

The Vestal Town Crier

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Vol. 36 No. 7 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, October 4, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com



Vestal Fire Department Flies Flag



Vestal Fire was honored to fly Old Glory at the annual StacheStrong 5k benefiting Brain Cancer research. We were asked to fly our flag over the start finish line of the 5k at Vestal High School! Thanks to all that participated!

PET OF THE WEEK:

Dennis



Dennis is the name and I am definitely not a menace! I was found as a stray, so my past is a bit of a mystery, but I am around 1 year old. I am a smart, friendly guy and I have to be the center of attention! My favorite snacks are carrots and my favorite time of day is nap time!

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



FRIENDS OF THE VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOOK SALE
THURS, OCT. 10: 9AM - 8PM
FRI., OCT. 11: 9AM - 5PM
SAT., OCT. 12: 10AM - 4PM

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VESTAL ATHLETICS CALENDAR

VESTAL POLICE REPORT

www.crimewatch.com

Friday, October 4th

Friday, October 4th

Open Game Day (All Ages)
11AM- 3:30PM, VPL Meeting Room

>Boys 7th/8th Soccer v. Ithaca
5PM- 7PM, Vestal HS Herrick Field
> Boys JV & Varsity Soccer v. Johnson City
JV: 5:30PM, Varsity: 7PM- 9PM,
Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Janeé Caganek, 32, Conklin, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Damein Spencer, 43, Endicott, arrested for Criminal Mischief 4th Degree and Petit Larceny for damaging a bike lock and stealing the victim's bicycle.

Michael Beierle, 31, Apalachin, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Weis Markets.

Hilary O'Connor, 61, Vestal, arrested for Harassment 2nd Degree for throwing her cell phone at the victim several times, striking him, ripping the victim's shirt and scratching his hand during a domestic incident.

Mercedes Lee, 28, Vestal, arrested for Endangering the Welfare of a Child for a leaving a child unattended, who was found walking in the roadway.

Jeffrey King, 52, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Nathaniel Stillman, 31, Owego, arrested for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd Degree, Suspended Registration, Improper Plates, Uninsured Motor Vehicle and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Methamphetamine during a traffic stop.

Jason Hermidas, 49, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Muhammad Croswell, 40, Vestal, arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for being in a residence and involved in a verbal domestic with a party protected by a valid stay away order of protection.

Wenzhe Wang, 26, Vestal, arrested for Unlicensed Operator, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd Degree, No/ Inadequate Lights and Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree for being in a vehicle with a party protected by a stay away order of protection during a traffic stop.

Richard Lane, 45, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's

James Kline, 27, Owego, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

Eric Alamo, 36, Brooklyn, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

Lisa Miller, 50, Johnson City, arrested for No Turn Signal, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree and Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia 2nd Degree for possessing Methamphetamine and a digital scale during a traffic stop.

Continued on page 3...

Saturday, October 5th

Saturday, October 5th

>Vestal Fire Safety Expo
10AM- 2PM, Barns & Noble Parking Lot
>Free Movie Night: Hocus Pocus
7PM, Arnold Park
>7th Annual Carrie-On Breast Cancer
Fundraiser, 1PM- 6PM, Vestal Elks Lodge

>Girls JV Soccer v. Elmira
10AM-12PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium
> Girls 7th/8th Field Hockey v. Moravia
4:30PM, Vestal HS Baseball Field
> Girls Varsity Cheerleading v. Candor (SVEC)
5PM, Vestal High School Gym
> Girls Varsity Cheerleading v. Whitney Point
5PM, Vestal High School Gym
> Girls JV Cheerleading v. Chenango Valley
6PM-8:30PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Sunday, October 6th

Every Cat's Dream Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser, 9AM- 12PM, Vestal Elks Lodge

Monday, October 7th

Town Board Work Session, 6PM

Monday, October 7th

> Boys Varsity Golf v. TBD
8AM, Soaring Eagles GC, Horseheads
> Boys 7th/8th Football v. Owego Apalachin
6PM-7PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium
> Boys JV Football v. Tioga
7:30PM-9PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Tuesday, October 8th

Mad For Art- Pool Noodle Pumpkins & Easter
Egg Acorns- Sign Up Online
6PM, VPL Meeting Room

Tuesday, October 8th

> Girls 7th/8th Soccer v. UE
5PM-7PM, Vestal Middle School Field
> Girls JV & Varsity Volleyball v. UE
JV: 5:30PM-6:30PM, Varsity: 6:30PM-8:30PM
Vestal High School Gym
> Girls Varsity Soccer v. Binghamton
7:30PM-9:30PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Wednesday, October 9th

>Town Board Meeting, 6PM
>Board Game Night
6PM, VPL
>Pins & Needles: Knit and Crochet
6PM, VPL

Tuesday, October 8th

> Girls 7th/8th Field Hockey v. Tioga
4:30PM, Vestal HS Baseball Field
> Boys 7th/8th Soccer v. ME
5PM-7PM, Vestal Middle School Field
> Girls Varsity Field Hockey v. Afton
7:15PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Thursday, October 10th

Early Dismissal Drill

Wednesday, October 9th

> Girls 7th/8th Soccer v. UE
5PM-7PM, Vestal Middle School Field
> Girls JV & Varsity Volleyball v. UE
JV: 5:30PM-6:30PM, Varsity: 6:30PM-8:30PM
Vestal High School Gym
> Girls Varsity Soccer v. Binghamton
7:30PM-9:30PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium

Friday, October 11th

Early Dismissal

(Dismissal for Grs. K-5 at 11:45AM; VMS at
10:45AM; VHS at 11:05AM)

Saturday, October 12th

>Second Saturday Series: Next To Kin
7PM- 9PM, Vestal Coal House, Free Admission
>Trivia Night at Vestal Elks Lodge, 7PM

Thursday, October 10th

> Boys Varsity Golf v. Binghamton
4PM-6PM, Links at Hiawatha
> Girls Junior Varsity Soccer v. ME
5:30PM, Vestal Dick Hoover Stadium
> Girls 7th/8th Swimming/Diving v. ME
5:30PM-7:30PM, Vestal High School Pool
> Girls JV & Varsity Volleyball v. Elmira
JV: 5:30PM-6:30PM, Varsity: 6:30PM-8:30PM
Vestal High School Baseball Field
> Girls Varsity Volleyball v. Elmira
6:30PM-8:30PM, Vestal High School Gym

Monday, October 14th

>Town Board Work Session, 6PM
>Falling For Fungi- Free Day Camp- Grades
3&4, Register at vestalny.myrec.com
9:30AM- 3PM, The Waterman
Conservation Center

Wednesday, October 16th

VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30PM, VPL Meeting Room

Golden Bears Clinch STAC Metro Title

By Hal Ehrhardt

The Vestal Girls Swimming & Diving team opened up last week by clinching a repeat of their STAC Metro title as they easily downed Johnson City by a final of 94-67. Vestal topped the field in 10 of the 12 events. After a win in the opening Medley relay by Yih Xinn and Yih Hui Lim, Fran Vallone and Jay Ratterree, Reagan Young lead a 1-2-3 sweep of the 200 Free that included career bests by Charlotte Coker and Sua Choi. Ratterree and Yih Xinn finished 1-2 in a close IM. Yih Hui and Mary Sonnen went 1-2 in the 50 Free while Olivia Tanton won the diving before the Wildcats picked up their first win in the Fly.

Vallone, Keira DeVantier and Jia Parikh went 2-3-4 to outscore JC in the Fly. Coker had another career best, finishing 3rd in the 100 Free behind Yih Hui. Sonnen and Megan Jones went 1-2 in the 500 before Coach Joe Shore began to swim exhibition with the meet well in hand. The B 200 Free relay of DeVantier, Coker, Madeline Herceg and Cora Richtsmeier scored the final Golden Bear points with a win.

Swimming exhibition, Sophie Ryan had a season best to top Vallone in the 100 Back, with Maya Stankevich completing the final 1-2-3 Vestal sweep. Choi swam her season best to finish 2nd with Jia Parikh behind her in the 100 Breast. Four Golden Bear relay teams finished within 5 seconds in the final event with the team of Yih Xinn, Jones, Stankevich and Choi leading the way.

Vestal 94 – JC 67

Medley Relay: 1st Yih Xinn, Yih Hui, Vallone, Ratterree (2:07.25); 3rd Ryan, Jones, DeVantier, Sonnen;
 200 Free: 1st Young (2:21.10); 2nd Coker; 3rd Choi;
 200 IM: 1st Ratterree (2:27.40); 2nd Yih Xinn; 4th Ryan;
 50 Free: 1st Yih Hui (26.74); 2nd Sonnen; 4th Jones;
 Diving (6): 1st Tanton (236.10); 3rd Smith;
 100 Fly: 1st Kadylak (JC 1:09.72); 2nd Valone (1:13.85);
 3rd DeVantier; 4th Parikh;
 100 Free: 1st Yih Hui (59.29); 3rd Coker; 4th Eva Grenchus;
 500 Free: 1st Sonnen (6:21.43); 2nd Jones;
 200 Free Relay: 1st DeVantier, Coker, Herceg, Richtsmeier (2:34.10); EXH: 1st Young, Yih Hui, Yih Xinn, Ratterree;
 100 Back: 1st F. Lamghari (JC 1:37.36) EXH: 1st Ryan (1:17.33); 2nd Vallone; 3rd Stankevich;
 100 Breast: 1st Harvey (JC 1:21.13); EXH: 2nd Choi (1:28.38); 3rd Parikh;
 400 Free Relay: 1st JC (4:38.58); EXH: 2nd Yih Xinn,

Jones, Stankevich, Choi (4:55.32); 3rd Young, Ryan, Herceg, Parikh;

Last Friday, defending Class A runner-up Corning came to town in a battle of the unbeaten. In a close meet the Golden Bears ended a 4-year Corning Hawks winning streak to advance their record to 5-0. It came down to the final 400 Free relay and both schools turned in season best times with the Golden Bear team of Yih Hui, Sonnen, Vallone and Ratterree finishing on top by only 2 seconds to clinch the winning score of 97 to 89.

It was Vestal's top swimmers that earned the victory over Corning's depth as the Hawks scored both of their relays in all 3 events and 3 of their athletes in 5 of the 9 individual events. In addition to anchoring both winning free relays, Ratterree finished on top of both the 200 and 500. Yih Hui turned in best times to win both the IM and Fly and lead off both winning free relays. Yih Xinn topped the backstroke and Young won the 50 Free. Vallone came through to help earn a 1-2 sweep in the 500 and finished 3rd in the 200. Sonnen finished a 1-2 Vestal sweep in the 50 and was part of a 2-3-4 Vestal finish in the 100 Free (with Young and Jones) that outscored Corning in the event.

Tanton got edged by less than a half point in the diving. Ryan turned in a season best to finish 3rd in the IM and also picked up a key 4th place in the Back. Jones and Choi went 3-5 in the Breast to set up the team's ability to win with the last relay. Coker was the 3rd Golden Bear to score points in both the 200 and 500. The winning Golden Bear 200 Free relay included Yih Hui, Young, Vallone and Ratterree, while the Medley relay team of Yih Xinn, Jones, Young and Sonnen finished 2nd.

Vestal 94 – Corning 67

Medley Relay: 1st Corning (2:07.25); 2nd Yih Xinn, Jones, Young, Sonnen (2:08.17);
 200 Free: 1st Ratterree (2:07.77); 3rd Vallone; 5th Coker;
 200 IM: 1st Yih Hui (2:24.57); 3rd Ryan;
 50 Free: 1st Young (27.41); 2nd Sonnen;
 Diving (6): 1st McLaughlin (COR 230.15); 2nd Tanton (229.75); 5th Smith;
 100 Fly: 1st Yih Hui (1:07.27); 3rd Yih Xinn; 5th DeVantier;
 100 Free: 1st Price (COR 59.67); 2nd Young; 3rd Sonnen; 4th Jones;
 500 Free: 1st Ratterree (5:54.95); 2nd Vallone; 4th Coker;
 200 Free Relay: 1st Yih Hui, Young, Vallone, Ratterree (1:50.09);

100 Back: 1st Yih Xinn (1:07.29) 4th Ryan;
 100 Breast: 1st Nale (COR 1:26.90); 3rd Jones (1:24.00);
 5th Choi;
 400 Free Relay: 1st Yih Hui, Sonnen, Vallone, Ratterree (4:04.86);

The results from last Saturday's Maine Endwell Invitational will be in next week's article. The Golden Bears now have a couple of weeks of dedicated training before they host Ithaca on Tuesday, October 15th in their final home meet.



www.crimewatch.com

...Continued from page 2

Dylan Rustin, 33, homeless, arrested for no seatbelt and Criminal Impersonation 2nd Degree for stating he was someone else during a traffic stop.

Stephen Tanner, 36, Deposit, arrested for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree, Unlicensed Driver, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninspected Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd Degree and Uninsured Motor Vehicle for possessing a shotgun (with prior convictions), Heroin and Methamphetamine during a traffic stop.

Juanita Mason, 26, Hancock, arrested for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Heroin and Methamphetamine during a traffic stop.

Vestal Town Crier

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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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Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, September 25

TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

- Supervisor Maria Sexton
- Councilwoman Sue Messina
- Councilman Stephen Donnelly (Absent)
- Councilman Glenn Miller
- Councilman Robert Greene

ALSO ATTENDING:

- Town Clerk Debra Wallace, Director of Human Resource
- Debora Panicek, Town Comptroller Nicholas Angeline and Town Attorney Daniel
- Reynolds and 12 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 Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly (Absent), Miller, Greene

Motion approving the September 11th, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

3. BID OPENINGS

4. PUBLIC HEARING

5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Member of the public asked if 16.2 was still on the agenda for tonight and if there was an agreement in place.

Supervisor Sexton stated that there was no agreement in place it just gives the Supervisor authority to sign one.

This member asked if there is any money associated with this agreement.

Supervisor Sexton stated that she will be discussing that when we get to that item on the agenda.

Another member of the public asked about the cost to the Town if Broome County collects taxes. This member believes that the county would not be doing this for free so what would be the fee? Will Broome County get the penalties and interest that has been discussed in the past?

This member stated that the School pays the Town \$25,000 for School tax payers to pay at the Town of Vestal, does the Town Board have plans for that?

This member asked if we have considered the senior citizens in our community and really anyone who comes in to pay their taxes in person. This member stated that they have gone to the county to pay and it is not user friendly, parking friendly and will definitely negatively impact our senior citizens.

Supervisor Sexton stated that we will go into more specifics when we get to that part of the agenda.

7. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

8. PUBLIC WORKS (DONNELLY/Greene)

9. FINANCE (MESSINA/Donnelly)

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

Approval to Pay Hancock Estabrook LLP

Authorization for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$428.85 to The Law Firm of Hancock Estabrook, LLP, for outside counsel fees for legal services rendered through August 31, 2024.

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

ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly (Absent), Miller, Greene

Approval of Water Dept Budget Amendment

Request from Jessica Farley, Deputy Comptroller, for approval of Water Department budget amendments as listed in the addendum.

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by

Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly (Absent), Miller, Greene

Approval of Budget Amendment in Rec Dept

Request from Jessica Farley, Deputy Comptroller, for approval of a Recreation Department budget amendment to transfer \$16,397 from A7180.4303 to A7180.4120 to cover the pool's summer water usage.

10. PERSONNEL (DONNELLY/Messina)

11. PLANNING & ZONING (MESSINA/Greene)

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

Authorization to Advertise for Local Law "G"

Authorization to advertise on September 30, 2024 for a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. The Public Hearing is for proposed Local Law "G" of 2024 regarding opting out of New York Real Property Tax Law section 487.

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

Authorization for Building Code Dept Update Fees

Authorization for Lincoln Ellis, Code Enforcement Officer, to update the fee schedule for the Building & Code Department, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2025.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

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

Resolution Adopting Final Order For Ambulance District

Resolution adopting a final order establishing an Ambulance District in the Town of Vestal.

13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Donnelly)

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

Authorization to Hire D'Esti

Authorization for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire Frank D'Esti as Fall Teen Basketball Supervisor as outlined in his September 18, 2024 memo. The start date and rate of pay are also identified in the memo which is included in the addendum.

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

Authorization for Budget Transfer IT Dept

Authorization for Dan Williams, IT Director, to make budget line transfers to accommodate a move from a monthly payment to a yearly payment of O365 and for a new archiving system.

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

Authorization to Hold Flu Clinic at Town Hall

Authorization for the Director of Human Resources, Debora Panicek to Schedule an on-site flu and pneumonia vaccine clinic to be held at Town Hall.

Eligible participants are Town employees, pre-Medicare eligible retirees with Town health insurance benefits and adult dependents who participate in the Town health insurance program. The clinic is to be provided by Guthrie/Lourdes Hospital.

Charges for eligible participants will be paid from the health insurance fund.

RECEIVE AND FILE:

• Warrants: 2024: 37C, 37G, 37M, 37T, 38C, 38G, 38M, 38T

14. PETITIONS & PROTESTS

15. OLD BUSINESS

16. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

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

Approval to Sell LED lights

Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer, for approval to sell 129 street light head units which have been retired since being replaced with LED versions. They will be sold in "as is" via Auctions International.

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

Authorization to Enter into Intermunicipal

Authorization for the Town Supervisor to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with Broome County for the collection of taxes starting in 2025.

Supervisor Sexton began a discussion regarding the details surrounding the County collecting the Town taxes.

Sexton stated that the County collects for 11 towns and we would be the 12th.

Sexton stated that the county will charge the Town \$2 per parcel which is about \$20,000 and the Town will lose the penalties that average approximately \$25,000 a year that the town would have received. The total cost to the town would be approximately \$45,000.

Sexton stated that the Town Clerks office has a full-time vacancy and that position will not be replaced with a part time position.

Sexton stated that the full-time position was for \$60,000 and the part time position would be for \$20,000.

Town Clerk asked for clarification on if the Town Board is signing an agreement with the County?

Can this be done as it is Local Law B of 2020, which should go to a referendum?

Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds stated that the law the Clerk is referring to was the abolishment of the Receiver of Taxes elected position to an appointment by the Town Board.

Supervisor Sexton stated that this is a discussion for the board.

Sexton stated that financials were not the driving force for this discussion. It was the physical safety of our personnel and considerations for our residents as well.

Sexton stated that it is a convenience to have the taxes in the Town Clerks Office but there will be two different locations for collection if we go with the County.

Sexton states that when talking to the residents she did get one very positive reaction to moving it to the county.

Sextons states that there are more ways to pay for them including echecks, checks, debit cards, drop off and drop boxes at odd times if you want to do it in person as well.

Sexton stated that the resolution as it stands states that we can authorize a signature we want to verify as a Town Board and maybe discuss it a little further. In the time table and signing with the County we do need something in place to be able to do so.

Sexton stated that if we do not have it on the agenda for the authority to do a vote we will not be able to enter into an agreement before the next set of meetings.

Councilman Greene stated that he is concerned we will not have a local spot for our citizen. This is one of the down sides.

Councilman Miller asked where the two locations would be?

Continued On Page 10

Center for Community News Names 14 SUNY Faculty as Champions

Awardees Are Building University-Led Reporting and SUNY's Institute for Local News

The Center for Community News at the University of Vermont has announced its third annual cohort of CCN Faculty Champions, a national initiative to support the people running local news reporting programs at U.S. colleges and universities across the country. Among the 52 total awardees are 14 faculty from colleges across the SUNY system – all leaders from colleges across the state who are helping to grow SUNY's Institute for Local News.

News-academic partnerships have emerged as a critical contributor to the national news landscape and one solution to the crisis facing local news. As the largest system of higher education in the nation, SUNY's contribution to the state of local news and information could be profound for underserved regions.

"The news coverage that these programs are providing in coordination with their local outlets is helping to meet critical information needs," said Center for Community News Director, Richard Watts. "Most importantly, they offer students a chance to contribute to public life and develop skills that will serve them in journalism and far beyond."

These are the 14 faculty awardees who are helping to develop new journalism-focused programs and collaborations with the Center for Community News:

- Andrew Bottomley, Associate Professor, SUNY Oneonta
- Annemarie Franczyk, Associate Professor, Buffalo State University
- Christopher Keaty, Assistant Professor, SUNY Broome
- Eileen Gilligan, Associate Professor, SUNY Oswego

- Elaine Salisbury, Lecturer, University at Albany
- Elmer Ploetz, Associate Professor, SUNY Fredonia
- Eric Hardiman, Associate Professor, University at Albany
- Gayane Torosyan, Associate Professor, SUNY Oneonta
- George Giokas, Lecturer, Stony Brook University
- Jamie (Jay) Barber, Clinical Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo
- Marsha Ducey, Associate Professor and Chair, SUNY Brockport
- Ozgür Akgün, Assistant Professor, SUNY Old Westbury
- Paul Arras, Assistant Professor, SUNY Cortland
- Peter Brusoe, Assistant Professor, SUNY Delhi

Institute for Local News Editor Todd Franko said, "Passionate faculty members are the lifeblood of university-led reporting programs. We are pleased to honor the leadership of these faculty members and the commitment that SUNY has made to serve its students and communities through quality reporting."

Students in university-led student reporting programs provided more than 10,000 published local news stories to struggling media enterprises around the country last year, according to the Center for Community News. Often called news/academic partnerships, SUNY ILN allows students to provide content, vetted and edited by a faculty member, to local media outlets to give them the experience they need to succeed as journalists.

SUNY ILN identifies existing academic collaborations with local news outlets; works with individual campuses to develop new programs; hosts training sessions and meetings; develops templates and best practices specific to the SUNY System; seeks additional funding for strategic investments in state news deserts; shares and coordinate system-wide credit-earning experiential learning opportunities and build collaborations between colleges and universities.

Approximately 80 million Americans live in news deserts according to the Local News Initiative at Northwestern University. Researchers at the University of North Carolina identified 14 New York counties as being considered news deserts in 2020. Between 2004 and 2018, New York State lost 40% of its operating newspapers and saw a 63% decrease in newspaper circulation. Researchers have also found links between the lack of local news and lower voter turnout, less choice in political officials running for office, participation in community events and higher levels of municipal funding. The lack of local news also leads to increased polarization and the spread of non-verifiable and false information, according to those same researchers.

About The Center for Community News

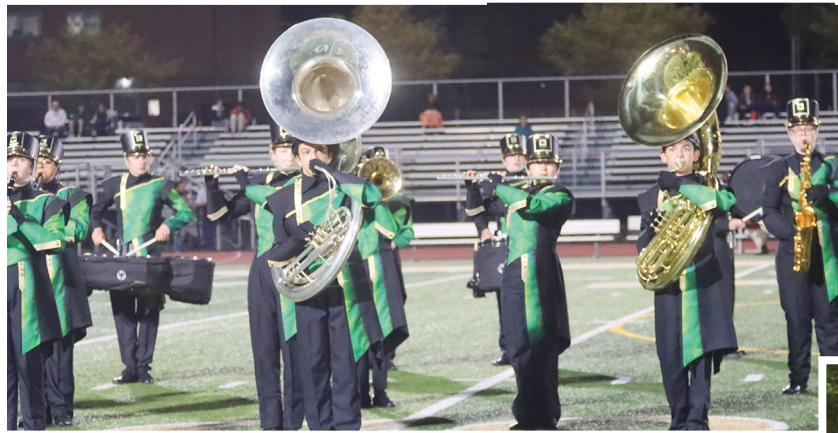
The Center for Community News at UVM is helping to connect student journalists at every stage of life with local news organizations to help build a world in which every community has access to reliable information by and for the people who live there.

VHS HOMECOMING GAME CHEER SQUAD

Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



VHS HOMECOMING GAME MARCHING BAND AND PARADE



Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink

VHS PEP RALLY AND HOMECOMING GAME

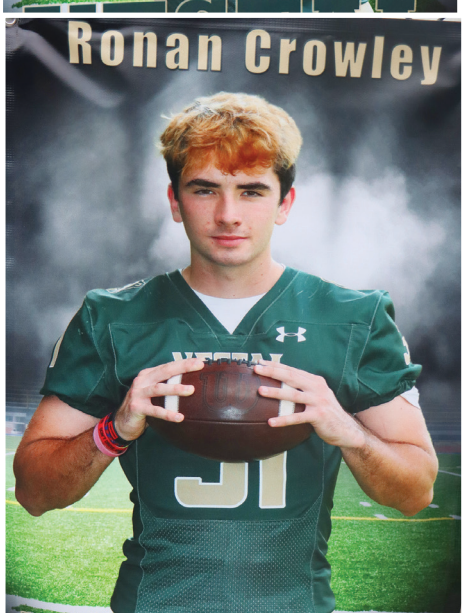
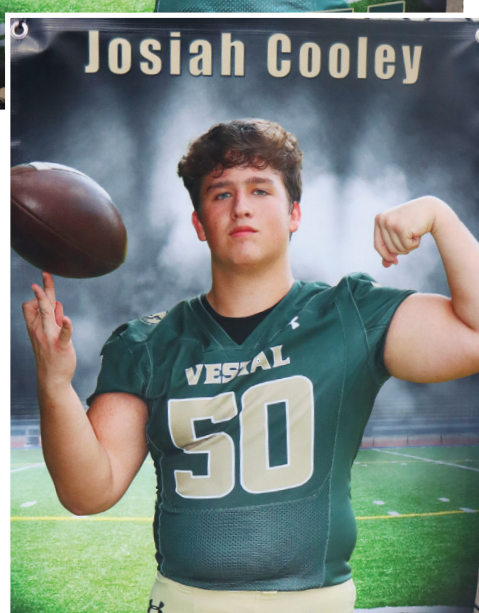
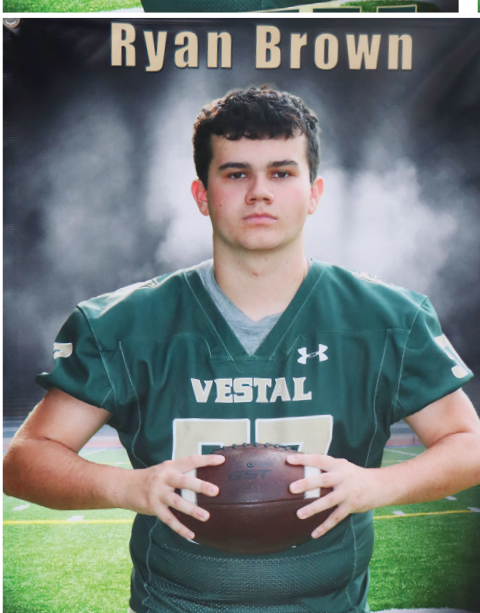
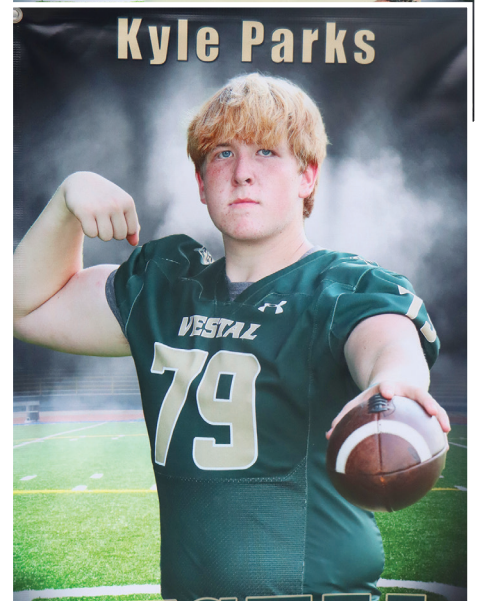
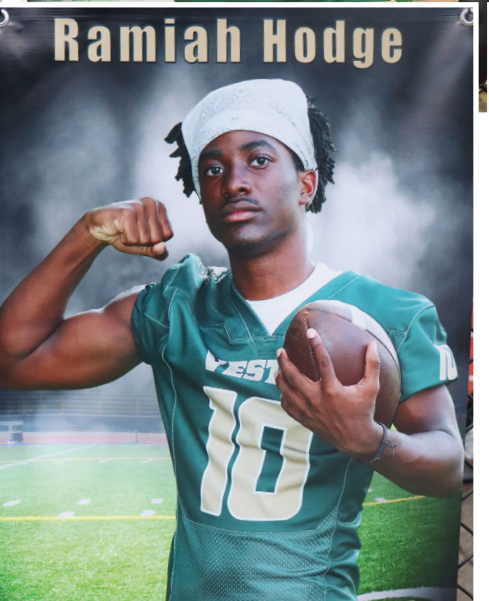
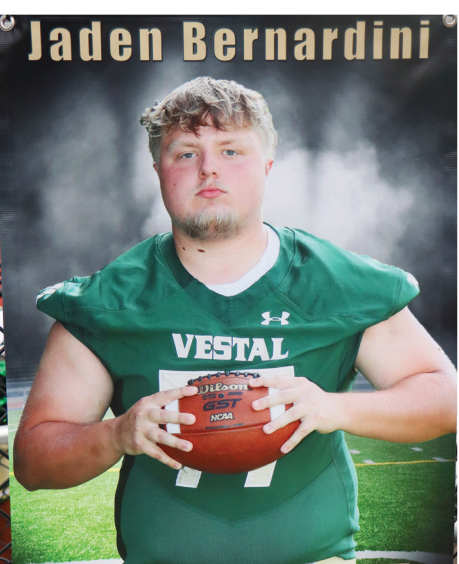
Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District



VHS VARSITY FOOTBALL

Seniors

Photos Courtesy of Maryesther WhiteBrink



Traffic Safety- Road Shoulders

Welcome to our weekly Vehicle and Traffic Law safety announcement. The "tiger striping" pictured is an indication that motorists are not to travel in this area as a turning lane or a passing lane. This specific location, Vestal Parkway East at Jensen Road is notorious for this violation. There are only designated left turn lanes at the location meaning that motorists wishing to make a right-hand turn must do so from the right-hand lane (not the shoulder) of travel when traffic is moving along Vestal Parkway East. Entering the shoulder or "tiger striping" at these locations is illegal and unsafe since this area is designated for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, emergency vehicles, tow trucks and highway maintenance crews. Motorists who occupy the shoulder to make a right hand turn also subject themselves to liability during an accident if another motorist is also making a right-hand turn from the right-hand lane of travel. Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1131- Driving on shoulders and slopes: Except for bicycles and those classes of vehicles required to travel on shoulders or slopes, no motor vehicle shall be driven over, across, along, or within any shoulder or slope of any state controlled-access highway except at a location specifically authorized and posted by the department of transportation. The foregoing limitation shall not prevent tow trucks from using shoulders or slopes in as limited and incidental a manner as practicable when dispatched to the scene of an accident by a law enforcement agency or an authority, department or agency having jurisdiction over such controlled-access highway and all lanes are obstructed by traffic, provided, however, that the foregoing shall not relieve the driver of a tow truck from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor shall such provision protect the tow truck driver from the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others and shall at all times operate such tow truck in compliance with all standards of care imposed to prevent those injuries or damages to persons or property of another which may result from the operator's negligence, recklessness or intentional misconduct, nor shall it prevent motor vehicles from using shoulders or slopes when directed by police officers or flag persons, nor does it prevent motor vehicles from stopping, standing, or parking on shoulders or slopes where such stopping, standing, or parking is lawful. If you violate the prohibition against driving on the road shoulder and you travel in this location on any state-controlled road, you could be ticketed and pay a fine. Upon conviction, driving on the road shoulder will result in two points on your license.

Sourced via CRIMEWATCH®: <https://crimewatch.net/us/ny/broome/vestal-pd/245804/post/traffic-safety-road-shoulders>



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 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.

September	Tools and Automotive
October	Christmas Decorations



We Serve Annual Coat Drive
Sponsored by
Apalachin Lions
Please bring clean

Useable winter coats for those in need.

Oct. 1st – Nov. 17th

Drop Offs:

Blessed Trinity at St. Margaret Mary's – after mass
1110 Penn. Ave. Apalachin, NY

Apalachin Library (during regular hours)
719 Main St. Apalachin, NY

Apalachin United Methodist Church
303 Penn.Ave. Apalachin, NY

Johnson's Pools & Spas
1088 Rt. 434 Owego, NY

Contact Person:
Lion Terry White 625-4498



OCTOBER FUN FACTS

1. October is associated with two birthstones: tourmaline and opal.
2. The calendula is the customary flower associated with the month of October, and it is emblematic of comfort, healing, protection, and grace.
3. Libra and Scorpio are the October zodiac signs in astrology. Libra is in effect from September 23 through October 22 while Scorpio is in effect from October 23 to November 21.
4. October was known as the eighth month in the original Roman ten-month calendar, as its name directly translates to "the eighth month" in Latin.
5. More than 50% of the US population purchases pumpkins during October.
6. The October pumpkin industry generates \$708 million in sales each year.
7. In October 1886, France bestowed upon the US the famous Statue of Liberty.
8. October 1994 was a good time for film releases. Here's what was running in cinemas back then: Pulp Fiction, The Shawshank Redemption, The Lion King, Forrest Gump and Jurassic Park.
9. Oktoberfest, the world's largest beer festival takes place every year in the Bavarian region of Germany. This traditional gathering is so popular that over 6 million visitors consume over 7 million liters of beer each year.

Broome County Humane Society's

Rummage Sale

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
8:00AM - 1:00PM

ITEM DROP OFF ON FRIDAY, 10/11

American Legion Post 80
76 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905

Donate & shop to support The Humane Society!

Stop over to American Legion Post 80 **Friday to donate** those items that have been piling up in your spare room, then come back on **Saturday to shop** around and find new treasures!

Where: American Legion Post 80, 76 Main St., Binghamton

Drop Off: Friday, October 11, 2024, from 8am-6pm

Sale: Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 8am-1pm

Our furry friends thank you for your support!

All proceeds to benefit the Broome County Humane Society.

Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, September 25

Continued From Page 4

Sexton stated that the Broome County Court House and the Oakdale Commons. There is a drop box for off hours there. So, if a person works a regular job they could use the drop box.

Sexton stated that local law enforcement would suggest that we do not put checks in the mail anymore so that's a consideration for our residents. This can still be a continual discussion but we were hoping for a vote to sign.

Councilman Miller asked if this was a just a preliminary step not a contract in any way shape or form?

Sexton stated that we have not drawn up a contract.

Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds stated that if you wanted to amend this to say authorization for the Supervisor to enter into negotiations for a contract that would be different. This is not what this resolution is saying. This is allowing the Supervisor to enter into a contract, this is not a preliminary step.

Councilman Miller asked then why would we be doing this?

Attorney Reynolds stated that we have some information but not all of the information.

Councilman Miller stated that he would like to have all that information before we proceed with this.

Sexton stated that no one would be signing until we had all the details.

Reynolds stated that an amendment would need to be done if you would like the contract to come back to the Town Board for a vote.

Councilman Miller stated that yes, he would like the contract to come back for a vote.

Councilman Miller made a motion to amend Resolution 16.2 to read authorization for the Town Supervisor to enter into negotiations with Broome County for the collection of taxes starting in 2025. Seconded by Councilman Greene

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

Authorization to Enter into Negotiations

Authorization for the Town Supervisor to enter into negotiations with Broome County for collections taxes starting in 2025.

17. SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to Andy Gowe Highway Deputy for all of his service for 36 years.
- Vestal Fire Department Expo on October 5, 2024 at Barnes and Noble parking lot.

18. COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES

19. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Member of the public stated that according to what they just heard we are roughly \$5,000 more than what we are currently doing. What I didn't hear is that the School pays the Town \$25,000 to collect school taxes, so would that be changing?

Sexton stated yes it would be and that she has already reached out to the School Superintendent and there will definitely be a conversation with them. We haven't decided for sure at this point.

This member stated that then the Town would actually be losing closer to \$30,000 because the School pays you \$25,000.

Sexton stated that we will be bringing this to the work session so that we can discuss it as well.

Sexton stated that the publics response was good regarding this.

This member stated that she was curious about that because she just heard about this a few hours ago and it wasn't on the work session agenda and the website has been

done to read the minutes from that meeting. So what public comments, did they miss a meeting?

Sexton stated that we will have a public work session a week from Monday to discuss this further.

Councilwoman Messina stated that the money from the School District covers the cost of stamps, envelopes and personnel involved in the process of collecting taxes. If we are not doing the taxes we wouldn't be incurring those costs. Stamps and postage is also included in that.

This member of the public asked so you will be cutting that position?

Councilwoman Messina stated that no we are not at that part yet.

Supervisor Sexton wanted to state that it is a vacant position in the Clerk's Office no one is being displaced.

Member of the public asked if they heard it right that this is for public safety not financial reasons. If that is the case will the Clerks Office be abolished as well so we can't do dog licenses or marriage licenses there. Tax Collection is a brief interaction.

Sexton stated that its employee safety.

Councilman Miller stated that there is a large influx of people coming to a small area to pay their taxes so it's a surge of people in that area at one time in that small area. It is a concern for the public in there.

Member of the public stated that the Vestal Police Department is very close to the Clerk's Office if there should be any issues. This member stated that he paid his taxes today and had no problems in the lobby.

This member wanted to know about Solar and what is the status of the moratorium.

Sexton stated that we entered into the moratorium to look over the situation and make sure we are doing it well. We just opted out of Tax Law 487 so that we can tax the solar farms. Next is to consider what options we have an is our solar law adequate.

Member of the public would like to know how much the School and Town and County penalties have had in the past 4 years. The County has the second highest taxes and to give them more money doesn't seem right. The member of the public stated that taking away positions to make up the budget deficient is not how you do it.

Member of the public spoke and stated that she can not separate herself from who she is as a resident and as the Town Clerk/Receiver of Taxes. This member has been the Receiver of Taxes of the Town for 20 years. My office has assisted as of 4:30 PM today 2113 tax payers at my window and it's not even my busiest week yet.

Town Clerk Debra Wallace stated that the budget for collection of taxes both for Town/ County and School is \$14,743.00.

Wallace spoke in regards to a statement made previously that the employee salary of \$60,000 is being cut to part time due to abolishing the tax collection in the town.

There are two people who collect taxes in my office-myself and my Deputy. My Deputy Collector of Taxes receives \$1,000 a year to collect taxes. The position that is being cut to part time is not a Deputy Tax Collector position.

Wallace stated that the penalties the Town receives from the collection of Town and County Taxes averages about \$26,000-\$30,000 annually.

Wallace stated that during this short period of time that she has been made aware of this possible change she has spoken to many residents who are devastated by the idea of themselves or their elder family members driving to Binghamton or to the mall to pay their taxes. They don't want to just drop them off, they want to come in and see me take their check or money and they want a receipt from me. They

are satisfied with how the collection of Taxes has been done in the town for the past 20 years in our town. I have been collecting for the School for 7 years and my understanding from the School is that we have an excellent relationship with me collecting taxes, there has not been an issue.

I'm not sure how we are losing money if the School is paying us \$25,500 per year and my budget is \$ 14743.00.

On a motion by Supervisor Sexton, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Board adjourned the Town Board Meeting and entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following:

- Conduct of Elected Officials

The time was 6:46 PM

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Robert, seconded by Councilwoman Messina the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Approved by Debra Wallace, Town Clerk

Help support Cub Scout's by buying some delicious popcorn!

When you support a Scout's fundraiser, you're not just buying a product; you're ensuring kids have access to outdoor adventures, community involvement, and life-changing growth opportunities.

It's Popcorn Time!



Fundraiser helps fund:
Pinewood Derby
Campouts
Community events

Blue & Gold Banquet
Advancements
Equipment

**VESTAL ELKS 2508
2071 VESTAL PKWY W**



BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY OCTOBER 6TH 9- NOON

\$12	PANCAKES - SCRAMBLED EGGS BACON - SAUSAGE & BISCUITS	\$8
PER ADULT	COFFEE - JUICE - MILK	PER CHILD
	MIMOSA/BLOODY MARY BAR	

NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT EVERY CATS DREAM

Vestal 5th Grade Fall Ball Wins Championship Tournament in Rochester



3-0 at Tri County Sports Complex. All or nothing! Take home the trophy!

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 **OCTOBER 12TH, 9AM-2PM**
WINDSOR FARMERS MARKET **NOVEMBER 9TH, 9AM-1PM**

Binghamton Farmers Market
 Broome County Regional Farmers Market

If you would like to receive our monthly BC Veterans Newsletter, email your name to 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.

Meet Your Vestal Fire Fighters!

Vestal Fire Department Community Fire Expo
Saturday, October 5, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Barnes & Noble parking lot
 2443 Vestal Parkway E.
 See the fire trucks, demonstrations, fire prevention activities, etc.

Yoga-tta VP VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
 TEEN YOGA
calm down

meeting room
3:30 - 4:40 PM
ON WEDNESDAYS
SEPTEMBER 11 TO OCTOBER 23
 For ages 12 - 18

Unwind after school with our 7-week yoga series! Each session will guide you through meditation, breath work, and Vinyasa and Yin yoga poses, helping you de-stress and find balance this school year. Yoga mats are provided while supplies last, no registration is required.

FALLING FOR FUNGI TOWN OF VESTAL RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 FREE DAY CAMP AT THE WATERMAN CONSERVATION CENTER

LEARN ALL ABOUT FUNGI AND THEIR PURPOSE IN NATURE. LEARN ABOUT THE MANY SPECIES OF MUSHROOMS FOUND LOCALLY, HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM AND WHAT THEY DO AS A PART OF OUR FOREST ECOSYSTEM.

CAMP INFORMATION:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14
 OR
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11
 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
 GRADES 3RD & 4TH
 WATERMAN CONSERVATION CENTER
 403 HILTON RD., APALACHIN, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO: VESTALNY.MYREC.COM

VP **CLOSED**
Monday, October 7

VPL is closed to the public on, Monday, October 7, for a Staff Learning Day. We will reopen at 9AM Tuesday, October 8.

VESTAL RECREATION PRESENTS:
MONSTER MASH
 NOON TO 2:00 PM | ARNOLD PARK
SATURDAY, OCT 19TH

Please join us for our annual Halloween Party!
 Put on a costume and have fun on the inflatables, playing games and enjoying the DJ. Free cider and doughnuts provided by CALTAB. Free treats for all kids!

VESTAL COMMUNITY BAND
HALLOWEEN CONCERT
 WITH THE CHENANGO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BAND
 OCTOBER 10TH, 7PM
 CHENANGO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Online Basket Raffle



Calling NY Giants & Philadelphia Eagles FOOTBALL FANS!!!
Check out our TOTAL GAME EXPERIENCE RAFFLE!!!! 🍌🏈🍷

Basket includes:

- 2 Tickets to the NY Giants VS. Philadelphia Eagles @ 1pm on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at MetLife Stadium
- \$50 Exxon Mobil Gas Card
- \$50 NFL Shop Gift Card
- \$50 Weis Gift Card
- \$25 Starbucks Gift Card
- Arctic Zone 40-can cooler

GAME DAY EXPERIENCE - PRICELESS!!!!
A \$700 VALUE!!

All proceeds from this raffle goes directly towards supporting the lost, homeless and abused animals at the Broome County Humane Society.

Get tickets at
<https://form.jotform.com/242493193738163>

HOCUS POCUS
Free Movie Night

OCTOBER 5 | STARTS AT 7 PM | FREE ENTRY
Arnold Park, Vestal

VESTAL RECREATION DEPT

ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com



ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com

For 30 Years, we welcome you to Tedeschi's Restaurant!
Proudly serving VALUE with house specialties & delicious cuisine entrees. Order online to go or relax with family & friends in our welcoming setting.



Restaurant Hours
 Mon - Thur: 11:30am-8:00pm
 Fri & Sat: 11:30am-9:00pm
 Sun: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Visit
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Mountain View Plaza
25066 State Route 11
Hallstead, PA 18822
Call Us - (570) 879-5056

Local family owned and operated
Located in Hallstead PA just off I-81



ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com
EAT/ ENJOY
EARN POINTS

