



The Windsor Standard

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WS Vol. 145, No. 52

Friday, March 8, 2024

Newsstand Price \$1

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Governor Hochul Announces Funding Now Available to Support Electric School Bus Charging Infrastructure

From the Governor.ny.gov Website



New York School Bus Incentive Program Makes Charging Infrastructure and Electric Upgrades for Clean Buses More Affordable for Public Schools

Supports Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Goal to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 85% by 2050

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced funding is now available for electric school bus charging infrastructure under the historic \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and through the New York School Bus Incentive Program. Support is available to help make installing Level 2 or Direct Current Fast Charging chargers and associated electrical upgrades more affordable for public school districts and the bus operators that contract with them. Today's announcement supports the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85 percent by 2050 and New York State's requirements that all school buses in New York

State be zero-emission by 2035.

"Young people are at the center of the climate crisis, and enabling the transition to a zero-emission school bus fleet is not only a commitment to a greener future, but to the health and well-being of our students," Governor Hochul said. "As school districts make the switch to electric buses, my administration is providing the resources necessary to transition as easily and affordably as possible."

Administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the program is now accepting applications from public school districts and school bus operators. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the level of funding provided is based on the number of buses a school district or bus operator has purchased or is currently purchasing. Amounts start at \$25,000 per bus to cover hardware, customer-side electrical site upgrades, installation costs, and battery storage. Districts designated as priority districts can receive an additional \$10,000 per bus. Priority districts are defined as high-need school districts by the New York State Education Department or those that serve disadvantaged communities as defined by the New York State Climate Justice Working Group.

As part of the process, applicants can receive up to an additional \$30,000 per bus if they choose the option to complete a Fleet Electrification Plan which provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing fleet operations, analysis of current site electrical capabilities, and will serve as an action plan for electrifying the applicant's entire fleet by 2035.

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*"March bustles in on windy feet and sweeps my doorstep and my street."
--Susan Reiner*

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Weeks Artists on Display
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Annual Safety Night
Read Article on page 2!



Annual Safety Night

By Windsor School District

The Windsor Central School District held its annual Safety Night Thursday, bringing together District officials, students, school personnel and first responders to be better prepared in case of emergency.

“Every year there is something we can take away to improve our practice. Having face time with people in every building and community partners is vital to help keep our students and staff safe,” said Chris Klumpp, Windsor Central High School Director of Athletics, Health, and Safety.

The group prepared for safety, medical, fire, mental health, and facilities emergencies, applying the district’s safety plan for each, and testing that plan’s effectiveness. Representatives from the New York State Police Broome County Sheriff’s Office, and local fire departments participated in the event.

“It’s important to have all members of the school and outside responders to all be on the same page so that when and if there is ever an incident, we will all be working together,” said WCHS School Resource Officer Jessica Griffin. “This event is extremely helpful. First responders are going to rely on the people in the school to help them do their job to their fullest capability. To meet and know what the plan is will make the process of handling whatever happens go as smoothly as possible.”

WCHS students also participated.

“If there was no student input, they could have a plan that is impactful on student lives without considering the student viewpoint. Having a student talking about what they would be feeling in that situation is important,” said WCHS senior Nicholas Pisano.

Thursday marked the 17th year of the Safety Night event.



Weeks Artists On Display

By Windsor School District

The creativity of Weeks Elementary students will be on display at the Discovery Center Friday, March 1st.

They have been working on a special art project with local beekeepers, art teacher Mrs. Edwards, and school counselor Mrs. Muto. They have built their own beehive using popsicle sticks, paint, and clear transparencies to draw on, with each student painting on their own hexagon shape. 5th graders drew their role in their community, family, or school on the transparency. 2nd graders made bees using recycled water bottles and plaster.

“5th graders did an awesome job connecting it to their personal lives. Some drew a church or about sports they do so I thought thinking individually about their own lives was important,” said Mrs. Edwards. “2nd graders got to try working with new materials to make a bee sculpture – working with plaster wrap for the first time. Painting a realistic-looking bee but adding their own flair to it.”

These will be exhibited at the Discovery Center Friday March 1st from 4-7pm. It is free admission night. Pre-k students will have their rainbows on display, 3rd graders will have watercolor flowers, and then 2nd and 5th graders will have bees and the hives.



Binghamton Commemorates Its 56th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade

A cherished tradition honoring Irish Americans in the city.

This past Saturday, March 2nd, individuals from various locations gathered for a longstanding annual tradition. The 56th St. Patrick’s Day Parade, organized by the Hibernian Parade Committee of Broome County, honored the enduring contributions of Irish Americans to the United States. Scores of people adorned in green congregated at the intersection of Fayette and Court St. to revel in Irish heritage.

Mayor Jared Kraham of Binghamton emphasized the sense of community encapsulated by the pre-parade Mass, stating, “Today, in Binghamton, everyone becomes Irish as we commemorate the struggles and achievements of Irish Americans since their arrival on our shores.”

Leading up to the main event, numerous activities unfolded on Friday, March 1st. Pipe bands traversed local taverns throughout Broome County, drumming up excitement for the parade. Irish associations joined forces to share elements of their culture, from melodious tunes on bagpipes to expressive dance performances.

Mayor Kraham underscored the significance of parade day as a pivotal communal celebration, expressing the city’s eagerness to uphold this cherished tradition for years to come.



Town of Windsor Is Accepting Quotes For Masonry Repair in Town of Windsor

Please Take Notice that the Town Board of the Town of Windsor, New York, will accept sealed quotes for exterior masonry repairs at the Windsor Town Hall. A summary of work can be found on the Town’s website at www.windsorny.org or at the Town Clerk’s Office, 124 Main St., Windsor, NY 13865. Quotes will be received by the Town Clerk, in the Town Hall, until 3:30 P.M. on March 13, 2024, quotes must be received in a sealed envelope marked “Masonry Quote”. Quotes will be publicly opened during the Windsor Town Board Meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on March 13, 2024 at the Windsor Town Hall. Each laborer, workman, or mechanic employed by the Contractor, Subcontractor, or other person about or upon the work under this Contract, shall be paid not less than the prevailing rate of wages, and shall be paid for or provided the supplements not less than the prevailing supplements as determined by the New York State Department of Labor, pursuant to Article 8 of the New York State Labor Law. The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotes submitted if they feel it to be in the best interest of the taxpayers.

**- Elizabeth Pfister, Windsor Town Clerk
Dated 2/14/24**



Calendar

March 13

High School Student Recognition
Location: Windsor Central High School (Windsor Central School District), Starts 7:00am

March 14

Superintendent’s Conference Day - No School- Windsor Central School District

March 15

No School- Windsor Central School District

March 19

Board of Education Meeting
Location: Weeks Elementary (Windsor Central School District), Starts 6:00pm

Senior Events

--See page 8 for all Windsor Wednesday Senior Events!

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.

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2024-2025

Universal Pre-kindergarten (4PK) and Expanded Pre-kindergarten for Three-Year-Old Students (3PK)

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024-2025 Universal Prekindergarten Program (4PK) and Expanded Pre-kindergarten for Three-Year-Old Students (3PK) in the Windsor Central School District. The program is free for Windsor school district residents. To be eligible for 4PK, a student must be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2024. To be eligible for 3PK, a student must be 3 years old on or before December 1, 2024. All students must meet New York State immunization requirements. If interested, please visit our website (www.windsor-csd.org) and follow the UPK & Expanded UPK for 3-Year-Old Students link under Programs or contact Amy Barton at 607-655-8216 for assistance. Students may attend the UPK program in any building but must attend Kindergarten in the elementary building for the attendance zone that encompasses their residence. At the present time all program planning for the 2024-2025 UPK is tentative – contingent upon adequate funding from the State Education Department.

Scholars & Students

Zoe Gates of Harpursville, NY was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Gates is in the graphic design program.



Employment Vacancy with the Broome County Office for Aging in Harpursville

Come join a wonderful team! We are looking for on-call positions for the Eastern Broome Senior Center and Meals on Wheels program. These positions are fun, fast paced and very fulfilling. You will be surrounded by a great group of senior center participants and volunteers! These are part-time positions with variable hours. For more information, please contact Rita at the Broome County Office for Aging at rita.fluharty@broomecountyny.gov or 607 778 2411.

The Town of Binghamton is looking for a Senior Citizens Program Coordinator. Can you help us?

Many years ago, the Town of Binghamton had a very successful Senior Citizens Program under the leadership of Prudy Drake. Prudy had the gift of organizing and creating wonderful trips, lunches, craft classes, and other special activities for the Town's seniors to enjoy. After serving for many years, Prudy eventually stepped down from this voluntary position. The Town made many attempts over the following year to find a new Coordinator but to no avail, and the program ended.

Ten years have now passed, and Councilperson Vickie Conklin would like to see if there is anyone out there who might be interested in volunteering for this position, bringing fresh new ideas and activities to our senior community. This person would organize activities for seniors, which could include bus trips, luncheons, tours, educational classes, etc.

If you have an interest in becoming the Town of Binghamton's Senior Citizens Program Coordinator, please contact Vickie at: Council2@townofbinghamton.com

Thanks, everyone. :)
Becky at the Town Hall



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Town of Windsor Is Accepting Quotes for Mowing/Trimming Cemeteries & Wastewater Treatment Plant in Town of Windsor

Please Take Notice that the Town Board of the Town of Windsor, New York, will accept sealed quotes for mowing/trimming the cemeteries and Wastewater Treatment Plant that are maintained by the Town of Windsor. Quote specifications can be found on the Town's website at www.windsorny.org or at the Town Clerk's Office, 124 Main St., Windsor, NY 13865. Quotes will be received by the Town Clerk, in the Town Hall, until 3:30 P.M. on March 13, 2024, quotes must be received in a sealed envelope marked "Quote for Mowing/Trimming". Quotes will be publicly opened during the Windsor Town Board Meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on March 13, 2024 at the Windsor Town Hall. The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotes submitted if they feel it to be in the best interest of the taxpayers.

-Elizabeth Pfister, Windsor Town Clerk
Dated 2/14/24

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The Salvation Army of Binghamton is relocating across the Chenango River.

Recently, the organization purchased a building on Walnut Street, intending to move from its current location at 127-131 Washington St.

Captain Joseph Hansen of the Salvation Army stated that the new location will better serve the community and facilitate the expansion of existing programs. Hansen highlighted plans to enhance the food service for those in need and potentially introduce new youth programs.

Presently, the Salvation Army of Binghamton offers food and hygiene pantries, breakfast and dinner programs, comprehensive care management services, worship services, and Christmas assistance.

They are thrilled about the new facility, remarked Bill Ritter, a longstanding board member and current chair. The expanded programs and services will finally have the space needed to accommodate the growing demand. This is a significant win for The Salvation Army and an even bigger win for our community.

While a specific move-in date has not been disclosed, the Salvation Army of Binghamton aims to transition to the new location within the next few months, with plans to sell the Washington Street property.



The Windsor Standard New York Press Association NYFA

NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The Windsor Standard goes to press on Wednesdays. Deadline for news and advertising is the Friday before the desired week of publication.

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A subscription to The Windsor Standard is available for \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside Broome County and papers are mailed weekly every Thursday from Conklin.

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The Windsor Standard 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.

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PERIODICAL Postage Paid
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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PO Box 208
Conklin, NY 13748-0208

Publisher: Gretchen VanWalterop
607 775-0472
Published Weekly on Wednesday

News@TiersNews.com
Ads@TiersNews.com
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Governor Hochul Announces Funding Now Available to Support Electric School Bus Charging Infrastructure (Continued From Page 1)

From the Governor.ny.gov Website



NYSERDA CEO and President Doreen M. Harris said, “New York’s continued investment in electric school buses represents a profound leap towards a cleaner future and will safeguard student health by reducing harmful emissions and improving local air quality. As schools begin to make the transition, comprehensive fleet planning can help districts understand their unique needs and best capitalize on this critical funding to help cover charging installation costs.”

Applicants must have purchased their electric school bus(es) after January 1, 2023, to be eligible for charging funds. Additionally, bus purchases must be funded through the district, a bus operator’s own resources, through New York School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP), or through New York Truck Voucher Incentive Program or the Environmental Protection Agency Clean School Bus Program. Other utility programs and federal incentives to help reduce the cost of electric buses and infrastructure include the Medium and Heavy Duty Make Ready Pilot and the Inflation Reduction Act 45W and 30C tax credits.

Complete eligibility criteria and rules for this charging infrastructure funding can be found here. For more information on NYSBIP and new charging incentives register for NYSEDA’s webinar on March 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. ET.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said, “Governor Hochul’s sustained commitment to clean transportation is improving air quality and transforming the way we travel. Today’s announcement is another important step in supporting school districts and bus fleet owners by providing vital infrastructure upgrades to support zero-emission school bus fleets by 2035. Working with NYSEDA and other partners, DEC is leveraging Environmental Bond Act funding opportunities to advance climate action in communities statewide, one school bus at a time.”

New York State Public Service Commission Chair Rory M. Christian said, “With actions like this, we see yet another example of Governor Hochul’s continued commitment to invest in a cleaner future. Making our school bus fleet cleaner will help provide our children with a cleaner environment and will drive the clean energy economy.”

Planning and Technical Assistance

Under the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act (Bond Act), \$5 million of the initial \$100 million in funding for zero-emission buses is set aside to provide schools with technical assistance. Priority districts can have up to 100 percent of the cost of these plans covered while other school districts can have up to 75 percent of the cost covered. Planning resources such as the Electric School Bus Roadmap and the Electric School Bus Guidebook are also available to help explain costs, funding mechanisms, and policy options as well as factors and decisions that school districts and bus opera-

tors face when considering clean bus options.

State Senator Pete Hareckham said, “To increase our efforts in reducing greenhouse gases, we need to continue transitioning to zero emission vehicles, including school buses. Electric school buses are healthier for students and, in the long run, more cost-effective for school districts and taxpayers. The time to ramp up our EV charging infrastructure statewide is now, however, and I applaud NYSEDA’s financial support for school districts that are working to convert their fleets to electric buses.”

State Senator Kevin Parker said, “Converting our state’s public school bus fleets to electric buses is a critical component to achieve the clean transportation goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. We are making these investments to ensure a more environmentally-just New York and an important step forward in supporting school districts making this transition.”

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am very pleased that the Environmental Bond Act funding will now be available to help ease the transition to electric school buses for school districts throughout New York State. As we face the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change, it is essential that we take steps to reduce the amount of carbon we release into the atmosphere and, at the same time, ensure the process is smooth for school districts and without financial burden. I am committed to making sure school districts know what funding is available to them and how to access it as they make their transition into a more sustainable future. The funding available through the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act will help ensure the steps to improving our community are possible.”

State Senator Tim Kennedy said, “I strongly encourage school districts and bus operators across New York to take advantage of this funding opportunity to help offset the costs of a statewide transition to electric school buses. This funding is specifically designed to ensure that districts, especially those that are high-need, have access to assistance while upgrading fleets and infrastructure in order to meet our ambitious climate goals.”

Assemblymember Didi Barrett said, “When we passed the Environmental Bond Act, we committed to providing substantial investments in our new, green economy, and I am pleased to see that this funding is now available to expand charging infrastructure for electric school buses. It is vital that New York State provide the necessary guidance, resources, and funding to support school districts in their transition to zero-emission school buses.”

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy said, “Today’s announcement is a welcomed ‘breath of fresh air’ for students and school districts across New York. New Yorkers overwhelmingly approved the Environmental Bond Act, and I’m thrilled to see a portion of its funding going to alleviate the cost burden on local school districts for EV bus charging equipment. Retiring diesel-powered buses not only reduces a major public health risk for our students and disadvantaged communities — it is also critical to meeting New York’s nation-leading climate mandates. I commend Governor Hochul for recognizing the need to assist our school districts amid this transition so that cleaner air becomes a reality for more New York students in the years to come.”

Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick said, “As

we continue to reduce air pollution, especially in areas that directly impact children, electric school buses require an expansion of charging infrastructure. This investment of Environmental Bond Act resources is a critical component of our efforts to meet our environmental goals included in the state’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. I look forward to our shared commitment to ensure clean air and clean water for all New Yorkers.”

Assemblymember Michael R. Benedetto said, “I am excited about the funding available to upgrade infrastructure for electric school buses. This program has the potential to facilitate their transition, ultimately reducing greenhouse emissions.”

President of the New York League of Conservation Voters Julie Tighe said, “School districts across the state are already beginning their ESB journey with the help of the New York School Bus Incentive Program, and soon they’ll reap the benefits of cleaner air and healthier school children. We are thrilled to see Bond Act funding now opening up for charging infrastructure and we applaud Governor Hochul for making New York an ESB state and ensuring school districts have the resources they need.”

Superintendent at the Lake George Central School District John Luthringer said, “Lake George is thrilled to be one of the first districts to receive school bus voucher funding through the NY School Bus Incentive Program and we look forward to applying for additional financial support through the charging program. As school districts continue to work toward meeting the state’s requirements for purchasing electric buses, these funding opportunities are incredibly important for schools to take advantage of, and Lake George is excited to be a part of it!”

Assistant Superintendent for Business at the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns Brian Fried said, “It’s been challenging for school districts to be fiscally responsible and environmentally conscious all at the same time. Transitioning to electric school buses allows us to modernize our transportation infrastructure while helping to minimize our reliance on fossil fuels. We’re pleased to embark on this process to model sustainability practices for our kids without additional burdensome school taxes for our community.”



Suffolk Transportation Services Chief Operating Officer and President of NYSBCA Thomas W. Smith said, “As we look toward growing our electric school bus fleet, it is exciting news that funding will be available to help with the cost of chargers and utility upgrades to provide a swifter path toward school bus electrification. Infrastructure is a significant component in the deployment of the State’s school bus electrification initiative. We look forward to continuing to work with NYSEDA to sup-

CONTINUE READING ON PAGE 5

Governor Hochul Announces Funding Now Available to Support Electric School Bus Charging Infrastructure (Continued From Page 4)

From the Governor.ny.gov Website

port the transition to all-electric school bus fleets.

Bond Act Funding for Electric Buses

A total of \$500 million is earmarked in the Bond Act for zero-emission school bus and infrastructure grants and today's announcement is part of the initial \$100 million made available in November. To date, the grant opportunity attracted 20 applications for 97 buses totaling \$22 million and school bus manufacturers and bus dealers can continue to apply on a rolling basis. NYSBIP eligibility guidelines were open for public comment through September 1, 2023, and published on September 28, 2023, following robust Bond Act public engagement processes. To receive the latest information about upcoming webinars and other program news, sign-up for updates here.

The NYSBIP complements the State's ongoing investments in clean transportation of nearly \$3 billion over the next five years and adoption of clean car and clean truck regulations that require 100 percent zero-emission passenger car and light-duty truck sales by 2035. Active medium- and heavy-duty truck initiatives include zero-emission truck purchase vouchers through the New York Truck Voucher Incentive Program (NYTVIP) and the New York City Clean Trucks Program, the "EV Make Ready" initiative to help expand electric vehicle use, fleet assessment services and the New York Clean Transportation Prizes.

New York State's Nation-Leading Climate Plan

New York State's climate agenda calls for an orderly and just transition that creates family-sustaining jobs, continues to foster a green economy across all sectors and ensures that at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the benefits of clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities. Guided by some of the nation's most aggressive climate and clean energy initiatives, New York is advancing a suite of efforts – including the New York Cap-and-Invest program (NYCI) and other complementary policies – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels. New York is also on a path to achieving a zero-emission electricity sector by 2040, including 70 percent renewable energy generation by 2030, and economywide carbon neutrality by mid-century. A cornerstone of this transition is New York's unprecedented clean energy investments, including more than \$40 billion in 64 large-scale renewable and transmission projects across the State, \$6.8 billion to reduce building emissions, \$3.3 billion to scale up solar, nearly \$3 billion for clean transportation initiatives and over \$2 billion in NY Green Bank commitments. These and other investments are supporting more than 170,000 jobs in New York's clean energy sector as of 2022 and over 3,000 percent growth in the distributed solar sector since 2011. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, New York also adopted zero-emission vehicle regulations, including requiring all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold in the State be zero emission by 2035. Partnerships are continuing to advance New York's climate action with more than 400 registered and more than 130 certified Climate Smart Communities, nearly 500 Clean Energy Communities, and the State's largest community air monitoring initiative in 10 disadvantaged communities across the State to help target air pollution and combat climate change.

Governor Hochul Marks \$27 Million for School Technology and Security Enhancements

From the Governor.ny.gov Website



Funding Secured Through the Smart Schools Bond Act

Investment Plans Approved by Smart Schools Review Board

\$2 Billion Smart Schools Bond Act Continues to Support Classroom Technology, School Connectivity, and High-Tech Security

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the approval of 59 Smart Schools Investment Plans focused on reimagining education in an evolving age and boosting school security. The approved plans, totaling \$27 million, are part of the \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act, a sweeping education technology program.

"Providing our students the opportunity to learn with cutting-edge technology is essential to prepare them for the workforce of the future," Governor Hochul said. "These investments not only provide a safer learning environment, but will give our students a greater understanding of the utilities available to them in the world they will graduate into."

The Smart Schools Review Board met today for the 21st time to consider investment plans submitted by school districts and special education schools. The Board is composed of the New York State Budget Director, the Chancellor of the State University of New York, and the Commissioner of the State Education Department.

The plans approved by the Board were submitted by 53 school districts and two special education schools. Projects include \$21 million for high-tech security, \$4.4 million for classroom technology, \$1 million for prekindergarten classrooms, \$604,000 for school connectivity, and \$37,000 for nonpublic schools' classroom technology and school connectivity. A summary of the plans is available.

The investments authorized will help ensure student safety and modernize classrooms statewide. High-tech security tools supported by the Smart Schools Bond Act include entry control systems, video systems, and emergency classroom notification systems. These upgrades will enhance the safety of New York schools, helping to ensure that students are able to learn in a secure environment.

New technology purchases supported by the Smart Schools Bond Act include computer servers, interactive whiteboards, tablets, desktop and laptop

computers, and high-speed broadband and wireless connectivity. These tools empower students to individualize their learning, expand opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom, and promote parent-teacher communication.

Division of Budget Director Blake Washington said, "The Smart Schools Bond Act modernizes outdated classrooms and also enhances school safety. By continuing these investments in IT infrastructure and technology in our schools, our students will grow and develop in the digital age safely."

Department of Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa said, "For nearly a decade, schools across the State have benefitted from the resources provided by the SSBA -- and the plans we approved today will help even more districts as they address the rapidly changing technology and security needs of their students and educational communities. Technology enhancements have been a real game-changer for New York's teachers, students, and families. Innovative technologies can foster improved teaching and learning and make our schools safer as well. Tomorrow's groundbreaking technologies will be created by today's students, so let's continue to give them the tools and resources they need to lead us into the future."

SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. said, "Preparing students for success requires access to technology that helps them learn and opens doors to future possibilities. The Smart Schools Bond Act provides equitable access to advanced technology that enables New York students to be better prepared for their education and careers."

In 2014, New York State invested \$2 billion in its schools through a Smart Schools Bond Act—an initiative to finance educational technology and infrastructure, providing students access to the latest technology and connectivity needed to succeed and compete in the 21st century economy. New Yorkers agreed, as the voters authorized the Smart Schools Bond Act that November.

Following the proposal of the Bond Act, the Smart Schools Commission was established to gather information on strategies for how schools can most effectively invest the bond funds. This advisory commission recommended a focus on expanding robust broadband and wireless connectivity and utilizing transformative technologies. The plans approved today by the Smart Schools Review Board reflect many of the best practices identified by the Commission.



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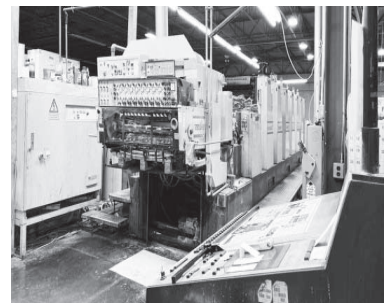


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Championing Women's Rights Beyond Women's History

Month:

A Call to Action for Businesses, Employers, Political Leaders, and Individuals



Women's History Month serves as a poignant reminder of the achievements and struggles of women throughout history. However, honoring women's contributions and advocating for their rights should not be confined to a single month. It requires ongoing commitment and action from businesses, employers, political leaders, and individuals alike. In this article, we explore tangible ways these stakeholders can honor Women's Month and actively fight for women's rights every day.

Businesses:

1. Promote Gender Diversity: Businesses can prioritize diversity and inclusion by ensuring equitable representation of women at all levels of the organization. Implementing policies and practices that foster a supportive and inclusive work environment can help attract and retain talented women.

2. Equal Pay and Benefits: Employers must ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work and have access to the same benefits and opportunities as their male counterparts. Conducting regular pay equity audits and addressing any disparities is crucial in promoting fairness and transparency.

3. Support Work-Life Balance: Offering flexible work arrangements, parental leave policies, and childcare support can help alleviate the disproportionate burden of caregiving often placed on women. By accommodating employees' diverse needs, businesses create a more inclusive workplace culture.

Political Leaders:

1. Advocate for Policy Change: Political leaders play a vital role in advancing women's rights through legislation and policy reform. Supporting initiatives such as paid family leave, affordable childcare, and anti-discrimination laws can help address systemic barriers faced by women in the workforce.

2. Gender-Responsive Budgeting: Incorporating a gender lens into budgeting processes can ensure that

government spending addresses the specific needs and priorities of women and girls. Investing in healthcare, education, and social services can empower women economically and socially.

3. Amplify Women's Voices: Political leaders should actively seek out and amplify the voices of women in decision-making processes, including appointing women to leadership positions and consulting with women's organizations on policy matters.

Individuals:

1. Challenge Gender Stereotypes: Individuals can challenge harmful gender stereotypes and biases in their personal and professional lives. By fostering an environment of respect and equality, we can create space for women to thrive and pursue their goals without limitations.

2. Support Women-Owned Businesses: Choose to patronize and support women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in your community. Economic empowerment is a powerful tool for advancing women's rights and creating opportunities for financial independence.

3. Advocate and Educate: Speak out against gender-based discrimination and inequality wherever you encounter it. Whether through social media advocacy, community organizing, or engaging in conversations with friends and family, individuals can raise awareness and drive meaningful change.

Honoring Women's History Month is not just about celebrating the past achievements of women; it's about taking tangible actions to create a more equitable and inclusive future. Businesses, employers, political leaders, and individuals all have a role to play in advancing women's rights on a daily basis. By prioritizing gender diversity, advocating for policy change, challenging stereotypes, and supporting one another, we can collectively work towards a world where every woman and girl has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Town of Windsor Vacant Position(s) Town of Windsor Planning Board

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Windsor is accepting applications for (a) vacant position(s) on the Town of Windsor Planning Board. Letters of Interest need to be received at the Town Clerk's Office by 3:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Interested individuals must be a resident of the Town of Windsor, and include a written statement indicating why they are interested in participating in local government, noting any prior experience. Letters should be marked "Planning Board Position" and can be mailed or dropped off to: Windsor Town Clerk, 124 Main Street, Windsor, NY 13865.

Dated 2/14/24



Broadway In Binghamton: Local Libraries Will Highlight Louisa May Alcott, The Author of "Little Women."

Ahead of the staging of "Little Women," Broadway in Binghamton is collaborating with local libraries to pay homage to the author of the story, Louisa May Alcott.

The Broome County Public Library, George F. Johnson Memorial Library, Vestal Public Library, and Ninevah Public Library will showcase Alcott-themed exhibits highlighting her literary repertoire beyond "Little Women," commemorating her enduring influence.

Murphy Fauci, from Broadway in Binghamton's Marketing team, remarked to 12 News that the narrative she crafted closely mirrors aspects of her own life, and it's remarkable that a piece published in 1868-1869 remains pertinent today.

Additionally, each library will offer a giveaway for two complimentary tickets to the performance scheduled for March 19 at the Forum Theater.

For more information, visit this link: <https://nacentertainment.com/broadway-in-binghamton/>



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**Town of Windsor
Notice of Zoning Board Meetings**

Commencing on March 14, 2024, and subsequently on the second Thursday of every month, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will convene at 6:00 P.M. at the Windsor Town Hall, 124 Main St., Windsor, NY 13865. The objective of these meetings is to conduct a thorough review of the existing Town of Windsor Zoning Code until such time as the review is finalized by a resolution of the ZBA.

Dated: February 14, 2024

**Thanks,
Robert Williams
ZBA Chair**

The Philharmonic Gets Ready For The Mac And Cheese Fest.

Prepare to indulge in the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra's premier fundraising affair of the year.

Join us for the 9th annual Mac and Cheese Fest on Thursday, March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in Downtown Binghamton.

Experience the culinary delights as guests sample and cast their votes for Mac and Cheese creations from over two dozen esteemed local eateries, including Mooney's, The Brickyard, The Park Diner, Leonardo's Wine Bar, Flaming Bag, and many more.

An esteemed panel of eight celebrity judges, including NewsChannel 34's Roy Santa Croce, will evaluate each restaurant's dish.

Brian Naylor, the philharmonic's director of sales, highlights that tickets are priced at \$25 for all-you-can-eat indulgence. The array of flavors is boundless, and each dish is equally tantalizing. Participating restaurants take the festivity seriously, exhibiting dedication to their craft and culinary excellence, Naylor expresses.

The event promises raffle baskets and live music by a DJ, with all proceeds directed towards supporting the orchestra.

Secure your tickets and explore further details at BingMacFest.com.



B Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra
Daniel Hege, Music Director



**Village of Windsor
General Notices**

By Village Of Windsor Website

BREAKFAST WITH THE KNIGHTS

– Every Saturday starting January 6th, come join us for breakfast with the Windsor Knights at Our Lady of Lourdes Church located on Kent Street. From 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eggs, pancakes, home fries, sausage, coffee, tea or milk and juice. \$10 for adults; \$5.00 for children.

Village Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Village Board of Trustees meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community House located at 107 Main Street in the village.

If you need to get in touch with the Code Enforcement Officer, please call the office and leave your name and number and we will forward it to him. He will get in touch with you soon. (607) 655-2024



**WREATHS
across
AMERICA**

Windsor Wednesday

Seniors:

March Schedule: History Month!

March 6: Eileen Ruggieri, presentation on Windsor's and surrounding area's history

March 13: Dan Burdick plays Irish music for St. Pat's Day

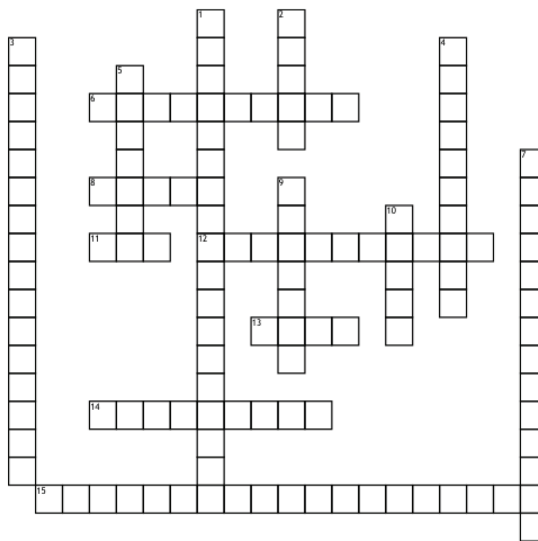
March 20: Dan Price, presentation on America's history

March 27: Pastor Russ Lockwood on the piano, classic 40's, 50's, 60's tunes

Windsor Wednesday Seniors meet every Wednesday for great fellowship and entertainment at the Windsor Community House, 107 Main Street, Windsor, from 12 noon until 2pm. A covered dish lunch is from noon to 1pm. Entertainment is from 1pm to 2pm. Seating is at 11:45.

Call Carolyn at 607-655-1028 if you have any questions.

March Crossword



Across

- 6. What sport is March madness?
- 8. What you feel when you don't wear green.
- 11. Common Irish hair color.
- 12. One week break from school
- 13. Whats in the pot at the end of the rainbow.
- 14. Also known as a Shamrock
- 15. Begins on March 13th

Down

- 1. What is March declared as?
- 2. Day with a lot of math jokes on the 14th
- 3. Holiday on the 17th
- 4. Has a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.
- 5. Some Irish people play these.
- 7. This plant could bring you good luck
- 9. Where you find a pot of gold.

10. The color you wear on St. Patrick's day

March Fun Facts!

-- March 8 is International Women's Day, which is a day that not only celebrates the achievements of women and the progress made toward women's rights but also brings attention to ongoing struggles for equality around the world.

-- March 10 is the start of Daylight Saving Time, which begins at 2:00 A.M. that day. If your area observes it, don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead, or you may find yourself an hour late to everything!

--March 15 is the Ides of March! Legend surrounds this ill-fated day. Beware the Ides of March!