



The Vestal Town Crier

Proud to Be Your Hometown News for Over 44 Years



Vol. 36 No. 15 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, November 29, 2024 SUBSCRIBE at Publisher@TiersNews.com

“Town Of Vestal - Budget Summary 2025 Final Budget” On Page 9

VHE Takes 3rd Place!

Vestal Hills Elementary took third place at Engineering Day at BOCES today! We send them a HUGE Golden Bear congratulations!



VHS Takes 2nd Place!

Day one of Engineering Days at BOCES! VHS teams spent the morning building launchers that would try to launch balls twelve inches or more into a cup. Students did not know the task ahead of time and two hours to build the launchers. They were judged on machine duration, materials used, reliability, creativity and more.

Exciting news! One of our HS teams won second place! Congratulations Golden Bears!



Let's celebrate VCSD languages!

The Vestal School District wants to celebrate your heritage and the languages you speak at home! Please take our survey (via the QR code or click the link) that the World Language Library Committee has created to gather information about the district's languages to improve literacy resources at our libraries.

Take our language survey!

How can we help your and your family foster your home languages at our schools?

<https://tinyurl.com/VCSDlanguages>

ATTENTION!
Town of Vestal Winter Parking Ban - December 1-March 31. There is no on-street parking anywhere within the Town between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM.

RESCUE OF THE WEEK

Esperanza



Hi, I'm Esperanza! I was hanging out behind the sofa, when someone peeked in, looked at me, & took this photo. I am so sweet, a 1 1/2 yr old female, very house trained and would love to come home with you! My name Esperanza means "hope" in Spanish- but please know I do not meow in Spanish!

Teaching Healthy Habits That Last A Lifetime!

Binghamton University's dental club visited Vestal Hills' kindergartners to talk about the importance of good dental hygiene. These are pictures from Mrs. Fridrich's class.



Interested in this week's Kitty?
Contact Josie at
• JosieECDadopt@outlook.com
• 607-205-1506
Tell them you saw the kitty in the Vestal Town Crier!



www.crimewatch.com

November 27th- November 29th

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break!

November 28th- November 29th

Vestal Public Library is CLOSED

Monday, December 2nd

- >Town Board Work Session, 6PM
- >Pop-UP Holiday Book Sale at the VPL 10AM- 6PM, VPL
- >Read to a Therapy Dog 6PM- 7:30PM, VPL Youth Department

Tuesday, December 3rd

- >Board of Education Meeting 6PM, ADM BOE Conference Room
- >Pop-UP Holiday Book Sale at the VPL 10AM- 6PM, VPL

Wednesday, December 4th

- >VHS Drama Club Performances 7PM, ADM BOE Conference Room
- >Town Board Meeting, 6PM
- >Pop-UP Holiday Book Sale at the VPL 10AM- 2PM, VPL

Thursday, December 5th

- >Yin Yoga- Sign Up Online on VPL's Website 6PM, VPL Large Meeting Room
- >Sound Bath- Sign Up Online At VPL's site 7PM, VPL Large Meeting Room

Friday, December 6th

- >Parent-Teacher Conferences: (Half Day for Grs. K - 5; Dismissal at 11AM) 11AM, ADM BOE Conference Room
- >Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Sing-a-long, 6:30PM- 8PM

Saturday, December 7th

>SAT's- 7:30AM, VHS

- >UPK (Campus Preschool) Pancake Breakfast with Santa

December 7th and 8th

Pet Santa Photos- Please Leash Pets 11AM- 3PM, Tractor Supply at 4 Corners

Sunday, December 8th

- >Vestal Teachers' Association Craft Fair 10AM- 3PM, Vestal High School
- >Holiday Craft Fair 10AM- 3PM, VHS

Wednesday, December 4th

- > Girls Varsity Bowling v. Corning-Painted Post 3:40PM- 6PM, Midway Lanes
- > Boys Varsity Bowling v. Corning-Painted Post 3:40PM- 6PM, Midway Lanes

Thursday, December 5th

Boys JV&Varsity Basketball v. Unatego/Franklin JV: 5:30PM, Vestal High School Gym Varsity: 7:15PM, Vestal High School Gym

Tuesday, December 10th

- >Boys Varsity Swimming/Diving v. M.E. 5:30PM- 8PM, Vestal High School Pool
- > Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Lansing JV: 5:30PM, Varsity: 7:15PM, Vestal High School Gym

Wednesday, December 11th

Boys Varsity Bowling v. Horseheads 3:50PM- 6PM, Midway Lanes

Thursday, December 12th

Boys 7th/8th Swimming/Diving v. Maine-Endwell, Johnson City 5:30PM- 7:30PM, VHS Pool

Friday, December 13th

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Ithaca JV: 12PM, Varsity: 1:45PM- 3:45PM, VHS Gym

Business Formation • Real Estate • Wills & Estates

Experienced - Reliable - Affordable

Free 1/2 Hour Consultation

LAW OFFICE OF

DAVID S. BERGER

607-239-6766

Real Estate • Closings • Deed Transfers • Title Insurance
 • Leasing • Mortgages • Elder Law • Wills • Estates • Trusts
 • Corporation Formations • Partnerships • LLC • Solo Business Start-Ups
 • Business Disputes & Collections • General Business Advice • Personal Injury

dbergerattorney@gmail.com 301 N. Stage Rd., Vestal

**Weekly services at
Unity Of Light Spiritual Center**

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for our weekly service at Unity Of Light Spiritual Center at 955 Main St., Vestal, NY (rear). We are the only Christian Spiritualist organization in the area that has been in operation at this location for over 12 years! We include a guided healing meditation and psychic/spiritualist messages after service. See us on facebook for information on events, classes, and more.

Monica Bell, 48, Worcester NY, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

Lance Howe, 30, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Weis.

Kris Parker, 29, Endicott, arrested for Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for shoplifting from TJ Maxx and possessing Meth.

Jonathan Zahavi, 20, NY, NY arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Qiu, Zheng, 60, Vestal, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Kohl's.

Sarah Manzer, 45, Apalachin, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, two counts of Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree and Uninspected Motor Vehicle for possessing LSD, Meth, digital scale, plastic baggies and a Kung Fu Star while investigating a check welfare complaint.

Aaron Knighton, 37, Johnson City, arrested for two counts of Petit Larceny for shoplifting from TJ Maxx and Wal-Mart.

Jacqueline Gomez Calvo, 20, New Rochelle, NY arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Target.

Sarah Lacey, 30, Horseheads, NY, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Target.

Ana Salce Dominguez, 26, Binghamton, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Timothy Fassett, 32, Lawton PA, arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Moved from Lane Unsafely and Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Motor Vehicle Accident.

Brian Salazar Jr., 25, Bronx NY, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

Ana Tejada, 25, Howard Beach NY, arrested for Petit Larceny for shoplifting from Wal-Mart.

THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
POLICE OFFICERS
WHO KEEP OUR
COMMUNITIES SAFE!

Give Thanks—Reduce Wasted Food and Compost Your Food Scraps

As many give thanks with family and friends this November, be thankful for our environment too by taking actions to protect and preserve our natural resources. Help by reducing wasted food, composting your food scraps, and leaving leaves on the lawn.

Reduce Wasted Food Plan Ahead

- Plan appropriate serving sizes based on the number of guests.
- Make a grocery list and stick to it as much as possible. Making a list can help to minimize trips to the grocery store and reduce fuel use.

Choosing Your Ingredients

- Include a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables in your menu. These foods provide nutrition and often result in little waste because they have little, or no packaging, and any waste typically is compostable.
- Learn to love the peels. For even more nutrition, flavor, and less waste—don't peel items such as apples, potatoes, and carrots before cooking.
- Use imperfect produce in cooked dishes, such as bruised apples for apple pie.
- Make desserts simple. Pumpkin and apple pies are popular choices. Remember to compost peels and parts you do not use. Pumpkin seeds can be toasted for a tasty seasonal snack.

Leftovers

- Save any leftover food for future meals. Either freeze or plan to use soon. Look up recipes for a turkey soup which can make good use of any leftover meat or vegetables.
- Place any leftovers in the front of the refrigerator to ensure they get eaten first. Choose reusable containers for anything you may choose to freeze.
- Ask guests to bring their own reusable containers, or let them borrow your own, to share any leftovers.

Compost

- Consider starting a home composting system if you do not have one already. For some, vermicomposting (using worms) may be a good option.
- Learn what can and cannot be composted. For example, turkey and other meat bones do not go in the compost pile.
- If available in your area, consider a curbside food scraps pick-up service or food scraps drop-off program.
- Keep an eye out for pumpkin and other composting events in your community.

Recycle Right

- Know before you throw. Start by checking your municipality's recycling rules or those provided by your recycling hauler.
- Glassware and ceramic dishes should not go into your home recycling bin. Drinking glasses, dinnerware, and baking dishes, whether whole or in pieces, should not be put in your home recycling bin. However, glass items like empty food jars are usually acceptable to put in your home recycling bin.
- Recycle metal cans and plastic bottles. You might also have steel cans from cranberry sauce or jugs and bottles of juice and milk. Empty metal cans and empty plastic bottles and jugs can also typically go in your home recycling bin.
- Leave the liquids behind. Show your thanks for recycling and recycling workers by making sure food scraps and liquids are not disposed of in your recycling bin.
- And the soiled pie pans too. Soiled disposable foil bakeware and pans, such as those used for pies, casseroles, and breads, should not go in your recycling bin.

Make the Most of Your Leaves

Make good use of fallen leaves—save them for compost of mulch

- Mulch your leaves in place. Shred your leaves with a lawn mower and leave them on your lawn. It's faster and easier than raking or leaf blowing and adds nutrients to the soil.
- Add shredded leaves to your garden and landscaping. Shredded leaves can be used as mulch to help prevent weeds and keep moisture in the soil. The leaves will also slowly release nutrients into the soil.
- Save your leaves for composting. Fall allows us to collect and store a great carbon-rich source for our compost pile and that's leaves! Leaves balance out nitrogen-rich materials in your pile like food scraps and grass clippings. One of the biggest challenges to composting food scraps at home is the release of water into your compost pile as the food breaks down. One of the best ways to fix this is to add leaves every time you add food scraps (Compost tip: shredded leaves absorb water better than whole leaves). Learn more about home composting.
- Insulate your compost bin for the winter. Place leaves around and on top of your compost bin. This will insulate your bin and allow the material to continue to break down throughout the winter. In the spring, you will have fresh compost without waiting for your pile to thaw out, and the leaves can be added to your spring compost pile.

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

**R.J. ZIGMONT
EXCAVATION &
SEPTIC SERVICE**



**Complete Septic Installation
Pumping & Repair
Water & Sewer Lines
Excavating & Grading
(607) 724-5233
www.zigmonts.com**



Serving Our Customers Since 1973

Vestal Town Crier

Vestal Town Crier (USPS 0052-26)
Published weekly by Newspaper Publishers LLC
PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Conklin, NY 13748
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Vestal Town Crier P.O. Box
Publisher: Gretchen VanWalterop
607 444-NEWS
Member



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.

We are delighted to have your news! Your photos are welcome! Contact us:

Call us today: 607 444 NEWS E-mail: news@tiersnews.com

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

Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, November 18

TOWN BOARD PRESENT:

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

ALSO ATTENDING:

Town Clerk Debra Wallace, Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds, Director of Human Resources Debora Panicek, Town Comptroller Nicholas Angeline and 5 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 Greene and seconded by Councilman Miller, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Motion approving the November 6, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

3. BID OPENINGS

4. PUBLIC HEARING

5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES

Supervisor Sexton stated that the voices of the town residents have been heard through the recent survey regarding Tax Collection. There were 285 surveys submitted, 53% stated that they would like it to have collection remain here at the town, 40% said they would like it to go to the county.

The Vestal Town Board and the Town Clerk worked together to come up with a plan that better meets the towns needs. Taxes will continue to be paid in person at the Vestal Town Clerks Office as well as online echecks, debit, credit and a drop box.

Town Board members want to thank Town Clerk Debra Wallace for all her hard work to make the expanded services for all our residents possible.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

7. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

8. PUBLIC WORKS (DONNELLY/Greene)

On a motion by Councilman Greene and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval to Hire Rudolph

Request from Donnie Younker, acting Superintendent of Highways, to promote Maverick Rudolph from laborer to the position of MEO at the rate of \$25.11/hr.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval to Hire Griffith

Request from Donnie Younker, acting Superintendent of Highways, to promote Jesse Griffith from laborer to the position of MEO at the rate of \$25.11/hr.

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval for Vacation Carryover Malarkey

Authorization for Scott Groats, Water & Wastewater Superintendent, to approve a request from Phillip Malarkey for an additional five-day vacation carryover.

On a motion by Councilman Greene and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval for Vacation Carryover Zimmer

Authorization for Scott Groats, Water & Wastewater Superintendent, to approve a request from Timothy Zimmer for an additional five-day vacation carryover.

9. FINANCE (MESSINA/Donnelly)

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval of 2025 Town of Vestal Final Budget

Approval of Final 2025 Town of Vestal Budget

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Authorization to Pay Coughlin & Gerhart LLP

Authorization for the Town Board to approve payment in the amount of \$326.00 to Coughlin & Gerhart LLP, for outside counsel fees for professional services rendered through October 31, 2024.

10. PERSONNEL (DONNELLY/Messina)

11. PLANNING & ZONING

(MESSINA/Greene)

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval to Advertise for Public Hearing for 3341

Vestal Parkway E

Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer, for the Town Board to review the application for re-zoning 3341 Vestal Parkway East, from One Family Residential (RA- 1) to General Shopping District (C-1) If in agreement, please approve a publication date of December 6, 2024 for a Public Hearing on December 18, 2024.

On a motion by Councilman Donnelly and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval of Engineer Consultant Agreement for Baker Hill Rd Replacement Project

Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer, for the Town Board to approve the Engineering Consultant Agreement for Baker Hill Road over Tracy Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

On a motion by Councilman Greene and seconded by Councilman Miller, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval of Engineer Consultation Agreement for Fuller Hollow Road Culvert

Request from Vern Myers, Town Engineer, for the Town Board to approve the Engineering Consultant Agreement for Fuller Hollow Road over Fuller Hollow Creek Culvert Relining Project.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

Councilwoman Messina stated that the Fire District had their 67th Fire District Banquet and she wanted to commend Tom McCartney on 45 years of service to the Fire Department.

13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Donnelly)

On a motion by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval to Hire VYBO Directors D'Esti and Anderson

Authorization for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire the following individuals as VYBO staff starting January 11, 2025, pending the successful completion of all Town requirements:

Frank D'Esti - Vestal as VYBO Director at pay rate \$1,250.00 salary Nick Anderson - Vestal as VYBO Director at pay rate \$700.00 salary

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded

by Councilman Greene, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approval to Hire Indoor Pool Staff

Authorization for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire the following individuals as indoor swimming staff starting January 11, 2025, pending the successful completion of all Town requirements:

- Nicholas Cocco - Vestal as Lifeguard Supervisor at pay rate \$20/hr. Megan Jones - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard Supervisor at pay rate \$20/hr.
- Megan Jones - Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr.
- Jackson (Jay) Ratterree - Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Gavin Hantsch - Vestal as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr.
- Charlotte Coker - Apalachin as Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr.
- Patrick Kneer - Endicott as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Andrew Bilotta - Endicott as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Keira DeVantier - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Heather Matthews - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Francesca Vallone - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Isabel Goncalves - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr. Benjamin Hutchings - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr.
- Mary Sonnen - Vestal as Substitute Lifeguard at pay rate \$18/hr.

RECEIVE AND FILE:

-Warrants: 2024: 45G, 45C, 45M, 45T, 45I, 46G, 46C, 46M, 46T

14. PETITIONS & PROTESTS

15. OLD BUSINESS

16. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina and seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the following was ADOPTED Sexton, Messina, Donnelly, Miller, Greene, Ayes 5, Nays 0

Authorization for Supervisor to Sign Memorandum with the Fire District

Authorization for the Supervisor to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Fire District regarding the financial transition plan.

17. SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to all the Town personnel for all their hard work on the budget and throughout the year.
- Thank you to the Governance Committee for all their hard work on the Fire District
- Leaf Pick up has started: Please rake your leaves to the curb but not in the street/road and our crews will be around to pick them up as soon as possible
- Winter parking rules come into effect December 1st through March 31st cars are prohibited on the streets between 2 Am-6 Am.
- Annual Christmas Tree lighting and sing along will be held on Friday, December 6th at the gazebo beginning at 6:30PM.

18. COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Councilman Greene stated that there is a burn ban in effect until November 30th.

19. PUBLIC COMMENTS ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Donnelly the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Approved by Debra Wallace, Town Clerk



Bus Stop Safety Tips

Cold temperatures will be here before we know it, so here are some cold weather bus stop safety tips.

- Bundle Up! - Wear layers. Not only will you be more comfortable, but it will prevent skin exposure in the cold.
- Don't forget hats! Most of the body's heat escapes through the head.
- The steps of the bus may be slippery due to freezing temperatures, so always hold on to the handrail when entering or exiting the bus.

Stand With Me Assistance Dog Training Organization Visits ARE

Article and Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District

Last week, Murph, from Stand with Me Assistance Dog Training Organization visited African Road Elementary to educate students about the impact service dogs have on veterans.

The kids also learned the differences between service, therapy and emotional support dogs.

Stand with Me helps to support veterans with service-related mental health disabilities through training their own service dogs.



Traffic Safety- Following Too Closely



Rear end collisions are generally avoidable and can often be attributed to driver inattention due to cellphone use or other in car distractions. Another leading cause of rear end collisions is following too closely. When you follow too closely or tailgate another vehicle you are severely limiting your reaction time if something happens ahead of you on the road.

A general rule of thumb is the "3 second rule" meaning it should take you 3 seconds to reach the vehicle in front of you. The way you can measure this is by picking a stationary point on the road such as a sign or tree that the vehicle ahead of you is passing and then count to 3 while you approach that object. If you reach that object before you count to 3 you should slow down to allow for more space between vehicles. You can use this as a rough measure to keep proper distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you allowing adequate reaction time if that vehicle suddenly stops. While this is a general rule of thumb, we would encourage you to leave more distance at higher speeds as indicated in the photos.

When you are operating a heavier vehicle or following a motorcycle or bicycle you should allow for more time between you and the vehicle in front of you due to the differences in braking distances.

VTL 1129 FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY

(a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

(b) The driver of any motor truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle when traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district and which is

Vestal Teachers' Association Craft Fair

Date: December 8th
Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Vestal High School

Proceeds benefit the Dollars for Scholars program, helping us award scholarships to graduating seniors.

*basket raffles donated by the Vestal Teachers' Association.

*concessions
*vendor donation raffles called every 10 minutes

Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list, including:

- Face Painting
- Local honey

- Beautiful jewelry
 - Handcrafted woodworks
 - Exquisite pottery
 - Cozy scarves
 - Personalized Items
 - Delicious cookies and cupcakes
- And so much more!

Admission is FREE! Bring your family and friends for a fun day of shopping and community spirit.

Don't miss out on this fantastic event—it's the perfect way to support local artisans and get into the holiday spirit. We can't wait to see you there!

following another motor truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle shall, whenever conditions permit, leave sufficient space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger, except that this shall not prevent a motor truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle from overtaking and passing any like vehicle or other vehicle.

(c) Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district in a caravan or motorcade whether or not towing other vehicles shall be so operated as to allow sufficient space between each such vehicle or combination of vehicles so as to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without danger. This provision shall not apply to funeral processions.

What Are the Penalties for Tailgating in NY?

Fine: Drivers convicted of tailgating (following too closely) in New York can be fined up to \$150 for a first offense. A second offense in 18 months raises the maximum fine to \$300 and a third offense in 18 months can mean a fine of up to \$450.

Points: Following too closely (tailgating) is a 4-point offense in New York. This makes it one of the higher-point traffic violations in the state.

Surcharge: A conviction or guilty plea for following too closely in New York obligates a driver to pay a state surcharge of either \$88, or \$93, depending on where he/she was ticketed.

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

FUN FACTS

1. In Japan, it's possible to buy watermelons shaped like pyramids.
2. The largest public library building in NYC contains 125 miles of bookshelves!
3. All of the blood in your body travels through your heart once every minute.
4. The color red doesn't really make bulls angry; they're color blind.
5. Almost 90% of snow is air.
6. Your eyes process more than 120 million bits of information every second.
7. A zedonk is a cross between a female donkey and a male zebra.
8. New Zealand has more sheep than people.
9. If you run in the rain, you will get about 50% wetter than if you stand still.
10. The dots on dice are called pips.
11. You can see autumn leaves from space.
12. The Sahara Desert is larger than Australia.
13. Earth traveled more than 5,000 miles in the last 5 minutes!

Passport Around The World Through Delicious Dishes!

Tonight's Taste of ARE was a wonderful display of the diversity that makes our school community so special. The food and colorful traditions celebrated the unique backgrounds of our students and families. We give a big Golden Bear THANK YOU to everyone that shared their culture and made this evening unforgettable.

Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District



Passport Around The World Through Delicious Dishes!

Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District



Vestal Science Olympiad Competes In Ithaca

On Saturday, November 16th, Vestal's two Science Olympiad Teams competed in Ithaca against 59 other teams at their first in person Science Olympiad Invitational of the year, hosted by Cornell University. This is Cornell Science Olympiad's 10th year hosting an Invitational and it has become one of the most competitive events in the area. Schools from all over the East Coast travel to attend. Our students took home individual event medals, in three events. Derek Dai and Jayden Kim took 3rd place in Fossils, Keith Dai and Sindi Zhou took home 5th place in Chemistry Lab, and Delphine Zinkin-Fan and Derek Dai placed 6th in a trial event, Fermi Questions. Vestal Science Olympiad teams will now shift their focus to the Southern Tier Regional Competition hosted by Ithaca High School in February. If students place amongst the top three teams, they will earn a spot in States, hosted by LeMoyne College in March.

Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District



TOWN OF VESTAL - BUDGET SUMMARY

2025 Final Budget

	APPROPRIATIONS	ESTIMATED REVENUES	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCES & DEBT RESERVES	TAXES TO BE RAISED	TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES
General Fund	\$16,594,464	\$10,115,059	\$317,466	\$6,161,939	\$16,594,464
Highway Fund	\$6,345,425	\$3,318,412	\$266,039	\$2,760,974	\$6,345,425
Emergency Squad	\$985,000			\$985,000	\$985,000
Special District Funds:					
Consolidated Water District #1	\$4,218,942	\$3,668,921	\$223,171	\$326,850	\$4,218,942
Consolidated Sewer District #1	\$5,579,336	\$5,078,095	\$2,818	\$498,423	\$5,579,336
Central Light	\$218,477	\$0		\$218,477	\$218,477
Drainage Districts	\$98,702	\$658	\$0	\$98,044	\$98,702
Internal Service Fund:					
Health Insurance (net of interfund trans.)	\$1,462,563	\$912,563	\$550,000	\$0	\$1,462,563
TOTALS	\$35,502,909	\$23,093,708	\$1,359,494	\$11,049,707	\$35,502,909
			2025 Tax Levy Limit =	\$10,065,007	
			Difference	984,700	Over the Cap

2025 TOWN TAX RATE - FINAL BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2.4003
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 1.0755
Total	\$ 3.4758
Emergency Squad	\$ 0.3837
TOTAL	\$ 3.8595



Tioga Hills Elementary School Kindly Requests.....

YOUR HELP FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE!

The Apalachin Lions Club is teaming up with us to serve families in our school community as well as in our greater community.

Our goal is 600 items!



Please send in any non-perishable food items such as: canned goods, dry cereal, kids snack items, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, stuffing, etc.

Donation boxes and envelopes will be in each homeroom

NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE

Consider donating \$1 per student toward perishable food items.

Collection Dates:

November 12th - December 5th

Vestal

Teachers' Association

Craft Fair

DECEMBER | 08 | 10-3

Vestal High School

HANDMADE ITEMS,
BASKET RAFFLES, 50/50
TASTY TREATS

SEE YOU THERE!

Vestal CSD 2024 Capital Project Proposals

Article Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District

The Vestal CSD 2024 Capital Project Proposals, which total \$39,435,000, include:

Installation of Full Air Conditioning System at Clayton Avenue Elementary, Vestal Hills, Elementary and Vestal High School.

This will provide an equitable classroom experience for all students, better focus for students and teachers and year-round use of spaces.

Installation of Lights on Sammon Field.

This will allow the increased use of Sammon Field, especially in the evening hours, as well as provide the HS Marching Band with a safe space to practice. As of now, they practice in the HS parking lot.

High School Auditorium Upgrades.

Once the current upgrades are completed, the anticipated work to be done includes an upgraded sound system and improved stage lighting.

Stadium Video Scoreboard.

The replacement of the stadium scoreboard with a video scoreboard will enhance video capabilities used during sporting events and special 'nights', such as the Golden Circle of Bands and Cancer Awareness and Suicide Prevention Nights. The current scoreboard's controllers' connection fails intermittently. If not included in the Capital Project and the existing board fails, the replacement cost would not be eligible for state aid.

The 2024 Capital Project does not include a transportation facility proposal.

The 2024 Capital Project Hearing is on December 3, 2024, 5:00 p.m., at Clayton Avenue Elementary.

The 2024 Capital Project Vote is on December 10, 2024, Noon-8:00 p.m., at the Central Junior Building Gym.

The 2024 Capital Project Proposed Proposals Newsletter will be mailed shortly. In addition, it will be posted on the district website.

Important Reminders For HS Students:

Apply for scholarships at: <https://www.vestal.stier.org/ScholarshipInformation.aspx>



Great Girls Season Wraps Up at State Championships

By Hal Ehrhardt

Coaches Joe Shore and Sara Rostedt and the entire senior class of the Vestal Golden Bear Swimming and Diving team were able to reflect with pride on the 2024 season as they celebrated their season this past weekend. The team had the most dual meet wins since 2013 with their 7-2 record which included an undefeated 4-0 record to capture their 2nd consecutive STAC Metro Division title. Their post-season accomplishments included a 4th place finish at Class A sectionals and concluded this weekend with their first state meet competitors since 2019.

Senior Jay Ratterree matched her season best time from Sectionals in the state 500 Free preliminaries and finished 34th in her first and only state meet appearance as the only Section 4 representative in the event. 8th grader Olivia Tanton was one six Section 4 divers. After a slow start on her first couple of dives she moved from 32nd place up to 25th place after five dives. Unfortunately, that left her a half point and one place short of making the cut to continue, so she finished 25th among the 39 divers. Section 4 senior divers Madison Morris of ME and Kaelyn Katchuk of Owego finished 4th and 9th respectively in the highest Section 4 individual finishes of the meet. The Waverly 200 Free relay finished 6th and their Medley relay 8th in the only other Section 4 championship final races.

As a team the Golden Bears captured six STAC All Star berths and a pair of Class A titles. Individually the season concludes with two individuals and a relay earning spots in the All-Time (going back to 1971 when the first girls swim team was formed) Vestal Top-10. Ratterree finishes her Vestal career as #7 in the 200 Free and #5 in the 500 Free. Her career included a pair of Class A 500 Free titles. She anchored the 200 Free relay team with Yih Hui Lim, Reagan Young, Mary Sonnen who turned in the 5th fastest time in Vestal history which knocked the 2002 team of Collen Scannell, Stephani Furminger, Julia Boisvert and Daniella Borrelli out of the Top-10.

One of the season highlights was the success of 8th grader Tanton in the diving. She improved by nearly 90 points to break the 1987 school record for 6 dives of 3-time NYS champion Missy Urbanic with a score of 304.20, becoming the first Vestal diver to break the 300-point barrier. That score establishes her as #7 All Time in Section 4 history. Her gold medal sectional score for 11 dives moves her to #2 on the Vestal Top-10 and #22 in the Section 4 All Time Top-25.

At the banquet the coaches looked to next season as they return four of their six STAC All Stars including junior Fran Vallone, freshman Yih Hui, 7th grader Yih Xinn and Tanton, while Ratterree and Young will graduate as repeat All-Stars. Those four returning All-Stars, along with 8th grader Sophie Ryan and sophomore diver Addie Smith will provide a core of six athletes who earned a spot and scored in the sectional championships and are ranked in the final Section 4, STAC or Class A rankings. Seven seniors (Megan Jones, Young, Ratterree, Sonnen, Anne Coleman, Charlotte Coker and Sua Choi) along with the six underclassmen earned spots in the final rankings. Highlights included #1 Freshmen (or younger) rankings for Tanton (6-dives) and Yih Hui (IM).

Vestal 2024 Final Season Rankings in Section 4 (S=STAC Top-25; A=Class A Top-25)

Medley Relay: 1st Horseheads (1:52.05); 1th Yih Xinn, Jones, Yih Hui, Young (2:04.14 S-10, A-5);

200 Free: 1st Kman (NOR 1:58.61); 5th Ratterree (2:01.97 S-5, A-3 #3 Sr); 20th Vallone (2:10.38 S-17, A-9, #7 Jr); Sonnen (2:12.88 S-22, A-13, #10 Sr); Ryan (2:19.37 A-19); Young (2:20.93 A-23);

200 IM: 1st Carro (HH 2:16.79); 5th Yih Hui (2:22.15 S-5, A-3, #1 Fr); 16th Yih Xinn (2:26.76 S-14, A-10, #6 Fr); 17th Ratterree (2:27.40 S-15, A-11, #7 Sr); Ryan (2:35.24 A-17); Young (2:38.51 A-23); Vallone (2:38.58 A-24);

50 Free: 1st Kittle (WAV 23.48); 17th 20th Yih Hui (26.19 S-15, A-8, #6 Fr); Young (26.92 S-25, A-13, #9 Sr); Ratterree (27.24 A-18)

Diving (6): 1st Katchuk (OFA 342.70); 3rd Tanton (304.20 S-3, A-1, #1 Fr); 23rd Smith (126.05 S-23, A-12, #4 So); Yih Xinn (109.10 A-15, #10 Fr); Coleman (79.85 A-17, #9 Sr);

Diving (11): 1st Katchuk (OFA 612.85); 5th Tanton (477.15 S-5, A-2, #2 Fr); 20th Smith (176.85 S-19, A-11, #4 So);

100 Fly: 1st Kittle (WAV 58.57); 15th Yih Hui (1:06.60 S-14, A-8, #3 Fr); Yih Xinn (1:11.80 S-23, A-13, #9 Fr); Vallone (1:13.42 A-16);

100 Free: 1st A. Lowe (HH 54.21); Young (58.68 S-23, A-12, #10 Sr); Yih Hui (59.29 A-14, #9 Fr); Ratterree (59.55 A-16); Sonnen (1:00.65 A-22); Vallone (1:02.96 A-25);

500 Free: 1st Kman (NOR 5:25.42); 2nd Ratterree (5:25.77 S-3, A-2, #2 Sr); 12th Vallone (5:48.42 S-11, A-8, #3 Jr); Ryan (5:58.74 S-24, A-15, #4 Fr); Coker (6:20.22 A-21); Sonnen (6:21.43 A-22); Megan (6:28.44 A-24);

200 Free Relay: 1st Waverly (1:38.88); 5th Yih Hui, Young, Sonnen, Ratterree (1:46.80 S-4, A-3);

100 Back: 1st Kittle (WAV 56.79); 13th Yih Xinn (1:05.70 S-11, A-6, #2 Fr); 21st Yih Hui (1:07.55 S-19, A-11, #3 Fr); Young (1:09.36 S-24, A-16, #9 Sr);

100 Breast: 1st Testani (ME 1:08.46); 12th Yih Hui (1:16.35 S-12, A-7, #6 Fr); 16th Yih Xinn (1:17.68 S-15, A-9, #8 Fr); Jones (:22.62 A-14); Choi (1:26.73 A-23);

400 Free Relay: 1st Ithaca (3:42.86); 6th Yih Hui, Young, Sonnen, Ratterree (3:59.17 S-6, A-3);

The Vestal Golden Bear Boys team began their practices in mid-November and will open their dual meet schedule with a short cross-river trip to take on Union Endicott in their four-lane pool on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at 5:30 PM. Last year the Tigers upset the Golden Bears for the first time in more than two decades. On Saturday, December 7th, Vestal will participate in the Johnson City Relay Invitational with the diving beginning at 9:30 AM and the swimming starting at Noon.

The Golden Bears are led by senior captains Harrison Cappellett, Ben Elie and Logan Kim, who are all ranked in the section Top-25 in the Section 4 pre-season rankings. Other veterans who earned either Section 4 Overall Top-25 or STAC Top-25 preseason rankings are David Cozma, Ben Hutchings and Sayum Singhal. Other veterans who are in the Class A Top-25 preseason rankings are: Finn Hynes, Lucas Matt, Cameron Smith, Luke Sobel and Michael Xue.

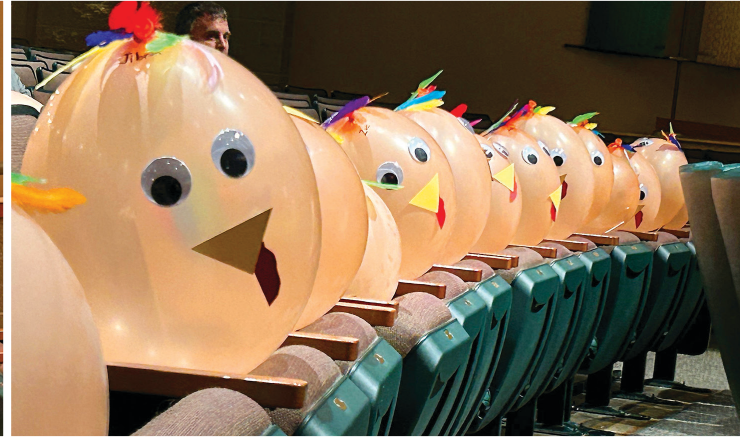


Due to the dangerously dry conditions across New York, the DEC has issued a state-wide burn ban until November 30.

THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES IN VESTAL!

Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District

African Rd. Elementary kindergartners had their very own Thanksgiving parade today. During this special time, with their families in attendance, they sang turkey songs!



Tutor Time's UPK kids invited their families to share a special Thanksgiving lunch with them today. Check out the kids' turkey glasses!



pop up HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

at the Vestal Public Library



Mon., Dec. 2 • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 3 • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 4 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



We accept:
Cash, Credit Card,
Venmo & Paypal

VPLfriends2024@gmail.com | vestalpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-library

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & SING-A-LONG

Friday, December 6th

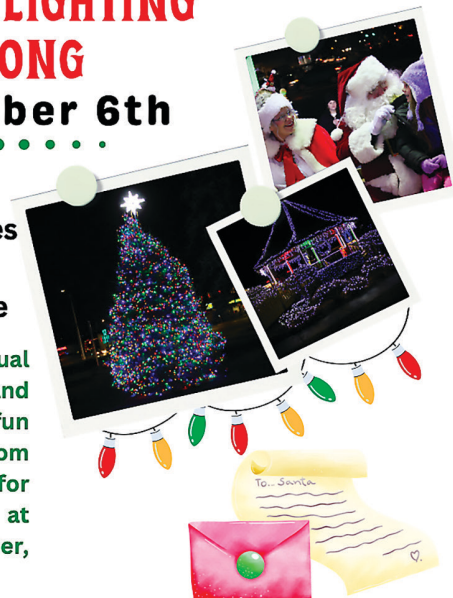
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Singing with Vestal Voices

7:00 PM

Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive

Join us for Vestal's Annual Christmas Carol Sing-a-long and Christmas tree lighting. Have fun singing with Vestal Voices from 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM while waiting for Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive at 7:00 PM. There will be free cider, hot cocoa and treats for all.



LETTERS TO SANTA

Monday, November 25 - Sunday, December 8

Would you like to receive a letter from Santa? Santa would love to hear from all the children in Vestal! You can write your letter and drop it off at Santa's Mailbox located on the Front Porch of the Recreation office. The address is 516 Front St., Vestal. You can also bring your letter to the Tree Lighting and give it to Santa in person.

Don't forget to write your name and address on the letter so Santa knows where to send the letter!



ORDER ONLINE
tedeschisrestaurant.com

TEDESCHI'S

ITALIAN EATERY

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
Tedeschi's
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

