

**SUBURBAN SEPTIC**

# The Country Courier

Your Hometown News for Over 50 Years



Vol. 50, No. 31

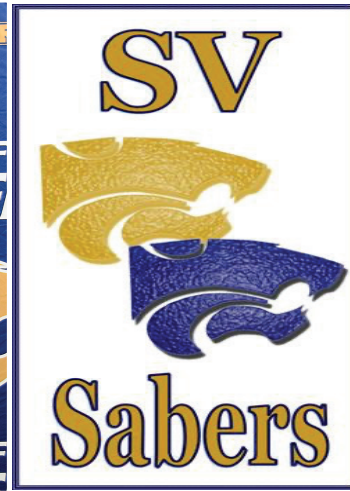
NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00

Friday, February 28, 2025

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## Susquehanna Valley CSD Is Pleased To Announce The Valedictorian And Salutatorian Of The Class Of 2025!

Congratulations to Nasser Al-Khalidi, who is Valedictorian, and to Andrew Waite, Salutatorian! Photos by SV School District



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Page 2

--TOWN OF  
BINGHAMTON  
SENIOR CITIZENS  
COMMISSION

Page 3

--The Snowy  
Pehnonemon Of A Purple  
Sky  
--RABIES CLINIC @  
BC HUMANE  
SOCIETY: 3/18/25 – 5:30  
p.m. to 7 p.m.

Page 5

--TRAFFIC SAFETY-  
PASSING

Pages 6,7

-- Newspaper Edited  
TOWN OF KIRKWOOD  
TOWN BOARD MEET-  
ING February 4, 2025  
(Continued from Last  
Week)  
--The Hamlet of  
Riverside

Announcement Section  
Obituaries, Legals

## Legislative Breakfast at Broome-Tioga BOCES

Photos on page 8!



**Town of Binghamton-  
SENIOR CITIZEN  
ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR  
MARCH 2025 See on page 2!**



**Newspaper  
Edited  
TOWN OF  
KIRKWOOD  
TOWN  
BOARD  
MEETING  
February 4,  
2025  
Read on Pages  
6 and 7**





# Calendar

## Kirkwood:

### KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

### Scheduled Town Board Meetings:

First Tuesday of each Month at 6:00 PM

### Scheduled Town Board Work Sessions:

Last Tuesday of each Month at 6:00 PM

## Town of Binghamton:

### Town Board Work Session Meetings

First Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. at Town Hall

### Town Board Meetings

Third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Town Hall

## Town of Conklin:

### CONKLIN TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

1st Friday of the Month 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

(YOU CAN MAKE PAYMENTS VIA THE USPS  
OR YOU CAN PLACE THEM IN THE SECURED  
DROP BOX OUTSIDE THE COURT DOOR.)

### DMV At Conklin Town Hall

Wednesday – 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.

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## SV School District Calander

### Friday, February 28, 2025

--ACT registration deadline

Location: Susquehanna Valley High School

--SV HS/RTS MS - 25-WK Progress Per. ends

Location: Susquehanna Valley High School

### Monday, March 3, 2025

--Brookside Elem PTA Meeting 6:30 PM

Location: Brookside Elementary (Brookside Elementary)

### Wednesday, March 5, 2025

--Donnelly Elem - Gr. 5 Cap & Gown Photos

Location: Donnelly Elementary (Donnelly Elementary)

--Donnelly Elem - Spring Photo Day (all students)

Location: Donnelly Elementary (Donnelly Elementary)

### Thursday, March 6, 2025

--Donnelly Elem PTA Meeting 4:00 PM

Location: Francis P. Donnelly Elementary (Donnelly Elementary)

### Saturday, March 8, 2025

--SAT (Digital Test)

Location: Susquehanna Valley High School

# Town of Binghamton- SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR MARCH 2025

By Town of Binghamton and TOB Seniors

## March 2025 Activities

All activities are held at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, located at 279 Park Ave.

Please make all RSVPs to (607) 772-0357 x301.

--Tues., March 4 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for Pie and Coffee! RSVP by Mon., March 3 or the event will be cancelled. Please advise of any dietary restrictions.

--Tues., March 11 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Book Club will meet and we'll discuss "While I Was Gone" by Sue Miller. The book selections for upcoming months will be chosen at the March meeting. The Book Club continues to thrive and will continue to meet regularly on the second Tuesday of every month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. You're welcome to come even if you haven't read the book slated for the meeting. The Book Club (as a group) chooses the books to be featured each month. If you'd like to recommend a book, please bring it with you to the next meeting and join the club!

--Thurs., March 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Individualized Needlework Refresher (Crafts) REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED! Come for help refreshing a needlework skill, or pick up a knitting, crochet, embroidery, or cross stitch project you need help starting (or re-starting) so you can join the Stitchers Group with confidence. Minimum of three people must RSVP by Fri., March 7 or this event will be cancelled. Max of five people. Please indicate what project you will bring & what help you need.

--Tues., March 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Build a Bluebird House & Learn About Bluebirds! (Crafts/Learn Something New/Nature) REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED! Join us as we put together precut bluebird houses (we'll supply the materials). We'll have a speaker give a talk about the endangered Eastern Bluebird of this area, how to set up a nest box properly, how to care for them year after year, and will include pictures and resources regarding nesting and raising young here in the

Binghamton area. RSVP by Mon., March 17 or this event will be cancelled.

--Tues., March 25 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We'd like to form a Stitcher's Group! (Crafts) REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED! This group would come together to work on hands-on projects such as hand quilting, knitting, crochet, and fiber arts. Come out and connect with others! This is not a class but an opportunity to engage with others. If you have other handcrafts you like to work on, please feel free to bring them along. RSVP by the 18th of each month or this event will be cancelled. Deadline for March is Tues., March 18.

## COMING UP IN APRIL

Let us know by calling the RSVP number if you are interested in learning how to make Pyshanky (Ukrainian geometric wax-relief dyed eggs) for the Spring/Easter holidays. (Crafts/Other Cultures/Learn Something New) This will be scheduled in early April.

## *Broome County Dog Shelter: Volunteers needed!*

Due to staff shortages at the moment we are looking for new volunteers for dog walking, cleaning and laundry! If you have applied we are working on setting up an



orientation very soon! If you're interested in applying you can come in and fill out some paperwork or get the application from our website!



## The Country Courier

### NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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

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*The Country Courier*

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YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME

Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com



# The Snowy Pehnemon Of A Purple Sky

A purple sky during snowfall is usually a result of a combination of factors, primarily the scattering of sunlight by snow crystals, which can sometimes reflect more blue and violet wavelengths, creating a purplish hue, especially when mixed with the remaining colors of the sunset or when viewed at a low angle to the horizon; this phenomenon is most visible when the snow is falling against a darker background like clouds or during twilight hours.

## Key points to remember:

### Light scattering:

When sunlight hits snow crystals, it gets scattered in different directions, with shorter wavelengths like blue and violet being scattered more readily.

### Low angle sunlight:

During sunrise or sunset, the sunlight travels through a thicker layer of atmosphere, enhancing the scattering of certain wavelengths, which can contribute to a purple appearance.

### Cloud interaction:

If there are clouds present alongside the snowfall, the way light interacts with the snow crystals and the clouds can further influence the perceived color.

## Kirkwood Senior Group

Blanche Birtch, President Jeannie Ditch, Vice-President  
Linda Yonchuk, Secretary Linda Buffle, Treasurer  
Jeannie Ditch & June Fedish, Trip Coordinator  
Mary Bach, Sunshine Committee

Meetings: Noon, First Wednesday of month, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted.

Overview: The Group is a way for Senior Citizens to have social interactions within the community, as well as be involved in the community and its' events. The group has scheduled programs for many meetings, bus trips, and other activities. Any Senior Citizen is welcomed to become a member (including Senior Citizens from surrounding towns.) Dues are \$15.00 per year and paid to participate in trips and special events.

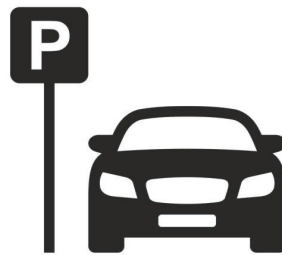
### Activities:

Meetings: Monthly-Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish or dessert: coffee, tea, and water is provided. The meeting takes place after lunch.

October, November, and December meetings are catered with a fee charged (\$10.00 - \$15.00, depending on the meal.)

### Upcoming Events:

## TOB Winter Parking Ordinance



"No person shall park a vehicle on either side of any town or county highway within the Town of Binghamton between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. on each day from December 1 to the following April 1, inclusive.

No owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall park the same unattended on any town street or highway within the Town of Binghamton following any snowfall of two inches or more until said street or highway shall have been plowed by or at the direction of the Highway Department of the Town of Binghamton. Any two-inch snowfall shall, for the purposes of this section, constitute a snow emergency. Failure by the operator of a motor vehicle to obey any of the signs erected pursuant to these provisions shall be construed as a violation and punishable upon conviction by a fine."

**First offense: \$25 Second offense: \$50**

(Citation issued to registrant of the vehicle in violation.) Please abide by this ordinance. It is very difficult for the large snowplows to navigate down narrow streets when cars are parked along the roadways.

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARK TERRACE RESIDENTS: THERE IS NO PARKING ANYTIME ON STREETS LOCATED IN BOTH UPPER AND LOWER PARK TERRACE AREAS. TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED TO VIOLATORS**

## RABIES CLINIC @ BC HUMANE SOCIETY: 3/18/25 – 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Broome County Humane Society continues to host free, monthly vaccine clinics for dogs and cats in our community in need of updated Rabies and Distemper shots. Here is a list of upcoming dates (dates are subject to change):

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

These clinics are held at the Broome County Humane Society located at 167 Conklin Ave in Binghamton from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A \$10 donation is requested, but not required for each vaccination given.

Pets need to be at least three months old and restrained.

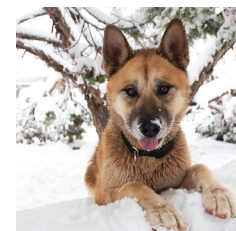
Bring previous rabies vaccination certificate (if applicable)

First come, first served.

A \$5 donation per pet is suggested but not required. For additional information, visit the Broome County Humane Society website.

## Free Vaccines for Dogs and Cats

We will be hosting a free, monthly Vaccine Clinic for dogs and cats in need of updated Rabies and Distemper vaccines in our community on the following dates (\*dates are subject to change):



All clinics will be held at The Broome County Humane Society located at 167 Conklin Ave in Binghamton from 5:30pm-7:00pm. A \$10 cash donation is requested, but not required for each vaccination given.

**SOUTHERN TIER WOMEN'S VETERAN GROUP**

Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier has formed a group for women veterans to connect with each other.

**Regular meetings will be every third Monday of the month**

Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Office  
114 Clayton Ave  
Vestal, NY 13850

## We Rock the Southern Tier



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# SVHS Peer Leaders Teach Valuable Lessons To The Fifth Graders!

Photos + Article By Susquehanna Valley School District

Kudos to the young role models at SV High School who are taking the time to meet with fifth graders at Brookside and Donnelly Elementary Schools as Peer Leaders! Their goals are to educate the younger students, and to remind them to be kind.

At the end of January, they taught the fifth-grade classes 10 ways to say “no” when confronted with peer pressure to engage in negative behavior. On their second visit, we caught up with two groups who visited Brookside fifth graders on February 20. They reminded students of the lessons they learned last time and talked about the dangers of vaping and drug or alcohol use.

“It gives them early information about how drugs and alcohol are harmful to our bodies, and how we should always respect our bodies,” said Julie LaMantia about the importance to her of being a Peer Leader.

Their next visit is planned for mid-March.



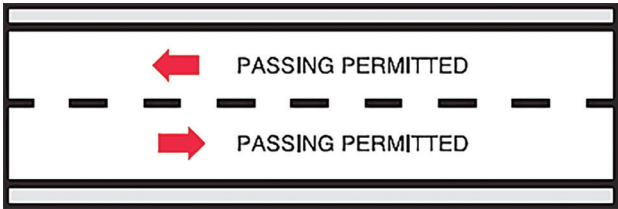


# TRAFFIC SAFETY- PASSING

When driving in New York State, it's essential to exercise caution and follow proper passing techniques to ensure the safety of yourself and others on the road. According to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, drivers should always check their mirrors and blind spots before passing, and make sure it's safe to do so. When passing, drivers should signal their intention to pass by using their turn signal and then move into the passing lane. It's crucial to maintain a safe speed and distance from the vehicle being passed, and to avoid cutting off other drivers. Additionally, drivers should be aware of potential hazards such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and road debris, and adjust their passing techniques accordingly. By following these guidelines, drivers can help prevent accidents and ensure a safe and smooth flow of traffic.

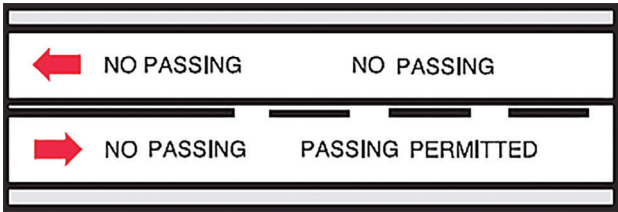
**One broken line:**

You can pass other vehicles or change lanes if you can do so safely without interfering with traffic.



**Solid line with broken line:**

If you are on the side with the solid line, you cannot pass other vehicles or go across the line except to make a left turn into a driveway. If you are on the side with the broken line, you can pass if it is safe to and you will not interfere with traffic.



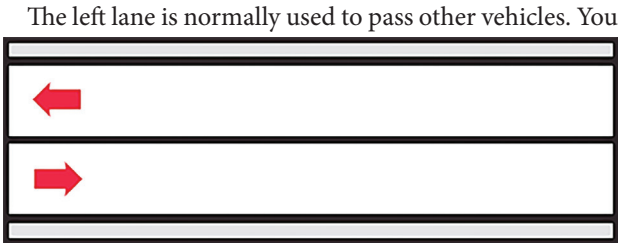
**Double solid lines:**

You can not pass or change lanes. You cannot go across the lines except to turn left to enter or leave the highway (e.g., to or from a driveway or to do a U-turn see Chapter 5).



**One solid line:**

You can pass other vehicles or change lanes, but you can only do so when obstructions in the road or traffic conditions make it necessary.



cannot pass a vehicle on the left if:  
Your lane has a solid yellow center line.  
You cannot safely return to the right lane before you reach a solid yellow center line for the right lane.  
You cannot safely return to the right lane before any oncoming vehicle comes within 200 feet (60 m) of you.  
You approach a curve or the top of a hill on a two-way

road and cannot see around or over it.  
You are within 100 feet (30 m) of a railroad crossing on a two-way roadway.  
You are within 100 feet (30 m) of a bridge, tunnel or viaduct on a two-way road and your view is obstructed.  
If you try to pass, you will interfere with oncoming traffic.

**Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1122  
Overtaking a vehicle on the left**

The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to those limitations, exceptions, and special rules herein-after stated:

- (a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.
- (b) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle

**Vehicle & Traffic Law  
Section 1124**

**Limitations on  
overtaking on the left**

No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless authorized by the provisions of this chapter and unless such left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle overtaken. In every event the overtaking vehicle must return to an authorized lane of travel as soon as practicable and in the event the passing movement involves the use of a lane authorized for vehicles approaching from the opposite direction, before coming within two hundred feet of any approaching vehicle.

**Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1125  
Further limitations on driving to left of  
center of roadway**

- (a) No vehicle shall at any time be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:
  1. When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within such distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction;
  2. When approaching within one hundred feet of or traversing any railroad grade crossing;
  3. When the view is obstructed upon approaching within one hundred feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.
- (b) The foregoing limitations shall not apply upon a one-way roadway nor to a vehicle in any lane which is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is marked to give notice of such allocation.

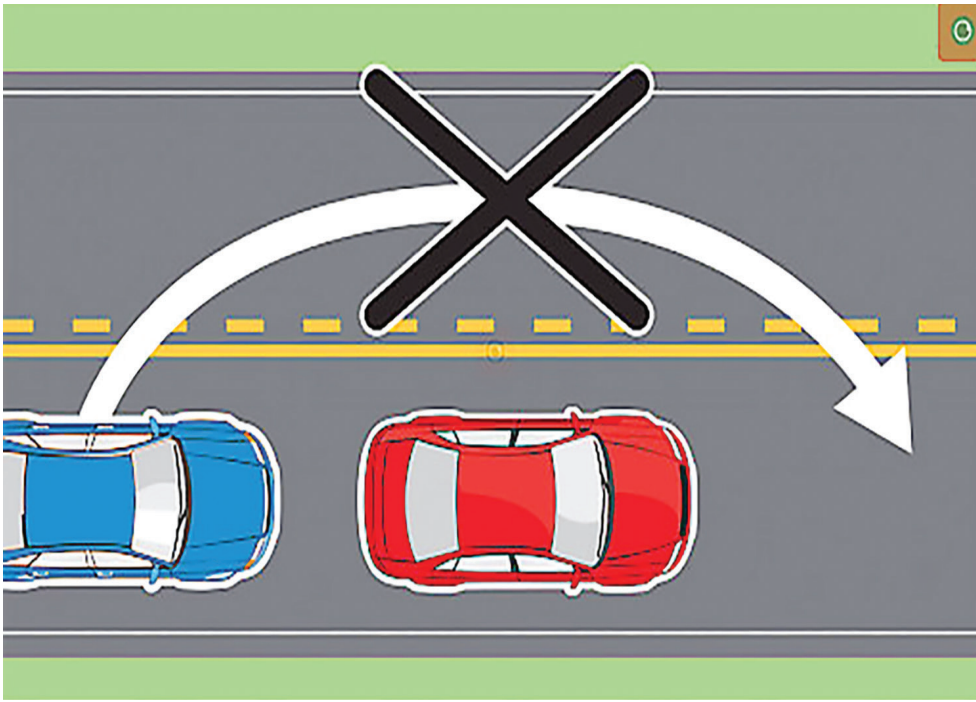
**Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1126  
No-passing zones**

(a) When official markings are in place indicating those portions of any highway where overtaking and passing or driving to the left of such markings would be especially hazardous, no driver of a vehicle proceeding along such highway shall at any time drive on the left side of such markings.

(b) The foregoing limitations shall not apply to the driver of a vehicle turning left while entering or leaving such highway.

(c) Where a two-way left turn lane or a paved and clearly traversable dividing section separates the travel lanes for traffic proceeding in opposite directions, the foregoing limitation shall not apply to the driver of a vehicle traveling within such lane or section for such distance as is required for safety in preparing to turn left leaving such highway or in completing a left turn entering such highway.


Sourced via CRIMEWATCH\*: <https://crimewatch.net/us/ny/broome/vestal-pd/245804/post/traffic-safety-passing>




## Morning Muster

with Jason

Thursdays 9am-Noon



Morning Muster is for those looking to learn more about Vet Center services, have question on where to get help or just want to chat. Drop in to the rear entrance (Lobby) of the Binghamton Vet Center anytime between 9am and Noon on Thursdays.



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# Newspaper Edited TOWN OF KIRKWOOD TOWN BOARD MEETING February 4, 2025

## (Continued from Last Week)

Historian Update.  
Karen Ferguson notified the Board that she has started the process of another historical marker in conjunction with the Sons of the American Revolution. It will be a Patriot Burial Marker for the Riverside Cemetery where there are at least two Revolutionary War soldiers buried, one of which is John Conklin. Karen also informed the Board that she has been asked to be a guest speaker in the next few weeks for the Daughters of the American Revolution.

OLD BUSINESS:  
Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution, on recommendation and approval of the Code Enforcement Officer, pursuant to section 304.3 of the Mobile Home – Trailer Ordinance, authorizing the Town Clerk to issue license for the following mobile home- trailer parks, such license will be for the year 2025:  
Kirkwood Parksites, LLC, 1794 US Route 11, Kirkwood, NY 13795  
Owner: Christina DiPierro  
Councilmember Wasson seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for Julie Wyatt, Budget Officer, for the year 2025, in accordance with the attached Recertification. Councilmember Legg seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk, for the term of office of 2025-2028, in accordance with the attached Recertification. Councilmember Latini seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for Kelley Diffendorf, Registrar of Vital Statistics, for the term of office of 2025-2028, in accordance with the attached Recertification. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for February 25, 2025 at 6 PM regarding A Local Law Amending Article XV, Section 1502.3A.1 of the Zoning Code Regarding Planning Board

Meeting Dates. Councilmember Wasson seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing Chad Moran to attend the Southern Tier Home Builders & Remodelers Association training on February 12, 2025, at the Sidney Fire Department, at a cost not to exceed \$35. Councilmember Legg seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution pursuant to Not-For-Profit Corporation Law Section 1402(c)(3) approving the Membership Roster for Five Mile Point Fire Company, with the understanding that the members so approved will be assigned for which they have been qualified, in accordance with that attached roster. Councilmember Latini seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution appointing Michael Reed as Member Zoning Board of Appeals, effective February 5, 2025, for a term of office to expire December 31, 2027, to fill the unexpired term of Bruce Nemcek. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution appointing Jackie Casciani as Member Board of Assessment Review, for a term to expire September 30, 2025, to fill the unexpired term of Todd Grubham. Councilmember Wasson seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution appointing Joe Casciani as Member Board of Assessment Review, for a term to expire September 30, 2027, to fill the unexpired term of Steve Barkwell. Councilmember Legg seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an agreement between the Town of Kirkwood and the Kirkwood Historical Society, in accordance with the attached agreement. Councilmember Latini seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for February 25, 2025 at 6:03 PM regarding a Local Law Amending the Water Mains Local Law Regarding Penalties for Non-Compliance. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for February 25, 2025 at 6:06 PM regarding a Local Law Establishing a Date for Meeting of the Board of Assessment Review. Councilmember Wasson seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Budget Journal Entries, in accordance with the attached Budget Adjustment Sheet. Councilmember Legg seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution approving the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected Officials for Michael Mucci as Justice of the Peace, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Latini seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution designating April 21-23, 2025 as Municipal Cleanup Days in the Town of Kirkwood, materials accepted are bulk items, white goods, scrap metal, wastes from illegal dump site cleanups, and other wastes as may be collected through the special cleanup day effort, with delivery to the Broome County Landfill on April 24, 2025. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.



# Newspaper Edited TOWN OF KIRKWOOD TOWN BOARD MEETING February 4, 2025 (Continued from Page 6)

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Escrow Agreement for the Stanley Hollow Creek Solar Project, in accordance with the attached agreement. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

Discussion. Mr. McKertich explained the property owners impacted by the view of the solar project can apply to the Town to access the funds (\$6,000 each) from the escrow account. An application must be submitted by a property owner with documentation (specific details can be found in the agreement). The Town's role is to administer the funds to the property owner. It was determined the administrative role of the Town would be handled by the Code department. The Town will receive a \$500 payment per property for the administrative work.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution appointing Linda Parke as Temporary Ad Hoc Member Zoning Board of Appeals, effective February 5, 2025, to be compensated \$40 per meeting attended, upon submission of a voucher to the Town Clerk. Councilmember Legg seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes  
Councilmember Wasson - yes  
Councilmember Legg - yes  
Councilmember Latini - yes  
Supervisor Grubham - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution appointing Jerry McMaster Member Zoning Board of Appeals, effective February 5, 2025, for a term to expire December 31, 2025, to fill the unexpired term of Cynthia French. Councilmember Latini seconded. Discussion. Duane Travis thanked Councilmember Legg for organizing the informational meeting to help recruit members to the Zoning Board and Planning Board.

Roll Call Vote: Mutual Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$7,665.40 from the Park Development Reserve Fund for certain capital improvements at Grange Hall Road Park and Veterans River Park, in accordance with the attached voucher and invoices from E.W. Gorman Electric Contracting, Inc. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mutual Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

## The Hamlet of Riverside

By Karen Ferguson, Town Historian

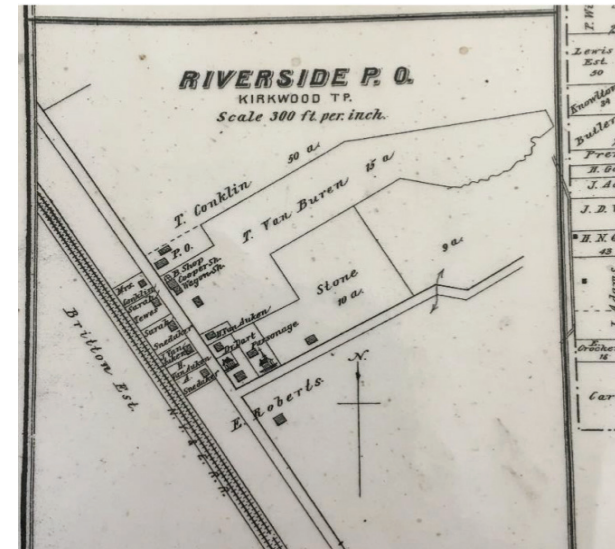
Riverside is located in the southern part of the Town of Kirkwood bordering the Pennsylvania state line and located along the Susquehanna River. Its history is rich in genealogy. Many of the early families that settled in this area did so because Great Bend was in close proximity and was more developed than Binghamton at that time. Amongst the families that settled in this area are two Revolutionary War soldiers named John Conklin and Joseph Thomas. These men both served in the Army under Colonel Jedathan Baldwin and were friends. So much so, that the two settled next door to each other. There are conflicting dates as to when John (a/k/a Judge Conklin) arrived. One source has him settling here in 1810 while other sources say 1817 or 1818. Joseph came to the area in 1817.

John Conklin's property consisted of 300 acres. John did many notable things. Some of them were that he served in the State of Assembly in the years 1807, 1810, 1811, and 1817; he was a chairman of board of supervisors 1810-1817; and a Judge of Sullivan County in 1809. The Town of Conklin was named after him in 1824. He was described as an adventurer and an honest man. He died in 1846, 14 days short of his 90th birthday. While there is little information on Joseph Thomas, his daughter Emily married Joseph Conklin, John's son. The two of them had a son named Thomas Conklin.

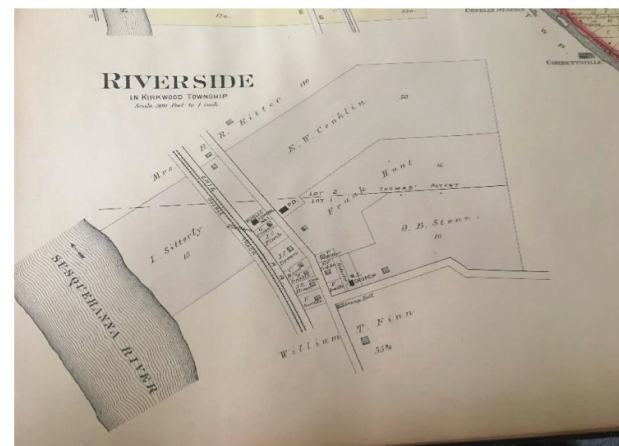
Thomas was born in the Riverside area in 1829. He attended local schools and worked on his family farm. At the age of 21, he married Sarah VanBuren. It was then he decided to open a store that became Riverside's most successful mercantile for 30 years. He also served in various roles in the community, including Town Supervisor and Trustee for School #1 (Riverside School). In 1889, Thomas paid \$50 to have the school moved from its original location at the NE corner of River Road (Hwy 11) and Grange Hall Road to the west side of the highway near the railroad tracks. (See location differences in the 1875 map vs. 1908 map). The school was closed in 1842. It was reopened for a short time from 1950-1952. Eventually the school was sold and remodeled into a bigger house, making the original structure unrecognizable. It was torn down in 2006 due to the flood.

Sarah's father, Tobias VanBuren, was a local wagon maker. He was also the first postmaster for the Riverside post office that opened in 1870. (shown on maps) The post office was closed in 1911. For some time period following the closure, residents in this area ended up with a Great Bend mailing address. One of Thomas's children,

Emma, married John H. Cline, who also became a successful farmer in the Riverside area. The church that most of the families in the area attended was the Methodist Church that was located on what is now known as Grange Hall Road. While the church no longer stands, the parsonage is still there. This church often shared a minister with the Methodist Church in Great Bend and folks attended there also. Many of these early settlers are buried in the Riverside Cemetery, which was originally the Conklin Family cemetery. I am currently working with the Sons of the American Revolution to get a Patriots Burial Marker denoting the Revolutionary War Soldiers John Conklin & Joseph Thomas who are laid to rest there.



1875 Map



1908 Map



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**Special Education Teacher Aides (2) - SV High School**  
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## Legislative Breakfast at Broome-Tioga BOCES

Photos Courtesy of the Susquehanna Valley CSD

SV Seniors Matthew Freije, Meagan Hannigan, and Madelyn Strnatka, were able to attend the Legislative Breakfast at Broome-Tioga BOCES on February 21, 2025. Matthew and Madelyn joined Superintendent Natalie Brubaker and school board members Kelly Howe and Timothy Strnatka as representatives of SV High School's Student Government. Meagan attended with her New Visions Law & Government Academy class.

They heard area educational leaders advocating to political leaders such as Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Senator Lea Webb, and Congressman Josh Riley on behalf of students in their districts. In addition, Meagan and her New Visions classmates received a private audience with Congressman Riley after the breakfast to share their viewpoints.

