

A WELCOMING TOWN

Professional Couple Finds New Home in Hurleyville

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — After 40 years working as an architect in New York City, Andrew Caracciolo knew it was time for a change. He and his wife, Dr. Hilary Kern, a medical doctor, were looking for a new place to live that would support their active outdoor lifestyle while providing access to the arts and farm fresh food.

“Hilary and I enjoy an active life, a nice glass of vino and farm fresh food,” Mr. Caracciolo said recently, “Hilary is especially fond of the performing arts, and also plays tennis, skis, and dances. Her medical field is Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, dealing with disabilities and Sports Medicine. I am an avid cyclist and architecture is my hobby as well as how I have made a living.”

More than just a way to make a living, architecture has become a true passion for Mr. Caracciolo since his



PHOTO PROVIDED

The couple's home on Main Street in Hurleyville, currently under construction.

graduation from New York Institute of Technology, where he served as president of the student chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In his professional life, he is currently the co-chair of the Historic Building Committee of the New York Chapter of the same organization.

Given the couple's interests, it was inevitable that Main Street, Hurleyville

would beckon, and drawn to the Milk Train Trail, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, and other amenities, the couple purchased a home across from the Sullivan County Museum and began extensive renovations.

“We have purchased a lovely antique home which was in need of quite a bit of TLC,” Mr. Caracciolo said. “We are fully renovating



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. Hilary Kern (left) and Andrew Caracciolo.

the home and doing our best to be respectful of the historic context, while adding creative touches that personalize the home as well as sustainable updates such as a heat pump system.”

While immersed in the renovations of their own home, both Mr. Caracciolo and Dr. Kern have gone out of their way to introduce themselves to the Hurleyville community, and

hope to draw upon their varied backgrounds to help move the hamlet forward.

“I grew up as a boy wanting to be an artist and had innate math skills, so architecture seemed like the natural choice,” he said. “My architecture practice evolved into a specialty and appreciation for historic buildings and places.”

Dr. Kern was born in Margaretville, and spent



PHOTO PROVIDED

Andrew Caracciolo at work in his home office.

her formative years learning classical dance, and hanging out with her grandmother, who ran the general store, Gales, in nearby Fleischmanns, before going on to attend and graduate from Union College and Albany Medical College.

While Mr. Caracciolo's architecture practice in the New York metropolitan area centered largely on

preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings, and he is hopeful that he can lend his experience and expertise to similar projects in Sullivan County, he emphasizes that he is open to other types of interesting work that might present itself.

“I am always open to new opportunities worldwide, and those that involve community involve-

ment,” he said. “Again, historic building work is my specialty, which includes styles like mid-century modern as well as traditional design.”

Anyone who is interested in retaining Mr. Caracciolo as an architect, or in discussing a building project with him, can contact him via email, at broomearch@msn.com.

The couple is committed to becoming involved in the community, and despite the disappointment they felt with the recent closure of the Tango Café and the changes at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, they are optimistic that the hamlet will have the resilience to bounce back from those setbacks.

“Hurleyville is a welcoming town with so many diverse and friendly people,” Mr. Caracciolo said. “It really does seem like ‘The Little Engine That Could,’ and with the right synergy could be the center of a rich life.”

COUNTY ANNOUNCES CARE CENTER CLOSURE

Coordinating Transition for Residents and Staff

LIBERTY — Sullivan County and the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) have announced the pending closure of the Sullivan County Adult Care Center, known as the Care Center at Sunset Lake, in Liberty.

“This is not something the County wanted to do, but our challenging finances and the lack of ability to transfer operations to our consulting firm has left us no choice but to initiate the closure process,” stated Legislature Chair Nadia Rajsz. “The majority of my colleagues and I agreed that taxpayers cannot afford to continue the costly operation of the Care Center while facing enormous revenue losses and quickly increasing costs throughout County government.”

Per State requirements, NYSDOH has approved the County's closure plan, enabling the transition process to begin for residents and staff. There are currently 93 long-term residents



PHOTO PROVIDED

and 86 employees.

The County will be working closely with the NYS Department of Health and area nursing homes to find new accommodations for long-term Care Center clients. The County will ensure that no resident will be left without a skilled-care option.

The entire process is anticipated to conclude by the turn of the year.

Where possible, County employees will be offered the opportunity to transfer to other County jobs. Where this is not possible, the Center for Workforce Development will be assisting them in finding other employment.

“The entire Legislature is very proud of the dedicated care County employees have provided over many years to many people,” Ms. Rajsz remarked. “To our residents and their families, we regret the challenges this may create, but we are committed to ensuring everyone has alternate skilled-care options from which to choose. Our staff will make this process as safe, smooth and clear as possible.”

Legislators and other County officials will determine what the most appropriate use of the building is in the future.

District 5 Legislator Cat Scott's Statement on Care Center Closure:

LIBERTY — Throughout my time on the Legislature, I remained fully committed to the promise I made to keep the Care Center viable, provide high quality care to residents and to fully support our dedicated staff. My colleagues and I took several important steps to strengthen the Care Center and restore greater accountability.

As a member of the Sunset Lake Local Development Corporation (LDC), I succeeded in dissolving the LDC with the full support of my colleague and fellow LDC member Matt McPhillips. This action restored the Care Center to direct County oversight, supported by Legislators Luis Alvarez and Brian McPhillips.

Working together, my colleagues and I decided to hire a County-employed administrator whose mission was to provide stronger oversight of resident care and greater accountability to taxpayers. We saved the County taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year by restoring the tax exemption for the Care Center after errors the previous legislature made in transferring the deed to the Sunset Lake

LCD led to the loss of its tax exemption.

In addition, we directed essential capital investments toward the facility's infrastructure, including repairs and improvements to the HVAC system, elevators, kitchen and other critical areas that had been neglected by the previous legislature.

Following Infinite Care's decision to withdraw from its agreement with the County and cease pursuit of a Certificate of Need to lease and operate the facility, our colleagues made the decision to close the Care Center. I strongly disagreed with that decision, argued against it, and voted against it. While I stand by that position, the decision has now been made, and our focus must turn to the people who matter most: the residents, their families, and our dedicated employees.

Luis Alvarez, Matt McPhillips, Brian McPhillips and I will do everything we can to ensure that residents are transitioned to appropriate care settings as smoothly and comfortably as possible. We will support our employees through this difficult tran-

sition and to work to find a future use for the Care Center building that best serves the needs of our community.

I sincerely thank the highly professional and devoted employees who have spent decades caring for our community's most vulnerable. Their unwavering dedication has been especially evident over the last six years — navigating the challenges of COVID, persevering through the sale announcement in 2020, and the uncertainties that have followed. They have earned my deepest appreciation and respect time and time again. Their service, compassion, and commitment prove they are Sullivan County's finest.

Editor's Note: There have been recent claims that public comments made by Legislators Scott and Alvarez at a NYS Department of Health hearing on the Certificate of Need for Infinite Care tilted the scales against such an issuance, exacerbating the myriad problems that have led to the Care Center's closure.

THAT'S A WRAP! Last of the live summer musical performances at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE — It was a busy season for live

performances at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre—and a satisfying one.

In June, July and August respectively, Steve Schwartz, Cris Spinner and Patti Greco Sunshine shared their talents with enthusiastic audiences.

Les Kristt of Monticello, one audience member who attended all three of the shows, was hard pressed to name a favorite.

“Each was excellent in their own way,” he said.

Mr. Schwartz's sold-out “Stop Wishing, Start Playing” was an ode to the closing of his store, Steve's Music Center in Rock Hill.

“It was my absolute honor to participate in celebrating the man, the myth, the legend!” singer Joanna Gass said about him.

“I had a great audience, and they really loved it. I was really happy,” said

Cris Spinner, speaking about her evening of original songs and storytelling. She played the piano and had a ball during “I Have Eras Too.”

Ms. Greco Sunshine's performance in “This is My Life: A Borscht Belt Baby” captivated the audience. She told stories of working the hotel circuit, and shared pictures of her with the stars that visited the area.

“Patti's show was fabulous. Honestly, the best show she's done in a while,” said attendee Erika Blume Ribaud.

There will be more opportunities to see these performers in-person at other venues throughout Sullivan County this year. Check local listings for their schedules. Ms. Spinner and Mr. Schwartz were regulars at Taverna right here in Hurleyville over the summer.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Patti Greco Sunshine wows the house at HPAC.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Debbie Fisher Palmarini (left) and Steve Schwartz



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cris Spinner is all heart on stage.

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

The flowers are blooming in the stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville, in the stone planter at the firehouse and in the barrels on Main Street and at the post office. Please send an email to HSF (izzysaunt@verizon.net) if you're able to help weed and water the plants... izzysaunt@verizon.net.

Hurleyville-Sullivan First continues to work with local community groups and businesses on the ongoing revitalization of "the liveliest little hamlet in the mountains".

Please visit www.hurleyvilleny.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 17th and on Thursday, September 24th from 3:00pm until 4:45pm. Visitors to the food pantry are asked to please bring their own bags or boxes.

Beginning in September visitors to the food pantry will have to provide proof of their address and proof of residency for the members of their household...leases, shelter forms, mail addressed to the visitor and children's school records.

The food pantry has been serving the community since September, 2000. The need is much greater today and the cost of providing food for the food pantry has increased significantly. More than 70 families are served each week.

The volunteers at the food pantry always appreciate the support of the community.

Anyone interested in donating, volunteering or holding a food drive to support the food pantry can contact Lonnie at 845-798-4809.

The church will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, September 5th. Proceeds from the yard sale will be used to help defray the cost of heating fuel at the church.

Everyone is invited to participate in "Prayers in Person" at the church every Thursday from 10:00am - noon and from 5:30pm - 7:00pm.

Sunday services at the church begin at 9:00am. Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Jorge delivers sermons online on Facebook at 11:00am on Sundays.

The Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the church every Tuesday at 7:00pm.

You can pray with others over the phone on the church's prayer line on Sundays from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the

BREAD OF LIFE
FOOD PANTRY



Thursday, September 17th
Thursday, September 24th

3:00pm - 4:45pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church
263 Main Street
Hurleyville

access code is 251678.

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.

You can visit the church's page on Facebook for more information on services and activities at the church.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2026 Sullivan County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner will be held on October 16 at the Rockland House in Roscoe. Each year the society honors individuals or groups that symbolize the stated mission of the society...the preservation of Sullivan County history for future generations. This year Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg will be honored as the "2026 History Preserver" at the dinner. The Beaverkill Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will be honored as "2026 History Maker". For information on placing an ad in the dinner journal, please call 845-434-8044 or email scecil@scnyhistory.org.

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@scnyghistory.org.

"Covered Bridges of Sullivan County", a new display of photos by local photographers is now available to view at the Museum.

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.

The Museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 - 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 have met regularly since 2012 in order to be prepared for when the developer of the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill appears again before the Town of Thompson Planning Board. The group meets at 7:00pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Hurleyville Firehouse. The meeting is open to all residents in the community who demand responsible and sustainable development.

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
- The development is in the Hurleyville Fire District. The Hurleyville Fire Department will be responsible for the protection of lives and properties at the development.
- 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, the Hurleyville Rod and Gun Club
- Wastewater treatment plant failure - a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery, the Hurleyville Rod and Gun Club
- Questionable structural integrity of on-site dam with 3-acre pond
- Hazards of increased traffic
- Hazards of entrances to the development

The Delaware River Basin Commission has granted Gan Eden's water withdrawal docket permission for 5.7 million/gallons/month at full build out. This has the potential to negatively affect nearby wells, including a Fallsburg municipal well. This is an indication of the developer's intent to pursue the building of this project and to obtain site plan approval.

The impact of this project on noise, traffic, electric capacity and air quality will affect the entire neighborhood.

Visit CHNA on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community.

From Summer to Fall...
Fresh Produce for All!



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Village of Woodridge Municipal Lot
Green Ave. & Dairyland Rd. - Woodridge, NY
July 1st - August 26th
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
+
Fallsburg Town Hall
19 Railroad Plaza - South Fallsburg, NY
July 1st - October 28th
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
+
Loch Sheldrake Public Parking Lot
Corner of Hasbrouck Rd. & Route 52
Loch Sheldrake, NY
July 1st - October 28th
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

EVERY THURSDAY
June 25th - September 24th
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
10 Jefferson St.,
Monticello, NY
Behind the Ted Stroebele
Recreation Center

Pay Your Way!
Cash - Credit/Debit - SNAP/EBT - Double Up Food Bucks
Fresh Connect Checks - Fresh Rx Coupons - Sullivan Fresh Bucks
Senior & Farmers Market Nutrition Coupons (FNNP)

Shop for locally grown fruits, vegetables, and more while enjoying special events, cooking demos, and family-friendly fun!

Sullivan Fresh is an initiative launched and managed by
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County
845-292-6180
sullivanfresh@cornell.edu
www.sullivanfresh.com

Get Social with Us!
@SullivanFreshMarkets

For more information visit SullivanFreshMarkets.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The following is an opinion piece, and 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.

Dear Friends
and Neighbors

For nearly three years, the properties at 40 and 44 Church Road in Mountain-dale have been the subject of public meetings, neighborhood concerns, code enforcement questions, zoning hearings, and Planning Board review. What began as questions about illegal construction at a former bungalow colony eventually evolved into an application to merge the two parcels and convert the property into a seasonal religious school with dormitories, classrooms, and related facilities.

Throughout this process, residents attended meeting after meeting, raising concerns about traffic, water and sewer capacity, emergency access, neighborhood character, noise, lighting, and compliance with local zoning requirements. The project generated extensive public discussion, with both supporters and opponents expressing their views.

On June 29, 2026, the Town of Fallsburg Planning Board approved the project's site plan, special use permit, and lot merger. Shortly afterward, students arrived at the property for the summer season.

Now, this approval is being challenged in New York State Supreme Court. Fallsburg's Future along a neighboring property owner Opal Hoyt, have filed a proceeding under Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, asking the court to review whether the Town followed state law and its own local code before approving the project.

What Is an Article 78 Proceeding?

An Article 78 proceeding is a legal process that allows a court to review decisions made by government agencies and determine whether those decisions were made according to law. The court examines whether an agency followed the required procedures, acted within its authority, considered the appropriate evidence, and reached a decision that was not arbitrary or capricious. In this case, the petition does not ask the court to decide whether a religious school should exist at Church Road. Rather, it asks whether the Planning Board and Building Department followed the legal procedures required before

approving the project. The respondents named in the proceeding will have an opportunity to respond to these allegations, and the court will ultimately determine whether the approvals complied with the law.

The Petition's Main Claims

1. Alleged Failure to Comply with SEQRA

The largest portion of the petition focuses on New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the law that governs environmental review before government agencies approve projects. The petition alleges that the Planning Board did not take the legally required "hard look" at the potential environmental impacts before issuing a Negative Declaration, a determination that the project would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts requiring a more extensive environmental review. According to the petition, the Planning Board approved the project without adequately evaluating issues such as: traffic impacts, water supply capacity, sewer system capacity, noise, community character and the intensity of the change in land use.

The petition also alleges that the Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) submitted by the applicant was incomplete and contained unanswered or inaccurate sections. It further states that Fallsburg's Future submitted Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests seeking SEQRA documents, including Parts 2 and 3 of the environmental review process, and that, at the time the petition was filed, those documents had not been produced or confirmed to exist. The petition argues that if those documents were never completed, the Planning Board could not have fully complied with SEQRA before issuing its Negative Declaration.

2. Alleged Failure to Follow the Town Code

The second claim focuses on the Town of Fallsburg's own zoning and planning regulations. The petition argues that the Planning Board is required to ensure that approved developments promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community and maintain a harmonious relationship with surrounding land uses. According to the petition, that standard was not met. It points to concerns discussed during Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings involving traffic, roadway safety, water and sewer infrastructure, emergency access, and neighborhood character.

The petition also references findings previously made by the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals during the area

variance process, in which the Zoning Board concluded that the project would create an undesirable change in neighborhood character and have an adverse impact on the surrounding area. Fallsburg's Future argues that these findings should have been carefully addressed before the project received final approval.

3. Alleged Improper Issuance of Building Permits

The third claim concerns the Building Department. According to the petition, multiple building permits were issued before the Planning Board approved the required site plan.

The petition argues that the Town Code does not permit building permits to be issued for projects requiring site plan approval until that approval has been granted. Because of this, the petition asks the court to invalidate those permits if it determines that the Planning Board's approval itself was unlawful.

Why Water and Sewer Capacity Play Such a Large Role

A recurring theme throughout the petition is the Town's water and wastewater infrastructure. The petition cites Planning Board meeting discussions, engineering reports, the Town's 2018 Comprehensive Plan, the recent Sullivan County assessment of potable water and wastewater infrastructure, and prior reports concerning seasonal water shortages and wastewater capacity. According to the petition, these materials raise questions about whether sufficient capacity exists to accommodate additional demand and whether those

questions should have been evaluated more thoroughly during the environmental review process. The petition also notes statements made during Planning Board meetings indicating that portions of the sewer system were already nearing capacity and argues that no formal studies were presented demonstrating how the project would affect the system.

Traffic and Community Character

Another major issue raised in the petition involves Church Road itself. The petition describes Church Road as a narrow rural roadway with hills, curves, limited shoulders, and visibility challenges. It references comments made by residents during public meetings expressing concerns about increased bus traffic, deliveries, visitors, and emergency access. The petition also argues that the project represents a significant change from the previous use of the property and that its effect on the surrounding neighborhood should have been more thoroughly evaluated under both SEQRA and the Town Code.

What the Fallsburg's Future Petition Asks the Court to Do

1. Annul the Planning Board's SEQRA Negative Declaration.
2. Vacate the approved Site Plan.
3. Vacate the Special Use Permit.
4. Annul the related building permits.
5. Require the Town to complete the environmental review process in accordance

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FROM THE
WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



HOW THE WEATHER AFFECTS FALL FOLIAGE

SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Now that we are into the month of September, it won't be long until people begin talking about the changing colors of the leaves on the trees and colorful fall foliage draws so-called leaf peepers to Sullivan County.

Predicting when the peak colors will appear will become a favorite pastime, but how many people will really understand how our weather impacts the intensity and the duration of the changing colors?

According to Regina Paul, writing on the website, "weather:the funtimesguide.com" there is a direct connection.

"A small change in the weather can easily affect how colorful the leaves will be," she writes. "Things such as the amount of moisture in the soil, temperature, and even the length of the days affect what colors the leaves will eventually turn—and even the

brightness and hue of those colors."

She explains that leaves change color because of longer nights and less daylight, which affects the production of chlorophyll. Scientists have discovered that when days are warm in autumn, and the nights are crisp and cold, that is when fall foliage is most vibrant.

On the other hand, when the nights stay warm, as they have recently, possibly due to global warming, scientists have noticed that the fall foliage isn't as brightly colored.

As Regina Paul concludes in her blog, "weather does play a crucial part in how colorful the Fall foliage is."

It will be interesting to watch this develop over the next four to six weeks.

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

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

Covering Main Street and Beyond

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AS SEPTEMBER BEGINS

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE – The summer rush is slowing down, and the air is beginning to change. It is a natural season of transition, when the changing landscape reminds us to slow down and look at what makes us happy and fulfilled.

So, we reached out with a question that made even the busiest residents stop and think: **“What are you passionate or excited about right now?”**

The answers from some busy women in and around Hurleyville varied beautifully, reminding us to think about what is important to us.



◀ Bari Allor

“I am passionate about having hobbies! The activities that bring us joy make life worth living, no matter what age.”

▶ Karen Collura

“Something I am passionate about right now is helping fundraise for the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. Some of our community members experience extreme economic challenges, including food insecurity and

unstable housing. Everyone at the Federation works incredibly hard to help our neighbors in need by offering support with dignity. Our next fundraiser, called ‘Between a Walk and a Hard Place,’ is occurring at the Alder Hotel on September 26, 2026. If anyone would like to create a team, walk, and/or donate, please visit and click!! <https://hardplacewalk.com/location/monticello>”



▲ Erin Dudley

“I am passionate about protecting water. We chose the land we live on because of the water. New York State has clean and plentiful water, fresh air and rich forests - that is worth protecting. I know many people in our region feel the same way. We are made of water, we cannot live without water - it feels bonkers to me that we would sacrifice what keeps



▲ Manon Frappier

“I am passionate about local healthy foods and supporting small emerging businesses



◀ Eleanor Friedman

“Right now, I am incredibly excited to finally return to the mission-driven roots that inspired our business, LaSalumina, in the first place. Now that our operations are stable, I can focus on helping to build a more connected, functional food system. We are currently partnering with Salt on zero-waste donation work—using whole-animal trimmings and bones to make nutritious broths for food-insecure communities. At the same time, I am joining the advisory board for a farming non-profit to cross-pollinate agricultural knowledge, and serving on a partnerships committee for the farm I used to work on in Italy. Ultimately, my passion right now is weaving these pieces together into an interconnected web that honors the land, the animals, and the people.”



▲ Carmen Williams

“Right now, I’m very excited and passionate about taking time and focusing on myself. I take care of my family and my children, two of which have special needs. It’s a lot, and I’ve always put everyone else’s needs ahead of mine. Moving forward, I have to prioritize sleep, movement, and nutrition to protect my long-term wellness.

I KNEW ALL OF THEM!

Audience Responds to Lily Barrish Levner at Time and The Valleys Museum

by John Conway

GRAHAMSVILLE — Lily Barrish Levner was apprehensive prior to her presentation and book signing at Time and The Valleys Museum in Grahamsville last month. She had been working hard to finish the third book in her cozy mystery series, had just returned from a trip, and wasn’t sure she had the energy to put on a good show. She needn’t have worried.

“It was great,” the author of “Banquets & Bootleg Bounty” and “Mountain Maitre D’ Mystery” admitted afterward.

Ms. Barrish Levner’s husband, Jeremy, interviewed her, and kept the audience in stitches with his humor. Mr. Levner’s grandparents’ ran Levner’s Bungalows

and worked at the Concord Hotel while also running a farm, so he knew the subject matter—the heyday of the Sullivan County resort industry and all that surrounded it—intimately.

The couple set up a table with menus, pictures, picture viewers, a bungalow colony sign, and old silverware, and people perused it after the talk and during the book signing. Some audience members stayed to share personal stories with the author.

There was a good turnout at the Museum, and more participants via ZOOM.

“One woman, Myrtle, who had attended a previous talk of mine in Mamakating, came to this one, too,” Ms. Barrish Levner said. “She’s one of my biggest fans! Her mother worked



PHOTO PROVIDED

An exhibit consisting of Borscht Belt memorabilia accompanied the presentation.

in bungalow colonies doing all sorts of jobs. She didn’t have any connection to the hotels, but she loves my books. I think they make her feel closer to her mother.”

“When is book three coming out?” Myrtle eagerly asked Ms. Barrish Levner, voicing what was on many audience member’s minds.

“I couldn’t put book two

down,” she continued.

Another audience member, who had known Ms. Barrish Levner’s grandfather, Abe, the inspiration for one of the novels’ main characters, also weighed

in.

“I knew Abie, Irving and all of them!” she said excitedly.

Sheila Lashinsky brought information on her own family’s hotel. Her parents ran the New Edgewood Hotel in Loch Sheldrake, which they purchased from the legendary actress Lauren Bacall’s grandparents.

A spirited question and answer period followed the presentation, and then the book signing.

Ms. Barrish Levner revealed that book three in the series, “Woodstock Waitress Whodunit” is in the works, although there is no firm release date yet.

“I’m excited for it,” she said. “I’ve been working with a professor editing it all summer. Polishing it up.”

If the audience at the Time and The Valleys Museum is any indication, her readers can’t wait.

Sullivan County to Provide Free Grant Project Planning Workshops

Learn How to Make Yourself ‘Grant-Ready’

MONTICELLO — “Money may not grow on trees, but you can better equip your non-profit, small business, or municipality to obtain grant funding,” says Sullivan County Grants Administration Director Arthur Hussey.

He adds that municipalities, for-profit businesses, and not-for-profit corporations are usually eligible for Federal, State, or private charitable grant funding but may find that they are not “grant ready” when an opportunity arises, due to lack of proper project planning.

“There are time-tested methods of approaching project planning to set an organization up for success,” he notes, “and we’re here to help in that regard.”

The Sullivan County Department of Grants Administration will host two free Grant Project Planning Workshops on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, in the Legislative Hearing Room located on the 2nd floor of the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello.

For the convenience of all, the workshops will be offered at two separate times, from 9-10 a.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The workshops will include a high-level introduction to the steps necessary for thorough project planning and are ideal for municipal leadership, for-profit businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

Pre-registration is requested, but participants are welcome to attend the time slot that best fits their schedule. Register online at www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/grants. Or contact the Sullivan County Planning Division at 845-807-0527 for additional information.

The Sullivan County Department of Grants Administration serves the divisions, departments, agencies and other units of the Sullivan County government. While they do not write grants on behalf of outside entities, they do provide resource information via periodic public-facing workshops and at https://www.sullivanyny.gov.

Free Grant Workshop PROJECT PLANNING 101

Presented by the Sullivan County Department of Grants Administration
for Non-Profits, Municipalities, & Small Businesses



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The first & most crucial step in obtaining grants is effective Project Planning.

In the absence of good project planning, most proposals fail.
This free workshop provides an introduction to the steps your organization should take to prepare for grant funding.

Tuesday, September 22, 2026*

9-10 am or 6:30-7:30 pm

Legislative Hearing Room

2nd Floor, Sullivan County Government Center

100 North Street, Monticello, NY



Pre-register at:
www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/grants
For additional information, contact the Sullivan County Planning Division at 845-807-0527.

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Sullivan County Federation For the Homeless fundraiser

BETWEEN A WALK AND A HARD PLACE

September 26, 2026

Alder Hotel

SULLIVAN COUNTY FEDERATION FOR THE HOMELESS

Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin



In 1852, Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal: “Is not all summer akin to a paradise?” In 2026, summer passed like bumper cars, a succession of alarms that kept setting us on edge: heat dome advisories; flash flood warnings; tornado alerts; foul Air Quality Index metrics (the sky all orange with smoke); dire prognoses of a swelling tick population that turned walking barefoot in the grass from a pleasure to a fear. A paradise confronted with the prospect of being lost.

The cycle of the seasons is etched deeply within the psyche, like a template for the play of change and continuity in human experience. Four-part schemes, sequenced by season, order many works of art, from Valdi’s “The Four Seasons” to Japanese shiki-e painting. Thoreau’s “Walden” is structured so, condensing two years’ worth of experience into a single cycle, one summer to the next. Aldo Leopold’s “A Sand County Almanac” announces its intention in its title. But we may have now turned the corner on this convention. The seasons are in disarray. The heart of our weather system is fibrillating, the once orderly rhythms of seasonal change subject to increasingly odd fits and oscillations. The unseasonable has become the norm rather than the exception.

We had our summery moments, of course, those elusive ideal moments when time slows down and one is suspended in a stream of expansive well-being, the endless summer of song and memory and dream. What is summer without a touch of endlessness? We relished those moments from the safe harbor of our front porch; they arrived in small increments, subject to disruption.

On the night of the tornado alert, in July, we abandoned our porch to take refuge in our neighbor’s basement. Divine Corners was name-checked on a newscast — CBS no less — as the site of a potential touchdown. The weather map’s legend read: “7:08 PM — Liberty; 7:13 PM — Divine Corners;

7:22 PM — South Fallsburg.” I’ve never known Divine Corners to merit broadcast attention before, though CBS didn’t dignify us with a dot of our own on the weather map. The storm approached; the wind picked up; the cats got antsy in the suddenly crowded basement; the atmospheric pressure presumably dropped; the air actually turned a shade of green; and the storm passed without touching down. That was the apex of the summer’s alarms. A month later, a tornado did touch down — in Queens! — coming ashore in the Rockaways. “Watching it move from the water toward the shore,” one resident said, “was absolutely surreal.” I know the feeling.

Things settled down some toward the end of August, sustaining, for a day or two at a stretch, the note of summer balm. All the months of rain lent an iridescent sheen to the Neversink hills, as green as ever I could remember, brilliant against a sheer blue sky. Summer asserted itself just as it was departing, as the first hints of red appeared among the sumac and maple leaves and the evenings bathed in cooler air. Late-summer sweet corn and plump purple heirlooms imparted a flavor of order in the disposition of things, a slender purchase on the old ideals of summer.

This was a fragile consolation at best. We know the day is coming when the paradisiacal sweets of summer will be found more readily in our imaginations than in actual experience. When that day comes, will we find our happiness in the same manner as the poet in Andrew Marvell’s “The Garden” — by withdrawing into some interior realm, transcending outer circumstances, creating an imagined world, “Annihilating all that’s made / To a green thought in a green shade”?

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

From the Firehouse

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



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

In the beginning of the month, the fire department held their annual family picnic for well over 100 attendees. After a fine meal, awards were handed out. Josh Colon and Austin Halchak received 15 years of service pins. What made it special is that they both started out as 16-year-old junior firefighters. Josh is now Captain of the fire department and Austin is a lieutenant in the Eagle Matt Lee Fire Department. Vic McCarthy received a 65-year pin. Other notables were Ron Besimer, 5 years; Mike Shapiro, 30 years; and Ralph Burger, 45 years.

The Community Service Award went to Sean Brooks of Prestage Towing for his support of the Hurleyville Fire Department. This award is given to a person or group or a company that supports the fire department in a positive nature. It could be something big or several years of continued support. Sean has provided junked cars to the fire department for extrication drills for years. The attendance award was presented to Rob Lombardi. Rob is there day and night for any and all calls including all the activated alarms that we respond to. Congratulations, Rob.

The "Firefighter of the Year" went to 69-year member and Past Chief Nelson Durland. Nelson was in hospice care and missed a fire department event for the first time in a very long time. The next morning at 2:30 a.m., Nelson answered his last alarm. At his funeral there were well over 100 firefighters in attendance for his Firematic service. Many of us had the same feeling. Nelson somehow knew he was getting the "Firefighter of the Year" award and waited for the picnic to be over before he passed. Rest In Peace My Friend.

Right after I submitted last month's column and commented on how this was a pretty safe summer as far as structure fires and drownings were concerned, the next day there was civilian death in a fire and a drowning in Monagaup Pond. Later in the month there was a drowning on the Delaware River. In addition, there were a few structure fires.

Still, with exception of the numerous motor vehicle accidents it has been a relatively safe summer. Sullivan County fire departments responded to 576 calls in June, and 977 in July. Of the 977 July calls, 239 were activated alarms, and in June, of the 576 calls, 142 were activated alarms. Coincidentally, in both months there were 26 structure fires.

Many of these activated alarms are the result



PHOTO PROVIDED
Austin Halchak (second from left) and Josh Colon (right), recipients of 15 years of service pins, are joined by Hurleyville Fire Chief Charlie Payne (left) and President Jim Kaufman (second from right)



PHOTO PROVIDED
Rob Lombardi (left), recipient of the attendance award, Hurleyville Fire Chief Charlie Payne, and President Jim Kaufman (right)



PHOTO PROVIDED
Vic McCarthy received his 65 year pin. He is flanked here by Hurleyville Fire Chief Charlie Payne (left), and President Jim Kaufman (right).

of poor location of the alarm head, not using a vent while showering and cooking and a lack of maintenance.

There are many reasons an alarm may activate.

Alarms (fire, gas, or carbon monoxide) may be activated by actual fires, smoke, heat, cooking, steam, dust, system malfunctions, or a lack of maintenance. We respond to ALL alarms as a real incident.

Fire alarm activations should never be ignored or dismissed as routine.

Regular maintenance is essential to keep fire alarm systems operating properly. Maintenance should include inspection and testing of smoke detectors, heat detectors, pull

stations, alarm notification appliances, control panels, batteries, power supplies, wiring, and monitoring connections. In other words, check everything in your system.

Look over your system, and maintain it.

Coming up is the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter's Association annual parade. This year, it is in Grahamsville, on Saturday, September 12, with step off at 1 p.m. The parade ends at the fairgrounds where all the festivities and trophies will be awarded. Hope to see you there.

Now is the time to think about getting your heating system cleaned for the upcoming heating season.

Be Safe Out There.

"HAMILTON" COMES TO SULLIVAN COUNTY

The Delaware Company Hosts at Narrowsburg Union

BARRYVILLE — As part of Sullivan County's ongoing commemoration of the Semiquincentennial, America's 250th birthday, the Barryville-based nonprofit history education group, The Delaware Company has announced that it will host a screening of the movie version of the mega-hit Broadway musical "Hamilton" at the Narrowsburg Union on Saturday, September 19.

The movie, originally released in 2020, is a live stage recording of Lin Manuel Miranda's award winning musical, which narrates Alexander Hamilton's life in two acts, and details, among other things, his involvement in the American Revolutionary War as an aide-de-camp to George Washington, his marriage to Eliza Schuyler, his career as a lawyer and Secretary of the Treasury, and his interactions with Aaron Burr-- the main narrator for most of the musical, and a man with ties to Sullivan County-- which culminates in their duel that ends Hamilton's life.

Other characters in the musical include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Philip Schuyler, and King George III.

Sullivan 180 Advances Conversation on Healthy School Food

Two-day series featured Chef Ann Cooper

LIBERTY — Sullivan 180 concluded two events focused on strengthening school nutrition and advancing conversations about the role healthy food plays in the lives of children.

On August 19, school food service professionals from across Sullivan County gathered at SUNY Sullivan for the Third Annual 2026 Food Service Staff Conference presented by the School Nutrition Action Coalition. The day was offered for education, connection, and hands-on learning designed to support those who prepare and serve meals to students each day. The conference featured a keynote by Chef Ann Cooper, the Renegade Lunch Lady, as well as culinary staff from SUNY Sullivan who explored scratch cooking, herbs, sauces and salad bars. A representative from NYS Department of Education presented on the New York State's Offer Versus Serve program.

The following evening, Sullivan 180 welcomed Chef Cooper to the Michael Ritchie Big Barn at The Center for Discovery for the first event of the 2026 Sullivan 180 Speaker Series. Chef Cooper encouraged community members, educators, parents, and school leaders to rethink what is possible in school cafeterias; and the

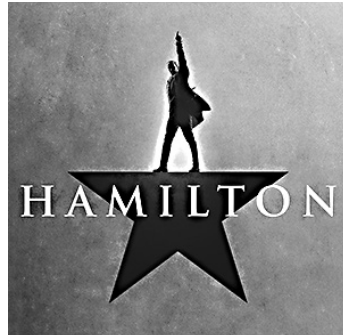


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

The program at the Narrowsburg Union begins at 7 p.m. with light refreshments, then an introduction by John Conway, Sullivan County Historian, President of The Delaware Company, and co-chair of the county's Semiquincentennial Commission, followed by the film. The program is free and open to the public, but seating is limited, and pre-registration is required. To reserve a seat, email John Conway at jconway52@hotmail.com and include Hamilton in the subject line of the email. No one will be admitted without having pre-registered.

Narrowsburg Union is located at 7 Erie Avenue in Narrowsburg, NY.

The program is made possible by its sponsors, The Delaware Company, the Tianaaderrah Foundation, and the Narrowsburg Union.

role fresh, nutritious scratch-cooked food can play in supporting children's health and success.

"These two events offered an opportunity to bring both the people working directly in our school kitchens and the broader community into the conversation about school food," said Denise Frangipane, CEO at Sullivan 180. "We are grateful to Chef Ann and to the dedicated food service professionals who joined us. Together, we are building momentum around what is possible for our children and for the future of school meals in Sullivan County."

Through its work within the School Nutrition Action Coalition, Sullivan 180 continues to bring together schools, food service professionals, community partners, and families to remove barriers to healthy food and create more opportunities for students to enjoy fresh, nutritious meals.

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

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 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.

\$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.

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 returned



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

SCHS Board Member Myron Gittell with part of the newspaper exhibit at the Museum in 2017.

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.



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PATRIOTS ARE BORN PART V

An Original Story by John Conway

It is May of 1775, and our young brothers, Andrew and Morgan Worth, their big black dog, Boson, and a passenger, wealthy statesman Alexander McDougall, have taken a raft of timber down the Delaware River to Philadelphia, where McDougall is hoping to persuade New York's representatives to the Continental Congress to vote in favor of independence. Ambushed by a group of men who are trying to arrest McDougall as a traitor, the group has just been saved by the appearance of two Native Americans, Ben Shanks and Canope. We rejoin them now as they resume their raft trip...

We decided not to spend the night on land, and instead said goodbye to Ben Shanks and Canope and, in the dark, put the raft back in the water. With Boson's help we pulled it back out into the eddy and got it moving again, very slowly at first, and then, as we gradually moved beyond the stillness of the eddy, picking up speed.

We decided that one of us at a time would get some sleep while the other two manned the fore and aft oars. We fastened two of our lanterns to the front of the raft to provide us with a little visibility, and tried to keep the raft under control.

While it was obvious that McDougall had never been on a timber raft before, he learned quickly, and it was easy to see that he had once been a seaman. He was also a fascinating storyteller, and while Morgan slept, he kept me entertained with a steady flow of narratives about his time as a commander of small vessels in the French and Indian War, and more recently as the owner of his own merchant ship, the Schuyler.

He talked of the fascinating episode of his life when he had been jailed by the Royal Governor of New York for publishing critical articles about the government in his newspaper.

McDougall had made the most of his time in prison, and had become somewhat of a celebrity while serving his time, actually entertain-

ing guests—dozens at a time-- and making his case whenever possible for freedom for the colonies. He refused to renounce his views on the abuses of power of the British government, and was only released from prison when the Royal Governor who had ordered him jailed had been replaced.

He was a persuasive speaker, and by the time we had reached Philadelphia three days later, both Morgan and I had become quite taken with him, and furthermore, we both began to look forward to hearing him expound on his political views, particularly his notion about freedom and why independence from England was so important. His arguments seemed sound to us.

He told us that our taking timber to Philadelphia was critical to the fight for independence.

"Make no mistake about it, we are already at war with England," he told us. "And it is going to be a long struggle. If we are to stand a chance in that struggle we need a well-trained fleet of

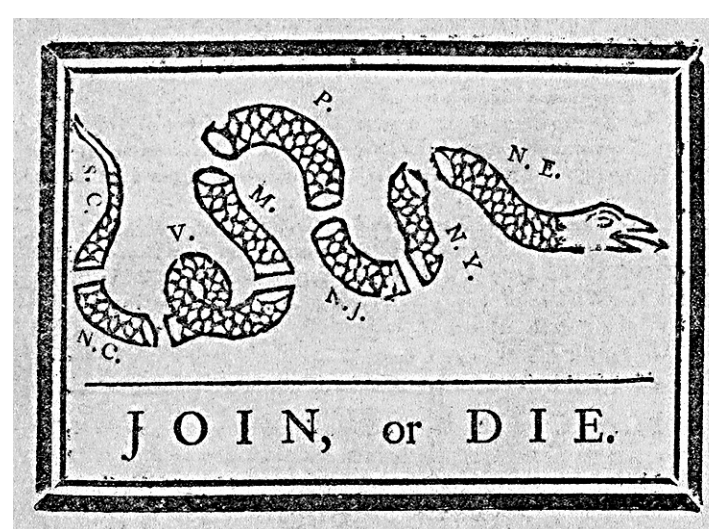


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

McDougall handed the boys a stack of cards to distribute.

ships as well as an army. And Philadelphia is where those ships must be built!"

He told us we were both patriots, whether we intended to be or not.

"Like it or not, you have joined in the fight," he said, and Morgan and I quietly agreed that we were beginning to like it.

When we arrived in Philadelphia, McDougall insisted upon paying us for the trip. After we had delivered the timber to the ship yard and secured our payment, he accompanied us to a nearby tavern to procure

some food and drink before we began the journey home, much of which would be on foot.

Once inside the tavern he was gregarious, and before long was holding court, talking of independence and of the atrocities the King and Parliament had been perpetrating upon the colonies. He found a willing audience, and the crowd in the tavern cheered his every word. At one point, he introduced Morgan and me to the crowd.

"These two fine young men have already made an

immeasurable contribution to the fight," he said. "In many ways they remind me of a young man I met a couple of years ago from whom I think you will be hearing much in the years to come. His name is Alexander Hamilton, and like these two men he is extremely bright and committed to the struggle."

McDougall paid for our food and drink, and when he saw that we were preparing to leave, he excused himself from the group with which he had been conversing, and walked over to us.

"The way I understand it, you boys generally walk back to your home, is that right?" he asked, and we nodded. "I would like to make you a proposition, then. I will put you up for tonight in the finest hotel, taking care of every expense, if only you will agree to hand these out and to talk up the cause of independence every chance you get on the return trip." He handed me a stack of printed cards.

"Well, thank you, but we couldn't possibly stay in a

hotel," Morgan said, catching a glimpse of the cards.

"Nonsense!" McDougall said emphatically. "I owe you two my life. It is the least I can do."

"I meant because we have Boson," Morgan added. "What would we do with him? Probably best if we just started back so we can get out of the city and set up camp before dark."

"I'll hear of nothing of the sort!" McDougall insisted. "I know most of the good hotels in this city, and I will find you one where Boson is welcome. That's a promise."

"If you can deliver on that promise, we'll take your offer and we will shout the call for independence from the rooftops," I said. "We'll make sure everyone has one of your cards from here to Cushtunk!"

And so Morgan and I and our big black dog spent the night in one of the city's finest hotels, compliments of Alexander McDougall. He even met us the following morning for breakfast.

"I have a busy day today, trying to convince the New

York delegates to get behind independence," he told us. "I fear it is going to be a hard sell, but eventually I am sure they will see the light."

"If anyone can convince them of the wisdom of declaring independence it is you, Alexander," Morgan told him as we parted company. "Just tell them what you told us during the trip, and remember to add the final argument, it is sure to work."

"The final argument?" he asked.

"When all else fails, just tell them to 'Join us, or die!'"

That concludes our story, "Patriots Are Born." Although Andrew and Morgan Worth are fictional characters, several of those featured in the story—Alexander McDougall, Ben Shanks, Canope, and Robert Land—were actual historical figures. Watch for another exciting piece of serialized fiction in the next edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

MONTICELLO KIWANIS PRESENTS EVERYDAY HERO AWARD & WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKERS

MONTICELLO-- Monticello Kiwanis Club presented its Everyday Hero Award to Kathy Kreiter, Director of the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless on Monday, August 3. Kiwanis President Marvin Rappaport called Ms. Kreiter an "unsung hero" who handles a myriad of difficult responsibilities and demanding duties with a steady hand and calm demeanor.

"Kathy with her staff and dedicated volunteers are there for the homeless and the hungry day in and day out, not for the praise and recognition but for the satisfaction of seeing a job well done," Mr. Rappaport said.

The club and its guests also heard an informative presentation by Sullivan



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kathy Kreiter receiving Everyday Hero Award from Monticello Kiwanis President Marvin Rappaport.

County District Attorney Brian Conaty who described his many responsibilities keeping our County residents safe. He and his eight assistants cover 18 local Justice courts, as well as County Court and Supreme Court. They handle 4500 cases a year from misdemeanors to felonies, including firearms violations and gang related crimes.

At its July meeting, the club heard from Julian Dawson, Chief Professional Officer of United Way of Sullivan County. Mr. Dawson described how the United Way supports various county programs with most donations received remaining in the county. The organization also provides emergency food and shelter assistance, diapers and cribs for kids, as well as distributing gifts during the holiday season and meals at Thanksgiving.

Mr. Dawson was an earlier recipient of the Monticello Kiwanis Everyday Hero Award for his many years of distinguished service to the community.

The Kiwanis club of Monticello meets on the first Monday of the months at Albella Restaurant at 6 p.m. Their mission is dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. Check out their Facebook page at Monticello, NY Kiwanis Club.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

with SEQRA before the project could proceed.

At this stage, these are requests made by the petitioners. The respondents, including the Town of Fallsburg Planning Board, the Town of Fallsburg Building Department, and 40-44 Church Road LLC will have the opportunity to file legal responses, after which the court will determine whether the approvals complied with applicable law.

Why This Case Matters

Although this case centers on one project at 40 and 44 Church Road, its significance reaches beyond a single property. The issues raised in the petition touch on broader questions that affect every resident of the Town of Fallsburg:

- How should environmental impacts be evaluated?
- When should traffic or infrastructure studies be required?
- What role should the

Comprehensive Plan play in development decisions?

• And, how closely must local boards follow both state law and their own zoning code before granting approvals?

An Article 78 proceeding is designed to answer those questions by examining whether the proper legal process was followed, regardless whether people support or oppose a particular project. The court's decision will determine whether the approvals for the Church Road project were lawfully issued or whether portions of the review process must be revisited. Whatever the outcome, the case is likely to shape how future development applications are reviewed in the Town of Fallsburg and may provide important guidance for Planning Boards, applicants, and residents alike.

Signed:
Fallsburg's Future

ONCE COMES TO FORESTBURGH PLAYHOUSE

September 8 – September 13



PHOTO PROVIDED

FORESTBURGH – "Once," the heartfelt love story powered by the magic of music, opens at the Forestburgh Playhouse on September 8 and runs through September 13. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Wednesday at 2 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Due to popular demand, the Playhouse is adding an additional performance, Saturday at 2 p.m.

"Once" tells the captivating story of a Dublin street musician ready to give up on his dreams—until a spirited young woman takes a sudden interest in his soulful songs. An unexpected friendship becomes a life-changing connection that inspires them both. Featuring the Academy Award-winning hit "Falling Slowly," this touching and beautifully performed musical celebrates love, hope, and the power of music to bring people together.

The Forestburgh Playhouse production is proudly sponsored by Hudson Valley Advertising, whose continued support helps bring bold and inspiring stories to life on stage. The entire 80th Anniversary 2026 Season is made

possible by generous sponsorship from the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association and Silent Maid. Thanks to Van Etten Energy Systems, the Playhouse stays powered up and shining bright all season long! Also, a special thank you to Do Good Spirits, Vintus NY, and Catskill Brewery for providing our beverages in the Tavern for the season.

Directed and Choreographed by Trey Compton and with musical direction by Julia Hoffmann and Matthew Nassida, this production promises to leave you moved, inspired, and humming long after the final note.

"Once" is a beautiful celebration of music, connection, and the unexpected moments that can change our lives," said Producer, Franklin Trapp. "We're excited to bring this intimate and unforgettable story to our stage and share its heart with our community."

Tickets are on sale now and going fast! Don't miss your chance to witness the love story at the Forestburgh Playhouse.

For tickets and more information, visit www.fb-playhouse.org or call 845-794-1194.

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Battle of Chestnut Woods: Help Unravel the Mystery!

At Time and the Valleys Museum

GRAHAMSVILLE — The 1778 Revolutionary War Battle of Chestnut Woods in Grahamsville is an ongoing mystery. Few records, conflicting memoirs from soldiers who might have been there, and one very scanty official report leave us with many unanswered questions: How many men were actually killed? Why did the soldiers set up camp in such a poorly defended location? What REALLY happened during the battle? In an attempt to unravel some of the mysteries surrounding this battle, the Time and the Valleys Museum is hosting a gathering on Saturday September 5 (the 248 anniversary of the battle) from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Museum on St. Rt. 55 in Grahamsville.

Joining the debate/discussion on September 5 are the Town of Neversink Historian, Roger Edwards, Museum Director Donna Steffens, Time and the Valleys Museum researchers Lynn Priebe and Barba-

ra Avenier and Douglas S. Hart, a descendent of Andrew Gillespe, one of the soldiers at the battle. Attendees are asked to bring their thoughts, questions and any information they might have to help shed light on this enduring mystery.

The Battle: British Loyalists and allied Native Americans plunder houses and granaries, burn buildings and kill and capture citizens in Pinebush, a small settlement along Minisink Road (St. Rt. 209) in Ulster County on the morning of September 5, 1778. Lt. John Graham from Fort Honk (Napanoch) volunteers to pursue the raiders with about seventeen militiamen. They travel up the Rondout and Chestnut Creeks, stopping at Chestnut Woods (Grahamsville). The raiders surround the militia on all sides and open fire. Lt. Graham and several militiamen are killed. Grahamsville is named after Lt. Graham.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Admission to the program is FREE and includes entrance to the Museum's exhibitions, including the new exhibition The Great Fear: Frontier Life During the American Revolution and the 1930s Catskill Farm with over 15 buildings. For more information visit our website timeandthevalleysmuseum.org, email info@timeandthevalleysmuseum.org or call 845 985-7700.

Current Exhibitions:

- Water and the Valleys, an exhibit on the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th century. This exhibition includes a section on the Lenape Native Amer-



PHOTO PROVIDED

icans, early area settlers, farming, local industries and more.

- Tunnels, Toil and

Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story, an engaging exhibition on

NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system, includes why New York

City needed water, a description of the three water systems, the heartache of the people who had to give up their homes and how the complex system was built.

- NEW! The Great Fear: Frontier Life in the American Revolution an immersive and interactive exhibition on the dangerous frontier life during the Revolution in Orange, Ulster and Sullivan Counties, including native, loyalist attacks and patriot attacks, the hardships of settler life, Native life before and after contact and the Battle of Chestnut Woods. It includes audio, video, games and hands on activities.
- 1930s Catskill Family Farm is an outdoor, open air experience with over 15 early farm buildings all illustrating life on a Catskill family farm during the 1930s, about to be removed for the building of a NYC reservoir. Building include a farm house, 1870s barn, sap house, sawmill, chicken coop, workshop with

WORKING waterwheel and many more with hands on activities, video and audio.

The Museum is located at 332 Main Street (St. Rt. 55) in Grahamsville, Sullivan County. It is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. through September or by appointment. Adults admission is \$10, Children under 16, \$5, and children under six are free. Museum members are FREE. Free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members through our status as a Blue Star Museum. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

For more information call 845 985-7700, e-mail info@timeandthevalleysmuseum.org or visit www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org. Volunteers are always welcome and needed! Email or call us for more information.

SENTINEL SPORTS



ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO

ANOTHER GOLF CLASSIC IS IN THE BOOKS



PHOTO BY JACK HALCHAK
Robert Kuhn was closest to the pin among the men.

PHOTO BY JACK HALCHAK
Among the women, Stacey Morris was closest to the pin and had the longest drive.

by Jack Halchak

HURLEYVILLE — The last foursome is off the course and the 15th Annual Bill Carlson Golf Classic is in the books.

Sixteen foursomes teed off after a delicious lunch with a shotgun start.

The Tarry Brae course was in excellent shape thanks to John Jaycox, golf course superintendent, and his staff. With some help from Mother Nature as she provided some rain and sunshine in the past few weeks, the course was lush, green and in excellent shape.

After all were back in the

clubhouse, a fine awards dinner was put on by Mike Decker and his staff.

Terry Brae Golf Pro added up the score cards and we were ready for the awards.

The foursome of Joe Flores, Howard Sweet, Louis Delacruz and Phil Harris came in with a best ball score of 13 under par. Following close behind in second place with a score card of 12 under par was the Decker family of Bob Decker, RJ Decker, Jack Decker and Sabrina Decker.

On the lady's side Stacey Morris was closest to the pin on the par 3 7th hole. She was six feet five inch-



PHOTO BY JACK HALCHAK
Members of the winning foursome Joe Flores (left) and Luis Delacruz (right) flank Hurleyville Fire Department Tournament Chairman John Jaycox. Winning members Howard Swett and Phil Harris were camera shy.

es from the cup. Stacey also had the longest drive on number 16.

As for the men, Richard Saline had the longest drive on the 16th hole, and Robert Kuhn was 16 feet four inches from the cup on the 7th hole for closest to the pin.

Bill was defiantly looking down on us with such a fine day.

Thank you to all our "Tee Box" sponsors and those that donated prizes for the raffle.

TEE OFF FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Annual Sullivan Cup Golf Tournament

LOCH SHELDRAKE — The SUNY Sullivan Foundation's annual Sullivan Cup Golf Tournament will take place Friday, September 18, 2026, bringing together alumni, businesses, community leaders, and golf enthusiasts to invest in student success.

Golfers will play 18 holes on Roscoe Mountain Club's championship course, set against the Catskill Mountains at their best. The day opens with breakfast at 8 a.m., a 9 a.m. shotgun start, and closes with a luncheon and awards ceremony at 2 p.m.

— good golf, good company, and a direct investment in students working toward their futures.

"By joining us as a golfer or sponsor, you'll help open doors for students across Sullivan County while enjoying a memorable day on the course," said SUNY Sullivan Foundation Co-Chair Meg Sullivan. "Your support directly strengthens the resources students need to succeed, grow, and reach their future goals."

Registration

Individual Golfer: \$150 (18 holes, cart, breakfast, gift bag, luncheon)



PHOTO PROVIDED

SUNY Sullivan Faculty, Staff & Alumni: \$125 (promo code SULLIVAN25)

Foursome: \$600

Lunch Reception & Awards Only: \$100

Sponsorship — Something for Every Business in

Sullivan County

The Sullivan Cup offers sponsorship levels built for organizations of every size — from the \$5,000 Eagle Sponsor down to the \$400 Hole Sponsor, with several tiers and specialty options

in between, including Club House, Refreshment Row, and Mulligan sponsorships. Tee Sign sponsorships start at \$150, and program journal advertising starts at just \$100 — making it easy for any business to stand with SUNY Sullivan students.

Full sponsorship details are available at sunysullivan.edu/sullivan-cup. Sponsor logos and advertising materials are due no later than Sept. 3, 2026.

Proceeds benefit the SUNY Sullivan Foundation, sustaining the college's ability to keep education accessible and

affordable across Sullivan County. As the county's only institution of higher education, SUNY Sullivan prepares students for careers, transfer, and lifelong success — and every golfer, sponsor, and volunteer helps make that possible.

Space is limited. Early registration is encouraged. To register, purchase lunch tickets, or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit sunysullivan.edu/sullivan-cup or contact the SUNY Sullivan Foundation at 845-434-5750, ext. 3188, or foundation@sunysullivan.edu.



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 college football duo were known as "Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside"?
2. What college football quarterback was given the nickname "the Red Rifle"?
3. Who was "the Kansas Comet"?
4. Byron White spent 31 years on the U.S. Supreme Court. What was his nickname when he played football (as well as baseball and basketball) for Colorado?
5. What college football star was given the nickname, "the Throwin' Samoan"?

August Answers:

1. In what year was the first U.S. Open tennis tournament held? (1968)
2. What was the forerunner of the U.S. Open called? (U.S. National Championships)
3. Who won the men's championship at the first U.S. Open tennis tournament? (Arthur Ashe)
4. Who lost the men's finals match that year? (Tom Okker of the Netherlands)
5. Who won the women's championship in the first U.S. Open? (Virginia Wade of Great Britain)

There was no winner last month...