



# The Vestal Town Crier



Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 35 No. 12 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, November 10, 2023 SUBSCRIBE at [Publisher@TiersNews.com](mailto:Publisher@TiersNews.com)

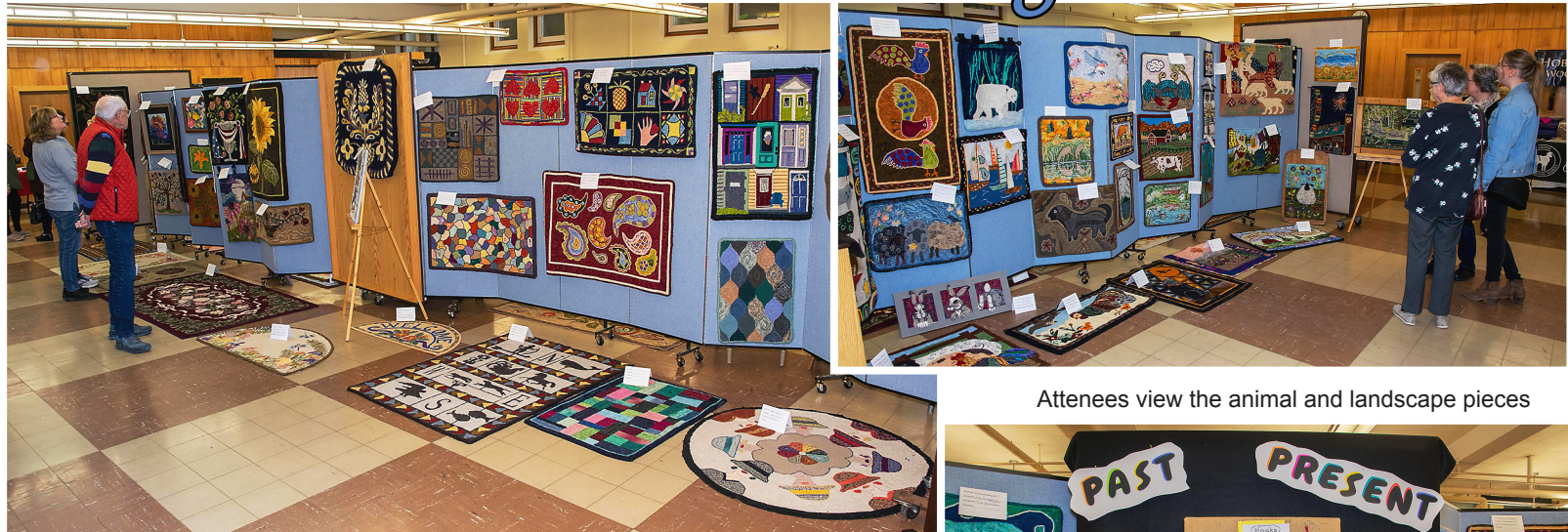
**Got Your Entrée?**

**We've Got Desserts & The Beverage!**

**THE CIDER MILL**

DAILY 7 AM – 6 PM  
cidermillendicott.com

## Pearl K. McGown Rughookrafters Guild Hooked Rug Show



Attendees view the animal and landscape pieces

**PET OF THE WEEK:**

**DiMaggio**



Hi, I'm DiMaggio! My parents are major Yankee fans and named me after Joe DiMaggio. I am a mix of German Sheppherd and Black Lab. I like to woof frequently to appear menacing, but I am 100% gental sweetheart!

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!

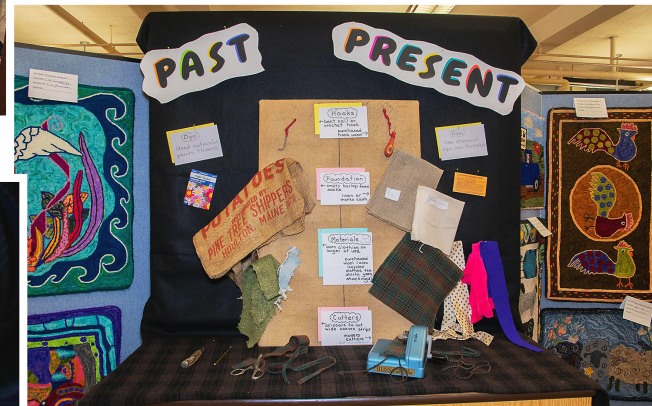


Featured artist Nancy MacLennan with her loon rug

Attendees view the geometric and flower pieces



Using a rug hook to make a rug



Past and Present theme depicted with items used in older days and now



Attendee Greg Papa views the show



Learning how to hook



A wool stripper to cut needed noodles

Photos  
Courtesy  
Of Tim  
Roske





# Calendar

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

**Tuesday, November 14th**  
**VPL Mad For Art- crochet garland**  
**6 PM, meeting room**

**Wednesday, November 15th**  
**>Board Game Night**  
**6PM, Vestal Public Library (VPL)**  
**All Ages Welcome**  
**>VMS PTO Meeting**  
**6 PM in the VMS library**  
**>District Council Meeting**  
**7 PM in the VMS library**

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

**Friday, November 17th**  
**Vestal Hills Elementary Vendor/Craft Fair**  
**6 PM- 8 PM, at VHE**

**Tuesday, November 21st**  
**Dollars For Scholars Meeting**  
**7 AM, on Zoom- more info on**  
**[www.vestal.stier.org](http://www.vestal.stier.org), under District Master**  
**Calendar**

**November 22nd-24th**  
**Schools are closed for Thanksgiving Break**



## Vestal Fire Department Responses

[vestalfire.com](http://vestalfire.com)

by *Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer*

10/31 00:36	Glenn Bartle Dr.	Commercial fire alarm
10/31 12:44	Vestal Parkway E.	Sprinkler water flow alarm
10/31 16:51	W. Circle Drive	Possible chimney fire
11/01 11:20	Union Ctr.-Maine Hyw.	Mutual aid to West Corners for a fire alarm
11/01 15:18	LaGrange Street	Odor of gas in residence
11/02 10:26	Drexel Drive	Basement smoke detector activation
11/02 13:53	Lyon Road	Mutual aid to Silver Lake, PA for a garage fire
11/03 09:28	Castle Gardens Road	General fire alarm
11/03 15:29	Vestal Road	Elevator rescue
11/03 19:33	Vestal Parkway W.	Commercial fire alarm
11/04 13:08	East Access Road	General fire alarm
11/04 15:04	Lehigh Avenue	Odor of gas in garage
11/04 15:23	East Access Road	Person stuck in elevator
11/04 15:48	Bunn Hill Access Road	Power outage
11/04 19:34	Vestal Parkway E.	Child stuck in elevator between floors
11/04 20:41	Murray Hill Road	Smell of gas in building
11/05 13:20	Countryside Place	Hallway smoke detector activation
11/05 14:48	East Access Road	Fire alarm
11/06 05:46	Vestal Parkway E.	Possible water condition/sprinkler system



# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Karlha Ortiz Ubillus, 41, Endicott, arrested for six counts of Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart on various dates.

Abdul McClane, 24, Endicott, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree and Grand Larceny 3rd Degree for stealing a credit card and stealing merchandise from Home Depot.

Philip Dolaway, 63, Conklin, arrested for Suspended Registration, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Meth and Suboxone during a traffic stop.

Christy Mathews, 49, Endicott, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Heroin during a traffic stop.

Robert Glann, 40, Vestal, arrested for Burglary 3rd Degree for entering Tractor Supply after previously being banned from the location.

Robert Glann, 40, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny and Burglary 3rd Degree for entering and shoplifting from Wal-Mart after previously being banned from the location.

Marvin Thompson, 38, Endicott, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree for shoplifting merchandise from Verizon Wireless valued over \$1000.

Ellis Dones, 45, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny and Suspended Registration for shoplifting from Kohl's.

Michelle Sullivan, 20, Vestal arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Michael Ruska, 40, Endicott, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for violating a valid stay away order of protection by sending the protected party numerous text messages.

Daniel Gardner, 46, Cortland, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired By Drugs, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 1st Degree, Unlicensed Operator, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 3rd Degree and Grand Larceny 4th Degree for being in possession of a stolen vehicle, and shoplifting from Kohl's during a larceny investigation.

## 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 potentially 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.

Vestal Town Crier (USPS 0052-26)  
 Published weekly by Newspaper Publishers LLC  
 PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Conklin, NY 13748  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
 Vestal Town Crier P.O. Box  
 Publisher: Gretchen VanWalterop  
 607 775-0472  
 Member



**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



# 'Create a Watershed Superhero' Poster Contest for Middle School Students

January 12, 2024 Deadline for Poster Submissions

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos and the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) today announced the annual "Create a Watershed Superhero" poster contest for middle school students. The Create a Watershed Superhero poster theme challenges middle school students to create their own superhero to inspire environmental stewardship.

"New York is making sustained and historic investments in water quality, helping clean waterways and restore habitats across the state," Commissioner Seggos said. "To help grow New York's next generation of environmental stewards, DEC's annual 'Create a Watershed Superhero' poster contest encourages young people to become guardians of their watersheds and reminds all New Yorkers of the everyday actions everyone can take to protect and conserve water."

"NYWEA is proud to take part in this poster contest with the DEC every year, and even more proud of all of the Watershed Superheroes we now have because of the involvement of the students and teachers who participated in past years," said Khristina Dodson, NYWEA's executive director.

Since 2004, the annual poster contest has encouraged thousands of middle school students across New York State to learn about their role in protecting their local watersheds and how to conserve and safeguard water resources,

now and for future generations. This is the third year of the superhero poster contest theme. Previous themes include "We All Live in a Watershed," "Conserve and Protect our Watersheds," and "The Importance of Wastewater Treatment." To participate in the 2023-24 school year contest, New York State teachers, schools, and clubs are advised to visit DEC's website for more information.

Posters will be accepted through Jan. 12, 2024. The 14 winning posters will be featured in DEC and NYWEA's 2025 Annual Calendar.

The poster contest helps raise community awareness of the importance of natural resources and the DEC programs that help manage sources of water pollution and improve water quality. Many lakes and rivers are managed through watershed programs that plan and initiate activities to protect and restore water quality. DEC funds projects to conserve water and protect water quality through statewide grant funding opportunities through the Water Quality Improvement Program and upcoming Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act funding.

Use DECinfo Locator to see if an area is covered by a Clean Watershed Plan under the Environmental Monitoring layer category. To learn more about positive actions New Yorkers can take to protect New York's waters visit DEC's Keep Water Clean and Water Quality Management pages for more information.

## A Reminder to Outdoor Enthusiasts to Share the Woods Safely this Season

**Be Seen, Stay Safe, and Show Respect During Fall and Winter Hunting Seasons**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today encouraged outdoor enthusiasts to respectfully share the woods and follow safety precautions this fall and winter. Hikers, nature photographers, leaf peepers, and mountain bikers are encouraged to follow safety measures while hunters and trappers are afield. Regular big game hunting season in the Northern Zone began Oct. 21 and closes Dec. 3. Bowhunting season for deer and bear is ongoing in the Southern Zone and ends at the beginning of the regular firearms season on Nov. 18.

### Tips for hikers and hunters venturing afield this fall include:

1. Tell someone intended destinations and return times. If plans change, notify them;
2. Dress for the weather; account for both location and elevation changes;
3. Become familiar with planned hiking trails or hunting areas;
4. Wear bright clothing; blaze orange or blaze pink. Bright colors allow hikers and hunters to be seen more easily and from farther away; and,
5. Pack the 10 Essentials, especially a light source, map, and first aid kit.

While hunting-related shooting incidents involving non-hunters are extremely rare, DEC encourages all outdoor adventurers to be aware of the presence of others enjoying New York's natural resources. Hikers should be aware they may meet hunters bearing firearms or archery equipment while hiking on trails. Hunters are fellow outdoor recreationists and hunting is permitted on Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement lands. Hunters should likewise recognize they may encounter hikers and others enjoying the outdoors.

Hunting is among the most popular forms of wildlife recreation in the state, drawing an estimated 600,000 New Yorkers. Hunting is safe and economically important, helping to manage wildlife populations and promote family traditions while fostering an understanding and respect for the environment.

Hunters looking for solitude can minimize the disturbance associated with other forms of recreation by following a few tips. Before a season opens, when hunters are scouting for the perfect spot or stand location, take the time to check if the planned location is a popular one. Avoid crowding other hunters and recognize that if a hunting location is near a popular hiking spot, noise can be a factor. If a preferred hunting spot is too crowded, identify an alternative location ahead of time.

When adventuring with a pet, make sure to keep them on a leash. Loose pets can cause problems with other recreators and can get into trouble with wild animals. Also, to make pets more identifiable in the woods, give them a brightly colored collar, leash or other covering.

DEC maintains hiking trails and permits hunting in many areas of forest preserve lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, as well as in state forests, wildlife management areas, and unique areas. Find a place by visiting our website, checking out DECinfo Locator, or downloading the HuntFishNY Wildlife App. Many trails are also accessible to people with disabilities.

### Chronic Wasting Disease

Hunters are critical to protecting New York deer and moose from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is an untreatable, fatal disease of the brain and nervous system disease caused by a misfolded protein called a prion that is spread in deer tissues, saliva, urine, and feces. Hunters can bring CWD prions into to New York without realizing it. To protect deer, do not bring hunter-killed deer, elk, moose, or caribou carcasses into New York from other states and do not use deer urine-based lures.

DEC reminds hunters of the importance of reporting their harvest. Harvest reporting is critical to wildlife management, and hunters are required to report their harvest of deer, bear, and turkey within seven days of taking the animal. Hunters may still use the phone report system, but the online and mobile systems are fast, convenient, and easy for hunters to accurately enter information.

More information on harvest reporting is available on DEC's website.

More information on CWD is also available on DEC's website.

## College Board recognizes four Vestal High School Seniors as Designated Scholars



Vestal High School Principal Dawn F. Young is pleased to announce that four Vestal High School seniors have been designated as College Board Recognition Program Scholars. Ellie Friedman, Michael Juriga II, Genessis Nwugwo, and John-Claude Parfait received notification of their scholar designation before the start of this school year.

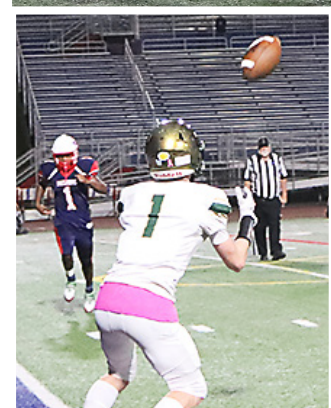
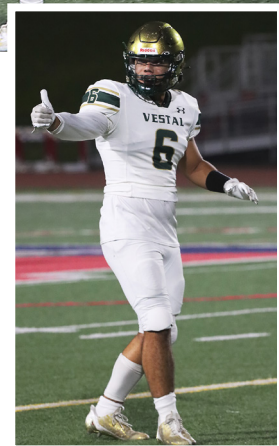
We congratulate Ellie and Michael for their designation as College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. Likewise, we applaud Genessis and John-Claude for their designation as College Board National African American Recognition Program Scholars. These programs celebrate students' hard work and showcase their strong academic performances.

"We're thrilled to celebrate our students and recognize them for the great work they've been doing. We're proud of their strong academic performance in the classroom and on College Board assessments like the PSAT and AP exams," said Vestal High School Principal Dawn Young. "There's so much that makes our students unique and receiving this honor reinforces that."

Ellie, Michael, Genessis, and John-Claude are being recognized for scoring in the top 10% on the PSAT/NMSQUT® or PSAT 10 assessments or for earning a score of 3 or higher on two or more APTM exams. They have a GPA of 3.5% or higher.

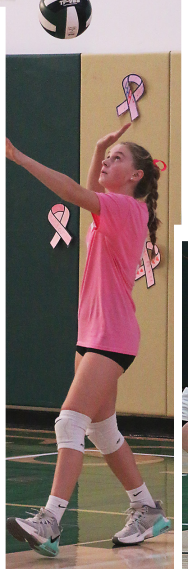
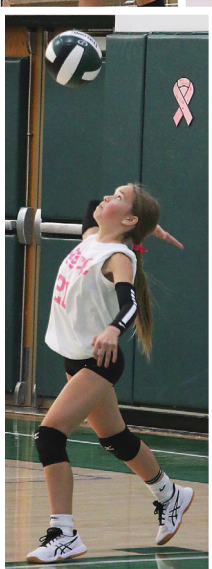
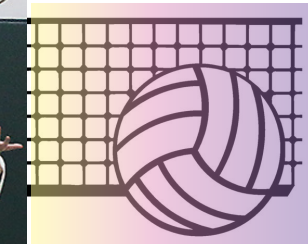
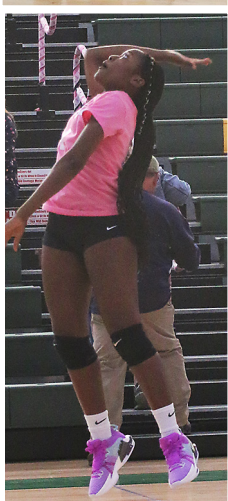


# VHS FOOTBALL GAME VS BINGHAMTON





# VESTAL JV AND VARSITY VOLLEYBALL PINK OUT DAY!





# Golden Bears Top Ithaca for 3rd at Sectionals

By Hal Ehrhardt

The Vestal Girls Swimming and Diving team used their team strength and spirit to defend their 3rd place finish from 2022 by again topping Ithaca (who beat them in their dual meet) by a mere 10 points 346.5 to 336.5 at the Class A Sectionals. Horseheads repeated as Class A champions with a score of 473.5, ahead of Corning's 432.5. Union Endicott, Elmira and Binghamton rounded out the seven team Class A field. The Golden Bear spirit showed when the team's loud cheering earned a warning from the referee part way through the meet.

In the swimming preliminaries last Wednesday, the Golden Bears achieved their goal of putting enough swimmers in scoring positions, as the top 16 in each individual event along with the team's top relay moved on to the finals last Saturday. The Championship final (top 8) were guaranteed to finish no lower than 8th, while the Consolation finals determined places 9-16 and all scored key team points.

On Friday, Olivia Tanton opened the Golden Bear scoring and podium finishes by improving on her 8th place seed by placing 5th in the Diving and becoming only the third Vestal diver to ever break the 400-point barrier, establishing her as #3 on the All-Time Vestal Top Ten in the 11-dive event and becoming the first diver coached by Sara Rostedt to move into both the 6 and 11-dive Top Ten for Vestal.

The swimmers hit the Watkins Glen pool on Saturday afternoon knowing they had to overcome a narrow margin based on the preliminary results to upset Ithaca. In perhaps Coach Joe Shore's most successful championship day, based on the number of improved and career or season best times, they outscored Ithaca to overcome a 14-point deficit midway through the meet. Ithaca captured 4 gold medals, as did Horseheads and Corning.

The Golden Bears earned five medals as both Maddie Bishop and Jay Ratterree came home with a silver and bronze medal in their individual events, while Reagan Young earned a bronze. Ratterree finished 3rd and was joined by Fran Vallone and Mary Sonnen in the championship final of the 200 Free. In the 500 she moved up to 2nd and Vallone finished 4th, with Charlotte Coker also scoring in the consolation final. Bishop tied for 3rd in the IM with Yih Hui Lim finishing 6th. Bishop earned her silver in the 100 Back with Lim finishing 5th. Bishop turned in career bests in every event on Saturday to finish her Golden Bear varsity career.

The senior tri-captains were key to Vestal's success. In addition to Bishop's medals, Margaret Wood upped her team point total in two events by 8 points as she squeaked into both the Fly championship final and the Back consolation final and then dropped her times significantly in both, moving up to 6th in the Fly. Stella Tomancik hit her career best 100 Free to earn a spot in the championship final and topped the consolation final in the 100 Breast. The three tri captains were anchored by Lim in the opening Medley relay which set the tone of season best times to finish 4th.

The 200 Free relay team of Reagan Young, Sonnen, Vallone and Ratterree had another season best to finish 4th. The final 400 Free relay team of Lim, Ratterree, Young and Bishop broke the 4-minute barrier for the first time since 2019 to finish 4th. Young led the sprinters as she was the only Golden Bear to score in the 50 Free, finishing 4th and then moved up to 3rd to medal in the 100 Free. Sonnen and Tomancik both scored big in the 100 Free, while Megan Jones had her career best in the consolation final to make the event the highest scoring for the Golden Bears.

Jones topped the Golden Bears in the 100 Breast as she broke the 1:20 barrier twice in the meet finishing 7th in the championship final. Other scorers for Vestal included Keira DeVantier in her first attempt at the 100 Fly and Sua Choi in the 100 Breast.

## Vestal Sectional Results (\* indicates best time in prelims)

- Medley Relay: 1st Horseheads (1:52.05); 4th Bishop, Tomancik, Wood, Lim (2:03.09); EXH: DeVantier, Zoe Silva, Anjali Patel, Choi;
- 200 Free: 1st Teschl (ITH 1:58.46); 3rd Ratterree (2:02.83); 5th Vallone (2:10.84); 8th Sonnen (2:12.76);
- 200 IM: 1st McKane (COR 2:12.35); 3rd Tie Bishop (2:22.96); 6th Lim (2:26.17\*); 17th Coker; 20th Jia Parikh;
- 50 Free: 1st S. Lowe (HH 24.34); 4th Young (26.78\*); 23rd Patel; 25th Silva; 27th Cora Richtsmeier;
- Diving (11): 1st Terwilliger (COR 589.85); 5th Tanton (400.55);
- 100 Fly: 1st McKane (COR 54.34); 6th Wood (1:08.95); 16th DeVantier (1:21.87\*); 17th Parikh; 21st Patel;
- 100 Free: 1st A. Lowe (HH 54.80); 3rd Young (58.97); 5th Sonnen (1:00.57); 8th Tomancik (1:01.64\*); 11th Jones (1:02.98);
- 500 Free: 1st Teschl (ITH 5:22.44); 2nd Ratterree (5:23.93); 4th Vallone (5:50.47); 12th Coker (6:17.52\*); 17th Choi;
- 200 Free Relay: 1st Horseheads (1:40.26); 4th Young, Sonnen, Vallone, Ratterree (1:50.75); EXH: Parikh, Choi, Patel, Coker;
- 100 Back: 1st Clapp (ITH 1:01.57); 2nd Bishop (1:03.42); 5th Lim (1:06.23\*); 11th Wood (1:13.25); 21st DeVantier; EXH: Richtsmeier;
- 100 Breast: 1st Bascom (ITH 1:11.61); 7th Jones (1:19.57); 9th Tomancik (1:21.44\*); 15th Choi (1:28.04\*); 19th Silva;
- 400 Free Relay: 1st Corning (COR 3:46.14); 4th Lim, Ratterree, Young, Bishop (3:57.12); EXH: Parikh, Coker, Jones, DeVantier;

In other Section 4 action, Maine Endwell and Watkins Glen-Odessa Montour repeated as Class B and C champions with ME narrowly edging both Chenango Valley and Oneonta despite only winning one event. The New York State Championships will be held next weekend in the Rochester area at the Webster Aquatic Center. No Vestal athletes qualified, although a few came close. The swimming preliminaries and diving finals will be held on Friday, Nov. 17th, and the swimming finals will begin at 10 AM on Saturday. Section 4 will be well represented with defending state champion and Section 4 record holder Angie McKane of Corning swimming and both Section 4 record holding divers, Brooke Terwilliger of Corning and Kaelyn Katchuk of Owego, in the diving.



**FALL CRAFT SALE**  
**November 11, 2023**

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

# BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Kelly F. Wildoner  
 District 3 (Town of Binghamton,  
 Conklin & Vestal)  
[kelly.wildoner@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:kelly.wildoner@broomecountyny.gov)

Stephen J. Flagg  
 District 1 (City of Binghamton,  
 Towns of Colesville, Fenton &  
 Kirkwood)  
[stephen.flagg@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:stephen.flagg@broomecountyny.gov)

Scott D. Baker  
 District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood,  
 Sanford & Windsor)  
[scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov)

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.augustini@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:louie.augustini@broomecountyny.gov)  
 Matthew Hilderbrant [matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov)  
 Kim Myers [kim.myers@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:kim.myers@broomecountyny.gov)  
 Mark Whalen [mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov)

## 2023 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree To Be Cut In Vestal, Ny Region Thursday, November 9

Image Courtesy Of Tishman Speyer



The 80-foot-tall, 43-foot-in-diameter, approximately 12-ton Norway Spruce that will be the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree for the 2023-2024 season will be cut down and hoisted by a huge crane onto a 115-foot-long trailer on Thursday, November 9, at 8:00 a.m. at 204 Murray Hill Road, Vestal, NY 13850. Time is approximate; media should arrive to set up no later than 7:00 a.m.

The 2023 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is donated by the McGinley family. Members of the family will be available for interviews on site.

The tree will be brought into Manhattan by flatbed truck and put into place by a crane at Rockefeller Center on Saturday, November 11.



# Town of Vestal Solar Energy local Law

## Passes

By Rosemary B. West

The last Wednesday night Vestal Town Board meeting began with Town Supervisor W. John Schaffer Councilwomen Patty Fitzgerald, Sue Messina and Councilman Stephen Donnelly being informed by a Vestal resident at the meeting that stated he was in favor of the Local Solar Energy Law. He felt the Town had put together a well thought out law. He thanked the Town Board, Town Attorney Berger, Town Engineer, Vern Myers and Town Code Enforcement for all of their hard work on this local law.

Town Supervisor Schaffer then read the SEQRA for Local Law "I" Solar Energy. He noted this action is being taken by the Town Board based upon their thorough review and examination of the known facts relating to the law. We have carefully reviewed all possible adverse environmental impacts, along with the entire record and proceedings related to this resolution. We find that there will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment. The Town Board has included Broome County's suggestions in their 239 Review, along with The Conservation Committee's and the Vestal residents in the final draft of this law. "This resolution was then adopted."

Town Board, then moved on to unanimously vote for the adoption of the new Town of Vestal Local Law "I" Solar Energy Local Law of the year 2023: Solar Energy Local Law, Supervisor Schaffer noted, "This Solar Energy Local Law is adopted to Sections 261-263 of the Town Law and Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, which authorizes the Town of Vestal to adopt zoning provisions that advance and protect the health, safety and welfare of our community, and, in accordance with the Town Law of New Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board October 25th, 2023 to make provision so far as conditions may permit, the accommodation of solar energy systems and equipment and access to the sunlight necessary."

The Town Board gave their authorization for Shawn Pero to be appointed as the Code and Engineering Department's Office Manager starting November 6, 2023. It was noted that the Office Manager position is a grade 4 CSEA position with a 40-hour work week with a starting rate of pay of \$20.21 per hour.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for December 6, 2023, for a Special Permit Request from Town Engineer Vern Myers. At this Public Hearing, the Town Board plans to discuss an application for Vehicle Service Station and Aquifer Special Permit. The Applicant, Valu Auto of Vestal LLC, to be located at 100 Vestal Road is planning to operate a repair facility at this Town of Vestal location.

Town Board approved Police Chief Stace Kintner transferring \$7,500 in asset forfeiture Police Department funds into the K9 line. It was noted this was being done in anticipation of covering the purchase and welcoming a second dog for the Vestal Police department. The Town Board also approved Police Chief Kintner to move forward in arranging the sale of Police Radios no longer in service. He had explained they would be sold for a total of \$4664.00 via Auctions International in "as is" condition. IT Director Daniel Williams also received Town Board authorization to dispose of old IT equipment in his department that is out of warranty or no longer being used.

Town Board unanimously voted to authorize the business office to issue payments in the following amounts to: Broome County Clerk \$220, Vestal Central School \$115.38, A to Z abstract \$162, David S. Berger \$500, Estate of William Vandervort \$33,313.74. which is for the purchase of property located at 220 Juneberry Road. Vestal. (Broome County Tax Map No. 189.12-1-8). This purchase is to widen the entrances and enlarge Middendorf Park. Supervisor Schaffer pointed out, "This is our last

Town of Vestal Park that needs renovating at this time."

Town Supervisor Schaffer before closing this Wednesday night Town Board meeting announced: "Leaf pickup has begun. Please rake your leaves to the curb, NOT in the roadway. The Swimming Pool project is progressing nicely. Demolition is complete and the Bathhouse construction has begun. The company that is building the pool is onsite and planning to start the project this week. The funds for our pool projects were raised by various state and local grant sources, not the taxpayers. Work should be complete in May 2024 and ready to open in June of 2024. Our new Recreation Director Patrick Harman has done a wonderful job. Here are some amazing numbers of our residents and families that participated in the recreation summer activities. 5324 people participated in our Recreation Department 105 people-T-Ball League. 185 people-Tennis, 699 Kids learned/perfected new skills in thirteen different Sports Camps. 800 people Attended Town Band concerts, 700 people Attended Gazebo concerts, 300 people-Watched two free outdoor movies, 1800people- Enjoyed the Summer Celebration, 565 Kids played for six weeks at three free supervised playground sites, 170 Different groups picnicked at Arnold Park. Most of the programs paid for themselves.

200th Anniversary, Bicentennial events: Unfortunately, the Monster Mash and movie evening had to be cancelled due to the rain. The cemetery walk was held inside. It was a fantastic look in history through the stories of our early Vestal settlers. A special thanks to Terry Stark for all her hard work creating a very informative event that everyone enjoyed. The November Bicentennial event will be honoring our Veterans at a special Luncheon honoring Vestal Veterans on November 8th at the Vestal Senior Citizen Center. Reservations are required, due to seating limitations. Representatives from Twin Tiers Honor Flight and a special guest speaker will be there. Call Senior Center to reserve your spot. The Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad hosted an EMS Station Open House last Saturday. They offered tours of their new facility, there was a Chicken BBQ, and the building was dedicated to David Correia, one of the founding members in 1976. He still assists with administrative duties. Congratulations to the entire Emergency Squad. Thank you for all that you do for Vestal. The Board of Fire Commissioners and I attended the 66th annual Fire Department Banquet on Saturday. It was a great evening honoring all our Vestal Fire Department members, who volunteer their time and service. We thank them for all they do for the Town of Vestal and our residents.

## Vestal Town Supervisor John Schaffer On Tax Decrease

Vestal Town Supervisor John Schaffer today announced that following Wednesday evening's Public Hearing on the 2024 Town of Vestal Preliminary Budget, the tax rate in the Town for 2024 will decrease by 13.26%.

John Schaffer, Vestal Town Supervisor, said, "Our 13% tax rate DECREASE is due to positive growth & budget scrutiny. NO Town services were negatively impacted or lost. In addition, we have our lowest Town tax rate since 2009."

## Apalachin's James Wunders, Receives New Rank

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

James Wunders from Apalachin, N.Y., and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, received a promotion October 26, 2023 to the rank of master sergeant.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state's executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

### Walker & Baez promoted

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Kristen Walker of Binghamton (13903), N.Y., and assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, received a promotion October 24, 2023 to the rank of chief warrant officer 2.

Joseph Baez of Binghamton (13903), N.Y., and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, received a promotion October 10, 2023 to the rank of staff sergeant.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

## Owego Rotary's 13th Craft Fair

Owego Rotary's Craft Fair will take place 9AM to 3PM, Sunday, November 19, 2023, at Elks Lodge, 223 Front St., Owego. Free entry and free parking in Owego! Many talented artisans will fill the rooms with handcrafted and locally made items - carvings, jewelry, decorated glassware, alpaca, jams and jellies, home and holiday decorations, etc. These unique offerings will be just in time to start holiday shopping. Find an extensive basket raffle display, stained glass silent auction items and a 50/50, too. Same day and place as the popular Elks Emporium Market for extra shopping opportunities. This annual event not only benefits the artisans and builds Owego community spirit but also aids the global effort to eliminate crippling polio from the world. All of Owego Rotary's proceeds from the event will be donated to The Rotary Foundation's campaign to 'END POLIO NOW!'



# Vestal Lowe's Expo



Game from the Vestal Recreation Department



Breden showing Jaxon how to put out the house fire



Vestal's Safety Boat



Police Car Horns are Awesome



## Photos Courtesy Of Maryesther White-Brink

All the Volunteers that braved the Rain



Big Red Vestal Fire Trucks



Learning how the Stiring works



Leaving, they had enough Rain



The helmet is a tad Big



Learning about safety equipment



Driving the Big Truck is Fun!