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Colchester: New Highway Storage Building Takes Shape
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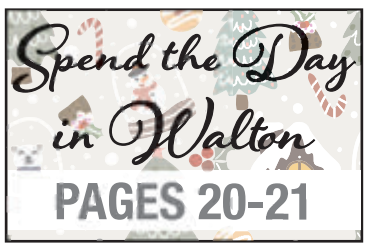



American Chestnut Tree Makes a Comeback
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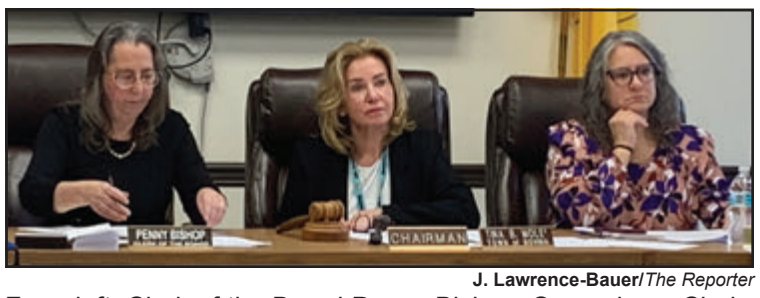
2027 County Budget Combines Top-Level Raises With Job Cuts and $15M Reserve Draw

By J. Lawrence-Bauer



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*
From left, Clerk of the Board Penny Bishop, Supervisors Chairperson Tina Molé and County Attorney Amy Merklen at the Nov. 24 meeting where residents questioned Merklen's proposed raise and criticized delays in making the 2027 tentative budget available to the public.

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors adopted the 2027 county budget, which draws more than $15 million from accumulated reserve funds and reduces the number of positions in various county departments while providing for significant salary increases for department heads, following a public hearing Tuesday, Nov. 24.

The budget calls for $152,409,153 in spending for the coming year, with $99,517,648 in anticipated offsetting revenues. To cover the remaining $52,891,505 while staying under the 2.8258% tax cap, the county will draw $15,109,978 from four reserve funds and set a real estate tax levy of $37,781,517.

According to the tentative budget, supervisors working with appointed county budget director Art Merrill proposed $152,409,153 in spending for the coming year with $99,517,648 expected in offsetting revenues. To make up the balance needed of $52,891,505 while still staying under the 2.8258% tax cap, officials pulled $15,109,978 from four different reserve funds to set the real estate tax levy of $37,781,517.

Highlights of the budget include a salary of $85,104 for Bovina Supervisor and Chairperson of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors Tina Molé along with salaries of $18,538 each for the 18 other town supervisors who comprise the county board. County Attorney Amy Merklen will be one of the highest paid county officials with a salary of $188,228 behind salaries in excess of $200,000 each for District Attorney Shawn Smith and Public Defender Joseph Ermeti.

A separate public hearing on salaries for nine appointed department heads and three elected officials was also held Nov. 24. Payroll for the 12 roles will be $1,401,669 and provide salary increases that ranged from 4.21% to 6.48%.

The salaries, effective Jan. 1, 2027, range from $67,979 for Election Commissioner Maria Kelso to $188,228 for County Attorney Amy Merklen.

Public Health Director Amanda Walsh's salary rose by $8,003, or 6.48%, to $131,436, while Social Services Commissioner Keith Weaver's increased by $6,665, or 5.66%, to $124,503. Director of Economic Development Glenn Nealis' salary rose to $110,787.

The salaries are subject to permissive referendum and would

See **2027 County Budget...** page 5

Margaretville Cracks Down on Illegal Parking: Village Prepares to Tow Problem Vehicles

By J. Lawrence-Bauer



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*
There are multiple no parking and no overnight zones in Margaretville.

MARGARETVILLE - Illegal parking in Margaretville will result in vehicles being towed away when village officials complete a contractual agreement with a local tow company next month. During a trustees' meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17, officials addressed ongoing concerns regarding chronic illegal parking that has disrupted traffic and community spaces. Trustees announced decisive new plans to begin towing vehicles that have repeatedly violated parking regulations, signaling a stricter enforcement policy moving forward.

The discussion centered on persistent problem areas where illegally parked cars have routinely created hazards that hamper snowplowing in winter and can slow access for emergency vehicles on crowded streets all year around. Board members emphasized that previous warnings and ticketing have failed to deter certain motorists, prompting the shift toward immediate towing.

Trustee Dave Budin reported that Shamro Auto and Tire would be willing to sign a towing contract so that at the request of village officials, illegally parked vehicles could be towed. Budin noted, however, that the towing company had asked for signage that would let motorists know where to go if their cars had been towed.

"It might be a little unsightly from our end," said Budin, before adding, "I would be very much in favor of doing that if that was the only hiccup."

Highlighting the chronic nature of the problem, Budin said, "You beg and ask everybody nice [with no result] but you know if a couple vehicles got towed….."

Trustee Sarah Hubbell finished his thought adding, "I think it would be a one-time thing. Word would get around quick. You can only leave so many notices. It's posted online. It's in the papers." Reflecting trustees' long frustration with the issue, she added, "If your vehicle gets towed, and you say, 'Where'd my vehicle go?' I guarantee you they won't do it again."

When Trustee Jeff Warren noted that people would probably call police if they found their vehicles missing, Mayor John Hubbell indicated that when the

See **Margaretville Parking...** page 4

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Delaware County Maps History One Cemetery At A Time

Planning Department seeks $14,010 for drones and weather stations as GIS project documents burial sites

Staff Report



file
The county's Poor House Cemetery is located adjacent to the SUNY Delhi Golf Course off Arbor Hill Road in Delhi.

DELHI - Delaware County's Planning Department is expanding its cemetery mapping project, using drone technology and geographic information systems to document burial sites, preserve historical records and help residents locate graves of family members.

Planning Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett outlined the work during a Delaware County Planning Committee meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17, explaining that the department seeks approval to purchase two weather stations and a smaller drone using $14,009.99 in equipment funding.

The request follows the committee's previous approval to transfer money from the department's personnel account to its equipment account, allowing the purchases to be made with 2026 funds rather than included in the 2027 budget.

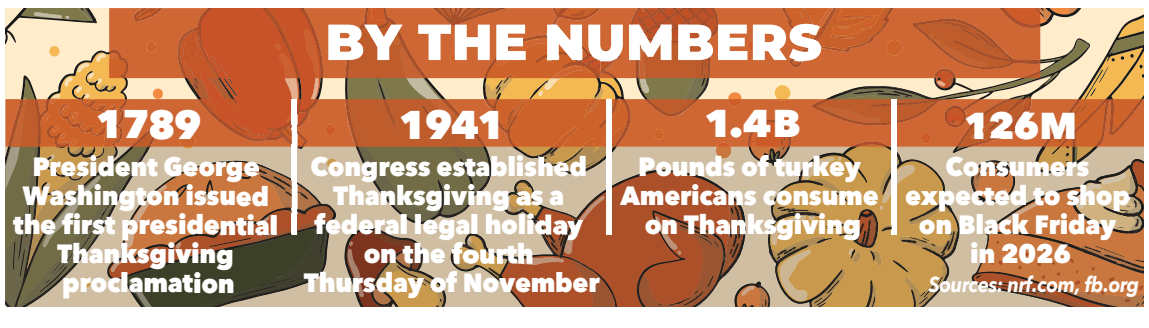
The weather stations are planned for Fishs Eddy and the village of Hancock. The smaller drone will support economic development projects and the department's growing cemetery documentation work.

Johnson-Bennett said the cemetery project has been progressing particularly well, with GIS staff members completing work at Woodlawn Cemetery in Delhi and moving on to Paige Cemetery in Downsville and another cemetery on Court Street in Delhi.

The department also recently met with the Walton Cemetery Association which expressed interest in having its cemetery mapped and documented.

Johnson-Bennett said the association agreed to allow the county to add its cemetery information to the county's online mapping system, making it searchable for people researching family histories and geneal-

See **DelCo Maps History...** page 7



WALTON

By Patty Wood pwood2@frontier.com

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. I hope you get to spend time with family making memories. If not in person, at least that is one perk of the digital age - I am always happy to be able to Facetime my grandsons and at least see them when we're not together. I hope you all get the same chance to share the holiday whatever way with loved ones.

The Christmas parade will be held Friday night Nov. 27. Lineup at the bus garage at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome with only three rules: no other live Santas (he comes at the end), no throwing candy from moving vehicles, please walk alongside and throw to the crowd so kids aren't running into the street, and, above all, have fun!

The route is from the bus garage, down Delaware Street, right at the light on Bridge Street, and right again onto Water Street. Vehicles will need to park along Water Street or turn down by the greenspace because Santa and Mrs. Claus will be seeing kiddos in the little house at the pavilion at Vet's Plaza. You will not be able to pull in the municipal parking once the parade is underway, but walk over to the plaza where there will be free hot chocolate compliments of the Maywood Snow Riders Club, kettle corn by the Dewing Family, and the lighting of the tree by Santa and then staying for pictures and telling Santa their lists.

The Spend the Day in Walton Saturday, Nov. 28. Events kick-off with Breakfast with Santa at the New Hope Church from 7-11 a.m., The Common Room Arts Studio will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and its grand opening will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. to which all are welcome. There will be live music by Acoustic Brew and a free craft to make for your tree.

The William B Ogden Library will be having a special craft for kids, "Make Yourself an Elf," and giving tours of all the levels of the library, all from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Across the road on North Street, kids can make and take another free craft at Yarn Over, and Robin is also offering free beginning crochet classes there on the half hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From there be sure to stop into the Walton Historical Society where they will have basket raffles, discounts on books and memberships, Christmas displays and photo albums to look through. Frosty will make an appearance from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for pictures.

While you're right there, stop at A Time to Heal, who will have specials and mystery discounts, and will be decorating Christmas cookies from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Castle on the Delaware will be hosting the annual craft fair with a room full of vendors and their beautiful items from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and stop in at the Grange for the vendor market while you're across the river. The Grange is collecting non-perishable food for the food bank.

At 5 p.m. folks can gather at Vet's Plaza on their ATV or 4x4 to play Christmas music or carol as you drive around the village looking at the Christmas light contest participants. Remember to only drive on the roads that are legally opened to these vehicles.

Then head up to Walton Pond to enjoy a bonfire and hot chocolate (and adult beverages), for the end of a wonderful start to the holiday season.

The Walton Fire Department will open their Christmas tree lot at the bus garage that day as well, and will continue through the season. The Walton Vet's Club is offering an open house and a free koozie if you sign up for membership. You can also drop off the kid's letter to Santa at his mailbox at the club.

The Walton Chamber invites you to Spend the Day, shopping, dining, and enjoying the festivities, hopefully with family that continues to celebrate together after your Thanksgiving meals.

Northfield Community Church, 5118 Co. Hwy. 23, Walton, will host a Gospel Music Night Sunday evening, Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. Come and enjoy special music and request your favorite hymns. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow. If you'd like to share your talents to praise the Lord and be included in the lineup, contact Pastor Randy Palada at 607-287-8818.

The Walton Grange will sponsor a Christmas auction with merchandise provided from Local Lines Bargain Bins and Discount Warehouse Dec. 6 at 2 p.m., and also there will be a penny social Friday, Dec. 11 at the grange with lots of new and gently used items. Doors open at 5 p.m. and calling starts at 7.

On Dec. 21, from 4-5 p.m. the Walton Ministerium is sponsoring a "longest night" service especially for those who struggle with loss at the holidays. Whether you've lost a person you love, or lost a way of life by being in a new place or town, this service is to help you cope with the holidays when everyone seems happy but you.

Another Christmas gift idea: the Walton Chamber has the remaining Walton Coins purchased for Freedom Fest. These double-sided coins feature the new village seal on one side, and the new town seal on the other. The seals were designed by local artists, Amanda Conkling and Jamie Thompson. This commemorative coin is great for current or former residents of Walton as a nice keepsake of their hometown. Just $25, I can also ship coins if needed. Contact me to get yours, as a gift or for yourself, but they are limited to current stock so when they're gone, they are gone for good.

Wreaths Across America is a national promotion that the Walton Vet's Club ran locally last year very successfully. For $17 you can buy a wreath to be laid on a veteran's grave at Walton Cemetery. You can get the wreath and lay it yourself, or donate one that the auxiliary and volunteers will place. You can also purchase a wreath to pick up for placement at another cemetery. Pickups for those orders will be Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. at the Walton Cemetery. Deadline to order is Tuesday, Dec 1. There will be a ceremony for the public at the cemetery Dec. 19 at noon. To buy a wreath make a out check to Walton ALA and mail to 10 Park Street, Walton, NY 13856, stop at the Walton Vet's Club, or contact Linda Belmont at 607-865-5179 to pay cash, for cash apps or digital pay options.

Music on the Delaware has Cherish the Ladies - one of America's most heralded Irish music ensembles - returning to the historic Walton Theatre Monday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. They have become a cherished annual tradition in our community. Tickets can be purchased for this in-person and livestreamed concert at www.musiconthedelaware.org and at select retailers.

There will be an open bowling fundraiser for Lisa Kinch Sunday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m. at Walton Lanes. There will be raffle baskets, a bake sale and a 50/50 raffle and also a gift card wreath currently worth over $700 for this event. Tickets are $5 each or three for $10. Tickets are available at the bowling alley or online. The gift cards can be shipped to the winner if needed so everyone can take a chance. If you have something to donate to the raffle drop it off at the bowling alley, contact Laura Hitt on Facebook messenger, or stop at Gramma D's in the evening to see Rebecca Halstead. People have been adding gift cards everyday, too, so it may go higher. Let's rally for Lisa as she battles metastatic breast cancer and help her fight.

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

Walton's annual Christmas show by the Delaware River Stage Company is back and will take place Friday-Sunday, Dec 4, 5, 6 at the Walton Theatre on Gardiner Place. Tickets are available at Walton Music House and are still just $7 each. Friday and Saturday's show are at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Walton Central FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) will sponsor two fundraisers Saturday, Dec. 5 at the high school gymnasium. They will host a vendor craft fair and a family holiday photo event. Price is $25 for 10 digital pictures. Call Denise Webler at 607-865-4116 x6155 to reserve a spot for $20. You can also call to reserve a photo appointment. Rylnn Daye is taking the pictures and she does a beautiful job so it's a great deal.

The Walton Vet's Club has a unique craft project coming. On Monday, Dec 7, be there to make a glass fused Christmas ornament, and learn to cut glass and how to arrange it to get ready for firing. Event starts at 6 p.m. Whether you're making a keepsake for your tree or a handmade gift for someone special, this is the perfect way to get creative and celebrate the season. You should look for designs you may want to make to save time while picking glass colors. You can sign up at https://www.jablonstudios.com/book-online and pick the $30 for one ornament, or $50 for two ornament options. The two ornaments option is for only one person, and cannot be shared due to space limitations and tools.

Walton Vet's Club will host its annual kid's Christmas party Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. Come enjoy Christmas crafts, delicious food, fun games, and a special visit from Santa. 10 Park Street, Walton.

There will be an Advent/Christmas Caroling event December 12, at 5 p.m. the Veterans' Plaza, sponsored by the Walton Ministerium.

There will be another Community Christmas Dinner Dec. 25 brought to us by the Bandara Family Community Alliance. Menu will be ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, corn, stuffing, applesauce, beverage and dessert. Take outs only, from 12-2 p.m. at the Walton Fire Hall. Deliveries available for those who are housebound. Volunteers are needed to help as servers, runners, delivery drivers, and cleanup. Contact Ellie Truman to volunteer: 607-865-8211.

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The Margaretville Rotary Club is thankful this Holiday season for the community support that allows us to donate to youth programs, foodbanks, toy drives and other community non-profits organizations.

We are especially grateful to the following businesses that provided gift certificates for our Freshtown Grocery Run.

Please patronize these great community businesses and let them know that you appreciate them too!

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The Happy Giraffe
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Margaretville Rotary

THE REPORTER

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
BY
THE REPORTER
39 ELM STREET
DELHI, NY 13753
Phone: 607-464-4009

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(USPS 665-600)
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THE REPORTER
Business and Editorial Offices:
39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 13753

Accounting and Circulation Offices:
39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 13753

Yearly Subscription Rates In
Delaware Co. Area $64.00
Out of the Local Area $74.00

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to
The Reporter
39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 13753
Request for change of address should include former address.

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

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

Weather Words with Frank Ward

Too warm, then Thanksgiving rain

"We've had a pretty nice week. Last Wednesday, Nov. 18, it was 57 degrees, and that's after a morning of 23, Thursday, Nov. 19, was 24, but we got to 61. Friday, Nov. 20, was 25 but we got to 61. We've had nothing but above average temperatures, and it's also for the most part been dry.

Saturday, Nov. 21, got to 62. We had a warm night to start Sunday, Nov. 22, at 41, and then we got to 59, and again, this time of the year our normal temperature should be about 42 degrees for our high, and yet Monday, Nov. 23, we started out at 44. We got to 49 which was still above average, and then Tuesday, Nov. 24, it was 33 out there.

The cold is starting to work its way in. Tuesday was okay. What I'm worried about is the fact that



file
Walton Weather Observer Frank Ward

this low pressure system coming up the coast is going to head inland. And it's going give us a rainy Thanksgiving day. Rain, we can take. They said we might get an inch. If we get even a little less than an inch, we have a normal month for precipitation.

They're talking about winds, however, and I've noticed people putting up all their blow ups and everything for decorations. Make sure they're really staked in the ground real good, so your blowup doesn't end up into some neighbor's yard. And I've seen people putting up lights and that's fine and everyone getting ready for the holidays. The villages and towns are planning parades, and actually, those should happen while the weather's still okay out there, because it's going to clear sometime on Friday. Nov. 27. So all of that is not too bad. It's nice to see this time of the year. You know, if you're by yourself on the holidays or maybe there's just a couple of you, some of the churches have Thanksgiving dinners and the whole idea is to be with company and think about the past. Enjoy the holidays because we need to preserve them and they need to be celebrated. And I'm a turkey preparer for mine, so it's finally sitting in my refrigerator. It'll be ready for me to put in on Thanksgiving Day. And I can't wait. So, let's keep our fingers crossed that this low pressure system doesn't do anything horrible. I'm going out to check my pasture fences and things today just to be sure. I hope you all have a real good holiday. Have a good one." ~ Frank Ward

Corrections

In the Nov. 19 articles titled, "After Football Forfeit, Delaware Academy Community Demands Answers," and "Delaware Academy Football Season Ends After Section IV Upholds Forfeit Decision," Superintendent Carey Shultz's name was misspelled. In the article titled, "Andes: A Small School Faces a Big Decision About Its Future," Laney Mondore's name was incorrectly spelled as Lainey and Darbey Mondore's name was incorrectly spelled as Darby. In the Nov. 19 Police Blotter, it was incorrectly reported that Michael Tucker, 60, of Sidney was charged with petit larceny and fourth-degree criminal mischief. Tucker was solely charged with petit larceny. *The Reporter* regrets the errors.

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County, Town Team Up To Improve Access To Camp Shankitunk

Shared-Services Project Will Replace Seasonal Bridge With Culvert, Create Safer Trailhead Ahead of Camp's 100th Anniversary

Staff Report

DELHI - A cooperative effort among Delaware County, the town of Delhi and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County will provide safer, more convenient access to trails at Camp Shankitunk, Executive Director Emily Roach told county Planning Committee members Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Roach said county and town officials recently visited the property to examine an access problem along Arbor Hill Road, where a bridge previously had to be moved into place each spring and removed in the fall.

The seasonal arrangement had become increasingly difficult and potentially dangerous because of fast-moving traffic on the road. Moving the bridge required stopping vehicles at both ends of the road, Roach said, and the access point had gone largely unused in recent years.

The goal was to find a permanent solution that would allow campers and visitors to reach the trails without having to walk through the camp and take a longer route to the main entrance.

Following the site visit, officials settled on installing a large culvert - or sluice pipe - beneath the road to provide pedestrian access. Boulders and other barriers will prevent vehicles from using the crossing, keeping it designated for foot traffic.

The project is expected to benefit youth campers as well as other Cornell Cooperative Extension programming and research activities taking place in the forest.

The solution emerged through cooperation among the county, town of Delhi and CCE, with each contributing resources and labor.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County Executive Director Emily Roach gives a report to the county's planning committee, Tuesday Nov. 17.

County officials agreed to provide the culvert pipe, while the town will install it as part of work on a drainage dip that also needs attention. Sean Leddy of the county Planning Department offered to work with the camp on designing an improved trailhead on the opposite side of the culvert.

The proposed trailhead would give groups a designated place to gather and count participants before entering the trails, rather than assembling along the roadway. Signage could also be incorporated into the design.

Committee members described the arrangement as a successful shared-services project that turned a complicated proposal into a relatively simple solution.

"It was a good joint project," one committee member said.



file

4-H Camp Shankitunk on Arbor Hill Road, Delhi.

Roach said the new access will make it easier for campers and others to reach the Lenox trail area. The main camp entrance has a gate that can be opened to allow vehicles into the property, but the new crossing will be restricted to pedestrians.

Officials also discussed incorporating a weatherproof cabinet to hold a logbook where trail users can sign in. Committee members noted that sign-in records are important for identifying where people are if an emergency occurs. A similar system at a nearby boat launch has drawn participation from visitors traveling from a variety of locations.

Beyond the physical improvements, the project has prompted a review of the agreements governing the property. Although the county owns the land, Cornell Cooperative Extension is responsible for managing and maintaining it. Roach and county officials are working with the county attorney's office to renew the agreement before the next camp season.

The improvements are part of preparations for the camp's 100th anniversary, planned for June 12. Roach said the goal is to have the property cleaned up and ready for visitors to enjoy the trails and other activities.

Extension reports on programming, enrollment

Roach also updated committee members on Cornell Cooperative Extension's year-end reporting and ongoing programming.

CCE's 4-H program recently visited Hancock to give a presentation similar to one previously delivered to the county Board of Supervisors. Roach encouraged residents to visit the extension's website to learn about available programs.

The enrollment deadline for 4-H is Dec. 1, she said.

Committee members also noted renewed interest in livestock programming, with more than 30 people attending recent meetings focused on improving livestock shows for next year.

Roach said the extension's annual meeting was rescheduled for Friday, Nov. 20 after bad weather the previous week prompted a change in plans.

Financial Sustainability Proposal for Towns and Villages Sparks Debate at County Committee Meeting

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI - Delaware County villages under dire financial constraints can expect no relief from the county for at least two to three years as a result of a county finance subcommittee meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10. At the meeting chaired by Middletown Supervisor Glen Faulkner, a formal proposal for a bed tax hike under discussion for months in both the finance and the economic development committees was resubmitted to the finance committee in an effort to find a revenue source that could provide meaningful support to villages and in some cases, towns, facing severe budget constraints.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Harpersfield Supervisor Lisa Driscoll demanded more details regarding a financial proposal to provide support to villages by Delaware County during a county finance subcommittee meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The meeting was a continuation of formal discussions about the financial peril of Delaware County's 10 villages that began in earnest in March 2026 after at least two years of informal efforts by mayors to get assistance from county leaders. The result is that the subcommittee will reconvene in January and can expect to face a multi-year planning process before concrete results or long-term structural changes might materialize.

Harpersfield Supervisor Lisa Driscoll was a leading voice in demanding a slow down of the process in a way that would provide greater clarity on the mechanics of the proposal, emphasizing that local leaders need actionable support rather than long-term projections.

"We need that now. We don't need that for years from now, which is what we're looking at right now if we move forward with this plan," Driscoll said, highlighting the urgency felt by local governments struggling to stay under state tax caps. Pointing to her own town's tight margins, she added, "My whole allowance, I'm trying to balance a little bit... $7,000 is almost 1.5% of my budget. So, while it's not a lot, it changes everything."

The proposal involves exploring an increase in the county's bed tax, currently yielding modest returns compared to neighboring tourism-heavy counties, and potentially dedicating a portion of those funds toward municipal fiscal analysis and infrastructure planning via an independent consultant.

Economic Development Director Glenn Nealis outlined the county's current tourism funding limitations, noting that promotion efforts rely almost entirely on occupancy tax revenues.

"At the end of the day, what my department gets from the occupancy tax is around $250,000," Nealis said, contrasting Delaware County's resources with neighboring Sullivan County, which generates millions in bed tax revenue. "We don't do paid advertising because we can't afford to. Everything we do is through social media."

Nealis also pointed to the physical infrastructure pressures accompanying rising visitor numbers, noting that trails, parking areas, and local wastewater treatment plants require substantial investment to support sustainable tourism.

"We know we have a housing crisis," Nealis said. "I also know that a lot of our municipal sewer treatment plants don't have enough capacity to support additional housing. Maybe that becomes a regional project, but we need those physical plans to basically say, this is how you could support that."

Throughout the meeting, participants debated the appropriate guardrails for any potential tax increase. Driscoll and other committee members stressed that any revenue generation must be strictly tied to a well-defined plan rather than open-ended allocations. Faulkner agreed on the need for careful administrative oversight, suggesting that engaging a consultant could help identify shared services and fiscal efficiencies across municipalities.

"If we're going to raise a tax, I want more information about how it's gonna be used," Driscoll said, endorsing the idea of bringing in an independent consultant to examine municipal budgets while capping further broad disbursements until a comprehensive framework is established.

The subcommittee ultimately moved toward outlining next steps, including gathering direct feedback from village mayors across the county and reviewing how a short-term consultant study could be structured to evaluate municipal needs before any formal tax code modifications are advanced to the full Board of Supervisors.

Delaware County has 10 incorporated villages in its border including Fleischmanns and Margaretville which both lie within the Town of Middletown that Faulkner leads. While Faulkner has been a leading voice is support of the county mayors, supervisors of the county's largest population towns including Sidney, Walton and Delhi have not rallied vocally in support of their villages.

Supervisors of smaller towns with villages including Driscoll's Harpersfield, as well as Deposit, Franklin, Hancock and Stamford have offered little to no support for the efforts.



Downsville: Snowmobile Club Seeks Trail Access Through Paige Cemetery

By Patti Cantamessa

DOWNSVILLE - Harry Triebe, representing Delaware Valley Ridge Riders (DVRR) snowmobile club, addressed Colchester council members Wednesday, Nov. 18, seeking permission to use existing roadways through Paige Cemetery as part of a proposed alternative snowmobile trail that would bypass the Downsville Covered Bridge.

Triebe explained that the club is exploring a new route to maintain trail connections in the area, with portions of the proposed route still dependent on obtaining permission from neighboring property owners.

The proposed route would also allow snowmobilers to continue accessing local businesses. The route would begin at Butcher's Garage, continue into Amato's and cross Cemetery Road, with the club hoping to secure permission to travel through the Reynolds property. If that route is not available, riders would seek permission to cross Shirley Homovich's yard and continue along the road to get around the covered bridge. Treibe also described a possible connection involving New York City Department of Environmental Protection property, a small field and Al Carpenter's property before rejoining the existing trail. Councilmember Julie Markert asked for clarification about the route, including whether snowmobiles would still cross the bridge on state Route 30/206.

As an alternate option the town discussed allowing the club to travel through Paige Cemetery, using existing roadways only. The route could follow the main cemetery road and exit through the gates toward Homovich's property, or pass behind the shed and connect with the trail on the other side. The town representative said he had spoken to cemetery maintenance staff, who had no concerns about the proposal, but noted that the club still needed to determine whether the alternate route would work. The request was for the town to consider allowing access through the cemetery if needed. The town stressed that riders must remain on established roads, and Treibe agreed, suggesting that the route could be marked with flags or other trail markers.



Patti Cantamessa/*The Reporter*

Harry Triebe, representing the Delaware Valley Ridge Riders, addresses the Colchester Town Board Nov. 18 regarding a proposed alternative snowmobile trail through Paige Cemetery. Supervisor Rob Hafele praised the club's history of respecting neighboring properties and addressing community concerns.

Supervisor Rob Hafele said the request would allow snowmobiles to travel through the cemetery using established roadways only.

Hafele spoke favorably of the club's history of respecting neighboring properties and addressing community concerns, noting that DVRR members have consistently demonstrated a willingness to police their own activities and respond to complaints.

He emphasized that snowmobilers must remain on designated cemetery roads and that any complaints should be promptly addressed. Triebe agreed, indicating that the club could install markers to clearly identify the approved route.

Council members authorized the club to use the cemetery roadways for the snowmobile season, provided the alternative trail can be established. Triebe agreed to notify town officials once the final route is determined.

Margaretville Parking...

continued from front page

village requested a vehicle to be towed, they would notify the police of the action they'd taken.

Ultimately trustees moved forward with the towing contract and will secure the additional signage needed. Once the measures take full effect, repeat offenders risk having their vehicles towed at the owner's expense. Trustees hope this firm approach will finally resolve longstanding parking congestion issues in Margaretville.

In other action trustees again discussed replacing electric vehicle charging stations in the village parking lot and again tabled any decision. Warren reviewed information showing a $300 per month electric bill and $285 for insurance on top of a $7,000 cost to replace a level 2 charger with another level 2 charger.

Noting they should get a level 3 for faster charging, Warren estimated a level 3 charger would cost $19,000, a number Mayor John Hubbell thought could rise to as much as $25,000 with the costs of shipping, installation and other costs added.

Trustee Iris Mead worried about paperwork and follow up and who would do it. Trustee Sarah Hubbell questioned who would actually use the charger, which originally had been installed to encourage visitors to the region to park and shop while they charged. She noted if residents of the area are using the chargers for their personal vehicles, they would be better off installing chargers at their homes.

Warren, noting the original chargers were placed in the village with grants then not maintained, said, "They bring a toy to the playground to have a game and as soon as their toy breaks, they leave and want everybody else to pay for the broken toy. With a bunch of unknowns in the future I just don't see it being viable."

Mayor John Hubbell agreed to do additional research on the topic so a final decision could be made next month.

The mayor announced the village has received a $50,000 grant to study water flow issues on Orchard and Swart street that cause water to seep into residential basements.

"I told them I would work on one [grant] to see if we can figure out why their cellars are filling up with water," Hubbell noted. "Now we just have to wait for the state to get to a point where we can get the actual money."

Trustees will meet again Tuesday, Dec. 15 at which time they will open bids for rental of construction equipment in cases of emergency.

Colchester Explores Grants for Pool and Building Improvements

Town looks to engineering firms as first step toward potential capital projects

By Patti Cantamessa

DOWNSVILLE — The town of Colchester is beginning to explore potential grant opportunities for improvements to its swimming pool and municipal facilities, taking preliminary steps toward projects that could address future recreational and infrastructure needs.

During the Nov. 18 Colchester Town Council meeting, Supervisor Rob Hafele outlined plans to identify qualified engineering firms that could assist the town with developing proposals and cost estimates for potential capital improvements.

Hafele said the town has identified the swimming pool and improvements to an existing municipal building as projects worth exploring.

While the specific scope of the work has not been determined, he discussed possible improvements to the pool and exterior renovations to the building, including replacing or updating its exterior covering.

Before pursuing grant applications, Hafele explained, the town would need to establish a list of qualified engineering firms capable of evaluating the projects and preparing preliminary designs.

He proposed advertising a request for qualifications, commonly known as an RFQ, to identify engineering firms interested in working with the town on future projects.



file

The Colchester municipal pool and building.

Under the proposed process, the town would review responses, evaluate the firms' qualifications and narrow the list before seeking project-specific proposals.

Hafele explained that engineering assistance would help officials determine the scope of improvements, develop preliminary plans and establish realistic construction estimates.

Those estimates would then provide the financial information needed to pursue potential grant funding.

Council members discussed whether the engineering firms could assist with other municipal projects as well, rather than limiting their services to the two improvements currently under consideration.

Hafele indicated that developing a list of qualified firms could provide the town with additional options when future infrastructure needs arise.

The discussion emphasized that the town is still in the earliest stages of planning. No engineering firm has been selected, no construction costs have been established and no grant funding has been secured.

Hafele described the process as one that would require several steps before the town could move forward with formal grant applications.

For now, the proposed advertisement would begin the process of identifying professional resources that could help Colchester evaluate its options and determine the feasibility of future improvements.

The initiative represents an early effort to position the town for potential outside funding while developing a clearer understanding of the costs and requirements associated with its recreational and municipal facilities.

Delhi: Generations Team Up for a Kids' Little Free Library

DELHI - Thanks to a partnership between Delhi Girl Scouts, the Delhi Rotary Club, and the village of Delhi, there is a new Little Free Library just for kids in the village.

In the spring of 2024, the Delhi Rotary Club installed a Little Free Library in Cannon Memorial Park on the corner of Franklin and Main Streets. The book exchange box was an instant success enjoyed by readers of all ages - or so the Rotary Club thought.

This summer, members of Delhi Girl Scout Troops 30022 and 30025 noticed something: there were never any children's books available in the box.

"We quickly noticed that there was often a shortage of children's books," said Jessica Fleming, troop leader, who visited the box often with her family. "Whenever we left some, they were taken right away - which showed us there was a real need."

Fleming reached out to Delhi Rotary Club's Vice President Sanum Shafi with an offer: how could the Girl Scouts help bring a Little Free Library to the park?

Members of the Rotary Club worked with the Girl Scouts on a plan: Rotary would install a new Little Free Library box at a shorter height, right next to the existing box. The Girl Scouts would help steward the box by checking the box periodically, adding books, and removing things that don't belong.



contributed

"Our Girl Scout troops are always looking for community service projects, so stewarding the Kids Little Free Library felt like a natural fit for a group of young readers excited to give back to their community," Fleming explained.

After approval (and a new post hole) from the village of Delhi, the children's book box was installed this fall. On Nov. 16, the Girl Scouts visited the box to learn about stewardship.

"It was a joy to work side by side with the Delhi Girl Scouts to create a special place where young community members can share books and discover new stories," said Shafi.

"Thank you to everyone who helped bring this project to life. Delhi Rotary is so proud to promote children's literacy, build community connections, and support our young readers. Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."





2027 County Budget...

continued from front page

take effect 45 days after adoption.

Residents Question, Object to County Attorney's Raise

Several Delaware County residents urged supervisors during the public hearing on staff raises, to reject a proposed salary increase for Merklen, questioning the raise in light of the county's recently settled federal lawsuit brought by the owners of *The Reporter*.

Residents also raised concerns about the county's legal handling of the dispute, the $600,000 settlement and the lack of public information explaining how the proposed salaries were determined.

Matt Kryzston of Delhi asked supervisors to reject the local law authorizing Merklen's proposed increase. He cited the county's handling of a letter sent to *The Reporter* linking the newspaper's loss of its official designation to its coverage of county affairs, saying the county should have recognized the legal risk.

He also questioned the county attorney's role in a dispute involving a former social services commissioner who was reprimanded for taking a position in Family Court. The state Board of Appeals later determined the commissioner had a right to take that position, he said.

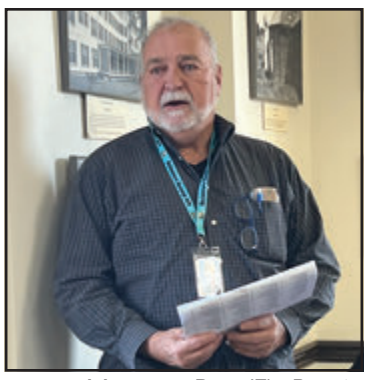
The two matters, he argued, exposed the county to unnecessary legal risk and expense.

Karen Kantor of Sidney also opposed the increase, saying the newspaper dispute began with the Board of Supervisors and should have been recognized as a problem before it escalated.

Susan Dapkins said the county had not adequately explained the proposed salary increases. She questioned whether the raises were based on cost-of-living adjustments, comparable salaries, longevity or merit.

Regarding Merklen's salary, Dapkins said the county's settlement of the federal lawsuit raised questions about the legal advice provided to the county.

"Given that the county just agreed to pay a $600,000 settlement to the owners of *The Reporter*, to satisfy a federal lawsuit, a raise for the county attorney hardly seems justified," Atkins said.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

During a supervisors meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10, Budget Director Art Merrill thanked county staff for their work on the 2027 tentative budget which was presented to supervisors.

She also noted that Merklen was already among the more highly paid county attorneys in New York and asked supervisors to explain the justification for an increase.

Kathleen Hayek of Walton said the proposed county attorney salary was approximately $50,000 higher than the next-highest salary on the list. The speaker also questioned why the county attorney's compensation was among the top 20% statewide while the county treasurer's salary remained below $100,000.

Hayek said the county attorney should not be rewarded with a raise after the federal lawsuit.

Kristen Antin of Meredith cited a 2026 New York State Association of Counties salary survey, which listed Delaware County's county attorney salary at $178,246, ranking 13th among 47 counties and approximately 6% above the statewide median.

"Any kind of raise above that should be earned by results," Antin said, adding that she believed the county had been placed in greater legal jeopardy rather than receiving positive results.

Antin also questioned a proposed increase for the chair of the Board of Supervisors, from $78,800 to $85,104 — an increase of more than $6,000, or 8%. She said only two other counties paid their board chairs more than Delaware County's current salary, while the statewide median was $28,000.

Antin asked supervisors to disclose the county's share of *The Reporter's* settlement after insurance coverage before approving any salary increases.

A Franklin resident also opposed the raises, saying taxpayers deserved a full accounting of how much of the settlement and related legal expenses would be paid by the county rather than insurance.

She questioned the timing of the proposed increases, saying supervisors should focus on what is in taxpayers' best interests.

Residents Question Budget Access

During the public hearing on the county's 2027 budget, residents criticized the process for making the proposal available to the public, saying they had not been given enough time or access to review it before the hearing.

One speaker asked supervisors to postpone the hearing so residents could obtain and examine the budget.

Kantor said she had called twice and sent an email seeking the document because it was not readily available on the county website. She said she was told the county's information technology staff had not yet posted it, although an employee emailed her a copy.

Kantor said requiring residents to call or email individually to obtain the budget was not a reasonable way to provide public access.

Without reason or explanation several supervisors opposed a raise for Merklen. Supervisors who opposed Merklen's raise were: Colchester Supervisor Rob Hafele, Delhi Supervisor Maya Boukai, Deposit Supervisor Rebecca Walley, Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield, and Meredith Supervisor James Ellis.

Merklen's raise was approved by a weighted vote of 152 to 48.

Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold voted against a raise for Economic Development Director Glenn Nealis without explanation.

The collection of county sales tax is among the largest sources of revenue and as in previous years, the amount expected for budget purposes is significantly underestimated as compared to recent experience. For the 2026 budget, supervisors predicted sales tax revenue of $29 million and collected over $30 million in just nine months. It is likely based on last quarter receipts in previous years that the total take in sales tax for 2026 will be in the range of $36 million, a differential of $7 million. In 2025, the actual sales tax receipts totaled $34,691,833.

Total net revenues from all sources except property tax income are projected to increase from $89,474,999 in 2026 to $99,517,648 in 2027 or 11.2%. Total net spending will increase from $141,580,951 in 2026 to $152,409,153 in 2027 or 7.6%.

Road and Bridge Capital is up 38.6% with anticipated capital projects jumping from $9 to $13.75 million. Judicial spending will rise 24.3%. Public Health and Mental Health are expected to jump 9.4% and 8.4% respectively while Law Enforcement jumps 8.9%, Public Safety jumps 4.5%. Shared Services will increase by 4.6%, General Environment departmental operating will go up 8.7%. Costs in the county attorney's office are expected to rise 5.7%

Social Services, the largest department in the county, will increase its budget by the smallest percentage, just 3.4% having eliminated the possibility of filling six currently vacant positions.

Savings in the budget are being provided by the clerk of the board line item which went down 39.5% thanks to cuts in cell phone and social media expenses. The treasurer's office, which has eliminated $49,500 in credit card fee expenses and lowered its contractual services $22,500 creating a 37% budget reduction. The county clerk's office costs should be down 21.7% thanks to higher projected fees and eliminated book and recording lines.

Stamford Town Board Approves 2027 Budget With 1.5% Tax Levy Increase

Battery Storage Moratorium Advanced

By Duane Martin

STAMFORD - Stamford council members held a public hearing on its proposed 2027 budget before its regularly scheduled meeting Nov. 18. The proposed budget totals $1,496,069, down $6,150 from the 2026 budget of $1,502,219, and includes a 1.5% tax levy increase. The budget committee consisted of Supervisor John Kosier, town bookkeeper Jackie Lamport, and former Deputy Supervisor Daniel Deysenroth.

Deysenroth reported that the committee tightened spending where possible and utilized unused fund balances from 2026 to offset the 2027 budget. Hobart resident Doug McMullen was the only member of the public to speak during the hearing and questioned the benefit of maintaining unused budget allocations as reserves rather than using those funds to avoid property tax increases.

Deysenroth responded that maintaining a fund balance provides a financial reserve for emergencies and helps prevent sudden tax increases resulting from unexpected expenses. As an example, he cited the potential need for a $50,000 culvert replacement, a topic discussed at a previous meeting.

Council members approved the proposed budget by a 4-1 vote. Supervisor John Kosier, Deputy Supervisor Julie Sechrist, and Councilmembers Debra Ballard and Jake Palmatier voted in favor of the budget. Councilmember Jessica Watson voted against it.

In other business, Kosier reported that the town reissued bid requests for diesel fuel, gasoline, and LP gas but received no responses. He said he spoke with current suppliers, Main-Care Energy and Mirabito Energy, and service will continue as usual, with prices fluctuating with market conditions.

Kosier also reported that the village of Hobart will reimburse the town for stone materials used in its recent street project.

Highway Department Report

Highway Superintendent Daniel Miglianti reported that beavers on the Broken Spoke Stables property along Narrow Notch Road have repeatedly plugged a culvert pipe, causing flooding and road damage.

During the discussion, Kosier recommended that the highway department install additional warning signs for the narrow bridge on Decker Road. Miglianti also reported that the seasonal road sign on Scutt Road had been stolen and would be replaced.

He further reported that trucks that were out of service last month have since been repaired and returned to operation.

Kosier announced that the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District awarded the town a grant to assist with stream restoration work associated with repairs to the Foote Hollow bridge. The town is also awaiting review and approval from Soil and Water for work related to the Decker Road bridge.

Miglianti noted that a newly installed phone system at the highway department buildings was not functioning properly. Town Clerk Ruthie Ann Van Buren said she would contact the service provider to address the issue.

Battery Storage Moratorium Proposed

With ongoing debate in Delaware County regarding battery energy storage facilities, Kosier recommended that the board adopt a moratorium on applications and construction of battery storage projects within the town.

Deysenroth raised concerns about a recent Westchester County court ruling that struck down a moratorium on battery storage facilities, with the court reportedly viewing such facilities as a public utility similar to electric transmission infrastructure. He questioned whether a local moratorium could ultimately be overridden.

Kosier noted that several neighboring municipalities have adopted similar measures. Watson asked whether the town attorney would draft the proposed law, and Kosier replied that the attorney would.

McMullen spoke in favor of a moratorium, citing concerns about potential fires and the limited ability of local fire departments to respond to battery storage facility incidents.

Council members approved moving forward with the drafting of a proposed local law and scheduled a public hearing on the proposal for 5:45 p.m. Dec. 9.

Security Camera Project Discussed

Cherri Miglianti, spouse of the highway superintendent, asked the board about the status of security camera installations at the highway department facilities.

Kosier said the town had decided to run camera wiring above ground and that the installer was waiting for heavier-duty cable to arrive before completing the project.

Miglianti said town personnel have received reports of individuals entering the highway department property and allegedly stealing stone materials during nighttime hours. By the time employees or state police arrive, he said, the individuals are typically gone.

Kosier suggested the town explore installing gates to restrict access to the property outside normal business hours.

Other Business

Council members approved a 2026-27 emergency medical services contract with Headwaters EMS totaling $104,000.

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Colchester Adopts 2027 Budget, Council Members Divided as Tax Increase Questions Persist

Supervisor Says 9.9% Reflects Growth In Appropriations, Not The Tax Levy

Staff Report

COLCHESTER - Questions about the proposed 2027 town budget, its impact on taxpayers and the use of reserve funds led to a lengthy discussion among Colchester Council members Nov. 18, with two councilmembers opposing the spending plan.

Supervisor Rob Hafele said the proposed budget had been amended following the board's previous budget workshop and negotiations, allowing the figures to be posted online ahead of the public hearing. Councilmember Janet Champlin questioned why the budget showed a 9.9% increase while the town continued to hold substantial amounts of money in its accounts.

"How can we raise it 9.9 [%] and still be sitting down on that money? Why can't we pull more of that and lower it?" she asked.

Hafele said the 9.9% figure represented the change in appropriations between the 2026 and 2027 budgets, not the actual increase in the tax levy. He explained that the tax calculation also considers changes in revenues, unexpended fund balances and other state-mandated factors. After reviewing the state comptroller's tax levy worksheet with Town Clerk Allison Gill, Hafele said the town's preliminary calculation showed it would exceed the tax cap by approximately $1,804.

Hafele said the state has set the 2027 tax cap at 2%, while the comptroller's office estimates inflation at 3.13%. He questioned how municipalities could remain within the cap without significantly reducing services when inflation exceeds the allowable increase. He also cautioned against relying more heavily on reserve funds to offset the budget, saying some of that money is not permanent and will not be available in future years.

Champlin continued to question the figures, saying the 9.9% increase appeared to indicate a nearly 10% tax increase. Hafele maintained that the appropriation figure was only one part of the calculation, pointing to additional revenue and unexpended funds, as well as the town's tax base growth factor. He said the proposed budget also uses approximately $184,000 in Federal



Patti Cantamessa/*The Reporter*
Colchester Supervisor Rob Hafele chaired the Nov. 18 town council meeting where the 2027 budget was adopted by a vote of 3-2.

Emergency Management Agency money to offset costs, but warned that the town should not become overly dependent on those funds.

Town Attorney Nick Cortese offered another estimate during the discussion saying he had used an artificial intelligence tool to analyze the proposed budget posted on the town website. Based on the increase in appropriations and the use of available cash, he said the analysis indicated a 3.77% increase over the 2026 tax levy. Cortese explained that an increase in appropriations does not translate dollar for dollar into a tax increase because some spending is covered by other revenue sources.

Following the meeting, Hafele calculated the tax levy increase at 2.3%, stating he was unsure how Cortese calculated the figures.

Hafele acknowledged that the budget calculations had been difficult to explain and said the town plans to bring in a bookkeeper next year to help prepare the budget and guide the board through the process. He said he had given up $10,000 of his salary to help pay for the position.

"I am the first to admit that I'm not a bookkeeper, and that's why we're calling in help," Hafele said.

Councilmember Julie Markert also questioned the budget process, saying she had attended multiple workshops but still did not understand how the figures had been reached. She said she would have preferred to follow the tax cap and adjust spending accordingly, as the town had done in previous years. Markert also disputed the suggestion that the town was financially strained, pointing to more than $4 million in bank accounts and questioning why the town could not use more of its available funds.

The discussion turned to the town's purchase of four dump trucks and the timing of FEMA reimbursements. Hafele said the town had $480,000 in dump truck expenses and questioned what happened to $235,000 budgeted in 2025 for the trucks. Highway Superintendent Ken Eck said the money had been intended to cover dump truck purchases before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted deliveries and pricing. Eck said he had warned that receiving all four trucks at once could create a financial problem.

Champlin said the town had purchased the trucks with the expectation that FEMA funds would eventually reimburse expenses related to disaster recovery projects. She said money spent on the FEMA work had come out of the town budget and was later reimbursed. Hafele said the town would have been in a difficult position if FEMA money had not arrived in recent months to help offset the budget.

Markert and Champlin both indicated they could not support the proposed budget as presented.

"I couldn't with a clear conscience vote for that kind of raise for our taxpayers. I'm sorry," Markert said.

Champlin said she could not reconcile the figures presented by the town with the estimates reported elsewhere.

"I can't seem to wrap my head around your numbers and *The Reporter's* numbers and whoever's. I don't. None of them add up," she said.

The discussion concluded with a motion to accept the budget with Councilmembers Greg Lavorgna and Dan Pinner voting in favor of the budget, and Markert and Champlin against it. Hafele broke the tie voting in favor of the budget, with it passing by a vote of 3-2.

Bookkeeping Assistance Planned

Hafele acknowledged that the budget preparation process had been difficult and said the town needed additional financial oversight to improve the accuracy and clarity of future budget discussions.

The 2027 budget includes a reduction of approximately $10,000 in the supervisor's personal services allocation, with those funds redirected toward bookkeeping assistance.

Hafele said he had agreed to give up $10,000 from his salary allocation to help fund a bookkeeper who could assist with financial oversight and budget preparation.

He expressed hope that the additional assistance would make next year's budget process easier and provide board members with a clearer understanding of the town's financial position.

The discussion also addressed the need for more consistent budget adjustments and reconciliation of accounts throughout the year.

Patti Cantamessa and Lillian Browne contributed to this reporting.

Stamford Trustees Hear Questions on Indemnification Law, Approve Utility Software Contract

By Duane Martin

STAMFORD - Stamford Trustees opened their Nov. 17 meeting with a public forum attended by approximately 12 residents.

During the public comment period, Stamford resident Melanie Del Vecchio of Main Street addressed the board regarding the village's indemnification law for village employees.

Del Vecchio questioned whether the law had been properly publicized, noting that she could not find the legislation on the village website and said she was unaware of any publication in local newspapers or public reading of the law before its adoption. She also expressed concerns about how the law would be applied and whether taxpayers could ultimately be responsible for legal costs resulting from actions covered under the law.

Del Vecchio argued that a large uninsured judgment against the village could place a significant financial burden on taxpayers. She cited a hypothetical $750,000 judgment and questioned how the village would respond to such a liability without either reducing services or increasing taxes.

She presented trustees with six questions concerning the law's implementation and oversight, including who determines whether an action qualifies as official village business, the extent of taxpayer liability, the use of outside legal counsel, and why the law was not publicly available online before adoption.

Del Vecchio also asked about contingency planning for potential uninsured legal settlements and requested an update on the closed River Street bridge near Stamford Central School, including funding sources and expenditures related to the bridge and the village's water and sewer districts.

Following her remarks Mayor Robert Schneider invited Del Vecchio to discuss questions concerning the indemnification law with village attorney Nicholas Cortese of Coughlin & Gerhart. Del Vecchio asked why the discussion could not occur publicly. Schneider responded that the conversation involved matters between Del Vecchio and village counsel.

"After the meeting with Cortese, the village spent $1,100 to speak behind closed doors yet wasn't prepared for the question I had been asking publicly for days. [It was] Truly a waste of taxpayer dollars!" Del Vecchio said.

Fire Tower Report

Trustees received a written report from Trustee James Kopp, who was absent from the meeting.

According to the report, the Mount Utsayantha Fire Tower recorded 102 visitors during the previous week. The report also noted that a wedding venue event was held at the village park during the season.

Water Usage Dispute Reviewed

Department of Public Works Superintendent Jesse Calia reported on a high water usage billing dispute involving a property at 3 Mountain Avenue.

According to Calia, the property's water bill reached approximately $7,000 between January and March while the homeowners were away. He said the water meter was tested by both the manufacturer and an independent third-party laboratory. Both evaluations determined that the meter was functioning properly and accurately recorded the volume of water used.

Calia said investigators concluded that a toilet malfunction was the most likely cause of the unusually high water usage, resulting in continuous water flow through the meter.

He reported that the findings were presented to the Village Water Board, which recommended that trustees uphold the charges as accurate. The board also recommended that the village offer a payment plan to the property owners.

Trustees accepted the Water Board's recommendation and approved a payment plan option for the property owners.

Other Business

In other business, trustees reported that the New York Forward Grant Committee scheduled a Zoom meeting for Nov. 18.

Trustees also approved a contract with Williamson Law Book Company for software services supporting the village's water and sewer districts at a cost of $2,040.

Trustees received a code enforcement report indicating that five zoning permits were issued, 10 site inspections were completed, and two property searches were conducted since the previous report.

The next meeting of Stamford Trustees is scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 15.

Delaware County Approves $517,882 in Mortgage Tax Payments to Local Governments

Semiannual Distribution Allocates Revenue to 19 Towns and Their Villages

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors approved the semiannual distribution of $517,881.78 in mortgage tax revenue to towns and villages, directing the county treasurer to make payments based on collections reported through Sept. 30.

Resolution 178, titled "Apportionment of Mortgage Tax," was approved at the supervisors meeting Tuesday, Nov. 24. The measure follows state tax law, which requires mortgage taxes to be apportioned twice a year.

The distribution allocates $475,265.58 to towns and $42,616.20 to villages across the county.

Roxbury received the largest allocation at $77,729.49, followed by Middletown at $70,890.03 and Walton at $52,047.09. Middletown's amount includes $64,568.49 apportioned to the town and $1,864.71 and $4,456.83 for its villages. Walton's allocation includes $43,059.41 for the town and $8,987.68 for the village.

Other larger allocations include $40,370.46 for Delhi, divided between $34,432.16 for the town and $5,938.30 for the village; $39,276.82 for Sidney, including $28,575.19 for the town and $10,701.63 for the village; and $26,369.66 for Andes.

Hancock was allocated $25,389.32, including $23,352.27 for the town and $2,037.05 for the village. Stamford received $26,069.77, with $20,344.05 apportioned to the town and a combined $5,725.72 for its villages. Harpersfield was allocated $17,601.59, while Davenport received $21,899.42 and Kortright $21,566.41.

The remaining allocations include $19,693.67 for Colchester, $19,235.48 for Bovina, $13,410.42 for Hamden, $12,900.19 for Masonville, $10,856.46 for Franklin and $10,387.47 for Deposit. Deposit's allocation includes $9,700.06 for the town and $687.41 for the village. Meredith was allocated $6,296.96, while Tompkins received $5,891.07.



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DelCo Maps History...

continued from front page

ogy.

"They were very excited about the work that they've done," Johnson-Bennett said of the Walton association. "And they've even given us permission to add a layer on the [mapping] site, so that people doing genealogy and stuff will actually be able to search the cemetery."

The department has also spoken with the Delhi Cemetery Association, although it has not yet agreed to participate. Johnson-Bennett said the county does not want to publish cemetery information without the permission of the organizations responsible for maintaining it.



file

The Old Burial Ground on Court Street, Delhi.

Combining Records To Uncover Forgotten History

The project brings together cemetery maps, burial records, historical documents and information collected from gravestones to create a more complete digital record of local burial grounds.

Johnson-Bennett said county clerk staff members maintain lists identifying people buried in cemeteries, but those records generally do not include maps showing the precise locations of graves.

Planning staff has been comparing the clerk's records with cemetery plots identified through the mapping work, correcting names and adding dates that have become difficult to read on older gravestones.

The staff member is also working to incorporate handwritten records maintained by the Delhi cemetery over many years.

In some cases, the historical records have helped identify graves marked only as "unknown."

Johnson-Bennett described one example in which a planning staff member found an unidentified gravestone situated between two people with the same last name. By comparing the cemetery's handwritten records with other information, the staff member determined the grave belonged to their infant daughter and was able to recover the child's name.

The work has also helped families locate graves they had searched for unsuccessfully.

Johnson-Bennett said several people have contacted planning staff, including one person who had spent years trying to find a grandmother's headstone.

"She was able to find it for them," Johnson-Bennett said. "Like I would have never ever thought to look on that part of the cemetery because my family was never buried over there."

The mapping process uses drone photography to capture detailed images of cemetery grounds. Staff members can zoom in on individual gravestones, while GIS technician Spencer uses a process called rubber sheeting to align existing maps with aerial imagery and create accurate digital layers.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Planning Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett gives a report at the county's planning committee meeting held Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Planning staff then adds plot information and identifies graves with names and dates based on the headstones and available historical records.

When inscriptions are difficult to read she has also used traditional techniques, including lightly rubbing a pencil and paper across a gravestone to bring out faded lettering.

Johnson-Bennett said the smaller drone will make it easier to continue photographing individual cemetery sections and documenting sites where records are incomplete or nonexistent.

Project Offers Resource for Towns and Cemetery Associations

Johnson-Bennett said the department hopes to document as many cemeteries as possible, particularly those with incomplete records or no formal mapping.



file

Paige Cemetery in Downsville.

The project could be especially valuable for smaller communities and cemetery associations that have limited resources or are at risk of losing the volunteers who maintain their records.

Committee members discussed the responsibility towns may assume when a cemetery becomes abandoned or its association can no longer operate. Johnson-Bennett said preserving cemetery records now could help municipalities and future generations avoid losing important historical information.

One committee member noted that the state has programs designed to help cemetery associations remain operational and delay the need for municipalities to assume responsibility.

Johnson-Bennett invited cemetery associations and town boards interested in the project to contact the Planning Department. GIS staff members are available to provide demonstrations showing how the digital cemetery maps work and how historical records can be incorporated.

She said the project is also intended to make county information more accessible to the public.

"This is the kind of stuff we wanted the home site for," Johnson-Bennett said, explaining that the goal is to give residents access to information without requiring them to navigate multiple layers of government data.

The department's cemetery work also complements its broader economic development mapping efforts, which include information about trailheads and recreational resources.

Johnson-Bennett said genealogy and cemetery research can attract visitors to the region, making the project both a historical preservation effort and a potential tourism resource.

"Genealogy is a big tourism thing too, really," she said. "People travel to do this type of work."

The department hopes to connect the cemetery information with other county data layers so users searching for local attractions and resources can access related information in one place.

Johnson-Bennett described the cemetery mapping initiative as a long-term resource that will preserve records, help families reconnect with their history and prevent information from disappearing as older cemetery records and volunteer organizations are lost.

Colchester: Cooks Falls Water Rate Increased

Supervisor Addresses Customer Concerns, District Finances and Number of Water Connections

By Patti Cantamessa

DOWNSVILLE - Colchester officials authorized a Cooks Falls Water District rate increase during their Nov. 18 meeting, following a public hearing earlier in the month at which water users questioned the district's finances and the need for higher charges.

The proposal increases quarterly water bills from $75 to $125 per customer, an additional $50 per quarter, or $200 annually. The increase is intended to address a shortfall between the district's operating expenses and revenue.

Supervisor Rob Hafele reported that residents attending the Nov. 4 hearing appeared less concerned about the amount of the increase than about understanding the district's financial position and whether additional revenue could be generated through other means.

Hafele said town officials had addressed questions raised during the hearing, including a discrepancy involving the number of customers served by the district.

According to Hafele, a resident questioned the town's customer count, prompting a review of district records. The review established that the district previously had 83 customers, but a change involving a parcel had reduced the total to 82.

Hafele acknowledged that the resident's concern about the customer count was justified.

The number of customers is significant because the district relies on a relatively small customer base to support its operating expenses. With 82 customers, a $50 quarterly increase would generate approximately $16,400 in additional annual revenue if all customers are billed at the standard rate.

Hafele also discussed the challenge of balancing the district's immediate financial needs with anticipated future operating costs. He suggested that making a rate adjustment now could help avoid a more substantial increase later.

He acknowledged that no one welcomes higher water bills but said the proposed quarterly charge would remain below the statewide average for small water districts, based on information he had reviewed.

Colchester Salt Shed Takes Shape as Winter Nears

Concrete Work Progresses As Town Reviews Construction Costs and Remaining Work



image courtesy of town of Colchester

Construction on the Colchester's new salt shed is underway.

By Patti Cantamessa

DOWNSVILLE - Construction of Colchester's new highway department salt storage facility is progressing as winter approaches, with concrete work nearing completion and town officials reviewing the remaining costs of the project.

Highway Superintendent Kenneth Eck provided an update during the Nov. 18 Colchester Town Council meeting, reporting that concrete work for the facility's walls had been completed at the highway garage complex on River Road.

Eck said additional finishing work was underway, including sealing the concrete, and that lighting had been ordered for the new structure.

The update follows earlier concerns about delays in the project's bidding process and whether the facility could be completed before the winter season.

During the meeting, Supervisor Rob Hafele discussed an estimated $68,000 cost for the salt shed's wall and roof structure, bringing attention to the remaining expenses associated with completing the facility.

Council members questioned whether the additional construction costs would keep the project within its anticipated budget.

Highway officials reviewed expenses associated with the concrete work and other construction components. During the discussion, council members referenced an overall project cost of approximately $170,000, although a final total was not established.

The new salt shed is intended to provide covered storage for road salt used by the highway department during winter maintenance operations. Protecting the material from precipitation helps preserve its effectiveness and reduces exposure to the elements.

There is an existing salt shed at the former highway garage site on state Route 30/206, know known as Pepacton Park, a town-owned facility.

Although the concrete work has advanced and preparations for the remaining construction are underway, town officials did not announce a firm completion date during the meeting.

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Colchester Council Divided Over Cooks Falls Meetings in Contentious Exchange

Council Member Questions Safety, Accessibility and Purpose of Holding Town Meetings Outside Downsville; Supervisor Defends Outreach To Residents

Staff Report

DOWNSVILLE - A disagreement over holding Colchester Town Council meetings at the Cooks Falls Fire Hall escalated into a contentious exchange between Councilmember Julie Markert and Supervisor Rob Hafele during the board's Nov. 18 meeting, with Markert questioning the location's safety and suitability and Hafele defending the meetings as an opportunity to hear residents' concerns.

Markert said she had watched the recording of an earlier meeting twice after reading the minutes and was concerned that Hafele had not explained why she and Councilmember Janet Champlin were absent. She said both had already told him they would no longer attend the meetings in Cooks Falls.

"The reason for us not going to those meetings - I don't feel that it's a safe place to meet," Markert said.

She also cited the lack of a suitable room for executive sessions, saying board members had been required to go outside for private discussions.

Markert said many of the issues raised by residents at the Cooks Falls meetings did not fall under the town board's authority. She listed complaints about state Route 17 bridge signs, speed bumps, block parties and power outages as examples of matters she said the board could not resolve.

"That's not anything that this board can make a decision about," she said, adding that residents could bring those concerns to Hafele during his office hours in Cooks Falls. She said the board's responsibility was to review its agenda and oversee town business, including bills.

Hafele disagreed, saying the board has a responsibility to help educate residents and hear their concerns, even when the issues raised are outside the board's direct control.

"I think it's our job to help educate people when they do have questions or concerns," he said.

Markert responded, "We don't need to educate them as a board. We need to watch what bills are being paid and go over our agenda."

She also questioned why Hafele had asked residents to provide feedback on whether the meetings were effective and whether they wanted more of them, saying the town has a designated meeting place at Town Hall in Downsville.

"This is the town of Colchester. This is the town hall, and we are set up here to have meetings, and I didn't make a campaign promise to go to Cooks Falls," she said.

Hafele said residents had expressed appreciation for the meetings and wanted the board to continue holding them. He said he had hoped Markert would attend but did not want to speak on her behalf about her reasons for being absent.

"I'm sorry that you don't like it," Hafele said.

He added that he believed public outreach was part of the board's civic responsibility.

Markert questioned how the board could conduct business at the Cooks Falls meetings if several members continued to stay away. She asked what would happen if the absences prevented the board from having a quorum.

Hafele said the meetings could still serve as question-and-answer sessions with the supervisor, highway superintendent or town clerk, even if the board could not conduct official business.

Markert also questioned the need for the town's committee structure if the board was using the Cooks Falls meetings to address issues outside those committees' work. Councilmember Greg Lavorgna said the board was doing more through its committees now than it had in the past.

The disagreement then turned to the physical arrangements at the fire hall. Markert asked town attorney Nick Cortese, who attended remotely, to clarify whether the meetings could legally be held there and whether the location was appropriate for executive sessions.

Hafele said the fire hall had a room available for the board. He explained that at the first meeting, the board used a back room, but at a subsequent meeting the fire chief had forgotten to unlock it, forcing members to meet in the parking lot to maintain privacy. He said the back room had been used at another meeting and described the fire hall as a public meeting place.



Patti Cantamessa/*The Reporter*

Colchester Councilmember Julie Markert stated she will not be attending council meetings scheduled in Cooks Falls, citing a variety of reasons. Councilmember Janet Champlin also stated she would not be attending those meetings.

Markert said Town Hall provided a more appropriate setting. Champlin added that the space provided for the board at the fire hall was not large enough for all members. Markert also raised concerns about the town clerk's ability to access records and information while away from her office, saying there was no computer available at the fire hall.

Cortese said the meetings were legal as long as they were properly noticed and a quorum of the board was present to discuss town business.

"Any time that a quorum of the town board meets together to discuss town business, it doesn't matter if you meet at Cooks Falls, or you're all sitting in a bar together doing the business of the town," Cortese said. "It's a public meeting, and it has to be noticed as a public meeting."

He said the location of a meeting was a separate question from whether holding it there was legal.

"Whether or not it's your desire to do it is another question entirely," he said. "But whether it's legal, the answer is yes, of course it's legal."

Markert then asked whether executive sessions could legally be held at the fire hall. Cortese said the board could ask members of the public to leave the meeting room while it conducted an executive session.

Hafele said the board had previously asked residents to leave the building while members went downstairs for executive sessions, but he said he preferred not to inconvenience the public by sending people outside in bad weather.

"Why should we inconvenience the public by telling them to leave the building in the rain or the snow?" Hafele asked.

Markert questioned why board members should have to go outside instead. Hafele said that had happened only once.

"Okay, Rob. Whatever," Markert said before ending her remarks. "Okay, I spoke my piece."

Delaware County Approves $110,764 For Family-Centered Services, Shifts Funds For Youth Bureau Social Media, Website

Supervisors authorize $170,970 in town charges and year-end budget adjustments

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors adopted several financial resolutions Tuesday, Nov. 24, including a $110,764 budget amendment for Family-Centered Case Management Services, a transfer of funds to support the Youth Bureau's online presence and adjustments to town accounts.

The Department of Social Services will receive $110,764 in additional revenue and matching spending authority for its Family-Centered Case Management Services program. The county said the program is intended to reduce participants' dependence on government interventions for daily support.

According to the resolution, the state will reimburse the county for 100% of the program's costs. The budget amendment increases both the federal family assistance revenue line and the corresponding family assistance appropriation by $110,764.

Youth Bureau Funding

The board also approved a $17,580 transfer within the Department of Social Services budget to help the Delaware County Youth Bureau create and maintain a website and social media presence.

The resolution said the online platforms would keep residents informed about Youth Bureau programs, events and activities.

The money will be transferred from social services' personal services account to its social media account. The resolution does not identify a specific website or social media platform, nor a contract recipient.

Town Charges and Credits

Supervisors approved a charge of $170,970.20 to the county's 19 towns for assessment rolls, field books, tax bills and related services.

Under the resolution, the supervisors clerk is authorized to apportion the amount among the towns based on taxable property. The charges will be included in the county treasurer's preliminary report of charges and credits to the towns.

A separate resolution, No. 174, approved the county treasurer's 2026 preliminary report of town accounts. The report lists charges of $22,185.76 for Delhi, $15,185.04 for Sidney, $14,809.16 for Roxbury, $13,321.54 for Middletown, $10,370.72 for Franklin, $9,840.27 for Hancock, $8,179.93 for Davenport, $7,957.32 for Kortright, $6,960.15 for Meredith, $6,747.63 for Colchester, $6,175.64 for Stamford, $6,076.74 for Andes, $5,368.77 for Deposit, $5,095.32 for Harpersfield and $3,599.57 for Hamden.

The report also lists credits of $25,987.73 for Walton, $6,072.98 for Bovina, $4,436.91 for Tompkins and $478.01 for Masonville.

Supervisors also authorized the Department of Fiscal Affairs to make accounting adjustments needed to close the county's 2026 books.

The resolution said the changes would balance accounts among personal services, equipment, contractual expenses, employee benefits and undistributed employee benefits. It emphasized that the adjustments would not increase actual spending.

The department will provide a written accounting of the transactions to the Finance Committee before the 2026 books are closed. A full accounting will be presented to supervisors following completion of the county's annual report.



Thinking of Starting a Farm or Homestead? New Workshop Series Offers Practical Starting Point

Aspiring farmers and homesteaders can learn how to turn their agricultural goals into reality through a five-part workshop series offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County beginning in January.

"Breaking Ground: Starting Your Farm or Establishing Your Homestead" will cover topics ranging from land and business planning to animal care, crop production, funding opportunities and bringing products to market.

The sessions will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension's office, 34570 State Highway 10, Suite 2, in Hamden, with an online participation option available.

The schedule includes:

• Jan. 5: Your land as an asset and resource; setting up your homestead.

• Jan. 19: Finding funding and raising small animals.

• Feb. 2: Developing an agricultural enterprise and business; fruit and vegetable production.

• Feb. 16: First-generation farmer panel; maple and honey production.

• March 2: Bringing products to market; food preservation and value-added products; selling meat.

Snow dates are Feb. 9 and March 9.

Registration costs $35 for one attendee or $55 for two attendees from the same farm.

To register visit https://ccedelaware.org

Beef Producers Invited to Free Meetings On Farm Profitability

CCE Workshops Cover Market Trends, Cow Management and Replacement Heifers

Beef producers are invited to attend free meetings in December focused on market conditions and strategies to improve profitability on their farms.

With beef markets beginning to decline, the meetings will examine key factors affecting farm income, including current market prices, the value of a pregnant cow and the management of yearling animals.

Two sessions are scheduled:

• Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m.: Hamden Town Hall, 20 Covert Hollow Road, Hamden. Participants may attend in person or through Zoom.

• Friday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Prattsville. This session is in person only.

Topics will include a summary of current beef market prices; the economics and practical management of pregnant cows, with an emphasis on producing healthy calves every 12 months; and the importance of yearling animals, including strategies for managing replacement heifers and animals destined for meat production.

There is no cost to attend and food will be provided at both locations.

Registration is required by the day before the session. To register, contact Kim Holden at 607-865-7090 or kmh19@cornell.edu

Arkville Entrepreneur Spurs Economy With 46 Local Jobs and An Eye To The Future

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

ARKVILLE - Keeping legacy stores open and providing an array of goods and services available seven days a week in his community are missions that keep Ted Johnson awake at night. The expansion of Titan Drilling and the acquisition of Brookside Hardware have driven that mission during 2026, and with a new year on the horizon, Johnson is not yet spilling the beans on what initiatives he has in store for 2027.

Catching Johnson as he moves back and forth between the two places is a challenge. At Brookside Hardware on Nov. 17, he stopped long enough to talk about the year behind him.

Operating Brookside Hardware daily was a deliberate priority from the start, catering to weekend contractors and homeowners tackling Sunday projects. Between the hardware store's six employees and Titan Drilling's 40-person crew, Johnson oversees a significant local workforce.

"The community needs these jobs," Johnson said, "and if they're gone, then people are going to just leave."

Johnson admits he did not need more on his plate when he took over the Brookside property, noting his motivation was rooted in preserving a vital community resource. Since acquiring the location, he has heavily invested in upgrading the grounds, paving the driveway, building a new stone-faced retaining wall to expand parking, painting the buildings' exteriors, and reorganizing storage for masonry and concrete supplies.

Inside the store, where staff members are busy stocking unique holiday decorating items, Johnson personally handles the buying, continually diversifying the inventory with new merchandise and seasonal items. While paperwork delays have temporarily held up the arrival of lumber, he noted that a shipment is on the way to fill out the yard. Johnson, who operates at warp speed, says it is sometimes frustrating when change takes longer than planned.

Johnson's expansion of companion business Titan Drilling has been swift. After adding plumbing and heating goods and services, along with septic pumping and a portable toilet business to the fold, his team is still responding to most routine and emergency calls within hours of getting them.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Arkville entrepreneur Ted Johnson reviewed improvements recently made at Brookside Hardware and Auto Sales during a visit Nov. 17. Johnson acquired the longtime anchor business earlier in the year and in addition to paving a parking lot and painting the buildings, he has significantly expanded the used car options and other inventory.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Ted Johnson, owner of Titan Drilling and Brookside Hardware and Auto Sales relies on his managers to run the massive operations. With Colleen Williams at Brookside, Johnson credits his 46 employees with the success of the operations which give back to the community in extensive philanthropy as well as job creation.

His purchase of a brand-new, state-of-the-art drilling rig this year followed an expansion of the Titan business from Delaware County to a second location in Otsego County. Like Johnson, the rig is never stationary.

"It just moves from one site to the next," said Johnson, noting it is never sitting in its home yard. "As soon as one job is finished, we just move it to the next job in line, and from there to the next and the next…"

Johnson has found strong operational synergy between his two businesses. Purchasing supplies in bulk for both Titan Drilling and Brookside Hardware increases his overall buying power.

"They work hand in hand," he said. "It really works well."

Keeping prices affordable and fair is another of Johnson's priorities as he looks to serve the local workforce as well as retirees and second homeowners.

Meanwhile, Titan Drilling continues to operate at a high volume, handling up to 200 different jobs a day across plumbing, heating, septic pumping, water conditioning, and well drilling. With the new drilling rig added to the fleet this spring, crews frequently travel across the region, staying out on job sites for months at a time. Despite the heavy workload, Johnson credits his managers and longtime staff for keeping operations running smoothly, maintaining that his companies offer, "The best service of any service company in a 100-mile radius."

Adjacent to the hardware store, Johnson, a self-described lifelong "car guy," has expanded the used vehicle inventory. His approach focuses on transparent pricing and variety, stocking both higher-end, low-mileage vehicles and budget-friendly options.

"You got to kind of have something for everybody," Johnson said, emphasizing a no-nonsense sales philosophy. "There's no hidden fees… you buy a car, we stand behind it."

As with most of what he does, the car business offers something not already found in the community. To find an array of vehicle choices as wide as Johnson's, people must travel to Kingston or Oneonta, an inconvenient if not insurmountable trip for some of his clientele.

That commitment to the community extends into local philanthropy. In October, Johnson organized a grassroots breast cancer awareness fundraiser after spontaneously purchasing a pink pickup truck. The raffle raised more than $11,000 for the cause by offering the winner a choice of the truck or $5,000 in cash. When local resident Danny Patricinio won and opted for the cash prize, Johnson arranged to sell the truck at a steep discount to a buyer who plans to use it for future breast cancer fundraising.



contributed

After a successful fundraising drive that netted $11,000 for breast cancer research, Ted Johnson, right, congratulated Danny Patricinio who won the choice of cash or a pink pickup truck as his prize. After presenting the cash prize, Johnson agreed to sell the pickup at a discount to a customer who wants to use it in future breast cancer fundraising efforts.

For Johnson, giving back is simply part of doing business.

"It's just what you should do," he said. "You see something that's needed, you do it. And I'm lucky enough that I can do it."

He tries to support smaller businesses rather than compete with what is already here.

"People have asked me to carry boots and shoes," said Johnson, "but we have a shoe store in town. I don't need to do that."

When asked what lies ahead for the coming year, Johnson kept his cards close to his vest, hinting only at new projects in the works, "to make the town a little better."

Grinning, he said, "I never let the cat out of the bag too early."

Schumer Secures $238,426 for Hamden Road Repairs After Tropical Storm Debby

Federal grant will support work on Oxbow Hollow Road and other storm-damaged infrastructure as town continues pursuing more than $5 million in disaster assistance

HAMDEN — U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer has secured $238,426.48 in federal funding for the Town of Hamden to repair roads and other infrastructure damaged by Tropical Storm Debby in 2024.

The grant is intended to help pay for repairs and replacement of road subbasis, pavement, culverts, guardrails, embankments and related infrastructure. It follows nearly $300,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance funding Schumer helped secure for Hamden earlier this year, bringing the federal assistance he has announced for the town to more than $500,000.

Schumer said the latest funding is an important step in the town's efforts to address storm damage and protect roads and other infrastructure against future flooding. Hamden has been working with FEMA for nearly two years on a disaster assistance and mitigation request totaling more than $5 million.

"Two years ago, Tropical Storm Debby wrought widespread damage and devastation in the town of Hamden and across the Southern Tier. I'm proud to deliver $238,000 in federal funding needed to repair and replace critical infrastructure. This brings the total federal investment I've secured to more than $500,000 and will help restore safe and reliable roads for residents," Schumer said.

"This is a key piece of the puzzle as we work to repair these roads without taxpayers having to shoulder the costs of storm recovery. I will keep pushing FEMA to deliver the resources necessary for the Town to rebuild stronger," he said.

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield said the funding will allow the town to move forward with a needed road bank stabilization project on Oxbow Hollow Road before winter.

"We thank Senator Schumer for his help in promoting the receipt of FEMA funding for a road bank stabilization project on Oxbow Hollow Road in the Town of Hamden," Marshfield said. "This is a project we desperately needed to complete before winter and with this funding, it will now come to fruition. Without this timely funding the project could not be done, and we thank the Senator and his office for their much needed help."

Schumer said flooding from Debby caused severe damage along portions of Chamber Hollows Road, East Brook Road and numerous ditches and road shoulders. The federal funding will help cover repairs and improvements intended to strengthen the town's infrastructure and reduce the risk of future damage, rather than leaving the full cost to local taxpayers.

Schumer said he sent an August letter to FEMA Administrator Cameron Hamilton supporting federal assistance for the repairs and mitigation work. He pledged to continue advocating for additional federal funding to help Hamden complete its broader project.

The latest grant is part of a longer history of federal disaster assistance secured for Delaware County communities following major storms and flooding.

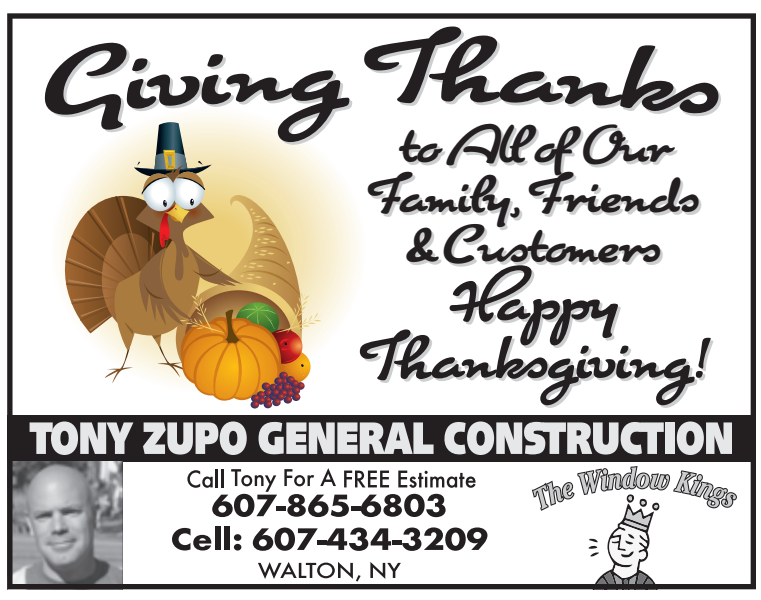
Schumer advocated for federal disaster declarations after severe flooding in 2006 and 2011, helping local governments and property owners access recovery assistance. Following the 2006 flooding, he also secured FEMA approval for temporary housing for displaced residents, including those in Delaware County.

In 2008, he secured $300,000 in federal funding for flood protection measures in the Village of Sidney, including repairs to pump stations and flap gates. He later helped author a provision in the 2012 federal disaster aid legislation that provided $200 million in Economic Development Administration funding for economic development projects in disaster-affected counties. Delaware County received $3.8 million through that provision to help relocate Amphenol Aerospace, retaining the company locally and preserving more than 950 jobs.

Schumer also helped secure nearly $7 million through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the buyout of more than 100 flood-damaged properties in Sidney's Lower River Street neighborhood.

In 2025, he urged FEMA to reverse its decision to cancel federal funding for the Sidney Culvert Project, which is intended to reduce flood risks in the village.

The nearly $300,000 in FEMA assistance announced for Hamden earlier this year helped launch the town's latest round of storm recovery work.



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County Holds Annual Meeting

HAMDEN - The Board of Directors of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County (CCEDC) held its annual meeting Nov. 20. This year's gathering included a special "pie social" celebration.

The meeting opened with CCEDC Executive Director Emily Roach who welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. Attendees were then encouraged to enjoy the wide variety of pies and desserts while catching up with friends and CCEDC staff.

CCEDC Board President Becky Walley called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and thanked the CCEDC staff for their continued dedication and hard work throughout the year. Emily Roach provided introductions of CCEDC Board Members, Program Advisory Committee Members, and staff in attendance.

Minutes from the 2025 annual meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Walley delivered a brief presidential report, noting that the association is in a better place and has made significant progress in catching up on contracts and Memorandums of Understanding.

Roach presented her report on the association's 2026 successes, highlighting numerous successful programs along with presenting the association's 2026 annual report.

Finance Manager Charles Engel provided a report on the association's previous year's financials.

Walley presented the updated CCEDC Constitution to members in attendance. A motion was made to accept the updated constitution and was approved unanimously.

The results from the mail-in election of incoming board of director members and Program Advisory Committee members were announced and are:



image courtesy of CCE

From left, 4-H Community Educator Kaitlyn Conklin, Kendra Wiggans, Lindy Taggart, Korbyn McDonald, and 4-H Program Manager/Camp Administrator Corrine Tompkins the CCE annual meeting Nov. 20.



image courtesy of CCE

From left, CCE Executive Director Emily Roach, Nancy LaTourette and 4-H Community Educator Kaitlyn Conklin at the CCE annual meeting held Nov. 20.

CCEDC Board of Directors, Directors at Large

• Three-Year Term – Dr. Leigha Green and Madeline Chapin

• One-Year Term – Kim Moody and Tim Kelso

Ag Program Advisory Committee

• Three-Year Term – Amanda Kenyon and Michael Sellitti

• One-Year Term – Lindsay Whitbeck

Human Ecology Advisory Committee

• Three-Year Term – Maegan Freeman and Margaret Shivers

• Two-Year Term – Emily Schmitt and Eric Noll

4-H Program Advisory Committee

• Three-Year Term – Christina Losie, Jill Coleman and Korey Bowker

• Two-Year Term – Jessica Baldi

Roach then recognized the association's dedicated volunteers who have completed their terms on the CCEDC Board and/or Program Advisory Committees including:

• Donna Wood: Two-Year Volunteer

• Jason Mondore: Three-Year Volunteer

• Kirk Fletcher: Six-Year Volunteer

• Lisa Nichols: Six-Year Volunteer

• Lonny Schaefer: Three-Year Volunteer

• Simon Purdy: Three-Year Volunteer

Honoring of the New York State 4-H Volunteer of Year - Corrine Tompkins, 4-H Program Manager/Camp Administrator, and Kaitlyn Conklin, 4-H Community Educator, spoke about the tremendous value volunteers bring to the association and the communities we serve. Earlier this year, Lindy Taggert was chosen as the recipient of the New York State 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the Delaware County 4-H program. She was presented with this award at the Delaware County fair this year and 4-H staff wanted to take the opportunity to highlight this honor at the annual meeting.



image courtesy of CCE

Dick LaTourette and Nancy LaTourette at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County's annual meeting Nov. 20.

Because of this prestigious award, 4-H staff are recognizing Lindy's dedication to the 4-H public presentation program by creating an award in her honor. The "Lindy Taggart District Public Presentation Award" will be awarded to Delaware County youth that are selected for and participate in the South Central District Public Presentations each year.

Roach recognized the recipient of the Friend of Extension Award which was presented to Nancy LaTourette in appreciation of her many years of volunteer service and dedication to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County. Nancy was a member of Delaware County 4-H as a child and raised five children who were also Delaware County 4-Hers. In, 1978, LaTourette started the Delaware County Porkies (later known as the Delaware County Porkies Plus) 4-H club which focused on public speaking, home economics, and raising and showing swine and other livestock. This club continued until 2016. Throughout that time, LaTourette was also a 4-H superintendent at the New York State Fair and continues as a 4-H superintendent at the Delaware County Fair. LaTourette's dedication represents the very best of what Extension is all about: education, opportunity, and making a difference in the lives of others.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County thanks its board members, volunteers, staff, and community supporters for their continued commitment and dedication to the association.

For more information, visit www.ccedelaware.org or call 607-865-6531.

Roxbury Boosts Highway and Sewer Spending, Slashes Police Line in $5.4 Million 2027 Budget

Staff Report

ROXBURY – Roxbury council members approved a $5,407,025.32 budget for 2027 Thursday, Nov. 12 after first voting to override the New York state tax cap. In a budget that reshapes where local money goes, officials formally eliminated the post of Town Constable and steered thousands of additional dollars toward roadwork, heavy equipment, and water and sewer systems. The spending plan certified by Town Clerk Stefani Albano calls for $3,846,829.05 to be raised through taxes across town funds and special districts. While the document details line-by-line appropriations and estimated revenues, the approved budget shown online does not include New York's property tax cap calculation leaving unstated in the final version what the town's allowable tax cap percentage was or by how much the board exceeded the cap to balance the budget.

Elected officials fared well in the budget, receiving pay raises in excess of cost of living increase figures. The highway superintendent compensation rises 7.8%, increasing by $6,001 from $77,388 in 2026 to $83,389 in 2027. Each of the four town board members receives a 5% raise from $6,427.25 to $6,748.50, bringing total council member pay from $25,709 to $26,994, while the tax collector's salary increases 5% from $12,429 to $13,050.

For the remaining elected offices whose budget lines also encompass departmental support staff, the 2027 salary schedule sets pay at $54,023 for the town clerk within a $72,433 departmental personal services line that rose 6% from $68,359 and $11,695.50 each for the two town justices inside a $33,471 court line that increased 5% from $31,877.

Newly elected Supervisor Tom O'Brien - who was not able to vote on the package as he is not yet in office - will earn $19,563 for his role as supervisor, and is expected to earn another $18,538 from Delaware County for taking his designated seat on the county Board of Supervisors, making his total compensation $38,101.

Across the townwide highway fund, total appropriations will rise by $184,533, or 9.1%, climbing from $2,027,071 in the 2026 amended budget to $2,211,604 in 2027. Machinery spending drives the largest portion of that expansion, jumping 44% from $200,000 in 2026 to $288,000 in 2027 as the town adds $63,000 for equipment purchases that were funded at zero in 2026 and increases contractual machinery expenses from $200,000 to $225,000. General road repairs grow by $63,000, or 12.4%, from $509,375 to $572,375, reflecting higher contractual roadwork costs rising from $155,000 to $200,000 alongside personal services edging up from $354,375 to $372,375. Snow removal appropriations also climb by $20,000 to $483,920, and highway employee benefits increase from $217,864 to $233,164 as state retirement contributions move from $72,000 to $85,000. With non-tax highway revenues remaining nearly flat at $613,680 compared with $612,000 in 2026, nearly all of that $184,533 increase flows into the townwide highway tax levy of $1,597,924.

In the general fund total appropriations increase by $66,941, or 5.3%, rising from $1,255,391 in 2026 to $1,322,332 in 2027, though higher non-tax revenues nearly absorb the entire jump. Estimated general fund revenues climb by $65,500, or 34.6%, from $189,414 to $254,914, led by projected building permit fees nearly tripling from $22,000 to $60,000 and mortgage tax receipts rising from $70,000 to $85,000. As a result, the general fund tax levy holds virtually steady at $1,067,418.

Beneath that steady bottom line, however, individual general fund departments undergo major shifts from 2026. The steepest reduction hits the police and constable account, which plunges 91.8% from $87,967 in 2026 to $7,200 in 2027. Personal services in that department fall from $77,967 to $7,200, while $10,000 in contractual expenses is eliminated altogether, pulling overall public safety appropriations down by $79,224, or 60.1%, from $131,837 to $52,613. Smaller general fund reductions trim cemetery maintenance from $14,000 to $10,000 and eliminate $2,500 in community development funding.

Those cuts are more than offset by higher obligations elsewhere in the General Fund. Debt service jumps 78.7% from $68,283 in 2026 to $122,000 in 2027 as serial bond principal payments nearly double from $55,000 to $105,000. General government support rises by $53,747, or 10.7%, from $500,709 to $554,456, paced by assessor contractual expenses increasing from $19,900 to $32,650, building contractual maintenance climbing from $65,000 to $75,000, and unallocated insurance rising from $110,000 to $120,000. Refuse and garbage appropriations increase from $91,066 to $109,000 as personal services rise from $51,066 to $74,000, while general fund employee benefits grow by $17,500 to $219,410 due to state retirement rising from $65,000 to $80,000.

Special districts also post notable increases over 2026, though outside subsidies soften the local impact in the sewer districts. Denver Sewer District operations and maintenance rise 18.1% from $290,033 to $342,615 as treatment and disposal costs climb from $96,600 to $142,000, largely offset by a New York City Department of Environmental Protection subsidy growing from $169,317 to $220,127. Similarly, Roxbury Sewer District spending increases 16.3% from $338,295.36 to $393,317, cushioned by its DEP subsidy rising from $296,362.72 to $338,700.27. Among water districts, Roxbury Water rises from $124,987 to $128,942, Grand Gorge Water edges up from $138,620 to $142,037 while projected metered sales jump from $30,000 to $50,000, and Denver Water increases slightly from $69,971 to $70,791.

In other action at the meeting, council members accepted the resignation of Jeff Ormiston as transfer station manager and appointed him as a highway mechanic to replace the resigning mechanic Chris Shultis in the highway department. Ormiston, who had been lauded for his effective tenure at the transfer station, creating more effective enforcement of dumping regulations and saving money for the town in the process.

The next meeting of the town council will be held Monday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

Holiday for the Heart Tree Raffle Returns Dec. 5 in Delhi

More Than 30 Decorated Trees, Raffle Items, Music and Holiday Treats Will Benefit Animals at Heart Of The Catskills Humane Society

DELHI — The Heart of the Catskills Humane Society will hold its annual Holiday for the Heart Celebration and Tree Raffle from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Norris Gallery at the Delaware County Historical Association, 46549 state Highway 10.

The event will feature more than 30 decorated, prelit trees in a variety of sizes, created by local businesses, families, clubs and individuals. Themes include "Forest Friends," "Sparkle and Shine," "Santa's Christmas Morning," "Sleep Tight" and "Parrot Pandemonium."

Additional raffle items will include decorated ice skates, sleds, a rocking chair and gift baskets.

The trees and other items will be available for preview from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, through Friday, Dec. 4, at the Norris Gallery. Raffle tickets may be purchased during the preview period for $5 each or six for $25. Winners will be announced at 3 p.m. Dec. 5.

The celebration also will include live local music, homemade soup and treats, a bake sale, and holiday crafts and gifts at the Beastie Boutique.

Proceeds will support the humane society and its care for homeless animals awaiting adoption.

Donated goods and supplies may be dropped off at the humane society's Route 10 location in Delhi during business hours, Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information call 607-746-3080, visit heartofthecatskills.org or follow the organization on Facebook and Instagram.

Delaware County Sets $1.6M Self-Insurance Assessment for 2027

County, Towns, Villages and Fire Districts Share Costs for Workers' Compensation and Volunteer Firefighter Benefits; Public Works Four-Day Schedule Also Approved

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors approved a $1.6 million apportionment for the county's self-insurance fund, dividing the cost of workers' compensation and volunteer firefighters' benefits among the county, its towns, villages and participating fire districts.

Resolution 175, adopted Tuesday, Nov. 24, accepts the budget for the County Self-Insurance Fund and establishes each participant's share based on its full-value assessment.

The county will carry the largest share at $751,397.51. Among the towns, Middletown has the highest assessment at $98,280.33, followed by Colchester at $93,361.52 and Roxbury at $62,780.04. Andes will contribute $57,759.61, Hancock $55,550.77 and Delhi $47,652.06.

Other town assessments include $43,003.07 for Walton, $34,863.08 for Sidney, $31,773.43 for Deposit, $29,248.18 for Franklin, $28,068.94 for Davenport, $25,159.12 for Stamford, $23,820.03 for Tompkins, $22,570.72 for Kortright, $22,241.50 for Bovina, $21,564.39 for Harpersfield, $20,175.35 for Meredith, $20,095.90 for Hamden and $13,429.47 for Masonville.

Village assessments range from $2,695.24 for Franklin to $18,998.07 for Sidney. Delhi will contribute $14,018.77, Walton $14,851.85, Hancock $8,913.95, Hobart $6,154, Fleischmanns $5,170.38, Stamford $4,897.42, the village of Deposit $4,205.32 and the village of Stamford in Harpersfield $4,206.27.

Two fire districts also are included in the apportionment. The Arena-Hardenburgh district will contribute $2,393.46, while the Middletown-Hardenburgh district will contribute $6,917.11. The Deposit Fire District's share is $3,783.14.

Public Works Four-Day Schedule

In other business, supervisors approved a four-day work schedule for the county Department of Public Works in 2027, subject to approval by department employees.

Resolution 177 continues a policy authorized in 1993 that allows eligible Public Works employees to work four 10-hour days per week, subject to annual approval by the county and employees.

Under the approved schedule, bridge crews will work the four-day schedule from Jan. 1 through March 13. From March 14 through Oct. 9, the schedule will apply to all Public Works employees except those excluded by agreement with the union, including landfill employees and certain engineering staff.

From Nov. 7 through Dec. 31, the four-day schedule will again be limited to bridge crews.

Walton School Board Maps Out Strategic Priorities, Plans Major Technology Upgrade

Staff Report

WALTON - Walton Central School District is expanding its strategic planning efforts this year, preparing for changes in graduation requirements and investing in technology upgrades expected to strengthen cybersecurity and modernize its computer systems, Superintendent Teresa Glavin told the Board of Education at its Nov. 17 meeting.

Strategic planning and graduation requirements

The district also is devoting additional time this school year to strategic planning and board priorities.

Glavin said Nov. 5 was the first of four designated half-days for strategic planning. Each school building's planning committee reviewed district priorities, including academic and behavioral excellence, along with data and benchmark information.

A district-wide strategic planning committee met Nov. 12 to review the building-level work and develop action plans.

Glavin said the district intends to provide the board with more frequent updates on progress toward its strategic goals.

The next designated planning half-day is Dec. 23 and will focus primarily on student and staff wellness.

The district's Education Policy Committee also met Nov. 13 to discuss the Portrait of a Graduate initiative, which Glavin said will affect district programming and assessments.

She clarified recent changes to New York's Regents examination requirements. Although Regents exams have been decoupled from graduation requirements, students will still be required to take the examinations.

The change removes the requirement that students pass Regents exams to graduate, but the tests remain part of state and federal accountability requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Glavin said Regents exams also remain connected to teachers' annual professional performance reviews.

Technology Upgrades Planned

During the technology report, district technology personnel discussed ongoing work with Broome-Tioga BOCES, including additional cybersecurity protections and a major server upgrade.

Glavin thanked technology staff for responding to concerns about recent technology problems affecting schools and for purchasing additional software to strengthen the district's protection of programs and systems.

Rick Roberts, a technology department representative, said the district had spent the day working with BOCES on a virtual server project that will host approximately 30 to 40 existing servers.

The project is expected to take a month to six weeks to complete and is a significant expense for the district.

However, Roberts said the investment should position the district well for the next six to eight years, with completion anticipated around Christmas.

New Faculty Members Introduced

The board also recognized new faculty members and their mentors.

Glavin welcomed Billy Meredith, who previously taught elementary school at Townsend and has moved to the high school to teach social studies.

"We don't want to lose you in any part of our district," Glavin said, welcoming him to his new position.

Meredith thanked the district and said he was happy to be there.

Townsend Elementary Principal Melanie Hector introduced Linda Wilberg, who previously worked in the district as a long-term substitute and has returned as a consultant teacher.

Wilberg is working with kindergarten and second grade students, providing support for children with special needs and their teachers. She brings 26 years of special education experience, Hector said.

Roxbury Roads Receive $2.7M in FEMA Disaster Recovery Funding

Grant Will Support Permanent Repairs to Three Roads and a Culvert Damaged By Remnants of Tropical Storm Debby

ROXBURY — The town of Roxbury will receive more than $2.7 million in federal disaster assistance for permanent repairs to the Johanson Culvert on Lower Meeker Hollow Road, Autumn Breeze Road and North Polli Road following damage from the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby.

The funding is part of more than $42 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance approved for recovery and hazard mitigation projects in New York and New Jersey, FEMA announced in November. The Roxbury award is among more than $26 million approved through FEMA's Public Assistance program, which reimburses eligible disaster-related costs, including infrastructure repairs, restoration of public facilities and emergency protective measures.

Other New York projects receiving funding include nearly $8.8 million for permanent repairs to Mesivta and Yeshiva Gedolah of Manhattan Beach following Hurricane Sandy; more than $2.1 million for permanent repairs to a water pump station in the village of Canton following the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby; and nearly $1.5 million to the state Department of Environmental Conservation for roadway, drainage and levee repairs following severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding.

New Jersey also received nearly $1.1 million for emergency protective measures related to the Jones Road Fire and debris removal following the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

In addition to the Public Assistance awards, FEMA approved more than $16 million through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for a Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority project in New Jersey. The project will address flooding in the Cramer Hill neighborhood through new stormwater systems and other infrastructure improvements.

FEMA said the mitigation program supports projects designed to reduce future disaster damage, including flood protection, drainage improvements, building upgrades and infrastructure protection.

Jeff Bank Awards $5,000 to Upper Delaware Council

NARROWSBURG – Jeff Bank has awarded the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) a $5,000 grant to support working capital expenses.

As a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, Jeff Bank was successful in obtaining 2026 Small Business Recovery Grant funding to assist its local non-profit customers as they face economic challenges due to the interest rate environment, inflation, supply-chain constraints, and/or rising energy costs.

In announcing the grant, Jeff Bank Executive Vice-President and Chief Lending Officer Tatiana C. Hahn said, "Congratulations, and we hope that our grant today can make a meaningful financial contribution to your much appreciated activities in our communities."



contributed

Jeff Bank Vice President Heinrich Strauch and Callicoon Branch Manager Lisa Stewart present Upper Delaware Council Executive Director Laurie Ramie, center, with a Federal Home Loan Bank of New York Small Business Recovery Grant for non-profit support.

UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie expressed gratitude, noting that these funds are being dedicated to a project that would otherwise not have been feasible due to the Council's anticipated 2026 budget deficit.

For compatibility with a required computer operating system update the UDC had to replace an older version of software used to produce its tri-annual public newsletter, "The Upper Delaware" and other graphic documents such as its River Valley Awards souvenir booklets.

WOLVESTUDIOS, LLC of Roscoe, NY was selected through a competitive bidding process to work with the UDC on a graphic redesign project due by Nov. 30 that includes developing editable templates, preparing a new brand kit, and providing staff training.

The Upper Delaware Council was established in 1988 as the 501(c)3 organization which oversees administration of the River Management Plan to conserve and protect the 1978 nationally designated Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Its 15 voting members are the local governments, State of New York, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that border along the 73.4-mile river. They appoint delegates to serve on the Council, which operates under a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service as its federal partner.

The Council is experiencing financial hardship due to its federal funding allocation remaining status quo for 38 years, despite the escalating costs of maintaining its mandated services, a reduced staff of three, and a business office in Narrowsburg.

Until recently, the 40% share of UDC operating aid that was to be provided by both member states had never materialized. The New York state 2026-27 budget included a first-time $100,000 line item that will be reimbursement-based for eligible expense claims and is subject to the sponsorship of annual renewal legislation.

For more information on the UDC's history, services, public meeting schedule, and activities, visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org or its Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube social media.

Colchester Supervisor Appointed to Watershed Coalition Board

Rob Hafele Selected as Alternate After Tie in 2026 Election

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County supervisors appointed Colchester Supervisor Rob Hafele as an alternate member of the Coalition of Watershed Towns Executive Board, resolving a tie in the coalition's 2026 election.

Supervisors approved the appointment Tuesday, Nov. 24, giving Hafele a two-year term as an alternate representative.

Towns and villages with land in the New York City watershed are members of the Coalition of Watershed Towns, which elects three executive board members and three alternates through nominations submitted twice a year.

The 2026 election results named Wayland Gladstone and Ritchie Gabriel, both of Andes, and Glen Faulkner of Middletown to the executive board.

The alternates elected were Jeff Gearhart, mayor of the village of Delhi and Will Outsen, council members in Meredith. The third alternate position resulted in a tie between Hafele and Deanna Osborn of Roxbury.



file

Colchester Supervisor Rob Hafele

According to the resolution, the coalition's chairman determined that Delaware County should decide how to resolve the tie. The county's Planning, Recreation and Culture Committee recommended maintaining alignment with supervisors in making the selection.

The resolution appoints Hafele as the alternate member for the two-year term.

Delaware County Officials Review Watershed Agreement Ahead of New NYCDEP Protection Plan

Limits on Land Acquisition, Wastewater Funding and Community Development Priorities Highlighted

Staff Report

DELHI - Delaware County officials are preparing to scrutinize a new New York City watershed protection plan with county representatives emphasizing that a year-old agreement with New York City must be reflected in the proposal and protect the county's ability to grow and sustain its communities.

Nick Carbone of Watershed Affairs and Delaware County Planning Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett reviewed the agreement with county supervisors during privilege of the floor Tuesday, Nov. 24. The presentation was intended to refresh supervisors on the agreement's provisions before the New York City Department of Environmental Protection releases its long-term watershed protection plan, which is expected to form the basis of the next 10-year Filtration Avoidance Determination, or FAD.

Carbone said the county and city spent about three years negotiating the agreement, which the board adopted nearly a year ago. A condensed summary of the 14-page document was provided to supervisors.

One of the agreement's major provisions ends additional New York City land acquisition in priority areas 3 and 4, which include the Route 10 corridor through Delaware County. Carbone said the change removes approximately 350,000 to 400,000 acres from consideration for purchase.

A limited amount of acquisition remains possible in priority area 1B, including parts of Masonville and Walton and a small section of Colchester. Carbone said the area involves fewer than 10,000 acres, most of which have already been solicited for purchase.

The agreement also changes the former Streamside Acquisition Program to a Collaborative Streamside Acquisition Program, under which no land acquisition will take place in Delaware County. Instead, the county hopes to establish voluntary license agreements allowing landowners with streamside property to participate in conservation efforts.

Carbone said a key feature of the proposed agreements is that they would be revocable by either the city or the landowner. A property owner who decides after several years that they no longer want the agreement or restrictions on their deed could withdraw without penalty.

Johnson-Bennett said ending land acquisition was a major focus of the negotiations because it affects the county's long-term ability to support housing and community development.

"We worked very, very hard to end land acquisition because it's directly related to our long-term sustainability as a county to ensure that we can grow our hamlets and villages, the way that they were intended to," she said.

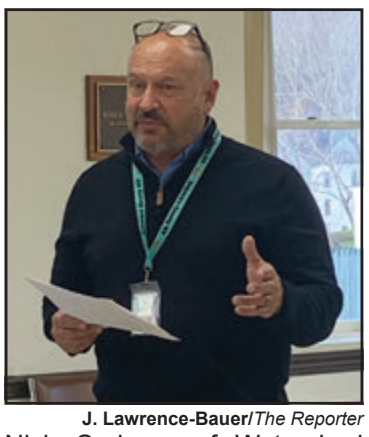
She said current DEP easements also create challenges for development because they do not allow utility lines to be installed above or below ground across city-owned parcels. Changing that language is another important part of the agreement, although it has not yet been officially approved. County officials expect the change to be included in the long-term plan.

Johnson-Bennett said the county will examine the plan closely to ensure it follows the agreement's intent. The next FAD will establish the framework for watershed protection for another 10 years, with the next major review expected in 2037.

"We want to make sure that our interests are looked at, and our vitality is a big part of this," she said.

Wastewater Costs and Conservation Projects

Carbone identified the regulatory upgrade program as one of the agreement's most important provisions for local municipalities with wastewater treatment facilities.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Nick Carbone of Watershed Affairs gives a presentation to supervisors Tuesday, Nov. 24.

He said towns and villages will need millions of dollars in capital improvements to keep their facilities in compliance over the next several years and continue advancing tertiary treatment. The program is intended to help municipalities meet those requirements.

During the discussion, Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield questioned the lack of a specific time limit guaranteeing continued city assistance for wastewater treatment costs. He said municipalities are heavily dependent on the city and could not afford the facilities without that support.

Johnson-Bennett said the issue remains part of ongoing discussions and will be included in the county's comments on the long-term plan. She said maintaining caps on residential sewer costs is essential because small communities do not have enough residential hookups to support the systems financially.

"Without that cap, none of your local hamlets have enough hookups to sustain those systems," she said.

She noted that the city currently pays about 90% of the costs and said the county will continue pressing for the caps to remain in place. The caps apply to residential hookups, not commercial or industrial connections.

Carbone also highlighted the Stream Management Program which would provide funding for conservation work through the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District. Projects could include restoring streamside buffers and stabilizing eroding streambanks to reduce sediment entering reservoirs.

He cited ongoing work at Birdsong Farm in the town of Hamden and a larger project planned for next year along the East Branch of the Delaware River in Hamden. He said the work would address land erosion that has contributed sediment to the Cannonsville Reservoir.

Other provisions discussed included potential local facilities in Prattsville and Windham where septic haulers could dispose of waste collected through the city's septic maintenance program, reducing the need to transport it to Albany.

Carbone also said the agreement includes provisions addressing taxes on DEP-owned land. For land acquired since 1997, assessments cannot be changed or challenged as long as the equalization rate and the rate of growth in the tax base remain consistent with those of other nonprofit properties.

Community Development and Next Steps

Johnson-Bennett said the agreement was intended to recognize that protecting the watershed also requires maintaining viable communities in the region.

She cited a $250,000 sustainability and community vitality study commissioned through the Catskill Watershed Corporation and conducted by the Center for Governmental Research. The city later commissioned a separate study through McKinney, which Johnson-Bennett said reached many of the same recommendations.

She said the recommendations focus on sustaining local communities so they can continue to serve as stewards of the watershed.

"We can't afford to steward their watershed if they're continuing to undercut our ability to grow and sustain our communities," she said.

Johnson-Bennett said housing is a major regional need and that access to land and infrastructure is necessary to address it. She added that the agreement also sought to ensure the city continued paying taxes on its land.

Carbone said that the county's legal expenses for negotiating the agreement had been reimbursed by the DEP. He said the county spent $268,000 over three years and received reimbursement for the full amount.

Once the long-term watershed protection plan is released, the county will have a limited period to review it and prepare comments. Johnson-Bennett said officials expect to bring a resolution before supervisors outlining the county's response.

"We don't want this resolution when we come before you on the long-term plan to blindside any of you, and we certainly want you to all understand what you're voting on because it is important," she said.

Walton BOE To Hold Capital Project Re-Vote Workshop Dec. 8

The Walton Central School Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, for a workshop on the proposed 2026 capital project revote.

The meeting will take place in the boardroom at O'Neill High School.

Walton CS Special Board of Education Meeting Dec. 8

There will be a Walton Central School District Board of Education Special Meeting for the purposes of holding a 2026 Capital Project re-vote workshop Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. in the boardroom in the O'Neill High School, Stockton Avenue.



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Andes School Board Drops Tuition Plan After Community Backlash

District Calls Nov. 30 Special Meeting to Discuss Budget, Declining Enrollment and the School's Long-Term Future



file

Andes Central School.

Staff Report

ANDES - The Andes Central School Board of Education has abandoned plans to pursue a tuition agreement with another school district, saying it needs more time and community input before making decisions about the future of the school.

In a statement issued Nov. 24, the board said it had decided not to move forward with the proposal, which would have sent students in grades seven through 12 to another district under a one-year arrangement beginning in fall 2027. The board emphasized that no decision had been made and no contract had been signed, despite earlier discussions with an unnamed neighboring school.

The announcement follows a contentious community meeting Nov. 16 when more than 60 parents, students and residents gathered to hear about the proposed plan and question school officials. The proposal drew strong opposition from many in attendance, who raised concerns about the potential loss of teachers, longer bus rides, disruption to students and the future of the school as a community institution.

At that meeting Board President Karen Bornarth and Superintendent Samantha Candreva said declining enrollment, rising expenses and uncertainty over state and local funding were driving the district to explore alternatives. Officials said Andes had 71 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade, including 21 tuition students from outside the district. A Cornell-led study, Candreva said, warned that without changes the district could potentially run out of funding by the end of the 2027-28 school year.

The board's Nov. 24 statement said those financial and enrollment challenges remain, but stressed that its goal is to expand academic, extracurricular and social opportunities for students while keeping the school sustainable.

The board invited families and community members to a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30 in the school gym. The agenda will include the district's current budget and options for moving forward, approaches to declining enrollment and rising expenses, and decisions facing the board and community to protect students' interests and the school's long-term viability.

Public comment will be welcome. The meeting will not be livestreamed because the district does not yet have a policy permitting it, although the board said it is developing one for future meetings. A meeting summary will be posted on the district website.

In its statement, the board thanked residents who attended the town hall and those who shared comments by email, phone, in conversations and on social media, saying their questions and concerns would continue to shape the district's work.

Community members may send comments to boe@andescentralschool.org

DelCo Sales Tax Collections Jump Another 8%, Continuing to Fuel Demand for Village Revenue-Sharing

County Attorney Says Insurance Company Paid 'Bulk' of Reporter's Federal Lawsuit Settlement; No Report on County Legal Fees or Costs

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

DELHI - Delaware County's sales tax revenues continue to climb, posting another 8% increase compared to the same period last year, officials reported during a meeting of the Delaware County Finance Committee Tuesday, Nov. 24. The county has experienced sustained, month-over-month sales tax growth driven by shifting consumer habits, inflation, and increased online retail activity, providing a significant revenue surplus for county operations.

The steady upward trajectory builds on a multi-year trend of surging sales tax collections across the county that has led some municipalities, particularly leaders from the county's 10 villages, to question why some of the overflow revenues can't be shared with smaller governmental units as is done in other counties.

Committee members reviewed the latest sales tax figures from Clerk of the Board Penny Bishop. The numbers show the most recent payment from the state, received Nov. 13 for the period ending in the second half of September, was $444,134, an increase of $80,587 over the same period last year. The total received to date was reported at $30,639,850, up from $28,344,759 from last year to date's number at this time. The $2,295,090 year-to-date increase is 8.1% over last year's payments to date. For the full year of 2025 sales tax collections jumped 10.67% over 2024.

Bishop also distributed final adjustments to the tentative 2027 county budget describing it as an updated "Exhibit A" summary of the 2027 spending plan, noting a minor modification to the top-line total appropriations. The adjustment reflects a roughly $45,000 change tied to the county's self-insurance fund.

"Everything else is the same," Bishop said, confirming that the document is ready to be entered into the tax cap calculation ahead of the upcoming public hearing and formal adoption resolutions.

County Attorney Amy Merklen also addressed the committee to clarify the financial breakdown of a recent $600,000 legal settlement with *The Reporter,* pushing back against circulating rumors regarding how much the county actually paid out of pocket and whether taxpayers were footing the bill for outside legal counsel.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield, left, asks about election expenses billed by the county, as Clerk to the Board Penny Bishop reported on sales tax gains.

Merklen emphasized that the county's municipal insurance carrier, the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR), absorbed the bulk of the payout and all associated defense costs. Because NYMIR handled the defense, the county attorney's office was not involved in litigating the case, she said.

"I just wanted to reiterate for the finance committee the breakdown of the settlement, 'cause I know there's been a lot going around about what, actually, the $600,000, if that included legal fees, et cetera," Merklen said. "And I just wanted to be very clear that the legal fees were paid for by NYMIR. They were not paid for by the county."

According to Merklen, the total $600,000 settlement to *The Reporter's* parent company Decker Advertising included approximately $28,000 in compensatory damages, roughly $150,000 in court costs, and the remainder allocated toward legal fees. Delaware County's direct financial responsibility was limited to paying the insurance coverage deductible, a figure that cost taxpayers $100,000, Merklen said.

Committee members also discussed the administrative mechanics of election chargebacks between the county and individual towns. Hamden Supervisor Wayne Marshfield questioned the necessity of receiving reimbursement checks from the county for primary election expenses, such as a recent $1,200 check, only to have the county turn around and bill the town back for election charges on the tax levy.

"Why wouldn't a town just say, 'Forget the election money'? It means turning out to be zero," asked Marshfield, noting that the back-and-forth creates offsetting revenue and expense lines in town budgets. "I just smiled when I got the check, because I knew they were taking it right back."

Officials noted that the practice creates a necessary "paper trail" for state auditors reviewing county and town books separately. Merklen pointed to New York State Election Law Sections 4-136 and 3-226, as well as an opinion from the New York State Comptroller, explaining that all county Board of Elections expenses, including poll worker pay, voting machines, maintenance, and ballots, must be paid in the first instance as a county charge. Counties then have the statutory option to apportion and charge back certain expenses to the towns. Because the process is governed by statute, towns cannot simply waive the checks without a formal memorandum of understanding.

Supervisors also briefly compared notes on varying town expenses for election inspectors - including hourly pay rates and whether towns provide dinner for poll workers—and questioned how election chargebacks will shift in odd-numbered years under state laws moving local elections to even years.

Before adjourning, the committee entered an executive session to discuss a possible negotiation on a contract.

Delhi Reminds Residents of 24-Hour Sidewalk Snow Removal Rule

Property Owners and Occupants Must Clear Snow and Ice From Public Sidewalks After a Storm

DELHI — Village of Delhi officials remind residents that property owners and occupants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.

Under village regulations, the owner or occupant of any property abutting a public sidewalk must keep the sidewalk clear of snow and ice along its full width and length, whether or not the property has a building on it.

Residents who fail to meet the requirement may have the village remove the snow and ice at the property owner's expense.

DELHI

By Christina Viafore
csviafore@gmail.com
607-746-3550

Last week's trivia question: Who will be the grand marshal for the Delhi Holiday Parade? The Grand Marshal will be Saverio Prisco, Section IV Class D Player of the Year, and the Delaware Academy football team. The parade will be held Friday, Dec. 4. The lineup begins at SUNY Delhi in the lower parking lot at 4:30 p.m. The parade will start at 5:30 p.m. and go to the Courthouse Square. The Greater Delhi Area Chamber of Commerce provides the prizes for parade participants who decorate according to the Festival of Lights theme, $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 & Mrs. Claus and other activities. Sign up to participate at forms.gle/ew8tPfDfk9Yg1B4W8

This week's trivia question: What is the theme for the Delhi Bridge Run's tree at the Holiday for the Heart Tree Celebration? The Holiday for the Heart Tree Celebration will be held at DCHA, 46549 State Highway 10, Saturday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Don't miss this annual holiday event with beautifully decorated holiday trees, wreaths, raffle baskets and other holiday items. There will be live holiday music, a bake sale, light fare, holiday gift and jewelry shopping, and more. Preview and buy raffle tickets for trees and other holiday items from Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission on the day of the event is a $5 donation and includes one raffle ticket. Children accompanied by a parent enter free. Raffle tickets to win holiday trees will be pulled Saturday, Dec. 5, from 3 until 4 p.m.

Community volunteer of the week is Patti Speenburgh. She and the volunteers at the Delhi Food Bank prepared a Thanksgiving distribution for 36 families who signed up with the pantry. Thanks to Patti for her efforts to help ensure folks have a delicious Thanksgiving celebration.

This week, the Delaware Academy Bulldogs play at home Saturday, Nov. 28, when the varsity and JV boy's basketball team plays Fonda-Fultonville at 10 a.m., and the girl's varsity and JV basketball teams play Edmeston at noon. On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the boy's varsity and JV basketball teams play Chenango Forks at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 2, the seventh and eighth grade boy's basketball teams play Unadilla Valley at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. On Thursday, Dec. 3, the seventh and eighth grade boy's basketball team plays B-G at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. On Friday, Dec. 4, the JV and Varsity girl's basketball team plays at 5:30 and 7 p.m. All home DA varsity games and matches played in our gymnasiums or Dave Kelly Field are available to watch online through Hudl Away games held at schools using the Hudl service may also be available - just search for "Delaware Academy High School" at www.hudl.com to watch. Let's go Bulldogs.

This week, the SUNY Delhi Broncos are home Tuesday, Dec. 1, when the men's basketball team will face Sage at 5 p.m. Visit delhibroncos.com to find links for live coverage. You can watch games that have already been played at www.team1sports.com/college Let's go Broncos.

Make sure you shop Delhi first for your holiday shopping this year. There are so many great shops and events happening in Delhi this weekend for Black Friday and Small Business Saturday. The Delhi Fire Department will host a holiday bazaar Sunday, Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Check out the local artisans and crafters and get some lunch from the department which will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs. There will even be a special appearance by Santa. If you would like to be a vendor, contact the Fire Department at 607 746-2221. The cost is $25 for a space.

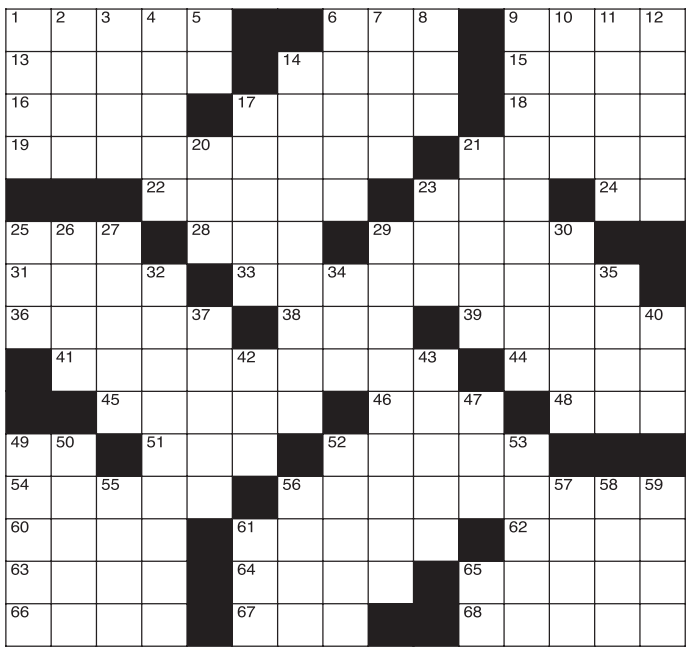
Bushel, 106 Main Street, will present Harlan County USA to celebrate 50 years of this landmark documentary Thursday, Dec. 3. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the screening starts at 7. Barbara Kopple's Academy Award-winning Harlan County USA unflinchingly documents a grueling coal miners' strike in a small Kentucky town. With unprecedented access, Kopple and her crew captured the miners' sometimes violent struggles with strikebreakers, local police, and company thugs. Featuring a haunting soundtrack with legendary country and bluegrass artists Hazel Dickens, Merle Travis, Sarah Gunning, and Florence Reece, the film is a heartbreaking record of the 13-month struggle between a community fighting to survive and a corporation dedicated to the bottom line. The film is 103 minutes long.

Delaware County Office for the Aging and Clear Path for Veterans will host a Veterans Coffee Hour Friday, Dec. 4, at 9 a.m., at Delhi Dining Center, 97 Main Street, Suite 2. This social event is open to veterans and their families, with refreshments. Contact 607-832-5750 if you have any questions.

Mark your calendar for the DA PTA Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. until noon. These children are so creative. You don't want to miss this fun event.

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. for a hands-on freezer meal workshop. You will be able to get ready for the busy winter months by preparing 12 freezer-friendly meals using five ingredients or less. Knowledgeable educators will guide you through the process, offering step-by-step instruction and assistance as you prepare meals to take home and enjoy later. The workshop fee is $15 per participant, plus the additional cost of grocery supplies. Recipes include cranberry pork roast, salsa verde chicken, lemon pepper chicken, basic pot roast, sweet and sour barbecued meatballs, chicken or spinach enchiladas, black bean and rice soup, lime shredded pork, marinara chicken, taco chili, stuffed peppers, and smoky bacon-wrapped chicken tenders. Registration is required and can be found at ccedelaware.org/events/2026/12/05/from-scratch-to-freezer-freezer-meal-workshop

REPORTER CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Benny Goodman trumpeter
14. Foo Fighters frontman Grohl
15. Ancient Greek City
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Former Mavs principal owner Mark
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. NY Giants great
25. Indicates before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright
38. Head motion
39. Private rendezvous
41. Improved
44. Urban gym
45. Astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. Target
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage
61. Indian titles of respect
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Invisible substance around the Earth
68. Make law

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Domain name
6. Overhang
7. Days right before an occasion
8. Light bulb type
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One recognized as holy
14. Indicate where and when
17. Peace (Arabic)
20. The voice of "Olaf" Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master's in nature of knowledge
26. Backside
27. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
29. Failure to conform to good taste
30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Little-used computer language
37. Law of God in Hebrew scriptures
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. Solemn promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Major financial institution
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian Dominican friar
56. CBS news bigwig Weiss
57. Hip joint
58. Musician Clapton
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
65. Delaware

Solution to last week's puzzle on page 17

Colchester Police Officer Commended for Emergency Response

By Patti Cantamessa

DOWNSVILLE — Colchester Police Chief Keith Gavette was recognized for his professionalism and quick response to a medical emergency during the Colchester Town Council meeting Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Supervisor Rob Hafele relayed praise from Ralph Bressler, a representative of the Livingston Manor Ambulance Corps, commending Gavette for assisting a resident who had fallen and was unable to get up.

According to Hafele, Gavette responded to a residence on Beaverkill Road where he used the 911 system to secure access to the home and remained with the resident until ambulance and fire personnel arrived.

Hafele said the ambulance corps representative specifically praised the Colchester Police Department, noting that officers have consistently demonstrated professionalism and efficiency when responding alongside emergency medical personnel.

The commendation highlighted the important role local police officers play in assisting residents during medical emergencies and supporting other first responders.



Patti Cantamessa/*The Reporter*

Colchester Police Officer Keith Gavette was recognized during the Nov. 18 town board meeting for his response to a resident who had fallen at a Beaverkill Mountain Road residence. The Livingston Manor Ambulance Corps commended Gavette and the department for their professionalism and assistance during emergency calls.

ATTENTION READERS

Have you seen or heard anything

"Newsworthy"?

If so please let us know.

Contact ***The Reporter*** at

607-464-4009 or

email news@the-reporter.net

Bloomville Man Acquitted of Rape, Assault, Sex Abuse Allegations After Jury Trial

DELHI - The Delaware County Public Defender's Office issued a press release Friday, Nov. 20 announcing a Bloomville man accused of rape, sexual abuse and assault has been acquitted of the charges following a jury trial.

After a week-long jury trial in Delaware County Court, Zachery M. Mattice, 31, Bloomville, was found not guilty of all charges in a three-count indictment alleging first-degree rape, third degree sexual abuse and third-degree assault.

The charges date back to Dec. 27, 2025. Mattice was represented by the Delaware County Public Defender's office. Assistant Public Defender Andrew Van Buren, Esq. tried the case which was presided over by Delaware County Court Judge John L. Hubbard.

"Zach maintained his innocence from the beginning," Van Buren stated, adding, "He was falsely accused."

When Mattice was arrested last year, the Delhi Police Department posted the arrest on its Facebook page. Van Buren said that Mattice was vindicated by the verdict, but the public allegations resulted in a difficult year for Mattice.

"Social media posts by law enforcement are a deliberate attempt to destroy the presumption of innocence and destroy the lives of people who have not yet had their day in court," Van Buren said.

Mattice was appreciative of the jury's verdict, but highly critical of the investigation by Delhi police which charged him without doing a proper investigation. "It is wrong that a woman could do this," Mattice said, "and wrong that the police allowed her to do it."

Van Buren echoed those sentiments.

"With minimal effort, the police could have learned that the allegations did not make sense."

Public Defender Joseph A. Ermeti said he was pleased with the result of the trial.

"It was a team effort," Ermeti said, "involving months of investigation and preparation, and the retention of an expert witness who discredited the alleged victim, and the prosecution's entire case."

Assistant District Attorney Stephen Goble prosecuted the case for the Delaware County District Attorney's Office.

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

• **Russell R. Leblanc,** 33, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 17 on two Sidney Village Court warrants for failure to appear.

• **Nelson J. Canales,** 44, Staten Island, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with first-degree rape and forcible touching.

• **Kody R. Olsen,** 26, Sidney, was arrested Nov. 18 and charged with petit larceny, fourth-degree criminal mischief and sixth-degree conspiracy.

New York State Police

• **Joshua Dhiraj Soule,** 26, Stamford, was arrested Nov. 15 by Stamford State Police and charged with prohibited sale of alcoholic beverage. Soule was issued an appearance ticket to answer the charge.

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

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time For Regime Change In Delaware County

We're astounded that there is a significant pay raise being suggested for our County Attorney after she just aided significantly to costing us $600,000 by her lack of defense and bad advice in the case of *The Reporter* vs. Delaware County, not including the thousands of dollars spent on her time and efforts trying to defend her mistake! Don't get us wrong, we feel very strongly that *The Reporter* was serving us all by defending an obvious First Amendment case. That said, how could our County Attorney possibly allow that obviously illegal act to happen in the first place? So it's dereliction of her duty and now we want to reward that with a raise?

Time for regime change in Delaware County!

JIM AND CINDIE SMART
DELHI

Catskills, Put Down Your Pitchforks And Torches. Pick Up A Pen!

Industrial battery storage facilities are being proposed in our Catskills communities, and it's time we start asking serious questions. EDF Power Solutions' proposed Fraser Battery Energy Storage System in Hamden isn't a few batteries sitting in someone's garage. We're talking about an industrial facility containing large quantities of lithium-ion batteries.

And I want answers.

What happens if these batteries experience thermal runaway and catch fire? Are our volunteer fire departments equipped to respond? What about potentially contaminated firefighting runoff reaching our streams and reservoirs?

And let's follow the money. How much revenue will these companies generate? How much stays here? And who gets stuck paying if something goes wrong?

What happens to neighboring property values? Who pays for cleanup and decommissioning? How many permanent jobs will these facilities actually create?

Before permits are approved, taxpayers deserve independent safety assessments, environmental reviews, emergency response plans, public financial agreements, and enforceable cleanup guarantees.

Trust me, I'm frustrated too. These are the rivers I grew up fishing with my great-grandfather, grandfather, and mother. Generations of my family have stood along those banks, passing down a love for these mountains that money cannot buy.

Now I have a son, and I hope he'll grow up fishing those same waters.

That's what I'm fighting to protect.

But attacking elected officials won't accomplish nearly as much as working with them. We can demand accountability without making enemies.

This isn't about Republicans or Democrats. The rivers don't care who you voted for. Neither does the wind. This is about our homes, families, and future. Anger doesn't write legislation. Anger doesn't change zoning laws. And anger won't protect the Catskills.

Hamden may be the first battle in a much longer fight over industrial battery storage throughout our mountains.

What happens if Hamden says no, but Walton says yes? Have we protected our communities or pushed the problem into somebody else's backyard?

A river doesn't stop flowing, and the wind doesn't stop blowing at a town line. Neither do the consequences of poor planning.

Delaware County has 19 towns, 10 incorporated villages, and more than 100 named hamlets.

19 Towns. One County. One Voice.

So here's my challenge.

Put down your pitchforks and torches. Pick up a pen. Write your concerns. Demand answers backed by evidence, not promises.

Bring your letters and respectfully request their inclusion in the public record. Contact your own town officials, too. The pen is mightier than the sword. Nineteen towns standing together as one. The Catskills are not for sale! These are our mountains. Go get your own!

NATHANIEL BATTHANY
DELHI

One-Year Plan, Permanent Consequences? Resident Questions Andes School Proposal

The Andes Board of Education appears to be considering a decision that could fundamentally and permanently change our school district without giving voters a direct say. By pursuing the potential tuitioning of grades 7–12 as a temporary, one-year arrangement, the Board could proceed without the voter approval required for longer-term agreements. While this may be legally permissible, a decision with potentially permanent consequences for our school and community deserves the informed consent of the people who support it.

A one-year arrangement does not mean a one-year impact. Once teachers leave, academic programs are dismantled, and students establish themselves in other schools, restoring our middle-high school may become practically and financially impossible. What begins as a temporary cost-saving measure could become the permanent loss of secondary education in Andes. And once that happens, what assurances do we have about the long-term future of our remaining elementary school?

We would also lose much of our local control over our children's education. Andes taxpayers would keep paying for their students to attend another district, but Andes residents would have no direct electoral voice in governing that receiving school. We would be funding an educational system whose Board and budget we cannot vote on. This loss of local accountability should not be taken lightly.

Perhaps most importantly, where is the evidence that this will actually save taxpayers money? In the first year, tuitioning students out could conceivably cost more, not less. Andes would still maintain its school building, administration, and much of its existing infrastructure, while taking on tuition payments and additional transportation expenses, potentially including another school bus. These costs could offset or exceed any staffing savings. Before making such a consequential decision, the Board should demonstrate the actual net savings over both the short and long term.

Where is the assessment of educational quality? Have the academic programs, teaching staff, course offerings, student outcomes, transportation times, and extracurricular opportunities of potential receiving schools been compared with what Andes currently provides? Parents deserve to know whether their children would receive an equivalent or better education.

And where is the analysis of alternatives? Other rural districts are exploring shared superintendents, teachers, services, regional partnerships, and potential mergers. South Kortright and Jefferson already share a superintendent, and they are participating with three other neighboring districts in a comprehensive regional optimization study. Why isn't Andes participating in this study or undertaking a comparable evaluation of its own options? Shouldn't we explore ways to reduce costs while preserving educational opportunities and local control before dismantling our existing programs?

The stakes extend beyond current students and their families. The future of our school affects the character of Andes, its attractiveness to young families, and potentially the long-term economic health of our community. These are concerns for every resident and taxpayer.

We recognize that Andes faces real financial and enrollment challenges. We are not arguing against change, nor are we suggesting that maintaining the status quo is necessarily sustainable. We are arguing that responsible change requires sound financial analysis, careful consideration of educational consequences, evaluation of alternatives, and meaningful public participation.

We therefore call on the Board to clarify its intentions before the Nov. 30 "Emergency School Board Meeting," release its supporting financial and educational analyses, and commit to an open, independent evaluation of alternatives before making any binding decision. A choice that could effectively eliminate our middle-high school deserves direct voter approval, even if state law does not require it for a one-year agreement.

The future of Andes Central School is too important to decide without the community.

We urge all parents, residents, and taxpayers to attend the November 30 meeting, contact Board members, ask questions, and insist on transparency. We deserve to understand the options and their consequences before decisions are made that cannot easily be reversed.

CYNTHIA RANDLES
ANDES

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

Regular Advertisements In *The Reporter* Are Money Makers.

OUTDOOR LIFE

Roots of Renewal: Catskill Forest Association Announces Historic Return of the American Chestnut

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

CLARYVILLE - The history of the American chestnut (Castanea dentata) in the Catskills is a story of geographic limits, dramatic ecological shift, and a century-long absence that conservationists are only now beginning to reverse.

While the American chestnut was famously the "Redwood of the East" across much of the Appalachian chain—accounting for up to one in four trees in some eastern forests—its historical footprint in the Catskills was distinct and nuanced.

The forests of the Catskill Mountains have existed without one of their greatest ecological cornerstones. On Friday, Nov. 6, local conservationists, scientists, and land stewards gathered on the sprawling 5,500-acre campus of Frost Valley YMCA to change that trajectory - planting blight-tolerant American chestnut trees in a landmark moment for regional forestry and American conservation.

Spearheaded locally by the Catskill Forest Association (CFA) in collaboration with forest biotechnology leader SilvaBio and host Frost Valley YMCA, the afternoon ceremony marked the beginning of a long-term effort to reintroduce the once-dominant hardwood back into the Catskills and across its 25-state native range.



contributed

Catskill Forest Association staff from left: Ryan Trapani, Jen Betz and Giovanna D'Angelo were joined by director and vice president Steven Finch standing, Erik Heidenfelder, Zane Lawyer, president Mike Porter and Tim Yeatts at Frost Valley YMCA Nov. 6. The group showed off three American Chestnuts planted at the YMCA campus in Claryville as part of a long term effort to reintroduce the species to the region.

Once the most abundant tree in the eastern United States, the American chestnut defined eastern woodlands for millennia. Towering over the canopy, the trees were ecologically, economically, and culturally irreplaceable. They provided dense, rot-resistant timber for builders and reliable, nutrient-rich nuts for both wildlife and rural economies. That era ended abruptly in the early 20th century when an accidental fungal blight swept through North America, eliminating an estimated four billion trees within decades and rendering the species functionally extinct.

Now, following the historic U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) deregulation of the blight-tolerant Darling 54 chestnut line, the species is finally getting a second chance.

For the Catskill Forest Association, a membership-based nonprofit that has connected people to regional woodlands since 1982, the planting represents the culmination of its core mission: blending practical forestry education with innovative, field-based services to improve forest health, wildlife habitat, and timber productivity. Serving as the vital bridge between cutting-edge forest science and local land stewardship, CFA helped bring the project directly into the heart of the Catskills.

"Oak is a great tree, but chestnut seems more reliable in mast production, and just as important in the world of timber," said Ryan Trapani, CFA's director of forest services, during his remarks at the ceremony. At Frost Valley, Trapani noted the unique significance of the location.

"Today marks the beginning of bringing back this tree for generations beyond us, ironically in an area with little or no history of it."

Because the Catskills sit near the northern edge of the tree's historical range, introducing blight-tolerant chestnuts here offers both a sanctuary for the species and a vital living laboratory for CFA's ongoing work helping private landowners and regional stewards manage resilient, productive forests.

The Nov. 6 ceremony opened with remarks from Michael Bloom, CEO and co-founder of SilvaBio, a public benefit company that uses genomic prediction, accelerated breeding, and advanced propagation to compress decade-long tree breeding cycles into a single year. Invasive diseases outpace traditional conservation countermeasures across U.S. forests, threatening ecosystems that contribute over $350 billion annually and absorb nearly 15% of national carbon emissions. SilvaBio's flagship work focuses on rescuing the American chestnut alongside other at-risk hardwoods like oak, ash, and elm.

"Most of us have never stood beneath a mature American chestnut. Today, we're helping make that possible for another generation," Bloom said. "Restoring the American chestnut will take scientists, foresters, landowners, and communities working together. Here at Frost Valley, that work is taking root."

Hosting the inaugural planting on its 5,500-acre mountain property was a natural fit for Frost Valley YMCA. Located two hours from New York City, the organization serves as a year-round destination for outdoor education, recreation, and environmental stewardship, helping young people and families step away from screens and connect directly with the natural world.

Frost Valley YMCA CEO Riel Peerbooms reflected on the patience required for true forest conservation.

"It is said that blessed are those who plant trees under whose shade they will never sit," Peerbooms said. "We plant these trees knowing we will never see them become the next Big Tree, but we are proud to plant them for future generations. Planting these trees is a promise to be good stewards of this special place, and honor the land so that our community can be nourished and cared for, for generations to come."

Following remarks, partners and attendees commemorated the decades of scientific research and local collaboration that made the afternoon possible by putting roots into Catskill soil. While it will take decades for these young saplings to reach the towering heights of their ancestors, the partnership between the Catskill Forest Association, SilvaBio, and Frost Valley has ensured that future generations of Catskill residents and wildlife will once again walk beneath the shade of the American chestnut.

For more information on local forest stewardship and educational programs, visit the Catskill Forest Association at catskillforest.org To learn more about the partner organizations visit silvabio.com and frostvalley.org



contributed

Ryan Trapani of Catskill Forest Association spoke about the importance of reintroducing American Chestnut trees at a ceremony Nov. 6 at Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville. The species, once known as the "Redwood of the East" for its great height and straight trunks, the tree's historical footprint in the Catskills was distinct. Lost to blight for more than a century, the tree's reintroduction will allow future generations to see the landscape as it once was.



contributed

Michael Bloom, CEO and co-founder of SilvaBio, left, commemorating the reintroduction of the American chestnut tree at Frost Valley YMCA on Nov. 6. Bloom was joined by Ryan Trapani of the Catskill Forest Association, Riel Pierbooms, Frost Valley CEO and Dan DeChills, director of natural resources at Frost Valley.



contributed

Frost Valley Director of Natural Resources Dan DeChellis, center, provides a watchful eye as Catskill Forest Association Director of Forest Services Ryan Trapani, left and Forest Process Efficiency Coordinator Jen Betz plant one of three American chestnuts at Frost Valley in Claryville Nov. 6.

Catskill Mountain Club Schedules Hikes Through December

Hikers Urged To Wear Orange During Deer Season

The Catskill Mountain Club has announced its schedule of member-led hikes for late November and December, offering opportunities to explore some of the region's well-known peaks and trails.

The 22-year-old grassroots nonprofit organizes free hiking, paddling and biking adventures throughout the Catskill Mountains. The club also advocates for nonmotorized outdoor recreation.

Upcoming hikes include:

• Saturday, Nov. 28, 8 a.m.: Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Table and Peekamoose.

• Sunday, Nov. 29, 9 a.m.: Windham High Peak.

• Wednesday, Dec. 2, 8 a.m.: Eagle, Big Indian and Fir mountains.

• Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 a.m.: Plateau, Sugarloaf, Indian Head and Twin mountains.

• Sunday, Dec. 6, 8 a.m.: Panther Mountain and Giant Ledge.

• Wednesday, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m.: Balsam Lake Mountain and Mill Brook Ridge.

• Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 a.m.: Black Head, Black Dome and Thomas Cole mountains.

Hike durations and return times vary by outing. Participants should consult the club's online event listings for details, directions and additional information before attending.

With regular deer hunting season beginning Nov. 21, the club reminds hikers to wear bright orange while on the trails to increase visibility and safety.

For the full schedule and hike details, visit catskillmountainclub.org/events-all



OUTDOOR LIFE

New Exhibit Celebrates Fly-Fishing Pioneers George Cooper and Mahlon Davidson

LIVINGSTON MANOR - A new exhibit honoring two influential figures in the history of Catskills fly fishing is now on display, featuring original flies, equipment and memorabilia connected to George W. Cooper and Mahlon Davidson.

The exhibit was made possible through the generosity of Bill Kocher of De Bruce, with assistance from Pete Leitner and John Bonasera and guidance from Dave Catizone.

According to research by Ed Van Put, Cooper was Sullivan County's first commercial fly tier. Born in 1856, he likely began tying flies around 1875. He is best known as the creator of the Female Beaverkill pattern, but his contributions extended beyond fly tying.

Based on the writings of Theodore Gordon, Cooper was also an early fish culturist who helped restock the Willowemoc, Neversink and their tributaries after logging, acid manufacturing and tanning operations devastated local waterways during the mid-to-late 1800s.

In 1902, Cooper took over the De Bruce General Store, operating it until 1923, when he sold the business to Davidson. The store served as a gathering place and supply hub for anglers fishing the upper Willowemoc, including Gordon, La Branche, Hewitt and many other prominent fishermen of the era.

Davidson, whom Harry Darbee described in his book as the last of the wooden rod makers, was an accomplished fly tier and the creator of the Davidson Special, a pattern still used today. After purchasing the store from Cooper, Davidson became a leading supplier of flies, fishing equipment and tackle while continuing to operate the general store until it closed in 1963.

The new display is housed in the store's original converted pie safe, which Cooper and Davidson used to showcase their flies and other fly-fishing supplies.

Among the highlights are Davidson's original tagged model flies and an assortment of his hand-tied flies. The exhibit also includes necks and feathers from the men's fly-tying materials, as well as what is believed to be the only known example of Davidson's rod-making work.

With the help of period-appropriate hooks and original Cooper and Davidson materials, Bonasera also reproduced examples of Cooper's flies for the display.

In addition to the donated items, Cooper's and Davidson's fly-tying vises and other related artifacts from the organization's archives are part of the exhibit.

Visitors are invited to explore the collection and learn more about two men whose work helped shape the region's enduring fly-fishing tradition.

For more information visit cff-cm.com

Ignite a Tradition – Host a Late-Season Sponsored Pheasant Hunt



image courtesy of NYSDEC

As big game seasons wrap up this fall, help keep the hunting tradition alive by hosting a Sponsored Pheasant Hunt. Hosting a late-season Sponsored Pheasant Hunt provides an ideal pathway to introduce novice or young hunters to upland bird hunting and build a lasting connection to the outdoors. Applications to host a Sponsored Pheasant Hunt are accepted through Jan. 10, and events can be held anytime during an open pheasant hunting season.

Sponsored Pheasant Hunts are free, non-competitive events open to public registration and can be organized by individuals, clubs, groups, or other organizations. NYSDEC provides pheasants at no cost for stocking ahead of each event. All participants must possess a valid New York state hunting license.

Interested in hosting a hunt? Visit dec.ny.gov to find the application and learn more.

Looking to participate in a mentored hunt or Sponsored Pheasant Hunt? Explore available opportunities and register at https://decals.events.east.licensing.app/em/programs/16

Share your passion, take someone new afield, and help introduce the next generation of hunters to the outdoors.

UDC Dec. 3 Presentation to Highlight 'Seasons Along the Delaware'

NARROWSBURG – The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) will host a public presentation, "Seasons Along the Delaware," Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m., available in person at the UDC's Narrowsburg office and remotely by Zoom.

Join guide and author Bob Lindquist of Callicoon on a visual tour of the Delaware River that illuminates its flyfishing opportunities and subtle secrets hidden in the river's languid flows throughout the seasons.

Woven throughout the presentation is the history of the river system, its character, and essential, proven techniques and flies pertaining to one of the greatest freshwater fisheries in the lower 48 states.

Lindquist has been fishing the main stem of the Delaware for over 40 years. In 2023, he became a licensed guide in New York state and Pennsylvania as proprietor of Flies for Fish. He's also been contributing articles and photos since 1990 to major publications like American Fly Fishing and Fly Tyer magazines, writes a blog, ties flies, exhibits at outdoor shows, and uses his public speaking experiences as a teacher and coach to provide presentations to groups throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions.

The Town of Delaware appointed Lindquist as its Upper Delaware Council alternate representative in December 2024. He serves on the UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee.

The UDC's monthly business meeting to follow the approximately 30-minute presentation will include reports from the Delaware River Basin Commission, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, National Park Service, and UDC Executive Director; discussion of old and new business; and public comments.

All UDC meetings held at 211 Bridge Street in Narrowsburg and are open to the public.

To request the Zoom link for remote participation email info@upperdelawarecouncil.org or call 845-252-3022.

For more information visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org

SPORTS REPORTER

Sporterrifle League

Delhi shot a 1393 for a bye-week in Match 10 of the New York State Sporterrifle League.

Top shooters for Delhi were Kara Fitch 282 (95 on target 3), Garrett Fitch 282 (93 on target 3), Bryan Fitch Jr. 279, Kevin Gutliph 276, and Sarah Keehr 274.

For the Heavy Iron League Mabel Gutliph shot a 291.

Delhi-South Kortright Boys Finish Fourth At State Cross Country Championships

Jaden Lewis leads team with ninth-place finish; Sidney runners also compete at Queensbury

QUEENSBURY - The Delhi-South Kortright boys cross country team earned a fourth-place finish at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Division D Championships Saturday, Nov. 14, at Queensbury High School.

The team finished with 125 points, posting an average time of 17 minutes, 44 seconds over the 5,000-meter course. Its top five runners finished within a span of 2:07.

Senior Jaden Lewis led Delhi-South Kortright, placing ninth in 16:28.40 and earning four team points. Sophomore Emmett Tweed followed in 28th place in 17:07.70 for 11 points.

Liam Munro, an eighth-grader, finished 71st in 18:06.10, contributing 31 points. Freshman Augustus Green placed 81st in 18:25.10 for 37 points, while junior Jason VanMaaren rounded out the team's scoring five in 86th place in 18:36.30, earning 42 points.

The team's remaining runners were eighth-grader Kyson VanMaaren, 101st in 19:14.50, and senior Eric Blackman, 116th in 21:04.10.

In the Division D girls race, Delhi-South Kortright junior Aurelia Comer placed 54th in 21:09.10.

Sidney also had runners competing at the state championships. In the Class C girls 5,000-meter race, eighth-grader Olivia Beauchat finished 99th in 21:39.10. Senior Owen Mott placed 46th in the Class C boys race in 17:08.00.

For online daily content visit *The-Reporter.net*

Be Warm and Breathe Easy This Winter

As the days shorten and begin to cool, we suddenly switch from cooling to warming up our spaces. One less common method of winter heating is outdoor wood boilers (OWBs), also known as hydronic heaters. OWBs operate through simple technology, being engineered to burn wood in a specialized metal chamber called a firebox. The firebox absorbs the heat from the burning wood, transferring the heat to a large liquid-filled jacket around the firebox. This heated liquid is then pumped through underground pipes to heat an adjacent building or home. OWBs are most commonly installed outside a home, but some are placed inside outbuildings or sheds. Because of these space requirements and the availability of wood, OWBs are most often found in rural and sparsely populated areas.

Using an OWB can be a more cost-effective option than using fossil fuel-based heating, because wood is readily available and less expensive, especially in rural areas. This has enabled some to produce their heating fuel on their own property or very close to home. Additionally, new models have become more efficient over the years as well. However, the initial cost of installing an OWB can be expensive and labor-intensive. In addition, OWBs are subject to NYS rules and regulations.

In New York, OWBs have been subject to several rules and regulations due to the amount of fine particulate matter and other pollutants they emit. In 2010, New York established rules for both the manufacturing and installation of the heating devices. Also, the emissions produced by OWBs may cause a nuisance situation. DEC's regulations require new OWB installations to be at least 100 feet from the nearest property boundary, be equipped with a taller smokestack, and be certified to meet EPA's emissions standards to help reduce the potential for nuisance conditions. Those looking to install an OWB should also be aware of local rules and ordinances that may exist in their area.

With the continued development of more efficient models, some new OWBs have built-in catalytic converters to decrease emissions or increase fuel efficiency, along with other options found in EPA's database. With recent advancements, they may be able to provide some New Yorkers with a balance between a practical alternative to fossil fuels and a reliable source of winter heating in rural areas. For additional information on the steps to lower home heating costs, consult the NYS Sustainable Future program at nyserda.ny.gov

From adding insulation to sealing cracks and holes, there are many options and resources available to help you keep warm and enjoy clean air this winter.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Festivity and Fine Art Pack Longyear Gallery for Holiday Invitational Opening

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - In one of the biggest art shows of the year, Longyear Gallery staged an opening reception Saturday, Nov. 21 for its annual Holiday Invitational Exhibit featuring 163 works of art by gallery members and their invited guests. The gallery's spaces were packed to capacity by artists and patrons who flocked to the show, which is anticipated each year as much for its festivity in kicking off the holiday season as it is for the quality of the art.

Works in every medium - from traditional watercolors, photos, charcoals, oils and acrylics - were hung with wax pigments on panels, plaster casts, collages, gouache on paper. Eco-prints and encaustics appeared with pastels and silver gelatin prints. Among the works were two painting prints on metal by Martha Keating.

A striking photograph titled "Elaine" by Bonnie Mitchell was



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

The work of former Coney Island resident Ricky Zia lightens the mood at every gallery where it hangs. "Cindy Cigarette," a paint and illustration on board, reflects the "energy of carnivals and the whimsy of the circus," that allow his playful spirit to shine through in his work. Multiple media and bright colors bring his characters to life.

a powerful remembrance of the late Elaine Grandy, a well-known and much loved artist and healer in the community. A Longyear member, Mitchell summed up the atmosphere noting, "This gallery has just kind of blossomed."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

"To Have and Hold" a wood sculpture by Gayle Brown demonstrates the wide variety of artwork on display at the Longyear Gallery in Margaretville. The Holiday Invitational Exhibit features two Brown works among 163 pieces.

The gallery, which features 36 members and operates as a cooperative will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year making it one of the oldest and largest galleries in the region. As an anchor gallery in the Margaretville community and the regional arts community, it has led directly and indirectly to the burgeoning art scene that now boasts more than 60 working artists in the eastern portion of Delaware County.

Photographer Aldo Gonzalez, showing as an invited guest, showed a transition from his traditional black and white shots to full bright color in prints titled "Step Right Up Tokyo" and "Step Right Up New York." Each focuses on one character in a crowd, with vastly different effects. The photo in from a Tokyo bar features a magician.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Aldo Gonzalez, a street and cityscape photographer known for intense black and white photography, has moved more toward color work in recent months and showed two examples at the Longyear Gallery Holiday Invitational Exhibit that opened Saturday, Nov. 21. Gonzales will debut a new, local series in January.

Gonzalez, who specializes in spontaneous shots of people going about their normal routines reacts to what he sees and watches scenes play out. The New York shot taken in Times Square features a bright yellow and orange neon sign with a man shown almost as a silhouette, engaging with spectators on bleachers.

"I started looking around. I took a couple of pictures and I saw him," said Gonzalez, adding, "So I thought 'let's get some more pictures' and kept shooting until I had something that was good." The photo, which features shadows, light and dark that are commonly used in black and white photography reflect back to his more traditional artistic practice.

Gonzalez says he often prints photos in both color and black and white then seeks advice from his wife on which looks best. His ability to manipulate focus and aperature as he is taking the shot provides dramatic results in light and clarity either way. The recipient of a New York State Council on the Arts Re-Grant through the Roxbury Arts Group will showcase a new body of work in January.

The show is so great in scope that there is almost too much to take in during a single visit. It will hang until Jan. 3, 2027.

For more information about this, and upcoming exhibits, visit longyeargallery.org



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Longyear Gallery member Hedi Kyle, left, and Cindy Clark chatted about the depth and breadth of works shown at the Holiday Invitational Exhibit. Kyle had two works in dye and watercolor on display. Clark's husband, Ron Macklin, displayed "Train Window III," a watercolor.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Local artists Chris Criswell and Leslie Powell both featured works at the Longyear Gallery Holiday Invitational Exhibit which will be on display until Jan. 3, 2027. Criswell was an invited guest artist in the show while Powell is a Longyear Gallery member.

Franklin Library Hosts Holiday Tea-Themed Gift Workshop

Free Dec. 5 Program Invites Participants Ages 12 and Older to Paint Teacups and Create Custom Tea Blends



contributed

FRANKLIN - The Franklin Free Library will host a free holiday tea-themed craft workshop Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2:30 p.m., led by Samantha Misa of the Delaware County Historical Association.

Participants will have the opportunity to paint their own teacup and create holiday-themed tea blends to take home in a festive gift box.

The workshop is open to participants age 12 and older and is funded through a grant from the Community Foundation of South Central New York.

Space is limited to 20 participants, and reservations are required. Attendees must arrive promptly by 2:30 p.m.

To register or for more information, contact the Franklin Free Library at 607-829-2941 or Fr.ill@4cls.org or stop by the library at 334 Main Street in Franklin.

Last Week's Crossword Answers

P	A	L	P				C	P	U			P	C	T
U	S	U	A	L			U	R	N		P	A	L	O
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A	R	T			E	A	T				A	B	A	S

ROXBURY
event schedule

SATURDAY DEC. 12TH
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
STAMP YOUR PASSPORT AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
MINI MARKET AT WATERSHED CAFE
7 vendors and an intimate shopping experience. Featuring Ornaments, Art Greeting Cards, Baked Goods, Handmade Jewelry, EcoCards, Handmade Soaps and Confections

2:00 PM
READING OF "NIGHT TREE" BY EVE BUNTING
Library Director, Mary Jean Scudder delivers this family favorite to Children of all ages at the Roxbury Library

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
ORNAMENT DECORATING AT ROXBURY ARTS GROUP
Decorated ornaments to be hung on the lit birch branches in the Main Street Planters

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
CARDS AT CMW & DAUGHTER VINTAGE
Stop and have a snack while you write a holiday greeting to be delivered to our seniors and shut ins.

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
FREE POP-CORN BALLS AT GOOD GROCER
Complimentary at Good Grocer

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
HOLIDAY DANCING IN THE STREETS AT CHAPPIES
Celebrate the season with festive beats, cocktails, and dancing under or warming up around th efire pits

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
PARADE, SANTA VISIT & EMBERS PIZZA TRUCK
A Roxbury Fire Department tradition! Enjoy photos with Santa & Wood Fired Pizza by Catskill Mountain Embers

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
WINE & CHOCOLATE TASTING
Roxbury Bottle Shop and Jenny's Candies join in the festivities

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
COMMUNITY COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS
Head back over to Watershed Cafe & enjoy closing cocktails/bites. Raffle winner announced!

6:00 PM
SANTA STROLL & TREE LIGHTING
Santa flips the switch and the tree is aglow! Caroling around the tree.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ROXBURYNY.GOV

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Documentary Offers Rare Glimpse Into Filmmaker Robert Frank's Unseen Footage

Delaware County filmmakers to present work-in-progress screening at Bushel in Delhi on Dec. 5



contributed

DELHI — Audiences will get an early look at a new documentary exploring the life and creative world of photographer and filmmaker Robert Frank during a special screening Saturday, Dec. 5, at Bushel in Delhi.

The 7 p.m. screening will feature a sample from the work-in-progress rough cut of Salut Robert, followed by a question-and-answer session with director Laura Israel and editor and art director Alex Bingham, both Delaware County residents.

The event will be held at Bushel, 106 Main Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to all, but reservations are requested. To reserve a seat, visit bushelcollective.org/events

Frank is best known for his groundbreaking photography book The Americans, but his work also included films with members of the Beat Generation and the Rolling Stones. For decades, he recorded a moving-image diary, storing footage in the basement of his Bleecker Street home in New York City.

Israel and Bingham archived nearly 200 hours of previously unseen Super 8 film and video to create Salut Robert. The documentary offers an intimate, diaristic portrait of Frank, drawing viewers into his world across nearly half a century.

The film follows Frank between Bleecker Street and rural Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, as he experiments with techniques and themes reflected in his iconic photographs. Along the way, he revisits memories, loss, family and friendships, creating a time capsule of a vibrant and often tumultuous period in social and artistic history.

The film is produced by Ryan Krivoshey and Israel, with sound design by Dean Hurley. Its premiere is planned for 2027, with broadcast presentations slated for Arte France and Swiss Television. The filmmakers acknowledge support from the Robert Frank Foundation, Pace Gallery and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The program will also include Fearless Frank, a short film about Frank's collaborations with other artists, including his wife, artist June Leaf; three-time Academy Award-nominated cinematographer Ed Lachman; and photographer and darkroom printer Sid Kaplan.

About the filmmakers

Israel directed two documentary features: the DOC NYC award-winning Windfall, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, and Don't Blink — Robert Frank, a main-slate selection at the New York Film Festival and one of Artforum's best films of 2015.

She worked as Frank's editor for more than two decades and has earned recognition for her editing work on music videos and commercial campaigns. Her clients have included Lou Reed, Patti Smith, Keith Richards, Ziggy Marley, David Byrne, Laurie Simmons and Sonic Youth. In 2024, she edited Lachman's short film Protect Me From What I Want, which was screened as part of the Guggenheim Museum's Jenny Holzer: Light Line exhibition.

Bingham studied painting and mural design at Chelsea School of Art in London before moving to New York and beginning a career in film and video. She is a co-creator of Frank's Scrapbook Footage, a multichannel installation at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Her credits include art direction and editing for Don't Blink — Robert Frank and work on The King, an Emmy-nominated feature documentary by two-time Sundance winner Eugene Jarecki that premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. She also worked on Voyager, Karen Bellone's documentary about pioneering land artist Michelle Stuart, which is slated to premiere in 2027.

Franklin Christmas Stroll Brings Holiday Magic, Markets and Merriment Dec. 12

Historic Home Tours, Holiday Shopping, Santa Visits, Tree Lighting and a Free Live Performance Headline Celebration



contributed

FRANKLIN — The village of Franklin will welcome the holiday season Saturday, Dec. 12, with a full day of festivities including a historic house tour, holiday market, museum exhibits, seasonal treats, visits with Santa and a free evening performance.

The annual Christmas Stroll will feature activities throughout the village, with most attractions located along Main Street and within easy walking distance of one another.

Christmas Stroll House Tour

The traditional Christmas Stroll House Tour will run from 1 to 5 p.m., featuring five historic homes and the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, all decorated for the holidays.

This year's homes, known as "Painted Ladies," date from the 1860s to the early 1900s. The village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tour tickets cost $10 for one person or $15 per couple and will be available at the Firehouse Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 12.

Connie Martin, Christmas Stroll coordinator, said the tour offers visitors a chance to learn about Victorian-era architecture, see carefully maintained historic homes and meet the homeowners.

"The homeowners have conducted research on their homes and any renovations are done with attention and care in an effort to preserve the unique character of the homes," said coordinator John Wilson. "It's practically a guarantee that attendees will come away with some great ideas for renovations and décor."

After expenses proceeds benefit the Franklin Improvement Society, a nonprofit organization.

Holiday market and museum attractions

The Franklin Fire Department garage, 351 Main Street, will host the Firehouse Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local artisans and vendors will offer holiday gifts, home décor, handmade items, food and more.

The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, 572 Main Street, will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can explore its annual Trees and Trains for Christmas exhibit, featuring decorated trees, the Warwick dining car, an expanded model train layout and new exhibits highlighting the history of Franklin and surrounding communities.

Cookies, soup and holiday shopping

Open Doors Methodist Church, 475 Main Street, will hold its annual Christmas cookie sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will feature trays of decorated cookies, along with hot soup, coffee and snacks.

A new addition this year is a gift sale and wrapping table where children can shop for inexpensive presents for family members and wrap them.

Good Taste Epicurean Market, 438 Main Street, will offer a gourmet wine and cheese tasting from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visitors can sample wines, cheeses, dried sausages and other specialty foods while shopping for holiday entertaining. The market also offers freshly baked baguettes, imported products and farm-to-table selections.

The Franklin Free Library, 334 Main Street, will host holiday story time at 11 a.m., followed by a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will have gifts for children. Cookies and punch will be served.

Tree lighting, Santa and evening entertainment

The village's holiday tree lighting and caroling will begin at 5:15 p.m. at the Village Park on Main Street, across from the firehouse. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on a firetruck.

Following the tree lighting families can head to the Franklin Fire Department garage for another opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, take photos and receive gifts. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. The visit is scheduled for approximately 6 p.m.

A new event this year will bring a free live performance of A CBC Christmas Carol to Community Bible Church, 89 Center St., at 7:30 p.m. The production will feature local children and adults, and everyone is welcome.

More holiday activities

Visitors can also stroll along Main Street to enjoy holiday trees decorated by Franklin Rotary Club members. Local businesses, including The Tulip and The Rose Café, will be open, with the café serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Shops featuring interior design, home décor, antiques and clothing will also welcome holiday shoppers.

For more information about the Christmas Stroll House Tour and other festivities, contact Connie Martin at candjmartin@fastmail.com or John Wilson at jwilix48@gmail.com

Updates are available on Facebook and at franklinny.org/stroll26

Franklin Christmas Stroll: Dec. 12 schedule

- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Trees and Trains for Christmas, Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, 572 Main Street
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: Firehouse Holiday Market, 351 Main Street
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Christmas cookie sale, soup, coffee, snacks and children's gift sale, Open Doors Methodist Church, 475 Main Street
- 10 a.m.-6 p.m.: Gourmet wine and cheese tasting, Good Taste Epicurean Market, 438 Main Street
- 11 a.m.: Holiday stories and Santa's visit, Franklin Free Library, 334 Main Street
- 1-5 p.m.: Christmas Stroll House Tour, five village homes and the railroad museum. Tickets: $10 per person or $15 per couple.
- 5:15 p.m.: Tree lighting, caroling and Santa's arrival by firetruck, Village Park.
- About 6 p.m.: Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, Fire Department garage, 351 Main Street
- 7:30 p.m.: Free performance of A CBC Christmas Carol, Community Bible Church, 89 Center Street

Sidney: Share the Bounty Dec. 9

SIDNEY — Community members are invited to a free Share the Bounty dinner Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 15 Liberty Street in Sidney.

Hosted by Sacred Heart Parish, the meal will include barbecued chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans and dessert.

The dinner is free, and everyone is welcome. Organizers invite the community to join them for an evening of food and fellowship.

RUMMAGE SALE
Catskill Mountain Christian Center
629 Main St., Margaretville
Nov. 21, 2026
10am-4pm Rain or Shine
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

WALTON THEATRE
NOVEMBER 28 & 29
STREET FIGHTER
- PG-13 -
FRIDAY - 7 PM
SATURDAY - 7 PM
CLOSED 12/2-12/5 FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW
ADULTS - $8; 12 & UNDER - $7
Gardiner Place 607-865-6688
www.waltontheatre.org

JOIN US FOR A
HOMEMADE
SOUP BUFFET & DESSERTS
Thursday, Dec. 3rd
5 - 7PM
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Main Street, Franklin
by Donation

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Andes: Small School Takes On Big Production Staging Annie Jr.

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

ANDES - Drawing on its full student body for cast, crew and choreography, Andes Central School packed the auditorium for three consecutive days as the team brought the popular musical Annie to the school in the form of the play Annie Jr.

Annie Jr. is a heartwarming musical set in New York City during the Great Depression. It follows Annie, a spirited young orphan determined to find the parents who left her at an orphanage run by the strict Miss Hannigan. When Annie is chosen to spend Christmas with billionaire Oliver Warbucks, her life takes an unexpected turn as she brings hope and happiness to his household. With help from Warbucks, his secretary Grace Farrell and her loyal dog Sandy, Annie faces challenges, outsmarts a scheme by Miss Hannigan and her companions, and discovers that family can come from unexpected places. Featuring beloved songs such as "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard-Knock Life," the musical celebrates optimism, courage and the power of hope.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

In one of the final scenes from Annie Jr., a servant of Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks pushes President Franklin Roosevelt, played by Myleigh Rabon, onto the stage as Tristan Weaver (as Warbucks), Darbey Mondore as Grace Farrell and Olivia Madussi as Annie, learn her parents died long ago and Warbucks can adopt her.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Olivia Madussi as Annie and Tristan Weaver as Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks delivered star quality performances in the Andes Central School production of Annie Jr. Nov. 20 - 22. The school auditorium was packed for the shows.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

The "Lovely Boylan Sisters" who sang on a radio program in the Andes Central School production of Annie Jr. included Kinsleigh Gill, left, Lykah DiPierro and Darbey Mondore. The three students played dual roles in the production with Gill also appearing as Mrs. Pugh, DiPierro as Mrs. Greer and Mondore as Grace Farrell.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Laney Mondore, left, as the evil Miss Hannigan delivered the laughs during a performance of Annie Jr. at Andes Central School Sunday, Nov. 22. Shown with Jack Rodgers as Rooster, left, and Emily McGowan as Lily, the three celebrated a plot to pose as Annie's parents and get to "Easy Street."



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Friends of Annie and fellow orphans faced fears about her future in a performance of Annie Jr. at Andes Central School Sunday, Nov. 22. A cast and crew of more than 40 students in all grade levels brought the popular play to life.

With strong lead performances from Olivia Madussi as Annie, Tristan Weaver as Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks and Laney Mondore as the evil Miss Hannigan, the cast and crew of more than 40 delighted audiences on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20 – 22.

Yasmin Reshamwala, who teaches both music and art at the school served as co-director, musical director, choreographer and set designer and once again tackled an intricate and complicated script and score allowing students at every age level to participate.

A simple set designed by Reshamwala and Will Towsley allowed for a smooth production and the use of an apron addition to the front of the stage, which has become a Reshamwalla trademark, brought the action closer to the audience. A sophisticated lighting and sound operation guaranteed that all voices could be heard and enhanced both the dramatic and comedic features of the production.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Yasmin Reshamwala prepared to run the show as co-director of the Andes Central School production of Annie Jr. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20 – 22. Reshamwalla, whose co-director was Mary Pelletier, also served as musical director and choreographer and set designer with Will Towsley for the show.

Sidney Library Invites Patrons to Showcase Photography, Explore Local Art

Photography contest seeks images capturing Sidney; December workshops and art exhibition offer seasonal creativity

SIDNEY — The Sidney Memorial Public Library i invites library patrons to share their photographs of the community as part of a juried photography exhibition planned for February and March 2027.

The open call for entries begins Dec. 1 and is open to anyone with a valid Four County Library System card. Professional photography experience is not required.

The theme is Sidney, New York. Photographs may highlight the village's beauty, history, people or everyday life, offering participants an opportunity to share their creativity and personal perspectives.

Digital photographs should be emailed to si.librarian@4cls.org The submission deadline is Dec. 14, with judging scheduled for Dec. 15.

Selected photographs will be displayed in the library's Smart Community Room and main library from February through March 2027. An opening reception is planned for Saturday, Feb. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m.

December art exhibition

The library's December art exhibition will feature artist Conny Horne, whose first solo exhibition at the Sidney Memorial Public Library opens with a reception Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Inspired by nature, poetry and personal reflection, Horne combines watercolor, color and words to express emotions and explore the beauty of the world around her. Her work celebrates creativity, self-discovery and the connection between visual art and poetry.

The exhibition will run from Dec. 5 through Jan. 30, 2027.

Holiday workshops

The library also has two holiday workshops planned in December, sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries.

A wreath workshop will be held Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. Participants will decorate a fresh-cut evergreen wreath. The $15 fee includes all supplies, and participants may bring additional decorations. Space is limited. Payment is due at registration and is nonrefundable.

A holiday card workshop with Linda Shea is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Participants will create four holiday-themed cards. The workshop is free, but registration is required. To register, call 607-563-1200.

For information about library programs and special events, visit www.sidneylibrary.org or the library's Facebook page. The Sidney Memorial Public Library offers information, entertainment and activities for community members of all ages.

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November 27 & 28

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Saturday, Nov. 28

7am-11am Breakfast with Santa (pics too!)
9am-3pm Walton Grange Vendor Market
9am-4pm Craft Sale, Castle on the Delaware
10am-12pm Make Yourself an Elf photo craft at Ogden Library
10am-4pm Make & Take Craft, beginner crochet lessons on the half hr till 2:30
10am-4pm Decorate Cookies at A Time to Heal
11am-1pm Pictures with Frosty at Walton Historical Society
1:00pm Common Room Grand Opening!
9am-5pm Make a Craft, live music at the Common Room
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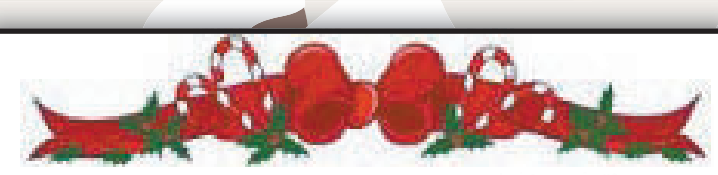

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FRANKLIN

By Amber Gray
agray1795@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving, Franklin. Small Business Saturday is Nov. 28. Show our Franklin small businesses some love if you can.

Town of Franklin board meeting Tuesday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. at the Franklin Town Garage, 12480 County Route 21.

Franklin Planning Board will meet Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Garage, 12480 County Route 21.

Franklin Recreation Commission seeks volunteers interested in organizing additional, seasonal field sports for youth and adults. If you are interested or to learn more call 607-829-8777, email jbanksrec@gmail.com or attend the Rec Commission meeting Monday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 141 Water Street.

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 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. Call 607-829-3312 for more info.

Greater Franklin Food Pantry, 574 Main Street, will be closed Friday, Nov. 27. Neighbors experiencing a food emergency or those who would like to make an appointment may call or text 607-386-1601. Signups are open to new and returning pantry neighbors for the December holiday food box through Monday, Nov. 30, either at the pantry during open hours or call or text the pantry or email the pantry. Franklin Head Start and Franklin Central School families can sign up with their Head Start staff or FCS counselor. The pantry provides food for members of our community and is sustained through non-expired food and monetary donations. Appointments outside of open hours are welcome. For more information visit greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org

Franklin Rotary meets Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Open Doors Methodist Church, 475 Main Street. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Rotary members will bring holiday magic to Franklin once more with the Main Street Christmas Tree Project. Tree installation is Saturday, Dec. 5. For more info email franklinrotary7170@gmail.com

Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, 572 Main Street, will be open Sunday, Nov. 29, 1-4 p.m.

Franklin Free Library, 334 Main Street, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays, 2-8 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Zine Exhibit is on view through Thursday, Dec. 10. Comics Club for ages 6+ meets Tuesdays, 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. There will be a Polymer Clay Workshop with Ellen Scolnik for ages 8-16 Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Registration is required - call 607-829-2941 or email fr.ill@4cls.org All are welcome to play board and card games at game night, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. On Thursday, Dec. 3, Girl Scouts will host a fun night from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for grades K-3. For more info about Girl Scouts, call or text Nicki at 607-442-6721.

Bright Hill Community Library, 94 Church Street, Treadwell, is open weekly, Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Franklin Fire Department seeks 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.

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. Open Doors Messy Church with family service and Bible based activities for children toddler to fifth grade Sunday, Nov. 29 at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 307 Main Street invites all faiths and families to Sunday service in the chapel facing Main Street during the winter season beginning at 10 a.m. First Thursday Community Dinner will be held Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. featuring a return of the popular homemade soups and desserts buffet. Cost is by donation. Save the date for A Hometown Christmas with the Catskill Brass, Saturday, Dec. 19 at 5:45 p.m. with a prelude by organist Al Fedak.

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 put on by church members and others in the community that will be presented on the evening of the Christmas Stroll, Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The church can be reached at 607-829-5471 or cbchurch@cbchurchfranklin.com

Aldrich Baptist Church, 2770 State Route 28, North Franklin, Sunday worship service is held 9:30-10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School is held during the service after Children's Time.

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 1-5 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 election will be held Tuesday, March 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
ajvreports@gmail.com
607-363-7363

Hello friends-the waiting is over, the turkey and the fixins might be leftovers now. But the one thing we must keep foremost in our minds is the gratitude we expressed especially at this time of year. I watched a TED talk the other day with Brother David Stendl-Rast who spoke about happiness and gratitude. The main point was that happiness does not make us grateful, but gratitude makes us happy. If we are grateful for the life we have, then happiness is sure to follow. We know of people who have everything they could possibly want and yet they are not happy; and people who have so little and perhaps have had many upsets along the way are happy where they are and with what they have. Starting your day with gratitude sets your mind to looking for more and more things for which to be grateful. Traveling over Bear Spring this morning caught me saying thank you for the awesome sight of fog lifting in the valley below. It reminded me of happy days when every time we would witness such a weather phenomenon, I would tell my kids that it was a baby cloud nursery. Gratitude makes us happy and giving thanks is a good way to spend each and every day, not just in November and not only on Thanksgiving. You can find more thoughts on being grateful by Brother David Stendl-Rast on YouTube.

Here are some very significant Thanksgiving facts for future reference. Only male turkeys gobble. Thanksgiving became a National Holiday in 1863. Cranberries bounce and pumpkin pie is the favorite Thanksgiving Day dessert.

Special thanks, indeed, to Sidney Federal Credit Union for a special coat distribution at the Downsville Central School. Every student received a brand-new custom Eagle jacket. A little extra warmth, and a whole lot of Eagle Pride. The giveaway was part of SFCU's commitment to invest $1 million throughout 2026 through its "Why SFCU? One Million Reasons Initiative." As part of the Powering Potential focus nearly 4,000 students across eight school districts will receive custom winter coats helping remove barriers to success while reinforcing a shared sense of pride and belonging. These distributions reflect the credit union's mission of strengthening communities by supporting students and families. Partners like SFCU go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of students. A huge thank you to SFCU for investing in our students.

Special shoutout to the men who came out on a breezy but pleasant Tuesday morning to remove the veteran's flags in preparation for the holiday lights to come. I'm sure they appreciated the sunshine rather than the more seasonal snow flurries or rain showers. We have been lucky with the mild temperatures keeping our fuel costs as low as possible for as long as possible this year. Definitely a reason for gratitude.

With Thanksgiving behind us that can only mean one thing for folks in Colchester and beyond: hunting season is in full swing. Here are some important deer facts: Did you know deer have summer and winter coats? In summertime they are a brighter shade of brown and in the winter, they turn to mottled shades of brown and black to camouflage themselves in the woods. Their white tails are a warning sign. They can run up to 30mph and are most active around dusk. Each ear can move on its own. Antlers are the fastest growing tissues in mammals. November is the peak season for deer on the roads. And usually if they are in the road, standing still and looking at you coming straight for them, most often they will turn tail and go back into the woods from which they came. If they are on the run, stop and let them cross, they will not stop. I speak from a few experiences, some not too pleasant.

Another friend has passed. Bob Cronk, another of our veterans, died some months ago. Sincere condolences to his family and friends. He was a quiet man who has joined his lovely wife Betty on the other side. Rest in peace, old friend.

A reminder that there is a four-week Advent study offered at the Colchester Community United Methodist Church (CCUMC) Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to noon. It begins Monday, Nov. 30. If you are interested call 607-363-7363 to reserve your spot or just stop in Monday. Books will be provided.

With December right around the corner, we remind you of the Parade of Lights and a visit with Santa on Dec. 12.

On Dec. 22, CCUMC will offer a Blue Christmas Service at 6 p.m. for those who may not be so jolly at this time of year. It's a quiet time of reflection offering some peace and comfort during difficult times.

The Colchester Community Food Pantry will be open Dec. 2, 9 and 16 for anyone who may have a food emergency. The pantry will be closed on Dec. 23 and 30. If you have a food emergency and can't attend during regular hours call 607-363-7363 for a more convenient time for you. Share this information with friends and family who may have a need. Anyone can come to the food pantry. No one is turned away.

James S. Moore Unit 167 of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President Judy Mills suggests that as you are sending your Christmas cards this year you may want to send one to the following address: A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Medical Center, Army Medical Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20307-5001.

Christmas Eve services for the Western Catskills Charge are as follows: East Branch/Harvard United Methodist Church at 3 p.m., United Church of Roscoe at 5 p.m., CCUMC in Downsville at 7 p.m. and First United Methodist Church of Walton at 9 p.m. Doors at all of these churches will be open to anyone seeking to celebrate this most wonderful time of the year. All are welcome.

Last important piece of gratitude is for you, my friends, who read this column, pass along your comments and supply information to be shared. I'm truly grateful for this opportunity to serve as a representative of the town of Colchester in *The Reporter*. Till next time, Peace~

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IT'S Academic

Margaretville CS: Electric Bus Stalls Again, Solar Panel Technology Now Works

By J. Lawrence-Bauer

MARGARETVILLE - Another round of mechanical hurdles and parts delays has sidelined Margaretville Central School's (MCS) electric bus yet again, even as the district celebrates finally getting a real-time view of its rooftop solar power.

Addressing the school's board of education Wednesday, Nov. 18, Facilities Administrator Jeremey Marks delivered a candid update on the electric bus, which has been a recurring topic of conversations in the school and its community. While the district's solar array is now visibly tracking its output for the school community, the electric bus remains stuck in a repair queue.

Marks told board members that after the district addressed earlier charger troubles by replacing the charger a new problem surfaced involving a "turtle" and "BC Visu" warning light that prevented the bus from starting. The bus had already been scheduled to go in to the shop in late October for a rear-heat retrofit, so technicians from Leonard Bus Sales picked it up, only for additional EV-specific parts to hold up the work.

Compounding the parts wait is a tight pool of specialized labor. Marks noted there are not dozens of EV-certified technicians available, leaving service crews stretched thin as the district waits in line. According to a Leonard staffer whom Marks spoke with just before the meeting, two remaining parts are needed before the bus moves to the front of the line. Asked to pin down a return date, Marks characterized the company as "hopeful for two weeks," though Marks left room for it stretching to four depending on parts delivery, prompting boardroom relief that the district had not rushed to buy five more electric buses.

In the meantime, transportation staff have leaned on outside help to cover routes and trips, including a loaner bus from Leonard to handle runs the electric bus was slated to cover.

Margaretville's experience reflects broader statewide growing pains under New York's zero-emission school bus mandate. Enacted under Education Law § 3638 in 2022, the law originally required all newly purchased buses to be zero-emission by 2027 and full fleets converted by 2035.

State officials faced intense pushback from rural districts in mountainous regions like the Catskills and Adirondacks where long routes, steep grades, freezing winters, limited utility capacity, and high upfront costs complicate electrification. In budget bill action earlier this year, lawmakers pushed both deadlines back by five years, to 2032 for new purchases and 2040 for full fleet conversion.



J. Lawrence-Bauer/*The Reporter*

Jeremey Marks, Margaretville Central School facilities administrator, shared details in the district's ongoing electric bus saga at a board of education meeting Wednesday, Nov. 18. The bus is awaiting another set of retrofits and repairs in a series of problems that have plagued its operation since arriving in the district. The work is covered by warranties and the district has been given a loaner bus as the repair chain continues to drag on.

Under the state's procurement system, districts buy electric buses through Office of General Services contracts or competitive bids via a handful of regional dealers such as Leonard Bus Sales that also handle state NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) voucher paperwork. Once delivered, which can still take nine to 18 months for custom builds, maintenance remains tightly bottlenecked.



image courtesy of Margaretville Central School

Margaretville Central School's electric bus was delivered in May.

Because electric buses operate on 400- to 800-volt systems, local district mechanics are limited to basic upkeep like tires and brakes with any high-voltage battery, heater, sensor, or software issue requires shipping the bus to a regional dealer hub or waiting for a traveling EV-certified technician. With private trucking and utility firms competing for high-voltage mechanics and proprietary parts rarely stocked locally, a single missing component can sideline a bus for weeks, on top of multi-month waits for utility transformers and depot charging upgrades.

In the short term, Margaretville is not counting on an electric fleet in the near future and is not investing heavily in the technology. The bus was purchased with a grant from the state and all of the downtime and repairs are covered by warranties. With a loaner bus from Leonard to cover the routes, MCS also hedged its bets going forward and got authorization from voters to purchase two new diesel buses before a closing window made that action impossible.

If the EV bus update tested patience, Marks followed with a brighter note on clean energy at the school. As part of capital project work that previously involved removing and reinstalling rooftop solar panels and sorting out monitoring gear, a new live display board has gone active in the hallway, right near where an old pay phone used to hang.

Marks pointed out that past solar presentations often relied on technical jargon that viewers guessing what the panels were actually doing. Now, students, staff, and visitors passing the display can see real-time performance directly on the monitor, turning years of technical talk and capital-project work into something immediately readable on the school wall.

For Margaretville Central School, the contrast captured the broader reality of rural green-tech transitions. While the rooftop solar monitoring system is finally up and running in plain sight, keeping an electric bus on Catskill roads still depends on supply chains, specialized technicians, and backup wheels.

Three people to run to fill vacant Rockland BOE seat

Three residents have returned petitions to run to fill the Rockland Central School Board of Education vacancy caused by the resignation of Edward Gorr for the remainder of the three-year term expiring June 30, 2028.

On the ballot will be:

- Ed Park
- Tom Ward
- Kim Sheldon

The election will take place between noon and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026, with polling locations at the Rockland Middle/High School Gymnasium at 19 School Street in Livingston Manor and Rockland Elementary Gymnasium, 6 Academy Street in Roscoe.

The Rockland Teachers' Association will host "Coffee, Cookies and Conversation," at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in the Rockland Elementary School Auditorium at 6 Academy Street in Roscoe. The event will be an opportunity for the public to meet and ask questions of the candidates running in the special election, The public is encouraged to attend.

For more details on voting in the election, visit our Board of Education Special Election https://www.rcsd.us/special-election

Students Receive Richard Siegfried Student Award for Excellent GPA

Eighty-six SUNY Oneonta students received the Richard Siegfried Student Award in the fall 2026 semester for earning a total GPA of 3.9 or higher. To be eligible for the award, a student who meets the GPA requirement must either be a full-time first-year or transfer student.

Students received the award on Nov. 17 following the annual Richard Siegfried Junior Faculty Prize for Academic Excellence Lecture, titled "Who Owns Knowledge? Science as Collaboration, Not Authority," at the Morris Conference Center on campus. Dr. Bryan Collins, assistant professor of geography and environmental sustainability, delivered the lecture.

The prize is named in memory of Richard K. Siegfried, SUNY Oneonta Professor of Theatre (1958-1995). Professor Siegfried (or Sieg, as generations of students fondly called him) epitomized excellence in his academic life, through imagination, meticulous scholarship and discipline, and through his expectation of the same pursuit of excellence in his students and colleagues. His dedication brought excellence to his work in such historical theater worlds as Aristophanes, Moliere, Ibsen, or Chekhov, to his rigorous study of the skills of voice and movement, and to his leadership in the imaginative creativity of improvisation.

In the latter half of his professional career, Sieg embarked in a new direction, devoting his research to working directly with theater artists who were testing the limits of theatrical creativity, so that he might enrich his work with his own students. This new study led to special enthusiasm for artists whose work merged theater goals with humanitarian goals. Soon, more and more of his own productions, whether of the classics or the avant garde, came to embody his commitment to humanitarian causes.

Sieg, with his wife Alice, began to apply theatrical skills, both traditional ones and those newly acquired, to the area of social change. Students and community members alike soon joined him in bringing this new theater to the streets to raise public awareness, most memorable in the huge puppets he designed to dominate Oneonta's landscape in peace rallies or on Hiroshima Day. Sieg was himself instrumental in establishing a sister city relationship between Oneonta and Dipilto, Nicaragua, encouraging community members to join him in helping rebuild that city. Indeed, Richard Siegfried's devotion to academic excellence and to humanitarian integrity merged in him, until he became a conscience for our community, a voice backed by action, moving against injustice and violations of human dignity at home and abroad.

From Delaware County recipients include **Addy Eckert** of Bloomville, **Olivia Hulse** of Trout Creek, and **Chance Molina** of Margaretville.

Sidney's Makayla Bales Earns Empire 8 Torchbearer Award With 3.97 GPA

ONEONTA — Hartwick College field hockey player Makayla Bales of Sidney has earned an Empire 8 Torchbearer Award, recognizing her academic achievement among student-athletes competing in the conference's fall championship competitions.

Bales, a junior majoring in inclusive elementary education, holds a 3.97 cumulative grade-point average. She was one of four Hartwick student-athletes recognized for having the highest GPA among eligible competitors in their respective Empire 8 championship finals.

The other recipients were men's soccer junior Jon Smith, who has a 3.98 GPA; women's volleyball senior Malia Dake, with a 4.00 GPA; and junior Lucille Walker, who also has a 4.00 GPA.

The Empire 8 Torchbearer Award is presented to the eligible student-athlete or student-athletes with the highest cumulative GPA participating in each sport's championship contest. Recipients must be juniors or seniors and have competed in at least their second season with their current team. Graduate students are not eligible.

For sports with a conference tournament, the award goes to the eligible student-athlete with the highest GPA competing in the championship final.

The Torchbearer has been the Empire 8's primary symbol since the conference began in 1999. The award reflects the league's mission, "Tomorrow's Leaders Compete Here Today," and recognizes student-athletes who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and commitment to their education while competing in college athletics.

Stamford Central School Elementary Honor Roll

STAMFORD — Stamford Central School has announced its first marking period principal's list and honor roll students in grades three through six for the 2026-27 school year.

Students earning a rounded honor average of 90 or higher qualified for the principal's list.

Third grade students named to the principal's list are Charles "Cash" Buck, Otto Connelly, Garrett Kosier, Benjamin Mowers, Conrad Reyes, Adalee Sparkes, Isa Talukder and Lily Weishar.

Fourth grade honorees are Nolan Albanese, Lenox Albano, Madelynn Brooks, Meadow Finn, Adella Gaida, Alayna Hatch, Nicole Henne, Enrique Martinez and Yousef Yousef.

Fifth grade students are Alexandra Higgins, Jack Kendall, Hennessey Mark, Jayanna Nembhard, Arthur Pindar, Raelynn VanBuren and McKinley Wayman.

Sixth-grade students are Matteo Abbatine, Wyatt Flachs, Vivian Kosier, Roman Mark, Kylie Mrozik, Ethan Rinehart, Hayden Shue, Paisley Sparkes and Hailey Stoutenburg.

Students with rounded honor averages between 85 and 89 qualified for the honor roll.

Third grade honor roll students are Rosemary Basile, Michael Lopez, Loa Rayner and Brody Reed.

Fourth grade students are Gemma Benedetto, Anastasia Rimbu and Trevor Wyble.

Fifth grade students are Kaylee Brockway, Kacie Cassese, Denise Colon, Carolina Giambastiani, Jace Mattice and Nickolas McLoughlin.

Sixth grade students are Jonathan Colon and Randall Grosjean.

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GENERAL

ALL THEY WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...

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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

Gift Shoppe: Maple syrup, Cream, Maple candy boxes, also maple cream-filled chocolate truffles, Rum Cashews, Christmas Soaps, Lotions, Boxed homemade cookies and many other great gifts for your giving needs. Look for red signs!Maplewood Farm & Orchard, 74 Meredith St., Delhi Village (Rt. 28). Black Friday Nov. 27, 28, 29; Saturdays - December 5, 12, 19, 23, & 24th 10 am to 3 pm or by appointment. 607-746-6339; 607-287-8682; Karen & Duane LaFever, Maple Producers. 51G

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Public Notices

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DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Atelier Ballard LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/07/2026. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Atelier Ballard LLC: 739 Dancing Street, Bloomville, NY 13739. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of 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 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

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

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

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 LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees scheduled for December 14, 2026, has been rescheduled to December 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 43 Pearl Street West, Sidney, NY.
By Order of the Village Board
Village of Sidney

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

MEADOWS EDGE APPRAISALS, LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/14/2026. Office: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 2925 COUNTY HWY 18, DELHI, NY 13753. Purpose: Any Lawful

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

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.

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Public Notices

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VILLAGE OF STAMFORD FORECLOSURE NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY COURT, DELAWARE COUNTY

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Proceeding In Rem Pursuant to Article 11 of the Real Property Tax Law by the Village of Stamford

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
Index No.: 2026-946

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 9th day of November, 2026, the Clerk and Enforcing Officer of the Village of Stamford, hereinafter the "Enforcing Officer," of the Village of Stamford, hereinafter the "Tax District," pursuant to law filed with the Clerk of Delaware County a petition of foreclosure against various parcels of real property for unpaid taxes.
Such petition pertains to the parcels described in Schedule A annexed hereto and made a part hereof, which identifies the parcels and the owners of record as of the date of filing of the List of Delinquent Taxes.
Effect of filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such petition are hereby notified that the filing of such petition constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the court specified in the caption above to foreclose each of the tax liens therein described by a foreclosure proceeding in rem.
Nature of proceeding: Such proceeding is brought against the real property only and is to foreclose the tax liens described in such petition. No personal judgment will be entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.
Persons affected: This notice is directed to all persons owning or having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such petition. Such persons are hereby notified further that a duplicate of such petition has been filed in the office of the Enforcing Officer of the Tax District and will remain open for public inspection up to and including the date specified below as the last day of redemption.
Right of redemption: Any person having or claiming to have an interest in any such real property and the legal right thereto may on or before said date redeem the same by paying the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereon, including all interest and penalties and other legal charges which are included in the lien against such real property, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be made to Jamison Hanway, Village Clerk and Enforcing Officer, Village of Stamford, at 84 Main Street, Stamford, NY 12167. In the event that such taxes are paid by a person other than the record owner of such real property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record.
Last day for redemption: The last day for redemption is hereby fixed as the _ 1st _ day of _ July ___, 2027.
Service of answer: Every person having any right, title or interest in or lien upon any parcel of real property described in such petition may serve a duly verified answer upon the attorney for the Tax District setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be filed in the office of the Delaware County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District, David S. Merzig, Esq., at the address set forth below, on or before the date above mentioned as the last day for redemption.
Failure to redeem or answer: In the event of failure to redeem or answer by any person having the right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all his or her right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described in such petition and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken by default.

Dated: __ November 9 ___, 2026

Sandra Collins
Treasurer and Enforcing Officer
Village of Stamford
84 Main Street
Stamford, NY 12167

David S. Merzig, Esq.
Attorney for the Village of Stamford
8-12 Dietz Street Suite 202
Oneonta, NY 13820

SCHEDULE A
Village of Stamford Tax Foreclosure Parcels
All parcels are situated in the Village of Stamford, Delaware County, New York.

Tax Map Number	Property Address	Owner of Record
54.10-8-25.2	8 South Delaware	Stephen Murtha
54.5-5-15.11	30 River Street	30 Street of NY LLC
54.5-4-20.1	136 West Main St	Greenport Consulting
54.5-2-2	157 West Main St (land)	Flerida Santana
54.5-2-3	157 West Main St	Flerida Santana
54.5-5-16.2	42 River St (land)	Delores Sneed
41.18-3-6	42 River St	Delores Sneed
54.9-3-3	27 West End Ave	Efstathios Vasilikos
54.6-1-19.2	110 Main Street	Melanie DelVecchio

TOWN OF SIDNEY LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following roads in the Town of Sidney have been designated and posted as "seasonal" and are not maintained from November 15 th to April 15 th. Roads included: Back side of Lawton Hill Road, which will be blocked off to the Franklin town line. Dumond Road, Arabian Way, as well as a section of Gallop Hill Road to the Masonville Town line.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE: If any personal property obstructing the plowing of any town road is not voluntarily removed by the owner, it may then be removed by the town at the owner's expense. Any damage to mailboxes and fences while the Highway Department is maintaining the roads during the winter months will not be replaced or repaired by the Town of Sidney Highway Department.

Codey Lambrecht
Town of Sidney Superintendent of Highways

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 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.

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.

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 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.

TOWN OF BOVINA LEGAL NOTICE

Bovina Center Fire District Notice of Annual Election to elect one Fire District Commissioner for a five (5) year term commencing 01/01/2027 and ending 12/31/2031 and one Fire District Commissioner for a two (2) year term commencing 01/91/2027 and ending 12/31/2028. The election will take place at the Bovina Center Fire Station from 6 to 9 pm on 12/08/2026. Anyone wishing to run for commissioner must submit their name and appropriate paperwork 10 days prior to the election. Paperwork should be submitted to Dana Sluiter at bovinafiredistrict@yahoo.com.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF DELAWARE
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST
Plaintiff,
Against
MARTIN HART A/K/A MARTIN J. HART; et al
Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered 08/06/2025, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, at the Delaware County Courthouse, 3 Court St., Delhi, NY 13753, on 12/8/2026 at 9:30AM, premises known as 2971 State Highway 28 S., Oneonta, NY 13820, and State Highway 28 S, Oneonta, NY 13820, and described as follows:

ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate in the Town of Franklin, County of Delaware and State of New York.

Section 59. Block 1 Lot 24 and Section 44. Block 1. Lot 36.2.

The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $135,478.73 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # EF2023-768

Michael J. Shultes, Esq., Referee.

MCCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, LLC, 10 Midland Avenue, Suite 205, Port Chester, NY 10573

Dated: 10/14/2026 File Number: 23-300726 CA

TOWN OF HAMDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF HAMDEN PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Hamden Planning Board will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at **7:30 p.m.**, at the Hamden Town Hall, 20 Covert Hollow Road, Hamden, New York 13782.
The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Planning Board business, including review and discussion of matters pertaining to the proposed Fraser Energy Storage Project and its associated environmental review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).
The meeting is open to the public.
Dated: November 22, 2026
By Order of the Town of Hamden Planning Board

Ben VanDusen
Chairman, Town of Hamden Planning Board

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

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Colchester (An Equal Opportunity Employer) is in search of Applications for Full-time Immediate Employment for an HEO-1. Requirements are a valid NYS CDL-B, CDL-A will give you a preference. Applicant should have familiarization of operation of heavy equipment and some basic mechanical knowledge such as oil changes, greasing, and small engine repairs. Individuals applying should be self-motivated to do labor intensive work as needed. Applications are available on line on the website at www.colchesterny.gov or at the Town of Colchester Town Clerk's Office, 72 Tannery Road, Downsville, NY 13755. All applications should be submitted ASAP. Interviews will take place on December 15, 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.

DELAWARE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LA CEIBA ARTS CENTER LLC

Articles of Organization of La Ceiba Arts Center LLC were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on July 29, 2026. Office location: Delaware County, New York. Principal business location: 302 Engel Road, Andes, NY 13731-2059. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served upon the LLC to: 273 East 7th Street, Apt. 1B, New York, NY 10009. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SIDNEY CENTER LEGAL NOTICE

Sidney Center Fire District Election
Notice is hereby given that the District will be holding an election for one position of commissioner for a term of five years and one position of treasurer for a term of three years, commencing on January 1, 2027.
The election will take place on Tuesday, December 9, 2026 at the Sidney Center Fire Station, 6762 County Hwy. 35, Sidney Center, NY - between the hours of 6 and 9 PM.

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 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.

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 NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Name: STAYWITHBONGO ENTERPRISE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/08/2024. Office location: Delaware County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: James and Ann Bonner, 1025 Taylor Rd, East Meredith, NY 13757. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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 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.

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.

TOWN OF KORTRIGHT NOTICE OF MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Kortright Planning Board will reschedule the November 25, 2026 meeting for December 02, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall, 51702 State Highway 10, Bloomville, NY.
Kristin A. Craft
Planning Board Secretary

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 Years Ago,
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1926

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

Harry Pettis cut the ends of three fingers painfully while harvesting cabbages one day this week. Dr. J.A. Holley dressed the injury.

Henry Wilson will open his amusement hall in the former Munn building on Thursday, Dec. 2. Mr. Wilson has installed five pool tables and a billiard table in the front part of the building and immediately in the rear, but separated by a partition, four bowling alleys.

The annual New Year's ball of Company F will be held this year on Tuesday evening, Dec. 28, with music by the Kings of Melody of Binghamton. Company F and the other units of the Tenth Infantry will take part in the inauguration of Governor Smith in Albany on Saturday, January 1st.

The sum of $2,500 each from the estate of the late Newell Cable has been paid by the executor, John G. More, to the six churches remembered in Mr. Cable's will. The churches are the Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, United Presbyterian, Reformed Presbyterian and Free Methodist. A further distribution will be made later as the settlement of the estate proceeds.

Holliday Babcock, steam shovel operator on the town highways, has been keeping in the town sheds at West End the Ford runabout in which he goes to and from work. On Wednesday night of last week some one stole every tire off the car. Mr. Babcock says that if the thief comes to him he will make him a present of the machine to go with the tires.

Postmaster General New has issued an order directing that at least one complete delivery by city and village carriers be made in the forenoon on Christmas day. Though last Christmas all postal employees were given a holiday, it was pointed out that suspension of work on Sunday, the day following Christmas, necessitates some of the holiday congestion being cleared away Christmas morning.

The fall clean up this week, Tuesday and Wednesday, proved very successful. Between forty and fifty loads of rubbish were carried by trucks to the dumping grounds on George Pierce's flats and householders were relieved of a large accumulation of tin cans and other rubbish which in former years they had to keep until spring. President Courtney states that the fall clean up has proven itself so popular that it will become an annual affair.

The Standard Engineering & Construction company of Toledo, Ohio, which took apart the old bridge a few weeks ago, are expected to arrive this week to move the parts to the new site and erect the bridge immediately. The concrete piers have been standing for several weeks. The farmers and those interested joined forces in drawing stone for filling in the Walton side Wednesday. Ambrose Jaycox has taken the job of building the road to the bridge on the Tompkins side and has been working at it for some time. -Rock Rift correspondent.

A new set of safe deposit boxes has been installed in the vault of the First National bank for the accommodation of patrons who wish protection for their securities and valuable papers. The Walton bank will pay out about $37,000 on December 10th to members of its 1926 Christmas club, numbering between seven and eight hundred. The Christmas club is becoming more popular each year, providing as it does a systematic week by week form of saving with the total amount paid in during the year turned over to members of the club in time for the Christmas shopping season.

Attorney A.G. Patterson was struck by a taxi in Albany Tuesday evening of last week and suffered a fracture of the right arm and other injuries which have confined him to his home most of the time since his return last Friday night. Mr. Patterson went to Albany on Monday of last week to argue the case of Quinn vs. Flynn, which came up for hearing Tuesday before the appellate division of the supreme court. He left the court house on Lodge street about five o'clock Tuesday evening in company with a number of other persons. He was crossing State street to go to the Wellington hotel when a yellow taxicab coming northward along Lodge street turned from that street into State street and ran down Mr. Patterson and another man. The Walton attorney was struck on the left chest by the taxi but managed to hold onto the hood of the machine until the driver brought the car to a stop. His injuries were treated at the City hospital, where it was found that his right arm was broken at the wrist, a bad gash cut in the fleshy part of his right hand, at least one rib on his left side was fractured and one knee injured. The taxi ran over both legs of the other man who was struck but this person suffered no broken bones. Mr. Patterson was well over to the south side of the street, which is a wide boulevard, and the taxi driver was on the wrong side of the avenue.

HEAR CASES ON APPEAL

Delaware County Matters Before Appellate Division

PEPACTON FARM TITLE

Fishs Eddy Sand Bank Case and Crawford Insurance Matter Argued

Appeals in three Delaware county cases were argued before the appellate division of the supreme court in Albany during the past week.

One matter was the action brought by the heirs of Margaret Quinn against John W. Flynn, late of Pepacton. Margaret Quinn before her marriage was the daughter of Thomas Flynn, a brother of John W. Flynn. The plaintiffs in this action seek to set aside a conveyance made pursuant to a decree of Isaac H. Maynard while surrogate of Delaware county in 1881. Under the will of Thomas Flynn, father of John W. Flynn, who died in 1876, John W. Flynn, was given the life use of one-half of the testator's farm at Pepacton and upon his death the property was to go to the children of Margaret Quinn. In 1877 John W. Flynn started a proceeding against his father's estate to collect a debt of upwards of $1,400, which he claimed owing him, and the property of which he had life use was sold to him at public auction by the administrator of his father's estate to satisfy this debt, in accordance with a decree of Judge Maynard. John W. Flynn continued to live on the farm until his death in 1924. Soon thereafter the heirs of Margaret Flynn, who had never heard of the sale of the property, came on and claimed title and then for the first time learned of the deed given to their uncle, John W. Flynn, and the fact that he by his will had given it to his widow and sons. The Quinn heirs then brought action to set aside the deed of 1881 on the ground that the sale of the real estate was irregular. Justice Rhodes, who heard the case, decided that the procedure before Judge Maynard was regular as the law provided at the time. An appeal to the appellate division was taken and the matter was argued last week, as stated. A.G. Patterson presented the arguments for the plaintiffs and Judge McNaught of Stamford appeared for the defendants, the Flynns. E.E. Conlon of Downsville is attorney of record for the defendants.

Another Delaware county case was that of Lucy Travis and Jay Davis against George H. Johnson, Harvey Johnson, Thomas Johnston and Amos Bojo, an action involving title to a valuable sand bank at Tyler's Switch, near Fishs Eddy. This case was tried before Justice Kellogg, who in January last rendered a decision in favor of the defendants. The appellate division heard arguments on the appeal Friday, A.D. Peake appearing for the plaintiffs-appellants and S.H. Fancher and A.G. Patterson of Walton for the defendants-respondents.

On Monday the appellate court heard arguments in the action brought by four mutual fire insurance companies against Mr. and Mrs. John W. Crawford of Trout Creek and the Federal Land bank of Springfield, Mass. The barn on the Crawford farm burned in 1922 and insurance of $2,540 was paid to the land bank which held a mortgage on the place. The insurance companies later brought action asking that the policies be held null and void. The real reason back of the action is the claim that the fire was of incendiary origin but the case hinges on technical points in the issuance of the policies, notice of loss, etc.

Justice Kellogg, who heard the case rendered a decision in favor of the defendants, the Crawfords and the land bank. The appeal was argued by S.H. Fancher for the Crawfords and by William Roney of Ballston for the insurance companies.

WRECK CAR AND TREE BUT PEOPLE ESCAPE

To Avoid Collision Driver Leaves Road and Machine Runs Wild Across Lawn

(From Roscoe correspondent)

A serious accident in automobile movement happened at Roscoe last Sunday evening at about six o'clock. A Buick roadster came at what is reported a "terrific speed" tearing down Main street in the direction of Livingston Manor. As it passed pedestrians they stopped and turned to watch what might happen.

The occupants of the car were reported as "Peck" Swartz, driving, and Thomas Sheridan, of Livingston Manor, together with two young ladies, Miss Thelma Davenport of Roscoe and Miss Evelyn Knise of Rockland. And something happened. As they neared Broad street another car, occupied by Mrs. Joseph Taylor and her daughter, Miss Green, of Rockland, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Albee, was turning into Main.

At this critical moment, at the rapid speed at which the Buick was going, to avoid a collision the driver turned out toward a telephone pole, and to avoid that he ran the car over the sidewalk and over the lawn of the residence of Sidney Porter, dashing the machine to ruin against a maple tree. The marvel is that no one was seriously injured-only the car was a wreck and the tree will probably die.

This is only one of many instances in which the speed law is disregarded in passing through Roscoe. It would seem that an officer is sorely needed to enforce the speed law for the protection of life and property in this village.

$30,883 LIABILITIES LISTED BY PAPPAS

Walton Candy Merchant Files Bankruptcy Petition With Many Local Creditors

Liabilities of $30,883 are listed by Peter Pappas, proprietor of the Walton candy kitchen, in a petition in bankruptcy filed in federal court in Utica the latter part of the week. Assets are given as $20,056.

The Walton candy store has been closed for two weeks or more and about that time the Pappas family moved to Herkimer, where it is stated he has employment. The assets listed include real estate, $15,000; fixtures, $1,500; personal property, $2,300; stock, $750. Henry W. Retz of Walton holds a mortgage and chattel mortgage on the building and fixtures to secure $13,700. The DuBois jewelry store is located in the same building as the candy store and upstairs there are living rooms and offices. Cetta Brothers, shoe merchants, have purchased the equity of Mr. Retz in the building and if satisfactory arrangements can be made will doubtless assume the Pappas mortgage and move their store from 160 Delaware street to that location.

Altogether there are eighty creditors, including the following: Ernest Loudres and Elys Loudres, $300 each; S.H. Pond, $378; James Peake, $1,230; H.S. Ogden, $460; E.R. Howland, $157; Joseph Solo, $255; First National Bank, amount unknown to petitioner; O.J. Hoos, $100; Delaware Valley Agricultural Society, $100; Henderson Bros., $147; S.H. Osterhout, $485; J.E. Wood & Sons, $122; Smith Electric Shop, $90; Vannakin Lumber Co., $334; Harry Thomas, $95; St. John Bros., $130; and George Berris, $108, of Walton.

Other creditors include W.H. Dunne Co. of Norwich, amount unknown; George Pappas of Greene, $250; Tom Theodeon, $350; Boston Kandy Kitchen, $425; John Metside, $500 of Deposit; Brooks Candy Co. of Binghamton, $177; Frank Lamonica, $110; C.R. B. Co., $87; Oneonta Dairy, $25 of Oneonta; George Pantalocos, $600; Pagonnes Bros., $156, of Delhi; and Theodore Anogoust of Sidney, $840.

Mr. Pappas has conducted the Walton candy kitchen the past few years, having purchased the business from Berris Brothers. He did a wholesale candy business as well as retail. For some time it has been known that he was hard up financially.

BOY SWALLOWS A NAIL

Unadilla Lad Operated Upon for Its Removal

(From Unadilla correspondent)

Joseph, the eleven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ireland, who reside across the river from Unadilla, in Delaware county, was taken to an Oneonta hospital and operated upon for the removal of an eight-penny nail the boy had swallowed.

The lad was operated on Wednesday forenoon and the nail was found lodged in the intestines, having passed through the stomach. The position of the nail was located by an x-ray. The unwelcome lodger was successfully removed and no further trouble is expected.

LAST OF THE RAFTSMEN

Arad Lakin Can Still Remember the River's Course

The Wayne, Pa., Independent in mourning the passing of the old Delaware river raftsmen, mentions Arad W. Lakin of Hancock as one of the few remaining steersmen who traveled the river in the days before automobiles and railroads made rafting an unprofitable business.

Lakin is 88 years old, but is said to be in perfect possession of his faculties and told newspapermen recently that he remembers every rock and curve in the river now, between Stroudsburg and Easton, just as clearly as in the days when he was at the steering sweeps of the lumbering river rafts.

DELAWARE PROJECT AGAIN CONSIDERED

Representatives From Three States Seek Execution of Another Water Treaty

The project of some day damming up the Delaware river as a source of water supply for New York city is not dead. It has been announced that the city will seek its next source of additional water supply in the watersheds between the Hudson river and the Connecticut and Massachusetts state lines, but the growth of the metropolis requires long looking ahead.

The Delaware river project fell through owing to the failure of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to ratify a treaty made in 1925 between these states and New York regulating the division of the waters of the Delaware.

A press dispatch published Tuesday says:

"After a year's inactivity, members of the Tri-state water commission have renewed efforts to draft a treaty under which the waters of the upper Delaware river will be allocated to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"The plan on which the representatives of the three states are working is designed to be a compromise of the original treaty framed by the commission in 1925. This treaty was ratified by the legislature of New York, but rejected by New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"The Pennsylvania criticism of the rejected treaty was that New York benefited most through it.

"Governor Pinchot, making a last effort to have a treaty drawn that would meet approval in each state before he retires from office, suggested that the conferees meet again. A call for a conference was issued last week by Dr. Charles H. Miner, secretary of the department of health and a member of the Pennsylvania group on the tri-state commission. Both New York and New Jersey responded favorably.

The conferees agreed that they would submit compromise demands for water from the river and these are to be made early next month. A meeting, scheduled for Monday in Philadelphia, was postponed in order to permit representatives of one of the states to receive engineering advice.

CAN CONFISCATE AUTOS

Bootleg Cars Bought on Installment Plan Are Not Immune

Automobiles being purchased on the installment plan, with title remaining in the motor company, were held by the supreme court of the United States on Monday to be subject to forfeiture by the government when used in the illegal transportation of intoxicating liquor.

The decision was in a case from Alabama. A somewhat similar proceeding has come up from Washington state.

The court divided widely. The cardinal question involved was whether the prohibition amendment and laws had repealed the old internal revenue laws relating to liquor. The majority answered this question in the negative, but Justices McReynolds, Sutherland and Butler strongly dissented, holding that there is now no tax on the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes, and that seizure of automobiles under the taxing laws of the revised statutes is invalid.

Justice Stone announced that he concurred in the general decision of the majority but could not accept the grounds on which the majority reached that decision.

IT WAS A REAL SMASH

Three Cars in Mix-up in Downsville Sunday Night

(From Downsville correspondent)

Three motor vehicles figured in a serious accident on Main street in Downsville Saturday night about nine o'clock. The Ford coupe driven by Mr. Stone of Delhi collided with the coupe driven by Robert Hoy of Corbett. The impact was so heavy that the cars jammed into a Ford truck owned by Elmer Akins of Downsville which was parked in front of George Paternoster's, demolishing one wheel, mudguard and otherwise damaging it.

The other two cars were almost completely wrecked. Robert Hoy and O. Beadle who was with him received numerous bruises and Hoy is thought to have several ribs broken. Mr. Stone received several cuts on the face and was badly shaken up, but none were seriously injured.

MASONVILLE

By Anne Scott
ahscotts1@gmail.com
607-265-3368

Director of the documentary Case for Kindness Steven Sawalich: "I've traveled to 126 different countries without knowing a lot of the culture and people and language in many, and the thing that bound us together was kindness." A little kindness goes a long way, let's try it.

The week of Sunday, Nov. 22 through the Thanksgiving holiday is National Family Week, just in time for families to get together with friends and family giving thanks for all they have throughout the years.

School will be in recess for Wednesday, Nov. 25 through Friday, Nov. 27. District offices will be closed. Have a great Thanksgiving, everyone. Classes will resume Monday, Nov. 30.

Here on the Farm the fellas sent samples for the cow testing that was done last week to Dairy One with the representative. The results received later will help keep track of the cows: when they are to be bred again, when calves will be born in that month, and cows that need to be vet checked when she comes later in the week. The fellas have been taking care of the cows and getting the chores done and sighting their guns in for deer hunting season which began Saturday, Nov. 21. Good luck to hunters for a safe hunting season with a reminder for safe gun handling when crossing fences, set your guns down and cross the fence then get the gun and return to hunting safely.

Reading about invasive hitchhikers brought back memories of walking along the fields while checking on the cows and fences and getting what our kids called the sticky little things that would cling to their clothes and wouldn't come off only one at a time with lots of pulling - it was like something pricking their legs when clinging to their pants. The cats and dogs found some while outside, too, and catching them to remove the thistles and sticky prickly seeds was quite a chore. Much help was needed to keep them down to remove them from the hair.

The price of milk has been a challenge for farmers this year with the costs of everything going up, so keep on purchasing all the dairy products you may need for use and enjoyment to help our farmers keep in business, for farmers feed the world.

Birthday greetings this week Brian Curtis and Ian Ostrander on Nov. 23, Dale Anderson, Cliff Scott, Joy Warner, Jeremy Green and Charlie Wright Nov. 25. Happy anniversary to Keith and Colleen Scott on Nov. 26 and Reed Scott and Shelby Barse on Nov. 28. Have a great day, everyone.

Masonville Federated Church Sunday services are at 11 a.m. with Rev. Dr. John Helgeson pastor. Bible study is Tuesdays at 3:15 in the church dining hall.

The Food Bank is open the third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. A light lunch will be available until 12:30 p.m.

The last Thursday of the month the Share the Bounty meal at the Sacred Heart Church in Sidney will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Christmas boxes are on display waiting to be sent out. Thank you to all the helpers and people that attended the hunter's ham supper Saturday, Nov. 21 - all is appreciated.

The Christmas season is approaching and there will be some activities and services that I will post when it comes nearer. Have a great week, everyone.

The Pastor's Pen

Thanksgiving Blessing

By Paul Huh

As we enter this season of gratitude, I'm reminded of the psalmist's words: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 118:1) Thanksgiving invites us to pause, breathe, and remember God's faithfulness in every season. As you gather around your tables this Thanksgiving, may God's peace surround you, may gratitude renew your spirit, and may hope rise gently within you.

With thanksgiving for each of you,

Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

Holy and gracious God,

On this Thanksgiving Day, we pause to remember that every good and perfect gift comes from You. You are the One who formed the Earth, who breathes life into us, and who surrounds us with mercies that are new every morning and faithfulness that endures from generation to generation.

We thank You for the blessings woven into our daily lives: for family and friends, for neighbors and community, for our shared life in the village and town of Walton, for the beauty of these hills and valleys, for work that gives purpose, and for rest that restores our souls.

We thank You for home, and especially for our spiritual home: for the faith that sustains us, the generosity that strengthens us, the laughter that lifts us, and the compassion that binds us together in Your love.

As we gather at our tables, open our hearts to the abundance of Your grace. Where there has been hardship, bring healing. Where there has been worry, bring peace. Where there has been loneliness, bring companionship. Where there has been division, sow Your reconciling love.

Bless the people of the village and town of Walton, our schools, businesses, farms, community organizations, first responders, and all who work each day for the wellbeing of our neighbors. Strengthen the bonds of kindness, understanding, and mutual care within our community.

Teach us to be people who not only feel gratitude but live gratitude in our giving, in our serving, and in our caring for neighbors near and far. May our thanksgiving today become our faithfulness tomorrow. May our gratitude become generosity. May our joy become witness. And may our lives reflect the light of Your Son, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Paul Huh, Pastor of Walton United Presbyterian Church; pastorpaul@waltonUP.org; 607-865-4390



–OBITUARIES–



Mary E. Paul

Mary Eileen (Shields) Paul, 76, of Unadilla, passed away peacefully after a brief illness Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026. Her family was with her.

Mary was born on Aug. 3, 1950, at The Hospital in Sidney to Stanley Shields and Barbara (Elderkin) Shields. She was the oldest of four children and attended Sidney High School with the class of 1968. In 1981, she married Harry, her husband of 45 years.

After focusing on raising her children, Mary graduated from SUNY Binghamton with a bachelor of science in nursing in 1985. For many years, she was a highly respected nurse in the Tri-Town area. She worked as a hospital nurse, public health nurse, and hospice nurse. She found hospice work especially meaningful, driving to patients' homes across the region to offer comfort, support, and conversation in their final days.

In retirement, Mary enjoyed watching old movies and rooting for the Yankees and Bills. She would often take drives along the back roads of Delaware County and the surrounding area, with no particular place to go.

Some of her fondest memories were of time spent visiting and working on the Elderkin family farm on Murphy Hill in Walton. She also had many stories about time spent with her cousins in the Clair family from Bainbridge.

Mary's greatest joy was helping others, whether they were family or strangers. At Christmas she loved watching everyone else open their gifts while putting off opening her own. She wouldn't let anyone help clean up the kitchen, and she was always ready to babysit at a moment's notice, especially for her grandchildren. When something serious came up, Mary was the person you called. If she couldn't help solve the problem, she knew who could. She was the hub of our family, and we feel her absence already.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband Harry, her daughter Jamie (Randy) Gransbury, her son Jesse (Susan) Peterson, and her grandchildren JP Gransbury, Abby Peterson, and James Peterson. She is also survived by her siblings Susan, Andrew, and Mark. She is missed terribly by Beezus and Franny, the dogs that watched over her all day and all night.

Mary never liked being fussed over. At her request, there will be no public service. Consider making a donation or doing something meaningful for a cause close to your heart in Mary's memory.

Share condolences and memories with the family online at www.landersfh.com



Vincent Ryan Ruggiero

Vincent Ryan Ruggiero, a pioneer in the critical thinking movement whose writings continue to influence students around the world, has died. He was 92.

Born June 14, 1934 in Jackson Heights, New York, the son of Vito Vincent and Dorothy Agatha (Ryan) Ruggiero, he spent his formative years in Stamford, New York where he graduated high school.

His education at Siena University and St. Rose University would lead to work as a social caseworker and an industrial engineer. He began writing essays for Catholic publications analyzing church and social issues. Ultimately he would write over 1,000 essays right up to the year of his death, most recently for the Catholic Journal.

His concern for the less fortunate was manifested in 1965 when he led the effort to create Delaware Opportunities Inc. to improve living conditions for residents in Delaware County, New York. He would serve as the organization's first president.

In 1961 he began teaching humanities at the State University of New York at Delhi where he worked for nearly three decades and became Professor Emeritus in 1989. It was here that he grew as a scholar, author, and thinker who helped shape how generations of college and university students learned to reason.

He was sought after by the leading publishers. His first book, "The Elements of Rhetoric" (Prentice-Hall) was published in 1971 followed by "Thinking Critically About Ethical Issues" (McGraw Hill) and "Beyond Feelings: A Guide to Critical Thinking" (McGraw-Hill). His breakthrough book, "The Art of Thinking" (Harper & Row) firmly established how to use the mind to reason and not just memorize, teaching students to evaluate, create, and communicate logically.

In all, he authored 29 books including "Becoming A Critical Thinker" (Houghton Mifflin), "A Guide To Sociological Thinking" (Sage), "The Practice of Loving Kindness" (New City), "Warning: Nonsense Is Destroying America" (Nelson) and many others.

In 1985 he became a founding member of the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking Instruction. He was an internationally recognized lecturer and consultant on critical and creative thinking, ethics, educational reform, and social criticism. His works continue to be published in multiple languages.

In 1989 he moved to Dunedin, Florida where he continued writing. An active member in Our Lady of Lourdes parish, he served as president of his condominium association for over two decades and was an avid tennis player.

Vincent married Lois Shafer (deceased) in 1957 and is the father of Michele (Kent) Lewis, Gail (John) Wessells, Teresa (Bill) Sears, Francis (Marcy) Ruggiero, Michael Ruggiero, Timothy Ruggiero, John (Amy) Ruggiero and Gerry Ruggiero. He is the grandfather of Krista Lewis, Timothy Lewis, John Samuel Wessells (deceased), Daniele Wessells, Rachel Wessells, David Wessells, Katherine Sears, Joseph Sears, Gregory Sears, Nadia Sears, Chiara Ruggiero, Luke Ruggiero, Nicolette Ruggiero, Kailey Ruggiero, Chloe Ruggiero, Caitlyn Ruggiero, and Daniel Ruggiero; five great-grandchildren including Miriam Satyanathan, Simon Satyanathan, Rexford Sears, Ever Vincent Sears, and Roman Steen. He is survived by his dear friend Linda Fedora.

He was predeceased by Betty Dean and Barbara K. Ruggiero.

Funeral arrangements are by Moss Feaster Funeral Home - Dunedin. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Dunedin, Florida with reception to follow.

A graveside service will be held at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Oneonta at a date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers help us carry on Vincent's legacy by giving to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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SIDNEY/UNADILLA

By Anna Ritchey
607-563-1104
brauna43@yahoo.com

Sidney

A Thanksgiving dinner will be served at the Sidney American Legion, Union Street, Thursday, Nov. 26 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed (inside) to ring the Salvation Army bell at the Price Chopper in Sidney from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering call Marie at 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, Tri County Senior Center and Jess Howes Building Supplies. 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.

A free Christmas concert will be presented by the Community Band Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Community Cultural Center, 1 Bridge Street.

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. Come and decorate your own fresh-cut green wreath Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. $15 fee includes all supplies including the wreath. Fee is due upon registration and is non-refundable. 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. This program is free with registration required. Both the wreath and card workshops are sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries. For all programs visit www.sidneylibrary.org

Unveiling the Mural painted by Keiko Howard will be Friday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Sidney Community Cultural Center, Bridge Street.

The annual Holidays in the Hamlet of Sidney Center will be Saturday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Sidney Center Fire Station. There will be kid's crafts and cookie decorating, a hot cocoa bar and baked goodies and live holiday music. An ugly sweater contest will be held, door prizes and free digital photo with Santa who will arrive at 5:30 p.m. You may bring canned food donations for the Sidney Center Food Pantry. This event is sponsored by The Uplift Collective.

The Yarn Club will meet Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Masonville Library. The Holly Jolly Parade and tree lighting will be Friday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. along Main Street. Following the parade Santa will be at his headquarters at Limitless Dance Studio, 22 River Street.

The Sidney Central School Winter Band Concert will be Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The Sidney United Methodist Church (12 Liberty Street) Christmas Cantata, "This is Christmas" will be presented Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. The 36 voice community choir is directed by Jack Doyle.

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 holiday luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at the Sidney Elks, River Street. Preregistration is required by Dec. 7.

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

The Unadilla Main Street Santa Parade will be Friday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. after the tree lighting at 5:45 on the Community Lawn, 193 Main Street. Hot cocoa will be served in memory of Tanya Martini. Parade lines up at the 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.

The Unatego Elementary School is participating in the plastic film recycling challenge sponsored by the Otsego County Conservation Association. Leave clean plastic film at the school during school hours at the school bus garage entrance door.

Village board meetings are being held on the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Firehouse, 77 Clifton Street.

Town board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Building 1648 State Highway 7.

The Teen Center (Youth for Christ Central New York) 16 Watson Street is open every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. for youth 11 to 18. A youth-friendly meal will be available. For more information call the YFC office 607-432-0594 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Unadilla Public Library Board open monthly meetings are every third Monday beginning at 6:30 p.m. 193 Main Street.

The Unadilla Food Pantry, 172 Main Street, is open Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the second Wednesday of every month from 4 to 6:00 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. Stop anytime to donate clothing, shoes, blankets, sheets, curtains, stuffed animals.

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. 23th - Cull Dairy ave. $0.96, Top Cow $1.68, Maiden Heifer $0.90-$1.45, Organic Cull Dairy $0.90-$0.93, Grassfed Organic Cull Dairy $0.78-$1.00, Bulls over 1100# $1.57-$1.89, Dairy Feeders $1.37-$1.85, Feeder Bulls None, Feeder Heifer $1.82-$2.75, Feeder Steer $2.75, Bull Calves top $10.25, top beef calf $14.00, Heifer Calves top $7.50, top beef calf $13.50, Dairy Milking age top $2800, Bred Heifer top $2550, Open Heifer top $1150, Organic Dairy Milking Age top $3800, Organic Open Heifer top $2925

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.

Mon. Dec. 14th - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Heifer Sale. Brigeen Farms sends 10 bred heifers due December & January. Exceptional set of registered freestall heifers.

Mon. Dec. 21st - Normal Monday Sale & Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sale

Mon. Dec. 28th - Normal Monday Sales & Organic Sale

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.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Grantor	Location	Grantee	Transfer Tax
November 17, 2026			
HENDERSON MAXWELL	MEREDITH	HENDERSON MAXWELL SIENKIEWYCZ EMMA MORISON	0.00
SIX FRANKLIN ROAD LLC	WALTON	DELBALSO BRENNAN	680.00
CARR JANE	FRANKLIN	GREEN JENIFER LYNN CARR JOSHUA JOHN ADOLF HALLIE ANTOINETTE CARR JANE (LIFE USE)	0.00
MARTIN RICHARD J JR WILSON CHRISTINE M WILSON GARY F	TOMPKINS SIDNEY	JOELEN ENTERPRISE LLC GIBBS NOAH T	1,100.00 780.00
SCHULTES DONNA (EXR) HENRY ARTHUR F (EXR OF/EST OF)	COLCHESTER	MATTSON WENDY E	250.00
DUGGAN DONALD III (TR) CROWE JEFFERSON (TR) DONALD DUGGAN JR & ELISA LUNDY LIVING TRUST (BY TRS)	COLCHESTER	PELECH COLLEEN ELIZABETH CASTRO CHRIS CASTRO DAVID	400.00
KLEMM NICHOLAS (SURV HEIR) KLEMM JOSEPH (SURV HEIR) KLEMM SUSANA (SURV HEIR OF) KLEMM JOHN (SEE INST)	HARPERSFIELD	KLEMM NICHOLAS	0.00
BEKEN JANIS L	KORTRIGHT	SMITH JANET BEKEN (TR) BEKEN DONALD R (TR) JANIS BEKEN IRREVOCABLE TRUST UAD NOVEMBER 16 2026 (BY TRS)	0.00
SAULINO SAVERIO	HANCOCK	SAULINO BARBARA J (TR) SAULINO SAVERIO (TR) SAULINO FAMILY TRUST DATED OCTOBER 26 2026 (BY TRS)	0.00
November 18, 2026			
BACHMAN BONNIE C	DELHI	NAULT ROBERT JR	0.00
GERVASI JOSEPHINE A GERVASI ROBERT W	COLCHESTER	G FAMILY 2X PLAN DATED MARCH 11 2023 (BY TRS) GERVASI ROBERT W (TR) GERVASI JOSEPHINE A (TR)	0.00
PENNINGTON RICHARD H PENNINGTON JEANNE M	WALTON	KEATING GREGORY JOHN KEATING KAITLYN ANN	1,380.00
JOHT PROPERTIES LLC REAL NY DEALS LLC	HANCOCK	JONES JOHANNE ANGELA	200.00
WANG GARY	FRANKLIN	10777 COUNTY HIGHWAY 21 LLC	2,568.00
BOBRYSHEV IGOR BOBRYSHEV ALEKSEY	FRANKLIN	SUTER WILLIAM ORDAZ VERONICA	256.00
HARVEY COURTNEY	MIDDLETOWN	HARVEY THOMAS C GENTILE LISA N	0.00
HAMWAY DEBRA HAMWAY DANE	MIDDLETOWN	BEST-MACIA LAURA JEAN MACIA LUIS	1,260.00
OREILLY JOHN OREILLY MICHELE	HANCOCK	BRUSH ROBERT E	1,460.00
November 19, 2026			
PENNYMAC SERVICES INC	STAMFORD	SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	0.00
GALEANO MICHELLE (TR) JOSEPH GALEANO IRREVOCABLE TRUST (BY CO TRS) DUNLEAVY LISA (TR) NOREEN GALEANO IRREVOCABLE TRUST (BY CO TRS)	FRANKLIN	PEREIRA FREDERICO M	1,040.00
SNEDEKER NEIL P	HARPERSFIELD	LANGE KAMILA LANGE ALICJA LANGE DARIUSZ	1,180.00
HOLDEN BETTY R	HARPERSFIELD	IPNAR JACOB KONRAD DOPAZO JENNIFER	72.00
KROGER MARIE	KORTRIGHT	KROGER MARIA ELENA (TR) REVOCABLE TRUST OF MARIE ELENA KROGER DATED MARCH 30 2026 (BY TR)	0.00
KROGER CAROL ANN (LIFE USE) KROGER CARL A (SEE INST) KROGER KEVIN	KORTRIGHT	KROGER MARIA ELENA (TR) REVOCABLE TRUST OF MARIE ELENA KROGER DATED MARCH 30 2026 (BY TR) KROGER CAROL ANN (LIFE USE)	0.00
KROGER KEVIN	KORTRIGHT	KROGER MARIA ELENA (TR) REVOCABLE TRUST OF MARIE ELENA KROGER DATED MARCH 30 2026 (BY TR)	0.00
PARCHMENT BERYL L	MEREDITH	PARCHMENT BERYL L (TR) BERYL L PARCHMENT REVOCABLE TRUST (BY TR)	0.00
DREW STACEY (EXX) YONCE ELIZABETH M (EXX) DREW MARTHA JANE (EXX OF/EST OF) DREW MARTHA J (SEE INST)	ANDES	DODDS DOUGLAS A (TR) HAMAEKERS LEON N (TR) LHDD LIVING TRUST (BY TRS)	1,196.00
BUEL MARY JANE (EXX) BUEL WILLIAM EDWARD (EXX OF/EST OF)	DELHI	TWO SIXTY NINE MAIN LLC	572.00
MCLEAN JULIAN MCLEAN MANUELA	HARPERSFIELD	BARTOW ANDREA BAGNARDI STEFANO	1,036.00
November 20, 2026			
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HOLTON GRACE E	HANCOCK	HOLTON GRACE E	0.00
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KELLY EUGENE M KELLY PATRICIA F	MIDDLETOWN	WOLFE JOSHUA KEILL TONI NICOLE	1,276.00
BRZIN BOSTJAN BRZIN VANJA BAJC	MIDDLETOWN	STUART IAN FREEMAN JENNIFER	1,440.00
BROOKS DAVID CANNON (EXR) CANNON MICHAEL P (EST OF/EXR OF)	MEREDITH	BROOKS DAVID CANNON	0.00
PARCHMENT BERYL	MEREDITH	PARCHMENT BERYL L (TR) BERYL L PARCHMENT REVOCABLE TRUST (BY TR)	0.00