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**Vol. 49, No. 36    NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00    Friday, April 5, 2024    SUBSCRIBE at [www.TiersNews.com](http://www.TiersNews.com)**

## **NEW YORK CITIZENS AUDIT VISITS TOWN OF BINGHAMTON BOARD**

**Fringe Group attacks election confidence without facts.**

According to the March 19, 2024 TOB Board Minutes, Linda Burkhart of Lisle NY, was introduced as a volunteer presenter for NYCA (New York Citizens Audit) at the most recent Town of Binghamton Board Meeting. She brought updates to a redrafted resolution. Lisle might be a better place to focus, or Maryland. Ms. Burkhart claims to have reviewed (without supporting documentation) voter records in order to raise concerns without supported merit in New York State. NYCA, according to Ms. Burkhart, now works with a Maryland election integrity group, to ask for a temporary restraining order -should they believe there is anything untrustworthy in the state of Maryland. Ms. Burkhart gave the Town Board members a handout, regarding Maryland irregularities, and suggested they search for more articles in the Baltimore area. There may be more pressing issues in the Town of Binghamton for the Board members to focus upon.

The New York AG's office in September sent a cease-and-desist letter to a group (NYCA) confronting voters at their homes while claiming to be state election officials and falsely accusing people of committing voter fraud.

The letter ordered the group NY Citizens Audit to immediately stop any voter intimidation efforts and turn over records on its training of and communications with its door-to-door canvassers. "These allegations, if true, could constitute unlawful voter deception under New York state law and unlawful voter intimidation under both state and federal law," reads the letter, which was obtained by the Associated Press.

NY Citizens has recently attempted to undermine confidence in elections with presentations to Town Boards in; Conklin, Windsor, and Binghamton with other local towns likely to be targeted. NY Citizens Audit describes itself as "dedicated to restoring and maintaining the essential, founding American principle of sovereignty through honest, provable elections in New York and across the nation." Rather than work through the legislative process to address any unfounded concerns, NYCA continues to create unsupported questions regarding local elections across NY. Questions which have been answered by experts and Boards of Election, yet the fringe group continues the attempts to create an environment of distrust. The attorney general's letter says in some cases voters have reported that canvassers displayed false badges or other identification to portray themselves as election workers. The attorney general's office said it has not seen evidence that anyone who was approached has committed voter fraud.

The letter came after the New York State Board of Elections warned that voters in at least 13 counties had been approached by individuals purporting to be election officials who accused voters of committing fraud. A spokeswoman for the board said it had passed information about the incidents to state and federal law enforcement. Citizen vigilantism has become more common since the last presidential election as some politicians encourage doubt in the electoral process by ascribing to and supporting unfounded claims of fraud.

Logical explanations exist and have been explained for the oddities NYCA view as suspicious. shows how groups like this create disinformation: Take a kernel of truth, twist its meaning and plant the seed of doubt in the minds of people who are gullible, feckless or both. The ultimate goal of New York Citizens Audit, and similar efforts in other states, is to destroy our confidence in free and fair elections. If candidates and their supporters refuse to accept the will of the voters, elections become meaningless. Democracy is over.

There is no claim New York's election apparatus is perfect. But to claim it is riddled with fraud is an outright lie, one that undermines the sanctity of the vote and the public's faith in government. Groups like Citizens Audit New York, and their enablers, are playing a dangerous game that can end up with physical violence.

## **KIRKWOOD TRAIN ACCIDENT WEDNESDAY AM**

**Reported Train hits farm Tractor**

Around 11:00 am Wednesday April 3rd, a train hit a farm tractor, rt 11 Kirkwood. The accident took place across from Robbins Sign Company on Rt. 11 in Kirkwood. As this accident happended right on Newspaper Publishers deadline there was not much information available.



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**VETERANS  
CORNER**

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Announcement  
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Obituaries  
ECLIPSE

**New York State  
Burn Ban  
Between  
March 15 – May 15**

## **Rail Safety Tips**

Talk to your family about crossing railway tracks safely.  
Follow these tips to keep your family safe!

**STOP**  
**AT ALL RAILWAY  
CROSSINGS**

When approaching a railway crossing, slow down and be prepared to stop.

**LOOK**  
**BOTH WAYS  
FOR TRAINS**

At passive crossings, there are no lights or bells to warn you of approaching trains, be extra careful.

**LISTEN**  
**CAREFULLY  
FOR TRAINS**

If you're in a loud machine, open your window or door to better hear approaching trains.



# Calendar

## Kirkwood Town Board Meeting

### Planning Board Meeting

(warehouse addition – 47 Pine Camp Drive)  
Monday, 4/8/24 – 7 PM

### Zoning Board Meeting

(Variance—Garage in front of house, 173 Burts Rd)  
(Variance – Sell as a suitable building lot, 197 Stratmill Rd)  
Monday, 4/15/24 – 7 PM

### KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

## Town of Binghamton

April 16, 2024 – Town Board Meeting 6:00 P.M.  
TOB Coleman Rd.  
Community Ctr. IS CLOSED.

## Town of Conklin

### Regular Town Board Meeting

April 9th, 2024 Conklin

6pm

Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road,  
Conklin, New York.

DMV AT CONKLIN TOWN HALL  
WEDNESDAY – 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.

### Conklin Town Court Hours

Monday, Wed, & Fri 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

1st Friday of the Month 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

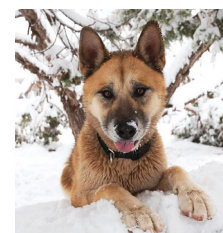
## BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <u><b>Kelly F. Wildoner</b></u><br>District 3<br>(Town of Binghamton,<br>Conklin & Vestal)<br>kelly.wildoner@broome-<br>countyny.gov                        | <u><b>Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale</b></u><br>Dist 7 matthew.pasquale@<br>broomecountyny.gov  |
| <u><b>Stephen J. Flagg</b></u><br>District 1 (City of Binghamton,<br>Towns of Colesville,<br>Fenton &<br>Kirkwood)<br>stephen.flagg@broome-<br>countyny.gov | <u><b>Min.w Leader Robert Weslar</b></u><br>(Dist 13)<br>bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov<br><br>Health & Human Services<br>Committee<br>(OVER VETERANS)  |
| <u><b>Scott D. Baker</b></u><br>District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood,<br>Sanford & Windsor)<br>scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov                                      | <u><b>Jason Shaw</b></u><br>jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov<br><br><u><b>Louis Augustini</b></u> louie.<br>augostini@broomecountyny.gov  |
| <u><b>Chairman-Daniel J. Reynolds</b></u><br>(Dist 5)<br>daniel.j.reynolds@<br>broomecountyny.gov   | <u><b>Matthew Hilderbrant</b></u><br>matt.hilderbrant@broome-<br>countyny.gov<br><br><u><b>Kim Myers</b></u> kim.myers@<br>broomecountyny.gov<br><br><u><b>Mark Whalen</b></u> mark.wha-<br>len@broomecountyny.gov |



## Free Vaccines for Dogs and Cats

The Broome County Humane Society is hosting free, monthly vaccine clinics for dogs and cats in need of updated Rabies and Distemper vaccines in our community on the following dates (\*dates are subject to change):



Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Clinics will be held at The Broome County Humane Society located at 167 Conklin Ave in Binghamton from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested, but not required for each vaccination given. Pets need to be at least three months old and restrained. Bring previous rabies vaccination certificate (if applicable) First come, first served. A \$10 donation per pet is suggested but not required. For additional information, visit the Broome County Humane Society website.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Dear Editor:

We have been receiving letters and reviews of the changes to the Country Courier, we will post them here without names listed. The absence of names has a long history in American Reporting, up until the early to mid 1970's.

WE APPRECIATE ALL STORY TIPS  
AS WELL

EMAIL TO: News@TiersNews.com

**FOURTH ESTATE**  
**A PILLAR OF FREEDOM**

## Kirkwood Senior Group

Officers:

Blanche Birtch, President

Jeanie Ditch, Vice-Pres.

Linda Yonchuk, Secretary

Linda Buffle, Treasurer

Jeanie Ditch & June

Fedish, Trip Coordinator

Ellie Grubham, Sunshine Committee

Scheduled Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month, at Noon, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted.

Activities:

Meetings: Monthly @ Noon the First Wednesday of each month, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, coffee and tea are provided. The meeting takes place after lunch, with Bingo to follow if anyone cares to stay October and November meetings are catered and will be at Elks Club at 12 noon.

Bus Trips:

Trips are usually 3 per year. Members pay for expenses for show tickets and meals, bus



## The Country Courier

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*The Country Courier*

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YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME

Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com

### NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

*The Country Courier* 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 Country Courier* are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside Broome County and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

*The Country Courier* welcomes letters to the editor. 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.



**Lap Swim**  
 Open Swim at SV  
 Just because it's getting colder doesn't mean you have to stop swimming! Come to our beautiful, heated pool at Susquehanna Valley for Lap Swim and Open Swim sessions every Monday! Lap Swim is 6:30-7:00 p.m., followed by Open Swim from 7:00-8:00 p.m. every Monday Night.

## Broome County Landfill's 2024 Electronics & Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Dates

Broome County Landfill accepts hazardous waste (household and auto batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, driveway sealers, paints, solvents, stains, cleaners, pesticides, pool & photography chemicals) Old electronics (computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.) You can drop these off, **FREE OF CHARGE**, at the landfill on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 April 6, & 20th

### KIWANIS FOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once a month, couple hours to help free food distribution at the Community Center. Third Monday of month, volunteers NEEDED to help, or the Town is in danger of losing this program. Contact Mr. Krasowsky, millertoncard@aol.

### The Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop is now open!

Hey Sabers Fans - there's a great place to go to stock up on Sabers gear! It's the Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop. Access at SVSABERS.org



Is there a **FIRE** in you?

Become a volunteer firefighter today.



Find volunteer firefighter opportunities with fire departments in Broome County, New York. Just reach out, or stop into a local fire department and a recruitment team member will be in touch.

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Become a volunteer firefighter today.



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KIRKWOOD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

## YOUR COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | ALL DAY

Calling all residents to come out and help clean trash from the streets of our neighborhoods.



TRASH BAGS CAN BE PICKED UP FRIDAY, APRIL 19 FROM 9-3 PM AT THE TOWN GARAGE AND SATURDAY, APRIL 20 FROM 9:30 -10 AM AT THE TOWN HALL. A DUMPSTER WILL BE PROVIDED AT TOWN GARAGE TO DISPOSE OF GARBAGE

# Healthy Neighborhoods Photo and Art Contest April 2-30, 2024

Broome County Health Department is celebrating Healthy Neighborhoods Day and Healthy Homes Month by asking the public to share what a healthy neighborhood looks like to them through a visual art contest.

On average, Americans spend more than two-thirds of their time in their own homes and neighborhoods. Where you live has a major impact on your health, both mental and physical. But what makes a neighborhood healthy? Is it green space to think or friendly people next door? A safe street to play on and clean air to breathe? Sidewalks with enough room for strollers, runners, and dog walkers? Health manifests in a number of different ways and Broome County Health Department is holding a contest to see what a healthy neighborhood means to you.

To enter the contest, share a photo, drawing, or video that shows an example of a healthy neighborhood. The winner will receive a basket summer fun, safety, and spring cleaning supplies. This contest is open to Broome County residents of all ages. The winning submission will be announced and shared on Broome County Health Department social media accounts on April 30th. Submissions should be sent to BCHealth@broomecountyny.gov. Please include your name and the town you live in with your submission.

Residential issues like lead paint, air quality, traffic, noise, pests, and radon can all lead to serious health problems. Broome County Health Department has a number of programs dedicated to improving the health and safety of the places we call home, including Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Program, and Healthy Neighborhoods Program. For more information, visit gobroomecounty.com/eh/healthyhomes

Healthy Neighborhoods Day is observed as part of the 2024 National Public Health Week on April 2nd and Healthy Homes Month was created by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to raise awareness about how our homes impact our health.



Where did the month of March go?! It started with a birthday celebration for Reenie Dedrick. Mary Harris had all the exercise girls come to her home for a brunch. It's always a lot of fun with this group whether you are exercising or eating, we manage to have lots of laughs.



Then a few weeks ago, Reenie planned a birthday party for Mary. This one had Mary's family (Valerie and Ricky), and friends Jim and Noni Davern—plus me. Reenie had her dinner party at The Little Oak. Not only did she plan the meal, she decorated the table. It looked beautiful with candles in crystal holders, cloth napkins, flowers and favors for

all of us. She would have brought her china, but it was a little too heavy. Another fun night for all involved. Here are a few pictures of the birthday celebration.

To end their birthday celebrations, they planned a trip. This was to visit a very special

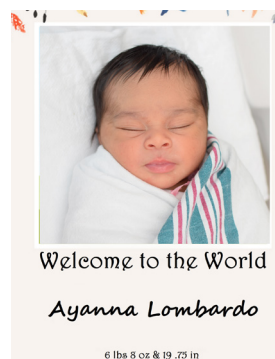


friend, Jackie Heinle, in her retirement home. Since it was so close to Easter, Reenie decided to bring her table settings for their special lunch. Here is a picture of the friends.

**Vaccines win every time**

**Make sure you have them in your bracket against measles.**

Public Health  
Division of Health Department



Welcome to the World  
*Ayanna Lombardo*  
6 lbs 8 oz & 19 .75 in



March brought another celebration along. This one saw Gary and Debbie Lombardo joyful over another grandchild. Jane and Jeremy Lombardo welcomed their second baby girl on the 15th of March. Ayana Ann, weighed 6 lbs. and 8 oz. Her big sister, Elianna, is thrilled with the new family member. Ayana and her Aunt Patricia will now share the same birthdate. Happy

wishes to all.

The Rhythm In Blue Air Force Jazz Band treated everyone in the audience at the Forum to a spectacular night of music. The tickets were free for everyone. I think the next time they come there should be a little more advertisement and it will be a full house. We were also treated to a segment from the Binghamton High School Steel Band. There's lots of talent in Broome County.

You know Spring is around the corner when the Ice Cream shops open. Our town got an early start because of some nice days. Big Dipper/BBQ II opened on Conklin Road and Frosty Joe's opened its windows across the river. The parks were overflowing with all sports teams.

The SV Girls Softball Team had a fundraiser at the start of March. The breakfast was delicious with very generous portions. If you get a chance, try to make one of their games. I hear there is lots of talent on the team, and Lilonna recently pitched an exciting no-hitter.

Guess that is it for this week. Hope to see you at the park, an ice cream stand, or at a game!!

Call me with your news.

Mic (607) 775-1894

**LLC Publishing**  
**INFORMATION** Email: [Legals@TiersNews.com](mailto:Legals@TiersNews.com)  
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In order to process your request for an LLC to be published, you will need the following information in the following order:  
 1. Name of LLC (EXACTLY as was submitted to the State);  
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 3. THE SECTION # OF THE LLC LAW THAT YOU FILED UNDER!  
 4. County of Office Location;  
 5. LLC Location – Street Address, Town/City, Zip;  
 6. Purpose of LLC

# SV High's FACS Students Are GROWING!

By SV School District

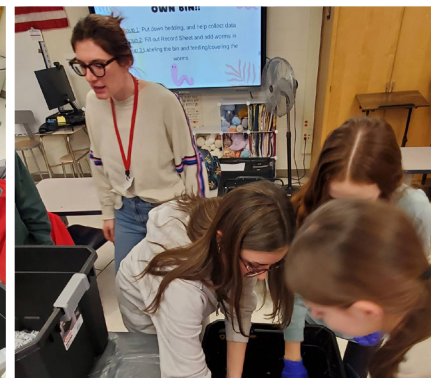
At Susquehanna Valley High School, we're GROWING!

Mrs. Jessica Esperon-Meneilly's Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes at SV High School are busy preparing for Spring planting and growing by using vermicomposting to put wiggler worms to work to produce great soil for great crops.

Healthy food is a key component to increased vitality and longevity. The secret to healthy food lies in the quality of the soil it is grown in. The better the soil, the higher the nutrient density of the food. This concept at SV began to take root when Kolton Gardener (SV High School Class of 2022) proposed adding Vermiculture to our FACS program. Fast forward to today, and sure enough, SV has dug right into vermicomposting, through a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

On March 6 and 7, CCE Recycling and Composting Educator Kira Hawkins joined us to share her vast knowledge and experience with building healthy soil and raising red wiggler worms to produce worm castings that will enrich our garden soil. With Kira's guidance, students created mini habitats using shredded paper and fruit/vegetable scraps from our culinary classes and composting efforts. Presently, our red wigglers are thriving under the care of our students. We are looking forward to adding worm castings to our courtyard garden beds as soon as the weather permits.

Each FACS elective incorporates mini-service learning projects that focus on creating healthy environments conducive to production, increasing accessibility, food preparation, and sampling of nutrient-dense foods through agricultural and culinary experiences. These projects are designed to be student-driven comprehensive learning opportunities empowering self-efficacy through applications of the principles of sustainable food systems and healthy living through an agricultural lens. The interdisciplinary approach of these projects facilitates the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills.



## Annual Burn Ban in Effect through May 14

Spring Burn Ban Reduces Wildfire Risks, Protects Lives, and Property

New Yorkers are reminded of the start of the annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning. Since 2009, DEC enforces the annual brush burning ban from March 16 through May 14 to prevent wildfires and protect communities during heightened conditions for wildfires.

Even though some areas of the state remain blanketed in snow, warming temperatures can quickly cause wildfire conditions to arise. Open burning of debris is the single-largest cause of spring wildfires in New York State. When temperatures warm and the past fall's debris and leaves dry out, wildfires can start and spread easily, further fueled by winds and a lack of green vegetation.

### Camp Fire Safety

Camp fires with family and friends are great fun! To make your next camp fire safer and healthier, remember to:

Check the fire danger map first to make sure it's safe to have a fire where you are.

Avoid burning on windy days.

Keep your camp fire less than 3 feet high and less than 4 feet wide.

Keep flammable objects and debris at least 3 feet away from the fire.

Never burn trash, including paper products, plastic, glass, and metal

Burn only local firewood. Burn only dry, plain wood - no pressure-treated lumber or plywood, and no painted or stained wood. Untreated wood, split tree logs, and branches are recommended for camp fires.

Using heat-treated/kiln-dried wood can prevent the spread of invasive species.

Never use fire accelerants such as kerosene, gasoline, or lighter fluid.

Stay out of the smoke. The fire and its warmth can be pleasant for everyone, but inhaling smoke is unhealthy for you and for your pets.

Keep water or a fire extinguisher nearby. Never leave your fire unattended.

When you're finished with your fire, fully extinguish it. Stirring water or dirt into it.

For more information about fire safety and prevention, go to DEC's FIREWISE New York webpage. Some towns, primarily in and around the Adirondack and Catskill parks, are designated "fire towns." Open burning is prohibited year-round in these municipalities unless an individual or group has a permit from DEC. To find out whether a municipality is a designated fire town or to obtain a permit, contact the appropriate DEC regional office. A list of regional offices is available on DEC's website.

Forest Rangers, DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs), and local authorities enforce the burn ban. Violators of the State's open burning regulation are subject to criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for a first offense. For search and rescue, reporting a wildfire or illegal activity on state lands and easements, call 1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264).

## How to Give Back to the Military Community This National Volunteer Month

(StatePoint) April is National Volunteer Month, an annual opportunity to recognize the contributions that volunteers make to their community through their time and energy.

When it comes to a vast operation like the USO, which has more than 250 locations around the globe that serve hundreds of thousands of U.S. service members and their families, volunteers are at the heart of the organization's mission.

In fact, in 2023 alone, nearly 20,000 USO volunteers at home and abroad contributed



more than 1.2 million hours of their time equating to 137 years' worth of volunteering. Fun fact: Not all the organization's volunteers are human! Seventy-six canine volunteers contributed 4,800 hours to supporting service members and their families. Staff say that without their volunteers—human and dog alike—they wouldn't be able to do what they do.

Whether it's helping at community events for military spouses, greeting guests at the front desk of an airport center, organizing NFL watch parties for those stationed on the frontlines or simply providing a listening ear to a service member in need, USO volunteers help strengthen the well-being of the people serving in America's military and their families. Stories like Alina Wilson's can serve as inspiration to those interested in giving back to their own community. A USO volunteer and military spouse, Wilson lent her support to the military community of Guam when the island was devastated by Super Typhoon Mawar in May 2023. Guam is home to 20,000 service members and also several USO staff and volunteers.

At a time when many USO staff members were navigating the damage done to their own homes and dealing with no power or air conditioning in the middle of a hot and humid Guam summer, Wilson leaped into action. She played a huge role in helping the local USO center open its doors to service members and families recovering from the disaster to provide air conditioning, Wi-Fi connectivity, phones to call home, snacks, coffee, and a place of refuge. She went the extra mile every day by arriving early to prepare the center for opening and often stayed late to provide much-needed support. "It was a devastating storm for the whole community of Guam. We worked really hard at the Tumon USO to get the power back on. We cleaned every day. We got there and tried to prepare the center to open as fast as we could," Wilson said.

There are countless ways volunteers can support the military community. To find out more or to register to volunteer, visit [uso.org/take-action/volunteer](http://uso.org/take-action/volunteer).

No matter where you live, or what your skill set is, you can take action this National Volunteer Month and make a real difference.

40+ Years Experience  
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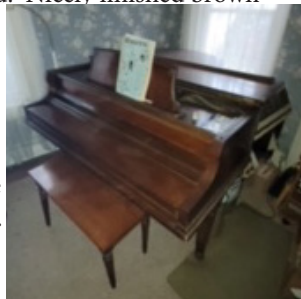


### Free Piano. You move.

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Phone: Betty B. 607-768-0265. Can leave a message with your phone or e-mail. Or my e-: [bettylarue24@gmail.com](mailto:bettylarue24@gmail.com)



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### The Sabers Food Center is up and running!



We are pleased to announce the opening of The Susquehanna Valley Sabers Food Center, located at Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School. The center is supplied by CHOW and the SV community. In addition to stocking non-perishable food items, it also contains a limited supply of personal hygiene and dental supplies to help those in need in our community.

If you, or someone you know, in the Susquehanna Valley School District are in need of assistance from The Sabers Food Center, please contact Mrs. Stacey Stilloe, School Social Worker at Donnelly Elementary, at (607) 775-9149 to schedule a confidential appointment.

Donations of non-perishable food items, new hygiene and dental items or funding for the Sabers Food Center can be made by calling Mrs. Stacey Stilloe (607) 775-9149.

The 6th annual food drive at SV's Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School began Monday, February 6. The five-week food collection resulted in more than 1,600 food items being donated! This year, in addition to enabling a generous donation to CHOW, the food drive fully stocked the shelves at the Sabers Food Center.

Other staff members are getting involved - Mrs. Rich and school counselor Randy Curth have both gotten certified in food safety, and staff and students have brought in some donations to supplement distributions from CHOW to help fill the shelves.

And now, The Sabers Food Center is ready to begin serving the community.

We are very grateful for these generous donors that have enabled us to open the doors to the Sabers Food Center: Binghamton PBA

Conklin Presbyterian Church congregation  
Brookside Elementary School

**REGULAR MEETING TOWN OF BINGHAMTON BOARD MARCH 19, 2024**

ROLL CALL: E. Rounds, Supervisor Present D. Nye, Councilperson Present M. Bensley, Dep. Supervisor Present V. Conklin, Councilperson Present M. Donahue Councilperson Present

**APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:**

General Fund Claim #214 — Broome Tioga Storm Coalition on temp hold.

Resolution to approve the following claims as audited:

Lighting Claim No. 185 \$ 34.03

Sewer Claim No. 186 \$ 1,119.27

Water Claim No. 186 - 187 \$ 1,153.64

Highway Claim No. 188 - 200 \$ 15,135.78

General Claim No. 201 - 232 \$ 18,307.78

**TOTAL \$ 35,750.50** All those present voted in favor, Motion carried.

**VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:** Open: 6:05p.m. Close: 6:22p.m.

Town Resident Tom Scales of Burdick Road came to speak regarding a reoccurring flooding of his basement with sewage water. Mr. Scales noted that this has been the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time this has happened. It has been determined that the cause of the flooding is due to a root ball from a nearby Willow tree that allowed its spreading roots to enter the pipes. Roto Router was called in at the request of the town, in which they ran a camera through the entire area, and located a root ball that was since removed. Highway Superintendent Leighton had met briefly with Mr. Scales and informed him that the sewer line project has now been moved up to the Carmen Road, Burdick Road area. Superintendent Leighton has offered to show Mr. Scales a piece of the equipment that will be used with the new sewer linings, which will prevent the entrance of roots into his line. There was a lengthy discussion with Councilperson Donahue, and Mr. Scales regarding previous issues with the sewer line, and now on the strength and types various pipes/pipe joints, informing Mr. Scales that the pipes will not be able to be crushed by spreading roots. He was advised previously to put a backflow preventer in his sewer line which he has done at this point. This may rectify the problem, in conjunction with the new pipe relining.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Broome County Association of Towns and Villages will meet at Little Venice on April 18, 2024. Cocktail hour — 5:30p.m., Meeting to begin at 6:00p.m. Jason Garner will be the speaker. Supervisor Rounds, Deputy Supervisor Bensley, and Councilpersons Nye, Donahue and Conklin will be attending.

**OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Planning Board / Zoning Board of Appeals

No Reports. Next Meetings will be April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30p.m.

**Youth Commission** - Indoor practices for baseball and softball are beginning this week. Teams will be formed this week. T-Ball begins in the middle of May. Lacrosse registration is open through the month.

**Code Enforcement/Buildings and Grounds**

The opening and closing schedules of Jackson Park was discussed. Supervisor Rounds informed the group that the town code states that the park is open from March 15, through November 15, from 7a.m. to dusk. Mr. Pappas suggested that April 1, to Nov. 1 would be a more appropriate schedule due to unpredictable weather in both March and November, but could open the park early weather permitting. Attorney Middleton stated that the local law would need to be amended, which could be done easily. It was noted that the park would still allow foot traffic but no cars prior and after the new dates. The new fence agreement has been signed and will now be put out to bid by Griffiths engineering. One contractor has been at the park to look at the electric, and two more will be checking the electric soon. Code officer Soboleski informed the group that 10 to 12 loads of 'baseball mix' has been put down on the fields at a value of over \$10,000. The fields will need to now be regraded.

Montrose Ave. property- there has been a delay with the issue of the testamentary letters for the heirs of the estate. All paperwork from the town have been updated and will be waiting on more communication from the heir.

There is a vacant property in the Town of Binghamton that a property maintenance company has taken over. Code enforcement has informed them that the property needs to be cleaned up.

The Town Board may have to issue an area variance on another property owned by the family of 446 Park Avenue whose home was recently on fire, the owners may come in for the April meeting.

Code officer Soboleski has completed the road survey on the homes that received the CDBG grants. There will be one or two letters being sent out by Soboleski to the owners to notify them of possible issues.

Town Clean up days will be on Friday, April 26, from 8:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. and Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Electronics will be accepted from 9a.m. to 12:00p.m. on Friday. There will also be clean up days in September.

**Highway Department**

Shoulder and ditch maintenance continues daily. A crew has been sent out to pick up miscellaneous brush and branch piles.

There is a lot of pre-work going for the trenchless lining project. Superintendent Leighton discussed the 3 bids for a new mower.

**The bids are as follows:**

1.) Monroe Tractor, 6 Equipment Drive, Binghamton NY 13904: A 2024 Del Morino 73- inch Flail Mower, with set price of \$9000.00 to include 200lbs set of wheel weights (2 weights @ 103lbs each).

2.) Timberline Lawn and RV Inc. 17149 State Route 706, Montrose PA 18801: Item FLISU186M -Del Morino FLISU186M OL- Del Morino flipper Super 186M, 73-inch Hammer (line discount-\$2,400.00) \$13,615.00. Net Price: \$11,215.00 Item: LM8124 KU Rear Wheel WT — 2 PCS Per Set (Mold #512) - \$702.20 Item: LM8125A KU — Bolt Kit for 18' Set of LM8124 & M8126A - \$81.34 Misc Fees: (Loading of rear tires) \$350.00 Total Price: \$12,348.54

3.) Marshall Machinery Inc. 745 Harry L. Drive, Johnson City NY 13790: 2024 New Del Morino FLISU186M Mower/Flail. 1FLISU186M 73inch Flail Mower Hyd Side Shift/Tilt Hammer Style Knives, M8126A 164# Rear Wheel Weights, M8119B 1\* Weight Bolt Kit, M8127B 2ne Weight Bolt Kit.- \$11,223.00, Factory Freight - \$350.00, (Discount-\$1,503.68) Total Price: \$10,069.32

Councilperson Nye made a motion to accept the bid of \$9000.00 from Monroe Tractor of Binghamton, Motion Carried.

Councilperson Conklin brought up the concerns from some residents regarding the speed on Peckham Road and if they could get a speed reduction. The present speed on Peckham Road is 55mph. The residents are worried about it being a dangerous situation as children wait on Peckham Road for school buses. Conklin explained to the residents that it is a county issue and that it is also a very lengthy process with public hearings resolutions and both the County and the State being involved. The residents also spoke of an issue regarding drainage at the 'apron' on Peckham Road. Highway Superintendent Leighton informed the council that the crew would be going through to stone and oil, and will be patching the area before seal coating.

Leighton will also look into the speed situation on Peckham Road.

There was discussion regarding the orange barrels and fencing near the gas station.

Leighton will speak to the County regarding the issue.

**Senior Commission - The Commission will be meeting on**

**April 2, 2024 @ 1:30p.m. Future events will be discussed.**

**Receipt of Reports**

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. - Kevin Olds informed the council of 17 calls since the last meeting as follows: 6 wires down, 5 mutual aid, 1 gas odor, 2 house fires, 1 service call and 1 CO call. The Governor has approved a 10-million-dollar benefit for new firefighters who will get paid to take courses. This is an incentive for new firefighters. This is a good program, however 'existing' firefighters only get a 200-dollar reduction in their taxes — which Mr. Olds states is not enough. He also feels that there should be free registration on one of the vehicles.

Deputy Supervisor Bensley will be acting as informal liaison to the fire department.

He will bring issues back to the Town Board regarding needs of the fire department.

**Supervisor: No Report at this time****UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Supervisor rounds informed the board that she spoke to both Tim Steed and Lee Cooper regarding the Felters Road water pump situation after Mr. Steed inspected the pump station. Mr. Steed said there is an option (not recommended) of replacing just the pumps but not the pump and the motor. After talking to both Steed and Cooper, Mr. Steed is not opposed to have the pump and the motor both replaced. Mr. Cooper is concerned that if a pump and a motor is pulled, and the pump is replaced, that you would be putting a new pump on an old motor. The company, W720, had presented the specifications needed at the last meeting with the Town Board to replace the pumps. There is a proposal from Mr. Steed to put together a bid design package would be \$5000 plus construction administration of \$1500. Clark Patterson Lee would be \$5000 just for the scoping phase. Mr. Cooper stated that the town already has the original documentation from when the pump was installed in 1992 and nothing has changed. Broome County has already encouraged the pump replacement. Leighton and Cooper have already started a bid for presentation to the Town Board. This will be posted and go out for 3 bids for procurement of a pump and the motor, plus installation. Leighton will also request that all bidders visit the pump site prior to submitting bids. Councilperson Donahue informed the council of the need for an engineer and discussion for need and cost followed. It has been advised that Leighton contact Dave Chase for an updated list of services and fees. Superintendent Leighton reached out to Precision out of Syracuse who is on the Onondaga bid, and only does UV cured sewer liners. He collected information regarding heat vs. UV cured sewer liners and various prices.

Councilperson Donahue stated that the price of UV curing is a slow.

Leighton will also reach out to Hunt for their information.

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:42 p.m.**

## VA patient numbers jump after efforts to improve medical access

By Leo Shane III

Medical workers prepare to see patients at the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare system campus in West Roxbury, Mass., on Jan. 11, 2022. (Joseph Prezioso / AFP via Getty)

Veterans Affairs medical sites saw a spike in patient visits and drop in wait times over the first half of the new fiscal year, thanks to the addition of more night and weekend appointments, department officials announced Tuesday.

The expanded medical offerings — part of the department's Access Sprints initiative — comes amid an aggressive push by VA leaders to bring more veterans into their system for health care following expanded eligibility for benefits as part of comprehensive military toxic exposure legislation passed in 2022.

Since March 5, all veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, or any combat zone after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for disability benefits.

VA plans to trim 10,000 jobs this year, mostly from medical sites

The White House's budget request for fiscal 2025 calls for a 2% reduction in the size of the Veterans Affairs workforce next year.

Through the first five months of fiscal 2024 — which began last October — new patient appointments are up 11% at VA medical centers, officials said. More than 80% of all sites have seen their total number of patients increase over that time compared to a year earlier.

In addition, VA leaders said they saw 12% fewer new patients waiting for appointments beyond department guidelines.

Officials said the Access Sprint initiative was the result of feedback from local VA facilities and regional networks looking for ways to improve timeliness, efficiency, capacity and employee experience.

Now, leaders are hoping to continue those offerings.

VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal said that some of the changes required extra staff or overtime work, but most of the services were designed to be sustainable into future months.

"We're asking every medical center and network to look very closely at what they can continue, especially since we discovered that we can see many more veterans with these improvements," he said.

Department planners are looking to trim about 10,000 medical positions through attrition this year, but Elnahal said he does not expect that to impact any patient care capacity.

Veterans interested in signing up for VA health care can contact their local medical center or visit the department's website.



## Hip replacements, other orthopedic devices not properly tracked by VA

By Leo Shane III

A doctor holds a tri-compartmental total knee replacement in Chicago hospital. (M. Spencer Green)

If a veteran's artificial hip or shoulder reconstruction gets recalled because of manufacturing problems, Veterans Affairs officials may not be able to notify them, according to a warning from a government watchdog released this week.

Investigators from the Government Accountability Office said despite widespread use of non-biological implantable medical devices among VA patients, the department lacks an effective tracking system for many of the items, leading to health and safety concerns.

"The Veterans Health Administration has not fully assessed its ability across all specialties to ensure that non-biological implantable medical devices can be effectively tracked back to individual patients," GAO officials wrote in a report released Wednesday.

"Some VA medical center officials said that if they needed to identify patients affected by a safety issue with an orthopedic implantable device, it would require a time-consuming search of the medical records."

## VA patient numbers jump after efforts to improve medical access

Veterans Affairs medical sites saw their patient numbers spike after a five-month effort to improve access and delivery of health care.

By Leo Shane III

Investigators noted that the problem does not extend to cardiac devices like pacemakers or implantable defibrillators, where such recalls and problems demand immediate attention. Those items are monitored and tracked meticulously by VA staffers, the GAO found.

But other medical devices are not accounted for in the same way. While the department tracks total numbers of items in use, the specific equipment is not stored in a database with the veteran using it, leaving a gap in information if problems arise.

VA officials said they implanted more than 1 million such devices in veteran patients from 2019 to 2023. The GAO said there have been four major recalls to hip replacements and other implantable orthopedic medical equipment in the last three years, although the actions covered fewer than 30,000 items nationwide.

Still, officials warned, "when an implantable medical device fails, the patient with that device can face serious health risks if the failure is not addressed."

In a statement, VA officials promised to review the issue and address needed changes by March 2025. They also said that work may entail "establishing new national program offices or reorganizing current program offices" to conduct the work, which may require additional funding from Congress.

# SUBURBAN SEPTIC

## ● EXCAVATING:

Foundations, driveways, sewer lines, water lines

## ● SEPTIC TANKS CLEANED

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SOUTHERN TIER  
WOMEN'S  
VETERAN  
GROUP



*Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier has formed a group for women veterans to connect with each other.*

**Regular meetings will be every third Monday of the month**

*Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Office  
114 Clayton Ave  
Vestal, NY 13850*

For more information, contact:  
Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Outreach Manager  
Katina Sinclair  
315-687-3300  
katina@clearpathforvets.com