



# The Vestal Town Crier



Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 35 No. 11 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, November 3, 2023 SUBSCRIBE at [Publisher@TiersNews.com](mailto:Publisher@TiersNews.com)

mmm!

**THE CIDER MILL**  
DAILY 7 AM – 6 PM  
[cidermillendicott.com](http://cidermillendicott.com)

**PET OF THE WEEK:**  
**ZEKE**



This is Zeke! He is 10 years old! He was abandoned by his mom so we bottle fed him! He loves to eat grass and hang out with the horses! We also have ornaments out of his wool!

Send in a photo of your pet with a short bio to: [kirsten@tiersnews.com](mailto:kirsten@tiersnews.com) to have your pet in the paper!

## One Of The Town Of Vestal's Many Parks Recently Reopened To The Public!

Barlow Park, located on Main Street, had been remodeled as the Town of Vestal Parks Department worked over the numerous months to improve the park's features and appearance. Some of the new things that were installed include a playground, swings, and a shelter. The swing sets were repurposed by sand blasting and painting them. One of the other new things that were added was a spring rider that was hand painted by an employee.

Despite being one of the lesser-known parks in town, people in the community still come to the park either to take part in the Summer Rec Program or to just relax with a good book and watch traffic go by. "We want the people of Vestal to be happy in our parks and enjoy themselves." Mentioned Town of Vestal Supervisor John Schaffer.

The members of the Vestal Parks Department aren't done making improvements to the park though as there are plans to include handicap accessible swings in the future. Schaffer also said he would love to open a dog park within town.

Article and Photos Courtesy of Kaitlyn Hession  
More Photos On Page 8!

## Vestal Voter Information - Salary and Benefits by the numbers

	2020	2023	INC / DEC
Councilpersons	\$ 39,028.00	\$ 37,852.00	-3%
Town Justices	\$ 136,197.00	\$ 136,093.00	0%
Supervisor	\$ 52,788.00	\$ 102,253.00	94%
Dir. Finance	\$ 99,411.00	\$ 157,578.00	59%
Comptroller	\$ 131,214.00	\$ 154,612.00	18%
Assessor	\$ 152,811.00	\$ 213,559.00	40%
Clerk	\$ 128,725.00	\$ 171,830.00	33%
Attorney	\$ 68,610.00	\$ 119,675.00	74%
Human Resources	\$ 62,323.00	\$ 94,275.00	51%
Engineer	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 374,246.00	102%
	\$ 1,058,127.00	\$ 1,563,996.00	48%

## Swim Team And Volleyball Team Senior Nights On Pages 4 And 5!



## Knights of Columbus Vestal, NY Council #4746 donating Coats for Kids, 18 girls and 18 boys coats to Catholic Charities



Pictured are from the left: Walt Loveless, Mike Czuhanych, Hannah Burge (Program Manager - Youth, Family & Community Services Catholic Charities of Broome County), John Lahoda, and Tom Boslet.

Hello, **NOVEMBER**

**FALL CRAFT SALE**  
November 11, 2023

Our Lady of Sorrows \*  
801 Main St., Vestal  
9 am - 2 pm



# Calendar



## VESTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

10/24 01:19	Vestal Parkway E.	Alarm from kitchen
10/24 01:48	Vestal Road	Commercial fire alarm
10/24 14:26	Castle Gardens Rd.	General fire alarm
10/24 16:27	Vestal Road	Fire alarm from panel
10/24 19:27	Parkwood Road	Carbon monoxide alarm
10/25 20:30	Siena Lane	Smoke detector activation
10/26 06:45	Connector Road	Commercial fire alarm
10/26 09:06	Vestal Parkway W.	Fire alarm
10/26 15:24	Bunn Hill Road	Fire in the kitchen
10/27 22:11	Kimball Road	Smoke in the basement
10/27 23:56	Connector Road	Commercial fire alarm
10/28 02:07	Connector Road	Commercial fire alarm
10/28 04:55	West Access Road	Commercial fire alarm
10/28 14:19	Connector Road	Fire alarm
10/28 15:21	Vestal Parkway E.	Fire alarm from back door pull station
10/29 11:23	Tracy Creek Road	Dryer smells like gas
10/30 14:40	West Access Road	Fire alarm
10/30 14:54	Keenan Drive	Commercial fire alarm - main entry
10/30 15:45	Vestal Road	Elevator rescue



# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

**Anthony Jefferson**, 37, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Michael Rose**, 35, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

**Adam Vallette**, 35, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

**Karlha Ortiz Ubillus**, 41, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

**Amir Abdullatif**, 62, Binghamton, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

**Lenny Jordan**, 62, Endicott, arrested for two counts of Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's on two dates.

**Tamarind Baker**, 49, Richford NY, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

**Rasheed Crawford Jr.**, 40, Binghamton, arrested for two counts of Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx on two dates.

**Paul Shattuck Jr.**, 49, Brackney PA, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, inadequate/no muffler and no registration sticker for possessing Meth during a traffic stop.

**Ashley Perez**, 26, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny and Endangering the Welfare of a Child for shoplifting from Wal-Mart in the presence of a child.



**Monday, November 6th**  
 >Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs  
 6-7:30PM; Youth Services Department  
 >Preschool Storytime  
 10:30AM & 1:30PM  
 More info on page 3

**Tuesday, November 7th**  
 Election Day!



**Thursday, November 9th**  
 >VPL Yin Yoga, 6PM  
 Sign up online at [www.vestaltownpubliclibrary.com](http://www.vestaltownpubliclibrary.com)  
 Large Meeting Room  
 >Early Release Day for All Schools: VMS dismisses at 10:45 / VHS dismisses at 11:05 / Elem Schools dismiss at 11:45 a.m.

**Friday, November 10th**  
 Veterans Day-All schools are closed

**Wednesday, November 15th**  
 >Board Game Night  
 6PM, Vestal Public Library (VPL)  
 All Ages Welcome

**Thursday, November 16th**  
 VPL Yin Yoga, 6PM  
 Sign up online at [www.vestaltownpubliclibrary.com](http://www.vestaltownpubliclibrary.com)  
 Large Meeting Room

## Vestal Town Crier

**NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
 The Vestal Town Crier goes to press on Wednesdays. Deadline for news and advertising is the Friday before the desired week of publication.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
 Subscription rates to The Vestal Town Crier are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside of Broome County, and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
 All letters to the editor are welcomed. All letters must be signed and include the phone number of the writer, to be used for verification of authenticity, not for publication. The editor reserves the right to refuse to publish letters which contain postentially libelous or erroneous statements. Also, letters endorsing political candidates are considered advertisements and should be prepaid as is all political advertising. No letters to the editor regarding political candidates will be accepted.

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We are delighted to have your news! Your photos are welcome! Contact us:  
 Call us today: 607 755 0472 E -mail: [kirsten@tiersnews.com](mailto:kirsten@tiersnews.com)

### Winter Annual Coat Drive

**Sponsored by the Apalachin Lions**  
 The Apalachin Lions will be collecting CLEAN useable winter coats for those in need from October 2nd through November 19th. They can be left off at Blessed Trinity at St. Margaret Mary's in Apalachin on the table at the right as you exit mass, Apalachin United Methodist Church at 303 Pennsylvania Ave., Apalachin Library during regular hours and Johnson's Pools and Spas in Owego. Thank you in advance.

**Contact person**  
 Lion Terry White  
 Telephone: 607-625-4498

# Vestal Cruises In Regular-Season Finale, 42-16

By Roger Slawta, Vestal Statistician

Vestal ran only 19 plays from scrimmage all night at Binghamton Alumni Stadium, but the big-play Bears had scored 42 points before it was over. In fact, they had scored their first 35 points without benefit of a single first down.

The scoring started with a failed Patriot punt, which left the ball at their own 17-yard line. Two Liam Nealy runs picked up those yards as Vestal got on the board at 9:12 in the first quarter.

After a three-and-out, Nealy returned the punt to the Patriot 14-yard line. A toss from Cam Schaffer to a wide-open J.T. Gannon in the left corner of the end zone advanced the lead to 14-0.

Next, Tucker Zostant intercepted a Patriot pass giving Vestal possession at their own 35. Three plays later Nealy sprinted down the left sideline 78 yards for the score with 4:52 still remaining in the first quarter.

Eight plays later, Vestal took over at the Binghamton 13 as another poor snap on a punt gave the Bears excellent field position. Gannon would score on the next play, sweeping the left end for the score with 4:52 remaining in the first quarter.

Once again it would be Gannon finding his way to paydirt, as he gathered in a punt at the Binghamton 45 and raced down the right sideline, eluding numerous tackles for the final Vestal score of the half, a comfortable 35-0 lead.

Binghamton bounced back in the second half with touchdowns in the third and fourth quarters. The first coming on a 30-yard run following a Vestal fumbled punt return and later, a 5-yard pass closed out the scoring.

Vestal's final score was recorded in the final stanza as back-up quarterback Xavier Shuler sped down the left sideline 53 yards.

Sophomore J.T. Gannon led the Golden Bears with three touchdowns, all coming in different ways: a 14-yard reception, a 13-yard run and a 45-yard punt return. Liam Nealy was held below the 100-yard rushing mark for only the second time this season, but his 97 yards rushing and 2 TDs were collected on just 4 carries. John McIntyre converted all 6 PAT kicks.

Vestal will play again in two weeks, meeting the winner of the Union-Endicott vs. Horseheads playoff game (next weekend) for the Class A championship. It will be played at Vestal.

# Golden Bears Clinch STAC Metro Title on Senior Night

By Hal Ehrhardt

The Vestal Girls Swimming and Diving team clinched the STAC Metro title with a perfect 4-0 division record as they defeated the Binghamton Patriots last Tuesday, 10/24, by a final 91-69 score. All four seniors contributed heavily to the win which brought their final dual meet record to 5-3. This was the first STAC Metro title for the Golden Bears since 2019 as Maine Endwell has topped the division for the last three seasons.

Senior tri-captain Maddie Bishop turned in a season best to win the 100 Back and also hit her career best finishing 3rd in the 50 Free. Maddie is the daughter of Chris and Laura Bishop and has also earned Salutatorian for the Class of 2024. She is active in Science Olympiad, as well as French Club and the orchestra. In her 5th year on the varsity team, Maddie plans to pursue a Biology/Premed degree next year.

Anjali Patel swam on both of the winning senior relays to open and close the meet. The daughter of Sanjiu and Palak Patel she is also pursuing medicine as a career after majoring in health sciences or biochemistry in college. Another very active senior, she is in various clubs, on a competitive dance team and was accepted into a summer medical intensive program at Johns Hopkins University.

Senior tri-captain Stella Tomancik had a season best to win the 100 Breast and placed in the 50 Free, along with the two senior relays. The daughter of Bill and Lori Tomancik, she plans on majoring in Health Sciences before going on to earn a doctorate in chiropractic medicine. Outside the pool she is involved with Girl Scouts, Varsity club and enjoys a round of golf. She is a certified first responder and lifeguard.

Senior tri-captain Margaret Wood, daughter of Kevin and Kathleen Wood, won the Fly with a season best time and swam on all three winning relays including a career best leadoff of the final relay. She is an editor for the school newspaper, a member of Science Olympiad and the wind ensemble, as well as volunteering for Meals on Wheels. She plans to major in biological sciences before pursuing a career in aquatic occupational therapy.

The four seniors combined for a win in the Medley relay, as well as the 400 Free relay. To avoid running up the score Vestal entered many exhibition swimmers in the second half of the meet including the fastest 200 Free relay team of Mary Sonnen, Wood, Jay Ratterree and Reagan Young.

Ratterree picked up a pair of wins in the 200 and 100 Free, as did Yih Hui Lim in the 200 IM and 100 Breast. Olivia Tanton won the diving, while Fran Vallone led a 1-2 sweep of the 500 Free with Charlotte Coker, as well as being part of the 1-2-3 sweep in the 200 Free. Coker followed Lim with a career best in the IM for another 1-2 sweep. Mary Sonnen and Megan Jones completed a 1-2-3 sweep of the 100 Free behind Ratterree. Young touched out Bishop to finish 2nd in the 50 Free.

## Vestal 91 – Binghamton 69

- Medley Relay: 1st Bishop, Tomancik, Wood, Patel (2:14.52); 3rd Lim, Megan Jones, Jia Parikh, Tanton;
- 200 Free: 1st Ratterree (2:09.89); 2nd Vallone; 3rd Sonnen;
- 200 IM: 1st Lim (2:28.77); 2nd Coker; 4th Keira DeVantier;
- 50 Free: 1st Miller (BIN 27.95); 2nd Young (28.06); 3rd Bishop; 4th Tomancik;
- Diving (11): 1st Tanton (189.60);
- 100 Fly: 1st Wood (1:14.54); 3rd Patel; EXH: 3rd Parikh;
- 100 Free: 1st Ratterree (1:00.59); EXH: 2nd Sonnen; 3rd Jones;
- 500 Free: 1st Vallone (5:57.99); EXH: 2nd Coker; 4th Sua Choi;
- 200 Free Relay: 1st Binghamton (2:04.83); EXH: 1st Sonnen, Wood, Ratterree, Young (1:53.47); 3rd Parikh, Choi, Coker, Vallone;
- 100 Back: 1st Bishop (1:04.40); EXH: 4th DeVantier;
- 100 Breast: 1st Tomancik (1:22.40); EXH: 1st Lim (1:20.26);
- 400 Free Relay: 1st Wood, Patel, Tomancik, Bishop, (4:29.12); EXH: 2nd Tanton, Vallone, Sonnen, Jones;

The Class A Sectionals are now underway. The swimming preliminaries were held in Elmira on Wednesday (results unavailable). The top 16 in each event move on to the Class A finals at Watkins Glen tomorrow (Saturday, 11/4) at 3:30 PM. Class A diving is being held today at Ernie Davis Academy in Elmira, starting at 3:30 PM. A reminder that Sectional tickets must be purchased on line (not available at the door) at <https://gofan.co/app/school/NYSPHSAIIV>.

Last year Vestal finished 3rd behind Horseheads and Corning while edging out Ithaca. They expect to again battle the Little Red for the third spot, with several medal possibilities. They may not break last year's record medal haul of 7, including Ratterree's gold in the 500 but should have several medalists. All of the Golden Bears who qualify for the finals have a shot at a medal this year, as no one team is expected to dominate the top three places in any event.

Photos on page 5!

# PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

SIX WEEK SESSION BEGINS OCTOBER 9  
MONDAYS @ 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Themes:

11/6 - Yellow

11/13 - Thanksgiving \*\*

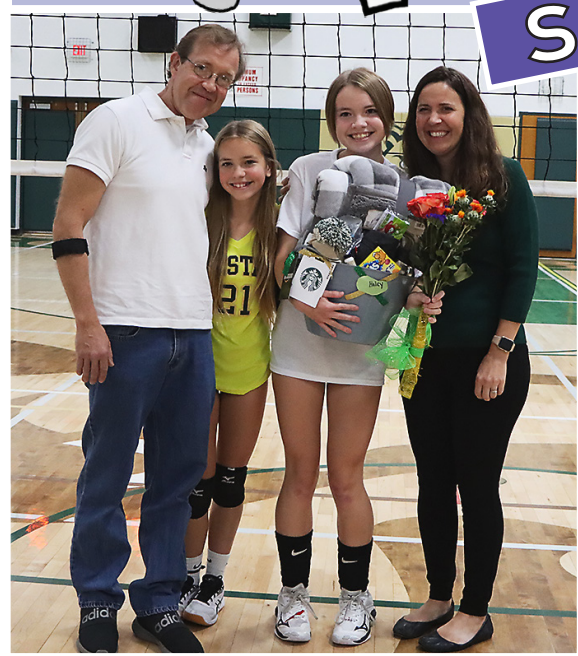
\*\* This craft involves paint. Please, bring a smock or wear clothes that can get messy.



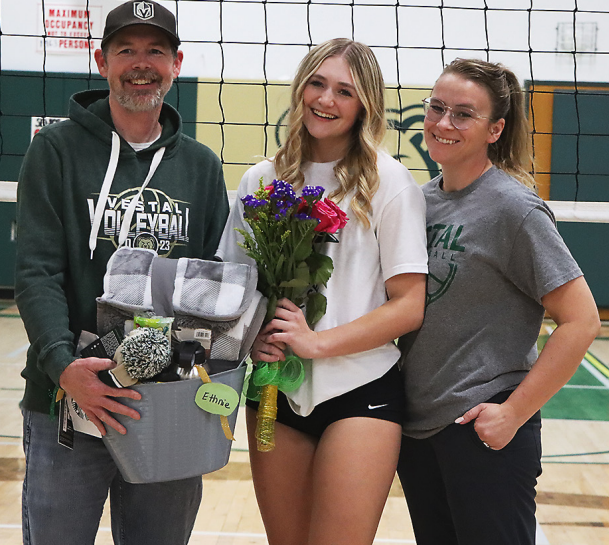
## FUN FACTS!

1. If you open your eyes in a pitch-black room, the color you'll see is called eigengrau.
2. Fredric Baur invented the Pringles can. When he died in 2008, his ashes were buried in one.
3. Barcode readers only scan the white part and not the black.
4. Most carrots were originally purple before the 17th century.

# VHS GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SENIOR NIGHT



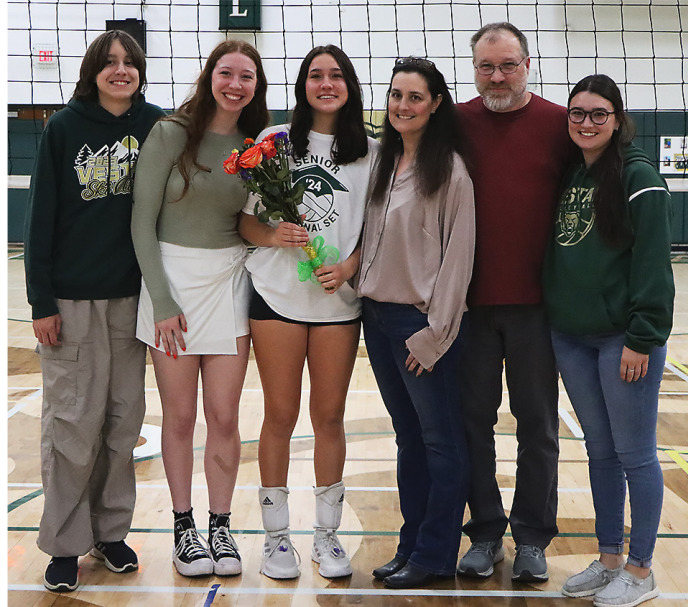
Haley Russell #7



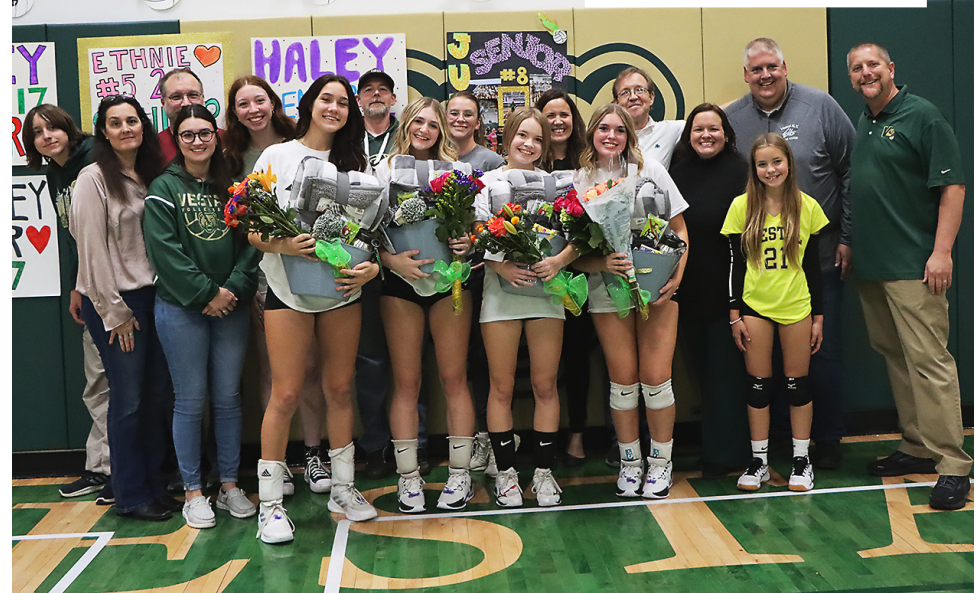
Ethnie #5



Julia Sage #8

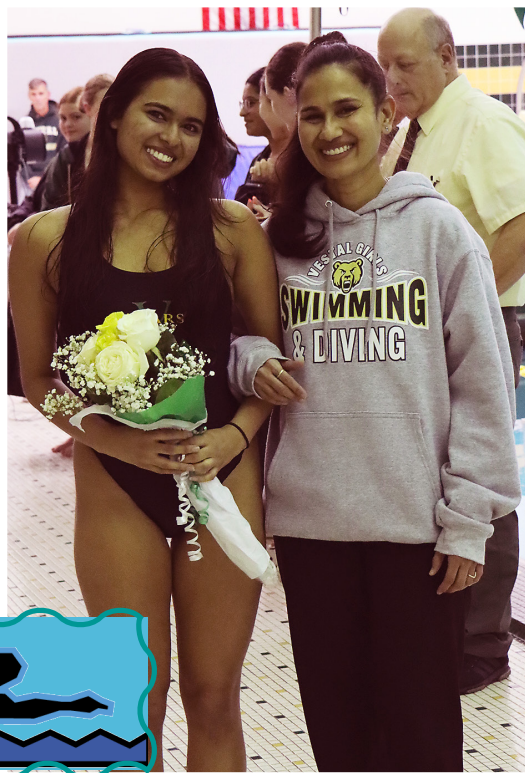
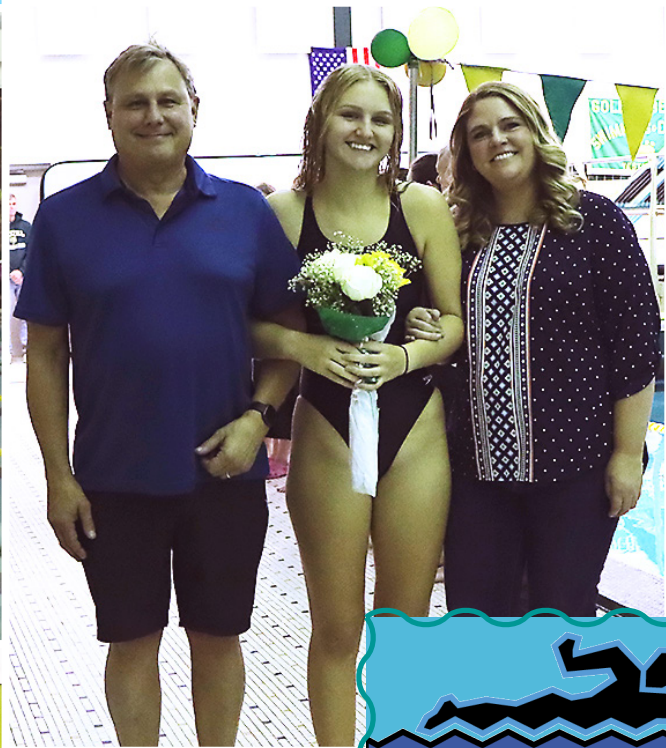


Aubrey Baker #17





# VHS VARSITY GIRLS SWIM SENIOR NIGHT



## SWIM TEAM



# Fall Season Sees Increase in Deer and Moose on or Near Roadways, DEC and DMV Warn

## Increased Risk of Crashes Comes During Animals' Most Active Season

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today reminded drivers to be aware that deer and moose are most active and more likely to enter public roadways this time of year, as they search for mates during their breeding season, which is the months of October, November and December.

According to the University at Albany's Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research, in 2022, 41.5 percent of the crashes between deer and vehicles occurred during this three-month span.

Motorists should also be on alert for moose on roadways in the Adirondacks and surrounding areas this time of year. "Fall is the time of year wildlife activity across New York State is most prevalent, especially for deer or moose crossing roadways and creating the potential for an accident," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Regardless of where you live in New York State, motorists should be on the lookout for wildlife that may cross their paths and follow key safety tips to avoid animal encounters while on the road."

"Fall is a wonderful time to drive around New York State to enjoy the beautiful colors as the leaves change, but it is also a time to keep a careful watch for animals in the roadway," said Mark J.F. Schroeder, DMV Commissioner and Chair of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. "You should watch for deer-crossing signs and for animals at the side of the road that may suddenly dart into traffic."

Motorists should be aware animals are especially active at dawn and dusk, when visibility may be reduced and commuter traffic may be heavy. DEC recommends motorists take these precautions to reduce the chance of hitting a deer or moose:

1. Decrease speed when you approach deer near road-sides. Deer can "bolt" or change direction at the last minute;
2. If you see a deer go across the road, decrease speed. Deer often travel in groups, so expect other deer to follow;
3. Use emergency lights or a headlight signal to warn other drivers when deer are seen on or near the road;
4. When a deer or moose is seen approaching the roadway ahead, honk your car horn to help them avoid entering the roadway;
5. Use added caution on roadways marked with deer crossing signs; and
6. Use extreme caution when driving at dawn or dusk, when animal movement is at its highest and visibility is reduced.
7. If encountering an animal on the roadway, brake firmly but do not swerve. Swerving can cause a collision with another vehicle, a tree, a pole or other objects. If an animal is hit, DEC advises motorists to stay away from the animal. A frightened, wounded deer or moose could use its powerful legs and sharp hooves to cause harm.

### Other tips for if you strike or encounter an animal:

Move your vehicle to a safe place. If possible, pull over to the side of the road, and turn on hazard lights. If leaving the vehicle, stay off the road and out of the way of any oncoming vehicles. If a collision occurs at dusk or dawn, please remember traffic visibility could be reduced.

Call the police. Alert authorities if the animal is blocking traffic and creating a threat for other drivers. If the collision results in injury, death, or more than \$1,000 in property damage, you must fill out an official crash report (PDF) and send it to DMV.

Don't assume your vehicle is safe to drive. Look for leaking fluid, loose parts, tire damage, broken lights, a hood that won't latch and other safety hazards. If your vehicle seems unsafe in any way, call for a tow truck.

Early fall is the breeding season for moose in northern New York, and moose wander looking for mates, leading them to areas where they are not typically seen. While this improves the opportunities for people to enjoy moose sightings, it also increases the danger of colliding with one on the roadway.

Moose are much larger and taller than deer, and their large size can result in significant damage in the event of a vehicle collision. Moose are especially difficult to see at night because of their dark brown to black coloring and their height - which puts their head and much of their body above vehicle headlights.

More information about moose and deer can be found on DEC's website. Additionally, precautions and safety tips about special driving conditions, such as driving in rain, in winter, or in driving emergencies, can be found on DMV's website.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/press.html>

## DEC Announces Availability of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Funding

### Funds Assist With Purchase of Wildland Firefighting Equipment for Rural Fire Departments

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is now accepting applications for \$976,622 in Volunteer Fire Assistance grant funding to help rural fire departments protect public safety and natural resources. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

"When wildfires break out in different parts of the State, DEC's Forest Rangers are often joined by members of volunteer fire departments," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "This grant program bolsters the local capacity to fight wildland fires, so firefighters can protect their family, friends, and neighbors, and their surrounding communities."

The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by DEC Forest Rangers. Fire departments will receive 50/50 matching funds up to \$2,500, a \$1,000 increase from last year. In 2022, the program provided \$1,500 grants to 444 fire departments.

Only expenses directly related to wildland firefighting suppression efforts are eligible for funding. These include the purchase of portable pumps, portable backpack pumps, hand tools, fire hose, approved lightweight fire-resistant clothing, hard hats, turnout gear, portable radios,

# BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

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Scott D. Baker  
District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood, Sanford & Windsor)  
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Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds (Dist 5)  
[daniel.j.reynolds@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:daniel.j.reynolds@broomecountyny.gov)

Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale (Dist 7)  
[matthew.pasquale@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:matthew.pasquale@broomecountyny.gov)

Min.w Leader Robert Weslar (Dist 13)  
[bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov)

### Health & Human Services Committee (OVER VETERANS)

Jason Shaw [jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov)  
Louis Augustini [louie.augostini@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:louie.augostini@broomecountyny.gov)  
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Mark Whalen [mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov)

generators, and dry hydrants. Expenditures not directly related to firefighting, such as search and rescue, acquisition of land, construction of buildings and facilities, major apparatus purchases, and maintenance items are not eligible for funding.

### Eligible fire departments:

- those that serve a single town with a population under 10,000;
- those that serve multiple communities, one of which is a rural town of less than 10,000 residents; and
- fire departments in towns with a population of 10,000 or more that meet the application requirements.
- Fire departments that receive a grant award must complete all required grant paperwork.
- For applications and additional information about the grant program, visit the DEC website, contact DEC at 518-402-8839, or write to NYSDEC, Division of Forest Protection, 625 Broadway 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12233-2560.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/press.html>



## Book Sale

Monday, October 30 - Saturday, November 4

Friday 11/3: 9am - 5pm

Saturday 11/4: 10am - 3pm

# Reminder: Employees May Be Entitled Time Off to Vote

With the November 7 general election approaching, New York businesses are reminded that New York’s Election Law grants certain employees working in New York State paid time off to vote and imposes posting requirements related to the law.

By law, an employee is only eligible for time off during working hours if they do not have four consecutive hours off either between the opening of the polls and the beginning of their working shift, or between the end of their working shift and the closing of the polls.

For example, as the polls in New York State open at 6 a.m. and close at 9 p.m., an employee with a 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift has four consecutive hours between the end of their shift and the closing of the polls to vote, and therefore is not entitled to paid time off to vote. If, however, the shift begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m., the employee does not have four consecutive hours before or after work to vote and is eligible for up to two hours paid time off to vote, either at the beginning or end of their shift, as the employer designates or as mutually agreed upon. An employee must notify their employer at least two working days (but not more than 10 working days) prior to their intention to take paid time off to vote.

At least 10 working days prior to every election day, all businesses must post the requirements for compliance with New York’s voting leave law.

## New York State Voting Leave Rights

Section 3-110 of the New York State Election Law, which relates to providing employees in New York State time off to vote, was recently amended effective April 3, 2020.

### Eligibility

Generally, New York State employees are eligible for up to two hours of paid time off to vote if they do not have “sufficient time to vote.” An employee is deemed to have “sufficient time to vote” if an employee has four consecutive hours to vote either from the opening of the polls to the beginning of their work shift, or four consecutive hours between the end of a working shift and the closing of the polls.

For example, if an employee is scheduled from 9 am to 5 pm, and the polls are opened from 6 am to 9 pm, the employee is not eligible for paid time off to vote, because the polls are open for four consecutive hours after the employee’s shift ends at 5 pm. However, if an employee is scheduled to work from 9 am to 6 pm, then the employee is eligible for paid time off to vote, because the employee only has three consecutive hours off in the beginning of their shift and end of their shift.

### How much paid time off to vote are employees entitled to?

The Election Law provides for up to two hours of paid time off to enable an employee time to vote when added to their voting time outside their working hours. While two hours is the maximum paid time off allowed under the law, the amount of paid time off required for an employee to vote must be determined on a case-by-case basis as waiting times at polling places, traffic conditions, and other factors may vary wildly.

### How many days in advance must an employee notify their employer of their intention to take paid time off to vote?

An employee must notify an employer at least two working days prior to their intention to take paid time off to vote, but not more than ten working days.

### Does the notice requirement of two “working” days mean two “business” days?

Generally, yes. The statutory language calls for employees to give notice of their intent to take the time off two “working days” prior to the election. “Working day” is not defined in the Election Law, nor is it defined in the General Construction Law. It has been held that “working days” means “days as they succeed each other, exclusive of Sundays and holidays.” *Pedersen v Eugster*, 14 F 422, 422 (ED La 1882); see also 1915, Op. Atty. Gen. 139. However, it has also been recognized, in contract cases, that there is no general rule with respect to the term “working days,” since the term varies in different occupations, and hence, it should be determined in light of the circumstances of the particular case. See *F.J. Mumm Contr. Co. v Vil. of Kenmore*, 104 Misc 268, 268 (Erie Sup Ct 1918). As such, it is the general opinion of the Board that “working days” is determined in light of each individual employer. In other words, “working days” means any day that the employer is operating and/or open for business.

### Can an employer require an employee to use their “personal time off” to vote to comply with § 3-110 of the Election Law?

No. Employees cannot be required to utilize any other form of earned leave time to vote.

## What remedies are available to employees that are not provided with paid time off to vote?

Employees are encouraged to first speak with their employer to inform them of the requirements of the Election Law. If the employer fails or otherwise refuses to provide the employee with paid time off to vote, the employee may wish to speak with a private attorney and/or contact the following entities:

### For Wage Payment Purposes:

New York State Department of Labor Division of Labor Standards  
 Bldg. 12, Rm. 185C,  
 State Office Campus, Albany NY 12240 Tel. 888-4-NYSDOL (469-7365)  
 For Election Law Compliance Purposes:  
 Contact your County Board of Elections  
 NYS Board of Elections 40 North Peal St, Suite 5 Albany, NY 12207-2729 Tel. (518) 474-6220 INFO@elections.ny.gov

## “Hooked Rugs - Past and Present”



Early Renditions of Hooked Rugs...involved small cuts and floral/oriental themes. Graded swatches were popular for making florals. They often used “found” materials such as burlap sacks.

Grenfell Rugs used donated stockings from large cities which were sent to Labrador artists who made rugs in exchange for food coupons.



## The National Pearl McGown Rughookrafter’s Guild of the Southern Tier, Chapter #1, will present its Biennial Rug Show

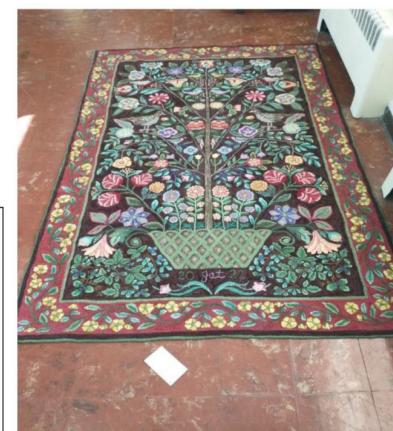
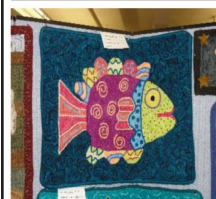
**November 3 & 4, 2023**  
 at Vestal United Methodist  
 328 Main Street,  
 Vestal, NY 13850.

**Theme: “Past and Present”**  
 Show times:  
 Friday, November 3, from 10 to 6  
 Saturday, November 4, from 10 to 4

*This is a free event to promote the art of traditional rug hooking.*

*Show Sponsors: VUMC’s Margaret Akers Women’s Circle*

Modern Day Rug Hookers have developed the art in many ways. Some use the traditional wool strips to create their art; some use wool yarn; some use ribbons and bows; and the designs are extremely varied. Rules are not as important to follow. However, better backing material such as linen make them more lasting.



### “Learn to Hook” Class

Saturday, Nov. 4  
 11-1 pm - Vestal UMC  
 Supplies Provided - \$

Reservations Required.  
 Limited Class Size

Contact: 607-239-5029

# Barlow Park officially reopens!

Photos Courtesy Of Kaitlyn Hession



Members of the Town of Vestal Parks Department



The New Barlow Playground!



Craig Hiller and Jason Garner talk about the new park



The other side of the playground



The new park shelter



New Swings and Jungle gym



This Springrider was hand painted by a park employee



Cutting the ribbon

**RE-ELECT**  
**JOHN SCHAFFER**  
**VESTAL TOWN SUPERVISOR**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2023**  
CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF  
EXCELLENCE  
18 YEARS SERVING THE  
RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF  
VESTAL

PAID FOR BY THE FRIENDS TO  
ELECT JOHN SCHAFFER