

# THE MOST DIFFICULT THING

## Volunteers Take Action Against Invasive Species

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE – If you drove past Shaddock Pond by the Hurleyville firehouse on Saturday August 13, you might have seen us, in kayaks or in waders, grabbing endless handfuls of aquatic weeds and throwing them into our boats.

Water chestnut is the invasive culprit that clogs our Hurleyville gateway pond every year, turning it a dull, flat green, without any sparkle of reflecting sun. This invasive plant does not produce the delightfully crunchy white water chestnuts in Chinese take-out. If it did, we might have a fantastic fundraiser at our fingertips.

No, this is the European water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), an invasive aquatic plant released mistakenly into waters of the Northeast in the late 1800s, and it's slowly spreading throughout New York State, clog-

ging waterways, lakes and ponds and altering aquatic habitats. Water chestnut plants can form dense floating mats, severely limiting light. It can reduce oxygen levels, increasing the potential for killing fish. It competes with native vegetation and does not provide food for waterfowl. Each plant contains nutlets, which are hard, prehistoric-looking seed pods with sharp points on them that can puncture a foot or a hand. Nutlets can survive for years on land or under water, and they hold seeds that produce more plants.

Sarah Coney is the aquatic invasive species manager at CRISP – the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership, which is affiliated with the Catskill Center in Arkville, NY. Sarah grew up in Sullivan County, attending both the Homestead School and Tri-Valley, where she graduated before studying

biology at SUNY Oneonta. She was driving by Shaddock Pond on her way to Morningside Park in early July when she recognized the plants flowering on the surface of the water, distinctively different from water lilies.

Sarah turned onto Waldorf Avenue, where she met Jim Sullivan, and asked if she could get into the pond for a closer look. Sarah travels with a kayak on her car, and, joined by Jim, she paddled around the pond where she observed both water chestnut and frogbit, another aquatic invasive plant.

That's when the plan was hatched to raise awareness by organizing a weed-pulling event. Sarah knew it was unlikely that hand pulling would clear Shaddock Pond of the pesky plants, but she says that these events provide other benefits.

"It's always great to get people together to help



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN

**Volunteers gather in Shaddock Pond to start the "weed pull."**

deal with invasives; it not only benefits the environment but is a great educational experience for vol-

unteers," she says. "The more people are familiar with water chestnut and frogbit, the more people

we have reporting it and getting involved with managing it."

So, Sarah created a flyer which was circulated via Facebook. The Hurleyville Fire Department allowed some mowing and weed trimming to clear an access point to the water. Jim Sullivan trailered a few kayaks and canoes to the site, and cleared the weeds at the water's edge. A dozen volunteers showed up, along with Sarah Coney and two invasive species strike team technicians from the Catskill Center. Lisa Lyons of Morgan Outdoors recruited some volunteers. Several members of the fire department provided the strength and machinery to haul the weeds out of the water, which was no easy task.

Bob DeGraw and his Gator XUV made countless trips to create a giant pile of weeds on dry land with help from Alan Price. Jack Halchak moved the weeds

from kayaks to a scow that could be dragged up the bank. Chief Charlie Payne stopped by to help, and agreed to oversee the burning of the weed pile once it dries out.

It was a wet and messy day, and we were able to clear an Olympic pool-sized area of the pond. Networking yielded plans for some next steps to help Shaddock Pond. Contact has been made with a service business that uses herbicides to clear aquatic invasives, while complying with DEC regulations.

That service was employed by the Village of Woodridge to clear Crystal Lake. There are weed removal vessels for sale online that could be purchased by the Town of Fallsburg, perhaps. (Check out the Weedoo vessels on YouTube!)

The other good news is that everyone can take simple measures to prevent the spread of invasive species,

according to CRISP:

- Clean, drain, and dry all watercraft, trailers and gear after visiting a waterbody.
  - Burn only local firewood.
  - Use native plants in gardening and landscaping.
  - Be a responsible aquarium and exotic pet owner—never dump or release species into the wild.
  - Help detect invasive species by reporting findings to the iMap Invasives online database.
  - Get involved with your local PRISM (like the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership)—they are groups of organizations and individuals working together to prevent and manage invasive species.
- In a county that that relies on eco-tourism, raising awareness of invasive species is critical. And the happening hamlet of Hurleyville is doing its part!

## "POLIO POSES NO THREAT"

### County Working Closely With State

#### No Local Cases, But Public Health Urges Vaccination

LIBERTY – Sullivan County's Department of Public Health is working closely with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in response to the detection of poliovirus in wastewater samples in the Town of Fallsburg.

"We've been preparing for this possibility for weeks because of the wastewater surveillance results for poliovirus in Rockland, Orange and NYC, and previously secured additional polio vaccine for area healthcare providers and the County health department," Public Health Director Nancy McGraw explained. "I want to be clear, however, that to date we have not had any cases of polio found in Sullivan County, and so long as all adults and children are vaccinated, the disease poses no threat."

"The public should also be assured that there is no danger of contracting polio from drinking water," Ms. McGraw added. "Typical transmission is via the oral-fecal route (touching fecal matter, then touching the mouth or face), and is of concern only to those who have not been vaccinated or for children who are behind in their immunizations. Providers should take time in every primary care visit with adults and children to ensure that they are up to date with the recommended vaccines for their age."

"Sullivan County is taking all reasonable steps to monitor the situation and keep the people of the County safe," noted County Manager Josh Potosek. "We urge parents and adults to be vigilant and aware of their vaccination status, because polio is a disease that can be eliminated through vaccination."

What is polio?

Polio is very contagious to the unvaccinated, and a person can spread the virus even if they aren't sick or experiencing symptoms. The best way to keep adults and children polio-free is through safe, on-time childhood immunizations, and adult immunization for polio when someone has not been previously vaccinated.

The polio virus enters the body through the mouth, usually from hands contaminated with the stool of an infected person. Respiratory and oral-to-oral transmission through saliva may also occur. Symptoms, which can be mild and flu-like (fatigue, fever, headache, stiffness, muscle pain, vomiting), can take up to 30 days to appear, during which time an infected individual can be shedding virus to others.

"Sullivan County has an overall 62.33% vaccination rate for polio, but there are some areas of the County with lower vaccination rates, and because polio can spread very easily, it's important that everyone is



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

**Sullivan County Public Health Director Nancy McGraw**

vaccinated," Ms. McGraw said. "Public Health is offering a safe and proven vaccine available to children two months of age or older. We are working with the State to get vaccine to providers for adults. If adults need vaccine, we encourage them to contact their healthcare provider."

What are the symptoms of polio?

Polio is highly infectious. Symptoms range from nothing to mild and flu-like to serious, including paralysis, permanent disability or post-polio syndrome, even death.

Paralysis is the most severe symptom associated with polio, because it can lead to permanent disability and death. Even children who seem to fully recover can develop new muscle pain, weakness, or paralysis as adults 15 to 40 years later. This is called post-polio syndrome.

How can I protect myself against polio?

The best way to stay polio-free is to maintain high immunity across the population through vaccination. If you received the vaccine already (for example, as a child when attending public school), you are considered protected for life. No booster shot is necessary, unless travelling to an area where there is high transmission.

Most adults do not need polio vaccine because they were already vaccinated as children. New Yorkers who are not up-to-date with vaccination should speak to their health care provider or their child's provider to schedule an appointment for vaccination against polio and other dangerous diseases, such as measles, mumps, whooping cough, chickenpox and COVID-19.

Polio outbreaks are happening globally. Children and adults should be up-to-date with polio and other routine immunizations before travelling. Adults who received polio vaccine as children should receive a one-time lifetime booster if traveling to an area where there is a polio-virus transmission.

Sullivan County's vaccination rate for polio is 62.33%, compared to 60.34% in Rockland and 58.68% in Orange counties. The statewide rate is 78.96%.

For more information, contact Public Health at 845-513-2249, or visit [health.ny.gov/polio](http://health.ny.gov/polio).

## REDISTRICTING COMPLETE

### New Districts to Take Effect in 2024

MONTICELLO – A vote by the majority of county legislators has designated a map – called "Option 3" – as the new district layout for the next decade.

Hurleyville, currently represented by Luis Alvarez in District 6, will become part of District 8 under the new map, which will take effect in January of 2024. The elections in November of 2023 will seat legislators for these new districts.

Legislators Robert A. Doherty, Michael Brooks, Nicholas Salomone, George Conklin and Alan Sorensen voted in favor of Option 3, after deciding against options 1 and 2. Legislators Nadia Rajsz, Luis Alvarez, Joseph Perrello and Ira Steingart voted not to accept any of the three options, expressing a desire to extend the period of review.

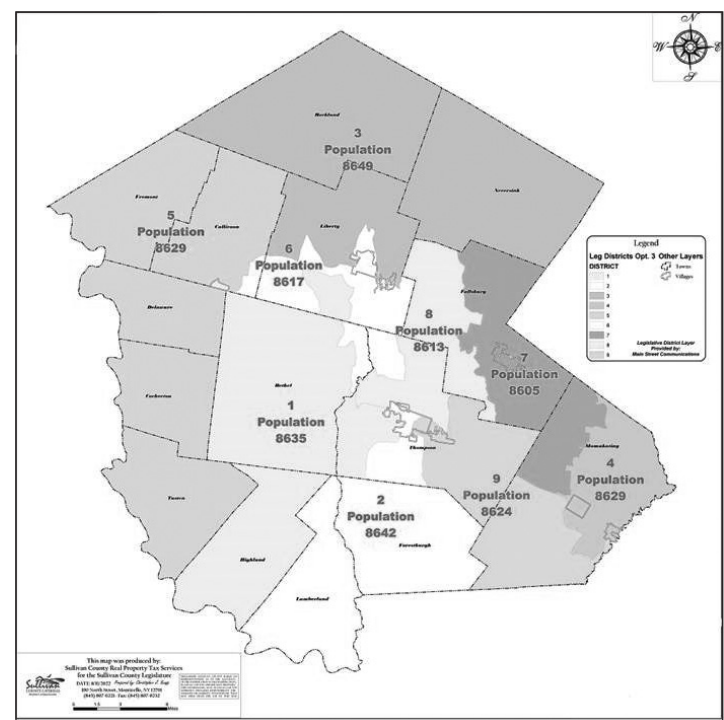


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

The 5-4 vote means all nine districts will shift their boundaries to conform with the "Option 3" map come January 1, 2024. Mandated by law, the

redistricting process is meant to ensure that each legislative district represents an approximately equal share of Sullivan County's population, as guid-

ed by the latest (2020) U.S. Census.

Main Street Communications of Iowa was selected at the beginning of this year to provide three proposed district maps for review. Those maps were presented to legislators and the public in June. The effort was undertaken this year so as to give voters and potential County Legislature candidates ample time to understand the new boundaries. Detailed maps are available at [www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Legislature/Redistricting](http://www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Legislature/Redistricting).

The Board of Elections, supported by the Real Property Tax Services Office, will now begin redrawing election districts to match. These districts will remain in effect for approximately the next 10 years, until the next (2030) U.S. Census figures are released.

## Second Hurleyville Summer Festival Draws Crowds

by Colin Kinney

HURLEYVILLE – The second Hurleyville summer festival of the year was held on Main Street on August 18.

Activities included live music in the municipal parking lot, and at The Hurleyville General Store, an outdoor dining area at Casa Mia, trivia at the Tango Cafe hosted by Arthur Aulisi, a bounce house provided by PartyMaster, Tim Fielder's "Black Metropolis" exhibit at Gallery222, a scavenger hunt with prizes for the kids, and more.

There were also a number of vendors on hand, including jewelers, bakers, and artists. Stores along Main

Street, such as All That Glitters is Old, and Morgan Outdoors, featured special deals throughout the evening. The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, Bold Gold Media, Thompson Sanitation, and PartyMaster sponsored the festival.

The impetus for the festival came from the Hurleyville Hub, a group of Main Street business owners and Hurleyville residents. This was the second of the two Hurleyville Summer Festivals, and attracted even more people to Main Street than the first festival, with more than 800 estimated participants.

"This is the second of four festivals that the Hurleyville Hub is putting on," said Jai-

mie Schmeiser, the president of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. "Another festival will come in the fall and one more at Christmas."

Ms. Schmeiser said that the multiple festivals are all in an effort to "remind people that Hurleyville is still here."

## ABOUT OUR HEADLINE

The German writer, scientist, and statesman, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe famously wrote that: "Thinking is easy, acting is difficult, and to put one's thoughts into action is the most difficult thing in the world." A group of Hurleyville residents decided to put their thoughts into action by organizing a work party to remove the invasive water chestnut from Shaddock Pond. It wasn't an easy task, and did not eliminate the problem, but it was a good start that will hopefully have a ripple effect that will result in increased awareness and better control of all invasives, not just in Shaddock Pond, but in every local body of water.



## Hamlet Happenings

### HURLEYVILLE -SULLIVAN FIRST

It has been a productive summer for the volunteers in Hurleyville-Sullivan First.

Metal overhangs were fabricated and installed to protect the signs at the entrances to Hurleyville and at the Rail-Trail entrance. A protective finish was added to the supports of the signs.

The stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville and at the firehouse were reset and reinforced.

Fresh historical panels were created and will be installed in the kiosk at the Hurleyville Firemen's Park.

The folks at the Wheel Kitchen at The Center for Discovery designed and constructed new weather-proof "book barns" for the Little Free Library at the Hurleyville Firemen's Park. The library will now have a cabinet for youngsters, a cabinet for young adults and a cabinet for adults. A new rocking chair was donated for the library.

The Town of Fallsburg helped the group meet the challenge of watering the planters and the barrels.

Members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First work with other community groups and local businesses on events and other projects that contribute to the revitalization and beautification of Hurleyville.

Please visit [www.hurleyville-sullivan.com](http://www.hurleyville-sullivan.com) for more information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First. You can also visit Hurleyville-Sullivan First on Facebook.

### HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church will be open on Thursday, September 22 and on Thursday, September 29 from 3 until 5 p.m.

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

Pastor Jorge delivers sermons on the church's page on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

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

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

Youngsters are invited to participate in "Messy

by Kathleen Sullivan

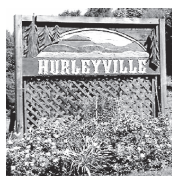


PHOTO PROVIDED

**Town of Fallsburg Councilwoman Rebecca Pratt, right, and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, second from right, stopped by the CHNA table at the Hurleyville Summer Festival to visit with Marilyn, Bonnie and Roger, left to right.**



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Cookie and Richard were on hand at the Hurleyville Summer Festival to share the fun youngsters have at "Messy Church" at the Hurleyville United Methodist Church.**

Church" held on the second Saturday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Upcoming dates for "Messy Church" are September 10, October 8 and November 12. All children taking part in the fun activities must be accompanied by an adult.

Disposable diapers, new socks, new underwear, gently used clothing and gently used toys for infants and children from newborn to 12 years old are being collected by Women in Faith at the church for THE GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM. The program assists grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren who otherwise would be placed in foster care.

Please call Katrina at 845-436-7942 for more information at services and activities at the church. You can also get updates at the church's page on Facebook.

### THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Donations to meet the increasing cost of operating the museum are appreciated.

The Dr. Frederick Cook exhibit will be on display at the museum until December. The exhibit features photographs taken by Dr. Cook from 1891-1908 during expeditions to Greenland, Antarctica, Tierra del Fuego, Mount Denali and the North Pole.

Other interesting exhibits

at the museum include the Neversink-Hackledam Project and the Town of Thompson One-Room Schoolhouse Project.

Volunteers are available to help visitors explore the historical and genealogical resources at the Historical Society's archives at the museum. The archives are open on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

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

Go to [www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org) to learn about the Sullivan County Historical Society and the Sullivan County Museum. You can also visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum on

Facebook.

Please call the museum at 845-434-8044 or email [info@scnyhistory.org](mailto:info@scnyhistory.org) for more information.

### COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

Homeowners are still experiencing well-related troubles due to the well testing being done at the proposed Gan Eden Estates development project on Columbia Hill. Contact the building departments in the Town of Thompson (845-794-2500, extension 321) and the Town of Fallsburg (845-434-8811) if you're experiencing well-related problems.

The CHNA steering committee meets monthly to prepare for the next time the 535-townhouse Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill appears on the agenda of the Town of Thompson Planning Board.

Members of CHNA want to ensure that the proposed project complies with environmental impact regulations. The group continues to examine environmental impact applications and reports submitted by the developer of the proposed project to ensure accuracy.

The members of CHNA are also monitoring the ongoing questionable building activity in the area of Huschke Road endangering our natural environment.

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

## Sculpture Garden—A Work of Art and Technology at FCSD



PHOTO PROVIDED  
**FCSD teachers Don Thomas and Megan Kappes set stones in the center area of Sculpture Gardens while students level and caulk stones on the perimeter wall.**

FALLSBURG-- Under the guidance and direction of the Fallsburg JSHS Art and Technology Departments, a sculpture garden beautifies the space behind the area the building that houses each of these departments. In the words of art teacher Tobi Magnetico, "It is located in a space that was desperately in need of purpose."

The design and planning for the project was a joint effort of Ms. Magnetico and Technology teachers Don Thomas and Megan Kappes.

Since the beginning of the second semester of school last winter, Ms. Magnetico, Ms. Kappes, Mr. Thomas, dozens of eager student volunteers, and Grounds Crew and Custodial Staff worked hard, in all kinds of weather, to make the garden a reality.

The garden will provide a wonderful setting for display of student and community sculpture in different media and serve as an outdoor classroom. The open area is invit-

ing to visitors to the indoor pool and to sports events at the gymnasium and outdoor playing fields. Also, the space provides a needed exterior learning area to engage in positive social and emotional learning activities.

The funding for this project comes from a \$3000 Healthier Generation Grant provided by Sullivan 180, and a contribution from the FCSD Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER).

The entire oversight team of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz and Dr. Sally Sharkey, Business Official Dan Grecco, Nicholas Tranchina of Facilities Department, Athletic Director Suzanne Lendzian, and the Principal and Assistant Principal of FJSHS Kyle Roddey and Shana Bruestle deserve much credit for their support. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Sculpture Garden is planned for September of 2022.

## FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



### CORONAS



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

According to the booklet "Clouds and Weather" by John A. Day and Vincent J. Schaefer, a corona is seen when the light from the moon (or the sun) "shines through a thin layer of high water-droplet clouds."

The pair say that "in its simplest form, the corona appears as a colored disk surrounding the moon (or sun)" whose border is bluish, merging into yellowish white, with a brownish outer edge at a width of one or more moon (or sun) dia-

maters.

The corona is the result of light bending by diffraction in the presence of small, spherical water droplets and ice crystals in high clouds. The more uniform the size of the droplets, the purer the colors in the corona.

The smaller the cloud droplets, the larger the corona diameter. Young clouds are the best corona producers. In older clouds, the ring diameters overlap and the colors are weaker.

## Fallsburg Family Fun Festival Welcomes the New School Year

FALLSBURG-- On Saturday September 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fallsburg Central School District's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will present a Car Show Fundraiser at the high school parking lot, with many family-oriented activities outside and inside the building.

A group of six dedicated parents has instilled new life in the PTO in the past year and helped the Board of Education and Administration put together two outstanding events at both Benjamin Corcoran Elementary School and the Jr/Sr High School. Last winter was the ice-skating event and last spring was the Family Engagement Day.

The FCSD Administration, especially, the Board of Education Committee on School Engagement and the Family and Community Engagement Director Dr. Aleta Lymon, have provided the impetus to those earlier activities and are leading the way for the Car Show Fundraiser. There is a \$5 fee to enter a car, and prizes will be offered to the Best Car in the Show. Tickets are available from the PTO by phone at (845) 202-0922 and by e-mail [fjshspto@gmail.com](mailto:fjshspto@gmail.com).

The PTO steering committee's main purpose is to continue to build on the strong community involvement in the school district. They are

also raising consciousness about their organization and how critical is the engagement of parents in supporting the children and the schools. The pandemic over the past few years has taken a great toll on the children, the teachers and staff, and the parents. Now, more than ever, groups of concerned community members are needed to bring a return to pre-COVID normalcy, with the school as a center of learning and family fun-based activities.

Just a sampling of the activities for September 24 are the car show, tie-dye, make your own sundaes, cupcake decoration, fresh fruit shakes, make up and face painting, and enjoying baked goods and other foods. Stations will be set up for each activity, with nominal donations (\$1) to help pay for materials.

The PTO is requesting donations of supplies for the activities and any financial contributions to make this day a rousing success. Tax exempt information is available on request. Funds raised will support Fallsburg JSHS student participation as needed for class trips.

Please feel free to contact the PTO or the FCSD for further information. And please come out with your family to enjoy the festivities.



### SEPTEMBER

HERE WE ARE IN SEPTEMBER  
MANY PARENTS BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF  
DID THE CHILDREN ENJOY THEIR TIME OFF?  
OR PROVIDE YOU WITH CONSUMMATE GRIEF?

PERHAPS YOU WERE OH SO DELIGHTED  
TO HAVE THE WHOLE SUMMER TO SPEND  
WITH SOME OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS  
AND YOUR NEIGHBORS OR LONG TIME GOOD FRIENDS

DID YOU TAKE A LONG TRIP VIA AUTO?  
OR SAVE UP TO FLY SOMEWHERE BY PLANE?  
MAYBE YOU JUST HAD A STAYCATION  
'CAUSE THE PRICES OF GAS WERE INSANE!

THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL ARE UPON US  
LET'S SUPPORT THE KIDS TO DO THEIR BEST  
TO STUDY AND TO APPLY THEMSELVES  
WHEN COMPLETING THEIR HOMEWORK AND TESTS

ENCOURAGING THEM IS SO IMPORTANT  
THEIR CONFIDENCE WILL START TO SOAR  
WHEN THEY SEE HOW WELL THEY ARE DOING  
THEY WILL SHOW THAT THEY CAN DO MORE

SO, LET'S MAKE A RESOLUTION  
TO SET THEM ON A COURSE  
THAT WILL HAVE THEM DOING GREAT THINGS  
FOR WHICH THEY'LL SAY YOU WERE THE SOURCE

- MIMI  
SEPTEMBER, 2022

## Sullivan Renaissance Interns Working Together

*Giving back to the community*



PHOTO PROVIDED

LIBERTY – The 2022 class of Sullivan Renaissance interns worked alongside community volunteers, as well as staff from municipalities and Sullivan Renaissance in communities throughout Sullivan County this summer. Interns led the way by caring for gardens, parks, containers, and flower boxes in public spaces and on main streets. They weeded, watered, litter plucked, and deadheaded. Interns contributed while gaining practical experience, and learning about their own abilities and work style. They participated in leadership sessions held throughout the county where they discussed current events, visited Renaissance projects and examined different leadership styles and skills.

"Our goal is to provide young people with an experience where they can develop a sense of place and find their voice on issues that are important to them," said Anne-Louise Scandariato, Sullivan Renaissance Volunteer Program Manager. "Each year we meet amazing youth from throughout Sullivan County. We hope that their experience with this program will stay with them through the summer and beyond."

On August 10, the Renaissance interns participated in a "Day of Service" at the Forest Reserve at Smallwood in the Town of Bethel. They worked with community volunteers, the Upper Delaware River Conservation Corp, and Renaissance on three different trails at the Reserve. The interns marked the trails, cleared low branches, brush, and debris, to make them safer and more accessible. They learned about the history of the Forest Reserve from Town of Bethel Supervisor Dan Sturm and Smallwood Civic Association President Jonathan Hyman.

"I am grateful to all the volunteers and interns for their work at the Forest Reserve at Smallwood," noted Sturm. "They were upbeat, energetic and did a lot of much needed work. Their work will make it easier and safer for our community members to use the hiking Trails, which helps to make us a healthier community. I want to thank all those involved on behalf of the Town of Bethel."

The 2022 Sullivan Renaissance interns are:

- Gavin Bassney
- Erin Brawley
- Emma Curry
- Kristina Davis
- Lucia Kennedy
- Grace Loretto
- Jane Pape-Laucella
- Efraim Rivera

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# IT'S OFFICIAL!

## Sullivan County Chamber Holds Ribbon Cutting for All That Glitters...



Photos and text by  
Hurleyville Sentinel Staff

HURLEYVILLE— Quite a crowd gathered on Main Street on a perfect August morning for the official ribbon cutting at the new All That Glitters is Old thrift shop. The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce presided over the event, which was also attended by New York Assemblywoman Aileen



Gunther and some of her staff.

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce president Jaime Schmeiser presented business owner Samara Ritzler with a proclamation commemorating the event, and many of those in attendance spent time shopping in the new store following the ceremony.

All That Glitters is Old joins Morgan Outdoors in the Main Street Mews at 234 Main Street.



## LOCAL AUTHOR HAS BOOK PUBLISHED

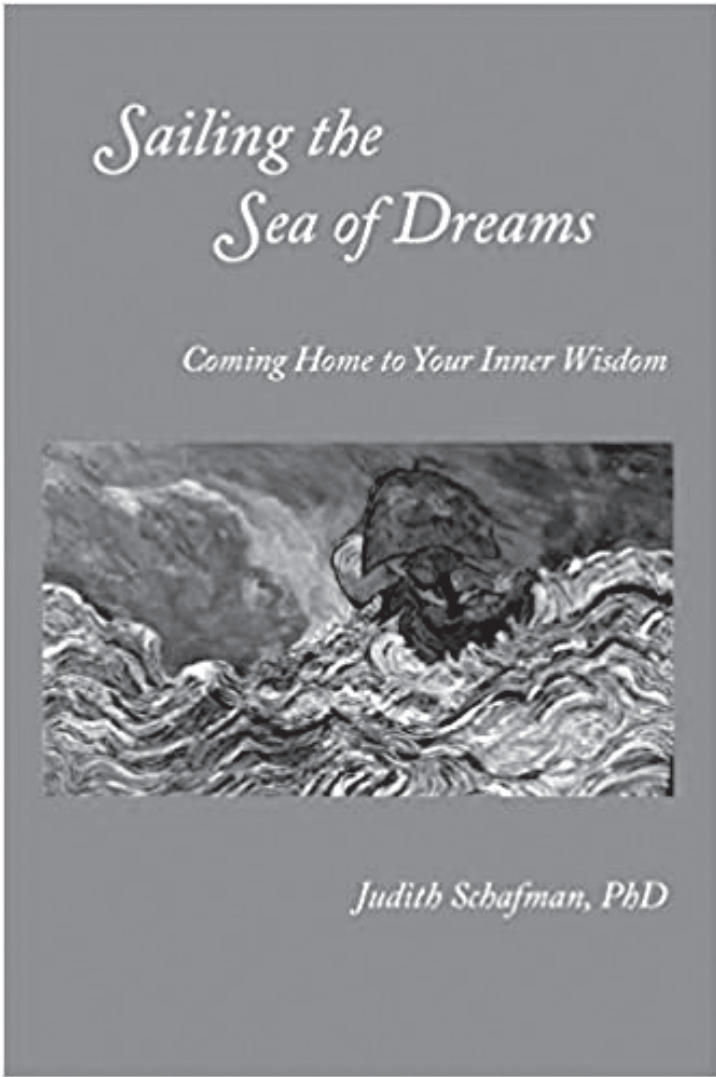
*"Sailing the Sea of Dreams"*

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE — Long time Loch Sheldrake resident Judith Schafman describes her newly published book, tantalizingly entitled "Sailing the Sea of Dreams: Coming Home to Your Inner Wisdom" as "a memoir of my friendship with dreams" as opposed to a book on dream interpretation.

The idea, she says, is to give the reader the tools to accomplish similar things with their own dreams as she was able to do herself, so toward that end, the book includes instructions for the reader, along with artistic renderings, and illuminating dream experiences from people in her dream community.

"I only support other people in understanding how to enter their own dreams and discover their meaning for themselves," Dr. Schafman says. "In this way, they have learned a skill they can use for their whole lives. Interpretation implies 'figuring it



out,' or finding meanings for things outside of one's own personal experiences."

Dr. Schafman says she

I had a magnificent dream which, when I worked it, revealed so much to me about my own life, my issues, my directions in life, and my deepest feelings, I was shocked and surprised to see that such profound guidance could be given to me from my own 'insides.' In the book, I refer to this as our own personal GPS system. Dreams can be an internal GPS!"

"Sailing the Sea of Dreams" is published by Nacasio Press. It is available in paperback for \$18.99 in local bookstores and on Amazon.

In addition to her dream work, Dr. Schafman works as a spiritual director with a unique blend of spiritual and psychological perspectives based on Gestalt, Jungian and Yoga principles. She has offered dream work sessions and workshops for many years. She lives in Loch Sheldrake with her husband Larry and their marmalade cat, Bennie.

began dream work "maybe 40 years ago, in the middle of my own PhD training, which included studying Gestalt Therapy.



## Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

Half a mile down the road from us there is a long-abandoned bungalow colony, two dozen buildings spread over the quadrants of a crossroads. The foliage is so thick around, and on, the buildings, you can drive by without even noticing. I find their obscurity alluring, and stop one day to check the place out.

The original design is intact, the buildings arrayed around a family-friendly circle of lawn. The buildings themselves – covered by vines and tree branches up to their mossy roofs; bulging and sagging and listing in several directions at once – look like colossal mushrooms that have sprouted overnight and will soon return to earth. Odd details stand out: chairs and sofas on a few porches; rusting swing-sets and slides on the lawn. One porch has a grill and a fridge, ready for barbecue. The silence around the buildings is even thicker than the silence of the woods, layered with

a sense of the past. The chairs and the swing-sets stand in for their absent owners. "Once we were here," they say, "and now we're gone."

Such scenes of dereliction are not unique in our county. The peculiar boom-and-bust history of the region – a compact Silver Age and Golden Age, each followed by extended downturns – accounts for the air of dilapidation that hangs over certain quarters. There have been civic calls to remove such properties, to wage a "fight against blight." I'm not unsympathetic to the desire to thin the ranks of the dilapidated, but I also resonate to something in the presence of such buildings and would be sorry to see them all razed.

They bring to mind such cities as Rome and New Delhi, places where the past obtrudes monumentally on the present and serves as a constant reminder of time's passage and the transitory nature of human endeavors.

These old swaybacked bungalows are our local Catskill Colosseums and Red Forts. In my eyes, the old buildings don't appear half as blighted as some of the newer developments, all those grandly titled "Villas" and "Gardens" and "Estates" that drop like bad dreams into a landscape from which they draw no inspiration and to which they give nothing in return.

Symbols of the transitory have been cultivated in many traditions, as salutary reminders of human limits and counters to human egotism. All the varieties of *momento mori* – hourglasses and skulls and mortuary emblems – are types of such symbols; in 17th century Europe, these were depicted in a distinct genre of painting, the *vanitas* still-life, and even fashioned into jewelry – bony brooches and bracelets. Perhaps that's why, today, lavish spreads of photographs of Borscht Belt resorts gone to seed are so compelling. One artist who specializes in

such photographs put it well: "Often I could not tell where the [human-made] ended and nature began...The project became reminiscent of the life cycle itself: old structures evolving into something new, odd, and often intriguing."

I see something of that odd amalgam of the natural and the human-made in the bungalow colony down the road. I sense there, as well, the lure of the past. There are surely people alive today who spent time in those bungalows in their youth; they may inhabit them yet, in memory and dream. A trace of long-ago summers lends the silence now surrounding those buildings a surcharged quality; you feel you can lean into that silence and draw near to hearing the sounds of the past.

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# From the Firehouse

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



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

The fire department held their annual family picnic in the beginning of August, and it was a huge success. Several awards were given out, and many members were recognized for their years of service. Josh Colon was honored with the attendance award for being in the firehouse all the time. Tom Becerril was the Firefighter of the Year. Tom has only a few years under his belt with the department but came in on a dead run doing whatever he can to help. Both of these awards were well deserved by Josh and Tom. Congratulations to both.

The Community Service award went to Perry Gips from Party Master. The Community Service Award is given to a person or company that supports or helps the fire department in any way possible. Sometimes it something big during the year or as in Perry's case years of continued support. Perry not only helps the fire department out with blowups for the kids at our family picnic but fully supports us in any way possible. Perry also takes care of Hurleyville whenever there is an event in town. Thank you and congratulations Perry.

We were honored with the presents of the FASNY (Firefighters Association of the State of New York) President John P. Farrell Jr. and Past President of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (HVVFA) Joe Mellan. On behalf of their associations, they presented 100 Anniversary proclama-



PHOTO PROVIDED

**FASNY "Firefighters Association of the State of New York" President John P. Farrell Jr., (left) and Past President of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (HVVFA) Joe Mellan present Nelson Durland (right) certificates for 65 years of service**

tions to the fire department for 100 years of community service. They also presented a 65-year certificate of service to Nelson Durland, 60 years to Vic McCarthy, 55 years to George Price and Porky Worden, and 50 years to Ken McShea.

August saw us hosting the 11th Annual Bill Carlson Golf Classic. Terry Brae Golf Pro Geoff Walsh and his staff had the course in tip-top shape for this event. Even with a little bit of a drought, the fairways and greens were lush and in excellent condition. Taylor Walsh served up a great lunch and a delicious awards banquet after the tournament. The winning team of Keith Shaddock, John Hinkley, Mike Kutschetzy and Rodney Jester shot a blistering 15 under par to win the tournament. Runner up was the team of Austin Halchak, Cody Vegliante and Colby Knogh at 10 under. Stanley Gilmore had the longest drive, and Pete Bertholf was closest to the pin at 13' 6". Many raffles were drawn. Thanks to all the businesses that donated to the raffle and to all that sponsored a Tee Box. For about the third

time in recent years, after all the golfers were in the clubhouse, a rainbow appeared in the sky. It was Bill once again looking down on us to say a job well done. If that was not enough another rainbow appeared, so we had a double. That must have been the rest of the crew watching with Bill.

It is time to get your heating device serviced for winter is not too far down the road.

Fire call numbers continue to climb as do activated alarms. There have been a number of structure fires in the Town this month. With a bit of the drought there have been several brush fires also.

Once again, I remind renters to get renters insurance. The last couple of fires I was at there were twenty-six tenants displace and they lost everything except for the clothes on their back. None of them had renters' insurance.

School is opening or is open now. Watch for stopped school buses and kids running across the road. I hope I do not have to remind you DO NOT pass a stopped school bus with flashing lights.

Be Safe Out There!



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH

Left to right, Sully, Hurley, Leland and Monti

## Meet Sully, Hurley and Monti The Newest Faces of TCFD's Facility Dog Team

by Lily Barrish

HARRIS – Commonly referred to as “the puppies” by their handlers, with whom they live when not at work, Sully, Hurley, and Monti joined the team in 2020 to accompany the original facility dog, Leland. The goal of bringing the dogs into the clinical programs at The Center is to help find fun and unique ways to provide individualized care to the residents and increase motivation during therapies.

In 2016, Leland, half Golden Retriever and half Labrador, became The Center's first facility dog with his handler, Sarah Merrick, Clinical Director of Animal Assisted Intervention and Education [AAIE]. She'd always been interested in working with dogs and integrating them into her practice as an Occupational Therapist.

Leland turned eight in August, and his upcoming retirement has come into consideration. He's already started to gradually decrease his workload as he grows older. While technically owned by Canine Companions, as he was fully trained by them before his arrival, Leland has worked his entire career at The Center for Discovery. By contrast, The Center owns Sully, Hurley, and Monti and has completed their training.

“It has been incredible to watch the impact that the dogs have had across all of the different environments and therapeutic settings,” Ms. Merrick said. “When the dogs walk into a room, you can see the smiles and faces of the individuals and staff light up. I am very proud of the work that all of our handlers and dogs do within the AAIE program.”

At seven weeks old, the puppies underwent a temperament evaluation to determine if they were a good match for the program. As they matured, ongoing evaluations helped to determine which handler they'd best pair with in regard to job and the individuals they would work with at The Center. Throughout their careers, they will continue to have on-going temperament evaluations by canine behavioral consultants to ensure they are safe to work with children and adults who have complex needs, as well as making sure the dogs are happy in the envi-

ronment. Their most recent evaluations showed that everybody is happy, healthy, and on schedule with up-to-date vaccines.

The dogs complete a regular workday just like their handlers, assisting in occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, adapted physical education, and psychology sessions. When their orange vests appear, they get excited, wagging their tails and eager to put on their working uniform. They have been trained to be on their best behavior when working – no barking or jumping. Having been raised in this setting they know the routine— while their work environments can be challenging with medical equipment and the individuals' unique needs, they've been trained to be comfortable around it all.

Their presence increases motivation and engagement across all environments. Sully spends two of his days at the therapeutic riding center with Heather Ackerman, Program Director of AAIE and Therapeutic Riding Instructor. The other days, he works with Occupational Therapist, Amy Heiser. Hurley works in the psychology department with Behavior Analyst, Stephanie Parsons. Monti splits his time between Adapted Physical Education Teacher, Erin Shuart and Physical Therapist, Michelle Guanzon. Leland works with Sarah Merrick, who helps to integrate him into sessions with other clinicians across specialties.

Each session is adjusted to the needs of the participants and all tasks are designed to meet the students where they are skill-wise and to therapeutically increase skills. Depending on clinical goals, they may work on tasks such as sequencing or tool use. Grooming and games are activities that students and adults also engage in frequently with the dogs.

When not working in clinical sessions the “puppies” have play sessions twice a week at the baseball field on The Center's campus. They are always happy to see each other, playing fetch and tug of war there. The future possibilities for the program are currently being considered and may include identifying and training appropriate rescue dogs or welcoming more puppies in the future.



FROM THE FILES OF...

# THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL. The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

September 10, 1937

## \$700 Stolen from Local Pharmacy

Early Tuesday morning, thieves broke into the Hurleyville Pharmacy and stole about \$700 in cash from a box in the prescription room. The store, owned by Max Berman and Al Sakofsky, was closed by Berman about two o'clock Tuesday morning. The theft was discovered by a clerk, Max Rosenstein, when the store was re-opened in the morning. It is believed that the thieves gained entrance through a side window. Nothing else in the store was disturbed and several checks and money orders left with the money were untouched.

State Police, headed by Sergeant Thomas Mangan, have been investigating and are checking fingerprints taken from a filing cabinet in an effort to apprehend the guilty persons.

## Fire on former Seidlin Property

Fire which broke out shortly before noon on Wednesday destroyed a barn on the former Seidlin property opposite the New York Telephone Company building in Hurleyville, damaged a summer kitchen of the house and at one time threatened to burn the house. The present owner is Murray Goldman.

Hurleyville and Loch Sheldrake firemen quickly responded to the alarm and prevented the spread of the fire to nearby homes. Traffic was held up for about twenty minutes.

## Quietest Labor Day for Sullivan County

The quietest Labor Day holiday ever to occur since Sullivan County became famous as a summer resort was experienced over the past weekend. Although several opinions were heard as to the date of the last concurrence of the Jewish New Year and Labor Day, all were agreed that it was before the present century.

Stores took a three day holiday which started Sunday and extended until Tuesday night. Even restaurants open twenty-four hours daily were closed for the duration of the Jewish holiday. Somewhat similar conditions prevailed in Monticello, South Fallsburg, Liberty and Woodridge.

Some of the large hotels engaged cantors to conduct religious services while in almost every other resort laymen took charge. Sports and dancing were kept to a minimum, but even though these conditions had been anticipated, all hotels were liberally patronized, though perhaps not quite so heavily as on other Labor Day weekends.

September, 2016

## Basketball Courts Now Open!

It wasn't the reincarnation of the Hurleyville Eagles of the long defunct Catskill Mountain League, but basketball nonetheless



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

**Sullivan County Historical Society Board Member Myron Gittell and his local newspaper exhibit.**

returned to the hamlet on Saturday, September 3.

And the National Basketball Association helped with the festivities.

The official ribbon cutting for the new community basketball courts, located just off Main Street adjacent to the Milk Train Rail Trail, featured local dignitaries, including (confirmed at press time) District 6 County Legislator Luis Alvarez, Fallsburg Town Supervisor Steve Vegliante, and Fallsburg Town Justice Amanda Ward.

Following the ribbon cutting, former NBA and St. John's University basketball star Felipe Lopez, who saw action with the Vancouver Grizzlies, the Washington Wizards, and the Minnesota Timberwolves in the NBA following a standout college career that ended with him in fourth place among all-time St. John's scorers, headlined a clinic sponsored by NBA Cares, the Town of Fallsburg Parks & Recreation Department and The Center for Discovery.

September, 2017

## Out of Chaos Comes New Sidewalks

Months of organized chaos have given way to smooth concrete and calm streets as the sidewalk construction and renovation project on Main Street in Hurleyville wraps up.

The new sidewalks line the east side of Main Street from Thompson Street to the municipal parking lots in the center of the hamlet, as well as filling in gaps between old sidewalks down to the Hurleyville Makers Lab. The project was funded primarily through a \$100,000 grant awarded by Senator John Bonacic's office, and it began in the spring. Town Supervisor Steve Vegliante said the sidewalks look great, and they provide a great service to the community.

“Overall, it's one more improvement to a hamlet that's getting better every day,” Mr. Vegliante said. “Anything we can do to increase access for people who aren't able-bodied, that's good.”

## A Fondness for Newspapers

Myron Gittell admits he has a fondness for newspapers. That is one of the reasons the Board member of the Sullivan County Historical Society spearheaded the recent exhibit of old Sullivan County newspapers at the County Museum in Hurleyville.

“We've got thousands of newspapers in our archives,” Mr. Gittell said. “No one could ever imagine the extent of the collection. Even those who use the archives for research likely only see a fraction of what we have, so I thought we should show it [the collection] off.”

So Mr. Gittell spent a recent Saturday greeting dozens of visitors to the Museum and sharing with them various anecdotes about more than a century of newspapers, dozens of which were mounted under glass or on display boards in the Museum's expansive exhibit area.

Mr. Gittell says that, while most people would be hard pressed to name more than a handful of them today, Sullivan County has been home to more than 30 different newspapers over the years. These include the Sullivan County Whig, the county's first paper, which began publishing in Bloomingburg in 1821, before eventually moving to Monticello and morphing into the Republican Watchman, and the Evening News, which was for a short time during World War II the only daily newspaper ever published in the county.



As Fiber on Main is taking preventive measures to ensure the health and safety of all, open studios and classes are cancelled until further notice.

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Two customers will be allowed at a time and masks are required.

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# THE FIGHT

An original short Story by Frank Vasquez

"Welcome ladies and gentlemen, we've arrived at the main card..." the public address system blared.

The crowd roars with excitement. All the big shots are in attendance. This fight came with high expectations after the heated weigh-in.

It was a classic matchup: striker vs wrestler.

But something was different about this matchup. The crowd knew these fighters were fighting with their all, their pride on the line.

Tension fills the air. A one-two punch comes flying down the middle. Pedro sidesteps and lunges in for the clinch. The crowd boos. The fight has started, but one fighter is hesitant.

Nicholas "The Berserker" was a damn good prizefighter, in fact, he was the long reigning champion, a tall Thai fighter who destroyed his opponents with devastating leg kicks.

Pedro knew Nicholas was the better striker, but with the pressure of the crowd, he had no choice but to fight. A jab flew by Pedro's head after the clinch. He dodged it, or so he thought. The Berserker landed with a kick that could chop wood. Pedro knew he couldn't afford to lose an ex-

change with the Berserker. He had the fight to worry about, but he also had the refs to worry about.

Pedro grits his teeth, and throws a bomb that just grazed the Berserker's head. He's got power, but if it can't land what's it good for?

Pedro lunges in, aiming for another shot, catching a bloody uppercut that knocks his lights out. Pedro was rocked, but the Berserker didn't dive onto him. It was the end of the first round. Pedro was stunned. He didn't know what hit him, or why Nicholas didn't finish him. It was the speed, it was the timing. His mind filled with self-doubt, and all he could think of was his own words "I can't lose, I won't lose."

Pedro was fighting for himself. He lived with his widowed mother in a city that wasn't for the weak. The conditions were terrible. Pedro had siblings to take care of and he knew his mom couldn't do it alone.

So, he went to work, taking fight after fight just trying to provide. That is what kept him going.

"Pedro wake up, get your head into the match. We don't need you dozing off in the ring!"

Pedro's corner man woke him out of his trance, trying to put some energy into the fighter.

"Don't worry, Pedro. You did good. You were standing with him just fine. Just stick to the game plan."

Pedro smiled. He loved the challenge. The corner men steps out of the ring, and round two has begun. Pedro charges toward the Berserker, throwing only punches, the Berserker is surprised. He thought about Pedro's recovery. How could he move this quick after just being hurt in the last round?

Pedro shoots for the take-down. He lifts the Berserker, and with all his emotion slams him onto the floor of the octagon.

The fight is on the ground now. Grappling is a different game, and Pedro is confident here. He mounts the



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Berserker, and starts raining blows. Punches and elbows fly, but the Berserker stays composed.

The champ knows what he has on the line. He dodges a punch flying down and rolls out of the hold. Both fighters take a deep breath and begin another exchange. Pedro

throws a jab, but the champ makes him pay. A powerful body kick lands, bringing Pedro to his knees.

The champ rushes in, but is stopped by a sudden uppercut by Pedro. Both fighters are hurt now, as the bell rings.

The Berserker walks to his coach and longtime best friend, Sal.

"The kid is good, but he's not good enough for the Berserker."

The kid is getting pretty close on the scorecard. Nicholas understands this, but he can't help but look at the other corner. Looking at his opponent before the round begins, making direct eye contact with Pedro, he could see the determination on his young opponent's face.

Round three begins, and the fighters are in a deadlock, anticipating each other's moves. The tension continues to build. But Pedro cracks, and attacks the champ. Two of his shots connect. The champ is stunned. Pedro follows with a thunderous hook. The champ's knees are weak, but he recovers and throws an elbow that cuts Pedro's forehead.

Despite the injury, Pedro

keeps fighting. He shoots, taking down the champ again. An elbow connects, and now Pedro is in control.

Two more shots connect, and Pedro rolls, going for the champ's back. The champ tries to stand. This was the worse thing he could do, and Pedro locks a hold and begins to rear-naked choke him.

The champ's vision is blurry, and he begins to sleep, seeing in his mind his daughter and wife, the family he had spent so much time building. Realizing this, he wakes up.

MMA isn't a big money-bag sport like boxing. Without being the champ, he would not have been able to provide. He couldn't keep going without this; this was his reason to fight. This was his pride.

The champ reawakens as the bell rings.

Pedro gets up, confident that he had won, but as the champ rises he thinks his eyes are deceiving him. There's no way he's standing after that choke, he thinks. He should've been a goner. With bloodshot eyes, the champ stares at Pedro.

"I'm willing to die for this," his stare says.

Both fighters reach for their corner. As they sit across from each other, the eye contact doesn't break. Nicholas is hurt, but so is Pedro. Both are so dazed, they couldn't hear the crowd or the ringside announcers.

The fight had developed into something more than hand-to-hand combat: a battle of wills. A contest where the winner will be decided by who throws the last blow.

The bell rings, and as round four begins, the trainers watch in complete awe as their fighters fight with

everything on the line. The champ is now pushing the pace, throwing feints and jabs, bringing out Pedro's weakness. The obvious skill difference is shocking. Pedro is overreacting to every feint. With no surprise, the champ makes him pay.

A jab-cross connects with Pedro's already wounded head. Pedro is stunned as the champ loads up with another leg kick. Pedro grunts and throws a punch to the body.

The crowd roars with excitement.

As the fight continues, Pedro is getting slower from using all he had in the early rounds. This wasn't the smartest idea, and now the champ shows his skill.

He wasn't tired, and what

sucked for Pedro was that the champ now had the intent to kill. He was like an eagle stalking his prey. A body kick lands again. Pedro eats it, and shoots for a takedown.

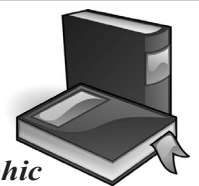
"I won't fall for that again," the champ screamed to himself. An uppercut lands as Pedro is stunned, jaw locked. The champ fakes low and goes high with the question mark kick. This finishes the fight. Pedro is unconscious.

The champ walks away, taking note of the kid's challenge.

*Frank Vasquez is an aspiring fiction writer. He lives in Middletown, where he trains at the Renzo Gracie MMA Academy.*

## FROM THE FALLSBURG LIBRARY

by Amanda Letohic



Over here at the library, we LOVE September!

It's the start of the fall season (and spooky season, of course) and September is National Library Card Sign Up Month. Do you know all the things your library card can get you? Of course, your first answer will be books... but it can do so much more! If you have a compatible device, you can download the Libby app to borrow books without having to leave your home. You also have the ability to borrow books from any of the other 46 libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System and pick them up here in Fallsburg.

Are you interested in learning a new language? Your library card gives you FREE access to Rosetta Stone. Like movies? We have thousands of DVD's and Blu-Rays in house and your card also

gives you access to Kanopy streaming service where you can watch a limited amount of movies for FREE with just your library card. Don't know how to access our virtual offerings? Stop in the library and ask us. We're always willing to help someone out to access everything we have to offer.

Keep an eye out for upcoming, in-person programs in the late fall. We will also be continuing our "Take & Make" craft kits as long as patrons still utilize them. Keep in mind, masks are recommended but not required to visit the library. Stay up to date with all things Fallsburg Library by following our social media accounts.

Thank you all for your continued support. We couldn't do what we do without you!

## FCSD Welcomes Applicants to Job Fair



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fallsburg JSHS Principal Kyle Roddey (left) speaks with FCSD Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Sally Sharkey at the Job Fair.

FALLSBURG-- On the morning of August 11, Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) hosted applicants who were seeking to fill several openings for the upcoming school year. The main lobby had several tables of staff of key administrators to provide applications for different positions ranging from teachers in various subjects, long term substitutes, teaching assistants and aides to English as a New Language and Special Education teachers.

The staff held brief interviews, supported the applicants in filling out the forms, and answered questions about qualifications, certifications, and training that was needed and what the school would provide. The applicants came from Sullivan County, surrounding

counties and New York City area. Some Fallsburg graduates responded as well to the opportunity to work at their alma mater.

FCSD Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sally Sharkey greeted the people along with JSHS Principal Kyle Roddey and Assistant Principal Shana Bruestle and BCES Principal Mary Kate Stinehour. At one of the main tables were Director and Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services Leighanne Russell and Michele McCoy.

Administrators were pleased with the interest shown in filling the several open positions. Those coming to the school were enthusiastic and eager for the opportunity to support education in the Fallsburg community.

## BECOMING A DISTRICT OF CHOICE



PHOTO PROVIDED

Monticello Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew Evans (standing) meets with committee members.

MONTICELLO – Monticello Central School District has a new roadmap to guide its path forward in realizing its ultimate vision of "building a world-class community of schools and becoming a district of choice."

Over the summer months, the MCSD Board of Education formally accepted the district's strategic plan, authored by a diverse committee comprising administrators, Board members, students, teachers, parents of MCSD students, and community members.

The plan is based around the four goals identified by the Board of Education in 2019, and charts a course forward from 2022 through 2025. While traditional strategic plans can often be overlaid with pages and pages of information, the district was intentional in creating a simple, easy-to-understand document that can be continuously referenced to ensure that the district is progressing in line with the plan. The plan defines success, identifies available resources and includes a year-by-year list of tasks and action items.

"We limited the plan to four pages – one page for each goal," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew Evans said. "We asked our

committee members to be very specific in creating these plans, emphasizing actionable and measurable metrics. Because of the simplicity of this plan's design, it will be easy to determine whether we're moving in the right direction, and change course if or when necessary."

The strategic plan committee met several times over the school year, with sub-committees, one for each goal, meeting in between the larger group meetings. The diversity of the committee ensured that a wide range of perspectives were included in the plan's creation.

"The process was a truly collaborative one, and many lively and insightful discussions were had during the meetings," Dr. Evans said. "I want to thank all of the committee members for the many hours that they volunteered in service to the district and the greater community. We are excited to move forward."

The strategic plan is available on the district's website, [www.monticelloschools.net](http://www.monticelloschools.net). Click the "about us" tab from the top navigation menu, and then select "strategic plan" from the links on the "about us" page.

## WOMEN IN COMEDY AT HPAC



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ophira Eisenberg

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE—The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre will host a special night on Saturday, September 17 when four unique comedians grace the stage of the cinema there for a Women Stand Up! comedy night.

The show runs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and tickets are \$25 each.

The show will feature Ophira Eisenberg, a standup comic and host of NPR's nationally syndicated comedy trivia show, Ask Me Another; as well as Abby Feldman, a Fulbright Scholar-turned-comedy pop star with credits that include the comedy series Gringolandia (Netflix), The Fix with Jimmy Carr (Netflix), and Adult Swim's Soft Focus with Jena Friedman; Sarey Ruden, an artist and graphic designer from Detroit, Michigan who is the creator of Sareytales: The Art of Online Dating; and Maysoun Zayid, a comed-

dian, actress, writer, and disability advocate who is a graduate of Arizona State University and a Princeton Fellow.

Erin Dudley, Executive Director of HPAC, says the special evening will not only feature top women comedians, but also "musical performances, a Ted X Style presentation, and art you can take home."

"If you have always wanted to try out comedy, come to the show, meet the performers and join the conversation about women in comedy," Ms. Dudley says. "Our goal is to create a safe space with workshops and performances by you!"

For more information about the Women Stand Up! comedy show, or to purchase tickets, visit the HPAC website, [hurleyvilleartscentre.org/women-standup](http://hurleyvilleartscentre.org/women-standup).

The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre is located at 219 Main Street in Hurleyville.

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**JOIN HPAC THIS FALL!**

**SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
September 10

**WOMEN STAND UP COMEDY SHOW**  
September 17

**UNA NOCHE DE TANGO**  
October 15

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**HPAC** Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre



# SENTINEL SPORTS



## ESSENTIAL TO INSPIRE

TRAILS ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BE ACTIVE

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), the nation’s largest trails and active-transportation advocacy organization, has announced results from its latest survey of outdoor trail use and physical activity. Findings show the impactful role the nation’s trails can serve in helping Americans become more physically active—whether they’re taking part in recreational activities or swapping a car trip for a short walk or bike ride.

RTC surveyed people across the country who took part in this year’s Celebrate Trails Day on April 23 and found that, on average, participants spent more than 65 minutes being physically active outside on the trail. The time spent on the trail contributed significantly to the recommended 150 minutes of moderate-

intensity physical activity adults should get each week. Combined, participants logged over 812,000 minutes of physical activity on Celebrate Trails Day.

“Over the past few years, we’ve seen millions of additional people flock to trails and outdoor spaces across the country. People continue to share that they’re getting outdoors more than they did before the pandemic and that these moments outside on trails have made a difference to their health and well-being,” said Ryan Chao, president of RTC. “Celebrate Trails Day gives us an opportunity to showcase the impact of trails on our quality of life and our communities, while inviting even more folks to join us on trails. They help us to be active, whether it’s getting out to have some fun on a Saturday morning, or

swapping out the car with a trip on foot or by bike for an errand.”

The majority of trips taken in this country are within a 20-minute bike ride or less, and more than 1 in 4 trips are within a 20-minute walk or less. On Celebrate Trails Day, one quarter (24%) of participants reported swapping a short car trip for a walk or a bike ride to their destination, typically using trails.

In addition, more people reported being physically active for 30 minutes or more on Celebrate Trails Day than a typical day (83% compared with 75%), underscoring the importance of programming and events in providing additional motivation to be active and the role of trails in encouraging physical activity.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

(CDC) reports that 25% of Americans are inactive and that increasing our physical activity is one of the best

things we can do for our health. A new finding from the Community Preventive Services Task Force rec-

ommends parks, trails and greenways as infrastructure interventions that increase physical activity. These improvements, however, need to be combined with community engagement to increase awareness, expand programs and enhance access.

“Being physically active can immediately help people feel better, reduce the risk of anxiety and improve sleep,” said Ken Rose, MPA, physical activity and health branch chief in CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity. “Making it easier for everyone to be physically active is one of the best investments communities can make. This includes strategies such as improving access to parks, trails and greenways with safe street crossings, expanding public transportation routes

to stop at these sites, and offering structured programs and events to promote social interaction.”

Nearly 200 partner organizations and over 11,500 people from 50 states and the District of Columbia reported taking part in Celebrate Trails Day. Participants said they marked the annual observance by bicycling (53%), walking or running (51%), enjoying nature (28%), volunteering (7%) or birding (7%). Survey results for Celebrate Trails Day represent 1,572 responses gathered via SurveyMonkey between April 20 and May 2, 2022. Active minutes were calculated based on 1,035 responses to the Celebrate Trails Day survey and a calculation of an average number of 60 active minutes spent among event participants.

Creative ideas for getting

outside, photo and video content for use with credit to RTC, and direct access to RTC’s free trail-finder website and app, TrailLink.com, can be found on RTC’s Celebrate Trails Day website. RTC is encouraging people to continue to use the nation’s trails to build routine physical activity into their day-to-day lives and to connect with CDC’s Active People, Healthy Nation campaign for resources to help more people meet physical activity guidelines.

In Hurleyville, Celebrate Trails Day is typically marked with a History Hike on the Milk Train Trail sponsored by The Hurleyville Sentinel and narrated by Sullivan County Historian John Conway. In 2023, Celebrate Trails Day will be Saturday, April 22.

### MORGAN OUTDOORS TO CO-SPONSOR HURLEYVILLE HISTORY HIKE

by Win Hadley

HURLEYVILLE— Sullivan County Historian John Conway has announced that Morgan Outdoors will be co-sponsoring the Hurleyville History Hike he is leading and narrating on Saturday morning, October 1.

Morgan Outdoors owner Lisa Lyons will join the hike and offer her expertise along the way.

“We are very excited to have Lisa on board,” Mr. Conway said. “And it is terrific that Morgan Outdoors has agreed to be a co-sponsor.”

The hike is also sponsored by the Barryville-

based non-profit history education group, The Delaware Company, of which Mr. Conway is president, and is free and open to the public. It will start at 11 a.m. and will travel to the west on the Milk Train Trail.

Mr. Conway said the hike will begin at the interpretive sign at the east end of the large municipal parking lot next to the old railroad station, and the narration will start there.

Topics to be covered on the hike include the railroad and the resorts, the dairy industry, the Native American Lenape tribe, their language and their legacy, the activities of Murder, Inc. in

the region in the 1930s, and much more.

“The organized crime connection to Hurleyville back then is always of great interest to people,” Mr. Conway said. “There were two bodies discovered here in the hamlet, and another in Loch Sheldrake, and there are fascinating stories attached to all of those incidents, so we will be covering those during a portion of our walk.”

Hurleyville History Hikes typically last about 90 minutes. Although the portion of the trail on which the hike will take place is level and paved, participants are advised to wear appropriate footwear for walking and to dress according to the weather, whatever it may be that day.

### SULLIVAN HIRES NEW BASEBALL COACH

Randy Delaney Takes the Helm

LOCH SHELDRAKE — SUNY Sullivan Director of Athletics, Chris DePew, has announced that the head baseball coach position has been filled.

DePew said that Randy Delaney has been hired to take over immediately. He had previously held the role of assistant baseball coach at SUNY Ulster from 2017-2022. At Ulster, his duties included being the recruiting coordinator, hitting coach, and working with the outfielders. Coach Delaney helped the SUNY Ulster Senators win Region 15 Championships in 2019, 2021, and 2022. He lives in Kingston, NY where he grew up and began his baseball career.

Delaney graduated from Kingston High School, where he played both football and baseball. In 2011, he was an integral member of the first Kingston High School base-

ball team to make a final four appearance in the state tournament. Upon graduation, Delaney went on to play two years of college baseball at SUNY Ulster; there he was a 2-year captain while playing second and third base.

He graduated from SUNY Ulster in 2013 with an associate’s degree in Individual Studies, and earned a scholarship to play baseball at Division I St. Bonaventure University. Delaney played two seasons for the Bonnies, and was named as a team captain in 2015. In his third year at St. Bonaventure, he transitioned from player to volunteer assistant coach while he completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Sports Management.

Delaney replaces Ryan Snair, who interestingly also came to Sullivan after a successful tenure at SUNY Ulster. Snair had been the Generals head coach since 2009.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO... College Gets New Athletic Facilities

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE— It was September of 1972—50 years ago this month—and Sullivan County Community College was in the midst of some major construction.

While the new construction included a field house, tennis courts, baseball diamond and soccer fields, there was considerably more to it than just an upgrade in sports venues. The college’s long awaited new campus in Loch Sheldrake was nearing completion.

“It’s a jackhammer, bulldozer roaring atmosphere at Sullivan County Community College’s new Loch Sheldrake headquarters, where approximately 400 students enrolled last week,” the Times Herald-Record newspaper reported in an article by Peter Kutschera in its Monday, September 11 edition. “The rest are expected

in January, when officials expect construction will be completed on the state’s newest college campus.”

The college had just opened its doors for its tenth year of operation, and the bulk of the students were still taking classes on the original campus in South Fallsburg. Many of the 1400 students enrolled at SCCC that fall had classes scheduled on both campuses, and the school contracted with a bus service to provide transportation between the two.

Athletes who played for the school and fans were excited about the reality of Sullivan being able to host sports contests on its own turf for the first time, although the Record reported that the eventuality was still a ways off.

“Construction of the SCCC field house, which will hold a full-sized basketball court, has just begun,” Kutschera reported. “Grad-

ing is also in full swing on the school’s soccer field and baseball diamond and tennis courts.”

The fieldhouse in particular was a significant step forward for the school, which had previously played its home basketball games in the gymnasiums of Fallsburg or Liberty High Schools.

More than two decades later, the fieldhouse would get a new name as well as some updated features when it officially became the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse. The building had another major face lift in the summer of 2007, receiving a new state-of-the-art floor, lighting system upgrade and interior paint job. In 2008, it was connected to the college’s geothermal heating and cooling system, making it the largest enclosed air-conditioned facility in the entire area.

### Another Step Forward SUNY Sullivan Indoor Arena



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

LOCH SHELDRAKE – Up to \$20 million may be bonded to make SUNY Sullivan’s indoor pool and sports arena a reality, thanks to a recent vote by the Sullivan County Legislature.

“The college is our crown jewel, and we want it to grow brighter in coming years,” Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty said. “That’s why we’ve dedicated millions of dollars to not just this project but their annual budget and a crucial, ongoing rehab of their facilities, including a needed upgrade of their heating and ventilation system. We want them to continue being the incredible resource they have long been to the entire County.”

“We agreed that this proposal is a great chance not just for our college but for

the Town of Fallsburg to really stand out in the crowd. We can bring large sporting events and shows to the arena, and the facility will be available for public rental,” pointed out Legislator Joe Perrello, in whose District 7 the college sits. “The Legislature needed to show the State – which is funding half of the project – that we’re serious, and I’m grateful my colleagues feel the same way I do about this opportunity.”

“SUNY Sullivan has a long and storied history of

athletic excellence. This exciting new facility will allow us to offer new sports and expand our current track program,” SUNY Sullivan President Jay Quaintance said. “Additionally, this state-of-the-art facility will be available to Sullivan County school districts for their athletic needs, will be open to residents to provide much-needed access to year-round fitness opportunities, and will be an anchor athletic facility to drive programming and tourism to Sullivan County. We are

very excited to move this project forward.”

The aquatic and recreation facility - which is planned to feature a 25-meter-long, 8-lane pool and a 200-meter track oval – is anticipated to cost between \$15 and \$30 million, but may not require any bonding, said County Manager Joshua Potossek.

“We’ll be working with the college and the State to see if we can accomplish this transformative project without borrowing funds,” he explained. “The \$20 million bonding resolution legislators passed on August 18 simply gives us the ability to borrow up to that amount if needed.”

The County will soon issue a request for proposals for conceptual renderings.



#### BALLGAME BAFFLERS

BY BRIAN

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

September Questions:

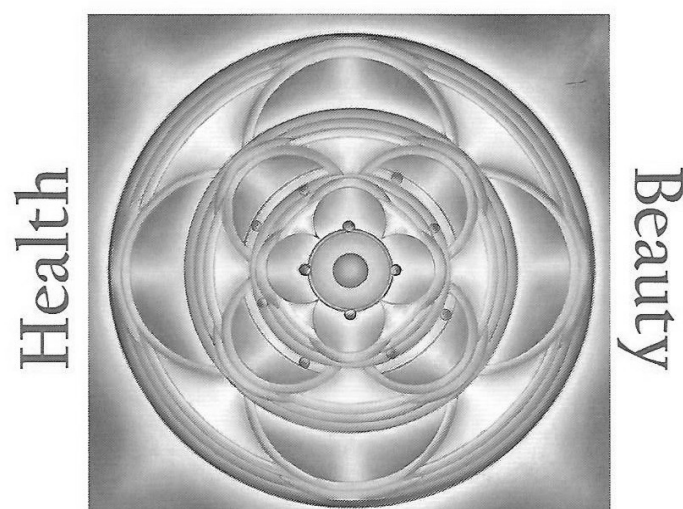
1. What is the nickname of the sports teams representing Fallsburg High School?
2. What is the nickname of the sports teams representing Monticello High School?
3. What is the nickname of the sports teams representing Liberty High School?
4. What is the nickname of the sports teams representing Tri-Valley High School?
5. What is the nickname of the sports teams representing Sullivan West High School?

Last month's answers:

1. In what year was the first Little League World Series played? **1947**
2. How many teams play in the LL World Series each year? **16**
3. What was the first town in New York state to win the LL World Series? **Schenectady in 1954.**
4. What international city was the first to be represented in the LL World Series? **Montreal in 1952.**
5. What was the first foreign country to win the LL World Series? **Mexico (Monterrey) in 1957.**

No winner last month.

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