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& Salem Press of Washington County



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A kinder, gentler campus

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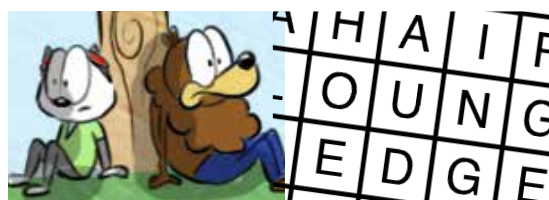
National experts visit Greenwich students to offer hope, advice

Former MMA fighter Tom Murphy, pictured, was joined by Iraq War veteran Rick Yarosh and Greenwich CSD superintendent Dr. Jennifer Steimle to address all students on topics related to bullying on campus; offering hope to victims and strategies to bystanders so that they can see the signs and intervene.

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S'ville seeks coveted 'Trail Town' status

After a competitive application process, in March the Village of Schuylerville was named one of four municipalities to participate in the Empire State Trail Town program.

This year is the first time two communities along the Champlain Canalway Trail, the Village of Schuylerville and the Town of Fort Edward, have been selected for the coveted statewide program.

The New York State Canal Corporation runs the New York State Canal System and the Canalway Trail, a network of approximately 400 miles of multi-use trails across upstate New York. Together, the canals and trails create a unique, world-class, scenic, recreational, and economic resource.

Since the completion of the Empire State Trail, the nation's longest multi-use state trail, in 2020, the Erie and Champlain Canalway Trails have only grown in popularity, attracting visitors from all over the nation and the world. The Champlain Canalway Trail is the north-south leg of the Empire State Trail. Two Erie Canalway Trail communities, the City of Little Falls and the City of Amsterdam, have also been chosen to participate in the Trail Town program.

"This initiative, developed by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) in partnership with the New York State Canal Corporation, highlights the transformative power of the Empire State Trail as an economic engine for communities like ours," said Daniel Carpenter, Mayor of the Village of Schuylerville, in a statement. "Our involvement signifies a commitment to enhancing the trail experience for both residents and visitors, fostering a vibrant, trail-friendly destination. We eagerly look forward to collaborating with PTNY, leveraging their support and expertise to realize our vision of a welcoming, dynamic Schuylerville that capitalizes on the unique opportunities the trail presents."

The Empire State Trail Town program, now in its third year, aims to enhance residents' quality of life and drive economic growth along the trails.

The charming Village of Schuylerville on



the Champlain Canal features a vibrant, trail-adjacent downtown, and unique Revolutionary War history. The Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor's Center, located adjacent to Schuylerville's Fort Hardy Park, is the Empire State Trailhead, and has the potential to be a regional hub for recreational visitors.

The Trail Town program is designed to connect communities to one another, the resources they offer, and to nature. During the next 10 months, these municipalities will be connected with a network of partners to develop recommendations for trail improvements and work toward earning Trail Town certification showcasing them as must-see destinations.

"The Empire State Trail, ranked as the number one best rail trail in the country by Outside Magazine, is a massive economic driver for New York's vibrant canalway communities, drawing visitors from around the world," said Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York, in a statement. "We look forward to working with the selected communities to help leverage this exceptional trail by developing and implementing strategies like improv-

ing trail-to-town connectivity, enhancing the services and amenities that trail users seek, and promoting a culture of stewardship, hospitality, and inclusivity."

JOURNAL & PRESS

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Working toward a sustainable Hebron

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

Hebron was designated a “Clean Energy Community” by the New York State Research and Energy Authority (NYSERDA). This honor is in recognition of the town’s energy saving and resilience building initiatives in the face of a changing climate. Hebron is the first town in Washington County to receive this distinction.

Jill Nadolski, the Hebron Town Council member who spearheads the effort said, “Hebron has been a leading town in Washington County for clean energy initiatives. Our Climate Smart Hebron Task Force is very proud of our actions and for reaching the required threshold to be designated a Clean Energy Community.”

The Hebron Town Council began to focus on sustainability in 2021, when Nadolski presented the idea at a meeting. As a first step, the Council invited NYSERDA to make a presentation to them on its Clean Energy Communities program that provides technical assistance and resources to local governments and rewards them for implementing initiatives. NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) has a similar program, Climate Smart Communities, which the town also relied on for guidance.

Hebron voted to pass a resolution committing to working towards sustainability and formed a task force to work on these issues. Nadolski was appointed to chair the committee and recruited volunteers, including other Council members, to guide their work.

The Sustainable Hebron Task Force, (formerly Climate Smart Hebron), “was set up in January 2022 to act as a steering committee that advises and collaborates with the town government to accomplish plans, programs, and activities that are part of the Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities Certification programs,” (Press Release). Sustainable Hebron’s first project was organizing a town-wide roadside cleanup day, which has

become an annual event.

Since then, Hebron has completed four “high-impact actions” to decrease energy use, increase reliance on renewable energy, and inform the community:

LED Street Light Conversation – the town had already switched to more efficient LED lighting before the task force was formed, an action recognized through NYSERDA and DEC as an energy saving initiative with high-impact.

Electricity Benchmarking of Municipal Buildings - Sustainable Hebron conducted an energy audit use report to get data on typical electricity use by all the municipal buildings. (Using this data they have already detected a small savings in town electricity use).

Community Solar Campaign – was an effort to enroll ten households into a “community solar” program along with the Town and Highway buildings. Each customer receives a 10% discount on their electric bills, without changing their supplier (whether National Grid or NYSEG). Participation supports a NY solar provider. Upon completion of this initiative, Hebron was rewarded with a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA.

Clean Heating and Cooling Demonstration - using the \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA, Sustainable Hebron helped the Fire Department install a clean energy heating and cooling system in their building used for town meetings and court. The Fire Department was able to replace their old oil-burning furnace with a

clean energy heat pump system supported by a high efficiency propane stove backup in the event of an electricity outage. The Town also contributed an additional \$5,000 and the remainder of the cost was covered by the Fire Department. Signage was placed around the meeting rooms to inform visitors about the technology.

Achievement of the four actions led to a second \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA.

Even before working with

NYSERDA and DEC, Hebron was awarded a Hudson River Valley Greenway grant for \$10,000 to create a vision/strategy plan for the town. Guided by consultants from the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board, Hebron engaged with the community in a year-long process to lay out “a strategy to achieve a community-shared vision that can be used by individuals, organizations, and Town officials to advise future actions and decisions,” (Press Release).

Hebron’s vision incorporated sustainability goals and actions. Goal 9 of the plan concerns “climate resiliency and energy conservation “ and calls for the establishment of “one Cooling and Warming center”, (Town of Hebron Community Vision and Strategy, September 2023, p. 16).

“You’ve heard of warming centers, but a heat wave, too, can be dangerous for elderly and vulnerable people and scientists are projecting milder winters and hotter summers,” Nadolski explained. “With the new heat pump system, we could set up the town meeting hall as a cooling center.”

Sustainable Hebron formed an Advisory Committee, separate from the task force, to work on this. A cooling center for heat emergencies should be in place by this summer. “This is the first step to looking at bigger or other types of emergency responses for the town,” Nadolski said.

Sustainable Hebron’s work continues. Roadside Cleanup day will be held again in April and the group will host a Hebron-Salem Repair Cafe at the Historic Salem Courthouse on April 6. Volunteer “fixers” will help repair jewelry, lamps, and computers, mend clothing, solve smartphone problems, and fix appliances, bikes, toys and furniture. The Task Force will conduct another community solar project, with a goal of signing up 50 additional households.

Nadolski explained the support for Sustainable Hebron this way: “I get a lot of people who are for it and understand what we’re trying to do. Because we’re all volunteers, we’re not costing the town anything and we’re bringing in resources and improvements. So they’re pretty receptive.”



An interview with ‘Cinderella’

Haleigh Eustis

Special to Journal & Press

Step into the enchanting realm of “Cinderella,” where magic dances with reality in a waltz of wonder. Set against the backdrop of a whimsical kingdom, this timeless play weaves a tapestry of dreams, hope, love, and transformation. With its captivating narrative and iconic characters, the stage becomes a portal to a world where pumpkin carriages take flight, glass slippers find their match, and true love triumphs over adversity. From the humble hearth of Cinderella’s home to the opulent ballroom of the palace, prepare for scenes that shimmer with a sense of wonder, inviting audiences of all ages to believe in the power of kindness, resilience, and the enduring magic of fairy tales.

Of course, there is no “Cinderella the Musical” without our very own Cinderella. Schuylerville Community Theatre is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful leading lady: Sarah Cordts! Sarah has been in over thirty productions and has found a love of theatre at a very young age. She started performing in front of her family at the age of three. She explained how she and her sister used to write small skits for her family and act them out. “I used to act out the role of Belle as I watched the movie *Beauty and the Beast*. I was just turning three years old and had memorized the songs and how Belle acted. My Grandmother made me a couple of gowns so that I could waltz in a ballgown during the ballroom scenes!”

With a love of performance established at such a young age, Sarah explored various roles throughout her life such as *Mary Poppins*, *Laurie*, *Belle* and “Cinderella!” You heard it right, Sarah has played Cinderella prior to this musical! Sarah played the resident Cinderella character at the Great Escape, located in Lake George. For years she has brought excitement and whimsy to girls and boys alike at the amusement park

in her electric blue gown and iconic pumpkin carriage! From a young age she expressed to her parents that she would love to work at the Great Escape and play Cinderella. Her love for the character never diminished and Sarah stuck to her word. At the age of fourteen, she interviewed for the position of Cinderella and promptly fell in love with the environment and excitement that came with her job. Often, Sarah looks back fondly at her position at the Great Escape and stated that “we [her family] get a big kick out of the fact that I have a picture of me sitting in the coach when I’m very little and then years later, I did end up working there, and I’m sitting in that same spot in the pumpkin carriage!”

While Sarah may have bid farewell to her role at the Great Escape, the spirit of Cinderella remains woven into the fabric of her being. There are so many reasons why Cinderella is just so special to Sarah, and having the privilege of playing her on stage is beyond magical.

When asked what lessons Sarah hopes the audience takes away from the show, she responded with a thoughtful answer. She loves that “Cinderella” has an overarching life lesson; being kind to others while not expecting anything in return and doing good for people in any circumstance. Sarah expressed that she relates to Cinderella for a handful of reasons, as the character is

a hard-worker and feels a strong sense of family within the show. Sarah states that “even though she [Cinderella] doesn’t always see eye to eye with her step-mother, Cinderella still loves her, her home and where she comes from.”

As the performance draws near, Sarah is keen to impart a cherished quote from the story: “have courage and be kind.” This mantra, passed down from Cinderella’s mother, strikes a chord with Sarah and serves as a poignant reminder for audiences to embrace compassion and bravery. Reflecting on the production, Sarah underscores the transformative power of kindness, expressing her hope that audiences will glean this valuable message from Schuylerville Community Theatre’s production, crafted with immense dedication and love by its exceptional cast and crew. “Kindness and goodness goes a long, long way. I hope that people will understand that from this particular production,”





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Duo teaches when to intervene

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

An amazing duo of “superheroes without capes” were in Greenwich to show students and educators how they can spread HOPE (Hold On, Possibilities Exist) in their classrooms and beyond.

Tom Murphy and Rick Yarosh, of Sweethearts & Heroes, worked in the Greenwich Central School District on March 26. Sweethearts & Heroes is a student empowerment and empathy activation team that aims to prevent hopelessness, bullying and suicide with a focus on the basic components of social-emotional learning.

Sweethearts & Heroes offers a profound, engaging signature presentation that calls for HOPE, Empathy and Action; Circle, which is built on the ancient ritual of communicating in a circle to build empathy; and BRAVE Buddies, which trains older students in bully drills that they, in turn, teach to students in lower grades.

The Sweethearts & Heroes team included Tom Murphy, Director and Founder, of St. Albans, VT; and Ret. U.S. Army Sgt. Rick Yarosh, a Purple Heart recipient, HOPE expert and motivational speaker from New York who was burned severely while serving in Iraq.

Dr. Jennifer Steimle, Greenwich Central School District Superintendent said, “We are very excited to reignite what we believe in at Greenwich. It is our goal to promote kindness to and for all during this day of workshops. We want every student and staff member to walk away from this day reminded that we all matter.”

Murphy added, “We’re coming to Greenwich to cultivate compassion and empathy. We aim to stop students from making destructive decisions and help them treat each other with kindness. We also make our messages sustainable in schools, so that they have an eventual and sustainable impact on the local community. The spider web effect is powerful and incredible.”

For more than 16 years, Sweethearts & Heroes has presented what Murphy calls “the ‘stop, drop and roll’ of bullying” to more than 2.5 million students in school districts from New England to Hawaii and north into Canada.

Several students were called up to the front to perform challenges with Murphy and Yarosh, to demonstrate their individual power to redirect and intervene when bullying behavior is presented. It was a well-polished and seemingly very effective program. The students in the assembly were riveted.

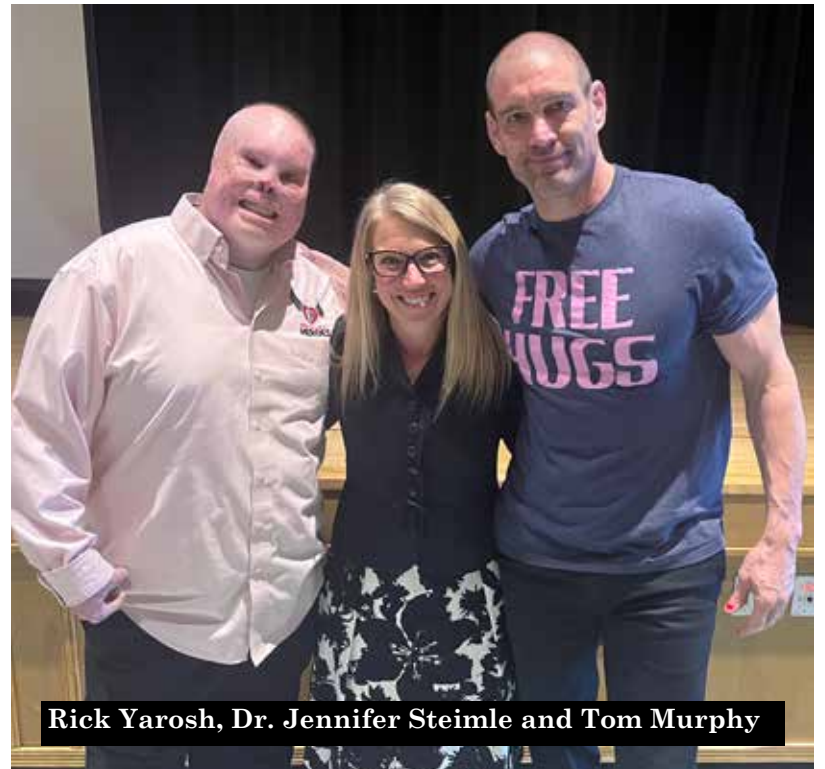
“You could see it in the room, there was not a cell phone out,” Yarosh said after. “The kids were just paying attention. They were laughing at the right times, they were participating completely, appropriately.”

Yarosh said that the program’s goal is to empower students to make the right choices, and to come to the aid of others who need help.

“We really are giving them some avenues to take care of business themselves because they can, and they will,” he said. “They just need a little help to understand when to take action. That’s why we were here.”

Steimle said in an interview before the program: “Sweethearts and Heroes is pretty well known in our region and becoming bigger nationally on a scale for supporting schools and students and staff members, too.

“For us, we’ve seen an uptick in some unkind behaviors at all levels. So we thought this would be a good way to really just jumpstart our kindness efforts again, and remind every student, every staff member



Rick Yarosh, Dr. Jennifer Steimle and Tom Murphy

– we have community members here too – what we believe in; and we believe in kindness for all.

“It does not matter how old you are, what color your skin is, where you grew up. It’s about kindness. And so this hopefully will just kick us off in the right direction as we approach spring and get us off on the right foot.”

When asked if there has been more bullying on campus since the pandemic, Steimle responded:

“I wouldn’t say bullying, but I would say general unkindness about students and people with differences.

“It’s not always bullying, but it’s words that are being chosen to be used by students towards other students that we’ve not heard before. So the language itself, and whether they’re hearing it on TV or music, we’re not really sure, but we need to remind people that it’s just not acceptable. ...

“We’ve definitely detected a pattern, but we’re not going to allow the pattern to stick.”

Hebron's plans for a new garage

Robin Lyle
Journal & Press

After twenty years of seeing the need, the Town of Hebron expects to have a new highway garage by the end of 2024. Hebron Supervisor Brian Campbell becomes quite animated when he talks about town plans for a new building on the site of their current garage. That building was constructed around 1960 and was fine for single axle trucks that the town used exclusively then. Increasingly, the town is purchasing tandem trucks. These longer trucks don't fit into the existing facility when the snow plow is attached.

Currently, the highway department prepares for an impending snow storm by filling the trucks with sand and placing them in the garage to keep the load dry. When the crew arrives to clear the snow, they first have to take the truck out of the garage and attach the plow. This creates a delay in plowing, when time is critical.

Now the town will be able to build. Due to increases in funding, along with methodically building their fund balance over the years, the project can go forward. During Covid, Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) gave money to municipalities to address revenue shortages due to the pandemic. Hebron's share of ARPA came to \$182,000.

"ARPA makes it easier," Campbell explains. "The problem was you can't put anything out to bid and get a price until you've done all the engineering. You're left in the dark. You have to go through all these stages just to get the bid. So, we were thinking, 'wow!', that's enough to do all the preliminary work to figure this out. We had to first go out to bid the feasibility and engineering studies. By the time these bids are back, we'll be out about \$70,000. So, if it wasn't for that ARPA money, you'd have to use the funds you had on hand."

Meanwhile, the state has increased monies available to towns for road maintenance. The longstanding CHIPS program (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) has provided most

of the state aid in the past. But over the last seven years, the state added three new funding programs to improve local roads. A program called POP, for Pave our Potholes, gives each municipality an amount proportional to the amount of CHIPS money they receive. Combined with two other new programs – Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR) and PAVE NY – municipalities are receiving significantly more money for roads.

Annually, Hebron receives about \$240,000 in CHIPS funds, and the three newer funds add an additional \$145,000. Since Hebron's highway department only has the capacity to complete about \$150,000 worth of paving and other improvements every year, the town was able to roll over the remaining funds into the next budget year creating a fund balance. The board realized they could use the fund balance to begin construction of the building and have it paid for over the next two years without going to local taxpayers to fund it.

"We have nearly a million in the fund balance at the moment, so we've been saving the money to get there. But the way CHIPS works, is you have to put your money out to get the CHIPS money back. So in the first year we'll be fine because we can put out the \$700,000 from the fund balance and get the \$700,000 back from CHIPS. But the next year will be tight because the money is going out and you're waiting for it to come back."

Hebron's initial plan was to construct a building with three double bays, each ac-



Top right: the site of the new garage



Brian Campbell

commodating two tandem trucks for a total of six trucks. But when the bids came

back at a cost of \$1.8 million, the town rejected those bids and scaled back the project. A revised plan consisting of two double bays for four trucks is already out for bids. They can still keep their single axle truck and large pickup trucks in the old facility, along with the highway superintendent's office.

The new building will be constructed alongside the current structure on Chamberlain Mills Road. An artesian well has already been drilled. Campbell expects the new building will be completed and in use by the end of 2024. "We're hoping everything will be ready to go by April 1st. We cut the size by a third...that won't quite cut it by a third of the price, but we're hopeful."

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Two rare quilts to be restored

The Cambridge Historical Society and Museum (CHSM) announced it has been awarded two state grants one for the conservation of two rare quilts the other for assistance with archiving. The awards were given by the 2023 New York State Council on the Arts/Greater Hudson Heritage Network (NYSCA/GHHN) and the Conservation Treatment Grant Program, and the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) Planning and Assessment Services.

For the conservation of the quilts, the museum received \$7,500 from the Conservation Grant Treatment Program. One quilt is a wool, whole cloth, Calimanco quilt, dyed with indigo and butternut dating to 1730-1820. It features both feather and floral designs in the quilting. It is unusual in that it still retains its 'glazed worsted' fin-

ishing. The other quilt is an 1820's white-on-white cotton whole cloth quilt with both shadow stitching and trapunto in a 'Greek Revival' medallion design. Both quilts will be on public display at the Museum once their conservation treatment is complete. (Spicer Art Conservation is the Museum's partner for all treatments.)

Additionally, the award from (DHPSNY) Planning & Assessment Services will provide an Archival Needs Assessment to thoroughly examine the CHSM's archival program, identifying and addressing specific organizational needs, operational efficiencies, storage concerns, and collection management issues. This process will take the better part of 2024. Best practices change as the science of preservation changes. With the information gained from this needs assessment, CHSM can adjust their protocols

to best protect and extend the life of the archival material that is in their care.

The NYSCA/GHHN Conservation Treatment Grant Program is made possible with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. CHSM, an independent all-volunteer museum, which operates solely on donations, is located at 12 Broad Street in Cambridge, NY. Its collections include a lovely Second Empire house, barn, property, and archives and artifacts related to the Town and Village of Cambridge, the Towns of Jackson and White Creek, and the surrounding area in Washington County, NY.

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‘Following a path of totality’

Sarah Murphy
*Greenwich Free Library
 Special to Journal & Press*

As far as I can tell, the two groups of people most excited about the upcoming solar eclipse are science enthusiasts and librarians. Every library I follow on Instagram has included at least one post about related programming, and libraries have traditionally been among the most reliable dispensers of free eclipse glasses. My own enthusiasm about the April 8th eclipse is dated to August 2017, the last time the continental United States experienced a total solar eclipse. The Path of Totality didn't come near New York, but viewing the partial eclipse through my homemade cereal box pinhole projector among friends and hundreds of strangers in Central Park was thrilling, and knowing that the next one would cross through the Adirondacks and Green Mountains was probably one of the reasons I moved north. Even though 2024 seemed impossibly futuristic back in 2017, I've had the date 4/8/24 etched in my brain ever since.

My enthusiasm about the eclipse was not initially accompanied by a whole lot of knowledge, but the science community—true to form—has not been withholding when it comes to background information, safety tips, and explanations of the physics, mechanics, and what I would call magical circumstances that make these astronomical events happen. Last month, along with hundreds of other librarians, I attended a webinar hosted by the New York State Library featuring Dr. Mindy Townsend, astronomer and astrophysicist with Dudley Observatory at Siena College. Dr. Townsend has been in demand these last few months, and her 90-minute presentation was terrific. I learned about the science and history of eclipses, why they happen, and how they've been interpreted by cultures throughout time. I learned about how an eclipse requires syzygy + new moon + moon at peri-

gee (could there be a better mix of science and poetry than that sentence?) It basically means that we need the earth, sun, and moon to be aligned in a straight line (which happens twice a month); we need the moon in its darkest phase (once a month), and we need the moon to be in perigee, or, in its orbit closest to earth (also once a month). So, why don't we bust out these crazy glasses every month? It's because the moon's orbit is tilted, and it's only occasionally that the shadow is just right enough to block out the sun.

A few weeks later our library hosted Bill Frederick and David Yates from the Salem Astronomy Club to deliver a live presentation about all of the above and more. From Bill and Dave I learned that, in addition to syzygy and perigee, this phenomenon is also down to a grand coincidence (or magic, depending on your outlook): the sun is about 400 times bigger than the moon. But the moon is about 400 times closer to us. So they basically look to be the same size from where we're sitting. What are the chances?!

A lot has to be working just right for a solar eclipse to occur, but they aren't super rare. What's rare is to be in the Path of Totality for a Total Solar Eclipse. While our region is just outside of the path, a few hour's drive north or northwest will get us there. During totality, I'm told, night falls in an instant. The cows go the barn, the chickens to roost; the birdsong ceases, and the crickets start chirping. The temperature drops about 10°. And people experience something they can't seem to effectively describe other than to call it life changing. During totality (and, I must stress, ONLY during totality), one can remove the safe viewing glasses and look directly at what's visible of the sun, just an outline. A partial eclipse is also an incredible thing to experience, to be sure, but to paraphrase Dr. Townsend, the



difference between a 90% and a 99% partial eclipse isn't too significant, but the difference between 99% and 100% totality is everything. After this one, the next total solar eclipse viewable in New York State will be in 2079. I don't think I can wait. So, to the Path of Totality go I!

Whether you travel or stay put, put safety first, and never (never ever ever!) look directly at the sun without eclipse glasses. As Bill Frederick reminded us, even a few seconds can cause permanent eye damage, and six seconds could leave you permanently blind. If you don't have a pair of safe solar viewers, you can build a pinhole projector or find other safe methods (involving colanders!) online. Let's all hope for clear skies, clear roads, and don't forget to pack snacks.

As to why libraries are such natural partners and cheerleaders of astronomical events? I'd say that they have a lot in common. They both offer a way to go something beyond our day-to-day existence, and they are both completely free of cost.

Sarah Murphy is Director of the Greenwich Free Library.



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Eclipse viewing at HCP

Prepare for a rare celestial event as Hudson Crossing Park invites you to their Eclipse Encounter on Monday April 8th, from 2-5pm.

Even though there are a few eclipses of the Sun every year, each eclipse is only visible to a small region of the Earth. The last total solar eclipse that was visible in New York happened in 1925, making April 8th's event remarkable. Our region is very close to the path of total eclipse which stretches along a narrow line from Mexico, through Texas, all the way to Maine.

The event kicks off with a "Pre-viewing" session from 2-3pm, where attendees can gear up and prepare for the partial eclipse. At 3pm, the real adventure will begin with activities for all ages! From 3-5pm, unleash your creativity with eclipse-themed crafts for kids and kids at

heart. Additionally, an expert educator will be on hand to share insights and address any burning questions about the eclipse. A limited number of viewing glasses will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, allowing attendees to witness the celestial event. Don't miss seeing this amazing cos-

mic show at Hudson Crossing Park.

Hudson Crossing Park is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities in the Hudson River Valley. Centered on Champlain Canal Lock C5 Island just north of the Village of Schuylerville, the park offers a unique setting for outdoor activities, environmental education, and community events throughout the year. Learn more at hudsoncrossingpark.org.

Donate blood

As spring approaches, the American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets now to continue to strengthen the national blood supply. People of all blood types – especially those with type O blood – are critical to ensuring hospitals can meet the daily demand for lifesaving transfusions.

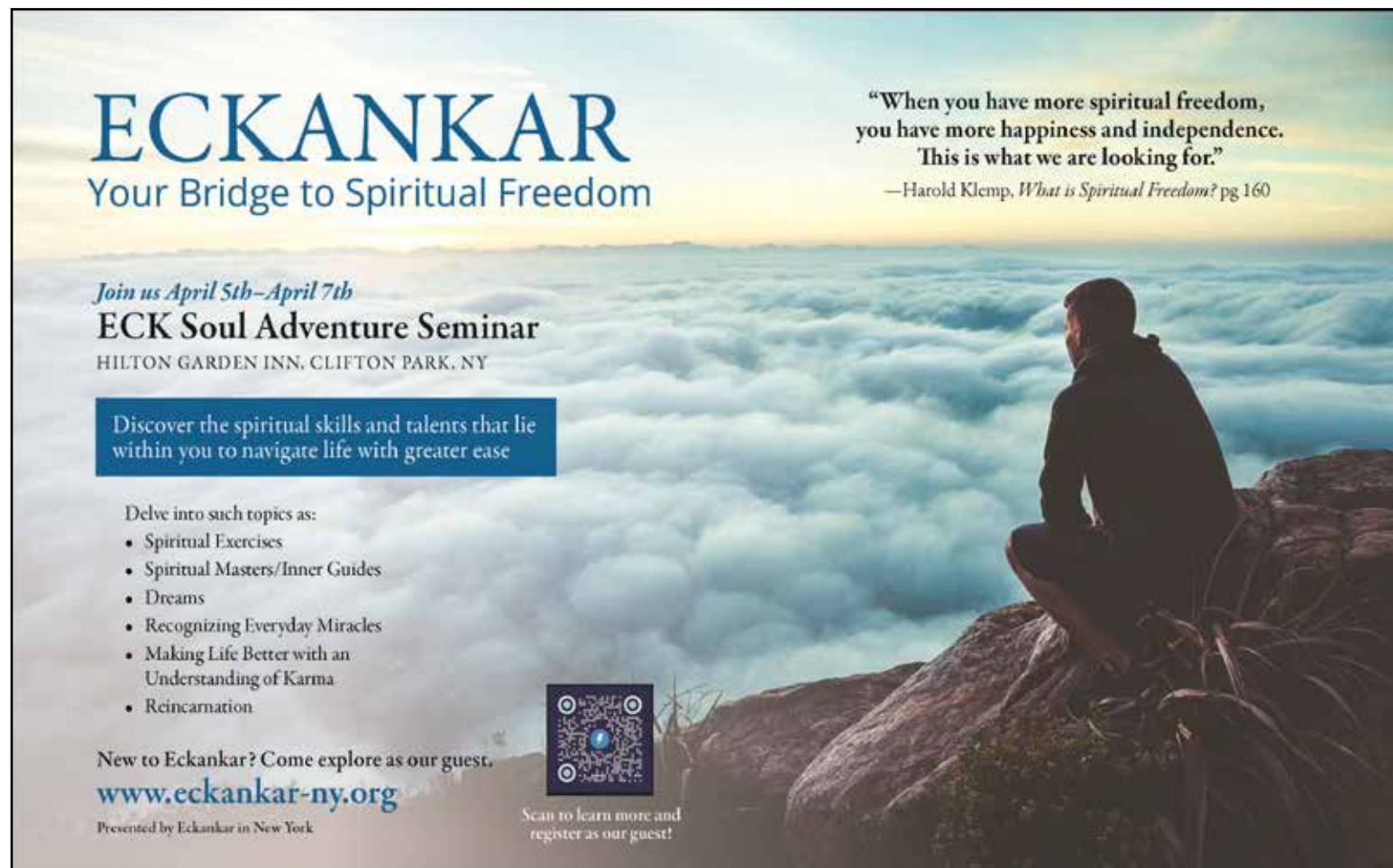
During Red Cross Month in March, the Red Cross celebrates the volunteers and blood

and platelet donors who are critical to ensuring those in need receive relief and care. Help can't wait – to book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Upcoming blood drives:

Hudson Falls – 4/10: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Kingsbury Fire Dept, 3715 Burgoyne Ave.

Saratoga Springs – 4/12: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Skidmore College, 815 N. BroadwayRoute 50.



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“When you have more spiritual freedom, you have more happiness and independence. This is what we are looking for.”
—Harold Klemp, *What is Spiritual Freedom?* pg 160

Ways to tackle the growing hunger crisis

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

In our last issue, I did a Q&A with Sarah Harrington of the Cambridge Food Pantry, and as a newspaper editor, I regularly get press releases from local pantries, including Comfort Food Community in Greenwich and SAFER in Schuylerville, among others. We also offer groups like these free ads when they are doing fundraisers.

The increasing tone of the messages I get from local pantries is that the problem of area hunger and food insecurity is rising each year. To that end, these groups are working harder and harder to meet that need, and area generosity to help these groups is also on the rise.

But is there an end in sight, or at least a plateau, or will the need keep rising?

I decided to ask our local assemblyperson and pantry leaders about this issue.

This is the question I posed: *Can you tell us if you perceive hunger and food insecurity to be up in our region in recent years, with any stats and/or observations you may have, if available; and, if so, why would you say this is happening, and what are some big-picture solutions to hopefully reverse this problem?*

Here are their thoughts:

Carrie Woerner, Assemblyperson, 113th District

That more people are hungry in 2024 than in prior years is something that anyone who volunteers at a local food pantry can tell you. Demand is up and shelves are emptied on a weekly basis.

If you ask them, teachers will tell you about their students who have trouble concentrating because they are hungry. An increasing number of students are bringing home backpacks filled with loaves of bread, peanut butter and other food so that they can eat over the weekend.

To get a sense of how big this problem is, we can look at data from the United Way

ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) analysis. In Washing-

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Carrie Woerner, left, toured Comfort Food Community this past fall

ton County, about 32-percent of people have earnings that are insufficient to meet the basic cost of living.

In 2021, for a single parent household with one child in childcare, the ALICE analysis says that the basic budget in Washington County totals \$52,824. However, the median income in Washington County, according to DataUSA, is \$42,976 for men and \$35,887 for women. This difference, between what it costs to live and what someone earns, is why hunger is a problem for too many people.

There are a variety of income-based government programs that are available to help.

The WIC program supports mothers and children up to age 5. The benefits of the

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) help too. Senior Meal programs at Senior Centers and through Meals on Wheels help. And, each year in the state budget we provide monies to support regional food banks, free school breakfast and lunch, and other efforts to alleviate the hunger people are experiencing.

There are a variety of community-based organizations that put their oars into the

water to help as well. Volunteers pack the backpacks with food for kids, they deliver meals, they glean produce from fields at the end of a season and they create a dignified space for people to gather in the food supplies they need to feed themselves and their families.

Hunger is a problem we can all work together to solve.

Jeffrey Bowers, Comfort Food Community Food Center Manager

Comfort Food Community is a multifaceted food-access organization focusing on holistic solutions to rural hunger. We operate two food pantries, one in Greenwich and one in Cossayuna. As the Food Center Manager, I've seen steady increases in demand for our food pantry services over the past three years, observ-



Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

ing record-high attendance at our pantry services. In 2023, our average number of monthly visits was up 21% from the year prior. According to the US Department of Agriculture, the national food insecurity rate increased from 10.2% in 2021 to 12.8% in 2022. We believe at least some of the increase in demand for our services can be attributed to this national rise in food insecurity.

We attribute much of the increased need for food assistance to a rising cost of living as evidenced through higher prices of food, household necessities, and gas. This inflation can put a strain on individuals and families to make ends meet. To meet the increased needs of our community, CFC strives to provide food through traditional and non-traditional avenues to increase access points for our neighbors in need. Our weekly deliveries of fresh and local produce to libraries and senior centers make it easier for community members to receive food support in community spaces they already visit. In addition to being more convenient, providing food in neutral community locations can help circumvent the stigma individuals may associate with visiting a food pantry. These supplemental food access services can help lift the burden of food costs for families struggling with food insecurity.

CFC receives an immense amount of support from our community in the form of volunteers and donations that allow us to provide services that transform the lives of our neighbors. We believe that during times of increased need, the best thing we can do as a community is come together to support one another. You can look into how to support your local food pantry or learn more about how to work with CFC by visiting www.comfort-foodcommunity.org.

Sarah Harrington, Executive Director, Cambridge Food Pantry

I do see food insecurity going up in our region. I've heard from our clients that groceries are just too expensive as a reason they come to the food pan-



try. The level of debt and the high taxes on their properties take up a lot of their income. Or if they rent, that fee has gone way up. There is nothing left in the budget for food. Some folks are trying to live on social security. One client I heard from is trying to live on an \$800/mo. check. Sometimes it is a mortgage causing the lack of money. One couple with kids bought in our area at the wrong time when housing was overpriced and then their interest rate changed, so their mortgage is very expensive, and they are underwater so they can't sell. Now they don't have money for other bills. Sometimes the lack of money is due to a medical debt or not being able to work due to an injury. Everyone has a story.

One statistic to look at to show the amount of need is the level of poverty in our local school district. The number of students has dropped, yet the level of poverty has increased. In the 2016-2017 school year, 35.83% of students were eligible for free lunch because of their income. Now that number is up to 47.53% for the 2023-2024 school year.

I'm not sure what the big picture solutions are at this point. It took several years to create these problems. In general, the cost of living needs to go down. The price of groceries, gas, taxes, rent, medical bills, mortgage rates, debt interest rates are all contributors to the problems my clients face. We are here to help out anyone in need, no matter what caused it.

Pam Bonesteel, S.A.F.E.R. Board Member and Pantry Volunteer

S.A.F.E.R., which provides assistance to families in the Schuylerville Central School District, has seen first-hand the food security issues our community is facing.

Our pantry stayed open dur-



ing the height of Covid with numbers on the lower side, but has seen an increase in patrons seeking assistance over the past two years. Our intake numbers for 2023 increased to 328 households, and we saw 42 new households, both significantly higher than 2022.

Many patrons have shown their displeasure at the increased cost of food at retail stores which makes insecurity even greater. In addition, SNAP benefits have been cut drastically since Covid which is also a strain on households relying on that assistance.

In my opinion, there is no sure fire fix to this problem until prices decrease, and, unfortunately, I don't see this happening any time soon.



Housing needed; a banker speaks

Here's our regular look at articles that appeared in *The Journal* from decades past...

120 Years Ago

April 6, 1904

There is a goodly amount of building and improvement projected to take place in Greenwich this spring, and carpenters and masons will continue to be in as great demand as during the past year or two. The demand for tenement houses has not decreased, in spite of the fact that their number has been steadily increased.

110 Years Ago

April 1, 1914

In spite of the foreboding weather on Friday, nine members of the board of managers of the House for Aged Women attended the very special meeting at the Home. The towns of Cambridge, Fort Ann, Fort Edward, Granville, Greenwich, Jackson, Kingsbury, and Salem were represented.

With the President in the chair, the meeting was called to order promptly at 1:30,

after which Mrs. Ward of Fort Ann conducted the devotional. Routine business was formally disposed of, no report from the treasurer was given.

It was the opinion of many that more efficient work could be accomplished and a larger audience secured if the meetings should be held once in two months.

100 Years Ago

April 9, 1924

A series of short addresses, "noon talks," are in progress at Greenwich High School. The students of the seventh and eighth grades and high school students gather in the study hall a little before one o'clock and listen to the addresses of prominent citizens. These talks are intended to be mostly informational along vocational lines, but partly educational.

The first talk was given by Howard Cline who talked about "Some of the Pitfalls of Investment." Having had many years of experience in banking, a considerable part of which is in connection with Chase National Bank of New York City, Mr. Cline is well qualified to talk on the subject. He made the point that we no sooner get hold of any money than several people appear whose friendly feeling prompts them to suggest the most desirable form of investment. He gave incidents from his own experiences as a banker to show the unwisdom of taking the advice of these "friends." He advised his hearers, when in need of advice in investment matters, to consult reliable bankers, and above all, to be aware of promoters and get rich quick scams. His approach was exceedingly practical and deserving of the applause which greeted it.

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Ads on these pages are from 60 years ago.

90 Years Ago

April 11, 1934

Work relief, which was carried on since last December under the civil works administration, was on April 1, transferred to the temporary emergency relief administration, and it is now being continued under the same administrative force as in the

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Wallie's founder

past. Most of the work projects started under the CWA in the county, and are being continued under the TERA. At a meeting of the county, TRA committee held yesterday afternoon in Hudson Falls, the same committee that functioned under the CWA information received from the state authorities concerning the plan of operation under the new set up was discussed in general it appears from the instructions received from the state headquarters of the state, and federal funds will still be available to pay the larger part of the wages on work relief projects.

80 Years Ago

April 5, 1944

Edward T. Mahar of Cambridge who was missing for over twelve whole hours was found and declared dead next to a garbage can in the rear of his home yesterday just before noon. The man, who was 43 years of age, had not been seen since Monday evening at 10:30, when he left his job in Cambridge to go to his home, which was just across the street.

After discovery of the body, Dr. Charles H. Holmes, county coroner, was called, and gave a verdict of sudden death from heart disease.

Mr. Mahar, who is the father of five young children, left his work at the chaplet company as usual Monday evening and was never seen again. When he failed to return home at 5 o'clock, his wife informed the police. Tuesday morning, a search of the town began. The chaplet works was closed and employees began the search as well.

It was not until 11:45 that Chief of Police, Charles A. Cantwell found the body lying between the garage at the Mahar place and a barn, close by, owned by Thomas Clements. Dr. Holmes said the man had been dead since the previous evening, and that he had been in poor health for some time, struggling with heart issues.

60 Years Ago

April 2, 1964

Wallace E. Karnaghan, 80, founder of Wallie's restaurant in Greenwich, died Friday evening at the Salem Nursing Home after a long illness.

In 1933, Mr. Karnaghan opened his restaurant in Greenwich, and in the past 31 years it has been vastly enlarged and grown to be one of the best known eating places in this part of the state. The business is now operated by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. George Murphy, but Mr. Karnaghan continued to be heavily associated with the business until his illness. Born in Greenwich on April 13, 1883, he was a lifelong resident of the community. He was prominent in masonic circles and was affiliated with the Greenwich Lodge.

40 Years Ago

April 12, 1984

In a special meeting, Monday, April 2, the county board of supervisors formally adopted a new emblem and flag.

The special board meeting commemorated the 200th anniversary of the naming of the county for General George Washington on April 2, 1784. In remarks opening the meeting, Joseph Rota, chairman of the board of supervisors said, "It was 200 years ago today that Charlotte was out and George was in."

Mr. Rota, Dresden supervisor, then read the April 2, 1784 act of the legislature which changed the county's name from Charlotte to Washington.

30 Years Ago

April 7, 1994

An "Historic Show and Tell" meeting is



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planned by the Dr. Asa Fitch Historical Society for Monday, May 2 as part of its ongoing efforts to chronicle the history of Salem and to generate interest in our past times. Members of the public are invited to bring an article of historic interest for display and discussion, either Salem related, from family archives, or of general interests.

The society was formed in 1975 to help celebrate the Bicentennial in 1976. It has been more or less active ever since, with programs of historical interest presented to the public and in schools and with much behind-the-scenes activity, even when the regular meetings have not been held regularly.

The society has also been engaged in preserving papers and artifacts in an acid-free environment for future generations to enjoy, awarded through members' efforts.

In a like vein, the society is always happy to receive materials of historical significance, either for preservation, or to copied and returned to the owners. Articles recently received by the society include 145 glass negatives taken by Salem photographer, Robert Cruikshank, donated by Jeffery Adler, four Civil War Journals found in an attic and donated by Russell Smith, and a number of old letters which were sold for \$1,350, which was given to Bancroft Library.

—Compiled by Kaylee Johnson

Where is the good?

MaryAnne Brown
Journal & Press

Christians have entered the holiest week of the year. Because this column is about faith, I thought I would share about an aspect of the Christian faith that can be applied to living a good life with or without a faith tradition.

A few years ago, my late brother, Michael who was an agnostic, challenged me with the question, “Where is the “good” in Good Friday?” As a believer, I never thought beyond the given name for this commemoration of Christ’s crucifixion. If you “google” this question, you will discover a number of learned replies. However, my beloved brother’s question caused me to search my own soul more deeply and I sensed he wanted a more personal response from me.

When Christians speak of the Passion of Jesus, the phrase alone stirs one’s soul. When I think of passion, I think of the events over recent months that have surrounded us with fear and concern and we turn to God again and again to help us through these unsettling times. Though there has been great passion seen in the unrest of today’s world, what is this passion of Jesus? Indeed, where is the “good” in Good Friday?

If we read about some of the events described in the New Testament, Jesus, as teacher and friend, always invites others to experience more and more of the love of God. He puts aside his own insecurities and goes to great lengths so that people will have no doubt about the greatness of that love. As he washes the feet of his friends, he teaches us that true authority is service. Time after time he conveys goodness, shows mercy to others, and leads with love.

Jesus even surrenders himself into the hands of people who couldn’t comprehend such puzzling behavior. Through the Calvary experience, we learn to carry our own cross and endure tragedy with the hope of eternal life.

Yet, who can understand such radical behavior of innocent sacrifice and death for others? I wonder what questions that Jesus’ friends and enemies faced when they couldn’t understand the passion behind his actions. What questions stir in us? Maybe we have our own questions to ask God as we face our own conflict?

- What is God’s position toward the conflict in Ukraine, the Middle East and other war-torn parts of our world?
- If you have a child, a spouse or a loved one who is in the military, or on the front-line of other arenas, you may ask God to keep everyone very safe.
- You may pray that God guard your loved one who is in prison.
- Perhaps in your fear or loneliness, your question is “My God, why have you abandoned me?”
- How do I stand strong when my classmates tease me to come and party with them irresponsibly, or when they bully and spread gossip about others on social media?
- How can I honor my body, love it fully and be grateful for how well it serves me?
- Shall I abandon my critical, judgmental words and thoughts and nurture a kind spirit of acceptance of others?
- Will God, heal my relationship with my spouse, my child, my sibling, my parent, my friend?
- Where is God in my illness, my worry, and my pain?

As I wrote my response to my brother, my faith spilled out as I told him that, “in every heartache, I sense God is with us, deepening our compassion for all who suffer, and strengthening our yearning for peace. Can it be that the Holy One expects us to do greater things that bring honor and respect to one another and to ourselves? Despite the abuse, violence and disrespect so often encountered in society, it is possible to live



as gentle and passionate people in our everyday life.”

We may all experience poverty, brokenness, and captivity of some kind at different times in our lives. Yet, we will take our turn revealing goodness to others. We can support one another through the suffering. We can willingly share the joys and generously ease the sorrows as we walk together. I see this happening every day in our generous and loving community. We give kindly to those in need; we honor those who have served, those who have died, and those who are hurting; we come away from these community experiences richly blessed. From all of this goodness, we are strengthened to go forward less fearful, more confident and with deeper faith in God, in each other and in ourselves. Look at that passion!

So, I told my dear brother, Michael, this is the “Passion of Jesus” as he stirs our soul.

This is the “good” in Good Friday.

Easter blessings and special wishes to all. Be at peace.

MaryAnne Brown, RN, BSN, MA is a music minister at St. Joseph’s Church and has a special interest in spirituality and health. She serves on the Retreat Team at Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna and provides grantwriting services.



News from local churches

Roman Catholic Churches

Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Sunday is at 8:15 AM; at St. Patrick's at 11:30 AM and offers the 'Children's Liturgy of the Word'; and at Immaculate Conception in Hoosick Falls on Saturday at 4 PM and Sunday at 10 AM.

Adult Bible study, "Women in the New Testament," will delve into the lives of the fascinating women who befriended Jesus. There will be seven sessions on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM beginning April 8, in person at St. Patrick's or Immaculate Conception, or by zoom. Sign up near the door of the church or register on line.

The Home Visitation of Our Lady of Fatima is available to bring home for a one or two week stay to honor her and pray the Rosary. Please contact Mary Rubino

(677-3831) or Reta Pemrick (677-3500) if interested.

St. Patrick's wished to thank all who helped with the fish fries and thanks also to the Knights for the raffle.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal - "Life in the Spirit" seminar topics include;

The Father's Love for his children, The Holy Spirit/His guidance and Power in our lives, The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and more. It will be held at St. Clement's Church in Saratoga on April 6 and 13 at 8 AM. Preregistration is required at www.abanyccr.org.

Please visit the Parish website, www.battenkillcatholic.org where people may sign up for flocknote notifications, make electronic donations, prepare for Sunday liturgy, find the weekly bulletin, access the Lifelong Faith Formation materials, and much more.

The Salem food pantry is especially in need of tuna fish, coffee, cereal, pancake mix and oil. The Cambridge Food Panty is in need of dry, boxed cereal, oatmeal, tuna fish, chicken noodle soup and jam or jelly. Thank you for your continued support.

Hebron United Presbyterian Church West

The Hebron United Presbyterian West is offering a monthly Free Community Dinner, Tuesday, April 9. Mark your calendars for this scrumptious dinner at the West Hebron church facility, 3153 Co. Rte. 30 in West Hebron. Come alone, bring a friend or the family! They will have a delicious sit-down dinner and dessert between 4:00 and 6:00 PM. Sliced ham, potato casserole as well as a hearty vegan soup and cider will be provided. If you have not contributed a side dish in the past, please consider bringing one of the following choices: plant-based casserole, fresh veggies, veggie casserole, gluten-free selection, fresh fruit, or a dessert.

Meet your rural neighbors and learn about programs at our church and other community programs in the area. Come as you



are; no need to bring anything, but contributions of any of the above-mentioned choices would be much appreciated. The facility is handicapped accessible and there is ample parking

Besides free Community Dinners, the church currently hosts several community programs: Tuesdays – We Recover Together – recovery coaching and peer support groups for individuals and families struggling with addiction; Hebron Preservation Society programs and meetings (Next program is Breadtree Farms presenting the Past, Present, and Future of Chestnuts on Thurs. April 11 at 6:30 PM at Hebron East facility in the sanctuary), Puppet Club (a new Puppet Club for Gr. 2-6 will be starting in the near future with a final performance in early June, watch Facebook for more information.), Story Time (the next Story Time for children ages 3-8 will be Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m. at Hebron East fellowship hall featuring stories and songs about life on a farm), Osteobusters, and Bible study groups. If you wish to learn more or help with any of these outreach programs, please contact Rev. Bill Crawford (518) 854-3729 or Charlie Duveen (518) 409-1784 for upcoming community events and announcements or Debi Craig (518) 854-3102 to contribute a side dish (see above) or for information on Story Time or Puppet Club. The congregation looks forward to sharing dinner with you!

Have a local church announcement? Send it to editor@journalandpress.com.

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Congresswoman Stefanik listened to the issues threatening the demise of our Domestic American Flag Manufacturers, many of which are small, family-owned & operated businesses, and introduced Federal Legislation to support the textile industry responsible for keeping our national symbol, *The Star Spangled Banner*, flying proudly.

The "**Make American Flags in America Act**," H.R. 4137, is a bipartisan & bicameral bill which requires American flags displayed on federal property, or purchased by federal agencies, to be manufactured completely in the United States of America.

H.R. 4137 also requires the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on the enforcement & violations of country-of-origin labeling laws for American Flags sold in the U.S.A., to ensure the integrity of our American-made products.



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing of the qualified voters of the Greenwich Central School District, Washington County, Greenwich, New York, will be held in the High School building in said District on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. prevailing time, for the presentation of the budget.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a vote will be taken of all those qualified to vote at School District Meetings in said District at the Greenwich Primary School Building, Greenwich, New York, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and the polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. E.S.T. until 8:00 p.m., E.S.T.; at such time the voters of the District will vote upon the following matters:

ANNUAL BUDGET

To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

- To elect one five-year term commencing July 1, 2024, and expiring June 30, 2029, to succeed Thomas Powers whose term expires on June 30, 2024.

PROPOSITION #1 - EQUIPMENT

SHALL the Board of Education of the Greenwich Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire school buses and a transportation vehicle, at a cost of not to exceed \$295,840, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof; (2) expend such sum for such purpose, including the expenditure of \$133,618 from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be de-

termined by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, taking into account state aid and the amount expended from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$162,222, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

GREENWICH LIBRARY PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to increase the appropriation to support the Greenwich Free Library from \$112,535 to \$159,738 annually?

EASTON LIBRARY PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to increase the appropriation to support the Easton Library from \$47,956 to \$49,321 annually?

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2024-2025, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the district during business hours beginning fourteen days before the vote, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with the Clerk of said School District at her office in the Middle Grade school, not later than Monday, April 22, 2024, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District and shall be signed by at least 25 voters of the District, must state the name and residence of the candidate and shall describe the specific vacancy for which the candidate is nominated.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that residents who are qualified voters of the School District may apply for an Early Mail ballot. Appli-

cations for early mail ballots for the budget vote and election of Board Members may be applied for at the Office of the District Clerk. An application for an early mail ballot must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available in said Office of the Clerk on each of the five days prior to the day of elections, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays, and that such list will also be posted at the polling place on the day of the Annual Election and Budget Vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots/military ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

A list of persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on each of the five (5) days prior to the election between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays prior to the day set for the annual election and on May 21, 2024, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote at said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the

Please read more on the next page

HVCC open house

Hudson Valley Community College will host an Open House for prospective students from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 13, on the college's main campus.

Attendees will be able to tour the campus and speak with representatives from academic departments as well as the college's student services and academic support offices, including Admissions and Financial Aid.

Hudson Valley, the largest SUNY community college in upstate New York, enrolls more than 14,000 students in credit and non-credit courses each year. The college offers more than 80 degree and certificate programs. Tuition for the current academic year is \$2,528 per semester, plus fees, for state residents. For more information, contact (518) 629-7309, or register to attend Open House online.

LEGAL NOTICE (CONT.)

United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law Section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board and in accordance with Sections 2035 and 2008 of the Education Law, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with the Greenwich Central School Board of Education at the Middle Grade Building on or before April 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. prevailing time; must be typed or printed in English, must be directed to the Clerk of the School District and signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of each signer. However, the School board will not entertain any petition to place before the voters or any proposition for the purpose of which is not within the powers of the voters to determine, or any proposition which fails to include a specific appropriation where the expenditure of monies is required by the proposition.

Rachel Logan
District Clerk

4X starting 4/1

Pop-up art show

As construction on Jacob Houston's future art gallery continues, Jake will be holding his first Pop Up Art Show of 2024 in the usual place, at 2432 State Route 29, Greenwich. Jacob is a regional artist known for his colorful, highly detailed paintings. The show will be held from 11am until 4pm on Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th.

Stop in to look over his beautiful selection of original paintings, limited edition prints, framed prints, beautiful greeting cards, note cards, and postcards.

While you are here, take the opportunity for Jake to show you the progress that has been made so far on his future gallery.



The Chamber of Commerce
for Washington County



Greenwich Chamber

Dedicated to the economic vitality
of our region through resources,
advocacy, and support for member
businesses and organizations.

Join Us!

greenwichchamber.org/join

6 Academy Street, Greenwich, NY 12834
518.692.7979 | info@greenwichchamber.org

The Great 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Michael Levy
Journal & Press

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. One of the states in the path of this rare celestial event is New York.

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, obscuring the Sun partially or entirely from the perspective of an observer on Earth. This happens only during the new moon phase when the Sun and the Moon are aligned in the sky. In a total solar eclipse, the Moon completely covers the Sun, casting a shadow on a small area of the Earth's surface called the path of totality. Observers within this path experience a brief period of darkness known as totality, during which the Sun's outer atmosphere, the corona, becomes visible.

Tens of thousands of people, perhaps even more, are expected to travel into the Adirondacks which will be one of the prime viewing spots for the April 8th total solar eclipse. And with this many people trying to find a good spot to see the eclipse, everyone should expect gridlock traffic, major delays in emergency services' response times, and significant problems making cell phone calls because networks will be overloaded since everyone will be texting pictures and their selfies. The inability to call 911 from cell phones may be particularly relevant, especially for the numerous untrained people who will be attempting to view the event

from the high peaks or somewhere off the trail without the necessary equipment or gear.

With such a large migration of people into this rural, sparsely populated area of New York State, first responders will be on standby and trying their best to serve the public. Their main goal will be to keep everyone safe during the eclipse and throughout their trip to and from the North Country. Given the traffic jams that are being predicted, police, fire, and rescue may have a tough time getting to you in an emergency. Expect disrupted emergency services with prolonged response times - at the absolute best.

Specialty teams have been formed to assist eclipse tourists with food, water, and other essentials.

Even so, if you are planning to travel to the Adirondacks for the event, please make sure that you bring that old Coleman cooler stocked with extra food and water. Restaurants and local stores could be overwhelmed.

Please make sure that the minivan is fueled up ahead of time. The existing fuel infrastructure in the Adirondacks cannot meet the demand from this number of tourists. NY State Police are recommending that, "if from out of the area, don't use vehicles that can't travel for 10 plus hours without charging - stranded EVs in traffic will be towed." I suggest leaving the Tesla at home for the eclipse. Sorry Elon!

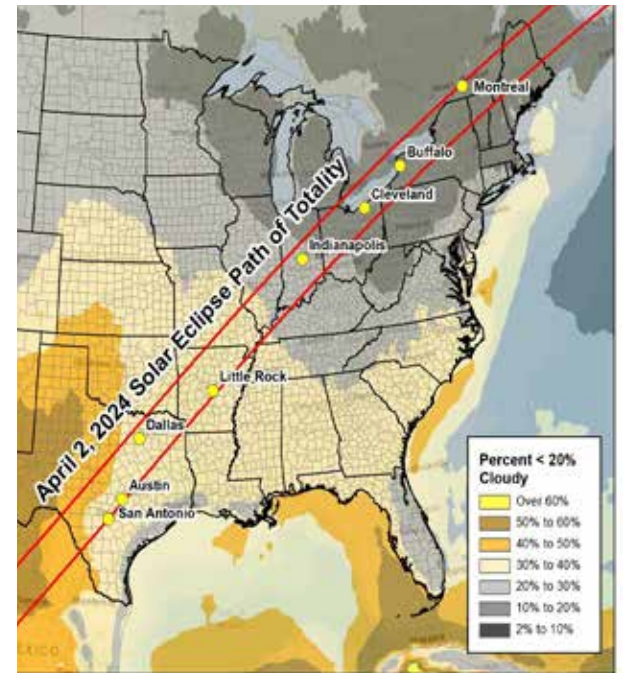
Local authorities have been suggesting that visitors to the

area stay overnight to avoid traffic and the like. However, most lodging establishments are already booked full, and those that are not, are likely out of your price range anyway.

I am a pilot, so I had a brilliant idea. I could fly to an airport located in the total eclipse area. Easy, right since several airports are planning eclipse viewing parties. Some will have food trucks and live music. But just like the problems on the ground, the situation in the air is remarkably similar. The FAA has issued a notice to inform pilots of the likely significant impacts to air traffic and airports near the eclipse path including a statement that says, "due to higher-than-normal anticipated traffic volume at area airports before and after the eclipse, pilots should anticipate delays."

On a related note, a friend of mine postulated the other day that hordes of people from downstate will travel north to Plattsburgh to view the eclipse from there because it is easy to get there via the NYS Thruway and Interstate 87. If he is correct in his theory, expect excessive traffic on the Adirondack Northway both before and after the eclipse.

Finally, the National Weather Service is implying that there is a high probability (greater



than 80%) that the likely cloud cover on April 8th will prevent proper eclipse viewing. If the weather is as predicted, it will ruin the day for a lot of folks.

Here is my plan for eclipse day. If the weather is nice, I will fly to an airport within the total eclipse viewing area. But if the weather forecast is bad, I will stay right here in Washington County and view the eclipse from here. Washington County (depending on where you are) should have 98-99% obscuration of the sun during the eclipse. Not totality, but close enough on a cloudy day. Just a random thought!

Michael Levy is a retired government manager residing in Greenwich NY and is employed now as a technical consultant. He is also a Commercial Pilot and a Ham Radio operator.



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

ARGYLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing of the qualified voters of the Argyle Central School District, Washington County, Argyle, New York, will be held in the school library in said District on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM, E.D.S.T., for the presentation of the budget. The budget will be available for review on May 7, 2024 at the Argyle Central School.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Argyle Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held in the atrium of the Argyle Central School in said District on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 8:00 PM, E.D.S.T., for the transaction of such business as is authorized by the Education Law.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that said vote and election will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 PM (Noon) and 8:00 PM, E.D.S.T., in the atrium at Argyle Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to voting by ballot upon the following items:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.
2. To elect one (1) member of the Board for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2029 and to succeed David Holck, whose term expires on June 30, 2024.
3. To appropriate monies to the Argyle Free Library and to authorize the requisite

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2024-2025, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours beginning Tuesday, May 7,

2024 at the Argyle Central School.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with Clerk of said School District at her office in the School, not later than Monday, April 22, 2024, between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District and shall be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, must state the name and residence of the candidate and shall describe the specific vacancy for which the candidate is nominated, including the length of the term of office and the name of the last incumbent.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that applications for early mail and absentee ballots will be obtainable and are returnable no earlier than April 22, 2024 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, except holidays from the District Clerk. Completed applications for early mail and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter (May 14, 2024), or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter (May 20, 2024). Early mail and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

A list of persons to whom early mail and absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on and after May 1, 2024 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM on weekdays prior to May 21, 2024, the day set for the election, and said list will be posted at the polling place(s) at the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of polls. A challenge against an early mail ballot cannot be based on the reason

that the voter should have obtained or applied for an absentee ballot.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these rights should be directed to the Clerk of the Board.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Education Law provides special provisions for absentee voting by "military" voters of the District. Military voters may elect to receive a military ballot application and military ballot by mail, email, or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accordance with the military voter's preferred method of transmission not later than 25 days before the vote, April 26, 2024. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 PM on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote at said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

**KIMBERLY HUMISTON, CLERK OF THE
DISTRICT
ARGYLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Things to do as spring begins

Shirley Renauld
Journal & Press

How did you safely experience the Total Solar Eclipse? NASA tells us that not until August 23, 2044, will we be in the path of another one. How old will you be? Will you be in its path?

With our open Winter and early Spring, this has been a disrupted Spring migration for wild ducks and geese. Have you seen them periodically on the Hudson, feeding on the bare fields or flying in any direction? For a roast goose for dinner, Matt would wait to hunt for the Snow Geese* (Look for the black feathers on the tips of the wings of their all-white feathered bodies. Do they taste best, Matt?) They usually come after the Canadian Ducks and Geese but this year they came early and mingled with the others. Most interesting has been how they use the rainwater pooling on the cropfields: They float on the water while eating the food that floats up from last year's plants. When the fields dry, we see them go to the river for water, then to the fields or lawns for food. When they have the instinct that the weather will stay Spring, we watch them fly high, only north and in a V, letting us know that they are leaving until Fall.

*For a regular season, read Paul Gallico's, "The Snow Goose" and Deborah King's, "The Flight of the Snow Geese"

Matt is glad for 4-H Beginner Shooting Sports for Boys and Girls classes including his own children.

We also watch for what safe places on land the resident wild ducks and geese choose to nest, lay eggs and raise their young. Most convenient for them is an island in the mouth of a stream emptying into the Hudson: The nest is safe from non-swimming predators and the easy-flowing water will be convenient for teaching swimming. It reminds us of Mrs Mallard as she finally decides to nest on an island in the Charles River as it flows through Boston Common and, when they're ready, tells us to "Make



Way for Ducklings" as she teaches them to walk in a line behind her to even cross the intersections of Boston. Are there local places where we could see that?

We watch for early returning songbirds, too. Some seem to come individually (Have you seen your first Robin?), some swoop in flocks and land on the ground, some sit in a line on power lines to be easier to count.

Soon we can watch their nest-building: Do they choose to build on ledges of your house? beams in your barns? in your shrubbery? As they build, notice the twigs and dry grasses they collect and carry in their beaks (Are they helping with your yard clean-up?). Hang short lengths of yarn on bushes for them to choose. How fast they create a nest! Remember where you see them at work so you can watch how they use the nest and since they will want a clean new one for next time, after the fledglings have flown away, have a scavenger hunt to find nests. You can learn how they were made: materials they used, how they had secured the nest so it wouldn't fall, even in the wind. If they used any of your yarn... Going by the size of the nest, think what bird might have made it. Time for bird-identification books, joining a bird-watching group, attending the Beginner Birding Workshop at the Greenwich Library. With your 4-H Club, did you make a Bluebird house? Did you put it up to be

part of your garden or where?

Gr. Esther makes meringue into what she calls shells because they hold things. For this time of year, they can be nests to hold bird and egg objects, so she teaches us how to make them: With your electric mixer, beat six egg whites until they're frothy. Sprinkle 1/4 teaspoon of cream of tartar over it and beat it again until it stands in soft peaks. Then gradually beat in one and a half cups of sugar until you get stiff and shiny peaks. You are ready to shape nests. On a sheet of parchment paper (to keep the bottoms from browning) lining a cookie sheet, make circular motions in each dollop of meringue with the bottom of a spoon forming the sides around a center. Bake in a cool oven of 275 degrees for about half an hour, until you feel them to be crusty. While they are cooling, prepare the "eggs": Easiest is just to use your leftover jelly beans. (Thank you Gr Edna for those you brought us from your trip to the Jelly Belly factory.) Make some with playdough, colored flour-salt dough, or paint them all the same color as Gr Jo photographed for her book, "Robins in Spring", showing us that one is laid on each of four days.

We can also use meringue shells to hold a scoop of ice cream covered with sliced strawberries or peaches.

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

In addition to nests, bake dollops of meringue mixed with mini chocolate chips.

We look, smell and listen for other signs of Spring: Not only are Grape Hyacinths showing their purple blooms, but watch for Daffodils. When walking in the woods, don't slip down a muddy slope into Skunk Cabbage in a gully. Better to find some Pussy Willows. Trees are looking fuzzy so look at leaf buds up close--are they unfolding? Even before Wild Apple Blossoms will be Shagbark Hickory blossoms, so watch for both. If we'd keep collecting maple sap, the syrup would no longer taste sweet. On our warm, sunny days, the honeybees are active. Since there aren't enough flowers for them yet, are they coming to visit your animals' grain? When you hear peepers in a pond, watch for frog eggs. The bullfrog awoke from any hibernation--but look in the mud, you might still find him as we did once. Come back in a couple of weeks with a large clear jar to collect a mass of these eggs to watch the black dots to see them hatch into pollywogs/tadpoles.

Least favorite eggs are those of pests: Indoors it's the cluster flies/houseflies. Get them in the attic, cracks and crevices, at windows before they lay their eggs. We need to do outdoor clean-up as soon as thawing occurs because flies feed and lay their eggs on any wetness. compost, animal droppings, around eyes and noses of animals and then spread germs for illness wherever they walk. We learn from farmers to keep feeding and living spaces clean and dry and to blend enrichment directly into the soil: .

Perhaps worst of all eggs are those of fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. We have seen fleas jump, ticks crawl, mosquitoes fly. They are active already, so before we hike, so we can easily see them, we remember to wear light-colored clothing with long sleeves, tuck shirts into waistbands and long pant legs into socks, spray with a flea and tick repellent, check ourselves when we return, take a shower. We put flea and tick collars on our pets.

It's baby animal season. Let's make a chart of the names of those we will soon visit at petting zoos, farms and fairs. Make headings of columns for Baby Animal, Adult Female, Adult Male, Sound It Makes. List

animals cattle, goat, sheep, chicken, duck, goose, turkey, horse/pony, pig, rabbit... Fill in the chart.

So many songs to sing and stories to read about them, from sensory ones with cutouts in board books filled with "fur" to feel and buttons to push to hear their sounds, to nursery rhymes, ABC farm animal books for children learning the alphabet and beginning sounds of words when learning to read, to so many Little Golden Books, to "The Big Red Barn" to fables and folktales like "Henny Penny"/"Chicken Little" and "Bremontown Musicians", to "Charlotte's Web", "Animal Farm". to those to use while singing, to learn language or play the piano, like "Old MacDonald."

It's a new season's needs for tractors again, so 4-H is offering their Tractor Safety Programs for certification to drive them to avoid accidents. We learn from local people who have stories to tell: Ben about tractor rollovers, Francis about PTO entanglements, Allen (who hauls cattle between farms and the Heifer Facility) about when handling animals. All of us being alert to the orange safety triangle signs on tractors can help avoid accidents on highways.

Co-op's eco-friendly events

The Cambridge Food Co-op welcomes April and the start of Earth Month!

In honor of Earth Month, and Earth Day (April 22), the Co-op will host a workshop and a community event and have several sales throughout the month.

The Seed-Starting Workshop is Saturday, April 6 and allows a limited number of participants to learn the basics of starting seeds. Children ages 8 and over are welcome to join as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

There will also be a community trash pick up on Saturday, April 20. Participants will help keep our community beautiful by picking up litter along Cambridge's main street and the Owl-kill Commons, Farmers Market, and Varak Park areas. Please register so we can make sure we have enough trash bags and orange vests available.

Finally, the Co-op will have sales on various earth-friendly products, including the bulk foods. Bulk grains, flours, fruits, coffees, spices, and teas are more environmentally-conscious products because they require less packaging. At the Co-op you

can buy as little or as much as you want of many of our products when you buy in bulk. Bring your own containers (or use one of ours) and help shift your buying habits to more environmentally-friendly ways!

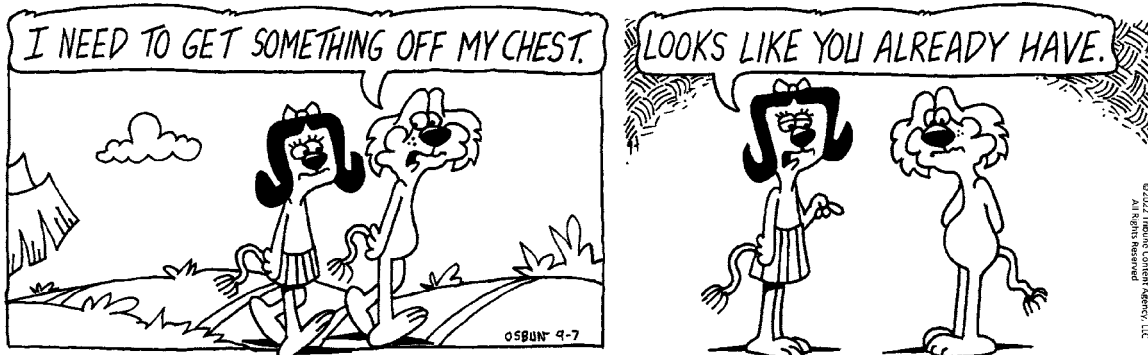
For more information on the workshop, trash clean up, or sales please visit the Co-op website.

The Cambridge Food Co-op is a community-owned grocery store that sells local, natural, and organic produce and meat, bulk foods, wellness products, and more. It's been on Main Street in Cambridge for 45 years! The Co-op is located at 1 West Main Street, Cambridge, NY. www.cambridgefoodcoop.com.

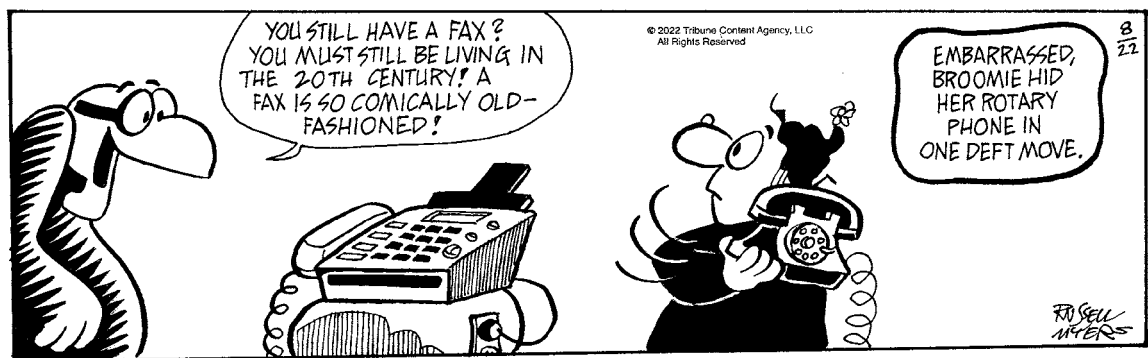


FUN & GAMES

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



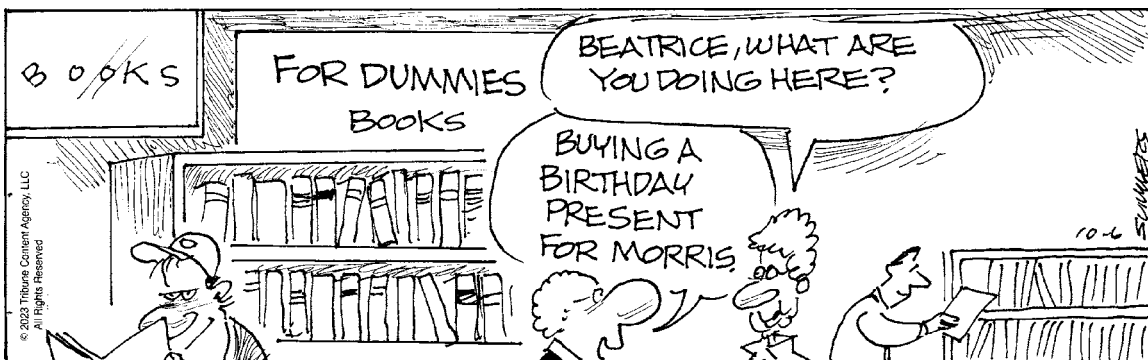
Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



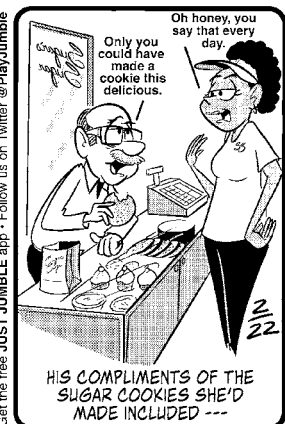
"I'll wait for a model that drives itself and pays for itself."

Word Play Answers Page 30

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WATHE
 EIFNK
 AWLRYE
 SUUTNJ



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Garner
7 letters = 5 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
8+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT ANIMALS ENDING WITH "E" in the grid of letters.

FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 30

SCRABBLE G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 I₁ O₁ H₄ M₃ L₁ S₁ W₄ Double Word Score

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 A₁ I₁ M₃ R₁ G₂ R₁ T₁ RACK 2

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 A₁ E₁ I₁ Z₁₀ T₁ N₁ C₃ 1st Letter Triple RACK 3

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 E₁ E₁ I₁ U₁ L₁ V₄ N₁ RACK 4

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 I₁ I₁ U₁ V₄ L₁ C₃ N₁ RACK 5

PAR SCORE 270-280

BEST SCORE 350

FIVE RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

Word Find by Frank J. D'Agostino

Find these words associated with a cafeteria (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):

Cheesecake	Juice	Salmon
Chips	Meatloaf	Sandwich
Coffee	Muffin	Sausage
Cookies	Omelet	Shrimp
Croissant	Pasta	Tuna
Eggs	Pizza	Vegan Wrap
Hamburger	Ribs	Waffle
Hot Soup	Rice	Yogurt
Hotdog	Roast Beef	
Ice Cream	Salad	

P U O S T O H E E F F O C
 H A M B U R G E R O P E C
 L F C I C E C R E A M A O
 C P A R W N A G E V I P O
 H H I O O A I N A E R I K
 E C Y A L I F F A T H Z I
 E I O S S T S F F N S Z E
 S W G T G A A S L U A A S
 E D U B G B L E A E M B P
 C N R E E C A M M N M H I
 A A T E A T D G O D T O H
 K S C F J U I C E N T D C
 E G A S U A S T E L E M O

Filbert by LA Bonté

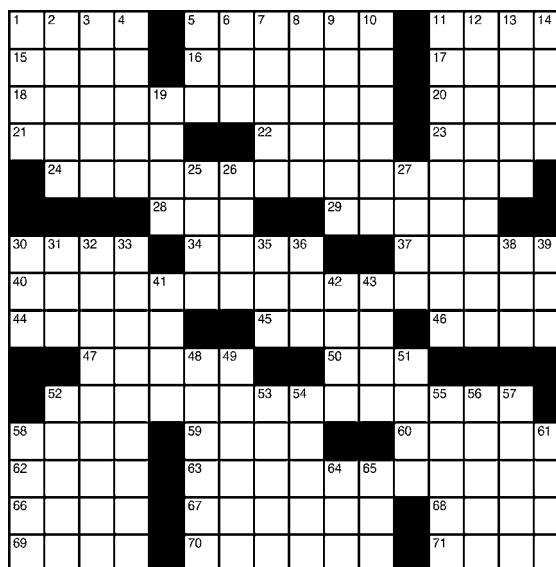


Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



Cambridge Crossword

Across
 1 Symbol in the center of Cameroon's flag
 5 Sentence server
 11 Retro-hip beers, for short
 15 Quaint sigh
 16 "Mad About You" co-star
 17 Baseball analyst Hershiser
 18 Nana who deciphers coded messages?
 20 Finger food, in Zaragoza
 21 Colleague of Amy and Elena
 22 Novelist Jaffe
 23 Showbiz grand slam
 24 Skirmish between rival hives?
 28 Used a rocker
 29 Black Sea resort
 30 Functions
 34 ESPN topic
 37 Boot camp barker
 40 Serious business, and a hint to four answers in this puzzle
 44 "The Masked Dancer" panelist Paula
 45 Serious locks
 46 Name in a Salinger title
 47 The planets, e.g.



50 Masked caller
 52 Horses now tame enough to ride?
 58 Smack
 59 Evian et Perrier
 60 Like some Windows errors
 62 Best Picture Oscar winner directed by Siân Heder
 63 Speck of dust atop the Mat-

9 Smaller than small
 10 Collected goofs
 11 Sovereign
 12 Self-promoters
 13 Bank actions, briefly
 14 Crate piece
 19 Pets who may squeeze into

Sudoku

Each column/row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions. The digits can only occur once per block. The sum of every single row, column and block must equal 45.

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

terhom?
 66 Big name in skin care
 67 Coffee cup insulator
 68 Consequently
 69 Snafu
 70 Shadow canvas
 71 Org. scheme
 shoeboxes
 25 Lana of Smallville
 26 Mark for good
 27 "Casablanca" role
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Historic book club meets

Washington County Historical Society's Local History Book Club will meet Friday April 12 from 12 to 1 PM at the society's headquarters at 167 Broadway, Fort Edward. Historical society membership is not required. Attendees are asked to read Saving Simon, by local author Jon Katz. The April meeting is titled "Donkeys, Horses, and Mules, Oh My!" and will include not

only a discussion of Saving Simon but also the use of mules on the Champlain Canal and the role of horses and donkeys in local farming.

The book club meets regularly on the second Friday of the month at noon, usually at the Washington County Historical Society in Fort Edward. On May 10, 2024 the

monthly session will be held in Fort Miller at the Fort Miller Reformed Church, built in 1816. Attendees are asked to read any biography of Henry Knox, with focus on his stop at Fort Miller on his way from Fort Ticonderoga to George Washington's troops outside of Boston.

Future topics may include the temperance movement in our area, the seed industry of Washington County, and the Washington County Poorhouse in Argyle. For additional information, email Connie Harris Farrington at connieandlee@roadrunner.com.

An exhibit, plus Marty

From Monday, April 1 to Saturday, April 27, Greenwich Free Library will host "From Pollock to Pixels," an art exhibit featuring works by Art Brod and Judith Ellers. From Pollock's dripping technique to the use of a computer and an iPad, this husband-and-wife couple create their art.

In addition to participation in more than 20 other member and juried shows, highlights for Judith Ellers within the past two years have included three Upstate events, a 40 works solo show at the Worcester Schenevus Library, a three-artist invitational at 25 Main Collective in Cherry Valley, the initial GALA members show this past January at the Greenwich Free Library and most recently an invitational 50 works solo show "SNAP SPLASH SWOOSH TAP CLICK" throughout the month of March at TI Arts in Ticonderoga.

Art Brod says the personal highlight of his first two years as an artist has been the expression realized through the somewhat

simple act of taking paint to canvas, barn board, slate, an old piece of furniture or other oftentimes discarded material. The number of opportunities to exhibit, some 20, have been more than could have been imagined with particularly noteworthy ones being two prominently displayed exhibits of large-scale work at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, juried and member shows at LARAC, his 75th birthday celebration at Whipple City Square, the initial GALA show this past January at the Greenwich Free Library, and art sales privately and at the Cooperstown Art Association.



There will be an artist reception on Friday, April 5 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Patrons are invited to come meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments along with an acoustic musical performance by special guest Marty Wendell, Rockabilly Hall of Fame member. The opening and the exhibit are open to all.

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How is everything going with this paper?

Darren Johnson
Journal & Press

You may have noticed that I have been tinkering with the business model of this newspaper of late, switching up plates at the printer to come up with a “free” edition to try to drum up more interest for the paper outside our strongest areas of support, Greenwich and Salem.

There are three trends that have informed this decision:

- Small, paid-circulation papers are dying everywhere, as people have grown to expect news to be “free.”
- As evidenced by our stories lately on an increase in food pantry usage, fewer people can afford to buy a newspaper in our region.
- Technology has made it easier for more “free” papers to pop up, taking ads from paid-circulation papers because they can claim a wider readership.

That said, paid-circulation papers are usually better than free papers as far as the journalism goes, and there are other reasons to keep the paid-circulation paper intact. So, thus, I am.

But here's what I've learned so far with this experiment:

\$99 Ads

I have come up with the crazy idea of \$99

full-color, full-page ads. This is an *extremely* low rate, but I figured if I got a dozen or so of them, it would cover the cost of printing and distribution. I'm not a greedy person, and often give away ads for free to non-profits; thus I have been considering \$99 ads as something *helpful* to struggling small business owners.

However, not as many have bitten on this deal as I would have thought. I'd contend that if a business can't find \$99 for such a favorable deal, it may not be a *business*. Maybe the business owners have a fear of success?

I recently sat in a cafe and saw people reading the free Journal & Press, and they definitely were stopping at and discussing the ads. Multiply that by 5000. It's just odd that more businesses wouldn't want to do this.

\$42 Subscriptions

However, the free paper has resulted in more people actually subscribing to the paper. I've been getting about one new subscription every other day. Also, Hannaford in Greenwich seems to be selling just as many copies of the paid edition as before the free paper launched.

It's More Work

I've been ill this past week and could barely muster any energy to get this paper together, and it may hit the post office a day



or two late. I won't come out with the “free” edition on April 8 and instead will just print more of this paper you're holding now as a “sample” for the free racks. I'll go back to two separate, distinct editions April 15.

There's Hope

Various legislation may help old newspapers like this one make ends meet. That's another reason why I did not give up on the paid-circulation paper. The legislation may specifically help old, historic papers like this one.

In New York City, there's new legislation that steers city agency ad dollars to papers there. If the state were to do something similar, it could help The Journal & Press.

Contact Us

Contact us if you'd like to help in any way. Buy an ad (we can help design it), get a subscription, write an article, host one of our news boxes on your property. Send us a note at editor@journalandpress.com, if you'd like to see this paper keep growing.

Vendor and craft show

There will be a vendor and craft show at Rescue Squad Building, Route 29, Schuylerville on Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 10-3.

The group will have raffles, concession and lots of vendors. Start your shopping early.

Come out and support your local rescue squad and all the vendors that will be there.

For more information, contact Jennie McReynolds at 518-338-2709.

Be the hero of your workplace story

Dr. Daneen Skube

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

Q: *At the start of the year, I discovered some tough challenges I have to resolve at work this year. I feel demoralized before I begin because I don't know if I can overcome these issues. Is there a way to think about these problems that doesn't make me want to give up?*

A: Yes, pretend that you're a hero or heroine in a fiction book. Wouldn't you expect your main character to meet dragons, adversaries, and adversities? Perhaps you could take a page from the literal book of your favorite character and ask yourself, "What would my protagonist do if this was a story."

You'll also find it helps to have people in your life who have faith in you. Other people often see our strengths when our self-confidence is low. Even the fictional Harry Potter has a close group of friends that encourage him against impossible odds.

When I couldn't figure out how to do my dissertation research, it was someone else's faith that kept me going. My Ph.D. committee shrugged and said, "You know more about this topic than anyone so if you can't figure it out — no degree." My mentor said, "You've got this." I believed her, kept trying, and got my degree.

As a writer, I like to learn about different

styles of writing. In reading a book entitled, *The Fantasy Fiction Formula*, the author, Deborah Chester, summarizes the core problem in all fiction books.

Chester notes, "The test begins in the story opening, when your protagonist is faced with a substantial problem that can't be ignored. The test continues throughout the course of the story, as the protagonist tries, fails, tries harder, fails again, tries really hard, almost succeeds but then fails." Chester points out that it is the trials themselves that create a fascinating story and makes the triumph sweeter.

Notice that we don't have to write or read fiction to recognize these elements in our own workplaces. The difference mainly between a fiction character and ourselves is that as a reader, I'd bet you're cheering for your main character.

Are you giving yourself this same level of support? Are you seeing your workplace trials as part of your "interesting" story?

There are three steps to get you over the finish line when you're facing down corporate dragons:

- 1) Show up and stay the course. Don't minimize the power of continuing to try.
- 2) Pretend you're a fictional character. What might you try that requires courage?
- 3) Seek out cheerleaders when you're feel-

ing low. They bolster your self-confidence.

Surprisingly, fiction writers discuss the problem of their imaginary characters going rouge. Effective fiction writers do a lot of planning on where they want their characters to end up at the end.

Have you taken this much care to think about where you want to end up at the end of this year?

It's ironic that even in an imaginary story there are chaotic elements that can take over and wreck a story. It would seem that the real world and the imaginary world have a lot in common. Take the time to pretend will you overcome all obstacles, and then watch the video tape of where you will end up in 2025.

A merry band of companions, a clear vision of your goal, and the expectation that there will be dragons, keep us moving down any road.

Try using a new frame of you on your own noble journey of discovery, along with every other hero or heroine you've ever admired. Now, what might you accomplish today?

The last word(s)

Q: *My boss has dumped a huge amount of new projects on our team. I'm trying not to get overwhelmed. Is there a good starting point to think about this year?*

A: Yes, as Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States (who was no stranger to an overwhelming agenda) said, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning.



Pantry fundraising dinner

The Cambridge Food Pantry March fundraising dinner will be held Saturday, April 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The menu is old-fashioned shepherd's pie with lots of meat, vegetables and gravy. And to top it off, a choice of delicious homemade desserts and beverages. The

Food Pantry is located at 59 South Park St., Cambridge, NY (Route 22 South.) The monthly dinners are sponsored by Cornerstone East Church. Diners can eat in or take home to enjoy. Price: \$17.

Should estate plans be equal, or fair?

Breanna Lundy
Journal & Press

After a recent conversation with a retired couple, I knew I needed to share this. Being “fair” does not always mean “equal.” When you’re creating your estate plan, your biggest priority may be taking care of your family — your spouse, grown children, grandchildren, and other loved ones. And as you think of where you want your assets to go, you also may be thinking about how to be fair — but is that the same as treating everyone equally?

In estate planning, “equal” doesn’t always mean “fair.” Let’s consider some factors that can help explain the difference:

- **Need** – It’s highly unlikely that the individuals you want to include in your estate plan — especially your adult children — have the same family and financial situations. For example, you could have one child who is extremely successful and has no children of their own, while another child earns much less income and supports three children. Clearly, your two adult children have vastly different financial needs — so, you need to consider whether you want to treat them equally or fairly. If you decide you want to treat them fairly, you may want to

divide your assets in a way that provides more help to the child who needs it most.

- **Abilities** – You may well have some assets that you believe are more suitable for one child over another. This can be especially true if you are planning on passing on a family business. If you know that one child is the most capable of running the business or has been primarily involved in the business, then you may want to give that child control as a next-generation owner. Yet, this may not seem fair to another child, who might also express interest in the business, so you may want to look for ways to provide this child with enough assets to help make the overall inheritance more equal.

- **Practicality** – In some instances, you might think you can meet both the “fair” and “equal” criteria. Suppose, for instance, that you have a cabin or other vacation home that you think two of your children could share. In theory, this joint ownership might sound good, but in practical terms, it could cause problems. Are both children equally willing and capable of paying taxes and upkeep on the cabin or vacation home? What if one child wants to sell their share? And then, there’s the question of who gets to use the property at various times of the year. All these issues should be resolvable, but they can also cause great stress within

the family.

There’s no simple formula for solving the fair-versus-equal dilemma. But keep this in mind: Communicating your wishes to your loved ones while you are drawing up your estate plan can help reduce confusion — and hopefully lead to fewer hard feelings — when you are no longer around. By their nature, fairness and equality issues related to estate plans can trigger a range of emotions, and addressing these feelings beforehand can help provide a great service for your loved ones.

You might also find that some objectivity can be valuable. That’s why, when creating your estate plan, you may benefit by working with a team of professionals, including your legal, financial and tax advisors.

When developing your estate plan, you might well strive for equality and fairness but above all, you want to get things right. And careful planning, open communication and appropriate guidance can help go a long way toward this goal.

A Greenwich business owner, Breanna Lundy is a Certified Financial Planner and Exit Planning Advisor with Edward Jones at 2 Church St. Inspired by her unique upbringing on her family’s 5th generation farm, she works with successful entrepreneurs and individuals on their journey to live a life they love through financial independence. She believes her impact can reach far beyond her work, with a vision to improve lives and financial security in Greenwich, by supporting causes like the “Paint the Town Purple” event she started to raise awareness and revenue for Alzheimer’s on The Longest Day in Greenwich each year. Contact her at breanna.lundy@edwardjones.com or (518) 692-2649.



ACC faculty exhibition

SUNY Adirondack is proud to announce an exhibition of professors’ artwork, “SUNY Adirondack Faculty Exhibition,” at Tannery Pond Center.

The exhibition, which features 31 works, runs through April 20 at the facility’s Widlund Gallery, 228 Main St. in North Creek.

“SUNY Adirondack Faculty Exhibition” features art by full-time faculty and staff members and adjunct instructors, including Nicholas Ameden, Matthew Destefa-

no, Christopher Evans, Jessika Erickson, Kelly Girard, John Hampshire, Rhianna Hogan, Renee O’Brien, Katherine Patterson and Brandon Segal.

“We are thrilled SUNY Adirondack Art faculty shared the art work in our gallery,” said Candice Murray, executive director of Tannery Pond Center. “The pieces are a wide range of media and materials and present a broad spectrum of what the faculty provide to students in their classes.”

Bicentennial of a strange election

Lance Allen Wang
Journal & Press

Things are a tad strange in America, as we plummet untethered into an election season which seems to satisfy few, where the discussion is less about issues and more about character and caricatures. It is scant consolation to someone who remembers a time when we held the President, or at least the office, in the esteem that the institution demands, to know that 200 years ago there was an equal level of dissatisfaction in the process and its outcomes. The 1824 presidential election, America's tenth, was the first and still the only one to be tipped to the House of Representatives for a decision.

A ONE-PARTY COUNTRY

By 1824, America was essentially a one-party country, as the Federalists were no longer active nationally. President James Monroe had presided over national unity during what was called the "Era of Good Feelings" for two terms, even running unopposed in 1820. Despite this relative stability, a financial downturn in 1819 was the first major economic downturn for the United States, and the Missouri Crisis of 1820 began foreshadowing trouble yet to come in



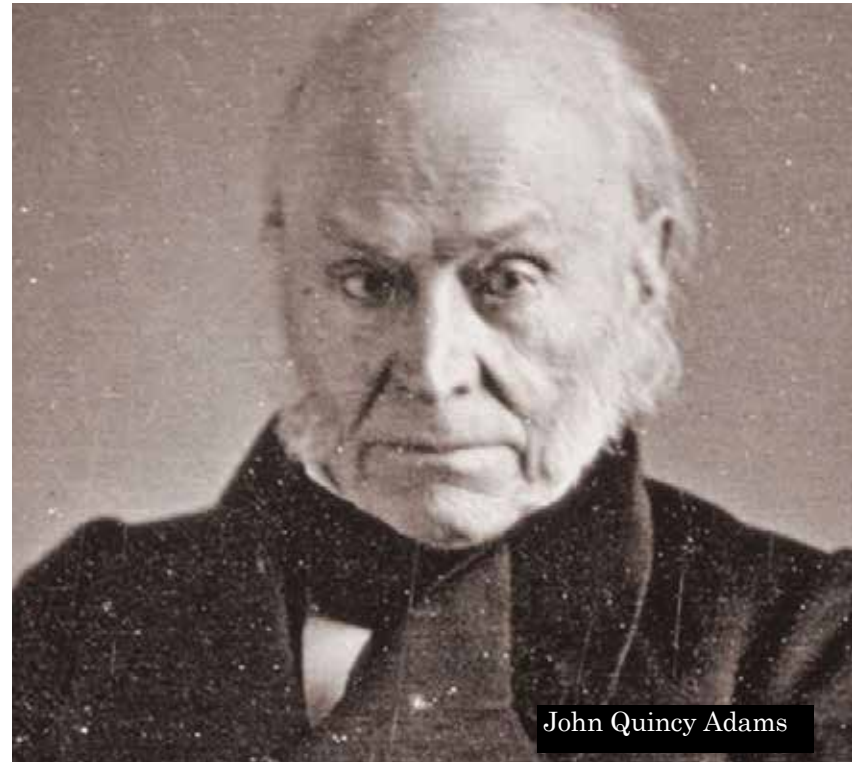
Andrew Jackson

the balance of slave versus free states. Without competition from without the party, the Democratic-Republicans showed indiscipline within. Only a little over a quarter of the 240 Democratic-Republican members of Congress bothered to show up for the Congressional caucus to nominate candidates. Meanwhile, at the same time, state legislatures also nominated candidates.

In the end, there were four Presidential candidates on the ballot, all Democratic-Republicans. Instead of battle lines being drawn politically, they were drawn geographically. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, son of the former President, was popular in New England. House Speaker Henry Clay dominated in Kentucky and nearby states. Secretary of the Treasury William H. Crawford won in the mid-Atlantic overwhelmingly. Senator Andrew Jackson, nominated by the Tennessee legislature, had broad support fueled by his reputation from the War of 1812 and won decisively in Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

THE VOTE GOES TO THE HOUSE

When the final votes were tallied, Senator Andrew Jackson had the highest percentage of the popular vote with 41.4%. Secretary Adams had second most with 30.9%. Within the Electoral College, Jackson had 99 votes, Adams had 84 votes, Crawford had 41, and Clay had 37. Although Jackson had a plurality, he did not have an absolute majority. 131 electoral votes were required to win. By constitutional law, the next step was to move the election to the House of Representatives for a decision.



John Quincy Adams

On February 9, 1825 an unprecedented vote took place in the House of Representatives. The legislators had to choose among three candidates – Speaker Clay was dropped under the provisions of the 12th Amendment, which stipulated that only the top three were to be considered. Clay, who detested Andrew Jackson, may have been out of the running, but he was not out of the picture. He carried tremendous influence within the House of Representatives, and he put his support behind John Quincy Adams, leading to charges that he was cutting a deal with the former President's son. As Adams promptly won the vote for President, 13 states to Jackson's seven and Crawford's four, there was already rumblings of a "corrupt bargain" among Jackson's supporters.

Those rumblings became brazen shouting within two weeks, when Adams announced that Speaker Clay was going to be his Secretary of State. Perception is reality, and the "corrupt bargain" charges hung like a cloud over the Adams administration, also spurring Jackson partisans to begin his

Please read more on the next page

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1828 campaign for President. In a fresh refrain, long before “elites” became a tired cliché, Jacksonians accused the “corrupt aristocrats of the East” of robbing Jackson, a “man of the people” of a Presidency which

was rightly his. John Quincy Adams’ Presidency also became a four-year long campaign for Andrew Jackson.

POSTSCRIPT

In 1828, President John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson fought a rematch. The Adams wing of the Democratic-Republicans reflagged themselves as “National Republicans,” later to become the short-lived Whig party. Jackson supporters called themselves “Democrats,” which was the beginning of the Democratic Party. It was an ugly campaign – the Jacksonians called Adams a corrupt aristocrat, and Jackson was labeled a violent, bloodthirsty, budding tyrant. However, Jackson’s popular support, evidenced in 1824, was undeniable, and he cruised to a popular vote win and a crushing electoral college victory. This was despite the fact that Adams received more votes in 1828 than he did when he won in 1824.

Interesting trivia: The next time an incumbent received more votes for President than he did the first time and still lost was 2020. This was also the first of three times an elected president lost the popular vote twice – Benjamin Harrison did in 1888 and 1892, and Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020.

The 1828 Jackson win would also introduce New Yorker Martin Van Buren to national politics, as he became Andrew Jackson’s chief supporter in the Empire State. Van Buren was leader of the “Albany Regency,” a strong group of New York politicians. Van Buren, of Kinderhook in Columbia County, would become Jackson’s Secretary of State in 1828, his Vice President when re-elected in 1832, and would eventually succeed him after winning the 1836 election.

The point of this story? Not all of our elections are tame, and some of them get downright ugly. But the nation continues, so long as there are those who understand that there must be a balance between the democratic aspects of the voice of the people - and the republic’s actual survival, hinging on the continuance of lawful, constitutional government.

Lance Allen Wang is an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer who lives in Eagle Bridge, NY with his wife Hatti.



An 1824 tally sheet

States.	Andrew Jackson of Tennessee	John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts	William H. Crawford of Georgia	Henry Clay of Kentucky
Maine		9		
New Hampshire		8		
Massachusetts		15		
Rhode Island		4		
Connecticut		8		
Vermont		7		
New York	1	26	5	4
New Jersey	8			
Pennsylvania	28			
Delaware		1	2	
Maryland	7	3	1	
Virginia			24	

LOCAL ARTS

Kids invited to join puppet club

For 22 years, Hebron resident Debi Craig had a before-school Puppet Club at Dorothy Nolan School in Wilton where she was an elementary vocal music teacher. She and her sister Dorothea Casey are bringing the program to Hebron for a second time in May 2024 for children ages 7-11.

They did their first joint venture with "The Three Little Pigs" in June 2022. This time, the sisters will be joined by retired teacher Tara Smith of West Hebron. Tara currently tends to a flock of sheep these days, but still loves sharing stories and the love of reading with children. This is Tara's first time working with Puppet Club.

Rehearsals will be held at the former East

Hebron Presbyterian Church at 6559 State Rte. 22 in East Hebron (Salem). All area children welcomed. Parents/Guardians will need to drive their children to and from rehearsal or arrange for ride sharing.

Children will participate in try-outs, recording the script, learning how to manipulate the puppets, and learn the aspects of putting on a performance, working as a team. The group will meet Tuesday and Thursday beginning on Tuesday, April 30th from approximately 3:15 – 5:00 p.m. with the final dress rehearsal and performance on Saturday, June 1st.

No experience is necessary. There is no charge to participate

in the group. If you have any questions or would like a registration form, please call 518-854-3102.





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Congrats, Keegan!



Before her freshman, outdoor track and field season at SUNY Albany began, Keegan Collins threw as an unattached athlete at the West Point Open Meet. The former Greenwich Central standout set personal records in both the discus and hammer throw. Keegan opened the meet with a discus throw of 128' 2", for 8th place and followed with a hammer throw of 157' 10", for 6th place. Both performances were first among freshmen competitors.

Fort Edward students get half off tuition

The high school students thought Tuesday morning, March 26, would include a tour of SUNY Adirondack's campus and maybe a free T-shirt. Instead, the Fort Edward seniors were each awarded a scholarship.

Five students visited campus and learned that because of the long-standing William and Elsie Hill Scholarship, administered by SUNY Adirondack Foundation, every senior from Fort Edward High School who attends SUNY Adirondack on a full-time basis in Fall 2024-Spring 2025 will receive \$3,000, or about half a year's tuition. Part-time students will receive a prorated amount.

"This makes the decision much easier," said Dan Boucher, one of the seniors who received the good news Tuesday morning.

Classmate Ashton Legodais, an Early College Career Academy student in IT Computer Networking, agreed. "This makes the struggle a lot easier," Legodais said. "I can focus more on academics and not worry as much."

"Supporting access to education is at the

heart of what SUNY Adirondack Foundation does," said Rachael Hunsinger Patten, executive director of the Foundation. "We are proud to offer these Fort Edward students scholarships to help them start their educational journeys."

Fort Edward school counselor Joanna Scotch, SUNY Adirondack Class of 1986, was excited to be part of the surprise.

"I think this will help the students tremendously," she said. "This will help offset out-of-pocket expenses and reduce student loan burden."

SUNY Adirondack Foundation supports students through scholarships and emergency funding. In 2023, the Foundation awarded more than \$400,000 to students.



More than 60 percent of SUNY Adirondack students graduate without student loan debt.

The William and Elsie Hill Scholarship is from the trust of Elsie N Hill, administered by KeyBank.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY

LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: Elkins Physical Therapy, PLLC. Articles of organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/12/2024. Office location: Washington County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to Elkins Physical Therapy, PLLC located at 266 Meeting House Road, Valley Falls, NY 12185. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

6x start 4/1

Monologues, piano

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College announces the world premiere of David Greenberger and Tyson Rogers's "How Vowels Endure Winter" on Friday, April 12, at 7 pm. The event is the inaugural commission and performance in the Adirondack Trust New Works Series at the Tang Museum.

"How Vowels Endure Winter" features a series of monologues with piano created in response to work by the artist Joachim Schmid that occupies an entire wall in the Tang exhibition "Studio/Archive."

Schmid organizes photographs he finds at flea markets, in magazines, and on postcard racks, and assembles them into related groups, such as six photos smiling women with eyes closed, nine images of a camel before a pyramid, or 21 brides and grooms posed in front of the same dark-red curtain. Schmid reveals patterns of use and meaning that point to social rituals, human desires, domestic events, economic conditions, and how photography functions in our daily life.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Tang Visitors Services Desk at 518-580-8080 or visit tang.skidmore.edu.

Foley, Alabama, here comes poor me!

Greg Schwem

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Journal & Press*

Don't expect anyone to pick up your dinner check in Foley, Alabama.

Nestled at the southern tip of the state served by Senators Tommy "I haven't actually read the Constitution" Tuberville and the now infamous Katie "My kitchen has no appliances" Britt, the city of 22,000-plus was recently named by Travel + Leisure magazine as "Best Place to Retire with No Savings."

That's right, zero, zip, nada. If you don't have an IRA, still don't understand cryptocurrency, had the misfortune of knowing Bernie Madoff, or thought the Mega Millions jackpot in that Vegas casino was "bound to hit eventually," come to Foley.

If you're "runnin' on empty," "chasing chips," "rummaging for rubles" or "trawling for treasure," or have "less dough than a Pizza Hut," head to Foley.

I may soon be joining you.

Mind you, I do have a nest egg, but one that has shrunk significantly due to a, um, how do I say this politely, "life change." Instagram hasn't gotten that message, as my feed is still dotted with ads from investment firms featuring distinguished-looking, gray-haired gentlemen standing outside horse stables (because rich guys own horses, apparently). Accompanying their mugs are thought bubbles with questions like, "I'm 60 with \$1.2 million in an IRA. Should I convert \$120,000 per year to a Roth to avoid required minimum distributions?"

I want to smack these guys so hard they'll need to make hefty withdrawals to cover their dental bills.

Foley, I learned from its website, was incorporated in 1915, some 13 years after John Foley, a Chicago boy like me, began buying land to expand railroad service in the area. Today, Foley contains a "historic downtown business district" and "world class attractions," the website boasts.

All of which certainly require money to enjoy. I mean, how can one shop downtown with a savings account ledger that says zero? Is there a side door in the Foley Railroad Museum, allowing one to sneak in and avoid the \$4 entrance fee? That money could easily go to rent!

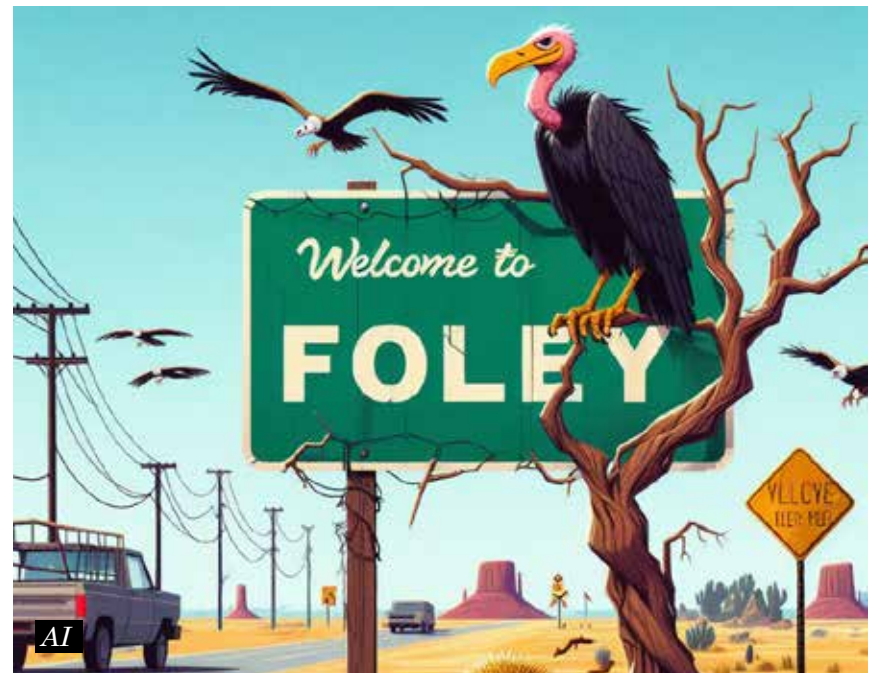
Luckily, Foley housing seems fairly affordable, with rents averaging \$840 per month between 2017 and 2021 and the median value of homes around \$205,000, according to the website.

Also, there are plenty of free activities. Just ask Guy Busby, the city's marketing and communication manager, and a Foley-area resident for more than 30 years.

"We're only about 11 miles from Gulf Shores," he said, referring to the Alabama resort town where, I assume, it's free to throw a towel on the sand and spend all day staring at the Gulf of Mexico, while contemplating your bad financial decisions. If I packed my own lunch and commandeered an abandoned beach chair, I could probably return to my Foley domicile even, or just slightly in the red.

Busby also recommended the 500-acre Graham Creek Nature Reserve, Foley's springtime concert and movie series, and the recently renovated, \$1.2 million Sara Thompson Kids Park, True, nearly half the park's cost was offset by grants but the price tag shows that somebody in Foley has bucks.

He also mentioned the Tropic Falls at OWA water park, but I don't think that's going to happen. I took my kids to loads of water parks in their youth and, at day's end, the only thing dry was my wallet's in-



terior. Corn dogs, greasy pizza, and beer (Dad's treat for suffering through a day at a water park) aren't getting any cheaper.

Maybe I'll move to Foley and take on a side hustle for extra income. There's something enticing about driving for Uber, as I doubt I would encounter the traffic congestion in Foley that one finds in Chicago. Plenty of snowbirds and tourists visit the city, Busby said, and they'll certainly need transportation, as well as recommendations from a "local" like me. I will welcome them into my (hopefully) paid-off vehicle, introduce myself, and tell them there is only one rule they must abide by.

Cash up front.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: "Text Me If You're Breathing:

Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad" and the recently released "The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a

Corporate Comedian," available on Amazon.



Water main replacements

Amanda Hurley

Special to Journal & Press

This past Thursday, March 28, Village of Greenwich officials held a public hearing about the water system upgrades that are about to begin. We held the meeting to inform the public about the water project, which we planned several years ago and successfully secured funding in the form of a \$3M grant and 0% interest loans. The Department of Health had issued a mandate requiring the work because of our old and inadequate water pipes, but Covid and the resulting interruptions in availability of materials delayed the start of the project until now. We recently awarded contracts to two reputable contractors with experience in waterlines; they will work simultaneously to expedite this process. Coordination between the contractors, the regulatory agencies, NYS Department of Transportation, Washington County DPW, and the Village should ensure safety and accessibility during construction.

It's important to take a moment and recognize that every morning we wake up with access to clean, good water. Without a second thought, we brush our teeth, shower, drink a glass of water, etc. We don't think about it because it's reliable – and it's reliable because of the diligent work of our DPW; a lot of work is required behind the scenes to ensure consistent access to clean, good water. The DPW water operators are trained and know how to follow the guidelines that come down from State and National regulations.

Our DPW does a large variety of work, but they don't have the resources and manpower to undertake a capital project of this scope. While the current water system is still functional, it dates to the late 19th century and is at the end of its useful life. The upgrade is crucial for meeting today's high-demand scenarios, especially for fire protection. The project involves upgrading water lines to larger-diameter pipes, which over time have become even less efficient because of mineral build-up. The project includes drilling two new wells and pumps, enhancing our capacity and reliability.

Every major capital project has an impact on its community. Residents driving in the Village will experience short-term inconveniences such as temporary water shutdowns and village roads reduced to one lane where the contractors have an active operation. Residents will, however, be notified days prior to construction activity on their street, and the contractors will work with our residents to ensure they have access to their properties and to mitigate this disruption as much as possible. One lane of traffic will always be open, and they will provide full access for emergency vehicles. At the end of each day, the roads will be fully open and passable. The contractors will inform residents prior to digging in front of their homes or temporarily disconnecting water, and they will distribute a contact number should questions or concerns arise. Project work hours are currently M-F, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM. One contract will affect Eddy Street from the water treatment plant to the bridge; Barber Avenue; and Main Street from Church Street to Mag Chevrolet. The other contract includes Abeel Avenue; Academy Street; Bleeker Street; Cottage Street; NY Rt 29 (Prospect Street intersection); Hill Street; Prospect Street; Van Ness Avenue; Washington Street; and Woodlawn Avenue. A full-time construction inspector will work on each project. We will be updating the Village website with current information, and we encourage residents to use this and social media

to stay informed about the progress. Everyone is welcome, too, to bring questions to the Village of Greenwich Board meetings.

Unfortunately, we have to report that some trees will be lost during this project. NYS Department of Transportation will not allow water mains to run under state roads, and this leaves only a narrow area for the work to proceed and remain in the right-of-way (ROW). This area includes the "maintenance strip" (curb to sidewalk), sidewalk, and a small area beyond the sidewalk that varies along Main Street. Often construction activity like this can prove to be too disruptive to a mature tree's root system, and they decline over subsequent seasons. From Church Street to Big Lots Plaza, the pipe will be installed in this allowable strip, attempting to minimize damage to trees on private property and in the maintenance strip. Between Mowry Avenue and the Plaza a portion of the sidewalk that has a 4" gas main that will force the water line into the maintenance strip and require removal of the trees at this location. We regret this loss of trees, but it is unavoidable, and the Village will commit to replanting appropriate species where possible in the maintenance strip after consulting with adjoining property owners. On the good-news side, we will be getting new ADA compliant sidewalks in this portion of the Village.

The estimated project duration is 330 days, with significant milestones anticipated by November and a follow-up phase in the spring for final paving and landscaping touches. While the ongoing project may cause temporary inconveniences, its long-term benefits will ensure continued high-quality water, enhanced fire protection, and modernized infrastructure for the prosperity of our community.

Amanda Hurley is the newly elected Mayor of the Village of Greenwich.



Lasagna!

A Lasagna Dinner will be served at Old Saratoga Reformed Church on Saturday, April 13, from 4-6 pm. Meat and vegetarian lasagna, salad, bread and brownie will be offered. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for kids under 8. The dinner will be take out with limited seating for eat in. Call 518-695-6638 for reservations.

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