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Vol. 49, No. 37 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, April 12, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at www.TiersNews.com

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE IS NOBLE SERVICE ADD A "SECOND HOUSE" SEE ANNOUNCEMENT SECTION



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Announcement
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Obituaries

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

Mad for Math at Brookside!



Students in Mr. Heslin's 5th grade math classes competed during the month of March in a Math Fluency Madness Challenge. All students competed in a homeroom vs. homeroom challenge and an individual homeroom challenge. Also, the overall top 8 math fluency students for the month of March were placed in a single-elimination, bracket style challenge to determine the overall individual fluency champion. The fifth graders combined to answer almost 90,000 multiplication facts for the month of March!

The results:

Individual Homeroom Champions:

Mr. Ruffo - Derek Fisher

Mr. Heslin - Max Yannuzzi

Mrs. Titus - Aliya Riley

Overall Individual Champion: Pia DeVincentiis

Homeroom vs. Homeroom Champion: Mr. Heslin's class (overall class percentage of 98.4% for the month of March)

Mr. Heslin would like to thank all of his 5th graders for participating. Each student improved tremendously with their multiplication fluency during the month of March. Way to go, you should all be very proud of your accomplishments!

Is there
a **FIRE** in
you?

Become a volunteer
firefighter today.



Gas Lines upgaded in Conklin





Calendar

Kirkwood

Town Board Meeting

April 30, 2024 - Work Session - 6 PM

Planning Board Meeting

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 23rd 6pm Town Hall

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

Kelly F. Wildoner

District 3
(Town of Binghamton,
Conklin & Vestal)
kelly.wildoner@broome-
countyny.gov

Stephen J. Flagg

District 1 (City of Binghamton,
Towns of Colesville,
Fenton &
Kirkwood)
stephen.flagg@broome-
countyny.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

louis.augustini@broomecountyny.gov

Matthew Hilderbrant

matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov

Kim Myers kim.myers@
broomecountyny.gov

Mark Whalen mark.whalen@
broomecountyny.gov

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



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.

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 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.

BECOME AN EVERYDAY HERO



Broome County Regional Farmers Market
 •Saturday, April 13, 9 AM -1:00 PM

We Rock the Southern Tier



11 Locations to Serve You

NY: Windsor • Lounsberry • Owego • Oxford
 Conklin **PA:** Birchardville • Lenox
 Montrose • New Milford • O'Dell • Wysox

Rock Products — Sand & Gravel

New York State DOT & PennDOT Approved Materials

CRUSHED STONE: NY- #1a, #1, #2, #3, Crusher Run, Screenings, Landscape Red Rock. PA- AASHTO #8, #57, #1, #3, #2A Modified. **RIP RAP / LANDSCAPE BOULDERS:** NY- Fine, Light, Med., Heavy Stone Fill, Stackable Laid Rock. PA- R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8. **SCREENED:** Topsoil, Sand, Mound Sand, Washed Crushed Gravel

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Take Out & Catering Available

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 gobroome-county.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.

LLC Publishing
INFORMATION Email: Legals@TiersNews.com
Required:
1. NAME
2. ADDRESS (this is where the affidavit will be mailed upon completion of publishing),
3. PHONE NUMBER
4. EMAIL ADDRESS
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);
2. Date that the Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York – DD/MM/YEAR
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

NEWSPAPER EDITED MINUTES TOWN OF BINGHAMTON BOARD WORK SESSION April 2, 2024

A motion may be made to go into an executive session to discuss a legal matter. There will be no executive session after this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS: There was some discussion regarding claim #256 regarding 2 new snow plow blades, and also some discussion regarding claim #259- for hard hats, grinders etc.. It was suggested that supplies and equipment be purchased locally as often as possible to support our local economy.

AUDITED CLAIMS
GENERAL 260-277 \$ 12,278.58
HIGHWAY 249-259 \$ 17,171.16
LIGHTING 233 \$ 839.81
SEWER 234-237 \$ 615.05
WATER 238 - 244 \$ 2,089.18
TOTAL \$ 32,993.78
DECLARED ADOPTED

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: John Mastronardi from Griffiths Engineering, LLC was here to speak on the topic of the Town's MS4 Stormwater Program – Municipal separate storm water sewer system. It is defined by urbanized areas through the US Census Bureau and it includes both closed and open storm water collection systems. The Town's permit is regulated under the NYSDEC MS4 General Permit. An updated permit was issued on December 13, 2023 and became effective on January 3, 2024. A key component of the permit is compliance with the six Minimum Control Measures and town-wide stormwater system mapping. The main goals are to reduce the discharge of pollutants and to improve the water quality and recreational use of waterways.

Councilperson Conklin made a motion to approve a Resolution for a memorandum of understanding for Supervisor Rounds to sign and pay the fee of \$4,500.00 for the MS4 Stormwater program. The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Donahue. Members present voted to pass the resolution. **DECLARED ADOPTED**

OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Planning Board / Zoning Board of Appeals- • Next meeting will be held April 23, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. Each board will have a case to review.

Youth Commission- • No report.

Code Enforcement- • All set for clean up days scheduled for Friday April 26, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. • A special electronics drop off will be held on Friday only from 9-noon!
Highway Department- • Crews have been busy with maintenance on snow equipment that cannot be put away yet due to the inclement weather prediction for the next few days. • Also working on some shoulder repairs and ditching.

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. - • No one from the fire department in attendance for this meeting.

Senior Commission- • A meeting will be held on April 17, 2024 at 1:30p.m. and on April 30, 2024 at 2:00. • A meet and greet is scheduled for May 15, 2024 at the Town hall from 2-4 PM.

Supervisor- • Reminder that the Board members will be attending the Broome County Associations of Towns

and Villages meeting scheduled April 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Little Venice Restaurant. •

Supervisor Rounds and Nick Pappas met with Leo Jones at the Community Center on Coleman Rd. regarding what option we have for the future of the Center. The annual cost after income and expenses to the Town of Binghamton is \$15,000.00. The center was rented 30 times last year and 3 of the 30 rentals were Town of Binghamton residents. The discussion is regarding whether we can lease the property or find something to occupy the building.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: • Bids went out for 2 new Dodge Ram 5500 trucks – The low bid was Maguire Motors of Ithaca, NY for \$202,987.48 for 2 trucks with plows and dump boxes.

Councilperson Nye made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the Purchase of the 2 new Dodge Ram 5500 trucks from Maguire Motors for the amount of \$202,987.48. Members present voted to pass the resolution. Motion carried.

• Jackson Park fence – Waiting on a few more details to authorize the submission of the bid. • Felters Rd. Pump station – Mark will reach out to Tim next week for the information on the new pump.

• Nick Pappas received one quote for the Electrical work needed at the Jackson Park fields. It is required that we have 3 quotes. We will wait for two more quotes and make a decision at that point.

• Amending the Local Law for the new Jackson Park hours. A public hearing will be set for May 21, 2024 at 6:01 p.m. Regarding the new Jackson Park hours. The hours will be changing to the park opening April 1- and closing November 1. Councilperson Donahue made a motion to adopt a resolution to set a Public Hearing for May 21,2024 at 6:01 p.m. **DECLARED ADOPTED**

NEW BUSINESS:

• Zack Soboleski received 3 quotes for the metal roof replacements needed for the Pavilion and the chicken barbeque area at Jackson Park. The low bid was accepted from Alpine Materials Inc. for the amount of \$2,177.21 metal materials only.

Councilperson Donahue made a motion to adopt a resolution to accept the quote from Alpine Materials Inc. Sydney, NY for the amount of \$2,177.21 for metal materials only for the Pavilion and the chicken barbeque roofs at Jackson Park. **DECLARED ADOPTED**

• Amendment to the TOB Procurement Policy – Regarding changing General Municipal Law section 103 to require bid procedures for General Town Purchases in excess of \$20,000.00 and for public works contracts in excess of 35,000.00 with certain exceptions. Members present voted to pass the resolution.

Motion carried **DECLARED ADOPTED**

• A motion was made by Councilperson Donahue to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 P.M. . All those in attendance voted to adjourn the meeting.

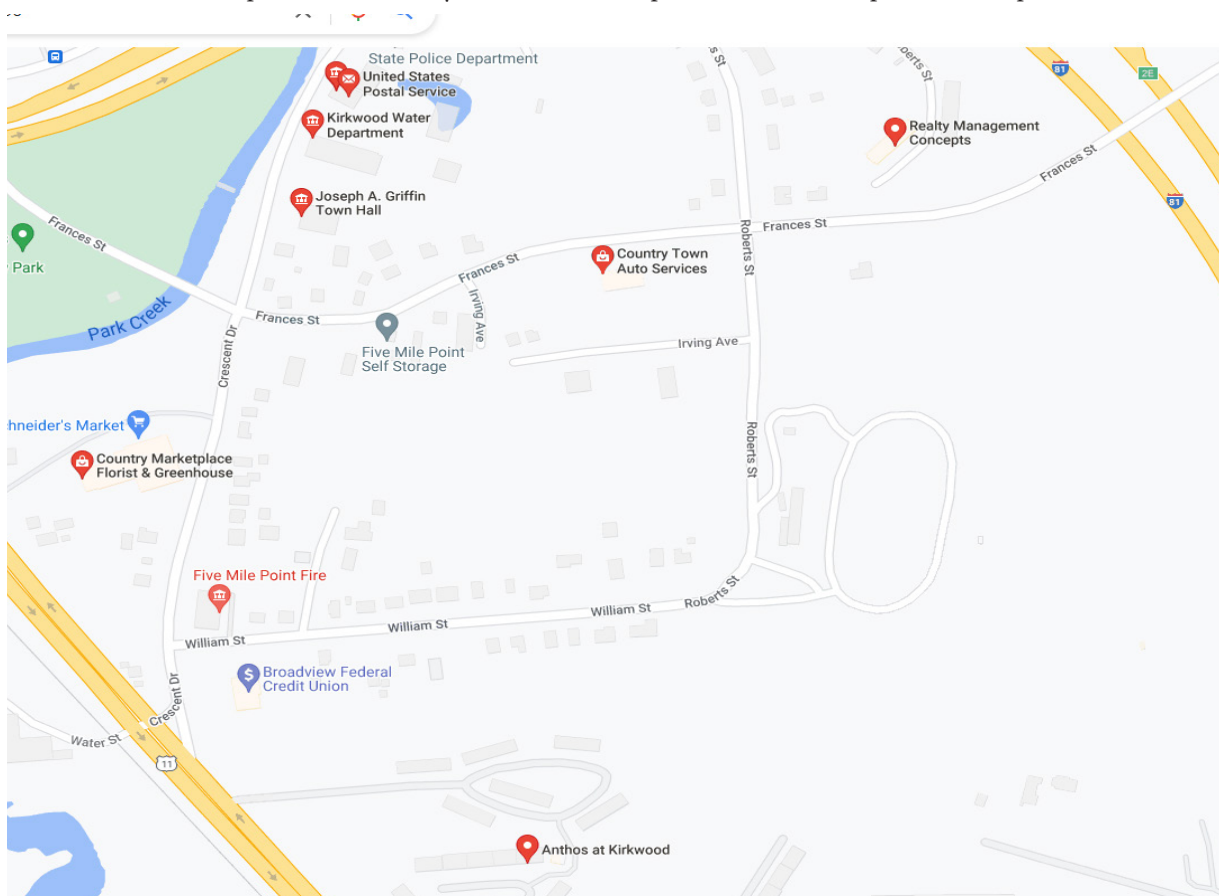
Town Board Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m

Respectfully Transcribed and Submitted Tracy Tokos
Town Clerk

NEWSPAPER EDITED MINUTES TOWN OF KIRKWOOD PUBLIC HEARING (Meinstein Property 5 Mile Point)

March 14, 2024 Adoption of a Local Law “A Local Law Rezoning 110 William Street (Tax Map #162.15-2-11), 925 NYS Route 11 (Tax Map #162.15-2-12), and a Portion of 24 Sunset Drive (Tax Map #162.15-1-56) to the Industrial Development Zoning District” was held on March 14, 2024 at 6 PM at Floyd L. Bell Elementary School. Supervisor Grubham opened the hearing and explained that Mr. Meinstein would give a brief explanation of changes he has made to the original proposed Five Mile Point Warehouse Project site and then the public would be allowed to comment and give their opinions as well. Adam Meinstein, manager of Five Mile Point Warehouse Investors, LLC, handed out a packet of drawings to everyone and announced his company is the owner of the former Five Mile Point Speedway property. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to present a redesigned plan of the original warehouse project. Mr. Meinstein explained the Town of Kirkwood Planning Board and Broome County Planning Department approved the new plan with minor stipulations. NYSDOT also accepted and approved the revised traffic impact study with three required mitigation areas. The three areas include: crosswalks for Valley Park, improved turning and motion lanes at the intersection of Route 11 and Crescent Drive, and a turning lane for the Route 11 south bound lane into Grosset Drive. Mr. Meinstein has agreed to these revisions and to incur the expense of them as well. Mr. Meinstein suggested traffic patterns are vastly improving and reported approval from NYSDOT to add signage in the Grosset Drive area to hopefully direct traffic away from the Crescent Drive/Frances Street area. Another significant change from the original proposed plan is the acquirement of a right of way that allows access to a driveway off of Grosset Drive. All Frances Street driveway access has been eliminated. The deed restrictions state that Frances Street will never be used as a driveway, and the property will be maintained by the owner. Building orientation has been changed as well, with the buildings essentially flip flopped, now facing Interstate 81. Mr. Meinstein referred to the packet of drawings he handed out several times regarding green space, setbacks, lighting, and sound barriers. This packet is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. The sewer pump and pumping station that service the warehouse property will be upgraded by Mr. Meinstein. Although the land may get rezoned as Industrial Development, Mr. Meinstein is willing to restrict the uses his company would allow to only Light Industrial uses. Will Thornton a mechanical engineer with Thornton Acoustics and Vibrations evaluated the sound impact of the proposed project. After the Town’s local sound ordinance was reviewed and an ambient sound study was conducted, it was determined the residents are already experiencing very high noise levels throughout the day, primarily from Interstate 81. The final portion of the study was to model and predict the sound impact

of the warehouses, it was determined the truck noise will not exceed the current noise ordinance or add to the existing ambient noise. The buildings will act as a noise barrier to residents living to the west of the project site. Lisa Batzel of William Street expects the rezoning to be passed, she questioned what roads will be used when the construction begins. Mr. Meinstein explained the intention is to use Grosset Drive, but if work needs to be done near Frances Street or William Street then those roads may be used at times. Lisa Batzel expressed her concern regarding area flooding and if the EMS access roads would be available to residents, which Mr. Meinstein agreed. Robert Gaube of Robert Street was surprised to hear a strip of land that runs along Frances Street will have deed restrictions and is not being deeded over to the Town. He then questioned what would happen if a new owner wanted to access Frances Street. It was explained by several people that with the deed restriction it cannot ever be used as an access point, even if the owner changes. The owner is also responsible to maintain that portion of land. Robert Gaube then questioned the retention ponds, what will be retained in them and how deep will they be. The final design is not complete yet, but there will be no standing water. He also spoke about a concern for Frances Street being used during the construction phase, along with dust and dirt that have been contaminated for decades with hazardous materials. Supervisor Grubham explained that Town code and the DEC will be on site to monitor these things. Lastly, Robert Gaube expressed the relocation and reconfiguration of the warehouses are positive changes. Zach Demann of Robert Street asked if the stormwater could be monitored to be sure inappropriate things weren’t being dumped from the warehouses, although restrictions are in place, it doesn’t mean they are always followed. He’s concerned about what the Industrial Development zone could bring to the area. Cheryl Coolbaugh of Blakeslee Road, who lives past Exit 1 off Route 11, questioned if there has ever been a traffic study done at Exit 1. She pointed out the amount of traffic already coming from Conklin (Dick’s and Amazon) using Exit 1 and suggested the Board keep that in mind with the traffic that is getting pushed that way from Grosset Drive. She mentioned sound issues for residents living between I-81 and Route 11, and wanted to know if property values have ever been discussed. She felt the warehouses would most likely decrease property values. Lastly, Cheryl Coolbaugh questioned why Kirkwood only attracts warehouses, and nothing useful or fun. Linda Glezen of Crescent Drive brought up a study regarding sound barriers near Exit 2, 81N, and 17W and although adding more sound barriers at this time has not been approved by the State, she is concerned the warehouses will add more truck traffic, therefore add more noise to an already noisy area. Will Thornton explained the amount of traffic coming from the warehouses will not increase



the ambient sound levels. William Teegarden of Don Street inquired about the tree line along 81S and site elevations of the project. Bob Hamm, co-owner of Schnieder’s Market, reported he rarely has to wait for trucks when leaving his plaza, at times it could be for buses or when Buckingham Manufacturing is letting out, otherwise he claimed Route 11 is not a busy road. Angela Tokos Coolbaugh of Haskins Road inquired about the deed restrictions and a new owner with the use of Frances Street as an access point. Mr. McKertich explained it will be enforced in two different ways, one through the local law itself, which prevents access to and from the site from Frances Street. In addition, a deed restriction will be acquired from the property owner that prohibits access to and from the property, that restriction will run with the land, and survive from owner to owner. Angela Tokos Coolbaugh questioned her study regarding the addition of two large warehouses and then being told there is no change in noise level. Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution to close the public hearing. Councilmember Legg seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Supervisor Grubham closed the hearing at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kelley M. Diffendorf Town Clerk

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).

NEWSPAPER EDITED TOWN OF KIRKWOOD

TOWN BOARD MEETING April 3, 2024

MINUTES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Cheryl Coolbaugh of Blakeslee Road reminded the Board members they were put into office by residents to represent the entire Town, not just a few property owners. Any decisions made will affect the whole Town for generations to come.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Community Cleanup Day. Councilmember Wasson announced there will be a community cleanup day on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Garbage bags can be picked up on Friday, April 19th from 9 AM – 3 PM at the Highway Garage or at the Town Hall on Saturday, April 20th from 9:30 AM – 10 AM.

Dog Control Report. A copy is filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Annual Financial Report. Supervisor Grubham reported the annual financial report has been submitted to the State.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing Chad Moran to attend the Southern Tier Builders & Remodelers Association Training at the Ithaca Hilton Garden Inn, Ithaca, NY, on June 11-12, 2024, with a registration fee of \$125 and all reasonable expenses paid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Education C.Moran Code Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution rescinding Resolution #40:24, Amending the Rules and Regulations Governing Attendance and Benefits for Town of Kirkwood Employees regarding Reimbursement Policy for Work Clothing for Department of Public Works Employees. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution approving the 2023 Year End Budget Journal Entries, in accordance with the attached Journal Entries. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution approving the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials for Julie Wyatt as Budget Officer, in accordance with the attached resolution. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing John Finch to attend the 2024 Highway School, June 3-5, 2024 at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, at a cost not to exceed \$125. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion. Before moving on to the next resolution Mr. McKertich explained the Board needed to review the (Adam Meinstein) SEQR forms to determine whether there is an adverse environmental impact as a result of the project and rezoning of the property. The applicant filled out Part 1 of the EAF (Full Environmental Assessment Form). After Part 1 was reviewed a few changes were made to an old tax map number and street name that were referenced, along with two unanswered questions (in sections C2 and D2), these errors were corrected, and each change was initialed by Adam Meinstein. Councilmember Wasson confirmed with the applicant regarding section D2 that the earth will move around the project site, not be built up in elevation. After the discussions were complete all Board members agreed to move forward to Part 2.

Part 2 – Identification of Potential Project Impacts.

Any section not noted below means there was no discussion regarding the potential project impact, whether the initial box was checked No or Yes (No, or small impact may occur).

4. Impact on groundwater – Councilmember Weingartner believes the stormwater will manage the groundwater better with the new buildings than it is managed now. Councilmember Diffendorf questioned the circle (in feet) around the aquifer for contamination. Supervisor Grubham noted this project is about as far away as you can get from that well. Councilmember Diffendorf mentioned a past issue with contamination from a trucking company. Supervisor Grubham explained that was an existing issue and the engineering of the



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stormwater management system on this new project would take care of contaminants getting into the ground water. John Finch explained the potential project would be using the Town's water supply from the tanks, they are not using the water from the aquifer. Mr. McKertich confirmed that it is not a new or additional use of groundwater, it is an existing use from municipal water. Box No was checked.

5. Impact on Flooding. Councilmember Diffendorf expressed concern of the project creating flooding in the future, whether it be overflowing of small streams or not enough retention. Mr. McKertich explained the question is if the land the project is being built on is subject to flooding. There's a stormwater management system (SWIFT) that manages the flow of stormwater off the site. The requirement is the amount of discharged water from the site should not be increased post construction. John Mastronardi agreed. Councilmember Diffendorf questioned if the Board should check this box Yes to be sure the applicant complies with these requirements. He was unsure why the Board was going through these questions otherwise. John Mastronardi agreed with Councilmember Diffendorf on meeting the requirements but said that would be found in section 3 regarding surface water, which was checked Yes. This section 5 is on land subject to flooding, already in the floodplain. Box No was checked.

11. Impact on Open Space and Recreation. Councilmember Diffendorf commented the facility was recreational and has been labeled the historical Five Mile Point Speedway, maybe one of the longest running race tracks in New York State. Councilmember Diffendorf made it clear he was not opposing anything he just felt it was worth mentioning. Councilmember Weingartner defined recreation as walking, running, riding your bike, and swimming, and noted the race track was entertainment. Box No was checked.

14. Impact on Energy. Section c – electricity use. Councilmember Weingartner calculated an 11% increase in electricity usage per year for this project, which is considered a small impact. John Mastronardi agreed and suggested that would be addressed with NYSEG. Councilmember Diffendorf noted this potential project will be using much more electricity than what was previously there. Mr. McKertich explained the SEQR analysis is to determine whether there is a moderate to large adverse environmental impact as a result of the project. It is a question of whether or not the use of this electricity is going to moderately or largely have an adverse environmental impact. Councilmember Diffendorf confirmed we are only talking about this site. Mr. McKertich agreed and added, also the environment. Section d – heating and cooling/100,000 sq ft. After reading the question, John Mastronardi commented 455,000 square feet is a moderate to large impact. Mr. McKertich referred to the addendum, item #14 (which is attached and on file). Councilmember Weingartner felt it would be a small impact since building temperatures were never kept extra warm or extra cool. Adam Meinstein commented the buildings would be well insulated and highly energy efficient. Responding to Supervisor Grubham's question on how the Town was able to move past this portion on other buildings larger than the 100,000 square feet, Marchie Diffendorf noted the FedEx building replaced another building that was already on site. John Mastronardi gave examples from the DEC website that explained what would meet the requirements of a moderate to large impact. Supervisor Grubham felt this was not a proper question for this site. Mr. McKertich said to the Board, looking at the site in general, the infrastructure for the site, the surrounding uses, the proposed use of the property, from an energy perspective do you feel there is going to be a moderate to large environmental impact as a result of the energy usage. Councilmember Weingartner answered no. Councilmember Diffendorf questioned why the 100,000 square feet number would be asked if it won't be used. Suggesting a building four times that is a large impact. Adam Meinstein was told there is plenty of power on site. Councilmember Diffendorf asked Mr.

McKertich if the Board's answers can be challenged. Mr. McKertich responded that if someone did challenge anything, they would need to demonstrate the Board's decisions was arbitrary and capricious and the Board didn't rely on the input of its engineer and its own experience in making these determinations. They would also need to show that it does in fact result in a moderate to large environmental impact. The questions are intended to help guide the discussion and thought process but there is no law that says if the building is more than 100,000 square feet it is a moderate to large impact, that is not the rule. They are heating with natural gas, they have both gas and electric going to the building. Box No, or small impact may occur was checked.

18. Consistency with Community Character. Councilmember Legg stated two concrete structures are changing the character of that community. Addendum. Mr. McKertich explained the addendum is intended to provide more material and information to the Part 2 analysis. Mr. McKertich will make a couple changes to the addendum (item #4 and #18), since the Board answered them differently than anticipated. A copy is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Part 3 of the EAF was finalized with the Board agreeing to check box A. No significant adverse impacts on the environment.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting the Full Environmental Assessment Form regarding Local Law No. 4-2024 entitled "A Local Law Rezoning 110 William Street (Tax Map #162.15-2-11), 925 NYS Route 11 (Tax Map #162.15-2-12), and (Tax Map #162.15-1-56) to the Industrial Development Zoning District", in accordance with the attached Full EAF, including Parts 1, 2, 3 and the addendum. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion. Mr. McKertich explained the following resolution is to approve the local law and rezoning application for the racetrack site. There's also been discussions of a restrictive covenant on the property as well, the proposed map is on file. It would be a restricted area along Francis Street to prevent access but also use of the property (130 feet). Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting Local Law No. 4-2024 entitled "A Local Law Rezoning 110 William Street (Tax Map #162.15-2-11), 925 NYS Route 11 (Tax Map #162.15-2-12), and (Tax Map #162.15-1-56) to the Industrial Development Zoning District" and approving the Rezoning Application by Five Mile Point Warehouse Investors, LLC, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Legg - no MOTION CARRIED.

AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing the audit and payment of the following claims: General and Highway Funds, Special Districts (Fire, Light, Water and Sewer Districts), Professional Services, Capital Projects and Reserve Funds claims #24000283 through #24000382 in the total amount of \$200,949.78, which includes prepaid claims as authorized by resolution adopted January 2, 2024. Councilmember MOTION CARRIED.

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD TOWN BOARD MEETING April 3, 2024 5 ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution to adjourn the meeting. Respectfully submitted, Kelley M. Diffendorf Town Clerk



How to renew a DOD ID to keep unique benefits as a civilian

By Connie Mabin

Transitioning from active duty to civilian life can be a daunting task for members of the military. One thing that often comes as a surprise is finding out that a Defense Department military identification card is no longer valid, and some of the benefits suddenly stop.

Besides serving as an ID, the card is also used to access buildings and controlled spaces, and it provides access to DOD computer networks and systems. And even after separation or retirement, some of the unique benefits troops receive while in uniform are still accessible in civilian life. That includes TSA PreCheck, free entry to national parks and myriad other discount programs. TSA PreCheck allows travelers who have passed a background check to have their travel security screenings expedited — privileges like quicker lines and keeping your shoes, belts and jackets on at airport checks.

“Many military retirees find out the hard way that their DOD ID number no longer works for their TSA PreCheck benefit because they no longer have a current background check with the military,” said Mark Wojciechowski, a veteran and Transportation Security Administration spokesman. How to get a USID card When someone retires, they need to reapply for a type of DOD ID called the Next Generation USID card. USID cards may be used to access the benefits. In the case of some benefits like TSA PreCheck, non-active veterans have to apply & pay once their CAC card expires.

Robert Eves, a program analyst for identity and ID card policy at the Defense Manpower Data Center, suggests

any service member who has a continuing affiliation with the DOD make an appointment at a DOD ID Card office to have their card reissued.

Eves broke down the various types of ID cards:

Retirees: Service members who retire from active duty are eligible for a retiree USID card from their retirement date until the day before their 65th birthday, following their 65th birthday, they receive a USID card with an indefinite expiration date.

Reserve retirees: Service members who retire from the reserves with enough creditable service to receive retired pay and medical benefits at age 60 are eligible for a Reserve Retired USID card with commissary, exchange and MWR benefits only. Upon reaching their 60th birthday, they are eligible for a retiree USID card issued through the day before their 65th birthday, at which point they must make their Medicare Part B decision. Following their 65th birthday, they receive a retiree USID card with an indefinite expiration date.

Former members: Service members with enough creditable service to receive retired pay & medical benefits at age 60, but who elect to separate from the service and maintain no military affiliation, are eligible for a former member USID card with commissary, exchange and MWR benefits only. Upon reaching their 60th birthday, they are eligible for a former member USID card with medical benefits through the day before their 65th birthday, when they choose whether to join Medicare Part B. Following their 65th birthday, they can receive a former member USID card with indefinite expiration date.

100% Disabled American Veterans (DAV): Service members who, as a result of a service-connected disability, have been rated 100% disabled, 100% unemployable or permanently and totally disabled by the Department of

Veterans Affairs, are eligible for a 100% DAV USID card with commissary, exchange and MWR benefits only. The VA provides medical benefits for this population.

Reservists: Service members who transition from active duty to the reserve are eligible for a reserve USID card with commissary, exchange and MWR benefits only through the expiration date of their obligated service.

Troops who separate from the service, are not eligible for retired pay or benefits, and do not maintain an affiliation with the military, are not eligible for an USID card.



VETERANS CORNER



Ukrainian armed forces on April 4, according to CENTCOM.

“These weapons will help Ukraine defend against Russia’s invasion,” the command said in a social media post. The move comes as Ukraine has run low on munitions to defend itself, and as the U.S. seeks to disrupt Iran’s efforts to bolster proxy groups like the Houthis that threaten regional security.

The Houthis have launched near-daily attacks on commercial and military ships in the Middle East since the fall.

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps tried to send munitions to the Houthis between May 2021 and February 2023, but the shipments, which CENTCOM said were in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, were seized by the U.S. and partner forces.

This is not the first time the U.S. has transferred confiscated Iranian military equipment to Ukraine. In October, it sent approximately 1.1 million 7.62mm rounds of ammunition, according to the Department of Justice.

While a decision to send additional aid from the U.S. remains an unanswered question by Congress, Ukraine’s armed forces continue rationing supplies.

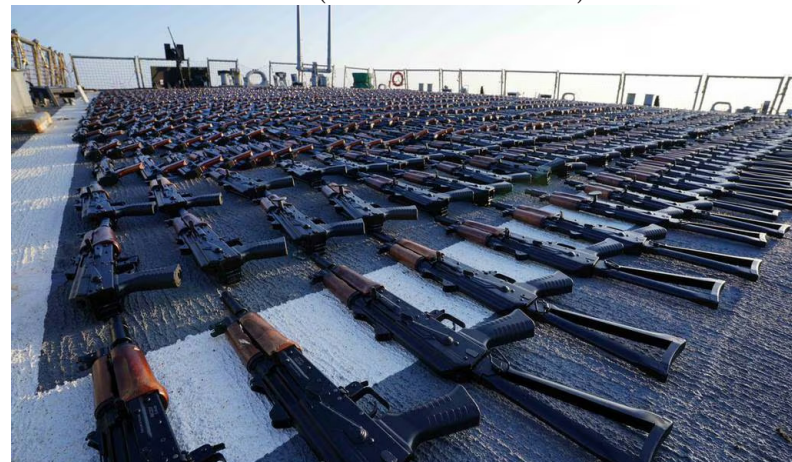
Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged lawmakers Tuesday to pass supplemental funding to support Kyiv as quickly as possible.

“It’s imperative,” he said during a press conference.

US gives Ukraine seized Iranian weapons that were headed to Houthis

By Jonathan Lehrfeld

The U.S. has sent weapons to Ukraine that it seized from an Iranian group that attempted to smuggle the weapons to Yemen’s Houthi militants. (U.S. Central Command)



The U.S. redirected thousands of weapons to Ukraine earlier this month that it seized from an Iranian group attempting to smuggle the munitions to Yemen’s Houthi militants, the Middle East-based U.S. Central Command said Tuesday.

More than 5,000 AK-47 rifles, machine guns, sniper rifles and rocket launchers, as well as more than 500,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, were transferred to the

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will be every third
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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

