



The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 35 No. 16 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, December 8, 2023 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com

First-Graders go on a Super-Secret Reading Mission

Glenwood First-Graders embarked on a clandestine mission to the Super-Secret Detective Agency, where they were greeted by Detective Reads-A-Lot. In addition to being congratulated on their good habits for solving hard words, the Word Detectives were ready for a super-secret assignment.

While they waited for their mission, they were read a story by Detective Reads-A-Lot - "Should I Share My Ice Cream" by Mo Willems. Working together, they helped her decipher the tricky words in this story, recognizing

vowel teams, letter blends, and snap words.

Finally, a large manila envelope arrived bearing clues to a riddle that would help them solve the super-secret assignment. Working in teams of reading buddies, they examined the word clues to put together the sentence "There is a surprise waiting for you outside the classroom door!"

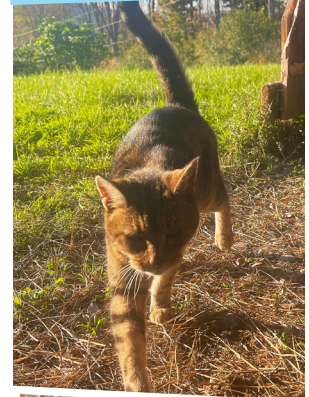
Suddenly, they were joined by Sir Bookworm, head of the Super-Secret Detective Agency. HE was the surprise waiting outside the door. He asked the first-graders to help

him with one last, super-important task... Could they help him find his missing snap words?* The first-graders eagerly agreed and quickly found the missing words stuck to the back of the absent-minded detective's brown cape.

Before they headed back to their school on the bus, they received their rewards... bookmarks, reading glasses, and finger flashlights.

*Snap Words, also known as Sight Words, include "the," "and," "is," "in," "it," "to," "was," and "you."

PET OF THE WEEK: *Crystal*



This is Crystal! She's 10 years old! She loves the barn and hunting! Her other name is baby T. We love Crystal!!

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

Correction; Jeffrey Ahearn, superintendent of the Vestal Central School District, recently retired.

"Vestal 'McGinley Tree' Arrives at Rockefeller Center!" On Page 4!



Photos Courtesy Of Regina Felice





Calendar

Friday, December 8th

>Vestal Hills Elementary Festival of Lights
6 PM

>A Christmas Carol
7:30PM-9:30PM

2 Nanticoke Ave, Endicott

Saturday, December 9th

>Bicentennial Event: The Polar Express at VPL!
Enjoy hot cocoa and popcorn while you watch
“The Polar Express” beginning at 2PM
>New Moon Wellness Grand Opening
12PM-7PM, visit newmoon-wellness.com for
more info
>BCMEA Auditions
>Christmas Craft Show And Bake Sale
More Info on Page 3

**Saturday, December 9th at 9AM to Sunday,
December 10th at 12PM**
Photos With Santa!
Tractor Supply Co, 154 Vestal Pkwy W

Sunday, December 10th

Christmas Cookie Decorating Party, 12PM-2PM,
Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad inc.
All sign ups due by 12/3/23

Tuesday, December 12th

>VPL Teen Game Day
3PM-6PM, YA Section
> VMS Winter Orchestra Concert
7PM; African Road Auditorium

Wednesday, December 13th

>ARE Winter Showcase
1:45 PM; African Road Auditorium
> VHS Orchestra Concert
7PM; VHS Auditorium

Thursday, December 14th

>VHS Winter Band Concert
7:00 PM; VHS Auditorium
>Holiday Concert w/ Vestal Community Band
7PM; Oakdale Commons In Front Of JC Penney
> GLE Winter Chorus Concert
7PM; Glenwood Elementary
> Southern Tier Region Virtual Career Fair
11 AM – 2 PM, Join and RSVP at: <https://nysdol-virtual3.easyvirtualfair.com/landing>

Saturday, December 16th

VHS Winter Wonderland Dance
8:00 PM; VHS Gymnasium



Vestal Fire Department Responses

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

11/27 06:43	Loren Avenue	Wires down
11/27 16:12	Vestal Parkway E.	Commercial fire alarm
11/27 19:38	Vestal Parkway W.	Odor of gas
11/28 08:04	State Route 267	Mutual aid to Chocanut, PA for a motor vehicle accident with vehicle on its side
11/28 08:12	Parkwood Road	Two-alarm house fire. Extensive damage
11/29 07:43	Vestal Road	Emergency evacuation from elevator
11/30 00:58	Connector Road	Showercomm fire alarm
11/30 07:12	Vestal Road	Gas odor in Meter lab
11/30 07:19	Vestal Parkway E.	Small fire in room
11/30 13:04	Vestal Parkway E.	Smell of natural gas in air
11/30 21:52	East Drive	Sprinkler flow - fire alarm
12/01 19:35	West Access Road	Fire alarm
12/01 21:34	Charleston Avenue	Smoke detector activation
12/02 10:42	N. Jensen Road	Basement smoke detector activation
12/02 13:01	Evergreen Street	Odor of gas in residence
12/04 11:14	Willow Street	Oven fire



VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Kevin Ocompo-Valasquez, 22, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and Moved from Lane Unsafely after a motor vehicle accident.

Jhon Figueroa Quezada, 28, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC and Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated-More than .18 BAC after a motor vehicle accident.

Kristin Henry, 49, Vestal, arrested for Felony Driving While Intoxicated, Felony Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Unsafe Turn, Moved from Lane Unsafely and Uninspected Motor Vehicle after a traffic stop.

Ramona Nolberto, 26, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Iquasha Veazy, 24, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Yong Zhu, 40, Vestal, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Speed in Zone and Failure to Keep Right after a traffic stop.

Jeffrey Parulski, 38, Prattsburgh, arrested for Uninspected Motor Vehicle, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree and Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia for possessing Meth and digital scales during a traffic stop.

John Bevins, 38, Marathon, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Amber Prentice, 36, Marathon, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Delsean Cuffie, 30, Binghamton, arrested for Menacing 2nd Degree and Criminal Nuisance 2nd Degree for displaying a black BB in public, before concealing it in their waistband.

Kevin Cashmore, 34, Vestal, arrested for Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree for damaging the victim’s property.

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.

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E-mail: news@tiersnews.com

Tigers End Golden Bear Winning Streak

By Hal Ehrhardt

The UE Tigers ended one of Vestal's longest winning streaks as they defeated the Vestal Golden Bears by a 97 to 84 score to win for the first time since the 2001-02 season. Despite the loss, Coach Joe Shore saw plenty of future potential in the meet results. Career best times are not to be expected from veterans in the opening meet, yet tri-captains Ocean Sun and Logan Kim turned them in. Kim had a pair of best times to win the 100 Back for Vestal's only individual swimming event win and the 100 Fly where he took 2nd behind one of last year's state qualifiers. Sun had his best 50 Free to finish 3rd behind team mate Ben Hutchings.

Joining Kim with a pair of best times was Sayum Singhal who had his fastest 100 Fly and finished 2nd in the 200 IM with his best time. Harrison Cappellett had his career best to lead a 2-3-4 Vestal finish in the 200 Free and outscore UE in the event. Tri-captain Adi Banerjee led the only other event where Vestal outscored the Tigers as he headed a 2-3-4 finish in the 100 Free. Adi also led the Golden Bears in the 100 Breast. Lucas Matt led the Golden Bears finishing 2nd in the 500 Free.

Three newcomers earned their first varsity points by placing in their individual events. David Cozma scored in both the IM and the Breast, while Finn Hynes scored in the 200 Free and Jayden Kim earned his points in the IM. Gavin Hantsch turned in his career bests in both the 500 and 50 Free, while Luke Sobel also had a career best in the 50 Free.

Diver Ben Elie attacked one of his highest degree of difficulty programs and managed to squeak out Vestal's first win of the meet. He also anchored the 2nd place medley relay team of Logan, Adi and Hutchings. Hutchings, Sun, Singhal and Elie had a runner-up finish in the 200 Free relay. After clinching the meet, UE swam exhibition in the final 400 Free relay allowing the Vestal team of Singhal, Logan, Lucas and Adi to claim the victory. The B relay team of Jayden, Cappellett, Hynes and Cozma finished 2nd.

Vestal 84 – UE 97

- Medley Relay: 1st UE (1:48.76); 2nd L. Kim, Adi Banerjee, Hutchings, Elie (1:52.54);
- 200 Free: 1st Bierworth (UE 1:59.87); 2nd Cappellett (2:14.20); 3rd Matt; 4th Hynes;
- 200 IM: 1st N. Bilotta (UE 2:15.84); 2nd Singhal (2:28.82); 4th Cozma; 5th J. Kim;
- 50 Free: 1st Derick (UE 23.67); 2nd Hutchings (25.86); 3rd Sun;
- Diving (6): 1st Elie (156.15);
- 100 Fly: 1st Losinger (UE 58.34); 2nd L. Kim (1:00.35); 4th Singhal;
- 100 Free: 1st Derick (UE 53.19); 2nd Adi Banerjee (55.99); 3rd Hutchings; 4th Sun;
- 500 Free: 1st Lyman (UE 5:31.19); 2nd Matt (6:35.37); 4th Hantsch;
- 200 Free Relay: 1st UE (1:39.49); 2nd Hutchings, Sun, Singhal, Elie (1:44.91);
- 100 Back: 1st L. Kim (1:00.62); 5th Cappellett;
- 100 Breast: 1st Losinger (UE 1:10.04); 2nd Banerjee (1:12.17); 3rd Cozma;
- 400 Free Relay: 1st Singhal, L. Kim, Matt, Adi Banerjee (3:55.70); 2nd J. Kim, Cappellett, Hynes, Cozma; EXH 1st UE (3:46.19);

Earlier this week (results unavailable) Vestal travelled to Maine Endwell to take on the defending STAC Metro division and Section 4 Class B champions. The Spartans were the only Metro division foe to defeat Vestal last year. The UE victory puts the Tigers very much in the mix with ME for this year's Metro title. Tomorrow (Saturday, 12/9) the Golden Bears will compete in the Johnson City Relay Invitational meet starting at noon for the swimmers following the diving which begins at 9 AM. On Tuesday, December 12th, the Golden Bears host Elmira at 5:30 PM in their last home meet until late January. The Golden Bears hold an unblemished record in the Coach Shore era against the Elmira Express with 21 consecutive wins dating back to his first season in 1996-97.

Christmas Craft Show & Bake Sale

SATURDAY, DEC 9, 10AM – 2PM
 VESTAL CENTER UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH
 478 WEST HILL ROAD
 All things Christmas!!!
 Lunch available



December 10th Is The Last Day For Santa's Mailbox

Santa's mailbox is located on the front porch of the Recreation Office located at 516 Front St., Vestal. Don't forget to write your first and last name and put your address somewhere so Santa knows where to write back to you.



DECEMBER FUN FACTS!

1. December originally had just 30 days according to the early Roman calendar.
2. The Bill of Rights came into effect on December 15, 1791.
3. The full moon in December has been traditionally referred to as the Full Cold Moon by a number of different Native American tribes.
4. December is National Egg Nog Month, National Fruit Cake Month, and National Impaired Driving Prevention Month!
5. December's Birthstones - Turquoise. Many people consider it a symbol of good fortune and success. December's Birth Flower - Narcissus and Holly

Dog Shelter Law

With cold weather now upon us, Rick Murray (TOB Dog Control Officer) wants to remind you of the "New York State Dog Shelter Law".

Section 353-b of the New York Agriculture and Markets Law states that you are required to provide shelter for your dog at all times. The Broome County Sheriff's Dept. and the New York State Police, as well as local police agencies, can enforce this law. If your dog spends anytime outdoors, you must provide shelter to protect the dog from direct sunlight, rain, snow, wind, cold weather, hot weather, and other inclement conditions. The shelter must be waterproof, insulated, and allow the dog to move around freely. The dog must be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Violators will receive a Court citation and be required to pay a fine ranging from \$50 to \$250, as well as to show proof of shelter for the dog.

If you suspect that someone is not providing their dog with adequate food and/or shelter, don't hesitate to call the Sheriff's Dept. at 778-1911 or the New York State Police at 775-1241.

Thank you.

BCMEA Auditions Starting 12/9/2023

Event Groups:

- Vestal High School - High School Events
- Vestal Middle School - Middle School Events
- Vestal High School - Music Dept

Description:

Broome County Music Educators Association Auditions for Grades 5 - 9: Band, Chorus & Orchestra, Grades 10 - 12: Jazz

Location:

Maine Endwell Middle School



Interested in a Seasonal Job?

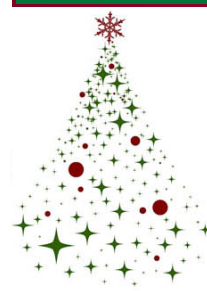
The holidays are one of the best times to get a new seasonal job in New York State. Whether you're looking for a part-time gig to give you a little more gift-giving cash, a second job to support your family, or you're looking for a fresh start in a new career field, there are so many seasonal jobs that are hiring right now.

To find seasonal jobs in your area, visit seasonalworks.labor.ny.gov.

Vestal Field Hockey wins Back-to-Back Class B NY State Championships!

After winning sectionals and the regional championship, the Vestal Field Hockey team traveled to Long Island on Veteran's Day weekend to compete in the NY State championship tournament. On Saturday, the team faced the 2019 State Champions: Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School. The two teams played very competitively, ending regulation time with a tied score of 1-1. Twenty-four seconds into "sudden victory" overtime, Vestal scored a goal to secure their spot in the NYS final game. On Sunday, the team confidently entered the field against a team from the Buffalo area, Iroquois High School, who they had successfully played in the final-four game the previous year. Vestal's offensive corners were on point and their defense played a tough game. The Iroquois team was quick but in the end, Vestal emerged as state champions for the second year in a row with a score of 4-1. The team, led by coach Vickie Sax, will graduate ten seniors this year but has a group of underclass girls who are eager to continue their winning streak in the following years.

Vestal "McGinley Tree" Arrives at Rockefeller Center!



The first Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center was erected in 1931, during the Depression-era construction of Rockefeller Center, when Italian American workers decorated a smaller 20-foot balsam fir with "strings of cranberries, garlands of paper, and even a few tin cans" on Christmas Eve. The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is a beloved and iconic holiday tradition that symbolizes the spirit of Christmas and is enjoyed by millions of people around the world. It brings people together to celebrate the joy and magic of the holiday season.

1931 TREE SEEN BELOW



2023 Rockefeller Tree Facts and Rockefeller Historical Milestones On Page 7!





The Polar Express

When 2:00 PM Saturday, December 9

Where Vestal Public Library
 Enjoy some Holiday Cheer and watch The Polar Express at VPL on Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 PM. Free hot cocoa and popcorn brought to you by Vestal's Bicentennial and Vestal Public Library.



Read To Therapy Dogs

Monday, December 18th; 6-7:30PM

The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs will be back at VPL on select Mondays! Grab a book, sit with a Therapy Dog, and read aloud to them in the Youth Services Department. Reading to animals builds confidence in reading and improves reading fluency. Plus, the pups love to hear stories!



Christmas Program By The Vestal Mountain Dulcimer Players

Sunday, December 10th at 2PM

Come to the Fairdale Community UM Church to enjoy the unique musical talents of this special group. It will be a festive time for the entire family. There is no charge, but a freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Vestal Mountain Dulcimer Players.
 6219 Ridge Rd, Montrose, PA



YIN YOGA

THURSDAYS AT 6PM

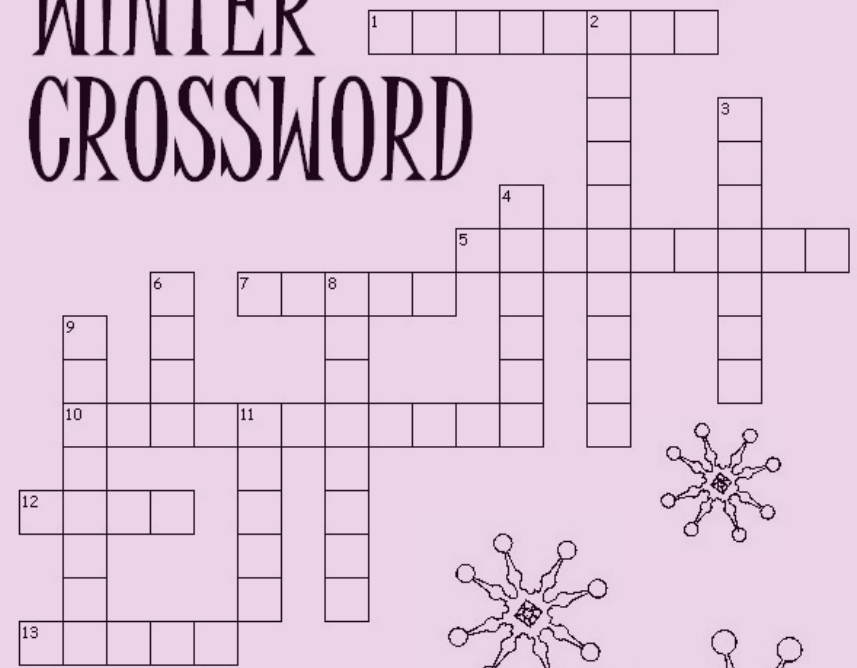
All yogis welcome, new or experienced!



Vestal Public Library Events!



WINTER CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Time off from school or work.
 - Used to decorate a Christmas tree.
 - It's a season for giving _____.
 - Holiday celebrated on January 1st.
 - Strap them on an go downhill on snow.
 - I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas.
- Down**
- Winter sport on frozen water.
 - African-American holiday celebrated in the winter.
 - Famous Snowman
 - Flakes that fall from the sky.
 - The month following January.
 - Jewish holiday celebrated in December.
 - Santa's Helpers

mad for art

new project every second tuesday @ 6PM

FUNshop

Looking for an interactive and engaging activity? Try **ages 16+**
 Wednesdays 6:15 - 8PM

Charity Scam Prevention Tips As Holiday Season Begins

The charitable spirit of New Yorkers is at an all-time high during the holiday season, so this week's tips are meant to serve as a guide when choosing causes to donate to so donations get to the right place and not in the hands of scammers.

"The season of giving is in full swing, and people are purchasing gifts for loved ones and making generous donations to causes they care about," said Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez. "But before making these donations, it is important to remember that scammers like to prey on the good intentions of people, and we encourage New Yorkers to do their research before making donations so that these good deeds reach the right place."

Charity scams can happen at any time, but they are more prevalent during the holiday season when donors are moved by both generosity and the end-of-year deadline for securing tax deductions. Charity scams also increase after a natural disaster or emergencies, collecting millions of dollars from unsuspecting donors. On many occasions, these fraudsters pretend to be affiliated with well-known organizations or even the government to scam people out of their hard-earned money. According to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2022, there were 10,217 reports of charitable solicitation fraud resulting in \$21 million in losses. This is a drastic increase from 2019's 3,872 reports of charitable solicitation fraud resulting in \$6 million in losses.

Tips to Help Avoid Charity Scams:

Check the legitimacy of the charitable organization. Charities located or engaging in substantial fundraising in New York State should be listed on the New York State Attorney General's database of registered charities. Research before you donate by visiting charitiesnys.com to verify registration, and by checking websites such as www.bbb.org, www.give.org and www.guidestar.org in addition to visiting the charity's website. If donating toward relief efforts, visit a site such as disasterphilanthropy.org to ensure your donation is really going where it needs to.

Learn to detect a phony charity. Some scammers will create fake "charities" and try to trick you with names similar to well-known charities. Pay attention to the charity's full name, web address, contact information, donation policies, etc. Scammers may copy or mimic the name of a familiar, trusted organization to swindle you.

Designate your donation. Ask how your donation will be allocated between direct services and administrative fees. Unless you designate a specific purpose for your donation, it will go into the organization's general fund, so make sure to note if you are sending money for a specific purpose (ie: "Playground Fund").

Be cautious of third-party fundraisers. If a solicitation comes from a third-party company, the charitable organization will receive only a percentage of your donation. If you want to ensure the charity receives the whole amount, donate directly to the charity instead. For more information, access the New York State Attorney General's website and review the annual "Pennies for Charity" report.

Pay attention to vague claims. Be on alert for claims without any clear plan such as "all proceeds go to cancer treatments" or "donations go to veterans who can no longer work." Instead do some research on the charity before you decide.

Resist high-pressure tactics. Charity fraud scams can come in many forms, whether by email, social media, crowdfunding platforms, cold calls, etc. Watch out for direct e-mails from "victims" and solicitors who employ heart-wrenching stories, insisting that you donate imme-

diately. It is highly recommended to never provide personal information to unsolicited telemarketers, but instead ask the caller to provide you with the full name of the charitable organization, website address and contact information to research and verify.

Find out who's behind the crowdfunding request. Online crowdfunding websites like GoFundMe, Indiegogo and Crowdrise make it easy for people to create crowdfunding campaigns. To protect yourself, remember to only give to people you know directly. It's also important to understand the crowdfunding site's rules, policies, and vetting procedures. It can be helpful to know these ahead of time to determine how they are protecting consumers from potential fraud.

Never disclose personal information. Do not provide any personal information such as your credit card number, Social Security number, or any other personal identifying information in response to an unsolicited charitable request.

Never give cash. Give your contribution by check or credit card to ensure that you have a record of the donation. Make checks out to the charity, not to an individual. If you choose to make a donation via a charity's website, check that the website is secure and that your computer is equipped with the latest anti-virus protection. Check for the padlock to the left of the URL search bar to ensure the site is secure. Do not send funds to anyone asking for bitcoin or cryptocurrency as these payments typically have no protections against fraud.

Don't mail checks from public collection boxes: According to the US Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the number of check fraud crimes nationwide has increased since 2020. To avoid this fraud, go directly to the post office to deposit mail. If you need to use a public U.S. Postal Service collection box, try to do so before the last pickup of the day to minimize the amount of time the check spends in the box.

Double Check before you deduct. Donations made to individuals or organizations that are not tax-exempt are not deductible. To find out if a donation will be tax deductible, research an organization's tax-exempt status at the Internal Revenue Service Tax Exempt Organization Search. Request a receipt and track the status of your donation.

Get Help for Rising Heat Bills with HEAP

For anyone concerned about rising heating costs through the winter months, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is available to help you keep the heat on.

Eligible homeowners and renters may apply for HEAP, which can provide up to \$976 in assistance depending on income, household size, and what kind of heating system you have in your home.

More than \$434 million in HEAP benefits were issued last year, and Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that \$360 million would be set aside for home heating aid this winter.

You may apply for HEAP benefits online at: mybenefits.ny.gov

Or you can apply in person at your HEAP Local District Contact. For more information about eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit:

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>

Today At Jersey Mike's Subs Donations Go To Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is proud to announce that Jersey Mike's Subs, a fast-casual sub sandwich franchise with more than 2,600 locations nationwide, has offered to help raise funds to sponsor veterans' wreaths for placement at Arlington National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023

Jersey Mike's has once again stepped up to help WAA reach its goal of placing a fresh, handmade balsam veteran's wreath on every eligible marker at Arlington National Cemetery. Every \$17 wreath sponsorship made at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/JerseyMikes through this Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, will be matched by the company, up to \$250,000!

Since 2010, Jersey Mike's has supported WAA's mission with contributions totaling more than \$3.5 million dollars. Last year, across the country more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths were placed in honor of veterans, including on all the eligible markers of those buried at Arlington National Cemetery. "Jersey Mike's franchisees across the country support the year-long mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom," said Peter Cancro, Jersey Mike's founder and CEO.

"The incredible team at Jersey Mike's Subs has been such a tremendous part of the growth of the program for more than a decade," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "Their continued support ensures that we will be able to fulfill our mission in remembrance of the brave men and women who committed themselves unselfishly at the most critical moments in our nation's history to ensure our freedom."

For more information about volunteering at Arlington on National Wreaths Across America Day – this year, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023 – please TwinTiersWAA@gmail.com. Broome County's participating County Coordinator is Karina with SAVAGE-DeMarco Funeral Service in Binghamton, locations are listed at www.SavageFS.com.



"THERE'S A CERTAIN MAGIC THAT COMES WITH THE VERY FIRST SNOW. FOR WHEN THE FIRST SNOW IS ALSO A CHRISTMAS SNOW, WELL, SOMETHING WONDERFUL IS BOUND TO HAPPEN."

-- "FROSTY THE SNOWMAN"

Pets- Snow, Ice, And Freezing Temps, Oh My!

Top 10 Safety Tips to Follow During the Cold Front



Cold weather is upon us and that will likely affect many pets this winter.

We are letting pet owners know to be prepared as the cold fronts move in, below are 10 tips to help people and their pets stay as safe as possible:

- Keep your pets inside during extreme temperatures. Once the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, pets are at risk of developing hypothermia or frostbite.
- Dogs and cats' paws, ears, and tails are the most common areas that pets can develop frostbite – this increases if those areas are wet.
- If a pet needs to spend time outside during extreme temperatures, keep both walks and potty breaks short.
- Use plastic water bowls for outdoors. A pet's tongue may stick to metal, and they could injure themselves when trying to pull away.
- Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can injure or irritate the pads of pet's feet. Look for pet-friendly ice melt products and steer clear of anti-freeze which is toxic to pets.
- Gently wipe their feet with a damp towel once they are back inside to avoid a trip to the veterinarian. Wearing boots can protect paws from irritating salt on the street.
- Many dogs, particularly those with short coats, will be more comfortable if they have a sweater or coat on. If a dog frequently lifts their paws, whines or stops during walks, it is probably because their feet are cold.
- Be particularly careful when taking older, arthritic animals and small pets outside. They may become stiff and tender quickly and often find it difficult to walk on the snow or ice.
- Don't let dogs off the leash during a snowstorm. No matter how much they want to play in the snow, they can easily lose their scent and become lost.
- Always make sure dogs are wearing ID tags and are microchipped before you take them out.
- Always check under the hood of a car's engine - a favorite hiding space for community cats. Check underneath a car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to make sure a cat hasn't taken up temporary housing there.
- Don't have a pet? Now is the perfect time to adopt or foster a pet in need. Shelters across the country are at capacity due to less people choosing the adoption option. Every time you adopt, you are saving two lives: the life of the pet you are bringing home, as well as opening space for another homeless dog or cat to be taken in by shelters and rescue groups. To learn more, visit bestfriends.org.

Junior IB Diploma candidates volunteer at CHOW

One of the essential components of the International Baccalaureate Diploma is Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), which reflects the IB requirement that students voluntarily participate in service to the community in which they reside. Alongside their academic studies, IB encourages students to be well-rounded and to pursue interests that are both enjoyable and meaningful. IB recognizes that every student has a different starting point, and our annual VHS field trip to CHOW serves as an initial opportunity for our diploma candidates to come together early in their junior year as they begin pursuit of this challenging diploma. It has become a Vestal tradition for our students to volunteer at CHOW during this critical time of year.

A total of 18 of our junior IB Diploma Candidates volunteered at CHOW on November 15, 2023. Cody Manning, Community Engagement Specialist for CHOW, first gave students an overview of the mission of the warehouse, providing some impactful statistics: Broome County is one of the most "food insecure" counties in New York State (in fact, once we returned to VHS, students engaged in a lengthy discussion of "food insecurity" and exactly what that meant). CHOW is the central warehouse for a network of food pantries in the Southern Tier. They have seen a 41% increase in distribution over last year and have distributed two million pounds of food in the first 10 months of this year. They expect to reach three million by the end of the year. Additionally, six new food pantries opened just in the last three months. Students noted that, while it is fortunate that donations and distribution have both increased, the inevitable conclusion is that the community's needs have also increased significantly.

After the overview, students first listened to instructions about how to properly pick and organize orders from

local food pantries. They were then sent off on their own to pull items from shelves and put labels on packages. Each student immediately took the initiative, working cooperatively to pick and arrange sometimes large orders for food. Students developed several skills during this process, not the least of which are asking questions and problem-solving how to best fill an order when there appeared to be no easy answer.

After students returned to VHS, they learned how to record and reflect on their experience. Diploma candidates are required by IB to keep a journal of their creative, active, and service-oriented pursuits throughout the two years of the diploma program. Mr. Dunham also provided an overview of the upcoming Extended Essay process. Students brainstormed possible research questions for this 4,000-word essay that they will write over the next 14 months under the guidance of a staff member. Best of luck to our diploma candidates as they begin these important components!

Photos On Page 8!

Some Rockefeller Historical Milestones:

1931 – Construction workers building Rockefeller Center put up a Christmas tree, the first- ever Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree.

- 1933 - First formal Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting Ceremony. The tree was decked with 700 lights in front of the eight-month-old RCA Building.
- 1936 - Two trees, each 70 feet (21.3 m) tall, were erected. For the first time the Lighting Ceremony included a skating pageant on the newly opened Rockefeller Plaza Outdoor Ice Skating Pond.
- 1942 - Three trees were placed on Rockefeller Plaza, one decorated in red, one in white and one in blue to show support for our troops serving during World War II.
- 1949 - The tree was painted silver, to look like snow.
- 1951 – The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree was lit for the first time on national television on the Kate Smith Show.
- 1966 - The first tree from outside the United States was erected. It was given by Canada, in honor of the Centennial of its Confederation. This is the farthest distance a tree has traveled to Rockefeller Center.
- 1980 - For the 50th Anniversary of Tree Lighting, a 70 foot-tall (21.3 m) Norway Spruce came from the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Seminary of Mahwah, N.J. Bob Hope participated in the Lighting.
- 1999 – The largest tree in Rockefeller Center history, 100 feet tall (30.5 m), came from Killingworth, Conn.
- 2004 – The Swarovski-designed star became the largest star to ever grace the tree.
- 2007 – For the first time, the tree was lit with energy-efficient LEDs. They draw a fraction of the power that had been traditionally required by the tree, reducing energy consumption from 3,510 kWh to 1,297 kWh per day, saving as much energy as a single family would use in a month in a 2,000 square foot (185.8 m²) home. Hundreds of solar panels atop one of the Rockefeller Center buildings help power the new LEDs.
- 2021 – For the first time, the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree comes from Maryland.

2023 Rockefeller Center® Christmas Tree Fact Sheet

Tree Type:

- Norway Spruce

Dimensions:

- 80-feet (24.38 meters) tall
- 43-feet (13.1 meters) in diameter
- Approximately 12 tons

Age:

- Approximately 80-85 years old

Origin:

- Vestal, New York (Binghamton region)
- Donated by The McGinley Family

Lights:

- More than 50,000 multi-colored LEDs on approximately 5 miles (8 km) of wire.

Star:

- Designed by architect Daniel Libeskind in 2018.
- The three dimensional Swarovski star weighs approximately 900 pounds (408.23 kg) and features 70 spikes covered in 3 million crystals.
- The diameter of the star is 9 feet, 4 inches (2.84 meters).

Recycling:

- Each tree chosen to be the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is usually reaching its maximum height and often becoming too large for the property it is on.
- Once taken down and removed from the Plaza, the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree will be milled into lumber for Habitat for Humanity, with the receiving affiliate determining how the lumber will be used.
- The tree is then replaced with new tree(s) on the donor's property.





HOLIDAY CONCERT
with the Vestal Community Band

12/14 Oakdale Commons 7pm
In front of JC Penney




You're Invited to a Christmas Party!
Kids Night Out
All kids ages 4-11 are invited to join us for an evening of fun, games, crafts, snacks and prizes.

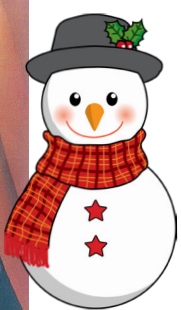


Run by scouts and leaders in Girl Scout Troop 30524
Parents need not stay!

December 9th 6:30-8:30
Our Lady of Sorrows
gym/cafe
\$12/child

Register by Wednesday 12/5
Email Molly Russell (mollyg111@yahoo.com)

While your kids are busy, you can sneak over to our gift wrapping station where scouts will wrap your gifts for a small donation.



Junior IB Diploma candidates volunteer at CHOW




Pictures With Santa

Hosted by A Thousand Words Photography
Supporting Every Cat's Dream & Danimal's Help
December 9th & 10th
12:00-3:00PM
Vestal Tractor Supply

Bring your family, furry friend, or both!
* \$20 cash donation | Proceeds to benefit ECD & Danimal's

