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The Country Courier

Your Hometown News for Over 49 Years

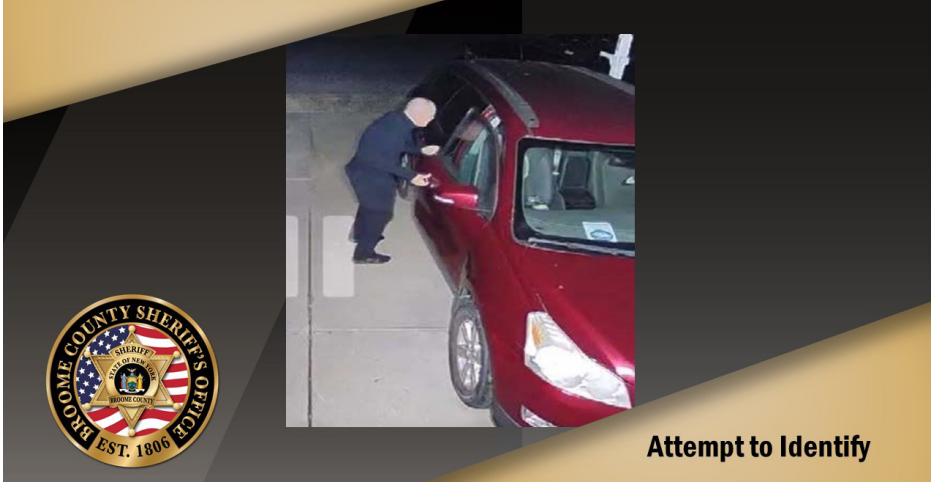


Vol. 49, No. 41 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, May 10, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at www.TiersNews.com

Sheriff's Office Seeks Community's Help in Larceny Investigation in the Town of Conklin

The Broome County Sheriff's Office seeking the public's help in identifying the pictured suspect regarding numerous car larcenies that took place at the in the Town of Conklin overnight from 05/04/24 – 05/05/24.

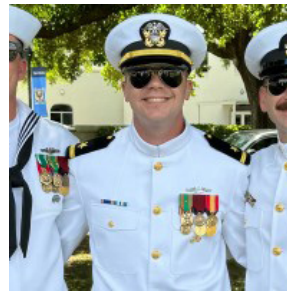
Broome County Sheriff's Office



Attempt to Identify

The suspect was captured on a home surveillance video and appears to be wearing a stocking over their head. It is believed the suspect is operating a dark colored SUV.

Austin Lash of Conklin, New York sworn in as officer in the United States Armed Forces



The United States Armed Forces now have more than 140 new officers.

Austin Lash of Conklin, New York is one of the members of the Class of 2024 who accepted a commission into the United States Armed Forces.

Held on Friday, May 3, during a joint commissioning ceremony, approximately 30% of the Class of 2024 accepted commissions into the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force. This year's joint ceremony was held in McAlister Field House.

The ceremony included the new officers reciting their oath, as well as having gold bars pinned on their uniforms by their sponsors. Following the ceremony, those commissioned gathered on Summerall Field where they received their first salutes as officers.

The commencement ceremony for the Corps is held the day after the commissioning ceremonies.

About The Citadel

The Citadel, with its iconic campus located in Charleston, South Carolina, offers a classic military college education for young men and women focused on leadership excellence and academic distinction. The approximately 2,300 members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets are not required to serve in the military, but about one-third of each class earn commissions to become officers in every branch of U.S. military service. Citadel alumni have served the nation, their states and their communities as principled leaders since 1842. The Citadel Graduate College offers dozens of graduate degree, graduate certificate



and evening undergraduate programs in the evening or online. The Citadel has been consecutively named Best Public College in the South by U.S. News & World Report for 13 years and No. 1 Best Public College for Veterans in the South for six years.

Local Calendars
Page 2

Conklin Cleanup
Days
Page 3

SV v. UE Track
Pages 4

SV v. Windsor
Softball
Page 5

Conklin
Town Board
Pages 6 & 7

**VETERANS
CORNER**
Page 8

Announcement
Section
Obituaries
Legals

SUBURBAN SEPTIC
- Septic Tanks
Cleaned
- Portable
Toilet Rentals
and Sink
Rentals

332 MAIN ST, KIRKWOOD, NY
607-775-3693

CONKLIN
FIELD OF
HONOR FLAG
DISPLAY
WILL BE UP
FOR
MEMORIAL
DAY
WEEKEND
SEE Page 8

New York State
Burn Ban
Between
March 15 – May 15





Calendar

Kirkwood Town Board Meeting

May 28th - Work Session- 6 PM

Board of Assessment Review

Tuesday, 5/28/2024 2 PM – 4 PM 6 PM – 8 PM

KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Town of Binghamton

May 21, 2024 – Town Board Meeting 6:00 P.M

TOB Coleman Rd.
Community Ctr. IS CLOSED.

Town of Conklin Regular Town Board Meeting

Planning Board
May 20th 7 pm

DMV AT CONKLIN TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY – 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.

Conklin Town Court Hours
Monday, Wed, & Fri 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
1st Friday of the Month 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Dear Editor:

We have been receiving letters and reviews of the changes to the Country Courier, we will post them here without names listed. The absence of names has a long history in American Reporting, up until the early to mid 1970's.

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

**FOURTH ESTATE
A PILLAR OF FREEDOM**



Free Vaccines for Dogs and Cats

The Broome County Humane Society is hosting free, monthly vaccine clinics for dogs and cats in need of updated Rabies and Distemper vaccines in our community on the following dates (*dates are subject to change):



Saturday, June 29, 2024

Clinics will be held at The Broome County Humane Society located at 167 Conklin Ave in Binghamton from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested, but not required for each vaccination given. Pets need to be at least three months old and restrained. Bring previous rabies vaccination certificate (if applicable) First come, first served. A \$10 donation per pet is suggested but not required. For additional information, visit the Broome County Humane Society website.

The Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop is now open! Hey Sabers Fans - there's a great place to go to stock up on Sabers gear! It's the Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop. Access at SVSABERS.org



CAREGIVER RESPITE

St. Mary's Church in Kirkwood offers a monthly respite program for caregivers. It is open to anyone who is busy with the care of a family member or other individual and could use a little free time to recharge on a Saturday, while we spend some enjoyable time with your care recipient. Activities include music, crafts, lunch or just some pleasant conversation. We meet at the parish center the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11am to 2pm. Call the church office to register at 607 775-0086 Monday to Thursday 9-2, Friday 9-12. If you forget to call and would still like to participate in the program, you may do so with us on any given 3rd Saturday. The next get together is May 18.



The Country Courier

NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Subscription rates to The Country Courier are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$105 outside Broome County and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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

An Independent Weekly Newspaper
The Country Courier
(USPS 348-170)

Published weekly by Newspaper Publishers LLC
PERIODICAL Postage Paid

at Conklin, NY 13748

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Country Courier
PO Box 208

Conklin, NY 13748-0208

Publisher: Gretchen VanWalterop
607-444-NEWS

Published Weekly on Friday
News@TiersNews.com
Ads@TiersNews.com
Legals@TiersNews.com
Obits@TiersNews.com

YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME
Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com



Lap Swim

Open Swim at SV
Just because it's getting colder doesn't mean you have to stop swimming! Come to our beautiful, heated pool at Susquehanna Valley for Lap Swim and Open Swim sessions every Monday! Lap Swim is 6:30-7:00 p.m., followed by Open Swim from 7:00-8:00 p.m. every Monday Night. Keep in mind that Lap Swim and Open Swim are CANCELLED when-

TOB SPRING BRUSH & BRANCH PICKUP UNDERWAY. Ends 5/17/24

The Town of Binghamton Highway Dept. will be picking up brush piles / branches beginning on Fri., April 19 and ending Friday, May 17, 2024. No pickups or calls after 5/17/2024.

This pickup is for TREE BRANCHES ONLY. No cuttings from any kind of bushes. Due to the overwhelming response to this service, you will not be given a specific time or day when your brush will be picked up. Simply put your branches to the curb.

CALL ONLY IF YOU HAVE A LARGE PILE THAT NEEDS TO BE APPROVED (607-669-4323).

In addition, there are certain guidelines to be followed:

1. Tree branches must be from your yard only.
2. Put branches neatly along the curb/roadside in front of your home.
3. Place the large end of the branch towards the road, and leave the branches as long as possible.
4. No brush from clearing your lot.
5. No brush from contractors or landscapers. (This means if you hire someone to maintain your lawn, they need to dispose of the debris; we will not take it.)
6. Large piles must be approved.

The following items will NOT be accepted and will be left behind: tree trunks; roots of any sort; clippings from lawns, flower beds, or vegetable gardens; thorny brush and small twigs; leaves, and animal waste.

Kickball for a Cause

That describes The Susquehanna Valley Central School District's Inaugural "Kick It for Cans" fundraiser, to be held Wednesday, May 15, at 10:00 a.m. at Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School, Conklin Road, Conklin.

The event will feature a kickball competition between 5th-grade students at Susquehanna Valley's two elementary schools: Francis P. Donnelly Elementary and Brookside Elementary. All proceeds will benefit the Sabers Food Center, housed at Donnelly. "Kick It for Cans" promises to be a fun-filled and friendly competition, showcasing Sabers Community spirit, and raising awareness and much-needed support for those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

"This event is not just about enjoying kickball competition; it's about kicking hunger out of our community," said Stacey Stiloe, F.P. Donnelly Social Worker and director of the Sabers Food Center. "It's heartwarming to witness such unity and generosity from our sponsors, whose support will undoubtedly make a significant impact."

The "Kick It for Cans" fundraiser is made possible by the generous contributions of our sponsors.

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MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS (DROP OFF ONLY) TOWN OF CONKLIN HIGHWAY GARAGE — 240 CARLIN RD. GET RID OF YOUR JUNK FOR FREE. FOR TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY.

Proof of residency is required.

Fri., May 17, 2024 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Electronics: 9 a.m. - noon)

Sat., May 18, 2024 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (No electronics!)

ELECTRONICS DROP OFF IS FRIDAY ONLY - 9 a.m. to noon

ALL OTHER ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN BOTH DAYS

ELECTRONICS include: DEHUMIDIFIERS, AIR CONDITIONERS, TVs, COMPUTERS, LAPTOPS, PRINTERS, FAX MACHINES, CELL PHONES, RADIOS, STEREOS, VCRs, GPS UNITS, GAMING CONSOLES, AND MORE (NO SPEAKERS)

FOR WHITE GOODS PICKUP AND BRUSH CALL THE HIGHWAY GARAGE.

TIRES (\$2 PER TIRE - CASH); WHITE GOODS include: washers, dryers, water heaters, stoves, (dumpster for metal items); FURNITURE; CABINETS; MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD TRASH including MATTRESSES, BOX SPRINGS, MICROWAVES, DISASSEMBLED HOT TUBS, CARPETS, WIRE FENCING, TOYS

NOT ALLOWED:

NO refrigerators, NO paints, NO chemicals

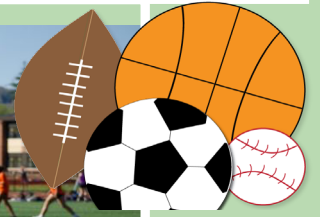
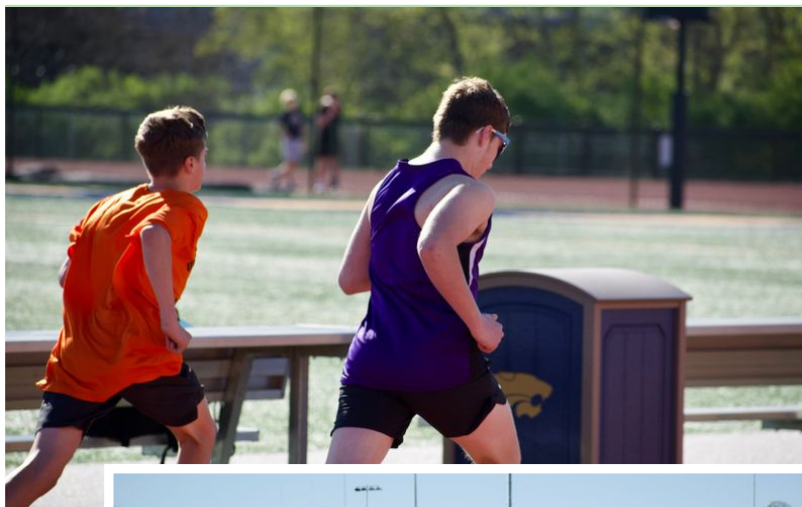
NO yard waste or leaves, NO FREON; NO food items.

For a detailed list, visit our website at www.TownofConklin.com



SV vs Union Endicott Track

Photos by Chandelle Loren



SV vs Windsor JV Softball

Photos by Chandelle Loren



PRESENT: Town Board Members James Finch, Dell Boyle, William Farley, Chuck Francisco, Supervisor William Dumian

Town Counsel Mark Spinner
Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber
Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes
Planning Board Sandra Beam

Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky
Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Einstein

GUESTS: Abundant Solar Andrew Van Doom
Abundant Solar Bartolo Morales
Laurie Francisco
Dan Depue

MINUTES: APRIL 9, 2024, WORK SESSION & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Farley moved to approve VOTE: Finch —Abstain, Boyle —Yes, Farley —Yes, Francisco —Yes, Dumian —Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian said he had received a request to use the Town Pool from the person who trains the lifeguards every year. He said the Board had agreed at the previous meeting to open the pool for the 2024 season. He will talk to Dave Kilmer, Parks Dept., on Wednesday, to come up with some dates for the lifeguard training. He stressed the importance saying, “Without those lifeguards being trained by this person who works for the school, we cannot open the pool.”

Mr. Dumian said he had some other correspondence this week, and it concerned some neighborhood situations that filter into different departments in the Town. Said Dumian, “When I get those calls from residents, I know they are frustrated about certain situations, but there are a lot of things that go into a process, in particular with dog control. Unfortunately, it seems that problems are ramping back up again now that it is nice outside. I think our crews are doing a very good job.”

He said some habitual, consistent situations frustrate neighbors, but the DCO is doing what he can to handle and remediate the situations. He said he hears only good things from the neighboring towns regarding the services provided by the DCO. “He is doing a wonderful job,” said the Supervisor.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes said he and his crew have been cleaning up roadside trash after the winter months. Unfortunately, when you drive the roads the next day new garbage is seen, said Mr. Hayes. The crew has also been working on cleaning road shoulders and ditches. He said they have had training on operating the new paver, and the Town of Binghamton sent two employees over to help. His team is ready to use the paver on some spring and summer projects. They just finished work on the crossover pipe under Carlin Road. An old corrugated pipe, probably from the ‘70s, had rotted out on its bottom, causing the road to begin to collapse. Digging was interesting as they followed all the proper procedures finding what was supposed to be there, an active gas line and a Verizon line, but on the second day of digging, they found an abandoned gas line. “They sent an inspector out who also said we had done everything right,” said Hayes.

Despite that unexpected find, the project has been completed. Mr. Hayes thanked the parks department for the loan of the excavator and air compressor. “It made a world of difference,” said Hayes.

The Supervisor asked about plans for asphalt and road repair, which led to a discussion on the process presented at a previous Town Board meeting by Suite-Kote. Mr. Dumian said this new process is basically finishing the surface over the top of the old asphalt already in place. Two samples of the finished product were passed around to Board members with one looking better than the other. “It’s kind of hard to determine what the true finished project looks like,” said Dumian.

The Supervisor is concerned about the location of the streets scheduled to be repaved this year. The Suite-Kote process is extensive—similar to a stone & oil process but it must set for at least seven days. Mr. Dumian said it would be messy, and was certain to result in a lot of

complaints despite the cost savings. Also, the new surface takes 40 minutes to harden. “So if you drive over it, you are going to imprint that surface,” said Dumian.

He pointed out that this is a neighborhood that has a lot of activity with walkers and bicyclists. He referred the Board to the comparison costs—with the Suite-Kote finish at almost half the cost of the regular road resurfacing. The Supervisor said the road leading to Arnold Park in Vestal has this new process, as does Oakdale Road in Johnson City, so there are samples available to see. However, no one knew the life expectancy of the Suite-Kote process. Superintendent Hayes thought it was between 5-7 years. The discussion resulted in the Board determining that if the finished surface does not have the 10-year expectancy that asphalt has, then the cost could end up being more expensive.

Mr. Finch felt the conventional process should be used on Woodcrest Way while trying out the new process on streets less traveled. He would like to see how the roads with the new process hold up before using the product. Councilman Dell Boyle said he knows towns are using the new process quite a bit and would love to see twice as many roads resurfaced here because he sees walkers and bikers on all the town roads. However, he also wanted to see samples of the new finishing before making a decision. Mr. Farley wants to stay with the 10-year rotation plan for the four streets in question. He said if you end up resurfacing every five years, you are spending more money and asked what that would this action do to the rotation list? You’d even be paying a little more.”

Mr. Francisco said he realized they were looking at \$184,000 compared to \$97,000 but by the same token if you have to go back every 5-7 years that \$97,000 could be \$150,000, so where’s the real savings?”

Mr. Dumian said he favored the conventional hot mix for this particular neighborhood. In the end, the Board agreed that even though roughly \$64,000 would need to be added to the \$120,000 Consolidated Local Street and Highway Program (CHIPS) funding, they would proceed with asphalt for the streets this year. Mr. Dumian thought the Suite-Kote finishing could be a good process for the parks and Community Center.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER

The Supervisor said he has heard nothing but good things about Schnurbusch Park and the cemeteries. He said new generators are being installed in the sewer stations. Baseball and softball season is underway. He said the Board would talk at some point about a solution to the water that sits in the park after the pipe was taken out. The Parks crew has been working at the dog park, mowing and weed-whacking parks and flood properties along with working on numerous other projects.

More new radios and meters have been installed for the water system, more mapping has been completed and valves uncovered. Sewer station 2 will be the next site for driveway work and generator installation. Cemeteries have been mowed and trimmed, trash and fallen tree limbs cleaned up. There was a cremation burial at the Conklin Cemetery.

REPORT: CODE DEPARTMENT

The Supervisor said he was part of a conference call about the property at 1298 Conklin Road. As reported at the last Town Board meeting, the property owner has a lawyer helping him with the cleanup process, but the code officer’s call for an update was not returned. Recently there have been complaints about an unpleasant odor coming from the property.

Town Attorney Mark Spinner said he would ask for a cleanup timeline. Dumian said he had been hopeful this issue could be resolved without costing the taxpayers a lot of money. “There are a number of code violations at the residential-zoned property that have progressed to being well out of hand,” said Dumian. The Attorney will get back to the Board after speaking to the property owner’s attorney on Wednesday about setting the timeline.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE The Supervisor’s Report is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

FORMATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DISTRICT

Attorney Mark Spinner asked for more guidelines on the proposal to form a Neighborhood/Commercial Transportation District in the Town. He told the Board he had

put together the starting draft of the new local law adding language to permitted uses in the zoning district, and said, “The number, type, and size of vehicle, as well as hours of operation, are subject to Board scrutiny during the site plan approval process.” He said he understood the Board wanted to be specific on the type of vehicles allowed. Dumian said he did not want anyone to get far into the process and then find out something was not allowed. He suggested vehicles allowed might include two limousines or a medical transport vehicle that would be suitable for the character of a neighborhood. The Supervisor also suggested the number of vehicle passenger seats be included because parking a commercial bus would not be allowed. All agreed permitted uses for the district should be clear so people know right away what can and cannot be done.

Councilman Finch cautioned about the shortage of school bus drivers. “With the shortage of bus drivers for schools, it is becoming a sub-let business with people down south bidding on the job and parking the school bus in residential neighborhoods.”

Councilman Farley said that is another reason they should consider stating the number of vehicles allowed on a property.

Councilman Francisco said he believed tandem-axle vehicles would be problematic and should not be allowed in this new transportation district, nor should construction vehicles.

The Supervisor agreed saying it is necessary to keep in mind the character of the neighborhood. Attorney Spinner said I understand. You want somebody who is planning a 50-unit transportation service to look at this definition and see right away that is not going to fly in this district. Before the next meeting, Board members will send their lists of suggestions to the attorney.

DISCUSSION BUILDING/CODE LAWS WITHIN FLOODPLAIN

Following the agenda, the discussion turned to building code laws within a flood plain. Mr. Dumian gave the Board some “weekend reading” after he and Attorney Spinner sat down with Mary Plonski and Nick Pappas from the Code Office to determine what changes could be made in the town code Chapter 76, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION.

The Attorney said he has also added a definition for compensatory storage along with the requirements that were previously discussed.

Councilman Francisco said that under definitions in Chapter 76, “flood plain and floodway” are not clearly defined.

The Supervisor agreed but cautioned that development in the floodway is still not allowed, while “we do allow development in the floodplain as long as it is done properly with compensatory storage.”

Councilman Finch said he had heard on the news that same day that the Governor had just granted \$10 million, per NYS community, to make flood-prone communities more resilient to flooding and other climate impacts. The announcement he saw did not have any details. He believed it was important for the Board to get more information. Mr. Dumian agreed but said he was somewhat leery of state grants after the disappointing results in the past. Discussion with the Town Attorney continued on the changes to Chapter 76. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ON THE SOLAR MORATORIUM AND NEW SOLAR LAW

Attorney Spinner said he had no updates on his last draft for this meeting. He expects to have a new draft by the next Town Board meeting. He will be taking comments and suggestions until then. “We will just continue to go through this process until everybody is happy with what we have,” said Spinner.

Supervisor Dumian said progress has been made. “We had a very interactive legal session last time to talk about legalities involved with the solar moratorium and defining areas where this would not be allowed based on the floodway/floodplain,” said Dumian. He added that the Board also discussed the fee structure, elevation standards, and eliminating any facility that had battery storage.

Attorney Spinner said before the next meeting he would have a new version of the law with the full package—fee

structure, application, and everything. Mr. Dumian said the Board has taken into consideration the information from solar companies and has spoken with neighboring townships and other municipalities to determine how the Board wants to structure its own solar law. "I can see us getting through the process fairly quickly once we have the new draft done," said Dumian.

SOFTBALL/DUGOUT REPAIRS

The Supervisor told Board members they each had before them a new estimate submitted on the roof replacement and other repairs on four dugouts. The bidder would be a sole proprietor, so prevailing wage would not apply. Three quotes are always desired. Assistant to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber said she had reached out to four businesses. One didn't want the job, another never responded to a request for an estimate, another estimate was high, and the fourth, Ostrowsky Builders, LLC. Mr. Dumian said in all fairness he did want to say they had asked the company that submitted the highest bid for a quick estimate. When the company submitted the bid they commented that it was a little high and they might be able to do better. However, Ostrowsky Builders' estimate was considerably lower, so the Town Board went with the low bidder.

RESO 2024-81: ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR THE REPAIRS TO THE SCHNURBUSCH PARK DUGOUTS

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the repairs to the Schnurbusch Park dugouts, 4 dugouts in total, by Ostrowsky Builders LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,400. VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

STORMWATER COALITION FUNDING

Continuing a previous discussion on the increased cost to belong to the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, the Supervisor went over the Southern Tier 8 Regional Board's endorsement of the fee increase and Broome County's role in the mapping process as explained by Town Engineer John Mastronardi and a representative from ST8. Mr. Dumian asked Board members for input. He said the funds requested would cover the costs for Broome County's collection of data and mapping of streams, creeks, catch basins, any possible sources of water infiltration, etc., formulate the information from all the different municipalities, and store the information. However, the Town must supply all this information. Councilman Farley said he believed the Town did not have a choice and would have to pay the fee. Mr. Dumian agreed saying it would be a challenge to collect all the required information but feared if the Town did not join, the decision could open them to problems in the future, and it might be better to be part of a bigger group. Councilman Dell Boyle commented on permits he is presently working on with the DEC and his good working relationship with the government agency. He said there are so many kinds of new rules and regulations that he had expressed his concerns with the DEC. He is also finding that the Town is on its own to do all the required sampling to determine everything in the topsoil/gravel bars. This is just an example of how complicated the new rules and regulations make things. Mr. Finch asked if all the towns in the County were going along with the fee increase. He also felt the Town didn't have much of a choice but to pay the increased fee. The attorney said he would check around to see who else is in favor of paying the cost for this data collection service. Dumian will also check around and said there could also be a possibility that not joining would eliminate the town from any grant funding. No decision was made at this time.

OPENING DAY FOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL YOUTH SPORTS WILL BE MAY 4, 2024 & PARADE

RESO 2024-82: RATIFY PAYMENT TO KB SERVICES, LLC FOR CASTLE ROOF REPAIR

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$9,375.00 to KB Services, LLC, for final payment for repairs to the roof of the Castle. VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-83: RATIFY PAYMENT TO MILTON CAT

FOR SEWER STATION GENERATORS USING ARPA FUNDS

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$150,877.00 to Milton Cat for sewer station generators, utilizing ARPA funds. VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-84: RATIFY TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE ARPA FUND FOR CATERPILLAR DIESEL GENERATORS

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the transfer of funds, effective April 17, 2024, to use ARPA Funds for three Caterpillar Diesel Generators (see attached). A 691-0000 Deferred Revenues-ARPA Db \$150,877.00 A980 Revenues Cr \$150,877.00

A40-89 Federal Aid, Other A 9901.9 Transfer to Other Funds Db \$150,877.00

A 200-0002 Cash-Deferred Revenue ARPA Cr \$150,877.00 SS1 200-0001 Cash-PSBT Checking Db \$150,877.00 \$ \$1-5031 Interfund Transfers In Cr \$150,877.00 VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-85: RATIFY MODIFICATION TO 2024 BUDGET, EFFECTIVE APRIL 17, 2024

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies modification to the 2024 Budget, effective April 17, 2024, as follows (see attached):

510 Estimated Revenues \$301,754.00 A-4089 Federal Aid, ARPA \$150,877.00 To use ARPA Funds for Caterpillar Generators

SS1 5031 Interfund Transfers In \$150,877.00 To use ARPA Funds for Caterpillar Generators

960 Appropriations 301,754.00

A 9901 Transfer Other Funds \$150,877.00 To use ARPA Funds for Caterpillar Generators SS 1-8130-2-200 Sewer Treatment-Equipment \$150,877.00 To use ARPA Funds for Caterpillar Generators VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-86: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS #24-00336 THROUGH #24-00392

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Claims #24-00336 through #24-00392, which have been audited and approved for payment, for the total amount of \$121,210.93: General \$ 34,563.82 Highway 2,451.23

Sewer District #1 77,911.55 Water District 6,284.33 Total \$121,210.93 VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-87: CANCEL 2ND TOWN BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28, JUNE 25, JULY 23, AND AUGUST 27, 2024

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be it Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin cancels the Regular Town Board Meetings scheduled for May 28, June 25, July 23, and August 27, 2024.

VOTE: Finch —Yes, Boyle —Yes, Farley —Yes, Francisco —Yes, Dumian — Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Dan Depue asked if the schedule for the Concerts in the Park was done and on the website. Deputy Town Clerk said it was on the website and there were paper copies of the schedule in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Depue asked who does the Town's milling and paving, and had they put in a bid. Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes replied that Broome Bituminous did the work. Mr. Dumian added that the Town was working off the state bid price.

COMMUNITY CENTER BLEACHERS

Councilman Finch asked if the bleachers near the Community Center could be moved to a baseball field. Mr. Dumian said it was possible but there are bleachers already in place and most people bring comfortable chairs.

OPENING DAY MAY 4th

Mr. Farley reminded everyone that Opening Day for Conklin Youth Baseball & Softball is May 4th. He said the teams have already had some scrimmages. He commented, "The fields look excellent, just excellent. We are ready to go for the summer."

LETTER TO NYS SENATOR LEA WEBB (52ND DISTRICT) TO BE REDIRECTED TO SENATOR PETER OBERACKER (51ST DISTRICT)

Mr. Dumian said the Town is working on addressing labor with non-CDL required trucks. He said CDL drivers are difficult to come by now; everyone is hiring with sign-on bonuses. "As we move forward we are going to continue to look a replacing some of the vehicles we have with trucks that can be utilized for many different things without the requirement of CDL licenses, although at the present time, all Conklin Highway personnel have their CDLs. He said NYS also needs to look at the structure of Tier 6 compared to Tier 4. It needs to be more attractive to job hunters. "County-wide we are all competing for a much smaller pool of people."

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Finch more for adjournment seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Einstein, Deputy Town Clerk

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VETERANS CORNER



CONKLIN FIELD OF HONOR FLAG DISPLAY WILL BE UP FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Every year just before Memorial Day a Field of Honor Flags stands, near the Conklin Veterans Memorial and the Conklin Community Center in tribute to both Veterans and the special people in our lives. We all have heroes! Centered around the special time of year that we honor our fallen veterans, we also choose to honor the special people in our lives, both those living, and those passed on.

The program, initiated to serve as a fund-raiser for the Conklin Veterans Memorial, is coordinated by the Conklin Business Association and the Kiwanis Club of Conklin. It is a fund-raiser, a community service project, a patriotic



Broome County Veterans Memorial Assn. Honor Guard shown

tribute, and special person tribute. Every flag has a special story behind it— stories most of us will never know. The event is a perfect opportunity for our community to come together to remember and honor those who serve or have served to protect us, and to recognize those who now have (or have had) a special place in our lives.

The Field of Honor Flags is meant to be a place for thought honoring special men and women, and a tribute sight to move hearts and stir emotions. Initially a 3 'X' 5' nylon embroidered flag is purchased for you and will become your property when the display is taken down. We supply the poles and accessories to keep the flags upright, not touching the ground. The wind at this site can be brutal. When you initially purchase your flag, a \$125 donation to the Conklin Veterans Memorial Committee is asked. Your flag will have a laminated honor tag with the information provided by you.

After the display, the flag is returned to you. If you wish to participate the following year, it is up to you to return the flag with the tag information. We have no safe place to store your flag, so please remember to pick it up at the Conklin Town Hall after the display comes down.

Since this is the only way the Conklin Veterans Committee has to raise money to add names to the granite monuments each year, please consider a yearly donation in any amount to the Conklin Veterans Memorial (a 501

3c non-profit organization). However it is not required. You can bring your flag back to be part of the Field of Honor Display, and we are very grateful for your participation.

If this is your first time to participate, as already mentioned the first year you participate, the cost is \$125. You can stop at the Conklin Town Hall (Ask for Elizabeth, Sherrie or Mary), or mail your check and information to Elizabeth Einstein, 1035 Conklin Road, Conklin, NY 13748. The tag will be the size of a business card, so please keep that in mind when you send in what you would like to see on the name tag. Definitely include the name you want to see honored.

For more information, call Elizabeth at 607-427-0144, leave a message & she will return your call. The flags will go up on May 22 or 23, 2024.

Many, many thanks to the Town of Conklin for allowing us to use the field, and especially to the town's highway department. Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes and the Highway Crew faithfully dig all the post holes for us and set the poles.

Thank you to ALL who participate in any way with the



Field of Honor Flag Display. The flag display is an experience hard to describe and never forgotten.

Elizabeth Einstein story & Photo above



The advent of Memorial Day fields of flags is a poignant tradition observed in many communities across the United States.

These fields, often referred to as "Field of Flags" or "Avenue of Flags," serve as powerful memorials to honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the armed forces. Here's how the advent of Memorial Day fields of flags typically unfolds:

Symbolism: Each flag planted in the field represents a fallen service member, serving as a solemn reminder of their sacrifice and dedication to protecting their country. The flags may be accompanied by name markers, photographs, or other tributes to personalize the memorial and honor individual veterans.

Community Participation: The creation of a Field of Flags often involves the active participation of community members, including veterans' organizations, local volunteers, scout troops, and civic groups. Together, they collaborate to plant the flags, maintain the memorial, and organize commemorative events.

Location Selection: Fields of flags are typically set up in prominent public spaces, such as parks, cemeteries, town squares, or along main thoroughfares. These locations provide a visible and accessible venue for community members to pay their respects and reflect on the sacrifices of service members.

Memorial Day Observance: The Field of Flags is often unveiled in the days leading up to Memorial Day and remains on display throughout the holiday weekend. On Memorial Day itself, community members gather at the site for special ceremonies, including flag-raising ceremonies, wreath-laying ceremonies, moment of silence, and patriotic readings or musical performances.

Education and Reflection: In addition to serving as a memorial, the Field of Flags may also incorporate educational components, such as informational displays about the history of Memorial Day, the significance of military service, and the stories of individual veterans. These educational elements help to deepen understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made by service members.

Community Support: The creation of a Field of Flags is often made possible through generous donations and support from local businesses, organizations, and individuals. Community members may sponsor flags or contribute funds to help cover the costs associated with the memorial, such as flag purchases, maintenance, and event planning.

Continued Remembrance: Beyond Memorial Day, the Field of Flags serves as a lasting tribute to fallen service members and a reminder of the ongoing commitment to honor their memory. Community members may visit the memorial throughout the year to pay their respects, reflect on the sacrifices of the past, and renew their dedication to supporting veterans and military families.

Overall, the advent of Memorial Day fields of flags is a deeply meaningful tradition that brings communities together to honor and remember the brave men and women who have given their lives in service to their country. It serves as a tangible expression of gratitude, remembrance, and patriotism, fostering unity and reverence among community members of all ages and backgrounds.