

# SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

## Sullivan County Gears Up for Commemoration

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – It is admittedly an odd looking word, difficult to pronounce, and one you have likely not seen before, but by the end of 2026 you will have no doubt become accustomed to seeing and hearing it.

Semiquincentennial is the formal word for a 250th anniversary commemoration, and is derived from Latin roots denoting half of five hundred.

The term is becoming popular these days in connection with events surrounding the commemoration of the 250th birthday of America on July 4, 2026. Planning for these events began nationwide as far back as 2016, and there are committees on the local, state, and federal level planning and coordinating myriad events to mark the occasion.

Sullivan County is no exception.

The Sullivan County Rev War Semiquincentennial

Commission was formed in 2022, and began staging events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War-- the conflict that resulted in American independence-- in 2025. This year in the main focus of the multi-year celebration, and events locally will run nearly from the beginning of the year to the end.

The commemoration gets underway this month with the initial broadcast of a new series of short radio programs on Bold Gold Media entitled "A Look Back." The series will examine some of the local personalities and events of the Revolutionary War era, and will run regularly through the Fourth of July.

Some of the topics to be featured on the program include The Battles of Minisink and Chestnut Woods, General John Sullivan, the county's namesake, Nathaniel Sackett, George Washington's first spymaster, the Mohawk Joseph Brant, Dr. Benjamin



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Tusten, and local residents Moses Thomas, Nathaniel Tyler, Phoebe Scott Land, Phebe Reynolds Drake, and many others. There will be a new program with a new topic each week.

In Hurleyville, plans are underway for a Revolutionary War film festival, to be held at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center Cinema on the weekend of April

24-26. Although plans are incomplete as the Sentinel goes to press, a preliminary schedule calls for three films with Revolutionary War themes, one Friday evening, one Saturday evening, and one Sunday afternoon. Each of the sessions would include a social hour with drinks and hors d'oeuvres, an introduction to the film by local historians and

re-enactors, and a Q&A after the movie.

One of the highlights of the year will be a major weekend event at the Minisink Battleground from July 17 thru 19, featuring food, music, history demonstrations and exhibits, an encampment, and a battle re-enactment, as well as the annual commemoration of the Battle of Minisink, for which New York State Historian Devin Lander will deliver the keynote address.

On Saturday, August 1, Judith Kalaora of the Boston based History at Play will reprise her one-woman show "A Revolution of Her Own" about Revolutionary War heroine Deborah Sampson at a venue yet to be determined. Ms. Kalaora previously performed the play at the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg in August of 2024, and in April of 2025, she visited Sullivan County a second time, performing her play, "Rendezvous with Rachel Revere" at Seminary Hill Ci-

dery in Callicoon as part of an afternoon entitled "The British Are Coming," hosted by the Barryville based nonprofit history education group, The Delaware Company to celebrate the midnight ride of Paul Revere.

Other Semiquincentennial events, including a narrated bus trip, a driving tour, a commemoration at Chestnut Woods in Grahamsville, and a number of historical programs, are in the works, as well.

The Commission is also launching an initiative to identify, clean up, and mark with a custom Semiquincentennial marker the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers in the county. Some funding for this aspect of the commemoration has already been procured by The Delaware Company, and more is being sought.

Visit the Sullivan County Rev War Semiquincentennial page on Facebook for more details, and watch for the launch of a dedicated webpage as the year unfolds.

## HURLEYVILLE'S LINK TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



SAMUEL MITTEER II  
b-January 1776 d-November 17, 1870

PHOTO PROVIDED

Samuel Mitteer II was one of Hurleyville's earliest settlers.

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – Samuel Mitteer was one of the earliest men to settle in the Hurleyville area. Born in France in 1776, Mitteer came to the United States with his parents around 1783.

It was the second trip to America for Samuel Mitteer's father, also named Samuel. The elder Samuel Mitteer (Samuel Mitteer I) had earlier accompanied French soldiers here to aid in the American fight for independence and he served under Rochambeau (Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau) at the Battle of Yorktown, the decisive American victory that basically ended the Revolutionary War. Samuel Mitteer I was severely wounded in the battle, and lost an arm as the result. Following the battle, he returned to France long enough to gather his wife and only son to bring them to America. Samuel I is buried in Philadelphia, PA.

It is not entirely clear how or why Samuel II made his way to Sullivan County, but he became a carpenter and a joiner, and worked in that capacity for Aaron Burr, fashioning the post Burr used for target practice as he prepared for his infamous July 11, 1804 duel with Alexander Hamilton. Like Hamilton, Burr had served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and enduring the winter at Valley Forge.

Later in 1804, Samuel Mitteer II assisted John Patterson Jones in building the first home in Monticello. He also helped build New York State's first covered bridge, at Bridgeville, in 1807, and William A. Thompson's mansion, Albion Hall in 1810.

Samuel Mitteer II lived an adventurous life, and died as the age of 90 years old. Today, he and his family are remembered by the designation of Mitteer Road in the hamlet, but it is his father and his service with Rochambeau at Yorktown who provides Hurleyville's most famous link to the Revolutionary War.

## FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



## THE EFFECT OF WEATHER ON THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

PHOTO PROVIDED

As America embarks on its commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, it is interesting to note just how much of an impact the weather had on the conflict.

The fact is that weather played an incredibly important role in 18th Century warfare. According to The American Battlefield Trust, "because of the weather, military commanders would usually plan campaigns for warmer months, and in the colder months, they would go into winter quarters. Maneuvering thousands of men, horses, and artillery through muddy roads or bad weather made the idea of pausing a campaign for better weather very appealing. In winter quarters, troops would prepare for the military campaign season."

Most of us know about the winter George Washington and his troops spent at Valley Forge, PA in 1777-78 (pictured), but that is just part of the story.

In the 18th Century, North America was experiencing a "little ice age" with colder than average winters. The worst winter in America in those years was the brutal winter of 1779-80 at the height of the Revolutionary War.

Over the course of that

winter, there were 26 snowstorms, six of which were blizzards. Every salt water inlet from North Carolina to Canada froze over with ice so thick that British soldiers stationed in New York were able to march from Manhattan to Staten Island! The weather was so cold that winter that some of the British soldiers froze to death at their posts.

Some of the Revolutionary War battles that were impacted by the weather did not take place during the winter months, and in the colder months, they would go into winter quarters. Maneuvering thousands of men, horses, and artillery through muddy roads or bad weather made the idea of pausing a campaign for better weather very appealing. In winter quarters, troops would prepare for the military campaign season."

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## Sullivan County's Semiquincentennial Commission

Planning and Overseeing the Commemoration

MONTICELLO – In a resolution passed in October of 2022, the Sullivan County Legislature created the Sullivan Semiquincentennial Commission to coordinate the County's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution, and empowered the co-chairs to select up to 10 additional members. The Commission will remain in existence through 2033, marking the 250th anniversary of the end of the Revolution.

Barryville residents John and Debra Conway were named as the Commission co-chairs.

John Conway is the longtime official Sullivan

County Historian (in addition to being the editor of this newspaper), and Debra Conway is the Town of Highland Town Historian, as well as a co-founder and Executive Director of the non-profit history education group The Delaware Company.

Other members of the Sullivan County Semiquincentennial Commission include:

Kelly Agar of Narrowsburg, a longtime Revolutionary War re-enactor who has been very active with the Tusten Youth Commission over the years; Dan Hust, the County's Director of Communications who grew up in Kenoza Lake and maintains a lifelong in-

terest in the history of Sullivan County; Ruth Huggler of Youngsville, who has spent decades researching early Upper Delaware River Valley history, and is a member of the Beaverkill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Virdanna Lawrence, the town of Mamakating Town Historian, who has done extensive research into local participation in the Revolutionary War; Lynn Priebe of Liberty, a former social studies teacher and a volunteer and Board member of the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville, as well as a member of the Beaverkill Chapter of the DAR; Kristina Snedeker, the town of Cohec-

ton Town Historian and a member of the Cocheton Preservation Society who holds a history degree from SUNY Albany; and Donna Steffens, the Executive Director of the Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville who is descended from several Revolutionary War veterans from eastern Long Island and has created a traveling exhibition entitled "History in Your Own Back Yard: Sullivan County in the Revolution" which will be available to K-12 schools starting in February.

The Commission has been meeting regularly, and has a full slate of activities planned for 2026 and beyond.

## America 250 The Semiquincentennial is a Nationwide Commemoration

by John Conway

WASHINGTON, DC – Official planning for America's celebrations marking the country's 250th birthday began in 2016 with the congressional, non-partisan United States Semiquincentennial Commission. And then, in 2025, President Donald Trump created the White House Task Force on Celebrating America's 250th Birthday—which he chairs—to also promote and plan the events.

The result has been a dualing set of events and a lot of confusion.

According to Wikipedia, "the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 directs the United States Government to issue

commemorative coins and postage stamps, and commission appropriately named naval vessels, in advance of the semiquincentennial. In addition, specific activities—both officially organized and independently created—are being planned. The legislation specifically directs the organization of events 'in locations of historical significance to the United States' going on to list Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, and Charleston, South Carolina, as 'leading cities'."

On New Year's Eve in Times Square in New York City, America250, the non-partisan organization charged by Congress with leading the celebration and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Decla-

ration of Independence, together with One Times Square and the Times Square Alliance, announced a surprise second post-midnight moment to mark the start of the Semiquincentennial year. The moment featured the New Year's Ball lighting up with an America250 design and a cascade of 2,000 pounds of red, white, and blue confetti.

New Year's Eve marked the start of a year-long partnership that will build to a historic second Times Square Ball Drop to mark the 250th anniversary of the nation's birth on the eve of the Fourth of July.

Among its accomplishments so far, America250 lists:

- Received thousands of student entries for America's

Field Trip to historic and cultural landmarks.

- Completed more than 15 stops on the Our American Story tour to preserve our nation's unique stories. The most recent stop was at the Iron Bowl to kick off integration with U.S. colleges and universities.
- 56 State and Territory Commissions planning events posted to the America250 Calendar.
- More than 350 members in the Congressional Amer-

ica250 Caucus, the largest caucus in U.S. history.

- Announced major corporate sponsorships and nonprofit partnerships, demonstrating public-private collaboration.

For more on the national celebration, visit the website, America250.org.

Meanwhile, President Trump has his own plans for how the Semiquincentennial should be commemorated, and he appointed the Salute to America 250 Task Force ("Task Force 250"), which also planned a full year of festivities to take place between Memorial Day, 2025 and July 4th, 2026.

The White House is engaging and encouraging the entire federal government, state and local governments,

the private sector, non-profit and educational institutions, and every citizen across this country to join in what it calls "this historic celebration."

Task Force 250 invites citizens to have a renewed love of American history, experience the beauty of our country, and ignite a spirit of adventure and innovation that will raise our nation to new heights over the next 250 years.

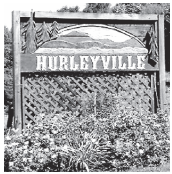
Among other accomplishments, the Task Force has collaborated with Hillsdale College in Michigan to create a series of educational videos on key topics in the founding of America. The videos are available for viewing on the Task Force's website.

To learn more, visit whitehouse.gov/america250/



Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



**HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)**  
Hurleyville-Sullivan First held the 29th annual “DECK THE DOORS” holiday decorating contest on December 18. Members of the group toured every road in Hurleyville on the night of the contest and judged all holiday-decorated doors in the hamlet. Winners of the contest were awarded prizes furnished by Hurleyville business owners and members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First.

The winners of the contest were:

- TOM AND GINNY BECERRIL**
- THE CARABALLO FAMILY**
- THE DEVINE FAMILY**
- THE KRASNIQI FAMILY**
- THE TERPSTRA FAMILY**
- CONNIE AND ANDRES VEGA**
- RYAN AND BETHANY WOOD**

Prizes for the winners were provided by Catskill Amusements, Media Berghout, Decant Wine & Spirits, Jampond, izzy’s aunt, and QQL Enterprises, LLC.

Here are the members of the “DECK THE DOORS” Hall of Fame:

- LeeAnn and Ron Besimer**
- The Ditchik Family**
- The Dromazos Family**
- Ruth and Dick Forest**
- Ryan Forest**
- Diane and Tony Harvey**
- Dawn and Shawn McCarthy**
- Terry McGrath**
- Cathy and Bob Orlowsky**
- The Rose Family**
- Jakuin and Ken Saunders**
- Leisha and E Snihura**
- Annette and Ernest Wood**

For more information about Hurleyville and Hurleyville-Sullivan First, please visit the group on Facebook or at [www.hurleyvillenyny.com](http://www.hurleyvillenyny.com).

**HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The Bread of Life food pantry will be open on Thursday, January 22 and on Thursday, January 29 from 3 until 4:45 p.m. Visitors to the food pantry are asked to please bring a bag. The volunteers at the food pantry appreciate the support of the community. “Messy Church” will be painting the snow and serving lunch on Saturday, January 20 from 12 to 2 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to join in the fun.

Sunday services are held at the church at 9 a.m. Children of all ages can attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Wendy delivers sermons on the church’s page on Facebook at 11

**BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY**



**Thursday, January 22nd**  
**Thursday, January 29th**

**3:00pm - 4:45pm**

**Hurleyville United Methodist Church**  
**263 Main Street**  
**Hurleyville**

a.m. on Sundays.

All are invited to pray with others over the phone on the church’s prayer line on Sundays from 7 – 8 p.m. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the access code is 251678.

The Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Donations of diapers, new socks, new underwear and new t-shirts for children in foster care are being collected at the church. The volunteers collect new t-shirts and new underwear for veterans along with new clothes for women who are starting over after escaping from domestic violence. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information on the program.

Anyone in need of gently used winter clothing for adults and children can contact the church at 845-434-5097.

Please call Lonnie at 845-798-4809 for more information on services and activities at the church. You can also get updates at the church’s page on Facebook.

**THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Thanks to all the organizations and individuals who participated in making the Holiday Tree Display such a success.

The historical and genealogical archives at the Sullivan County Museum are open for exploration on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Guided tours of the Museum...behind the scenes and regular exhibits...are available. There is no charge for the hour-long tours but registration is required. Please call 845-434-8044 to make a reservation.

Sullivan County memorabilia and books describing the history of Sullivan County are always avail-

able at the Museum gift shop.

The volunteers at the Museum work on a variety of activities including research and exhibits. Anyone interested in exploring genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can contact the Museum for information on volunteering.

The Museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Donations to meet the increasing cost of operating the Museum are appreciated.

Visit [www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org). You can also visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum on Facebook.

**COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)**

The Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance (CHNA) was formed in 2012 by a group of local residents dedicated to sustainable development, responsible development, protection of our water supply, preservation of our rural environment and safety of wildlife.

Members of the group have met regularly since then in order to be prepared for when the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill appears again before the Town of Thompson Planning Board.

The developer of the proposed Gan Eden project has requested approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) for water withdrawal from the wells at the project site. The wells are in Hurleyville. Approval has not been granted yet. The DRBC needs further review of the project.

The impact on noise, traffic, electric capacity and air quality will affect the entire neighborhood. The development is in the Hurleyville Fire District. The Hurleyville Fire Department will be responsible for the protection of lives and properties at the development.

The group meets at 7:00pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Hurleyville Firehouse. The meeting is open to the public.

Visit CHNA at [www.columbiahill.org](http://www.columbiahill.org) and on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community by demanding responsible and sustainable development.

**LOOKING BACK** *Sullivan County Legislature Lists 2025 Accomplishments*

**MONTICELLO**

-- The Sullivan County Legislature had a busy year in 2025. The County’s Director of Communications, Dan Hust provided this report on their accomplishments over the past year:

**INTRODUCTION**

Comprising the governing body of Sullivan County, the nine members of the Legislature are elected by and beholden to the voters and taxpayers of the County. As such, it is the Legislature’s desire to inform citizens of the work County government has accomplished on their behalf. This report is meant to fulfill that goal.

However, citizens of Sullivan County need not wait for an annual accounting of legislative activities. Any time of the year, their calls, questions, comments and concerns can be relayed to the Legislature as a whole or legislators individually. Complete contact and meeting information is available at [www.sullivanvanny.gov/departments/legislature](http://www.sullivanvanny.gov/departments/legislature) or by calling the Clerk of the Legislature at 845-807-0435.

**2025 MEMBERS**

- District 1 – Matthew McPhillips, Democrat, Majority Leader, representing the townships of Bethel, Highland, Liberty and Thompson (hamlets of Mongaup Valley, Smallwood, White Lake, Kauneonga Lake, Bethel, Eldred, Yulan, Highland Lake, Barryville, Swan Lake and White Sulphur Springs)

- District 2 – Nadia Rajs, Democrat, Chair, representing the townships of Forestburgh, Lumberland and Thompson, including the Village of Monticello (hamlets of Forestburgh, Glen Spey and Pond Eddy)
- District 3 – Brian McPhillips, Democrat, representing the townships of Liberty, Neversink and Rockland (hamlets of White Sulphur Springs, Parksville, Neversink, Grahamsville, Claryville, Livingston Manor and Roscoe)
- District 4 – Nicholas Salomone Jr., Republican, Minority Leader, representing the Township of Mamakating, including the villages of Bloomingburg and Wurtsboro (hamlets of Summitville, Phillipsport, Spring Glen and Burlingham)
- District 5 – Catherine Scott, Democrat, representing the townships of Callicoon, Cochetcon, Delaware, Fremont and Tusten (hamlets of Youngsville, Callicoon Center, North Branch, Callicoon, Hortonville, Kenoza Lake, Fremont Center, Obensburg, Hankins, Long Eddy, Cochetcon, Lake Huntington and Narrowsburg)
- District 6 – Luis Alvarez, Democrat, representing the townships of Bethel, Callicoon, Liberty and Thompson, including the villages of Jeffersonville and Liberty (hamlets of Ferndale, Harris, Swan Lake, White Sulphur Springs and Youngsville)
- District 7 – Joseph Perrello, Republican, Vice Chair, representing the townships of Fallsburg and Mamakating, including the Village of Woodridge (hamlets of Woodbourne, Fallsburg, Mountain-dale and Glen Wild)
- District 8 – Amanda Ward, Republican, repre-

sending the townships of Fallsburg and Thompson, including the Village of Ateres (hamlets of Harris, Kiamasha Lake, South Fallsburg, Woodbourne, Loch Sheldrake and Hurleyville)

- District 9 – Terry Blosser-Bernardo, Republican, representing the townships of Mamakating and Thompson, including the Village of Monticello (hamlets of Rock Hill, Thompsonville and Glen Wild)

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**  
**Taxes and Finances**

- Adopted a 2026 budget which significantly reduced the proposed property tax increase without cutting services
- Completely avoided short- or long-term borrowing in 2025, thus not creating any new debt
- Oversaw a plateauing but substantial year of sales, mortgage and room tax revenues, collectively exceeding \$100 million

- Updated Lodging Facility Room Occupancy Tax Law to more equitably and accurately address the burgeoning short-term rental industry

- Sullivan County remains in best financial shape ever and free of fiscal stress, as ranked by the NYS Comptroller’s Office

**Infrastructure**

- Division of Public Works paved 34 miles of roads, chip-sealed 36 miles more, plus repaired three embankments, replaced 21,000 feet of guiderail and restriped all County roadways
- Completed construction of new Airport Terminal, utilizing \$18.5 million State grant to create an attractive, revenue-producing facility
- Switched to new hauler and landfills for municipal solid waste at no additional cost, in anticipation of eventual closure of a previously-utilized upstate landfill
- Approved Local Solid Waste Management Plan, which encourages innovative thinking in managing the County’s waste stream
- Replaced worn-out, decades-old floor at Social Services (Travis) Building in Liberty
- Undertook more than \$21 million for road and bridgework in 2025, without any need for bonding
- Three bridges replaced, two bridges rehabilitated, and one bridge eliminated by a road re-alignment
- Allocated more than \$15 million for road and bridge-work in 2026

- Continued an EMS fly

Public Health, Welfare and Safety

- Continued an EMS fly



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

**Sullivan County Legislature Chair**  
**Nadia Rajs**

car service that has already reduced emergency medical response times by an average of 15 minutes per call by supplementing and supporting the existing EMS agencies

- Added a full ambulance to the fly car service during the busiest months of the year
- Won a half-million-dollar grant from the NYS Department of Health to improve local emergency services
- Authorized agreements to plan and design an emergency communications/cell tower in Jeffersonville, with construction to begin next summer
- Approved rates of pay and benefits to successfully attract experienced NYS corrections officers to the County Jail and Sheriff’s Office, filling nearly all open positions and significantly reducing mandated overtime callouts
- Continued a bonus payment throughout 2025 for Care Center employees who volunteered to pick up additional shifts during specific days/times
- Authorized the issuance of a request for proposals to undertake a comprehensive study of groundwater throughout the County
- Resurrected the Human Rights Commission, adding a full roster of commissioners and employing the Commission’s first full-time executive director
- Continued funding for and operation of the Community Assistance Center, created during the COVID-19 pandemic and still a key connector between residents and the food, shelter and services they need
- Authorized the addition of a weapons detection system and more Sheriff’s deputies to the lobby of the Government Center, to protect both employees and the public
- Reauthorized agreements to keep warming shelters in Liberty and Monticello available seven nights a week for the entirety of the 2025-2026 winter season



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

**District 8 Legislator**  
**Amanda Ward represents Hurleyville at the county level.**

- Added cannabis to the list of items covered under the Social Host Law, which holds social-gathering hosts accountable for the illegal provision and/or usage of drugs and alcohol at those gatherings by youth under age 21
- Opposed the siting of a landfill by Ulster County along the border with Sullivan, a plan which was ultimately withdrawn

Economic and Workforce Development

- Oversaw a year where Sullivan County consistently held a top-ten spot State-wide for job growth and low unemployment
- Allocated \$250,000 of needed matching funds to the Town of Liberty in order to extend water/sewer infrastructure down Old Route 17 to create shovel-ready development sites
- Enacted a \$300,000 tourism enhancement grant program (using room tax revenues) with the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association
- Approved a second round of leadership development training for County staff
- Extended the County’s Military Leave Policy for paid and unpaid leave time to all active-duty members of the U.S. military, not just those serving overseas
- Continued the highly successful Sullivan Promise Scholarship Program, which pays for two full years of tuition for any Sullivan County high school graduate who attends SUNY Sullivan
- Funded Electrical, EMT and CNA classes for local adults seeking to better their prospects and improve their skills, with graduates not having to pay any tuition
- Continued the popular Move Sullivan public transportation service, which expanded to serve northwestern Sullivan County in

Community Initiatives

- Finalized and began administering the largest single grant in County history – \$29.9 million – to bring wired and wireless broadband Internet access to the majority of the County’s communities, with construction beginning this past fall
- Allocated a record \$387,500 to various local organizations serving youth
- Approved the replacement of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), which had been ended by the Federal government, with the County-funded Sullivan Volunteers program, open to all ages
- Authorized the second annual Emergency Services Youth Academy, which exposed local teens to a wide range of emergency responders and response equipment this past summer
- Coordinated well-received, well-publicized Black History Month and Juneteenth programs during Legislature meetings
- Completed a pilot food recycling program, whose success has spurred the County to begin the permitting process for a composting facility at the Monticello Transfer Station
- Continued a paint recycling program, at no cost to users or taxpayers
- Authorized the formation of an Advisory Committee to prepare a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Disbursed more than \$341,000 to over two dozen nonprofits and community groups to use for worthwhile projects, under the Legislative Discretionary Contract Funding Program
- Continued funding of a Countywide roadside litter pluck (adding water bodies and shorelines) and Household Hazardous Waste Days
- Authorized covering the Hudson Valley Rivermen basketball team’s costs to utilize SUNY Sullivan’s Fieldhouse for home games (which are open to the public at no charge)

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- Finalized and began administering the largest single grant in County history – \$29.9 million – to bring wired and wireless broadband Internet access to the majority of the County’s communities, with construction beginning this past fall
- Allocated a record \$387,500 to various local organizations serving youth
- Approved the replacement of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), which had been ended by the Federal government, with the County-funded Sullivan Volunteers program, open to all ages
- Authorized the second annual Emergency Services Youth Academy, which exposed local teens to a wide range of emergency responders and response equipment this past summer
- Coordinated well-received, well-publicized Black History Month and Juneteenth programs during Legislature meetings
- Completed a pilot food recycling program, whose success has spurred the County to begin the permitting process for a composting facility at the Monticello Transfer Station
- Continued a paint recycling program, at no cost to users or taxpayers
- Authorized the formation of an Advisory Committee to prepare a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Disbursed more than \$341,000 to over two dozen nonprofits and community groups to use for worthwhile projects, under the Legislative Discretionary Contract Funding Program
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**THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.**

*Covering Main Street and Beyond*

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# A LOOK BACK AT 2025



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

On March 4, the Town of Fallsburg held a public hearing at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) to address proposed changes to town zoning laws. HPAC's ballroom was jammed with what may have been the room's largest assembly ever, comprising mostly concerned adults, media reporters and a group of students from Hurleyville's Collaborative College High School, the secondary campus of the Homestead School. Most of the public speakers were adamantly against the zoning changes, citing environmental problems caused by the existing large housing developments in the town - wells running dry, retention ponds overflowing with sewage into creeks on farm properties, and the crumbling state of the municipal water and sewer systems causing frequent water main breaks.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

In June, The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) announced the launch of a capital campaign aimed at restoring the iconic Luzon Train Station of the O&W Railroad. A local landmark that has stood unused since the 1950s will soon be transformed into a vibrant programming and event space dedicated to celebrating the rich history and artistic spirit of the Sullivan County community. At the heart of the restoration project is an inspiring community mural, which will be displayed within the station's restored vestibule. The mural will consist of 350 hand-painted 4x4 tiles, each created by members of our community. The interconnected design of trees celebrates unity and symbolizes a renewed vision for a thriving Sullivan County brought together by the performing arts.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

On April 29, The Center for Discovery honored Nelly Bly Arougheti at the 25th Annual Evening of Discovery Gala - raising an historic \$4.2 million, the most in the event's history. Held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City, the Gala marked a milestone moment in support of The Center's groundbreaking programs and services. An internationally recognized research and innovation organization, The Center serves nearly 1,200 children and adults annually who have complex disabilities, medical frailties, and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Ted Reinstein, a reporter for WCVB-TV, channel 5 in Boston, MA was in Hurleyville in July with his field producer to film a segment of his feature on the Catskill Mountains. The five-minute-thirty-second piece aired as an installment of the regular weeknight news segment, Chronicle, billed as "an insider's guide to New England," on Monday, August 25. Among those interviewed for the part of the segment dealing with the Borscht Belt were Sentinel reporter Lily Barrish Levner and editor John Conway, the Sullivan County Historian.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The "Love Our Land" parade and protest in Hurleyville on September 21 was a huge success according to Mountain Dale farmer Brett Budde, one of the organizers of the event. The parade, which Mr. Budde estimated drew about 350 people to the hamlet, was sponsored by the Fallsburg Coalition for Sustainable Growth, "a grassroots movement of concerned citizens working to protect the rural nature of Fallsburg and [its] water." Mr. Budde called the afternoon "an opportunity to demonstrate our community's strength."



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Archtop Fiber, the leading regional provider of multi-gig, lightning speed fiber Internet and phone service across the Northeast, broke ground in Sullivan County in June. Fueled by New York State's ConnectALL Municipal Infrastructure Program administered by Empire State Development, which aims to expand broadband infrastructure throughout New York State, Sullivan County was awarded a substantial \$29.9M of the collective \$240M+ state-wide funding announced to date. In celebration of the groundbreaking, executives and officials from Empire State Development, Archtop Fiber and Sullivan County gathered at The Bethel Woods Center to unveil regional expansion plans.



PHOTO PROVIDED

"The community menorah lighting in Parksville was embraced by people who bundled up, drove and walked to the gathering spot. It was filled with songs and sweets, with conversation and camaraderie. The Chanukah lights shone as a beacon for each of the eight nights. This nightly illumination and gathering gently warmed the hamlet," said Hope Blecher Croney, organizer.



PHOTO PROVIDED

"The Chanukah party at Temple Shalom in Monticello was a fun, festive, and fabulous event where 30 people gathered to celebrate the first light of the holiday together through story, song, food, and games. I am grateful for my wonderful team who assisted me in making this event happen. May we each continue to be a shining light in our community through our good deeds and charity!" said Lois Weinstein, organizer.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rabbi Simcha Zajac led the Chanukah celebration at Fallsburg's Town Hall in December. "We have always had a celebration at shul and this year we combined it with the town to make it a community thing. It's the first time doing it together. There was a menorah outside and inside," said Nate Steingart, president of the Fallsburg shul and Town Supervisor.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Town of Fallsburg voted in a new Supervisor in November, as longtime councilmember Nathan Steingart won an overwhelming victory on Election Day. He replaces 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. It was the third time in the last three Supervisor elections that the position has changed hands.

**Hurleyville Fire Department & Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission**  
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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.

In December, the Fire Department held their annual elections, for 2026:

Line Officers:  
Chief - Charlie Payne  
1st Assistant Chief - Fred Froehlich

2nd Assistant Chief - Tony Harvey

Captain – Joshua Colon  
1st Lieutenant - Ron Besimer

Captain of the Fire Police - Eddie Ayala

Executive Officers:

President - Jim Kaufman  
Vice President - Braiden DeGraw

Treasurer - John Jaycox

Secretary - Erica Payne

Congratulations to all the officers, and I wish you a Safe and productive year.

It's 2026, Happy New Year to everybody

We have had a few snowstorms, with more to come. Please clean off your car before heading out. Snow flies off your roof and can hit another vehicle behind you in the windshield and blind the driver. I have seen people driving with a little peep hole of snow removed from their windshield.

Snow plowers: Please



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

DO NOT bury fire hydrants when you plow. If you have a hydrant in front of your house, it would be nice if you dug it out.

With the weather we have been having, be careful of downed wires. If you see downed wires, DO NOT touch them, stay back and call 911.

December saw the County firefighters respond to several structure fires. Combustibles (wood) piled too close to the stove, poor electrical wiring, unattended cooking, and wood ashes placed in a plastic bucket just to name a few of the causes. Make sure to maintain your heating devices.

Remember to keep combustibles at least three feet from a heating device. When you come in from the outdoors, be careful where you hang your hat and gloves to dry by the woodstove, fireplace or other heating devices.

Many of you may have received or purchased some type of electronics this holiday season. Make sure you read the instructions for the correct way to charge your device. DO NOT use third party chargers, use the charger that came with your device. A third-party charger may not meet the exact specifications to charge your device and may fail, damage your device and or start a fire.

I hope everybody is ready for the next storm. Can you survive without power for a couple of days?

Coming up on February 14 is the Hurleyville Fire Department/Town of Fallsburg 38th Annual Ice Fishing Contest. Morning-side Lake is the place to be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trophies, prizes, bait, raffles and fun.

Everybody have a Safe Happy New Year.

Be Safe Out There.

## Benjamin Cosor Elementary School Announces First Marking Period Honors

FALLSBURG – Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is excited to announce their elementary Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients for the first marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. Students who made the Honor Roll list earned an overall grade-point average of 3.0-3.5, and students who made the Superintendent's Honor Roll list earned an overall grade-point average of 3.6-4.0.

### Grade 4

**Honor Roll:** Hannah Arroyo, Fatima Baig, Emerson Choc Choc, John Darcy, Robert Decker, Breelynn Frunzi, Ryan Frunzi, Alexis Gold, Bubacarr Kassama, Jamarkis Mack, Xavier Martinez, Livia Mungeer, Vincent Nipitella, Jayden Nunez Mejia, Savannah Ocasio, Ryan Patnode, Autumn Pinelli, Logan Purcell, Leonardo Sabovic, Savannah Saravia, Tida Sawo, Emerson Vallejo Lezama, Aubree Van Wolde, Vincent Velez, Sebastian Whitaker, and Madelyn Wiltsie.

**Superintendent's Honor Roll:** Aven Mendoza Garcia.

### Grade 5

**Honor Roll:** Jalen Anthony, Abigail Bensimon, Abigail Call, Owen Castillo, Ancel Chavez, Aubrey Curtin, Giuliana DiCostanzo, James Geagley, Jaime Giron Paredes, Erick Hernandez Orantes, Emanuel Hilerio Calderon, Alessio Hugo Alvarez, Maydelin Jacobo Lopez,

Elias Lopez, Giavanna Mack, Ashton Mahodil, Eliana Montenegro Sandoval, Zoe Murry, Gabriel Ortiz, Zoe Otero Deras, Dove Picciotti, Kenneth Reyes Sierra, Ruano Lopez Ashley, and Jacob Rubio Romero.

**Superintendent's Honor Roll:** Mila Anthony.

### Grade 6

**Honor Roll:** Johan Blandon Salinas, Santiago Brito Garcia, Elijah Cruz, Samantha Darcy, Kadence Duncan, Katherine Giron Cabrera, Jacob Graham, Esther Grande Lagos, Gianna Guerrero, Hudson Healy, Ivan Hernandez Cortes, Eliza Lagos Guardado, Mason Li, Steven Loja Tenezaca, Enina Lulanaj, Bryan Maldonado Alvarado, Zoya Meer, Anthony Mora Ceron, Levi Nicanor Perez, Lincoln Oneal, Leslie Peralta Rosa, Alayna Phitts, Jax Pillius, Jean Carlos Pineda Reyes, Mason Pomales, Ez'ra Ricketts, Daniela Rios Nunez, Taylor Simms, Sydney Johnson, and Queenie Wang.

**Superintendent's Honor Roll:** Mila Arroyo, Jacob Boynton Torres, Amore Brown, Giada Evangelista, Jax Frunzi, Ravyn Henry, Jase Hermann, Josiah Hinton, Jackson Hockenberry, Britanna Johnson, Muhammed Kassama, Braylee Maitland, Elizabeth McManus, Skyla Restrepo, Madax Simpson, Mirey'ah Steele, and Elijah Torres.



## Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

*'A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'*

That's one of the Magi speaking, in old age, looking back upon a journey taken "a long time ago"—the opening words of T.S. Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi."

Eliot wrote the poem as a Christmas gift. He's likely not the first person you think of when you think of Christmas poems — not in the class of Clement Moore, say, or Irving Berlin. Yet from 1927 to 1931, he contributed an annual poem to the Christmas greeting card sent out by Faber & Faber publishing. The cards, in pamphlet form, were called the Ariel Series. "The Journey of the Magi" was the first of five from Eliot, which he eventually grouped together as a sequence and published as "The Ariel Poems," each, he made clear, "on a subject suitable for the Christmas season."

The landscape his Magi journey through is more New England than Middle East — frozen and severe. The travelers regret the summer they've left behind, yet are impelled to search in unknown regions for an unclear epiphany, fearing all the while their journey might be folly. Even afterwards, after Bethlehem, they're not sure what, exactly, they found.

Eliot had plenty of room for invention here. The entire episode, in the second chapter of Matthew, is characteristically spare — "fraught with background," in one scholar's phrase. The text has "Magi" in its original Greek, a term that has given many translators pause. In the King James, they are "wise men"; in the New English, "astrologers"; in Sarah Ruden's recent version, "diviners" — members of some priestly order or caste "from the east," perhaps Persia. Matthew specifies neither their names nor number.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Western tradition says they were three; the Eastern tradition, twelve.

The Magi follow astronomical signs that lead them to Jerusalem. It's a logical place to search, the hub of things in Judea. Ironically, they only hear about Bethlehem from Herod himself, who attempts to deploy them as his agents in eliminating the threat of a potential King arising among his colonial subjects.

So, they head south and find the infant at Joseph and Mary's home in Bethlehem (the "no-room-at-the-Inn" narrative is exclusive to Luke). They offer their gifts and depart, taking a different route to avoid Herod and the risk of betraying their mission. That's about all we learn from Matthew. Yet these rudiments of story have proved durable and been elaborated ever since with a profusion of detail. The Magi have acquired names and a kingly status not indicated in the Gospel.

What captured Eliot's imagination was the journey itself — the uncertainty of it, the hardship of it. For Eliot, the Magi are universal pilgrims, a trope not only for his experience of conversion to Anglicanism in 1927, the year he wrote the poem, but for all the pilgrims on this planet, for all of us making the hard journey across space and through time. "The Magi were drawn by a power which they did not understand," he commented, "and I used them as types of a kind of person who may be found at almost any period of history."

His poem came to mind when I was caught out in the first big snow of the season, a nor'easter of

grand proportions, on December 2. This was not the fluffy stuff; it was wet, heavy, and fell all day. I attempted to navigate Route 17 at mid-day, anxious to get home from work before the roads became impassible. But the roads were already impassible, Route 17 a slush of snow and ice churning into slurry, making for precarious passage. "A hard time we had of it..." I gave up, turned around, and spent a night away from home.

There was a moment on Route 17, between Bloomingburg and Wurtsboro, when the realization that I wasn't going to make it home, that Divine Corners was out of reach, landed, and a sharp pang of homesickness pierced my heart. Over the course of the rest of the day (and night), the acuteness of that sensation seemed to spiral outwards, in sympathetic diffusion, taking in the homeless ones, the uprooted and lost, the dispossessed and abandoned, the stateless ones, those swept up and dropped down upon strange shores — the Magi in their cold hard journey; Mary and Joseph cast out and seeking a place to rest and shelter. Who gets a room at the Inn and who gets expelled? And who decides?

In a time when a harsh and wintry world is ca-reening along a perilous road, my hope for 2026 and beyond took shape: may no one feel a stranger on this Earth, may all find their way home.

**Jonathan Shimkin, writer and editor, may be contacted at [jonathanshimkin@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanshimkin@gmail.com), or via his website: [jonathanshimkin.weebly.com](http://jonathanshimkin.weebly.com).**

## TRADING CLOTHES IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Clothing Swap at The Yoga Space Catskills

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE — For one night in December the Center Stage on Main Street resembled a chic second-hand boutique. Tables and racks were filled with pre-owned clothes. Many of them were given to LeeAnna Maniace, owner of The Yoga Space Catskills, by people who no longer wore them; some came from her own closet. People also showed up the day of with bags of clothing to donate.

"You never know what you will find. You don't love what's in your closet anymore, but someone else might," Ms. Maniace said.

This was the second time this event was held, and there are already plans for another one soon. Ms. Maniace saves whatever doesn't get scooped up and

uses it for the next one.

Ms. Maniace explained that when she was younger, her love for fashion was sparked by a box of interesting clothing items in her family's attic. She would try on her mother's dresses. Then she started to design her own clothes in a little notebook.

"I've always been into fashion, not mainstream, in my own way," she said. "Being health and environmentally conscious, I get most of my clothes thrifted or hand-me-downs. My friends and family would trade clothes. The fast fashion world is bad for the environment. The clothing industry creates a lot of waste and workers are underpaid. So, this way just trading clothes with friends and thrift shopping, you're not contributing to that."



PHOTO PROVIDED

"It's definitely good for the environment, saving clothes from going into the landfill," said Sarah Dittmar, a regular yoga participant at the studio.

Restricted to women only, the clothing swap is a great excuse to get together and socialize with other women in the community. Mocktails and snacks were provided. Delicious focaccia bread from La Salumina was served. Ms. Maniace took the time to share her knowledge, as well—stating how the cherry tart juice she selected was good for eliminating inflammation in one's body.

The Yoga Space has a class every day of the week, and on weekends, there are classes too. Ms. Maniace welcomes everyone into the studio, no matter their ability level, and encourages all to come check out a class!

MONTICELLO — Aktion Club of Sullivan County members were involved with exceptionally busy and heartwarming end of year projects. They collected non-perishable food items from club members, agency reps and Kiwanis Co-Advisors and had fun decorating and filling baskets for Thanksgiving that were distributed to families in need in the Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello School Districts, Federation for the Homeless and United Way of Sullivan County. They delivered a basket containing both food and games to the Sullivan County Family Court Children's Center.

In addition, they collected toys and games that were dropped off at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department for disbursement to children in the County. They also collected and delivered gently used coats, gloves and scarves to the Federation for the Homeless.

The November meeting included a thank you and farewell to the outgoing officers and installation of the new 2025-2026 officers and the December meeting began with the installation and welcoming of three new members.

The Aktion Club of Sullivan County is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Wo-

odridge and is comprised of individuals with various degrees of disabilities who are affiliated with

Arc the Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery. They are

always thrilled to do what they can to help others and to spread cheer in the community.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Aktion Club members displaying toys and games that were delivered to the Sheriff's Department.**

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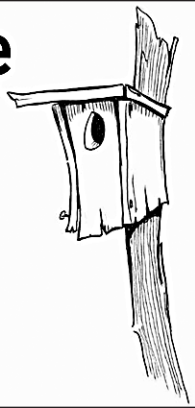
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# DUMPSTER MAN

An Excerpt from the new novel by Mike Vreeland

**Local author Mike Vreeland has written a new middle-grade novel, Dumpster Man, an action-packed story of a young superhero with an unfortunate name. Twelve-year-old Trent Hartwood helps out at his relative's pizza shop. One summer night, things do not go as planned. Here's an excerpt...**

A frail meowing echoed from the dumpster's dark interior. Trent pulled an old crate to the dumpster, climbed on it, and pointed his phone's flashlight inside.

Huddled in the far corner was a little mass of gray fluff with two big eyes staring back at him. A tiny kitten wobbled back and forth in the wet slime and let out another weak meow. Trent wondered if that was cat language for *help me*.

"Hey little buddy, how'd you get in there?" Trent twisted sideways and shined his light around the alley, looking for something to help him retrieve the kitten, but nothing looked suitable.

Trent sighed. He knew

he couldn't leave that little kitten in the dumpster. He'd have to go in. He didn't even want to think about the possibility of maggots crawling around on the slime-covered metal floor.

"A Scout is helpful," he reminded himself, remembering the phrase from his recent Scout meetings. He boosted himself to the top of the dumpster and slowly lowered himself inside, holding his phone between his teeth for some illumination in the cavernous space. Once in, he shined the light around. *I might as well check it out while I'm here. I'll never be in a dumpster again in my life, I hope.*

Trent had to take a breath and held his T-shirt to his face. It did little to block the scent, so he let it drop. The kitten meowed again.

"I'll save you, little buddy," Trent spoke softly, trying not to scare the kitten. "Let's get you out of here." He scooped up the kitten and held its shaking little body against his chest. Its feet were covered in slime, and now so was Trent's T-shirt.

Trent placed the kitten on the dumpster lid and then planned his own exit. Unfortunately, there was no crate inside to stand on for leverage to lift himself out. Trent turned off his phone's light and slid it into his back pocket, relying on the dim glow from the building lights to keep his bearings in the dumpster. He kicked the garbage bag to a spot on the floor below the opening. Hoping the bag would give him enough added height to lift himself out, he stepped on it. It squished and popped under his weight.

"Great," he muttered.

He folded the bag over on itself to gain some height. *Almost.*

He jumped and tried to lift himself out, but he didn't have the strength in his arms to hold on. When he landed on the bag, it slipped across the slimy floor and down he went, face-first into the goo. He stood up, spitting and blinking and gagging from the smell. He reached around to the back of his T-shirt to find a clean spot and stretched it enough to wipe his face.



PHOTO PROVIDED

All the while, the little kitten peered down, watching Trent's every move with interest.

Trent could think of no Plan B. He was about to accept his humiliation and

call for help when he heard angry shouting.

"All of it!" a deep voice demanded. "In the bag!"

From the direction of the sound, Trent knew the voice was coming through

the screen door of the pizza shop.

*They're being robbed!*

With all of his strength, Trent pulled himself up just enough to peer over the edge of the dumpster wall. Through the screen door he heard the faint ping of the register opening. He couldn't see his aunt, uncle, or Bree, the server, but things did not feel good.

Trent watched from the shadows as two men ran out the door. The taller one stuffed a gun in his belt. He pulled off his ski mask as he ran, giving Trent a good profile view of his enormous nose. The shorter, stockier man, still wearing a ski mask and gloves, followed closely behind carrying a cloth bag.

Trent lowered himself out of sight in the dumpster and listened as the men bolted past. He looked up at the kitten crouching on the dumpster lid, watching the scene with bug-eyed cat curiosity.

The footsteps faded. A car engine rumbled to life and tires squealed.

*We're safe now, cat.*

Trent heard his aunt and uncle talking, but not what

they said.

*At least no one was hurt,* he thought. He pulled out his phone to call 9-1-1, but his hand shook so much that he missed the numbers and had to try again.

He couldn't finish dialing the second time either. His whole body, every muscle, felt tingly and electric. *Is this what being terrified feels like?*

Something dripped down the back of his neck. When he reached up to wipe it off, his fingers landed in slime. Then he felt his hair. The goo seemed to be all over. He tried to wipe it off, but more and more kept coming, oozing out of his skin. *This is like some horror movie! He took a deep breath. I'm not going to panic. I'm not going to panic.*

He turned his phone camera to selfie mode and moved it around for a better look. His face, his hair, his clothes, everything was covered in a layer of green slime. Trent took a whiff. The slime didn't have any smell. In fact, he smelled no dumpster smell at all.

Trent shoved the phone into his back pocket, right

through the layer of slime, and looked up at the kitten. "I have to get out of here, little buddy."

The kitten stared down at him and tilted its head. Trent laughed. He felt less scared knowing he wasn't alone—even if it was only with a kitten for company.

"One more try, buddy," Trent grabbed the edge of the dumpster and jumped. "Whoa!"

Trent shot up into the air, higher than nearby buildings. He looked down and saw the kitten, a mere speck on the dumpster lid. As he plummeted toward the pavement, his only thought was *I'm gonna die!* He reached out and grabbed onto the railing of the pizza shop building's third-floor fire escape and dangled for a few seconds until he got his footing. He looked down in disbelief. *What the heck just happened?*

**Dumpster Man will be available beginning Jan. 23, 2026, on Amazon and at local stores. More information at [dumpsterman-book.com](http://dumpsterman-book.com).**

## MONTICELLO KIWANIS SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Display of games and toys to United Way. From Left – United Way Chief Professional Officer Julian Dawson and Admin. Asst. Valerie Simone On Right – Kiwanians Linda Barriger, Marvin Rappaport (Pres) and Sheila Lashinsky.**

MONTICELLO – The Kiwanis Club of Monticello is continuing their tradition of spreading the holiday spirit by assisting local community programs in enhancing the well-being of those in need.

In support of the club mission of improving the world, one child and one community at a time, the club donated \$200 to PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program, which has been improving the oral health of children by having its mobile clinic partnering with Sullivan County School Districts to provide needed dental services to many youths in our community.

The club contributed \$200 to United Way for Thanksgiving goodies and followed through in December with games and toys to help United Way make the holiday season more enjoyable for children and families in the community through their Project Care Program. In addition, \$200 was presented to Federation for the Homeless to the delight and appreciation of Pro-

gram Administrator Kathy Kreiter.

The club also donated \$200 to a Single Bite whose mission is to fight food insecurity by providing nutritious prepared meals to children and families in the County. They also are supporting Alzheimer families and programs by contributing \$100 to the Orange/Sullivan Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Monticello Kiwanis President Marvin Rappaport stated that the club can continually support the needs of the community thanks to the members and the local residents supporting its major fundraisers – both which are in honor and in memory of exceptional Kiwanis members-- the Bob Huebner Memorial Rose Sale and Bernie Shore/Rose Raimond Fundraising Dinner at Yanni's Restaurant.

The club meets the first Monday of the Month at Albella's Restaurant at 6 p.m. For further information, visit Monticello NY Kiwanis Club Facebook Page.

## EverGreen Meadow Exec. Director Visits Monticello Kiwanis

MONTICELLO – Adrienne Jensen, Executive Director of EverGreen Meadow Services & Academy, was guest speaker at a recent Monticello Kiwanis Club Meeting. She shared an interesting and informative presentation describing EverGreen's support programs and services for adolescent girls who are struggling with emotional and behavioral impacts of trauma, anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges in our community as well as across the entire New York State. They are in the process of opening a residential treatment and mid-



**PHOTO PROVIDED EverGreen Meadow Executive Director Adrienne Jensen (left) and Monticello Kiwanis Program Chairperson Linda Barriger following the presentation.**

empowerment and preventive programs.

The mission of EverGreen Meadow is to serve lives and open pathways to brighten futures, one girl at a time. Their mission is similar to that of Kiwanis, which is to improve the world one child and one community at a time.

The Monticello Kiwanis Club meets the first Monday of the Month at 6:00 PM at Albella's Restaurant in Monticello, NY. For further information regarding their activities, check out Monticello NY Kiwanis Club Facebook Page.

dle school campus in Rock Hill to serve these young girls. They are also partnering with local schools and community-based organizations to help deliver

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## SULLIVAN 180 ANNOUNCES 2026 FUNDING AND PROGRAMS Grant Applications Are Now Available Online

LIBERTY – The 2026 Sullivan 180 grant programs are open, and the following applications are available: Community Beautification, School Beautification, Municipal Partnership and Community Development. Application deadlines, grant resources and eligibility vary. All grants require that youth be engaged in or impacted by the projects.

Community Beautification Grants fund the creation and care of gardens and public spaces where people live, work, and play, promoting vibrant and healthy communities.

School Beautification Grants support schools in enhancing their campuses and creating welcoming, natural environments for students and staff. Gardening, planting trees and creating gardens, outdoor learning spaces strengthens students' and staff connection to their school and fosters pride in place by engaging.

Municipal Partnership

Grants assist Sullivan County towns and villages with the care of public spaces, supporting youth initiatives, and/or environmental stewardship.

Community Development Grants support public art, community events, trail stewardship, pocket parks and other initiatives that implement placemaking tools to build healthy communities.

"Sullivan 180 focuses on the social determinants of health by engaging volunteers to improve the built and natural environments of their communities," said Denise Frangipane, Sullivan 180 CEO. "Sullivan 180 grants provide resources for grassroots, volunteer and community driven efforts. This is the people and the places part of our mission to build a healthy community."

For more information or to download applications, visit [www.Sullivan180.org/](http://www.Sullivan180.org/) grants-scholarships or call (845) 295-2680.

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# SENTINEL SPORTS



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

One hundred sixty-six participants took to the ice in February for the 37th Annual Hurleyville Fire Department Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission Ice Fishing Contest. Cole Ward of Liberty (pictured) stole the day with a 5.05-pound, 25-inch walleye, the first walleye registered in the tournament in seven years.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

In recognition of World Sauntering Day on June 19, The Hurleyville Sentinel announced that it would sponsor a walk on the Milk Train Trail guided and narrated by longtime Sullivan County Historian John Conway. World Sauntering Day is celebrated internationally each year.



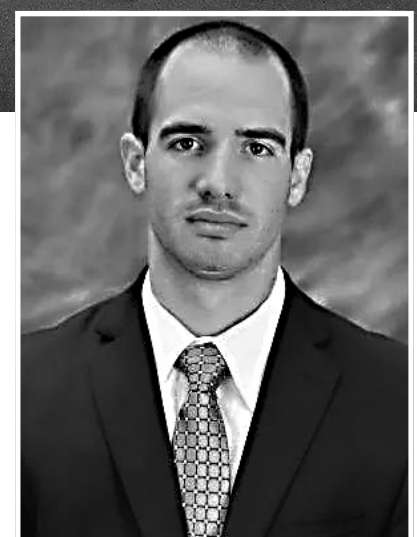
SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

"Ringside in the Mountains," the newly completed documentary about the history of boxing in the Catskills made its big screen debut at an invitation only viewing at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre cinema in November. About 100 people watched the film, and applause was heard throughout.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Above: The 2025 version of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance's HO&WL Haunted History Walk in October was a great success. Organizers said they "had many more people show up than we expected."



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

At right: After a prolonged absence, intercollegiate soccer is returning to SUNY Sullivan. Athletic Director Simon Clement announced that both men's and women's teams are expected to begin play in the Mid-Hudson Conference of the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region XV in the fall of 2026.

### HUDSON VALLEY RIVERMEN CONTINUE PLAY



PHOTO PROVIDED

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE—The Hudson Valley Rivermen, Sullivan County's new entry in the American Basketball Association, continue play this month at Paul Gerry Fieldhouse at SUNY Sullivan.

The Rivermen, playing their first season in the ABA, have seven home games remaining. Admission to the home games is complimentary.

Here is the schedule:

Sat., Jan. 10, 2026 @ 2:15 pm: Rivermen vs. Connecticut Surge  
Sat., Jan. 17, 2026 @

5:30pm: Rivermen vs. Saratoga Racers

Sun. Jan. 25, 2026 @ 2:15pm: Rivermen vs. The New York Lights

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026 @ 4:15pm: Rivermen vs. Herkimer Originals

Sat. Feb. 14, 2026 @ 4:30pm: Rivermen vs. TBD

Sat. Feb. 21, 2026 @

5:30pm: Rivermen vs. Binghamton Bulldogs

The Rivermen began play this year in the Northeast Region of the ABA, which in 2000 became a stand alone league and currently represents more than 160 teams across the United States.



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### SUNY SULLIVAN CAGERS BACK IN ACTION

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE — The Generals of SUNY Sullivan men's basketball team will swing back into action in New York City on Saturday, January 10 after a nearly month long break, taking on Borough of Manhattan Community College in a 1 p.m. contest.

The break was a welcome one, as Sullivan has dropped its last seven games, entering the new year with a 4-11 record. The Generals last victory was on November 20, when they downed Kingsborough Community Col-

lege in Brooklyn, 84-81.

On the season, Sullivan is averaging 72.3 points per game as a team, while surrendering 81.5. The team has thus far shot 42.2 per cent from the floor, including 28 per cent from 3-point range, and is converting 60.3 per cent from the foul line. They have been outrebounded on the year through the end of December, by a margin of 37.3 to 33.7 rebounds per game.

Freshman forward Tomas Hernandez leads the team in scoring average, with 15.5 ppg through 11 games. Freshman guard Xavier

Beckwith is next, putting up 13.3 ppg in 13 games. David Fowler, a freshman who has seen playing time at both guard and forward, is the only other player averaging in double figures, with 10.6 ppg in 13 games.

Following the game against Manhattan—which won an earlier contest between the two clubs in Loch Sheldrake on November 1, 68-67—the Generals have two more road games, against Bronx Community

College and Suffolk County Community College, before returning home to the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse on Saturday, January 17 for a clash with powerhouse Monroe University – Bronx. Game time is 1 p.m.

Incidentally, it was that same Monroe University – Bronx team that dealt the Generals their last defeat, a 102-74 drubbing on December 13 in the Bronx. The Express are 11-4 on the season as the Sentinel went to press.

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**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!

#### January Questions:

1. Alex Ovechkin has more career goals than any NHL player ever (912 and counting). Wayne Gretzky (894) is second, Who has the third highest career total?
2. What National Hockey League team has won the most Stanley Cup championships?
3. How Many Canadian cities have had NHL franchises at one time or another?
4. What two teams played in the NHL's first Winter Classic Game?
5. Which NHL team won four straight Stanley Cups in the early 1980s?

#### December Answers:

1. He scored 110 points in three games at the 1964-65 ECAC Holiday Festival college basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden, and was a near unanimous choice as tournament MVP, even though his team won just one game. Who was he? (**Bill Bradley of Princeton**)
2. In that same 1964-65 Holiday Festival, this legendary coach's team won the championship in his final season with an upset victory over the nation's top team in the final game. Who was the coach? (**Joe Lapchick of St. John's**)
3. This freshman was chosen the Most Valuable Player in the 1981 Holiday Festival as his team won the championship. Who was he? (**Chris Mullin, St. John's**)
4. In what year was the first ECAC Holiday Festival basketball tournament held at Madison Square Garden? (**1952**)
5. What was the last year the Holiday Festival basketball tournament was held at Madison Square Garden? (**1977**)

No winner last month.

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