



# The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



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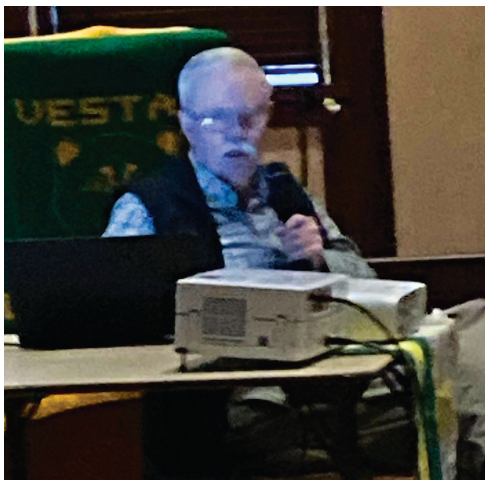
## The 15th Annual Vestal-Apalachin Villagers of The Villages Reunion in Florida



The dinner planning committee and volunteers.

**“Vestal Central School District 2024 -25 Budget Discussions”**  
Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District on page 6!

**PET OF THE WEEK:**  
**Mari**



The 15th Annual Vestal-Apalachin Villagers of The Villages, Florida held their annual Reunion and Spiedie dinner in Florida on March 20, 2024. Over 100 people attended.

Part of the proceeds from the dinner and the 50-50 was given as a donation to the Vestal Historical Society.

New residents of The Villages, Florida who have lived or worked in Vestal or Apalachin are always welcome to attend. We'd love to hear from them.

*“Wrinkles only go where the smiles have been.”*  
-Jimmy Buffet

Chuck Place gave a presentation on the Vestal Bicentennial celebrated in Vestal last year.

Bruce and Mary Theobald organizing the 50-50.

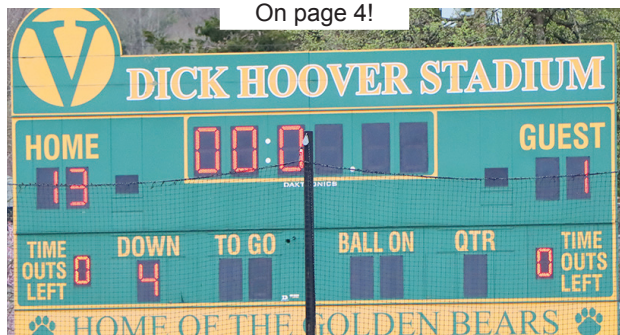


Hi, I'm Mari! I'm 9 years old and I currently live on a college campus with my mom! This makes me an honorary college student. My GPA is 2 because that's all I know how to count to. My class schedule includes sleeping in, begging for snacks, and woofing at everyone I see on campus!

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

## VESTAL JV LACROSSE

On page 4!



## Happy Earth Day

“Earth Day: Taking Action Against Climate Change” On Page 7!



“Earth Day Fun Facts” On Page 6!

“Climate Change Facts” On Page 7!

HAPPY EARTH DAY



# Vestal CALENDAR

**Saturday, April 20th**

**Document Shredding Event  
10AM - 1PM; VPL Parking Lot**

**Monday, April 22nd**

- >Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs  
6PM - 7:30PM; VPL Youth Department
  - >UHS: Public Health Event - Hepatitis C  
6PM; VPL Meeting Room
  - >Teens: Yogurt Jar Planters  
3PM; VPL Meeting Room
  - >Town Board Work Session; 6PM
  - >School Board Meeting; 6PM;
- Admin Board of Education Conference Room**

**Tuesday, April 23rd**

**Java Joe Jammers - Live Music  
6PM; VPL Meeting Room**

**Wednesday, April 24th**

- >VPL Pins & Needles: Knit and Crochet  
6PM; Vestal Public Library
- > Fire District Meeting; 5PM
- >Town Board Meeting; 6PM
- > ARE Kindergarten Parent Orientation  
7PM; African Road Elementary
- > VHE Kindergarten Parent Orientation  
6PM - 7PM; Vestal Hills Elementary

**Friday, April 26th**

- >VHE Science Fair  
6PM; Vestal Hills Elementary
- >VHS Junior Prom  
8PM - 11PM; Riverdale

**Friday, April 26th - Saturday, April 27th**  
**NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival**  
**Johnson City HS**

**Friday, April 26th - Sunday, April 28th**  
**VMS Musical "The Little Mermaid"**  
**7PM; African Road Auditorium**

**Saturday, April 27th**

- >Seedy Saturday: Earth Day Celebration  
11AM - 1PM; VPL Gardens
- >AAC Inclusive Storytime  
10AM - 12PM; VPL Meeting Room

**Monday, April 29th**  
**GSCA Meeting**



## Vestal Fire Department Responses

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

**Vestal Fire this week responded to:  
 11 fire alarms, 1 brush fire, 1 oven fire, 1 carbon monoxide alarm, 1 elevator rescue, 1 pole smoking after a power outage, 1 power line down/ on fire, 1 water flow alarm, 1 instance of gas odors, and 1 smoke detector activation**

04/09 08:42	Bunn Hill Access Road	1st floor lobby fire alarm
04/09 11:13	Wright Road	Brush fire
04/10 11:58	Clubhouse Road	Oven fire
04/10 15:55	Vestal Parkway E.	General fire alarm
04/11 10:02	Tracy Creek Road	Carbon monoxide alarm
04/11 19:31	West Drive	Elevator rescue
04/11 22:40	Vestal Parkway E.	Fire alarm
04/12 06:17	Bunn Hill Access Road	Commercial fire alarm
04/12 10:20	Tracy Creek Road	Pole smoking after power went out
04/13 17:30	Connector Road	Fire alarm
04/14 11:08	West Access Road	Fire alarm
04/14 13:08	Bunn Hill Access Road	1st floor lobby fire alarm
04/14 14:15	Burriss Road	Power line down - on fire
04/14 18:54	West Drive	Fire alarm
04/15 01:08	Bunn Hill Access Road	Commercial fire alarm
04/15 11:10	Commerce Road	Water flow alarm
04/15 11:19	West Drive	Fire alarm
04/15 21:00	Vestal Road	Odor of natural gas
04/15 21:13	Pincrest Road	Basement and hall smoke detector activation
04/15 22:34	West Access Road	Hallway & Living room fire alarm



### EDITORIAL NOTES

We have been receiving letters and reviews of the changes to the Vestal Town Crier, 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 do so to protect our sources.

WE APPRECIATE ALL STORY TIPS AS WELL  
 EMAIL TO: News@TiersNews.com

# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Sylvia Cornell, 44, Owego, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Marissa Erle, 32, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

Donald Moshier, 46, Binghamton, arrested for Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle 3rd Degree and Misapplication of Property for loaning a rental vehicle to another individual and not returning the vehicle by the car rental agreement date.

Jeffrey Podrazil, 58, Vestal, arrested for Harassment 2nd Degree for slapping the victim in the face during a domestic incident.

Josiah Smoker, 33, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from the Weis Market.

Sue Garrett, 47, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx.

Mitchell Savatxath, 38, Binghamton, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd Degree, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Improper Plates, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, No/Insufficient Tail Lamps and No/Inadequate Lights for possessing a fake license plate, Meth, digital scale and plastic baggies during a traffic stop.

Manuel Guerrero, 37, Endicott, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Speed in Zone, Moved from Lane Unsafely and Failed to Use Designated Lane after a traffic stop.

Kongvilay Chansavath, 41, Binghamton, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for texting the victim in violation of a valid full stay away order of protection.

Sullivan Donald, 23, Vestal, arrested for two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for attempting to take a child from his mother, causing them to fall and threatening physical harm to himself in the presence of children.

Sage Keyes-Yale, 21, Johnson City, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd Degree and Speed in Zone after a traffic stop.

Richard Rockwell, 27, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Aldi.

James Strazik, 38, Binghamton, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Speed in Zone, Refusal of Preliminary Breath Test and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 1st Degree after a traffic stop.

Jagjit Singh, 38, Vestal, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Unsafe Backing and Fail to Signal after a complaint that a Door Dash driver may be intoxicated and subsequent traffic stop.

# Vestal Scholars

## Katherine Potter Receives Susan Sutton Smith Award for Academic Excellence

Katherine Potter, Vestal, NY, was one of 206 SUNY Oneonta students recognized for academic excellence during the 2023-2024 Susan Sutton Smith event on Tuesday, April 9. The Susan Sutton Smith awards are given each spring to first-year students, sophomores and juniors who have earned a grade-point average of 3.9 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Potter is majoring in Childhood Education (1-6) at SUNY Oneonta.

The on-campus event also featured the annual Susan Sutton Smith Lecture, delivered this year by Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Kiyoko Yokota. Dr. Yokota received the faculty Susan Sutton Smith Award, and her lecture was titled "Clean but Green - the Paradox of the Oligotrophic Cyanobacterial Blooms."

Two additional faculty members were recognized at the event. Adjunct Associate Professor of Theatre Carmela Marner received the university's annual Simphiwe Hilatshwayo Award for Outstanding Part-Time Instructor. Assistant Professor of Law Dr. Sean Shannon received the Innovative Pedagogy Award.

This lecture and the awards for academic excellence are made possible by the generous gifts of SUNY Oneonta alumni to the Fund for Oneonta. The Susan Sutton Smith Faculty Prize for Academic Excellence is made possible by an endowment created through the generosity of Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Mary Smith in memory of their daughter, Susan, in honor of her commitment to academic excellence.

**Congrats, Katie Potter!**



# Deferred Vestal Hall Of Fame Inductees Ready For Moment In Spotlight!

Article Courtesy of Regina Felice and the Vestal School District

The Vestal Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for induction into the 2020 Vestal Hall of Fame. They will be honored at the induction dinner/ceremony on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at Vestal High School. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will immediately follow dinner.

### Dr. Mark Hatala - Class of 1980

A Board-certified Orthodontist, Dr. Hatala founded Hatala Orthodontics in Johnson City and has been providing orthodontic care to the area for over 26 years. He is recognized in his field and serves as an Associate Clinical & Research Instructor at Eastman Dental Center and a Clinical Instructor at the SUNY Broome School of Hygiene. He is a generous benefactor to an astounding number of local charities, as well as an active volunteer for many more. In particular, Dr. Mark is dedicated to being a role model for students. He graciously hosted students from area high schools at his practice for Job Shadow Day, educating them on the real-world careers available in an orthodontics practice. He retired a few years ago, but the tradition continues under his nephew, Dr. Patrick Scannell.

### Brian Lynn - Class of 1993

An award-winning interaction and product designer, Brian Lynn has demonstrated adaptive excellence in a number of areas for over 20 years. He has designed interactive environments and interfaces for consumer, educational, industrial and medical products, as well as for software, websites and mobile applications. Most recently, he is Group Creative Director, User Experience for Hero Digital.

Please join us in celebrating these accomplished Vestal alumni. Visit the school district's website, [www.vestal.stier.org](http://www.vestal.stier.org) for a dinner reservation form. Look on the district's Home or Alumni page for the news article with dinner invitation and more information. To have an invitation mailed to you, please call 607-757-2241. Dinner reservations are respectfully requested by April 22.



# Absentee Ballot and Early Mail Voting Options available

Any qualified voter unable to vote in person on the day of the vote due to illness, physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration, or travel outside of the county/city of residence may apply to vote by Absentee Ballot. To apply:

**IN PERSON:** Schedule an appointment with the District Clerk.

**BY MAIL:** Print the Application for Absentee Ballot, sign and mail the original to:

Michelle Lewis, District Clerk  
Vestal Central School District  
201 Main Street, Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 607-757-2320

Email: [districtclerk@vestal.k12.ny.us](mailto:districtclerk@vestal.k12.ny.us)

If you are unable to print the application, please contact the District Clerk and request one be mailed to you. Applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election (if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter) or the day before the election (if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person).

No absentee voter's ballot will be canvassed unless it is received in the office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the date of the election.

(Per Education Law 2018-A(2)(e), any voter registered as 'permanently disabled' with the Broome County Board of Elections Office will be mailed an Absentee Ballot without having to apply.)

### EARLY MAIL VOTING

Any qualified voter may apply to vote by Early Mail. To apply:

**IN PERSON:** Schedule an appointment with the District Clerk.

**BY MAIL:** Print the Application for Early Mail Voting sign and mail the original to:

Michelle Lewis, District Clerk  
Vestal Central School District  
201 Main Street, Vestal, NY 13850  
Phone: 607-757-2320

Email: [districtclerk@vestal.k12.ny.us](mailto:districtclerk@vestal.k12.ny.us)

If you are unable to print the application, please contact the District Clerk and request one be mailed to you. Applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election (if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter) or the day before the election (if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person).

No early mail voter's ballot will be canvassed unless it is received in the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 pm on the date of the election.

**The election is being held on May 21st!**



# Vestal Town Crier

### NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscription rates to The Vestal Town Crier are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside of Broome County, and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters to the editor are welcomed. All letters must be signed and include the phone number of the writer, to be used for verification of authenticity, not for publication. The editor reserves the right to refuse to publish letters which contain potentially libelous or erroneous statements. Also, letters endorsing political candidates are considered advertisements and should be prepaid as is all political advertising. No letters to the editor regarding political candidates will be accepted.

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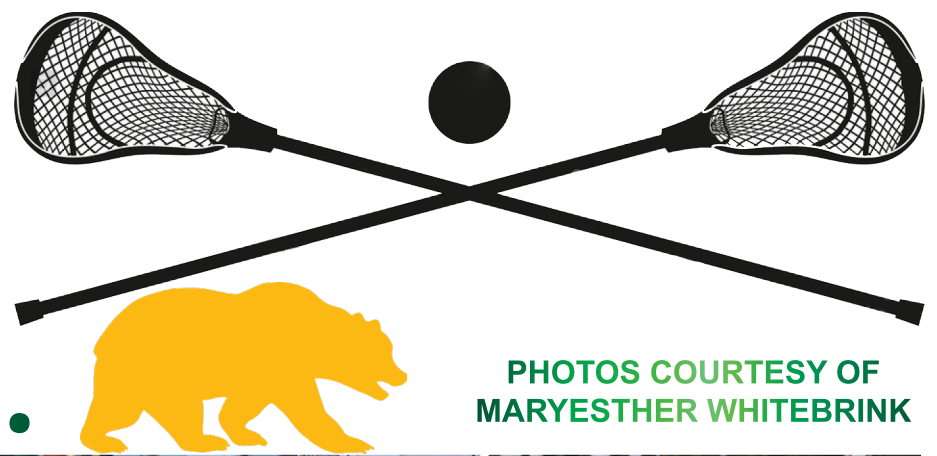
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**DAVID S. BERGER**  
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[dbergerattorney@gmail.com](mailto:dbergerattorney@gmail.com) 301 N. Stage Rd., Vestal

# VESTAL JV LACROSSE LACROSSE vs M.E.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
MARYESTHER WHITEBRINK





The Binghamton Regional Center for ASD and Vestal Public Library invite you to



# AAC INCLUSIVE STORYTIME

## VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

### APRIL 27 10AM-12PM



Geared toward youth approximately 5+ but everyone - autistic children and children who use diverse forms of communication, friends, and siblings - is welcome!

Inclusive and engaging story reading, arts and crafts, and movement activity designed to support Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users and model communication strategies.

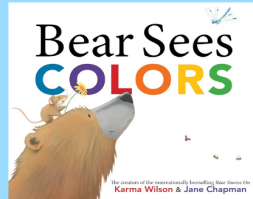
We will begin story time at 10:15 am, 10:45 am, and 11:15 am

REGISTER HERE:



email [brcasd@binghamton.edu](mailto:brcasd@binghamton.edu) with any questions!

featuring *Bear Sees Colors* by Karma Wilson & Jane Chapman



# VPL TEENS

April 2024

## YOGURT JAR PLANTERS

Drop in the large meeting room between 3 - 4:30 pm to decorate a planter jar and plant your own mini succulent (living plant!) Mini succulents are low-maintenance plants and are great for novice plant lovers. While supplies last!

**MONDAY, APRIL 22 @ 3PM**



Dr. Mark Hatala  
Class of 1980



Brian Lynn  
Class of 1993

## Induction Dinner

5 p.m., May 1, 2024  
Vestal HS Cafeteria

# Compassionate Care

Eric S. Veilleux, MD  
Bariatric/Foregut Surgery  
Guthrie Lourdes Hospital

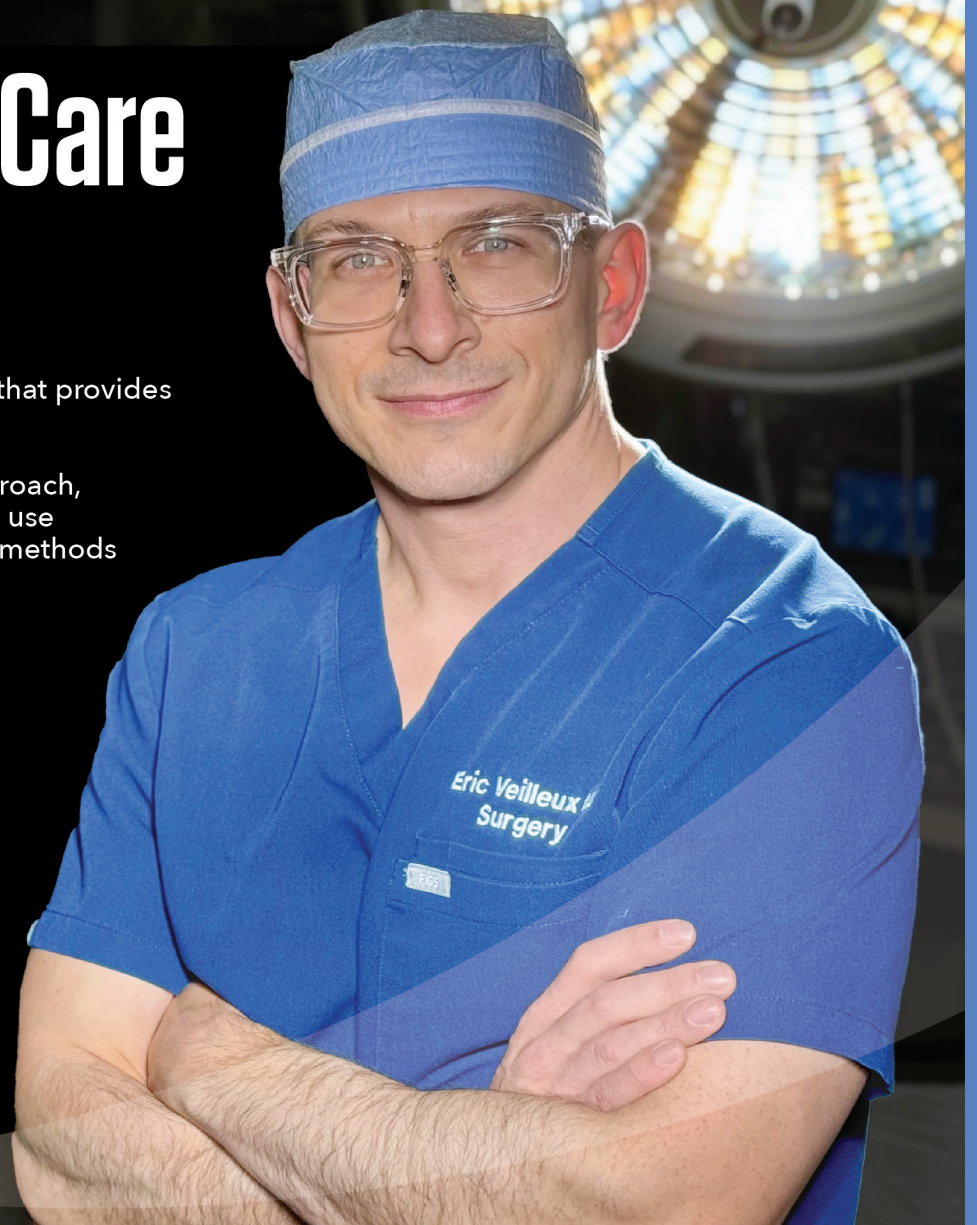
When you need a general surgeon, trust the team that provides compassionate care designed around you.

Guthrie General Surgery offers a personalized approach, ensuring you feel seen, heard and understood. We use state-of-the-art technology and advanced surgical methods to deliver safe and effective treatments for a broad spectrum of conditions - most importantly, yours.



Appointments are available at seven convenient locations.

Learn more or schedule your appointment at [www.Guthrie.org](http://www.Guthrie.org).



# Be BearWise this Spring

## Follow Best Practices to Reduce Potential Conflicts with Bears

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today reminded New Yorkers to remove or secure outdoor food sources that may attract black bears. Throughout the spring and early summer months, black bears have depleted fat reserves and will search extensively for easily obtainable, calorie-dense foods, which can lead to an increase in the potential for human-bear conflicts near homes and residential areas, especially before the spring green-up when natural food sources for bears are scarce.

“Across New York, black bears are emerging from their winter dens and may seek out human-created food sources,” Commissioner Seggos said. “Repeat access to these food sources can make bears bolder, so I encourage New Yorkers to practice the BearWise basics to help keep bears wild and prevent the potential for human-bear conflicts.”

Those who maintain bird feeders should begin emptying and cleaning spilled seed from feeders, and let nature feed the birds from spring through fall. Garbage and recycling

cans should be secured or stored in a sturdy building. This is also a good time to clean or remove all residual grease and food from grills and smokers. Pet and livestock food should be kept indoors and those with chicken coops or apiaries should consider installing an electric fence to protect flocks and hives. Lastly, neighbors should alert neighbors to any bear activity so they can take these same precautions.

New Yorkers are advised to never feed or approach bears. Feeding bears intentionally is dangerous and illegal. Bears that become habituated to being fed can become a threat to people and property.

By taking some time to practice the BearWise basics New Yorkers are helping keep bears away from people, homes, and neighborhoods, and that helps keep bears healthy, wild, and safe by removing any unnatural food attractants and encouraging neighbors to do the same. For more information on how to live responsibly with black bears, please visit DEC's website and Bearwise.org.

# Save-A-Life Tour To Make A Stop At Vestal High School, Courtesy Of Broome County STOP-DWI

Article Courtesy of Regina Felice and the Vestal Central School District

Vestal High School students will have an opportunity to learn about the effects and consequences of poor decision-making when operating a motor vehicle when the Save-A-Life Tour visits the school on April 23, 2024, courtesy of Broome County STOP-DWI. In addition, one of the winning videos submitted to the Teen Traffic Safety Video Contest was produced by VHS students Madison Lilley and Molly Schoenfeldt. Christine Marion, Program Coordinator for the Traffic Safety Education Program, will be recognizing Madison and Molly during a press conference at 3 p.m. on April 23.

All students at the school will take part in a pre-survey about the ramifications of poor choices when getting behind the wheel of a car. They will also watch an impactful video that features victim stories and shows actual footage of crashed vehicles, as well as the Teen Traffic Safety video produced by their peers!

In addition, students in grades 11 and 12 will experience the effects of impaired and distracted driving behavior through the use of simulators that will be set up in the school gym for them to try. This student population was selected for the simulation portion of this program due to its “new driver” status.

The Save-A-Life Tour has traveled around the world to show firsthand the deadly consequences of unsafe driving practices and choices. For more information on the Save-A-Life Tour, visit: <https://savealifetour.com/about/>

Save A Life Tour schedule: Grades 9 – 12 will view the Save A Life Tour video and take the survey during an extended first period. Juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to attend the simulation in 35—minute sessions from 9:30 – 11: 55 a.m. and 12:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Teen Traffic Safety Video Contest winners press conference: 3 p.m., VHS Lobby

# Vestal Central School District 2024 -25 Budget Discussions

## Vestal's Expense Adjustments as of March 2024

- Reduced Equipment Budget across the district - \$48,369.00
- Reduced M&S across the district - \$125,745.00
- Removing Groundskeeper, Mechanic and Maintenance position through attrition - \$209,000.00
- Add 1 SRO through Vestal PD. - \$30,000.00 increase but still savings from first budget draft of approx. \$55,000.00
- Reduce some assistant Coach positions – approx. \$20k
- Reduce Intramural total expense – approx. \$10k
- At least 2 teacher positions not being replaced because of attrition - \$212,000.00

### Vestal's Expense Considerations Potential Cost Savings:

- Reduce BOCES Tech Services
  - Devices, replacement schedules
  - FTE Services - \$135k
  - Software - \$20k
- Reduce BOCES Instructional Coach Services - \$60k
- Eliminate/Reduce Color Printing except for at BT BOCES Print Shop
- Workers Compensation Premium
- District-based Special Ed. programs
- UPK Services

### Potential Cost Increase:

- Sixth-Grade Class Size
- Final BOCES Services
  - Finalizing student placement in Spec Ed. programs and Alt Ed. placements
  - Finalizing needs for supplemental services
- NYSMEC Electric & Natural Gas Bid –
  - 98% increase on the Supply side; rates going from .0337 to .0669.
  - 41% increase for Natural Gas on the supply side; rates going from .3020 to .4249

### Strategic Plan

#### What we have done:

- Met with all Principals and Departments for initial budget discussions.
- Discussed on Leadership meetings possible areas to be cut, as well as inquired if anyone had anything they could suggest for their area/building.
- Identified positions that can remain unfilled because of attrition and cut areas that have been decided upon.
- Removed these positions from budget, as well as reduced discretionary lines.
- Submitted info to insurance company for Workers Comp and Liability insurance coverage.
- Met with Principals/ Departments about potential cuts/ positions to be removed.
- Meet with BOCES for potential Service cuts or additions.
- Meet with IT Department to discuss removal of any devices, software, printers/copiers that will yield a cost savings and lower the cost of our replacement schedule.

#### What is left to do:

- Finalize list of cuts and have meetings with Building Principals and Directors.
- Finalize BOCES Final Request for Services.
- Finalize cuts and prepare a balanced budget to be presented to the BOE – April 22, 2024. (Most likely without a state budget.)



## EARTH DAY FUN FACTS!

1. Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970.
2. Earth Day became a global initiative in 1990. Twenty years after the policy-changing rallies in the U.S., Earth Day initiatives went global after Hayes led another eco-friendly campaign. It brought 200 million people in 141 countries together to raise awareness for the environment.
3. According to National Geographic, Earth Day is celebrated annually in 190 countries.
4. While Earth Day is always on April 22, EarthDay.org creates a new theme each year. This year, the theme is Planet vs. Plastics, with a goal of reducing plastic consumption 60% by 2040.
5. Like many holidays, Earth Day even has a song to help celebrate. The “Earth Anthem” was written in 2013 by poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar. It’s available in eight world languages.
6. France passed a law in February 2016 that banned supermarkets from tossing unsold food. Instead, they are to donate the items to charities in need.
7. On July 11, 2018, Indians planted over 50 million trees in 24 hours, winning the title for the most trees planted in a single day.
8. Earth Day Is the Largest Secular Observance in the World!
9. In part, April 22 was chosen as the date for Earth Day to appeal to college students because it fell squarely between spring break and final exams – an important distinction given that college students were the ones most likely to participate in environmental activism. The other reason Earth Day is celebrated on April 22? It’s Julian Koenig’s birthday.



# Look for the Zero: Use Only Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer

Homeowners are encouraged to go phosphorus-free when using lawn fertilizer. Consumers should review bag labels for phosphorus content when shopping for fertilizer. Fertilizer labels have three numbers. The number in the middle is the percentage of phosphorus in the product. Regardless of the lawn's location, excess phosphorus can wash off and pollute lakes and streams, harming fish and ruining boating and swimming.



## VHS 2024 YEARBOOK

### Available to Order!

Online sales of 2024's "The Den" will end on May 31! Yearbooks are \$60 each. If you have not ordered yours, here is the link to order online:

<https://link.entourageyearbooks.com/my/vestal-bears2024>

## Broome County Legislators

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Health & Human Services Committee (OVER VETERANS)

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

# Earth Day: Taking Action Against Climate Change

Every year on April 22nd, people around the world come together to celebrate Earth Day, a time to reflect on our planet's beauty and renew our commitment to protecting it. In recent years, however, Earth Day has taken on even greater significance as the state of our climate continues to deteriorate due to human activities. This Earth Day, it's crucial to not only celebrate but also take meaningful action to combat climate change.

### The Time to Act is NOW!

Climate change, driven primarily by greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial activities, has led to a range of alarming consequences. Recent scientific observations have provided clear evidence of the accelerating impacts of climate change:

- **Global Temperature Rise:** The Earth's average surface temperature has risen by approximately 1.2°C (2.2°F) since the late 19th century, with the past decade being the warmest on record. This warming trend is leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves, impacting human health, agriculture, and ecosystems.
- **Melting Ice and Rising Sea Levels:** Polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, contributing to rising sea levels. Coastal communities are increasingly vulnerable to flooding, storm surges, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources.
- **Extreme Weather Events:** The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, and heavy rainfall events have increased in many regions, causing devastating impacts on communities, infrastructure, and natural ecosystems.

### Recent Statistics

According to recent climate reports, including assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and national meteorological agencies:

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Global greenhouse gas emissions, primarily carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), continue to rise, driven by human activities such as fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and industrial processes.
- **Ocean Acidification:** The world's oceans are becoming more acidic due to increased CO<sub>2</sub> absorption, leading to harmful impacts on marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, shellfish, and fish populations.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss, with species facing habitat loss, shifting ecosystems, and increased extinction risks. Protecting biodiversity is crucial for ecosystem resilience and human well-being.
- **The scientific consensus is clear:** urgent action is needed to curb greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to prevent catastrophic impacts on our planet and future generations.

### Different Ways to Fight Climate Change

1. **Transition to Renewable Energy:** One of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. Individuals can support this transition by installing solar panels on their homes, advocating for renewable energy policies, and choosing clean energy providers.
2. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Adopting a circular economy mindset can significantly reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Reduce consumption by

buying only what you need, reuse items whenever possible, and recycle materials like plastics, paper, and glass to conserve resources and reduce landfill emissions.

3. **Support Sustainable Transportation:** Transportation is a major contributor to emissions. Choose walking, cycling, or public transit whenever feasible, and consider carpooling or using electric vehicles to reduce your carbon footprint. Advocating for better public transportation infrastructure and investing in electric vehicle charging stations can also drive positive change.
4. **Protect Natural Ecosystems:** Preserving forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems is vital for carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. Support organizations and initiatives that work to protect and restore natural habitats, and participate in local conservation efforts such as tree planting and habitat restoration projects.
5. **Advocate for Climate Policies:** Engage with policymakers at local, national, and international levels to advocate for strong climate policies and regulations. Support initiatives such as carbon pricing, renewable energy incentives, and emissions reduction targets to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.
6. **Promote Sustainable Agriculture:** Adopting sustainable farming practices can reduce emissions from agriculture and help build resilient food systems. Support organic and regenerative agriculture, reduce food waste, and choose locally sourced and seasonal foods to lower your carbon footprint.
7. **Raise Awareness and Educate Others:** Spread awareness about climate change and its impacts, and educate others about the importance of taking action. Encourage conversations about sustainable living, share resources and information, and inspire others to join the global effort to combat climate change.

Earth Day serves as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to protect and preserve our planet for current and future generations. By taking proactive steps to reduce emissions, promote sustainability, and advocate for climate action, individuals can make a meaningful difference in the fight against climate change. This Earth Day, let's recommit ourselves to building a more sustainable and resilient world for all.

## CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS

1. 20 percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans are due to deforestation-Jump to references3 — exceeding the emissions from all of the passenger vehicles on the planet.
2. Tropical forests are incredibly effective at storing carbon, providing at least a third of the mitigation action neededJump to references5 to prevent the worst climate change scenarios. Yet nature-based solutions receive only 3 percent of all climate funding.Jump to references
3. Analysis by NOAA shows that average global temperatures in 2023 were 2.12 degrees F (1.18 degrees C) warmer than the 20th-century average — and higher than any other year since records began in 1850.
4. Scaling up natural climate solutions, such as restoring degraded forests, could create as many as 20 million new jobs. In total, ecosystem restoration creates 3.7 times as many jobs as oil and gas production per dollar.

**The New York State Volunteer Firefighter's Bowling Association, Inc.**



is the proud sponsor of the

**64th Annual Volunteer Firefighter's and Friends  
New York State Championship and Handicap Tournament!**

Your Host

**The Vestal Fire Department**

Held At

**Ideal Bowling Center**

**Endicott, New York**

Tournament Dates

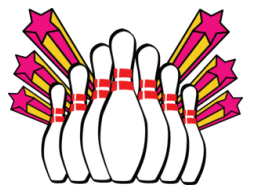
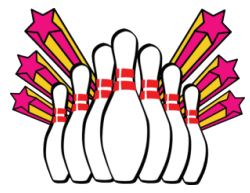
**April 21st thru April 23rd, 2023**

**&**

**April 24th thru April 26th, 2023**

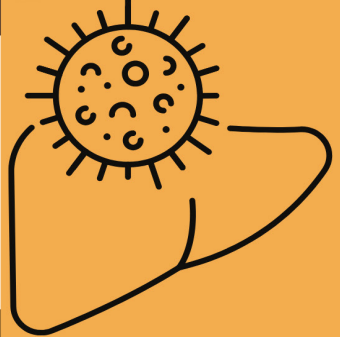
Mail Entry (Complete with all fees) to:

Mr. George Anderson—Tournament Manager  
1020 Sierra Ct.  
Hawley PA 18428  
(516)852-6491



Checks and Money orders payable to: NYS Vol. Firefighter's Tournament

**Hepatitis C  
Presentation  
April 22nd 6-8  
pm**



**Hep C education,  
snacks, and FREE  
swag!**

**Hepatitis C (HCV) is a  
disease that is caused by a  
virus that affects the liver.  
HCV can cause serious  
liver damage (cirrhosis, or  
buildup of scarring) if it is  
in the body for a long  
period of time. Most  
people with HCV do not  
have symptoms.**

✓✓✓✓✓  
**CDC recommends  
testing all adult  
patients for  
hepatitis C.**

Contact 607-762-2810  
with any questions!

**Vestal Public Library Events!**

**mad for  
art**  
new project every  
second tuesday @ 6PM

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

**YIN YOGA**  
THURSDAYS AT 6PM  
All yogis welcome,  
new or experienced!

NEW YORK STATE Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

**WOMEN & RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

MORE THAN 2 IN 5 AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE AND NON-HISPANIC MULTIRACIAL WOMEN WERE RAPED IN THEIR LIFETIME

April is **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fast Facts: Preventing Sexual Violence, 2022

**VMS PRESENTS**  
Disney  
**THE LITTLE MERMAID**  
JR

7 PM - APRIL 26 & 27 / 2 PM - APRIL 28

QR code

**SUBURBAN SEPTIC**

- **EXCAVATING:** Foundations, driveways, sewer lines, water lines
- **SEPTIC TANKS CLEANED**
- Septic Systems Installed
- Portable Toilet Rentals

332 MAIN ST, KIRKWOOD, NY

**607-775-3693**