

**STUDER'S**  
1828 NY ROUTE 11, KIRKWOOD, NY 13795  
607-775-4629 or 775-0389



# The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 35 No. 50 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, August 2, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at [Publisher@TiersNews.com](mailto:Publisher@TiersNews.com)

## Vestal Youth Police Academy Days 2 & 3



More photos on page 8!

The last two days of our Youth Academy have been packed with learning experiences for our students. Broome County, Stop DWI came back to visit this session again to teach us about the danger of driving while intoxicated. This group of students donned the Fatal Vision glasses and attempted to traverse the track. These glasses distort vision and mimic the effects of impairment. Our students were then visited by LifeNet of New York. This critical care team flew in and landed on Sammon Field. Their team spent time walking our students through their helicopter, fielding questions and teaching them about their duties and responsibilities. We took a field trip from there to the Vestal Volunteer Fire Training center. Vestal Fire Department members took time out of their day to demo their equipment for us. We learned about vehicle extrication and then watched them put out a live vehicle fire. To round out day 3, Steve Miller from Midway Lanes Family Entertainment Complex invited our students and staff to the lanes this evening.

We appreciate the time that Stop DWI continues to donate to our program. These students are just shy of driving age so it is important to provide them with knowledge so they can make good choices in the near future.

LifeNet has been a big attraction for the last few years. They are invaluable resource for the public and we are always humbled when they take time out of their day for us.

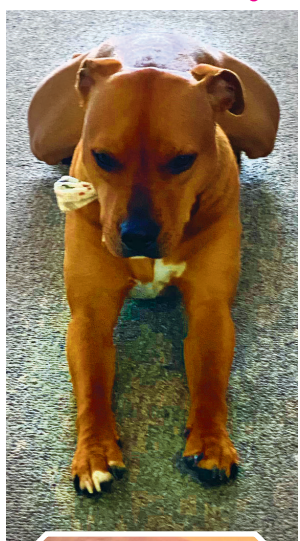
The Vestal Volunteer Fire Department is filled with dedicated volunteers who continue to dedicate their time and effort to keeping this town safe around the clock. They work hand in hand with our officers every day and we thank them for their continued support with the Vestal Youth Police Academy. Thank you to Steve Miller and the staff at Midway Lanes for hosting us. We had a great time!

Sourced via CRIMEWATCH®: <https://crimewatch.net/us/ny/broome/vestal-pd/245804/post/vestal-youth-police-academy-day-2-3>

**Attention drivers:**  
Hazel Rd off of Route 26 in Vestal will be closed until August 18th.

**PET OF THE WEEK:**

**Foomp**



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DOG?!  
Now you have :)

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!

The Last of the VHS GRADUATION photos on pages 6&7!



**VHE 5TH GRADE GRADUATION**

**PHOTOS ON PAGE 5!**



**SUMMER BLOCK PARTY**

FRIDAY AUGUST 16

**FREE Ice Cream!** from Here's the Twist Ice Cream Truck while supplies last

Face Paint & Glitter Tattoos	Bounce House & Outdoor Games
Every Cat's Dream with Kittens and Merch	
LOCAL SAFETY VEHICLES	
<b>Friday, August 16 5 - 8 PM</b>	

320 VESTAL PARKWAY EAST, VESTAL NY



# Vestal CALENDAR

Monday, August 5th

VPL Little Learners: Music & Dance Party  
Ages 0-5, 10AM- 11:30AM & 4PM- 5:30PM

Tuesday, August 6th

> Board of Education Meeting, 6PM,  
Admin Board of Education Conference Room  
>Brothers and Friends Concert  
Vestal Gazebo, Four Corners,  
Front St. & Main St., 7PM  
>VPL Reader's Theater Session 3  
1:30PM- 3PM, Ages 6-11

Wednesday, August 7th

>Vestal Recreation Summer Celebration  
5PM - 8PM, Arnold Park  
>VPL Elementary STEAM: Constellation Jars  
Ages 5-11, 1PM- 2PM & 6PM- 7PM

Thursday, August 8th

>VPL Park Storytime  
All Ages, 10:30AM  
>VCB Summer Concert  
6:30PM, Stage @Little Italy, George W. Johnson  
Park, Oak Hill Ave, Endicott  
>Free Bowling with the Police Department  
12PM- 5PM, Ages 5-17, Midway Lanes  
> VPL Edible Stained Glass  
5:30PM, Ages 12-18

Friday, August 9th

All American Pie & Ice Cream Social  
6PM- 8PM, Vestal Center United Methodist  
Church, 478 West Hill Rd.

Monday, August 12th

Town Board Work Session, 6PM

Tuesday, August 13th

>Storm Front Concert  
Vestal Gazebo, Four Corners,  
Front St. & Main St., 7PM  
>VPL Reader's Theater Session 3  
1:30PM- 3PM, Ages 6-11

Wednesday, August 14th

>Town Board Meeting, 6pm  
> VPL Elementary STEAM: Great Book Chase  
Ages 5-11, 1PM- 2PM & 6PM- 7PM

Thursday, August 15th

>VPL Park Storytime  
All Ages, 10:30AM



## Vestal Fire Department Responses

vestalfire.com

by Walt Schlundt, Public Information Officer

**Vestal Fire this week responded to:  
3 fire alarms, 1 smoke alarm, 1 sprinkler  
flow alarm, 2 gas odors, 2 elevator  
rescues, 1 service call, 1 building fire,  
and 1 car into a building**

07/23 05:39 S. Nanticoke Avenue	Mutual aid
to Endicott for a porch fire	
07/23 09:36 Vestal Road	Fire alarm
activation from pull station	
07/23 10:08 Vestal Parkway W.	Car into
building	
07/23 15:06 Murray Hill Road	Sprinkler
flow alarm	
07/23 19:36 Front Street	Odor of
natural gas	
07/24 08:11 West Drive	Commercial
fire alarm	
07/24 17:37 West Drive	Elevator
rescue - Subject difficulty breathing - panic attack	
07/25 13:44 Appalachian Drive	Odor of
gas in area	
07/26 11:01 Vestal Parkway E.	Building
alarm - smoke detector activation	
07/28 05:36 Route 267	Mutual aid
to Silver Lake, PA for a building fire - major damage	
07/28 09:50 Country Club Road	Service call
07/28 17:49 East Drive	Elevator
rescue	
07/29 10:24 Vestal Parkway E.	Commercial
fire alarm	



# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

Gurwinder Singh, 37, Owego, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for violating a stay away order of protection by entering the victim's place of employment and demanding to see her.

Wayne Floyd, 66, Owego, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, Uninspected Motor Vehicle, Unlicensed Operator and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd Degree for possessing Cocaine during a traffic stop.

Ryan Harris, 50, Owego, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Cocaine during a traffic stop.

Charles Watkins, 56, Apalachin, arrested for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Cocaine and Meth during a traffic stop.

Gregory Branning, 39, Johnson City, arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree and an Unreadable License Plate for possessing Meth during a traffic stop.

Shana Teeter, 41, Horseheads, arrested for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Meth during a traffic stop.

Kristopher Parente, 35, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for shoplifting from Kohl's and possessing Meth.

Bashar Hussien, 45, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

Dinahlee Santiago, 23, Johnson City, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Brien Ulrich, 46, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for shoplifting from Wal-Mart in the presence of children.

Courtney Brooks, 32, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child for shoplifting from Wal-Mart in the presence of children.

Demetro Perez, 55, Susquehanna PA, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx.

Carolyn Baker-Perez, 61, Susquehanna PA, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx.

Jhonattan Mendez Mota, 22, Warners NY, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Shantay Polite, 34, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Wayne Padgett, 65, Apalachin, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and Driving While Intoxicated-More than .08 BAC after a road rage incident.

Continued on page 4...

# Vestal CSD To Unveil Parent Square

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce a new form of school-to-home communication at Vestal CSD called ParentSquare. This platform, which will debut in August 2024, is designed to keep parents and guardians informed, while encouraging greater engagement and connection with all district stakeholders. It provides a safe way for district administrators, school principals, teachers, staff, and families to stay connected. This new communication platform offers a safe way to send and receive information, such as information on school delays or closings, schedule parent/teacher conferences, and more!

Security of your information is of utmost importance to the district. With ParentSquare, all contact information syncs nightly with Vestal's student management system (SchoolTool).

All district, school, grade level, and classroom information will now be sent to your computer or phone via email and/or text. For even more convenience, you may download the ParentSquare app (available for free for iOS and Android devices).

As we get closer to the ParentSquare launch date, families will receive an activation email for their ParentSquare account. All users will need to fully register and confirm their accounts. We look forward to fostering a stronger connection between the district and our families.

With kind regards,  
Clifford R. Kasson  
Superintendent, Vestal CSD

# Repairs Made to Vestal United Methodist Church Parking Lot

Vestal United Methodist Church has been fortunate to have forefathers who have planned for future needs. One example is the Building Maintenance Trust Fund, established with a special finance campaign in October 1981 on the occasion of the church's 150th Birthday. The purpose: maintenance, repair, replacement, and preservation of the real property of the Vestal United Methodist Church by providing funds for the cost of financing, acquiring, constructing, maintaining, repairing, replacing and preserving all of the buildings and appurtenances, including plumbing, heating, and electrical equipment belonging to Vestal UMC. The BMTF, and the funds listed below, has two parts: the principal, which cannot be touched, and available income (spendable funds), determined yearly by the Board of Trustees based on income received the previous year from investment of the principal. None of the funds from the Building Maintenance Trust Fund Available Income can be used for regular operating expenses such as electric and gas bills, staffing, or other items in the regular church budget. Additions have been made to the principal through gifts, and by returns of income to the principal, as the years have passed.

The trustees have paid for the recent repairs using available income that has accrued in the BMTF Available Income. The cost was \$9512.

Of course, in years when the market is not so great, the available income is not as plentiful, but it has certainly helped to complete this necessary job.

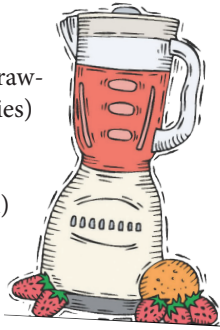
In addition, the church has had investment funds set up in memory of members and friends that are available for specific needs. All have fund descriptions and guidelines for their use. They are:

- The Faun Wakeman Trust Fund
- The George and Margaret Akers Mission Fund
- The Margaret Chauncey Mission Fund
- The Myers Fund
- The Theological Scholarship Trust Fund
- The Walker Fund
- The Elseth Fund.

# Easy Fruit Smoothie Recipe

## Ingredients:

- 1 banana
- 1 cup frozen mixed berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries)
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon honey (optional)



## Instructions:

- Place the banana, frozen mixed berries, Greek yogurt, and orange juice in a blender.
- Blend until smooth.
- Taste and add honey if desired, then blend again.
- Pour into a glass and enjoy!

This simple fruit smoothie is perfect for a quick, nutritious snack or breakfast!

## 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



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• Business Disputes & Collections • General Business Advice • Personal Injury  
dbergerattorney@gmail.com 301 N. Stage Rd., Vestal



# 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

# 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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Member



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# Vestal Town Board Work Session Minutes

Monday, July 22th, 2024

### Board Attendance:

Supervisor Sexton; Board Members: Messina, Donnelly, Greene and Miller

### Also Attending:

Town Clerk Debra Wallace, Town Engineer Vern Myers, Town, Attorney Daniel Reynolds, Director of Human Resource Debora Panicek and 5 members of the public.

### 6:00 Zoom Call regarding State Pro-Housing

This program is established to encourage housing growth in towns through out New York State. The Town can opt out at any time. The Town Board would like further information before voting on this program.

### 6:30 Mark Mushalla - To discuss Rail Trail Race event

This event will not be having any vendors and is a race on the rail trail. The Town Board has no issues with this event and certificate of liability insurance has been provided.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

- Establishment of the Vestal Fire District, under Town Law §170
- Establishment of the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad Ambulance Tax District, under Town Law Article 12-A.

### SUPERVISOR UPDATES

The Town Board wanted to clarify that a comment at the previous Work Session on July 8th was incorrect regarding the High School use of the Library parking lot.

The correct information is that the Vestal School District may continue to use the library parking lot as they always have. The July 8th meeting was simply to inform the Vestal School District that the construction at the Little League lot is now completed and the school can resume use, no change has been made regarding the continued use of the library lot.

### COMMITTEES

#### 8. PUBLIC WORKS (DONNELLY/ Greene)

1. Request from Scott Groats, Water & Wastewater Superintendent, for the Town Board to approve advertising for bids for the Parkway Lift Station pump upgrade on July 31st, 2024 to be opened on August 14th, 2024 at 2:00pm.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

#### 9. FINANCE (MESSINA/ Donnelly)

1. Authorization for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$677.00 to The Law Firm of Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, for outside counsel fees for professional services rendered through June 30, 2024.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

2. Authorization for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$8,515.00 to The Law Firm of Hancock Estabrook, LLP, for outside counsel fees for legal services

rendered through June 30, 2024.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

#### 10. PERSONNEL (DONNELLY/Messina)

1. Authorization for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire Summer Camp Staff as outlined in his July 17, 2024 memo. The start dates and rates of pay are also identified in the memo which is included in the addendum.

OK -This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

#### 11. PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Greene)

1. Discuss State Tax Law 487

NO-This item will not be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

2. Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer, for the Town Board to discuss an application for Vehicle Service Station permit for 993 Vestal Parkway West, to operate a business for small equipment sales and rental business at this location. If in agreement, please approve a publication date of August 2, 2024 for a Public Hearing on August 14, 2024.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

#### 12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

1. Request from Police Chief, Stace Kintner, for the Town Board to accept \$211,700 that was received as a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (24-25 Law Enforcement Tech Funds), to help cover the costs associated with implementing new technology.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

2. Discuss Nuisance Law.

NO-This item will not be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

#### 13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Donnelly)

1. Request from Lorna Steigerwald, President of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST), to the use the space under the overhang of the Coal House on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 11:30am-4:00 pm for the ticket pickup spot for the annual PAST Historic Homes Tour which is featuring Vestal homes this year. She is also requesting that PAST be able to provide tours of the Coal House building and Vestal Museum to the house tour participants.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

2. Discuss application process for events requesting use of Town property.

NO-This item will not be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

3. Discuss License Agreement for use of Town property.

NO-This item will not be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

#### RECEIVE AND FILE

- Warrants: 2024: 29G, 29C, 29M, 29T

#### 14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### 15. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Purchase agreement to be signed by the Town Supervisor with Matthews for the competition of this phase of the Rail Trail.

OK-This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board

2. Coal house rental discussion

There are a few businesses interested in discussing with the Town Board about renting the Coal House.

#### 16. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one of the public wished to speak

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by

Councilman Donnelly, the Board adjourned the Work Session and entered into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the following:

#### FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- Personnel Museum
- Police contract

The time was 7:47 PM

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the Board adjourned the meeting.

The time was 8:11 PM



## REPORT

*Continued from page 2*

Zachary Fellows, 34, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Dick's Sporting Goods.

Marlaina Livingston, 42, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Amber Davidson, 45, Apalachin, arrested for Grand Larceny 3rd Degree and Falsifying Business Records 1st Degree for altering records and stealing money from a business.

Michael Adams, 58, Hallstead PA, arrested for Grand Larceny 3rd Degree for obtaining money as a down payment for work that he didn't start or complete.

## Vestal United Methodist Church Swap N Exchange

On the fourth Sunday of each month VUMC will be having a table setup in the lower Narthex for the Swap n Exchange of items. Each month will be a different type of item. The items need to be in good condition to be offered in a free exchange of items.

We can assist Mother Earth by reusing our sustainable items that others may need and many of us have a first world problem of too much stuff. Let's share with others our bounty of items. Bring the items in a bit early before church service that Sunday. Items left after the service and after most of the congregation has left, which are not desired will be boxed up and donated to a charity of the Outreach Teams choice. **Items are on a first come first serve bases.**

So you can prepare and gather items here are the items collected for the next months.

- August 25 Garden Produce
- September Tools and Automotive
- October Christmas Decorations

## “ALL AMERICAN” PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIALS

At the  
Vestal Center  
United Methodist  
Church

478 West Hill Rd.

\*Friday - August 9th - 6-8PM

\*Friday - September 13th -  
6-8PM

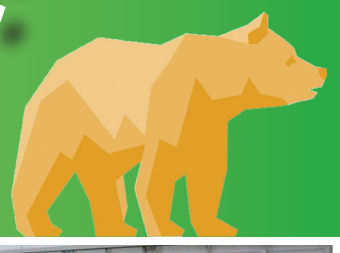


# VHE 5TH GRADE GRADUATION!

Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



# VHS GRADUATION: After The Ceremony



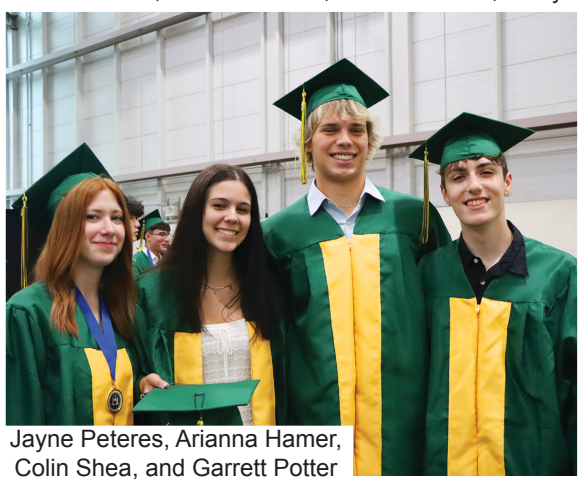
Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



Karbin Mercia, Jackson Hines, Xavier Schuler, Ashtyn Spence, Jacob Lumpkin, and Aidan Traver



Heather Bogart, Kristen Spinner, Jacquie Miner, Dawn Young, Ben Green, Charlie Arbuiso, Colette O'Donnell, Christin Williams, Molly Russell



Jayne Peteres, Arianna Hamer, Colin Shea, and Garrett Potter



Gabriella Kwiatkowski, Caitlyn Petteys, Chloe Burkhard, Kendall Brady, Ava Brunetti, and Aubree Wenner



Jaclynn Wiggins and Sami Ward



Frank Consolazio, Michael Juriga, Owen Deak, and Alexander DeCarlo



Jessica LaClair and Logan McNamara



Mackenzie Allis and Dominic Akers

# CONGRATS GRADUATES!



Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



Sydnee Allig, Jessica LaClaire, Venessa Hoke, and Loren Mitchel



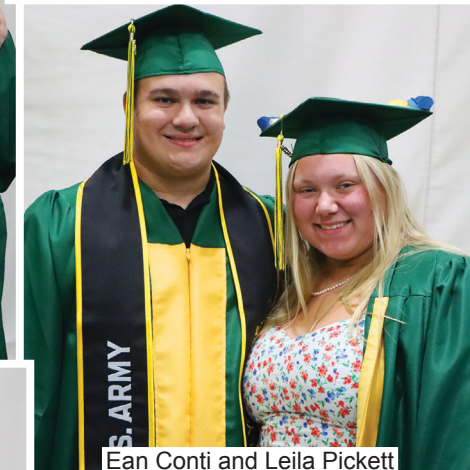
Madelyn Bishop, Hannah Salim, Ellie Friedman, and Stephanie Bogart



Owen Hatala and Logan McNamara



Adrienne Mayes and Madison Lilley



Ean Conti and Leila Pickett



Adrienne Mayes, Caitlyn Petteys, Kendall Brady, Chloe Burkhard, and Reilly Storer



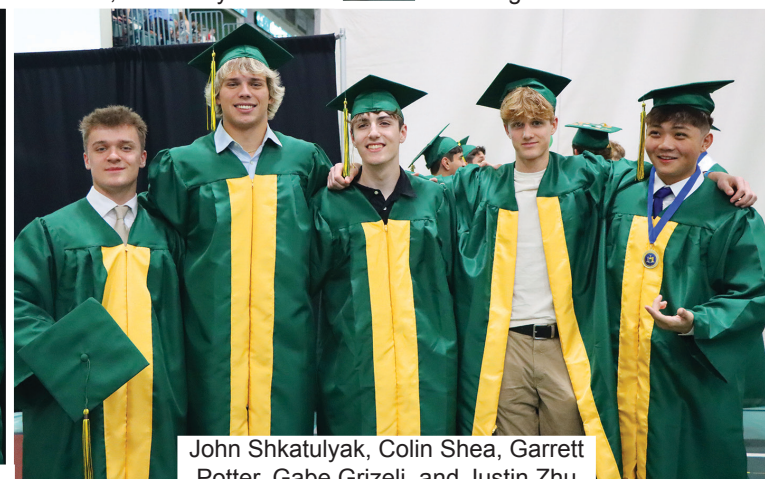
Luke Rogers and Jackson Hines



Aliona Pomukchynshy, and Snor Fazel



Emmilene Griffiths, Nichole Wowk, and MacKenzie Allis



John Shkatulyak, Colin Shea, Garrett Potter, Gabe Grizelj, and Justin Zhu



Dr. Andy Blaine, Clifford Kasson, Patrick Clarke, and Cathy Willis

# VESTAL YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS CR

SECOND SESSION, DAYS 2&3!





# Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, July 24, 2024

## TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

Supervisor Maria Sexton Councilwoman Sue Messina Councilman Stephen Donnelly Councilman Glenn Miller Councilman Robert Greene

## ALSO ATTENDING:

Town Clerk Debra Wallace, Attorney Daniel Reynolds, Director of Human Resources Debora Panicek and 11 members of the public.

Supervisor Sexton convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

Motion approving the July 10th, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

### 3. BID OPENINGS

### 4. PUBLIC HEARING

#### Establishment of the Vestal Fire District, under Town Law §170

Tom McCartney presented to the Town the proposal to establish the Vestal Fire District.

#### Establishment of the Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad Ambulance Tax District, under Town Law Article 12-A.

Mark Tomko, Jerry Schultz and Dave Tinklepaugh presented to the Town the establishment of the Vestal Emergency Squad as a Tax District.

Member of the public asked who the EMS would answer to if they became a taxing district? Mark Tomko stated that they would answer to the Town and approvals from the Town Board.

Member of the public asked if the EMT's were able to use the vehicles for personal use? When the ambulances go out for mutual aid transport calls does the Vestal EMS get reimbursed for those calls? Why have the salaries been increased 30%?

Mark Tomko responded that the vehicles may not be used for personal business but they are provided for certain departments to use when needed. When the ambulances are used for mutualaidcalls,ifthepatientistransported,theVestalEMSisreimbursed. Theincreasein salary has to do with contracts and unions for the most part. EMT's are hard to find and the Town needs to be competitive with the surrounding areas to retain those positions.

### 5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES

### 6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one wished to speak

### 7. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

### 8. PUBLIC WORKS (DONNELLY/Greene)

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval to Advertise for Bid on Parkway Lift Station Pump

Request from Scott Groats, Water & Wastewater Superintendent, for the Town Board to approve advertising for bids for the Parkway Lift Station pump upgrade on July 31st, 2024 to be opened on August 14th, 2024 at 2:00pm.

### 9. FINANCE (MESSINA /Donnelly)

On a motion by Councilman Greene and seconded by Councilman Miller, the following was

#### Authorization to Pay Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP

Authorization for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$677.00 to The Law Firm of Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, for outside counsel fees for professional

services rendered through June 30, 2024.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Authorization to Pay Hancock Estabrook LLP

Authorization for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$8,515.00 to The Law Firm of Hancock Estabrook, LLP, for outside counsel fees for legal services rendered through June 30, 2024.

ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

### 10. PERSONNEL (DONNELLY/Messina)

On a motion by Councilman Greene and seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval to Hire Summer Sports Camp Staff

Authorization for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire Summer Camp Staff as outlined in his July 17, 2024 memo. The start dates and rates of pay are also identified in the memo which is included in the addendum.

### 11. PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Greene)

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval to Advertise for Public Hearing on Vehicle Service Station

Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer, for the Town Board to discuss an application for Vehicle Service Station permit for 993 Vestal Parkway West, to operate a business for small equipment sales and rental business at this location. If in agreement, please approve a publication date of August 2, 2024 for a Public Hearing on August 14, 2024.

### 12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval to Accept Grant from Dept of Criminal Justice Services

Request from Police Chief, Stace Kintner, for the Town Board to accept \$211,700 that was received as a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (24-25 Law Enforcement Tech Funds), to help cover the costs associated with implementing new technology.

### 13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Donnelly)

Supervisor Sexton stated that she would like this resolution amended to reflect that this approval is contingent on completion of application and final Town Board approval.

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was AMENDED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval to Amend the PAST to Use Space at Coal House

Request from Lorna Steigerwald, President of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST), to the use the space under the overhang of the Coal House on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 11:30am-4:00 pm for the ticket pickup spot for the annual PAST Historic Homes Tour which is featuring Vestal homes this year. She is also requesting that PAST be able to provide tours of the Coal House building and Vestal Museum to the house tour participants.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilman Miller, the following amendment was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval of PAST to Use the Coal House

Request from Lorna Steigerwald, President of the Pres-

ervation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST), to the use the space under the overhang of the Coal House on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 11:30am-4:00pm for the ticket pickup spot for the annual PAST Historic Homes Tour which is featuring Vestal homes this year. She is also requesting that PAST be able to provide tours of the Coal House building and Vestal Museum to the house tour participants.

Contingent on completion of application and final approval of the Town Board

## RECEIVE AND FILE:

- Warrants: 2024: 29G, 29C, 29M, 29T 14. PETITIONS & PROTESTS

## 15. OLD BUSINESS

## 16. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Authorization for Supervisor to Sign Purchase Real Property

Authorization for the Town Supervisor to sign an Agreement to Purchase Real Property with Matthews Development of Old Vestal Road LLC, for the purchase of a portion of the land located at 3005 Vestal Road, Vestal. This is for of the Vestal Rail Trail Phase 3 project.

On a motion by Councilman Greene and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Authorization for Gazelle Race Timing LLC

Authorization for Gazelle Race Timing LLC to use the Rail Trail on July 27, 2024, for a Lyme Disease Awareness 5K. A Certificate of Liability Insurance has been provided to the Town.

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Miller, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene

#### Approval to Use Library Parking Lot for Summer Reading Program

Request from Michael Herman, Vestal Public Library Director, to use a portion of the Town owned Library parking lot on August 16, 2024 from 5 pm – 8 pm for the Summer Reading Program Finale Block Party.

## 17. SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Brush pick will run monthly through September
- Vestal 607 night at Rumble Ponies Binghamton Rumble Ponies has been rescheduled to August 17th. First Pitch will be at 6:07pm. Fans who wear Green and Gold can purchase tickets for a special price of \$9.00.
- Vestal Recreation Summer Celebration Wednesday, August 7th, 5PM to 8PM Food trucks, inflatable rides, DJ, Carnival Games, Face painting, Emergency vehicles on display and more. Free entry for all.

## 18. COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Supervisor Sexton and Councilwoman Messina want to thank our Town Fire Department, Emergency Service, Police and Recreation Departments on doing such a wonderful job for our community.

Councilman Donnelly want to thank the Rec. Dept. for all the hard work that they do. The parks in Vestal are filled with kids and enjoyed by the whole community.

Water/Wastewater Department have been working hard in this heat to keep our town running smoothly so a special thank you to them.

*Continued On Page 10*

# Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, July 24, 2024

Continued from page 9

## 19. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Member of the public spoke and requested that the Town Board be more specific on the agendas regarding what they are voting on. Example would be, approval to pay outside attorneys (9.1.1 and 9.1.2), what would that be for? How much is the Town paying for the property we are purchasing on Old Vestal Road (16.1.1)?

Supervisor Sexton stated that those are great suggestions and when possible to put more details in we will do so.

This member also stated that they would like to see the taxation of the EMS and Fire District to be shared equally among the Town residents not based on their house assessments.

Another member of the public requesting that speed bumps be added to Murray Hill Rd as the speed on that road is very dangerous. This member also asked about a dog park and is the Town working on that?

Supervisor Sexton stated that we can look into some solutions to try to slow the traffic down on Murray Hill Road and that we are still looking into a possible dog park.

Another member of the public also expressed concerns with the traffic speed on some of the Town roads specifically Jensen Rd where there have been multiple accidents lately.

This member of the public stated that they have a bench they would like donated to the Town to use in one of the Town parks.

Supervisor Sexton suggested that they contact the Highway Department to see what steps are required to do that.

## ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Donnelly the meeting was adjourned at 7:15P.M. Carried unanimously.

Approved by Debra Wallace, Town Clerk

## FUN FACTS

1. The number of whales spotted near New York City has increased from just five sightings in 2010 to 600 in 2022!
2. The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
3. "I Am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
4. Ancient Roman commoners went on strike by evacuating their cities, leaving the upper classes hopelessly fending for themselves.
5. Studies have found that nine out of ten people experience phantom phone vibrations.
6. The more money people spend on their weddings, the more likely they are to get divorced.

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# Top 5 Binghamton Research Stories of 2024

By Rachel Coker, courtesy of Binghamton University located in Vestal, NY

Binghamton University is a hotbed for ground-breaking research—it's no wonder we've earned the highest research ranking (R1) through the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. We just checked our stats for the first six months of the year, and here are the research stories you found the most fascinating—from developing technology to ID human remains to uncovering the secrets behind modern relationship lingo. Did you miss any of these headlines?

## Ancient DNA Technique Aids In Id'ing Burned Bodies

A technique originally devised to extract DNA from woolly mammoths and other ancient archaeological specimens can be used to identify badly burned human remains, according to research from a team led by Binghamton's Matthew Emery.

Fire victims may be identified through dental records, but often DNA testing is the only way to identify badly burned bodies. Researchers can extract usable DNA from bones subjected to conditions between 200 and 250 degrees centigrade; between 350 and 550 degrees, the team found a steep drop-off in the concentration of DNA. Their new technique – originally used to extract ancient DNA from Ice Age megafauna – allows for the amplification of shorter DNA fragments, which makes it useful in hotter fires.

"The whole point of the study is to devise a best practices approach for forensic anthropologists and forensic scientists working in the field," Emery said.

## A Closer Look At The Experience Of Ego Dissolution

Have you ever lost yourself in a good book or felt slightly unreal after a night of poor sleep?

Those are examples of a phenomenon known as ego dissolution, which can also be experienced through the use of psychedelic drugs. A team of researchers in the Psychology Department took a detailed look at what constitutes ego dissolution and they say questions remain about whether some people are naturally disposed to these states of consciousness. Many of us experience a mild version of ego dissolution in our day-to-day lives when we engage in "flow states."

"Flow states arise when we are absorbed in an enjoyable and attention-engaging activity; think of reading a good book, completing an assignment you are immersed in or playing a sport you love," doctoral candidate Fiona G. Sleight said. "In flow states, you become so absorbed in the task that you can lose track of time and feel less self-conscious."

## What's Actually In That Bottle Of Tattoo Ink?

When you get a tattoo, do you know what you're putting under your skin? A Binghamton team found that the ingredient labels on tattoo ink often don't match the actual substances in the bottle.

Researchers from the lab of Assistant Professor of Chemistry John Swierk analyzed tattoo inks from nine U.S. manufacturers and compared their actual contents with the label. Some 90% had major discrepancies with the labeled contents, such as different pigments than the ones listed or unlisted additives. More than half contained unlisted polyethylene glycol, which can cause organ damage through repeated exposure.

"We're hoping the manufacturers take this as an opportunity to reevaluate their processes, and that artists and clients take this as an opportunity to push for better labeling and manufacturing," Swierk said.

## 'Study Drugs' Set The Stage For Other Drug Use

Taking "study drugs" like Adderall without a diagnosis is not only dangerous; it can lead to other drug use and a decline in mental health. That's the key finding by a team of Binghamton researchers led by Lina Begdache, associate professor of health and wellness studies. The researchers found several associations indicating that using one substance may lead to using others— as if the brain becomes primed for further substance use.

"Substance use promotes the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is responsible for the initial euphoria and feelings of pleasure," Begdache said. "These sensations act as a positive reinforcement for further substance use."

## What Does 'We're Just Talking' Really Mean?

When Melissa Hardesty and colleagues in Binghamton's Human Sexualities Lab surveyed 403 undergraduates, they found that romantic relationships may be more important to college students than people tend to assume.

"In hookup culture, emotional attachments are taboo (though they do occur); 'just talking' allows students to form emotional intimacy while downplaying the significance of such intimacy – they're just talking," Hardesty said.

## Stay up to date with the latest Binghamton research!

Rachel Coker, director of research advancement, will do just about anything to get people excited about research and scholarly work at Binghamton. Coker, who chairs the annual Research Days on campus, also edits online and print publications and writes about topics ranging from materials science to cinema.

Visit <https://www.binghamton.edu/home/research/index.html> for more!

## Vestal Scholars

### Vestal Alumni Named to Dean's List

#### The University of Tampa

Maria Cascarino, of Apalachin, a Senior majoring in Advertising and Public Relations BA.

#### Tufts University

Victoria Lamoureux, Class of 2027, of Vestal

#### SUNY Oneonta

- Nathan Bobal of Vestal (13850) received a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry.
- Andrew Carr of Apalachin (13732) received a bachelor's degree in Sport Management.
- Troy Luciani of Vestal (13850) received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.
- Peter Sacco of Vestal (13850) received a bachelor's degree in Sport Management.

#### SUNY Delhi

- Molly Ashworth of Apalachin,
- Devyn Dellapenta of Vestal,
- Andrew LaClair of Apalachin,
- Leighanne Ruvola of Vestal,
- Grace Thomas of Apalachin



# VCSD Leaders Participate in NY Governor's Roundtable Discussion on Smartphone Usage in Schools

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, our very own Vestal CSD Superintendent Clifford Kasson and Vestal Middle School Principal Sarah Wiggins had the honor of being two of only six panelists participating in Governor Kathy Hochul's roundtable discussion with local educators and stakeholders in the Southern Tier. This event is part of Governor Hochul's statewide listening tour aimed at addressing smartphone use in schools. We're proud to have our leaders contributing to such an important conversation!



## SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Walk your dog when it's cooler; early morning or late evening

Ensure your dog has plenty of water and shade all day



If you can't hold your hand on tarmac for seven seconds, then it's too hot for your dog's paws





# artisan market

VPL ARTISAN MARKETS ARE BACK THIS SUMMER! 9AM - 2PM ON

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**  
SIGN UP FOR ONE OR ALL OF THE ABOVE DATES



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF BROOME COUNTY PRESENTS:

\*\*\*\*\*

## FARMERS MARKET COUPON DISTRIBUTION

\$15 per veteran per month will be given out at farmers markets in Broome County. No purchase required.

\*\*\*\*\*

Proof of veteran status required. Veteran must be in attendance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vestal Farmers Market

Windsor Farmers Market

Binghamton Farmers Market

Broome County Regional Farmers Market

**AUGUST 10TH, 9AM-1PM**

**AUGUST 25TH, 11AM-2PM**

**SEPTEMBER 14TH, 9AM-1PM**

**OCTOBER 12TH, 9AM-2PM**

**NOVEMBER 9TH, 9AM-1PM**

If you would like to receive our monthly BC Veterans Newsletter, email your name to [jjw288@cornell.edu](mailto:jjw288@cornell.edu)

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Broome County  
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

## SUN SAFETY

### SUMMER SKIN PROTECTION



WEAR BROAD HAT



USE SUNGLASSES



WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



AVOID SUN BETWEEN 11 AM AND 3 PM



USE SUNSCREEN



DRINK MORE WATER



REFLECTION CAUTION



SEEK SHADE



AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT

# SUMMER WORD SEARCH

W U D C E U O Q L C W H P F T D S M J U  
 B T J C K Z Q H P V L E Y R N P R A Z T  
 T E J R E M M U S I T V D P O Z E J I M  
 L B A K H M E D M P R V H L K Q L N I S  
 T E V C B V O N O G P T F K D S K A C S  
 M W F H H Q K S O V N P D J N V N G E L  
 H Y G N I P M A C L I K A I G I Q C B  
 X R U X W S R N Y L E U M C O L R B R N  
 S G A F F B H D F R L M R M Q R P M E W  
 T W F I B U O C P H I B R N I U S G A I  
 L I N S A J T A C A P D T E A W F Z M E  
 E D E H S L D S R O R D B Q T E S N R L  
 M M B I E W Q T O K S K V B K A C L Z C  
 O H S N B T R L U G W A O A X L W O V I  
 N W B G A P A E C S C P J R P Q I S Y S  
 A B F Y L F L H M A X Y T B W U J G P P  
 D M G T L M I B T Y K U S E B Y C I E O  
 E W T I U S M I W S H A Y C R Z T N C P  
 O F J S W D O M S S B C C U P H N A D K  
 R R M W U N X X W Q V A E E D K L I I B

- Barbecue
- Baseball
- Beach
- Camping
- Fishing
- Flip Flops
- Ice Cream
- Lemonade
- Ocean
- Park
- Pool
- Popsicle
- Road Trip
- Sandcastle
- Sprinklers
- Summer
- Swimming
- Swimsuit
- Vacation
- Watermelon

# ESCAPE ROOM: STEAMPUNK SUBMARINE



FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 &  
SATURDAY AUGUST 10

Sign up online for a session starting Friday, July 19

Welcome aboard the USS Octavius, a submarine searching for a legendary treasure that's been lost for centuries. Before running out of oxygen, you must unearth what past expeditions have failed to discover by solving a series of puzzles and clues. Experience mystery and danger on this journey to the bottom of the ocean. Will you resurface with riches or perish in the depths?

## VESTAL RECREATION PRESENTS

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GRAMPS FUNNEL CAKE AND SMOKEY LEGEND BBQ AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**AUGUST 7 | WEDNESDAY**  
**5 PM TO 8 PM**

**ARNOLD PARK, VESTAL**

**FREE ENTRY**

A fabulous evening of fun family entertainment.  
Rain Date: Thursday, August 8th

## FREE SUMMER MOVIE Nights

August 15th  
Kung Fu Panda 4

**FREE POPCORN FOR ALL!!**  
THE MOVIES START AT 8:30 PM

Bring your chairs, blankets, snacks, drinks, family, friends and flashlights.

Showing behind shelter #2.

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