

# The Vestal Town Crier

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Vol. 36 No. 22 NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00 Friday, January 17, 2025 SUBSCRIBE at [Publisher@TiersNews.com](mailto:Publisher@TiersNews.com)

## Student Entrepreneurs in Action: New Vision Business Academy Students Shine!



RESCUE OF THE WEEK

Wednesday



Well... My name is Wednesday, crazy name, no? I don't know if I was born on a Wednesday, Found on a Wednesday, but you can adopt me any day of the week-**PLEEZE!** I even have this tuft of white hair under my neck, although my fur is so silky. Come down to see me at Every Cat's Dream, and you don't have to wait until a "Wednesday" to visit me! PS I am also a climber, let's play!

Interested in this week's Kitty?

- Visit Every Cat's Dream on Facebook
  - Call 607-205-1506
  - Or stop by!
- Tell them you saw the kitty in the Vestal Town Crier!



On Thursday, January 9th, VHS students, Alan Dzigbede, Logan Kim, Jackson Lamoureux and Hannah Nemecek and their teammates from BTBOCES\_New Visions Academy presented their business plan from - startup to concept to execution! Their business name is ProTech and the products they created, marketed and sold include a defense keychain, called the Shield Key, and the Car Kit.

Each person on the ProTech team has a passion for business and a distinctive skill set that played a vital role in their success.

ProTech's mission states "At ProTech , our mission is to empower individuals and communities with practical safety solutions that enhance protection and preparedness. As young entrepreneurs we are dedicated to promoting a safer community and fostering a culture of awareness. We believe safety should be accessible to everyone."

From selling stock in the company to community members, creating sales objectives, product sourcing, product assembly and distribution to advertising and product evaluation, the ProTech team demonstrated exceptional collaboration and innovation. They turned their vision into a comprehensive and effective business strategy.

We are proud of their efforts!

**"Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board, January 8, 2025" on pages 4&5**

**"Vestal Central School District Board of Education Regular Meeting" Minutes pages 4-7"**

### How Did Martin Luther King Jr. Day Become A Holiday?



By Marley Malenfant, [statesman.com](http://statesman.com)  
Former U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., introduced legislation to create a federal holiday honoring King on April 8, 1968, just four days after the civil rights leader's assassination.

Over the next decade, support for the holiday would swell across the country, and several states, including Illinois, Massachusetts and Connecticut, would enact statewide holidays honoring King.

Conyers spent years reintroducing the federal legislation, with support from lawmakers in the Congressional Black Caucus. And in 1979, on what would have been King's 50th birthday, the bill came up in the House, but it failed by five votes.

The fight to create the holiday didn't stop at the narrow vote. Coretta Scott King and others campaigned for the holiday and rallied the public.

King would testify before Congress multiple times. She and singer Stevie Wonder, who released his song "Happy Birthday" in support of enacting the holiday, delivered a petition in favor of the holiday with over 6 million signatures in 1982.

The House ultimately approved the holiday in 1983, and though the push to create the commemoration faced some opposition in the Senate, former President Ronald Reagan signed it into law later that year.

### "Golden Bears Fall to Corning Hawks" by Hal Ehrhardt on page 3!



**Family Swim at the Vestal High School**  
Saturdays, January 11 - March 29  
Open Swim: Noon - 3:00 pm    Lap Swim: 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm  
Closed January 18 & February 15

Exact change is appreciated. An adult must accompany kids under 10 years. Registration is not required. Enter through the high school's main entrance and follow discs to the pool.





# VESTAL POLICE REPORT

[www.crimewatch.com](http://www.crimewatch.com)

**Friday, January 17th**

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Binghamton  
JV: 5:30PM- 7:15PM, Varsity: 7:15PM- 9:30PM  
Vestal High School Gym

**Tuesday, January 21st**

> Boys (Green) 7th Basketball v. Susquehanna Valley (Gold)  
5:30PM- 6:30PM, Vestal Middle School Gym  
> Boys (Gold) 8th Basketball v. Susquehanna Valley (Blue)  
6:30PM- 7:30PM, Vestal Middle School Gym

**Wednesday, January 22nd**

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Candor  
JV: 5:30PM- 7PM, Varsity: 7:15PM,  
Vestal High School Gym

**Saturday, January 25th**

>Girls (Green) 7th Basketball v. Susquehanna Valley (Gold)  
10AM- 11AM, Vestal Middle School Gym  
> Girls (Gold) 8th Basketball v. Susquehanna Valley (Blue)  
11AM- 11:45AM, Vestal Middle School Gym

**Monday, January 27th**

> Girls JV & Varsity Bowling v. Binghamton  
3:10PM- 6PM, Midway Lanes  
> Boys JV & Varsity Bowling v. Binghamton  
3:10PM- 6PM, Midway Lanes  
> Boys 7th Basketball v. Chenango Forks  
5:30PM- 6:30PM, Vestal Middle School Gym  
> Boys 8th Basketball v. Chenango Forks  
6:30PM- 7:30PM, Vestal Middle School Gym

**Tuesday, January 28th**

> Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. UE  
JV: 5:30PM- 7:15PM, Varsity: 7:15PM- 9PM  
Vestal High School Gym  
> Boys Varsity Swimming/Diving v. Ithaca  
5:30PM- 8PM, Vestal High School Pool

**Thursday, January 30th**

Boys 7th/8th Swimming/Diving v. JC, UE  
5:30PM- 7:30PM, Vestal High School Pool

**Friday, January 31st**

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball v. Elmira  
JV: 5:30PM- 7:15PM, Varsity: 7:15PM- 9PM  
Vestal High School Gym

**Monday, February 3rd**

>Boys (Green) 7th Basketball v. Owego Apalachin  
5:30PM- 6:30PM, Vestal Middle School Gym

Richard Maddox, 59, Johnson City, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree Move from Lane Unsafely, Failed to Keep Right, Driving Over Dividing Space and Operating a Motor Vehicle While Wearing Earphones after striking a patrol officer and his car.

Matthew Cron, 34, Apalachin, arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs and three counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree for possessing Suboxone, Meth and Heroin after investigating a report of an unresponsive male in a vehicle.

Mohammed Rana, 46, Vestal, arrested for two counts of Assault 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child for striking two victims with a wooden stick in the presence of a child during a domestic incident.

Charles Hawkins, 48, Binghamton, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

Damein Spencer, 44, Binghamton, arrested for Criminal Trespass 3rd Degree for entering Lowe's after previously being banned from the location.

Justin Smallze, 41, Johnson City, arrested for Grand Larceny 3rd Degree and Grand Larceny 4th Degree for shoplifting merchandise from Lowe's and Harbor Freight.

Kenneth Slicklen, 47, Endicott, arrested for Bail Jumping 3rd Degree for failing to appear in court on a scheduled court date or within 30 days thereafter.

**Sunday, January 19th**  
Benefit For Jay Mehl  
12PM- 5PM, California Grill

**Monday, January 20th**  
>Martin Luther King Day- NO SCHOOL  
>Vestal Town Board Work Session  
6PM- 8PM  
>Read To A Therapy Dog  
6PM- 7:30PM, VPL Youth Department  
>Tech Assistance- Off Site  
10:30AM- Vestal Senior Center  
>Pins & Needles: Knit And Crochet  
6PM, VPL  
>Peek-A-Book Baby Storytime  
10AM, VPL

**Tuesday, January 21st**  
>Preschool Storytime- Theme: Dentist  
10:30AM, VPL, Tickets Required  
> BOE Meeting, 6PM-8PM,  
Administration BOE Conference Room

**Wednesday, January 22nd**  
>Food Bank Of The Southern Tier Apalachin  
Lions Walk-Up Mobile Food Pantry  
10AM- 11AM, St. Margaret Mary's Church  
>Vestal Town Board Meeting  
6PM- 7PM

**January 21st- January 24th**  
Regents Exams

**January 21st- January 26th**  
Board of Education Meeting  
6PM, ADM BOE Conference Room

**January 22nd- January 24th**  
VHE Band/Chorus Winter Concert

**January 23rd- January 24th**  
ARE Chorus & Bands Concert & VMS  
Beginning Band  
7PM, African Road Auditorium

**Thursday, January 23rd**  
Chakra Breathing: Session Yoga & Reiki  
6PM, Sign Up Online

**Friday, January 24th**  
ARE Glow Dance  
6:30PM

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• Business Disputes & Collections • General Business Advice • Personal Injury  
[dbergerattorney@gmail.com](mailto:dbergerattorney@gmail.com) 301 N. Stage Rd., Vestal

# Golden Bears Fall to Corning Hawks

By Hal Ehrhardt

The Corning Hawks have established themselves as the team to beat in Section 4 Class A with an easy win over Vestal and a recent Invitational meet win over Maine Endwell. They outswam Vestal in all but one event as Vestal was missing a couple of key swimmers, leading to a final score of 91-81.

Logan Kim picked up Vestal's only win, in the 100 Fly with a season best time. Other best times early in the meet included: Gavin Hantsch and Lee Foreman in the 200 Free; David Cozma, Finn Hynes and Stephane Zhou in the IM; along with Ben Hutchings and Cameron Smith in the 50 Free. The Medley relay team of Kim, Cozma, Hutchings and Ben Elie finished 2nd with a season best time. Harrison Cappellett finished 2nd in the 200 Free.

In the diving Elie finished behind state qualifier Brendan Jardin-Reed for the 3rd time this year as Jardin-Reed has won both the Elmira and Watkins Glen Invitationals with Elie finishing as the 2nd highest Section 4 diver in both meets including his recent career best 437.55 for 11 dives at Watkins Glen where he finished 5th overall among 14 divers, behind Jardin-Reed and 3 Shenendehowa (Section 2) divers.

After diving, Kim's win in the Fly and Luke Sobel's best time, was followed by another career best swim by Hutchings in the 100 Free. Both Hynes, Hantsch and William Kirchheimer all turned in best times to become only the 2nd event (along with the IM) where all three Vestal swimmers scored. Smith and Stephane Zhou had big time drops in the 100 Breast, as did Lee Foreman in the 100 Back. Among the other improved times noted was Sobel in both Free relays; Matan Bock (100 Back); Nico Mitsakos (100 Free); Derek Dai, Ryan Cocco, Bock and Mitsakos in the 50 Free.

## Vestal 81 vs. COR 91

Medley Relay: 1st Corning (1:48.43); 2nd L. Kim, Cozma, Hutchings, Elie (1:50.44);

200 Free: 1st Huff (COR 2:04.49); 2nd Cappellett (2:06.88); 5th Hantsch;

200 IM: 1st Crisco (COR 2:14.30); 2nd Cozma (2:22.31); 4th Hynes; 5th Zhou;

50 Free: 1st Sierzant (COR 23.83); 2nd Hutchings (24.41); 5th Smith;

Diving (6): 1st Jardin-Reed (COR 302.00); 2nd Elie (222.50);

100 Fly: 1st L. Kim (1:00.49); 4th Sobel;

100 Free: 1st Sierzant (COR 51.58); 2nd Hutchings (53.25); 4th Cappellett;

500 Free: 1st Huff (COR 5:53.89); 3rd Hynes (6:00.85); 4th Hantsch; 5th Kirchheimer;

200 Free Relay: 1st Corning (1:36.75); 2nd Elie, Cappellett, Sobel, Hutchings (1:38.59);

100 Back: 1st Crisco (COR 1:00.08); 2nd L. Kim (1:00.80); 3rd Foreman;

100 Breast: 1st Cozma (1:09.16); 2nd Smith; 3rd Zhou; EXH 1st De Pedro (COR 1:07.55)

400 Free Relay: 1st Cappellett, Sobel, L. Kim, Cozma (4:09.97); 2nd Hynes, Hantsch, Kirchheimer, Zhou; EXH 1st Corning (3:47.11)

Next up for the Golden Bears is a trip to Binghamton on Tuesday, January 21st for their final STAC Metro division dual meet. With a win over the Patriots, the Golden Bears (currently 2-1 in Metro meets and 3-2 overall) should move up to 2nd behind defending champion and undefeated Maine Endwell. The Spartans will host their Invitational meet on Saturday, January 25th. Vestal hopes to move up from their 7th place finish among 14 teams last year. The diving is scheduled to begin at 9 AM and the swimming will start at 12:30 PM.

## Vestal Scholars

### Vestal Alumni Named to President's List

#### University of the Cumberlands

Marissa Harding of Vestal

#### SUNY Canton

Carina Y. Saucedo, a SUNY Canton Cybersecurity major from Vestal, N.Y., (13850)



### 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 Town Crier

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**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

## FUN FACTS

1. Instead of mowing their lawn, Google rents goats to eat the grass at their Mountain View headquarters. A herder will bring 200 goats which are herded by a border collie named Jen.
2. A male cat is specifically called a Tom, but a female cat is more complex. Normally, a female cat would be referred to as a Molly, but if it's pregnant with kittens, then it's a Queen!
3. Each year, Americans consume enough peanut butter to coat the floor of the Grand Canyon – 500 million pounds to be exact!
4. It's believed that roughly 97% of history has been lost over time.
5. Prehistoric geese were as big as cows! These geese grew to 9.8 feet (3 meters) tall and lived in modern-day Australia between 24 and 5 million years ago, during the Miocene period.
6. Thomas Jefferson was the first American to write down a recipe for ice cream and helped popularize it by serving it at the president's home. His French butler, Adrien Petit, is likely the source of the recipe.
7. Frost is not considered snow or precipitation because it's formed from water already on the ground.
8. The scientific term for brain freeze is "sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia."
9. Canadians say "sorry" so much that a law was passed in 2009 declaring that an apology can't be used as evidence of admission to guilt.

## 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

# New Year, New Goals, Less Waste

By: **Amanda Laverty, Sea Grant Knauss Fellow  
for the NOAA Marine Debris Program**



Happy New Year! Did you make any goals or resolutions for the upcoming year? Here at the Marine Debris Program, we are striving to reduce the amount of waste we produce annually. The EPA estimates that, on average, Americans generate 4.40 pounds of waste per person per day. Now that is a lot of trash and unfortunately, much of it becomes marine debris. The good news is that because we are the problem, we can be the solution too! By committing ourselves to one or more of the goals below, we can help move in the direction of a cleaner and healthier world. If we strive to reduce our individual impacts, we can make a huge difference together! Here are a few simple ways to get started:

## 1.) Switch to reusable coffee cups

Goal: Bring a mug for your morning coffee.

Result: At even just two drinks a week, you will prevent over 100 disposable cups, lids, and drink sleeves from entering the waste stream over the course of one year.

## 2.) Use reusable bags

Goal: Bring reusable bags to the grocery store or for any other shopping activities.

Result: If you use five bags every week, you will save over 250 plastic bags from entering the waste stream this year.

## 3.) Skip the straw

Goal: When you go out to eat, inform your server that you prefer not to have plastic straws in your drinks.

Result: At every meal out, you can choose to reduce the total amount of straws that go to a landfill or end up in the ocean.

## 4.) Change to cloth towels

Goal: Consider using towels or washcloths rather than paper towels.

Result: By using reusable and washable towels, you will not only drastically reduce the amount of paper waste, but you will also save money!

## 5.) Shop in bulk and fill your own containers

Goal: Most of the plastic and waste we produce is from single-use packaging. Focus on unpackaged items when you shop and seek out stores with bulk goods where you can bring your own containers.

Result: You will generate less single-use packaging and save money to boot! In many cases, buying in bulk is less costly than individually-packaged items.

There are many ways you can reduce the amount of waste you produce on a daily basis! Challenge yourself this New Year to pay close attention to the amount of waste you produce over the course of one day or one week. The more attention we give this problem, the more incentive we will find to correct it. Try adopting one of the goals above and focus on it for a month. After you get the hang of a change in routine, it won't be hard to meet your waste reduction goals this year.



# Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board

NEWSPAPER EDITED, January 8, 2025

## 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, Town Attorney Daniel Reynolds, Director of Human Resources Debora Panicek and 6 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 December 18, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

## 3. BID OPENINGS

## 4. PUBLIC HEARING

## 5. SUPERVISOR UPDATES

Supervisor Sexton gave a reminder that the Town and County tax includes the County tax which is about half of our bill. The Town stayed under the tax cap and with the addition of the EMS, which was essential, did cause an increase in taxes.

There are some new ways to pay your taxes this year.

The ways to pay are:

- In person at the Clerk's Office
- USPS Mail
- Dropbox in Police Department
- Online with credit card or e-checks

New website is coming that will be more user friendly. This will take a few months to go live and we will update you when it is available.

The Town is recruiting an IT company to assist the Director of IT. The Town will be putting out an RFP for IT services.

Sexton stated that the Town put in for two grants this year one for the Comprehensive Plan and one for the Highway Department. The Town was awarded the Highway Grant for \$250,000.

## 6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Supervisor Sexton read the rules for public comments.

No one wished to speak.

## 7. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

## 8. PUBLIC WORKS (MESSINA/Greene)

## 9. FINANCE (MESSINA/Donnelly)

## 10. PERSONNEL (MESSINA/Greene)

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

## Authorization to Hire VYBO Staff

Authorization for Patrick Harnan, Recreation Planner, to hire the following individuals as

## VYBO staff starting January 11, 2025:

- Caroline Reyen – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Breanne Eldred – Apalachin as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Tedessa DiRenzo – Apalachin as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Haley Carey – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Kayliesse Spivey – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Marie Traore – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.

- Ramiah Hodge – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Chrystian Burdick – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Caleb Kittle – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Nolan Grayson – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Canyon Kalina – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- JT Gannon – Apalachin as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Jace Gannon – Apalachin as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Jack Meissner – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Brodi Ahearn – Apalachin as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Alex Sculley – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Evan Webb – Apalachin as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.
- Nolan Jagodzinski – Vestal as VYBO Referee at pay rate \$16.50/hr.

Such authorization is contingent on the successful completion of the

background check conducted by the Police Department.

## 11. PLANNING & ZONING

(GREENE/Messina)

## 12. PUBLIC SAFETY (MESSINA/Greene)

## 13. ADMINISTRATION (GREENE/Messina)

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

## Approval for StacheStrong

Request from Betsy Gerner, Director of Community Relations for StacheStrong, to hold their annual StacheStrong 5K Run/Walk to benefit Brain Cancer Research on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Also, requesting approval to set up A-frame posters at 4 Corners, the Rail Trail and Old Vestal Road to help raise awareness for this event. The race will be insured by StacheStrong and the Town of Vestal will be an additional insured.

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

## Approval for The Running of the Bears

Request from Sue Darpino, Health Teacher & Race Director at the Vestal School District, to hold the annual 5k Road Race "The Running of the Bears" on Saturday, April 05, 2025. If approved, please allow a Sandwich Board Sign to be placed at Four Corners for two (2) weeks prior, advertising the race and alerting local residents.

## RECEIVE AND FILE:

- Warrants: 2024: 51G, 51M, 51T, 52G, 52C, 52M, 2025: 01A, 01G, 01P, 01M, 01T
- Clerk's Monthly Report December 2024

## 14. PETITIONS & PROTESTS

## 15. OLD BUSINESS

## 16. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

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

## Adoption of Organizational Appointments and Authorizations

### A. Town Board Committees:

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

(Utility, Highway, Water, Parks, Building)

## Regular Meeting Minutes of the Vestal Town Board, January 8, 2025, Continued

Maintenance), MESSINA/GREENE

**FINANCE:**

(Business Office, Receiver of Taxes, Town Clerk), MESSINA /Greene

**PERSONNEL:**

MESSINA/Greene

**PLANNING & ZONING:**

(Code Department, Planning and Zoning, Engineering), GREENE /Messina

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

(Fire, Police, Emergency Services, Courts), MESSINA / Greene

**ADMINISTRATION:**

(Assessment, IT, Recreation, Historian, Museum), GREENE/Messina

**B. Town Board Meeting Schedule:**

2025 WORK SESSIONS

Meetings at 6:00 p.m.

1/06/2025	1/08/2025	8/11/2025	8/13/2025
1/20/2025	1/22/2025	8/25/2025	8/27/2025
2/10/2025	2/12/2025	9/08/2025	9/10/2025
2/24/2025	2/26/2025	9/22/2025	9/24/2025
3/10/2025	3/12/2025	10/06/2025	10/08/2025
3/24/2025	3/26/2025	10/13/2025	
4/07/2025	4/09/2025	10/20/2025	10/22/2025
4/21/2025	4/23/2025	10/27/2025	
5/05/2025	5/07/2025	11/03/2025	
5/19/2025	5/21/2025	11/05/2025-	Town Budget
6/09/2025	6/11/2025		Public Hearing
6/23/2025	6/25/2025	11/17/2025	11/19/2025
7/07/2025	7/09/2025	12/01/2025	12/03/2025
7/21/2025	7/23/2025	12/15/2025	12/17/2025

**TOV Holidays for 2024:**

New Year's – TOV CLOSED 01/01/25 (Wed.)  
 Good Friday – TOV CLOSED 04/18/25 (Fri.)  
 Memorial Day – TOV CLOSED 5/26/25 (Mon.)  
 Independence Day – TOV CLOSED 7/04/25 (Fri.)

Labor Day – TOV CLOSED 9/1/25 (Mon.)  
 Veteran's Day – TOV CLOSED 11/11/25 (Tues.)  
 Thanksgiving – TOV CLOSED 11/27/25 (Thurs.)  
 Day After Thanksgiving – TOV CLOSED 11/28/25 (Fri.)  
 Christmas – TOV CLOSED 12/25/25 (Thurs.)  
 Parks, Highway & Water holidays vary. Police Department open 24/7  
 C. Appointment of Deputy Town Supervisor, Suzanne Messina, term expiring December 31, 2025.  
 D. Establish salary and wage rates for Town employees as stated in the 2025 salary schedule.  
 E. Approval of the form, manner and sufficiency of the Employee Surety Bond.  
 F. Attendance to budgeted association meetings as follows:

**Monthly:**

Broome County Court Clerks Association  
 Broome County Association of Towns and Villages  
 Broome County Municipal Clerks Association  
 Association of Assessors

**Quarterly:**

Broome County Association of Receivers and Tax Collector's  
 Building Officials  
 NYS GFOA Board of Governors

**Annual:**

NYS GFOA Annual Conference  
 PERMA Conference  
 NYS Town Clerks Association Annual Conference  
 New York State Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Training School  
 Other Training:  
 NYS GFOA meetings and seminars  
 G. Under Section 77-b of General Municipal Law the board delegates Department Heads to authorize training within the limits of the Department Budget.  
 H. Adopt Procurement Policy and list of authorized purchasers.

I. Mileage Reimbursement for the use of a personal vehicle on Town Business will be based on the Federal Government guidelines. Meal reimbursement for travel on Town business will be based on Federal Government Guidelines.

J. Designate Depositories for Town Funds: M & T  
 J. P. Morgan Chase  
 Tioga State Bank  
 New York Class:

K. Designate the Delegate for Association of Town Meeting.

L. Designate both the official Town newspaper as the Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin and Vestal Town Crier.

M. Appoint Records Management Officer: Debra Wallace  
 a. Deputy Records Management Officer: Sarah Maney  
 N. Records Access Officer for FOIL Requests: Debra Wallace

b. Deputy Access Officer for FOIL Requests: Sarah Maney  
 O. Registrar of Vital Statistics: Debra Wallace

c. Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics: Sarah Maney  
 P. Approval the Town of Vestal Emergency Plan.

Q. Appoint the Town of Vestal Emergency Management Team:

- Director of Emergency Management: Thomas E. McCartney
- Deputy Director of Emergency Management: Robert Hamilton
- Public Information Officer: Clayton Ellis

R. Appointment of Fire Marshall: Christopher S. Lupold  
 Councilwoman Messina stated that Carle Truman has been our Fire Marshall and part of the Fire Department for over 60 years. Carle will now serve as the Deputy Fire Marshall. A special thank you to Carle for all of your service.

**17. SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**18. COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS AND UPDATES**

**19. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Member of the public asked if the Town Comptroller quit?

Supervisor Sexton stated yes.

This member asked what the plan is and the time frame to replace his position.

Sexton stated that the Comptroller is leaving and we have put it out to find another Comptroller. Sextons stated that we already have a few applications.

This member asked why are there is only 2 of the 4 Board Members on Committees?

Sexton stated that there are two Board Members for employees and any member of the public can contact the Town Board.

This member of the public stated that, that didn't answer his question he wanted to know why there are only two.

Sexton stated that we have changed Committee Members several times this year and this is what we feel in house functions better.


Member of the public asked for a copy of the Rules for Public Comments and he believes that there should be copies available for the public. This member feels that there is open defiance of the Open Meeting Laws.

Sexton asked if this member had any further questions regarding Town business and then stated that they were out of order.


**ADJOURNMENT**

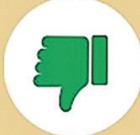
On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Miller the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Approved by  
 Debra Wallace, Town Clerk



**See You in Class!**





**Best to Stay Home.**

- Have a runny nose or a little cough, but **no other symptoms** and
- No fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, and no fever during that time (temp. of 100.3 or lower) and
- No throwing up or diarrhea for 24 hours

- Temperature higher than 100.4 (with or without medicine)
- Persistent cough
- Throwing up or diarrhea
- Instructed by doctor to isolate from others

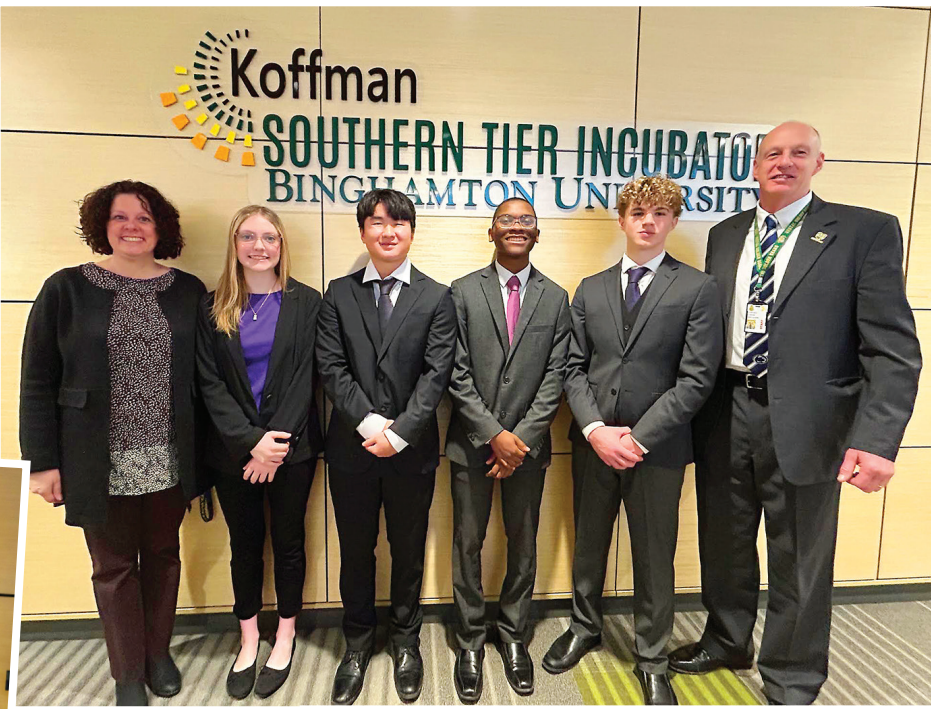
**To report an absence:**

<b>Vestal High School</b>	<b>607-757-2246</b>
<b>Vestal Middle School</b>	<b>607-757-2330</b>
<b>African Road Elementary</b>	<b>607-757-2311</b>
<b>Clayton Ave. Elementary</b>	<b>607-757-2271</b>
<b>Glenwood Elementary</b>	<b>607-757-2391</b>
<b>Tioga Hills Elementary</b>	<b>607-757-2344</b>
<b>Vestal Hills Elementary</b>	<b>607-757-2357</b>

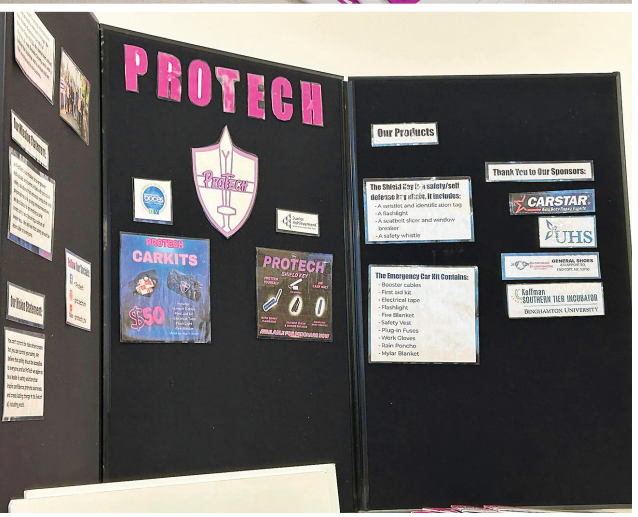
**A missed day of school is a lost opportunity for academic and social development. By coming to school every day they are not sick, your child/adolescent will maximize their learning and their opportunities to interact with peers and adults.**

# Student Entrepreneurs in Action: New Vision Business Academy Students Shine!

Photos Courtesy of the Vestal Central School District



11/4/2024	Whale of a...
11/7/2024	Weekly Pro...
11/14/2024	Car Kit Adv...
11/14/2024	Meet the Te...
11/16/2024	CV Craft Fa...
11/20/2024	Chow Dona...
11/21/2024	Don't Miss!



# Vestal Central School District Board of Education Regular Meeting

NEWSPAPER EDITED, Tuesday, December 17, 2024, continued from pages 4-7

## PRESENT:

- Shoba Agneshwar
- Amanda Atkinson - left at 7:22 pm
- Mark Browning
- Kay Ellis
- Eric LaClair
- Joshgua Mertens
- Lisa Milkovich
- Chadwin Smith
- Erryn Wilson

## ALSO PRESENT:

- Superintendent of Schools Clifford Kasson
- Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Patrick Clarke
- Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, & Personnel Sydney Wade
- School Attorney Michael Sherwood

- District Clerk Michelle Lewis
- Director of Instruction Andy Blaine
- Director of Instruction Keliann Mazikewich
- Director of Personnel & Administrative Services Heather Pufky
- Director of Special Education Katherine Mazourek
- VHE Principal Cathy Willis
- Approximately 11 visitors

## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board President Eric LaClair in the Administration Conference Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Student Government Report

As Student Government President Keith Dai was unable to attend the meeting, he provided a written report which was read by Amanda Atkinson. The Winter Wonderland KB Dance was a success with approximately 630 students in attendance. There were five VHS students who were selected to participate in NYSSMA All-States after rigorous auditions. The high school band and orchestra performed concerts last week, and Vestal Voices will be performing this evening. Last week was Sexual Harassment Awareness Week sponsored by Mrs. Darpino's Success Seminar class. Both morning announcements and posters throughout the school included important information to promote awareness. Student Government wrapped up its Holiday Card Drive with over 2000 cards sent out to individuals in nursing homes.

## Executive Session

Move to adjourn into anticipated Executive Session for approval of CPSE and CSE recommendations, as well as an update on a legal matter and a personnel matter

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith, Amanda Atkinson

## Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of December 3, 2024 and the Special Meeting of December 10, 2024

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith, Amanda Atkinson

## Public Comment on Agenda Items

Joe Herringshaw, 312 Kimble Road, Vestal - Requested that the Board consider ensuring that the new Softball scoreboard be increased to the same dimensions as the Baseball scoreboard for equity purposes.

## Reports

Board President Eric LaClair reported on the following:  
 --Recognition of Vestal WICZ Teachers of the Week - Eric LaClair offered congratulations to teachers Katie Donlin (VHS), Stephanie Dilmore (ARE), Jennifer Broder (ARE), Melissa Restuccia (VHS), Benjamin Greene (VHS), Darren Herman (VMS), and Shelby Monell (VHE) for being named WICZ Teachers of the Week this school year. He voiced appreciation for their hard work and dedication in the classroom.

--Liaison Reports - Mark Browning reported that he chaperoned the KB Dance at VHS, stating it was a really good event and the students had fun and were well-behaved. Kay Ellis attended the THE PTO meeting on 12/4. The school was able to help 15 families through donations to the Food for Thought program. Fifth graders also packed boxes of personal care items and took them to Park Terrace to be distributed along with food from the Food Pantry. Jared Campbell, Vestal grad, put on an assembly for THE students in December. The Building Planning Team is planning a Community Fair in March to allow families to learn about helpful agencies in the area. One School/One Book is planned for January. Kay stated that the PTO appreciated Mr. Kasson and Mrs. Wade presenting details on the Capital Project at their meeting. Erryn Wilson congratulated the VMS Mathletes for their achievements in the Mathalon competition on 12/7. Three Vestal students tied for 1st place in individual competition, and Vestal teams placed 1st and 2nd in team competition. Eric LaClair was unable to attend the CAPTO meeting earlier this month, but reported that Mr. Kasson and Mrs. Wade were present to discuss details of the Capital Project with those in attendance. Amanda Atkinson reported on the GSCA meeting held on 12/4. One School/One Book was celebrated along with Bingo Night on 11/21. The Penguin Patch Holiday Shop was open for students to purchase items last week. This week is Spirit Week and Winter parties are taking place. Money from school store sales were donated to the Snack Pack program. Mr. Kasson and Mrs. Wade were also present to discuss the Capital Project and answer questions. Lisa Milkovich reported on items discussed during the Town of Vestal Work Session earlier this month. The Main Street bridge is scheduled to be replaced next year. The old firehouse on Vestal Parkway is being rezoned to commercial property. The public hearing to discuss rezoning of the National Pipe & Plastic building on Old Vestal Road is scheduled for 1/22. Josh Mertens reported that he attended the Town of Vestal Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, at which Vestal Voices performed. He stated they did a wonderful job. Shoba Agneshwar attended the VHE PTA meeting on 12/9. Mr. Kasson and Mrs. Wade attended to share information and answer questions regarding the Capital Project. Students sent cards to Veterans in November. Musician Jared Campbell performed for the students at no cost. A Holiday Sing-along is scheduled for 12/20. Two hundred seven students participated in PARP this year, which is over half of the school's population. Vestal Elks visited the school and distributed dictionaries to 3rd graders, which were very much appreciated. They are planning a Talent Show in January.

## Superintendent Clifford Kasson reported on the following:

--2022 and 2024 Capital Projects - Superintendent Kasson reviewed the results of the 2024 Capital Project vote and stated the District is happy to be able to move forward with the project, especially since Governor Hochul signed into law the Hot Classroom Bill. The 2024 Capital Project will provide full climate control in the District's remaining

school buildings to optimize the teaching and learning environment. Shoba Agneshwar commented that the 23 vote differential should cause the Board to pause and think about the the community's support of the school district. She added that communication is critically important and the District must do a better job with this in the future. Russ Robinson from LeChase Construction then gave an update on the 2022 Capital Project and the work that will be conducted in each of the buildings, including athletic fields. The Board will be asked to approve bid awards tonight so work can begin over winter break. They were very pleased with how the bids came in, which will allow for add alternates. Specifics can be found in the presentation posted with the Agenda.

--Student Events - Superintendent Kasson highlighted a number of events throughout the District that he was able to attend over the past couple of weeks such as Boys Basketball and Boys Wrestling, VHS Winter Band and Orchestra Concerts, KB Winter Wonderland Dance at VHS, Vestal Elks dictionary presentation to 3rd graders at CAE, New Visions Engineering student presentation at Lockheed Martin, and Cops 4 a Cause presentation of thirty \$50 gift cards to the District for distribution to families in need. He was also happy to see that local media stations were present to cover some of these events.

--Expenditures 101 - Asst. Superintendent Sydney Wade gave a brief overview of Vestal CSD expenditures, providing a breakdown of General Fund expenditures that will be helpful to Board members in understanding budget development as they begin to receive updates leading up to budget adoption in April.

## Approval of Schedule P - Personnel REVISED

Move to approve Schedule P - Personnel as revised  
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

The following changes were made under Schedule P:

## SCHEDULE IP2

### RETIREMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL RETIREMENTS:

(NAME, POSITION, TENURE AREA, EFF. DATE)

Restuccia, Melissa, Art Teacher, Special Subject Tenure Area: Art, 7/1/25

## SCHEDULE IP4A

### TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS (SUBSTITUTES):

(NAME, INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL, CERTIFICATION, DEGREE, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)

Barnes, Kara, Elementary, None, 12/18/24

Bennett, Madelyn, Elementary, None, 12/18/24

Boehm, Abigail, Elementary, None, AS, 12/18/24

Briggs, Thomas, Secondary, None, BA, 12/18/24

Klimachefsky, Joy, Elementary, None, AS, 12/23/24

Mack, Cherise, Elementary, None, BA, 12/18/24

Martone, Denise, Elementary, Permanent, MA, 12/21/24, Retired Teacher

Miner, Sara, Elementary, None, AS, 12/18/24, Reinstatement

**SCHEDULE IP4B  
TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS:  
ABOVE CONTRACT**

Attached please find pages 2, 4, 6, 9 and 12 of a master list of above contract positions for the 2024-25 school year. We are asking for approval for the person, position, and stipend.

*(AREA OF APPOINTMENT, AREA/SEASON/BLDG, STIPEND, POSTED, NAME, APPROVED)*

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS:**

Basketball: Volunteer, Winter, Economides, Noah, 12/17/24

Wrestling: Volunteer, Winter, Demarco, Christopher, 12/17/24

**INTRAMURALS:**

Racquet/Cup Stacking, Elementary, \$558.00, Hoyt, Scott, 12/17/24

Badminton/Table Tennis, High School, \$558.00, Crunden, James, 12/17/24

**ADVISORS:**

HOSA Club, High School, \$249.00, 6/21/24, Rockhill, Christopher (co), 12/17/24 \*CANCEL\*

HOSA Club, High School, \$1,510.00, 6/21/24, Wasi-lewski, Agnes (co), 12/17/24 \*CHANGE\*

STEAM Club, High School, \$311.00, 6/21/24, Rockhill, Christopher (co), 12/17/24 \*CANCEL\*

STEAM Club, High School, \$1,448.00, 6/21/24, Cutting, Bethany (co), 12/17/24 \*CHANGE\*

**OTHER:**

Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator, K-12, \$979.00, 6/21/24, Rockhill, Christopher, 12/17/24 \*CANCEL\*

Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator (co), K-12, \$962.22, 6/21/24, Gebbie, Anna, 12/17/24

Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator (co), K-12, \$962.22, 6/21/24, Sonnen, Jennifer, 12/17/24

**MUSIC:**

District Mass Perf-Level I, Middle School, \$142.00, 6/21/24, Marilley, Stephanie, 12/17/24 \*CANCEL\*

District Mass Perf-Level I, Elem/MS, \$142.00, 6/21/24, Lacey, Denise, 12/17/24 \*CANCEL\*

District Mass Perf-Level III, High School, \$336.00, 6/21/24, Phyam, Jennifer, 12/27/24 \*CANCEL\*

**SCHEDULE IP8**

**CHANGES IN STATUS: INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGES IN STATUS:

*(NAME, POSITION, TENURE AREA, CHANGE, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)*

Daino, James, Principal, Administrative Tenure Area: Principal, Tenure Date From: TBD To: 1/21/25-1/20/29, 1/21/25

**SCHEDULE NIP 1**

**RESIGNATIONS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL RESIGNATIONS:

*(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/SCHOOL, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)*

DePersiis, Amanda, Teacher Aide, CAE, 12/7/24

Klimachefsky, Joy, Teacher Aide PT/S, DW, 12/21/24, To accept Substitute Teacher position

Macbeth, Thomas, Bus Attendant PT/S, Transportation, 12/11/24

**SCHEDULE NIP 4**

**PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS:  
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS:**

*(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BUILDING, PROB. PERIOD, SALARY, REMARKS)*

Benedum, Evelyn, Teacher Aide, CAE, 12/10/24-3/3/26, \$16.10/hr., 52-week probationary period

Francis, Jasmine, Teacher Aide, VHS, 12/16/24-3/9/26, \$16.10/hr., 52-week probationary period

**SCHEDULE NIP 8A**

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS/  
SUBSTITUTES: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following TEMPORARY NON-INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS/SUBSTITUTES:

*(NAME, POSITION, EFF. DATE, REMARKS)*

Guerino, Sonya, Teacher Aide PT/S, 1/2/25

Schake, Jordyn Teacher Aide PT/S, 12/18/24

**SCHEDULE NIP 9B**

**PART-TIME NON-COMPETITIVE**

**APPOINTMENTS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following PART-TIME NON-COMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS:

*(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BUILDING, PROB. PERIOD, SALARY, REMARKS)*

Shirley, Erin, Teacher Aide PT, CAE, 12/18/24-3/11/26, \$16.10/hr., 52-week probationary period

Sobhan, Fatiha, Food Service Helper, 4.5 hrs./day, DW, 12/18/24-3/11/26, \$16.00/hr., 52-week probationary period

Sokolowsky, Kristina, Food Service Helper, 4.5 hrs./day, DW, 12/18/24-3/11/26, \$16.00/hr., 52-week probationary period

**SCHEDULE NIP 10**

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE:**

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

*(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BUILDING, EFF. DATES, REASON)*

Yetsko, Susan, Teacher Aide, CAE, 11/18/24-1/5/25, Medical Reasons

**SCHEDULE NIP 11**

**CHANGES IN STATUS:**

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGES IN STATUS:

*(NAME, POSITION, SHIFT/BLDG, CHANGE, EFF. DATE)*

The following employees have achieved satisfactory completion of District probationary period:

Clute, Benjamin, Bus Driver, Transportation, 12/26/24

Chua, LiLi, Food Service Helper, GLE, 12/26/24

Olivo, Jewel, Teacher Aide PT, THE, 12/26/24

**Re-Certification of 2024 Capital Project Vote**

WHEREAS, in accordance with a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District of the Towns of Vestal and Binghamton, Broome County, New York and Town of Owego, Tioga County, New York, the special school district meeting of the qualified voters of the said School District was duly held and conducted on December 10, 2024 for the purpose of voting on a proposition contained in the notice of said special school district meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision 7 of Section 2034 of the Education Law, the inspectors of the election have duly made a written report of the results of

the voting at said special school district meeting; and

WHEREAS the chief inspector has duly filed such written reports with the Clerk of said School District, which reports have been duly presented to said Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District of the Towns of Vestal and Binghamton, Broome County, New York and Town of Owego, Tioga County, New York as follows:

Section 1. Upon an examination of the reports of the inspectors of election presented to this Board of Education, as described in preambles hereof, the attached is hereby declared to be the result of the voting on said proposition submitted at the special school district meeting of the qualified voters of Vestal Central School District held on December 10, 2024.

Section 2. In accordance with the attached tabulation of the vote at said special school district meeting, it is hereby determined and declared that:

Proposition No. 1 passed by a vote of 287 (YES) - 264 (NO).

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

**SEQR Determination for Emergency Project -  
VMS Elevator**

WHEREAS, the Vestal Central School District Administration and Architect have determined that the elevator located at African Road Elementary/Middle School, located at 600 S. Benita Blvd., Vestal, NY 13850 is in need of immediate repair and/or replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District (the "Board") has considered the impacts to the environment of the elevator repair and/or replacement in accordance with the detailed scope of work prepared by its vendor, TK Elevator Corporation, dated December 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the scope of the Proposed Action and has further received and considered the advice of its Architect with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR part 617.5(c) (1), (2) and (3) and concluded that the project involves activities involving no substantial changes in existing structures or facilities, and replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of structures or facilities in kind and routine activities of an educational institution, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action individually and collectively does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

2. The Board hereby determines that the Proposed Action is a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.

3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.

4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

**Approval of Contract with TK Elevator -  
Emergency Elevator Project at ARE/VMS**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the proposal from TK Elevator Corporation for modernization of the elevator at ARE/VMS as outlined in the attached document, and authorizes the President or Vice President



to sign a contract with TK Elevator, at a cost not to exceed \$277,000.00.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Highland Associates Proposal - Emergency Elevator Project (ARE/VMS)**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the proposal from Highland Associates to provide architectural design and building engineering services for the Emergency Elevator Project at African Road/Vestal Middle School and authorizes the President or Vice President to sign an agreement with Highland Associates in accordance with the attached document, not to exceed \$8,000.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Bid Acceptance for 2022 Capital Project -Phase 2**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District (the "Board of Education") solicited bids from prime contractors for construction services in conjunction with its 2022 Capital Project - Phase 2 (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, bids were received and publicly opened on December 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Project Architect and the Project Construction Manager reviewed the bids and bidders' qualifications for the Project, discussed the Project with the lowest responsible bidders and, by letter dated December 12, 2024, recommend award of contracts as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Project Architect and the Project Construction Manager and determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to accept the bids and award contracts as set forth herein;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Education hereby resolves to award the following contracts for the Project:

1. Prime Contract #01: General Construction Contract awarded to Andrew R. Mancini Associates, Inc.

Base Bid: \$4,147,000.00

Contract Amount: \$4,147,000.00

2. Prime Contract #02: Mechanical Contract awarded to Louis N. Picciano & Son, Inc.

Base Bid: \$3,200,000.00

Contract Amount: \$3,200,000.00

3. Prime Contract #03: Electrical Contract awarded to Blanding Electric, Inc.

Base Bid: \$1,780,000.00

Add Alternate #005 - Motorized Theatrical Lights: \$74,500.00

Contract Amount: \$1,854,500.00

4. Prime Contract #04: Plumbing Contract awarded to Petcosky & Sons Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Base Bid: \$487,377.00

Contract Amount: \$487,377.00

5. Prime Contract #05: Roofing Contract awarded to Hale Roofing

Basic Bid: \$5,443,313.00

Alternate #6: DEDUCT - Soprema Roof Option #2 w/Cover Board (THE, CAE, GLE) -\$2,690,000.00

Contract Amount: \$2,753,313.00

6. Prime Contract #06: Site Construction Contract awarded to Broome Bituminous Products, Inc.

Basic Bid: \$4,184,740.00

Add Alternate #001: CJR Retaining Wall \$24,900.00

Add Alternate #003: Vestal Hills Retaining Walls \$134,570.00

Add Alternate #004: Vestal Hills Playground

Fencing \$29,740.00

Contract Amount: \$4,373,950.00

7. Prime Contract #07: Cell Phone Repeater & Signal Amplifier Contract awarded to ATG, LLC

Base Bid: \$344,344.00

Contract Amount: \$344,344.00

8. Prime Contract #08: Elevator Contract awarded to TK Elevator Corporation

Base Bid: \$215,000.00

Contract Amount: \$215,000.00

9. Security & Access Control Contract (State Contract) awarded to Day Automation Systems

Contract Amount: \$3,310,876.44

10. HVAC Control Contract (State Contract) awarded to Postler & Jaeckle Corp.

Contract Amount: \$357,500.00

11. Basketball Backstops Contract (Co-op) awarded to Facilities Equipment & Services, Inc.

Contract Amount: \$114,944.56

12. Scoreboards Contract (Co-op) awarded to Toth's Sports

Contract Amount: \$254,700.00

\*\*The Board has requested that the softball scoreboard be built to the same dimensions as the baseball scoreboard, which will involve a change order to cover the increased cost.

13. District Lockdown Contract (State Contract) awarded to Day Automation Systems

Contract Amount: \$530,097.73

14. The Board hereby authorizes its President or the Superintendent of Schools to execute contracts and related documents in compliance with this Resolution with such provisions other than a material increase in the scope of the work or the approved amount as may be approved by the Superintendent of Schools which approval shall be conclusively shown by the execution thereof and take all actions necessary or convenient to proceed under the contract in connection with the Project and to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders relating to the contract or the Project, and to do all other acts as may be necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing Resolution.

15. Upon approval by the Board of Education, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officer**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education does hereby appoint David Grasso, Esq. of Central Square, NY, as the impartial hearing officer pursuant to Section 71 of the Civil Service Law to hold a hearing regarding a civil service employee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, David Grasso is to make a record of such hearing, which shall, with his written findings of fact and recommendations, be referred to the Board of Education for review and decision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education does hereby direct that David Grasso be paid his usual and customary fee for services rendered in these matters.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Approval of Settlement Agreement**

Upon the recommendation of legal counsel and the Superintendent, the Board hereby authorizes settlement of the request for due process in a special education matter,

and also authorizes the Superintendent and Board President to sign the settlement agreement.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Approval of Student Teaching Internship**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the individual listed below is hereby granted a student teaching internship with the Vestal Central School District for the time frames indicated and supervised as described.

*(Name, College, Internship Period, Bldg/Area, Cooperating Teacher)*

Isabelle Dithrich, SUNY Oneonta, 1/13/25-3/14/25, 3/17/25-5/9/25, THE/Elementary, THE/Elementary, Christin Williams, Jacquelin Miner

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Approval of Pitney Bowes Lease Agreement**

RESOLVED, that the President or Vice President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign a 5-year lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for the provision of a Mail-Center Meter and Folder at an annual cost of \$5,472.00, inclusive of maintenance.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Refund from Tax Certiorari Reserve - Marchuska LLC**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, following a State of New York Supreme Court decision dated November 12, 2024 Property Tax Law, Article 7, that the tax amount for the 2024-25 school year be adjusted as follows:

1435-1439 Marchuska LLC

408 Commerce Road

Vestal NY 13850

Tax Map #158.08-1-1

Refund Amount \$ 1,924.32

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the use of the Tax Certiorari Reserve in the amount of \$1,893.27.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Oppose: Mark Browning

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### **Refund of Tax from Tax Certiorari Reserve - Mead**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, following a Small Claims Assessment Review decision dated November 6, 2024 that the tax amount for the 2024-25 school year be adjusted as follows:

Ryan and Carolyn Mead

400 Brook Hill Avenue

Vestal NY 13850

Tax Map #190.03-1-2

Refund Amount \$ 347.55

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the use of the Tax Certiorari Reserve in the amount of \$341.94.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Refund from Tax Certiorari Reserve - Mirabito Brothers LLC

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, following a State of New York Supreme Court decision dated November 12, 2024, Property Tax Law, Article 7, that the tax amount for the 2021-22 thru the 2023-24 school years be adjusted as follows:

Mirabito Brothers LLC  
3401 Fuller Hollow Road  
Vestal NY 13850  
Tax Map # 175.09-1-2  
Refund Amount \$ 6,456.60

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the use of the Tax Certiorari Reserve in the amount of \$6,357.04 and that \$6,357.04 be appropriated into the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget in appropriation account A 1964.400-99-990 (Source of Funds: Tax Certiorari Reserve A 86400) for the prior year portion of the refund.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Oppose: Mark Browning

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Approval of 2024-25 Special Rates, Substitutes, & Other Areas - Amended

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes 2024-25 Special Rates/Substitutes/Other Areas to be updated as outlined in the attached listing, effective immediately.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Acceptance of Donation - VHS Library

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase of the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$175.00 with the fund source consisting of Gifts and Donations (A2705), and a use of the funds in the following code in the 2024-2025 school year as a result of a donation from the Apalachin Book Club in memory of Louise Esposito. The District sincerely thanks the Apalachin Book Club.

\$ 175.00, A 2610.450-51-990, VHS Library Materials & Supplies

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Acceptance of Donation - Odyssey of the Mind

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves, accepts, and acknowledges a gift of \$500.00 from the Knoll-MacDonald Foundation for Odyssey of the Mind purchases (F2110.450-99-99X99). The District sincerely thanks the Knoll-MacDonald Foundation for their donation.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Participation Agreement with RIC ONE to Negotiate Data Privacy Agreements 2024-25

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Vestal CSD Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Acceptance of Software/Licensing Agreements(2)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the digital terms of service agreements, software licensing, and/or website agreements with Flippity.net and Sean Murphy Studios, LLC as outlined in the attached documents.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Declaration of Obsolete Materials - VHE

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Director of Facilities & Operations, declares the attached list of items as obsolete and authorizes the disposition of these items in accordance with Board Policy 5250.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### WALK-IN: Acceptance of Proposal - Atlantic Testing Laboratories

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the proposal from Atlantic Testing Laboratories to provide asbestos monitoring services for the 2022 Capital Project for the period December 2024 through August 2026, and

authorizes the President or Vice President of the Board of Education to sign the agreement with ATL in accordance with the attached document.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

### Voice of the Public

Laurie Ellis, 620 Tracy Creek Road, Vestal - Addressed the Board about considering opting out of Real Property Tax Law 487 pertaining to taxation of solar farms.

Amanda Kulesza, 504 Winston Drive, Vestal - Addressed the Board about settling the VTA contract.

### Future Board Meetings

Regular Meeting TUESDAY January 21, 2025 6:00 pm, Admin Building, 201 Main Street, Vestal

### Adjournment

Move to Adjourn

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eric LaClair, Erryn Wilson, Mark Browning, Shoba Agneshwar, Joshgua Mertens, Kay Ellis, Lisa Milkovich, Chadwin Smith

Not Present at Vote: Amanda Atkinson

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Michelle Lewis, DISTRICT CLERK

# Vestal Central School District Board Of Education Executive Session

## Tuesday, December 17, 2024

### PRESENT:

- Shoba Agneshwar
- Amanda Atkinson
- Mark Browning
- Kay Ellis
- Eric LaClair
- Joshgua Mertens
- Lisa Milkovich
- Chadwin Smith
- Erryn Wilson

### ALSO PRESENT:

- Superintendent of Schools Clifford Kasson
- Asst. Superintendent for Instruction Patrick Clarke
- Asst. Superintendent for Finance, Operations, & Personnel Sydney Wade
- School Attorney Michael Sherwood

- District Clerk Michelle Lewis
- Director of Special Education Katherine Mazourek - excused at 6:11 pm

Executive Session commenced at 6:04 pm in the Small Conference Room of the Administration Building.

Recommendations and annual reviews of the Committee on Preschool Special Education and Committee on Special Education were on the agenda. Board members had information for each student made available to them prior to the meeting for review. Board members gave due consideration to each case before voting.

On motion by Kay Ellis, second by Amanda Atkinson, the Board voted 9 to 0 to accept the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education and Committee on Special Education for all students considered.

The Superintendent then updated the Board on a legal matter, as well as a personnel matter.

On motion by Lisa Milkovich, second by Joshgua Mertens, the Board voted 9 to 0 to adjourn Executive Session and return to Open Session immediately.

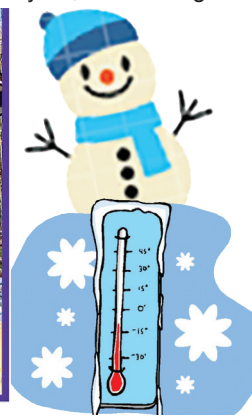
Executive Session was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Michelle Lewis, DISTRICT CLERK



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Go to [vestalrecreation.com](http://vestalrecreation.com) to reserve a pavilion.



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**Meet and Greet**

Come learn about the Friends, what we're up to and how you can get involved!

Door Prize!  
Open to Everyone  
Refreshments

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025**

**STOP BY BETWEEN 6 - 8 P.M.**

at the Vestal Public Library Meeting Room

**Furry Buddy Rescue Fundraiser & Adoption Event**

- Meet Lovable Cats & Kittens  
Vestal Library Community Room  
January 25th, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Collaborating with Broome & Tioga Teen & Tween Homeschool Group

- Bake Sale
- Donations
- Raffle Items
- Putt For A Paws - Game
- Bottle Drive

**Say Hello to BROOME COUNTY'S Renewed Health Care NEIGHBOR**

**Join us for a Community Open House**  
Saturday, Feb. 1 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Guthrie Lourdes Hospital

- Door prizes
- Giveaways
- Refreshments
- Behind-the-scenes tours:
  - Step into the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy chamber
  - Find out how CT imaging technology views inside the body
  - See how our robots help surgeons in the operating room
  - Check out our dental and mammography vans
- Live music
- Free health screenings and information
- Children's activities - bring your teddy bear for a check-up!

Visit [www.Guthrie.org](http://www.Guthrie.org) for more information.

# January

**Monday,  
January 20  
2:30 - 4:30PM**

VP



Think you've got what it takes to piece it all together? Sign up for the Jigsaw Puzzle Race for kids ages 6-12! Enjoy refreshments, fun, and prizes as you race to complete your puzzle. Don't miss out — register your team online today!

[vestalpubliclibrary.org/events-calendar](http://vestalpubliclibrary.org/events-calendar)

Parents or Guardians are required to remain in the library for the duration of the event.

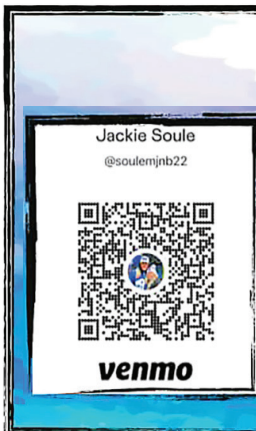
## KIDS JIGSAW PUZZLE RACE

## BENEFIT FOR JAY MEHL

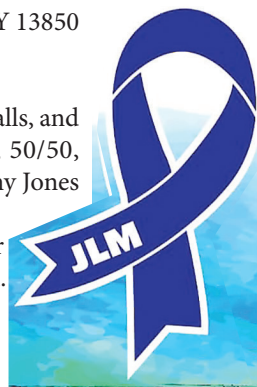
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MEDICAL EXPENSES AND TREATMENT COSTS!



Jay was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in late October. After traveling to Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC and several diagnosis tests later, it was found that Jay has stage 4 colorectal cancer. It has traveled to multiple distant lymph nodes, and the blood has tested positive for the cancer as well. For this reason, it is incurable and Jay will have to remain on chemo for the rest of his life. He will continue with diagnostic testing every 2-3 months to see how his body is responding to treatments.



Location: California Grill  
912 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, NY 13850  
Date: January 19, 2025  
Time: 12-5pm  
The benefit will include ziti, meatballs, and salad provided by California Grill, 50/50, raffle baskets, a baked sale, and Jimmy Jones as a DJ!  
Contact Jackie @ 607-741-4062 for donations or any other information.  
\$20 for adults  
\$10 for children  
Venmo in advance preferred



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