

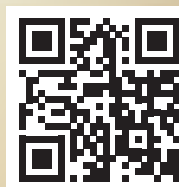


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Vol. 39 No. 12
December 2025

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Utica Dance Presents the Nutcracker at MVCC

Utica Dance, Inc. presents the fully-staged production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker on Friday, December 12 at 6:30pm and Saturday, December 13 at 12:00pm and 4:30pm in the MVCC Schafer Theater. Tickets can be purchased online at MVCC.edu/tickets.

Bringing the family-friendly, colorful and fast-paced Utica Dance Nutcracker to life is a cast of sixty talented dancers from NYC, Utica Dance Company, directed by Nancy Long, and student dancers from Dancenter of Utica. This classic tale follows the adventures of Clara, portrayed alternately by Aria Lark (New Hartford), Sofia Malempati (New Hartford), and Karina Parkhomchuk (West Canada Valley) and her mischievous brother Fritz, danced alternately by Kendra Pion (Utica) and Lila Burgdoff (Whitesboro). Alumni Aubrey Campbell and Anthony Graham share the role of the beloved, yet mysterious, family friend, Drosselmeier, who presents Clara with the odd and magical Nutcracker Doll. Clara falls asleep after the family gathering with the Nutcracker Doll nestled in her arms. In her dreams, Clara envisions her home changing before her eyes: the Christmas tree grows and an army of mice and soldiers engage in a battle. The victorious Nutcracker is transformed into a prince danced by Ewan Leising (Clinton). Clara rides the sleigh through a whirling scene of dancing Snowflakes lead by Utica Dance alumna, Isla Zammiello as the Snow Queen with her partner, guest artist Austin Shaffer. Clara's adventures continue to the Land of the Sweets. Dancing the role of Sugar Plum Fairy is guest artist Maissee Anderson, and her Cavalier, Tanner Schwartz. Class of 2026 seniors Evelyn Campbell, Miriam Grove, and Eva Putrello are featured in the Arabian, Spanish, Mirliton, Snow Scene and Flower Waltz.

Utica Dance, celebrating 52 years, originally a program of MWPAI, takes pride in offering quality productions for the benefit of the community. Nancy Long, Director of Utica Dance, notes, "As winter descends on central New York, we are warmed by the thoughts of offering our magical Nutcracker Ballet—we welcome the snow outside and the swirling snow inside the theater."

Tickets are \$20 can be purchased at www.mvcc.edu/tickets. For additional questions, please contact: nancy@uticadance.com



New Hartford Police Department October 2025 Activity

1136 Incidents / Calls for Police Service

52 Arrests

384 Vehicle Stops

64 Motor Vehicle Collisions Investigated

373 Vehicle and Traffic Law Tickets Issued

515 Supplemental Neighborhood patrols

10 Community Policing Details Completed

GE SKi Club

The GE SKi Club will hold their next meeting on December 16th at the New Hartford VFW at 7pm.

We are more than just a ski club!

Members enjoy downhill, cross-country skiing and snowboarding. The club offers great rates on ski week, weekend, and day trips and a lesson program for the never-ever to expert skier. During the summer months bicycling, camping, canoeing, kayaking, golfing, volleyball, roller blading, hiking and wine tasting are offered. We also have many parties and events year-round. Membership is open to the general public. More information can be found on geskiclub.wildapricot.org

THE TOWN CRIER, PO Box 876, New Hartford, NY 13413, is an independent newspaper printed and mailed the first week of the month to residents of New Hartford. All photos and materials used by this paper are subject to editing, are the sole property of its editors and **may not be reproduced without permission**. We reserve the right to reject any articles or advertising not in keeping with the purpose of the paper. We are not responsible for claims made in any advertisement. The cost of publication is paid by our sponsors and subscriptions.

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happy holidays



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**Fireworks and Family Fun
The Annual Downtown
New Year's Eve Celebration
is Coming!**

Bank of Utica, in partnership with the City of Utica and its Public Safety Departments, is happy to invite the community to celebrate the start of 2026 at the sixth annual Bank of Utica New Year's Eve event happening in the heart of downtown Utica. This free event features live music and street entertainment, food and beverage deals, and family-friendly fun for everyone.

Bank of Utica New Year's Eve takes place on Wednesday, December 31, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. This year's celebration again features live music, a magic show, roaming street performers, aerial and acrobatic acts in the Bank of Utica windows, big yard games, and a deejay so the party never stops.

Cast your vote for who brings the heat in the UPD/UFD/DPW Chili Cook-Off, join in for the kids' countdown at 9 p.m., watch the ice-carving demonstrations, take your photo on the ice throne, and enjoy beverages from Saranac Brewery and Utica Coffee.

Keep toasty warm throughout the night by the bonfire as anticipation builds for the Bank of Utica tower countdown to midnight. And don't miss the oohs and aahs of the dazzling fireworks display when the clock strikes 12.

"If families are looking for something that's a little bit different to ring in the New Year, wrap up warm, and come join us for a colorful and joyful celebration that's sure to be a fun night out for everyone," said Barry Sinnott, senior vice president of Bank of Utica. "There's something powerful about starting a new year surrounded by your community."

Mayor Michael Galime stated, "I can't wait to ring in another year on Genny at the Bank of Utica New Year's Eve Celebration. We collaborate on this event each year, exemplifying exactly what we can do as a community together. Here's to 2026."

Where: Genesee Street, between Bank Place and Devereux Street

When: Wednesday, December 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Who: Hosted by Bank of Utica Senior Vice President Barry Sinnott, Utica Mayor Michael Galime, and Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kari Puleo

Entertainment: Music by Grit 'n' Grace and Soul Mine, plus magician and entertainer Wade Live!

Food/Drink Specials: F.X. Matt Brewing Company, Utica Coffee Roasting Company, Delta by Marriott, Griffin's Pub, Môtus, Irwin's Fine Food, and more!

Visit www.bankofutica.com for the full event schedule, link to order event merchandise, and parking details.

About Bank of Utica

Founded and headquartered in downtown Utica since 1927, Bank of Utica is the largest commercial bank in the Greater Utica/Oneida County area in terms of deposits, offering a multitude of deposit and loan products for commercial and personal customers.



**Registration Open for Spring
Community Arts Classes at Munson**

Awaken your imagination this spring with a Community Arts class at Munson. Classes begin in January, and registration is now available at munson.art/community-arts.

A variety of classes are available for all ages and levels, including drawing, painting, jewelry-making, screen printing, and sewing, and there are plenty of new classes to expand your creativity, including Nuno Felted Shawls, The Art of Creating Useful Woodwork, and Sit 'N Knit. Classes also vary from one-day workshops to mini-courses to semester-long courses. All classes take place in state-of-the-art studios on the Munson and Pratt Munson College of Art and Design campus.

New class offering this spring: Join master craftsman Joe Koronowski and fellow makers in The Art of Useful Woodworking, where creativity and craftsmanship come together. Learn basic woodworking skills as you design and build a functional piece for your home such as a beginner's project of a serving tray, or an intermediate's project of a small bench or keepsake box. With guidance from a skilled woodcraft artisan, you'll transform simple materials into a piece that reflects your personal style. No experience is needed, just a willingness to create, connect, and leave with a handmade piece that's truly designed and made by you.

Scholarships for one class each semester are available to anyone who demonstrates significant financial need. Awards are limited and the amounts vary based on the number of qualified applications received. To apply, complete and submit a scholarship form, available at munson.art/community-arts. Applications are reviewed every few weeks and in the order they are received.

For more information, the full schedule of classes, and to register, visit munson.art/community-arts.

Munson is at 310 Genesee St. in Utica. For more information, visit munson.art.



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Monday and Tuesday 10am-8pm
Closed on Wednesdays
Thursday and Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-2pm
Sunday 1-5pm
Curbside Pickup Remains an Option

**The Library will be Closed on
December 25th and January 1st.
Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for
a Healthy and Happy New Year!**

Stay Connected With Us!

The most up to date information regarding closings, reopening, programs and crafts can be found on our website and on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Website: www.newhartfordpubliclibrary.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/newhartfordpubliclibrary

Instagram: [new_hartford_public_library](https://www.instagram.com/new_hartford_public_library)

Charge Up While You Check Out!

The New Hartford Public Library offers an electric vehicle (EV) charging station for public use! Conveniently located in our lower level parking lot, you can power up your car while enjoying our books, events, and community spaces.

Stop by, plug in, and stay a while!

NHPL Board of Trustees 2025 Meeting

All meetings are held at 4:30 in the Sammon Room at the library on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise designated.

No November meeting.

*Wednesday, December 3rd **1st Wednesday** of the month

Mid York Library System App

Did you know there's a NEW app for all your library needs? Download the Mid York Library System App from your app store to search our catalog, place holds, view your account, and even see what's happening at any Mid York library!

The new app allows you to log in with one or more Mid York library cards, search for items, place holds, see library locations, check out OverDrive books, read OverDrive books, check out OverDrive magazines, read OverDrive magazines, search and filter library programming, bring up a digital library card, and much more.

The app is available in the Apple App Store as well as the Google Play Store.

Community Outreach

We are hitting the road and would love to come to your organization! Are you involved with a preschool, daycare, summer program or assisted living center? We would love to come to your organization and share more about our upcoming programs, issue library cards and provide programming to your facility. For more information, please contact our library Director, Anne 315-733-1535.

Display Case Booked

Interest in use of the display case at the New Hartford Public Library continues to grow, with all twelve months in 2026 reserved by community non-profits, clubs and service organizations. We're pleased that exhibitors want to share their stories with the community and want to thank groups who continue to express interest in using the case at the main entrance to the library. We also want to thank all exhibitors in 2026. We're looking

forward to hearing from groups who want to use the display space in 2027.

Sit and Stitch With the Mohawk Valley Quilt Club

The first Monday of the month (11/3/25, 12/1/25)

Time: 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Where: Corasanti Room, New Hartford Public Library

Bring a project of your own or learn to quilt with us, all experience levels welcome.

AARP Smart Driving Class

The next course will take place on Tuesday, December 9th from 9:00am-3:30pm. Please contact Rom Merritt to register at 315-724-0096.

Literacy CNY

We have a volunteer at the library each Tuesday from 11:00am-2:00pm and a NEW ADDITION of the 1st & 2nd Friday of each month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Literacy CNY provides trained individuals to assist patrons on a one-on-one basis. They look forward to helping our community. We greatly appreciate this service they are offering our patrons.

In Person Story Time

Mondays (group A), Tuesdays (group B) and Thursdays (group C) 10:30-11:00 for preschool aged children. Join us for stories and crafts. Aimed towards preschoolers – but all are welcome. An adult must accompany the child. All story times are held in the Children's Area/Corasanti room. Storytime will be put on pause starting December 22nd for the upcoming holidays. Have a happy holiday break and we will see you again starting January 5th.

Senior Yoga Class

Senior Yoga takes place every Monday at 3:00pm in the Sammon Room with Bill Skinner. For those wishing to participate at home, we do offer a Zoom link for this class. Please call 315-733-1535 to get the link. There is no charge for this class.

Chair Yoga Class

Join us on Monday mornings from 10:30am-11:00am (NEW) and Friday mornings from 11:00am to 12:00pm for Chair Yoga in the Sammon Room. There is no charge for this class.

After Breast Cancer (ABC) Group

Our speaker will be Dr. Gilbert Lawrence. He is a retired oncologist now, and he will bring a great presentation "nurturing the emotional brain."

The group will be meeting on Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 am.

Back for another Session!! Meditation Class

12:30-1:30pm Mondays 11/3-12/29

Ages 18+

Class is limited to 20 people.

If you've ever wondered about meditation and how people can achieve stillness, now is the time to take this introductory class. We will learn breathing techniques and other practices to keep us in the present moment. This assists with anxiety, blood pressure and stress.

The class is led by Laureen Violante, CMT, CYT. She is a certified meditation teacher and has taught yoga and breathing techniques since 1995.

No prior experience is required. Registration is suggested.

Blood Drive

New Hartford Public Library will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on December 11th from 12:30 to 4:30 . For more information or to make an appointment to donate sign up online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=NewHartfordNY>. Walk-ins will also be welcomed. "New Hartford Public Library is

committed to strengthening our community and helping meet hospital and patient needs through blood donations," said Anne DuRoss, Director. "This blood drive is our way of giving staff, colleagues and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives." Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross. "We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life." According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative.

Lego Club: From Book to Block

Back by popular demand...Lego Club!

Each month a passage from a book is read aloud from a pre-selected book. Using their imagination, children are asked to build what they see when visualizing that scene. This club meets on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:30am. (Geared for 7-12yrs)

Preschool Playdate

Designed for Preschool age children and under. Join us in the Children's Area for some little library users fun! There are plenty of toys, puzzles, educational tablets and of course friends to play with.

Stop in Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday at 10am before Story Time to partake.

Community Rooms

Community Rooms will be available for groups and organizations to use. You can find more information on our website (<https://newhartfordpubliclibrary.org/reserve-a-room/>), by calling 315-733-1535, or by visiting our circulation desk at the library.

Teen Volunteer Opportunities

Lego Club Setup/Cleanup Crew: (1.5 hours available)
Every first Saturday of the month.

Volunteer Time 10:15am – 11:45am (1.5 hours)

Lego Club Start time 10:30am-11:30am.

Needs to Sign-Up in advance.

Book to Brick : Passage Finder: (2 hours available)

Perfect for avid readers and book lovers.

Volunteer Time: On your time/schedule. (Max 1 hour awarded)

No sign-up required. Must check the booklist before starting. No duplicates.

**Additional Hour Option: Sign up to read your passage for Lego Club and build your interpretation. Photo submit your build to us.

First Saturday of the month. 10:30am-11:30am. (+1 hour awarded)

Children's Area Cleaners/Book Straighteners Team: (1 hour per day)

Volunteer Time: On your time/schedule. (Max 1 hour awarded per day).

No sign-up required. Must call before showing up.

Story Time Craft Prepper (1 hour)

Volunteer Time: On your time/schedule. (Max 1 hour awarded per day).

Sign-up required. Space limited. Ask for Cheryl.

NHPL Joins the “Pajamaramma Read-In” at the Utica Children’s Museum

New Hartford Public Library will be joining the Utica Children's Museum, December 27th for their "Pajamaramma Read-In." Our library will be there from 11am to 2pm to bring some of the popular Mother Goose works to life. Children and adults alike will have a blast recreating these well-known pieces. See you there!

*Activities included with museum admission. For more information on the "Pajamaramma Read-In" please contact the Utica Children's Museum.

“Basketball is for Everyone” Initiative

Thanks to Red & Blue Girls Hoops and their Basketball is for Everyone initiative, our library now has basketballs and pickleball racquets with balls available for checkout! Red & Blue, founded by New Hartford Girls’ Basketball alumna Elizabeth Cavic, is all about building skills, teamwork, and community for young athletes. Their generosity helps ensure every child has access to the joy of active play both on and off the court. Stop by the library and borrow some equipment today, because play belongs to everyone!

Pocket Vinyl: Save The Date!

Come see Pocket Vinyl perform their fantastic piano/ painting show, followed by a reading from their book and discussion on how they did their world record tour, followed by a Q&A and signing. There will also be a comic workshop before the show, where they will walk an all ages class through the pacing and feel of a 4 panel strip comic. Elizabeth Jancewicz and Eric Stevenson are Pocket Vinyl, a duo consisting of piano slamming (Eric) and live painting (Elizabeth). A new painting is made on stage during each show, and auctioned off afterwards to the audience. They've played over 1000 shows, released over a hundred songs, made the documentary film Drive. Play. Sleep., and created the popular webcomic “The Touring Test.” In their new graphic novel “How To Completely Lose Your Mind”, they detail a 2019 tour where they attempted to break the world record for “Fastest to Play a Concert in Each of the 50 States.” It's an amazing adventure that portrays the highs and lows of touring as an unknown indie band, and gives insightful advice on how to start an indie band and destroy your own mental health as well. December 21st 1:30-4:30

Book Clubs

Are you interested in joining a book club, currently in a book club, or looking to start one? If your club needs to order books or if you are interested in starting a book club, please call the library and ask to speak to our Book Club Coordinator, Danielle. 315-733-1535

>**Mystery Book Club:** They meet on the second Saturday of the month at 11am. For more information, please contact the library.

December 13th: Big Sky Kate Atkinson
January 10th: The Spy Coast Tess Gerritsen
February 14th: The Late Show Michael Connelly
March 20th: The Thursday Murder Club Richard Osman

>**Wanderlust Book Club** reads novels, ranging from current to historical. They meet on the first Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact the library.

>**TBR Book Group:** Are you on Facebook? Are you always looking for your next book? We have the perfect group for you. We have created a group called the To Be Read (TBR) Book Group where readers can comment on what they're reading and look for suggestions for their next book. With over 100 members, you will never wonder what you should read next!

Join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1532390520153487/>

Heritage Doll Club

The Heritage Doll Club meets on the third Saturday of the month at the New Hartford Public Library. Meetings are held every month except May, July, August and December, at the library beginning at 10:30 a.m. Interested guests and new members are welcome to attend.

Toy Drive

We are helping collect new unwrapped toys on behalf of the Connected Community Schools Community Elves Initiative. If you are interested in making a toy donation you can find the donation bin at the New Hartford Public Library. Collection has started and will be going throughout the holiday season. Thank you in advance!

Annual Holiday Celebration

Holiday celebrations at the New Hartford Public Library in December wouldn't be complete without the Friends of the New Hartford Public Library's annual Christmas Village display. This seasonal tradition attracts young and old alike. Christmas-related items – donated over the years by library patrons and members of the Friends – will again be found in the display case at the library's main entrance.

Park Passes Are Back!

Once again, the Friends of the New Hartford Public Library are supporting our Park Pass Program. Through their generosity, we will be allowing our patrons to check out the following park passes which will allow our patrons a discounted entry rate:

NEW! Utica Children's Museum
The Wild Center
Fort Rickey Children's Discovery Zoo
Adirondack Experience
Munson (formerly Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute)
Utica Zoo
Empire Pass

Passes must be placed on adult library cards and must be returned to the New Hartford Public Library circulation desk. Please call 315-733-1535 for more information.

Christmas Cookie Decorating Class – December

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with cookies! In Olivia's December class, you'll decorate 4 holiday-themed cookies — from jolly Santas to sparkling snowflakes and festive trees. This class is beginner-friendly and full of holiday cheer. You'll leave with 4 beautifully decorated Christmas cookies, ready to enjoy, gift, or leave out for Santa.

12/7 1:30 registration required.

Winter Recess: Drop In Legos

Get out of the house this Winter Recess and come build with us! Drop in Legos will be offered December 26th, 27th and 28th in the Corasanti Room while the library is open. Come build your next masterpiece and leave it for us to display. We can't wait to see what you create!

Inclement Weather Policy

With winter weather fast approaching, we would like to remind you of our Inclement Weather Policy:

If New Hartford Central School District cancels school due to inclement weather prior to the start of school, the Library will close as well. Should the district close mid way through the day, it is up to the discretion of the Director or the Director's designee to close early.

We thank you in advance for your understanding in keeping our community and staff safe.

Friends of the New Hartford Public Library

Annette Barber Used Book Room

ACCEPT: hardbound and paperback books, magazines as well as records, DVDs, children's books, puzzles.

DO NOT ACCEPT: moldy/damaged books (WE have to throw them out!!!), textbooks, medical books, National Geographic Magazine, Reader's Digest, multi-volume book sets. No longer accepting audio cassettes, VHS tapes and computer games/books or CDs.

The library and community greatly appreciate your "gently" used books but please limit your donations to one box/bag at a time and drop them off at the circulation desk.

DO NOT drop them off in the hallway, at drop boxes, or outside the door when the library is closed. Thank you.

Mitten Tree

The mitten tree is up and waiting for YOU! The importance of a mitten.....Have a snowball fight, making a snowman, being king of the mountain, carrying your sled, trying to get it out of your dog's mouth for what is his game of tug and war, and WARMTH! Your importance.....to knit them so these memories are possible for others and to make a long cold winter special and warmer, filled with love!

Decorate the Library

Do you like to decorate for the holidays? Come decorate the library. December 5th at 10:00. All are welcome.

2026
March 28, 2026. Bill Bonsted Indoor Miniature Golf Tournament. You don't need to know how to play golf. Just how to laugh and have fun!!!! Prizes and trophy. Hole designers needed!

Support the New Hartford Public Library

Thanks to your generosity, fundraisers like The Bill Bonsted Indoor Miniature Golf Tournament, The Annette Barber Used Book Room, the Joshua Turner Fund, Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good Program, and donations and membership, we were able to purchase new toys and furniture for the children's area, update computer hardware, sponsor performers for the children's summer reading program, park passes and raise our nation's flag with the addition of a new flagpole and flag. Thank you for your continued support.

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Membership is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to: Friends of the

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Receive a \$5 Gift Card FREE

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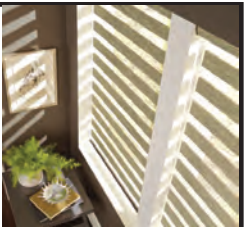


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Longtime Mohawk Valley Financial Leader Joins Universal Bookkeeper as Controller

Universal Bookkeeper (UB) is proud to announce the hiring of Thomas G. Squires, CPA, MA PA, as the firm’s new Controller, effective October 20, 2025. Squires joins Shannon Riley, CPA, as the second Controller on the UB team.

In his role, Squires will oversee financial report reviews, tax return preparation, client audit coordination, and financial presentations for management and boards. He brings with him more than three decades of experience in accounting, administration, and public finance — most recently serving as Vice President for Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer at Mohawk Valley Community College.

“Tom’s depth of experience and leadership will be an incredible asset to our clients and our growing team,” said Justin Miller, CPA, Chief Executive Officer of Universal Bookkeeper. “He’s spent his career right here in Central New York — he understands the people, the pace, and the pride of this region. We feel fortunate that someone of his caliber sees the value in what we’re building here. His perspective and stewardship will help strengthen our operations and guide our continued growth.”

Beth Miller, Chief Operating Officer, added: “Universal Bookkeeper was founded on teamwork, integrity, and community connection — values that align perfectly with Tom’s background and approach. He’s joining us at such an exciting time — our ten-year milestone — and we’re genuinely looking forward to learning from him and seeing the positive impact he’ll have on our clients and our team.”

A resident of Clinton, NY, Squires has spent much of his career in Central New York, serving in leadership roles with Mohawk Valley Community College, Cayuga County, and Onondaga County. In addition to this CPA designation, he holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Public Administration from Syracuse University’s Maxwell School and a Bachelor of Science (B.S) in Accounting from SUNY Oswego. He and his wife, Anne, have lived in Clinton for nearly 13 years, where they’re raising their two sons. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Squires serves as Treasurer for the Clinton Sports Boosters Inc., supporting youth athletics and community engagement.

About Universal Bookkeeper

Founded in 2015, Universal Bookkeeper provides bookkeeping, accounting, and outsourced CFO services for businesses and nonprofit organizations across Central New York and beyond. The firm combines modern technology with a personal, proactive approach — delivering financial clarity, confidence, and collaboration.

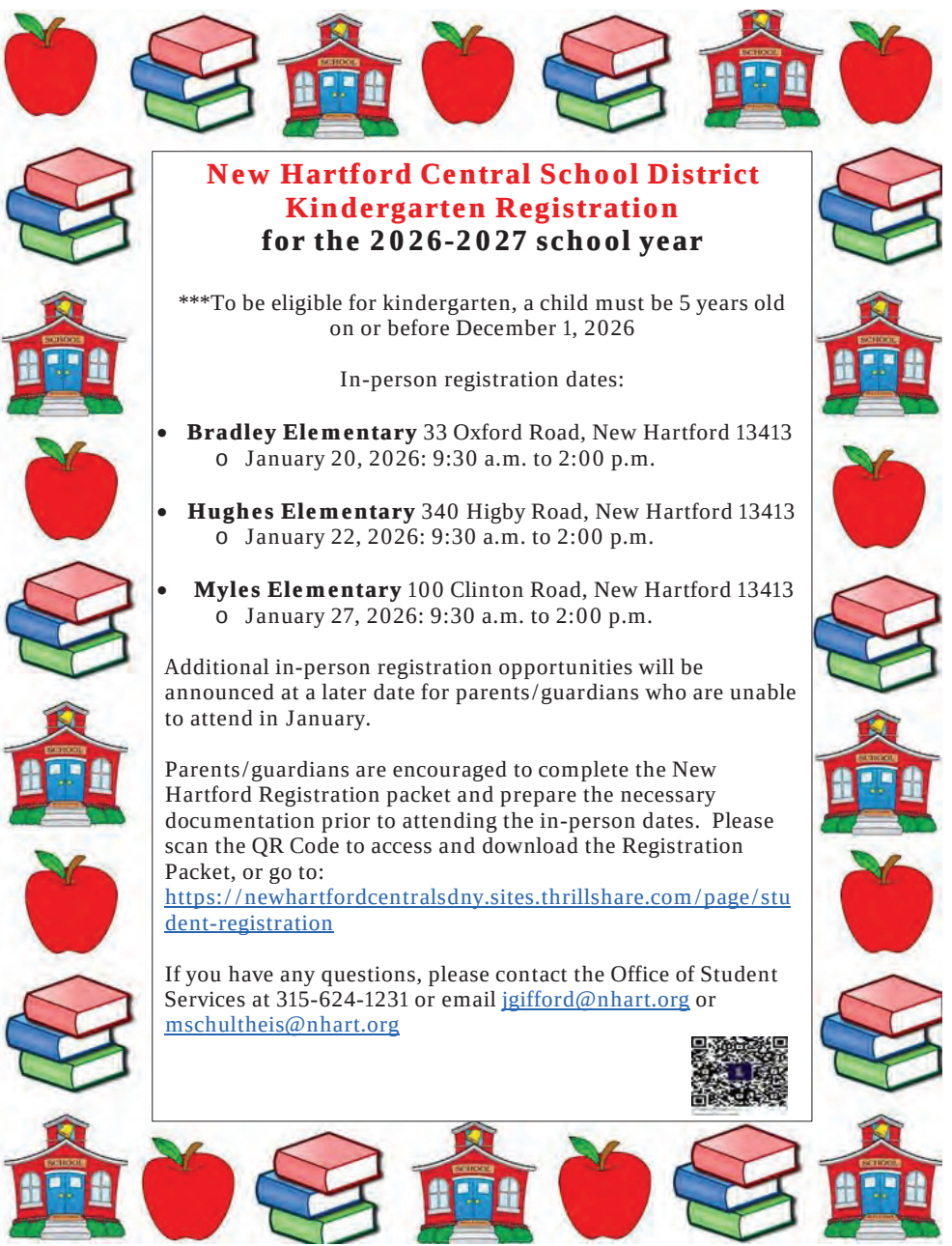
For more information, visit universalbookkeeper.com

**UTICA DANCE**
PRESENTS

The Nutcracker 2025
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Friday, Dec 12 @ 6:30pm
Saturday, Dec 13 @ 12 noon & 4:30pm
TICKETS \$20 at: mvcc.edu/tickets



Photo: Ron Thiele



New Hartford Central School District
Kindergarten Registration
for the 2026-2027 school year

***To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2026

In-person registration dates:

- **Bradley Elementary** 33 Oxford Road, New Hartford 13413
o January 20, 2026: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Hughes Elementary** 340 Higby Road, New Hartford 13413
o January 22, 2026: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Myles Elementary** 100 Clinton Road, New Hartford 13413
o January 27, 2026: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Additional in-person registration opportunities will be announced at a later date for parents/guardians who are unable to attend in January.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to complete the New Hartford Registration packet and prepare the necessary documentation prior to attending the in-person dates. Please scan the QR Code to access and download the Registration Packet, or go to:
<https://newhartfordcentralsdny.sites.thrillshare.com/page/student-registration>

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Services at 315-624-1231 or email jgifford@nhart.org or mschultheis@nhart.org



Marty Gorton

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· Show off your refined tastes with our Intuition Earrings from India featuring labradorite stone wrapped in gold-colored wire. These earrings are crafted by the makers at Tara Projects, building stronger communities through fair trade opportunities.

· Colorful thread is spun on a series of hoops and accented with bright glass beads to make our Dream Catching Necklace from India. The artfulness of the creator's hand shows through each circle, granting the dreams of the wearer and artisan alike.

· Keep the memory of loved ones close with our Hand-carved Cardinal Bracelet. This handcrafted bracelet features a beautiful, hand-carved cardinal made of natural, locally sourced gourd on a sweet card with a heartfelt message of remembrance. Its adjustable knot allows for the perfect fit. Handmade in Colombia, this bracelet is a unique and meaningful accessory that supports local artisans there.

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RICHARD THOMAS

IN

MARK TWAIN TONIGHT!

BY HAL HOLBROOK

JANUARY 13 | 7 PM

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LtoR: Brian Gozy, Center Store Manager - Kellogg Rd, Chuck Wentrick, Assistant Store Manager - Commercial Drive, Mike Rondenelli, Store Manager - Kellogg Road, Cheryl Rondenelli, Store Manager - Commercial Drive, and Gail Scalise, Store Manager - Herkimer.

Hannaford and the Boilermaker Committee Team up for the Boolemaker Event

It was another great and very successful community event in the Mohawk Valley with Hannaford teaming up with the Boilermaker committee as one of the main sponsors for the Boolemaker Run held at Proctor Park in Utica, NY on 10-25-2025. The Boolemaker was created by the Boilermaker committee to encourage young children to get involved in running and healthy eating at a young age and that is where Hannaford comes in. The race involves different age groups and distances to run while in Halloween costume.

There were 500 children signed up for this event, and the feedback was great by all of the parents as they helped their children get healthy treats from Hannaford.



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Daniel T. Dreimiller, CPA

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 GRAND OPENING

Latte Love Celebrated their Grand Opening on Saturday, November 15th

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Sunday 12-7

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Scamardos Seneca Inn, which was owned by Christians grandparents, was located at his current location.



Photo by Mike Doherty

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ICC Holiday Paint & Sip

Mark your calendar, the annual ICC HOLIDAY PAINT & SIP is scheduled for Thursday, December 4th at 6.00pm. It will be held in the H.A.R.P. Museum at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley on Columbia Street in Utica. Jill Rae Venerra will once again lead our artists in creating a winter masterpiece, which will make a perfect gift for a friend or to yourself!

Get ready for the holidays as Jill deftly guides you through the process of creating your own personalized 12” x 30” wooden sign designed to celebrate the season. There will be a couple of design choices. The \$50 fee includes paints, wood sign, instruction, adult beverage, and light snacks.

Instructor Jill Rae, is the owner of Easels on the Gogh, a full service mobile painting studio, and Jill Rae Signs. She has a degree in Fine Arts and Art Therapy. Easels on the Gogh hosts parties for adults, children, schools, colleges, and nursing homes. Everything you will need for your creation will be supplied. Everyone is an Artist! Please reserve your spot by registering at this link <https://bit.ly/42INKdA> or call and leave a message at 315-733-4228 Ext 6.

You can attend this presentation at the H.A.R.P. Museum located on the second floor of the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, 623 Columbia St, Utica. All are welcome to attend this program and the museum is wheelchair accessible.



Lunch and Learn: St. Stephen, Wrens, & Mummings

The H.A.R.P. Museum at the Irish Cultural Center continues its popular Lunch and Learn series on Wednesday, December 10th at 11 AM, with a talk on one of Ireland’s more “unique” Christmas time traditions.

Christmas in Ireland is pretty much celebrated in the same manner as it is in the United States with holiday decorations, family gatherings, gift giving and church services. However the day after Christmas, December 26, St. Stephen’s feast day is celebrated by “Hunting the Wren”. This ancient tradition has seen a resurgence in popularity in many parts of Ireland as well as in the Isle of Man and Wales.

Program Team member Michael Hoke will explain the somewhat murky relationship between St Stephen and a cute but feisty little bird, how the day was celebrated in the past and how it is celebrated today. Don’t worry, no harm will come to any of our fine feathered friends as part of this talk.

A \$20 registration fee will cover the program and lunch (tax and gratuity are included). All those interested in attending are asked to register at <https://bit.ly/3LvDGib> or leave a message at (315) 733-4228, Ext 6. The H.A.R.P. Museum is located on the second floor of the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, 623 Columbia St, Utica. All are welcome to attend this program and the museum is wheelchair accessible.



NYS Approved Defensive Driving Classes

New York State approved defensive driving courses for insurance and point reduction programs, to be given by AARP at the New Hartford Public Library on Tuesday December 9th 2025 and Tuesday January 27th 2026 from 9am until 3:30pm, for registration and other information please contact Mary Merritt at (315)724-0096, call early classes fill fast and are open to all ages.



NHFD Holds American Red Cross Blood Drive

The New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, from 10am to 2pm at the fire station. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-RED CROS (1-800-733-2767). Reservations are appreciated and walk-ins are always welcome.



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Stanley Theatre Series



Malio Cardarelli
Over the next several months, we would like to share some of Malio Cardarelli's descriptions of artists who have appeared at the Stanley Theater.

Barry Manilow *Song Writer, Singer, Pianist*

Born Barry Alan Pincus on June 17, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, he was raised Jewish. At the time of his Bar Mitzvah, he changed his surname to Manilow, his mother's maiden name. With an early fascination for music, Barry attended the New York School of Music and the esteemed Julliard School of Music. Destined to have a lifetime of music, while still in his 20s, he directed a CBS network musical TV show in 1967. Barry worked on musicals with Ed Sullivan Productions, also writing commercial jingles for Dr. Pepper and Band Aid, State Farm Insurance (Like a good neighbor, State Farm is There). His voice in the 70s complemented the McDonald's jingle, "You Deserve a Break Today ". As an early song writer and performer, Barry was modestly successful. However, when he teamed with Bette Midler for a nightclub act, he as her pianist, and later as her musical director, his musical career blossomed. Barry subsequently worked with an array of performers including Mel Torme, Sarah Vaughn, and others. Some of his hits include Copacabana, I Write the Songs, Can't Smile Without You, Mandy, Looks Like We Made It, to name a few. Generally, his whole life has been and remains at this writing devoted to music, both as a writer and performer. His musical achievements were distinctly recognized by his induction in the Songwriters Hall of Fame in June 2002. Barry Manilow's memorable appearance at the Stanley Theater happened in November 1993. At this writing with Barry now in his 80s and living in Palm Springs, he continues to make musical appearances but at much lessened frequencies.



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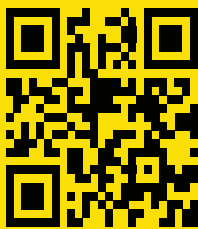
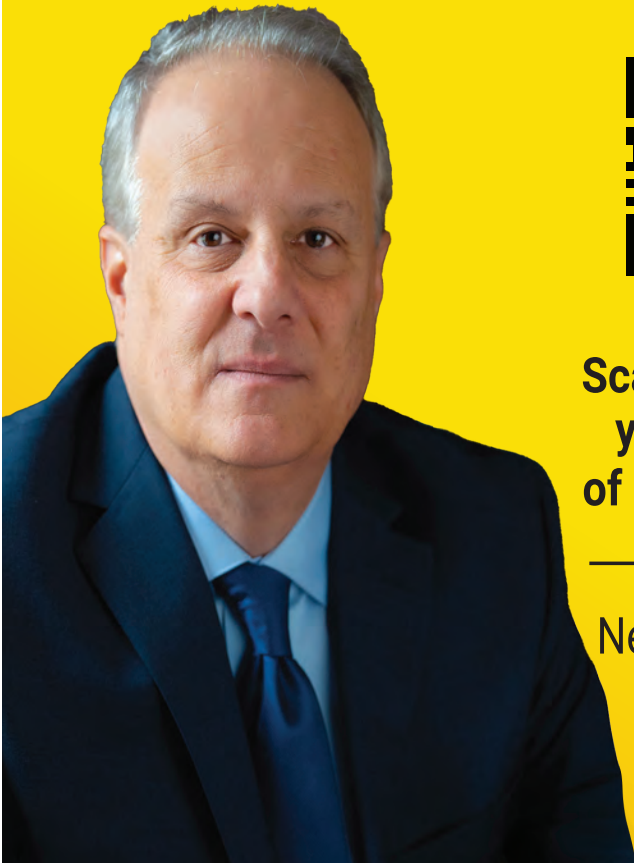
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1/2 TEASPOON CINNAMON
1/2 TEASPOON GROUND GINGER
1/4 TEASPOON GROUND CLOVES
1/4 TEASPOON ALLSPICE
1/4 TEASPOON SALT
6 TABLESPOONS BUTTER
1/4 CUP BROWN SUGAR
1/3 CUP MOLASSES
1 EGG YOLK

DIRECTIONS:

LINE TWO COOKIE SHEETS WITH PARCHMENT PAPER.
IN A SMALL BOWL, COMBINE THE FLOUR, BAKING SODA, CINNAMON, GINGER, CLOVES, ALLSPICE AND SALT.
IN A LARGE BOWL, USING A HAND MIXER OR THE BOWL OF A STAND MIXER, CREAM TOGETHER THE BUTTER AND BROWN SUGAR, BEATING FOR ABOUT 3-4 MINUTES UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY. ADD THE MOLASSES AND EGG. BEAT UNTIL COMBINED. GRADUALLY MIX IN THE DRY INGREDIENTS UNTIL NO STREAKS ARE SHOWING IN THE DOUGH. SCARP THE DOUGH OUT ONTO A FLOURED WORK SURFACE. ROLL IT OUT AND CUT OUT SHAPES WITH A COOKIE CUTTER. TRANSFER THE COOKIES TO THE PREPARED COOKIE SHEETS. COVER THE BAKING SHEETS AND PLACE THEM IN THE FRIDGE TO CHILL FOR 30 MINUTES.
PREHEAT THE OVEN TO 350 DEGREES F.
BAKE THE COOKIES FOR 8-12 MINUTES OR UNTIL JUST SET. COOL ON A COOKIE SHEET.



2025 Governors Educator of the Year Award- Katie Luker Cherney

Katie Luker Cherney, a New Hartford class of 2002 graduate, was awarded the 2025 New Jersey Governor’s Teacher of the Year award for Ocean County. Katie teaches 8th grade Social Studies at Southern Regional Middle School Ocean County, New Jersey.

Her nomination brings to light her positive contributions and “an unwavering commitment to the academic, social, and emotional growth of her students”. She is adviser to the Leo Club, and the Lightning Team lead where she mentors student teachers and field experience observers. Katie is also a volunteer Girl Scout Troop leader, CCD coordinator and volunteer with the RWJ Barnabas Health Field of Dreams (a park for special needs families). Katie is a 2006 graduate of Siena College and holds a master’s degree from Utica College. She resides in Toms River, NJ with her husband Keith and three children.

Village of New Hartford
Holiday Recycling Schedule

Thanksgiving · Thursday, November 27, 2025

There will be no curbside recyclable collection on Thursday and it will not be rescheduled. Recycling collection will resume on December 4th.

Christmas Day · Thursday, December 25, 2025

There will be no curbside recyclable collection on Thursday and it will not be rescheduled. Recycling collection will resume on Wednesday, December 31st.

New Year’s Day · Thursday, January 1, 2026

There will be no curbside recyclable collection on Thursday, January 1st. Recycling collection will take place on Wednesday, December 31st.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and understanding regarding these changes. If you have any questions, please call the Village office at 315-732-1147.

Award Winning
Children’s Toys

Hand Picked By An Educator



Rosie the Racehorse



Puppet



Pixies



Recycling Trucks



Electronic Piano



DIY Stuffed Animals



Wooden Blocks



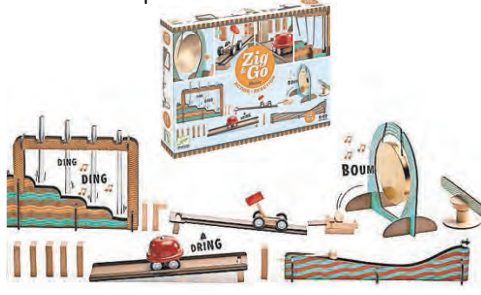
Santa's Workshop



Play Tent



Kitchen Set



Action-Reaction Kits



Christmas Mouse

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NEW HARTFORD PAST TIMES

December 2025

NEW HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Facing a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
from Your IRA or Annuity? Consider a donation to NHHS!

Looking for a way to support the Historical Society? We are almost entirely supported by annual dues along with small stipends from the Village and Town of New Hartford. If you are not yet a member? Please consider joining. You can mail in the below Membership application with your check or join on-line on our website www.newhartfordhistory.com Simply use the appropriate link on the top of the home page. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Along with joining (or continuing your membership) you may also consider making a contribution from your IRA which would count towards your annual RMD and reduce your tax liability by doing so. Consult your tax or financial advisor for details.



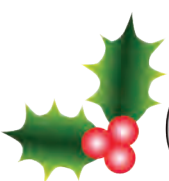
BECOME A MEMBER!

Please stop in to visit us and consider becoming a member. Membership fees are \$20 for Individual, \$25 for families, \$50 for Contributing and \$100 for Corporate members. The Historical Society is a non-profit, tax deductible organization.

Planning a Class Reunion?

Make the Historical Society Museum a part of your itinerary! Schedule the Saturday of your reunion for your group to explore our collection of yearbooks, scrap books, local relics and photos. Look up your New Hartford home!
Call 315-724-7258 to schedule your group.



 *Happy
Holidays* 



**Museum is Open
To the Public**
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New Hartford Historical Society ~ Membership Form ~

Please check one of the following:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ☐ \$20 ⁰⁰ Individual | Name: _____ |
| ☐ \$25 ⁰⁰ Family | Address: _____ |
| ☐ \$50 ⁰⁰ Contributing | _____ |
| ☐ \$100 ⁰⁰ Corporate | Phone: _____ |
| | E-Mail: _____ |
| ☐ Renewal | |
| ☐ New Member | |

Please send check made payable to:
New Hartford Historical Society

P.O. Box 238, New Hartford, N.Y. 13413

You can also pay dues and/or join online at newhartfordhistory.com



Interval Resistance Training

submitted by Jim LaFountain, All American Fitness Center

I'd like to share a life saving event that happened to me in 1986. One of our graduate school tasks was performing stress tests on fellow classmates. My results were troubling to me and my advisor, Dr. David Bacharach. My maternal and paternal grandfathers died of a heart attack and stroke in their mid 50's. My QRS Complex showed an irregularity in that very section of my heart that took both grandfathers. The QRS Complex is a part of an electrocardiogram (ECG) that represents the rapid electrical depolarization of the ventricles, leading to their contraction. Until then, I was struggling to select a topic for my senior project. Dr. Bacharach told me my cardiac irregularity needed to be addressed and hopefully corrected. He suggested I visit a Sports Medicine Center in Toronto, Canada.

I called the center and spoke with its director, who was very interested in my plight. I was treated like a dignitary when I arrived. Everyone seemed interested in this life saving project and did everything they could to accommodate me. My daily research began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 9:00 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday. After returning home, I met with my advisor, who critiqued my findings, asked a lot of questions, but overall, he thought I was on to something. The meeting was very productive. I began my eight week program immediately.

We named this new program Interval Resistance Training (IRT). After a warm-up, I performed two resistance exercises, focusing on opposing muscle groups, i.e., Chest Press and Lat Pulldowns, done to momentary muscular failure. A 2:30 minute bout of intense cardio (80-85 % of my heart rate maximum), followed by a :30 recovery, to allow for venous return. This sequence was followed for approximately 30 minutes, addressing all major muscle groups. My research suggested that noticeable results would take at least eight weeks.

I had never trained so hard. Combining intense cardio with resistance training was a major challenge for me. I was used to coasting through three hour workouts, six days a week, performing multiple sets, with sloppy form. I found I needed 48 hours to recover from each one of my intense IRT workouts. An interesting side note: my strength increased, even though my heart rate was high while doing resistance movements. Recent research is touting the value of weights, machines and even rubber tubing. In fact, they claim it's equally as essential as cardiovascular exercise.

Although the intensity was high and uncomfortable, I began to enjoy the brevity of the workout, 30 minutes in lieu of three hours. After eight weeks on the program, I scheduled my stress test with some trepidation. What if it didn't rid me of the heart irregularity? Although somewhat surprised, Dr. Bacharach was thrilled to show me my results. The troubling bleep on my QRS Complex was gone, never to return. It's been 39 years since my bleep-less stress test, but I still have concerns that it will return.

It's important to understand, high intensity IRT requires adequate (at least 48 hours) recovery following each workout. As I've aged, I can tolerate only two IRT's a week. When asked what a weekly schedule would look like, I stress the importance of having a "specific purpose" for each session. A workable schedule might look like this:

Sunday & Thursday medium intensity, longer cardio session (purpose: addressing the peripheries smaller vessels)

Tuesday & Saturday- high intensity IRT (purpose: addressing the heart, particularly the left ventricle)

Monday & Wednesday- resistance workout (purpose: muscular development)

Friday- rest (purpose: recovery)Although you may not share my genetic predisposition, including a couple IRT workouts a week will dramatically improve your level of fitness.

Old
Fashioned
HOT COCOA

in a saucepan combine

4 CUPS MILK : 1/4 CUP *sugar*

1/4 CUP COCOA powder 1/4 TSP vanilla extract

ADD IN 1/2 CUP CHOCOLATE CHIPS
WHISK UNTIL SMOOTH

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New Hartford Highway News

submitted by Highway Superintendent, Richard Sherman

I want to begin by thanking everyone for your patience during our blacktop season. We apologize for the delays in paving some of the roads. The scheduling depended on the availability of the paving company, and we appreciate your understanding as we worked within their time frame.

Thank to everyone for getting your leaves out for pickup. The one-man leaf trucks are working extremely well again this season! They've been busy in every neighborhood, picking up leaves a couple of times each week. After the holidays, please remember to dispose of your live Christmas trees as soon as possible, so we can get them cleaned up and out of the way of the plows.

Our winter season started early this year, but our plow trucks, sanders, and brine anti/de-icing trucks were ready to go. These brine trucks are used before storms to help prevent snow and ice from bonding to the road surface, and after storms to speed up the melting process. Using liquid brine is much more cost-effective than traditional road salt. Whenever possible, we rely on brine anti/de-icing methods to help keep our roads safe while saving money.

Each winter, after snowstorms, we see piles of snow left in roadways when driveways are plowed out. Please

remember that New York State law prohibits moving or leaving snow or ice on any public roadway:

· NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law §1219 – It is unlawful to place or permit snow or ice to remain on a highway in a manner that endangers travel.

· NYS Highway Law §214 – It is unlawful to deposit snow or other materials onto the roadway of any public highway.

These laws exist to prevent serious accidents caused by snow and ice left in the road. Snow piles can freeze into solid blocks, obstruct visibility, and create dangerous conditions for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

Please remember that there is no parking on Town roads between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM from October 1st through April 30th. This restriction allows our highway crews to effectively clear snow and ice from the roads during winter months. We also ask residents to keep the Town right-of-way clear of any objects, such as portable basketball hoops and other obstacles. Items left in the right-of-way can interfere with snow removal operations and may be damaged by plowing equipment. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our roads safe and accessible for everyone this winter!

The Town of New Hartford Highway Department currently has several full-time openings for Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) positions. We offer a competitive employment package and a great opportunity to join our dedicated highway team. Applicants must possess a valid Class A or Class B CDL license.

Applications can be submitted through the Oneida County website under the listing for the Town of New Hartford. Join us in helping keep our town's roads safe and well-maintained year-round!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at the Highway office (315) 733-7500, personally at (315) 534-2998 or e-mail rsherman@townofnewhartfordny.gov.



Sugar Cookie Fudge

- 1 (14 oz) can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 1/2 cups White Chocolate Chips
- 1 1/4 cup Sugar Cookie Mix
- 2 tbsp Butter
- Christmas Sprinkles

Line a 9 x 9 pan with parchment paper and set aside.

Add sweetened condensed milk to a sauce pan and stir often over medium heat. Once hot, stir in white chocolate chips, sugar cookie mix, and butter. Continue stirring until melted and smooth, then remove from heat.

Stir in desired amount of Christmas sprinkles.

Pour mixture into prepared pan and top with more sprinkles.

Place in the refrigerator and allow to set before cutting.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

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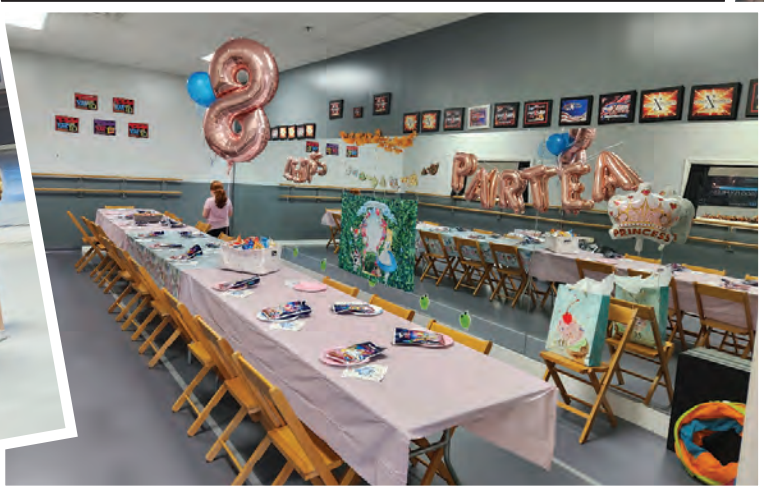
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NHFD News

October was another busy month for your New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department as the members answered 98 alarms as indicated by the monthly call report listed below by category:

- Fires = 4
- EMS = 43
- Hazardous = 8
- Service Type = 12
- Good Intent = 12
- False Alarms = 19
- Weather Related = 0
- Other = 0



Total alarms for the Month of October 2025 = 98 bringing the total number of alarms year-to-date through October 31, 2025, to 990.

Of the 98 alarms, 80 were in the Town, 17 in the Village and one mutual aid. Some of the alarms listed above - such as Fires, EMS, and Hazardous - are self-explanatory. Others such as Service, Good Intent and Other Alarms are not. Service Calls includes water or animal problems, public assistance or standbys. Good Intent refers to responding but did not find anything or canceled in route. Other alarms include explosions, carbon monoxide, smoke or sprinkler detector activations.

The figures above do not include other activities by members of the department such as Fire Prevention details, training, parades, Open House and other various department committee meetings that take place throughout the year.

From The Chief’s Desk...

The Chief, officers, and members of The New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department, would like to remind everyone on a few fire prevention tips for a safe and festive holiday season.

For most of us, the holiday season represents a time for family and friends to gather together to enjoy the holiest time of the year. However, many of us consider that the holiday season is a time when there is an increased risk of home fires. Many households engage in holiday activities that serve as some of the leading causes of U.S. home fires, including cooking, Christmas trees, candles and holiday decorations also significantly contribute to the seasonal causes of home fires. Add to that the hectic nature of the holidays, when people are trying to accomplish multiple tasks at one time, and the chance for home fires grows even further.

Fortunately, with a little added awareness and some minor adjustments to holiday cooking and decorating, the season can remain festive and safe for everybody. With unattended cooking as the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries, we recommend someone stays in the kitchen while you’re frying, grilling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it’s for a short period of time. If you’re simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you’re cooking. The department also suggests creating a “kid-free zone” of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried.

Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays, and December is the peak month for home candle fires. The nonprofit National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) statistics show that more than half of all candle fires start because the candles had been too close to things that could catch fire. In fact during the month of December, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year. We encourage all New Hartford residents to consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12” away from anything that can

burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won’t tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where two of five U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle.

According to NFPA, U.S. fire departments annually respond to an average of 250 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Nearly half of them are caused by electrical problems, and one in four resulted from a heat source that’s too close to the tree. Things to consider for picking, placing and lighting the tree:

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it’s labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don’t fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 1-2” from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit, and is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- Check on your community’s Christmas tree recycling program.
- After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

By following these fire prevention tips and measure, your New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department says you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home, and enjoy a safe holiday season.

The members of your New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department wish you and your family a very Happy and Safe Holiday season.

- Here are a few more Safety Tips from our Fire Prevention Committee:
- Space Heaters: Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains away at least 3 feet away from the heater. Make sure the heater has an automatic shut off, so if it tips over it shuts off. Turn the heater off when you leave the room or go to bed. Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip. Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
 - Fireplace: Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out. Do not burn papers in your fireplace. Make sure the fire is out before you go to bed or leave your house. Put ashes in a metal container with a lid outside at least 10 feet from your home.
 - Wood Stove: Make sure the wood stove is at least 3 feet from anything that can burn. Do not burn paper in your wood stove. Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
 - Furnace: Have your furnace inspected each year. Keep anything that can burn away from your furnace.
 - Kerosene Heaters: Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory. Make sure the heater has an automatic shut off, so if it tips over, it shuts off. Refuel your cooled heater outside – never in your home. For additional information please visit www.nhfd.com



NHFD Holds American Red Cross Blood Drive

The New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, from 10am to 2pm at the fire station. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-RED CROS (1-800-733-2767). Reservations are appreciated and walk-ins are always welcome.



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New Hartford Sports - Home Games

*subject to change without notice

Date	Start Time	Game Type	Sport	Level	Location	Opponent
Dec 1, 2025, Mon	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Camden
Dec 1, 2025, Mon	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Camden
Dec 2, 2025, Tue	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Fayetteville-Manlius
Dec 2, 2025, Tue	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Fayetteville-Manlius
Dec 2, 2025, Tue	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Fayetteville-Manlius (Fall)
Dec 3, 2025, Wed	4:00 PM	Regular Season	Wrestling (Boys)	7th/8th	Perry JH Cafeteria	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, Camden
Dec 3, 2025, Wed	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Boys)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Cicero-North Syracuse
Dec 3, 2025, Wed	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Cicero-North Syracuse
Dec 3, 2025, Wed	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Cicero-North Syracuse (Fall)
Dec 5, 2025, Fri	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Whitesboro
Dec 5, 2025, Fri	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Whitesboro
Dec 5, 2025, Fri	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Whitesboro (Fall)
Dec 8, 2025, Mon	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Rome Free Academy
Dec 8, 2025, Mon	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Rome Free Academy
Dec 8, 2025, Mon	7:30 PM	Regular Season	Ice Hockey (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford Rec Center	Oswego
Dec 9, 2025, Tue	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Boys)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Oneida
Dec 9, 2025, Tue	6:30 PM	Regular Season	Ice Hockey (Girls)	Varsity (Combined)	New HartfordNexus Center	Clinton (Combined), Skaneateles
Dec 9, 2025, Tue	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Oneida
Dec 9, 2025, Tue	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Oneida
Dec 11, 2025, Thu	5:00 PM	Regular Season	Basketball (Boys)	7th/8th (Red)	Perry JH Gym	Oneida
Dec 11, 2025, Thu	5:00 PM	Regular Season	Swimming/Diving (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Pool	Sherburne-Earlville
Dec 11, 2025, Thu	5:30 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Central Valley Academy
Dec 11, 2025, Thu	7:00 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Central Valley Academy
Dec 12, 2025, Fri	4:00 PM	Regular Season	Ice Hockey (Girls)	Varsity (Combined)	New HartfordNexus Center	Clinton (Combined), Brewster
Dec 15, 2025, Mon	5:00 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	East Syracuse Minoa
Dec 15, 2025, Mon	6:30 PM	Regular Season	Volleyball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	East Syracuse Minoa



What the History (WTH)!

submitted by Dennis Webster is a New Hartford resident, and author of regional books on true crime, ghosts, local history, and asylums. He can be reached at denniswbstr@gmail.com

Snow Pleasures of the Season

Is there anything more enjoyable yet more depressing than snow. Yes, that fluffy white dandruff of Mother Nature that falls to our New Hartford soil, piling up, causing us to shovel it, snow blow it, and plow it, all while lamenting the return of spring flowers and green prickly grass. Those of us driving in our town are certainly grateful for the long hours and dedication our workers have within the New Hartford Highway Department, who arise in the middle of the night darkness to plow our streets so we can travel to work and run errands with safe snow-free roadways. We certainly are in close proximity to the largest snowfall annually in New York State in Ava that receives on average 191.37 inches per year. Snow falls when our temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. If you zoomed down to the microscopic level, you'd see there are thousands of shapes and designs of snowflakes. The snowflake micrography was discovered in 1885 by Wilson Alwyn Bentley. This doesn't change the fact that we have learned to adapt to the annual snowfall with clothing changes, heating systems firing up, and crocks of hot chocolate consumed to warm the body and soul. We also have snow tires placed on our vehicles, snow brushes deployed at the ready for accumulated snowflake windshield removal, garages to nestle away our cars, and automated starters to warm our vehicles before we deploy our life missions into the winter. One has to wonder; how did our ancestors travel in snow back in the old days? The pre-industrial revolution made cabin fever a common thing as we'd only travel on foot with snowshoes or by

horse drawn sleigh. As humans gathered in greater collection in cities or towns like New Hartford, they required snow manipulation or removal, so different ways were created to ease our travels. Snow rollers were large, weighted wheels that were pulled by horse or oxen that would flatten the snow. Other ways included horse drawn plows. The accumulated snowbanks would cause a deployment of man muscle who would hand shovel the banks into horse drawn wagons for relocation to outer areas or dumped into rivers to melt. The first snowplow was invented and used in Milwaukee in 1862 and was pulled behind a horse drawn cart. The invention of motorized vehicles vastly improved ways of manipulating snow and removing it for an increased and advanced urban population. Why our grandparents could more easily walk five miles to school every day in a little less sized snow piles; however, they still walked in the blizzards uphill both to and from their school. I would suggest, dear reader, that you think of, and perform fun activities in the snow from our childhood. Drop to the ground and flap your arms and legs to make a snow angel, pack a wad of snow between your mitten-adorned hands to make a snowball to throw at your favorite person, roll large balls of snow in three different sizes and stack them on top of each other to make a snowman. You can also snowshoe, cross country ski, go sledding down a hill, or build yourself and nice snow fort to hide away from the elements. My only advice of caution to you is to steer clear, let alone partake in a taste of the yellow snow. Happy winter my friends!



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COUNTDOWN
TO CHRISTMAS
CRAFT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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Sitrin Child Care Center staff engage in activities with the children every day.

Fun and Rewarding Experiences Available at the Sitrin Child Care Center

For more than 25 years, Sitrin’s Child Care Center has been welcoming children from six weeks to five years of age. The Center offers specialized programs for 64 children, including a Kindergarten-readiness curriculum, so that each child is prepared to start elementary school when they graduate from the program.

There is also a great deal of excitement at the Center. Children take part in fun movement-based activities, arts and crafts, horticulture, and musical programs, to name a few. The Center’s expansive and secure backyard, along with its elite rubber matted playground surfacing, offers children plenty of room to play outdoors and experience nature.

In addition to providing professional child day care, the Center is also a great place to work.

“Sitrin prides itself on its nurturing, supportive environment where staff can watch children grow from infants to preschool age,” Heather Galinski, Child Care Center Program Director, said. “It’s such a privilege to care for children every day while giving peace of mind to their parents.”

For anyone interested in working at the child care center, Sitrin has the following open positions:

- Full-Time Teacher for Infants.
- Full-Time Teacher for Toddlers.
- Full-Time Teacher Assistants.

• Full-Time Substitute Teachers.

As one of only six child care centers in the region that care for children as young as six weeks, the Center’s overall goal is to provide vital support to working parents, while instilling education, values, and character in the community’s children.

The Child Care Center is currently offering sign-on bonuses for full-time teachers and teacher assistants. The sign-on bonus for teachers is \$1,000 and the sign-on bonus for teacher assistants is \$500.

For information about open positions or to apply, visit www.sitrincareers.com.

ABOUT SITRIN: Sitrin, a not-for-profit corporation, provides a variety of services for people of all ages and abilities, including comprehensive medical rehabilitation (inpatient and outpatient), long-term care, assisted living and enriched housing (Cedarbrook), NeuroCare, residential care for people with intellectual disabilities and medically complex conditions, medical and social model adult day health (OPAL Program), military program, adaptive sports, (STARS Program), a Wellness and Aquatic Center, orthopedic injury program, concussion management, child care, and dental clinic.

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WATER DAMAGE FROZEN AND BURST PIPES, ICE DAMMING, TOILET OVERFLOW, SUMP PUMP FAILURE, FLOODED BASEMENTS

That time of the year is quickly approaching. Of all the disasters that can happen in your home, there is none worse and more difficult to deal with than a pipe that has burst in your home or business. The extreme cold of winter often brings extreme problems to North East homeowners and businesses. The worst of these is a frozen pipe that bursts and the water damage clean up that follows. When the cold temperatures don't rise above freezing for weeks on end, broken or frozen pipes lead to severe water damage from flooding. A frozen pipe generally occurs to plumbing that is not in a heated space or in an area that is not supplied with proper heat when winter temperatures fall below freezing. A malfunctioning furnace, while the homeowner is away, is another likely cause of a frozen pipe. When exposed to below freezing temperatures the water turns into ice and the pipe expands until it breaks a small slit into the copper or separates the soldered joint. Pipes that freeze first are usually located near outside walls that are exposed to the colder temperatures rather than pipes located throughout the middle of the structure. Some examples include outdoor hose bibs, pool lines, outdoor and indoor sprinkler systems, and other supply lines located in attics, basements, crawl spaces, garages, etc. Pipes in attics, crawl spaces & unheated rooms are particularly susceptible to freezing. Usually, a frozen pipe is not often obvious because the break can be behind walls, in ceilings or in a crawl space leading into the home. The flooding usually is caught much later after damage has been done. An uncontrolled water leak from a broken pipe creates extensive flooding and water damage of carpeting, drywall, baseboards, and furniture and depending on the location of the break can also damage the heating and electrical systems in your home. Disaster Services can accurately evaluate your homes damage and advise as to the most effective course of action to take. We use the latest technology including thermal imaging to determine the source of the water intrusion and the extent of water damage.

SEWER AND DRAIN BACK UP:

Sewer overflow or drain back-ups can present a more technical approach to the clean-up due to the contaminants involved. Porous, semi-porous building materials and contents will generally involve removal where affected by sewage, followed by proper remediation cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Hard surface areas when properly remediated will bring the space back to a pre loss condition and ready for new material replacement.

BASEMENT AND ATTIC MOLD:

Several factors can influence a mold growth in a basement or attic area. Disaster Services is a NYS licensed mold contractor and can evaluate and thoroughly explain the different removal options available to you and also help guide you after the mold has been removed with suggestions to avoid another occurrence.

Do I need a water mitigation company and what does a water mitigation company do?

The purpose of a professional water mitigation company is pick up the phone when

a clients emergency arises! Respond to the incident, evaluate and get the situation under control to prevent further damage and discuss a plan with the homeowner moving forward. Disaster Services will determine the extent of water travel, evaluate and remove, if necessary, any affected structural materials, like drywall and flooring. If left unaddressed, wet flooring and drywall can rapidly lead to major problems, like structural weakening and mold growth. We will also determine the proper type and amount of drying equipment necessary to dry the structure back to a pre loss condition. Disaster Services will make sure you get the help you need when you need it most. Customers should get clear answers to their questions about services and procedures. ... Trusted companies will provide detailed information about the services they provide and how they are performed.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COMPANY:

DISASTER SERVICES CHECKS ALL THE BOXES !!!

Choose a Water Damage Restoration Company That Can Do The Following:

Can Offer A Full Line Of Services From Water Damage Mitigation To Mold Remediation So That The Home Owner Will Be Working With A Single Company.

Responsive – Emergency or Non-Emergency Services. Your Call Will Be Answered Immediately.

Has Reputable 5 Star Local References.

Is Fully insured For Water Mitigation And Mold Remediation Services.

Offers A Detailed Plan For Damage Repairs.

Knows How To Navigate The Insurance Claims Process With You.

Uses The Latest State-of-the-Art Equipment And Techniques.

Treats You, Your Home And Its Contents With Respect.

For more information on any concerns, please feel free to call Disaster Services. When in need of emergency or non-emergency services, Disaster Services LLC. offers immediate response to damage caused by water, fire, smoke and mold. We are a locally owned company who will answer your calls when you call. No answering machines, voice prompts etc. We are a N.Y.S. licensed mold removal firm and recognized by all insurance carriers, working closely with both the home owner and insurance carrier. When calling our office, you will always speak to a live voice and not an answering machine. We realize that in your time of need you should be speaking to someone and not a machine.

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SCAN ME



The advertisement features a grid background with three illustrations of boats. The top boat is a small motorboat with a label "RE-UPHOLSTERED SEATS" pointing to its interior. The middle boat is a larger motorboat with labels "COCKPIT COVER" pointing to the front, "BOW COVER" pointing to the front, "AFT CURTAIN" pointing to the side, "CONVERTIBLE TOP" pointing to the roof, and "SIDE WINDOWS" pointing to the side. The bottom boat is a small motorboat with a label "MOORING COVER" pointing to its top. Below the boats is a large logo for "ADIRONDACK MARINE CANVAS & UPHOLSTERY" featuring a silhouette of a boat. At the bottom, it says "Joe Lopata - Owner/Fabricator New Hartford | 315-520-9997". To the right is a QR code and the text "Like Us On Facebook".



Mohawk Valley Frontiers Hosts 40th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner — Over 200 Meals Served

The Mohawk Valley Frontiers hosted the 40th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Carol Croomes BECA Community Center, serving more than 200 fresh, home-cooked meals to seniors across the community.

Volunteers shared that “it’s not just about having enough food; it’s about the effort you put in to make it happen — that’s the real story.” With many seniors experiencing delays and reductions in SNAP benefits, organizers emphasized how deeply important this meal has become, noting that seniors can “enjoy it, save part of it, or share it with someone else.”

U’nice Elliott Jefferson, President of the Mohawk Valley Frontiers, and Senior Club leader Darlene Mack-Brown expressed that with many elders struggling to receive benefits, “this year, it’s more important than ever, especially for the elderly.” The Frontier leadership stressed that the dinner offers at least one reliable, hearty holiday meal during a time when many seniors are facing food insecurity.

Retired social worker Rich Davis lovingly roasted three turkeys for the event, proudly texting photos throughout the day. He said that preparing them took dedication — “about three hours each, though one took four because I adjusted the temperature to cook it faster.” Volunteers noted that Rich finds joy in roasting the birds every year, and his commitment “perfectly describes the essence of volunteering.”

Meals were served at the community center and delivered to homebound seniors. U’nice Elliott Jefferson personally drove meals to shut-in and disabled elders, ensuring everyone was included.

The Jr. Frontiers assisted throughout the event — helping prepare and distribute meals, then heading into their Saturday SAT prep, demonstrating leadership, discipline, and service to community.



LIONS Club News

Members of the New Hartford/New York Mills/Whitestown Lions Club attended a 20W District dinner meeting with our District Governor Barbara Bentley at Orchard Hall in Sauquoit. We enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner with members of many of the area’s Lions Clubs. Two of our members, Diana Simmons and Geraldine Schisler were recognized for 10 years of service with the Lions Club. Nick Montesano was recognized for 45 years of service. Pictured are Diana, Geraldine and Nick with District Governor Barbara Bentley.

Nancy Sepulveda and Barb Taverne were guest speakers at our November meeting. They are volunteers representing Mother Marianne’s West Side Kitchen and Boutique and the Thea Bowman Children’s Garden. The club continued our monetary support of their valuable programs which support individuals in need in the community. Some of our members also volunteer time in these missions. Pictured are Lions Club treasurer Nick Montesano and President Gail Hardy as well as Nancy Sepulveda and Barb Taverne. The New Hartford/NY Mills/Whitestown Lions Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Sloppy Joe’s Pizza. Visitors are always welcome.



by Raymond J. Durso, Jr.,
President/CEO The Genesis
Group Chairman, Chamber
Alliance Mohawk Valley



The Genesis Group News

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to community growth, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses like you to sustain our vital work. As we launch our 2026 Annual Appeal, we kindly ask for your financial support, which plays a crucial role in empowering us to continue serving our community and fulfilling our mission.

We continue to witness firsthand the profound impact our programs and initiatives have had on the lives of those we serve. None of this would be possible without the support of donors like you. Together, with your support we can create stronger connections and lasting change in our community.

Genesis Group areas of focus include: Community Forums, Small Business Assistance Program, Education, Literacy, Healthcare, Drones, Tourism, Agri-Business, Banking and Finance and more.

*To make a donation visit: www.TheGenesisGroup.org

19th Annual Celebration of Education ~ Class of 2025

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Education Hall of Distinction Inductees:

Dr. Brian Bellair
Lisa Putnam
James Weaver

Education Distinguished Service Honorees:

James “Jim” DuRoss
Richard Engelbrecht
Nicholas Laino

Outstanding Educators

Stephanie Behr - Madison BOCES
Kate Bugeya - New Hartford CSD
John Bunker - Remsen CSD
Robert Burns - Whitesboro CSD
Leanne Byard - Herkimer BOCES
Kelly Dwyer Miller - Morrisville-Eaton CSD
Janis Farley - Utica Notre Dame
Dr. Patrice Hallock - Utica University
Laura Hoffman - Sauquoit Valley CSD
Alison Keeler - New Hartford CSD
Erika Kistowski - Remsen CSD
Ron Klopfanstein - Utica University/Utica CSD
Jennifer Krohn - Mohawk Valley Community College
Taylor McNamara - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dr. Kelly Minerva - Utica University
Dr. Kathleen Rourke - SUNY Poly
Amanda Roy Small - Mohawk Valley Community College
David Schiavi - Utica CSD
Colleen Sparacino - NY Mills Union Free Schools
Dr. Jim Staihar - SUNY Poly
Sharece Toner - Utica Notre Dame
Christine Tucker - Owen D. Young CSD
Jolene Vanderhoof - Vernon-Verona-Sherrill CSD

Outstanding Programs

ACE Program - SUNY Poly (Advancing Completion Through Engagement)
Adirondack STEAM Program - Adirondack CSD
Mohawk Valley Junior Frontiers - Utica CSD, Rome Free Academy and Utica Academy of Science Charter School
MVCAA Head Start Program - Mohawk Valley Community Action
Phaethon - Herkimer County Community College (Literary and Arts Publication)
West Canada Valley Band Program - West Canada Valley CSD



by Victor J. Fariello Jr.



The Vanishing Watchmaker

I'm not sure how many readers remember that there was a watchmaker in the Village of New Hartford many years ago. His name was Castor Raleigh and his shop was in the space that is now next to where Calabria Coffee is today. I used to ride my bike from my house on Oxford Road to visit him. He was an expert watchmaker and it was fascinating to watch him work. Although the shop was long and deep, he had his watchmaker's bench way up front in front of the window. By all appearances he had plenty of work, in my opinion maybe too much and I think he had a hard time keeping up with it. Eventually health problems caused him to retire and close up shop.

Since that time, the number of these master watchmakers has dwindled. Fewer and fewer individuals are being trained for this profession which is sad. Unless things change, and current trends suggest they probably won't, it won't be long before these expert watchmakers will be exceedingly hard to find. They are already pretty scarce and without an influx of new blood entering the field, I'm afraid the writing is on the wall for this vanishing art.

There are efforts to keep this lost art alive with schools and training programs that are trying to entice new entrants to the field. So far the numbers of individuals interested in pursuing this field is not overwhelming. We can only hope that more will consider it.

I know for a fact that if Mr. Raleigh was still around, he would be busier than ever. Happy Collecting!



"The Watchmaker" by Norman Rockwell

NH Historical Society – Your Support Is Appreciated

It's a great time to renew or start your membership in this great community asset. There are new rates for 2025: \$20 Individual; \$25-Family; \$50-Contribute; and \$100-Corporate. You can also now pay for your membership online at the society's website newhartfordhistory.com or you can mail your check payable to 'NH Historical Society' to PO Box 238, New Hartford, NY 13413. All donations are tax deductible. Your support is appreciated.

NH Questers-Check Us Out

The J. Schoolcraft Sherman Chapter #1519 meets monthly at the NH Library except July and August. Our meetings are at 4:30 p.m. on the 1st Monday of the month. We are a chapter of the International Questers, an organization of individuals interested in history, preservation and an appreciation for antiques. We try to have an interesting program each month and members bring items for a Show & Tell. Dues are \$50 per year and includes an online subscription to the quarterly Questers magazine. For more information contact me by email at vjfariello@gmail.com or call 315-723-7285. We would be happy to have you come check us out!

Victor J. Fariello Jr. is a lifelong resident of New Hartford and has been a collector and dealer of antiques for many years. He is a past officer and member of the New Hartford Historical Society and is the President of the J. Schoolcraft Sherman Chapter #1519 of The Questers, an International organization for people who love antiques and have a commitment to preservation. Questions on anything related to antiques can be sent to him at PO Box 194, Washington Mills, NY 13479 or by email to vjfariello@gmail.com. Any photos submitted will be returned upon request.



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Creating Cozy Holiday Magic at Home

There’s something magical about December in Central New York — the sparkling lights, the scent of pine, and that cozy feeling that only comes from being surrounded by home, family, and warmth. As the holiday season rolls in, it’s the perfect time to refresh your home décor and make your spaces ready for gatherings, guests, and quiet evenings by the fire.

At Grace Furniture on River Road, we believe your home should reflect the heart of the holidays — comfort, beauty, and togetherness. Whether you’re hosting the big family dinner, welcoming relatives for a weekend stay, or simply curling up with cocoa to watch your favorite holiday movie, the right furniture and décor can help create an inviting atmosphere that feels both festive and timeless.



A Season for Style and Comfort

The best designs start with a warm foundation. Think soft textures, rich colors, and cozy seating areas that invite everyone to linger a little longer. This year, one of the biggest trends we’re seeing is “warm minimalism” — a balance of simplicity and seasonal cheer. Try layering neutral tones with accents of deep green, cranberry, or gold. Add natural touches like pinecones, branches, and woven baskets for texture. A new area rug or an updated accent chair can instantly make a room feel fresh while keeping the look natural and relaxed.

And for the ultimate in holiday comfort? Nothing says “merry and bright” like a brand-new recliner. At Grace Furniture, our recliners make the perfect gift — whether it’s for the hard-working dad who deserves to relax, the mom who wants her own cozy reading corner, parents to be or even as a treat to yourself. With top-

rated comfort and style, they’re a holiday favorite year after year.

Entertaining Made Easy

If you’re hosting this season, now is the time to think about your dining space. A beautiful new table or set of chairs can elevate your gatherings, and modern dining sets now combine elegance with practicality — easy to clean, durable, and designed to impress. A stylish buffet or sideboard can also add both storage and sophistication, giving you space to display candles, greenery, or your favorite winter décor. In the living room, consider rearranging your layout to make conversation easier — pull seating closer together, add a coffee table centerpiece with a few holiday accents, or use soft lighting to create a welcoming glow.



Give the Gift of Home

Finding the right gift can be a challenge, but at Grace Furniture, we make it simple. In addition to our wide selection of home furnishings, we also offer gift certificates — perfect for anyone who loves decorating or is moving into a new home. It’s a thoughtful and flexible way to share the joy of comfort and style. For those who prefer to give something tangible, our store features great gift ideas like accent chairs, clocks, lamps, and of course, our ever-popular recliners.

Whether you’re surprising someone with the ultimate relaxation spot or helping a loved one update their favorite space, we’ll help you find the perfect fit.

Celebrate Local, Celebrate Home

This holiday season, we invite you to shop local and discover what makes Grace Furniture such a special part of the Marcy community. Our team loves helping customers create spaces that feel personal, warm, and ready for every celebration. Stop by our showroom on River Road in Marcy to see our latest holiday arrivals, take home some décor inspiration, or pick up a gift certificate for someone special.

From our family to yours, we wish you a joyful, comfortable, and beautifully decorated holiday season!

Grace Furniture – River Road, Marcy Quality. Comfort. Home.



Written by; Cassie Grace Miles, 4th generation steward of Grace Furniture, a family-owned business since 1940, on River Road, in Marcy, NY. Cassie received her BFA in Design from The Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan and continued her career in design, managing luxury furniture showrooms in the world-renowned Miami Design District, along with additional world class hospitality training at 5-star hotels.

Irish Cultural Center December Events

EVENT: Holiday Paint & Sip Class

DATE/TIME: Thursday December 4th at 6.00pm

LOCATION: The Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley 623 Columbia Street Utica

ABOUT: Enjoy an evening out while creating a winter masterpiece! Jill will deftly guide us through the process of creating a personalized 12” x 30” wooden sign designed to celebrate the season. There will be a choice of 2 designs. The \$50 fee includes paints, wood sign, instruction, adult beverage, and light snacks. Enjoy wine and sweet treats while you paint!

PRESENTER: Jill Rae Venerra has taught several Paint & Sip classes at the ICC, and will be back with resounding reviews from her past classes!

TICKETS: The class costs \$50; please register at this link <https://bit.ly/42INKdA> or call 315-733-4228 Ext 6.

EVENT: Lunch & Learn Program "St. Stephen, Wrens and Mummers

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 11:00am

LOCATION: The Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley 623 Columbia Street Utica

ABOUT: The ancient tradition of "Hunting the Wren" on the day after Christmas has seen a resurgence in popularity in many parts of Ireland as well as in the Isle of Man and Wales. Come learn about St. Stephen, Wrens and Mummers.

PRESENTER: Michael Hoke is part of the Program Committee at the Irish Cultural Center and is interested in all things related to Irish culture.

TICKETS: The cost is \$20 for lunch tax and gratuity. Please register at this link <https://bit.ly/3LvDGib> or leave a message at (315) 733-4228, Ext 6.



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Christopher J. Carbone

Are you Prepared to Handle a Personal Financial Crisis?

Individuals who are married or in a committed relationship face the possibility they'll end up managing complicated finances alone at some point. Unfortunately, the first time many experience this is during a personal crisis following divorce or a spouse's or partner's death.

Here's a list of thought-provoking questions pertaining to financial fitness and crisis preparedness. Use them as a starting point to check on how prepared you are to handle a personal financial crisis. Begin by reviewing

the questions, determine what you've already done, and check those items off the list. For the questions you need to address or take action on, seek the advice of professional advisors and trusted family members.

Asset management

- Do I have a clear picture of where my assets are located?
- Will my retirement assets provide a comfortable retirement for my life expectancy?
- Do I have a well-diversified portfolio?
- Are my investments appropriate in today's economy?
- Are my assets titled properly?
- Do I have an emergency fund?
- Am I taking advantage of techniques to help reduce my taxes?

Estate planning strategies

- Do I have a will?
- Is my will current?
- Have I determined what my family may owe in estate taxes?
- Have I funded my estate-tax liability?
- Have I explored and taken advantage of wealth-transfer techniques?
- Do I wish to provide for charitable giving?
- Are my power of attorney, living will, and beneficiary designations up-to-date?

Debt management

- Do I know my credit rating?
- Could I get a loan if I applied?

Insurance

- Do I have enough insurance coverage to:
 - Cover medical expenses?
 - Provide for disability/long-term care?
 - Provide for family members' security?

- Fund an estate-tax liability?

In addition ...

- Have I coordinated my advisors' (attorney, CPA, banker) activities?
- What changes in my life are likely to occur within the next three years?
- Do I know the status of my parents'/children's financial situation and the implications for my financial well-being?
- Would I be prepared for a family emergency if it happened tomorrow?

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This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Christopher J. Carbone, CFP®, AWMA®, LUTCF® First Vice President - Investment Officer - Financial Advisor in New Hartford, NY at (315) 723-7386

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ChangingChildrensLives.com

Domenica Discovers Her Strength

Domenica entered foster care at age seven after living in an unsafe home. She struggled with big emotions and frequent outbursts,

but through The House of the Good Shepherd's Tilton School program, she learned to express herself and stay calm. Now thriving in a stable home, she's earning high grades—proof of how far she's come.

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GIVE THE GIFT OF
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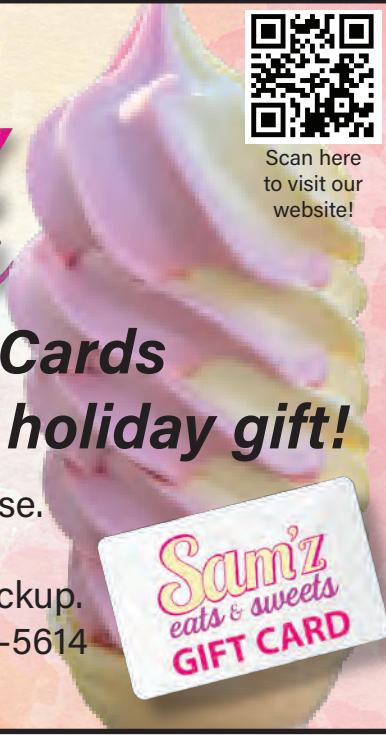


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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

105 Genesee Street, New Hartford (315)733-4227
office@firstumconline.org Rev. David McKinney
Sunday Services:
10am Classic Worship
Sunday School for children begins around 10:20
Adult Sunday school 11-12pm
Sunday Youth Group 7-8pm
Supervised Nursery Care during Worship
Fellowship Coffee Hour following Worship Service
Praise/Worship Services are the 3rd Wed. of each month.
Light supper will begin at 5:30 and worship is from 6-7pm
Our Church Building is open for in-person worship services
Or watch our livestream service online at firstumconlline.org
Easily accessible building, sanctuary, and bathroom.

SAUQUOIT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2946 Mohawk Street, Sauquoit (Cor. Pinnacle & Mohawk)
Office: 315-737-7505
Worship Service - Sunday 10:30am
Open worship and communion - all are welcome!
Communion on First Sunday of the month.
Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

66 Oxford Road - 315-732-8521 Rev. Matthew Rawson
Saturday: Vigil 5:30 p.m. Confessions Tues 6-7pm
Sunday Masses: 8am & 11am
Mon, Wed & Fri Masses: 6:45am
We are handicapped accessible!

CROSSPOINT CHURCH

317 Oriskany Blvd, Whitesboro - 315-797-4520
Senior Pastor, Bobby Allen
Sunday Services:
8:30am – 9:00am Breakfast
9:00am – 10:30am Study Groups
10:30am – 12noon Worship Service
Website: crosspointchurchonline.org
Sunday Morning Services streamed live
Pastor Bobby’s message available at our website
We are handicapped accessible!

HOPE ALLIANCE CHURCH

4291 Middle Settlement Road, New Hartford
General Office: 315-732-1349 Rev. Andy Ward, Pastor
hopealliance4291@gmail.com www.hopealliancecny.com
Morning Worship: 9:30am
Communion First Sunday of the Month.
Wednesdays: Awana - 6pm
Fridays: Christian Service Brigade - 7pm
Hope Alliance Church is handicapped accessible.

ST. STEPHEN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

25 Oxford Road - 732-7462 (Parish & Rectory)
ststephensepiscopalnhny@gmail.com
Sunday Service of Holy Communion at 10am followed by fellowship
Al-Anon Meetings: Sun. at 5pm & Thurs. at 5:30pm
AA Meetings: Sundays at 8pm
Yoga by Kristy: Tues. 5:30-7pm & Thurs. at 9:30-11am.
more information can be found at www.rootdownwell.com
EGA Meetings: 1st Friday of the Month
St. Stephen’s is handicapped accessible.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Fletcher Matlack
9501 Weston Rd. (Next to Perry Jr. High), (315) 737-5222
www.ibcfamily.com E-mail: info@ibcfamily.com
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:00 am
Sunday School for all ages at 9am.
Nursery, Preschool and Children’s Worship hour: 10:00 am
See our website for information regarding our Youth Group,
Kids Club and other upcoming events.
Handicapped accessible.

NEW HARTFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Hannah Ratliff, Pastor
45 Genesee Street, NH 315-732-1139
newhartfordpresbyterian.org • office@newhartfordpres.org
Morning worship is at 10:30 on Sunday.
Services can be found on Facebook and YouTube.
Child care and activities for children 5 and under begin at 9 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School (Sonday Club) precedes worship and starts at 9:30. An Adult Study Group meets at that same time and also on Tuesday mornings at 11:30.
The choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:10. It will also rehearse at 7 p.m. on Thursdays December 4 and 11, and at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 13.
A fellowship/coffee hour for everyone follows each Sunday morning worship service.
Except as noted, regular Church Office hours are 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Friday.
Special activities taking place in December include:
• Angel Tree donations to benefit children of Thea Bowman House collected until December 14.

- Christmas Cantata by the NHPC Choir presented during worship on Dec. 14.
- Blue Christmas service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17.
- Children’s Christmas Play presented during worship on Dec. 21.
- Congregational Christmas lunch follows worship Dec 21.
- Christmas Eve Service with Harpist Jessica Wilbee 5p.m. on Dec 24.

The December schedule:

- 12/1 — 7 p.m. Brief Deacons meeting to elect officers
- 12/2 — 11:30 a.m. Adult Study Group
- 12/2 — 6 p.m. NHPC Women’s Annual Christmas Dinner
- 12/3 — 10 a.m. Sew ’n Sews
- 12/3 — 6 p.m. 4-H mtg
- 12/4 — 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12/7 — 9 a.m. Child Care & Activities
- 12/7 — 9:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12/7 — 9:30 a.m. Sonday Club & Adult Study Group
- 12/7 — 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion
- 12/9 — 11:30 a.m. Adult Study Group
- 12/10 — 10 a.m. Sew ’n Sews
- 12/10 — 12 Noon Members & Friends Luncheon
- 12/11 — 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12/13 — 10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12/14 — Last Day for Angel Tree donations
- 12/14 — 9 a.m. Child Care & Activities
- 12/14 — 9:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12/14 — 9:30 a.m. Sonday Club & Adult Study Group
- 12/14 — 10:30 a.m. Worship, Christmas Cantata
- 12/16 — 11:30 a.m. Adult Study Group
- 12/17 — 10 a.m. Sew ’n Sews
- 12/17 — 6 p.m. 4-H mtg
- 12/17 — 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
- 12/20 — 10 a.m. Christmas Caroling
- 12/21 — 9 a.m. Child Care & Activities
- 12/21 — 9:30 a.m. Sonday Club & Adult Study group
- 12/21 — 10:30 a.m. Worship, Children’s Christmas Play
- 12/21 — 11:30 a.m. Congregational Christmas Lunch
- 12/21 — 11:45 a.m. Session mtg
- 12/23 — 11:30 a.m. Adult Study Group
- 12/24 — Church Office closed
- 12/24 — 10 a.m. Sew ’n Sews
- 12/24 - 5pm Christmas Eve Service w/Harpist Jessica Wilbee
- 12/25 — Christmas, NHPC closed
- 12/26 — Church Office closed
- 12/27 — 3 p.m. Hope House meal preparation
- 12/28 — 9 a.m. Child Care & Activities
- 12/28 — 9:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12/28 - 10:30am Worship w/Rev. Dennis Dewey, Pianist Greg Unangst
- 12/31 — 10 a.m. Sew ’n Sews
- 1/1 — New Year’s Day, NHPC closed
- 1/2 — Church Office closed

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NH

7 Oxford Road - Office phone: 315-733-4570
firstbaptistnh@gmail.com
Rev. James Harriff, Pastor
Sunday Service - 9:30am
Sunday School - 11:00am
Handicapped Accessible. All are welcome.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Worship with us on Sundays at 10am
8439 Clark Mills Rd, Whitesboro
(315) 527-6257

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 French Road, New Hartford
Pastor Rev. Marie Duquette.
Sunday Mornings at 10 AM
Al-Anon Meetings, Wednesdays at 12:30 PM
315-732-4110, office@zionluth.com
www.zionlutheranNy.org
Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

ST. MARGARET’S ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CTR

47 Jordan Road, New Hartford
To register for an event or volunteer opportunity, or to schedule a personal or group retreat, please email info@stmargaretshouseny.org or call 315-724-2324. Office hours, Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm
Weekly Activities
Worship Services Wednesdays at Noon
Wednesday Lunches at 12:30 PM (Please make a reservation by the Friday before)
Monthly Activities
Caregiving Support Group | Please call or email for information, new members welcome!
This group’s focus will be to provide a place for folks who are caregivers to gain support for themselves, and exchange ideas to help care for loved ones at home. We plan to meet monthly and each session will last approximately one hour. Please call or email if you have questions or would like to register your interest in joining the group.
Men’s Group with Father Nick Smith: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM
Conversations with Father John LaVoe: 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 PM
Grief Support Group: 3rd Fridays at Noon
Conversations with Rev. Deacon Jean: 4th Wednesdays at 1:30 PM

Community Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

It Takes A Village: Tuesdays from 2:00 to 5:00 PM
Volunteer at the St. Margaret’s Food Pantry at Grace Church on Tuesdays. Many thanks for your continued generosity and to the Episcopal Diocese of Central NY!
Shelf Stable Goods for Grace Church Food Pantry | On-going. St. Margaret’s is accepting toiletries, coffee, and shelf stable goods for the Grace Church Food Pantry.
Your Neighbors Service Project: First Fridays of the Month. Help provide meals for the homebound in the Greater Utica area. Containers and instructions available at St. Margaret’s. Meal drop offs collected 1st Fridays or by arrangement.
Friends of Emmaus House: 2nd Wednesdays at 10 AM
Join our volunteers who meet monthly to help support the needs of Emmaus House, Utica’s only emergency shelter that serves women with children.

Special Events

Advent with Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves | December 3rd at 1:30 PM
We will gather together and discuss the folks that were there when Jesus was born. Was the scene like the creche we see today? What role did those people play in the Christmas story? Join us and explore the answers to these questions and more. Please register by November 24th.
Please note: St. Margaret’s will be closed from December 24th through January 1st. Best wishes for peace and joy in the New Year.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2620 Genesee St., South Utica. (315) 732-7869
trinitylutheranutica.com
Sunday School 9am. Worship Service 10:30am
Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.
Trinity Christian Preschool, weekday classes from Sept-May
Handicapped accessible.

THREE STEEPLES UNITED

2817 Old State Route 12, Paris, NY 13456
315-368-3416 threesteeples@gmail.com
We offer services every Sunday at 10AM!
Three Steeples is a Presbyterian-United Church of Christ hybrid that offers a traditional foundation for progressive thinking and growth and is open to engaging with all faiths. Three Steeples United is an inclusive and member-driven faith community of active individuals and families who connect with and care for their neighbors and one another through worship, education, and culture. We challenge ourselves and others to discern, embrace, and act upon a relevant understanding of Christ’s message in today’s world.

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

350 Higby Road, New Hartford, 315-292-6682
Fr. George Goodge
Sun - 9am Matins, 10am Liturgy
Wed - 5:30pm Vespers
Bookstore hours: Open Sundays after Services.

ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT RUSSIAN ORTHODOX MEMORIAL CHURCH

1009 Conkling Ave, Utica, N.Y. 13501
Fr Archpriest Michael Taratuchin, Rector
(315) 723-7475 (frmichaelt@msn.com)
Fr. Priest Ephraim Willmarth, assistant priest
Find us on Facebook www.stjkutica.org
Vigil 5pm Saturdays (6pm for weekday services)
Divine Liturgy Sundays and Feastdays 9:30AM
Potluck lunch following Sunday Divine Liturgy.
Our Patronal Feast Day will take place on Saturday November 1st. The greeting of the Bishop will take place at 9:30 AM, followed by the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy (with the Procession of the Cross, weather permitting).



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of UTICA

10 Higby Road, Utica NY 13501
315-724-3179 www.uuutica.org
The Unitarian Universalist Church is an open minded, open hearted spiritual community. Unitarian Universalists come from different faith backgrounds but our shared values bring us together. Whoever you are, whomever you love, whatever your beliefs, you are welcome here.
Services are at 10:30 AM on Sundays, in person and on Zoom. Hospitality hour with coffee and snacks follows each service.





TEMPLE EMANU-EL
2710 Genesee St Utica, 315-724-4177 • teuticaoffice@gmail.com
Rabbi Peter Schaktman
Friday Evening Shabbat Services 6pm.

TEMPLE BETH-EL
1607 Genesee Street, Utica
Rabbi Gustavo Geier
In person and on zoom www.tbetutica.org
Fri night - 5:30pm • Sat morning - 9:30am

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
2310 Oneida Street, Utica - 315-733-2343
Provides programs for seniors and recreational activities for all ages. Open to people of all races, religions, and nationalities.

ZVI JACOB
Orthodox Synagogue
110 Memorial Parkway, Utica - 315-724-8357
Interim Rabbi Levi Charitonow
Services are held Saturday at 10am, and on holidays.
Services may be held at other times if there is a minyan.
Visit our website www.zvijacob.org. All are Welcome.

Angels Among Us Food Pantry
Dec 6th, 20th

Hours of Operation: 10am - Noon

The food pantry is located at: St. John The Evangelist Church, 66 Oxford Rd, New Hartford, NY. Follow the signs to the driveway in the back during open hours. In the event of food emergency issues, please contact the St. John’s rectory from 9AM to 2 PM Monday through Thursday at 315-732-8521.

Our pantry provides services to all residents of New Hartford (btw Rt 8 and Rt 12), Washington Mills, Chadwicks, Sauquoit, Cassville and Clayville.

If this is your first visit, please bring proof of address. If you do not have a permanent address, just come in. We will assist.

If you are unsure of eligibility, just come in. We will assist.

We Are Looking For Volunteers!



Unity Hall Presents Spectacular CKS Band - World-Class Blues-Rock Players from
The Gregg Allman Band, The Band, and Scott Sharrard of Little Feat
Friday, December 12 at 7:30 PM

When he’s not touring the world as Little Feat’s lead guitarist, Scott Sharrard loves nothing more than turning up the heat in intimate rooms with his close musical friends — keyboard legend Bruce Katz and drummer/vocalist powerhouse Randy Ciarlante. On Friday, December 12 at 7:30 PM, Sharrard’s exceptional “CKS” trio brings its soulful, high-octane blues-rock to the Unity Hall Mainstage for one electrifying night only. A spectacular way for Unity Hall to close out 2025!

Before joining Little Feat, Sharrard spent more than a decade as guitarist and musical director for the Gregg Allman Band, earning praise from Allman himself:

“I know all about guitar players — I’ve seen the very best — and Scott Sharrard is the perfect guitarist for my band... When it’s time to solo, Scott delivers, boy.” — Gregg Allman

Bruce Katz, a Hammond B3 and piano virtuoso, has performed and recorded with John Hammond, Little Milton, Jimmy Witherspoon, Duke Robillard, and Ronnie Earl. Randy Ciarlante, Levon Helm’s “right-hand man” in The Band, spent a decade anchoring Helm’s groove before joining Jim Weider’s group on drums and vocals.

Together, the CKS Band mines the rich veins of blues, soul, and roots-rock, revisiting songs born alongside their legendary collaborators while serving up smoking originals that showcase the trio’s unmistakable chemistry.

Tickets are \$30 for Unity Hall members and \$35 for non-members. Seating is limited and tickets are selling fast. Advance purchase is strongly encouraged. Tickets are available exclusively through Humanitix at www.unityhall.com/cksband. If available, tickets will be sold at the door beginning at 7 PM.

The concert takes place at Unity Hall, 101 Vanderkemp Ave, Barneveld NY. Presented by the Unity Hall Foundation, a nonprofit organization preserving the historic 1896 Hall as a vibrant center for the arts. The 2025 Mainstage Series is made possible with support from the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Utica Mutual Insurance, and the New York State Council on the Arts through CNY Arts. For more information on upcoming concerts and events, visit www.unityhall.com/events or www.facebook.com/historicunityhall; www.instagram.com/unityhallbarneveld



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back to our tree by Thursday, December 18th at 10am.

Help us spread joy to Oneida
& Herkimer County Families in
need this Holiday Season!

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