

## Holidays in high gear

### People are in good spirit and the Holiday Lighted Tractor Parade has record turnout

This newspaper covered Greenwich's signature event via a rooftop and from the ground level. See inside this issue for details on how the Greenwich Holiday Lighted Tractor Parade went. You can also find our popular video of the whole parade, with commentary, via Facebook.com/JournalPress.



Inside this issue, we also detail several upcoming holiday related events.

We also profile Sarah Winslow, of

Salem, an expert tracker of lost dogs. The Greenwich Town Supervisor, Jim Nolan, and Village Mayor, Pam Fuller, update us on the local Comprehensive Plan.

We start previewing basketball season, too.

Our columnists broach topics ranging from ham radio operation to "wokeness" to airline crashes.

Our archive column details lots of historic drama, too.

**See everything starting on page 2**



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# Tractor Parade brings largest crowd yet

Samantha Simmons  
Journal & Press

The Village of Greenwich, New York, kicked off the holiday season with its 11th Annual Holiday Lighted Tractor Parade. With some minor changes, the parade brought in its largest crowd yet, estimated at more than 10,000 spectators on Nov. 18.

The parade, hosted by the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, brought in nearly 80 tractors. It closed with Mr. and Mrs. Claus in a sleigh, bearing joyous smiles for children and families in the crowd. The event, which takes months to plan, attracts people from near and far. Last year, an estimated 9,000 people gathered along the winding route.

Aside from putting the final touches on wagons and tractors, parade-day afternoons are spent lining up tractors, ensuring a smooth ride.

This year, the judges voted before the parade went off. A change from previous years where the tractors and wagons would head to the school afterwards to be judged. The committee felt it would be better for participants to display their awards as they went through the village and so spectators could see the results as they were enjoying the parade.

Evelyn Costello is the Vice Chair of the Greater Greenwich Chamber of Commerce. She said while this worked well, judges weren't always able to get the full effect of floats because some had interactive riders and other moving parts that weren't visible while queuing.

You can find the list of winners on Facebook.com/JournalPress.

Nearly 50 sponsors played a huge part in the event from providing the horse-drawn wagon rides to portable restrooms and more. Costello said the event is what it is because of generous sponsors and a "thank you" to them is first and foremost.

Costello said, "Everything fell into place," this year. She said selfies with Santa was a big hit—drawing in a crowd that encouraged Santa to be away from the North Pole longer than anticipated in order to make sure every kid left with a smile on their face. Costello said



this year participants "went all out," leading to an "experience not to be missed."

Costello said planning will begin early in the new year. Fundraising letters will be sent out to ensure businesses have time to include support in their budgets and feedback from participants and spectators will be considered. She said already she knows next year there will be more food trucks provided for riders while they line up. Many of the food trucks wanted to be down toward the crowd leaving few concession options for those in the parade.

Rain or shine, the parade requires a minimum of 2,000 lights for each float and 1,000 for tractors. Additionally, no riders can be dressed as Santa Claus to ensure there is only one. And only holiday music can be played.

As you may have gathered, participants take it very seriously.

Erin Elkins, the former president of the Parent Teacher Student Association—a nonprofit organization associated with Greenwich Central School District—drove her farm tractor this year, giving it a

day off the from the fields.

She said a generator strapped to the Greenwich Youth Center and PTSA's tractor and wagon, "Nightmare Before Christmas" theme, helped provide spectators a great show.

"Every year we've talked about doing the tractor parade but didn't have a wagon and just thought it wasn't the best use of PTSA time at that point," Elkins said. "However, now that I am not president and had a little bit more free time, we knew that the Greenwich Youth Center was looking for a tractor and thought that it'd be a really good collaboration between these two kinds of large community groups that really support the students of the district; we have a lot of parents and teachers who are just really amazing to kind of help our students have lots of different opportunities. So, seeing how we happened to have a tractor, we figured that we would put our tractor in and then someone else donated the wagon so that both the organizations, the Greenwich PTSA, and Youth Center, could put a tractor in the parade. It's just a really great community event."

The day encompassed several free pre-parade events like selfies with Santa, horse-drawn



Photos courtesy of Evelyn Costello, center

## See the video

This newspaper filmed the Tractor Parade live and added commentary. You can see the video by going to Facebook.com/JournalPress or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone. It has received over 13,000 views thus far, from across the country. Also there, find the list of parade float winners.



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for Washington County



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# Tractors (cont.)

wagon rides and music in the park.

Rachel Clothier is the vice president of operations with the PTSA and a board member of the Greenwich Youth Center. She said seeing kids happy and lights filling the village brings her joy as it drives by her home on Academy Street.

“The Youth Center kids have the hay wagon all decorated in the village hall right now,” Clothier said. “Our theme this year is going to be the Nightmare Before Christmas. So, Jack and Sally are going to be featured on our float. This is the PTSA’s maiden tractor voyage. We haven’t done a parade before this year. So, we’re pretty excited to enter and collaborate with the Youth Center.”

Businesses across the village opened their doors to welcome tourists and neighbors alike to get in the holiday spirit.

Last year, most tractors were supported by local businesses and organizations, but several made the trip from nearby communities to participate.

Municipalities that participated include the Cambridge-Greenwich Police Department, Greenwich Fire Department, Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad, Village of Greenwich DPW, Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad, Inc, Middle Falls Fire Department, Argyle Emergency Squad, Easton Volunteer Fire Company, Washington County Sheriff’s Office, Salem Volunteer Fire Department, New York State Police and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the Washington County Department of Public Safety.



For next year’s event, the committee will begin official planning at the end of July 2024.

## THANK YOU GREENWICH VOTERS!

**We are grateful for the support of the residents of Greenwich. We are committed to the principles on which we were elected: accountability, transparency, non-partisan partnership. Together, with YOU, we will continue building tomorrow.**



Supervisor  
Jim Nolan

**“Thank you citizens of Greenwich for re-electing me as your Supervisor. I look forward to working with you and my fellow Town Board members to carry on our shared Vision for the future of Greenwich.”**



Councilman  
Pat Donahue

**“Thank you residents of Greenwich for my re-election to the Town Board. I look forward to working with the Board to continue our service to the community. I also give a special thank you to the many members of the community who worked so hard to get our team elected. You showed what we can accomplish when a community works together for a common goal.”**



Town Clerk  
Deborah Tjarks

**“Thank you to all the people of Greenwich and all of the volunteers that helped with this campaign. Greenwich is my hometown and I care about giving my best to all of my friends and neighbors. I appreciate the opportunity to assist you in the Town Clerk’s Office.”**



Councilman-Elect  
Reed Anderson

**“Thank you residents of Greenwich for your incredible show of support this election year. I am excited for the opportunity to work for the Greenwich community that has given me so much.”**



Paid For By Committee To Elect  
Nolan Donahue and Anderson

# Town/Village Comprehensive Plan adopted

Jim Nolan and Pam Fuller  
Special to Journal & Press

In a special joint meeting of the boards of the Town of Greenwich and the Village of Greenwich on October 16, 2023, a second public hearing for comments on the proposed Town and Village Comprehensive Plan was held. As the public comments wrapped up, the two boards discussed whether further changes should be made to the plan; they concluded that no changes were needed. Each Board voted to adopt the Town and Village of Greenwich Comprehensive Plan 2023.

How did this joint comprehensive plan come about? The Plan is the product of a year-and-a-half of work by the committee members, consultants from LaBella LLC, and members of the public who attended the public meetings and responded to outreach from the committee. The committee was made up of municipal officials, heads of municipal committees, and members of the community representing various sectors.

Why take the time and effort to create a joint comprehensive plan?

“Hope is not a strategy.” This famous quote has been attributed to any number of famous people from Vince Lombardi, to Mitt Romney, to James Cameron. Regardless of who coined the phrase, it’s an relevant comment with which to begin a discussion about the value of a municipal comprehensive plan.

The planning process is important, because it provides the time to evaluate problems carefully, and be prepared to implement those plans quickly when situations arise.

One of the fundamental responsibilities of local government is to plan for future growth and development of the community. The American Planning Association says that creating a comprehensive plan is a planning process that “seeks to engage all members of the community to create a more prosperous, convenient, equitable, healthy, and attractive place for present and future generations.” The resulting comprehensive plan provides overarching guidance for the future. Although New York State doesn’t require comprehensive plans, the value in undertaking the planning process is gained both in the final document and through the creation process itself, with community members engaging with each other to contribute their ideas.

The last Town of Greenwich Comprehensive Plan was finalized in 2004. A lot has changed since 2004, and the Town officials recognized that it needed updating. Meanwhile, the Village had never gone through the process of developing a comprehensive plan, although it has engaged in multiple planning processes including the Vision Plan of 2010.

Before they began to set the plan’s goals, the committee articulated their vision for the community and the environment we should work toward in the future. They also agreed on guiding principles that would shape the overall goals: these are diversity, equity, and sustainability.



Village and Town of Greenwich landscape

Here is the vision statement:

*Greenwich is a desirable place to live, work, play and do business. The historic downtown supports many local businesses while maintaining its historical character and serving as a regional destination. Commercial development continues to fill in along main transportation corridors, driving local employment opportunities and providing additional space for community amenities. Recreational opportunities*

## ‘One of the fundamental responsibilities of local government is to plan for growth’

*along the Battenkill and Hudson rivers, and in the Town’s bucolic landscape, provide ample opportunity for play to residents and visitors alike. A diversity of housing options attracts new families while allowing existing residents to age in their community. Agriculture continues to thrive through active farming operations, agricultural support services, and a culture of consuming local goods and crafts. Inclusivity, community, collaboration, and sus-*

tween the two municipalities aren’t obvious to everyone who lives here. Residents of the Village are mostly also residents of the Town. They drive on Town roads, use Town businesses, enjoy Town parks and waterways and beautiful views. They pay Town as well as Village taxes. The Village downtown serves as the downtown for the Town, as well. The Village is where the schools, the government offices, the fire department, Main Street businesses, and more are located. Planning should be consistent to reflect shared aesthetics.

The Comprehensive Plan addresses issues and opportunities across a broad spectrum of topics. Land Use and Zoning. Infrastructure. Housing. Farmland and Agriculture. Parks and Recreation. Community Services and Events. Within each of these major topics various areas of opportunity or necessity are explored...such as zoning and the need for planning boards; the expansion of public water and sewer; pedestrian/handicapped access and safety; broadband access; senior housing; short/long term rental policies/permitting to increase and improve housing supply; support of farmland leasing; creation of a permanent farmer’s market site; promotion of agritourism; continued development of our parks and riverfront access; continued focus on senior, youth, and teen programs; maintenance of high-quality emergency services; collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce in support of employment opportunities in skilled trades; and development of a county-wide transportation network.

Because the Comprehensive Plan should rep-

**Please read more on next page**

TOWN & VILLAGE OF GREENWICH

### TOWN AND VILLAGE OF GREENWICH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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The report

*tainability underscore day-to-day actions, allowing Greenwich’s residents to enjoy a high quality of life in a community that is welcoming and affordable for people at all stages of life.*

A joint effort by the Town and Village on the plan makes sense. The lines be-

## Granville lighting

Haynes House of Hope is hosting its second annual Memorial Tree Lighting event at 7187 State Route 149 in Granville at 2 pm on Saturday December 9th. Refreshments will be served, and those who wish to remember a loved one who passed away at the House may call Bonnie Underwood at 518-642-8155 and leave their name. She will place that on a special ornament for the tree lighting ceremony. Other ornaments can be purchased at that event for the benefit of Haynes House.

The drawing for the raffle of a 2-night stay at Alpine Lake Resort in Corinth will be drawn that evening and tickets can still be purchased at the Tree Lighting event. For more information about the raffle, check out the website at [www.thehaynes-houseofhope.org](http://www.thehaynes-houseofhope.org).

**(cont.)**

represent the priorities of the community, members of the community were integral in creating it ...government officials, business leaders, and community stakeholders. Experienced municipal planning professionals were key, to guide us in using best practices to gather and analyze data. In the case of Greenwich, the comprehensive plan effort was led by Norabelle Greenberger from LaBella, LLC, who is also a native of Greenwich.

And most importantly, the residents of Greenwich had a voice in what the future Greenwich looks like. During the 18 months leading up to adoption in October, workshops, public input meetings, and town-wide surveys were conducted. A Town webpage was available where committee minutes were shared and plan drafts were posted. As the date approached for final approval by the Town and Village Boards, a final draft was published in September, followed by a joint Public Hearing in mid-October. As always, citizens of the community took personal responsibility for participating in the process. Feedback was critical.

Now that the Plan has been adopted, what should happen? If the effort to create the Comprehensive Plan is going to have been a good investment, we will need to put its ideas into action. We have created a "list of mutually agreed upon guidelines for what our shared vision of the future looks like." To actualize the vision, we need a strategic plan of action that outlines specific activities to be undertaken each year for the next three to five years. Then we'll need to evaluate what has happened and create an updated strategic plan of action! We need a strong committee and subcommittees that can focus in on specific projects. Some of this work is happening now through the work of



The community offers feedback earlier this year

the recently constituted Zoning and Infrastructure Committee, whose work is being funded by other grants, including the BOA Pre-Development Grant, that will result in timelines and budgets for key recommended actions in the Comprehensive Plan. We'll need coordination between the various community committees working on civic projects. We have a lot of work to do, and the Comprehensive Plan lays out a path to get it done.

For access to the final Town and Village of Greenwich Comprehensive Plan report, visit your Town and Village offices and websites or the Greenwich Free Library. Each location has copies to peruse; and the report is also avail-

able on line. Information about future public meetings will be announced there, too.

Any Town or Village resident who would like to join the work should contact their municipal offices to learn when the next public meetings are scheduled.



Jim Nolan is Greenwich Town Supervisor; Pam Fuller, Village of Greenwich Mayor.

## Breakfast with Santa

The Annual Greenwich Breakfast with Santa event will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Greenwich Elks Club on Route 40 in Greenwich.

Santa is due to arrive again this year by fire engine courtesy of the Greenwich Fire Department at approximately 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10 – tickets are available at the door.

The breakfast is a family style pancake breakfast cooked by the Greenwich Elks Club.

Children will have the opportunity to see Santa, create Christmas cards, and write and send Christmas Lists to the North Pole. At-

tendees can also purchase a picture taken with Santa or make their own holiday crafts.

The FFA will again this year have centerpieces and wreaths available for sale. New this year will be the addition of the Greenwich Central School Pre-K Singers.

The event is sponsored by the Greenwich Women's Service Club in association with the Greenwich Central School District's FFA, FBLA and National Honor Society Clubs, and the Greenwich Elks. The proceeds from the event will go towards Operation Santa and local Community projects.



## High schooler awards

Hudson Crossing Park invites graduating high school or homeschooled seniors from Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties to submit an application for the 2024 Hudson Crossing Park (HCP) Seedling Award.

The HCP Seedling Award is given to a single recipient who has demonstrated excellence and outstanding dedication to their community and/or the environment. Applicants are asked to submit an essay of approximately 1,000 words or a 3-5 minute video describing how their leadership and service have made a positive difference.

The HCP Seedling Award includes \$150 cash and three (3) tickets to Hudson Crossing Park's Banquet by the Bridge on Thursday, June 13, 2024 for the winner and two parents/guardians/guests. Submissions should be received no later than 5pm on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Send to [info@hudsoncrossingpark.org](mailto:info@hudsoncrossingpark.org).

## Racing City Chorus concert

To add to the Holiday spirit, the Racing City Chorus, a men's 4-part "a Cappella" harmony group, will present a Community Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 16 at 6:30 pm in the Greenwich Central School Auditorium, 10 Gray Avenue, Greenwich, NY. The chorus will sing a repertoire of their Yuletide songs and carols.

The event is sponsored by the Easton, Centenary, Stump, Eagle Bridge and South Cambridge Methodist Churches.

The proceeds will benefit local fire departments.

General admission is \$15. Senior, Student & Vet Admission, \$12.

Tickets are available from the church members, by emailing [eastonchurch126@gmail.com](mailto:eastonchurch126@gmail.com) or at the door. Visit [www.eastonumc.com](http://www.eastonumc.com) for more information.



# Lost dog? Expert tracker is on it.

**Robin Lyle**  
*Journal & Press*

How are pet dogs that wander off or go missing brought back home again? Heartfelt postings on Facebook pleading for information on missing pets certainly help. According to Tracy Snell from Our Best Friends Rescue, social media is an important tool when searching for a lost dog.

Our Best Friends Rescue is a dog rescue agency based on Long Island. Dogs are brought to the Long Island facility from as far away as Texas. They are transported on a specially equipped vehicle called the “love bus.” A large group of volunteers here in Washington County help the Long Island agency by finding foster and adoptive homes for their animals in this area.

Some of the rescued dogs were born into puppy mills. According to Wikipedia: “[t]he Veterinary Medical Association of the Humane Society...defines the main characteristics of a puppy mill as ‘emphasis on quantity over quality, indiscriminate breeding, continuous confinement, lack of human contact,...and minimal to no veterinary care.’”

Other rescued dogs come from pet hoarding situations. In both cases, the dogs have had little human contact and may be quite fearful of people. Not all of the dogs at Our Best Friends Rescue endured such traumatic conditions, rather they could be voluntarily given up by an owner, brought in by family when an owner dies, or brought in wandering and lost.

Any agency working with dogs over the years is likely to have a dog become missing at some point. When this happens at Our Best Friends Rescue, they often do look to Facebook for help locating the animal. But, it can take much more than social media to get a dog back home safely. Cooperation from the dog’s foster or adoptive family is important and a phalanx of volunteer searchers is critical. And, sometimes, especially for a dog that’s been gone more than a few days, extra help comes from consulting with an expert in dog behavior and tracking lost dogs.

Tracy Snell, from Our Best Friends Rescue in Washington County, has called on Sarah Winslow, of Salem, for help in difficult missing dog situations. Sarah is an “excellent human being,” Tracy said, noting that “she doesn’t take any money for her help and doesn’t want any attention for it either. That’s her brand.”

It’s not a surprise, then, that Sarah was reluctant to talk with this reporter. She protested she was too busy to talk as she spent the day making holiday wreaths for local charities. Fortunately, she did share a quick outline of how she became interested in this unusual field and key elements of dog behavior when under stress.

It all began for Sarah eight years ago when her daughter’s dog went missing. Sarah and her daughter searched for 68 days straight. In the process they found five other missing dogs, but not her daughter’s. It wasn’t until two years later, through a lead on social media, that they learned the dog had been stolen and were able to finally retrieve him.

When a dog is lost, not stolen, “they typically leave out of fear” according to Sarah. “You have to understand dog behavior. In 24 hours they become feral and within 48 hours they’re in ‘survival mode.’” Most lost dogs are going “somewhere,” she said.

Just this past September, Tracy Snell of Our Best Friends Rescue contacted Sarah Winslow for help finding “Lulu.” Lulu had been in her new adoptive home only one day when she went missing, apparently scared by clanging pots and pans. She had just been adopted by an older couple in Battenville. Our Best Friends Rescue was alerted two days later when some-

one spotted the lost dog posting on Facebook.

The Rescue’s volunteers posted information on Facebook, hung posters, and went door-to-door to let people know the dog was missing and provided a phone number to call if they saw her. Sightings of Lulu, new ones received every day Lulu was missing except one, came from a fairly remote area between her owner’s home and Hedges Lake.

Concerns led the Rescue to contact Sarah Winslow for help. “Sarah has good instincts on what dogs will do,” Tracy said. Lulu came to the Rescue from a puppy mill and she was not used to being around people. This led Sarah to advise that Lulu would feel more comfortable with dogs than people and would gravitate towards other dogs. Several reports from community members who spotted Lulu confirmed this.

Further, Sarah believed that the “somewhere” Lulu would head for was either back to her new home or a return to her foster home. Sightings bore this out as they showed Lulu approaching her foster home and then doubling back towards her new home.

Information gleaned from almost daily sightings let the searchers and owners know that she was not only still alive but in pretty good shape, indicating she had found a reliable source of food.

## ‘Sarah determined the dog had crossed the Hudson River on ice.’

As sightings of Lulu came closer to her new adoptive home, her owner was given instructions. “The worst thing to do is go towards a lost dog and try to catch it,” Tracy said. A fearful dog in survival mode is likely to flee and Lulu wasn’t used to being around people.

The owner was told to place a bowl of food in the yard and then retreat into the house where Lulu couldn’t see her. Each time, the food was placed closer to the house with the owner out of sight. Eventually, food was placed just outside the door from which Lulu had fled. This time, the owner remained where the dog could see her. The final step was to move the food inside the house with the door open, reuniting Lulu with her adoptive family at last.

Lulu had been missing for a total of eight days. Throughout that time, numerous volunteers from Our Best Friends Rescue were hard at work. As each sighting of Lulu was received, volunteers arrived to search for Lulu and talk to neighbors. When the dog returned to the area of her new home, the new owners followed their instructions perfectly.

Unfortunately, things don’t always go this smoothly. About a year prior to the search for Lulu, a different dog went missing; this time from the Easton area and in the middle of winter. This dog, a Portuguese Podengo, came to Our Best Friends Rescue from a pet hoarding situation and was eventually adopted.

Unlike in Lulu’s situation, in this case, the

6h · 🌐  
This beauty was running down Kenyon Hill Road just now in Cambridge ... we tried to get the dog to come to us but kept running away. Please share ❤️



Lucy in a Facebook post

owners “did the exact opposite” of their instructions. Responding to a sighting of the dog, the owner chased it with an ATV which actually drove the dog further away.

With temperatures well below zero, the dog was in a very dangerous situation. The longer it was lost, the worse the outlook for its survival became. At this point, the Rescue decided to stop working with the owners in order to improve their chances of recovering the dog. They also enlisted Sarah’s help.

As sightings in Easton dwindled, Sarah determined that the dog had crossed the Hudson River on ice. The entire search operation was then moved to the west side of the Hudson as volunteers fanned out through Mechanicville and Schaghticoke with posters and outreach.

This dog was comfortable with children, but wary of adults. This behavior led the volunteers to concentrate on areas with young families. Thirteen days after the dog first went missing, a call was received from Mechanicville. The caller’s daughter was playing outside with a dog that looked like the one reported missing. As instructed, the girl’s mother said, “Honey, come inside and bring your friend with you.” That worked like a charm and the dog has since been rehomed.

### Helpful Advice

When a dog does go missing, acting quickly to find the dog increases the odds of bringing it back home safe and sound. Waggish.com’s advice includes these key steps to finding a lost dog:

1. Post flyers in the area the pet went missing, as well as where local people gather (post office, library, convenience store, etc). Include a contact number.
2. Use social media and ask people to call as quickly after a sighting as possible.
3. Contact neighbors, the local animal control officer, shelters and vets.
4. If you see your lost dog, don’t chase it. Doing so can cause a stressed animal to retreat further.

# Horse thief on the loose

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

## 180 Years Ago

December 7, 1842

I know not whether it is possible to gain a higher idea of the power of the press, and the consequential responsibility of those who wield it, than by looking at the effects, which it produces in connection with the political struggles, which occasionally occur in our own history. A member of Congress may rise in his place, and speak five minutes by the watch long – and yet he may have said that which in one week shall well, nigh convulse, the whole nation. A convention may assemble to propose a candidate for the presidential chair, and scarcely shall the result be announced, before the remotest village, in the most distant state, shall have responded to it, and millions of hearts, shall be beating, and millions of hands, busy, for the success, or the defeat of the nomination. An emergency may occur in the administration of our government that looks portentous of evil; and yet it shall scarcely have transpired from the council of the cabinet, before the details of the whole matter have passed under the eye of the nation. And men of every class and every character are speculating in regard to the policy that should be pursued. And whether the waves of public feeling are wrought up like the mighty ocean in a storm, it will always be found that the press has had a principal agency in producing the commotion.

## 120 Years Ago

December 9, 1903

Mamie Montgomery, the Glens Falls woman, who on Tuesday of last week, shot her sister, Mrs. Emma Miller, was removed to Lake George Wednesday evening and lodged inside the county jail. To this institution, Police Justice Singleton committed her to await the hearing of the grand jury. District Attorney Kiley has conducted a thorough examination of the affair and the facts brought out tend to throw full responsibility on the Montgomery woman. This is in accordance with the first news of the assault. The Montgomery woman, according to the testimony of Officer Coulin, declared that she intended to kill her sister and wished she had. Mrs. Miller's condition is much improved. The bullets in her arms and shoulders have been located and removed.

## 110 Years Ago

December 10, 1913

David Tomlinson of this village is missing and is charged by the police with responsibility for the theft of a horse that was taken from the barn of James Johnson of Salem last Wednesday morning at an early hour. The horse, a buggy and harnesses were taken. Wednesday afternoon, the rig was sold in Troy to Charles Martell of Cohoes, who gave \$25 and a watch for the outfit.

Martell mentioned his purchase to a police officer, and then a day or two later, the policeman saw an account of the taking of the horse. At Salem, he telephoned to the officials of this county, a description of the rig, and it tallied with the one taken from Johnson's barn, and accordingly it was recovered. It appears that the sale was made in front of Lindsay's sale stable in Troy and men there recognize the seller as Tomlinson. The police have been on

the lookout for him ever since, but he has not shown up.

Tomlinson is about 21 years old. On May 7 of this year he attempted suicide by firing a bullet from a 22-caliber revolver into his right temple. He was taken to the Homeopathic hospital in Albany, and it was not believed he had a chance of recovery, as the bullet was embedded in his brain, but in two or three weeks, he returned home, and since suffered little inconvenience from the wound.

## 100 Years Ago

December 5, 1923

Nobody knows exactly how many quacks are practicing medicine in this state, but it is suspected that large numbers of them are doing business in the bigger cities, where chances of discovery are minimized because of the size of such cities.

The deaths brought to light in other states as a result of the investigations into the functioning of so-called medical schools turning out graduates on high speed schedules will, it is expected, lead to a determined attempt to pass this year the bill calling for the annual registration of physicians in this state. As matters now stand, the state has neither the authority nor the machinery necessary for cleaning house where it may be needed among the medical profession.

## 80 Years Ago

December 8, 1943

Two years ago this week The United States was precipitated into the greatest war of all time. They have been two busy and tragic years. They have seen our country turn from ways of peace to those of total war, and they have brought proof that a democratic nation that hates war can nevertheless give a good account of itself when attacked.

We have come quite a ways in two years, and we have given the Japanese warlords who planned the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor reason to amend their opinion of the fighting qualities of American men and the productive power of the nation that backs them. Tokyo rejoicing over the "destruction" of the American navy in the sneak attack two years ago was short lived. The destruction was bad enough, but it did not come up to the Japanese claims and in twenty four months our booming shipyards have made up the losses over time.

## 50 Years Ago

December 6, 1973

The Hotel Schuyler in Schuylerville stands today, almost unchanged in appearance from Broad Street, but badly damaged from fire and water on the interior. That the historic hotel was saved is a tribute to the prompt action and cooperation of the Schuyler Hose company and fire departments from Greenwich, Middle Falls and Quaker Springs, who were at the scene of the fire Tuesday evening as well as David Nevins Fire Company of Victory Mills, which covered the fire district during the emergency.



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Ads from 110 years ago

## 40 Years Ago

December 8, 1983

The Journalism class at Greenwich central visited the Journal-Press office Thursday to meet with the staff and get an idea of how news is gathered and the procedure it then follows until publication. The visit was in preparation for the class return to the paper Wednesday of this week to watch it being put together for that afternoon's printing.

## 30 Years Ago

December 2, 1993

On Saturday morning, just after 6:00 a.m. a bus owned by Upstate Tours, departed from Greenwich High School for New York City. On board were thirty-seven close friends of Jeff Scanlon, most former classmates and teachers who were headed for the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to donate blood and platelets in Jeff's name.

Jeff, a twenty-year-old college student who is battling leukemia, recently received a bone marrow transplant from his older brother, Peter. Replenishing the blood bank is a priority in this hospital and a trip to the center is necessary.

## 20 Years Ago

December 11, 2003

The first snowstorm of the season blanketed southern Washington county with 18 to 25 inches of snow, and the accompanying winds left drifts up to four feet deep in many areas. Snow banks created by plows were significantly higher. The two day storm shut down Greenwich's Christmas Festival on Sunday, which was to include a parade on Main Street and events in Mowry Park, at the Commons and at St. Paul's church parish hall. Luckily, Breakfast with Santa still took place at the Elk's Lodge!

—Compiled by Kaylee Johnson and Darren Johnson

# Enjoying December good cheer

**Shirley Renauld**  
*Journal & Press*

December starts with a busy local weekend:

- Get an early start with the monthly wood-working at Home Depot. Today you'll be making a gingerbread house. As you display it, will you read the "Hansel and Gretel" fairy tale that it comes from? Maybe not to young children, who would be scared by it. Instead, enjoy all the houses in the area and make your own as a group activity with your friends, using up your Halloween candy.

- Then it's breakfast with Santa at the Elks. The GCS FFAers have made centerpieces and wreaths to sell and have set up a room of craft tables at which you can create. Santa will arrive by fire truck and Mr. Cliff and his team are ready to take your photo. Of course, your family can eat a pancake breakfast there. After the event you can help wrap gifts for people in the area with its proceeds.

- It's the weekend to celebrate St Nicholas' birthday as Schuylerville commemorates its Dutch heritage. Businesses will welcome visitors in the style of the European open markets. On Sunday, join the lantern parade that St Nicholas and his helper, Peter, will lead along Broad St, as he rides on his big white horse. You will end at the Village park for a sing-along and the lighting of the village Christmas tree. At home, make your own paper lanterns as decorations. Leave a pair of shoes at your front door overnight with hay and carrots in them for his horse, and hope that Saint Nicholas will leave you a treat in their place.

- Dec 3 is the first Sunday of Advent so you light the first purple candle for your family's Advent wreath, then an additional one on the other Sundays of Advent and a pink one for Christmas Day. Use greens to fill in spaces between the candles.

Hopefully, you will also have an advent calendar to follow the days by opening a "door" with a treat inside each one. Aunt Jo made a wooden box with a curtain to open each day to reveal a symbol of Christmas.

For the greens of the season, you hike to collect nature's greens and reds: large, evergreen branches of long needle pines, shorter needled spruces and firs, flat needled cedar and hemlock (knowing that hemlock lose their needles quickly). It's special to find branches with their cones still attached but look for those on the ground also. Look for branches of rosebushes that have red berries/rose hips.

Along country roads look for plants with red



berries. Prune your holly bushes, both the male all green ones and the female ones with red berries, and your ivy (Is that beginning to sound like the song?). On a hike, Nancy found white berries of the Mountain Ash. Bend down the branches of Sumac to cut the big dark red seed heads. Harder to find will be mistletoe where it's growing on trees.

Since it's deer hunting season, ride with care to avoid them as they cross the road to avoid hunters and look for food. Cindy even saw a young moose crossing her road.

You are ready to make large arrangements in the big pots that you cleaned out after the last frosts.

Poinsettia is the plant of the season, imported from the land of our hard-working neighbors, Mexico. Make craft blossom heads by stapling five milkweed pods that you dried on a circle of card stock, spray painting them red and making drops of yellow paint in the center to be the flower. Use these to add color to arrangements, on tables...

As our Gov Hochul tells us, "celebrate our diversity", so we move onto our next Feast of Lights, Hanukkah, between Dec 5 and 15. We see its colors, blue and white. We hear people greeting each other with "shalom". We see menorahs of various sizes in the community. In your family menorah, use four blue and four big white birthday candles on either side of the helper candle as you light an added one each day with it. For decorating, make a Star of David with two triangles, including with craft sticks that you might paint gold.

You will gather your friends to play the dreidel game as you sing, "Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of...". Do you prefer to play for peanuts or chocolate coins? Do you have pets to help you make a meal as in "Latkes and Applesauce" when the dog digs the potatoes for the latkes and the cat climbs the tree to knock down the last apples to make into sauce. Shalom.

Of course, for Christmas, you will decorate

with much red and green: Basic are paper chains: alternate red and green linking circles, patterns that include white, or all white that you can leave up into Winter.

Probably the highlight of your decorating is your Tannenbaum. Was it the result of your family hike to find the very best one? Since you left its roots in the field, remember to give it water every day to keep the needles from falling. Then to decorate: First, for lights will you have colored or clear ones that twinkle or don't. Will you string cranberries, alternated with popcorn? as a garland to go around the tree? As you take ornaments out of the storage boxes, your family will reminisce about their significance, and you will remember the ones you made. Will you end by hanging tinsel on the branches like your family did years ago? Is there a family train to set up to go around the base of the tree? When it's finally perfect, your family will hold hands around the tree and sing, in English and German, "O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum. How lovely are your branches. We trim the tree at Christmas time, and merry bells begin to chime..."

Perhaps the bells we hear are those from Battenkill Bells at their concert on that busy first weekend of the month, Dec 3,

at Reformed in Schuylerville—where they also will hold their holiday sale on the second.

The 16th is our next busy day:

- We participate in "Wreaths Across America", the national program to put a holiday wreath

at the burial site of each veteran at our national cemeteries. Since we have the Saratoga National Cemetery south of Schuylerville, we can join Ruth and her colleagues who participate locally. Then it is dramatic to take a drive through the rows of green wreaths with their red bows.

- We can see local ballerinas as they perform with the Saratoga Youth Ballet as soldiers and snowflakes in "The Nutcracker"—and a dad who portrays Mother Ginger!

Family members had already gone hiking to collect greens and Debbie had arranged them in baskets for the tea that was held as a fundraiser prior to the performance.

- We can enjoy the singing of The Racing City Chorus at its Holiday Concert at GCS. We thank Dick, Vic and their friends as they sing to benefit our local fire departments.

Continuing our celebration of diversity, in how many languages can you say Merry Christmas throughout the rest of December?

## Snowmobile safety

The Washington County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation is offering a free snowmobile safety course on December 2, 2023 from 8am- 4pm at the Law Enforcement Center in Fort Edward.

This course provides fundamental information which all snowmobilers should possess in order to ensure the safety of riders and other trail users. Successful completion of this course results in the award of a NYS Snowmobile Safety Certificate

All registrants for this event must be 10 years of age by December 2, 2023 and you must be 10 years old at the date of the event in order to attend.

For attendees ages 10-17 please bring the signed permission slip from a parent or guardian.

New York State is a leader in snowmobile education and offers one operator training course for snowmobilers of all ages beginning at age 10.

Register here: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/205802>.



# Basketball preview: Cambridge

Gary Danforth  
Journal & Press

*Basketball season is about to begin, and we'll preview some of our local programs in the weeks ahead. Let's start with Cambridge:*

## Boys Basketball

The Cambridge boys basketball team opens the 2023-24 season by hosting Hoosic Valley on December 1st and the Knights of Columbus Tournament on December 2nd. But, first, they'll play an opening round tournament game at Fort Edward on Wednesday, November 29th.

Second year Coach Mike MacDougall will return only two players from last year's 3-17 squad. MacDougall took over a program last year that had gone 1-19 in 2021-22.

MacDougall, who played college basketball and golf at Green Mountain College and the same at Stillwater Central School, had coached four years of both varsity and jayvee hoop at Hartford Central School prior to coming to CCS.

Assisting MacDougall will be former St. Mary's of Hoosick Falls and CCS varsity coach Andy Nolan. Nolan, who played his college basketball at SUNY Oswego, will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to his high school alma mater.

MacDougall had this to say about his coaching philosophy, "I'd like to put the players in the best position to be successful and stress team play and working together. We'd like to play fastbreak and uptempo. We have the ability to play uptempo and stress both offense and defense. On defense we'd like to match up and play man to man defense most of the time. We'll play some zone to keep teams off balance. We're hoping our defensive pressure will create turnovers and lead to fast break points.

MacDougall continued, "We'd like to move the program forward. We'd like to see the wins increase and see the boys competitive. A successful season would be an increase in wins and see the boys compete each night."

MacDougall mentioned another goal as coach. "One of the challenges is to motivate your players to be their best on and off the court. We're trying to teach eleven players to be the most successful they can be."

MacDougall had this to say about his toughest competition. "I think Stillwater will be at the top of the league. They've had a very well rounded program the last couple of years and made the state title game two years ago. The other teams will be Tamarac, Hoosick Falls and Greenwich. We're trying to climb that ladder."

Back for CCS this year are two senior guards, 5'11" Mason MacDougall and 6'0" Noah Burke. Three juniors, 6'3" Tully Mahar, 6'3" Baxter Matson and 6'2" Travis Yurchak are forwards on the roster. Two junior guards, 5'11" Caden Daniel and 5'8" Drew Shaner will compete for playing time. The roster is completed by four sophomores, all guards, 5'10" Preston Peabody, 5'10" Kolen Rowland, 5'11" Luke MacDougall and 5'11" Myles Matson.

MacDougall summed up the opening games and the upcoming season. "We tried to put together four teams (Rensselaer will play at Berlin in the other opening round tournament game on November 29th) that have like abilities and then bring them together for the consolation and championship games at Cambridge on December 2nd at 6 and 7:30pm. We'll need to have an emphasis on playing balanced basketball. We'll need a good defensive effort and also try to rebound and score the ball. We'll focus on our outside game and inside game. Rebounding From Afar: The CCS team is in good hands with MacDougall and Nolan at the helm. The tournament games should be very competitive and Hoosic Valley will test this young CCS team. It should be an exciting style of play to watch.

## Girls Basketball

Cambridge Central School varsity basketball Coach Rachel Vickery and her nine member team will host Spa Catholic in their home opener on December 4th.

Vickery, a King School high School graduate, played basketball and softball at the Lake Luzerne institution. Vickery also played those two sports in college, first at SUNY Adirondack and then at Houghton

## Hiawatha Flag in gym

On Nov. 21, Dr. Thomas Porter visited CCS to help unveil the Hiawatha Peace Flag to secondary students in an assembly in the high school gymnasium.

Dr. Porter (Sakokwenionkwas "The One Who Wins") has been the founder, spokesperson and spiritual leader of the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke located in the Mohawk Valley near Fonda, New York since 1993. He is a member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. Dr. Porter held the position of sub-chief for the Tehanakarine Chieftainship title, one of the nine chief titles of the Mohawk Nation, for 21 years from 1971-1992.

The Hiawatha Peace Flag first was presented as the national belt of the Haudenosaunee. The belt is named after Hiawatha, an Onondaga who was the peacemaker's helper in spreading the good words of peace. In this belt, it records when five warring nations; the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk, buried their weapons of war to live in peace. Years later, the Hiawatha Belt was fashioned into a flag that has been flown in many places around the world.

The history of the flag dates back several hundred years. Its exact history is unclear, but it is possibly the first flag in the world that represented democracy.

"The biggest thing this represents is peace," said Duane Honyoust (Guionhtwagay – Beaver Clan "Corn Planter"), an Onondaga and Cambridge community member. "The flag represents the five nations that were fighting. Then, Hiawatha and the peacemaker intervened and said they are family and need peace. I remembered the story and thought of our town. We need peace for our town to come back as one. We need the students to understand and respect what the American and Hiawatha flags stand for."

The flag was permanently hung in the gymnasium and will serve as a reminder for the students, families and community members the importance of being peaceful and respectful to all individuals.

"The school hanging the flag opens up the door to knowledge that hasn't been public to most of the world," said Dr. Porter. "It is possible that what Cambridge school has done is open the door to the world. I salute the staff, parents and students for embracing that idea."



College.

Small participation numbers at CCS this season have left the program without a girls jayvee program.

However, Vickery is hopeful this year's team can match last year's initial varsity campaign as head coach when CCS posted a 14-8 slate. "I'm hoping we can be at least as successful as last year. We want to win more than we lose.

Before taking over at Cambridge Vickery coached ten seasons at Greenwich Central School.

Vickery stated one of her biggest challenges as coach. "I'm trying to revamp the program so we have a jayvee program next year." Of the nine players on the CCS roster five are returning players.

Vickery explained her coaching philosophy this way. "I think that being encouraging is important and making mini competitions in practice and making records to motivate the girls to do better. And, holding players accountable for what they need to do."

Vickery continued about her team's offensive scheme, "I have some returning players but half the team is from the jayvee team. We are not very big. We'll look to run with the ball. As we play better teams it'll depend upon who we have."

She continued, "defensively, we're the same way. We are small. We want to get pressure on the perimeter to get turnovers."

When asked who Cambridge's toughest competition would be she stated, "Greenwich."

Reflecting on the upcoming season, Vickery had this to say, "we're going to have to learn how to work together and stay positive." Rebounding from Afar: Vickery is a veteran coach who'll get the most out of her players. Jayvee and varsity start times are 6 and 7:30pm versus Spa Catholic on December 4th. These hard working players will need good fan support in this upcoming season.

## Ways to give back in 2024 (Part I)

**Debbie Anderson**  
Journal & Press

We live in a great community! Whether you were born here, came here to live through choice or circumstance, are recently arrived or have roots going back generations, we can all appreciate the many fine points of living in Greenwich. There is no 'perfect' place to live on the face of the earth but we certainly have many of the most desirable conditions; beautiful countryside, proximity to larger urban areas, small town charm, neighborliness, and caring, to name just a few.

Being part of a community is more than residing here; paying your taxes, keeping up your property and causing no harm. These are all fine things in themselves but truly being a part of the community should mean doing something outside of your daily sphere. In our town we have so many people willing to give of their time and energy to make the things happen we value about where we live. Putting a dollar amount on the hours given by volunteers in our community would be truly astounding... no organizational budget could ever hope to meet that payroll!

As we move towards the new year of 2024, can everyone agree we need, from the local to the national level, a kinder, more tolerant, thoughtful way of moving ahead? Our usual New Year's resolutions of 'exercise more, eat less, etc.' can be expanded to, 'What can I do help someone else in our community this year? How can I help make a difference in maybe even in just one way?'

It's easy procrastinate... "I don't have time to volunteer." I get it! I remember too well working full time teaching and having 3 children at home. There was no 'free' time! But children see everything you do and if volunteering is part of what you do, specially making them a part of it, it's a life example. Children who watch you volunteer and participate with you, will become volunteers themselves someday.

Just a few of the many benefits of

volunteering;

- It makes you feel better, giving back and doing something for someone else.
- A sense of accomplishment
- Being part of a larger goal or mission
- A sense of purpose
- It's mentally stimulating
- A way to make new friends and meet people in the community
- Excellent role modeling for children
- For young people, a way to learn new skills or career ideas

And these are just a few! In the next few weeks, volunteer opportunities right here will be presented. If not already actively involved, we hope you will find one that meets your interests! If we all do even ONE thing, there's no limit to what can happen!

In the next addition, there will be more ideas. I invite any groups with additional opportunities to contact me for inclusion in the Part II article on volunteering. My email is [debbie6anderson@gmail.com](mailto:debbie6anderson@gmail.com).

**Comfort Food Community** – a locally based organization focused on ending food insecurity in our community and beyond. There are so many opportunities here including:

**Pantry operations;** Helping in the pantry hours on Mondays (3-5), and Wednesdays (9-11) and 3-5. Pantry stocking and off hours are also available

**Office Tasks**

**Weekly Pack Out** – Sorting and packing produce for distribution to schools, libraries and pantries

**Gleaning** – This is a seasonal opportunity but a great way to help harvest surplus vegetables at local farms that will be distributed to food pantries, libraries, Senior Centers and schools.



Comfort Food Community



Greenwich Fire Department



Greenwich Library

**Backpack program** – Packing and delivering food to area families in need

Website: [comfortfoodcommunity.org/home](http://comfortfoodcommunity.org/home)

**Greenwich Free Library**

**Library assistants;** Work the circulation desk, reshelve books, and assist library patrons

**Friends of the Library;** Run the Boomerang Book sales, raise funds for library projects

**Garden Committee;** Maintain and care for the beautiful perennial garden in front of the library and organize

Come to the circulation desk and talk with the librarian or volunteer assistant.

**Greenwich Youth Center**

**Youth activity supervisors;** GYC offers the youth of our community with the much-needed service of supervised programs and activities for students in grades 3-12 after school and in the summer. Contact Director Gabrielle Pruso at [director@greenwichyouthcenter.org](mailto:director@greenwichyouthcenter.org)

**Greenwich, Cossayuna and Middle Falls Fire Departments**

All these crucial Fire Departments are looking for volunteers who are seriously interested in becoming part of their teams; being

a firefighter or EMT is a commitment that involves training but is an essential part of our community. Also needed are administrative volunteers, ambulance drivers and fundraising helpers. We cannot do without them!

Greenwich Fire Department  
[GreenwichFireCPR@gmail](mailto:GreenwichFireCPR@gmail.com)

Cossayuna Fire Department  
[chiefdonahue@gmail.com](mailto:chiefdonahue@gmail.com)

Middle Falls Fire Department  
(518) 692-2830 (leave message).

**Greenwich PTSA**

The PTSA is always looking for volunteers to help with events and activities involving students from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. A great way to be involved with your children and part of the school community. Email PTSA President Amanda Hurley at [ajohurley@gmail.com](mailto:ajohurley@gmail.com).

*Debbie Anderson is a retired teacher from Salem Elementary School and church organizer. She currently teaches piano, co-leads a 4H group, leads sing alongs with seniors in assisted living residences, and is a former board member of Comfort Food Community, busy grandmother and random volunteer wherever!*



# What does being 'woke' really mean?

**Ralph Pagano**  
*Special to Journal & Press*

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "woke" as "the past tense of wake. Aroused as from sleep. Stirred or excited. Conscious interest aroused in. Alerted to. The state of being awake. Relative: enlightened." The term "woke" first appeared in a song by Leadbelly, a black folk artist of the 1920's and 1930's, in which he was telling black people to stay aware of and alert to the Jim Crow Laws of the South.

To be "woke," then, is to be enlightened by and alert to or cognizant of all that has occurred in the past as well as the present and how the two intersect. Being "woke" means being aware of all sides of an issue whether it supports your opinion or not. In my area of study, the field of science, before any new research is undertaken a thorough review of the literature to seek out previously published work is done. Everyone involved in scientific research knows they must be aware of past as well as present work in their field. In that way new data can be compared and contrasted to what has already been accomplished and conclusions drawn to support or reject hypotheses or

theories. This is a time consuming process that requires a great deal of patience, collaboration, and communication. The idea is to get it right.

The same can be said for issues before us right now. Current events viewed from differing points of view as through different lenses affords a more complete picture, horizon to horizon, as it were, not merely a single focal point. This would, by necessity, include personal, regional, national, and cultural history. No event should be considered without being placed in context with the groups involved or related incidents occurring prior. It is just plain bad policy to be unaware of one's own history or that of any other country when it comes to national or international conflicts or diplomacy whether it be eastern Europe or the Middle East. One cannot separate out the issues between countries or within a country without first looking at the entire history including ancient history, colonial period history, occupations, displacements, and current grievances. When the United States takes the American Exceptionalism stance, ignoring our own history, and single out a country for some wrong doing, all too often countries such as Russia are quick

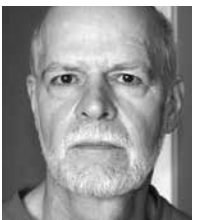
to point out our own shortcomings. People frequently quote the lines "My country right or wrong" without finishing it which is to add "when right to keep it right, when wrong to make it right." But making it right isn't done by re-writing history to make an event appear in a positive light. An example would be what the military for a long time called the Battle of Wounded Knee when in fact it was a brutal massacre of Native Americans and has since been recognized as such. Making something right would be recognizing and remedying injustices so they don't occur again.

To accomplish the necessary historical review we need open communication and exchange of ideas whether in an educational setting or in society in general. Historical events we would rather forget or not accept should not be glossed over, re-written, ignored, or skipped entirely. Issues such as slavery and the racial inequities that followed including red-lining or the displacement/genocide of indigenous people and the subsequent attempt at the destruction of their cultures through the use of boarding schools shouldn't be buried. This can also include our neighbors, those with mental health issues, and migrants

since we might not be aware of the trauma they have experienced. Knowledge shouldn't elicit guilt but should result in a response to the conditions brought about by historical events. We all must take responsibility for past actions and respond with understanding and appropriate actions to correct wrongs. Only through dialogue can we figure out how.

Being asleep at the wheel of a car can have deadly consequences when driving on the highway. Being asleep to historical events and their relationship to current issues can have just as deadly results in the long run. Ignorance does not result in permanent bliss. We need to accept all of history, warts and all, and not sugar coat or put a spin on events to make them more palatable. Pointing a finger at others or other nations committing egregious acts does not absolve us of our own wrong doing. We all should be and need to be more alert to the past as well as the present to ensure a better future for everyone.

*Ralph Pagano is a retired science teacher who resides in Cambridge.*



## JOURNAL & PRESS

**is published twice monthly and covers Southern Washington County and parts of Eastern Saratoga and Northern Rensselaer counties.**

Publisher/Editor: Darren Johnson

Contact/Subscriptions (\$48/year): Mail to 39 Cty. Rt. 70, Greenwich, NY 12834 or go to JPsubs.com.

Web: [www.journalandpress.com](http://www.journalandpress.com)

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Instagram: @journal\_press

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Photos/Art: Photos are taken and/or provided by the authors of articles or are archive/stock or PR images, unless noted.

JOURNAL & PRESS (USPS #229-380), Early December 2023, volume 182 number 9298. Published twice-monthly by Campus News publishing company, 39 County Route 70, Greenwich, NY 12834. Subscription price \$48 a year. Periodical postage paid at Greenwich, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Journal & Press, 39 County Route 70, Greenwich, NY 12834.

## Children's holiday

The Friends of Easton Library invite the children of the community and their caregivers to gather at the Easton Library on Saturday, December 2nd at 2 PM to kick off the holiday season! The children of story hour are making little star ornaments to trim the tree at the library. Please join us to help decorate our tree, listen to a holi-

day story, sing holiday songs, make reindeer food, and enjoy goodies, and pick the winners from the election day bake sale raffles. We even hope to get a visit from a surprise guest!

Easton Library is located at 1074 State Route 40 in Greenwich (Easton). Please call the library at 518-692-2253 with questions.

## Join the book club

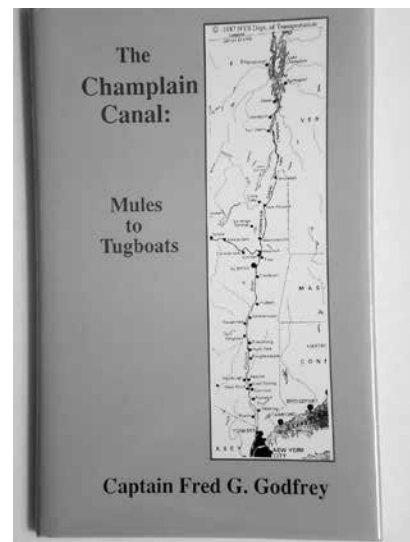
Washington Co. Historical Society's Local History Book Club will meet from 12 noon until 1 PM on Friday, Dec. 8, at the Folk Life Center, Crandall Library, 251 Glen Street, Glens Falls. The existing exhibit on the Champlain Canal can be viewed before or after the book discussion.

Focus of the session is on any book by Capt. Fred G. Godfrey (1915-2006), resident of Fort Edward, who spent 54 years living and working on NY state canals. *The Champlain Canal, Mules to Tugboats* is available for purchase at the Washington Co. Historical Society Bookstore, 167 Broadway, Fort Edward or online at [www.wchs-ny.org](http://www.wchs-ny.org)

The book club meets regularly on the second Friday of the month at twelve

o'clock, usually at Wing-Northup House in Fort Edward. The January 12, 2024 topic will be the Amish in Washington Co., with attendees reading any book on the history of the Amish or any article on the Amish in the local area.

Future sessions of the club will include books about the larger Adirondack area as well as works by local authors. Proposed topics include the temperance movement in our area, agricultural fairs in Washington Co., and the life of Salem resident Asa Fitch, historian and entomologist. For additional information, email [Connie Harris Farrington](mailto:ConnieHarrisFarrington@connieandlee@roadrunner.com) at [connieandlee@roadrunner.com](mailto:connieandlee@roadrunner.com).



# SUNY Adirondack/Kiwanis wine dinner

SUNY Adirondack and Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls offer Taste of the Future Wine Dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Seasoned, 14 Hudson Ave.

Featuring five courses prepared by SUNY Adirondack Culinary students under the direction of Chef Matt Bolton, the event is a fundraiser for Kiwanis Club.

“We’re excited to challenge our students with an incredible menu to support Kiwanis and its extensive service,” said Bolton, who oversees SUNY Adirondack’s Culinary program. “Plus, this is a great way to showcase the immense talent of our students.”

Each course of Taste of the Future features a pairing with Bogle Vineyards wines. The first course is a lobster spring roll, followed by house-made pasta in black garlic pesto, then berry barbecued chicken and hominy, a fourth-course ribeye with potato and root vegetables, and wrapped up with cardamom creme brulee.

“The Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls appreciates our collaboration with Chef Matt Bolton and the SUNY Adirondack Culinary program over the years with Taste of the North Country,” said Laura Flower, president of Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls.

“We are excited and looking forward to seeing our

partnership continue with the Taste of the Future.”

Registration is \$79 per person and is available at <https://shorturl.at/dlsD5>. Those with dietary restrictions should email [jerrod.p.ogden@gmail.com](mailto:jerrod.p.ogden@gmail.com). Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, as capacity is capped at 50 attendees.

Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls is a nonprofit service organization with more than 75 members. The club has been in operation for more than

95 years and has the honor of being among the oldest civic clubs in the Glens Falls area. Kiwanis provides members opportunities to volunteer to benefit the community. Some of the group’s numerous projects include renovating Amanda’s House and filling and distributing Salvation Army Food baskets.

To learn more about Kiwanis, visit <https://www.glensfallskiwanis.org> or email Peg Cassidy at [jmu72@aol.com](mailto:jmu72@aol.com).



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## Greenwich FFA nationally ranked

Members of the Greenwich FFA made history last month at the 96th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The chapter's Dairy Cattle Evaluation Team placed 10th in the nation while competing at the event. Team members Serena Drost and Caroline Kelly earned gold individual placings, recognizing them as being in the top 40 individuals in the country. Team members Allison Chuhta and Allison Michel earned silver placings for being in the top 90 individuals nationally.

Our team members have been preparing since June. Members were responsible for taking a general knowledge exam about dairy cow health, reproduction, nutrition, food safety, applicable laws and regulations, and the dairy industry as a whole.

Team members also learned to evaluate dairy herd records for milk production and herd reproduction values. The team was given a summary of an existing dairy operation and asked to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, and present an implementation plan for improved productivity to a panel of judges. Lastly, members evaluated six classes of dairy cattle and presented oral reasons defending their selection of the most sound cattle in each group.



The team was crowned State Champions at the NYS fair in August after spending the summer evaluating dairy cattle at local farms. The team is grateful for the support of countless individuals, local companies, and local farm owners.

Financial support for the trip was raised through the Sandy Quinn Inspirational Fund and donations from Cargill, Capital Tractor Inc., Farm Credit East, United Ag and Turf, and a golf tournament hosted by Wallie's of Greenwich.

The team would also like to thank Anissa Anuszewski, Margaret Brownell, Julia Houser of Brotherhood Farm, Scott Michel and Andy Brizzell of Hickory Hill Dairy, the Liddle family of Liddleholm Farm, the Rowland family of Ro Acres Farm, and Brian Ziehm and Mike Schreiner of Tishoke Farm. The team gained extensive knowledge as a result of these individuals, coupled with the dedication of coaches Mike McClay and Chris Kelly.

## Holiday remembrance service

The staff of Flynn Bros. Inc. Funeral Homes invites you to join them for a night of Remembrance and Hope. Grief, whether this year or from years past, doesn't stop during the holidays. Organizers hope this special night will help with the healing process, so you are not alone, but with other family members who have lost someone as well.

Join the service on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7pm at the Greenwich Elks Club, 130 Bulson Rd, Greenwich, NY, 12834

Please RSVP to Jamie or Jason at 518-695-3138 or 518-692-2680 with the number of family members attending and the names of the loved ones you wish to remember by lighting a candle.



# Renowned artist on display in Shushan

Christopher Pierce, of Shushan, NY, will hold a Holiday Art Exhibition featuring new works at his studio Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, 2023 from 11A.M. to 5 P.M. The public is also invited to an opening reception at the studio, FRIDAY, December 8 from 5-8P.M. His studio, "Innisfree," is at 909 County Route 61.

He is a nationally recognized fine artist who paints florals, still lifes, portraits, figures, and interiors with panache and a mature sensitivity. Along with his stunning portraiture, he is well known for the huge and commanding florals that come from the bounty of his gardens.

In 2021 his work was featured in the July issue of American Art Collector magazine. Also

in November 2021 the magazine 518 PROFILES published a lavishly illustrated article chronicling Pierce's experience and education in fine art and classical music.

The December show will include several new landscape, florals, figure, and portrait paintings by Mr. Pierce. The artist, who has been called a poetic realist, grew up near New York City and was graduated from the Hackley School in Tarrytown. He received his bachelor's degree from Skidmore College and his master's degree from the College of St. Rose.



## Mac and cheese community dinner

The Hebron United Presbyterian Church is offering our fifth Free Community Dinner, Tuesday, December 12th. Mark your calendars for this scrumptious Mac & Cheese dinner at the historic East Hebron church facility, 6559 State Route 22. Come alone, bring a friend, get the family, bring the kids. We have a delicious sit-down dinner and dessert between 3:00 and 6:00 PM. Our volunteers start the dinners earlier for those who need daylight driving. Some dishes are plant based and others with meat. Fresh veggies, cornbread, desserts, fresh fruit, and apple cider are on the menu. Meet your rural neighbors and learn about programs at our little church and other community programs in the area. Come as you are; no need to bring any-

thing. Our facility is handicapped accessible. Snow date Wednesday Dec 13th. Carpool if possible, as we have limited parking space. We look forward to eating with you!

In addition to Free Community Dinners, our 1846 East Hebron church facility currently hosts several community programs: Hebron Cub Scout Den 61; Tuesdays - We Recover Together - recovery coaching and peer support groups for individuals and families struggling with addiction; Hebron Preservation Society programs and meetings; Puppet Club and Story Time. If you wish to learn more or to help with any of these outreach programs, please contact Charlie Duveen at 518-409-1784.



## See Cambridge holiday windows

Once again, residents of the village of Cambridge (and surrounding areas) will light up the night with creative window decorations. Windows in the Cambridge-area will be decorated and illuminated each evening throughout the month, beginning December 1. The aim is for each window to be a surprise as it is revealed. A

mix of individual homes, businesses, and organizations are slated to participate and windows will stay lit through approximately January 1. The public is invited to take a drive or walk and enjoy the lights of Cambridge.

As the project heads into year five, many community members are looking forward to the tradition. Each night,

a new window will be revealed at approximately 5pm. The public is invited to gather on the sidewalk to "ooh and ahh" over the

community's holiday spirit and creativity. Some locations are even promising holiday treats!

The window unveilings will begin in the evening of Friday, December 1 (adding one window each day through Christmas Eve), so be sure to add a drive or stroll around Cambridge to your holiday activity list!

This project was launched locally in 2019 and is based on the Advent Windows tradition that is popular in England. Heading in to year five, locals are excited to make this an annual tradition. Please see attached map and head to the event's Facebook page: facebook.com/holiday-windows12816 or Instagram account: @holiday-windows12816 for more information.



### OBITUARY

## Richard J. Ruddock, 64

Richard J. Ruddock, 64, of Troy, New York passed away on Friday, November 17, 2023 at his home after a brief illness. He grew up in Greenwich, New York.

The family would like to thank Community Hospice for all their support.

Donations can be made in Richard's memory to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, 3 Oak-

land Ave, Menands, NY 12204

Services will be private.

To leave a special message online, please visit Newcomeralbany.com.

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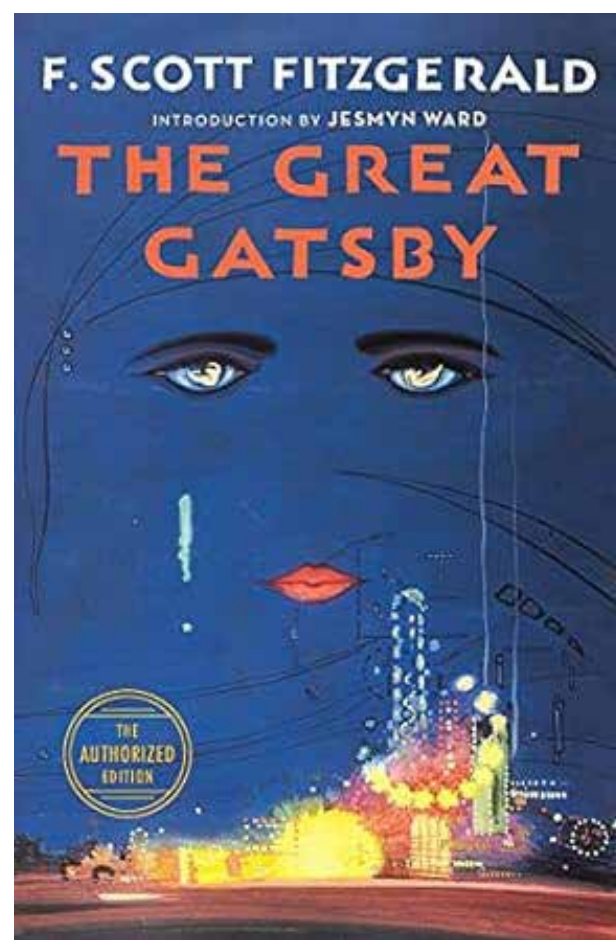
# Literary thank-you notes

**Sarah Murphy**  
Greenwich Free Library

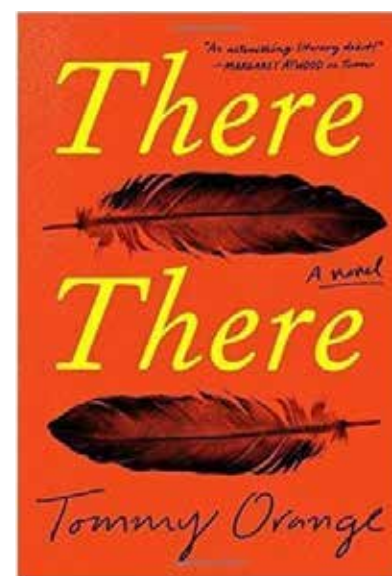
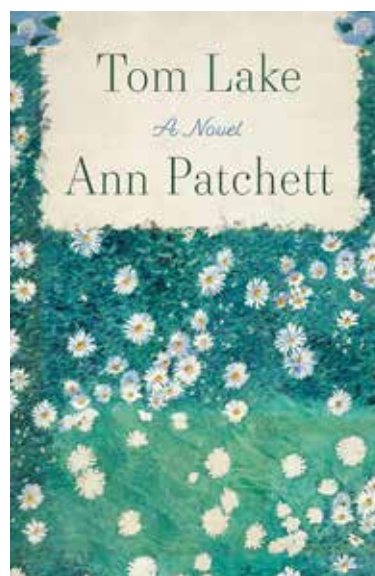
In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday that just concluded, here are a few literary thank-you notes that reveal how I've been spending my free time this fall.

Dear Ann Patchett: Thank you for your book *Tom Lake*. It was the rare instance of a novel living up to its hype, a hype that felt exclusively targeted at me. "Have you read *Tom Lake*?" was the question of the late summer, and "you will love it," was the assured follow-up. As someone who doesn't always love to be told what I'll love, I had some skepticism. But you, Ann Patchett, are really something, and despite not having (as far as I can tell based on online biographies) any direct experience at a summer stock theater, you write about that world with insight and accuracy, appropriately skewering the youthful egos of handsome men who know the warmth of stage lights and audience approval, and empathetically highlighting the nostalgia-as-its-happening magic of a cast falling in love over the course of a few weeks, perhaps never to see each other again. You gave us a vivid recreation of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* and displaced your cast decades later to a rewrite of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, and I could not be more grateful. What's more, you delivered a true rendering of different generations coping during pandemic life. So many works of culture choose to pretend that 2020 onward never happened, or happened differently or happened barely, and I am thankful to authors like you who insist on telling the truth, who reflect back at us our strange elations during tragic times, our fears and uncertainties, and our realignments of values and priorities. Thank you for insisting that, yes, this really happened, and no, we're not crazy. Thank you, Ann Patchett, for this beautiful book.

Dear American literature syllabus, Fall 2023: A few mornings a week, before heading into the library, I teach a small online English classes. My tenth graders are studying the American Dream, and we couldn't do it without you, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Tommy Orange, Amy Tan, Sandra Cisneros, and James Baldwin. Together, you create a vivid, troubling, hopeful, funny, and heartbreaking portrait of our nation. F. Scott Fitzgerald, I'll be honest. I'm not con-



vinced that fifteen is the right age to appreciate your critique of capitalism and your cynical take on aspiration, adoration, and individualism that is *The Great Gatsby*. But I thank you for writing a book so tight, so beautifully rendered, so astonishing in its sentence structure that a group of readers can easily (and pleasurably, I hope) spend 45 full minutes dissecting a single paragraph. Thank you, Tommy Orange, for your novel *There There*, which perfectly demonstrates the windows and mirrors concept for students who can relate to your characters' investigation of self and identity, while seeing, possibly for the first time (unless they are fans of the phenomenal TV series *Reservation Dogs*), that the 21st-century Native American experience is not a folk tale or a history lesson, but a vital piece of the American pie. Thank you, Amy Tan and Sandra Cisneros, for your stories that illustrate immigrant and first-generation



them it was only because I wanted more from you; I wanted the story to continue, I wanted to keep turning those pages, and I wanted the women you created to keep going. I wanted the situation to get worse and for your characters to surprise me with the depths of their self-delusion and breadth of their bad choices. I did not need redemption, and you did not deliver it. I did not need happy endings, and neither did you. Thank you, Emma Cline and R.F. Kuang for creating nuanced characters for whom I held contempt, disbelief, revulsion, and sympathy that took me by surprise. Thank you for these page turners.

Dear bedside table stack of books: Thank you for always being there.

Dear library patrons: Thank you for checking out (as of October 31), 27,302 physical items so far this year, and downloading 3,541 eBooks and audio. Thanks for requesting new titles and discovering old ones. Thanks for letting us know which are your favorites and which you despised. Thank you for abandoning the books you didn't like, returning to some for a second chance, and rereading those that can't be shaken. Thank you for taking time to stop by the library; thank you for giving us plenty to do.

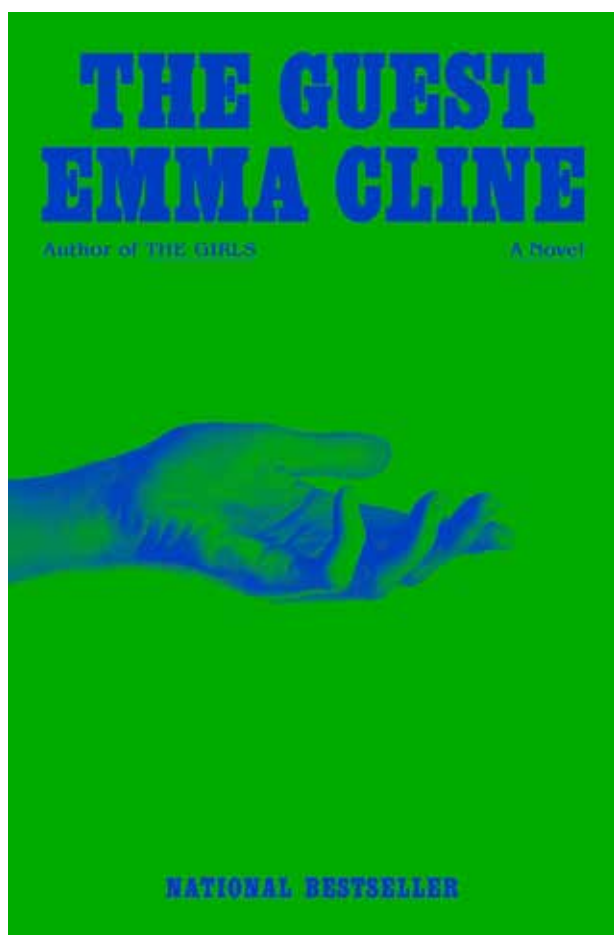
Sarah Murphy is director of the Greenwich Free Library.



**'I did not need happy endings, and neither did you.'**

experiences with tenderness and specificity, reminding my students that, to paraphrase Tolstoy, every family is both alike and not alike. And, thank you, James Baldwin, for ensuring we consider the full spectrum of American history in order to dream an American dream, and for helping us use literature and language to remember and to make change.

Dear Emma Cline and R.F. Kuang: There have been two occasions over the last few months when I fell out of the habit of reading and needed just the right book to get me back in. I was distracted, stressed, and sluggish, and I needed something un-put-downable. Your books, *The Guest* and *Yellowface*, respectively, were those books for me, and I burned through each in a day and a half. Both centered deeply flawed protagonists, and if I was rooting for



# Put legs under your dreams

**Dr. Daneen Skube**  
Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press

**Q:** *I'm 30 and feel like I'm just treading water. I've tried to follow my dreams but am unsatisfied and making little money. When I think about what I want to do, all the preparation steps are overwhelming. How can I get started when the finish line seems so far away?*

**A:** You can get started if you realize that just following your dreams is a recipe for getting nowhere. Dreams are nothing if you cannot create a practical plan to get into a traditional career before you start improvising.

I was an avid dancer when I was younger. I loved jazz dance. I learned that I had to take years of classical ballet to get any good at jazz. What I wanted to do was just turn on the music and be poetry in motion. What I had to do was years of ballet. Ballet it turns out is the basic alphabet that all other dance forms rely upon.

There's a foundation of skills we must learn to become competent and credible in any industry. Consider listening to a brilliant musician improvising. How many years of practicing scales and notes did he or she have to do to wing it?

When we follow our dreams we may want to skip learning "boring" skills, or getting "boring" degrees, and go straight to the fun part where we improvise. Older people often tell younger people they need to pay their "dues." More accurate advice is you have to learn and practice the alphabet of your craft.

Many young people correctly see what's wrong with traditional jobs. However, if you don't get into the game as it is currently being played, you never get the authority and build

the connections to change the rules.

As you check off the steps to get into a traditional game, you may find much to disagree with. Good teachers will often engage in debate with students who are inspired to find better ways to do a job.

Your passion for your dream will give you an invaluable niche when you finish that degree and get that practical experience. Be willing to put legs under your dream so that the dream does not remain stillborn in your imagination.

We can bring rebellious, inquisitive spirits into any job as long as we're respectful of the teachers and authorities that spend decades perfecting their crafts. No seasoned veteran is

## 'Learning about a field should make you feel engaged and inspired.'

eager to listen to a young student who is long on criticism and short on listening.

The bottom line is that before you'll have the support and authority to build a better mousetrap, you have to demonstrate that you know how to build the traditional mousetrap. Then you'll earn the glorious freedom to innovate.

Yes, the steps to get there will involve prerequisite classes, research, or volunteer internships, but they all move you closer to what you long to do. At 30 you may have 60 years ahead of you to do a career that allows your dream to come into reality.

I often hear young people say that getting a

traditional credential will take too long. If you love learning about the field you want to work in, every class is eye-opening.

I did a doctoral degree not just to gain a credential, but because I was thrilled to be in the company of professors and students who were as obsessed about psychology as I was.

If you're taking classes to get into a field and the classes don't engage you, you may have picked the wrong field. Learning about the field you have chosen should make you feel engaged and inspired.

When you're on the right path, there's nothing wrong if it takes time. As long as every day brings you closer to your dream job, you had a high-quality day!

### The last word(s)

**Q:** *I have some new projects I'd like to try at work but am concerned I will not get permission to try. Is there advice you give to clients who would like to innovate?*

**A:** Yes, asking forgiveness is generally better than permission. As Ayn Rand, a Russian-born American writer and public intellectual, suggested: "The question isn't who is going to let me, it's who is going to stop me."

*Daneen Skube, Ph.D., executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker, also appears as the FOX Channel's "Workplace Guru" each Monday morning. She's the author of "Interpersonal Edge: Breakthrough Tools for Talking to Any-*



## JILL ON MONEY

# The Fed's last mile

**Jill Schlesinger**  
Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press

Are we still talking about inflation? Yes, we are. When the government released the November Consumer Price Index (CPI), it showed progress. The headline CPI tumbled to an annualized pace of 3.2 percent, from 3.7% the month prior. The core rate, which strips out food and energy, edged down to 4%, the smallest increase since September 2021. While those numbers are markedly better than the high print from June 2022 (9.1%), the rate of inflation has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

As a refresher, it was just about two years ago, that critics of the Federal Reserve were squawking that the central bank had to act forcefully to curb inflation. It took until March 2022 before the Fed began its most aggressive rate hike campaign since the late 1970s. Recently, Bill Dudley, the former president of the New York Federal Reserve, gave the Fed a grade of "D minus" for getting a "really late" start on its anti-inflation campaign.

But after 11 separate actions, which pushed short-term interest rates from zero to 5.25 -5.5%, Dudley notes that Fed officials have "definitely caught up and are either at or pretty close to where they need to be," which earns them a grade of "A minus." That's not grade inflation (pun intended), rath-

er the upgrade in Dudley's assessment is due to the fact that Fed actions have helped cool inflation, without pushing the economy into a recession, at least so far.

However, because the Fed targets 2% inflation, there is still work to be done. In the parlance of e-commerce, the Fed is now experiencing a so-called "last mile" problem. Last mile was a phrase that was coined to describe the supply chain process, which starts when your order for an item reaches a warehouse. From there, it quickly travels a great distance. But the last mile to your home can prove expensive and disastrous, especially if something goes awry.

According to research from Capgemini, "the final leg of the journey where a product lands in a consumer's hands – is now more significant than ever. A superior last-mile experience engages and retains consumers, with our research showing that three-quarters are willing to spend more if they are satisfied with the delivery services." For the Fed, consumers may not have liked peak inflation, but as CPI tumbled over the course of a year, they seemed willing to move on. But this "last mile" of progress on inflation, from the current level of 3.2% to the Fed's desired 2%, is impacting how we feel.

The preliminary reading of the University of Michigan November Sentiment Index showed that inflation expectations are elevated.

Consumers are worried that high prices will stick around at least for another year and also over the longer term. This is worrying to Fed officials, who are monitoring whether those anxieties translate into a change in spending patterns, which at one extreme, could cause a more substantial economic slowdown, as people pull back on spending, and at the other extreme, cause consumers to jump in and buy before prices rise by even more.

When Federal Reserve chair Jay Powell spoke at an IMF event on November 9, he said that Fed officials had a "long way to go" before they will get to 2%.

"We know that ongoing progress toward our 2% goal is not assured: inflation has given us a few head fakes." Gita Gopinath, the first deputy managing director at the IMF chimed in and said that while economists are pleased that inflation is "headed in the right direction ... this mile will likely be the toughest."

*Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at askjill@jillonmoney.com.*





# Still the safest way to travel

Lance Allen Wang  
Journal & Press

I sometimes tell some horrifying stories. I've written about shipwrecks like the Titanic and the General Slocum and numerous examples of man's inhumanity to man on the battlefield. But our nation's wars and tragedies also become waypoints along our historical timeline, and sometimes lead to other events and innovations that have improved how we live today.

People have been falling from the sky ever since man literally took his life into his hands by floating into the heavens on balloons or flinging himself off cliffs to glide like a bird. The first fatal aviation accident was in 1785, when a balloon crashed and set fire to the town of Tullamore, Ireland, a mere two years after France's Montgolfier Brothers demonstrated untethered human balloon flight. Otto Lilienthal, the father of heavier-than-air flight, fell to his death in 1896 on one of his gliders. However, his innovations directly led to the Wright Brothers first powered flight in 1903 and Lilienthal's control system is still used in today's hang gliders.

Here in New York, aviation accidents also provide part of the historical backdrop. As far as major aircraft accidents are concerned, our region has been relatively lucky compared to other regions of the state, especially the New York Metropolitan Area. On March 3, 1972, Mohawk Airlines Flight 405, a twin-propeller commuter flight, plunged into an Albany neighborhood just off Western Avenue killing 16 of the 48 passengers on board. Just three years before, another Mohawk Airlines twin-propeller plane crashed into a mountain near Fort Ann, on its way to Glens Falls, killing all 14 on board. The worst crash in the Capital Region's history was American Air-

lines Flight 723, a Convair 240 carrying 28 passengers on September 16, 1953. Flying from Boston, the flight first had a stopover in Hartford, which had gone fine. Upon arrival in Albany the pilots found poor visibility, which had several aircraft circling in a holding pattern, waiting for the conditions to clear. When they did finally attempt their approach, they came in too low and hit a pair of radio towers, narrowly missing a trailer park on the Albany-Schenectady Road in Colonie. All perished in the accident.

In New York City, Brooklyn has endured more than their share of tragedy, but in the Fire Department of New York's annals, there must be a particular remembrance of Christmas 1960, one of the most dramatic periods in the Department's history until 9/11.

December 16, 1960 started out snowy, but by 10:00am, the weather had turned to light rain and

## 'The Park Slope crash would be the worst American commercial aviation disaster until 1969.'

fog over New York City. The Park Slope neighborhood in Brooklyn was quiet that morning, and the seeming political tension and blaring news of the previous month with its Presidential election had now settled down to the dull roar of holiday shopping. Suddenly a loud roar and an explosion as a DC-8 jetliner slammed into the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Sterling Place, killing six on the ground. Brownstone buildings caught fire, as did the improbably named Pillar of Fire Church as the quiet intersection turned into a scene of pandemonium.



Brooklyn Navy Yard

The DC-8, United Airlines Flight 826 out of Chicago with 84 aboard, found itself 12 miles off course as it passed over Staten Island, where one of its engines struck Trans

World Airlines (TWA) Flight 266, a four-propeller Super Constellation with 44

aboard. The DC-8 jet tore open the cabin of the Constellation, which immediately began breaking apart and spiraled to earth, crashing on an airfield in Staten Island, killing all aboard. The collision also tore the engine off the DC-8, but it remained airborne for another 90 seconds as the pilots struggled to keep control of the aircraft until it crashed into Park Slope.

As responders began to descend upon the pandemonium in Brooklyn, it almost seemed as if a miracle occurred as they found one 13-year-old boy improbably alive. Stephen Baltz of Wilmette, Illinois, was thrown from the tail section and was conscious. Although badly burned, he told rescuers that his mother, waiting for him at Idlewild (now Kennedy) Airport would be worried at the airport, and to let her know he was okay. While the story of Baltz seemed to provide one ray of hope to a shocked country, the teen passed away the next morning of pneumonia when his seared lungs could take no more.

The Park Slope air crash would be the worst American commercial aviation disaster until 1969.

Only three days later, many of the same exhausted New York City firefighters were called to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where the aircraft carrier USS Constellation was undergoing maintenance. During operations, a tank of jet fuel ruptured, and a welder's torch provided just the spark needed for a conflagration which killed 50 civilian maintenance workers and injured 330 others. One rescue worker interviewed during the fire said, "It's hell. It's filled with smoke and the plates on the floor are so damned hot you can't stand still for even a minute without it burning into the soles of your feet." It took 12 hours to contain the fire.

Each accident is a tragedy; however, a formalized system of investigation and review of air disasters looks for lessons learned and possible improvements to training, technology, or procedure. It is not just the odds which make aviation safer. Rather, it is the system of improving the way people and systems interact, especially in the wake of tragedy. Many of the technologies which we take for granted today are based upon lessons learned, often painfully. It is the calamities from which we learn nothing, that we can't make the path safer for the next person, that are most meaningless and tragic.

Lance Allen Wang is Supervisor-elect in the Town of White Creek who is also an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer. He lives in Eagle Bridge with his wife Hatti.



Mohawk 405

## LEGAL NOTICE

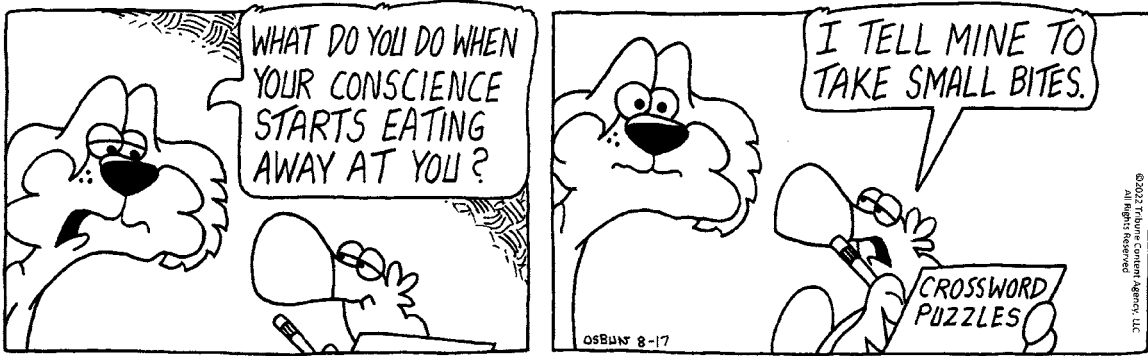
**Notice of Formation of Reforest Holdings LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 10/10/2023. Office Location: Washington County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101 Dobbin Hill Rd. Cambridge NY 12816. Purpose: any lawful activity. 6Xthru1/1/24**

## LEGAL NOTICE

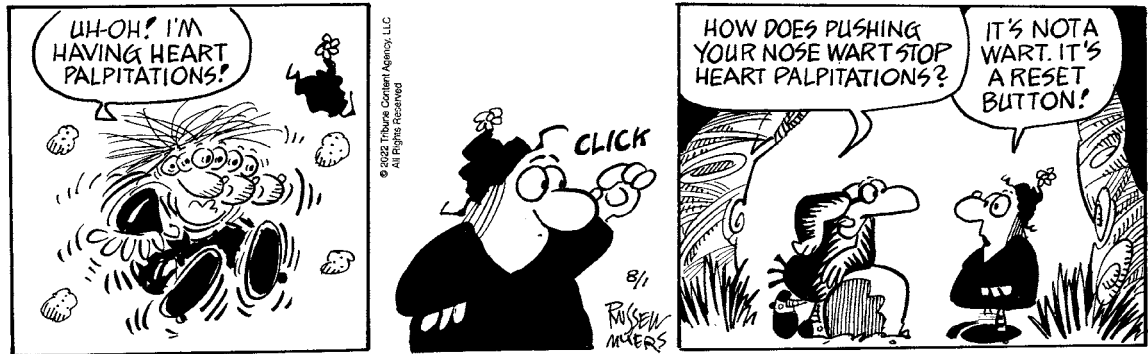
**Notice of Formation of a NY Limited Liability Company. Name: Windy Hill Wellness 312, LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 09/29/23. Office location: 106 Main St. Greenwich, NY, \_Washington\_ County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 312 Windy Hill Rd. Greenwich, NY. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. --6Xthru1/1/24**

# FUN, GAMES & FAST FACTS

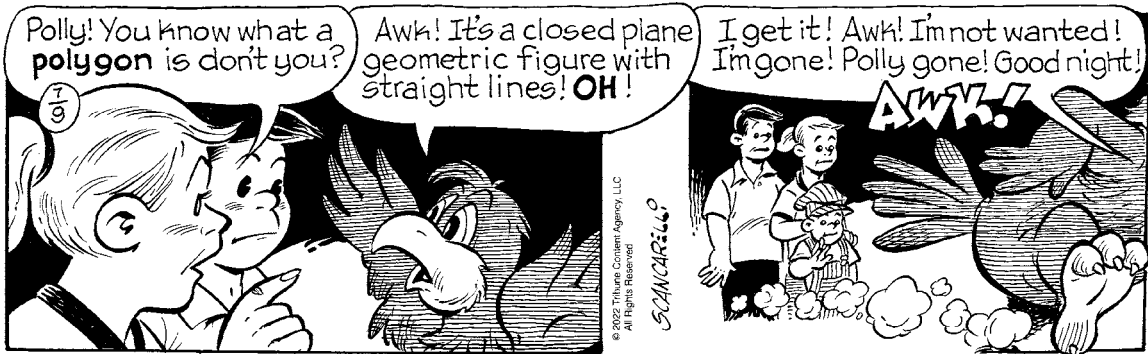
## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



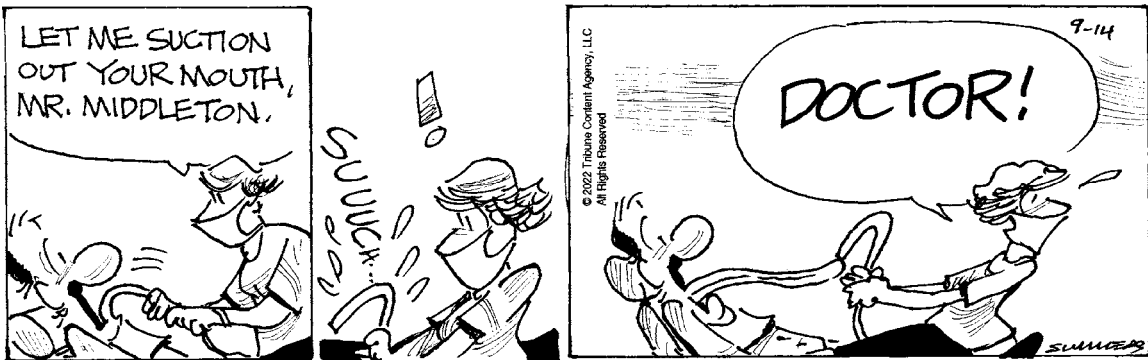
## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## The Middletons by Dana Summers



## Rover's World by Jim Gray



## SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.

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A1 E1 I1 R1 K5 L1 W4 RACK 1  
 E1 Y4 N1 R1 S1 D2 S1 RACK 2  
 A1 E1 I1 O1 M3 X8 T1 Double Word Score RACK 3  
 A1 I1 Y4 C3 N1 F4 N1 3rd Letter Triple RACK 4  
 E1 I1 U1 D2 N1 N1 L1 RACK 5

PAR SCORE 265-275 FIVE RACK TOTAL  
BEST SCORE 338 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

## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



"Ms. Forbes, take a tweet..."

### Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

ALMAC  
HOEBR  
WOUZL  
TSRME  
TEGIT

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 box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE  
3 letters = 1 point  
4 letters = 2 points  
5 letters = 3 points  
6 letters = 4 points  
7 letters = 5 points  
8 letters = 10 points  
9 letters = 15 points

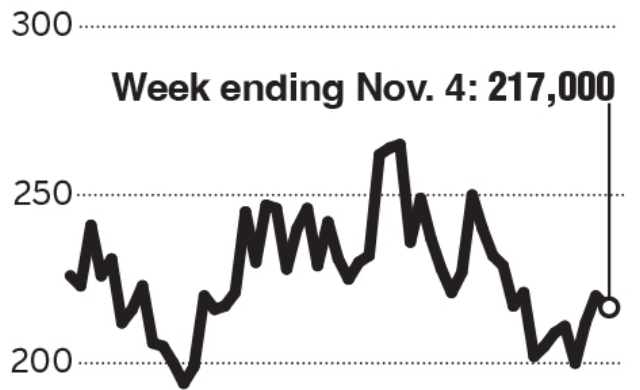
YOUR BOGGLE RATING  
15+ = Champ  
101-150 = Expert  
61-100 = Pro  
31-60 = Gamer  
21-30 = Rookie  
11-20 = Amateur  
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus  
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?  
Find AT LEAST NINE FIVE-LETTER MAMMALS in the grid of letters.

## Fast Fact

### Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, seasonally adjusted, in millions per week



N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N

Graphic: TNS  
Source: U.S. Department of Labor

## Word Play Answers Page 20

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

NLNIE  
O O O O

ASYHT  
O O O O

WREVES  
O O O O

FMLUEF  
O O O O

Ans. here: O O O O O O O O O O O O O O



THE OCEAN'S UNDULATIONS WERE MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SURFERS TO HAVE ---

## Argyle Acrostic By Frank J. D'Agostino

- Find these words associated with Electricity (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):
- Cable
  - Charge
  - Cord
  - Current
  - Electric
  - Energy
  - Flow
  - Force
  - Fuse Box
  - Generator
  - Insulate
  - Juice
  - Light
  - Lines
  - Magnet
  - Nuclear
  - Outlet
  - Plug
  - Power
  - Shock
  - Solar
  - Spark
  - Splice
  - Volt
  - Watts
  - Wiring

ENERGYFUSEBOX  
LGMPYIBCHARGE  
EEOAXRNUCLEAR  
CNLIGHTSLVHWA  
TEHLINESUBOAO  
RRJUICEKZLWLU  
IAPPBVRTFFABT  
CTSOLARGAOTTL  
POMPPUTMMRTWE  
ORYSLDGTTPCSVT  
WVWIRINGEEKPR  
ESHOCKCURRENT  
RKCABLEEPEPVZ

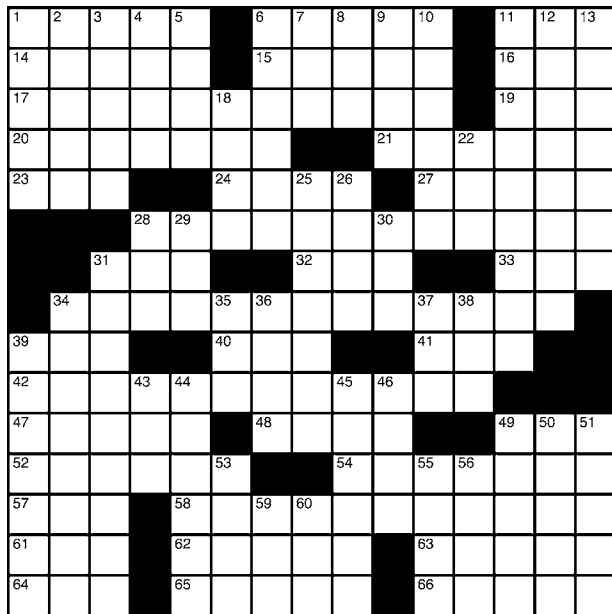
# MORE FUN & GAMES

## Filbert by LA Bonté



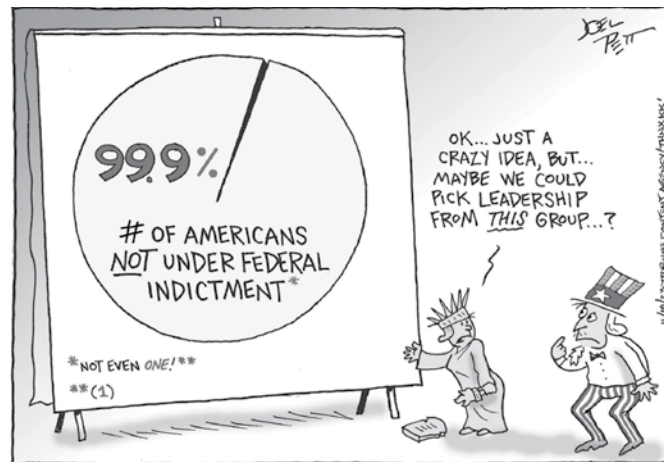
## Cambridge Crossword

- Across**
- 1 Conspiring circle
  - 6 Singer/actress Thome
  - 11 Briefs brand
  - 14 Kitchen magnet?
  - 15 Snacker's stack
  - 16 Tool that only works in water
  - 17 Tough
  - 19 Iberian cheer
  - 20 Second printing
  - 21 Kerfuffle
  - 23 Key above ~
  - 24 Osso
  - 27 Party of the first part in the Bible?
  - 28 Hot
  - 31 "Becoming Madame \_\_\_": Anchee Min novel set in China
  - 32 "Well, well, well!"
  - 33 Homer's well-meaning neighbor
  - 34 Sore
  - 39 Sweets
  - 40 Street sign abbr.
  - 41 Massive lexicon: Abbr.
  - 42 Weak
  - 47 Simple semiconductor
  - 48 Space heater?
  - 49 Three-time World Series of Poker champion Ungar
  - 52 Hyperformal "Blame me"
  - 54 Haberdashery clips
  - 57 "New Rules" singer \_\_\_ Lipa
  - 58 Product used on four of this puzzle's clues
  - 61 Goof
  - 62 Big name in the cosmetics aisle
  - 63 Data visualization discovery, perhaps
  - 64 "So?"
  - 65 "Copy that"
  - 66 Ish
- Down**
- 1 Inner circle
  - 2 First sign of spring?
  - 3 \_\_\_ acid
  - 4 Hawkeye State college town
  - 5 Miss
  - 6 Withstood hardship
  - 7 Stretch often named for a music genre
  - 8 Wreath of plumeria blossoms
  - 9 Tolkien trilogy, briefly
  - 10 Take on
  - 11 Audible precursor
  - 12 Pot-building poker wager
  - 13 Decent, so to speak
  - 18 \_\_\_ top
  - 22 Easy-to-store bed
  - 25 Like the winner in a number-guessing contest
  - 26 Island that hosts the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing
  - 28 Sigma follower
  - 29 Ad \_\_\_
  - 30 Male swan
  - 31 Leader of a slapstick trio
  - 34 Saying little
  - 35 Unblinking sci-fi villain
  - 36 First name in couture
  - 37 Java
  - 38 Swimmer that hunts using electrolocation
  - 39 "I wouldn't do that"
  - 43 Ore. neighbor
  - 44 Tone down
  - 45 "\_\_\_ is the coward's revenge for being intimidated": Shaw
  - 46 Great Lake near the Pro Football Hall of Fame
  - 49 Screen \_\_\_



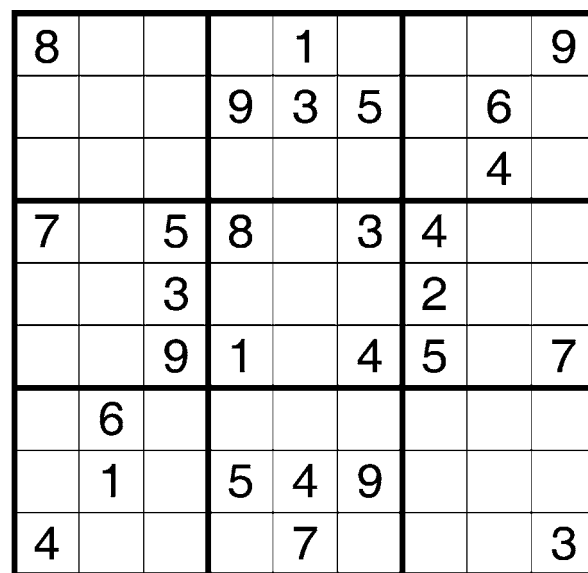
- 50 Reznor of Nine Inch Nails
- 51 Vitamin intake std.
- 53 \_\_\_ fact
- 55 CPR pros
- 56 NYC division
- 59 Mel who hit 511 career home runs
- 60 Capital of Thailand?

## Political Cartoon of the Week by Dana Summers



## Salem 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.



# United Way funding available

Tri-County United Way, a dedicated advocate for the health, education, and financial stability of individuals in the communities of Warren, Washington, and northern Saratoga Counties, proudly announces the call for new partner agencies to apply for the 2024 Community Investment Fund. Tri-County United Way expresses gratitude and appreciation to present partner agencies for their continued years of devoted support, service, and commitment. As we envision a future of broadening our community impact, Tri-County United Way takes pride in our enduring partnership with each of our current partner agencies across Warren, Washington, and Northern Saratoga Counties.

"As the needs of our community evolves, we remain dedicated to providing community-driven solutions by identifying and supporting new partner agencies. within our Tri-County com-

munities' said Kristin Chlopecki, Executive Director at Tri-County United Way. "With the expansion of our Community Investment Fund, we are excited to increase our community impact footprint and support more senior, youth, and mental health focused programming."

The programs for which funding is sought must serve individuals in one or more of the Tri-County United Way's community impact focus areas: youth up to the age of 24, seniors and those dealing with mental health concerns throughout Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga Counties. The applying partner agency must also serve Tri-County United Way's ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population – those who are above the federal poverty level, but below a sustainable wage. The priority area screening application is available on Tri-County United Way's

website starting December 1st, 2023: [www.tri-countyunityway.org/priority-area-screening-application/](http://www.tri-countyunityway.org/priority-area-screening-application/).

All priority area screening applications must be submitted through the Tri-County United Way's website by January 15th, 2024. Applying entities must hold be a 501c3 within the Northern Saratoga, Washington, and/or Warren Counties. The applying partner agency must also comply with relevant legal, federal, state, and local operational and reporting requirements (such as government-approved accounting practices, annual audits, 990 tax forms, and non-discrimination policies). Once screened and approved, an agency will then need to complete a full Request For Approval (RFP) for a maximum of \$10,000, with up to five new agencies being selected in 2024.

# Teach a non-credit course in Cambridge

The course proposal window for Mud University Cambridge 2024 is now open! If you have expertise, a passion, or a skill you would like to share with the community as a volunteer instructor, consider offering a class at Mud U. Mud U 2024 will run from February 18 through March 11, 2024. See [www.muducambridge.org](http://www.muducambridge.org) for more information. Proposal window closes on December 15.

Mud U of Cambridge exists to help community members make it through the muddiest, miserable-est days of winter, while engaging in a new skill, learning about a new topic, or taking part in a community conversation. Mud U offers free classes by the community, for the community on a wide variety of topics.

In its inaugural 2023 season, Mud U instructors offered 24 classes to hundreds of partici-



pants on topics as diverse as beginning knitting, using the community bread oven, practical geometry, and belly dancing. Next year Mud U hopes to double the number of offerings and include not only traditional classes but also facil-

itated discussions and organized "meet-ups."

Classes are typically a single session, lasting an hour or two, free of charge to the public. Any materials needed will be supplied by the instructor or by the participants as required. A small stipend may be available to help cover material costs; however, funds are limited. Classes, discussions, and meetups will take place at various locations throughout the village of Cambridge and possibly beyond.

Please see [www.muducambridge.org](http://www.muducambridge.org) for information and to submit your proposal, and email any questions to [muducambridge@gmail.com](mailto:muducambridge@gmail.com).



# LEGAL NOTICE

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Greenwich Central School District invites the submission of Separate Sealed Bid Proposals to furnish materials and labor to complete the Reconstruction and Alterations project at the Primary Building all in accordance with the plans and specifications for the following categories of work:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION  
MECHANICAL  
PLUMBING  
ELECTRICAL

Sealed Bid Proposals will be received until 3pm prevailing time on December 19, 2023 at the Middle Grade Cafeteria, 10 Gray Ave., Greenwich, NY 12834, (518) 692-9542, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Any bid may be withdrawn without prejudice prior to the official bid opening time or any publicized postponement thereof.

Any bid received after the time and date stated above will be returned to the bidder unopened.

The bidding documents may be examined, free of charge, at the office of MOSAIC ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, The Frear Building, 2 Third Street, Suite 440, Troy, New York 12180, telephone (518) 479-4000.

Digital Bidding Documents: Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents may be obtained online as a download at the following website: [mosaicaaplanroom.com](http://mosaicaaplanroom.com).

Hardcopy Bidding Documents: One (1) complete set of hard copy Bidding Documents may be obtained from REVplans, 28 Church Street, Unit 7, Warwick, NY 10990 Tel: 1-877-272-0216, through [mosaicaaplanroom.com](http://mosaicaaplanroom.com) upon depositing the sum of \$100 (one hundred dollars) for each combined set of documents. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Greenwich CSD. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the printer and pay for all packaging and shipping costs. The deposit will be refunded ONLY to those bidders who submit a bona fide bid proposal in accordance with the terms in the "Information for Bidders" and who return a complete set of Bidding Documents in COMPLETE, UNMARKED, and NOT TORN condition to REV within thirty (30) days after the award of contract(s) covered by such Bidding Documents, or the rejection of such bid(s). Non-bidders, including material suppliers and subcontractors, as well as plan holders who do not submit bid proposals, WILL NOT be eligible for a refund.

Note: REVplans ([mosaicaaplanroom.com](http://mosaicaaplanroom.com)) is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. Only those Contract Documents obtained in this manner will enable a prospective bidder to be identified as an official plan holder of record. REVplans takes no responsibility for the completeness of Contract Documents obtained from other sources. Contract Documents obtained from other sources may not be accurate or may not contain addenda that may have been issued.

Addenda: All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email and will be available at [mosaicaaplanroom.com](http://mosaicaaplanroom.com). Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use and coordinate directly with the printer for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

Each Bidder shall prepare their bid proposal, along with a bid security, in accordance with the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the "Information for Bidders".

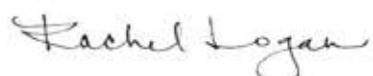
Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and the minimum wage rates to be paid under the contracts.

No bidder may withdraw their bid within 45 days after the date of the actual bid opening.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or defects in such bid either before or after the bid opening.

By Order of Board of Education  
Greenwich Central School District

Date: 11/20/23

 District Clerk

### PRE-BID CONFERENCE MEETING

November 30, 2023 at 3pm

Primary Building

DATE:

LOCATION:

All interested bidders can attend this pre-bid conference to discuss the project scope, completion schedule, and any other items that may arise.

### PROCEDURE FOR ACCESS TO BUILDING TO EXAMINE SITE OF WORK

Bidders can inspect the work locations before submitting bids. This can be done any Monday through Friday, except holidays, during hours when there will be School District Staff Personnel in the building.

Unless directed otherwise, immediately upon entering the building, report to the School Office. This page of the specification may be used to identify you as a bidder. Follow instructions of School Personnel and keep interruptions to teaching activities to a minimum.

Building may be inspected by bidders at pre-arranged times during normal school hours. To make arrangements for inspection, call:

Frank Pascarella

Facilities Director

(518) 692-6403

[fpascarella@greenwichcsd.org](mailto:fpascarella@greenwichcsd.org)

Marc Rivers

Schoolhouse Construction Services

(518)-320-6559

[marc.rivers@schoolhouse.construction](mailto:marc.rivers@schoolhouse.construction)

# When all else fails...

**Michael Levy**  
*Journal & Press*

Think of all the emergency situations that have recently happened in the local area and in the not-so-distant past. We had a possibly armed suspect fleeing law enforcement agencies from two different states, a stabbing that happened just across the river, and a bear or two wandering around the Village of Greenwich. Yes, there were some postings on Facebook that were informative, but does anyone but me see the benefit of having real-time communication that can only be provided by two-way radio? What we need in Washington County is a core of amateur radio operators that can make a real difference for everyone who lives here.

Someone asked me the other day why I became a licensed amateur radio operator. There was one event in my youth that showed me the true value of the hobby and eventually led me to get my FCC ticket many years later.

The Managua earthquake was a devastating seismic event that struck the capital city of Nicaragua on December 23, 1972. The earthquake had a magnitude of 6.2 and caused widespread destruction, resulting in the loss of as many as eleven thousand lives, and leaving many more injured and homeless. In the aftermath of the earthquake, communication infrastructure in Managua was severely compromised. Traditional communication channels, including telephone lines and other forms of electronic communication, were either damaged or overwhelmed. There was no accurate news reporting about the devastation.

My Boy Scout Troop in Miami, Florida began door-to-door collection of items as part of the relief effort. One house along the way was the residence of a ham radio operator. His radio could be heard in the background. We listened to real-time reports of what was happening in Nicaragua, information not coming from any other source. The messages were mostly in Spanish, but a few were in English. The situation being described was worse than we imagined. Death, destruction, and suffering is the briefest way that I can summarize what I heard that day. I made an internal commitment to myself that sometime in the future I would become a ham radio operator. I saw the need for having communication capacity during emergencies.

A few days later, December 31, 1972, several youngsters (including myself) were loading relief supplies onto a Lanica Airlines DC-6 at the Miami International Airport (MIA). School was out of session, and we decided to help however we could. The temperatures inside that beat up old airplane easily exceeded 100 degrees F. The mechanics had just taken most

of the passenger seats so there was plenty of room for cargo. Surprisingly, no one thought to supervise how we loaded the donations and supplies onto that DC-6. If we could get it through the door, we loaded it onboard. I am sure that whatever the weight and balance requirements are for a DC-6, we were not even close to being compliant that day. We filled that tired old aircraft from floor to ceiling. It was overweight by several thousand or more pounds.

Precipitously after the plane was completely loaded, the flight crew appeared. They asked us if we were planning to fly down with them to unload the plane in Managua. The idea of getting into an old, rickety, overloaded airplane, and then traveling to a disaster zone located in a foreign country without our parents' knowledge, was a wee bit scary. Since we were all underage, we politely declined the request. Yes, we did not have our passports with us but anyone who lived in South Florida in the 1970s knew about omnipresent drug smuggling operations and had no worries about getting back into the United States Customs knowing about it.

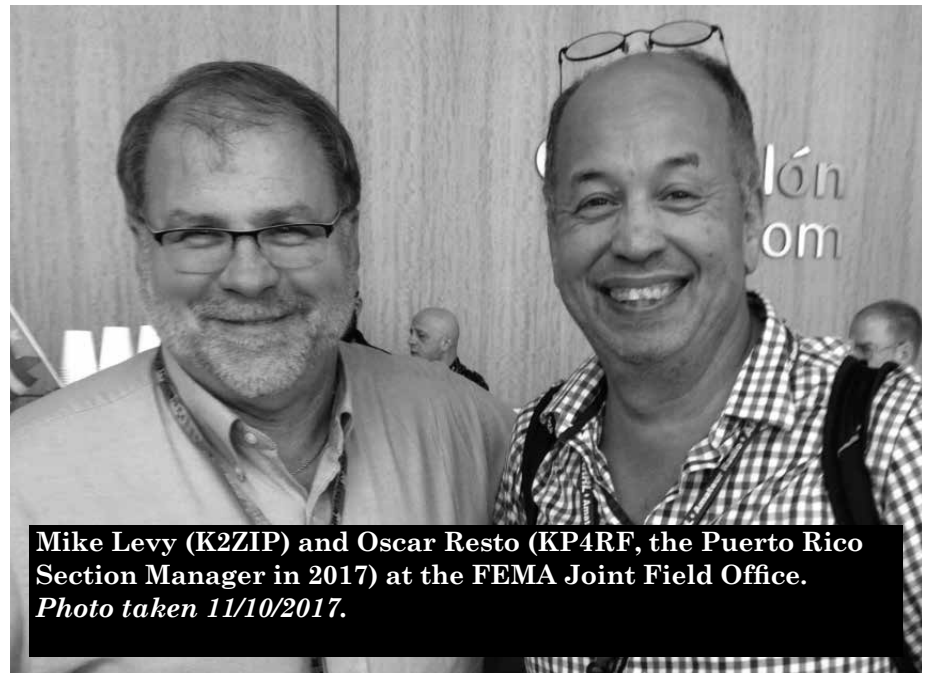
Baseball fans remember this exact date in his-

## 'I saw the need for having communication capacity during emergencies.'

tory too. It was the day that the great baseball player Roberto Clemente died. He was loading relief supplies onto a DC-7 for transport to Managua. His airplane crashed right after takeoff from the San Juan, Puerto Rico airport. All on board were killed including Clemente. This hit me particularly hard. If I were an adult at the time, I would have boarded an old, overweight, and decrepit airliner (the one we just loaded with relief supplies) and would have helped unload it at the other end. It could have easily been the plane from Miami that crashed but it was the plane from San Juan instead.

Fast forward to about 10 years ago. While on a business trip to San Juan, I looked out over the ocean to see if I could determine the exact location where Roberto Clemente's plane crashed. Suddenly, I recalled those happenings from the last few days of 1972 and my almost forgotten commitment to get a ham radio license "someday in the future". I knew that amateur radio makes a difference during disasters, and I wanted to do my part. After four decades of excuses, I told myself that I would get my FCC license as soon as I could.

Shortly after boarding my Friday afternoon flight back to the mainland some two hours later, I did a search on my cellphone to see when and where the next FCC license testing sessions were. As it turns out, an exam session was



**Mike Levy (K2ZIP) and Oscar Resto (KP4RF, the Puerto Rico Section Manager in 2017) at the FEMA Joint Field Office. Photo taken 11/10/2017.**

scheduled the very next day in Puerto Rico. However, I was already belted into a cramped Boeing 757 middle seat near the rear lavatory and the cabin door was soon to close. I needed another option. Fortunately, there was another test session scheduled on Saturday morning in East Greenbush. And the post said, "walk-ins are allowed." I made it home late that night and slept a few hours. My study time coincided with the downing of my breakfast after which I drove to Rensselaer County in a snowstorm to take the test. I passed with flying colors. I like to boast that I did so well because I am a smart guy, but the reality is that the Technician level ham radio test isn't all that hard. If I can pass, so can you.

Does anyone recall the major ice storm that hit northern NY in 1998, the various derecho and wind blowdown events over the past few decades, the tornadoes, and other natural occurrences too numerous to cite here separately? It is easy to imagine other future worst-case scenarios where utility grids and cellular networks are not working. I have personally seen this type of disruption during the WTC disaster, the Northeast blackout of 2003, the 2011 tropical storms, as well as during Superstorm Sandy. Things just did not work as they should. During these disasters, even official phone calls using the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) did not get through with any semblance of consistency.

The use of ham radio in the response to the 2017 Caribbean hurricanes highlighted for me the resilience and flexibility of amateur radio during a crisis. The communication infrastructure in Puerto Rico experienced severe disruptions and outages after Hurricane Maria struck in September of that year. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, many areas in Puerto Rico were left without power, making it challenging for traditional communication systems, including landline phones and cellular networks, to function. Satellite phones were not the solution due to capacity issues. This lack of communication infrastructure hampered the coordination of emergency response efforts and made it exceedingly difficult for residents to contact authorities or communicate with their loved ones. On an island that is about one hundred miles by thirty-five miles in size, and in the absence of a working phone system, people ran out of fuel in their vehicles while waiting in oppressive traffic to check on loved ones who lived but a few miles away. Imagine a similar disaster wiping out the communications infrastructure in Washington, Warren, Saratoga, and Bennington VT counties. The combined area of those counties is about the same as Puerto Rico's. Something to consider!

**Please read more on the next page**



**Lanica DC-6**



## CRAFT FAIR & MARKETPLACE

What happens when you take today's kids and challenge them to become business people for a day? Come shop at the TREP\$ MARKETPLACE to be amazed by innovative products - all developed, marketed, and sold by 57 young entrepreneurs from 5th and 6th grade!

Date: **Thursday, 12/14/23**

Time: **6:00-8:00 pm**

Where: **Greenwich Elementary School  
Primary Building GYM  
CASH ONLY**

**Shop for HOLIDAY GIFTS and support our 5th and 6th grade entrepreneurs!**



## 'Cheap Old Houses' duo to visit library

On Tuesday, December 12, at 6:30pm, local authors Elizabeth and Ethan Finkelstein visit the Greenwich Free Library to discuss their new book, "Cheap Old Houses: An Unconventional Guide to Loving and Restoring a Forgotten Home," inspired by their viral Instagram account and HGTV show. Learn about their love of old houses and why they believe we're being sold the wrong American Dream. Books will be available for sale through Battenkill Books.



About the book: From the founders of the HGTV show and Instagram Cheap Old Houses comes a stunning collection of beautiful, affordable homes and inspiration for buying and restoring an historic house.

Welcome to the magical world of "Cheap Old Houses," where the new American dream comes with zero mortgage and an affordable lifestyle fit for a storybook. Ethan and Elizabeth Finkelstein have scoured the country to find homes in desper-

ate need of saving—including a \$45,000 Victorian in Mississippi, a \$25,000 mansion in Indiana, an \$82,000 recreational camp in Maine, and more. Cheap Old Houses features the stories of how these homes were acquired and lovingly restored.

For more information call 518-692-7157.

## A Victorian Christmas

On December 13, the Cambridge Historical Society and Museum at 12 Broad St., will present an Advent Window Reveal and public tours at 5 p.m. followed by a performance and talk at 6 p.m. The Cambridge Historical Society and Museum is in a lovely 2nd Empire frame house (1869). For those who appreciate Victorian architecture and elegance, it is a gem. At the event, hear stories of how the home's original family might have celebrated, and participate in some of their activities. You can also make some simple tree ornaments and decorate real gingerbread men to take home. There will even be a holiday Crankie performance of "The Night Before Christmas," and Victorian carols played by Bliss and Robbie McIntosh. Suggest donation \$0-\$10.

## Bring baby items

Everyone is invited to a Birthday Party for Jesus, hosted by a collective of Cambridge Churches. It will be held at the American Legion ( 2106 NY-22, Cambridge, NY) on Dec 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. Please bring a baby gift (the only entrance fee). All gifts will be donated to the Alpha Pregnancy Care Center in Bennington. For ideas please refer to their wish list on the their Amazon link: <https://a.co/433c47T>. Or, organizers add, "Get anything for babies. No gift is too big or too small. They all are greatly appreciated."

Any questions, call 518-677-3898.

## (cont.)

I went to Puerto Rico shortly after Maria as part of my government job. When I was off-duty, I reached out to the ham radio community and personally witnessed the real difference that amateur radio was making there. Ham radio operators in Puerto Rico supported the communication needs of both the police and fire services as well as helping the power utility company dispatch their vehicles. Other ham operators set up radios and antennas at the FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO), located at the Convention Center, to relay messages from Puerto Ricans to their loved ones stateside. My experience in Puerto Rico demonstrated the importance of a resilient backup communication infrastructure and the need for preparedness in the face of natural disasters, extreme weather events, major infrastructure failures, periods of civil unrest, and other community emergencies.

In addition to using ham radio during emergencies, there are many other things that you can do with an FCC amateur radio license. Some are plain fun.

Often people use amateur radio and provide service to the community, helping with charity events such as walkathons, marathons, and bike races. Another notable use of the ham radio bands is to make radio contacts in "outer

space." The International Space Station (ISS) has a ham radio station on board and most astronauts have their amateur radio license. In addition to the ISS, you can track and use ham radio satellites to communicate with others across the country and the world.



There are some ham radio operators that go outdoors to "activate" parks and mountains to communicate with other operators doing the same or just operating from home. The combination of hiking, camping, portable ham radio operations, and activating a park, is fun for all ages.

There are a lot of other ways you can use ham radio. Ham radio is the original STEM program, and it is something both rewarding and educational that you can do with your kids and grandkids. With the right equipment and antenna, you can talk to other hams around the globe. Have you ever tried to bounce a radio signal from the moon and listen for it back on earth? How about participating in various contests to see how your

skills compare to others doing the same?

If you are interested in being a licensed Amateur Radio operator, check the websites of some local amateur radio clubs (<https://www.w2wcr.org/>; <https://www.k2dll.org/>), and the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) <http://www.arrl.org/> for information on upcoming test prep classes and exam sessions. Testing sessions are held regularly in various locations. Exams are multiple-choice and cover FCC regulations, radio operating practices, and basic electronics. (Full disclosure: I am the current president of the Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association).

The ARRL has the following statement on their website, "Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. Hams serve our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes." Not a bad random thought!

*Michael Levy is a government manager residing in Greenwich NY. He is also a Commercial Pilot and a Ham Radio operator.*



# **Holiday Subscription Special**

**for NEW subscribers  
in Washington and  
Saratoga Counties**

**One year trial  
subscription –  
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