

STILL PURSUING ANSWERS

New Development in Gan Eden Proposal

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE — Members of the Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance (CHNA) met last month with the Town of Fallsburg's engineer to discuss the renewed activity with the proposed development known as Gan Eden.

The Gan Eden project spans approximately 200 acres at the former site of the Columbia Hotel in Hurleyville, with roughly 13 acres located in the Town of Fallsburg, and the remainder in the Town of Thompson. Twelve of the 13 Fallsburg acres are wetlands in Hurleyville, making the Town of Fallsburg an interested party in the project.

The meeting occurred on April 30, with Town engineer Ken Ellsworth attending, along with several town department heads, and nine members of CHNA. Fallsburg Supervisor Nate Steingart attended via telephone. CHNA members Bonnie Makofsky and Roger Better provided detailed information about the group's main concerns and

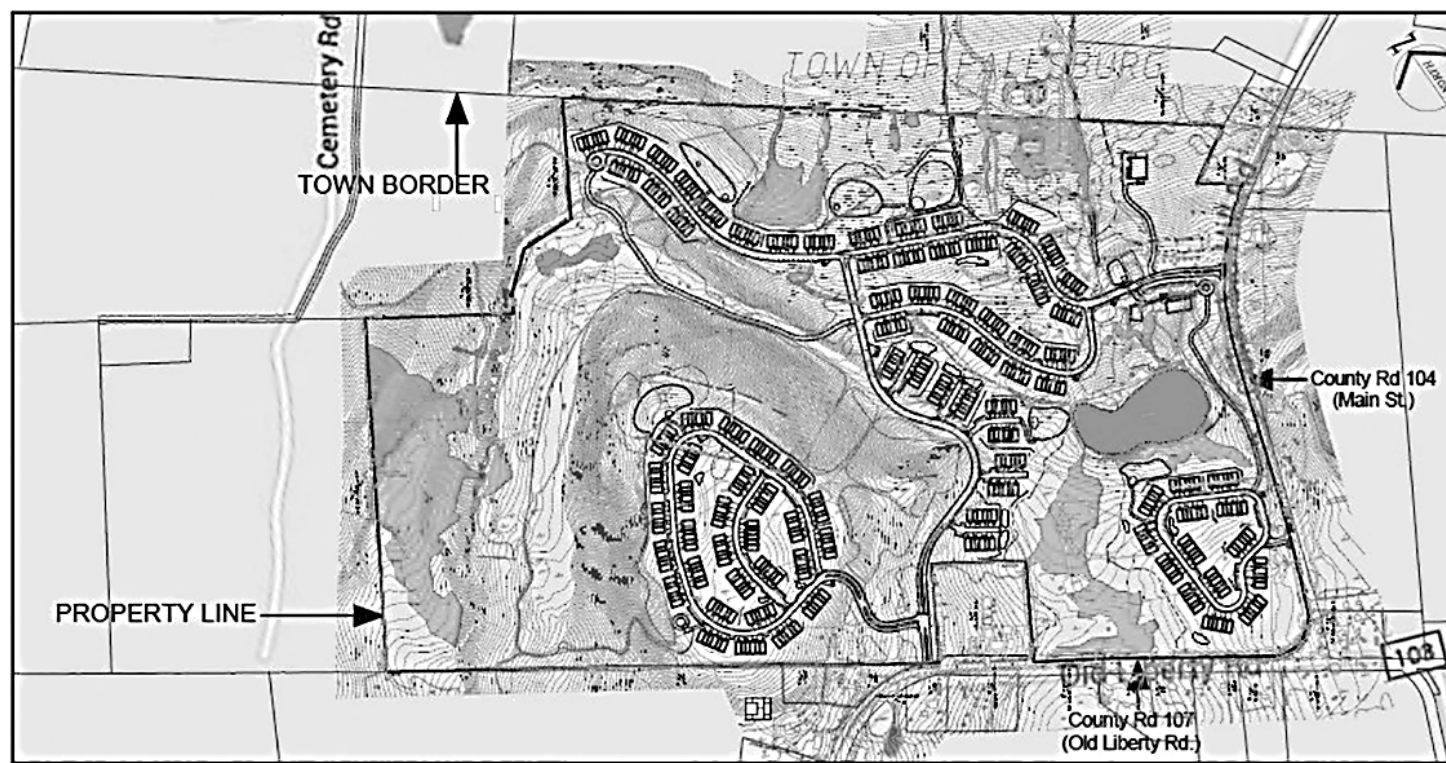
answered many questions from Mr. Ellsworth, who stated that he had many additional questions to pursue about the project. Hopefully, communication will be fruitful and ongoing.

The Gan Eden project recently gained approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission for proposed water usage.

As currently configured, the project comprises 89 residential buildings with six units in each, including 267 three-bedroom and 267 two-bedroom units. Plans also include a community building, pool, tennis courts, playgrounds, and parking for more than 1200 cars.

The CHNA, a group formed in 2012 in response to the original Gan Eden proposal, has been actively tracking progress, approvals and action on the proposed project. The group supports responsible rural development in the Columbia Hill area as long as it's reasonable, sustainable, and appropriate in scale to its site and the surrounding community.

A primary concern in-



volves the water supply, which is slated to be drawn from two wells situated in the Town of Fallsburg, supplemented by a storage tank in the Town of Thompson. Project plans estimate the need to draw 5.7 million gallons of water each month in an area that CHNA members point out is often prone to water shortages during the peak summer season,

when the local population increases with summer visitors. No well testing for the Gan Eden project has been executed during the peak water usage season, when private wells in the area are compromised, and local fire hydrants do not produce water. The effect on neighboring private wells and the nearby Town of Fallsburg wells could be substantial.

In addition, the proposal calls for a type of wastewater treatment plant known as a package sewer plant, to be installed near the wells, also in the town of Fallsburg. The package plant would process and release some 150,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day into what is listed as a NYDEC state-protected Class B stream adjacent to wetlands at the bottom of

Columbia Hill.

Gan Eden proposal documents name this as an active stream, and describe the "washing and polishing" of wastewater that will have no effect on the adjacent properties or wetlands at the point where it will be released. However, members of CHNA have noted that the area slated to receive the wastewater currently ap-

pears to be a dry streambed in some areas and a small, intermittent stream in others. They also have pointed out that NYDEC maps have not been updated since the 1960s.

Developers are currently not required to have DEC site visits to verify that maps are still accurate, or that proposed wastewater discharge will occur in the manner outlined in their proposals. CHNA has collected information on package plant wastewater treatment facilities, noting that they often fail due to poor maintenance and oversight rather than design issues.

Therefore, developer-funded, long-term management plans—covering regular monitoring, emergency protocols, and mitigation—remain critical, unaddressed issues in Sullivan County.

A nearby development on Old Liberty Road and Pitulaga Drive, called Windsor Hills Estates, is a recent example of package plant failure, with local representatives from the Department of Health frequently visiting

the site in 2025. This development and its package plant are fairly new—having been built in the past five years.

Flooding is another major concern for CHNA, as extensive new, non-porous surfaces—including asphalt paving, roofing, and recreational courts—will blanket the site. These additions prevent rainwater from seeping into the ground naturally, directly increasing the volume of runoff flowing downhill. For residents in the adjacent area at the bottom of the hill near Columbia Drive, this development threatens to worsen a chronic situation. Known locally as "the flats," this community is already vulnerable to flooding due to its proximity to existing wetlands, and potential further development is now raising urgent concerns about increased flood hazards.

If you are a concerned Hurleyville resident, the Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hurleyville Firehouse.

JUST ONE SEED Soaring Food Prices Spurs Business Shift

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — Everywhere you look these days, it seems, home gardening is making a comeback after decades of decline. Reacting to soaring grocery prices—food prices are predicted to increase another 2.9 percent this year—supply chain disruptions, and a loss of trust in industrial food systems, households and community groups are reclaiming balconies, rooftops, and small yards to grow their own food. As the website, TheAshNow.com puts it, "home gardening is no longer just a hobby. In 2026, it has become a global lifestyle shift driven by rising food prices, health awareness, climate anxiety, and a desire for self-reliance. From New York to Berlin, Tokyo to Toronto, millions of households are quietly reclaiming food production — one tomato plant at a time."

And for those living in Sullivan County and the surrounding area who would like to be part of the trend but find the prospect of getting started too daunting, help is now available.

Just One Seed, a company that has been around since 2005, has responded to the challenge of rising food prices by pivoting slightly to emphasize "helping people reimagine their home properties, churches, schools or corporate campuses for growing food."

"The idea is that the more we can grow our own food, the more resilient we can be as food costs escalate, as



PHOTO PROVIDED

Just One Seed's work at Sanivan Spa in Hurleyville.

they have in the last year, and especially recently," says the company's founder, Eve Minson. "It has always been an aspect of my business to mentor people, and to teach them the skills to be successful with their gardening endeavors so that they move forward with confidence, and know they can develop a green thumb over time, and help them build their passion and interest in the plant world, which is full of so many wonders and flavors and benefits. In light of recent trends, I am now concentrating more on that."

"I don't build the actual gardens themselves anymore, but help people learn how to do that themselves, and support their skills building the whole way to harvest."

Ms. Minson started the

business more than 20 years ago while teaching design in Bucks County, PA.

"My partner and I started a CSA on a horse farm where we were living and growing organic vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers," she recalls. "However, I started Just One Seed as a landscape design firm because I was teaching design and also pursuing design work in the region north of Philadelphia. In 1999 I graduated from a graduate program in landscape architecture at Cornell University, and then two years later another Masters program in natural resources. After a brief stint as a community planner and designer in the Hudson Valley, I moved to PA to start teaching, and later, farming."

Ms. Minson says that after a decade of design work,

she began consulting on agriculture and farming related issues, and decided she preferred that to designing. She never looked back.

"I designed and built a couple of very large community gardens in New Jersey, teaching basic food gardening there, and also helped start a beginner farmer incubator with a large USDA grant," she said. "I returned to the Catskills to take my current job at The Center for Discovery 12 years ago."

At TCFD, she began farming and running the farm-based therapeutic education program.

"Soon after, I started to develop my home property into a totally edible landscape, and then began to do that for others, including Sanivan Spa in Hurleyville, which has become

an organic homestead paradise, providing produce for their guests for at least nine months out of the year.

"I love growing food for people and helping others do it too, mostly because of the importance of access to healthy local food, which is healthier and more nutritious than that which is sent from halfway across the world," she notes. "But also I believe that when we are a little bit more self-sufficient, it enhances our relationship with nature, maybe our families and neighbors, and it's quite amazing to go into your yard and gather an incredibly fresh and healthy dinner. It's a great way to get rid of your lawn and fill it with organic edibles that will fill your belly, refrigerator and freezer. It's a total 'backyard to table' experience! And of course, that's how we all used to live. Think of it as a new era of the World War II Victory Gardens."

So, if you want to grow your own food and reap the health benefits of doing so, but are convinced that you can't make it happen, Just One Seed could be the solution you are looking for.

"People can find me on the website and FACEBOOK," Ms. Minson said. "Soon I will be writing a garden-centric SUBSTACK blog. And I'm writing a book about the relationship between older women and nature, called 'The Crone's Garden.'"

Learn more about what Just One Seed has to offer on their website, justone-seedllc.com

TCFD GALA A SUCCESS

HARRIS — The Center for Discovery raised critical funds at its 2026 Evening of Discovery Gala, held on Tuesday, April 28 in New York City. The annual event brought together leaders in business, healthcare, philanthropy, and the arts in support of The Center's mission to advance care and opportunity for individuals with complex disabilities and medical needs.

The evening honored Brian Harper, TCFD Board Member and parent, in recognition of his leadership and deep commitment to improving outcomes for individuals with autism and their families. A former Chairman of the Board of Autism Speaks and current board member, Mr. Harper has been a leading voice in advancing research and advocacy for individuals with autism nationwide. As both a dedicated board member and parent, he has played an important role in advancing The Center's vision and expanding awareness of the need for more integrated, comprehensive models of care.

Accepting the honor, Mr. Harper shared, "Thank you, Center for Discovery, for this honor which I humbly accept on behalf of my family — Laleh, Caleb, and Zoe. And, even more, thank you Center for Discovery for all that you have done for us. You are truly life savers. When Caleb came to The Center, something shifted...I began to see my son differently. Not through the lens of everything that was hard. But through the eyes of people who looked at him every single day and saw possibility. Saw progress. Saw Caleb."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Brian Harper (center) with his wife Laleh (left), their daughter, and TCFD President and CEO Dr. Theresa Hamlin at the Gala.

TCFD President & CEO, Dr. Theresa Hamlin reflected on the significance of the evening and the continued growth of The Center's work. "There's something very special about this room — not just because of your generosity, but because of a shared belief amongst us all: that we can do better for children, adults, and families with complex needs. What we are building together is not just a program — it's a future where every person has the opportunity to live with dignity, health, and connection."

Throughout the evening, speakers and guests highlighted the importance of innovation, compassion, and collaboration in addressing the evolving needs of individuals with complex conditions. Robin Roberts reflected on the broader impact of The Center's work, sharing, "What happens here matters everywhere... Their innovations in research and treatment of autism and complex medical conditions — powered by compassion, innovation,

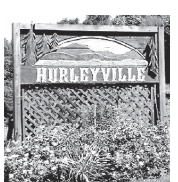
and science — are changing the world."

The event was co-hosted by Robin Roberts and Susie Essman, who brought warmth, energy, and humor to the evening, with Ms. Essman keeping the audience laughing throughout the night. She was also presented with The Center's inaugural MVP Award in recognition of her extraordinary heart, spirit, and unwavering support of The Center's mission.

The Evening of Discovery Gala is The Center's premier fundraising event, supporting transformative programs including Animal Assisted Intervention and Education, Integrated Arts such as recreation and music therapy, assistive technology and innovation, and critical capital improvements across TCFD's campuses. Funds raised also support The Center's nearly 1,800 employees, helping provide essential benefits such as on-site childcare, tuition reimbursement, wellness services, and career development opportunities.

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

Everyone is welcome to come out on Friday, June 5 and help plant annuals and perennials in the barrels on Main Street and in the stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville and at the firehouse. We'll meet at the firehouse at 10 a.m.

The members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First continue to work with local community groups and businesses on the ongoing revitalization of "the liveliest little hamlet in the Mountains."

Please visit www.hurleyvillenyny.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, May 21, and on Thursday, May 28, from 3 until 4:45 p.m. Visitors to the food pantry are asked to please bring a bag. The volunteers at the food pantry always appreciate the support of the community.

Sunday services at the church begin at 9 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Jorge delivers sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

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

There will be a "Cake Walk" at the church on Saturday, May 9 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon.

Beginning on Thursday, May 14, the public is invited to come to the church to pray together every Thursday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

"Messy Church" will begin again on Saturday, May 30. Youngsters are invited to join in the creative and fun activities at "Messy Church" while learning about the Bible.

Volunteers at the church are collecting socks, gloves, hats, underwear and diapers for children in foster care. They are also gathering paper goods for Preventive Services. This county program supports parents in their efforts to keep their children safe and healthy in their own homes. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information.

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

BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY



Thursday, May 21st
Thursday, May 28th
3:00pm - 4:45pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church
263 Main Street
Hurleyville

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Museum is hosting a book fair at the museum on Saturday, July 11.

Sullivan County Museum Weekend is July 25 - 26. The Professional Women of Sullivan County will hold a White Elephant Sale at the Museum on Saturday, July 25.

The Sullivan County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 18.

The volunteers at the Museum work on a variety of activities including research, archives, historical exhibits and special events. Anyone interested in exploring genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can contact the Museum for information on volunteering...info@scnyhistory.org.

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

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

Sullivan County memorabilia and books describing the history of Sullivan County are always available at the Museum gift shop.

First Sunday concerts are returning to the Museum. The concerts are presented by the Frederick Cook Society and feature performances by Little Sparrow and local musicians. Contact Carol Smith, Executive Director of the society, at 845-434-8044 for more information or visit Little Sparrow on Facebook.

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

You can visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum at www.scnyhistory.org or on Facebook.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

Members of CHNA continue to meet monthly to focus on the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill.

The group was scheduled to meet with the Fallsburg Town engineer and the Fallsburg supervisor on Thursday, April 30. The group planned to focus on at least 3 major concerns with the proposed Gan Eden project during the meeting:

- Does the proposed project have a sufficient potable water supply as claimed by the developer and how will the drawing of 5.7 million gallons/month affect neighboring homeowners' wells and the nearby downstream Town of Fallsburg wells?
- The potential for flooding in Hurleyville due to increased storm water runoff due to vast increase of impermeable surfaces uphill at the proposed Gan Eden project?
- The so far unaddressed problem of a "package plant" WWTP discharging treated 150,000 gallons/day into an essentially dry streambed feeding into the adjacent wetlands. Will such a system function long-term?

The proposed project will endanger the community and the environment in so many ways including:

- Scope of the project - 534 townhouses, 89 buildings, community center, pool, athletic courts and fields, 400,000-gallon water tank, over 2 miles of interior roads
- Threat to municipal and private water supply - primary wells for Gan Eden are in the Town of Fallsburg
- Harmful effect on neighboring wells as far away as Mongaup Road
- Adverse effect on neighboring wetlands and wildlife
- Dangerous effect on fire-fighting needs
- Destructive effects of runoff - flooding on Main Street, Columbia Drive and Mongaup Road, danger to downhill wells, flooding of Congregation Anschei Cemetery
- Wastewater treatment plant discharge via a ditch, not a pipe - a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery
- Wastewater treatment plant failure - a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery

Questionable structural integrity of on-site dam with 3-acre pond

- Hazards of increased traffic
- Hazards of entrances to the development

Visit CHNA at 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.



TRYING TO SLEEP

Are you still counting hundreds and hundreds of sheep
In an attempt to ensure that you get hours of sleep?
Do you try using breathing steps that start in your core
Or just turn off the light hoping you'll soon start to snore?

Your nose seems to smell some coffee that perks
Without sleep you begin to think you'll go berserk
But, don't think that, it's just the pattern repeating
Now, you're really wishing you'd hear those sheep bleating!

Have you turned off your tv and phone for the night
Tossed about wondering should I sleep left or should I sleep right?

You could sleep on your stomach or sleep on your back
On your back you'll count the ceiling tiles and their every crack

Maybe a snack as the hour of midnight is struck
A sandwich of turkey has shown to bring luck
Or peanut butter and jelly on two pieces of bread
You'll begin to feel sleepy and head to your bed

Well, it's comfy and cozy right here in my home
Unable to sleep so I've written this poem

Mimi
May 2026

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



OUTFLOW WINDS

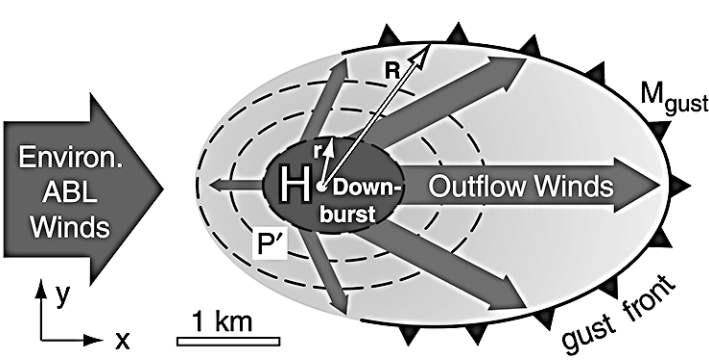


PHOTO PROVIDED

In meteorology, outflow is air that flows outwards from a storm system. According to Wikipedia, it is "associated with ridging, or anticyclonic flow. In the low levels of the troposphere, outflow radiates from thunderstorms in the form of a wedge of rain-cooled air, which is visible as a thin rope-like cloud on weather satellite imagery or a fine line on weather radar imagery. For observers on the ground, a thunderstorm outflow boundary often approaches in otherwise clear skies as a low, thick cloud that brings with it a gust front."

In simple terms, outflow winds are cool, gusty air currents that rush outward from the base of a thunderstorm, acting as a mini cold front. Created by rain-cooled air descending from a storm, these winds spread rapidly at the surface in all directions.

Outflow winds can exceed 40-50 miles per hour, often generating new, unpredictable thunderstorms. These outflow winds can be erratic and powerful, which can pose risks to fire safety by fanning flames and causing rapid fire spread. Outflow winds can cause sudden temperature drops, pressure rises, and shifts in wind direction.

Outflow winds are sometimes known as "gust fronts" and are a boundary separating the cool outflow from warmer ambient air. On weather radar, the outflow winds often appear as thin, moving lines of reflectivity, sometimes called "fine lines." Because they often form below the radar beam, they can also be hard to detect.

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



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The following is an opinion piece written by the taxpayer group, Fallsburg's Future. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper, its publisher or its staff. The Hurleyville Sentinel will happily print opposing or supporting views as they are received.

Test of Law, Accountability, and the Role of the Planning Board

Dear Friends and Neighbors

The Rose Road property (Y.N.H.K. LLC) controversy is not simply about a routine land use application. It is a documented case that raises fundamental questions about compliance with the law, respect for court orders, and whether rules in the Town of Fallsburg apply equally to everyone. The facts are not in dispute.

On May 28, 2024, a court-ordered stipulation required the property owner to cease all use and occupancy of the property until proper approvals were obtained. The order was explicit: no use, no construction, and no occupancy without first securing Planning Board approval, permits, and a Certificate of Occupancy. The property owner was also required to apply to the Planning Board within 45 days. The owner did not comply.

Instead, the Town's own enforcement records and sworn filings show that the property continued to be actively used. Buildings were occupied. Construction continued. Electrical work was performed. Everything was done without permits. A former barn was converted into a dormitory. Additional structures were used as classrooms, a synagogue, and multi-purpose facilities. This was the creation and operation of a multi-building campus in a flagrant violation of a court order.

By July 2025, inspections confirmed multiple buildings being used without Certificates of Occupancy, ongoing construction without permits, and clear evidence of residential and institutional use. As a result, the Town initiated legal action to hold the property owner in contempt of court. This case is still ongoing.

At a recent court hearing in March 2026, the judge maintained the non-use order, meaning the property still cannot legally be used until proper approvals are obtained. The court is also considering penalties, fines, and the consequences

of the owner's failure to comply. Now, the Planning Board enters the picture. The applicant is seeking approvals after the fact, after construction, after occupancy, after disregarding town laws and after violating a court order.

This raises a critical issue: "Should a property owner who has demonstrated a pattern of non-compliance and disregard for the law be granted approvals that were required before any of this activity took place?" The Planning Board is not just reviewing a site plan. It is being asked to decide whether this type of behavior should be legitimized.

As residents and stakeholders, we must ask:

- What message does it send if approvals are granted under these circumstances?
- Does it encourage future applicants to follow the law or to ignore it and seek forgiveness later?
- Does it undermine the authority of the court, which is still actively reviewing this case?

This was not a misunderstanding or a minor violation. This was a knowing and contemptuous disregard of a court order. The applicant is not coming to this Board in good faith. They built first and are now asking for permission after the fact. If the Board grants approval under these circumstances, it sends a message that violating the

law and court orders is an acceptable path to development.

There are also serious and unresolved questions about whether the proposed use, a combination of dormitories, educational facilities, and religious structures is even permitted within the Agricultural zoning district. This issue alone warrants careful scrutiny. But even beyond zoning issues, there are basic principles: laws and process matters.

The law requires that approvals come first for a reason. It ensures safety, environmental review, infrastructure capacity, and fairness to neighbors and taxpayers. Allowing a project to proceed after bypassing that process is not just a technical issue it is a breakdown of the democratic system designed to protect the community.

This Board should not reward a pattern of deliberate noncompliance by granting approvals after a court order has already been violated. At a minimum, no action should be taken until the court has fully resolved the ongoing violations and the applicant has demonstrated full compliance with all legal requirements. The Planning Board's decision here will set a precedent. Not just for this project but for every future application in the Town of Fallsburg. It will determine whether the rules are to be enforced or whether they can be ignored. And that is a decision that affects every resident.

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A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

Celebrating Steve Schwartz at HPAC

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – It is an understatement to say that Steve Schwartz is a familiar face in the community; he has long been an important part of the rich musical tapestry of our area.

Mr. Schwartz began playing the clarinet in sixth grade at the Monticello Middle School, and continued to play through high school. Once he switched over to the guitar around age 14 or 15, he never looked back.

He comes by his appreciation of music naturally. His mom used to join him at open mics while his dad focused on singing, mostly at Temple Sholom. His brother also sang. However, he's the only one that doesn't use his vocal cords on stage. As a member of several different bands, he accompanies with his guitar as the women sing.

He plays with Cris Spinner in The Narrative; with Stacy Cohen in the Ramblers; with Laura Garone in Lake St; with Joana Duffy Dutcher in a band with no name at the moment; and with Joanna Gass in Search and Rescue.

Mr. Schwartz is a proud advocate of the music scene.

"Musical history is off the charts here in Sullivan County, and not just because of Woodstock," he said recently. "Musicians have been up here going

to the hotels and the bungalows; residents saw bands like The Who, Led Zeppelin since the 1960s and before. I can go on and on. People who lived in the area at the time will tell you about seeing Led Zeppelin in concert in Woodbourne."

Unsure of what path he was going to follow in life, Mr. Schwartz knew it would somehow involve music. He started spending his free time at Murray Snyder's Music Center on Broadway in Monticello, and there he met Mickey Ilardi, part of the local music circuit who played at clubs and hotels. Mr. Snyder mentioned to Mr. Ilardi that he was looking for someone to work in the store—and the rest is history.

Mr. Schwartz credits Mr. Snyder for giving him the opportunity to work in the business. He was supposed to work in the store three or four days a week, but that quickly turned into six days a week. Then Mr. Ilardi moved to Florida and Mr. Schwartz became the manager, working there from late 1988 until Mr. Snyder passed away in 1995.

Thirty years ago, on April 1, 1996, Steve's Music Center debuted on Broadway in Monticello, next to where WSUL radio was first located.

The store was relocated to Rock Hill in 2001, and it has a

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ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

little bit of everything for musicians. It's full-service, featuring new and used acoustic guitars, electric guitars, guitar effects, amps, bass guitars, drums, guitar effect pedals, pro audio equipment, guitar pickups, guitar accessories, and more.

"I bought my guitar from Steve and recently bought two drum pads and two sets of sticks for my grandsons. He was very helpful," Lauren Miller, a repeat customer, said.

"I feel like my teachers did, people are coming up to me 30 years later or more and saying, 'do you remember me?'" Mr. Schwartz said.

Most people have visited his store for one music need or another. Often that was to get an instrument for the school band. Now, that chapter of his life is coming to an end.

Faced with retirement, he expressed that he's ready, and looking forward to it.

"It's not a viable business like it once was," he said of his store.

Summer is already lined up to be busy. Not only will he be performing all over the county, but he also helps run the Rock Hill Summer Concert Series, and about every third Sunday he plays at DeFilippis Bakery.

"10 years ago, Steve and I

were both asked by Carmela (the owner) about doing something with music at the bakery. He and I came up with the idea of a Sunday brunchtime open mic. One of the things we are most proud about was being the first place many terrific musicians played in public; a very supportive and joyous atmosphere," said fellow musician David Rosenberg of Monticello.

Mr. Schwartz's dream location is to play inside the Bethel Woods Event Gallery. The first time he saw the stage at HPAC, he knew he wanted to perform there one day, too. He's about to check that off his recent buck-

FCSD Announces Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce its Class of 2026 valedictorian, Andrew Bensimon, and salutatorian, Douglas Medina Carcamo, Jr.

Mr. Bensimon and Mr. Medina Carcamo, Jr. will graduate with overall grade point averages of 99.60 and 99.10 respectively.

Upon graduation, Mr. Bensimon plans to attend Pace University, where he will major in English. At Fallsburg, he was an active member of Drama Club, even serving as its president for some time. He was also involved in the school's robotics team, junior math team, and Dungeon's & Dragon's club. He also served



Douglas Medina Carcamo, Jr. (l) and Andrew Bensimon as a class representative and Chief Justice of the Student Government Association. In his free time, he enjoys Pokémon, acting,

and analyzing film and literature.

Mr. Medina Carcamo, Jr. is currently undecided on his college choice, but has expressed interest in attending SUNY Stony Brook and SUNY Oneonta. However, he plans to study Biology. He was a member of the school's varsity golf, soccer, and volleyball teams. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer and video games with his friends.

The Fallsburg Central School District congratulates Mr. Bensimon and Mr. Medina Carcamo, Jr. on their outstanding achievements and wishes them continued success in all their future endeavors.

FORT DELAWARE TO RE-OPEN MAY 16

Commemorating the Semiquincentennial in the Upper Delaware

NARROWSBURG—The Barryville based non-profit history education group, The Delaware Company, has announced that it will be officially re-opening Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg for the 2026 season on Saturday, May 16.

Fort Delaware, founded by former Sullivan County Historian James W. Burbank in 1957, and currently owned by Sullivan County, is located on the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway at 6615 Route 97. The Delaware Company has operated the Fort under a contractual agreement with the County since 2021.

Fort Delaware will be open on Saturdays and Sundays in May and June, and September and October. It is open Thursday thru Sunday in July and August, and is also open Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day. The Fort is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the last admission at 4 p.m.

With America celebrating its 250th birthday this year, the Fort will be spearheading the commemoration in the Upper



Delaware River Valley by offering a series of special events, including its annual Patriots & Loyalists Weekend, which this year will take place at the Minisink Battleground Park in nearby Barryville on July 17-19. In addition to the usual reading of the Declaration of Independence and a Loyalist response, and a number of other activities, including exhibits

and displays, an encampment and demonstrations, music and food, Patriots & Loyalists Weekend this year will include the commemoration of the Battle of Minisink on Saturday, July 18.

"Our annual reading of the Declaration of Independence takes on added significance this year because of the Semiquincentennial," Debra Conway, the Executive Director of The Delaware Company, said in announcing that the event will take place at the Minisink Battleground instead of Fort Delaware. "We think it makes sense to incorporate it into what we hope will be a grand weekend at the Battleground."

The expanded Patriots & Loyalists Weekend this year is made possible by a number of generous sponsors, including The Delaware Company, Bold Gold Media, Upstate D Tours, and the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association.

A complete schedule of this season's programs at Fort Delaware will be published soon on The Delaware Company's website, thedelawarecompany.org

Out Divine Corners Way
by Jonathan Shimkin

Several times a week, as the spring comes in, I go budding along Hurleyville's Rail Trail. I think of budding as the springtime equivalent of autumn's leaf peeping. Instead of watching the leaves flare and fall, I watch them arrive. It's not spectacular in the same way as the autumn foliage; it doesn't draw tourists. But it has its own subdued beauty. The buds emerge slow and steady, with intrepid insistence, pushing out into an increasingly fraught environment.

The first stretch of the Rail Trail along its east leg, between the trailhead and the culvert, is all shrubby *Salix*; the willows look wispy and fragile after the long winter. But by mid-March, the first faint swellings appear along the willow branches — signs of life! And by late March, each node begins to sprout a single green leaf that will wrap around it like a cowl, giving it a monkish cast. In April, the buds unfurl in earnest, a spread of overlapping green petals with a hint of white fringe. You can see in them the future shrub.

Each bud develops at its own pace. By the first week of April, all three stages — bump, monk, and leaf-cluster — can be seen side by side on any single branch. Scan the branch rapidly and you receive a time-lapse impression of a bud's growth. Other shrubs among the *Salix* have red spear-like growths at the tips of their branches, and there's one with a furry orange bud resembling a caterpillar.

Past the willows and the culvert, the maple trees along the pond's shore are putting forth red buds. The color is rather pallid on the individual buds but, collectively, they lend a rosy flush to the landscape. Multiplied a thousand-fold on the branches of the maple stand across the pond, they glow with a delicacy of color like that of the old hand-tinted photographs.

Continuing along the trail, it's curious to see how many trees still have last year's leaves — withered, brown, and tenacious — hanging from their branches. One would think a winter harsh enough to bring down entire trees and scatter branches across lawns like sea-wrack, would also strip away any remaining foliage. Yet sturdy trees have shed leaves cling into spring: the balance between letting go and hanging on is comically asymmetrical.

The phenomenon of the persistent leaves has been noted and named by the botanists. It's called *marcescence*, "the withering and persistence of plant organs that normally are shed" — to what end is less clear. Hypotheses abound. Look closely and you can see that the new buds and the old leaves are paired, connected at their base to the same leaf stem. The old leaf drops only when the new one grows big enough to push it out. Some think the marcescent leaves serve a protective function for young trees in their first buddings. No one knows for sure.

By mid-April, buds have burst into blossom all over the county. Clouds of yellow, white, and pink float upon the landscape. In Japan, the arrival of the cherry blossoms is met with reverence and a festival called *hanami* — "flower viewing." The cherry blossoms are celebrated not only for their beauty but their transience, for the intimation of mortality they carry. They're scented, as it were, with *mono no aware* — "the pathos of things." Hanging on, letting go: life taking its natural course...

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There's beauty in the days of peak bloom. And there's beauty in the many weeks that precede the blossoming, in the shut buds, so full of promise, and their slow emergence. It's this beauty the budder seeks — the beauty of incipience

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

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SPECIAL ISSUE ★★ JANUARY 2026

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FRIDAY 4-10PM
SATURDAY 4-10PM
SUNDAY 9AM-1PM

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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 who 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.

We had a former member who had left the department several years ago rejoin us. Welcome back, Stuart Wizer.

Training is always at the forefront. This past Sunday, we had a joint extrication drill with the EMT class from the college. We demonstrated a number of operations. Cutting the different car members to remove the roof, opening a damaged, jammed door, taking the windows out and patient protection, to name a few.

The EMTs from the class observed all of the actions and got a closeup look at some car parts that are not normally seen. They also demonstrated how to package a patient safely to be removed from the car.

This was a great training day for all involved.

In the beginning of April, I had the opportunity to go to the New York State Fire Coordinators Conference in Watkins Glen. State Fire Administrator James Cable opened the conference by reaffirming the fire service's mission to protect lives, property, and community safety, while acknowledging the risks firefighters face every day.

Topics at the conference included emergency response to solar energy systems, fire prevention efforts by the American Red Cross, and a case study of a large-scale hand sanitizer fire that highlighted the importance of early mutual aid and pre-planning.

The conference provided valuable insight and training opportunities. While the challenges facing Sullivan County mirror those across the State, we are making progress on many of them.

As spring conditions persist, remember that the annual Burn Ban remains in effect until May 14th. Even after it is lifted, use caution when burning brush.

Residents are advised to burn only under safe conditions, including light winds, damp ground, and moderate humidity. Dry, windy days should be avoided due to the elevated risk of fires spreading. Burn piles should be kept at a manageable size and located in clear areas away from structures, trees, and utility lines, with at least a 10-foot firebreak cleared to bare soil.

Safety equipment is also essential. Anyone conducting an open burn should have access to a water source such as a hose or buckets, as well as tools like a shovel or rake to control flames and embers. A fire extinguisher is recommended when possible.

With warmer weather arriving, there is a seasonal shift in emergency calls. Recent incidents have already included water rescues on the River highlighting the dangers of cold water conditions.

As a reminder, anyone

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE WANTS TO REMIND YOU THAT ROAD CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS HERE

STAY FOCUSED

WHEN TRAVELING THROUGH WORK ZONES, AVOID ALL DISTRACTIONS

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

boating or recreating on the water should always wear a life jacket. Despite warmer air temperatures, cold water can quickly lead to hypothermia and other serious risks.

With spring here, the road construction season has started. New York has the "Move Over Law."

Briefly stated:

- Move over one lane (if safely possible) when approaching:
 - Road construction crews
 - Maintenance vehicles
 - Utility workers with flashing lights
- If you cannot move over, you must:
 - Slow down significantly
 - Be prepared to stop.

Let us all use some common sense and **Be Safe Out There!**

FREE DROPOFF DAY

Bring Your Household Hazardous Waste to the Monticello Transfer Station June 14

2026 Sullivan County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

WHEN: SUNDAY, June 14, 2026 from 8:00 AM—2:00 PM
WHERE: Monticello Transfer Station
 91 Landfill Drive
 Monticello, NY 12701

WHAT TO KNOW:

- Pre-registration is NOT required
- Bring ACCEPTABLE HHW carefully packaged to prevent reactions, spills/leaks
- Bring PHOTO ID and/or PROOF OF SULLIVAN COUNTY RESIDENCY
- Remain in your car at all times

ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
Paint	Smoke detectors
Solvents	Fire extinguishers
Stains	Cleaning products
Ink	Poisons
Pool chemicals	Roofing tar
Acids	Bases
Wood preservatives	Adhesives
Fluorescent bulbs	Crossbow
Mercury containing devices	State fuels
Pesticides/herbicides	Antifreeze
Batteries/ automotive batteries	Refrigeration devices
	Household garbage
	Commercial/industrial/agricultural waste
	Medical waste/pharmaceuticals
	Radioactive material
	Explosives
	Ammunition
	Bulk liquids/drums/tanks larger than 5 gallons
	LPG gas tanks
	Electronics
	Tires
	Refrigeration devices

Questions?
 Kassie Thelman, Recycling Coordinator
 (845) 807-0291
 recycling@sullivanny.gov
 (Next HHW Date: September 20, 2026)

MONTICELLO – Public Works Committee Chair Joe Perrello is pleased to announce that Sullivan County is hosting a residential Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in June.

Scheduled for Sunday, June 14, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., it will be offered at the Monticello Transfer Station at 91 Landfill Drive.

"This is a great time to clean out your household chemicals," said Mr. Perrello. "These items can be dangerous to people and the environment if stored a long time or just thrown out with the rest of the trash."

The program is open to individuals with residences in Sullivan County ONLY – photo ID or other proof of residency will be required. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required.

McCarthy's 845.434.5343

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PHOTO PROVIDED

From Ribbons to Blossoms of Hopes

by Dr. Hope Blecher Croney

LAKE HUNTINGTON – Look what happens when people believe. See what happens when people come together for a few hours on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

This began as an idea, an arts workshop to share time and space around the theme of hope. It was designed as the community engagement component of the exhibit Iterations of Hope. With over 24 artists submitting their 2-D paintings, photographs, collages, and original creations, a vibe was emerging. The co-curators, Jodi Sibilia and Hope Blecher Croney, decided to include a community arts-making workshop. Ribbons of Hope became the title and the theme. The intention was set. People would be able to use a variety of materials to create their ribbon of hope. Then, Hope would gather the outcomes and intersperse them to create a new piece of art.

For two hours, the participants touched, cut, glued, made marks, chatted, sipped, and noshed. There was no preconceived notion of an outcome. The energy was fun, and the vibe was colorful. One photo shows the pile that made it to the drafting table in spite of some flurries and wind. The other photo shows the

outcome. From Ribbons of Hope to Tree of Hopes, this blossomed.

After stepping back and taking another look or two, here's how Hope describes the outcome: The sun shines upon the canopy of buds; the birds flutter nearby as they pollinate with hope and optimism upon the gentle trunk that's supported by creativity and under whose roots is the heart of life, resting and being fed by the rich soil of Mother Earth. The flow can also be viewed from the ground up towards the sky. It is open to your interpretation.

One beautiful, curious step at a time, we can come together, just as these ribbons do. Come see this piece and the artwork that is "Iterations of Hope" on Sunday, May 17, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The gathering will be at the Arts Nest in the Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 St. Rte. 52, Lake Huntington, New York 12752-0124.

Thank you to Jodi Sibilia of the Arts Nest and to Debra Courtright, Suzann Dvorken, and Carol Castel of the Delaware Valley Opera Center, for believing in this program. Thank you to the donors, friends, and families.

For more events and to add your support, visit Hope at www.DrHopesHub.org.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallburgh

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

May 26, 1909 Hurleyville Sentinel Adds Typesetter

We have made arrangements with L. W. Lawrence whereby the Sentinel office will occupy the room recently completed in the Casino building. As has been previously stated we have purchased a typesetting machine and will endeavor to make the Sentinel what it should be, a clean, family newspaper devoted to the interests of the village in which it is printed. Items for publication must be handed in before Tuesday afternoon as the paper is published the first thing Wednesday morning. Copy for change of advertisements must be handed in by Saturday and a notice to the effect appears every week in the paper. You may say you have not seen other notices: if so, you will see this and act accordingly that we may not be delayed in publication.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Lawrence Casino building on Main Street, 1909 home of The Hurleyville Sentinel

Cemetery Association Buys Land

The Hurleyville Cemetery Association has purchased about an acre and a half of ground adjoining the cemetery from B. T. Lawrence. Consideration: \$300.

Prisoners Moved

The prisoners were taken out of the Monticello jail Saturday and taken to Newburgh where they will remain until the barn in which they are kept is prepared and the cells moved.

May 27, 1933 Dairymen's League Secures Freight Reduction

A 19-percent reduction in railroad freight rates on fluid milk shipments

Waxy Gordon, Racketeer and Bootlegger, Captured at White Lake by State Troopers

White Lake, Sullivan County, again comes into the spotlight with the capture of the notorious "Waxy Gordon," racketeer rated by Uncle Sam as Public Enemy No. 1. Federal agents have been searching the county for him since April 27, and he felt much chagrined, as he expressed it, "to be taken by a couple of hick cops." He will probably have a better opinion of Sergeant Thomas Mangano and Sergeant Jack Hopkins of the State Police in the future. Gordon was held on \$100,000 bail in New York City for appearance June 5.

Man Killed, Flier Held

Charles Glassner of Parksville, 27 years old, was killed instantly shortly after midnight last Saturday in an accident for which J.M. Gamewell, Jr., twenty-three, North Carolina aviator, with headquarters at Livingston Manor, is held as the hit-and-run driver.

Glassner was run down in front of the store of his father-in-law, Morris Seigel. Moe Grossman of Parksville, who saw the accident, caused Gamewell's arrest in Liberty, after following what he saw was the death car from Parksville. Gamewell's car was said to have been splattered with blood when he was arrested.

Gamewell, questioned for some time by State Police, refused to make a statement. Charles Henry of Liberty, twenty-one, his companion on the ride from Livingston Manor to Liberty, said he was asleep and was unaware of the accident.

Gamewell was held in Sullivan County Jail in Monticello for a hearing at noon before Magistrate

Fred Sprague at Liberty.

Now Open

Weissman's Drug Store has opened the soda fountain and luncheonette and are prepared to serve you delicious and refreshing food at reasonable prices.

Largest Crowd Ever at Jeffersonian Dinner

More than 900 guests, including many Democratic leaders from southern New York, constituted Thursday night of last week the largest Jeffersonian dinner party ever in this part of the state. The capacity of the Flagler Hotel dining room was taxed to the limit by the crowd, which enthusiastically paid tribute not only to Thomas Jefferson, founder of the Democratic party, but also to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Governor Herbert H. Lehman.

Vincent Dailey, state director of the Democratic Union, paid tribute to the Democratic county chairman, James M. Kelly, who, he said, had built the greatest Democratic organization in any upstate county. Dr. Victor Bourke of Livingston Manor was toastmaster.

May 2018 Senator Bonacic to Retire State Senator Will Not Seek Re-election; Scramble is On to Replace Him

The local political scene was abuzz with speculation last week following an announcement by State Senator John Bonacic that he would not be seeking re-election.

Mr. Bonacic, a Republican from Mount Hope in Orange County, has represented Sullivan County—as well as parts of Ulster, Orange, and Delaware Counties—in Albany since first being elected in 1998. Since that time, Mr. Bonacic was re-elected nine times, including six times in which he ran unopposed. He called serving in the State Senate "the honor of my life."

"Twenty years is enough," he said. Prior to his election to the Senate, Mr. Bonacic served in the Assembly, having won a seat in that house in 1990.

In the wake of Mr. Bonacic's surprise announcement, speculation has run rampant about possible candidates to succeed him.

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PATRIOTS ARE BORN

An Original Story by John Conway

In recognition of America's upcoming 250th birthday, this month we are re-running an original story that first appeared in The Hurleyville Sentinel in July, 2020. The story is from the Upper Delaware River valley region that later became Sullivan County. This region was first settled in the mid-18th century, and as the Revolutionary War approached, those settlers—like most on the continent—were forced to choose up sides. This is a fictional story about two of them.

downriver to Philadelphia the next morning. The raft was made up of ten of the finest pine trees you'd ever see, each one about sixty feet in length, stout and straight. That's been our business for a few years now, rafting the timber down to the ship builders in Philadelphia, where they are used as masts on the great sailing ships. The trip takes a few days, depending on the flow of the river, and we have been getting five Pounds per mast, a bit more than the going rate because our timber is the best on the market.

My name is Andrew Worth and my younger brother Morgan and I live along the Delaware River in New York. We are the last surviving children of Joseph and Rebecca Worth, who moved here from Preston, Connecticut in 1755. I was just a small child then, and Morgan wasn't born until a few years later. We've been living here ever since, at first with our parents and two sisters. It's been a hard life, and we suffered many hardships as our father, then one of our sisters and then the other, and finally our mother all passed away.

It had been dark for about an hour and we had just turned in for the night when I heard Boson, our big black dog, barking. It wasn't particularly unusual for him to bark at night with all the deer and other animals around, but this barking was different, and I finally decided I needed to get up and look around. Morgan heard me get up, and grabbed his musket and joined me.

As soon as I opened the door, Boson bolted out, then stopped suddenly and began barking even more urgently. By the faint light of the moon, I could just make out some kind of shape on the ground where he stood, and I hurried over. It was a man.

It was early May of 1775, and Morgan and I had just finished lashing together a large timber raft to float

I turned him over, and could tell right away from



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Like many men in the upper Delaware, Andrew and Morgan Worth made their living rafting timber down the Delaware River to the shipyards in Philadelphia.

his clothing that he was a man of means. I could not make out any details, but that was obvious just from what I could see. He was breathing, but shallowly, and Morgan and I picked him up and got him into the house. Morgan spread a blanket out in front of the hearth, and stoked the fire to get it started again. I tried to lower the man to the blanket as gently as I could.

As the fire began to build, Morgan lit a couple of candles and I got a better look at the man. He looked to be about forty years old, and his clothes were finer than any I had ever seen, but they were tattered in places. We

checked him over quickly and found no signs of bleeding, so I removed his hat and put a cold cloth on his forehead. It wasn't long before he began to stir, and within minutes he was sitting up. Morgan offered him some water.

"Where am I?" he asked as soon as he had swallowed.

"You're in Cushetunk," Morgan answered. "Who are you and what happened to you?"

"My name is McDougall," he said slowly. "Who are you?"

"We live here," I said cautiously. "I'm Andrew, and this is my brother, Morgan."

The man was silent for a moment, and seemed to be taking in his surroundings. Then he fixed his gaze first on Morgan and then on me. It made me uncomfortable. Finally, I spoke.

"Might I ask how you happened to be collapsed in front of our house, out here in the middle of nowhere, dressed like that?"

The man took a deep breath before speaking.

"Obviously I don't know you boys, but it appears I have no choice but to trust you. I live in New York, but I own property in Albany County, and I was there inspecting it when word

reached me that I was needed in Philadelphia. I was on my way there—it is urgent that I get there in the next few days—and I was ambushed just east of here several miles. There are men pursuing me, that is why I didn't simply travel down the Hudson back home and from there to Philadelphia, so I had to cover a lot of ground fast, and some of it was rough country. I thought if I could get to the Delaware, I would be all right."

"Men after you? Why?" Morgan asked.

"Do either of you have any idea what is going on in Boston right now?"

Morgan and I looked at each other. We made a two or three trips to Philadelphia each year, and had just returned from one. Other raftsmen had told us they wouldn't be making any more trips for a while because the tension between Massachusetts and England had already reached the point of a shooting war in Lexington and Concord and it was becoming too dangerous to be on the river, even this far west.

"No," I answered before Morgan could, deciding not to reveal too much right then.

"I am on my way to Philadelphia for the Continental Congress," McDougall said. "There is considerable talk of independence, of breaking away from England completely. New York's representatives are not necessarily supportive of that notion, and I am going there to try to convince them."

"Hold on a second," Morgan blurted out. "You're on your way to Philadelphia, and you just happened to end up here, where we're fixing to take our raft downriver tomorrow? That's quite a coincidence!"

"No, it's not," McDougall said. "I came upon some men in their fields this morning. They offered me some cornbread to eat and a

swallow of pumpkin ale. We talked for short while, and they told me about you boys. They said you were the only ones still rafting timber on the river, that everyone else had given up because it had become too dangerous. They directed me here."

"So you'd like to hitch a ride?" I asked.

"I will certainly be willing to pay you," he said. "And I can help you with the raft."

"You're going to help us with the raft?" Morgan said, eyeing the man's fine, though tattered, clothes.

"I'll have you know, I spent many years at sea, and worked on many different kinds of ships" he said indignantly.

"Well, the river ain't no sea, and the raft ain't no ship," Morgan said.

"If you can pay, you can ride," I finally said. "Looks like we've got ourselves a passenger."

Read the next chapter in our story in next month's edition. Alexander McDougall was an actual figure in New York State history and one of the state's representative to the Continental Congress. The characters of Andrew and Morgan Worth are fictitious, as are the events depicted in the story.

CIVIL AIR PATROL TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

SWAN LAKE – Civil Air Patrol's Sullivan County Cadet Squadron will hold an open house on Sunday, May 17, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Sullivan County International Airport, on the second floor of Hangar 7.

The public is cordially invited to attend and enjoy aviation related activities for the kids, such as stomp rockets, a flight simulator, and the science behind hot air balloons. There will be light refreshments and lots of fun. Come find out more about Civil Air Patrol and the amazing opportunities provided by our leader-

ship program for youths 12 years old and up.

The address is 83 Co Rd 183A Swan Lake, NY. The event is in Hangar Seven (H7), on the second floor.

About Civil Air Patrol
Founded in 1941 and established as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force seven years later, Civil Air Patrol is chartered by Congress as a nonprofit organization for the purposes of youth development, aerospace education, and to promote general aviation.

Visit CAPnews or GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information.

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce their middle and high school honor roll and superintendent's honor roll lists for the third marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. Honor roll students achieved an average of 85-91, and superintendent's honor roll students earned an average of 92 or higher.

7th Grade Honor Roll: Janelli Anderson, Bryan Balcazar Lavin, Elias Blandon Rivera, Jeremiah Castro, Samantha Clark, Genesis Fuentes, Awa Gai, Selena Garcia, Emanuel Granados, Madison Hernandez, Theresa Medina, Grayson Mungeer, Gabriel Newkirk, Nicholas Ortiz Jr, Hansel Pacheco Murillo, Keylit Pineda Nieto, Gabriela Ramirez Cortes, Christian Robles-Hernandez, Blinera Selimaj, Gabrielle Spruill, Karla Zacapexpan-Reyes, and Anayeli Zaragoza.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Armani Alencaster, Ava Berrios, Isaac Castillo Miranda, Aubrianna Clark-Wheat, Aaron Cubias, Nelson Duque Moroy, Anthony Frunzi, Lithsy Fuentes Ardon, Arayaah-Laurice Irby, Selina Lazroe, Alexandria Mann, Harlow Oathout, Katherine Reyes Serrano, Erick Rivera Moreno, Kendra Rodriguez, Derrick Saravia, Blerina Selimaj, Melanie Wang, and Benjamin Wizwer.

8th Grade Honor Roll: Vanesa Ahmetaj, Darlin Chub Ujpan, Kaleb Cross, Aaliyah Deis, Franco DiCostanzo, Kimberly Duncan,

Erika Garcia-Ponce, Genesis Gonzalez Alvarez, Aryanna Irby, Khloe Jordy, Jackelyne Mariaca, Gabriela Mota Archer, Lila Odom, Dylan Osborne, Kaylie Price, Malika Rivers, Merary Rodriguez Mejia, Leon Rodriguez Morales, Marco Sarmiento-Joya, Zhara Snead, Holly Surerus, and Daniel Vasquez-Nunez.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Brianny Argueta Hernandez, Giselle Ascendo Martinez, Walker Budde, George Di Napoli, Janary Fuentes Ardon, Sonja Henry, David Hernandez Martinez, Carsyn Hoefling, Margie Madrid Castro, Reja Meer, Sofia Navarrete, Ariel Payne, Kimberly Perez Castillo, Alexandra Reyes Lopez, Genesis Reyes-Robles, Leonardo Rojas, Jessica Saciolo, Anthony Santos Morales, Daylin Sierra Lizama, Ambar Vasquez, Heaven Wilson, Allison Yautentzi Reyes, and Jocelyn Zempoalcatl.

9th Grade Honor Roll: Blythe Adams, Arris Baker, Jack Bensimon, Xzander Berrios, Adriel Canales Gonzales, Elijah Castro, Joseph Cerone, Sara Flores Ramos, Lydia Fontane, Leily Garcia Menjivar, Leyna Greenberg, Katherine Juarez Cadena, Lindsay Landaverde Rodriguez, Michelle Maradiaga, Lourdes Parham, Daniel Perez Martinez, Damion Ramos, Franklin Reyes-Rodriguez, Jeybi Rodriguez Canales, Samantha Saciolo, A'miyah Sellers, Samuel Vega Rosales, Dairy Velasquez Menjivar, and Honor Wilson.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Evangeline Capicchioni, Nicolas Ciorciari, Alyssa Florence, Amelia Forman, Maria Nardi, Nelcy Orellana Mejia, Cristo-

pher Rivera Flores, and Joshua Velazquez.

10th Grade Honor Roll: Sophia Cordova, Karen Gomez Lopez, Carlos Granados Reyes, Jason Guevara Lopez, Layla Hermann, Dalila Koljenovic, Alisson Lagos Guardado, Emely Latacunga Guaman, Maelyn Mann, Blanca Marroquin Vargas, Paola Melendez Deras, Ronny Mendoza, Melina Ortiz, Payton Pisaniello, Brittany Reyes Serrano, Keily Rosales Charuc, Marion Sesay, and Connor Torres.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Addison Alvarado, Autumn Atkinson, Maddelynn DeMondo-Gernant, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Natalia Evangelista, Mariama Gai, Amhara Gillmer, Hannah Goldsmith, Melanie Gomez Perez, Isabella Gonzales, Eriberto Gonzalez Jr, Jancarlos Guardado, Camdyn Hoefling, Sophia Jacobs, Senaida Jeronimo Sanchez, Yasmel Leon Mota, Brandon Mariaca, Dayana Mendoza-Gallo, Isabella Nieves, Dillan Padilla Avila, Kayden Saravia, Joslyn Smith, Zayd Snead, and Helen Vasquez.

11th Grade Honor Roll: Bryan Avelar

Martinez, Michael Avelar Martinez, Juliana Barreto, James Bensimon, Sarah Blume, Martina Carrasco Jimenez, Bethany Carvajal, Kaddyjatou Darboe, Maiya Davis, Blanca Flores, Katie Flores, Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Fatoumata Gai, Emily Garcia-Canteros, Madelin Gonzaga Moreno, Hennis Gutierrez-Padilla, Chanel Han, Mykala Hines, Michael Kehlenbeck, Guiseppe King, Cessy Lezama Rodriguez, Ruth Mahnken, Dannys Maradiaga Diaz, Jozyr McNeil, Glenda Mendoza Dominguez, Tristin Miller, Fabio Narkaj, Elizabeth Navarrete, Dayana Murillo Madrid, Clarissa Pineda Loja, Coben Pittaluga, Nataly Reyes Pabon, Melanie Rivera, Joshua Rosales, Shastelyn Sandoval-Melara, James Smith Jr., John Trujillo-Henderson Jr, Marisol Vasquez-Nunez, Sierra Velazquez, and Xavier Young.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Emina Cenovic, Jordyn Cerone, Carissa Ciorciari, LeonJahn-aeSkye Fountain, Riley Gorr, Alison Granados-Fuentes, Adryana Kozachuk, Conner McManus, Dominic McPherson, Heysel Mejia Corcio, Glenda Mendoza Dominguez, Eric Moozc, Dayana Murillo Madrid, Robert Perrera, Yulena

Phillip, Efrain Rodriguez, Abigail Toledo, Alisha Tremper, Peyton Varner, and Rodrigo Zacapexpan Reyes.

12th Grade Honor Roll: Katherine Alvarado Castro, Jose Anariba Aleman, Kyleigh Avery, Edison Bastidas Avendano, Xavier Curry, Bintou Darboe, Olivia DeGraw, Chase Delfino, Marcos Deras Lopez, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Sebastian Fowler, Anderson Gamez Carranza, Angel Gonzales, Virginio Jeronimo Sanchez, Zoey Ketcham, Anastacia Ladd, Raphael Ladd, John Landaverde Rodriguez, Azon Laurel, Eric Li, Tyiese Mack, Alisson Moreno Rocha, Jarvin Nunez Mejia, Estiven Osorio Gutierrez, Allanah Owens, Aryani Pache-

co Murillo, Christian Pinelli, Isis Santos Berrios, Marilyn Santos, Nelson Sosa Cerrato, Noelle Varner, Justin Yautentzi Reyes, and Carlos Zavala Garcia.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Angelina Alvarado, Saladin Basic, Karrine Bennett, Andrew Bensimon, Xzavier Berrios, Lee-Ann Di Napoli, Jayden Edwards, Jaecob Espinoza, Emmabella Ferreira, Treyvon Hayden, Hector Jami Cocha, Haley Mackerley, Douglas Medina Carcamo Jr., Seth Melendez, Carmen Montes Velasco, Madeline Pantel, Allison Rojas, Jansel Rosa Gonzalez, Tracy Severino Paredes, Gavin Storms, Kierstyn Surerus, Bryan Vazquez, and Skylar Wright.

FCSD Announces Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll List



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SENTINEL SPORTS



A MEMORABLE INCIDENT

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE STEVE LUNGEN: MOUNTAINDALE'S AARON JUDGE



by William A. Brenner, Esq.

On April 13, 2026, Stephen F. Lungen, who served Sullivan County as its District Attorney for 28 years, died after a long battle with cancer. A combat veteran of the Viet Nam War, and a life-long resident of Sullivan County, Mr. Lungen built a reputation as a man of unimpeachable integrity and a tireless guardian of justice. The following is a tribute penned by long-time Grahamsville attorney William A. Brenner,

PHOTO PROVIDED
The late Stephen F. Lungen

who shares a memory of a different side of Mr. Lungen.

MOUNTAINDALE-- Of all the achievements and special honors bestowed upon the former Sullivan County District Attorney Steve Lungen, to me this was the most memorable:

When Mr. Lungen and I were much younger, there was "The Sullivan County Volunteer Fire Department Softball League" and most of the Eastern Sullivan County Fire Departments fielded a softball team.

This was a serious competitive business complete with playoffs and the winners receiving large trophies

with a baseball player winging a bat on top. The trophy was as big as the trophy awarded at the Firemen's Parades.

The Mountaintown Fire Department, one of the smaller Fire Departments, proudly fielded their hometown team. Steve was the captain of the team. He was also the lead-off hitter.

Now, truth be told, sometimes Mountaintown didn't have enough players to field a team. So, bending the rules a bit, they played two men in the outfield instead of three. Steve, studying the situation figured the odds were in his favor. Let's Play Ball!

I'm on the Grahamsville Fire Department Team (mostly on the bench), and on the schedule is Mountaintown with its two man outfield at game time.

Grahamsville has its star pitcher on the mound. Old Don Terbush with his deadly "slow pitch". Don is smoking his corncob pipe on the mound.

For the non-softball people, Don's deadly "slow pitch" is thrown underhand, virtually straight up in a slow looping arc dropping down over the plate driving the batter nuts.

Spitballs may be illegal, but tobacco juice on the ball gives you a better grip on the ball.

Pitcher Don gets set. He does not take any warm up pitches, but he does waive all three outfielders back to the outfield fence.

Steve rubs dirt on the bat and steps in. Don's first high blooper pitch lands behind Steve. "Ball One". Don is sending a message.

"No Batter, No Batter" yells the short stop, Ken Terbush (Ken is Don's son who plays in the professional Town of Liberty League.)

Without expression, Steve bends down and rubs more dirt on his bat. He did not take the time off from his prosecutorial duties to "walk". He digs in. Don double checks that

the outfielders move further out.

Don Terbush's next slow ball pitch is extra high. Steve patiently waits for it to drop, and then swings.

The center fielder doesn't move as he watches the ball sail over his head and far over the fence.

As Steve flips the bat, and rounds third, heading for home, he cracks a slight smile. Like Aaron Judge, he points his index finger at the pitcher, like a pistol, and says "See Ya".

I, for one, will always see and remember Sullivan County District Attorney Steve Lungen, the magnificent athlete, during one of his happiest moments.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Monticello Youth Commission Hosts Successful Civic Engagement Day at The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark

MONTICELLO — The Village of Monticello is proud to announce the success of its Monticello Youth Commission Civic Engagement Day, held on April 18,

2026, at The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark.

The event brought together 60 children from the Village for a day focused on community connection,

recreation, and positive youth engagement.

Village leadership was actively involved in making the day memorable and meaningful. Mayor Rochelle Massey, Trustee Gordon Jenkins, and Village staff member Stacey Walker personally distributed tickets to participating youth and remained on-site to provide supervision and support throughout the event.

The Village also recognizes the contributions of Village Manager, James Snowden and Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, Managing Director of the Sierra Jacob Foundation for Community Advancement, who worked closely with the Monticello Youth Commission to help plan and organize this impactful event.

The day left a lasting impression on participants, including nine-year-old Mason Nieto, who shared, "I got to meet the Mayor, I can't wait to tell the kids in school on Monday!" This initiative reflects the

Village's continued commitment to investing in its young residents by creating safe, enriching opportunities that promote civic pride and community involvement.

The Village of Monticello extends its sincere appreciation to Danielle Schwartz, Assistant Director of Sales, and the entire staff at The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark for their partnership and support in making this event possible. Their collaboration played a key role in delivering a high-quality experience for the youth of the community.

"This event is a great example of what can happen when community, leadership, and local partners come together for our youth," said Mayor Massey. "We are grateful to everyone who helped make this day a success."

The Village looks forward to continuing to expand youth programming and community-based initiatives through the Monticello Youth Commission.

Take Guided Walks Along the D&H Canal and O&W Railroad Trails

SUMMITVILLE-- This spring, join Mamakating resident Kerron Barnes as he guides you along parts of the D&H Canal Linear Trail and O&W Rail Trail in Wurtsboro and Summitville, speaking of the history of both trails, or accompany Dr. Walter Jahn in studying birds and local wildlife along the canal! It's easy to immerse yourself in history, nature, and wildlife through these easy, almost entirely flat journeys.

The first walk was scheduled for Saturday, May 2, led by Mr. Barnes. This walk met at Hornbeck Basin Park,

3346 Route 209, Wurtsboro, at 10 a.m. and was approximately three-and-a-half miles long.

The second walk is set for Sunday, May 24, again led by Mr. Barnes. This walk will meet at 1 p.m. outside the D&H Canal Interpretive Center, 16 Bova Road, Summitville, and will be approximately two miles long.

A Nature Walk will be held on Sunday, June 14 from 8-9 a.m., led by Dr. Walter Jahn. Participants will meet outside the D&H Canal Interpretive Center, 16 Bova Road, Summitville, and learn more about the birds



PHOTO PROVIDED



BALLGAME BAFFLERS
BY BRIAN

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

- May Questions:**
1. What National Leaguer has the most home runs by a switch hitter in a season?
 2. What year did David Wells pitch a perfect game in May?
 3. In May of what year did Nolan Ryan pitch his seventh career no-hitter?
 4. Who got his 3,000 career hits on May 4, 2018? (Albert Pujols)
 5. What historic baseball event took place on May 24, 1935?
- April Answers:**
1. What player hit a home run in his very first Major League at bat and never hit another despite playing 21 seasons in the big leagues? (**Hoyt Wilhelm**)
 2. Who is the only person to play in the Major League Baseball World Series and average 30 points per game as a major college basketball player? (**Joe Gibbon**)
 3. Every baseball fan knows that when a batter is hit by a pitch, he is awarded first base...most of the time. Under what three circumstances is a batter who is hit by a pitch not entitled to first base? (**If the pitch is a strike; if the batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit; if the pitch immediately follows a balk with runners on second and third.**)
 4. Even today, Abbott & Costello's comedy routine, "Who's on First" is well known to almost everyone. What one position don't they mention when doing the routine? (**Right field**)
 5. Who was the first Little League graduate to play in the Major Leagues? (**Joey Jay**)

There was no winner last month.

and wildlife found along the canal.

These events are free. Advance registration is suggested, as space is limited. Email scparks@sullivanyny.gov or call 845-807-0287 to register.

The D&H Canal Interpretive

Center opens May 22 and will continue to be open Fridays-Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through September 7.

Additional events are posted at www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/ParksRecreation/DelawareHudson.

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