguish a candle, and make sure the candle is completely out (wick ember is no longer glowing) before leaving the room.

Candles can be awe-inspiring components of holiday decor. But caution must always be the top priority when lighting candles inside a home.











A roasted turkey to serve as the centerpiece of a holiday meal

Turkey might only be prepared on the rarest of occasions, but it certainly takes center stage come the holiday season. As families prepare to spend time together during this special time of year, hosts undoubtedly recognize turkey as a potential centerpiece of the holiday meal. With that in mind, hosts can utilize the following recipe for "Whole Roast Turkey With Cranberries and Bay Leaves" from Lines+Angles.

Whole Roast Turkey With Cranberries and Bay Leaves



Serves 15

- 1 whole fresh turkey, approximately 15 pounds, rinsed and patted dry
- 10 tablespoons butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh sage
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh rosemary
- 4 bay leaves, plus extra to serve
- 2 large carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 large celery stalks, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 small onions, quartered
- 4 cups chicken stock, kept warm on stove over very low heat
- 10 ounces fresh cranberries, washed (optional)
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black peppercorns

1. Remove turkey from fridge 1 hour prior to preparation.
2. Mash together butter, chopped herbs, 1 teaspoon salt, and ½ teaspoon black pepper in a bowl; alternatively, pulse together in a food processor.
3. Preheat oven to 450 F. Season main cavity of the turkey with plenty of salt and pepper. Stuff cavity with bay leaves and vegetables.
4. Place turkey on a trivet or wire rack set inside a large roasting pan. Rub herb butter all over outside of turkey and season with more salt and pepper.
5. Roast in oven until lightly brown, about 45 minutes. Reduce oven to 350 F and continue to roast until thickest part of thighs register at least 160 F on an instant-read thermometer, 2 to 2½ hours; baste turkey every 15 to 20 minutes with warm chicken stock.
6. Remove from oven and let rest, loosely tented with aluminum foil, for at least 30 minutes before serving on a bed of cranberries and bay leaves.

How to stay within budget when hosting for the holidays



Family and friends are a big part of the holiday season. Countless people reunite with family and friends between late November and early January, and many even host loved ones during this festive time of year.

Hosting loved ones during the holiday season can fill a home with love and laughter. Hosting can save guests the cost of staying in a hotel, but it can put a strain on hosts' finances at a point in the year when budgets may already be stretched thin. Thankfully, there are many ways to stay within budget when hosting for the holidays.

• *Trim the guest list.* Rising food costs have been a topic of discussion for much of the year, so hosts can anticipate spending more to feed their guests in 2026. The Economic Research Service reports that food-at-home costs increased by roughly 3 percent between June 2025 and June 2026, and the cost of holiday season staples like beef and veal experienced particularly large price swings. The ERS also notes that food prices tend to spike each December due to increased demand. Hosts can combat rising food costs by trimming their guest lists to include only family and close friends.

• *Shop in advance.* While food costs tend to spike in December, many holiday season staples can be purchased in advance and frozen. Beef, chicken, veal, and other main courses can be purchased prior to December and stored in the freezer. This can help hosts avoid rising food costs and also offers a way to spread out hosting-related costs so hosts are not spending extra money on food during a time of year when they also need to shop for gifts and possibly even spend on travel.

• *Request that guests help to share the cost.* Hosts may handle the cooking, but that does not mean they need to provide everything. Ask guests to bring snacks, desserts, and beverages. Sharing food and beverage responsibilities saves hosts money and many guests would love to pitch in.

• *Simplify at the bar.* Alcohol prices do not necessarily experience the same dramatic spike in cost as food come the holiday season. But spirits can still be expensive, and prices can always rise. When planning the drinks menu for a holiday party, hosts can emphasize simple and less expensive beverages like beer and wine. Cocktails might be a go-to for some people, but they often require multiple ingredients in addition to the more costly spirits like whiskey and vodka.

Hosting for the holidays can make the season more fun but also more expensive for hosts. These strategies and more can help hosts stay on budget this December.

Christmas stocking decorating tips and tricks



Hanging Christmas stockings is just one of the many traditions that fill the days leading up to Christmas. One theory regarding the origins of stockings says the tradition began when a poor widower who had three daughters worried over having enough money for their wedding dowries to help secure the daughters' futures. The women, who had hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry, woke up to find solid gold spheres inside. This legend suggests kindly St. Nicholas visited the home in the night and left the presents, helping ensure the daughters could marry well, after all.

Christmas stockings were the first places where gifts were stowed, before under the boughs of Christmas trees became the primary spot for placing gifts. Then stockings were secondary vessels reserved for small trinkets. Today stockings are largely Christmas decorations rather than places to place gifts. Still, they're a key component of holiday magic.

When including stockings in holiday festivities, follow these tips for whimsy and more.

• Utilize stocking holders. Stocking holders are either metal or wooden devices that are placed on mantels. Hooks on the holders suspend the stockings. Just be sure the holders are sturdy enough to handle the weight of a stuffed stocking if you plan on filling it with goodies.

• Determine your style. There are Christmas stockings that coordinate to just about any interior design style. From farmhouse to modern to traditional, choose one that fits with your aesthetic. That isn't to say you can't mix and match stockings if you prefer a more eclectic, homespun feel.

• Enhance your stocking look. If stockings are strictly decorative, enhance their look with a few tricks. First, use tissue paper or balled up shopping bags to stuff the stockings and give them shape. Fill a small baggie with sand or florist glass and place in the heel of the stocking to balance it out and prevent the stocking from blowing around in the breeze.

• No fireplace; no problem. Stockings are traditionally hung from the fireplace mantel, but if you don't have a fireplace there is no need to fret. Simply use ribbons to hang them from the bannister of a staircase, or hang stockings right on walls with removable hooks, or from sturdy shelves. You also can think creatively and hang larger stockings on a door like you might a wreath.

Whether they're decorative or functional, stockings can be an integral component of holiday decor in a home.





