



The Country Courier

Your Hometown News for Over 50 Years



Vol. 50, No. 34

NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00

Friday, March 21, 2025

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Sixth-Grade Band Performs at Oakdale Commons!

Photos and Article by SV School District

For 40 years, March has been officially designated as Music in our Schools Month by nafme (National Association for Music Education). However, before that, it originated in New York State in 1973 as a single statewide advocacy day and celebration! At the time, NYS Governor Nelson Rockefeller acknowledged the day with a proclamation that stated: "This observance is designed to bring about a more genuine recognition in New York State of the vital place of music in the educational process." In 1985, it became a month-long celebration of school music. In our area, student music groups from local schools perform at the Oakdale Commons during Music in our Schools Month. Today (March 17), RTS Middle School's Sixth-Grade Band kicked off SV CSD's schedule of appearances with a performance at the Oakdale Commons!



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**Newspaper
Edited Town
Board of the
Town of
Conklin
WORK
SESSION
MARCH 11,
2025**

**Read on Pages
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and Usage Soar During
Frigid Temperatures as
NYSEG & RG&E Rates
Remain Steady

Announcement Section
Obituaries, Legals



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Please be advised
that the Town
Board of the Town
of Conklin will
hold a Regular
Town Board
Meeting at 6:00
P.M. on March 25,
2025, at the Conk-
lin Town Hall, 1271
Conklin Road,
Conklin, New York.



**Annual NYS
Burn Ban
March 16th -
May 14th**





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 Board Meeting
Tuesday, 4/1/25 – 6 PM

Zoning Board Meeting
Monday, 4/21/25 – 7 PM

Town Board Work Session
Tuesday, 4/29/25 – 6 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.

SV School District Calander

Monday, March 24, 2025

--Modified Spring Sports begin
Location: R. T. Stank Middle School

Thursday, March 27, 2025

--SV HS - Music in Our Schools Concert 6:30 PM
Location: Susquehanna Valley HS (Susquehanna
Valley Central School District)

Friday, March 28, 2025

--Brookside Elem - Pasta Fest 6:00 PM
Location: Brookside Elementary (Brookside Elementary)

--Donnelly Elem - PTA Movie Night 5:00 PM

Location: Donnelly Elementary (Donnelly Elementary)

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Donnelly Elem PTA Meeting 4:00 PM
Location: Francis P. Donnelly Elementary (Donnelly Elementary)

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 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.

In the Spotlight

By SV School District



Asher Valentine
SV HS Senior

Congratulations to High School tenth grader Asher Valentine... His photograph "Reflection Bulb" received the highest

honor, a Gold Key award, at the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art Awards in Elmira! As a Gold Key winner, Asher's piece will advance for national judging this Spring.

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:

Town of Kirkwood Municipal Clean Up Days 3/12/2025

By Town of Kirkwood

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD MUNICIPAL CLEAN UP IS
APRIL 21 – 23, 2025

TOWN RESIDENTS CAN DROP OFF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, INCLUDING FURNITURE, WHITE GOODS, (APPLIANCES, DOORS HAVE TO BE REMOVED), MATTRESS, ETC.

THIS IS OPEN TO TOWN OF KIRKWOOD RESIDENTS ONLY, NO BUSINESSES, IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN WILL BE REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION.

NON ACCEPTABLE ITEMS TIRES, TVs, ELECTRONICS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, PAINTS, YARD WASTE, GARBAGE and COMPUTERS.



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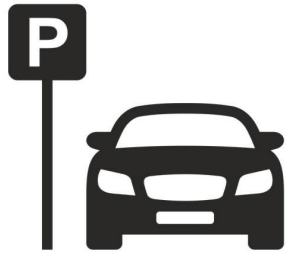
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YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME
Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com

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

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!

BROOME COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY'S

Rummage Sale



SATURDAY~APRIL 5, 2025

8:00AM - 1:00PM

ITEM DROP OFF ON FRIDAY, 4/4

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

Town of Kirkwood 2025 Spring Hydrant Flushing

3/17/2025

By Town of kirkwood

2025 Spring Hydrant Flushing
PLEASE AVOID WATER USAGE DURING THESE HOURS

Evening Hours April 14th - April 17th

9:30 PM - 2:00 AM

April 14th Five Mile Point Area

April 15th Industrial Park, Barlow Rd & Upper Court St

April 16th Highland Heights, Upper Colesville, Corp Dr. & Link Dr.

April 17th Ostrum Rd., S. Sunset, Hayes Ave, Grossett Dr., US RT 11 to Ostrum Rd.

Day Time Hours April 18th -April 25th

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM

April 18th Frito Lay

April 21st Bell School Area, US RT 11 to Johnson Rd. Johnson Rd., Valley Vista Ct.

April 22nd US RT 11 to Trim St. Trim St., Langdon Pk Dr., Zimmer Rd., Maple Dr.

April 23rd US RT South to Main St.

April 24th Main St. & US Rt 11 South

April 25th US Rt 11 South to State Line

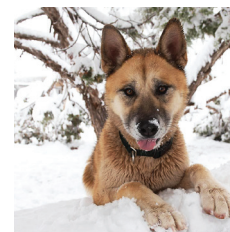


We Want You!.. Upcoming Vacancies

Art Teacher - SV High School
Elementary Teacher - Brookside
Art Teacher - Brookside & Donnelly
Library Clerk - RTS Middle School
Receptionist - SV High School
School Monitor - SV High School
Special Education Teacher Aides (2) - SV High School
Special Education Teacher Aide (1) - Brookside

Find these postings and more on our Employment Opportunities web page

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.

We Rock the Southern Tier



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Conklin **PA:** Birchardville • Lenox
Montrose • New Milford • O'Dell • Wysox

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CRUSHED STONE: NY- #1a, #1, #2, #3, Crusher Run, Screenings, Landscape Red Rock. PA- AASHTO #8, #57, #1, #3, #2A Modified. **RIP RAP / LANDSCAPE BOULDERS:** NY- Fine, Light, Med., Heavy Stone Fill, Stackable Laid Rock. PA- R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8. **SCREENED:** Topsoil, Sand, Mound Sand, Washed Crushed Gravel

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Wearing of the Green!

Photos By SV School District

A final “Happy St. Patrick’s Day!” from Donnelly students, who enjoyed the ‘wearing of the green’ and a visit from dancers from the Carle School of Irish Dance on March 17!



Newspaper Edited Town Board of the Town of Conklin WORK SESSION MARCH 11, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on March 11, 2025, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided.

PRESENT: Town Board Members Finch, Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian
Town Counsel Mark Spinner
Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs
Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes
Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber
Administrative Clerk Mary Plonski
Zoning Board of Appeals Elizabeth Einstein
Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky
GUESTS: Laurie Francisco
Ike Sturgeon
Naomi VanHart
Daniel VanHart

LED LIGHTING/SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will be able to use the existing light fixtures but it is awaiting pricing for the replacement bulbs. He added that it is likely the upgrade will proceed once the pricing for the bulbs has been established.

1298 CONKLIN ROAD/CROSS

Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Cross has a deadline of March 31 in which to make significant progress on cleaning up his property at 1298 Conklin Road, adding that Code Officer Nick Pappas will be checking in with Mr. Cross next week to make sure he knows what is expected of him.

TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes stated that the Highway Department will be able to use the Town paver to re-pave the Town Hall parking lot this year.

SOLAR ENERGY PARTNERS/930 CONKLIN ROAD

Mr. Dumian explained that the area surrounding the wellhead, located in the area of 930 Conklin Road, is divided into Zones 1, 2, and 3, which are different distances from the wells. He stated that he had a meeting with Solar Energy Partners, the company that owns 930 Conklin Road, to discuss the construction of a solar energy facility on that property. He stated that the company has “done its homework,” and provided examples of sites where there are solar facilities near water facilities, with no adverse effects. Mr. Dumian stated that the closest site to us is in Cohoes, New York, but he has seen pictures of solar panels floating on one of the reservoirs that supplies drinking water to New York City. Mr. Dumian stated that Solar Energy Partners wants to establish a facility of 2.7 to 2.8 megawatts and will make the facility “visually pleasing.” He stated that he believes the Town will see an application and renderings at some point from Solar Energy Partners. Mr. Dumian reiterated that it is “their right to build on their property.” Town Attorney Mark Spinner explained that the Board will need to conduct a SE-

QRA review, especially with concerns about the wellhead, and complete Part 2 of the EAF (Environmental Assessment Form). If the Board determines that there should be a Positive Declaration, meaning there would be significant environmental impact, then Solar Energy Partners would be required to provide an Environmental Impact Statement. If the Board determines it will be a Negative Declaration, with minimal environmental impact, the Town Board would review the site plan and make a decision whether or not to approve the permit for the proposed facility. If the Board refuses to issue the permit, Solar Energy Partners would have the option to file an Article 78 complaint citing “arbitrary and capricious” decision-making, and the case would be sent to a judge for determination.

Mr. Finch asked if the Town can drill a new well on that site and Mr. Dumian stated that the Town does not own the land in question and would only be able to obtain it through eminent domain.

Mr. Dumian read from Chapter 135 of the Town Code, “Wellhead Protection.” It identifies Zone 1 as being a 100-foot radius from the wellhead; Zone 2 as being a 300-foot radius; and Zone 3 as being a 2500-foot radius, and lists the prohibitions in each zone. The Code provides a list of prohibitions for these zones, which include cemeteries, chloride salt storage, herbicides and pesticides, human waste and sewage, radioactive material, sewage sludge, solid waste (junkyards or recycling), toxic chemicals, trespassing, and underground injection wells. The Code also provides requirements for special use permits or zoning variances within the area of the wellhead. Mr. Spinner stated that the information from the newly passed Solar Energy Law dovetails with the requirements of the Wellhead Protection chapter. Mr. Dumian reiterated that he believes the Board will see an application and renderings soon, adding that the company is amenable to the Town creating soccer or other sports fields on the areas of the property that they cannot use for solar panels because that part is in the floodway. Mr. Farley asked if the company read the Town Law and Mr. Dumian replied that the research would be their responsibility. Mr. Dumian stressed that the Town needs to pursue the water connection with the City of Binghamton as an additional water source for the Town. Mr. Francisco asked about the possibility of flooding in the proposed solar facility area. Mr. Dumian stated that the units can be raised so they would not be flooded. Mr. Francisco asked if the fence around the facility would act as a dam if it floods and Mr. Dumian stated that Solar Energy Partners would work with the Town to make sure they are in compliance. Mr. Boyle suggested that the Town Landfill be offered as an alternative site to 930 Conklin Road and Mr. Dumian stated that several solar companies have shown interest in the Landfill.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr. Dumian stated that he will meet with a representative from Meals on Wheels, who would like to expand its Binghamton site to the Community Center. He stated that the old Town Hall

(“Castle”) could be used if needed. Mr. Dumian stated that the Meals on Wheels program will need more storage space if it expands at the Community Center. He stated that the representative has suggested installing a storage shed, but added that he is “not a fan” of that idea. Mr. Dumian stated that he will get more information for the Board regarding the proposed expansion.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MARCH 11, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on March 11, 2025, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Town Board Members Finch, Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian
Town Counsel Mark Spinner
Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs
Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes
Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber
Administrative Clerk Mary Plonski
Zoning Board of Appeals Elizabeth Einstein
Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky
GUESTS: Laurie Francisco
Ike Sturgeon
Naomi VanHart
Daniel VanHart

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 25, 2025 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the February 25, 2025 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 930 CONKLIN ROAD

William Brodsky of the Zoning Board of Appeals asked if the proposed solar facility would be in the floodway. Mr. Dumian stated that nothing can be built in the floodway, which includes the area of the property closest to Conklin Road and the Susquehanna River, so the company would be utilizing the back part of the property, which is in the floodplain but not in the floodway.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian reiterated that he has received correspondence from Solar Energy Partners, which he discussed during the Work Session. He has also received complaints from a Woodside Avenue neighborhood dispute, in which he advised those involved that the Dog Control Officer will be called if dogs are allowed to run at large, in violation of the Town’s leash laws.

REPORT: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Continued on Page 6

Newspaper Edited Town Board of the Town of Conklin WORK SESSION MARCH 11, 2025

(Continued from Page 5)

Mr. Hayes reported that his crew has been brooming the roads and cleaning up debris and branches. They have also been cold patching roads and they repaired a crossover pipe on Stillwater Road. Mr. Hayes stated that he has received two quotes to clean the oil and water separator, which is required by New York State.

REPORT: CODE OFFICE

Mr. Dumian stated that Abundant Solar Power will start clearing the property on Hardie Road where they will install their new solar facility. He added that all of the required permits, from the DEC and Army Corps of Engineers and the SWPPP (Storm-Water Pollution Prevention Plan), are in place and the Town is waiting for Broome County to finalize the PILOT and Host Community Agreements.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian reported that the Parks/Water/Sewer Department is building the second batting cage at Schnurbusch Park near the Little League field, adding that the fields are in “great shape.” He stated that the department has also been busy replacing water meters.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE

The Supervisor’s Report is on file in the office of the Town Clerk..

OLD BUSINESS:

LED LIGHTING AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Mr. Dumian reiterated that the Town is waiting for pricing on replacement bulbs before this project can move forward.

1298 CONKLIN ROAD/CROSS

Mr. Dumian reiterated that Mr. Cross has a deadline of March 31 to make significant progress on the cleanup of his property at 1298 Conklin Road and that Mr. Pappas will meet with Mr. Cross next week to confirm the Town’s expectations.

COURT GRANT FUNDING

Mr. Dumian stated that the grant applied for by the Town Court has been approved and upgrades to the Court should be completed this year.

DELAWARE RIVER SOLAR

Mr. Dumian stated that he had a meeting with representatives from Delaware River Solar and they will be moving forward with their proposed solar facility on Fallbrook Road, the question being whether it will be a 5 or 8 megawatt facility. Delaware River Solar has suggested it would seek to have two Tax Map Numbers for the property in question, and Town Assessor Joseph Cook has agreed to come to a meeting to talk to the Board about this process. Mr. Dumian stated that he expects the Board to receive an application very soon.

DOG PARK

Mr. Dumian stated that there have been multiple incidents at the Dog Park in recent days, adding that this is a “concerning liability” for the Town. He asked if there are different people or more dogs that are creating problems. Mr. Farley, who utilizes the Dog Park daily, stated that the same people are coming to the park in the morning, but new people are using the park later in the day. Mr. Dumian stated, “If this continues, we will need to have a different conversation” about the Dog Park. The Dog Park is officially closed from November 1 through April 1 and this is posted on the sign at the Dog Park. Mr. Dumian stated that this is costing the Town money and raising safety issues. Mr. Finch commented that it is “such a nice park that it is drawing newcomers.”

NEW BUSINESS:

BROOME COUNTY GRANT/CONKLIN CEMETERY

Mr. Spinner stated that Broome County has \$600,000 in grant money to disperse and suggested that the Town apply for the Community Grant, noting that applications requesting between \$10,000 and \$30,000 are more likely to succeed, as are grants in which the municipality puts some money into the project. Mr. Dumian stated that the roads to be installed in the Conklin Cemetery would qualify and the grant, if received, would offset the costs. He stated that Broome County Legislator Kelly Wildoner has offered his assistance. Mr. Spinner stated that the deadline for the grant application is April 9, 2025. Mr. Dumian stated that he needs the numbers for the cost of the roads in order to move forward.

MEALS ON WHEELS

As discussed in the Work Session, Meals on Wheels is seeking to expand its program at the Community Center site. Mr. Dumian is gathering information regarding this possibility, adding that it is “a good service for people.”

RESO 2025-72: APPROVE 2025 ANNUAL PARK PERMITS

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the 2025 Annual Park Permits for the following Mobile Home Parks located in the Town of Conklin:

Blue Ridge Park, LLC (Blue Ridge Mobile Home Park)

Pride Park Holdings, LLC (Pride Manor Mobile Home Park)

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2025-73: AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK/ATTEND NYSTCA CONFERENCE

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs to attend the annual New York State Town Clerks Association Conference from April 27 through 30, 2025, in Syracuse, New York, at at cost of \$185.00 registration fee, plus all necessary travel and lodging expenses, account code A1410.4.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2025-74: AUTHORIZE DOG CONTROL OFFICER/ATTEND EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes Dog Control Officer Rick Murray to attend the 2025 Dog Control Officer Educational Seminar in Webster, New York, on May 14 and 15, 2025, at a cost of \$160.00 registration fee, plus all necessary travel and lodging expenses.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2025-75: ACCEPT JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the Justice Court Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$15,250.00 to revamp the existing courtroom.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2025-76: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/POSTAGE METER REFILL

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$800.00 to Pitney Bowes for postage meter refill.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

RESO 2025-77: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #25-00190 - #25-00244/\$38,523.97

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Claims #25-00190 through #25-00244, which have been audited and approved for

Continued on Page 7

Newspaper Edited Town Board of the Town of Conklin

WORK SESSION MARCH 11, 2025 (Continued from Page 6)

payment, in the total amount of \$38,523.97:

General \$ 20,577.09

Highway 5,499.10

Light Districts 1,781.21

Sewer District 2,187.53

Water District 5,514.04

Non-Budgeted 2,965.00

Total \$ 38,523.97

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2025-78: AUTHORIZE MODIFICATION OF 2024 BUDGET

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes modification of the following From and To lines of the 2024 Budget.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPRECIATION FOR SWEEPING OF BACK ROADS

Mr. Boyle expressed his appreciation for the Highway Department's recent sweeping of the back roads, adding that they are less dusty now.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that the Youth Wrestlers competed at the New York State Tournament and brought home two championship titles, two second place, one third place, one fifth place, one sixth place, plus nine other wrestlers. He stated that the Conklin club came in 21st out of 197 clubs.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Mr. Farley stated that someone was walking through his neighborhood asking to see residents' electric bill to "see if they were qualified to use solar power," adding that it seemed very suspicious and likely a scam.

2026 BASKETBALL SEASON

Mr. Dumian stated that the 2026 Basketball season will see a change from the Bulldogs, adding that they are more advanced than a recreational league.

GRANT FOR THE POOL

Mr. Francisco stated that he called Senator Oberacker and there are no grants available for pool renovations since the State program was not extended to 2025. He stated he is doing more research. Mr. Boyle reasserted his idea that the pool

should be decommissioned and filled in, and replaced with a pickleball court. Mr. Dumian commented that the Town needs to paint the lines for the pickleball court on Julius Rogers Park.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Finch moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Farley.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs

Town Clerk

Energy Supply Rates and Usage Soar During Frigid Temperatures as NYSEG & RG&E Rates Remain Steady

By NYSEG

Companies remind customers of the high cost of supply rates set by energy generators, not NYSEG and RG&E, and increase in energy usage are severely impacting high bills this Winter

Customers are urged to take part in a variety of assistance programs to prevent service disconnections

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — February 25, 2025 — New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) today are reminding customers on the true drivers of high bills this winter season that include soaring supply rates caused by energy generating companies along with increased household usage. NYSEG and RG&E are urging customers to take advantage of a variety of assistance programs to avoid falling behind on bills and disconnections.

NYSEG and RG&E are responsible for delivering gas and electricity to customers and issuing bills that include the cost of delivery and supply. The Companies are only responsible for the cost associated with the delivery of energy to customers that is noted in every bill, which has not increased this winter.

The supply costs of gas and electricity is a price that energy generating companies have set and is a pass-through cost that NYSEG & RG&E have no control over or profit from but must collect on the customer bill.

This drastic increase in supply costs combined with households using more energy to heat their homes to the same temperature during periods of prolonged winter weather, result in a higher customer bills. During colder months, heating systems have to work harder and run longer to maintain the indoor temperature, which increases usage.

"Having unpaid bills is stressful, but we want to make sure that customers are aware of the true driver of these high bills while also offering financial help for qualifying individuals," said Christine Alexander, vice president of Customer Service at NYSEG and RG&E. "We urge customers to contact us about assistance programs and budget billing, sooner rather than

SV HS Senior wins Emerging Artists Award

By SV School District

Senior Grey Milligan took home one of only six awards at the 2025 Emerging Artist Competition for High School students. On Friday, March 7, Grey's ceramic teapot, titled "Hindrance of the Skin Basket," received the award for "Excellence in Composition!"

Each year, the Broome County Arts Council invites area art teachers to submit up to 12 pieces of exemplary artwork to be adjudicated by art professionals working in the community. This year, 100 artworks from nine area high schools were selected and will be displayed at the Artisan Gallery in Binghamton for the month of March. Awards were granted in five categories and for Best in Show. All pieces were scored individually, with the highest scores receiving awards.

Congratulations to our other talented SV High School artists who had their work selected for this exhibition - Riley Masters, Madelyn Fabrizi-Shover, Madelyn Strnatka, Vincenz DiFulvio, Rylan Everson, Amethyst Albert, and Jolene Pleus.

later."

NYSEG and RG&E offer many services designed to meet the variety of customers' needs, including the Companies' Energy Assistance Program. Customers who qualify for the Energy Assistance Program could receive a monthly credit on their bill. It may also benefit customers to take advantage of Budget Billing, which divides yearly bills into 12 equal payments, spreading those higher winter usage totals across the months.

• NYSEG: visit nyseg.com/HelpWithBill or call 888.315.1755

• RG&E: visit rge.com/HelpWithBill or call 877.266.3492

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federal grant program that helps eligible households pay for energy costs, repairs and weatherization. Income eligible customers may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season. In addition to regular HEAP, the household may also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits. The number of emergency benefits varies per season depending on the availability of funds. For more information or to apply for a HEAP grant, visit: <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>.

Customers in arrears are provided multiple communications in advance of a disconnection. These contacts will include a bill, a reminder notice or a phone call, a termination notice with an additional payment period, an additional call, and then an in-person field visit to the residence to collect or shut off service. These measures are required by the New York State Public Service Commission and are intended to provide customers significant advance warning before any disconnection is performed.

NYSEG and RG&E make deferred payment agreements and other assistance available for eligible customers. The Companies can help with payment plans for eligible customers, which are available online or by calling Customer Service. The Companies have many services designed to meet a variety of needs for customers

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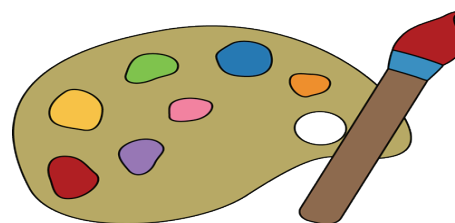


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Mural by SV Students!

Pictures and Article by SV School District



Seniors Maryis Karns and Maddie Fabrizi-Shover have created a stunning new mural to enhance the recently renovated training hallway at Lowe's Home Improvement in Vestal. Lowe's aimed to refresh their space with artwork that reflects local school districts, and SV was the first school chosen to share their school spirit with the community!

