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Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Tri Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 14 NO. 49 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 DECEMBER 20, 2018 FIFTY CENTS

• Local Weather Pg 8 • Mysterious Book Report John D. McKenna Pg 4 • The Olive Jar Carol La Monda Pg 6 • The Scene Too Jane Harrison Pg 11

REMINDER:

Ye Olde-Tri-Valley Townsman **will not be published** during the following holiday weeks:
Week of Christmas - Dec. 27
Week of the New Year - Jan. 3

Celebrating the Holidays



A big thank you to all of the members of the community who attended the Daniel Pierce Library's Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 8, 2018. The afternoon was filled with music, poems and a sing-a-long that was enjoyed by all. Children from Tri-Valley School's elementary and secondary school band performed for the crowd, as did Mrs. Brenda Sloan and a few local community members (Paul and Kathy Lounsbury and Helen Miller). (Contd. Pg. 8)



Phyllis & Dave Moore receive Melvin Jones Award from Tri-Valley Lions Club - Carol Montana



From left to right: Tri-Valley Lions Club Vice President and Sullivan County Lions Sight and Hearing Chairman Stephen Miller, Lions District 20-0 Zone Chair and Past District Governor Ilene Wizwer, Tri-Valley Lions Secretary Carmen Salvemini, and Tri-Valley Lions President Donna Schick pose with Melvin Jones Award recipients Phyllis and Dave Moore at the annual Tri-Valley Lions Club Holiday Party on December 3rd. (Photo by Carol Montana) - Story Page 3

Man of History, Man of Duty Honored by Legislature



Monticello, NY - Reading Charles "Charlie" Breiner's autobiography, like all engaging memoirs, is both harrowing and heartening.

Tucked inside a photo album, Charlie's written life history plays out like a film. The "first act" - the backstory - concerns his 1940s and '50s youth in Middletown and the many Christmases he received still-cherished Lionel train sets. In fact, his initial train - consisting of a Shell Oil tank car, gondola, Pennsylvania Railroad caboose and a figure-eight track - arrived upon the occasion of his first Christmas in 1941. (Contd. Pg 3)

BCES Teacher Leah Exner Receives STAR Award from FCSD

Periodically Fallsburg Central School District school and community members will recommend a staff member or teacher for a prestigious STAR Award. The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, presents the Board of Education with his recommendation for someone who has "gone above and beyond and made a difference in the school community."

On the Board Meeting of December 5, 2018, Dr. Katz and the BOE were delighted to present Ms. Leah Exner with the STAR Award. Ms. Exner was nominated for the STAR award by Board of Education Member, Arlene Hussey. Ms. Hussey recommended Ms. Exner because for the past two years the now first grade teacher at Benjamin Cosor Elementary has been working tirelessly to complete and open a mile long hiking trail behind the school building. The idea began as a dream to restore an overgrown and "virtually lost" trail begun many years ago by Ms. Exner's predecessors. (Contd. Pg. 7)



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YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR
THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN office.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

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SEE WEEKLY ADVERTISING RATES ON PAGE 16

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Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Friday. NO EXCEPTIONS. Due to recent postal regulation changes - all fliers received after 3:00 pm on Friday will not be inserted until the following week's edition.

We now offer **full 4-color printing service** including flyers, stationery sets, business cards, menus, etc. Call or email us for a quote.

If you are submitting your advertising by email, our email address is: tvtownsman@yahoo.com If you do choose to send ad copy via the internet please send it in either PDF (Acrobat) files or high resolution (at least 300dpi) JPG format.

Have a question? - Please call: Linda Comando (845) 985-0501.
As always, thank you for your support.

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ON THE FRONT BURNER: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2 :14

OBITUARIES

Mona Barbara DeWitt of Napanoch, NY passed away on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Catskill Regional Hospital. She was 76 years old. Mona was born on December 15, 1941 in the Bronx, NY; she was the daughter of Arthur and Frances (Greenfield) Oltzik.

Mona's love for animals started at a young age. She worked as a Veterinary Technician at the Animal Medical Center in New York City. On December 30, 1978 she married Herbert DeWitt Jr.

In addition to her husband, Mona is survived by her stepchildren: Sandy Wheaton, Herbert DeWitt III, Wes DeWitt and Lavilla Bennett; her sister, Rhoda Oltzik; as well as several step-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held in the spring at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mona's name to the Sullivan County SPCA, 104 Rock Hill Dr., Rock Hill, NY 12775 or Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, 800 Stony Brook Court, Newburgh, NY 12550.



Helen L. Mickelson of Grahamsville passed away on Friday, December 14, 2018 at Glen Arden with her loving family by her side. She was 81.

She was the daughter of the late George and Kathryn Sheley Krom, born in Liberty on July 12, 1937.

Many may remember Helen as a waitress in many local restaurants such as Carols Kitchen, Finches and Mattison Diner. She enjoyed cooking and catering all types of parties. She was a loving and caring woman who devoted more than 30 years to caring for her mother and mother-in-law. She loved the beach and was the true matriarch of her family. She enjoyed spending time with her entire family but specifically her grandchildren; they were the light of her life and she adored them. Helen was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need and always made her home a warm and welcoming place for all to come and visit. She will be deeply missed by all that knew and loved her.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her children: Cathy Mickelson, Mike Mickelson and his wife, Lori, Bob Mickelson and his wife, Beth, Ron Mickelson and his wife, Alexa; her grandchildren: Chris, Mike, Ryan, Joe, Jon and Amelia; her great-grandchildren: Jacob and Genevieve; her siblings: John Krom and his wife, Iva, Robert Krom and his wife, Patty, her brother and sisters-in-law: Ray Mickelson, Karen Slater, and Ann Krom; her cousin and special friend, Alice Bertholf; many nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Emmett Mickelson in 1990; one son, Mark Mickelson, and one brother, Richard Krom.

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 17th at Grahamsville Reformed Church. Pastor Ronk officiated. Interment followed at Grahamsville Rural Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Helen's name can be made to Glen Arden, 214 Harriman Dr., Goshen, NY 10924 or Grahamsville Reformed Church, State Route 55, Grahamsville, NY 12740.

Arrangements were under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home; for further information please call 845-434-7363 / 845-292-7160 or visit www.colonialbryantfuneralhome.com

Days of Yore...

Today's History

December 22, 1948

Paul Kelly was three years old last Wednesday. His birthday was celebrated by a dinner Wednesday evening. Guests included: Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stratton, Miss Shirley Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. George Sheley and Mr. Wesley Irwin.

So you forgot to send Uncle John a present. Don't let that bother you. Send in a subscription to The Townsman.

December 29, 1948

On Christmas night, a fire estimated to have caused \$100,000 damage, swept three stores in the Flacks Building at 11 South Main Street in Liberty.

New Year's Day is the first day of the calendar year. It is celebrated as a holiday in almost every country. Even the earliest of the ancient nations had customs that celebrated New Year's Day. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman and Mohammedan years all began at different times, but the first day of each year was marked with elaborate Ceremonies. Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians celebrated the New Year about the middle of June. That was the time when the River Nile usually overflowed its banks. The whole staff of *The Townsman* join in wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Mr. Albert Erath is building a two car garage with an apartment over it.

Mr. Walter DePew has sold his place at Four Corners near Greenville to Pompton Lakes Rod and Gun Club of New Jersey.

December 24, 1958

Meeting at the Claryville Firehouse on December 13 members of the Claryville Volunteer Fire Department elected officers for 1959 with Douglas Bowers chosen as President. Other officers elected were William Rolfs, Vice President, George W. Erts, Secretary, Percy Cole, Treasurer, Everett Smith, Trustee - 3 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hill are among those who are driving a new car, a "59" Chevrolet.

Jackie Merrit, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Merrit returned to his home on Wednesday after serving his time with the Navy.

December 31, 1958

The Tri-Valley Stock Car Racing Association will hold a dance at the Community Hall in Grahamsville on January 9th starting at 9 p.m. Donations will be 60¢ for singles and \$1.00 per couple.

One of the outstanding sports spectacles in the country this winter, the trials for America's speed skating Olympic Team, will be held at Grossinger's the weekend of January 24 and 25.

The West Delaware Tunnel Construction operating at Lows Corners, under the management of James Mathis and his able assistants, have declared a five day Christmas holiday for its employees, and have given every man a large turkey ready for the oven as a present from the company and its manager. The tunnel is now in over 4 miles and is expected to reach the first shaft early in February.

Richard Dymond of Greenville received his honorable discharge from the Army about 2 weeks ago. He is now working part time on the highway for the Town.

December 18, 1968

Frieda Carr, Town Clerk of the Town of Neversink reports that of 443 dog owners in the township, 80 have obtained dog licenses. Owners of unlicensed dogs are urged to get their licenses as soon as possible in order that the completed report can be sent to Albany.

The Townsman deeply regrets the interruption of regular publication during the past three weeks. The interruption was unavoidable. We are dependent on one person for the operation of the duplicating equipment and this person had other compelling commitments to fulfill. - - We need help in every phase of our operation - - *The Townsman* is a community effort. It has struggled through for twenty-two years only because of a few dedicated people. It is a cooperative, non-salaried enterprise - The Ronech Publishing Co. Inc.

December 21, 1978

Some people in the community have expressed concern that Joseph Valva, better known as "Zip", lies in an unmarked grave. Zip helped so many people and was such a kind person. A few residents got together and thought if people would like to chip in, they would get a head stone for his grave. If the response should be more than is needed, the rest would be donated to the First Aid Squad in his memory. Contributors (not the amount contributed) will be mentioned in *The Townsman* unless they would rather not. Donations may be mailed or given to Ethelyn Garigliano, Charles Klothe or Virginia Anderson.

Members of the AARP attended the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show, Thursday, December 14th.

Jim Wilson, former resident of the area and a charter member of the Tri-Valley AARP died recently in New Jersey. He was buried Monday at Claryville.

A Round About Tri-Valley

Carol Furman

Mona Barbara DeWitt of Napanoch passed away on December 11th at the age of 76, four days shy of her 77th birthday. Sympathy to her husband, Herbert DeWitt, Jr. and to her family and friends.

Adam and Jacquelynn Greenspan of Neversink are the proud parents of a daughter, Grace Clementine Greenspan, born on November 25th. Congratulations!

Christopher and Nicole McDonald of Wappinger Falls were blessed with a daughter, Kaylee Lynn McDonald, on December 1st. Kaylee is Lynn McDonald's first grandchild and is the great-granddaughter of Charlotte and the late "Bud" Stratton. Uncle David McDonald is the proud uncle.

The Grahamsville Reformed Church Sunday School children held their annual Christmas Program on December 16th. The program was warmly received and, of course, Santa made his appearance distributing gifts to all of the children.

Christmas Eve Services in the Grahamsville area will be held at the Grahamsville Reformed Church at 7:00 pm, at the Grahamsville United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm and at the Sundown Methodist Church at 5:00 pm. Claryville Reformed Church at 7 pm. All are invited to attend these services to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The annual holiday concerts were held at Tri-Valley School last week. As usual, the students performed beautifully. It was nice to see so many in attendance supporting these young musicians. Thank you to the music department staff for organizing these holiday presentations each year.

On December 20th, the *Townsmen* staff will get together to enjoy a holiday lunch at Blue Hill. This is such a nice time! Even though we all work during the year to see that the paper flourishes, we rarely all see each other on a regular basis. Thank you Linda and Frank for organizing this annual holiday luncheon and thank you to the folks at Blue Hill who always go out of their way to make our time together "extra special".

Santa's reindeer, sometimes called caribou, are found not only at the "North Pole", but also in other parts of North America, Europe, Asia and Greenland. Reindeer herds can travel as many as 1,600 miles round trip in one of the world's great large-animal migrations. Did you know that the underside of a reindeer's hoofs are hollowed out like a scoop and used for digging through snow and that they are sharp to help handle rocks or ice? It's no wonder that Santa's reindeer can cling so easily to roof-tops on Christmas Eve!

Words of Wisdom: For many of us, the Christmas holidays are a time of joy, a time to celebrate and reconnect with families. While many are having an enjoyable holiday time, there are those who may not have families and who may feel overcome with feelings of loneliness. If you know someone who might be alone on Christmas, share your blessings by perhaps delivering a meal, or better yet, inviting them to dinner. Share your blessings by giving and serving your fellow man. By serving others you will be blessed with feelings of good will and contentment. It may be true that by serving others we ourselves receive the greater blessing!

Merry Christmas and may your holiday season be joyous!

Phyllis & Dave Moore receive Melvin Jones Award from Tri-Valley Lions Club

(December 10, 2018, Hurleyville, NY) The Tri-Valley Lions Club (TVLC) met for their annual Holiday Party at Frankie & Johnnie's Restaurant on December 3rd. President Donna Schick welcomed 70 people along with honorees and fellow Tri-Valley Lions David and Phyllis Moore.

The Moores were being honored with the "Melvin Jones Award," the highest humanitarian award given to any citizen by the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The Moores, long time Grahamsville residents, recently relocated to Red Hook to be near their children and grandchildren. The Melvin Jones Award was presented by Lions District 20-0 Zone Chair & Past District Governor Ilene Wizwer, Tri-Valley Lions President Donna Schick, TV Lions Immediate Past President Gene Froehlich, TV Lions Vice President & Sullivan County Sight and Hearing Chair Stephen Miller, Past District Governor Stuart Wizwer and TV Lions Secretary Carmen Salvemini.

Several representatives of local organizations spoke at the dinner to honor the Moores. Citations and certificates were presented by the TVLC, the Sullivan County

Legislature, the Town of Neversink and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther's office. The following were present to speak at the event: TVLC President Donna Schick, Bethel Lions Club President Al Frangipane, Daniel Pierce Library Board Member Phil Coombe and Library President Jessica Dymond, Time & the Valleys Museum Board Member Richard Coombe, Neversink Agricultural Society (Grahamsville Fair) Board Member Cathy Coombe-Bender, Town of Neversink Supervisor Chris Mathews, Sullivan County Legislator for District 3 Mark McCarthy, Sullivan Renaissance Executive Director Denise Frangipane, and New York State Senator-elect for the 42nd District Jen Metzger.

The TVLC supports the community through financial donations and volunteer activities. Every summer, the organization engages in fundraising to support their activities at the Lions Beverage Booth at the Grahamsville Fair, and again in the fall at the Giant Pumpkin Party. The annual Journey for Sight fundraiser walk, organized by Tonya Ackerley-Martin (granddaughter of founding President Don TerBush), takes place the first Saturday in May and is the biggest fundraiser.

For sight and hearing, the TVLC held three SEE (student eye evaluations) last year and this month screened 115 students at the Tri-Valley Elementary School. The organization makes a yearly donation to "Guiding Eyes for the Blind" to help with the guide dog training project. For diabetes awareness, the organization provides community education regarding the causes and prevention of diabetes, and makes a yearly financial donation to Juvenile Diabetes Research. Yearly donations are also made to the Daniel Pierce Library.

To address hunger in the community, every year \$500 is donated to each of the local Neversink churches to assist food pantries and individual families. Every year, the TVLC joins with the Tri-Valley School for the annual Peace Poster Contest, and awards three prizes as service awards. Last year, the Tri Valley Lions Legacy Projects included funding a scoreboard at the new Neversink Town Park Little League Field and contributed to the Milk House Project at the Time & the Valleys Museum.

The Tri-Valley Lions Club welcomes new members. For more information, please contact donnaschick@yahoo.com.

Man of History, Man of Duty

Honored by Legislature

(From Pg. 1) "I still have it," he proudly notes.

The "middle act" of Charlie's life focuses on his inaugural days working at the Middletown State Hospital and his trip to the Grand Canyon while studying at Northern Arizona University, climaxing with his intense, life-changing experiences serving in the Army during the Vietnam War.

"I worked summers at the State Hospital, first in the Grounds Department and eventually in the Recreation Department," he explains, having been drummed out of the kitchen by a food service director who considered Charlie "too skinny and frail."

"The job was waiting for me when I got back from the Army, and thank God it was," he muses.

He'd served - voluntarily - in the combat zones of Vietnam from 1967-68, losing friends amidst the carnage, and it was disorienting to be back in the peaceful U.S., albeit one wracked by division over the war. Indeed, he experienced that divide firsthand, when young hippies called him a "baby killer" in the middle of the Port Authority Bus Terminal on his way home.

AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Coming to Sullivan County Financial and Volunteer Support Needed

Monticello- 12/13/18 - The Sullivan County Veteran Coalition in partnership with The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce will host The AVTT Traveling Wall Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rock Hill Volunteer Fire Department's Park September 11th-September 14th, 2019. The Traveling Wall is an 80% replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial which honors service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country in the Vietnam War. It is the largest traveling wall replica in the country.

The AVTT Traveling Wall will be hosted in conjunction with the Federal Holiday, Patriot's Day and the Sullivan County Volunteer Fire Association's 91ST ANNUAL Firefighters Parade which will take place on Saturday September 14th, 2019.

"The Vietnam Wall stands as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that men and women made and helps to heal the wounds from the War," said The Sullivan County's Veteran Coalition coordinator Rocky Ortega. "The Moving Wall was created to allow people from across America, who may otherwise be unable to make the trip to Washington, D.C., the opportunity to visit the monument in their hometown." (Contd. Pg. 7)

Nature Column - Linda Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman Ladies that we have lost and loved so much... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry and Barbara Slater.

Winterberry Bush

Nature has done it once again! She has splashed the cold winter landscape with the warmth of the bright red berries of the Winterberry (a/k/a *Ilex verticillata*, Black Alder (although is not a member of the Alder family), Feverbush or False alder) brightening up the barren winter landscape.



If I had to pick a favorite native plant for December in the Catskills, it would be the Winterberry.

Once Old Man Winter arrives in December the Winterberry's half inch red berries persist on the branches long into the winter. The berries are a globose red fleshy fruit with a thin skin and fleshy fruit with a central pit. Winterberry is a mem-

ber of the Holly (*Ilex*) family. It is dioecious which means there are separate male and female plants. There needs to be at least one male plant in an area to pollenate the females in order to bear the bright red berries. The Winterberry will lose its leaves during winter. At this time of the year, only the bright red berries are left on the branches making them so evident against a dark winter background. It is a shrub that can grow to 16 ft. tall and can often be found throughout the Catskills preferring to form a dense thicket in moist areas, while in dry soil it will remain a tight shrub.

The leaves are sharply toothed, stalked, and are approximately 1 1/2 to 4" long, lance to ovate shape, pointed at the tips, deep green in summer, hairy on the underside, and turning yellow in autumn. The bark is clearly visible with a thin brown outer surface with whitish patches (lenticels). Twigs are slender, green on new growth, then brownish, with scattered light colored lenticels. Buds are small and may have a small persistent stipule, small leaflike appendage, on the side of the leaf scar. It bears white flowers with 5 to 7 petals that form clusters in the leaf axils in late spring and early summer. These little flowers eventually become the very attractive red berries that are now decorating the landscape and attracting many different winter songbirds. The berries are often used as an emergency food source for other wild animals including game birds, wild turkeys, and quail. They are also eaten by white-tailed deer.

The Native Americans used Winterberry as a medicine and named this bush, Feverbush, as they used the bark to heal cuts and bruises.

An unusual thing about Winterberry (Black Alder) is its wood which is white when freshly cut, will turn blood red. In Norse and Irish myths the first humans were made of *Black Alder* wood. Back then cutting a bush down was forbidden because it was a symbol of the resurrection.

Today Winterberry is used to make furniture from the wood and the bark is used to tan leather and smoke fish and other foods. Winterberry contains so much tannin that it repels insect pests. The wood is very durable for underwater for pilings.

Winterberry shrubs are now common in landscaping as they are prized for their ornamental value.

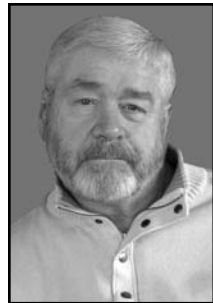
Winterberries are also valued by arts and craft enthusiasts. You will often see them in floral arrangements, wreaths and window boxes this time of the year.

There is one other name that must be mentioned that has been given to this attractive shrub. It is also called the Santa Claus Bush! Like the man in the red suit, surely the warmth of the Winterberry's bright red berries dispelling some of the chill we feel during the dark days of winter, is a gift. It is Christmas time in the Catskills and the festival of light continues in household displays. Take time to see it all - the neighbor's Christmas lights and all the beautiful mountain scenery along the way and maybe you will see a Santa Claus Bush too!

Household Hints

Make Laminate Floors Holiday Clean

In a spray bottle combine 3 parts water to 1 part white vinegar. Add 1 tiny squirt dish soap and a few drops of essential oils like peppermint or Christmas pine. Mist over the floor in small sections, Using soft cloth side of a mop wipe the area until dry. This can also be used on small areas especially in kitchens to quickly clean up spills.



The Devil's Half Mile

Mysterious Book Report No. 352

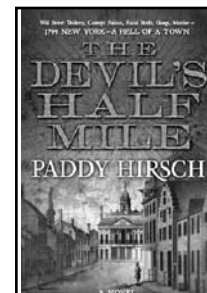
by John Dwaine McKenna

Wall Street trickery, corrupt politics, racial strife, gangs, murder . . . that all sounds like the headlines from today's news, but instead, it's the lead-in on the cover of a nifty murder mystery which takes place in New York City in the year of our Lord, 1799. Through the skill of Alexander Hamilton and the formation of a Federal Bank, the new nation has recovered from the depression of 1792, but the financial panic back then ruined a great number of speculators, and many of them are still trying to claw their way back to prosperity in a marketplace with few restrictions, no regulations and zero oversight.

The Devil's Half Mile, (Forge/Tom Doherty Associates, \$24.99, 289 pages, ISBN 978-0-7653-9913-7) by Patrick "Paddy" Hirsch, is an exciting debut murder mystery in the form of historical crime fiction. The novel begins in New York City in the summer of 1799, where a young man named Justice Flanagan had just returned from Ireland with a brand-new law degree and a burning desire to find out who murdered his father. Before he can make it down the gangplank of the ship that brought him home however, he's a spectator to the racial violence that's happening throughout the city between the increasing numbers of free blacks and poor immigrant Irishmen who've been coming into the city in huge numbers, as a fight breaks out on the dock between the two groups over who will get the job of unloading a nearby ship. The melee breaks up and the work is awarded to the blacks after the body of a murdered young woman of color is pulled from the harbor, right in front of the combatants. Justy realizes that the city has changed substantially while he's been away . . . the ghosts of the past seek retribution, while at the same time more bodies keep turning up and the crimes of the present demand attention. Against the backdrop of the infamous Tontine Coffee House-where more nefarious schemes were hatched than eggs at a Tyson chicken farm-Justy and his friend Kerry struggle to solve the murders, avenge his father, and along the way, uncover a plot that could destroy the young country while at the same time, keep from getting killed themselves. The action never ceases in this fine-tuned and carefully plotted mystery that'll educate readers at the same that it entertains them by bringing the last year of the 18th century to colorful, vivid life!

Like the review . . . let your friends know, *You saw it in the Mysterious Book Report* . . . The greatest compliment you can give, is to like us and share it with others on Facebook. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Goodreads, Instagram.

<http://www.Facebook/JohnDwaineMcKenna> • http://www.Twitter.com/MB_Report • <http://www.Goodreads/JohnDwaineMcKenna>
• http://www.Instagram.com/mysterious_book_report • <http://www.MysteriousBookReport.com>



Interview With The Author: Patrick "Paddy" Hirsch

by John Dwaine McKenna



Our author interviewee this week is Patrick Hirsch, known to his fans, friends and the world, as Paddy. He's a warrior, a newsman, and a TV commentator, a financial analyst, and historian – a Renaissance man

if one ever lived! Thanks for joining us today and offering your insights, expertise and commentary to our audience. We're all eager to hear from you, so let's get right to it. The first questions is:

Why do you write?

I'm a finance and economics journalist, which means I deal with facts all day long. And reporting the news, and separating fact from fiction, has become more difficult of late. I've found that writing has given me a creative release from day-to-day journalism that I've found very helpful in these turbulent times. It's been useful not just as an escape, but also as a way to get context on the economic and political news of the day.

What do you write about?

I write historical fiction. My debut novel, *The Devil's Half Mile* was conceived as a non-fiction history of the New York Stock Exchange. As I researched the project, however, I found that the work was all reading and very little writing. So I wrote a little murder mystery into the narrative, a kind of creative sidebar - just to keep my hand in, you understand! Turns out, the fiction was much more fun to write - and continues to be so.

Do you read your reviews?

Yes. All of them. I'm happy to say that periodicals and professional reviewers have been very positive, as have most readers. But I have had some bad reviews. And that's fine with me. My work isn't for everyone, just as a lot of award-winning authors aren't my cup of tea. I read every review, and I don't take the sour notes personally. It's all information, and so long as a reader doesn't get rude, crude or personal, I'm happy to hear what they have to say.

Does luck play into success?

I've been very lucky as an author. I found both my fiction and non-fiction agents through personal connections. But luck isn't something that the Irish are born with; it's the point at which opportunity meets preparedness. I've met fiction agents before, but I wasn't ready then. When I was introduced to my fiction agent, Lisa Gallagher of DeFiore, I was fully prepared, mentally and practically. I had a manuscript ready and polished and a mental attitude to match. To me, that's luck.

And Proof Positive that the harder you work, the luckier you get!

How did your book first get published?

Quickly. Once I'd hooked up with Lisa, we moved fast. We signed each other up in September of 2016, she sold the book the following December, and we were done editing by March the next year.

What's your advice for aspiring writers?

Whether you're pitching an agent or dealing with a publisher, be professional. Don't take edits or feedback personally. I'm an editor myself, so I know how tough that

job can be. So I did what I ask any of the people I work with to do: I stayed objective; I stuck to deadlines, and I filed early. Weirdly, the last of these may not have helped much in terms of getting the book out (editors have multiple projects, some of which will take priority over yours), but that kind of discipline and professional attitude certainly endears you to your publisher, and that's a very important thing.

It's also invaluable advice for everyone, and exemplary behavior of the kind all of us should practice. Thanks Paddy, for taking the time with our readers today and sharing your thoughts . . . kindly keep us informed about your next project. We're looking forward to more historic crime fiction from you. Lots more!

BIO:

Paddy Hirsch is a journalist, broadcaster and former Royal Marines officer, who works for NPR. He is the author of *Man vs Markets*, *Economics Explained*, *Plain and Simple*. *The Devil's Half Mile* (Tor/Forge), a historical thriller set on Wall Street in 1799, is his first novel. The sequel, *Hudson's Kill*, comes out in September 2019.

LINKS:

BLOG: <https://www.paddyhirsch.com>

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TWTR/INSTA: @paddyhirsch

Sales link for *The Devil's Half Mile*: <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780765399151>

Sales link for *Man vs Markets*:

<https://www.indiebound.org/book/9780062196651>

John Dwaine McKenna's 2018 Best Books of the Year

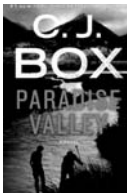
Season's greetings and Merry Christmas to all our fans, followers and crime fiction enthusiasts! Here's the MBR's gift to one and all with our baker's dozen of the Best Books of the Year. Time is short and Santa will be here soon, so here's the list:

Best Books of the Year 2018

MBR # 316 *The Downside*, by Mike Cooper
One of the best caper novels since dirt was discovered. Finn is one of the most unique protagonists in crime fiction. He takes bad-assiveness to a whole new level because he only steals big things . . . like a tractor-trailer load of new luxury automobiles. He's a guy who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, knows how to operate any kind of machinery and will keep you so entertained, you'll forget to eat dinner.



MBR # 318 *Paradise Valley*, by C.J. Box
Female detective Cassie Dewell is trying to catch a serial killer known as The Lizard King. He's a long-haul tractor-trailer driver who's murdering truck stop prostitutes, and he's been impossible to catch. This one's a nail-biter from start to finish.



MBR # 322 *False Flag*, by John Altman
In the world of espionage, the business of spies is lies, and that makes it nearly impossible at times, to distinguish friends from foes. No one can be trusted in the spy world because they all lie all the time. In this thrilling and propulsive spy novel, a trusted ally and friend becomes a deadly enemy when a rogue Israeli agent plots a terrorist attack on the United States.



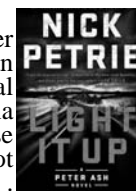
MBR #324 *Illegal Holdings*, by Michael Neiman

Features a fraud investigator from the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services. His name is Valentin Vermeulen, who's in Mozambique to audit a non-governmental organization. He's there to make sure that they're spending the UN grant money as promised. But when he discovers a huge discrepancy . . . the gunfire begins, alarm bells ring and the killing starts. You'll love this ordinary hero just trying to survive in a nest of vipers.



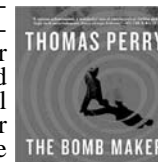
MBR # 327 *Light It Up*, by Nick Petrie

Peter Ash, an ex-marine warrior, is in Denver doing a favor for a friend, working as an armed escort in the cannabis industry. Federal law prohibits the use and sale of marijuana and banks-which are federally insured-refuse to deal with any of Colorado's licensed pot dealers. Therefore they only accept cash . . . lots and lots of cash, which attracts lots and lots of robbers and stone cold killers in this one!



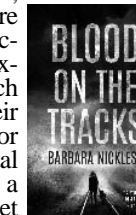
MBR # 328 *The Bomb Maker*, by Thomas Perry

One of my favorite authors and one of my favorite books of the year . . . because the wickeder the villain . . . the more courageous the protagonist. In this one, the reader is looking over the shoulder of one of the most diabolic and murderous characters since Hannibal Lecter. He's known as the Bomb Maker and his goal is to kill every member of the Los Angeles Police Department Bomb Squad. This stunning novel evolves at 27,000 feet per second into a page turner you won't be able to resist.



MBR # 330 *Blood on the Tracks*, by Barbara Nickless

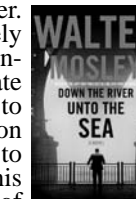
Sydney Rose Parnell and her K-9 companion, a Belgian Malinois war dog named Clyde, are two of the toughest and most endearing characters in modern crime fiction. They're both ex-marines who saw war service in Iraq, and each suffers from PTSD. They see the ghosts of their dead comrades-in-arms, which makes it hard for them to police the Denver Pacific Continental Railway property, where Sydney Rose is a Special Detective tracking a disfigured vet known as the Burned Man, who may be a serial killer.



MBR # 332 *Down The River Unto The Sea*,

by Walter Mosley

A-list writer Walter Mosley has graced us with a brand-new character named Joe King Oliver. He's a former NYPD cop, who was falsely imprisoned ten years ago, and longs to be reinstated. Now, he ekes out a living as a Private Eye. Oliver takes on a paying job, trying to exonerate a radical black journalist who sits on death row for killing two cops. Joe decides to try to solve both cases simultaneously in this eloquent and compelling novel from one of America's best writers.



MBR # 334 *Green Sun*, by Kent Anderson

Green Sun is the story of Officer Hanson, a Vietnam Special Forces veteran who gives up a college professorship in order to return to life as a cop in a city awash in strife and racial conflict. It's summertime in Oakland, California, where the streets are boiling hot, armed and angry, gang and dope infested, seething, mean and set to explode at any moment. (Contd. Pg. 6)



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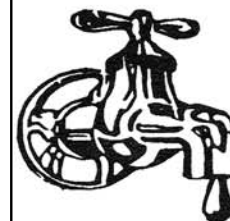
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The Olive Jar- By Carol LaMonda

Yes, there is a Santa Claus

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." How I wish I, not the editor of the New York Sun, had written that reply to Virginia O'Hanlon. Yet, the truth prevails. How do I know there is a Santa Claus? I have had the privilege of meeting him, her or them, personally. There is something very magical about personifying the spirit of love and sharing. Some of Santa's helpers like the late Henry Rank, Mr. Kothe, Peter Friedel, Fred Burkhardt, Keith Davis, Bruce LaMonda fill the girth of the costume (sans pillow) as well as the size of the big heart it takes to be Santa at local events. Lots of Santa's helpers are organizing parties, baking cookies, wrapping gifts, and shopping for those gifts that will brighten the season.

This is probably the last season of believing in the man in the red suit with the white beard for my granddaughter who is in third grade. I fear that some classmate will burst her bubble. I hope she will be mature enough to understand the personification of Old Saint Nick, for surely Santas exist. She donates dolls to children in hospitals; they sew and tie quilts for the Linus Project; they donate to the food pantry; she wraps presents for Toys for Tots; he snow blows or plows out a neighbor for free; they deliver Meals on Wheels; she brings turkeys to the battered women's shelter; they pull out a car that has skidded off the icy road; they rise out of warm bed to fight a fire in the night. You know who you are, all you Santas out there.

The month of December is consumed with decorating houses, trimming trees, baking cookies, shopping, sending greetings, wrapping and preparing for the big day of Christmas. Sometimes we get all caught up in the trappings and forget that this is the season of giving of ourselves. No matter what holiday is celebrated, the common denominator is that of light and love.

Yes, there is a Santa Claus, in fact there are many; Santa exists, not just the iconic, white-bearded, obese old man in the red velvet suit, but in the very essence of love and of sharing.

John Dwaine McKenna's 2018 Best Books of the Year

(From Pg. 4) Hanson, who sees death following him around, is unconventional, thirty-eight years old, and realizes that justice is an elusive commodity. This lone ranger in hostile territory is an electrifying and compulsive novel that will keep you reading long past bedtime.

MBR # 336 *The Hush*, by John Hart

A southern gothic thriller by an author whose awards and accolades are piling up at an astonishing rate. In *The Hush*, Johnny Merrimon is trying to put the past behind him and simply live his life in the small North Carolina town where he was born and raised. It's been ten years since he returned from prison, and the publicity has finally died down. Johnny has taken up residence in the middle of a 6000 acre swamp that's known as the Hush Arbor. It's been in his family since the Civil War but it seems there's a problem with the title. It first gifted the acreage to some freed slaves, and then reverted back to Johnny due to a certain clause that's being contested by the descendants of the freed men. This novel has paranormal undertones and you have to read it to find out if Johnny made a deal with the devil. An awesome and astonishing novel!



MBR # 344 *Blood Standard*, by Laird Barron

Crime fiction at its best. It features an individual named Isaiah Coleridge who's half-Maori and half-Irish. He's witty, well read, and an enforcer for organized crime in Anchorage Alaska, who takes bad-assery to a whole new dimension in a whole new universe. His good self fights his inner demons, and cause him to run afoul of a mafia Don in Nome, Alaska, when he saves some wild animals and breaks up a money-making scheme. Coleridge flees to a farm in the Catskills in upstate New York where he tries to survive and out run his past in this explosive and finely crafted novel.



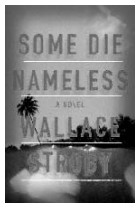
MBR # 345 *Rip Crew*, by Sebastian Rotella

This novel is about the southern border of the United States and the people trying to cross it from south to north. It begins in Guatemala where a man named Valentine Pescatore, an undercover agent for a private security firm, is looking for a human smuggler named Chiclet. Chiclet's the witness to the massacre of several women in San Diego, California where he and a pair of girls are the only survivors in a case that's drawn world-wide attention. It's caught the eye of a high-ranking member of Homeland Security and she has hired Pescatore to investigate using only back channels to avoid publicity. This explosive mystery leads from the barrio to the boardroom, where the lines between mobsters and moguls has blurred. *Rip Crew* is one of the most intense thrillers of the year.



MBR # 351 *Some Die Nameless*, by Wallace Stroby

Sometimes our past just won't stay in the rearview mirror. Sometimes it drives up, cruises on by, then cuts in front and runs you off the highway of life. That's what happens to an ex-Airborne Army ranger named Ray Devlin, who's in Florida, semi-retired, living on his boat and off the grid. He works odd jobs to make ends meet and is trying his damndest to put his past as a mercenary soldier behind him, but alarm bells are set off when an old brother-in-arms shows up and tries to kill him in this fast-paced and dynamic novel with hitmen and killers on every page.



That's it. That's our list of Best Books for the year 2018. We hope you get a chance to read some, or all of them, and look forward to 2019, when we've got a whole new and exciting list of crime fiction, thrillers, spy yarns and whodunnits to explore together as well as in-depth interviews with just

about every one of the wordsmiths who wrote them. Stay tuned, it's gonna be awesome! Until then . . . Merry Christmas, Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all.

John Dwaine McKenna
Colorado Springs
December 2018

UC Executive Mike Hein Announces Opening of the UC Family Court at Its New Location Improving Access For Families and Protecting Taxpayers

KINGSTON, N.Y. - Ulster County Executive Mike Hein was joined by Hon. Michael V. Coccoma, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City; Hon. Thomas A. Breslin, Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District; Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry, Presiding Justice of the New York Appellate Division, Third Department; Hon. Karen K. Peters, NY Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, Former Justice of the New York Appellate Division, Third Department; Ulster County Family Court Judges Hon. Marianne O. Mizel, Hon. Anthony McGinty, and Hon. Keri E Savona; Ulster County Legislators; various court dignitaries; local officials; and members of the community for a dedication ceremony to announce the opening of the Ulster County Family Court at its new location at 2 Development Court, Kingston, New York, adjacent to the Ulster County Department of Social Services.

The county-owned property was refurbished into a state-of-the-art Family Court facility and is strategically located so that family members attending court have access to the County's children and family specialists at the Department of Social Services (DSS). This project was recently called the gold standard by which other Family courts will be measured by the New York State Office of Court Administration. The Ulster County Family Court officially opened on November 9, 2018, six weeks ahead of schedule and \$500,000 under budget.

Michael P. Hein, Ulster County Executive

"Family Court is about real people and complex issues that can alter the course of lives forever, and this renovated facility will now provide them with dignity and respect and is now able to provide our Judges and court personnel with improved accommodations to better assist them in performing their important work. In addition, locating the court next to DSS is helping to make the process more efficient for those most in need by having professional services readily available," said County Executive Mike Hein. "We were able to relocate family court to this location through a series of interconnected projects which included: the retrofit of a closed elementary school into a community college satellite campus and moving our existing programs there; then relocating multiple county departments to free up much needed space, and lastly, retrofitting this strategically located County-owned space into a state-of-the-art Family Court facility which was completed ahead of schedule and \$500,000 under budget. Not only did we save taxpayers money in this way, but by deciding not to spend over \$20 million to construct a new family court elsewhere and by renovating a county-owned property, it saved Ulster County taxpayers over \$10 million."

County Executive Mike Hein continued, "I want to thank the New York State Office of Court Administration, the County Legislature, the architects and contractors, as well as our incredible team at our Department of Public Works for their amazing work to make this new court facility a reality. I also want to thank the public who overwhelmingly supported the relocation of the family court in 2016. The opening of the Family Court at its new location comes at the perfect time as our new Restorative Justice and Community Empowerment Center is scheduled to open in January to serve "justice-involved" youth as they work in coordination with Family Court, and "at-risk" youth through my Brighter Futures Initiative to help confront generational poverty."

Hon. Karen K. Peters, NY Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, Former Justice of the New York Appellate Division, Third Department

"I appreciate the efforts of Ulster County and County Executive Mike Hein in achieving this goal. With this

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extraordinary new courthouse, we fulfill our commitment to ensuring all who come before the court are treated with dignity and respect," said Hon. Karen K. Peters, NY Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, Former Justice of the New York Appellate Division, Third Department.

The state-of-the-art courthouse has been designed to accommodate the needs of litigants, attorneys, court personnel and other court users. The facility, which formerly housed a satellite campus for Ulster County Community College, was fully renovated to include: four large courtrooms; two hearing rooms; customized space for attorney-client conferences; a court clerk's area that allows for privacy in dealing with sensitive matters; a Children's Center that offers child care for court users; offices for County agencies that interact with Family Court; infrastructure to facilitate the Court's Drug Treatment Part; and spacious, well-appointed public areas to ensure the smooth flow of court users through the space. The new courthouse will serve as a model for other Family Court facilities in the Third Judicial District, which along with Ulster County encompasses Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, and Sullivan counties.

The New York State Office of Court Administration (NYSOCA) deemed the previous leased space at 16 Lucas Avenue, Kingston, inadequate and inefficient to properly accommodate the current workload and the projected future workload of the Court. They directed Ulster County to find a larger, more secure and more efficient space to meet today's Family Court needs. The public overwhelming supported the relocation of the Family Court through a public referendum held in 2016.

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BCES Teacher Leah Exner Receives STAR Award from FCSD

(From Pg. 1) She would honor these teachers by writing a Sullivan Renaissance Healthy Communities Initiatives Grant along with fellow teacher Mark Spina in 2016. She followed this up with other successful grant applications and in-kind donations of materials, equipment and labor from dozens of local businesses, government agencies, and individuals to bring her dream to fruition.

But the true service that earned a special award for Ms. Exner is her love, dedication and countless hours of hands-on hard work. Directly supported by her family, with husband Paul spending hours on back-hoes and other machines, with her children and her mother-in-law volunteering their services, Leah Exner was on the work site morning, evening and weekends no matter what the weather.

Ms. Exner has earned applause from local, county and state officials. She always wants to acknowledge all the others that made the trail a reality, and she deflects any recognition. On December 5, she looked very happy to receive this acknowledgement from the people that administer the school district that she has served for so many years with all her heart.

AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Coming to Sullivan County Financial and Volunteer Support Needed

(From Pg. 3) "We are so excited for the opportunity to bring The AVTT Traveling Wall to Sullivan County so that people can experience it and honor our fallen heroes," said Jaime Schmeiser, the Chamber of Commerce President/CEO. "Right now, we're really trying to build community support and are looking for sponsors and volunteers to assist us with bringing this special monument to our area."

Event organizers are seeking donations, which are tax deductible, sponsorships to help facilitate the project - and for volunteers to help with set up/take down of The AVTT Traveling Wall or to help escort visitors needing on-site assistance. Those wishing to make a donation, can make their checks payable to S.C.V.C. Wall Fund, PO Box 1527, Monticello, NY 12701. For more information, please contact Rocky Ortega at 845-665-3171, rortega@yahoo.com or Howard Goldsmith at 845-791-1030, Goldsmithhow@yahoo.com.

Fishy Business - A.G. Underwood Releases Report Detailing Disturbingly High Levels of Seafood Fraud and Mislabeling at NY Supermarkets - More Than One in Four Seafood Purchases Were Misabeled; Report Details Rampant Mislabeling of Certain Popular Species, Including Lemon Sole, Red Snapper, and Wild Salmon

NEW YORK - Attorney General Barbara D. Underwood released a report last week titled "Fishy Business: Seafood Fraud and Mislabeling in New York State Supermarkets," which details high levels of suspected seafood fraud and mislabeling at New York State supermarket chains. The Attorney General's investigation, which included DNA testing, found that more than one in four samples purchased was not sold under a federally-recognized market name for that species. Mislabeling of certain popular species was rampant - including "wild" salmon (27.59% of samples sold as "wild" salmon were mislabeled), red snapper (67% were mislabeled), and lemon sole (87.5% were mislabeled). The substitutes were often cheaper, less desirable, and less environmentally sustainable species. This includes farm-raised salmon sold as wild salmon, lane snapper sold as red snapper, and swai sold as lemon sole.

"It's clear that seafood fraud isn't just a fluke - it's rampant across New York," said Attorney General Underwood. "Supermarkets are the last

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The Family Memoir, PROSILIO...



... in Greek means "Toward the Sun," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of "Prosilio" as you read Carol's memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great Christmas gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com and type in *Prosilio* in the search to order your copy of *Prosilio*



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line of defense before a phony fish ends up as family dinner, and they have a duty to do more. Yet our report makes clear that New Yorkers may too often be the victim of mislabeling. We're taking enforcement action, and consumers should be alert and demand that their supermarket put customers first by taking serious steps to ensure quality control at their seafood counters."

From late 2017 through 2018, the Attorney General's office (OAG) undertook the first major government investigation in the U.S. to target seafood fraud at retail supermarket chains. OAG purchased seafood based on availability at 155 locations across 29 supermarket brands, targeting seafood from nine distinct categories, including red snapper, snapper (varieties other than red), grouper, cod, wild salmon (including chum, Coho, sockeye, and king), halibut, lemon sole, sole (varieties other than lemon), striped bass, and white tuna.

OAG then sent the samples for testing by the Ocean Genome Legacy Center, an academic laboratory at Northeastern University. The report details the DNA barcoding method that OAG used to test seafood purchases and mislabeling, as well as certain limitations associated with the results. For example, because seafood selection and availability vary substantially, no two chains had the same variety and number samples collected. The results are therefore illustrative, but not representative.

Using this approach, the Attorney General's report details several key findings:
 • More than one in four (26.92%) seafood purchases with an identifiable barcode was mislabeled. About two-thirds of the supermarket brands reviewed had at least one instance of suspected mislabeling. (Contd. Pg. 11)

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Celebrating the Holidays

(From Pg. 1) The Holiday Tea is a wonderful event that puts you in the holiday spirit and showcases the musical talent of the students in our school district. The event is organized in col-



laboration with the 4H Puppy Pals who decorate the Daniel Pierce Library for the season and who coordinate all of the musical acts for the event. Everyone greatly appreciates the hard work of all of the members of the Puppy Pals, along with their leader, Karen Coombe.

FCSD Holds Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Newly Renovated Gymnasium



December 3, 2018 is now an historic date for Fallsburg Central School District. On this night, the newly renovated gymnasium was opened for use by the Fallsburg High School Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity Basketball Teams. When Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz welcomed everyone to a ribbon cutting ceremony at half court between the two games, he recognized many dignitaries on hand for the special evening. (Contd. Pg. 11)

TOWNSMAN FORECAST

SUNRISE: 7:17AM SUNSET: 4:27 PM

AVERAGE HIGH: 37°F RECORD HIGH: 66°F
AVERAGE LOW: 20°F RECORD LOW: -3°F

THURSDAY



HIGH: 42°F LOW: 35°F

FRIDAY



HIGH: 50°F LOW: 37°F

SATURDAY



HIGH: 40°F LOW: 28°F

SUNDAY



HIGH: 35°F LOW: 29°F

MONDAY



HIGH: 37°F LOW: 24°F

CHRISTMAS



HIGH: 35°F LOW: 23°F

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**Edith & Reyna,
Suzy Q, Sylvester
and Stubbie**

**To All our Family, Friends
and Neighbors**
May the Peace and Joy of
Christmas follow you
throughout the New Year.
The Comando Family
Frank & Linda

**The
Walter Family
wishes you all a
Merry Christmas**
**Janna, Dan, Brianna,
Robert, Brandon
& Jayce**

**Merry
Christmas**
to all our
family and
friends
and a
**Happy New
Year!**

**Brianna & Joe
Comando**

Holiday Houses Abound
There were 20 gingerbread houses on display at the Neversink Parks and Recreation Elf Workshop. A log cabin made of pretzels by the Krier family was the winner of the Gingerbread House Contest!



The Moore House on Cherrie Lane in Neversink was the winner of the Decorated Houses. Check out the Parks and Rec Facebook site, or stop by the Parks and Rec office for a list of addresses of the brightly decorated homes in the area. Take the family for a holiday ride around the neighborhood. According to Jamie Brooks, Director of Neversink Parks and Rec, "They will love every minute of it."



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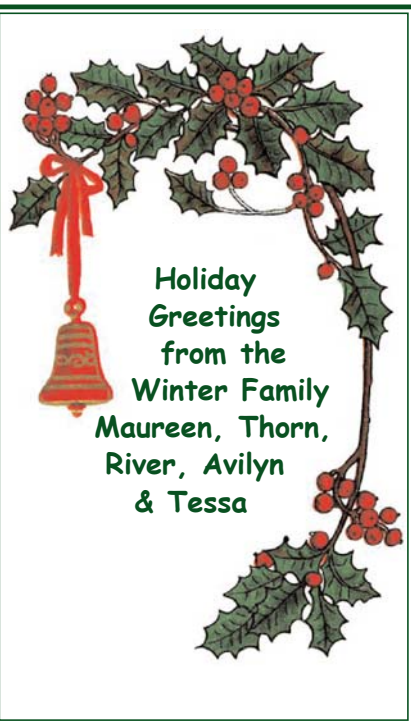
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Holiday Greetings from the Winter Family Maureen, Thorn, River, Avilyn & Tessa

Over 260 People Attended Frost Valley YMCA's Holiday Community Dinner



Claryville - On Friday, December 7, 2018 Frost Valley YMCA welcomed over 260 local families to a free Holiday Community Dinner from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet-style dinner with all the trimmings. Families enjoyed quality time together sharing a holiday feast, decorating cookies, and making special winter-themed crafts.

"The Community Dinner has become a cherished tradition at Frost Valley," says Jessie Emmons, Director of Community Programs for Frost Valley. "It's a wonderful opportunity to bring individuals and families together in the spirit of the holidays to share a special meal and camaraderie."

Frost Valley would like to thank Purdy and Sons and Riviera Produce for donating the food for this wonderful meal. Rolling V

kindly donated the busing for the night so that local families without transportation could attend. This event was also made possible thanks to the help of many Frost Valley staff and Chartwells employees who volunteered their time to make this a special night for families.

Frost Valley YMCA is also pleased to announce its Winter Break Day Camp for children between the ages of 4-16 on December 26-28 and December 31st from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Children will enjoy activities like snow tubing, cross-country skiing, broomball, arts and crafts, games, and more.

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December 25, 2018 CLOSED

December 31, 2018 CLOSED

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Local busing is available.

A limited number of spots are available for Winter Break Day Camp so interested parents are urged to register their child right away to ensure their spot. Please call 845-985-2291 ext. 306 for more information or to register your child.

The Townsman Staff

- Anna Altbach
- Barbara Barkley
- Gloria Beavers
- Frank Comando
- Linda Comando
- Carolyn Coombe
- Fran Fuller
- Carol Furman
- Jane Harrison
- Carol Lamonda
- John McKenna
- Barbara Purcell
- Claire Rennison
- Larry Shafman
- Hulda Vernooy

Wish You All
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



The Scene Too

By Jane Harrison

Happiest of Holidays to you dear reader!
See you again after Christmas and the New Year.

Fishy Business -

(From Pg. 7) • "A small subset of supermarket brands was responsible for a vastly disproportionate share of suspected mislabeling. Of the 12 chains with 10 or more samples tested, five had rates of suspected mislabeling that exceeded 50%, including Food Bazaar, Foodtown, Stew Leonard's, Uncle Giuseppe's, and Western Beef. These five received enforcement letters from OAG seeking further information, including on their seafood quality control practices, and could face financial penalties.

• While mislabeling affected virtually every tested seafood category, there was rampant mislabeling found in certain species. The results suggest that consumers who buy lemon sole, red snapper, and grouper are more likely to receive an entirely different fish. Similarly, consumers who bought "wild" salmon often got the farm-raised seafood they had paid on average 34% more to avoid.

• "The substitutes were typically cheaper, less desirable species. Snappers sold as red snapper, for example, tended to sell for half as much when properly labeled as another type of snapper. Some substitutes (e.g., lane snapper) had higher mercury levels or came from less sustainable fisheries than the intended species, raising consumer safety and environmental sustainability issues.

• "Seafood mislabeling occurred across most regions of New York, but was most widespread downstate. New York City had a staggering mislabeling rate (42.65%) across all samples tested, with similarly high rates of mislabeling on Long Island (40.63%) and an only slightly lower rate in Westchester and Rockland Counties (32.43%).

The report warns consumers to be on alert for seafood pricing that seems too good to be true, as it may signal problems. The report also encourages consumers to demand that their supermarkets provide precise labeling of the seafood they sell and describe their seafood quality and sustainability practices. Retailers, however, are ultimately responsible for accurately marketing seafood. The report concludes with a series of best practices already in effect at certain supermarkets - including rigorous vetting of seafood suppliers, oversight of individual supermarket locations and staff, and careful labeling - and the Attorney General urges all supermarkets to adopt these best practices.

The report and investigation was handled by Senior Advisor and Special Counsel to the Attorney General Simon Brandler of the Executive Division, and Special Counsel Mary Alestra and paralegal Christine Reynolds of the Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau, with supervision from Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau Chief Jane Azia, Executive Deputy Attorney General Manisha M. Sheth, Chief of Staff and Deputy Attorney General Brian Mahanna, and Chief Deputy Attorney General Janet Sabel.

Sullivan County Legislature Adopts Reduced County Budget

Monticello, NY - Weighing in at nearly \$43,000 less than originally proposed, the 2019 Sullivan County Budget was unanimously adopted today by the Legislature.

"Our Division of Management and Budget, which has worked for months to develop a responsible and efficient budget, was able to lower the appropriations for 2019 by

\$42,947, bringing the total appropriations in the 2019 Budget to \$235,286,181," said County Manager Josh Potosek. "The reduction was the result of a savings in our health insurance rates."

The Budget also is coming with a reduction in taxes, as the County tax rate is anticipated to fall by 1.61% (approximately \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed value), largely due to a significant increase in the overall assessed value of properties Countywide.

The Solid Waste Access Fee, charged on every County tax bill to pay for debt on the now-closed Landfill, will also decline. Commercial payers will see their rate drop from \$300 to \$200 a year, while residential payers will have their \$120 rate fall to \$80 a year.

"This is the first County budget in several years that promises to lower taxes - without cutting services, programs or personnel," noted District 1 Legislator Scott Samuelson, chair of the Legislature's Management & Budget Committee.

"This is a conscientious budget, taking into account the needs of both our staff and our taxpayers," remarked Legislature Chairman Luis Alvarez. "I thank everyone who worked toward that goal."

"This is a forward-looking budget, built upon the blessings of an improved economy rather than on the backs of taxpayers," added Legislature Vice Chair Nadia Rajsz.

"With many of our planning initiatives now bearing fruit, and more in the works, this budget smartly positions the County to welcome and manage further growth," said District 9 Legislator Alan Sorensen, the Legislature's Majority Leader.

"I'm very pleased to say this was a diligent, bipartisan effort that will result in some relief for our taxpayers," explained District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart, the Legislature's Minority Leader.

"The budget reflects that Sullivan County is leading the State in economic and employment growth, allowing County government to take proactive approaches to long-standing challenges," stated District 4 Legislator Catherine Owens. "I'm especially pleased to deliver a tax decrease to taxpayers."

"I'm glad to see it pass with unanimous support," agreed District 3 Legislator Mark McCarthy. "I thank my colleagues and our staff for all their efforts."

"We continue to dedicate funds towards roads, bridges and buildings, taking advantage of better economic times to begin gaining ground on deteriorating infrastructure," noted District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello.

"I think the good news in this budget reflects the good news Countywide," acknowledged District 5 Legislator Terri Ward. "Our economy is humming - and just as importantly, it is not dependent on any one entity or industry. Taxpayers can and should benefit from that."

Highlights of the Adopted 2019 Sullivan County Budget include:

- o \$8.8 million for road and bridgework throughout the County, in addition to an already-approved \$10 million bond that's replacing four aging bridges
- o \$200,000 for local towns and villages to demolish unsafe structures via our RUSSt Program
- o \$200,000 to undertake an environmental analysis of potential shovel-ready sites along Old Route 17 in the towns of Liberty and Thompson

CSD Holds Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Newly Renovated Gymnasium

(From Pg. 8) Members of the Board of Education, representatives from the school district staff and administration, neighboring school districts and BOCES were present, along with members of the Town Board and Police Department.



Dr. Katz informed everyone that 2018 is the 60th anniversary of opening the doors at the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School on September 8, 1958. He thanked the Fallsburg voters for supporting the building project referendum in May of 2017 that included the beautiful new gym facility for future athletic and other district events.

Director of Physical Education and Athletics Suzanne Lenzian and BOE President Debra Barbiani were honored to cut the ribbon held by two senior members of the Girls Varsity Team. Directly behind the ribbon was a banner commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Jr/Sr High School Building that was held by two other senior basketball teammates.

The evening was a memorable celebration of Fallsburg Central School District that ended with an exciting come from behind victory by the Lady Comets against Rondout Valley. What a perfect ending for an historic night.


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Members of the Board of Education, representatives from the school district staff and administration, neighboring school districts and BOCES were present, along with members of the Town Board and Police Department. Members of the Sullivan County Legislature and the State of New York Legislature, including the Honorable Jen Metzger, newly elected Senator for the 42nd Senate District, came to celebrate the occasion.

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DEC Encourages New Yorkers to Give the Gift of a Lifetime Fishing, Trapping, Or Hunting License Free Collectible 2018-19 Habitat Patron Pin Now Available through Special Holiday Habitat & Access Stamp Sales Promotion

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today reminded residents that the holidays are a great time to consider giving the gift of conservation.

"In your search for the perfect gift this holiday season, consider a New York State Lifetime License for the special hunters, trappers, and anglers in your life," Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "Hunting, trapping, and fishing in New York State has never been better, and this gift provides outdoorsmen and women with a lifetime of outdoor recreational opportunities. Purchasing a Habitat and Access Stamp during this year's holiday sales promotion is an excellent way to support New York's wildlife management efforts."

Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents who have resided in New York for at least 12 months prior to purchase (proof of residency required). Lifetime licenses may be purchased at any license-issuing agent, by phone (866-922-2257), or online with a current NYS DMV driver or non-driver ID containing a valid NYS address. Allow two weeks for delivery of Lifetime Licenses purchased online or by phone.

Lifetime Licenses may also be purchased as gifts for residents under the age of 16 with proof of age (birth certificate, passport, driver's license) and proof of residency (parent/legal guardian proof of residency) for the recipient. Gift lifetime licenses can be purchased in person at any license issuing agent.

Lifetime fishing, trapping or hunting licenses and privileges entitle the holder to all the privileges of equivalent annual licenses and privileges, but these licenses are good for a lifetime (with appropriate hunter/trapper education requirements) - even if the holder is no longer a New York State resident. The combination Lifetime License includes both hunting and fishing privileges, as well as turkey permits:

Available Lifetime Licenses:

Lifetime License (includes hunting, fishing, and turkey hunting privileges)

For a person age 0-4 years: \$380

For a person age 5-11 years: \$535

For a person age 12-69 years: \$765

For a person age 70 years, and older: \$65

Lifetime Fishing License

For a person age 0-69 years: \$460

For a person age 70 years and older: \$65

Lifetime Hunting License: \$535

Lifetime Bowhunting Privilege: \$235

Lifetime Muzzleloading Privilege: \$235

Lifetime Trapping License: \$395

Habitat & Access Stamp Sales Promotion

DEC also encourages gift givers to consider supporting efforts to help create and manage wildlife habitat and enhance access for wildlife-dependent recreation.

Now through December 31, purchasers of the \$5 Habitat & Access Stamp receive a collectible 2018-19 Habitat Patron pin featuring a barred owl. Revenue from the sale of Habitat & Access Stamps supports DEC's efforts to improve fish and wildlife habitat and increase access for outdoor recreation. Habitat & Access Stamps can be purchased online, by phone at 1-866-933-2257 (Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), or at any License Issuing Agent.

In addition, during this promotional period, anyone that purchases seven stamps in one transaction (\$35 donation), will receive the entire DEC collector series of seven pins, including the barred owl, beaver, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, wood duck, bluebird, and woodcock pins, plus an extra 2018-19 barred owl pins.

*Quantities are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. DEC can only guarantee Christmas delivery of pins for Habitat Stamps sold by December 16, but we will continue to fulfill all orders through the end of the year. For questions or to make a special pin request, contact DEC's License Sales hotline at 866-472-4332, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., by December 14.

Governor Cuomo Announces Launch of the Child Care Availability Task Force – Task Force Will Develop Recommendations to Make Quality, Affordable Child Care More Accessible

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the launch of the Child Care Availability Task Force. The task force, established earlier this year as part of the Governor's 2018 Women's Agenda, assembles a group of experts focused on developing innovative solutions that will improve access to quality, affordable child care in New York. The task force held its first meeting today.

"Every parent should be able to go to work without worrying if their children are getting the care they deserve," Governor Cuomo said. "Affordable and high-quality child care is not only vital for working families, it's also essential to strengthening our state's economy and by continuing to create these opportunities for parents to succeed in both work and family life we are building a stronger New York for all."

"As a mother, I know how important it is to have access to quality child care to help balance responsibilities at work and at home," said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Co-Chair of the Child Care Availability Task Force. "We want to ensure that working families are provided with the resources for safe, accessible and affordable child care. By promoting and investing in child care, we know it can improve women's participation in the workforce and narrow the gender wage gap. The Child Care Availability Task Force will explore and support innovative approaches to providing quality child care across the state."

The Child Care Availability Task Force builds upon Governor Cuomo's investments in child care. In 2017, the Governor established the Enhanced Middle-Class Child Care Tax Credit to reduce costs for working families. The credit more than doubled the tax benefit for 200,000 working families in New York State. The current state budget reflects the first year of the tax credit, which continues to alleviate child care costs and support working parents.

Manage Your Risk in an Agri-Tourism Business

HUDSON VALLEY, NY- Bringing visitors to your farm can create new income streams as trends indicate that nature and agricultural tourism is on the rise in the Catskills region. However, agri-tourism can also be a source of risk to the farm business. Six seminars will teach participants how to manage risk, followed by a panel of successful agri-tourism operators. In-between each seminar, participants will build on their knowledge to develop their own risk management plan for their farm. Attendees will learn about the following five areas of risk: legal, marketing, human resource, financial, and weather/production risks. This 5-county program will be offered simultaneously in Delaware (the host county), Otsego/Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster via online Zoom technology.

The program is sponsored by the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education agency and the five Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations. The workshops take place from 10am - 2:30pm.

Date	Topic
Friday 1/11	Introduction to Risk Management;
Friday 1/18	Production/Weather Risk
Friday 1/25	Legal Risk
Friday 2/1	Marketing Risk
Friday 2/8	Human Resource Risk
Friday 2/15	Agri-Tourism Panel

There is no fee to attend and participants may bring their own lunch. Please register to ensure that there is adequate room and resources. Attend any or all of the classes. For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, contact Melinda Meddaugh at mm2592@cornell.edu. For information about the program, contact Mariane Kiraly, Cornell Cooperative Extension Delaware County at mk129@cornell.edu.

Site locations:

• Cornell Cooperative Extension Delaware County (host site) www.ccedelaware.org 607-865-6531; mk129@cornell.edu; 34570 State Highway 10 Hamden, NY 13782

• Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (via online Zoom technology) www.sullivanccc.org; 845-292-6180; mm2592@cornell.edu; 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY 12754

• Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie/Otsego Counties (via online Zoom technology) www.cceschoharie-otsego.org 518-234-4303

In the Aftermath of Widespread Food Contamination Outbreaks Across the Country – Including New York – Gillibrand Reveals that FDA has Failed to Implement a Law She Championed and Helped Pass Years ago that Would Protect Americans from Food-borne Illness, Notify Consumers about Tainted Products that May Already be on Their Shelves – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Estimates that 48 Million Americans - Including Three Million New Yorkers - Get Sick from Foodborne Disease Each Year

Washington, DC - In the aftermath of widespread food contamination outbreaks in recent months, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today revealed that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has failed to implement a law she championed and passed years ago that would protect Americans from food-borne illnesses and notify consumers about tainted products that may have already purchased.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that three million New Yorkers get sick from foodborne illnesses each year. Nationally, 48 million Americans get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne disease each year. Food recalls are the last chance for food safety regulators to remove dangerous food from grocery stores and let consumers know that they may have purchased tainted food that could cause a food-borne illness. Gillibrand called on the Trump Administration to immediately implement these long-overdue regulations to proactively inform consumers about potential food safety risks lurking in their pantries and freezers.

"When New Yorkers buy groceries, we shouldn't have to worry about whether the food we're buying is going to make us sick. We already have a system in place to prevent people from buying tainted food that's been recalled - but that doesn't help if the FDA issues a recall after people have already bought that particular item and taken it home. A family might have food stored in their freezer or pantry for weeks, or even months, and have no idea that it was recalled after they bought it, at no fault of their own," said Senator Gillibrand. "That's why I wrote and helped pass a law years ago to fix this problem, but years later, the FDA has done nothing to implement the law. We have a responsibility to help keep New Yorkers safe from potential food poisoning, and the FDA needs to start enforcing this law immediately."

The legislation Gillibrand fought for and passed as part of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) would require grocery stores to tell consumers if they had purchased recalled items that could potentially make them sick. The law requires grocery stores to display recall notifications where shoppers will see them or notify shoppers through the contact information available through their customer loyalty cards so that they do not have to monitor news reports or government notification websites to learn about contaminated food.

In her letter to the Food and Drug Administration, Gillibrand urged the FDA to immediately issue guidelines for grocery stores so that they can notify their customers about food recalls in a timely, accurate, and actionable manner. In addition, she requested responses to the following questions:

1. What actions has the FDA taken to date to provide grocery stores with the tools necessary to notify their customers in the event of a food recall?
2. What is the timeline for the completion of regulations required under Section 211 (g-h) "Grocery Store Notification" and "Consumer Notification"?
3. How will FDA educate grocery store operators and other food retailers about new regulations to ensure that these policies will be implemented in a manner that improve consumer awareness of recalls?
4. How will FDA monitor the compliance of grocery store operators and other food retailers with these regulations in the future?

Statement from UC Executive Hein Regarding 2019 Ulster County Budget

“As I sign the 2019 Ulster County Budget, I want to emphasize how extraordinarily proud I am of the accomplishment this budget represents for the hardworking taxpayers of Ulster County. **The 2019 Ulster County budget delivers the lowest County property taxes since all the way back in 2009, when I first took office, while also providing the most socially-responsible budget in Ulster County's history.** This achievement may seem almost inconceivable in today's day and age, however, the fact that we have been able to make it a reality has resulted in incredible benefits for our residents and our overall economy.

“As the County Executive I have always believed that responsibly managing the County's finances is one of my highest duties, but it is also true that providing caring leadership focused on our collective humanity is ultimately what makes this government so unique. That is why I am so proud that by embracing innovation and meaningful reforms, we continue to ensure greater access to more services than ever before for the amazing people of Ulster County. In fact, in the areas of social justice, environmental protection and so many more, Ulster County has truly become a statewide model.

“Our Restorative Justice and Community Empowerment Center is a first of its kind in New York State, and through funding in the 2019 budget it will soon lead the way in **creating positive change in the lives of countless at-risk youth**, their families and so many others.

And as part of our Brighter Futures Initiative, it will also be pivotal to our mission of positively **impacting the national tragedy of generational poverty** at the local level.

“In addition, as we strive to help individuals and families suffering through the horrific opioid crisis gripping our country, this budget further expands our commitment to **enhanced treatment and prevention efforts** as well as public awareness of a new statewide law that we helped spearhead to remove unwanted drugs from our streets.

“And as we face potentially catastrophic climate change issues, our ongoing leadership and budgetary focus on **responsible environmental initiatives** at the local level will continue to ensure Ulster County's position at the forefront of these issues nationally.

“Our County **tourism investments** in 2019 positions us to continue our recent record-setting results, which exceed even much larger counties.

“In 2019, we will continue reinventing our public transportation system with dramatic technology upgrades, a bus system merger with the City of Kingston, and now **free fares for all Veterans, SUNY Ulster students, and all rides for everyone within Kingston during the six-month transition period.**

“And last but not least, our multi-year, \$70 million investment in infrastructure will continue **transforming our roads, bridges and trails, making them safer and better than ever before** for residents and visitors alike.

“So, as the County Executive, I want to personally thank the Ulster County Legislature for their shared fiscal discipline in avoiding the lure of political revenue projections over those rooted in sound budgetary practices, as well as their continued support of my proposed Executive Budgets. In fact, by working together, I'm proud that our proposed budgets have been adopted in bipartisan votes, with changes totaling less than one-tenth of one percent, for the tenth straight year.

“These budgets are tangible representations of our values, and that is why I am so pleased that we have together delivered **the most socially-responsible budget in Ulster County's history**, while still lowering County property taxes for the seventh year in a row, to the lowest level in a decade.”

Celebrate Christmas Eve with the Claryville Reformed Church

Celebrate Christmas Eve with the Claryville Reformed Church. The service begins at 7 PM. Reverend Ken Tenkinck, of the Warwick Center, will lead worship and John Bernstein will be at the organ. The service will conclude with candle lighting and singing "Silent Night". Everyone is welcome!

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Immaculate Conception Church Woodbourne

Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator
Telephone (845) 434-7643
Parish website: www.icwoodbourne.com

Archdiocesan Confession Day

The annual pre-Christmas Reconciliation Monday, conducted throughout the Archdiocese with extended confession hours, is this year on Monday, December 17th, here from 4:00 - 5:00 pm and 7:00 - 8:00 pm.



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL MISSION

The Little Church with the Big Heart

Sunday, 8 am Service of Holy Communion, except: Second Saturday of each month, 12:00 noon

Music by Fred VanWagner
Coffee hour follows service
All are welcome!

5277 State Rt. 42 • South Fallsburg
845-436-7539
www.standrewsepiscopalmission.org

Sundown United Methodist Church

Peekamoose Rd., Sundown
Sunday Worship Service - 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:45 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Seung Jin Hong
845-985-2283
e-mail: Sundownumc@gmail.com

Grahamsville United Methodist Church

Rte. 55, Grahamsville
Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for grades k-7 - 10:30a.m.
Mid-week Bible Study opportunities available!
For information contact Rev. Seung Jin Hong, 845-985-2283
e-mail: Grahamsvilleumc@gmail.com

Loucks Funeral Home

Geoff and Heather Hazzard
"Celebrating Life, One Family at a Time"

79 North Main Street
Ellenville, New York
(845) 647-4343

Claryville Reformed Church

Claryville Road
Claryville, NY 12725
845-985-2041



Worship Services @ 10:00 am

Church Hall available for rent
Call - 845-985-2041 for information

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Embraces Fallsburg, Neversink, Sundown and Ulster Heights)
6317 Rte. 42, Woodbourne, NY

Weekend Mass schedule:

Saturday afternoon: 4:30 pm
Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

Daily Mass Schedule: Monday morning 8:50 am; Tuesday morning 8:50 am; Wednesday morning No Mass; Thursday afternoon 5:45 pm; Friday morning 8:50 am and Saturday morning 8:50 am.

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm

Rev. Ignas Dhas MMI, Administrator
(845) 434-7643

COLONIAL MONUMENTS

888-856-8619 845-434-7363

MONUMENTS INSTALLED IN ALL CEMETERIES

CREMATION MEMORIALS AND BENCHES

MONUMENT LETTERING AND CLEANING

WWW.COLONIAL-MONUMENT.COM

St. Augustine's Chapel

Watson Hollow Rd. • West Shokan, NY

Sunday Mass - 9:30 am
Holy Days 5:30 pm

Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. George W. Hommel, Pastor

Grahamsville Reformed Church
The Church with a friendly welcome

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 9:30 am
P O Box 238 - Route 55
Grahamsville, NY 12740
845-985-7480

COLONIAL RAMSAY FUNERAL HOMES | COLONIAL MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

FUNERAL SERVICES | CREMATION SERVICES

PRE-ARRANGEMENTS

MONUMENTS | ENGRAVING

OFFICES IN:

WOODBOURNE, LIBERTY, MONTICELLO
LIVINGSTON MANOR & KAUNEONGA LAKE
(845)292-7160 (845)434-7363

WWW.COLONIALBRYANTFUNERALHOME.COM
WWW.COLONIALRAMSAYFUNERALHOME.COM

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES:

**Immediate Opening
Tri-Valley Central School**

**Substitute
Math 7-12 Teacher (Per Dem)**

NYS Certification Required

Please forward resumes **ASAP**
To: recruitment@scboces.org or
Sullivan BOCES Recruitment Service,
6 Wierk Avenue, Liberty, NY 12754 or
Attn: Tri-Valley Search EOE

12/6; 13; 20; -14.4

**Immediate Opening
Tri-Valley Central School**

School Media Specialist

The candidate must have a strong record of integrating technology into instruction, with the ability to collaborate with teachers to design and implement lessons and units of instruction.
This is a Tenure-Track Position
NYS Certification Required

Please forward resumes by Dec 28th.
To: recruitment@scboces.org or
Sullivan BOCES Recruitment Service,
6 Wierk Avenue, Liberty, NY 12754 or
Attn: Tri-Valley Search EOE

12/6; 13; 20; -14.4

**ANNOUNCEMENT
IMMEDIATE OPENING**

The following position is available at
Tri-Valley Central School for 2018 - 2019:
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE (SCHOOL)
Candidacy subject to minimum Civil Service Qualifications
and current license

Interested parties should apply on OLAS or submit letter of interest and application to:
Mr. Robert Whitaker, School Business Official
Tri-Valley Secondary School
34 Moore Hill Road
Grahamsville, New York 12740
robertwhitaker@trivalleycsd.org

Deadline for receiving application materials: December 21, 2018
12/13; 20 -

TAX COLLECTOR LEGAL NOTICE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Lisa Garigliano, Tax Collector for the Town of Neversink, County of Sullivan and the State of New York, will collect 2019 taxes according to the following schedule:

MONDAY thru FRIDAY: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM (excluding holidays) at the: TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE LOCATED IN THE NEVERSINK TOWN HALL, 273 MAIN ST. (RT. 55), GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740, PHONE: (845) 985-2262 x307

SATURDAY: Neversink Town Hall on the following date: January 26, 2019 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Taxes collected until the 31st day of January, 2019 without interest. All taxes postmarked after January 31, 2019 will be subject to late penalties as listed below. **Late payment penalties are strictly enforced.**

SCHEDULE OF FEES: Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 No Penalty
Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 1% of Tax Amount
Mar. 1 - Mar. 31 2% of Tax Amount, plus \$2.00 unpaid notice fee; sent 3/5/19

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Lisa Garigliano, Tax Collector

TO PAY BY MAIL IN FULL: Send **ENTIRE TAX BILL** with payment to: Lisa Garigliano, Tax Collector, PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740.

- Upon receipt of payment the top portion of your tax bill will be marked paid and returned to you for your records. It is for this reason that it is **important to return the entire bill.**
- **In the event the collector needs to reach you, please include your phone number on your check.**

INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN:

Please Note: You must make the January Payment in order to participate in the installment plan.

- January - 50% due by 1/31/2019 at 0% interest. Send "Payment #1" stub with your check.
- February - 25% due by 2/28/2019 at 1% interest. Send "Payment #2" stub with your check.
- March - 25% due by 3/31/2019 at 2% interest plus \$2.00 unpaid notice fee. *Send entire bill.*
- Receipt will be mailed to you after the final payment.

****RECEIPTS FOR JAN/FEB INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS WILL ONLY BE SENT UPON REQUEST.****

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED - 2.9% Convenience fee and .30¢ transaction fee will be added. Please go to www.taxlookup.net to make payment. Find your parcel, link at bottom of that page.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING DISPOSAL FEE: The County has imposed an annual fee to pay for solid waste/recycling disposal. This fee appears as a separate line item on your tax bill and is payable along with the tax. Please direct all questions to the County Treasurer's office at (845) 807-0200.

AFTER MARCH 31st: TAXES ARE PAYABLE TO COUNTY TREASURER; CALL (845) 807-0200 FOR AMOUNT DUE OR CONTACT THEM AT: Sullivan County Treasurer's Office, 100 North St., PO Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701.

- **If you no longer own this property, please return bill to collector with the new owner's name and address; or forward the bill to the rightful owner.**
- **If your address has changed, please note your correct mailing address, along with your SBL# and return it with your tax bill or contacts the Assessor's office at the number below.**
- **You may obtain a duplicate tax bill/receipt or check the status of your payment via the Internet at www.taxlookup.net/neversink.**

For information regarding Veteran's, Senior Citizen's, Firemen's or Star Exemptions please contact the Town of Neversink Assessor's Office: Bryan Delaney, Sole Assessor (845) 985-2262 x 323
Geri Gorton, Clerk (845) 985-2262 x 319

Hours are Mon. to Fri. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Evening hours are available, please call for an appointment. Or by Mail at: PO Box 307, Grahamsville, NY 12740.

12/20/18

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT

There will be a **RECESSED MEETING** of the Town of Neversink Town Board to be held at the Town Hall, 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY at on **Friday, December 28, 2018 at 6:00 pm.**

The purpose of the meeting is to approve year end vouchers as well as any other business that may legally come before the board.

Lisa Garigliano, Town Clerk
Dated: December 13, 2018

12/20/18

**LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Neversink
Notice of Budget Adoption**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town of Neversink Town Board, Sullivan County, New York has met and considered the Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 and conducted a public hearing thereon November 7, 2018 as required by Town Law, Section 108, and **FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN**, that the Preliminary Budget is hereby adopted as the Annual Budget of the Town of Neversink for the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2019. Copies of said budget are available at the Office of the Town Clerk, 273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY during normal business hours.

By order of the Town Board
Lisa Garigliano, Town Clerk
December 13, 2018

12/20/18

**TOWN OF NEVERSINK
2019 ORGANIZATIONAL &
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Please be advised that the 2019 Organizational and Regular meeting of the Town of Neversink Town Board will be held on January 9, 2019 at the Town of Neversink Town Hall, Grahamsville at 7:00 PM.

The purpose of the meeting is to make appointments, set salaries and compensations, establish policies and procedures in addition to the Regular January meeting.

Lisa Garigliano, Town Clerk
December 13, 2018

12/20/18

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The Town of Denning will hold its Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019 at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY 12725 scheduled to begin at 6 pm.

By the Order of the Denning Town Board
Joy Monforte, RMC
Town Clerk

November 20th, 2018 12/20/18

**Haven't Gotten
the Flu Vaccine Yet?
Now's as Good a
Time as Ever**

Liberty, NY - This winter, when you see signs reading, "Get Your Flu Vaccine," you might ask, "Isn't it too late to get vaccinated?" No, it's not too late!

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that flu vaccination efforts continue throughout the flu season. In fact, vaccination into December and beyond can be beneficial during most flu seasons, including this one.

"Flu season most often peaks between December and March, but activity can occur as late as May," says Dr. Dan Jernigan, Director of the Influenza Division at CDC. "We are encouraging people who have not yet been vaccinated this season to get vaccinated now."

"It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies that protect against influenza virus infection to develop in the body, so it's best to get vaccinated early," adds Sullivan County Public Health Director Nancy McGraw.

For millions of people every season, the flu means a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, fatigue, and miserable days spent in bed. Millions of people get sick, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands to tens of thousands of people die from flu each year.

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against seasonal flu viruses.

Some people are at high risk for serious flu-related complications that can lead to hospitalization and even death, including pregnant women, children younger than 5 (especially those under 2 years old), people 65 year of age and older, and people who have certain medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease. Vaccinating pregnant woman helps protect them from flu illness and hospitalization, and also has been shown to help protect the baby from flu infection for several months after birth, before the baby can be vaccinated.

"Getting the flu vaccine is simple, and it's the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from the flu," says Dr. Jernigan.



**Town of Neversink
Parks & Recreation**
273 Main Street PO BOX 307
Grahamsville, NY 12740
Call for info: (845) 985-2262
extension 312
www.townofneversink.org

2019 Upcoming Events

Nine Sundays - Discounted Passes Skiing & Snowboarding @ Holiday Mtn

- Jan. 11 - Free Quinz Pinz Escape Room & Bowling
- Jan. 25 - Free Snow Tubing trip to Holiday Mtn
- Jan. 26 - CPR & AED Training, Basic First Aid. Learn to save a life @ Town Hall
- Feb. 8 - Paint two wine glasses @ Neversink Town Hall
- Feb. 22 - Free Roller Skating at 209 Skate Time

Check out flyers on table outside Parks & Rec office door at Neversink Town Hall



Daniel Pierce Library

hours of operation

- Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday and Monday: Closed

If you have any questions, please call the library at 985-7233.

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. On occasion, a meeting date is changed. Please call ahead to confirm.

AL-ANON MEETINGS- <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>
Mon- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty
• Thurs- 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church Annex, 6317 Rt 42, Woodbourne
Sat- 8:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 170 N. Main Street, Liberty

VETERANS always **Free** search of the Archives for family or history of Sullivan County at the **Sullivan County Museum**, 265 Main St., Hurleyville, NY. For information call 845-434-8044.

**Dept. of Motor Vehicle Schedule
Schedule - Neversink Town Hall**

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

JANUARY 10, 2019

DMV IS LOCATED IN THE MAIN FLOOR
CONFERENCE ROOM

PAYMENT BY:

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY — NO CASH OR CREDIT

All Aboard!
Join the Fun!
Play Mexican Train
FREE FUN every FRIDAY 1-4 pm
in the upstairs meeting room at the Neversink Town Hall

Also **WANTED** People to play cards

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU answer

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

- 12/20/18 Neversink Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners 7:00 pm
- 12/24/18 Town of Neversink 1/2 Day Christmas Holiday
- 12/25/18 Town of Neversink Holiday CHRISTMAS
- 12/21/18 Town of Neversink 1/2 Day Holiday New Year's
- 1/1/19 Town of Neversink Holiday NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 1/5/19 Covered Dish Supper - Sundown Methodist Church Hall 5:30 pm



To All: Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.
Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2019** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year.
You may email them to: tvtownsmen@yahoo.com;
USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740
or Drop them in the Drop Box at the Grahamsville 1st Aid Building



TRI-VALLEY AREA
SUNDOWN CAMP & BAIT SHOP
GRAHAMSVILLE DELI
NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE
BLUE HILL LODGE
ZANETTI'S SERVICE STATION
3 GOLDEN'S CONVENIENCE STORE

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman is available at the following places of business in Sullivan and Ulster Counties

LOCH SHELDRAKE • VALERO MINI MALL • SC COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY
FALLSBURG • FALLSBURG TOWN HALL

WOODBOURNE - CITGO STATION • MO'S GAS STATION • P.D. SMITH ENTERPRISE

LIBERTY - LIBERTY FITNESS • CHARLIE'S PIZZA • AGWAY (Both Stores)
CLAUDIA'S BEAUTY SALON • SHOPRITE • IDEAL FOOD

ELLENVILLE/NAPANOCH
JAMES NAPANOCH GROCERY
MATTHEW'S PHARMACY
EWCOG
ELLENVILLE CITGO
ELLENVILLE REG HOSPITAL
PETER'S MARKET
THORTON HARDWARE
SHOPRITE
IL PARIDSO

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Unless otherwise noted, all **Town Board meetings** are held at the Town Meeting Hall, Bostock Road, Shokan at **7:00 pm.** Town Board Meetings are the **second Tuesday of each month** with the **audit/workshop meetings** being held the **Monday preceding the second Tuesday.**

Town of Olive Planning Board meets the **first and third Tuesdays of each month.** Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY. You can contact the Town Building & Zoning Department to confirm a meeting date if you would like to attend at 657-2015. If there is nothing on their agenda, they will cancel meetings.

NOTE FROM DAVE MOORE:

Our thanks to Helen Budrock from Sullivan Renaissance who led us through a productive Community Forum on December 5th. I have attached Hellen's notes from this meeting as well as summaries of the different grants that Sullivan Renaissance will offer in 2019.

Please mark your calendar. On Monday January 7th at 7:00 PM at the Daniel Pierce Library, Neversink Renaissance will be meeting to discuss our 2019 plans and to focus on the transition of leadership responsibilities for community beautification in the Town of Neversink. The feedback we gathered at our Community Discussion will be of great value in our planning. It is vital that we have a strong representation of community members at this meeting.

In the meantime, Happy Holidays to all!
Thank you,
Dave Moore

Ring in the season!

The sounds of business in the lobby of the Sullivan County Government Center are about to be replaced with the sounds of the season, thanks to talented children, young adults and their teachers from all across the County.

"Our Holiday Concert series is a highlight of the year for many County staff, and the public is just as welcome to come hear the vocal and musical skills of our young peo-ple," invites County Manager Josh Potosek. "Join us in a heartwarming, joyful celebration of the holidays!"

With the one noted exception, all concerts will begin at noontime:

- December 20:** Roscoe Central School Band & Choir
- December 21:** Eldred Junior-Senior High School Key

Tri-Valley Elementary School

WANTED:

Local establishments to display student KINDNESS artwork

Contact Penny Hennessey in the Main Office at 985-2296
ext. 5306 or
pennyhennessey@trivalleycsd.org

All artwork and frames will be provided by the District and refreshed bi-annually.

Monticello Seniors Installation of New Officers and Board Members



Thursday, Nov. 30, 2018 the Monticello Seniors installed their new Officers and Board Members for 2019. Town Supervisor, William Rieber presented the Seniors with a new American Flag.

Pictured left to right: Nellie Galligan; Membership Chair, Judy Pugh; Treasurer, Palma Avery; Town Supervisor, William Rieber; President, Art Rosenzweig; Secretary, Tshara S'Das; 2nd Vice President, Pat Phipps.

Absent from the picture are 1st Vice President, Dottie McCoy, Corresponding Secretary, Jeanne Cellini.

A Perfect Holiday Gift that last throughout the New Year!

Order a one-year gift subscription to *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* for that special person on your list or for yourself

Fill out the order form and send it along with a check for \$35.00 to:

Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman
P O Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Upon receipt of your order a greeting card announcing your gift will be sent to the person(s) to whom you are sending a holiday subscripton. Gift orders must be received by **December 31, 2018** in order for a subscription to begin in January 2019.

NAME OF PERSON YOU WISH TO SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____



GRAHAMSVILLE REALTY
 New York State Licensed Real Estate Broker
 135 Peekamoose Road
 Sundown, NY 12740
 grahamsvillerealty@yahoo.com
 http://www.grahamsvillerealty.com
 845-985-0501 • 845-798-9853

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Three bedroom home on 1 acre in quiet residential neighborhood needs TLC. 1 mile out of the village of Grahamsville. Tri-Valley School Dist. Low Taxes. \$169,000 Call 845-985-0501.

RENTALS

Small Cabn on Rt. 55. \$500 plus utilities. Security, References. Dave 845-321-1919
 b12/20

Quiet 2+ bedroom; enclosed porch with open porch to woods on 4 acres; central air; 62 Rocky Hill Rd. Handyman a plus. Call: Kay 602-705-3326
 b11/29rtf

WANTED

WANTED: OLD & VINTAGE CB RADIO EQUIPMENT:
 Microphones; linear Amps; Power Supplies, Mobile or Base CB's.
 Call: Charlie @ 845-418-8793
 Interested in talking about CB Radio? Give Charlie a call.
 rtfn

Shop Locally!

The holidays will be here before you know. Check out our local businesses for unique gift and holiday ideas:

Chestnut Creek Baked Goods -845-985-5070
 or 845-798-1724/Facebook

Kate's Herbals - www.katesherbals.com

Harnett Woodwork - harnettdesigns.com

Story's Neversink Plant Co. (845) 985-5071

Standing Impressions -standingimpressions.com

Muthig Farms Maple Syrup (845) 292-7838

Claryville Pottery (845) 985 2016.

Thunderview Farms -thunderviewfarms.com

Ann's Booty - (845) 741-5467

Balloons by Art - (845) 701-2931

Neversink Chronicles by John D. McKenna at the Neversink General Store

... and there is still time to cut your own Christmas Tree at the **Gotsch Christmas Tree Farm**
 They will be open December 22 & 23!
 See their ad on Page 8 for details

ADDICTION?
 There is Always Hope...
 LOCAL 24/7 INFO & REFERRAL:
866-832-5575
 NATIONAL TEXT #HOPENY SALT

HELP WANTED

Part-time Help needed for Special Events at the beautiful Claryville Event Center. Experience in restaurant service helpful. Ideal for teachers or college students. Call 845-985-0247.

Pizza Chef at Blue Hill Lodge & Cafe. For interview call 845-985-0247 and leave a message. We will get back to you.

Grahamsville Deli - Help Wanted -
 Full time/Part time.
 Please call 845-985-0107 for an appointment to come for a personal interview.

JOIN US!
Holiday Concerts

Noontime at the Government Center, 100 North Main St., Monticello

Friday, December 7 Monticello Instrumental Chamber Ensembles	Monday, December 17 Liberty High School Band
Monday, December 10 Livingston Manor Concert Band	Tuesday, December 18 Liberty High School Honors Chorus and Orchestra
Wednesday, December 12 Liberty Middle School Chorus	Wednesday, December 19 Monticello High School String & Vocal Ensemble
Thursday, December 13 Monticello 6th Grade Chorus and 7th/8th Grade String Orchestra	Thursday, December 20 Roscoe Central School Band & Choir
Friday, December 14 NYS Office for Discovery Ensemble and 4th/5th Grade Cultural Arts Chorus	Friday, December 21 Eldred Junior-Senior High School Key Elements and Chamber Ensemble




If you have a craft item you wish to sell, send a picture of your finished craft along with a description, price, etc and your contact information to:

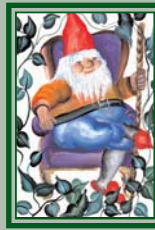
Gnome Home
 131 Peekamoose Road
 Sundown, NY 12740

...along with \$1 for each item that you wish to have displayed online for one month in your own shop at the **Gnome Home virtual community on-line mall**



... a virtual on-line mall
 gnomehome.net

Help your business grow
Advertise in the The Townsman!
 Classified ads - \$6.00 for the first 20 words/ 20 cents each additional word
 1" Boxed ad (1" x 3") - \$7.20 per week
 Business card ad (2" x 3") \$14.40 per week
 (3" x 4") - \$28.80 per week
 (3" x 6") - \$43.20
 (4" x 6") - \$57.60
 1/4 pg (5" x 7") -\$84.00
 (6" x 8") - \$115.00
 1/2 pg (7" x 10") -\$168.00
 Full Page - B/W - \$336.00
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"Knarf's Classic Movie Trivia"
CHRISTMAS CHEER
MONDAY CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24TH
 at 11:00 AM **"BABES IN TOYLAND"** (Comedy 1934) Two employees of a toy maker (**Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy**) try to borrow money from their employer to pay off the mortgage on Mother Peep's shoe. **Directed by Gus Meins - Starring Charles Rogers, Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Charlotte Henry.** This version of Victor Herbert's operetta looks better all the time, compared to lumbering "family musicals" of recent years. **Stan and Ollie** are in fine form, in the fantasy element of Toyland - especially the attack by the Bogeymen - is excellent. Video title: **MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS.**
 At 8:00 PM **"BISHOP'S WIFE,"** (Comedy, 1947) - **Directed by Henry Koster, Starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young, David Niven, Monty Woolley, James Gleason, Gladys Cooper, and Elsa Lanchester.** Christmas fantasy of suave angel (Grant) coming to earth to help Bishop Niven and wife Young raise money for a new church. At 10:00 PM **"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"** (Drama, 1951). (*Watch the date on this one - it is on Sunday December 23, at 10:00 PM.* We feel this is a better version than the Owen classic) Ghosts visit a miser during the holidays to teach him the errors of his ways. **Dir: Brian Desmond-Hurst Cast: Alastair Sim, Kathleen Harrison, Mervyn Johns D: Brian Desmond-Hurst. Alastair Sim, Jack Warner, Kathleen Harrison, Mervyn Johns.** A Superb film is too good to be shown only at Christmas time; always delightful Sim makes Scrooge a three-dimensional character in this faithful, heartwarming rendition of the Dickens classic. Screenplay by Noel Langley. Patrick Macnee plays young Marley. At 1:30 AM **"MEET JOHN DOE"** (Drama, 1941), A reporter's fraudulent story turns a tramp into a national hero and makes him a pawn of big business. **Directed by that wonderfully sensitive humanitarian, Director Frank Capra. Starring Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward Arnold, Walter Brennan, Spring Byington, James Gleason, Gene Lockhart.** Interesting social commentary, with naive Cooper hired to spearhead national goodwill drive benefitting corrupt politician Arnold.

Quiz:
 In **"MEET JOHN DOE"**

1. Who played Long John Willoughby?
2. Who played Ann Mitchell?
3. Who played the "Colonel"?
4. Who played Henry Connell?



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ANSWER TO KNARF'S MOVIE TRIVIA

Answers:
 1. Gary Cooper
 2. Barbara Stanwyck
 3. Walter Brennan
 4. James Gleason

What's Going on in The Gnome Neighborhood™

SUNDOWN
 Jan 6, 2019 Covered Dish Supper - Sundown Methodist Church Hall 5:30 pm

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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