

# Vestal Town Crier

Your Town. Your News ~ Official Newspaper for the Town of Vestal



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## Vestal Community Chorus Has Sung Its Last Song After Nearly 4 Decades

Past members of the Vestal Community Chorus recently gathered together one last time to celebrate the musical group's 38 years of song.

After a buffet dinner members shared fond memories of their time with the chorus (including a marriage proposal). And, as customary with the finale of each winter holiday concert, the chorus gathered around (in a surprise to Director Lea Harding) to sing "Holly Jolly Christmas".

Throughout the evening members caught up after being separated for three years and shared many moments of laughter.

The difficult decision to disband the chorus was made several weeks ago, as declining membership reduced the group to too few singers (and no accompanist) to continue.

The current chorus director, Lea Harding, contacted other area choruses to see if there was interest in any of the sheet music that had been collected through the years. The organization was able to share its library with Endwell Community Chorus, Maine-Endwell High School Choral Department, and Good Shepherd Fairview Home. All three of those directors stated that "receiving the music felt very much like an early

Christmas gift".

Vestal Community Chorus, founded by the late Barbara Press in 1985, received accolades through the years from a variety of sources including the former Town of Vestal Supervisor, John Schaffer declaring December 12, 2015, as "Barbara Press Day". There were also proclamations from then-Broomfield County Executive Debbie Preston, Senator Fred Akshar, and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Director Harding states that, "It has been a wonderful experience being a part of the Vestal Community Chorus".



Vestal Community Chorus



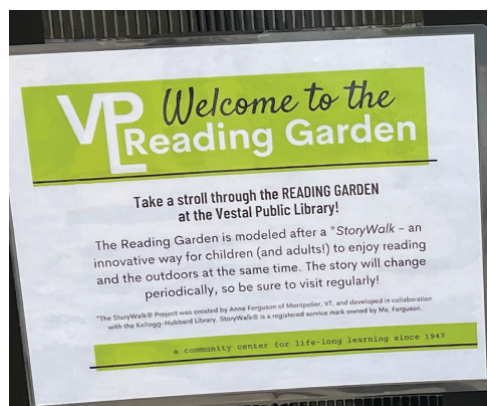
**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!**  
Sunday, May 14th

## Seedy Saturday Held At Vestal Public Library: An Earth Day Celebration

by Molly Creveling

On Seedy Saturday, gardeners and plant lovers gathered in the VPL Reading Garden for a perennial, annual, seed & seedling swap and the spring opening of the seed library. Vestal Public Library partnered with Neighborhood Forest for the free tree program, those who registered picked up their free tree sapling to plant.

Seedy Saturday was a great day for volunteers and to help with weeding, planting, and mulching the VPL Reading Garden with the help of the Vestal High School Interact Club. Children enjoyed the event by helping in the garden and by enjoying the spring story display of *The Perfectly Perfect Wish* by Lisa Mantchev in the Reading Garden. The VPL Reading Garden also includes interactive mailboxes where kids of all ages can find chalk, bubbles, and jump ropes to use while in the garden area.



Photos by George Allen

More photos next page...



# Vestal Library Earth Day



Believe you can  
and you're halfway there.  
Theodore Roosevelt

You're never too old  
to set another goal  
or to dream a new dream.  
C.S. Lewis

Happiness often sneaks in  
through a door  
you didn't know  
you left open.  
John Barrymore



Spring story display in the reading garden at the Vestal Public Library.



Photo by George Allen



Photo by George Allen

## Cornell Cooperative Extension Dividing Perennials Workshop

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County Presents: Dividing Perennials Workshop Saturday, May 13th, 2023 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Cutler Botanic Garden Grounds of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County 840 Upper Front St, Binghamton, NY 13905

of control? Come and learn about perennial flowerbed care. Plant division, rejuvenation and problem solving will be demonstrated and discussed. This is a hands-on, outdoor class. In the event of rain, we will move indoors. Please bring a pair of garden gloves.

Class size is limited so pre-registration is required. The cost of the class is \$10 per person. To register, please call (607) 772-8953 or visit: [ccebroomecounty.com/events](http://ccebroomecounty.com/events) to register and pay online.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will be offering a workshop on dividing perennials. Are your perennial beds getting a bit out



## Broome County Opens Bidding for Naming Rights to Softball Complex



be seen by thousands more drivers that travel along Interstate 81 each day.

Additionally, branding with the new complex name will be included on all media and materials that promote the fields and events taking place there.

The County is currently in the middle of a \$4 million renovation on the four field facility which will include all turf fields and lights, making it the only softball complex of its kind in New York State.

The fields are home to the Section IV championships and the County is work-

ing to bring the New York State championships here as well.

Since its opening in 1980, the softball complex has been the primary softball facility in the region, attracting more than 150 thousand visitors each year. That number is expected to grow significantly since the turf and lights will allow for more games each day and a longer playing season.

Registration is required, but is free; complete registration instructions are available on the Broome County Purchasing Department's website

When Broome County's newly renovated softball facility opens later this year, it will have a brand new identity. The County is accepting bids for the naming rights to the complex in the Town of Dickinson. The winning bid will get exposure to thousands of visitors to the complex every year; signage will also be visible to hundreds of vehicles that drive directly past the fields each day on Lt. VanWinkle Dr., and highway tourism signs will





# American Civic Association Odyssey of the Mind Team to Compete at World Finals in May



## Vestal Fire Department Hosts Annual NYS Firefighters Bowling Tournament

### Last Day of Attendance Scheduled for Vestal Students

Vestal Central School District, assuming that there are no emergency closings between now and the end of the school year, has anticipated the last day of school for students in Grades K – 8 and 9 – 12.

In order to meet the minimum number-of-hours requirement and 180 days of instruction mandated by New York State, the District has scheduled the last day of pupil attendance for students in Grades K – 8 for Friday, June 23, 2023. Both Thursday, June 22, and Friday, June 23, will be half days for students in Grades K - 8.

At Vestal High School, the last day of pupil attendance for Grades 9 – 12 is Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Regents exams will be administered June 14 – 16 and June 20 - 23.

Looking ahead, the District anticipates welcoming students on Thursday, September 7, 2023, for the opening of the 2023-24 school year.



### Binghamton University Graduation Ceremonies THIS WEEKEND



At the New York State Odyssey of the Mind tournament in Syracuse on April 15, the American Civic Association team placed first for their long-term performance, first for style, and second overall for Problem 3 (Div. III) Walls of Troy. Their win secured their advancement to the World Finals Tournament at Michigan State University May 24 – 27.

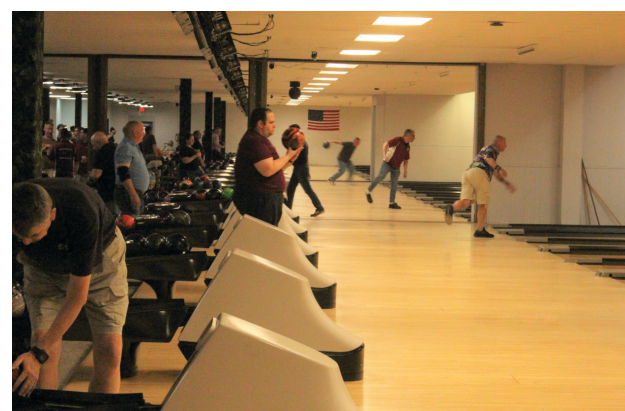
In addition, the team was one of only three teams in New York State to earn the very-elusive and prestigious Ranatra Fusca Award for exceptional creativity. The award represents the essence of the Odyssey of the Mind program and serves as an incentive for risk-taking and creative thinking.

This team includes Dolly Murphy (Binghamton High School), Keyahn Sethi (Seton Catholic Central), Susan Hirst (Vestal High School), Fardeen Rahman (Vestal Middle School), Hibah Rahman (Vestal High School), Inaaya Sethi (Vestal High School), and Allison Yoon (Vestal High School).

If you have any further questions, you can reach out to the coach, Romineh Dawood Sethi at 607-624-5632 or at romineh15@yahoo.com



Vestal Volunteer Firefighters sell raffle tickets and items printed with the Vestal patch.



President of the 8th Battalion Bowling League and Director of the NYSVFBA, John "Bailliff" Willers, is pictured with Tournament mascot Buzz.

*by Rebecca Smith*  
The bowling tournament was first formed in 1957, and now has teams competing from volunteer fire departments from across the state. Each year, it's hosted by a different department. The tournament is a two-weekend event. This year's tournament was hosted by Vestal and held at Ideal Bowling Center in Endicott. Vestal Fire Department received a portion of the proceeds.

For the first time in 66 years, Buzz was captured by a Long Island Department and taken back to Long Island for a time before being returned to its home with Terrys Corners Vol. Fire Co. in Niagara County.

## Bowling Fun Facts

Soldiers and Kings loved bowling. In the Middle Ages, bowling was the most addictive game among kings and soldiers. King Edward III had to ban his soldiers from playing it because they were paying too much attention to the sport instead of practicing archery.

It was once banned in America. Americans loved bowling and couldn't get enough of it. In the 15th century, the sport was banned to stop soldiers from gambling on the game.

The first indoor bowling lanes were built in New York City in 1840.

The largest bowling center, located in Japan, has 141 lanes.





# Calendar

**Tuesday, May 16**

**Vestal Board of Education, 6 PM, Administration Building, 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 20th**

**Vestal Parks Day. Bicentennial Event**

**Sunday, May 21**

**PAST Sacred Sites Tour**

**Monday, June 3rd**

**Vestal Front Street Day. Bicentennial Event**

**Saturday, July 15th**

**Vestal Antique Car Show. Bicentennial Event Rail Trail Wine & Food Tasting.**

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# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

**Allen Espinal, 22, West Nyack, NY**, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Passed Red Light, Speed in Zone and Suspended Registration after a traffic stop.

**Melinda Sutton, 32, Chenango Forks**, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Omar Rush, 37, Binghamton**, arrested for Aggravated Family Offense, Criminal Contempt 1 st Degree, Petit Larceny, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7 th Degree for violating a full stay away order of protection, shoplifting from Wal-Mart and possessing Fentanyl.

**Miari Vasquez, 31, Vestal**, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Refusal of Breath Test, Failed to Stop at Stop Sign and Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device after a traffic stop.

**James Ingram, 53, Endicott**, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Speed Not Reasonable and Prudent and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a motor vehicle accident.

**Gordon Jenkins, 68, Vestal**, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninspected Motor Vehicle and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 1 st Degree after a check welfare complaint.

**Elisabeth Dukerich, 33, Binghamton**, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Randy Barrowcliff, 60, homeless**, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Ashley Brewer, 33, Binghamton**, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Jessie McRorie, 21, Binghamton**, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx.

**Dynayjah Gadson, 24, Johnson City**, arrested for Failing to Comply and Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Chyna Evans, 23, Binghamton**, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Jane Deangelis, 30, Johnson City**, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More .08 BAC, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated-More than .18 BAC, Failure to Keep Right and No/Insufficient Tail Lamps after a traffic stop.

**Reuben Ogando, 29, Endicott**, arrested for Burglary 3 rd Degree for entering a business and stealing money.

**Anna Fiacco, 37, Endicott**, arrested for Criminal Trespass 3 rd Degree for entering Kohl's after being banned from the location.

**Stephanie Nashton, 31, Waterville, NY**, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7 th Degree for possessing Heroin during a traffic stop.

**Chad Drake, 35, Waterville, NY** arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7 th Degree, Insufficient Turn Signal and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3 rd Degree for possessing Heroin during a traffic stop.

## Battery Recycling Day

The Endicott and Endwell Rotary Clubs will host a recycle event for Lithium-Ion Batteries and devices on Saturday, May 13 from 9AM-1PM, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 711 Farm To Market Road, Endwell.



Items for collection include: cell phones, laptops, tablets, electric toothbrushes, wireless headphones, power tool batteries



In the end,  
crime doesn't pay.  
Lane Garrison

Nothing spoils a good story  
like the arrival  
of an eye witness.  
Mark Twain

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# Vestal Board of Education Meeting Report

By Paula Babey



## VESTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

**04/29 13:09 Connector Road**  
General fire alarm

**04/30 10:36 Clayton Avenue**  
Carbon monoxide alarm

**04/30 16:06 Glenwood Road**  
Outlet sparking

**05/01 03:27 River Road**  
Mutual aid to Endwell for a shed fire

**05/02 14:21 Cornell Avenue**  
Odor of smoke in residence

**05/03 00:50 Vestal Parkway E.**  
General fire alarm

**05/04 10:59 Vestal Parkway E.**  
Odor of natural gas in store

**05/04 20:26 George F Hwy**  
Mutual aid to Endwell for a commercial fire alarm

**05/04 21:36 West Drive**  
Elevator rescue

**05/04 22:09 West Drive**  
General fire alarm

**05/06 08:28 Drexel Drive**  
Residential fire alarm

**05/06 20:37 West Drive**  
General fire alarm

**05/06 23:33 Front Street**  
Unknown alarm and odor of gas outside

**05/07 02:05 West Access Road**  
Commercial fire alarm

**05/07 10:08 Clubhouse Road**  
Dumpster Road

The Vestal Central School District, Vestal, New York, Board of Education held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 2nd commencing at 6:00pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited the Members went into Executive session. Upon their return the Minutes of the last meeting held April 17th were approved.

Clifford Kasson and Angela Rogers gave a Budget Presentation to the Public at the Clayton Avenue Auditorium. They highlighted the revenues and expenditures and what the Budget will be for the Public to vote on as well as Propositions 1 and 2. A contingency budget was also presented if the budget does not go through. Please come out Tuesday, May 16th 2023 from Noon to 8:00pm at the Central Junior Gymnasium, 201 Main Street, Vestal, NY to Vote on the Budget.

There are 3 seats available on the Board of Education. This is a 3 year term expiring in June 2026. These candidates are on the ballot for these seats Joshgua Morton's and Kay Ellis. Please vote.

Our Student Government Representative Samson Wong recapped happenings at the High School with a recent 'Senior Sock Hop' a 50's themed event where senior citizens could come and dance, listen to music and of course there were food and beverages too. This was well supported with 125 senior citizens in attendance. The event was held in the High School Gym which was decorated, had a Photo Booth, raffles and Students performed a dance. An enjoyable time was had by all. They hope to make this a traditional yearly event.

Mental health awareness, a PEP rally and a Self Defense class for High School Seniors are being held. At the Honor Society 50 students will be inducted, congratulations and \$3000 was raised for 'Doctors without Borders for Pakistan'. Wonderful to hear how the students help each other and the community. Great job.

Other School happenings; the Vestal Hills PTA held a Family photo event at Copper Gardens which raised money for the school. Staff appreciation week, a Chicken BBQ is being held at the Central Junior High School on May 16th the same date as the Budget. Other fundraisers were held at the IHOP, Baseball with the Rumble Ponies, and a Carnival is planned for Friday, June 9th from 6:00-8:00 pm, this is a big event and there is no rain date so let's hope the weather will be kind and it will be a nice sunny day! Other events, Jared Campbell who is very popular among students will be coming Wednesday, May 24th and a 'Moving Up Ceremony' and picnic at Arnold Park will be held Tuesday, June 20th.

Congratulations to 4th Grade student Madeline Fosco who won a recent photography competition at National level. Vestal has been participating in the PTA Reflections Program and this year's theme was 'Show Your Voice' Madeline's photo was a self portrait of herself that had gray shading and a color photograph of herself with Duct Tape on her mouth and was titled "Why talk when no one listens?"

Clayton Avenue has a Poetry month and one long scavenger hunt where winners are chosen from each class for awards. End of year activities for Clayton Avenue are a talent show to be held in the auditorium which will have song and dance, magic and martial arts. Schools do lots of activities these days, when I was at school we had a sports day at the end of the school year and in December a Christmas party with games and Jelly (Jello) and ice cream! All the PTA's are busy running events and fundraising and the Vestal Hills PTA kindly accepted a dona-

tion of \$500 from St Paul's Episcopal Church which will be used for Outdoor Learning Spaces at the Vestal Hills Elementary School. We thank the St Paul's for their kind generosity for their donation.

The NYSSBA Annual Convention being held in Buffalo from October 26th-29th, Board President Dinno Nistico highly recommended this Convention as its a great place to network and see some fantastic presentations. Board Members wishing to attend were reminded to informed Shelly, the District Clerk. This year the Convention will be extra special as one of the presentations will be from our own staff members, Clifford and Heather who will be giving an interactive presentation on the mystery process of how members are selected to present at NYSSBA. They are both excited and proud to be representing the Vestal Central School District. Board President, Dinno Nistico asked Members for their input on the Board of Education BOE Calendar and if there was any preference on dates, days or times. Dinno Nistico says his schedule is flexible.

The Vestal Central School District Job Fair was held at the African Road Auditorium. Approximately 20 people came and were helped with the application process etc. If you are interested in working for the Vestal CSD click on their website to see the job openings. Patrick Clarke was thrilled to announce that students have made notable achievements. The FBLA, Skills USA Competition, Art Contests and Public speaking to name a few. It's great that Vestal supports their students and encourages them to participate in competitions which is probably nerve racking but at the same time they gain confidence and boosts their morale. It's a team effort too between the wonderful students, teachers and staff that have prepared them and aids with their success.

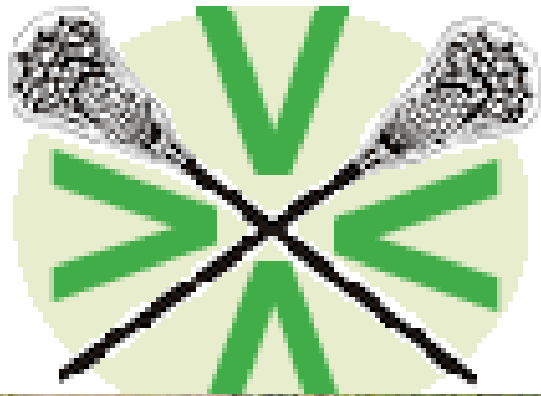
Schedules were approved, the 2023-24 Student Attendance Calendar was adopted and an Internal Audit report was had and the District is in good stead, with one adjustment to make sure cash is counted by 2 people at the same time, and to keep a tally of yearbook sales and any extra sales so they match up.

A contract with G&E Therapies for 2023-24 school year for occupational, physical, and speech therapy services. An Occupational Therapy Internship

The Academic Awards Night held saw 178 High School Seniors honored which was very impressive to see that many students participate and that 55% had an average of 90 or more. Again congratulations to all those students especially when students went from remote learning to going back to school full time. Our own Student Government President Samson Wong who updates the Members at the meetings achieved many awards and we are all very proud of him.

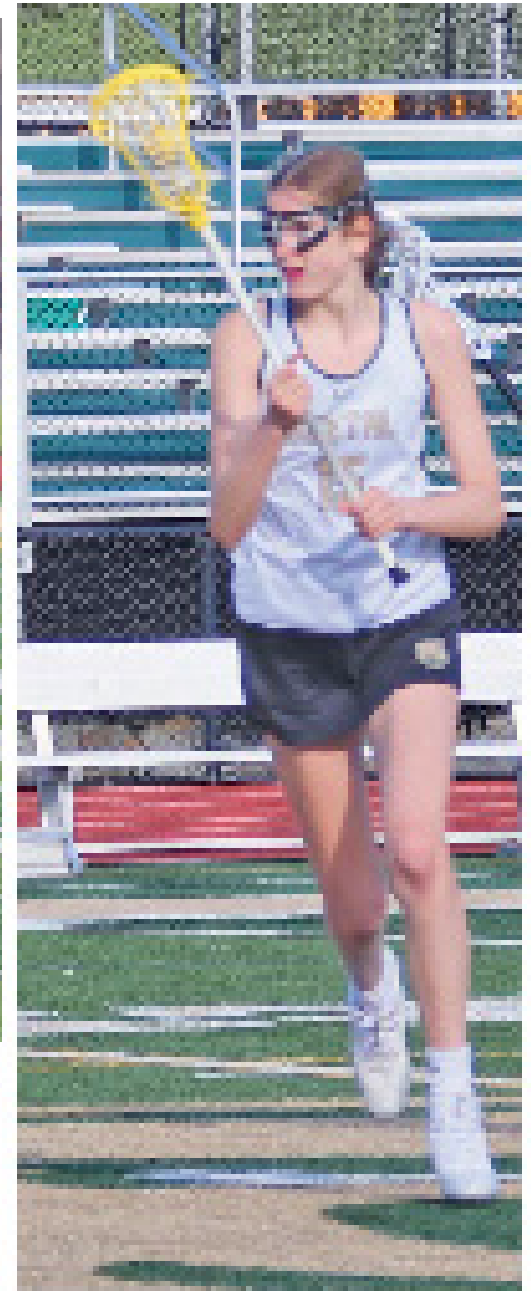
Please support your students, teachers and staff by attending a Board of Education Meeting, but also coming out to Vote on the Budget next Tuesday. You will not only get to see the faces of the Board to their names but see how productive they are on enhancing the schools and the school District. We look forward to seeing you.

Future Regular Meetings are held in the South Conference Room Administration Building, 201 Main Street, Vestal, NY 13850. Dates for meetings are: Budget Vote Tuesday, May 16th, Noon to 8:00pm Central Junior Gymnasium, 201 Main Street, Vestal, NY 2023 and to follow the Board of Education Meeting at 8:30 pm; Board Conference Room, Administration Building. See you there!



# Vestal Girls Varsity

# LACROSSE



99 Adam Ford

99 Lily Winkrock

The Vestal girls lacrosse team has a strong season ahead. They will be competing in the Division 1 league. The team is coached by Coach [Name]. They have a record of [Record]. They will be playing against [Opponent]. They are looking forward to a successful season.





Senior Stephanie Marlowe



Senior Isabella DeLeo



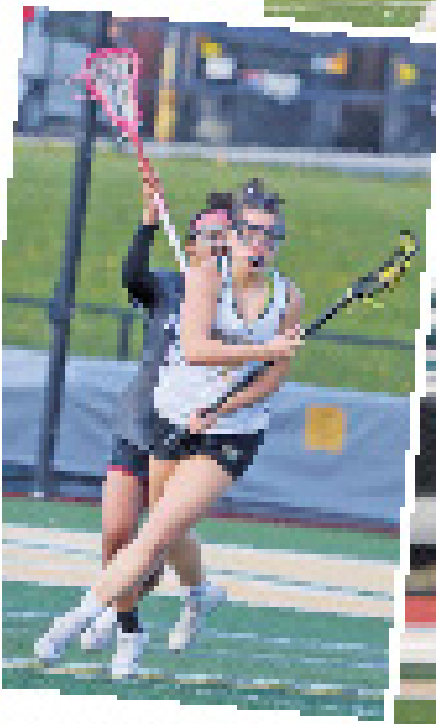
Senior Marissa Murphy



Senior Emma Moran



Senior Hannah Ryan



Player by Marissa Murphy



# LACROSSE



# Vestal Hills Elementary fourth-grader wins National PTA Reflections Award



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that Madeline Fosco has achieved excellence at the national level this year! This year's Reflections theme was "Show Your Voice," and categories included Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.



Congratulations to Madeline Fosco, a fourth-grade student at Vestal Hills Elementary School. Her photograph "Small" was recognized with an Award of Excellence in the 2022-23 National PTA Reflections contest. She is one of 14 students in Grades Pre-K through 12 from across the United States to receive this honor in the category of Photography.

"Vestal Hills has been participating in the PTA Reflections program for several years... Last year was the first time we had a student move on to the national level," said Vestal Hills Principal Catherine Willis. "We are extremely proud

Upstate Shredding-Weitsman Recycling, the East Coast's largest privately held scrap metal processor, will present a \$10,000 check to Move Along Inc. in support of athletes with disabilities at the Move Along Maine-Endwell High School Event in Endwell, New York on May 1, 2023.

Adam Weitsman, owner and CEO of Upstate Shredding-Weitsman Recycling has expressed his interest in donating to Move Along Inc. over the past year. His donation will help the organization provide inclusive adaptive sport and recreation opportunities to people with disabilities of all ages in New York. Move Along Inc.'s vision is to develop a world where people with disabilities fulfill their personal dreams, live healthy lives and have access to sport and recreation outlets that meet their diverse needs, while devel-

oping self-confidence and independence.

"After learning about Move Along's goal to help disabled athletes find their love of sports and fitness, I was immediately drawn to support them in any way I could," said Weitsman. "I look forward to meeting with the organization and hearing about all the athletes' and allies' experiences."

Maine-Endwell High School is hosting the check presentation in its gymnasium at 2:30 p.m. EST. Weitsman will meet with board members of Move Along Inc. and event organizers to present the donation.

Upstate Shredding-Weitsman Recycling is headquartered on a 17 acre environmentally

certified facility in Owego, New York and operates yards in Owego, Binghamton, Syracuse, Scranton, Rochester, Jamestown, Hornell, Allegany and Albany, New York and Scranton and New Castle, Pennsylvania. It is the East Coast's largest privately owned scrap metal processor and recycling center and one of the largest operations of its type in the United States.



Town of Vestal Bicentennial Committee Presents

# VESTAL PARKS DAY

Saturday, May 20, 2023 • 9am – 5pm

Choose your adventure...

- Archery Clinic
- Disc Golf Clinic
- Geocaching
- Guided Hikes
- Pickleball Clinic

...try one or try them all for a chance at prizes



Featuring

- Arnold Park – Archery, Disc Golf, Geocaching  
Andrews Road
- Jones Park – Guided Hikes  
State Line Road
- Ross Corners Park – Pickleball  
Old Owego Road
- Gordon Allen Park – Dedication of park renovation  
Ethel Place

Wrap up the day with Food, Live Music, and Raffle Prizes at Arnold Park

Check online for full schedule and times – Free to Participate  
[vestalny.gov/residents/vestal\\_bicentennial/](http://vestalny.gov/residents/vestal_bicentennial/) #Vestal200