

Vestal Town Crier

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



Vol. 34 No. 40
NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00

Friday, May 26, 2023
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Alicia Yin Initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Alicia Yin, a native of Vestal, was recently initiated into the Emory University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 787 new initiates from 32 universities during March 2023. Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year. Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea

the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK's mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK's leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society's national headquarters are located in Lexington, Virginia.

NOTE: You are receiving this press release because the student or their parents are from your area. This press release above was prepared for: Editor

Vestal Town Crier

VESTAL RECREATION



Online registration at
Vestalny.myrec.com
For immediate program confirmation register online.
516 Front Street, Vestal, NY
607-754-3368

Summer 2023



All You Can Eat Breakfast Hosted by The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1645

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1645 hosted their monthly All You Can Eat Breakfast at their Robinson St. location on May 21st. Starting at 8am, guests came in and enjoy a delicious breakfast made possible by the American Legion family.

The meal included a choice of homemade sausage gravy with biscuits, scrambled eggs, pancakes, french toast, sausage links, and more with a drink option. Not only was this event a great way for vets and their families to get together and enjoy a good breakfast, but it is also a great way to raise money for the community as this event has helped support veterans and other organizations in the southern tier for many years. One of the organizations that Unit 1645 has raised money for is the Twin Tiers Honor

Flight. The funds raised for this group are put towards their Sendoff Breakfast and Meet and Greets. The Legion has also donated money to veteran organizations in Oxford and Bath. Unit 1645 has hosted this event for the past 30 years and has not only brought in local veterans, but their families as well as over 200 guests from different age groups come in to enjoy a great meal with everyone.

“It’s a lovely event! We plan on doing a Father’s Day breakfast next month too!” mentioned Tami Zebrowski-Darrow, a member of the Legion



Lelia Kochis cuts the biscuits



Tami Zebrowski-Darrow makes the eggs.



Pat Wilson and Brenda Sawyer



The Peterman and Adam's Family



View of the whole room



More legion supporters!



Pam and Jack Fellin

Planning Board Discusses 'The Father's Heart' Project

By Rosemary B. West

When the Vestal Planning Board met Tuesday Planning Board Chairwoman Madeleine Cotts and Planning Board members: Michon Stuart, Dan Hayes and Bob Warner discussed with Pastor David Campbell Jr. and P. E. Melissa Secord plans regarding "The Father's Heart" proposed parking lot project.

Pastor Campbell noted that The Father's Heart Town of Vestal location is at 117 Powderhouse Road. He explained that he and Melissa were there to answer any questions the Planning Board may have regarding the proposed parking site plan project for The Father's Heart parking lot, he had submitted.

He added, "The site plan proposes the following additional parking. We are considering the addition of adding twenty-eight additional parking spaces to our current existing asphalt parking

lot. Currently, there is an existing tree line surrounding the parking lot. This acts as a buffer for two adjacent neighboring properties. No additional lighting is being planned at this time because the church building is currently being used only during daylight hours. The number of total parking spaces will still be within Town of Vestal Code parking site requirements."

Pastor Campbell explained, "Our congregation presently has between 150 and 170 members. We are anticipating and looking forward to future growth. At this time, we will only be using the brick building at the site. Our purpose for this proposal is to keep our members safe by not having overflow parking on Powderhouse Road."

He pointed out, "The impact to the septic system has been taken into consideration, along with the impact our project would have on the surrounding neighbors. We had been informed notification of the surrounding neighbors was not needed, because that is not a Planning Board requirement for this project. However, we did have our parking lot project announcement posted to the Town of Vestal Website, along with the complete information packet."

During the Planning Board reviewing the SEQR information document, they requested Melissa amended and initialed a Planning Board request to show an added change on line 5b from "Yes" to "N/A". Planning Board Chairwoman Cotts had explained this needed to be done because the Town of Vestal did not have a comprehensive plan. The Planning Board requested and Pastor David Campbell and P.E. Melissa Secord agreed to the parking lot having a 6-foot privacy fence installed along the property lines of the two neighboring properties on either side.

Following Planning Board Chairwoman Madeline Cotts reading the required SEQR negative declaration statement. This document noted that the Vestal Planning Board determined this project will not have any large impact on the environment, therefore this negative declaration has been approved. The Planning Board, then voted unanimously to accept the presented The Father's Heart parking project site plan. However, their decision depended on the Planning Board receiving Broome County's 239 comments, along with the revised parking lot project site plans showing the requested 6-foot privacy fence addition.

Town Engineer Vernon Myers presented the following Town of Vestal Change of Tenants Permits he had recently reviewed and approved: "Myers Security, LLC" is to occupy space and do business within the 220 Vestal Parkway East, Suite 2 building complex, A Change of Tenant permit for "The Father's Heart" to occupy space and do business within 117 Powderhouse Road Vestal building complex; A Change of Tenant permit for "Raj Hospitality, LLC (Comfort Suites)" to occupy space and do business, within the 3401 Vestal Parkway East building complex, A Change of Tenant Permit for "Aurora Nails" to occupy space and do business within 4700 Vestal Parkway East building complex, has been reviewed and approved. A Change of Tenant Permit had been approved for "Madeline Rose Mastectomy Boutique, LLC" to occupy space and do business within the 100 Rano Blvd. Vestal building complex, has been reviewed and approved.



Calendar

Monday, June 3rd
Vestal Front Street Day. Bicentennial Event

Thursday, June 8th
Zoning Board of Appeals 6 PM

Tuesday June 13th
Zoning Board of Appeals 6PM

Thursday, June 22nd
Zoning Board of Appeals 6 PM

Saturday, July 15th
Vestal Antique Car Show. Bicentennial Event Rail Trail Wine & Food Tasting.



Food Drive

Saturday June 3rd 8am - 7:30pm

Angelo Field, Vestal Little League, Clayton Ave

No Expired Food or Glass containers please

CHOW® Shopping List			
Cereal (no-flavor, cereals)	Beans (black beans and pinto beans)	Rice	Long and narrow pasta
Soup (chicken noodle, tomato, clam chowder, potato, minestrone)	Canned vegetables (corn, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes)	Canned meat (tuna and chicken)	
Pasta (spaghetti sauce and Alfredo pasta)	Fruit cups (apple, mandarin, orange, pear)		

Thank you for helping Vestal Little League and Nathan's Butterflies STOP hunger in our community.

You can also drop off food items at:
Tutor Time of Vestal, 732 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850
32 Maryvale Dr, Apalachin, NY 13732

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52 issues for only \$35 per year

Delivered right to your door! (in Broome County)

VESTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ART SHOW
FEATURING ARTISTS GRADES **K-12**

Showing at the **VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**
MAY 18-JUNE 6

Opening reception will be held **May 18th at 5 pm**
with activities sponsored by the High School Art Club

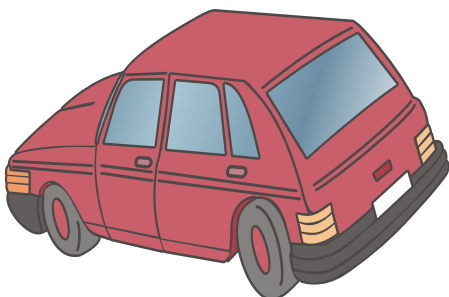
This year's District K - 12 Art Show will bring the community together May 18 - June 6, 2023, as it is hosted by the Vestal Public Library.

Join us for the opening Artists Reception beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, with activities sponsored by the Vestal High School Art Club.

This annual art show is curated by Vestal's art teachers and District Art Chair Melissa Restuccia and features artwork by students in all grades from each of our schools.

If you can't make the opening reception, the Vestal Public Library hours are 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Fridays, and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

To address safety concerns Case Drive declared a school zone



By Rosemary B. West

Vestal Supervisor John Schaffer explained the request from Vestal Central School District Superintendent Jeffrey Ahern at the May 10 Town Board meeting asking the Board to consider deeming Case Drive a school zone with a 15-mph speed limit. Superintendent Ahern had noted, “We have received complaints from parents of Vestal Hills Elementary School students as well as Case Drive residents regarding the dangerous situation presented by the 30-mph speed limit on Case Drive, behind the elementary school.”

Ahern pointed to the increase in traffic during the morning/afternoon hours when parents drop-off/pick-ups of students. Said Ahern. “As part of our current capital project a parent drop-off / pick-up zone is planned to be located in front of the school. However, this will not be completed for another 2-3 years. Meanwhile, for the safety of the students, as well as Case Drive residents, we are requesting that section of Case Drive speed limit be lowered to 15 mph.” The Town Board agreed and declared that section of Case Drive to be a school zone and lowered the speed limit to 15mph. Mary Sonnen presented her Girl Scout Gold Award proposal to the Board at the May 8th Work Session. She explained, “I would like to put signs up at each of the Town of Vestal parks providing information about the Town of Vestal’s history. Each sign will highlight the change and advancements of the Town of Vestal during a 50-year historic time span.”

On Wednesday night Town Board approved the project for Vestal’s parks. During the public comment portion, Some 24 Vestal residents explained the main reason for their attendance was to share their frustrations, concerns, and questions regarding the latest Vestal property reassessments. Vestal residents Marcus Smith and Mindy Bell explained their properties assessed values have been increasing a great deal over the past couple of years, even though no additional changes have been made to their properties.

Some assessed values went up a total of 25 to 30 percent. Marcus Smith said, “My 2021 assessment was \$105,050. Last year \$177,200. This year it was \$203,800.” Mindy Bell also spoke saying, “My husband and I moved to Vestal 17 years ago from Dutchess County thinking we were moving to a more reasonable area. Now, we’re getting priced out in Vestal.”

Some residents questioned, “What does the assessed val-

ue increase mean when it comes to our property taxes?” Schaffer explained that just because assessed property value increases, it doesn’t necessarily mean a tax increase. Vestal Town Board Member John Fletcher suggested that those who don’t agree with their current assessment should file an assessment grievance form with the Town of Vestal Assessment Department.

As to other items on the Board’s agenda, the Board agreed Sarah Koontz, Logistics Coordinator and River Guide with Bad Adventures, could use Castle Gardens Park for one night of group tent camping on Friday, May 26, 2023. Koontz said, “This will be an overnight stop, as part of our Susquehanna River canoe and kayak trip. Our one night of camping will be Friday, May 26th to Saturday May 27. We will arrange for our rental toilet facilities. There will be no smoking and no alcohol permitted. Quiet time rules will be strictly enforced. We have been running this type of program successfully or many years. Our participants range in age from 27 to 72 years old.”

A Public Hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, concerning a Local Law creating a Town of Vestal Administrative Hearing Officer position. Another Public Hearing was scheduled to be held 5pm at the Vestal Town Board room on Wednesday, June 14, for a proposed Local Law concerning the adoption of a Town of Vestal Nuisance Law.

Vestal Museum Director Cheresse Wiesner-Rosales asked the Town Board to waive the alcohol restriction on the Rail Trail for their Second Saturday Music Festival Series being held May thru October 2023. The Town Board granted her request, but only if all requirements are met and presented to the Town Board before the event:

Insurance Indemnification and a day use Liquor License from New York State Liquor Authority from each participating vendor serving alcohol. If food is served, a Broome County Health Department permit must also be provided. Town Board approved an increase in the annual base salary for the position of Town Engineer to \$150,000 effective with the first full payroll in July 2023. The Supervisor explained, “This increase is to address current and future recruitment and retention issues.” Schaffer signed the Supplemental Agreement for the Main Street Bridge Replacement Project for additional soil boring, stormwater concerns, and archeological services. Vestal Police Chief Stace Kintner received approval to sell the department’s retired 2020 Dodge Durango “as is” via Auctions International.

As the meeting concluded, Town Board members, acting as the Board of Fire Commissioners, approved and welcomed these new Vestal Fire Department volunteers at the following Vestal Fire Stations:

- Fire Station 1- Grace Kelley.
- Fire Station 2- David Kubeli and Jacob Kubeli, and
- Fire Station 4- Mark Pradun.



Vestal Fire Department Hosts Annual NYS Firefighters Bowling Tournament

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.

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.



“Don’t wait around for other people to be happy for you. Any happiness you get you’ve got to make yourself.” —Alice Walker

Vestal Park Days

05-20-23

(Rebecca Smith)

GORDON ALLEN PARK DEDICATION

“If it happened in Vestal, it was in the Vestal News and for years Gordon Allen served as the newspaper’s editor, later co-founding Tempo of the Towns. Changing careers, Gordon became an attorney, practicing at Butler and Allen law office. Throughout the more than 50 years Gordon resided in Vestal, he always gave generously of his time and knowledge to the town and to a long list of organizations that included Vestal’s 150th and 175th Anniversary committees. Gordon was a member of Vestal’s Bicentennial Committee when he passed on November 18, 2022. We, and his many friends, will miss his wisdom and energy, as well as his smile.” (Taken from Vestal Bicentennial booklet)

9400: Family members, left to right—son Peter Allen, wife Alice Allen, daughter Heidi Allen, son Eric Allen.

9404, 9410: Dedication given by John Schaffer

9411, 9412: Roses given to Alice Allen by John Schaffer

9416, 9417: Alice Allen

9420, 9421: Legislator DaReynolds speaks of his memories of Gordon Allen

9425, 9430: Legislator Dan Reynolds presents Alice Allen with a Citation of Appreciation

9430: Eagle Scout Joe Fletcher spoke on behalf of the Eagle Scouts of Troop 221. Their project was to plan and develop the landscaping in the park.

9436: Unveiling of the new park sign by Eagle Scouts, and family, aided by granddaughter Amelia Allen

9440: New sign...2487: photo of Gordon Allen

ROSS CORNERS PARK PICKLEBALL

9449,9451: Two teens play pickleball

9453: Pickleball instructor Coach “Z” orano has been teaching Pickleball for 12 years and is a member of the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association. Coach “Z” says that Pickleball is a good sport for seniors because it doesn’t involve a lot of running.

ARNOLD PARK DISC GOLF

9456: Two of the Disc Golf ‘cups’.

9458, 9462, 9466, 9470: Instructor Tucker Middleton coaches players on how to throw a frisbee.

9464, 9465: Instructor Tucker Middleton. The goal in Disc Golf is to get from one point to another in as few strokes as possible.

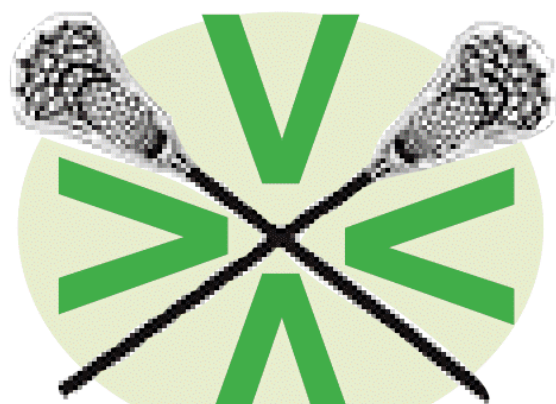
JONES PARK HIKES

9508: Hike Leader and member of the Triple Cities Hiking Club, Kevin Normile. The Triple Cities Hiking Club goes on four hikes a week, and has hikes for both experienced and beginners. Hiking destinations include the Finger Lakes, Catskill Mountains and weekend trips into the Adirondacks. It also includes winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

9515, 9522: Hikers heading into the woods.



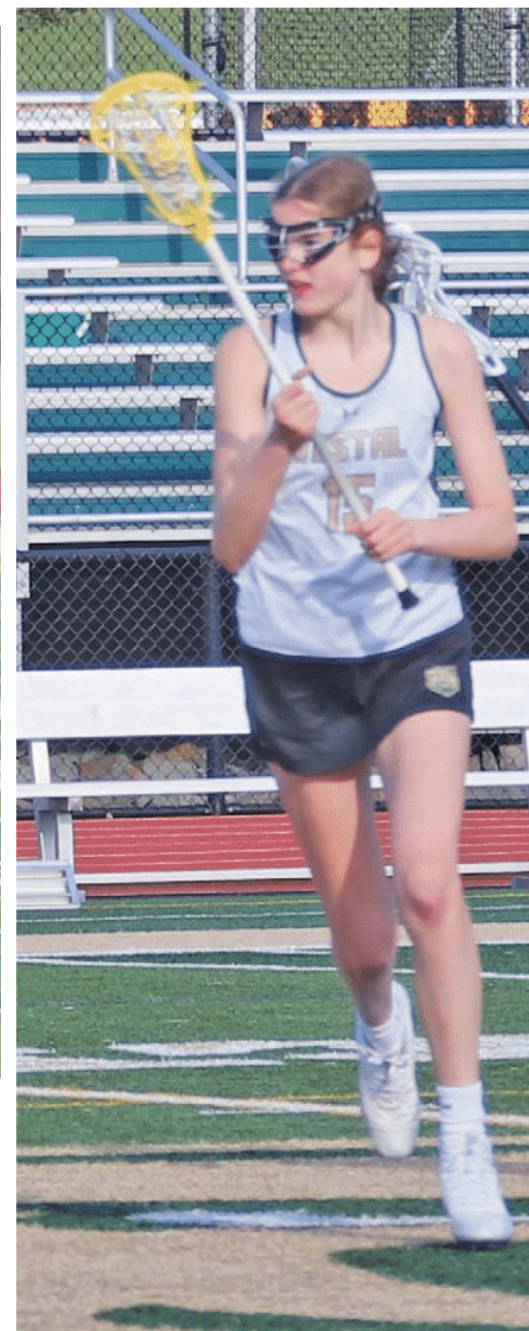




Vestal Girls Varsity LACROSSE



#4 Aubree Wenner



#1 Ariana Ford



#2 Lilly Wlostowsk

Jeremy Daino, Head Coach
Gina Talbut, Asst Coach

#	Name	Grade
12	Georgia Blackwell	11
3	Haley Carey	10
5	Alley Crowley	9
13	Isabella Daino	10
10	Tedessa DiRenzo	9
1	Ariana Ford	12
16	Grace Haven	12
14	Gabriela Kwiatkowski	11
8	Tess Labosky	9
20	Madison Lilley	11
11	Morrigan Magill	11
7	Bailey Paige	10
28	Mary Pierce	12
15	Caroline Reyen	10
26	Kate Reyen	11
9	Alexandria Roberto	12
17	Meredith Ryan	10
18	Jordyn Schake	12
23	Riley Smith	11
4	Aubree Wenner	11
2	Lilly Wlostowski	12
27	Reagan Young	10



#12 Georgia Blackwell



#13 Isabella Daino



#11 Morrigan Magill



#16 Grace Haven



#17 Meredith Ryan



Photos by Maryesther White-Brink



LACROSSE



Vestal Police Department Arrests 2023

Nathaniel Stillman, 30, Vestal, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument 2 nd Degree, No/Insufficient Tail Lamps, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3 rd Degree, Improper Plates and Unregistered Vehicle for possessing forged New York State license plates on a vehicle during a traffic stop.

Robert Leone, 44, Homeless, arrested for Criminal Trespass 2 nd Degree for entering and remaining in the victim’s residence without the victim’s permission.

Christopher Edwards, 55, Owego, arrested for Criminal Obstruction of Breathing and two counts of Harassment 2nd Degree for grabbing and punching two victims and choking one victim during a dispute.

Drashti Desai, 25, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Shrushi Knot, 27, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Robert Southard, 29, Owego, arrested for Grand Larceny 4 th Degree for shoplifting merchandise valued over \$1000 from Wal-Mart.

Michael Godbay, 22, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 1 st Degree and Speed in Excessive of 55 MPH after a traffic stop.

Courtney Evans, 34, Port Crane, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a traffic stop.

Peter Mertens, 32, Fort Hunter, NY arrested for Grand Larceny 3 rd Degree and Identity Theft 1 st Degree for withdrawing money from the victim’s bank account without the victim’s permission using a fake ID.

Deshaun Robinson, 35, Binghamton, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, 5 counts of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated-with Child in Vehicle, 5 counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, 5 counts of No Seatbelt/ Back Seat Passenger, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7 th Degree, Failure to Keep Right, Reckless Driving and Moved from Lane Unsafely for possessing Meth during a traffic stop.



Playground Sites Calendar of Events



Mark your calendars...

On the following dates, your park counselors will create special activities based on the theme! Ask your counselor for the details and join in on the fun! Dates are subject to change depending upon the weather.

- Monday, June 26 - All sites open
- Tuesday, June 27 - Happy New Year
- Friday, June 30 - Safari Day
- Monday, July 3 - 4th of July Celebration
- Tuesday, July 4 - Closed for Holiday
- Friday, July 7 - Beach Day/Under the Sea
- Tuesday, July 11 - Valentine’s Day
- Friday, July 14 - Space Day
- Tuesday, July 18 - St. Patrick’s Day
- Friday, July 21 - Happy Birthday to All!
- Tuesday, July 25 - Santa in July
- Friday, July 28 - Superhero Day
- Tuesday, Aug. 1 - Halloween
- Wed., Aug. 2 - Summer Celebration!
- Friday, August 4 - Back to School Day
- ☺ (sites close at Noon for the season)



VESTAL FIRE
DEPARTMENT
RESPONSES
vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

- 05/16 21:12 Vestal Parkway E.
Commercial fire alarm
- 05/17 09:09 Vestal Parkway E.
Water flow alarm
- 05/17 11:25 West Drive
General fire alarm
- 05/17 11:53 Ridgheaven Drive
Fire alarm activation
- 05/18 06:53 Vestal Parkway E.
Smoke in the building
- 05/18 14:54 S. Jensen Road
Fire alarm bell siren
- 05/18 20:48 Woodberry Drive
Microwave on fire
- 05/21 07:49 Powderhouse Road
Possible house fire
- 05/22 10:38 N. Main Street
Smoke detector activation
- 05/22 18:46 Stewart Road
Van fire



Firemen never know
what they will
encounter on each
call but proceed with
the same level of
commitment and
service.

BYRON PULSIFER

Town of Vestal Recreation Department

Free Concerts Tuesday Evenings

Bring your family, friends and lawn chairs for a free evening of pure entertainment. Free candy and face painting for the kids. In case of rain, the band will decide at the start of the concert if they must cancel. Concerts are not rescheduled.



7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Vestal Gazebo

Four Corners,

Front St. & Main St.

Tuesday - June 20 - Island Hoppers - Caribbean Steel Drum Band

Tuesday - June 27 - Swing Street Jazztet - All styles of Jazz

Tuesday - July 11 - Southern Tier Brass - Musical Mix

Tuesday - July 18 - Music Unlimited Little Big Band - Swing and Jazz

Tuesday - July 25 - Mason Warrington Orchestra - Big Band Swing

Tuesday - Aug. 1 - Fair Winds Trio - Classical, Showtunes, and Popular Music

Tuesday - August 8 - Miles Ahead - Smooth and Contemporary Jazz

Tuesday - August 15 - Blue Velvet Big Band - Dance Music

Vestal Community Band

Free Concerts

Thursday Evenings

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Arnold Park, Andrews Rd., Vestal at Shelter # 3



July 6, 13, 27, August 10, 17, 24

Join us and bring your lawn chairs for a free evening of entertainment.



SOFTBALL

Senior Day

Vestal Girls vs Binghamton



#16 Kymora Wang
with parents



#23 Raveena Rai
with parents



Kymora Wang with parents and coaches

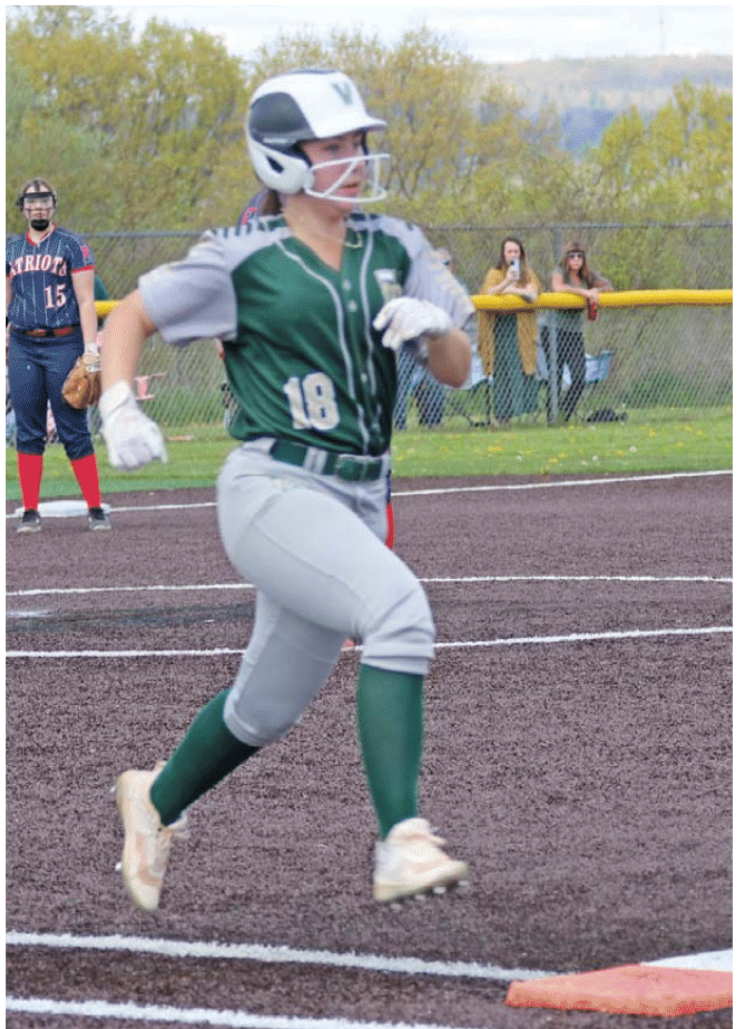


Raveena Rai with parents and coaches





#10 Addison Stockwin



#18 Adrienne Mayes

Photos by Maryesther White-Brink



#11 Lauren Policare



#19 Caitlyn Petteys



#22 Chloe Burkhard (2)



#17 Lauren Mitchell



#19 Reilly Store and Addie Stockwin