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# The Greenville PIONEER

Friday, December 3, 2021 • \$1.50

## Town eyes cameras over park safety concerns

See page 15



LARGEST PAID CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER IN GREENE COUNTY

## Residents oppose Bosque project at first public hearing

By **Melanie Lekocevic**  
Capital Region Independent Media

DURHAM — The first of two public hearings on the Bosque residential subdivision and site plan application drew a crowd of residents opposed to the project.

The hearing was held at the former Durham Elementary School and will be followed by a second public hearing at the same location Dec. 11.

“The purpose of this hearing is to give all of you a chance to be heard, for you to speak to the board about your concerns, both positives and negatives,” Town Supervisor Shawn Marriott said to open the hearing. “The board, attorney, engineers and all of the parties will listen and take notes. There will be no comments or answers from the board. We are here to listen to you.”

Issues raised during the hearing would be addressed at a later date, Marriott added.

Representatives from the Bosque development were given time at the beginning of the hearing to present details of the



**Dan Clifton, one of the leading opponents to the proposed Bosque housing development, speaks at the first of two public hearings about the project.**

project. “The applicant is proposing to develop a 13-lot residential subdivision for 12 single-family lots,” the developer’s attorney, Taylor Palmer, said. “The approximately 95-acre property is divided into two ex-

isting tax lots. The collective property has frontage on Cornwallville Road and Strong Road.”

The developer looked to mitigate impacts on the surrounding community, Palmer said.

“The Bosque project is designed to reduce the impacts on land to ensure a rural aesthetic and the Bosque community is consciously modeled around creativity, exploration and a deeper connection to nature. The proposal has an emphasis on sustainable, natural building materials,” Palmer added.

Principal engineer Darrin Elsom from Kaaterskill Associates said the project seeks to retain a significant portion of land as wooded.

“Approximately 75% of the acreage is going to remain as wooded, and of the 95 acres, something like 71 acres are woods that we will leave in its existing condition,” Elsom said. “The houses are generally not going to be visible from the road.”

See *BOSQUE*, page 14



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Stanley Maltzman in New York City as a young Coast Guardsman. He went to the recruiter’s office to enlist the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.**



CREDIT: U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO

**Maltzman’s ship, USS Centaurus (AKA-17).**

By **Joanne E. McFadden**  
For Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Stanley Maltzman of Greenville remembers being in the kitchen of his parents’ New York City home painting when news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor came over the radio.

At 7:55 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese launched 353 aircraft from four aircraft carriers with bombs targeted for American ships, aircraft and military bases on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. In addition, 61 ships of the Japanese fleet supported the surprise attack.

“My mother came out of the kitchen crying because she figured I was going to go,” Maltzman said.

Like many other young men around the nation, Maltzman did indeed want to enlist.

See *VETERAN*, page 15

## ‘Feed Your Mind, Feed a Family’ offers helping hand



WARREN DEWS JR./CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

**Sponsors of the “Feed Your Mind, Feed a Family” program at the holiday meal giveaway outside Tops supermarket on Route 32, Greenville.**

By **Melanie Lekocevic**  
Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Twenty turkey meals with all the fixin’s were handed out to families in need during a holiday food giveaway organized by Capital Region Independent Media.

The company, which publishes the Greenville Pioneer, pulled together sponsors and local not-for-profit groups that serve those in need for the “Feed Your Mind, Feed a Family” program to make the Thanksgiving holiday a bit brighter.

The program is the brainchild of Warren Dews Jr., publisher of Capital Region Independent Media.

“Every time somebody bought a subscription for the newspaper, we bought food for a family in need,” Dews Jr. explained during the food giveaway at Tops Supermarket, 11573 State Route 32. “We partnered with these organiza-

tions that are here today — we couldn’t have done it without our sponsors.”

The program is one Dews Jr. has brought to other communities, and this was the first year it was done in Greenville.

“The concept of ‘Feed Your Mind’ that Warren (Dews Jr.) brought to these communities really personifies what community media is all about,” said Mark Vinciguerra, president and owner of Capital Region Independent Media. “We are ingrained in the history, the fabric of the areas we serve. We tell their stories and attempt to fix their shortcomings and make the communities better places to live in part because of community media. ‘Feed Your Mind’s’ success is one shining example of our mission come to life.”

For some families, a helping hand during the holidays is most welcome, said Mike Caprio from Coldwell Bank-

See *FEED*, page 14

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# Community Calendar

To have your organization's events added to our calendar, please enter them online at [www.greenvillepioneer.com](http://www.greenvillepioneer.com)

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## DECEMBER 2021

3-5 - Thomas Cole Historic Main House and Old Studio tours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Cost is \$16 for students, seniors, military and veterans, and \$18 for adults; children 15 and under are free. Call 518-943-7465 ext. 102 or email [tickets@thomascole.org](mailto:tickets@thomascole.org) for more information.

4 - Greene's Candy Cane Christmas Festival, 1 p.m., Angelo Canna Town Park, Cairo. Free admission.

4 - Performance of "The Nutcracker" ballet at The Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center, 6050, Main Street, Tannersville, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets purchased ahead of the event are \$25. Visit [catskillmtn.org](http://catskillmtn.org) to purchase tickets or call 518-263-2063.

4 - CANCELED: The Bates Church Christmas program has been canceled after much discussion and due to an abundance of caution over concerns of COVID-19.

5 - Performance of "The Nutcracker" ballet at The Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center, 6050, Main Street, Tannersville, at 2 p.m. Tickets purchased ahead of the event are \$25. Visit [catskillmtn.org](http://catskillmtn.org) to purchase tickets or call 518-263-2063.

6 - Cairo Town Board meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall, 512 Main Street, Cairo.

6 - Durham Town Court, 3:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

7 - Durham Town Board workshop meeting, 7:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

10-12 - Thomas Cole Historic Main House and Old Studio tours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Cost is \$16 for students, seniors, military and veterans, and

\$18 for adults; children 15 and under are free. Call 518-943-7465 ext. 102 or email [tickets@thomascole.org](mailto:tickets@thomascole.org) for more information.

11 - TGM American Legion Post 187 Craft Fair, 12-4:30 p.m., 94 Second Street, Athens. Vendors welcome.

11 - Performance of "The Nutcracker" ballet at The Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center, 6050, Main Street, Tannersville, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets purchased ahead of the event are \$25. Visit [catskillmtn.org](http://catskillmtn.org) to purchase tickets or call 518-263-2063.

11 - Athens Annual Victorian Stroll, 1-5 p.m., Second Street, Athens Riverfront Park and throughout the village of Athens. Free admission and activities, including a family ice skating rink; bring your own skates. Visit [athensculturalcenter.org](http://athensculturalcenter.org) or call 518-945-2136 for details.

11 - Durham public hearing on Bosque Major Residential Subdivision, 6 p.m., BOCES Educational Building (formerly Durham Elementary School), 4099 State Route 145, Durham.

12 - Performance of "The Nutcracker" ballet at The Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center, 6050, Main Street, Tannersville, at 2 p.m. Tickets purchased ahead of the event are \$25. Visit [catskillmtn.org](http://catskillmtn.org) to purchase tickets or call 518-263-2063.

13 - Village of Catskill Planning Board meeting, 7 p.m., 422 Main Street, Catskill.

13 - Durham Town Court, 3:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

14 - Greenville Town Zoning Board meeting, 7 p.m., Pioneer Building, 11159 Route 32, Greenville.

15 - Cairo Town Board and Library meeting, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, 512 Main Street, Cairo.

15 - Catskill Village Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., 422 Main Street, Catskill.

17-19 - Thomas Cole Historic Main House and Old Studio tours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 218 Spring Street, Catskill. Cost is \$16 for students, seniors, military and veterans, and \$18 for adults; children 15 and under are free. Call 518-943-7465 ext. 102 or email [tickets@thomascole.org](mailto:tickets@thomascole.org) for more information.

18 - Workshop: Holiday Centerpieces with Natural Materials, 10-11:30 a.m., Mountain Top Arboretum, 4 Maude Adams Road, Tannersville. Suggested donation of \$10 for non-members. Advanced reservations are not necessary.

20 - Greenville Town Board meeting, 7 p.m., Pioneer Building, 11159 Route 32, Greenville.

20 - Durham Town Court, 3:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

21 - Cultivate Catskill's First Annual Solstice Stroll, 5-7 p.m., along Main Street. Hot cider and more available at Howard Street Park. For more information visit [www.cultivate-catskill.org](http://www.cultivate-catskill.org).

21 - Durham Town Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

27 - Village of Catskill Planning Board meeting, 7 p.m., 422 Main Street, Catskill.

27 - Durham Town Court, 3:30 p.m., 7309 Route 81, East Durham.

31 - New Year's Eve Fireworks, 8 p.m., Windham Mountain at the Lodge, 19 Resort Drive, Windham.

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## MvWd Enterprises acquires Wallit, a Wisconsin-based software firm

Wallit, a state-of-the-art software firm based in Milwaukee, which provides payroll services to dozens of publishers throughout the United States, has sold a majority stake to MvWd Enterprises, a media group based in the Berkshires (western Massachusetts) and New York's Capital Region. MvWd Enterprises is headed by Warren Dews, Jr. and Mark Vinciguerra.

Terms of the sale were not disclosed. Mike Gehl, the founder of Wallit, said the transaction symbolized a pivotal moment for the company and its future.

"Wallit is well-positioned for continued growth and I'm excited to work with Mark and Warren to advance the company to the next level. As industry leaders they have the knowledge, passion and drive to foster innovative and creative solutions that will support Wallit's future success," Gehl said.

Dews, Jr., who serves as publisher of two weekly newspapers and several community guides across the Berkshires and the Capital Region and is also the Vice-Pres-

ident of Capital Region Independent Media, celebrated the sale.

"I'm excited to add this dynamic service to our portfolio of resources which can help media companies, as well as businesses in a wide range of industries, advance to the next frontier of success," said Dews, Jr., who has worked in the media and music industry for close to three decades.

To be clear, Wallit is ready and able to meet the needs of businesses ranging from mom-and-pop outfits to corporations. With our cutting-edge technology and experience, we can help any business - media, music and beyond. We know what you are going through because we are you!"

Vinciguerra is the owner of Capital Regional Independent Media and the National Press Institute for Audience Growth, a consulting firm which works with various publishers to grow audience and revenue.

"We are delighted to be able to offer state-of-the-art technology, with a model that is cost-effective

for small-to mid-sized publishers and journalists. We are confident the offerings from Wallit will allow these publishers to create a digital subscription strategy that is on par with much larger publishers at a zero-cost entry point," Vinciguerra said.

Vinciguerra and Dews, Jr. have also announced they will be adding John Harrison, a veteran technologist in the media space. He will serve as Vice President of Product Services, ensuring consumers and publishers maximize the technology. Harrison most recently served as Director of Business Development at Tecnavia and previously as WW Product Marketing Director at Agfa.

Gehl founded Wallit in 2013. The company was a finalist in the Newspaper Association of America's (now News Media Alliance) "Shark Tank" competition in 2015 as one of the best new ideas in the publishing industry.

For more information, please contact Dews, Jr. at 413-212-0130.

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## The Greenville PIONEER

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## Police Blotter

*Editor's Note: A charge is not a conviction. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.*

### STATE POLICE

■ An unidentified 15-year-old female, of Catskill, was arrested Nov. 8 at 4:48 p.m. in Catskill and charged with fourth-degree grand larceny. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Matthew Elsbree, 23, of Greenville, was arrested Nov. 9 at 2:05 p.m. in Cairo and charged with criminal mischief/intent to damage property, a class A misdemeanor. He was released on his own recognizance.

■ LaToya Houser, 35, of Catskill, was arrested Nov. 10 at 11:20 a.m. in Catskill and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, a class E felony. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Robert Valls, 52, of Middleburgh, was arrested Nov. 10 at 10:44 p.m. in Durham and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content of 0.08 and driving while intoxicated, both class E felonies. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Frank Dianda, 42, of Catskill, was arrested Nov. 11 at 1:05 a.m. in Catskill and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation/alcohol, operating a motor vehicle with blood-alcohol content over 0.08

and driving while intoxicated with a previous conviction in 10 years, all class E felonies. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Nathaniel Picardi, 30, of Catskill, was arrested Nov. 12 at 1:01 a.m. in Catskill and charged with manufacture of drug-related paraphernalia and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, both class A misdemeanors, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a narcotic drug, a class C felony. His arrestee status was unknown.

■ Diego Nunez, 34, of Ridgewood, was arrested Nov. 12 at 5:05 a.m. in Catskill and charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and petty larceny, both class A misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ John Cervantes, 29, of Brooklyn, was arrested Nov. 12 at 5:05 a.m. in Catskill and charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and petty larceny, both class A misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Gabriel Agosto, 31, of Prattsville, was arrested Nov. 11 at 3:05 p.m. in Hunter and charged with first-degree operation of a motor vehicle impaired by drugs and driving while ability impaired combined drugs/alcohol, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Jean Pomeroy, 51, of Cai-

ro, was arrested Nov. 11 at 11:05 p.m. in Cairo and charged with first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and driving while intoxicated with a previous conviction in 10 years, both class E felonies, and use of a vehicle without an interlock device, a class A misdemeanor. She was released on her own recognizance.

■ Joseph Heisinger, 34, of Ashland, was arrested Nov. 13 at 2:12 p.m. in Ashland and charged with first-degree operation of a motor vehicle impaired by drugs, an unclassified misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Shelbi Frangello, 27, of Palenville, was arrested Nov. 14 at 3:42 p.m. in Ulster and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor, and driving with suspended registration, an unclassified misdemeanor. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Kaitlyn Scott, 22, of Cairo, was arrested Nov. 14 at 9:59 a.m. in Cairo and charged with petty larceny and third-degree identity theft, both class A misdemeanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Joshua Fikert, 22, of Cairo, was arrested Nov. 14 at 4:22 p.m. in Adams and charged with fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an

appearance ticket.

■ Dilion Diegel, 22, of Durham, was arrested Nov. 14 at 2:03 p.m. in Durham and charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle with the owner's consent, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ An unidentified 15-year-old female, of Catskill, was arrested Nov. 8 at 4:48 p.m. in Catskill and charged with fourth-degree grand larceny. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Gabriel Agosto, 31, of Prattsville, was arrested Nov. 16 at 10:06 p.m. in Jewett and charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and second-degree criminal use of drug paraphernalia, both class A misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Ashlynn Peck, 20, of Greenville, was arrested Nov. 16 at 8:45 p.m. in Greenville and charged with second-degree aggravated harassment, a class A misdemeanor. She was released on her own recognizance.

■ Jonathan Langton, 31, of Canaan, was arrested Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. in Cairo, and charged with petty larceny, a class A misdemeanor. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Abigail Robinson, 20, of Cairo, was arrested Nov. 20 at 10:08 a.m. in Cairo and charged with two counts of fourth-de-

gree grand larceny, a class E felony. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Maria Espinosa, 26, of Catskill, was arrested Nov. 20 at 11:11 p.m. in Catskill and charged with first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a class E felony, and driving while intoxicated and aggravated driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Carlos Macancela, 32, of Elmsford, was arrested Nov. 21 at 1:17 a.m. in Cairo and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.8% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Amanda Tayer, 31, of Hudson, was arrested Nov. 21 at 2:41 a.m. in Catskill and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. She was issued an appearance ticket.

■ Joseph Briccio, 29, of Hopewell Junction, was arrested Nov. 20 at 11:03 p.m. in Durham and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content over 0.08% and driving while intoxicated, both unclassified misdemeanors. He was issued an appearance ticket.

## Exhibit: 'Courage: The Black Struggle for Quality Education'

ALBANY — A new exhibition, "Courage: The Black Struggle for Quality Education," is now open for the public to view at the New York State Museum, State Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa announced.

The exhibition explores the visions and aspirations of courageous leaders and parents who have sought to equitably educate Black children.

Developed by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, and on loan to the State Museum, the exhibition will be on view in the Museum's Photography Gallery through June 2022. The Adelaide L. Sanford Institute made the exhibition available to the museum in honor of Vice Chancellor Emerita Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford of the Board of Regents.

"This exhibition shines a light on generations of courageous leaders in New York City who fought for educational quality and equality for Black students," said Chancellor Lester W. Young. "For too long — centuries, in fact — the education system has failed our communities of color. This exhibition gives voice to that injustice, highlights the contributions of those who led the charge to right it, and demonstrates that we must continue to address systemic inequities in a system that puts our students at a disadvantage during critical developmental years."

The exhibit is expected to increase awareness of the challenges community of color have faced in the educational setting, Rosa said.

"The department is proud to host the Schomburg Center's 'Courage' exhibition at the State Museum," Rosa said. "Sharing this story with the broader public and raising awareness of the history of unnecessary and unjust obstacles Black schools, students and teachers in New York City chronically face, aligns with our mission to raise the knowledge, skill and opportunity of all people in New York."

"This exhibition provides an opportunity to both honor and bring attention to those who have fought tirelessly for equitable education for Black children," said Vice Chancellor Emerita Sanford. "We must acknowledge and learn from the injustices faced by communities of color and celebrate those who have pushed for change while continuing to advocate for quality education for all."

Before coming to the State Museum, 'Courage,' which was originally developed in 2009, was updated under the direction of the Schomburg Center's former deputy director, Kara Tucina Ollidge, Ph.D., who is now executive director of the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans.

The State Museum is a program of the New York State Education Department's Office of Cultural Education. Located at 222 Madison Ave. in Albany, the museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

For information about COVID-19 safety and policies, visit the State Museum's website at [nysm.nysed.gov/reopen](http://nysm.nysed.gov/reopen).



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**All are welcome!**

# A.J. Cunningham

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<b>First Baptist Church of Westerlo</b> Route 143, Westerlo 518-797-3927	<b>Our Lady of Knock Shrine</b> State Route 145, East Durham 518-622-3319	<b>Grapeville Baptist Church</b> Route 26, Climax 518-966-4265
<b>Preston Hollow Baptist Church</b> State Route 145, Preston Hollow 518-239-6544	<b>Cornerstone Baptist Church</b> State Route 145, East Durham 518-634-7095	<b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness</b> State Route 81, Greenville 518-966-9941
<b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</b> County Route 41, Greenville Center 518-966-4043	<b>St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> State Route 81, Oak Hill 518-239-6727	<b>Dormansville United Methodist Church</b> Route 312, Dormansville 518-756-2812
<b>Greenville Center Baptist Church</b> County Route 41, Greenville	<b>Asbury United Methodist Church</b> State Route 81, Norton Hill 518-966-4181	<b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> Albany Hill Road, Rensselaerville 518-797-5295
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<b>Medway Congregational Christian Church</b> Route 26, Climax 518-731-2106 & 518-731-8867	<b>Greenville Christian Church</b> State Route 32, Greenville 518-966-4519	<b>Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church</b> Church Street, Cairo 518-622-3319
<b>Christ Episcopal Church</b> State Route 32, Greenville 518-966-5713	<b>St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church</b> State Route 81, Greenville 518-966-8317	<b>Medusa United Church of Christ</b> 111 County Route 351, Medusa 518-239-4843

Send us your church listing!  
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# Resource fair puts veterans front and center



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Local organizations shared resources available to veterans during a fair hosted by state Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-46, and Cairo's American Legion Post 983.



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

The Veterans Resource Fair shared a wealth of information about programs and services available to those who have served.

**By Melanie Lekocevic**  
Capital Region Independent Media

CAIRO — A resource fair held at the Cairo Public Library put the interests of area veterans front and center.

The event, held Nov. 16, was hosted by state Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-46. The senator was unable to attend as she was quarantining at the time after receiving a positive COVID-19 test.

"The senator is very sad to miss this, but unfortunately she is still home quarantining," Hinchey's chief of staff, Leah Goldman, said.

Hinchey reached out to American Legion Post 983 Commander Mike Adrian to put the resource fair together to make veterans aware of the programs and benefits that are available to them.

"Sen. Hinchey approached me and said she wanted to have a resource fair so we jumped on board," Adrian said. "This is all about veterans, veterans' benefits and resources they are allowed. It's

a nice program that Sen. Hinchey started."

Representatives were on hand from a variety of organizations, from Columbia-Greene Community College to utility company Central Hudson, Blue Star Mothers of Greene County, Albany Stratton VA Hospital, a therapeutic riding center, an agency that helps homeless veterans, and assistance with finding employment, among others.

A representative from U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado, D-19, handed out a resource guide with information on federal and other benefits and services available to veterans.

Greene County Sheriff Peter Kusmisky said the fair was a valuable resource for local veterans.

"I am glad veterans are here today to avail themselves of services that are available in the community," Kusmisky said. "It's great to see them out here."

Blue Star Mothers First Vice President Karen Dudley said her group's mission is to help veterans in any way they can.

"Blue Star Mothers is an organization that likes to fill the gaps in what veterans need," Dudley said. "We have reached out to our veterans at the local nursing homes — we just replaced the flags for

them — and we send them cards, we send packages overseas, wherever we can help. We go 'mom' on whoever needs it."

Veteran Chris Algozzine from American Legion Post 983 in Cairo shared ways the Legion can help those who have served.

"It's important to be a member of the American Legion so that you can interact with people who have served, understand what is happening to you and your family as veterans, and to find out all the programs that are available to you and get help if you need it with any of those programs," Algozzine said. "It's a great way for veterans to get together and help each other out."

Greene County Legislator Harry Lennon, D-Cairo, attended the resource fair and said it provided an important service for veterans.

"I am hoping veterans come not only from Cairo, but from all over Greene County to take advantage of this," Lennon said. "I hope we can build on this in the years to come. This is the first time it has been done in Cairo and everybody did a wonderful job putting this together — I hope we can continue it and make it bigger for all of the veterans of Greene County and for all they have sacrificed for this country. We can't thank them enough."

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# Adrian named to state Veterans Hall of Fame



FILE PHOTO

Combat veteran Michael Adrian, of Cairo, is being inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. Adrian is pictured next to the Table of Honor he created at the Citgo gas station in September to honor the 13 troops who died at Kabul International Airport during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

By Melanie Lekocevic  
Capital Region Independent Media

CAIRO — Cairo resident and combat veteran Michael Adrian will be inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame, state Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-46, announced.

Adrian served in the United States Army and the National Guard for 23 years, earning the rank of Sergeant First Class.

He is now commander of American Legion Mohican Post 983 in Cairo, a post he has held for more than 10 years.

“His recognitions and honors include Army Achievement Awards, State Defense Awards and the Presidential Award,” Hinchey said in a video statement.

Hinchey has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and remained in quarantine at press time.

Adrian continues to work with local veterans, Hinchey said.

“Under his leadership, the first New York State Hometown Heroes banner event was created, recognizing local veterans in their communities,” Hinchey said.

The Hometown Heroes Ban-

ner program posts banners atop poles in communities, each with a photo, name and other details about military veterans. Cairo was the first community in New York state to participate in the program in 2013.

Adrian was born in the Bronx and moved with his family to Coxsackie. He graduated from Coxsackie-Athens High School in 1983 and enlisted in the U.S. Army on Sept. 7, 1983.

He began his military service as a cook, and rose to the rank of Battalion Mess Sergeant, according to Hinchey.

Adrian went on to serve with the National Guard until 2003, when he was called back to active duty serving with the “Big Red One,” the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq.

He was honorably discharged in September 2005.

During his military service, Adrian achieved the rank of Army Sergeant First Class with the 2nd Battalion, 108th Headquarters, Battalion First Food Service.

His military honors include six Army Achievement Awards, seven Army Commendation Awards — the second highest Army award — in addition to State Defense Awards, civil and

federal awards.

Adrian also earned the Presidential Award and Overseas Awards for his dedication to the Armed Forces, Hinchey said.

In his work with the American Legion Post in Cairo, Adrian has spearheaded numerous projects, including sponsoring a floor at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center, where the post donates items including televisions and blankets to assist veterans in need. Adrian also organizes the annual Cairo Memorial Day Parade to honor fallen soldiers.

In September, Adrian worked with his employer at the Citgo gas station on Route 23 to set up a Table of Honor with 13 empty coffee cups at the station to honor the 13 service members who died Aug. 26 in the bombing at Kabul International Airport during the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Table of Honor remained for about a week.

“Through his work with American Legion Post 983, and his leadership in community outreach, Mr. Adrian continues to support the veterans of Greene County,” Hinchey said in a statement.

## Hochul: Vaccinate for a chance at free college education

By Melanie Lekocevic  
Capital Region Independent Media

ALBANY — Students ages 5 to 11 who get the COVID-19 vaccine have the chance to win a free college education.

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Nov. 9 announced the “Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate” vaccine incentive to encourage families to vaccinate their children against the virus. Children who receive their first dose of the vaccine by Dec. 19 are entered into a random drawing to win a full scholarship to a State University of New York or City University of New York institution.

Scholarships apply to both two- and four-year colleges, and cover tuition, room and board.

There will be 10 winners statewide each week beginning Nov. 24. The final 10 winners will be announced Dec. 22.

“Finally, the COVID-19 vaccine is here for young New Yorkers age 5 through 11,” Hochul said. “Our critical work to make the vaccine accessible and available to all eligible children and their families is underway — and we will creatively support and celebrate those who get vaccinated. The ‘Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate’ program is an extraordinary opportunity for children to win free tuition to a SUNY or CUNY college or university, and I urge parents and guardians to help their children get vaccinated and enter into this once-in-a-lifetime program.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended Nov. 2 that children ages 5-11 be vaccinated against the virus with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. The CDC’s recommendation made about 28 million children eligible for the vaccine, according to the agency.

“Together, with science leading the charge, we have taken another important step forward in our nation’s fight against the virus that causes COVID-19,” CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., said in a statement Nov. 2. “We know millions of parents are eager to get their children vaccinated and with this decision, we now have recommended that about 28 million children receive a COVID-19 vaccine. As a mom, I encourage parents with questions to talk to their pediatrician, school nurse or local pharmacist to learn more about the vaccine and the importance of getting their children vaccinated.”

Winners of the SUNY or CUNY scholarships will receive full in-state tuition and non-tuition costs including room and board, books, supplies and transportation. If on-campus housing is not available at the school the student attends, they will receive the same allowance as students living on campus.

Meanwhile, the goal of the “Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate” program is to incentivize families to have their children vac-



COURTESY OF GOV. KATHY HOCHUL'S OFFICE

Gov. Kathy Hochul announces a new incentive program to encourage families to have their children ages 5-11 vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.



COURTESY OF GOV. KATHY HOCHUL'S OFFICE

Gov. Kathy Hochul with several youngsters following the announcement of the launch of the “Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate” incentive program.

inated against COVID-19 now that the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children ages 5-11.

“Expanding vaccine eligibility to children as young as 5 years old gives us even greater confidence that we will effectively subdue COVID-19 and put the conditions in place for New York’s full economic recovery,” CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez said in a statement. “The ‘Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate’ program will further incentivize parents and guardians to get their children protected, and we strongly encourage them to do so.”

The option to vaccinate younger children is another step toward normalcy, particularly in the classroom, SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras said.

“Vaccinations were the key to a more normal academic and campus experience throughout SUNY,” Malatras said. “Now that even younger individuals have an approved vaccine option, this is another huge step to seeing the finish line of this pandemic, and we must continue to do all we can to encourage everyone to get their shot.”

Incentives have been used

throughout the pandemic to encourage vaccinations among other age groups statewide, including free tickets to attractions and sporting events, and even prepaid debit cards.

To be eligible to be entered into the scholarship drawing, children must be between the ages of 5 and 11, be residents of New York state and lawful permanent residents or U.S. citizens, according to the governor’s website.

Federal COVID-19 relief and outreach funds are being used to cover the cost of the vaccination incentive program, according to the governor’s website.

New Yorkers looking to schedule a vaccine appointment for their child should call their child’s pediatrician, family physician, county health department, pharmacy or other health care facility. You can also visit vaccines.gov or call 1-800-232-0233 for more information.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children, visit [ny.gov/vaxforkids](http://ny.gov/vaxforkids).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chappie is a 4-year-old black and white domestic shorthair cat, pictured with CGHS/SPCA Adoption Counselor Laura Isbell. He’s a very sweet boy who loves snuggles and pats. He seems to get along well with the other cats at the shelter, but it is unknown if he’s good with dogs. He will greet you at the door and climb right up on the couch with you! Chappie is the perfect lap cat!

## New law bans canine discrimination

By Charlene Marchand  
For Capital Region Independent Media

For well over a decade, the American Kennel Club (AKC) advocated for legislation that would protect dog owners from being subject to homeowners’ insurance policy discrimination based solely on the breed of dog that was owned.

“The amount of money paid by homeowners’ insurance claimants suing for dog bites went from \$324.4 million in 2003 to \$853.7 million in 2020,” according to an editorial in Dog News.

As a result, companies began to refuse to write policies — some homeowners even facing cancellation when a “certain” breed was purchased or adopted from a shelter or private rescue group.

As many of us can attest, breeds such as German shepherd dogs, Doberman pinschers, American Staffordshire terriers (“pitbulls”), huskies, boxers, cane corsos, akita, mastiffs, Rottweilers, Belgian Malinois, giant Schnauzers — the list goes on — are targets of breed discrimination and restrictions.

Many of our canine family members are combinations of multiple breeds, i.e. mixed breeds. The increasing list of “crossbreeds,” e.g. Golden and Labrador retriever mixes, Poodle mixes, Bernese mountain dog mixes, Old English sheepdog mixes, husky mixes — this list is becoming endless — were previously not included in these “bans.” The purebred dog population “took the hit,” so to speak, as the ability to research and prove background and DNA would become a Herculean task, if not impossible.

We have reason to celebrate! On Oct. 30, 2021, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed Senate Bill 4254 (now Chapter 545), which states, “No insurer shall refuse to issue or renew, cancel, or charge or impose an increased premium or rate for such policy or contract based solely upon harboring or owning any dog of a specific breed or mixture of breeds.”

This law will be in effect as of January 2022. What an excellent, knowledgeable, pragmatic and effective move our new governor has taken. Let each canine be judged as an individual if it is declared dangerous as defined in New York state law.

Feel free to call us with any questions at 518-828-6044 or visit our website at [www.cghs.org](http://www.cghs.org). Our Food Bank is open to any from the public in need of pet food or for those wishing to donate food from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Spay/neuter clinics for cats are \$86.00 male or female, including a rabies vaccination and a 5-in-1 feline distemper combination vaccination. Nail clipping services are available every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the shelter for a donation of \$10 for cats and \$15 for dogs (currently prepaid only). Charlene Marchand is the chairperson of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Board of Directors. She may be contacted at [cghsaaron@gmail.com](mailto:cghsaaron@gmail.com).

# Sources of Strength at Cairo-Durham

CAIRO — Twenty-five Cairo-Durham students were trained to be peer leaders for Sources of Strength (SOS), a student organization that focuses on mental health awareness and support.

The group of peer leaders consists of students in grades 8-12. They will work to find ways to be mentors among their peers and help them find their own sources of strength such as family support, positive friends, healthy activities, spirituality and more.

The goal of SOS is to prevent suicide, bullying and substance abuse through the power of these peer social networks.

Cairo-Durham's SOS peer leaders will give presentations at assemblies and their first



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twenty-five Cairo-Durham students were recently trained to be peer leaders for Sources of Strength, a bullying and suicide prevention program that focuses on mental health awareness and support.

schoolwide campaign, "I Am Stronger," will feature a competition between grade levels.

SOS was introduced at Cairo-Durham High School in 2016 after Participation in

Government students went on a field trip to the 2015 Mental Health Matters Legislative

Day in Albany.

"The students spoke with advocates about their concerns related to mental health issues and the need for more supportive services in schools," said SOS advisor Karen Drossel. "The students did an excellent job representing our school and their concerns, and later we learned that Cairo-Durham was selected as one of the schools to be funded for the program. We've been working hard at it ever since."

The first SOS peer leader training at CDHS occurred in the fall of 2016. It is in its fifth year at Cairo-Durham and began including eighth grade students in the peer leader training last year.

## PBA of New York State welcomes new board of directors

ALBANY — The PBA of New York State announced the members of its board of directors and executive committee for the next three years.

The union represents nearly 1,200 state law enforcement officers from four member units including the New York State Park Police, New York State University Police, Department of Environmental Conservation Officers and New York State Forest Rangers.

For the past several years, the union has fought to secure fair compensation for its members including the standard 20-year retirement, which 97% of police in New York state already receive. In doing so, the union aims to retain and attract diverse officers to better represent the communities they serve.

Since late 2019, the union has also focused on preserving New York state's oldest state law enforcement agency, the New York State Park Police, which former Gov. Andrew Cuomo sought to eliminate by first transferring operational control to the Division of State Police

with eventual full integration and disbandment, according to the organization.

The executive board for the board of directors will consist of:

- Manuel Vilar from Metro Long Island – President and Park Police Sergeants Director.
- Aaron Gordon from the Department of Environmental Conservation Academy – Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer and EnCon Police Superior Officers Director.
- Nancy Ganswindt from DEC Region 5 (Adirondacks) – Vice President/Chief Communications Officer and Forest Rangers Lieutenants Director.
- William Ricci from SUNY Purchase – Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and University Police Officers/Investigators Associate Director.
- Troy Caupain from Metro Long Island – Secretary and Park Police Officers Director.
- James McCartney from SUNY Morrisville – Treasurer and University Police

Lieutenants Director.

Additional members of the board of directors include:

- Jason DeAngelis from DEC Region 4 (Capital Region) – EnCon Police Lieutenants Director.
  - Matt Krug from DEC Region 5 (Adirondacks) – Encon Police Officers Director.
  - Adam Pickett DEC Region 4 (Capital Region) – Forest Rangers Superior Officers Director.
  - Arthur Perryman DEC Region 5 (Adirondacks) – Forest Rangers Director.
  - James Hy from Western NY Genesee Zone – Park Police Superior Officers Director.
  - Christopher Lacosse from SUNY Albany – University Police Officers/Investigators Director
- Manuel Vilar, PBA president and Park Police sergeants director, said, "We are blessed to have a board of directors that encompasses a range of experience from founders of the PBA to newer of-

ficers that bring a fresh perspective. To flourish as an organization, it is critical that we not only leverage the various and diverse experiences of our members but also seek to expand upon them."

"There are a number of challenges facing law enforcement not only as a profession but as a vital

component of the communities we serve and live in," Vilar added. "To this end the PBA of New York State will always strive for the highest standards of professionalism to promote strength and safety in these communities while simultaneously promoting the interests of our members. PBANYS officers share the same concerns as their friends, family and neighbors. They want to contribute to the communities they serve and provide a better future for their families. To attract and retain the best, brightest and most capable we must ensure that the compensation our members receive is commensurate with the sacrifices they make daily to protect us all."

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# Body Mind and Spirit

## The kindness of strangers

By Pat Larsen

For Capital Region Independent Media

First and foremost, yes, there is a title change to my column that will better reflect the work I have begun doing in the community to connect the body, mind and spirit to the everyday experience of being human.

I look forward to sharing what I've learned from some very great teachers in my life and to learn from you as well, as we all navigate this new world together. I plan to share more parables, stories, lessons and helpful alternatives to remain healthy and fit under a broader umbrella than just exercise and diets. I hope you will enjoy what you read and share with those in our community, bringing us all that much closer. I plan on focusing our internal beam of light on more thought-provoking topics that help us regroup and move forward.

This time last year was like no other time in anyone's experience. The isolation, insulation and confusion was almost insurmount-

able.

Here we are, one full year later, a renewed excitement in our hearts reconnecting us to the joys of the holidays. My heart is filled with an outpouring of sheer emotion every day. We are indeed connecting to the very spirit of the holidays. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or another holiday, you're starting to "feel" again what we thought was lost.

So how then is the mind and the body reacting to the spirit and joy we've begun to embrace?

In researching this topic, I came across a wonderful passage that gave me the words that I want to share with you now.

The passage was found in a wonderful book entitled, "Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy." The author is Sar-

BODY MIND AND SPIRIT



Pat Larsen

ah Ban Breathnach:

"In the Bible, the angels who intervened in the lives of humans were most often strangers who appeared on the scene just once, gave assistance, and then disappeared as mysteriously as they arrived. From all the published firsthand accounts, the appearance of these angels hasn't changed."

That being said, I know we've all encountered the kindness of strangers, in surprising ways, never more, though, than now it seems. Perhaps going unnoticed, but definitely leaving the recipient curious.

So this may be an excellent time to start being consciously aware of your encounters with strangers. You never know.

Be kind to strangers yourself, as you go about your holiday preparations as well. Nev-

er turn down the help of others if you can. Sometimes life is difficult because we don't allow help from others or decline to ask for assistance when we really need a hand.

As Sarah said in her passage, "Think of the kindness to or from strangers as a positive exchange of comfort and compassion in the circle of life."

Allow for the kindness of strangers in your life.

Your body and mind are soothed by this and remain open to giving as well.

Pat Larsen is a licensed fitness instructor/certified hypnosis therapist. Instruction in acupressure techniques and simple guided meditation. Private readings and sessions available to unlock your focus on living your best life. Ongoing live fitness classes and programs at The Shamrock House in East Durham. You can reach Pat at 518-275-8686 or via email at Pelarsen5@aol.com.

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## Santa makes early visit to Greenville

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — Santa and Mrs. Claus made an early visit to Greenville the day after Thanksgiving.

"Have a safe and happy holiday," Santa said to his young fans. "Merry Christmas!"

Dozens of families turned out for the annual Christmas tree lighting and visit with Santa, held each year at the gazebo at Veterans Memorial Park.

"Santa traveled all the way from the North Pole to come to Greenville," said Bella Lanzelotti, 5.

The event was canceled last year due to COVID-19, but families were happy to see its return this year.

"It's our tradition," said mom Katrina Lanzelotti, who brought her daughter Bella and son Noah, 8. "We are so glad they are back."

The event is sponsored each year by the Greenville Rotary Club.

"We took this over after the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce closed down, so we have been doing this about 16 or 17 years," said Rotarian Deb Smith. "It's for the kids — look at all of these kids and how happy they are."

While the event did make its return this year, there were some changes.

"This was canceled last year because of COVID," said Rotarian Lesley Smith. "This year we are just outside so the kids won't



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA  
Santa and Mrs. Claus made an early visit to Greenville for the annual tree lighting Friday at the gazebo

sit on Santa's lap. Usually, we are in Prevost Hall and they sit on Santa's lap and do photos, so this year it is a little different just being outside."

Elves handed out brightly wrapped gifts to all the kids after Santa and the Mrs. made their grand entrance on a Greenville fire truck and then led the tree lighting.

Rotarian John Ingalls did

much of the electrical work and installed posts for the trees, working with Bob Snyder from FPI Mechanical, Ingalls said. They installed 70 trees this year.

"I just want to give back to the town," he said.

For Jeanette Ingalls' three children, the visit from the Clauses was quite a thrill.

"The kids are super excited to see Santa," she said.

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— Helen Michel

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# Students salute veterans for their service

By Isabel Kropp

For Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — On a windy, blue-sky day, Greenville Central School District high school students and staff on Nov. 10 were once again able to hold an in-person breakfast to honor local veterans, yet another sign of normalcy for the community.

The Veterans Day breakfast has been a tradition at Greenville High School for over 20 years.

Last year, however, because of COVID-19, the school was unable to hold the event in the high school's cafeteria or library. Rather than canceling the tradition, students and staff changed the event to a "drive-thru" breakfast. Students held up signs expressing their thanks and handed out breakfasts to go.

This year's breakfast more closely resembled the event in pre-COVID years.

"Last year's breakfast we sat outside, and this year we have more students involved than last year," said Lola Fraim, president of the student council.

This year people were able to sit together and chat, still outside, but closer to the type of breakfast hosted before the virus hit.

"It's been a tradition for a long time," said Sara Statham, Greenville High School's secretary. "It's nice for the students to recognize and interact with our local veterans and say thank you to them."

There was a large turnout for the event. Most of the pavilion was filled with local heroes and middle and high school students thanking the veterans for their service.

The American Legion asked Brody Shaver, 11, to sing the national anthem as they saluted the flag.

Among the veterans present who attended past years' breakfasts were Jack Kelly, U.S. Army, and Navy veterans Don Savino and Jim Goode, Jr. All three have attended the breakfast for many years. The veterans had the chance to share some of their experiences with students during the breakfast.



ADLER KARLE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

**Air Force veteran Lawrence Gardiner with granddaughter Molly Gardiner, a freshman at Greenville High School.**



ADLER KARLE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

**Marine Corps veteran Alex Hamilton, left, enjoys breakfast with Army veteran Don Hamilton.**

Savino, who served during the Vietnam era on the nuclear submarine USS Skipjack, told students he had graduated high school and was not really doing much.

"My father and brother both served, and I joined to find a direction in life," Savino said.

Jack Kelly worked in Washington, D.C. for the Army Map Service from 1963 to 1965.

"Most of my time, I was working on creating a map for the moon because the astronauts had not been there yet," Kelly said.

One first-time veteran attendee, Lawrence Gardiner, attended with his granddaughter, Molly Gardiner, a freshman at Greenville High School. They both enjoyed their breakfast together even in the cold

weather. He told students about his four years of Air Force service in Texas and Massachusetts.

Veterans have turned year after year for this tradition that is both meaningful to students and veterans, as Don Savino put it.

"I attend the breakfast because it means a lot to me when young people understand and show respect to veterans who have served our country," he said. "The students welcomed us and gave us patriotic placements that they had made. I look forward to attending their breakfast every year."

Jaden Burke, vice president of the student council, was enthusiastic about the chance to thank the veterans and serve them breakfast.

"It means a lot because I know a



ADLER KARLE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

**Greenville High School 9th grader Olivia Hughes with Army veteran Michael Hull.**



ADLER KARLE/FOR CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

**Army veteran Jack Kelly talks with a student at the Greenville High School veterans breakfast on Nov. 10.**

lot of times, they don't get enough recognition as they should," she said, "It makes them feel super special. I love to mingle with them."

The feeling is mutual. Goode looks forward to the event each year, and while he enjoys the food and décor, the interaction with students is the most fulfilling part of the event for him.

"As a veteran, for our youth to take the time and want to know more about us and our country is a blessing," he said. The students' impact on us goes deeper than we can explain. We are lucky and grateful to be acknowledged by our youth."

Army veteran and former

American Legion 291 Post Commander Skip Spinner echoed similar sentiments.

"Each year I look forward to attending the veterans' breakfast at the school," he said. "I most enjoy and appreciate the students acknowledging our service. I must commend the Greenville Central School, its faculty, and especially the students for all they do for the veterans of our community. It is so great to see how respectful these students are and how much they make us feel welcomed. The school and the community should be proud of their students."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-46, and community members gather at the Mountain Top Historical Society in Haines Falls for the Senate Commendation award presentation.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Gary Slutzky, state Sen. Michelle Hinchey and Barbara Slutzky at the award ceremony.**

## Slutzkys win state award for Outstanding Community Service

HAINES FALLS – State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-46, recently presented a New York State Senate Commendation Award to Barbara and Gary Slutzky for their legacy of service to Greene County's Mountain Top communities.

Barbara, a former English teacher for the Hunter-Tannersville Central School District, and Gary, a long-serving member of the Hunter Fire Company, have contributed their time, expertise and leadership to countless projects and organizations throughout the years, including the Mountain Top Historical Society, Hunter Civic Association, Greene Room Players performing arts theatre, Rip Van Winkle Lions Club, and the Hunter Foundation, Hinchey said.

"Husband and wife duo Gary and Barbara Slutzky have been a powerful force for good on the Mountain Top for decades. Their leadership to mold the next generation, preserve the rich history of the Catskills region, and bring arts, culture, and recreation to our rural communities goes unparalleled," Hinchey said. "The epitome of hometown pride, the Slutzkys have had a hand in so many incredible acts of community service, and I was proud to present them with a Senate Commendation Award for their tireless work. It was deeply moving to see how many people came out to celebrate the occasion, which was a clear testament to the positive impact their leadership has had on the community at-large.

I'm proud to call both Barbara and Gary friends."

Over 70 community members gathered at the Mountain Top Historical Society in Haines Falls on Oct. 19, to celebrate the award delivery, including President/Executive Director of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce Jeff Friedman, Hunter Fire Company President Gary Goodrich, Greene County Democratic Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Riggs, Hunter Foundation Executive Director Sean Mahoney, Town of Lexington Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhorn, Tannersville Mayor Lee McGunnigle, and Linda Nicholls, director of Greene Room Players.

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- Daniel Patrick Moynihan

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# Annual New York Recycles Day raises awareness

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos recently recognized “New York Recycles Day,” celebrating the state’s leadership in promoting recycling and reducing waste.

New York’s efforts complement America Recycles Day, a national initiative to raise awareness of the economic, environmental and social benefits of recycling.

“New York continues to lead the nation in developing forward-thinking recycling strategies, programs, and policies focused on reducing solid waste and protecting the environment,” Seggos said. “As recycling markets continue to fluctuate globally, DEC remains focused on streamlining the recycling process and helping communities reach recycling goals. On New York Recycles Day, I encourage all New Yorkers to commit to the core conservation principles of reduce, re-use, and recycle.”

New York Recycles Day was Nov. 15.

Across the state, individuals, community groups, businesses, schools and government agencies celebrate New York Recycles Day in a variety of ways, from encouraging others to reduce their waste by pledging to start an office or school recycling program, partic-

ipating in the New York Recycles poster contest, hosting a reuse exchange, and improving awareness of local recycling requirements. These combined efforts help educate and inform New Yorkers about the advantages of recycling. Additional information about America Recycles Day events is available at the Keep America Beautiful America Recycles Day website.

New York state has a long history of implementing some of the nation’s strongest recycling initiatives, including the Solid Waste Management Act of 1988, which requires the separation of recyclable or reusable materials from solid waste and has inspired local source-separation programs across the state that have captured and diverted millions of tons of recyclable materials from disposal resulting in the reduction of CO2 emissions, energy usage, and the use of natural resources.

Over the last three decades, New York state has invested millions in recycling grants through the state’s Environmental Protection Fund to support municipal waste reduction and recycling programs with recycling infrastructure, equipment, collection vehicles, local education and outreach programs, and municipal recycling coordinator salaries.

Targeted funding and focus

over the last several years include food recovery, food waste collection and organics recycling, as well as electronic waste recycling. Other programs designed to encourage waste diversion in New York include stewardship programs like the electronic waste reuse and recycling act, the rechargeable battery recycling law, mercury thermostat collection act, and the drug take-back law, as well as the lead-acid battery recycling law and the bottle bill.

In 2020, New York adopted the nation’s strongest statewide ban of expanded polystyrene, single-use foam food and beverage containers, and polystyrene loose fill packaging materials, commonly known as packing peanuts. The ban will become effective Jan. 1.

Foam packaging is one of the top contributors of environmental litter, causing negative impacts to wildlife, waterways, and other natural resources, as well as littering our communities and natural areas. It is lightweight, breaks apart easily, and does not readily biodegrade.

When polystyrene foam ends up as litter in the environment, it can persist for a long time and may also become microplastic pollution. In addition, foam containers and loose fill packaging, such as packing peanuts, are not accept-

ed in most recycling programs in New York State because the foam is difficult to recycle and has a low value. Proposed Part 353 Expanded Polystyrene Foam Container and Loose Fill Packaging Reduction regulations to implement the provisions of the ban are available for public comment until Nov. 22.

To help achieve the state’s waste reduction goals and keep land and waterways clean, the New York State Bag Reduction Act took effect March 1, 2020. This act prohibits the distribution of plastic carryout bags by retailers in New York state and is significantly reducing plastic bag waste, DEC officials said.

To decrease contamination in recyclables processed through single-stream facilities and increase the marketability of those recyclables, DEC encourages all New Yorkers to “recycle right.” Each community has specific recycling rules and all New Yorkers should check with their municipality or waste hauler on the types of paper, metal, plastic, and glass items that can be recycled. Recyclables have the best marketing value when they are clean and dry before being placed in the collection bin.

### TIPS TO RECYCLE RIGHT

- Keep recyclable items loose in

the bin; do not use plastic bags (unless required by your municipality or waste hauler);

- Do not recycle single-use cups and plates, condiment packages, coffee pods, stirrers, straws, paper napkins, plastic cutlery;
- Return rechargeable batteries to retail recycling locations;
- Compost at home or send yard trimmings and food scraps to a local or municipal composting program;

- Donate dishware, mirrors, glassware and ceramics if in good condition;
- Donate textiles, even if they are no longer wearable or useable. As long as they are clean, they can be recycled;
- Do not put any type of rope, hose, or twine into your recycling bin; and,
- Return needles to appropriate collection locations. Visit DEC’s Household Sharps webpage for more information.

DEC urges the public to “keep it out when in doubt,” as contamination in the recycling supply chain reduces the quality of recyclable materials.

For more information contact your local recycling coordinator or visit the DEC website for information and resources on the “Recycle Right NY” campaign.

## Tips to avoid a busted budget this holiday season

From labor and product shortages to higher prices and shipping delays, this year’s holiday shopping season has the potential to be more stressful — and costly — than usual for consumers.

“Despite the uncertainty and added stress brought on by supply-chain and other pandemic-induced challenges, no doubt many people will get caught up in the spending spirit this holiday season,” said Michael Sullivan, a personal financial consultant with Take Charge America, a nonprofit credit counseling agency. “But overextending yourself doesn’t help you, your family or friends. Smart budgeting and some shopping tricks can get you into the spirit without a financial hangover.”

Sullivan shares six tips to ensure you don’t overspend this holiday season:

- Stick to a budget: Before you start shopping, set your holiday budget, including spending ceilings for everyone on your nice list. Keep your budget realistic and aligned with what you can afford. Stick to the plan by avoiding unnecessary extras or accessories that can add up and easily bust your budget.

• Buy last year’s model: From TVs to mobile phones, manufacturers introduce new models every year. But for most people, the latest and greatest features don’t justify

the extra cost. Gift last year’s model to save on devices and gadgets.

- Look for online coupons: When shopping online, take some time to search for promo codes on sites like Groupon, RetailMeNot and Honey. Many services also offer browser plugins that automatically detect discounts as you shop at various online stores.

• Use price comparison tools: When shopping online, use price comparison tools like Google Shopping, BizRate or NexTag. Some sites even allow you to set up alerts for when items hit a certain price. If shopping in-store, download apps like ShopSavvy or RedLaser that let you scan product barcodes to check prices on items at other retailers.

- Ask about price matching: Many stores will match competitor prices to keep from losing a sale. You just need to ask. Generally, you must provide proof of the lower price, usually in a newspaper flier or online deal.

• Consider non-traditional gifts: Rather than spending money on a gift, consider offering your time or talent. Perhaps you’re crafty, love babysitting or would extend some manual labor.

For additional resources on how to save during the holidays and throughout the year, explore Take Charge America’s Budget Tools at [takechargeamerica.org/budget-tools/](http://takechargeamerica.org/budget-tools/)

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# GARDENING TIPS

BY BOB BEYFUSS 

## Getting gardens ready for winter

By Bob Beyfuss

For Capital Region Independent Media

Most of our region finally had a hard freeze recently, putting an end to a gardening season that lasted much longer than “normal.”

October 2021 was one of the wettest, as well as one of the warmest on record. As annoying as the rainy weather has been all summer long, it has been beneficial for our forests.

Prolonged droughts, such as we have experienced in the past few decades, contribute to long-term declines in forest health that are hard to erase. Tree species such as Eastern hemlock, which have been devastated by the hemlock woolly adelgid, can tolerate much more insect pressure provided they have adequate moisture.

It is true that increased rain leads to increased fungal diseases, particularly leaf-spot diseases, but these diseases are far less serious to the long-term health of the tree than drought. If your landscape trees or shrubs suffered from leaf-spot diseases

this past season, make sure you rake up and dispose of fallen leaves this fall, since these leaves will serve as sources of infection next spring.

In order for any disease to occur, three things must happen simultaneously. First, there must be the presence of the pathogen in sufficient amounts to cause infection. Most fungal infections are spread by spores that overwinter in the fallen leaves. This will be the case with the fallen leaves next spring serving as inoculum.

Next, environmental conditions, such as moisture and temperature, must be favorable for the spores to germinate.

Finally, the host tree or shrub must be at a susceptible stage. Most leaf infections occur before the leaf forms its protective, waxy cuticle, so by the time you see symptoms, it is too late to do anything.

I think we can count on the latter two conditions occurring, so the only thing you can affect is to remove the fallen leaves and reduce the level of infectious spores.

It is important to get rid of leaves in general that may be blanketing your lawn right now. It only takes about six weeks for lawn grasses to die if they are fully covered with leaves, as long as the grass is not fully dormant. They don't suffocate so much as perish from lack of sunlight.

You can rake up the leaves and dispose of them for curbside pickup, but I see this as a waste of a valuable resource, putting organic matter in a landfill that can be utilized elsewhere on your property. The best solution is to compost the leaves in a compost pile or bin, and then use the compost in your gardens next year.

Maple leaves, especially sugar maple leaves, compost quickly, but oak leaves often mat down and can ruin a compost pile if they are not either shredded or mixed with a coarser organic substance. Maple leaves by themselves make an excellent mulch for asparagus beds after the fern-like tops are removed. Wait until the asparagus fern turns yellow before

cutting them down to ground level and then you can cover the bed with up to 6 inches or even more with maple leaves.

You can use maple leaves as mulch in perennial beds as well once the perennial plant tops have been cut back.

Simply mowing the leaves on your lawn where they fall will allow their nutrient value to feed the trees. Even if the grass does not need to be cut, shredding the leaves by mowing is perhaps the best way to not waste this source of nutrients aside from a compost pile.

Make sure you dig up your summer bulbs such as canna, tuberous begonia, gladiolas and dahlias before the ground freezes. Store the bulbs, tubers or corms in the basement in paper bags filled with dry peat moss for the winter.

It is not too late to plant spring flowering bulbs in a location that is clearly visible from your house windows. Only daffodils, alliums and crown imperial are pretty much immune to deer predation, whereas tulips are consumed like candy where

deer are abundant.

Spray rhododendrons and other broad-leafed shrubs with an antidesiccant right now to prevent winter burn. Make sure you coat the underside of the leaves with the spray, since that is where the stomates are located. Be prepared to spray again in December on a warm day and perhaps once again in February.

Erect wooden cages to protect shrubs that deer eat or wrap the bushes with burlap. Don't wrap them with plastic “burlap” since this material does not allow air exchange.

Deer populations are down significantly this fall, with the onset of EHD disease in the Hudson Valley. This viral disease has killed hundreds of deer this past summer and fall, much to the dismay of deer hunters. When the population of any wild animal exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment, nature often steps in to remedy the issue.

Reach Bob Beyfuss at [rlb14@cornell.edu](mailto:rlb14@cornell.edu).

## Positively Speaking

# Accomplish your goals

By Toby Moore

For Capital Region Independent Media

All of us have dreams that we would love to accomplish during our life. For some people, their dreams are merely fantasies and they do nothing to bring them to fruition; some take small steps but never fully commit; and then some transform their dreams into reality.

Many techniques in the positive thinking world can help you accomplish your goals, but let's not pretend that hard work and sacrifice won't be required. If you're going to achieve a big goal, hard work and sacrifice will become a daily activity.

I believe in the power of positive thinking and if you're optimistic, you'll always get closer to your

goals than if you're pessimistic. I've also learned positivity alone will not bring you to the life you want; you'll also need to work. You'll need to put in the time, and you'll need to burn the midnight oil; you'll have to work harder than expected.

When you're moving towards your goals, inevitably, obstacles will arise. You'll find yourself working many hours doing things that seemingly have nothing to do with your goals. Still, if you approach every activity that crosses your path by doing the best you can, you'll become a person of excellence, and a person of excellence will eventually get what they want.

One of my favorite speakers, Jim Rohn, said something profound: “How hard should you work? As hard as you can. Whatever

your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. How high does a tree grow? As high as it can!”

Working as hard as you can requires motivation. Finding motivation requires a goal; you'll have to know where you want to go with a clear, detailed plan on how to accomplish it.

I haven't always accomplished my goals. I've failed a lot, but in doing so, I've found a pattern in my successes and failures.

When I have a clear goal written on a piece of paper and hanging on the wall in my bedroom, I almost always accomplish it.

I wake up in the morning, and before I walk out of my room, I read the goals, and I'm reminded of where I'm headed and how I will get there. Before I go to sleep,

I read them. It's easy to get sidetracked, and reminding yourself of your goals several times a day is necessary.

Norman Vincent Peale wrote his goals on a card and put them in his shirt pocket over his heart. He read them several times a day.

If you have a big goal, you'll need to think about it several times a day. Empty your mind of negativity, believe with all your heart that you will turn your goal into reality. If you do this, you'll find the desire inside of you to do whatever it takes. You'll wake up early, you'll stay up late, you'll show up early, and you'll be the last to leave. You'll excel in every area of your life.

What if you don't have the time? So many of us think that if we have a full-time job, a family to take

care of and other obligations, we don't have enough time to accomplish our goals.

What if you only spend one hour a day working toward your goals? It may not seem like much, but if you commit yourself to one hour a day for an entire year, you'll have spent 365 hours working on your dream! For some of us, that may be all that's required.

Try it out. Write your goal down with a plan to accomplish it, read it several times a day, work hard even if it's just for an hour a day, stay committed and see what happens. I'm betting you'll like the results.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy-nominated “A Separate Peace,” and the CEO of *Cubestream Inc.*

## WHITTILING AWAY by Dick Brooks

# Peel-and-stick not for the faint of heart

By Dick Brooks

For Capital Region Independent Media

To look at me, you'd never guess I had any problems. If you passed me on the street, you might say to yourself, “What a strikingly handsome, chubby old bald guy!” and never know I was challenged.

I shouldn't have this problem. I used to be a good athlete with good coordination. Sure, the ballet lessons never took, but that's another story.

I'm still not doing too badly — I can eat by myself and seldom stick the fork into my forehead, and handle most of life's foibles with a smile until I run into one of the few things that I will readily admit give me problems.

I have decided that I am “peel-and-stick” challenged.

It was never a big problem, but the number of things that need to be peeled and stuck is growing by leaps and bounds.

I started paying closer attention to this developing problem the other day when I went to a doctor's office in a large hospital. I asked the receptionist to validate my parking ticket. She used to whip out a stamp and give the ticket a thump and I was set to go. This time, she handed me a sticker. A peel-and-stick kind of sticker. She told me to just peel off the back and stick it onto the ticket.

I tried — I picked and picked at the nearest corner. It shredded a little, but not enough for me to grab onto anything large enough to pull on. I went to the next corner and so on and so on and so on.

I have no fingernails. I frequently have my hands in stuff that I don't want under my nails, so I keep them cut short. I will also confess to having been a nail biter and keeping my nails short keeps me from chewing on them during times of stress, like scary movies

and forgotten anniversaries.

I finally stuck the sticker between my teeth and bit some of the backing off. I grabbed the chunk of backing that was sticking up and triumphantly peeled off the back. I now had a sticker clinging to my finger that I tried to stick straight onto the back of the ticket. It went on crooked. I think it's static electricity or something, but every time I try to put one of these darned things on straight, it jumps off my finger and grabs onto whatever I'm trying to put it on. It always winds up crooked and wrinkled.

Peel-and-sticks are appearing everywhere. Have you tried putting one of the vehicle registration stickers on yet? You only have to peel part of it, then trying to get it onto a curved windshield down near the bottom where your hand won't fit anyway is next to impossible.

The stamps at the post office — all peel-and-stick. I miss the old ones. I liked the taste of the glue they used to use. I admit it was an acquired taste but pleasant, kind of a cross between peppermint candy and Palmolive soap.

The only problem I had with the old lick-type stamps was around Christmas when I walked around for a couple of days after card-writing time with my tongue stuck to the roof of my mouth. Being peel-and-stick challenged, it takes me longer now to get the stamps on the cards than it does to write them. If you get a Christmas card with a wrinkled and crooked stamp on it, it may be from me.

I believe one should face one's handicaps head on. Being of a creative mind, I went out to my shop to solve this problem for both me and the good of all mankind. I found an old rubber finger, the kind folks used to use to count

money. Not having enough cash to warrant owning such an object, I decided to put it to better use.

I stuck a common pin through the end of it, giving me a useful tool to pick at the backing of the peel-and-sticks. I was excited because it worked well! Then I dropped it into my pocket and discovered a design flaw when I next bent over. After discreetly pulling the pin out of my thigh, I discarded by new invention.

I think I'm going to try one of those stick-on fingernails next. Maybe something in a soft pink.

Thought for the day — “If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and will never achieve, its full potential, that word would be ‘meetings.’” — Dave Barry

Reach Dick Brooks at [Whittle12124@yahoo.com](mailto:Whittle12124@yahoo.com).

# Grandma Mackey's Diary

## 1950 life in Medusa

Transcribed from her diary by  
Kathy Saurer Osborne

Sunday, Dec. 3: Fair. Went to Church Gertrude Adrienne Gene & I. P.M. took a ride to Manorkill & Conesville. The water nearly wrecked things over there. Chuck came early & visited. Lite Philip & JoAnn here a few minutes on their way for Mrs Stewart at Oneonta. HB,CT

Monday, Dec. 4: Rain. All day. Creek very high. Didn't do much some odd jobs etc. Philip & Lite came from Cobleskill & had a bite to eat & visited a while.

Tuesday, Dec. 5: A fine day. A light snow. Hung out the clothes, they dried & we ironed most of

them. Mended some too. Made cake. Did other odd jobs. Gene Addie & I are going to Albany tomorrow, I think. Gertrude has been asked up to Aunt Theresa's.

Wednesday, Dec. 6: Fair. Gertrude went to Aunt Theresa's & Gene Addie & I to Albany. Got a new parlor suit & most of my Christmas shopping done. Joyce helped me pick out the parlor suit. Am very tired tonight. Adele Adrienne & Don were invited to Lewis' for tea.

Thursday, Dec. 7: Grey day. All day. Cleaned bedrooms & finished ironing. Crocheted etc. Adrienne is sitting with Albert Bates this evening.

Friday, Dec. 8: Rain most of the day. Cleaned 2 bedrooms 2 living-rooms, dusted, cleaned hall closet & mopped the kitchen floor. Girls at BB game. Chuck brought Joyce, they're gone out somewhere. Gertrude at Beulah's today.

Saturday, Dec. 9: Cloudy & cold. Did every day work. P.M. went to Delite's a little while. Adrienne Joyce & I. Got chickens for Sunday dinner etc. Chuck & Joyce out. Addie & I went to the Card Party at Borthinick's Rensselaerville.

Sunday, Dec. 10: Fair. Did nothing all day. Lazy! Didn't go to Church. Rested etc., in P.M. went to Spruce Swamp with Pearl Abrams. Got Greens. Chuck here in the eve-

ning. He isn't feeling so well. Stomach!

Monday, Dec. 11: Cloudy & cold. Light snow. Couldn't get out the garage, so Joyce staid home & is going tomorrow A.M. Gene did the washing, but didn't hang it out.

Tuesday, Dec. 12: Fair. Took Joyce to Greenville. Hung out wash & brought it in. It dried nicely. Billy & Dunham came for Grace's Dav-enport.

Wednesday, Dec. 13: Fair. Did the ironing & mending. Crocheted etc. Addie & I are invited to Grace & Raymond (Hunt's) to play cards tonight. Gene at Catskill this P.M.

Thursday, Dec. 14: Fair. Cleaned bedrooms etc. The parlor

set came late, no green chair. It's to be here next week. Had a nice time at Hunt's. The Christmas trees by the Church look very pretty.

Friday, Dec. 15: Cloudy. Snow tonite. Cleaned livingrooms dusted. Crocheted on the Freeman's tablecloth. Am getting a few Christmas cards. Had one from Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Miller. Chuck brought Joyce. They have gone to the movies.

Saturday, Dec. 16: About 12 inches of snow. Don finally got the car on the road & we went to Catskill. Finished our shopping. Didn't do much in the P.M. Chuck here tonite. Gene brought me a bouquet of red roses. Beautiful!!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WAJ Science Club participants dissecting owl pellets in the classroom.

## WAJ Science Club members dissect owl pellets

WINDHAM — On Tuesday, Nov. 16, students in grades 3-6 participated in the second WAJ Science Club program of the school year.

The WAJ Science Club, coordinated by Debbie Valerio, WAJ teacher, and Anna McGrew, 4-H educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties, is an after-school opportunity for students to explore the natural and environmental sciences. The theme this year is birds.

This most recent program fo-

cused on a fan favorite, owls and the dissection of owl pellets.

Students learned about owls commonly found in the Northeast and what makes owls unique in the bird taxonomy. Owl pellets are comprised of the indigestible remains of whatever animal the owl has eaten, such as bones and fur. Each student then dissected their own barn owl pellet and worked to classify any bones they found.

The WAJ Science Club would not be possible without the financial support of The Windham

Foundation. Their support has enabled Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) 4-H Youth Development Program to create hands-on natural resources and environmental awareness programs, offering these elementary age students an opportunity to learn about the natural world right in their backyard.

For further information on Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties and its programs, please visit [ccecolumbiaagree.org](http://ccecolumbiaagree.org).

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# Oak Hill & Vicinity...

By Mary Lou Nahas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mert Hulbert in 1969 with his car #78. He has been called a cult hero and the winningest of them all.

## The Ridge Runners of Oak Hill

Oak Hill Preservation Association  
presents  
**The Oak Hill Ridge Runners**  
A Documentary

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Mert Hulbert appears on the cover of the Ridge Runner video. The team made a trademark with solid white cars with a distinctive style of red numbers on the side



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Not all cars were white with red numbers. Notice the Knotty Pine Hotel stenciled on the side. One car had Cheryl's Beauty Salon, Oak Hill, stenciled on it. Stan Wetmore has been called an elder statesman. He has been racing at Lebanon Valley for nearly 60 years. His brother Donnie is hailed as a superstar.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fred Searing has been called The Grand Ole Man of the Pits. Not a particularly large man, but his legacy and effect is significant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This is how a car might start before it became a race car. This picture is from Oak Hill, down by the current town building. Anybody recognize it?

By Mary Lou Nahas  
For Capital Region Independent Media



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alan Beechert was said to have been the youngest of the group. And Stan Wetmore owned his first car before he was old enough to drive it.

Stanley had his first race car, a flathead Ford, when he was in fifth grade, at the age of 12 when he was too young to drive. Today he and his brother Donnie are legends in the stock car world.

Besides the guys with stock cars, there were always two or three local kids with their bomber cars; it was like one big happy family.

Ethel, Fred's wife and Stanley's mother, was usually there. Ethel drove in Powder Puff races; when she was 80 she still went to Lebanon Valley. Lou, Fred's son, was there.

Not everyone who hung around the garage owned cars; some were the pit crews or just worked on the cars. The cars were loud and the minister at St. Paul's Lutheran Church down the road asked the guys to please not fire them up during his Sunday sermon.

Without even trying, the Ridge Runners were born. The consensus is that John Flach Sr. came up with the name.

"He said something about us being out in the hills, just a bunch of ridge runners from Oak Hill," said Stanley.

They raced under various numbers and color combinations, but made a trademark with solid white cars having a distinctive style of red numerals on the sides.

Alan Beechert was one of the youngest Ridge Runners with his Car #11. Alan, who no longer races, has been a member of the Oak Hill Fire Department for 40 years and was the Durham Highway Superintendent.

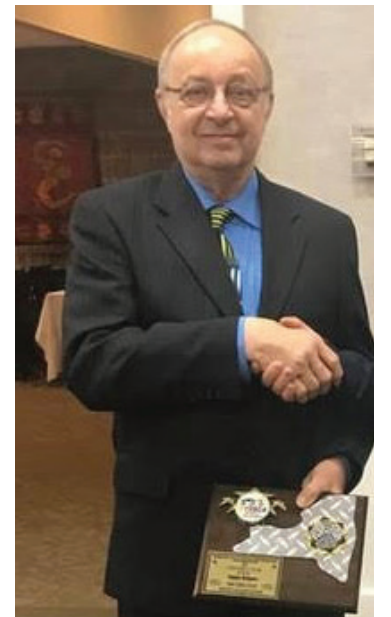
Mert "Socks" Hulbert has been called the "winningest" Ridge Runner. Mert got involved with the group in 1959, helping Fred out for a couple of years before he got his own cars. Mert raced all over, taking his cars to many tracks in and out of New York. He often raced three to four nights a week.

"Most of the time I drove for nothing," Mert said. "I just enjoyed racing and meeting a lot of people."

In 1980, he suffered serious injuries in an accident and gave up regular racing. Wes Moore, who later served as the Durham highway superintendent, was part of Mert's crew. Mert, called a cult hero, got his nickname when folks discovered he drove in his folks.

Mert says he had been wearing engineer boots but they were too heavy to drive in, so he took them off and he won.

It was usual for them to race against each other. One Saturday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stan today. They all dress up well.

in 1964 at the Ontario Speedway they captured the first four spots in the feature run: Stan Wetmore was first, Mert Hulbert was second, Fred Searing, third and Lou Searing fourth. The Daily Freeman reported: "Stan Wetmore was the winner in the 25-lap stock car feature at Ontario Speedway, a no holds barred race in which several holes in the retaining wall furnished evidence of the intensity of the competition."

When Donnie Wetmore was selected for induction into the Northeast Modified Hall of Fame and Stock Car Museum in Weedsport, NY, Gary Rowe wrote that growing up around the tracks in the Capital District, Wetmore has deep roots in Modified racing. His mother, Ethel, served many years as a scorer at Lebanon Valley Speedway. His older brother, Stan, was a long-time competitor at that track.

"Around 1973 or so my brother gave me an opportunity to try his car," Wetmore told Rowe. "As time went on, I kept getting better rides."

He landed in a former Kennedy Garage car that had been raced with success by Hall of Fame driver Mert "Socks" Hulbert.

"In 1975, I started racing at Can Am Speedway on Saturday nights; then the next night, while on the way home, at Weedsport. Then Brewerton Speedway reopened its doors so I added that track to my schedule — so I now had a full weekend of racing," Wetmore recounted.

For a 15-year period, until his last full season in 1997, Wetmore was the man to beat on the Outlaw circuit, the king of the small-blocks.

Fred Searing was influential even after he no longer raced.

"It appears that he was a racing father to at least five young drivers, some of whom became extremely successful in the sport. Just being known as a popular and pleasant figure in a sport which had many guys who were not, is a great tribute to Fred. The Ridge Runner Racing Team of Oak Hill, New York, richly deserves its place in the history of the sport," wrote Bill Ladabourhe.

The Ridge Runners included Fred Searing, Mert Hulbert, John Flach, Sr., Stanley Wetmore, Lou Searing, Don Wetmore, Bill Filkins, Steve Driver, John Strumpf, John Lutes, Bob Smith, Alan Beechert, Tommy Corellis, Goober Scheidel, Gary Warner, Jim Warner and Joe Schlosse. Stanley has a plaque with all their names and the years they joined. Some are gone, some are still around.

The Oak Hill Preservation Association made a Ridge Runners DVD produced by Drew McCabe to help preserve the local history. There are still some copies around for folks who didn't get one. In fact, I have a few at my house. The DVD has a copy of Stan Wetmore's winning race in its entirety. It is definitely worth seeing.

You might run in to some of the guys at the Durham town building or the Oak Hill Post office. I've recently seen Mert and Stanley in both places. If you are interested in cars and racing, you won't want to miss talking to them.

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# Record number of tickets issued in Operation Hardhat

The New York State Police, the state Department of Transportation, and the Thruway Authority have announced that state police and local law enforcement agencies issued a record number of tickets during 2021's Operation Hardhat.

The joint initiative seeks to crack down on work-zone violations and highlights the importance of safe driving when encountering construction, maintenance and emergency operations along state highways.

"We are committed to making sure our roadways are safe, not only for those who travel them, but also for those who work on them," said New York State Police Superintendent Kevin P. Bruen. "Each day, law enforcement and other emergency responders, including highway workers, work in a dangerous environment and risk their lives to keep the traveling public safe. It is important that motorists are aware of their responsibility to follow the rules of the road and know that violations of the Move Over Law and work zone intrusions will not be tolerated."

A total of 2,336 tickets were issued during Operation Hardhat details this year, breaking the previous record of 2,018 tickets set during 2020. The new record comes as New York state continues to experience an alarming number of work-zone intrusions and further highlights the need for motorists to slow down and drive carefully through work zones.

"The safety of our DOT family is always top priority, and I am so thankful to the women and men in law enforcement for the work they do to help keep our crews safe," Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said. "Day after day our highway crews work in dangerous conditions so that the rest of us can travel through our great state safely. It is on motorists to stay alert, put down their cell phones,

obey speed limits and drive safely through these work zones so that our road crews can do their jobs and go home to their families."

During Operation Hardhat, members of law enforcement patrol Department of Transportation and Thruway Authority work zones to enforce work zone speed limits and ensure that motorists are obeying flagging personnel.

Of the 2,336 tickets issued during 2021, 2,201 were issued by the state police, a significant increase from the 1,803 issued by troopers in 2020. Another 135 tickets were issued by local law enforcement agencies, including the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, the Utica Police Department and the NYPD.

"It's imperative that motorists obey posted speed limits and stay alert when driving through work zones," Thruway Authority Executive Director Matthew J. Driscoll said. "As these results from Operation Hard Hat indicate, too many motorists are speeding and driving distracted when traveling through work zones and putting lives at risk. We thank our partners at New York State Police Troop T for keeping the Thruway safe and protecting the lives of motorists and our workers."

Tickets issued in 2021 included the following violations: speeding – 855; cell phone – 434; seatbelts – 254; failure to move over – 167; failure to obey flagger – 1; failure to obey traffic control device – 4; and other violations – 621

Operation Hardhat details resulted in violations in almost every region of the state, including: Hudson Valley – 326; Long Island – 311; Capital Region – 263; Central New York – 196; Southern Tier – 490; Mohawk Valley – 251; Western New York – 99; North Country – 67; New York State Thruway – 135; and New York City – 16.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Four Columbia Memorial Health medical practices were recently recognized by local and regional organizations for exceptional care and service, including Coxsackie Medical Care, Jefferson Heights Family Care, Callan Family Care (Copake) and Kinderhook Medical Care. Pictured are several members of the CMH clinical care and administrative team who received one of the recent awards. From left to right are: (front) Kelly Dougher, Susan Kern, Renee Stone, Ashley Bender; and (rear) Nadja Rogers, NP, Dr. Ronald Pope, Dr. Kenneth Yuan.

## CMH medical practices win local, regional honors

HUDSON — Four medical practices operated by Columbia Memorial Health have recently earned top honors from local and regional organizations.

Coxsackie Medical Care and Jefferson Heights Family Care both made it to the finals of this year's Greene County Chamber of Commerce "Best of Greene County" awards, with Jefferson Heights Family Care winning the award. Finalists and winners of the award were selected by the public via an online survey.

In addition, Callan Family Care in Copake and Kinderhook Medical Care were selected for the 2021 Capital District Physician's

Health Plan (CDPHP) Top Ten Primary Care Practices. The award is earned only by those practices that meet the health plan's "rigorous standards for high quality care and superior customer service," according to CDPHP.

Dr. Ronald Pope, CMH's vice president of Medical Practices, Care Centers, said: "Our medical team and staff work very hard to provide high quality and effective primary care in settings that help patients feel comfortable and welcome. We're honored and grateful to be acknowledged for our success in meeting the highest standards for quality of care and overall patient satisfaction."



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I wanted to thank everyone within the Ravena / Coeymans / Selkirk communities for their continued support over the last year. It has been difficult at times but we have managed to get through it and provide a helpful community service. We are back to regular business hours Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm / Sat 10am - 3pm / Closed on Sundays

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# C-D Middle School inducts 11 students into NJHS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cairo-Durham Middle School recently inducted the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society.

CAIRO, NY – Cairo-Durham Middle School inducted 11 new members into its chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at the end of October.

To be considered for NJHS membership, students must meet specific criteria related to the organization's five pillars.

In addition to maintaining a grade point average of at least 85, NJHS members must demonstrate qualities of com-

munity service, leadership, character and citizenship.

Congratulations to the newest members of the NJHS chapter at Cairo-Durham Middle School: Kingston Czajkowski, Addison Hall, Bridget Murphy, Nicholas Olivett, Nathaniel Porter, Kaylan Rennig, Sophia Rennig, Kaitlyn Russell, Jonathan Saad, Aishwarya Thakur and Grace VanGurp.

## FEED, from page 1

er Prime Properties, one of the event's sponsors, during the giveaway Nov. 18.

"These are tough times and there are a lot of families that just don't have enough money to spread around to make the holidays something special, so a little bit of help with a turkey and the fixin's and the foods that are donated here are a big thing for some people," Caprio said.

Deb Danner, also from Coldwell Banker Prime Properties, said helping is especially gratifying during the holiday season.

"I just wanted to help," Danner said. "People in the community support our business, so we wanted to help support people who are less fortunate than others. It's a good thing to do for the holidays and to help the community."

John and Kathryn McAneny, from the Missions Committee at Asbury United Methodist Church, transported meals back to the church to distribute to those in need in the community.

"We are taking 10 meals for the church and we will be distributing them to people who need help," Kathryn McAneny said. "Families are excited about this — we do it every year and this is a wonderful help to what we do and a great help for the community."

Eclips Hair Studio on Route 32 was another sponsor of the event and several representatives from the salon were on hand to help distribute turkey meals.

"We just wanted to help out in the community," Kiersten Bates from Eclips Hair Studio said.



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Thanksgiving turkey meals are handed to John and Kathryn McAneny, left, from the Missions Committee at Asbury United Methodist Church, for distribution to families in need during the holiday.

## BOSQUE, from page 1

All but one local resident speaking at the public hearing was opposed to the project.

Resident Dan Clifton said maintaining the character of the community — including its rural nature — is one of his key reasons for opposing the devel-

opment. He spoke of the town board's decision to find that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment as part of the mandated state Envi-

ronmental Assessment Form conducted Aug. 31 and Oct. 5.

"I don't believe that anyone can seriously say that the Bosque project will not have a moderate to large impact," Clifton said. "The visual character — it is the difference between the rural character which we have now and a suburban character."

The style of the homes is also an issue, he added.

"This would develop 12 houses plus a barn residence, and nowhere else in the entire hamlet of Cornwallville is there a development of this scale, much less in the historic district," Clifton said. "They are planning for 12 contemporary houses — two building styles, just two in a community where no two houses are the same."

Resident Christine Nelson also raised questions about the construction style, along with the impact on wetlands and nighttime light pollution.

"I am opposed to the development," Nelson said. "The unique nature of our community, why I chose to live there — this does impact the historical nature with a subdivision of two house (styles), all looking the same. How will that comply with the historical nature, especially with contemporary houses?"

Speaker Margaret Doherty submitted to the board a petition opposing the proposal signed by 271 local residents.

"These signatures represent the concerns of area residents with regard to the significant negative impacts the Bosque major housing development will impose on our land and on the land — the wells, traffic, wildlife, noise, odor and light, aesthetic and historic value and resources, and the character of Cornwallville and the Durham community as a whole," Doherty said. "Many of these Durham residents have written letters in great detail explaining the concerns about this potentially disastrous construction project and the impact it will have on our community."

Neighboring property owner Walter Grote fears water runoff generated by the development onto properties downhill,

and questioned the feasibility of the developer's business model, marketing pricey homes to "like-minded multimillionaires" who "have this heartfelt desire to live in a farm community."

"Quite frankly, I don't think the whole thing makes sense," Grote said. "Multimillionaires are not going to be forced to pick from two styles of houses. They say they will modify the insides and that is great, but two styles?"

Resident Elizabeth Winslow called on the town board to change its stance on the project, specifically the negative declaration on the Environmental Assessment Form.

"The board declared that the subdivision would have no impact on our hamlet's environment, noise, traffic, forest or character. I find this irresponsible to say the least," Winslow said. "I implore the town to reconsider the negative assessment and evaluate potential impacts more deeply while we still can because once we put a road in and start pouring foundation, then it's over."

Patrick Ciccone, chairman of the town's Historic Preservation Commission, said the project would be the largest of its kind in the town's history.

"The Bosque development is the first subdivision of this size ever proposed in Cornwallville — no housing development of this scale of identical homes has ever been built in Cornwallville's nearly 250 years of existence," Ciccone said.

Resident Jim Stone was the only speaker to come out in favor of the project.

"We've got somebody who is proposing to bring in something that will significantly help this town. Are there problems with it? Yes, but there is a reason why both Cornwallville and Durham are dying, and it's because of us — because we won't allow change," Stone said. "Places that don't allow change, they die."

The second public hearing on the proposed project will be held Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at the BOCES Educational Building — the former Durham Elementary School — at 4099 Route 145, Durham.

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(We need to have announcements at least two weeks in advance.)



## VETERAN, from page 1

list. He chose the United States Coast Guard because there was a neighbor who was in that service.

"He used to come home every other weekend, and he would tell us these stories," Maltzman said. "As a kid, we would eat them up."

On Dec. 8, Maltzman went to the Coast Guard recruiter to sign up. When he did not hear anything after two weeks, he went back.

Meanwhile, Oahu's civilian and military population was reeling from the devastating attack that killed 2,403 U.S. personnel, including 68 civilians, and wounded 1,178 others. The bombing destroyed or damaged 19 vessels, including eight battleships. Fortunately for the Americans, the Navy's aircraft carriers assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet were out at sea on maneuvers.

When the Coast Guard called Maltzman up for service in March 1942, he packed a bag and said goodbye to his parents.

"My father took me down to the trolley car and took me down to Third Avenue somewhere, and then I took the subway downtown," he said.

Following boot camp at Manhattan Beach, the Coast Guard assigned Maltzman to Hoffman Island Signal School, where he learned visual communications, including blinker lights and signal flags. He did that job in Groton, Connecticut, signaling submarines as they returned to base, and he petitioned the Coast Guard to assign him to sea duty.

It took six requests before Maltzman was assigned to the original crew of the USS Centaurus (AKA-17), an Andromeda Class attack cargo ship commissioned on Oct. 21, 1943, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. An original crewmember of any vessel is called a "plank owner."

After the ship's commanding officer, Captain George Evans McCabe, trained his brand-new crew, the ship made its way south to the Panama Canal. The journey to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater had its difficult moments.

"We had a pilot that came aboard to direct us," Maltzman said. "He almost ran us aground crossing the equator. The captain threw him away and took over."

"We got into the Pacific Ocean," Maltzman said. "We didn't know what we were doing and where we were going yet. We had a hell of an ocean ride."

Centaurus made its way to Pearl Harbor where the military was still repairing the damage to its ships and aircraft.

"It was kind of a thrill to be at Pearl Harbor and see all the ships," Maltzman told interviewers from the Veterans Oral History Project. "They were still getting mud and stuff out of the battle wagons [battleships], the few that they raised, and smoke was coming out and oil was coming up from below the Arizona. It was kind of sad in a way, but yet it showed a determination the way that people were attacking rebuilding the ships. It was a wonderful sight."

Of the eight battleships anchored at Pearl Harbor on the morning of the attack, the Navy was able to repair six, while two, the USS Arizona (BB-39) and USS Oklahama (BB-37) were damaged beyond repair. The bat-



U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO #2155 IN NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
USS Centaurus (AKA-17) unloads trucks and other supplies into its landing barges at Los Negros Island in the Admiralty Island Group. Centaurus took part in the Bismarch Archipelago Operation from April 5-9, 1944.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Maltzman at Pearl Harbor with shipmate John Hough, who died earlier this year.

tleships were Japan's main targets.

The USS Centaurus did not remain long at Pearl Harbor. From Hawaii, it sailed west to take part in the invasion of Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands at the end of January 1944. Maltzman, then a Signaller I/C, with a crew of six others, would take a position on the ship's flying bridge near the smokestack using signal flags and blinking lights to communicate with other ships.

"It was the highest part of the ship," Maltzman said. "It was kind of nice to be up so high."

As an attack cargo ship, Centaurus had 12 landing barges aboard. As the U.S. Pacific Fleet made its way from island to island, capturing them from the Japanese, Centaurus' crew loaded soldiers and Marines, along with equipment and supplies, into its landing barges and delivered them to the islands, including the Admiralty Islands, Guam, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa Gunto, among others.

"We would land in the nearby vicinity of the island and lower the landing barges," he said. "Then the marines or soldiers would climb overboard on rope and go down and aboard the landing barge."

Three or four of Centaurus' crew members would then deliver them to the island.

In total, Centaurus participated in six campaigns and received six battle stars for its World War II service.

"I was lucky my ship never got hit," Maltzman said.

Maltzman has a keen memory of the Battle of Okinawa, which took place from April 1 to June 14, 1945.

"All the guys went ashore and everything, and it was very quiet because the Japanese had gone up over the mountain, away from the beach," he said. "They had quite a fight. We were on duty 24 hours to watch for invasions, the battles of the planes coming in to get us. That's when we shot down two Japanese kamikaze planes."

When all was quiet, Maltzman's shipmates put him in the bosun's chair and lowered him over the side of the ship to document the events.

"It was quite a thrill. They all knew I was an artist or trying to be an artist, so they got me to paint the Jap flags on the side of the ship," he said.

Maltzman carried his sketchbook and pencils with him during his service.

I wanted to write about the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor because it was the 50th anniversary that gave me my start in journalism.

I had always been interested in military history, and I took the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of World War II to interview veterans and write their stories. I began with several Naval Academy graduates who had been in Pearl Harbor during the time of the attack, articles which appeared in Hawaii Navy News and another newspaper, The Flagship.

I listened as these former naval officers described what had happened for them that morning. Walter Stencil was officer of the deck on the battleship USS Tennessee (BB-43) when the attack hit.

"The whole harbor was on fire," he said. "Viewing that ship which was directly astern with her back broken, jack-knived, her foremast canted forward with men hanging over the railings of the various levels, dead at their posts, was a sobering sight."

The ship to which he referred was the USS Arizona (BB-39).

Moored inboard of the USS West Virginia (BB-48) on "Battleship Row," the Tennessee could not leave the dock, as West Virginia had taken torpedo hits and sunk. One of Stencil's classmates, LTJG H.B. Stark, recalled how he could hear his shipmates, trapped below in the sunken ship, pounding on the hull to let their shipmates know they were alive. The sounds ceased before the crew could effect a rescue.

Stencil recalled his classmate, Herold Harveson, who had been serving on the USS Utah (BB-31) at the time of the attack. Harveson was one of 58 crewmembers who died when the ship sunk in 12 minutes time. He remains entombed there. I found his name on the memorial plaque at Honolulu's Punchbowl Cemetery. The destroyer escort USS Harveson (DE-316), which saw distinguished service in World War II, is named for him. The United States built 563 destroyer escorts during the war. One, USS Slater (DE-766), remains a museum ship in Albany.

Others who were off-base recall as shipmates rushed to pick them up so they could head to Pearl Harbor to be greeted by a horrific scene. Ralph Benson was stationed aboard the USS Shaw (DD-373), which was in dry dock when the attack occurred. The Navy assigned Benson to the somber task of identifying the dead.

"It was a sight I'll never forget," he said. "Some just looked like they had gone to sleep, and others, you could tell, had been in terrible explosions."

Lawrence Julihn was aboard the submarine USS Thresher (SS-200), which was returning from sea when the attack occurred. Mistaking it for an enemy sub, U.S. Army bombers attacked the vessel when it attempted to surface. After finally making it safely into the then-chaotic port, Julihn learned from a friend who had been on board a destroyer that the ship had attempted unsuccessfully to fire a torpedo at Thresher, having mistaken it for a Japanese submarine.

These first stories of my journalism career fostered a healthy respect for what had happened at Pearl Harbor and the subsequent U.S. war effort in all theaters, and I had the privilege of recording and preserving first-person accounts of that day.

The day after the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, my father, a Navy veteran who was in Pearl Harbor many times during his own service, baptized my daughter on board my husband's ship, USS Cushing (DD-985), using the ship's bell as a baptismal font. The backdrop for this ceremony was the USS Missouri (BB-63), the ship on which Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, representing the Emperor of Japan, signed the instrument of surrender.

To this day, ships that sail past the USS Arizona Memorial still render honors to the fallen. "Attention" sounds, and all hands come topside to man the rails of the ship, saluting as they pass the memorial.

"I wanted to be an artist, and I was drawing things — invasions and so forth," Maltzman said.

At some point during its wartime service, the crew nicknamed the ship "Centaurus-Maru."

"All the Japanese ships were called something 'maru,'" Maltzman said.

Japanese sailors often attached the suffix "-maru," which signifies "something beloved," to its vessels.

When Centaurus took over a hundred Japanese prisoners of war aboard to transport them back to Pearl Harbor, Maltzman got permission to sketch one of the prisoners.

"He signed my sketchbook," Maltzman said. "He liked it, except that I made the eyes a little too slanty."

He remembers that the prisoners liked being aboard the Centaurus. "They were very happy with us, the Japanese," Maltzman said. "We would allow them to come topside, on the main

deck upstairs. They bathed every day. They washed with ocean water. It was nice in a way."

Maltzman left Centaurus when it arrived back at Pearl Harbor after the U.S. victory in Okinawa, but he wishes he could have remained on board. The ship continued to Japan for occupation duty and then went on to serve in China.

"I would have been tickled pink to go to China and draw pictures," he said. "I'm sorry I missed it."

Through ship reunions, Maltzman kept in touch with shipmates and got to know those he did not know well during his time in the Coast Guard.

The American Legion Post 291 will be holding a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at 6 p.m. on Dec. 7 at its building at 54 Maple Ave., Greenville. The public is invited to attend.

## Town eyes cameras over park safety concerns

By Melanie Lekocevic

Capital Region Independent Media

GREENVILLE — The town council is looking to purchase a pair of additional video cameras at Vanderbilt Town Park following concerns about park safety.

"We have had some issues with some activity in the park and it seems to be going on where we don't have cameras, like behind the South Barn, where the dog park is," Town Supervisor Paul Macko said at the November meeting of the town board. "I would really like to buy some cameras and see if we can install them."

One alleged incident took place less than a month ago, Macko said.

"We had somebody in a black SUV allegedly rob a kid up there about three or four weeks ago and the sheriff was involved," Macko said. "Our camera did show a vehicle leaving the park at a high rate of speed and we could hear the conversation. Supposedly someone also got their envelope from the bank swiped, where somebody allegedly grabbed the money."

Macko declined to provide further information about the incidents and would



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/CAPITAL REGION INDEPENDENT MEDIA  
The town council is looking to purchase and install two additional video cameras in Vanderbilt Town Park following several alleged incidents.

only state that they were currently under investigation.

To prevent further incidents, the town is looking to install two more cameras in

the park.

Town Maintenance Supervisor Renee Hamilton said it is unclear whether the park's Wi-Fi would be able to reach all areas where the town is considering installing the cameras.

There are already several cameras in the park and they appear to be effective for the areas they cover, Macko said.

"What we have up there right now seems to be working fairly well," Macko said. "The sheriff's department and the state police have pulled footage up and the cameras do a fairly good job."

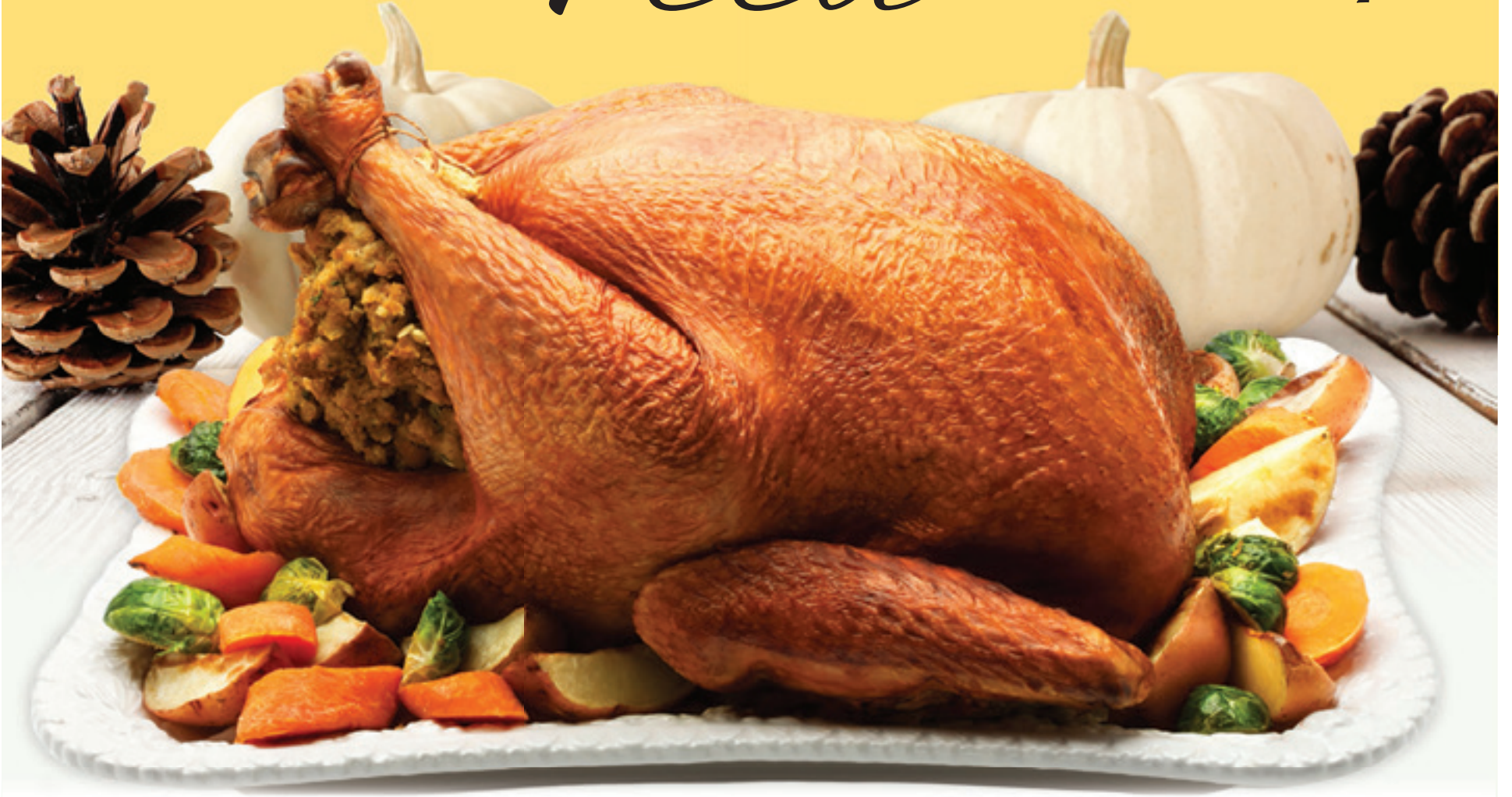
Town Councilman Travis Richards presented a resolution giving the town a cap of \$500 to spend on the cameras and related equipment. Town Councilman John Bensen seconded the resolution and it was adopted unanimously by the board.

Macko said he hopes holiday bargains may cut the cost of the purchase.

"I am hoping that around the holidays there will be some buys and we can get the equipment we need, and then first thing in the spring we would get them installed," Macko said.



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## Living on Purpose

# Choosing to become more aware of God

By Dr. Billy Holland

For Capital Region Independent Media

The Bible refers to a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, but what does this mean? I believe one answer would be the contentment of the conscience for those who know God and have decided to live in the awareness of His presence.

How can we do this? We can train our minds to think about God the same as we learn and become skilled to do anything else. Repetition and commitment are the building blocks of being proficient and in the Christian faith, self-discipline is the path to spiritual transformation.

It's important to awaken each day with prayers of thanksgiving for having the opportunity to communicate with the one who loves us and created us. We can approach Him boldly in faith, asking and seeking His wisdom and understanding.

Entering into a deeper relationship with Him requires, as the Bible mentions in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, to pray without ceasing. The previous verse encourages us to rejoice always as our human nature finds these demands to be somewhat unrealistic. However, the Lord is saying relationship has everything to do with staying focused on Him.

Every moment can plead for spiritual sensitivity as we realize the moment we take our eyes away from the prize, we begin to fall away and become lukewarm. This sense of urgency is a vital component for the mind to be renewed and conformed to the mind of Christ.

Many have not taken the opportunity to ask for His divine appointments and His discernment that we might know His thoughts as we comprehend the critical importance of developing a higher level of spiritual sensitivity. Without this passionate craving to be close to God, we will be unable to walk in His Spirit. We must become one with Him for Him to move through us.

Without this revelation, our hope for an intimate relationship with Him will not exist. Constantly reminding ourselves to concentrate on Christ is the path that leads to the secret place of the Most High. Within our free will, we must demonstrate a fierce and fervent determination and relentless perseverance to absorb and be possessed by Him.

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is at work in us” (Ephesians 3:16-20).

We realize this message is not for the casual religious person. It is for those who pant after God like the deer that pants for water.

“As the deer pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after

thee, O God. My soul thirst for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” Psalm 42:1-2.

This is the way of holiness for those who have a passion to be purified by the refiner's fire. Those who have decided to take up their cross no matter what pain and rejection it will bring are the ones who are nauseated with their sin and have turned away from the temptations and love for the world. They have chosen the path of the overcomer and have become a member of a radical and extreme remnant.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:1-2).

So if spiritual joy is available, then why does it seem that very few have it? Because only a small number of individuals have allowed God to be their shepherd. Those who refuse to surrender the control of their decisions cannot enter into the deeper chambers of spiritual intimacy which is the foundation of our covenant relationship with Him. You see, whoever sits on the throne of our heart is the Lord our conscience.

May the Lord continue to give you His wisdom and understanding.

Learn more about the Christian life at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com).



## Because you care!

*Sometimes, things don't always work out at home for a child.*

New York's Office of Children and Family Services estimates that 130,000 children around the state live with a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, or other family member. Some even live with close family friends. When a family member or close family friend assumes the responsibility of caring for a child, that's called **Kinship Care**.

Perhaps you are a kinship care provider, or know someone who is. If you are, you do it for all the right reasons. **Because you care**. But there's good news. St. Catherine's Center for Children has launched a new program to support kinship caregivers in Albany, Schenectady, Greene and Ulster Counties. The program connects caregivers like you to a variety of community and public support services, providing you with the tools you need to succeed. Want to learn more? Call us at the number below, or email [kinshipcare@st-cath.org](mailto:kinshipcare@st-cath.org)

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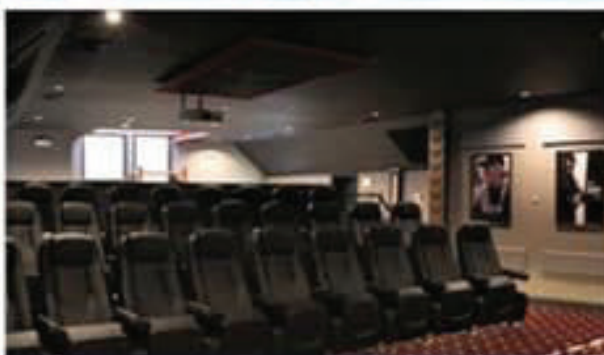
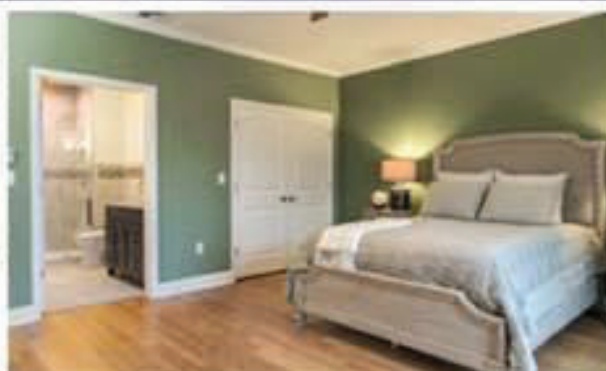
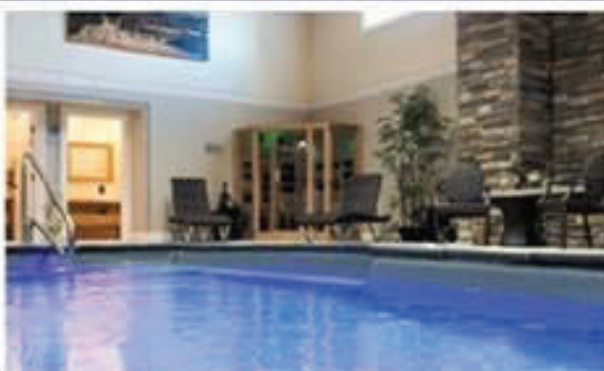
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## Be A Better Gardener

# Bee-friendly lawns

By Thomas Christopher

For Capital Region Independent Media

What if, instead of being environmental offenders, lawns could be contributors to the well-being of our landscapes? That's the question Dr. Eric Watkins has been addressing in his work at the University of Minnesota, and he is coming up with some intriguing answers.

For almost a decade now he's been creating lawns that are not only more sustainable, requiring far less inputs to remain green and growing, but also hospitable to native bees and other pollinators.

The grasses on which Dr. Watkins has been basing his lawns are various mixtures of the species known as fine fescues. This group includes a number of different types: hard fescues, creeping red fescues, chewing fescues and sheep fescues. They have long been an important component of the "shady mixes" of grass seed you'll find at the local garden center or big-box store, although they actually grow quite well in situations of full sun as well. As the name suggests, they are finer textured than most other turf grasses, with thin leaf blades.

I've planted a few lawns composed of mixtures of these grasses and found them quite adaptable, though they won't tolerate poorly drained, consistently damp soils.

They have several advantages over other turf grasses. I was interested in them because they are naturally short and so need far less mowing – I mow my own fine fescue lawn about once a month, and a friend for whom I installed such a lawn, who doesn't mind a somewhat tousled look, mows just twice a year, once in late spring and again in late summer.

A lawn's need for fertilizer, as Dr. Watkins points out, will vary with the soil on which it is growing, but he has found that a fine fescue lawn typically needs just a half to a quarter the amount of fertilizer as a Kentucky bluegrass lawn would on the same site.

The fine fescues – and Dr. Watkins likes to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Increasing the biodiversity of a lawn greatly increases its attractiveness to pollinators.**

plant mixes of the different types to increase the genetic diversity and adaptability of the resulting turf – as a group are outstandingly drought tolerant once established, although they do require irrigation during periods of prolonged heat and dry weather. If you select fine fescue seed that contains endophytes, a beneficial fungus that lives within the grass, the lawn will also be naturally resistant to diseases and to many turf-eating insects.

An interesting characteristic of the fine fescues is that they are clump-forming, growing as a collection of discrete plants. As they establish themselves, they will fill in to make

a solid and weed-resistant carpet, but they can coexist with sprinklings of low-growing flowering plants that make them hospitable to pollinators: "bee-friendly."

Dr. Watkins has been experimenting with including white clover, creeping thyme and self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*). Increasing the biodiversity of the lawn in this fashion greatly increases its attractiveness to pollinators; the University of Minnesota researchers have found over 50 species of native bees visiting their bee lawns.

To maintain populations of the flowering plants, the bee lawn cultivator must avoid the

use of broadleaf weedkillers, another advantage from an environmentalist's perspective. Applications of insecticides will kill pollinators, and so these too should be avoided. Added to these benefits is the fact that such bee-friendly lawns have a smaller carbon footprint because they require so much less mowing, fertilizer, and water.

The state of Minnesota has taken a hand in encouraging such plantings with a "Lawns to Legumes" program that offers grants to gardeners to convert conventional turf to such bee-friendly lawns. It offers a "Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide" with comprehensive instructions on how to accomplish this, available for free download from its Board of Water and Soil Resources website that is most easily located by conducting a web search for "Lawns to Legumes."

For more information, listen to a conversation with Dr. Watkins about bee-friendly and sustainable lawns on the Berkshire Botanical Garden Growing Greener podcast at [www.thomaschristophergardens.com/podcasts/bee-friendly-lawns](http://www.thomaschristophergardens.com/podcasts/bee-friendly-lawns)

*Be-a-Better-Gardener is a community service of Berkshire Botanical Garden, located in Stockbridge, MA. Its mission, to provide knowledge of gardening and the environment through a diverse range of classes and programs, informs and inspires thousands of students and visitors each year. Thomas Christopher is a volunteer at Berkshire Botanical Garden and is the author or co-author of more than a dozen books, including Nature into Art and The Gardens of Wave Hill (Timber Press, 2019). He is the 2021 Garden Club of America's National Medalist for Literature, a distinction reserved to recognize those who have left a profound and lasting impact on issues that are most important to the GCA. Tom's companion broadcast to this column, Growing Greener, streams on WE-SUFM.org, Pacifica Radio and NPR and is available at his website, <https://www.thomaschristophergardens.com/podcast>.*

## State police warn of phone scam from fake state trooper

The New York State Police are warning against a phone scam where callers are claiming to be state troopers.

During the calls, scammers say they are a member of the New York State Police and that charges are pending against the person. The scammers then request money or bank information.

Neither the state police, nor any agency authorized by it, will ever solicit for money or ask for personal information over the phone, according to state police.

The New York State Office of the Attorney General investigates illegal and questionable telemarketing operations in New York state.

Anyone who receives a solicitation by telephone, mail, email or in person, from someone seeking money and who claims to be a representative or employee of the New York State Police, or suggests an affiliation with the New York State Police, is advised to get as many details as possible about the caller and to report this to the New York

State Attorney Generals Charities Bureau or the nearest Attorney General's Office.

As a matter of crime prevention, state police advise people should be wary of solicitors who:

- Do not provide an address or phone number;
- Demand immediate payment or payment in cash;

• Seem vague as to how contributions will be spent;

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*(We need to have announcements at least two weeks in advance.)*



## Social Security Matters

# Is waiting until 70 still the best plan to maximize Social Security?

By Russell Gloor

For Capital Region Independent Media

**Dear Rusty:**

My wife started her Social Security at 62 in March 2017 and I filed a Restricted Application to collect a spouse benefit from her shortly thereafter.

Our plan is for me to file for my own Social Security later this year when I turn 70. Then my wife will file for her spousal benefit from me. Our life expectancy is 93 and 96.

Is this still the best plan for maximum payments?

**Signed: Planning Ahead**

**Dear Planning:**

Yes, indeed. You've chosen an excellent strategy, and one which is no longer available to younger beneficiaries. The Restricted Application option you chose, to get only spouse benefits and let your own increase, was eliminated for anyone born after Jan. 1,

1954.

When you turn 70, you will be eligible for your maximum SS retirement benefit to start at that time. Social Security recommends that you apply about three months before you wish benefits to begin (you will specify on the application when you want benefits to start), so you can apply before your birthday if you like but just be sure to be explicit that your benefit start-month is the month you turn 70. That way, you won't lose any of the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) you've been accumulating since you reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66. Your benefit at age 70 will be 32% more than it would have been at age 66.

Note that when you apply, Social Security will probably offer to pay you six months of retroactive benefits. Although that lump sum can be quite tempting, accepting it will also reduce your Social Security benefit amount by 4% for the remainder of your life. With a life expectancy in your 90s, I

suggest you choose wisely.

After you have submitted your application for Social Security retirement benefits your current spousal benefit will stop as soon as your higher benefit starts. After you apply for your age 70 benefit, your wife's spousal benefit will be automatically awarded when your own benefit begins (automatic because she was born after January 1, 1954).

For information, your wife's spousal benefit will be based upon your full retirement age benefit amount, not the increased amount you will receive because you delayed until age 70. You should also be aware that your wife's benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount because she claimed her own benefit at age 62 (claiming her own benefit early affects her spousal benefit amount).

Nevertheless, with a life expectancy in your 90s, you have chosen an excellent strategy that will pay you the highest possible monthly amount and the most in life-

time cumulative benefits, while also providing the highest possible survivor benefit for your wife should you die first.

Although waiting until age 70 to claim isn't the right decision for everyone, in your specific case I congratulate you for making a very wise choice.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

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