

KINDLING THE FIRE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS TWO

This Year's Holiday in Hurleyville Announced

by Rose Mandelbaum

HURLEYVILLE – The Sullivan County Historical Society (SCHS) has been dedicated to preserving the area's rich history since 1886. Its annual dinner, held this year on October 19, was a continuation of a time-honored tradition, this year honoring Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and the late local historian Carol Smythe.

Held at Casa Mia in Hurleyville, the event featured a raffle at the door, with the winner receiving a "Autumn's Medley of Apple Delight" gift basket featuring a variety of apple jams, butter, syrup, ciders and pancake, muffin, and donut mixes to celebrate the fall season.

The afternoon began with a speech from SUNY Sullivan history professor Amy Colon. Ms.

Colon spoke about the historical significance of the county, from the Battle of Minisink in the Revolutionary War to the Borscht Belt and the Woodstock Festival. Despite the county's small size, Ms. Colon said, it has been the setting for countless historical events that have shaped American life.

Following Ms. Colon's speech, newly appointed officers and directors were sworn in, and SCHS president Suzanne Cecil read a summary of the year's events and the society's accomplishments.

Ms. Cecil began by discussing the new public address system at the Sullivan County Cultural Center and Museum in Hurleyville, funded by the county and available to all to use for performances or presentations. Ms. Cecil went over how middle school students from Liberty and Hurleyville's own Collaborative College High School paid their annual visit to the Museum and the Hurleyville cemetery to gain a deeper understanding of the county's history. She also mentioned a successful June book fair that the SCHS sponsored, featuring more than 20 authors who are either from the county or set their books here. Also cited was the society's continuing commitment along with the Parks and Recreation Department

and Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project to putting up new historical markers and signs around the county.

After dinner, the event continued with the presentation of the 2025 History Maker award to retired Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther. Ms. Gunther's commitment to bettering Sullivan County since her birth was apparent in her introduction and speech.

Born in Orange County on January 21, 1954, Ms. Gunther became a registered nurse after graduating from Orange County Community College and worked for many years in hospitals in the region. Her husband, Jacob Gunther III, served as a NYS Assemblyman, and the family resided in Forestburgh with their three children. After her husband's tragic death from cancer in 2003, Ms. Gunther was compelled to run in his place for the Assembly, representing Orange and Sullivan Counties. Her 20-year tenure as Assemblywoman was marked by her commitment to public health and safety, particularly mental health, and environmental conservation. Ms. Gunther thanked those present for giving her the award and "allowing me to do what I love and serve my community."

The History Preserver award was given posthumously to Carol Smythe, who passed away in April of this year. Ms. Smythe was born in Grahamsville, and attended a one-room schoolhouse; she became the Historian of the Town of Neversink, working tirelessly to preserve the rich history of the county. As Town Historian, she helped found the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville. Her dear friend, Dick, recalled her unwavering work ethic and commitment to her job, her infectious personality, and the way she made history come alive through her storytelling. The award was presented by Ms. Cecil to Ms. Smythe's son, Bob Jones.

The evening ended with the raffle and cake. In all, it was an inspiring event that paid homage not only to two incredible women who have shaped our region, but to the importance of preserving local history.

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE—Mark your calendars and save the date, the announcement has been made that this year's Holiday in Hurleyville extravaganza will take place on Saturday, December 6 from 12 noon to 4 p.m., and will be followed by the annual tree lighting at dusk, or approximately 5 p.m.

As in the past, The Center for Discovery's Outdoor Recreation team will have a bonfire and luminaria on the Milk Train Trail, as well as making sure the tree is ready to light up.

Organizers say there will be specials offered that day by most of the town businesses, and the Collaborative College High School students will host a kids craft activity at the school along

with Friends of the Garden.

There will run a holiday scavenger hunt for kids, and the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre will have breakfast with Santa from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, plus free photos with Santa for those who can't come to the breakfast.

The Sullivan County Historical Society will be hosting its annual Holiday Theme Tree Display at the Sullivan County Museum from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. SCHS will also be co-sponsoring a White Elephant Sale along with the Professional Women of Sullivan County. There will be a book sale of books pertaining to Sullivan County history for holiday gift giving. Refreshments will be available and admission is free.

Following the tree lighting, HPAC will have a



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
The tree lighting from last year's Holiday in Hurleyville celebration.

special performance and fundraiser entitled "Faith in Christmas: A Holiday Concert & Donation Drive." This event will run from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at the HPAC Cinema. It is free.

The HPAC event is described as "a one-of-a-kind holiday concert by eclectic singer-songwriter Faith Kelly. What began as a heartfelt third-grade homeschool project has come full circle. Faith brings her childhood Christmas album, Faith in Christmas, to life with warmth, nostalgia, and her signature sound. Expect music, storytelling, and multimedia magic as Faith revisits her younger self with the voice and artistry of the

woman she's become."

A cash bar and food concessions will be available, and the community is invited to cozy up for an evening of music and holiday cheer right after the Hurleyville Tree Lighting.

As part of the evening, HPAC will also be collecting nonperishable food and hygiene items for the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. In the spirit of giving, attendees are asked to consider bringing a donation to help make the season a little brighter for those in need. A full wish list of items can be found on HPAC's website and their social media.

Those interested in the HPAC event can register at the following link: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/34881/production/1256148>.

"A HUGE SUCCESS"

SUNY Sullivan's First Ever FallFest

LOCH SHELDRAKE—SUNY Sullivan's first-ever FallFest was a huge success on Saturday, November 1, bringing together the SUNY Sullivan campus and the local community for an incredible afternoon.

After the event, which ran from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., college officials posted on social media that they were more than pleased with the

turnout.

"A massive THANK YOU to the trick-or-treaters who brought their creativity and excitement (and wore some amazing costumes!) to campus. We hope your candy bags are overflowing!" the post read.

Organizers were quick to credit the exhibitors who took part, noting that "the event wouldn't have been



PHOTOS PROVIDED



possible without the amazing participation of our community partners who made the day so special: Action Toward Independence, Alzheimer's Association, Boys and Girls Clubs, Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan & Ulster, The Delaware Company of NY, Inc. (Fort Delaware), Ellenville Regional Hospi-

tal, Fearless! Hudson Valley, Frost Valley YMCA, Loch Sheldrake Fire Department, New Hope Community, and Sullivan County Public Health."

The free, family-friendly Halloween-themed festival was intended to be a celebration of the autumn season, offering a unique blend of community fun and aca-

demic exploration. Attendees enjoyed a wide array of activities designed for all ages. Children trick-or-treated across campus and participated in the kids' and pets costume contests.

Visitors indulged in fall-themed culinary delights and seasonal beverages from the Culinary Program's Bakery Café, and enjoyed the live music and festive atmosphere. For a touch of rustic charm, the event also featured tractor rides and a courtyard with farm animals. Other highlights included face paint-

ing, Halloween-themed crafts from the Art Club, and a costume drive to benefit families in need.

"After hearing from the community about how much they love our spring kite festival, we wanted to create a similar, festive event for the fall," said SUNY Sullivan President. David Potash. "FallFest is a great opportunity to welcome everyone to campus and showcase the vibrant spirit of SUNY Sullivan."

FallFest is expected to become an annual event at the college.



NEW SUPERVISOR IN FALLSBURG

Nathan Steingart Elected

by John Conway

SOUTH FALLSBURG—The Town of Fallsburg will have a new Supervisor on January 1, as longtime councilmember Nathan Steingart won an overwhelming victory on Election Day. He will replace one term incumbent Michael Bensimon, who did not run for re-election, choosing instead to run for a seat on the Town Council, which he won.

This is the third time in the

last three Supervisor elections that the position has changed hands.

Unofficially, Mr. Steingart received 1,326 votes, or 68.5 percent of the vote. He also ran with the endorsement of the Conservative Party.

A late write-in campaign by Mountandale resident Brett Budde and the newly created Fallsburg for Everybody party fell short, garnering just over 600 votes in the unofficial tally.

In the race for two seats on



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
Fallsburg Supervisor-Elect Nathan Steingart

the Town Council, incumbent

Miranda Behan and Mr. Bensimon, both Democrats, unofficially appear to be the winners, outpolling Republican Amy Barkley-Carey and write in candidates Dara Manzi and Josh Druckman. At press time, there were still absentee ballots to be counted that could potentially affect the outcome.

Republican/Conservative Paula Grogan was running unopposed for re-election as Town Clerk, and was returned to office.

ABOUT OUR HEADLINE

The headline for this month's edition is part of a quote from the renowned American writer, Washington Irving, of Rip Van Winkle fame. In a series of essays referred to as "Old Christmas" which appear in his collection, "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent." He writes that "Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

The "fire" in the hall is generally taken to symbolize hospitality, while the "flame" in the heart symbolizes charity and goodwill. These are traits championed each year by the Holiday in Hurleyville events in the liveliest little hamlet in the Mountains.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Sullivan County Historical Society honored retired NYS Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther at their annual dinner. Pictured (left to right) are SCHS president Suzanne Cecil, Ms. Gunther, and SCHS Board member Edward Cooke.

The Right to Farm in Sullivan County New Signage Helps Spread the Word

MONTICELLO – To raise awareness about existing Right to Farm laws, a signage initiative has been launched across Sullivan County to remind residents of the importance of agriculture and the protections in place for local farmers.

Eleven of the 15 towns in Sullivan County – Bethel, Callicoon, Fremont, Rockland, Mamakating, Neversink, Liberty, Cochetcon, Delaware, Lumberland, and Forestburgh – have enacted Right to Farm (RTF) laws.

“These laws are designed to protect farmers and promote agricultural activity, but public awareness remains low,” said Sullivan County Planning Commissioner Heather Brown. “Many residents only learn about these laws when a conflict arises with a farming neighbor, often leading to frustration on both sides.”

To bridge this gap, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County; the Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board; the Sullivan County Division of Planning, Community Development and Environmental Management; and local municipalities have partnered to install Right to Farm signs throughout the 11 towns. These signs serve as visual reminders of agriculture’s vital role in the county and aim to foster better understanding between farmers and non-farming residents.

“RTF laws are designed to protect and promote a farmer’s ability to operate a successful agricultural busi-



PHOTO PROVIDED

ness. These laws affirm the right of farmers to engage in essential agricultural practices without undue interference or restrictions,” explained Melinda Meddaugh, Ag & Food Systems Senior Issue Leader at Cornell Cooperative Extension. “RTF laws are typically enacted at the town or county level to support and encourage farming activities. While the core purpose remains consistent – to safeguard farming operations – the specific provisions can vary from one municipality to another.

A town’s Right to Farm law allows farmers to carry out reasonable and necessary agricultural practices, provided they do not pose

a threat to public health or safety. These laws are designed to support farming operations while promoting positive relationships between farmers and their neighbors.

“To help foster understanding, many RTF laws require real estate agents to inform prospective buyers that they are moving into a farming community, where activities like dust, noise, and odors may occur as part of normal agricultural operations,” Ms. Meddaugh said.

RTF laws also often include dispute resolution provisions. If a conflict arises between a farmer and a neighbor that cannot be resolved informally, either party may submit the issue to a designated committee for mediation.

Why does it matter? “Farmers grow the food we rely on, and Right to Farm laws help protect their ability to do that work,” Commissioner Brown explained. “Agriculture isn’t always quiet or tidy, but it is a critically important piece of our community. Without these protections, farmers could face nuisance lawsuits for simply doing what’s necessary to raise livestock or grow crops.”

“Farming is already a challenging profession. From unpredictable weather to fluctuating market prices, farmers navigate constant uncertainty,” added Ms. Meddaugh. “If towns were to impose restrictive regulations, it could make farming unsustainable—leading to fewer farms and more development. Once farmland is sold to non-agricultural buyers, it’s often lost forever, replaced by pavement instead of produce.”

“That’s why it’s critical to protect farmers from unreasonable interference and ensure the public understands these laws,” she said. “Everyone in the community benefits from a strong local food system, and that means coexisting with the realities of farm life.”

So next time you’re stuck behind a tractor for a couple of miles, take a breath, advised both Ms. Meddaugh and Commissioner Brown. That delay might only cost you 10 minutes – and it supports a way of life that feeds everyone. Turn up the radio, enjoy the view, and share the road with the people who grow your food!

Martin Colavito to Receive SYDA Foundation Community Service Award

FALLSBURG – The SYDA Foundation has announced that Martin Colavito of Liberty has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 SYDA Foundation Community Service Award. The SYDA Foundation sponsors this annual award to recognize and honor local citizens for outstanding and enduring service to the Sullivan County community. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the award.

The SYDA Foundation Community Service Award presentation will take place on Wednesday, November 19, at 1 p.m. at the Sullivan County Government Center’s Legislative Meeting Room at 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This prestigious award includes a certificate of merit for outstanding service to the Sullivan County community and a monetary gift to be distributed by the recipient to the charities of their choice. In honor of the award’s 40th anniversary, the SYDA Foundation has increased the monetary gift to \$7,500.

The Community Service Award selection committee, comprising past award recipients and local civic leaders, chose Mr. Colavito to receive this year’s award in recognition of his decades of service as a community organizer, improving his neighbors’ access to food, health services, housing, educational services, and other vital services. In addition, Mr. Colavito spent twelve years of his career providing substance abuse treatment and prevention in under-resourced neighborhoods.

He grew up in the Bronx and, in the 1970s, he became a community organizer working on tenant issues and counseling people dealing with substance use disorders. In 1982, he moved to Sullivan County with his wife, Lynn, and continued his life of community service.

Mr. Colavito was Director of Prevention and Adolescent Services for Catholic Charities from 2007 to 2019, where he served as a certified clinical alcohol and substance abuse counselor. Currently, he is the Prevention Programs Issue Leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, continuing to serve the community with an emphasis on substance abuse treatment and prevention.

In 2010, Mr. Colavito was instrumental in organizing Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT), a diverse partnership of community members, business owners, and agencies committed to compassionately guiding people in need to appropriate human services. SALT also supports harm reduction efforts through grassroots outreach and educational engagement and through supporting substance abuse prevention programs. He serves on SALT’s Committee for Equity and Justice (CEJ), which advocates for

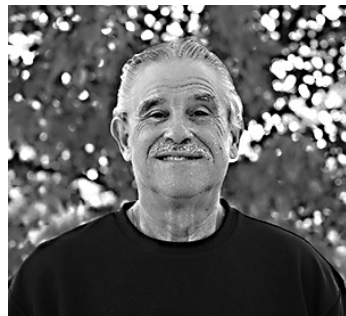


PHOTO PROVIDED
Martin Colavito

equity and justice for all members of the Sullivan County community.

In collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, in 2020 Mr. Colavito created Sullivan Fresh Community Cupboard, a food pantry and emergency food delivery service to address the growing need for food security in the area. He is actively involved in the program, which serves more than 700 people each week.

“Marty’s contributions are not just about what he does but how he does it with kindness, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to making the world a better place,” a member of the selection committee shared. “His daily actions serve as a testament to his exceptional character and his profound impact on the community.”

Upon learning he received this year’s Community Service Award, Mr. Colavito said, “There are so many good people in this community—it’s incredibly humbling. Truth be told, I’m nothing without the people I serve.”

Mr. Colavito and his wife, Lynn, live in Liberty and have two daughters and three granddaughters.

KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY INCLUDES FORT DELAWARE

Footage Shot in Narrowsburg Part of Rev War Series

NARROWSBURG— The Barryville based non-profit history education group, The Delaware Company announced last week that it has been notified by Florentine Films that footage shot at Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History last year will be included in the upcoming documentary series, “The American Revolution.”

The six-part, 12-hour long series by filmmakers Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt, premieres on PBS on November 16 and runs for six consecutive nights. Producers say “the American Revolution” is about America’s founding struggle, and “will present the story of the men and women of the Revolutionary generation, their humanity in victory and defeat, and the crisis that they lived through.

“By weaving together accounts of American political leaders and their British counterparts with the perspectives of the so-called ordinary people who waged and witnessed war, ‘The American Revolution’ will be an expansive, even-handed look at the virtues and the contradictions in the fight for independence and the birth of the United States,” they add.

A Florentine Films crew, led by series co-producer Megan Ruffe spent several days in Sullivan County last year, filming at Fort Delaware, which is located on the Upper Delaware Scenic

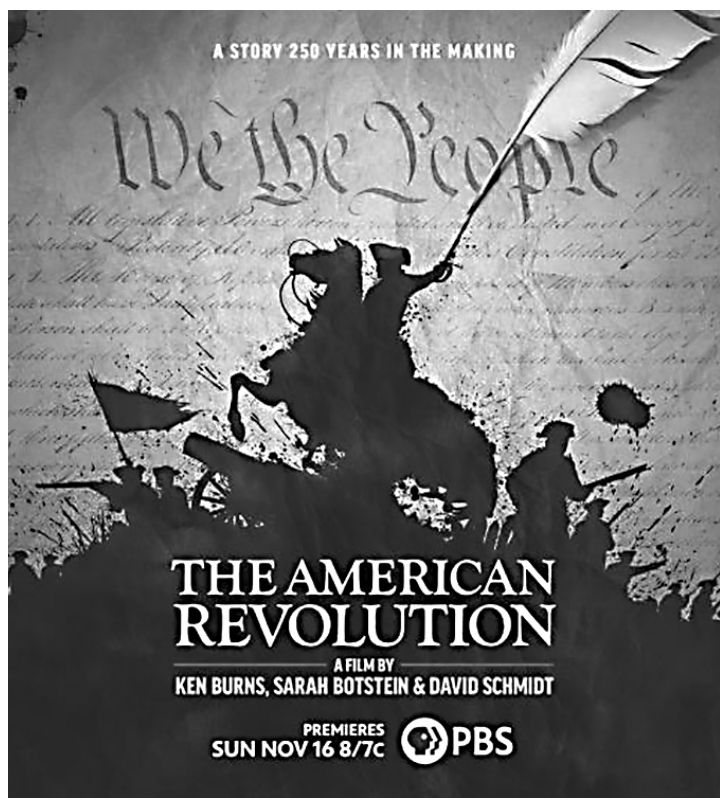


PHOTO PROVIDED

Byway at 6615 Route 97 in Narrowsburg. Fort Delaware is owned by Sullivan County, but has been operated since 2021 by The Delaware Company.

Debra Conway, the Executive Director of The Delaware Company, who coordinated with the film crew, said that the filming mainly focused on buildings and atmosphere.

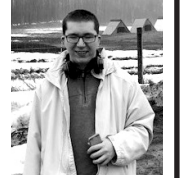
“They were looking for structures that would evoke the Revolutionary War period, and found that Fort Delaware fit the bill,” Ms. Conway said. “They also filmed some of our docents

at work. We have no idea what footage will actually be used in the series, or when it will show up.”

Ms. Conway says that Fort Delaware, the brainchild of former Sullivan County Historian James W. Burbank, is a reproduction of a fortification built for protection around a portion of an Upper Delaware River settlement called Cushtunk during the French & Indian War. The current structures were erected in the 1950s, and have been part of the Fort Delaware operation since it first opened in 1957.

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



THE ROLE OF DESERTS IN VIDEO GAMES

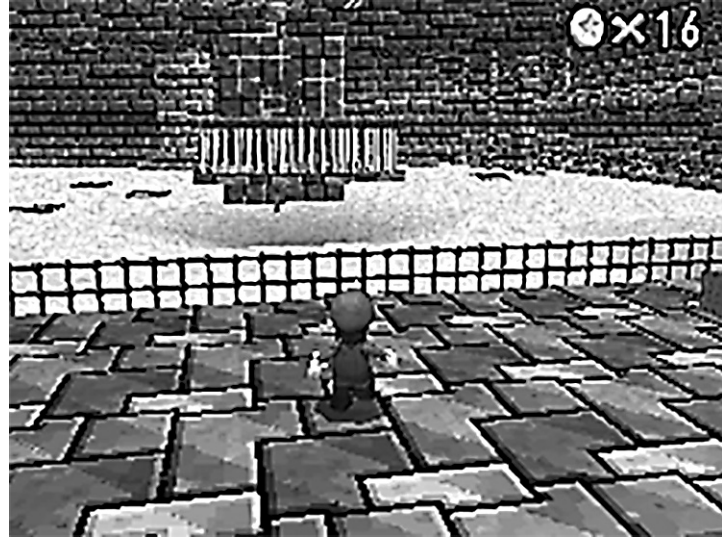


PHOTO PROVIDED

About the only thing I like anywhere near as much as I like the weather is video games. I have enjoyed playing video games for many years now, and have a large collection of them.

I recently had a thought about how many video games use deserts or desert environments as part of their scenes. According to MarioWik.com, deserts have always been a popular setting for video games, offering vast landscapes filled with mystery, danger, and adventure.

I love Super Mario video games, and the deserts in Mario I have always liked, including World 2 - Desert in Super Mario Brothers 3, and the Shifting Sand Land in Super Mario 64.

In Super Mario Brothers 3, desert fans will remember the angry Sun. Also, in Super Mario 64, Shifting Sand Land players can experience Mario’s interaction with quicksand and desert enemies like Pokeys or Klepto the Condor.

Did you know that “shifting sands” is a reference to the impassable deserts that surround the Land of Oz in L. Frank Baum’s Oz books? In addition, according to Super Mario Wiki (mario-wiki.com/Shifting_Sand_Land) the entrance to this level is in the Mushroom Castle’s basement, disguised as a wall at the end of the hall to the left of the painting into Lethal Lava Land. The course has several sand dunes, quicksand, and an ancient pyramid in the center. Klepto the Condor circles the course and attempts to steal the player’s cap if he gets near. This course shares the same music as Lethal Lava Land.

I hope all of you like my favorite Super Mario desert levels. When you see me, tell me about YOUR favorite video game desert levels. Thanks!

John “the Weatherman” Simon writes a regular column on weather for The Sentinel. He lives in Hurleyville.

Poetry
by Mimi

ENJOYING LIFE

Watch a stream as it ripples
Taking with it your problems of the day
Watch the clouds as they make images
Think about what they’re trying to say
Hear that sound? It’s a woodpecker
Beating a message into a tree
What a wondrous thing it is
Outside enjoying nature naturally
Breathe the air in October
It feels crisp and cool and clean
Stop to enjoy the tree colors
In late August they were only emerald green
Put a jacket on and take some steps
To walk your stress away
Take a moment and show gratitude
That you’re enjoying another day!

Mimi
November

The Birdhouse

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY CHARITY

Cris Spinner Shares the Joy

by Lily Barrish Levner

MONTICELLO -- Cris Spinner is a woman of many talents. Musician, retired music educator, mom to Anthony, podcast host; the list goes on. When she moved to Sullivan County full-time in 2019, she found a home with Rotary. For the past three years she has actively participated in the Liberty/Monticello Rotary's Coat Drive and distribution. Last year she was the chair for Monticello and this year Ms. Spinner is co-chairing for Liberty with her good friend Elsie Kopcha.

Last year, they collected nearly 300 new or gently used coats. This year they topped that with more than 500. All the coats were given away for free at the Senior Center at Lapolt Park in Liberty on October 25.

Les Kristt from Kristt Kelly Company, who is also the president of Monticello Rotary, had a collection box set up in the front of his store.

"Cris is non-stop in her help to the community," he

said. "One of her specialties is the coat drive. The coats she collects keep many people warm for the winter who could not afford to buy one. Thank you, Cris."

Other collection boxes were at two Jeff Bank locations on Forestburgh Road and Anawana Lake Road in Monticello, and in each Monticello school. They'll be back next year, so keep an eye out when the time comes.

The Monticello Rotary's Annual Food Drive has become a yearly event for her, too. This year The Food Drive will be held by Shoprite in Monticello. Ms. Spinner and co-chair Randy Katz, members of the Monticello Rotary Club, and The Monticello High School Interact Club will be there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 22.

"We know how our community has always come through in the past to help us provide non-perishable food items to stock the United Way of Sullivan County Food Pantry and the Sullivan County Federa-



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

Left to right, Liberty Rotary President, Alyssa Thalmann with the coat drive distribution team, Elsie Kopcha, Cris Spinner and Judy Siegel.

tion for the Homeless Food Pantry during the winter months. We are counting on your generosity once again to help feed those in need," Ms. Spinner said.

Ms. Spinner doesn't just stop there. She also created "Sullivan Sings," This is the third year of directing the

chorus and selling the audio with all proceeds going to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

"I had an idea. Let's gather musicians and difference makers here in Sullivan County, let's create a "We-Are-The-World" type chorus! Let's gather a band!

Let's come together once a year and record a song for the benefit of an organization that can help the disenfranchised," she said. "I went to Steven Schwartz. He was on board and suggested Sullivan County Federation for The Homeless, and we were off!"

In addition, Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Spinner perform as a duo under the name "The Narrative". They've performed all over locally—including right here in Hurleyville at the Tango and at Casa Mia. In September, they held a benefit concert for Liberty & Monticello Rotaries at the Forestburgh Playhouse & Tavern. And in October they played at Bethel Woods for the Peace, Love and Pumpkins event.

Involved in Taste of Sullivan through Rotary, an event at SUNY Sullivan where restaurants offer sample dishes, Ms. Spinner is pleased the proceeds also go to the Homeless Federation.

The fundraiser nearest and dearest to her heart is for The Center for Discovery where her son Anthony lives. She does an annual birthday fundraiser for TCFD. Ms. Spinner never stops spreading the cheer!

"Where It Begins" dropped on Friday, November 7 to benefit the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin



Jack Frost is a trickster figure. He makes his first appearance, in English, in the early 18th century, though he has many forebears in Norse and German and Russian folklore, not all of them as benign as the type of elfin sprite he becomes by the Victorian era — the mischievous one who paints windows and nips at fingertips and noses. In 1901, L. Frank Baum, the creator of "The Wizard of Oz," wrote a spooky story called "The Runaway Shadows, or A Trick of Jack Frost," in which Jack freezes children's shadows, which proceed to separate from their bodies and run off to live shadowy lives in the distant "Forest of Burzee." Brr!

Frost is basically frozen dew. When the temperature drops below the dew point, it produces icy crystals instead of condensate; these crystals dust exposed surfaces and outline objects in a white fringe, a harbinger of the thicker whiteness to come with the arrival of snow. The ground gets crunchier underfoot as the soil hardens, inch by inch, to an eventual depth called "the frost line." I recall a winter when I attempted to dig a trench for the laying of pipe and was unable to make a dent in the ground, even with a pickaxe. It was like chipping away at iron. The frost line must have been several feet deep by then.

Hoarfrost and rime; white frost and black; wind frost and window frost: frost comes in many varieties. "Hoar" derives from the Old English for "aged" — the year is growing old, its hair turning white. Hoarfrost has sub-categories of its own: air, surface, crevasse, and depth hoar. One could be a taxonomist of frost, duly noting its types, as birders and botanists do with birds and plants. Poets, for obvious reasons, often favor "rime."

The great lyric in the English tradition is "Frost at Midnight" by Coleridge, which begins: "The Frost performs its secret ministry..." — secret, because no one sees it working under cover of darkness (it is midnight, after all). But

the true secret here lies in the word "ministry." It suggests yet another variety of frost — sacramental frost — capable of bestowing some order of blessing upon the one observing it.

The way in which the frost performs its ministerial function is a precise analogue to the way the poet performs *his*. Nature in "Frost at Midnight" speaks a numinous "eternal language," distinguishable in scale but not in kind from the utterance of poets — human speech subject to a shaping creative power. Coleridge is explicit about this: the poetic faculty lodges in "the primary Imagination... a repetition in the finite mind of the eternal act of creation in the infinite I Am." His frost covers a lot of ground!

A century after Coleridge, another Frost — Robert — took up the trope, along with a more ambiguous relation to nature's ministry, in "After Apple-Picking": "I cannot rub the strangeness from my sight / I got from looking through a pane of glass / I skimmed this morning from the drinking trough / And held against the world of hoary grass." Frost looks at frost and succumbs to a fit of estrangement; the sacramental analogy has turned fraught, as unsteady as the apple-picker's ladder. Sixty years after "Apple-Picking," Robert Lowell slyly memorialized Frost in a poem that begins: "Robert Frost at midnight..."

Our first frost arrived on the morning of October 10th. The day broke bright and blue, revealing white streaks as light as powdered sugar lacing the lawn. The pumpkins on the porch, crowned in rime, took on a seasonal luster, and the fronds of the cornstalks stiffened in the frigid air. Somewhere underground, invisible to us, the frost line was being redrawn for the winter ahead.

Jonathan Shimkin, writer and editor, may be contacted at jonathanshimkin@gmail.com, or via his website: jonathanshimkin.weebly.com.

Catskill Veterinary Services Hosts Open House In Newburgh on November 18

ROCK HILL — Catskill Veterinary Services, PLLC, long established in Sullivan County at its location in Rock Hill, invites the community to attend an Open House at its new Newburgh Urgent Care and Emergency Veterinary Hospital on Tuesday, November 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. The event will take place at 5020 Route 9W, Suite 105, Newburgh, and is open to the public. Guests are encouraged to tour the facility, meet members of the

veterinary team, and enjoy local wines, cheeses, and hors d'oeuvres.

This event celebrates the expansion of Catskill Veterinary Services' mission to bring life-changing to life-saving veterinary care to pets and their families throughout the Hudson Valley. The Newburgh hospital provides urgent care and emergency services for dogs, cats, and exotic pets—bridging the gap between primary care and 24-hour emergency

hospitals.

"Catskill Veterinary Services is committed to meeting the growing need for accessible, compassionate, and advanced veterinary care in our region," said Dr. Joseph D'Abbraccio, Managing Partner of Catskill Veterinary Services. "Our Newburgh hospital allows us to extend our reach and support pet owners throughout Orange, Ulster, and Dutchess Counties."

Co-owner Dr. Daniela Carbone added, "This new facility represents our dedication not only to providing exceptional medical care but also to being there when families need us most. Whether it's a late-night emergency, a worried owner, or an injured pet, our team's focus is always on compassion, communication, and quality care. We're proud to be part of this community and look forward to welcoming everyone to see what we've built together."

The state-of-the-art Newburgh facility features advanced diagnostic technology, dedicated treatment and surgical areas, and a skilled team of veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians. The

hospital provides:

- Urgent Care and Emergency Services for dogs, cats, and exotic pets
- Digital Radiography, Ultrasound, and Laboratory Diagnostics
- Comprehensive Surgical Capabilities
- Compassionate and Experienced Veterinary Team Members
- Convenient evening and weekend hours for urgent pet needs

Catskill Veterinary Services has quickly become a trusted name in the region, with clients praising the hospital's professionalism, compassion, and high standard of care:

"My cat had a bump on her chin which broke open overnight. Her regular vet was unable to see her until the next afternoon, so I called CVS—they got me into the Newburgh UC office within two hours. Staff are polite and professional."

"We brought our guinea pig here for a bad ear infection, and Dr. Gina was amazing! She explained every option, responded to emails the same day, and calmed our nerves at every visit. The hours are great, and the staff are so patient and supportive."

"The staff was kind, professional, and acted quickly to make sure Leo was safe and cared for. They explained everything clearly and helped ease my nerves throughout the whole visit. I felt Leo was in very good hands."

"Kind, caring, patient, kept us up to date on his condition, cleaned him up after he vomited in his carrier. All staff were exceptional—kind, caring, and loving. Their compassion for Luke and his moms was felt."

"My dog Emma was in great pain from her nail getting torn off after a fall. The entire staff were fantastic, friendly, and knowledgeable. They talked through everything, even the estimate of costs, which was such a stress reliever. Emmy is feeling better today thanks to their amazing care!"

"Today we had a cat-emergency. Our regular vet couldn't see him, but we were told about this new urgent care. It couldn't have been a smoother visit. The staff was professional, skilled, and caring, and Dr. Green quickly put our cat at ease. Choices and pricing were clear and transparent. We're so glad



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. Joseph D'Abbraccio, DVM

they're here."

These testimonials reflect the hospital's growing role as a cornerstone of veterinary care in the Hudson Valley, offering a trusted place for families and their pets in moments of need.

With established locations in Rock Hill and Middletown, and the Newburgh hospital now serving as a regional hub, Catskill Veterinary Services continues to expand access to advanced veterinary medicine, emergency care, and community education throughout the area.

All are welcome to attend the Open House, tour the new hospital, and meet the team dedicated to providing life-changing, to life-saving veterinary care.

SAVE THE DATE!!
Holiday in Hurleyville
Saturday December 6
Noon to 4 p.m.
Tree Lighting at Dusk

29TH ANNUAL "DECK THE DOORS"

Holiday Decorating Contest

Judging will begin at 6:00pm on Thursday, December 18th.

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From the Firehouse

by Jack Halchak, Past Chief H.F.D.



The Hurleyville Fire Department is always looking for help, to fight fire or support those that do. We even supply all the gear and provide all the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

Four Hurleyville Firefighters were members of the most recent Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations (BEFO) with Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations class. They were Mike Miller, Jimmy Benjamin, Keegan Baggatta and Brandon Hummel. This class is 79 hours long with both book and hands-on skills. A few of the skills are knot tying, throwing a ladder (putting up a ladder), hose advancement, how to roll a hose and many more. The skills learned in this class get you to the front door of a building. The next class is Interior Firefighting Operations (IFO) and that will get you inside a building. Hopefully, this is just the start of their training in the years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS guys, excellent job.

I attended the Regional County coordinators meeting and the Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) gave a presentation on Community Risk Reduction. This is when you analyze your calls and see potential problems and then see what can be done to mitigate them. Looking

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Winter Weather Advisory

Wintery weather expected. Exercise caution. Light amounts of wintry precipitation or patchy blowing snow will cause slick conditions and could affect travel if precautions are not taken.

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

at Hurleyville’s calls and other County departments we are responding to numerous activated alarms. Further investigation shows that a lot are caused by a lack of maintenance to the alarm system, poor placement of the smoke/heat heads and antiquated systems. Firefighters drop what they are doing and respond to these calls as if there is a fire. You never know what you are going to find at an activated alarm. Some of the problems are an easy fix.

A startling statistic that was presented by OFPC was from January 2025 to the middle of October 2025 there were 116 civilian fire deaths in 89 incidents. Only 21 percent of the incidents had working smoke detectors. Twenty-one percent! That is unacceptable. The fire service has run many, many campaigns about how ‘**Smoke Detectors Save Lives.**’

On November 2, you will

have changed your clocks. Did you check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors’ batteries? Do you have a hard-wired system that needs a cleaning or a once over?

Remember ‘**Smoke Detectors Save Lives.**’

We are now in the heating season. Have you had your heating devices serviced, and chimney cleaned?

Did you drain your garden hose and bring it in, do you need to turn off the outside water?

How about your car? Did you put your snow tires on yet, did you get out that trusty old ice scraper out yet?

Are you ready for a two or three-day storm with no power?

Now is the time to prepare for what Mother Nature will throw at you not when she is throwing.

Happy Thanksgiving to You and Your family. Be Safe Out There.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Matthew Frumess (right), president of the Liberty Museum, and his wife, Naomi Frumess, trustee, are beside a batch of home-cooked cornbread.

Chili Cook-off at the Liberty Museum & Arts Center

by Lily Barrish Levner

LIBERTY – There were 12 chilis entered in the 31st year of the competition. A fundraiser for the museum, it brings the community together and offers a warm treat on a fall day for \$10. Individuals entered six vegetarian and four meat homemade chilis. In the restaurant category, were the co-defending champions, Munson Diner, and Liberty

Diner.

The winners are: Naomi Frumess in the meat category, using a recipe from the late Roger Cortes, owner of McCabe’s Bar and Grill in Liberty. Phyllis Gallo won in the vegetarian group by a landslide. The Liberty Diner took first place in the restaurant category. Both Naomi and the Liberty Diner won by only one vote.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburg

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

November 7, 1941 FOUR INCUMBENTS RETURNED TO OFFICE IN COUNTY ELECTION G.O.P. Retained Majority on Board of Supervisors

Voters of Sullivan County re-elected the four incumbents of county offices and the Republican majority on the Board of Supervisors changed from the 9-6 to 8-7 majority. Largest plurality went to County Clerk J. Bruce Lindsley who won over his Democratic opponent, Frank McKeon of Bloomingburg by 4,955 votes. Mr. Lindsley, returned to office for his fifth term, got 10,823 as against 5,868 for McK-

eon. The contest for the office of Sheriff, watched with perhaps the greatest interest by both parties resulted in the return to office of the present Democratic incumbent, Harry Borden, who defeated his Republican opponent, John Baldwin of Livingston Manor by a margin of 719.

In the Town of Fallsburg which is recognized as a Democratic stronghold, present office holders were swept back into office with substantial majorities with the exception of Sup’t of Highways Roy C. Clark who was defeated by Charles Cauthers, Republican.

Hyman E. Mintz, whose term of office as magistrate expires this year, was elected to the office of tax collector, while his place on the Town Board will be taken by Monroe Davis, Woodbourne attorney who was elected as town councilman.

In the town of Callicoon, Fred Hessinger, veteran Democratic supervisor was nosed out by a single vote when Walter Weiss, G.O.P. candidate defeated him. In the Town of Lumberland, however, Republican Edward Bisland was defeated by only six votes in a bitterly fought contest with Walter A. Schwartz whom he defeated two years ago by eight votes.

The shifting population of the Town of Neversink was believed responsible for the defeat of Republican Supervisor Robert T. Many by a margin of fifty-two votes less than his Democratic opponent, William Hotchkin. The departure of many old residents whose properties have been taken over by the N.Y.C. water project and the infiltration of a large number of aqueduct workers has changed the political tendencies of the township.

November 9, 1917 (Liberty Register) Liberty Votes Dry

Liberty went into the “dry” column Tuesday. It likewise gave a plurality for woman suffrage. The town was one of four along the O&W which smashed Demon Rum on the beak for a clean knockout; the others being Rockland, for a second time, Fallsburg and Thompson. The drug stores alone were saved from banishing liquor from



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Sheriff Harry Borden was re-elected in November, 1941.

their shelves, saloons, hotels and liquor stores all getting the gate so far as the sale of strong drink is concerned. Early official returns made it uncertain for a time as to whether or not Liberty had decreed that rum must go, but after a re-tabulation it was found that the saloons had been voted out by a plurality of 55, the liquor stores by 50, drug stores favored by 89 votes and the hotels rejected by 32. Rockland remains dry by approximately 58, Fallsburg goes dry by 162 and Thompson by 23. Of the other town

voting on the question Mamakating is wet by 60, Delaware by 113 and Fre-mont by 81...

November 2016 “Discovery Sessions” at The Hurleyville Arts Centre

A number of the world’s leading authorities on the connection between the brain and the body gathered at the Hurleyville Arts Centre on Saturday, October 22 for The Center for Discovery’s “Change Your Mind” conference, the latest in a series of scholarly conferences offered under the “Discovery Sessions” umbrella.

The conference was touted as “a lively day of dialogue and discussion that will focus on many important questions with few easy answers” and featured presentations with impressive titles such as “Rethinking Expectations: The Importance of Aging Well” and “Tradition to Transition: Multi-Phased Healing Approaches for Co-Morbidities.”

Callicoon and Livingston Manor

Named Travel + Leisure’s

“Best Small Towns in the Catskills”



PHOTO PROVIDED

A section of Main Street in Livingston Manor.

SULLIVAN COUNTY–The Sullivan Catskills continues to rise as a premier travel destination, with Travel + Leisure magazine naming Callicoon and Livingston Manor among the “7 Best Small Towns in the Catskills.”

The feature highlights the area’s irresistible mix of culture, cuisine, and countryside charm that draws visitors year-round.

In the feature, Travel + Leisure praises Livingston Manor for its “cool but not trying too hard” vibe, calling it a perfect balance of arts, nature, and culinary appeal. The piece highlights the town’s inviting blend of historic character and modern creativity, from boutique shops and cozy inns to breweries, bakeries, and farm-to-table restaurants that celebrate the bounty of the region.

With its proximity to the Catskill and Delaware Rivers and the Willowemoc Wild Forest, Livingston Manor offers a rare mix of outdoor adventure and downtown sophistication. Callicoon, meanwhile, is celebrated as a town that “punches above its weight,” pairing rich heritage with a vibrant, contemporary spirit. Travel + Leisure spotlights its scenic setting along the Delaware River, thriving Sunday farmers market, and lively collec-

tion of eateries, galleries, and local businesses. The town’s blend of historic charm and entrepreneurial energy reflects the welcoming, forward-thinking spirit that defines the Sullivan Catskills.

“This recognition from Travel + Leisure is a testament to the character and resilience of our communities,” said Michael Martelon, President and CEO of the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association. “From the people who pour their hearts into local businesses to the visitors who fall in love with our towns and return year after year, Callicoon and Livingston Manor embody everything that makes the Sullivan Catskills such a special place to live, work, and visit.”

The Travel + Leisure feature also reinforces that the Catskills’ small towns are thriving as destinations for those seeking meaningful, sustainable travel experiences. With their art galleries, craft breweries, hiking trails, and close-knit communities, both Callicoon and Livingston Manor invite travelers to slow down and savor life in the mountains.

For more information about visiting Callicoon, Livingston Manor, and the Sullivan Catskills region, please visit www.sullivan-catskills.com.

Fallsburg and Eldred Schools Launch Hope Squad Programs Supporting Youth Mental Health



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Hope Squad from Fallsburg Central School District.

LIBERTY – Sullivan 180 is proud to announce the official launch of Hope Squads in the Eldred Central School District and Fallsburg Central School District, marking an important step in expanding

peer-based mental health support across Sullivan County schools.

Hope Squad is an evidence-based, peer-to-peer suicide prevention program designed to build a culture of connection, em-

pathy, and help-seeking among youth. Students are nominated by their peers to serve as Hope Squad members and receive specialized training from trusted school advisors. These

students work to identify struggling peers, promote kindness, and connect classmates to the help they need.

“Hope squad allowed me to connect, understand

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THE HONEYMOON MURDER PART IV

An original Bronco Kelly Adventure
by Jack Robbin

In August of 1936, Sol Goldstein, a young gangster trying to go straight, was on his honeymoon in Sullivan County when he disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. This short story, by local author Jack Robbin, is based on that real life incident. In Part I of our story, Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly was visited by Sol Goldstein's mother, who asked for his help in locating her son, who had disappeared. Bronco agreed, and he and his old friend, Deputy Sheriff Jay Lass have travelled to Glen Wild to interview Sol Goldstein's widow. That's where we resume the story...

Sol Goldstein's widow, a young woman with very blond hair sat chain smoking in the tiny living room of the Glen Wild bungalow while Jay Lass and I tried to pry information out of her about her husband's disappearance.

"I told you, he just said he had to take care of some business," she repeated, seemingly bored with our questions.

"And you never saw him again?" Jay asked.

"That's right. I never saw him again. I never will see him again. Don't you get it? It's obvious those guys killed him and dumped his body in a lake. Sol is dead."

Jay and I looked at each other.

"You keep mentioning a lake," I said. "Is there a reason you think he was dumped in a lake, and which lake do you think he was dumped in?"

She paused for a bit too long, puffing on the remains of her cigarette.

"Isn't that what they do with bodies after their killed?" she finally answered. "Look, I really don't have time to answer any more questions."

"Well, we are going to continue to investigate," Jay said abruptly, glancing sideways at me. "Maybe we'll find your husband wasn't murdered at all. Maybe he's still alive."

"Knock yourself out," she answered. "Now, is that all, because I have to get ready for work."

Jay and I left the house and got in the car before anything else was said.

"That was a very odd conversation," Jay said.

"She obviously knows

more than she's saying. Either she is in on this thing, whatever it is, or she is too frightened to talk about it."

"I wouldn't be surprised either way. But something is definitely off."

We drove back to Monticello in silence. I dropped Jay off at the jail, and continued on to Hurleyville.

I was in the middle of Sunday dinner with Irene when the phone rang. It was Jay Lass.

"Bronco, you are not going to believe the phone call I just got," he said, and I could tell from the tone of his voice that something wasn't right.

"By the sound of your voice, I'd say you're right. Care to fill me in?"

"Borden called me. I figured he wanted me to update him on the Goldstein disappearance, but before I could say anything at all about it, he shut it down."

"What do you mean, he shut it down?"

"Sheriff says the case has to be put on the back burner. Too much going on to chase after leads that don't exist."

"That doesn't make sense. What else if going on? And what do we tell Goldstein's mother?"

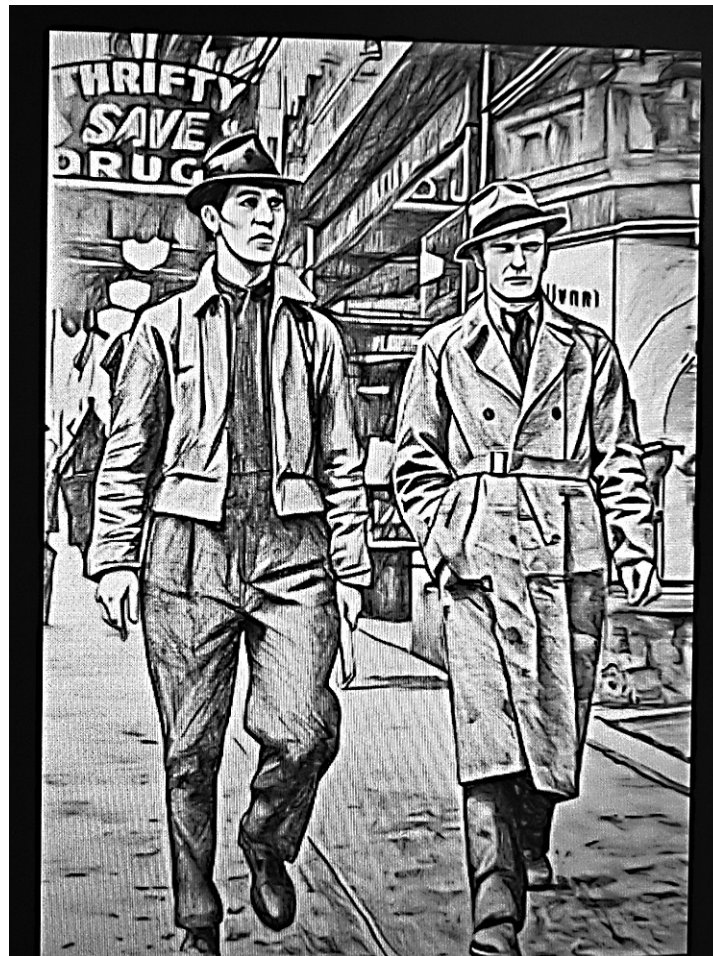


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Bronco spoke to everyone he could think of about Sol Goldstein's disappearance.

"Borden said he would speak to her. He said we should let the State Police handle it from here on out."

"What do you suppose brought that on? We are just getting started. Aren't you at all anxious to find out what happened to Gold-

stein? To find out what his wife's involvement is?"

"Of course, Bronco. But I can tell you that he was not opening this up to a debate. He was pretty emphatic. He wants us off the case."

I was having a hard time comprehending what was happening. Something, or someone, had obviously

convinced Sheriff Harry Borden that he needed to pull us off this case. I had no idea why.

"What are you thinking, Bronco? You're not going to do anything stupid, are you?" Jay said, interrupting my train of thought.

"I don't work for Harry Borden," I finally said. "At least not directly. I understand that you can't be involved, but I could keep looking into this case and he would never know the difference."

"And what would you do? Dredge every lake in the county? There really isn't a single solid lead to go on."

"I'm sorry, Jay. I don't know yet exactly what I'm going to do, but I can't let this thing go. Especially now, I need to know what's going on."

I spent the next two weeks devoting every spare minute I had to trying to find some trace of what had happened to Sol Goldstein.

I interviewed people who knew him in Brooklyn. I interviewed people who knew him from his job at the Fulton Fish Market. I talked to anyone in Glen Wild who might have seen the car that picked him up the night he

disappeared. Nothing significant came out of any of it. While I was able to put together a reasonable picture of Sol Goldstein's life, I could not shine even a sliver of light on his disappearance.

I did learn that he had quit his job at the Fish Market around the time he had become engaged to his wife. One of his friends from the neighborhood told me that Sol was into some bad stuff with the gangs who ran the Market, but was determined to get married and go straight. I was also able to learn that the Feds had recently opened an investigation into the operation of the Fulton Fish Market. Apparently, it was being run by organized crime, which was intimidating vendors, and shaking down customers. The investigation had started just after Sol Goldstein had quit.

That's pretty much as far as I got. No one had seen the car that Goldstein had gotten into that night, and I began to wonder if his wife was even telling the truth about that. Every avenue I pursued seemed to end in a dead end.

I would see Jay Lass from

time to time, and we would talk like old times, but never once did he ask me about what I was doing. I figured he had decided it was better if he didn't know.

September arrived, and despite all the time I had spent on the case, I was no closer to finding out what happened to Sol Goldstein. Then very early on a Saturday morning, September 5, to be exact, my phone rang. It was Jay Lass.

"Can you meet me at the Paramount Manor in fifteen minutes?" he asked. "There's a body, and it looks like a homicide."

I didn't know it at the time, but that was the last chance I had to think about Sol Goldstein for a long, long time.

That concludes our story. Although it was revealed years later that Sol Goldstein was killed by Murder, Inc. on orders from Lepke Buchalter to keep him from testifying about organized crime's involvement in the Fulton Fish Market, his body has never been found. It is believed to have been dumped into Loch Sheldrake, but has never resurfaced.

Sullivan County & Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association Announce Tourism Grant Program

LIBERTY – The Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association (SCVA), in partnership with Sullivan County, is proud to announce the launch of the 2026 Sullivan County Tourism Grant Program, a \$300,000 initiative designed to strengthen the region's tourism economy, drive overnight visitation, and celebrate the area's arts, culture, and community identity.

Funded through county lodging tax revenues, the Tourism Grant Program reinvests directly into projects that elevate the Sullivan Catskills' brand and enhance the visitor experience.

The program supports a diverse range of initiatives, from destination marketing and event promotion to cultural programming and local branding, all with a focus on measurable outcomes and sustainable growth.

"We want this program to be inclusive and empowering," said Michael Martelon, President and CEO of the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association. "Our goal is to ensure every corner of Sullivan County has the opportunity to tell its story, welcome visitors, and benefit from the tourism economy. By investing in creativity, collaboration, and community pride, we're not just driving visitation, we're strengthening the foundation of what makes the Sullivan Catskills such a special place to live, work, and visit."

The joint Tourism Grant Program is structured across four funding categories to ensure fairness and strategic impact. Room-Night-Focused Grants, accounting for 60% of total funding, will support programs and campaigns that demonstrably increase overnight stays through packages and overnight



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association CEO Michael Martelon.

stay offers. Arts & Culture Enhancement Grants will invest in exhibitions, residencies, and cultural experiences. Village, Hamlet & MicroBrand Grants will help local chambers and other organizations develop distinct visitor facing identities through storytelling, branding, and wayfinding projects. Finally, Events & Festivals Support Grants will provide resources to seed or expand high-quality events that draw visitors from beyond the region.

Applicants can apply under two tracks: Catalyst Grants, aimed at new and innovative ideas that reach fresh audiences, and Legacy Grants, which reward proven initiatives with established returns on investment.

The program will be offered in two rounds. Round One opens on November 1, 2025, with applications due December 16, 2025, and awards announced January 15, 2026. Round Two opens March 9, 2026, with applications due April 14, 2026, and awards announced May 15, 2026. Funds will be distributed in March and June 2026, respectively, and post project reports will be required within 60 days of completion.

After a brief pause of the program this year, SCVA continued to invest in key community events and cultural initiatives throughout 2025, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to supporting Sullivan County's

tourism economy. In total, \$189,686 in community sponsorships and grants were distributed in 2025 to support organizations and events including Bethel Woods' Peace, Love & Pumpkins, the Forestburgh Playhouse's In the Works, In the Woods Festival, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, Shadfest, the Livingston Manor Trout Parade, The Parksville B'kawk, and Sullivan Public's "Greetings From Here" exhibit, among many others, ensuring that tourism and community pride continued to thrive.

SCVA will continue to provide marketing consultation, creative development, and in-kind media support to grantees to ensure consistent messaging and strong visibility across the region. First-time applicants can take advantage of informational sessions and one-on-one consultations hosted by SCVA staff, as well as online resources such as FAQs, sample applications, and reporting templates.

All grantees will be required to demonstrate measurable results, including potential lodging impact, visitor and/or business engagement, and marketing and other performance metrics. This performance-based approach emphasizes the SCVA's commitment to reinvesting tourism revenues responsibly and transparently to strengthen Sullivan County's overall visitor economy.

For more information about eligibility, timelines, and how to apply, visit www.SullivanCatskills.com/grants or contact the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association at info@scva.net.

SULLIVAN 180 SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERISM

Young Leaders Acknowledged for their Dedication to Building Healthier Places

LIBERTY – Sullivan 180, in partnership with The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, awarded two scholarships to volunteers who made a significant contribution to a 2025 Sullivan 180 project. These scholarships will be awarded for the spring 2026 semester to the following individuals:

William Cooper of Rock Hill brought his passion for leadership and service to his Eagle Scout project at Emma C. Chase Elementary School, where he once attended. William led a team of volunteers

in creating a lasting educational garden space for students by constructing a greenhouse, custom tool shed, trellises, and improved pathways. "It felt especially meaningful to give back to the school that helped shape me," he reflected. "Seeing the garden transform into a functional space for students and teachers was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life." Mr. Cooper is a freshman at SUNY Brockport studying accounting, a field he chose for its mix of problem-solving, organization, and lifelong learning.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Above: Aiden Tambascio

At left: William Cooper

Aiden Tambascio of Jeffersonville dedicated his time to the Sullivan West Beautification Project. His work centered on transforming the high school campus by revitalizing the bulldog sign and flagpole area. Aiden personally removed old plants and sod, dug new planting holes, and mulched the refreshed spaces. Beyond the physical labor, he spearheaded the effort by advocating for the project for years and securing donations of mulch and plants from local stores. "This project has been a dream of mine since I was a freshman," he said. "To finally see it completed and know I helped

leave a lasting impact on the school community is something I'll always carry with me." Mr. Tambascio is a freshman at Delaware Valley University studying agriculture, horticulture, and crop production, with aspirations to provide fresh produce and help create a healthier generation.

For more information on the work and initiatives of Sullivan 180, visit www.Sullivan180.org or call (845) 295-2680.

Sullivan 180 is working to build a healthy community, one degree at a time, through people, places and policy with support from Bold Gold Media Group, The River Reporter, The Sullivan County Democrat, Manor Ink and WJFF Radio Catskill. Learn more at Sullivan180.org.



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SENTINEL SPORTS



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

AN UNDER-APPRECIATED SEGMENT OF THE MILK TRAIN TRAIL

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE—Ever since the Hurleyville section of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail— often referred to as the Milk Train Trail—opened several years ago, regular users of the trail have debated which part of it is their favorite. As has been written about before in this newspaper, both the section east of Main Street, heading toward South Fallsburg, and the section west toward Ferndale, present unique advantages the other side can’t match. The Smith Hill Cut on the east side of the trail is probably the single most popular landmark on either side, while a trek on the west side of the trail provides unrivaled natural beauty and solitude. Choosing which side is best mostly comes down to personal preference.

That said, there is another section of the trail that is largely ignored and much under-appreciated. That is not to say that it is not used at all, but while it seems popular with bicyclists, it gets far less foot traffic than other sections of the trail, and in fact that is part of its charm.

That would be the section of the trail west of Main Street that runs from Krum Road to Denman Road, part of which is paved.

That section of the Milk Train Trail provides an entirely different ecosystem from the rest of the trail, and the canopy provided by the mature trees along the way offer cooling shade in the summer time



The section of the Milk Train Trail from Krum Road to Denman Road offers natural beauty and solitude.

and protection from excessive snow accumulation in winter.

While a totally unscientific poll of trail users this fall ranked the trail east of Main Street the most popular, with the west side of the trail up to Krum Road a distant second, the section beyond that point was rarely mentioned. Many respondents who favored the west side of the trail said they typically walked from the parking lot to Krum Road and back. Very few said they had ever been beyond that point.

One walker on an October afternoon— who asked that his name not be published— said he “sometimes ventures” beyond Krum Road and has only once encountered another walker on that section.



An interpretive sign along the trail tells of the impact of forests on the local history.

HO&WL Walk “Huge Success”

Milk Train Trail Highlighted



The participants in the annual HO&WL walk who arrived in costume posed for a photograph prior to the event.

by Win Hadley

HURLEYVILLE – The Halloween season has come and gone, and this year’s version of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance’s HO&WL Haunted History Walk was a great success.

Organizers said they “had many more people show up than we expected.”

Sullivan County Historian John Conway joined the walk, and stopped participants from time to time along the way to talk about a number of pertinent historical topics, including the role the railroad played in the birth of Hurleyville and the gruesome train wreck of February 13, 1907 that has spawned a number of ghost stories in the years since.

Mr. Conway also explained the interpretive signs that are erected along the trail, which he said were



One of the topics covered in the narration was the placement of interpretive signs along the rail trail.

commissioned by The Center for Discovery shortly after it purchased the old rail

line in partnership with the Open Space Institute.

Approximately 50 humans and 12 dogs participated in the 90-minute walk, which started at the trailhead just off the municipal parking lot east of Main Street and continued to the Smith Hill Rock Cut and back. The

weather was perfect.

Following the walk, organizers posted a photo and message on Facebook.

“We are so glad for the turnout we had, and we hope everyone had a great time as much as we did,” the message read.

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“That is precisely why I like that part of the trail,” he said, referring to the fact that it is far less traveled. “I only go that far when I am feeling ambitious,” he added. “If I ever think about it in the future, I will park on Krum Road instead of the parking lot, and then the trail will be right there.”

Even as winter approaches, if you haven’t

managed to experience the section of the Milk Train Trail from Krum Road to Denman Road, you owe it to yourself to do it at least once. There is a serenity to be found there, and the surroundings are unlike any other part of the trail.

As they used to say on the old Alka-Seltzer television commercial, “try it, you’ll like it.”

BOXING DOCUMENTARY PREMIERS

“Ringside in the Mountains”

At HPAC Cinema

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE— “Ringside in the Mountains,” the newly completed documentary about the history of boxing in the Catskills will make its big screen debut at an invitation only viewing at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre cinema on Saturday, November 29.

The film is produced by Evan Haiman’s Baker Street Productions with Hurleyville businessman Hal Simon, proprietor of Fortress Bikes, a co-producer.

The documentary is described on the Internet Movie Database as “the Sweet Science meets the Borscht Belt. Ringside in the Mountains tells the story of this idyllic area in Upstate New York that just happened to be the training ground for some of the greatest fighters of the 20th Century.”

A number of local faces show up in the film, along with many of the boxers who once called the

Catskills home, if only for a few weeks at a time.

The tradition of boxers training at Sullivan County hotels dates back to about 1910, but really became popular in the 1930s when champions such as Barney Ross, Jimmy Braddock, and Jimmy McLarnin trained at local hotels. This trend continued throughout the next few decades, and eventually nearly every fighter of any renown trained here at least once.

Rocky Marciano, who retired as the undefeated World’s Heavyweight Champion in 1956, not only trained, but lived at Grossinger’s. All of this and more is covered in the film.

The Hurleyville Sentinel will have more about “Ringside in the Mountains” in the December edition. Details about the distribution of the documentary and viewing opportunities will be forthcoming in the near future.

SUNY Sullivan Cagers

Start Out 1-1

Now Back in Division III

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE—The SUNY Sullivan Generals men’s basketball team, coming off an uncharacteristic 4-20 season in 2024-25, has returned to Division III play in the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Region XV after a number of years competing in Division II.

The Generals have started off the 2025-26 season with a win and a loss.

The new season started at home on Saturday, November 1 with a 68-67 loss to Mid-Hudson Conference foe Borough of Manhattan Community College in which a second half rally by the Generals fell just short. The Generals had trailed 31-26 at the half.

Taivon Wright led the Generals in scoring in the contest with 18 points, while Xavier Beckford and Nicholas Sanchez each contributed 12.

livan travelled to Hudson Valley Community College for a non-conference tilt, and led virtually the entire game to record a 92-85 win. Nicholas Sanchez was the leading scorer for the Generals in the game with 21 points. Xavier Beckford chipped in with 18 in just 24 minutes of play. David Fowler and Hassan Niang also hit for double figures for Sullivan, with 15 and 12 points respectively off the bench. Sanchez also pulled down 14 rebounds in the game.

The Generals now have a string of home games on the schedule, playing host to Bronx Community College on November 8, Rockland Community College on November 13, Suffolk County Community College on November 15, and LaGuardia Community College on November 16 before travelling to Stone Ridge to take on Ulster County Community College on November 18.

BALLGAME
BAFFLERS
BY BRIAN

Here are five ballgame bafflers for your consideration. The first person to email the most correct answers to hurleysent@hotmail.com will win a prize. Have fun!

November Questions:

- From 1951 to 1963, these two NFL teams played each other every Thanksgiving. What are the two teams?
- The Dallas Cowboys have traditionally hosted a Thanksgiving Day NFL game since 1966, a string that was interrupted for two years, in 1975 and 1977. What team hosted the NFL Thanksgiving Day game those two years instead?
- What two NFL teams played in the first Thanksgiving Day game to go into overtime?
- What player made the infamous “butt fumble” in a Thanksgiving Day game in 2012?
- This running back rushed for an NFL record 273 yards in a Thanksgiving Day game. Who was he?

October Answers:

- What player hit 3 home runs for the Yankees in game 6 of the 1977 World Series? (**Reggie Jackson**)
- What player hit the grounder to first base that went through Bill Bruckner’s legs to give the Mets a win over the Red Sox in Game 6 of 1986 World Series to tie the Series 3-3? (**Mookie Wilson**)
- Who is the only pitcher to pitch a perfect game in the World Series? (**Don Larsen**)
- What team has won the most World Series titles? (NY Yankees)
- What team has won the most World Series titles for the National League? (**St. Louis Cardinals**)

Bill Damroth answered all five questions correctly and was last month’s winner.