



The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 35 No. 20 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, January 5, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com

WELCOME TO JANUARY

Family Swim Is Starting This Weekend!

Family Swim at Vestal High School

Have fun this winter with the entire family at the Vestal Sr. High School pool, Woodlawn Dr., Vestal. No registration necessary. Cost is \$1.00 for kids and \$2.00 for adults (includes observers), payable to the staff. Exact change is appreciated. An adult must accompany children under 10 years. Registration not required. Enter the High school through the front doors. Follow discs to pool.

Saturdays: January 6 - March 23

Noon - 3:00 PM - Open Swim

3:00 - 4:15 PM - Lap Swim

Closed 1/13, 1/20, 2/17



Reminder For Vestal Students:

Friday, January 12, is an Early Release Day. Dismissal Times are VMS at 10:45 a.m. / VHS at 11:05 a.m. / Elementary at 11:45 a.m.

"VESTAL CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENTS REDESIGN THE SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE" ON PAGE 5!



PET OF THE WEEK:

Rylee



My name is Rylee! I also respond to Sweet Pea. I'm 11 years old! I love all people, especially my family and my vet, Dr. A. Beau-lieu @Dicken Memorial Animal Hospital! I love to go on walks, and when I get too cold, I get carried in my human's warm coat! I get 8 treats at bedtime. No less. I will accept more though.



LET'S GET COZY! GRAB YOUR BLANKETS, PILLOWS, OR EVEN A SMALL TENT TO BUILD YOUR OWN FORT INSIDE THE LIBRARY! THERE WILL BE GAMES AND WINTER-THEMED ACTIVITIES. SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. ALL AGES WELCOME!

WINTER FORT NIGHT FOR ALL AGES!



"Winter Safety: Tips for Navigating the Chills Safely" On Page 7



"Labor Law Update..." On Page 6

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 5-7 PM

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER: FRIDAY 1/12



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



Calendar

Saturday, January 6th

BCMEA Auditions for students in Grades 10 - 12 for Orchestra, Band, and Chorus
Location: Binghamton West M.S.

Tuesday, January 9th

School Board Meeting/Spotlight at VHS; 6PM

Wednesday, January 10th

>Eighth Grade Student Orientation
6:30 PM, VHS Auditorium
>Pins and Needles: Knit and Crochet Meet-up
6PM, VPL

Thursday, January 11th

Chorus Concert (Grs. 7 & 8)
7PM; African Road Auditorium

Friday, January 12th

>Early Release Day
More info on page 7
>VPL Open Game Day (All Ages Welcome)
11AM - 3:30PM, Meeting Room

Sunday, January 14th

Vestal United Methodist Church Game Night,
1PM

Monday, January 15th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School



Vestal Fire Department Responses

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

12/26	13:09	Ash Road	General fire alarm
12/28	08:40	Shippers Road	Odor of gas in building
12/28	17:23	Plaza Drive	Vehicle into a building
12/30	22:01	Bow Bridge Road	Mutual aid to Silver Lake, PA for a grease fire in a building

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

BYRON PULSIFER



VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Richard Rosario Jr., 32, Waverly, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, Unlicensed Operator, Speed in Zone and No/Insufficient Tail Lamps after a traffic stop.

Rasheed Crawford, 40, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Best Buy.
Autumn Hyde, 25, Binghamton, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree for shoplifting merchandise valued over \$1000 from Target.

Bryan Kenyon, 37, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Engel Mejia Pimentel, 38, Bronx, arrested for Possession of Burglar Tools and Petit Larceny for possessing bolt cutters and a crowbar used in stealing used cooking oil from restaurants.

Hauscalin Marmolejos Suero, 30, Bronx, arrested for Possession of Burglar Tools and Petit Larceny for possessing bolt cutters and a crowbar used in stealing used cooking oil from restaurants.

Thomas Crocker, 33, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny and Obstructing Governmental Administration for shoplifting from Wal-Mart and attempting to flee officers who were arresting him.

Rajdeep Kaur, 41, Vestal, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree for shoplifting merchandise valued at over \$1000 from Wal-Mart.

Manish Batra, 44, Vestal, arrested for Grand Larceny 4th Degree for shoplifting merchandise valued at over \$1000 from Wal-Mart.

Amanda Mikalajunas, 36, Vestal, arrested for Endangering the Welfare of a Child for making verbal threats and damaging household property during a domestic dispute in the presence of a child.

Holly Waterman, 58, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for shoplifting from Wal-Mart and possessing Oxycodone and Meth.

Tionna Turner, 21, Cortland, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

Dane Earle, 20, Vestal, arrested for Harassment 2nd Degree for kicking and punching the victim during a domestic incident.

Colin Tyrrell, 24, Vestal, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, Reckless Endangerment, Moved from Lane Unsafely Reckless Driving, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd Degree, Unlicensed

Operator, Speed Not Reasonable and Prudent, Speed in Zone, Failed to Keep Right, and Driving Left of Pavement Markings after a motor vehicle accident.

Vestal Town Crier

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



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.

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



Exploring the Factors Behind Delayed Snowfall in Winter

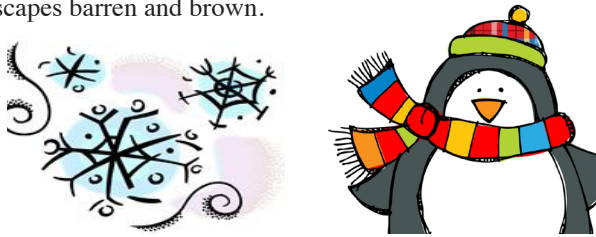
Winter is typically associated with cold temperatures, frosty landscapes, and the magical transformation of the world into a winter wonderland. However, there are instances when the eagerly awaited snowfall seems to be delayed. Several factors contribute to the absence or delay of snow during the winter months, turning expectations of a white wonderland into a waiting game.

Temperature Trends:

One of the primary determinants of snowfall is the temperature. If the winter season experiences milder-than-usual temperatures, it can hinder the formation of snow. Warmer conditions may lead to precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, leaving winter enthusiasts yearning for that iconic blanket of white.

Atmospheric Conditions:

The intricate dance of atmospheric elements plays a pivotal role in the occurrence of snowfall. Changes in the position and strength of the jet stream, atmospheric pressure systems, and moisture content can impact the likelihood of snow. Unfavorable atmospheric conditions may result in delayed or reduced snowfall, leaving winter landscapes barren and brown.



Climate Change:

Long-term shifts in climate patterns can influence the timing and intensity of winter weather. As the Earth's climate undergoes changes, some regions may experience alterations in traditional winter weather patterns. A warming climate can lead to variations in precipitation types, potentially delaying or reducing snowfall in certain areas.

Natural Variability:

Weather is inherently variable, and no two winters are exactly alike. Natural variability in atmospheric conditions contributes to the unpredictability of snowfall. Some winters may see an abundance of snow, while others experience delays or reduced precipitation. This variability adds an element of uncertainty to winter weather forecasts.

The delayed arrival of snow during winter can be attributed to a combination of factors, ranging from temperature trends and atmospheric conditions to broader influences such as climate change. While winter enthusiasts may eagerly anticipate the beauty and serenity that snow brings, the intricate interplay of natural elements can lead to variations in seasonal weather patterns. Understanding these factors provides valuable insights into the complex dynamics that govern winter weather, reminding us that each winter season is a unique and ever-changing spectacle.

New York's Minimum Wage to Increase in 2024

A reminder was issued to New Yorkers that the state's minimum wage will increase on January 1, 2024 as part of a historic, multi-year plan to increase the minimum wage and index it to inflation. Per an agreement between Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature, New York's minimum wage will increase to \$16-per-hour in New York City, Westchester, and Long Island, and \$15-per-hour in the rest of the state. Additionally, the minimum wage for home care aides will increase to \$18.55 an hour in New York City, Westchester, and Long Island and \$17.55 an hour in counties in upstate New York. Raising New York's minimum wage to keep pace with inflation will benefit hundreds of thousands of minimum wage workers across the state.

"New York's historic minimum wage increase will help to ensure that New Yorkers can continue to keep pace with rising costs," Governor Hochul said. "Starting January 1, minimum wage workers who do not see the increase reflected in their paychecks are urged to file a complaint with the Department of Labor to make sure that they get the wages they are owed."

New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said, "The elevation of the minimum wage serves as lifeline for New Yorkers struggling to make ends meet as costs rise. Steady, multi-year changes allow businesses time to adjust while providing low-wage workers the ability to better support themselves and their families."

As part of the FY 2024 Budget, Governor Hochul secured an historic agreement to increase New York's minimum wage through 2026 and index it to inflation beginning in 2027. After the initial increase, the minimum wage will increase by \$0.50 in 2025 and 2026. In 2027, the minimum wage will increase annually at a rate determined by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Northeast Region – the best regional measure of inflation. An "off-ramp" is available in the event of certain economic or budget conditions.

The minimum wage increases for the next three years are shown below:

Effective Date	New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County	Remainder of New York State
Current Minimum Wage	\$15/hour	\$14.20/hour
January 1, 2024	\$16/hour	\$15/hour
January 1, 2025	\$16.50/hour	\$15.50/hour
January 1, 2026	\$17/hour	\$16/hour

Indexing the minimum wage to inflation will help to maintain the purchasing power of workers' wages from year to year. Increasing the minimum wage overall overwhelmingly benefits low-income workers, particularly women and people of color who comprise a disproportionate share of minimum wage workers.

Eighteen other states either currently tie their minimum wage to inflation or some other economic formula or are slated to do so, including three states which have minimum wages at or above \$15 in 2023. Economic research shows that raising the minimum wage can lead to reductions in poverty, reduced social assistance spending, stimulative spending, improved worker productivity, and other benefits.

The New York State Department of Labor is conducting a public awareness effort to remind New Yorkers about the minimum wage increase and encourage minimum wage workers to report missing wages. That effort will include digital outreach via social media, newsletters, and e-mail communications and direct outreach to distribute informational flyers with partnering organizations.

Minimum wage earners who do not see the increase reflected in their paychecks can file a wage complaint on the New York State Department of Labor's website or by calling 833-910-4378. For more information about NYSDOL's efforts to combat wage theft, visit the Department's landing page.

If you have any questions about how New York State's minimum wage laws impact your business, please reach out to the DOL's Division of Labor Standards at 1-888-4-NYSYDOL (1-888-469-7365).

Vestal Senior Center

Open Monday - Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Old Vestal Central Jr. High School, Main St.
Lunches served Monday - Friday at 11:30 AM

The Vestal Senior Citizens offer exciting events throughout the year along with hot nutritious lunches provided by the **Broome County Office for Aging**. **Reservations for meals must be made one day in advance by 1:00 PM. Eat in or To-Go Meals.** Cost for lunch is \$4.00 for 60 years and older and \$5.00 for those younger than 60. It is a great opportunity to get together with friends and participate in many fun-filled activities.

Activities include: monthly bus trips, Pinochle (Tues. at 9 AM) Bridge (Wed. at noon), Bingo (Thurs. at 10 AM), assorted card games daily, Bunko (4th Fri. of every month, following lunch), speakers on many interesting subjects, special luncheon events, bake sales and theme parties. Assorted card games daily. There is also a loaning library. Mah-Jong on Mondays at 12 PM.

Vestal Senior Club

The club meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 12:15 PM at the Senior Center. Annual dues are \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for newcomers. The club sponsors trips, dinners, and picnics. The mission of the club is to foster education and fellowship, to have fun, and make contributions to the community. If you are interested in the club, please attend a meeting.

Oil Painting Classes

Join the Vestal Sr. Citizens and "perfect" your skills in oil painting. Class meets every Wednesday from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, throughout the year at the Vestal Sr. Center. Please bring your own supplies. No classes in August. For further information call the Senior Center.

Knitting and Crocheting Club

Wednesdays from 9:30 AM. Learn things from others and teach someone else something new.

Chop and Chat

Every other Monday at 10am. Enjoy conversation as food is prepped and leave with a delicious recipe to cook at home. No cost but donations for the program are welcomed. Reservations are required as spots are limited. Don't miss out on this wonderful program.

Call the Vestal Senior Center for more details on all programs at 607-754-9596.



Business Formation • Real Estate • Wills & Estates

Experienced - Reliable - Affordable

Free 1/2 Hour Consultation

LAW OFFICE OF

DAVID S. BERGER
607-239-6766

Real Estate • Closings • Deed Transfers • Title Insurance
• Leasing • Mortgages • Elder Law • Wills • Estates • Trusts
• Corporation Formations • Partnerships • LLC • Solo Business Start-Ups
• Business Disputes & Collections • General Business Advice • Personal Injury

dbergerattorney@gmail.com

301 N. Stage Rd., Vestal

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

SIX WEEK SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 9
TUESDAYS @ 10:30 AM

Themes:

1/9 - Penguins

1/16 - Pizza

1/23 - Sleep **

1/30 - Hats **

2/6 - Dogs

2/13 - Valentine's Day

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



A RAILROAD LECTURE SERIES

Presented by

The Susquehanna Valley Railroad Historical Society

- Saturday January 13th 2024, 1:00pm- Bob Pastorkey will present *Railway Memories, A Salute to Phoebe Snow* at the **Vestal Public Library**
- Saturday February 10th, 1:00pm-Tom McEnteer will present *Railroads of the Southern Tier* at the **Vestal Public Library**
- Saturday February 17th 2024, 1:00pm -John Goodnough will present *Overview of Regional Railroad History* at **The Vestal Museum**

Hosted by The Vestal Museum



Third Annual Bugs Veteran's Gala

Well today we began our planning and have a date approved for our 3rd annual Bugs Memorial event. This event is in memory of our Brother and friend who tragically left us too early from a motorcycle accident. In his memory we have worked to establish an event to support our local veteran needs.

Well last year we raised \$5500.00 dollars to support clear path for veterans in Vestal NY and the event outgrew the space we had rented. The 2024 event we are planning to be our largest event yet! This time we have partnered with Clear Path for Veterans in Vestal NY to have the event at a larger venue, live music, cocktail hour and of course raffles!

We are changing the name slightly to the Bugs Veterans Gala and get it on your calendar for March 9, 2024! This will be a served dinner with a lot of fun times and all the proceeds raised will go to support the mission and programs that Clear Path continues to offer local veterans. The event will be a formal event with the opportunity for us to dress up, and dance until the music stops!

Event tickets are forthcoming and will be excited to see everyone there this year!

Flyer On Page 8!



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.

Free Waterman Day Camp

Surviving the Winter Woods: Could you survive a night in the winter woods?

Both sessions are the same, please choose one date

"Day Camp" at the Waterman Conservation Center is an exciting adventure filled program, open when school is closed. Spend the day at Waterman's nature center learning how plants and animals stay alive through winter. The day will include crafts, lessons on the science of winter as well as winter survival skills, and an expedition through our frozen forest in search of winter's secrets! Win a prize for completing a winter adaptation scavenger hunt! Be sure to bring warm clothes, boots, lunch, and a water bottle. Program presented outside unless extreme temperatures are expected.

Monday, January 15 - Act. #WAT-01

or

Monday, February 19 - Act. #WAT-02

Times: Both dates run 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Ages: Open to boys & girls in 3rd and 4th Grade

Location: Waterman Center, Hilton Rd., Apalachin

To Register: Use form on page # 7 or go to Vestalny.myrec.com and login or create an account.

Vestal Civil Engineering Students Redesign The School Guidance Office!



DEC Files Draft Regulations to Reduce Hydrofluorocarbons and Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions

Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report Tracks Statewide Emissions Trends

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced three actions to support the State's ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as required by the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act). DEC is filing draft regulations to reduce emissions of two potent greenhouse gases, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). In addition, DEC released the 2023 annual "Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report," which tracks trends of these and other emissions as part of the state's implementation of the Climate Act.

"New York State continues to advance efforts to help reduce climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions and bolster community resilience," Commissioner Seggos said. "HFCs, SF6, and other greenhouse gases are accelerating the costly economic, public health, and environmental impacts of climate change in New York State and across the globe. The draft regulations filed today help bring New York closer to realizing the Climate Act's ambitious emission reduction requirements."

HFCs are extremely potent greenhouse gases (GHGs) often used in refrigeration and cooling that have hundreds to thousands of times higher global warming potential than natural refrigerants. DEC filed proposed amendments to 6 NYCRR Part 494, to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from refrigerants, foams, and aerosol propellants. The draft regulation includes prohibitions, reporting, and other requirements regarding the sale, use, and supply of HFCs and new products and systems that contain HFCs to help achieve the required statewide greenhouse gas emission limits.

SF6 is the most potent greenhouse gas and in New York State is used in electric power transmission and distribution equipment. DEC also filed a new draft regulation, 6 NYCRR Part 495, which includes a program to phase down the use of SF6 in gas-insulated equipment (GIE) used by the electricity sector. The proposed regulation includes a phase out of the installation of new SF6 GIE, an emissions limit for GIE owners, limitations on the use of SF6, and reporting requirements for certain users and suppliers of SF6 and other fluorinated greenhouse gases.

The draft regulations would implement recommendations from the Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan to help meet the statewide emissions limits of the Climate Act. In addition, as estimated by DEC's Value of Carbon Guidance under the Climate Act, both HFCs and SF6 are among the highest value in terms of the cost in dollars of each additional ton of emissions. The draft regulations will help guide a statewide transition away from HFCs and SF6 while informing policy development and programming.

The draft regulations will be published in the State Register and available for public comment on Jan. 10, 2024 on the Climate Change Regulatory Revisions webpage. DEC is holding public hearings on the proposed regulations on March 13, 2024 for HFCs/Part 494 and March 14, 2024, for SF6/Part 495. The public comment deadline for HFCs/Part 494 will be March 19, 2024, and for SF6/Part 495 will be March 21, 2024.

DEC's 2023 Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report describes statewide GHG emissions from 1990 to 2021, expressed in tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, from all sources in the state. Release of the report prior to the end of the year marks a milestone in implementation

of the Climate Act by measuring the annual progress in reducing GHG emissions and providing information on trends in GHG emissions across various economic sectors. The report also provides more detailed information about sources of GHG emissions and emission factors associated with different types of fuels.

The comprehensive report utilizes best available science and data to describe GHG emissions statewide, including those from electricity, industry, and agriculture. As required by the Climate Act, the Statewide GHG Emissions Report uses the 20-year Global Warming Potential metric for providing GHG emissions, and tracks greenhouse gas emissions directly within New York State, as well as those associated with the generation of imported electricity and the extraction and transmission of fossil fuels imported into the state. The 2023 report also describes the emission contributions of the state's forests and natural lands that will help the state reach its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The annual emission totals provided will help track progress to achieve emissions limits as codified in DEC's Part 496 regulation adopted in 2020. Overall, the 2023 report shows statewide GHG emissions reductions from 1990 levels through 2021. It also reflects broader trends, including GHG emission reductions from 2019 to 2021 following the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on emissions, which was most profound in 2020.

The report is available on DEC's website. The complete, detailed dataset of emissions totals used to inform the report is available via Open NY.

The 2019 Climate Act requires the State to achieve a carbon-free electricity system by 2040 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 85 percent by 2050, setting a standard for states and the nation to expedite the transition to a clean energy economy. The law drives investment in clean energy solutions such as wind, solar, energy efficiency and energy storage and requires that 35 percent, with at least 40 percent, of the clean energy investments benefit disadvantaged and low-to-moderate income communities across New York State.

The issuance of the annual report and draft regulations are the latest of many regulatory and policy steps taken to implement the Climate Act, including the pre-proposal of a Cap-and-Invest Program to achieve a declining cap on emissions, the finalization of disadvantaged communities criteria by New York's Climate Justice Working Group, and the finalization of Commissioner's Policy 49, "Climate Change and DEC Action," and Division of Air Resources Policy 21, "CLCPA and Air Permit Applications," last year.

In 2022, Governor Hochul announced finalized regulations that require significant reductions in methane and other harmful emissions from any oil and natural gas infrastructure, reducing methane emissions by more than 14,000 metric tons per year and volatile organic compound emissions by more than 2,000 tons per year. Additional steps to implement the Climate Act include adopting limits on the statewide emissions of greenhouse gases of 40 percent by 2030 and 85 percent by 2050, the Advanced Clean Car and Clean Truck regulations to accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles, and completing the Value of Carbon guidance and updates, as well as DEC's well plugging programs to address climate change by locating abandoned oil and gas wells, among other measures.

Labor Law Update: What You Need to Know About UI Benefits Notification

The DOL is dedicated to assisting businesses in understanding and implementing the recent labor law update concerning partial unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

Historically, businesses have been required to notify employees about their eligibility for UI benefits when they are permanently separated from their employment. The new legislation expands this requirement. Now, businesses must also provide notification when any employer-initiated change in scheduling or work hours could potentially make an employee eligible for partial unemployment benefits.

Partial unemployment is defined as situations where an employee works less than 30 hours in a week or earns less than \$504. These circumstances often arise from employer-driven changes, including reduced hours or shifts.

We understand that adapting to new regulations can be challenging, and we're here to assist every step of the way. When any action on your part may lead to an employee's eligibility for partial unemployment, complete your portion of the Record of Employment form and present it to the employee. You can also direct them to https://dol.ny.gov/unemployment/partial-unemployment-eligibility?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery for more information.

BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

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

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

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

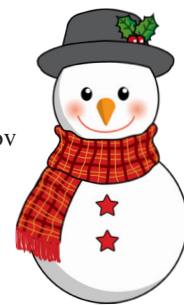
Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds (Dist 5)
daniel.j.reynolds@broomecountyny.gov

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

Min.w Leader Robert Weslar (Dist 13)
bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov

Health & Human Services Committee (OVER VETERANS)

Jason Shaw jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov
Louis Augustini louie.augostini@broomecountyny.gov
Matthew Hilderbrant matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov
Kim Myers kim.myers@broomecountyny.gov
Mark Whalen mark.whelen@broomecountyny.gov



Governor Hochul Highlights Significant Progress in Revitalizing New York State's Roads and Bridges in 2023

Over 1,500 Highway Lane Miles Improved, 1.1 Million Potholes Filled and More Than 2,800 Bridges Replaced or Improved Across the State. Paving and Bridge Improvement Projects Represented a More Than \$2.4 Billion Investment in New York's Vital Transportation Infrastructure

Governor Kathy Hochul announced on January 1st that more than 1,500 lane miles of state and local highways were improved and more than 2,800 bridges were replaced or improved during 2023, a signature achievement in New York's ongoing initiative to modernize its vital transportation infrastructure. These projects by the New York State Department of Transportation and Thruway Authority represented a more than \$2.4 billion investment in New York's roads and bridges and reflect Governor Hochul's historic commitment to revitalizing New York's infrastructure by reconnecting communities, promoting growth and enhancing resiliency against climate change.

"During this construction season, we put the pedal to the metal on our record-setting efforts to modernize New York's transportation network and improve travel all across the state," Governor Hochul said. "These paving and bridge projects will provide motorists in every corner of this state with a smoother ride while also helping to ensure that our transportation network can be among the most resilient and sustainable in the nation."

During 2023, the New York State Department of Transportation improved 1,586 lane miles along state and local highways, representing a \$753 million investment in New York's roadways. The resurfacing included over 500

lane miles of improvements that were funded from Governor Hochul's *Pave Our Potholes* Program. Additionally, NYSDOT replaced or improved 2,833 bridges statewide, totaling a nearly \$1.7 billion investment that enhanced safety, improved sustainability and boosted resiliency against severe weather impacts.

Paving and Bridge accomplishments broken down by region included:

Lane Miles	Bridges
Capital District	132 117
Mohawk Valley	85 157
Central NY	52 434
Finger Lakes	177 320
Western NY	320 745
Southern Tier	221 335
North Country	182 29
Mid-Hudson	175 302
Long Island	208 263
NYC	34 131



State Department of Transportation maintenance forces also worked aggressively throughout the year to combat potholes, filling an estimated 1.1 million potholes during 2023. Potholes are formed primarily due to infiltration of water into pavements through cracks in the surface.

Under Governor's Hochul's leadership, New York State is making historic investments in infrastructure. The \$32.8 billion, 5-year State Capital Plan adopted in 2022 was the largest ever adopted by the state and will help fulfill the Governor's vision for a modern transportation system that serves all New Yorkers. The Governor has made improving road conditions a priority with new programs like the Department of Transportation's *Pave Our Potholes*, which allocated \$500 million to improve local roads and \$500 million for state highways as part of the 5-year State Capital Plan. This is in addition to other State programs, such as CHIPS, PAVE NY, State Touring Routes, and other programmed capital projects across the state.

Additionally, the New York State Thruway Authority reinvested \$78.3 million in toll dollars to reconstruct or rehabilitate more than 162 lane miles of the Thruway system. In addition to roadway resurfacing, there were also significant safety enhancements made including guiderail repairs, line striping, signage, and drainage improvements.

"Happiness is a matter of one's most ordinary and everyday mode of consciousness being busy and lively and unconcerned with self."

-Iris Murdoch

Winter Safety: Tips for Navigating the Chills Safely

As winter blankets the world in a serene layer of snow, it brings with it the challenges of navigating through cold temperatures, icy surfaces, and unpredictable weather conditions. Staying safe during winter requires a combination of preparedness, awareness, and adherence to safety guidelines. Whether you're commuting to work, engaging in winter sports, or simply enjoying the snowy outdoors, these tips will help you stay safe and make the most of the season.

1. Dress in Layers:

The key to staying warm in winter is proper clothing. Dressing in layers helps regulate body temperature by trapping heat close to the body. Start with a moisture-wicking base layer to keep sweat away, add an insulating layer for warmth, and finish with a waterproof and windproof outer layer to protect against the elements. Don't forget to wear insulated gloves, a hat, and waterproof boots to safeguard extremities

2. Be Mindful of Ice:

Icy surfaces pose a significant risk during winter. Whether on sidewalks, driveways, or roads, ice can lead to slips and falls. Walk with caution, taking small and deliberate steps. Use footwear with good traction, and consider using ice cleats or traction devices for added stability. Keep an eye out for black ice, which is often difficult to see but can be extremely slippery

3. Winter Driving Safety:

Winter driving requires extra caution. Ensure your vehicle is winter-ready by checking tire tread, antifreeze levels, and battery health. Keep an emergency kit in your car with essentials like blankets, a flashlight, snacks, and a first aid kit. Drive slowly in adverse conditions, increase your following distance, and avoid unnecessary travel during severe weather.

4. Stay Informed

Stay updated on weather forecasts and road conditions, especially before embarking on a journey. Be aware of any winter storm warnings or advisories in your area. If conditions are hazardous, consider postponing travel plans or using public transportation. Stay connected with family and friends, informing them of your plans and expected arrival times.

5. Heating Safety:

If using space heaters, fireplaces, or other heating devices, follow safety guidelines to prevent accidents. Keep flammable materials away from heat sources, use space heaters with automatic shutoff features, and ensure proper ventilation in enclosed spaces. Install carbon monoxide detectors and test them regularly.

6. Exercise Caution in Winter Sports:

Winter sports enthusiasts should prioritize safety. Always wear appropriate safety gear, including helmets for activities like skiing and snowboarding. Familiarize yourself with the terrain, follow designated trails, and be mindful of weather conditions. Stay within your skill level and be prepared for changing weather during outdoor activities.

Winter's charm comes with its own set of challenges, but with careful preparation and adherence to safety measures, you can navigate the season securely. Whether you're enjoying winter sports, commuting to work, or simply embracing the beauty of the snowy landscape, incorporating these safety tips into your routine will help ensure a safe and enjoyable winter experience.

JANUARY FUN FACTS!

1. January is named after Janus, the Roman god of gates and doorways.
2. The January birthstone is garnet, which symbolizes love, faithfulness, and constancy.
3. January brought the heaviest snowfall in the history of the United States.
4. January has two zodiac signs: The water bearer and the goat.
5. Carnation is the birth flower of people born in January.
6. National Penguin Day is on January 20.
7. Benjamin Franklin's birthday is on January 17.
8. National Bean Day is celebrated on January 6 in the US.
9. First Immigrants landed on Ellis Island on January 1, 1892.
10. The first-ever Emmy Awards were held on January 25, 1949.
11. Alaska's integration into the US was on January 3, 1959.
12. National Popcorn Day is on January 19th.
13. It is considered the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and the warmest month of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.
14. Some celebrities whose birthdays are in January include - Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, Dolly Parton, Betty White, Justin Timberlake, Ellen DeGeneres, and Bradley Cooper.
15. In leap years, January always starts on the same day as April and July.

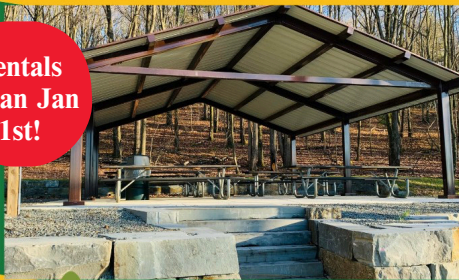


**TOWN OF VESTAL
RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**ONLINE PAVILION RENTALS
AT ARNOLD PARK**

Go to vestalny.myrec.com to reserve a pavilion.

**Rentals
Began Jan
1st!**



New Pavilion #4 provided by the Parks Dept

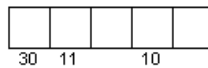
**Apalachin Lions
Christmas Basket
2023**



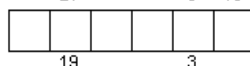
On December 9th, the Apalachin Lions Club completed our yearly Christmas Basket effort. 24 families consisting of 54 adults, 55 children and 6 senior citizens were provided toys, food coupons and store gift certificates. Also, several hundred pounds of food were delivered to the Apalachin and Little Meadows food pantries. The Apalachin Lions expended 276 hours towards this project. This is a community effort based on the generosity of the communities of Apalachin, Little Meadows and Crestview Heights. Special thanks to the Apalachin Elementary, Apalachin Library, Boscov's, Sweeney's Mkt, The Home Depot, Tioga Hills Elementary, Toys for Tots, and White-tails Bar and Grill for their contributions and generous donations.

Winter S Words

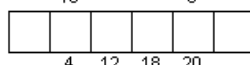
SFCRA



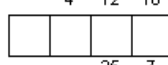
SAOENS



SVEHOL



ESASTK

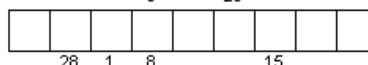


SEDL

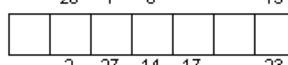
SIGLEH BSLEL



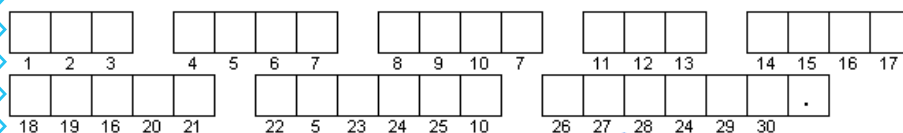
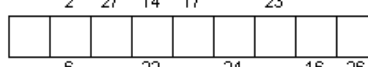
NSOFEAWLK



SONNWMA



SORONMTWS



**Vestal
Scholars**



Caden Dellapenta of Vestal, NY was named to the Dean's List at Lehigh University in the Fall 2023 semester

3RD ANNUAL BUGS

VETERANS GALA



March 9, 2024

**START TIME: 5 PM
TIOGA DOWNS CASINO RESORT**

**2384 WEST RIVER ROAD
NICHOLS, NY 13812**



**Semi Formal Dress Code
Tickets Start at \$40**



All Proceeds Benefit Local Veterans



Come join us for a night of fun!

**Sunday, January 14th
STARTS AT 01 PM**

Drinks and Snacks

**Vestal United Methodist
Church**