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the **TOWN Crier**

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Vol. 40 No. 2
February 2026

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Order your Singing Valentine Now!

The quartets of the Mohawk Valley Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, are preparing for St. Valentine's Day and will be delivering Singing Valentines to sweethearts throughout the Mohawk Valley from Thursday, Feb. 12, through Saturday, Feb. 14.

The Singing Valentines' package includes two sweetheart songs-sung in Barbershop style, a personalized St. Valentine's Day card, a flower, and a small box of candy. The cost of the Singing Valentine begins at \$50.

The Singing Valentines program is one fundraiser that helps support the music programs of the chapter for community outreach.

For information and to order a Singing Valentine, call 315-269-4122 or 315-525-9621.

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Adirondack Mountain Club

Adirondack Mountain Club invites members and the public to Carpathian Mountains a presentation by Tom Cole.

Join us at 6:00 pm February 3 at the New Hartford Public Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford, NY

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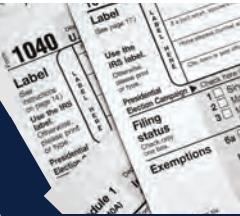
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GE Ski Club

Come join us at the next meeting February 17th at the New Hartford American Legion 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 Mohawk Valley Chapter
of Trout Unlimited will
be Hosting Two Events in
February**

Our February monthly gathering will be at 6:30pm on Thursday February 12 at 69 Steakhouse in Whitesboro. The evening topic will be "Learn a Local River: Fishing the West Canada Creek" led by our own member and guide, Bob Janiga. Come out and learn more about access and fishing techniques through the seasons on this beautiful local stream. There will be an opportunity to share your knowledge too and discuss the issues that are facing this watershed. Members and non-members are always welcome to learn more about Trout Unlimited.

The second February event will be "Fun with Fly Tying", a children's program at the new Utica Children's Museum, Memorial Parkway, Utica, during the winter break, from 11:00am to 12:00pm on Saturday, February 21st. Here is a great opportunity for your young angler to learn more about trout and this interesting fishing related hobby. This event is free with admittance to the museum (\$15) and you can enjoy the fun new displays and activities the museum has to offer too. Advance registration is preferred, recommended for ages 8 and older.

Information on all upcoming MVTU events and activities can be found at mohawkvalleytu.org.



**December 2025
New Hartford Police Activity**

1007 Police Incidents / Calls for Police Service

63 Arrests

191 Vehicle Stops

109 Motor Vehicle Collisions Investigated

182 Vehicle and Traffic Law Tickets Issued

275 Supplemental Neighborhood patrols

4 Community Policing Details Completed

**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, March 24th 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.

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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- ♥ February 13 (Fri)
- ♥ February 14 (Sat)

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Barbershop Harmony Society.

www.bhs-mv.org

Mohawk Valley Chapter, BHS
PO Box 445
New Hartford, NY 13413

abc

**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

Additional in-person registration dates:

- **Bradley Elementary** 33 Oxford Road, New Hartford 13413
 - March 5, 2026 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Hughes Elementary** 340 Higby Road, New Hartford 13413
 - March 10, 2026 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Myles Elementary** 100 Clinton Road, New Hartford 13413
 - March 17, 2026 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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://newhartfordcentsltdny.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



NEW HARTFORD CLASS OF 1966 60TH REUNION

September 18, 2026 (Friday) AT 5 PM
IRISH CULTURAL CENTER, 623 Columbia St, Utica, NY

SAVE THE DATE



We're looking for missing classmates. Please let others know and let us know about them. A list of the missing is on our Facebook page.

CONTACT US:

EMAIL: NHHS.1966@AOL.COM

FACEBOOK: NEW HARTFORD CLASS OF 1966

OR CALL US: (315) COMING SOON

Website: NHHS1966@NEOCITIES.COM

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315-733-1535

Monday and Tuesday 10am-8pm
Closed on Wednesdays
Thursday and Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-2pm
Sunday 1-5pm

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

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.

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

Date: The first Monday of the month

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.

Maennerchor Exhibit

The Utica Maennerchor takes center stage in an exhibit at the New Hartford Public Library during the month of February. Founded in 1865 by a small group of German immigrants, the group is the longest surviving musical society in New York state. It is dedicated to the preservation of German culture through song and dance. The exhibit will include examples of traditional German clothing, historical articles and a sample of the many trophies won over the years while performing at the Saengerfest (German singing festival). The exhibit will be in the display case at the library's main entrance.

AARP Smart Driving Class

The next course will take place on Tuesday, January 27th from 9:00am-3:30pm. Please contact Ron 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.

Mid-Winter Recess Fun at the Library

Monday, February 16th: SAMMON ROOM 11am-Noon - Indoor DuploTM Mini Golf.

Come and play a round of golf with us. You may even test your skills at creating your own DuploTM hole for others to play. No registration required.

Tuesday, February 17th : SAMMON ROOM 11am-Noon - DIY Watercolor Pet Portraits.

Paint a portrait of your pet. All supplies will be provided. Please bring a photo of your pet with you (no larger than 8"x8"). Need to print a photo? Fill out our registration online and submit your photo there. We will print a free 5"x5" for this session for you. Registration required. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Online Registration Here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLXpPk1F7kpwundRfpas1Zs9X1QmuGNDT25flXHqMqZIWalw/viewform?usp=dialog>

Thursday, February 19th: SAMMON ROOM 11am-Noon - DIY Bookmarks.

Stop using that spoon as a bookmark and come make a real one!

All supplies needed will be provided. (Paper, magazines, markers...) Feel free to bring and add any personal photo/items to make your bookmark extra special. Make as many or as few bookmarks you wish.

We will provide one laminating sheet per patron for more durable bookmarks.

*Paper/photos only will laminate properly. Staff will approve & assist in laminating. (While supplies last)

No registration required. All ages welcome.

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, February 20th - 22nd: Children's Area & Beyond - Escape the Library : 2026 Winter Edition.

Can you escape the library? Stop in Friday, Saturday or Sunday (February 20th-22nd) during open hours to find out. To begin check in with our Circ Desk to get your first clue and start the clock. Geared for middle grade readers. Children must be supervised in library at all times. Younger patrons may need assistance from an adult. Clues also available at Circ Desk for extra help. All ages welcome to participate.

After Breast Cancer (ABC) Group February 7th 11-12

Join us for our next ABC meeting. Our speaker will be Susan Castilla. Susan is a Community Case Manager, Certified Holistic Health Coach and support group facilitator for the MVHS cancer center. If you're interested in learning how therapeutic grade essential oils can support our health, join the After Breast Cancer (ABC) group.

SHP in the spotlight

Sleep in Heavenly Peace will be the featured organization at the New Hartford Public Library for the month of January. The organization builds and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep. The group works to ensure that, "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town!" In 2025 alone, 622 beds were delivered to 288 families in the Mohawk Valley. Since the chapter's inception in 2021 the group has provided 2,762 beds to 1,267 families in our community. An exhibit by the group will be located in the display case in the library's main entrance.

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.

Back for another Session!! Meditation Class

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

Valentine's Day Cookies

Join Foxtree Bakery on Saturday, February 8th at 1:30PM for a Valentine's Day cookie decorating class!

Participants will decorate a Love Treats Sampler Box featuring four Valentine-themed cookies inspired by a classic chocolate box. All supplies are provided, and each participant will take home their cookies packaged as a gift-ready sampler.

Perfect for beginners and a fun way to celebrate Valentine's Day! Registration is required (315-733-1535) and participants must be 10 years or older.

Valentine's Day Storytime & Children's Valentine's Day Party

Join us Saturday, February 14th at 11:00am in the Children's Area for a special Valentine's Day Storytime with a guest reader. Following the story, will be our Children's Valentine's Day Party in the Corasanti Room from 11:15am to 12:30pm. Light refreshments will be



served. We will also offer a variety of craft supplies for making cards and gifts for your family and friends.

Get a FREE TREE for your Child

We are partnering with @NeighborhoodForest to help green our community and inspire youth environmentalism!

Parents/Guardians, please sign your child up to receive a free tree this Earth Day by filling out this short form: <https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/parent-registration/?school=41291>

We will contact you to pick up your tree at the library when it arrives!

Sign ups are open now through March 15th, trees will arrive the week of Earth Day (April 22)!

For Parent FAQs please see: <https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/parent-faqs/>

#Freetreesforkids #NeighborhoodForest #EarthDay2026

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 Cane Class

Free Personal Safety Program for Seniors. The New Hartford Public Library is sponsoring a three-week Community Cane Class teaching personal safety for seniors using a walking cane. The program is free with pre-registration and all materials are provided, and is taught by Headmaster Eric Staloch of the American Martial Arts Institute in New Hartford. Mr. Staloch has been instructing cane self-defense classes and seminars for more than 26 years. Persons of all mobility levels are welcome. The class is participatory with a light warm-up, blocks, strikes, self-defense techniques, and katas (a traditional martial arts exercise). The goal of the class is for seniors to learn how to better protect themselves and improve balance and mobility in a group class. While geared for seniors ages 50 and older, all adults ages 25 and older are welcome. Whether you use a cane daily for mobility or are simply interested in how to defend yourself, this class is for you. Please call 315-733-1535 to register.

Week 1: Sat, Jan 24 11am-12noon

Week 2: Sat, Jan 31 11am-12noon

Week 3: Mon, Feb. 2 6:30pm-7:30pm

NEW FOR 2026 : Board Books and Babies

Join us on the third Friday of the month at 10:30 for Board Books and Babies!

Our new baby story time program is aimed at ages 0-18months. This is a great way to get your baby introduced into the library setting and meet other caregivers along the way. Feel free to bring your tummy time mats or cozy floor blanket for added comfort. Books, songs, lap bounces and new friends await!

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.

"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 Cavig, 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!

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.

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 10:30am. Interested guests and new members are welcome to attend.

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.

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

The Mitten Tree

The mitten tree this year was filled with an array of mittens and hats to warm heads, hands and hearts. The creativity, colors, and each woven stitch showed the enjoyment of giving by each knitter and their memories of "back in the days". The mittens were enthusiastically and gratefully accepted by the organization Connected Community Schools here in our own area. Mission: "create community schools that ensure students and families have their basic needs met, that they are inspired and supported by the Community". This is a statewide network. Thank you to everyone.

Bill Bonsted Indoor Miniature Golf Tournament

The Bill Bonsted Indoor Miniature Golf Tournament is cancelled for March 28.

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.

We are Hiring!

The New Hartford Public Library is looking for a part-time cleaner. Applicants must have afternoon, evening and weekend availability. Applicants must be able to lift 20-30 lbs. This position is for 14 hrs./wk. If you are interested, please fill out an application at the Circulation Desk at the Library. Applications will be accepted until February 23rd. If you have questions, please contact the Director, Anne DuRoss at 315-733-1535. Thank you!

Coffee with Friends

The Friends of the New Hartford Public Library are hosting a monthly gathering the first Friday of each month. Join them for coffee and donuts and learn about the Friends group and all the ways they support the New Hartford Public Library. February's meeting will take place on Friday, February 6th. at 10:00 am.

More Library News Continued on Next Page



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Library News Continued from Previous Page



Mat Yoga Tuesdays @10:30

Join us for Mat Yoga on Tuesdays at 10:30 this month (minus Tuesday, February 17th) in the Sammon Room. Need a mat? We have plenty you can borrow!

NHPL's Silent Book Club, Friday, February 13th 1:30

Come and read your own book with fellow readers! At the end of the hour, readers are welcome to discuss anything book related! Feel free to share what you're reading or ask others for book suggestions. There's no rules here...read what you want and talk about what you want!

NHPL Board of Trustees Position Available

The Board of Trustees of the New Hartford Public Library is seeking one new member. The Board of Trustees meets the third Wednesday of each month. Trustees must also sit on 2-3 Board committees. Residents of the Town of New Hartford interested in applying should mail or drop off a cover letter and resume to Anne DuRoss at the New Hartford Public Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford, NY 13413 or email them to her at aduross@midyork.org.

The deadline for applications is February 23rd, 2026.

Support the New Hartford Public Library

Thanks to your generosity, 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.



Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. to Host "Mangia for Mike" Spaghetti Dinner in Honor of Mike Trunfio

Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. will host "Mangia for Mike," a Spaghetti Dinner in honor of Mike Trunfio, on Sunday, February 22, 2026, bringing the community together to celebrate Mike's life, legacy, and love of family, food, and fellowship—while supporting compassionate hospice care for local patients and families.

The event will feature two seatings at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Guests will enjoy a traditional spaghetti dinner, dessert, and lively Italian music, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere reflective of Mike Trunfio's generous spirit and deep community roots.

The cost to attend is \$10 per person, and guests are asked to make a donation of \$25 or more per person (for guests over 16 years of age) to support Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.'s upcoming spring on-line auction, which directly benefits the patients and families the organization serves.

"This evening is about honoring Mike in a way that feels true to who he was—bringing people together around a table, sharing stories, laughter, and great food," said Joanne Moskal, Chief Operating Officer of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. "It's also a meaningful way to support Hospice and the vital services we provide every day."

Advance registration is required. To register, visit Mike2026.givesmart.com.

For more information, please contact Joanne Moskal at 315-735-6484 or jmoskal@hospicecareinc.org

MUNSON

New Year, New Skill: Register for Spring Community Art Classes at Munson

There's still time to register for a community arts class at Munson this spring. 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 a variety of painting classes, Intro to Jewelry Making, Art Explorations classes for kids, mini-courses like Salt-Fired Ceramics, and workshops like Bezel-set Pendant. Classes 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.

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.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact Katie Voce, communications manager, at 315-797-0000 ext. 2147 or via email at kvoce@munson.art.

Hellooooo, Utica!



Mrs. Doubtfire

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Preventing Winter Falls

By: Helen M. Sarandrea, PT

Icy sidewalks and snow-covered surfaces make winter a high-risk season for slips and falls. These sudden accidents can lead to serious injuries such as fractures, back injuries, or head trauma—but many winter falls are preventable.

Simple precautions help, including wearing shoes with good traction, walking slowly with shorter steps, and using handrails whenever possible. Still, even with caution, icy conditions are unpredictable. Physical readiness plays a critical role in preventing falls.

Strength, balance, and coordination allow the body to react quickly if you slip, often preventing a fall before it happens. Targeted strength and conditioning can improve stability, confidence, and overall safety when walking on slippery surfaces. Proactive physical therapy focused on fall prevention helps reduce risk before an injury occurs. If you want to stay active and safe this winter, professional guidance can help prepare your body for challenging conditions. To schedule an appointment for fall-prevention-focused strength and conditioning contact Helen M. Sarandrea PT today!

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For more information, please visit our website or call us!

**Fair Trade Shop**

Valentine's Day is celebrated in honor of one of two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine, and through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. Give a gift of love this Valentine's Day!

Our Heart Necklace is made from upcycled bull horn, a byproduct of the food industry in Vietnam. "You inspire me every day!" says the card that comes with this sweet red heart pendant on a gold-colored chain. Gift this necklace to a friend, a love, a child, a parent—someone you care about to let them know how you feel. If you can't find the words, the note that comes with it says it all.

Bring a little nature with you everywhere you go with our one-of-a-kind resin and dried flower White Rain Flower Earrings from Peru. For that person in your life who can't get enough flowers, walking in the woods, or being outdoors.

Traditional designs from Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico, our Pure Copper Adjustable Bracelet is created entirely by hand. Multiple beautiful designs will vary from product image. The mission of Costellos jewelry is to instill struggling artisans of Mexico with the economic security, confidence, pride and inspiration they seek as protectors of their cultural heritage.

These and many more uniquely handcrafted gift items from 38 different countries can be found at our Fair Trade Shop, Stone Presbyterian Church, 8 So. Park Row, Clinton. Our regular hours are 10am to 4pm every Thursday, SECOND Saturdays, and by appointment by calling 315-853-1070. We are holding a 25% Off Sale during February (some restrictions apply). Purchasing fair trade items ensures artisans and small farmers fair wages and healthy working conditions, providing dignity, sustainable development and hope for marginalized people. Let us be your Go-To Gift Shop! Visit us at <https://buildingstoneshoppe.square.site> or www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe.

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John Hobika, from New Hartford Chamber of Commerce, presents Angelo DiGiorgio, owner of Handshake Antiques, with a membership plaque

Handshake Antiques Opens in Village of New Hartford

The New Hartford Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome Handshake Antiques to the Village of New Hartford, located at 66 Genesee Street. Their hours are Sunday 11am-5pm, Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesdays thru Saturdays 10am-7pm. Handshake Antiques is an antique, vintage clothing, & vinyl record store. With a large selection of furniture, barware, lighting, vintage fashion, home decor and more! Also offering Estate Sale & Liquidation services across CNY and the Mohawk Valley. You can reach Angelo at 315-749-5145, if you have any questions.

"When I was in high school, I was once asked to leave study hall to visit an estate sale a few blocks from Proctor High School (where I later graduated in 2019) to purchase an item for one of my teachers. That small errand sparked something unexpected. I was immediately hooked. I had begun collecting vinyl records a few years prior, drawn to the music my parents grew up with. That interest soon expanded into pop culture, then fashion, art and design.

Before I knew it, I was moving to Chicago to finish my education - packing my life into a box truck alongside a collection of rotary phones and Bakelite flatware. While in the Windy City, I worked for a large estate sale company in the northern suburbs, gaining hands-on experience in the business and deepening my appreciation for well-curated vintage goods.

After completing my education, I decided to return home to Utica and start my own business. I named it Handshake Antiques as both an homage to Utica's rich history, a city I love deeply, and to the idea of doing business with honesty, integrity and a handshake. Your word still means something here. After my first year in business, I noticed a storefront for lease in the Village of New Hartford. Whether it was the window frontage or the fact that my estate sale supplies had completely overtaken my father's side of our family's two-stall garage, I knew it was time to take the next step. So I ripped up rugs, rewired lamps and put more things into my parents garage.

Today, I'm proud to offer the Mohawk Valley a highly curated boutique vintage shop in the heart of the village. Handshake Antiques features vinyl records, artwork, vintage fashion, jewelry, barware, lighting and more. My goal is to create a destination - not a junk shop - where vintage feels approachable, stylish and relevant. Vintage is in... and really, it never left.

What makes Handshake Antiques special is how local it truly is. Everything in the shop is sourced locally, and I follow one simple rule: If I'm going to sell it, it has to be old. This is a place where someone can sell an item they forgot about in their attic and then see a neighbor using it as decor on their porch the very next week. This isn't your grandmother's antique shop. I invite you to stop in, see what we're building and help celebrate the grand opening of Handshake Antiques - a new small business rooted firmly in our community

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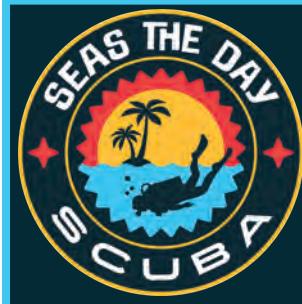
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Why is Regular Exercise and Following a Prudent Diet so Difficult?

Submitted by Jim LaFountain, All American Fitness Center

My wife, Cindy and I were sitting in our favorite restaurant, waiting to be served, while nearly everyone else was on their cell phones. I'm sure they were seeking some form of instant gratification. Our world has evolved into a "quick fix" culture, seeking some form of instant gratification. This is how they've learned to get through each day and make their life work. Television commercials prove this point in a very obvious way. Each short advertisement displays 8-10, 1-2 second shots of a variety of scenes. Apparently, their marketing research has shown Americans attention span is incredibly short. These simple examples demonstrate my point about why we find it difficult to comply with regular exercise and following a prudent diet. Becoming fit is a slow process. Exerting generous amounts of effort exercising and being disciplined about what we ingest, while noticing minimal results, soon becomes frustrating.

I've become more amused with the majority of fitness and diet marketing. They have, indeed done their marketing research and know when their potential customers are most receptive (vulnerable) to being sold a fitness "bill of goods." Sports fans tend to drink more beer than intellectuals making sporting events open season for beer ads. Timing is also important, as seen after dinner each night and the numerous diet ads run frequently. Again, the focus on achieving an easy, quick fix solution in an endeavor dominates our culture. Exhibiting patience is difficult and in some cases impossible.

Achieving fitness results requires patience. In order to achieve permanent success in diet and exercise takes time. In spite of the media hype, promising instant

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results, there are no shortcuts or quick fixes. I've been finding ways, every day, to combat my need for instant gratification. Learning to "be in the moment" is not an easy task. The human brain is capable of storing an enormous amount of our past and having the ability of projecting into our future, although, in most cases inaccurately. Being present requires us to gently dismiss the past and not fret about the future. Present moment orientation must be a critical component in any successful fitness and nutrition program.

Even at the microscopic level, muscle hypertrophy (thicker and stronger) is a slow process. Permanent weight management, as proven by a vast amount of research takes a long time to accomplish. Fast and easy weight loss is always a transfer of fluid from our body into the latrine. I train some wonderful older couples, who report of a great meal they enjoyed the night before. Their next line goes like this, "It was a delicious meal, but I gained three pounds."

Even the best restaurants must prepare meals using generous amounts of salt. Preserving foods may also require using some form of sodium. In another basic nutritional fact, each pound of fat contains 3,500 calories. It would be physically impossible for these couples to ingest 10,500 each (3,500 x 3) calories in one meal. Sodium induced, water retention is the reason for the "scale weight" increase. Solution: make it a point to drink several glasses of water the next day and the day after that, then see what the scale says.

What's the solution to the instant gratification versus patience dilemma:

EXERCISE:

*Find some mode of exercise you moderately or fully enjoy

*Start slowly, even five minutes in your first session, adding a minute per workout

*Commit to simply show up for each workout and warm-up, usually you'll have a great session

*Data is showing, resistance training is equally as important as cardio, especially as we age

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DIET:

*Failure is part of any diet. Find a way to get back on track giving up after one bad day is extremely foolish

*Extremely restrictive diets can never work. A male should never ingest less than 1,800 calories a day, women, no fewer than 1,200 calories a day. It's difficult or nearly impossible to "cut out" foods you've eaten for decades

*My wife, Cindy and I enjoy "French Fri Fridays" and split an order of French fries, but when we're done, we wait for the next Friday to arrive

*While eating a meal, after each bite, ask yourself this simple question, "does my body need any more food?"

The bottom line: Quick results never last. Small behavioral changes produce lasting results.

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Date	Start time	Sport	Level	Location	Opponent
2-Feb	4:00 PM	Basketball (Boys)	7th/8th (Blue)	Perry JH Gym	Rome Free Academy (Orange Team)
2-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Boys)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Lowville
2-Feb	7:00 PM	Basketball (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Lowville
2-Feb	7:00 PM	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Lowville
3-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill
3-Feb	7:00 PM	Basketball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill
3-Feb	7:00 PM	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (Dance Team)
4-Feb	4:00 PM	Basketball (Girls)	7th/8th (Blue)	Perry JH Gym	Central Valley Academy (Blue)
4-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Boys)	7th/8th (Red)	Perry JH Gym	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (Red 8th Grade)
6-Feb	4:00 PM	Basketball (Girls)	7th/8th (Blue)	Perry JH Gym	Utica Proctor (DMS)
6-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Boys)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Rome Free Academy
6-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Boys)	7th/8th (Red)	Perry JH Gym	Whitesboro (Blue)
6-Feb	7:00 PM	Basketball (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Rome Free Academy
6-Feb	7:00 PM	Ice Hockey (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford Rec Center	Christian Brothers Academy, Dewitt
6-Feb	7:00 PM	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Rome Free Academy (Fall)
9-Feb	4:00 PM	Basketball (Girls)	7th/8th (Blue)	Perry JH Gym	Rome Free Academy (Orange Team)
9-Feb	7:30 PM	Ice Hockey (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford Rec Center	Auburn
10-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Girls)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Nottingham
10-Feb	7:00 PM	Basketball (Girls)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Nottingham
10-Feb	7:00 PM	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Nottingham (Cheerleading (Winter))
11-Feb	TBD	Ice Hockey (Girls)	Varsity (Combined)	TBD	Clinton (Combined)
13-Feb	5:30 PM	Basketball (Boys)	Junior Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Notre Dame, Utica
13-Feb	7:00 PM	Basketball (Boys)	Varsity	New Hartford HS Gym	Notre Dame, Utica
13-Feb	7:00 PM	Cheerleading (Girls)	Varsity (Winter)	New Hartford HS Gym	Notre Dame, Utica
16-Feb	6:30 PM	Ice Hockey (Girls)	Varsity (Combined)	WboroOnondaga Nation Arena	Clinton (Combined)

Happy Valentines Day



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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.

Nicholas D. Gualillo
1903--1990
Violinist, Composer, Conductor

Born and educated in Utica, Nicholas Demi Gualillo devoted his life to music, first as an accomplished violinist, later becoming a composer and conductor. Gualillo was the first conductor of the Stanley Theater Symphonic Orchestra and was on the podium at the gala September 1928 grand opening of the Stanley with accomplished German-born soprano Meta Dinger, soon after to be his wife, singing pieces Maestro Gualillo himself composed. In 1933 he founded the Utica Symphonic Orchestra to provide employment for local musicians who became idle when sound movies “talkies” were introduced, thereby eliminating the need for live music to add drama to silent movies. Later he was co-conductor of the Utica's Civic Orchestra and still later conductor of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. When in Syracuse, Gualillo organized opera groups, using local and professional entertainers, many time performing at Utica's Stanley Theater. Nicholas devoted his life to music and when interviewed in Bradenton Florida in April 2000, Meta proclaimed that Nicholas was not as much married to her as he was to music, his first and lifelong love. And the Stanley Theater was a frequent showplace for his musical works.

More about Gualillo's musical life is contained in Cardarelli's local history book, *Classical Music in Utica, New York Featuring Nicholas D. Gualillo*, available locally wherever Malio's books are sold. --The Munson, Oneida County History Center, Chantry's Market, or via maliocard@tvc.com



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NHFD News

The month of December 2025 was once again a busy month for your New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department as indicated by the monthly alarm report listed below by category:

December 2025:

Fires = 6

EMS = 65

Hazardous = 3

Service Type = 13

Good Intent = 11

False Alarms = 15

Special Incident = 1

Weather Related = 0

Other = 0

Total alarms for the Month of December 2025 = 114.

Of the 114 alarms, 103 were in the Town, 9 in the Village and 2 mutual aid.

This brings the total number of alarms year-to-date through December 2025 to 1,200.

Below is a breakdown of the total number of alarms your NHFD answered in 2025:

Total Calls for the Year 2025:

Fires = 35

EMS = 567

Hazardous = 70

Service Type = 148

Good Intent = 115

False Alarms = 260

Overpressure = 5

Weather Related = 0

Total Calls for 2025 = 1,200.

Of the 1,200 alarms, 1,013 were in the Town, 171 in the Village and 16 mutual aid.

Some of the calls listed above - such as Fires, EMS, and Hazardous - are self-explanatory. Others such as Service, Good Intent and Other Alarms are not. Service Calls include 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.



New Hartford Fire Department 125 Years of Service to Our Community

As we welcome a new year, the New Hartford Fire Department reaches a milestone that very few organizations achieve. In 2026, we proudly mark our 125th year of continuous service to the residents and businesses of the Village and Town of New Hartford.

On January 3rd, 1901, the first official meeting of what would become the New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department took place in Butler Hall. Twenty local residents stepped forward to form the department, and Albert H. Goddard — the same man who had discovered the devastating 1899 block fire — was elected as the first Chief. The Village Board committed to support the newly formed department, providing four rubber coats, six lanterns, a hose cart, and funding for suitable quarters and equipment. Permission was also granted to use the Presbyterian Church bell as the community's first fire alarm. Within just a few weeks, the department secured space in a barn behind Butler Hall to house the company and its apparatus, at a yearly rent not to exceed \$60.

From those modest beginnings, the New Hartford Fire Department steadily grew — not only in membership, but in capability and leadership. In 1916, New Hartford became the first village of its size in the region to operate motorized fire apparatus. In 1940, members introduced an organized first aid program, marking the beginning of more than 85 years of first-response medical service that continues today. What began as a fire protection agency has evolved into an all-hazards emergency response organization, now responding to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescues, weather events, and public service calls.

Today, the New Hartford Fire Department remains a true department of Village government, led by the Fire Chief and line officers elected by the membership. Alongside the Fire Department operates the New Hartford Firemen's Benevolent Association, which is also led by elected officers, including a President. The Benevolent Association supports the health and welfare of current and former members. Together, these organizations maintain operational readiness while preserving the values and traditions built over generations.

In addition to emergency response, our members remain deeply involved in community safety and education. The New Hartford Fire Department conducts fire prevention programs in schools, participates in CPR and first-aid awareness initiatives, assists with smoke alarm and home-safety outreach, and supports community events such as the Annual Memorial Day Parade, the Believe Christmas celebration, and the summer Fire Truck Spectacular. Our members also work closely with local businesses and project leaders on fire-safety planning. Today, our department has evolved well beyond its original mission of simply fighting fires — we are an integral part of many aspects of public safety and community support in New Hartford.

Since 1901, the department has responded to more than 45,000 alarms. Over 125 years, 875 individuals have worn the New Hartford Fire Department badge, contributing more than 9,000 combined years of volunteer service to the community. Last year alone, members answered approximately 1,200 calls — averaging three per day — making the New Hartford Fire Department one of the busiest volunteer departments in Oneida County.

Today, 108 active volunteers carry out the mission of firefighting, emergency medical response, and fire police operations. Our department operates three engine companies, a ladder-tower company, two rescue companies, two Advanced Life Support EMS units, a utility squad, command vehicles, a UTV, and a drone unit. Behind every response are thousands of hours of training, drills, certifications, and standby duty — all performed by your neighbors who volunteer their time to serve others.

As we celebrate this historic anniversary throughout 2026, our mission remains unchanged from that first meeting in Butler Hall in 1901: to protect lives and property, and to be there when our community needs us most. We are always seeking new members who want to help continue that tradition. If you are at least 16 years old and willing to learn, train, and serve, we invite you to consider joining the New Hartford Fire Department. You will gain valuable skills, become part of a proud legacy, and truly make a difference.

Thank you to the residents and businesses of New Hartford for your continued trust and support. For 125 years, you have relied on us — and we remain honored to answer the call.

Respectfully,

James P. Toomey, Jr.

President, New Hartford Firemen's Benevolent Association

Thomas A. Bolanowski, II

Fire Chief, New Hartford Fire Department



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating Heritage and Progress





Antique Talk

by Victor J. Fariello Jr.

From the Mailbag

Q. First, thank you for continuing to write this column. It's the first thing I look for in the Town Crier each month. Now my question. I have a yellow Depression glass sugar and creamer that was originally my grandmothers. Can you tell me anything about it and its possible value?

A. Thank you for your kind words and for being an avid reader of Antique Talk. Your nice sugar and creamer is in the Madrid pattern and was made by the Federal Glass Co. The company was founded in Columbus, Ohio in 1900 and later became one of the leading producers of Depression glass. The Madrid pattern was one of the company's most popular patterns. Interest in Depression glass is on the rise, as our prices for it in today's marketplace. I would value your creamer and sugar at \$50.

Q. I acquired an antique mantle clock from a dear friend. It has no label on it therefore I do not know the maker. It works and keeps excellent time. I would not part with it but am curious as to what it might be worth?

A. Your Victorian press carved oak clock dates from the early 1900's. The fact that it is in working condition adds to its desirability. I would value it at \$250.



Welcome Handshake Antiques

It's not often that we get to announce a new antiques and vintage shop and in New Hartford no less! Handshake Antiques opened their doors recently at 66 Genesee Street in the Village of New Hartford. The proprietor of this new establishment is Angelo DiGiorgio. We wish him the best on this new venture. Go check them out!

Support Your Historical Society

It's a great time to renew or start your membership in this great community asset. The rates for 2026: \$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. Support this great New Hartford asset!

Questers Wants You

The Questers is an organization with members who are interested in history, preservation and antiques. The J. Schoolcraft Sherman Chapter #1519 meets monthly except July & August at the New Hartford Library the first Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. We usually have

a presenter at each meeting and Show & Tell where members bring an item to share with the group. New members are always welcome! Email me at [vfariello@gmail.com](mailto:vjfariello@gmail.com) for more information.

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 [vfariello@gmail.com](mailto:vjfariello@gmail.com). Any photos submitted will be returned upon request.



A Victorian mantle clock in working condition.



This Depression glass sugar and creamer is from a bygone era.

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**KIDS
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10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**MILKSHAKE
Performance: 11 a.m.
Workshop: 1 p.m.**

Funding for Art Alive! is provided by the MetLife Foundation, Utica National Foundation, Preferred Mutual Insurance Company, Sheila and Ron Cuccaro, and Rona Lucas, in memory of Roslyn and Irving Levine.



NEW HARTFORD PAST TIMES

February 2026

NEW HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Raffaele's : Once a slice of Italy in the Heart of Chadwicks!

We have literally no information on Raffaele's here at the Society and had to do a little research on the business. The attached images are of Ads from the Clinton Courier and the Utica Observer Dispatch. We learned from his 1986 obituary that Ralph A. Centolella founded the establishment. Exactly when is still unknown but the 1st reference in old newspaper ads appeared in 1970. In 1974, ads began to carry the name Nicholas J. Camarata. It is believed Mr. Camarata acquired the business around the spring of 1974. Ralph would stay on at the restaurant retiring three years later.

Several Observer-Dispatch articles from 1979 give a little more insight into the goings on at Raffaele's. One article quotes Nicholas saying, in part, "business has been good and he is encouraged. Plans are to do some minor remodeling and he's also eyeing an expansion of the lounge area."

Also, there is some reference to his son, Joseph Camarata, being a co-owner and helping run the restaurant for a period. Also, in October of 1979 there was an unsuccessful attempted armed robbery at the business. Some time after midnight, a young man enters and brandishes a large handgun at employee Frank Skutnick. Nicholas witnesses the event and states the would-be bandit seemed extremely nervous and he believes this is what led Skutnik to confront the robber and attempt to wrestle the gun from him. The male then flees on foot and Nicholas gives chase but is unable to apprehend the suspect.

In 1982 Ads begin referencing "The New" Raffaele's. New Ownership? Or possibly just a remodel? We'd love to know. It is around this period that Nicholas took a position with the City of Utica as Personnel and Employee's Benefit Coordinator. He passed away unexpectedly in September 1984. If any of our followers know any more about Raffaele's or have pictures of the establishment, we'd love for you to share them.



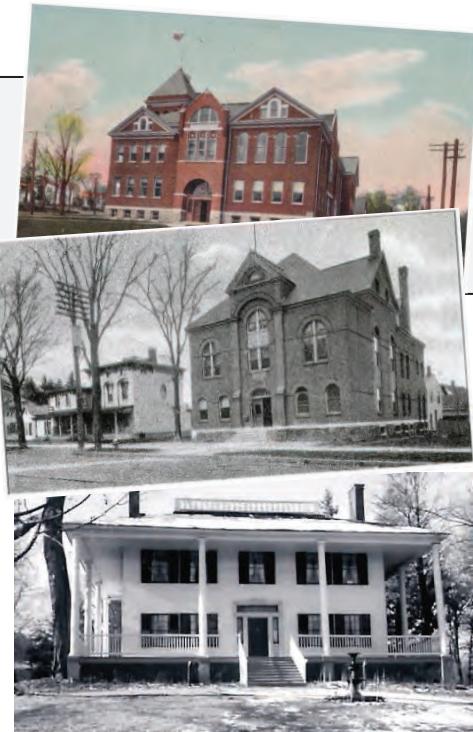
Clinton Courier Ad circa 1970



May 1974 Utica O-D ad



Jan 1982 Utica O-D Ad



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!

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Friendly Reminder:
2026 Membership Dues
are due.

As always, we also welcome
new members.

Please consider joining today.
We appreciate your support!

New Hartford Historical Society ~ Membership Form ~

Please check one of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 ⁰⁰ Individual	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 ⁰⁰ Family	Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 ⁰⁰ Contributing	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 ⁰⁰ Corporate	Phone: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	E-Mail: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<u>Please send check made payable to:</u> 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



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Dennis Webster

What the History (WTH)!

Let's go to Sangertown Mall!!

Recently, I was walking Sangertown Mall in New Hartford and looking at the stores and smiling thinking back to my childhood when the mall first opened in July of 1980. Back then there was a lot of protest from locals to taking away wetlands to build a large block structure to house mass consumerism. My own grandfather, Milton Harry Webster, had written an editorial to the Observer-Dispatch opposing the mall

as he had been concerned about the beavers being displaced. There were even rumors that the mall would sink into the muck of the swamp as the land did not have the appropriate geology to host Sangertown's bulk. Well, the mall was built, the beavers are still surviving, and it never descended into quicksand. I was looking at all the current stores and as far as I can recall, there are only two original businesses still operating and that's Spencer Gifts and Sicilian Delight. When Sangertown first opened it had the anchor stores, Hess's, JC Penney, and Sears along with Radio Shack, General Nutrition, Waldenbooks, Endicott Johnson, Liberty Travel and Margherita's a bar in the middle that had operating fountains. The mall had a bunch of fountains in 1980 and I remember kids scanning them as shoppers would throw coins into them to make wishes; however, if you had thrown a quarter, you'd be out of luck as it would be plucked from the water from some punk kid to be thrown into the slot of the video game arcade that was right across the hall from the Roller Palace. This area of Sangertown hosted the most kids as back then we had no cell phones, home computers, or internet. Sangertown Mall was the place to be on the weekends, and my favorite activity was going to the movies with my friends as the Cinemas back then had 4-5 screens. I recall being 13 years old so I could not get into rated R movies so I would, along with my buddies, buy a ticket

to a rated G movie or cartoon like Cindarella and sneak into the rated R movie. My first R rated adult movie at the mall was Caddyshack and I fondly recall my exposure to Rodney Dangerfield and his zany antics on the golf course. Great laughs and great memories. The malls don't have the allure or attendance from back when I was a kid as everyone has home streaming to watch movies and online shopping has all sorts of sundries delivered to your front porch in 24 hours. The most popular activity at Sangertown Mall now is the senior citizen walkers who wear the khakis slacks, hike their belts up to their armpits, and don the sparkling white mall walking shoes so they can do multiple laps inside and free from the outdoor elements. I adored Sangertown as a young person and still love going there and I am of the age where I'm ready to get my first pair of mall walkers so I can complete my mall usage life cycle. I'm ready to walk the interior and take my place among the seniors who lovingly walk while looking at the stores. I only hope they bring back the fountains so I can dive in for the quarters to be able to accumulate the coins so I can get myself a hilarious holiday card from Spencer Gifts or a delectable slice of cheese pizza from Sicilian delight, the two originals, just like me, who are still within Sangertown Square Mall.

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.



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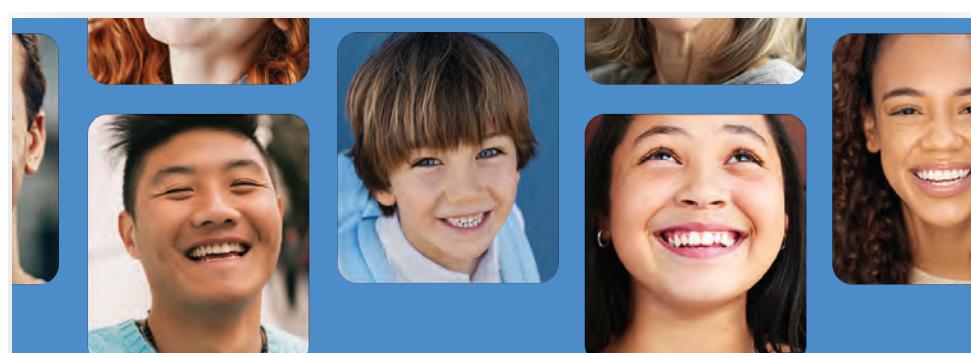
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Bottom LtoR: Sue Keller, Deputy 1, Michele Moran, Town Clerk. Top LtoR: Theresa Messa, Deputy Registrar and Denise Hensel, Secretary



Jim Messa, New Hartford Town Supervisor and Michele Moran, New Hartford Town Clerk"



A New Year Brings a New Chapter at Town Hall

From the Supervisor's Office.

Since taking office on January 1, 2026, the Messa administration has been focused on the basics residents expect from local government: clear information, responsive service, and steady follow-through. Our goal is simple - make it easier for residents to understand what the Town is doing, why it matters, and how to get involved.

Supervisor Jim Messa has emphasized a practical, resident-first style of leadership - showing up, listening, and making sure Town Hall communicates in a way that people can use. That means fewer assumptions and more clarity: what's on the agenda, what decisions are being made, how taxpayer dollars are being managed, and where things stand on ongoing projects and most importantly, what is happening in their "backyards".

A key partner in that work is Town Clerk Michele Moran, who is bringing a strong customer-service mindset to the Clerk's Office. Michele has appointed Sue Keller as Deputy Town Clerk ("Deputy One"), expanding the office's capacity to support residents efficiently and consistently.

The Town also welcomes Vincent Pristera, who is new to the Town Board and was elected to fill the First Ward Councilman vacancy. Vincent has stepped in with a readiness to learn, contribute, and represent residents with a thoughtful, community-centered approach.

To support communications and transparency initiatives, Supervisor Messa has appointed Christine Martin as Confidential Secretary to the Town Supervisor in a part-time capacity. Christine will assist with strengthening resident communications and

building practical systems that make Town information easier to find, follow, and understand.

What's already underway:

- 1) Launching a Stormwater Committee (resident-driven).

Supervisor Messa introduced reestablishing the Stormwater Committee with full support from the board. The committee will address stormwater concerns, with resident input and expertise. A notice will be posted on the Town website requesting a letter of interest and a resume from residents who would like to serve. Submissions will be accepted through March 3 for Town Board consideration. The committee is expected to include 4-6 residents, with representation encouraged across the Town—ideally 1-2 residents from Ward 1, 1-2 from Ward 2 (including a resident from NYM), and one resident each from Wards 3 and 4. This is one of several ways the Town intends to bring more voices into the work and improve outcomes through shared problem-solving.

- 2) More informative Town Board meetings—starting with visual, structured updates.

Beginning this year, Councilmembers and Department Heads will prepare monthly PowerPoint presentations. These presentations will be submitted alongside agenda items and displayed on monitors during Town Board meetings. They will also be treated as part of the meeting materials and posted on the Town website when the agenda is posted so residents can review information in advance and follow along in real time.

The goal is straightforward: better understanding, full transparency, and clearer accountability. Councilmembers will share updates from their ward perspectives such as constituent concerns and issue trends, while Department Heads will provide department-level updates in coordination with the appropriate Standing Committee Chair and Co-Chair. This is a meaningful change in how information is delivered, and it is designed to make meetings easier to follow and more valuable for the public.

- 3) Getting audits and financials back on schedule.

The Town has made important progress on financial reporting. The 2023 audit has been completed and submitted, and we are now working to complete the 2024 audit. This puts New Hartford on a path to be current with required audit filings so that when the 2025 audit takes place in 2026, we will be operating on schedule. Keeping audits up to date is foundational to transparency and good stewardship and it's a priority we are treating with the seriousness it deserves.

A Special Farewell

As the Town moves forward, we also want to recognize Barb Schwenzfeier who is retiring after 24 years of service. Barb served as Personnel Director, but her impact reached far beyond her title—she became a steady, trusted part of the Town's day-to-day operations for many years. Congratulations, Barb, and best wishes for what comes next.

This monthly space is one way we'll stay connected with residents. The invitation is open: reach out, stay engaged, and help shape what's next for New Hartford.



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New Hartford Highway News

submitted by Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman

Today's date is January 14th and winter is almost half over. The beginning of the winter so far has been like an old fashion winter with a good amount of snow and very cold temperatures. Let's hope the groundhog sees his shadow in February and have an early spring for cleanup in the town. The amount of snow received has been above average. The winter started with plenty of material on hand being salt and Bs from the Litchfield quarter. The state went out to bid for salt 2025-2026 season. Just like last year, with a different vendor we could not get salt when we ordered it. The Quarry went on a two week vacation at the holidays and we couldn't get the Bs. The town had material on hand before vacation. With the heavy snow storms and a lot of freezing rain, we went through the material we had on hand. The town highway department is short on manpower so some of the plow loops take longer. One plow truck may have to do two loops because of the shortage of man power. The snow in the road was left because of the heavy freezing rain forecast that we have had in the past several weeks.

I am working on a new schedule for the BRUSH COLLECTION and DUMPSTER- DROP OFF COLLECTION for 2026 season. This will be coming out in the month of March. This will start on April 6th for drop off and tag pick up. Remember if you want items picked up you must see the town clerk and get a tag by Friday before the first Monday. The Town Clerks Office is at 8635 Clinton Street New Hartford at the old Gander Mountain Building. You must buy the tag by the last Friday of the month for the first Monday collection. The clerk's office is open Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. The Town Highway will again have the dumpster drop off along with the tag pick up for the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September. The month of October will be curbside pickup throughout the town like last year.

If you received lawn damage this winter from the plows give my office a call and put your name and address on the list so that we can repair damage when the weather gets nice in April. It is very hard for the plow drivers to see in a zero visibility conditions which we had many this year. We have had a few so far this season in early morning hours that the plow drivers can't see. The snow banks help to see where the road ends and grass meet.

The crews have been picking up Christmas trees on their shifts. Please place the trees to the curb if you haven't done so. Please be patient as there are a lot of trees out for pickup.

Please call me or e-mail me at 315 534-2998 or e-mail me at rsherman@townofnewhartford ny.gov

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July 11th, 25th • Aug 8th, 22nd • Sept 12th, 26th
Oct 10th, 24th • Nov 7th, 21st • Dec 5th, 19th

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!

The Food Bank of Central New York provides eligibility guidelines for its programs, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The income limits for calendar year 2025 are:

Household size	Annual income
1	\$35,213
2	\$47,588
3	\$59,963
4	\$72,338
5	\$84,713
6	\$97,088
7	\$109,463
8	\$121,838
Each additional person	Add \$12,375



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Classical Pilates: 1-on-1 with Full Classical Apparatus

Ballet & Dance: 1-on-1 Coaching & Dance Conditioning



Pictured is Philip Fess, PT, DPT, CSCS. Fess provides treatment for a variety of cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary conditions at Sitrin

Maintaining Heart Health with Sitrin

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. With February being American Heart Month, it is an especially important time to focus on cardiovascular health.

"The statistics are real," Dr. Philip Fess, physical therapist at Sitrin, said. "By maintaining a prescribed cardiovascular therapy program, individuals can decrease their risk of heart failure and other chronic diseases."

Many individuals think of physical therapy for sports injuries or recovering from surgeries. As a result, they are unaware of the role physical therapy plays in maintaining a healthy heart.

At Sitrin, Fess treats a variety of cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary issues. During a patient's first visit, a formal cardiovascular evaluation is conducted which may include a detailed interview of any past medical history, medicine list, cardiopulmonary function tests, primary functional complaints, and personal goals. In addition, a physical examination will include range of motion and strength measurements, cardiac and pulmonary baseline vitals, and cardiopulmonary function testing. The goal of these tests is to establish a safe baseline of aerobic capacity, all the while monitoring pulse rate, oxygen saturation, and perceived shortness of breath and exertion.

After the evaluation is complete, Fess will create an individualized therapy program that may include breathing techniques and principles, aerobic exercises, and weight resistance training for upper and lower body. The frequency and type of exercise will focus on achieving each patient's personal goals and ensuring competency with exercise execution. The goal of the program is to promote lifelong health, wellness, and cardiopulmonary disease management. Depending on the individual, this can help delay progression of an already existing disease or prevent cardiopulmonary

disease in the first place.

Fess suggests adults achieve the recommended 150 minutes per week of moderate to intense aerobic activity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous aerobic activity.

Sitrin offers a variety of therapy options both on land and in water. Treatment plans may include the use of Sitrin's gym equipment such as the treadmill, elliptical or recumbent bike. In addition, the heated therapy pools are another great option for those looking for low-impact exercises.

A physician referral is required for appointments. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (315) 737-2246.

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 (Cedarbook), NeuroCare, residential care for people with intellectual disabilities and medically complex conditions, medical and social model adult day program, military program, adaptive sports, (STARS Program), a Wellness and Aquatic Center, orthopedic injury program, concussion management, child care, and dental clinic.



Utica Zoo Welcomes New White-Naped Crane and Patagonian Cavy Males

The new year keeps on giving new arrivals to the Utica Zoo, who just recently welcomed two male additions to existing animal collections. 32-year-old White-naped Crane, Hong Kong, and 7-year-old Patagonian cavy, Miles, now call the Utica Zoo their new home!

Hong Kong, or his nickname already among keeper staff, 'Kong', joins Peaches the White-naped Crane to protect this vulnerable and very social species. These dedicated birds are monogamous by nature, generally mating for life, though they are typically open to forming new bonds after the passing of one of the pair.

Kong joins the Utica Zoo after 44-year-old White-naped crane, Creampuff, passed away last year due to his advanced age. Kong now steps in, never to replace the immeasurable impact Creampuff made there, but to help ensure a stable future for Peaches.

After Kong's initial quarantine period, the two are expected to be on exhibit together within the coming weeks. Quarantine is necessary to prevent the potential spread of disease, help the animal acclimate and undergo health checkups, as well as learn new routines before joining the main exhibit. A 'howdy door', is typically then introduced. For those unfamiliar with the term, a 'howdy door' can be described as a transparent, secure barrier that facilitates a controlled environment in which the two animals can safely see, smell, and hear one another without the ability to make physical contact. This process allows them to gradually get to know each other, all while keeper staff monitor their behaviors.

If one were to visit the zoo's Asian Realm, they would easily hear the distinct calling between the two White-naped cranes, who are already showing their compatibility!

As for Miles, he joins the Utica Zoo's animal collection as a breeding recommendation with an effort to conserve this near-threatened species, who are also known to form monogamous, bonded pairs. The Patagonian cavy female, Plata, has already warmly welcomed him to their home in the Utica Zoo's Backyards and Barnyards.

One can see these two new males on exhibit within the coming weeks, as the Utica Zoo is open daily from 10:00am to 4:30pm.

The Utica Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is the Best of Mohawk Valley Community Choice Award Winner for 2025. It is a regional destination that inspires and promotes the appreciation of wildlife through education, conservation, and recreation. Situated in the heart of Central New York, the zoo features a diverse collection of animals from around the world and offers various educational programs and events for visitors of all ages. It is home to approximately 200 exotic and domestic animals, welcoming nearly 100,000 visitors annually and is open daily from 10 am to 4:30 pm 363 days a year, with only the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. For more information on this, and all things Utica Zoo, visit UticaZoo.org or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!



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2. Snowman	6. Cold	10. Slide	14. Hat
3. Winter	7. Freezing	11. Sledding	15. Earmuffs
4. Weather	8. Snowflake	12. Skating	16. Mittens

Fun Facts about Valentine's Day

St. Valentine wasn't just one person.

Many people know that Valentine's Day is named after St. Valentine. But did you know there are actually two St. Valentines? Nobody knows for sure if the holiday originally celebrated St. Valentine of Rome or St. Valentine of Terni, both of whom were martyred. Legends say that St. Valentine of Rome was a priest who defied the Roman Emperor Claudius II's ban on soldiers getting married and continuing to marry couples in secret. Other stories say that he helped Christians escape Roman prisons and fell in love with the jailer's daughter, writing her a letter signed "From your Valentine."

In the 1300s, it officially became a holiday associated with love.

The origins of Valentine's Day are murky. But it is thought to have been made a holiday in the fifth century when Pope Gelasius outlawed the celebration of Lupercalia. It wasn't until much later that it became associated with romance. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that February 14 was the start of birds' mating season. Chaucer cemented the connection between Valentine's Day, birds and romance with his 1375 poem "Parliament of Foules," writing, "For this was on Seynt Valentynes day, / Whan every foul cometh ther to chese his make." The rest, as they say, is history!

Nearly 250 million roses are grown in preparation for Valentine's Day each year.

We take red roses for granted as a Valentine's Day staple. But roses actually don't grow in February weather in the U.S. because it's too cold. Instead, millions of flowers are grown around the world and shipped to the U.S. specifically for February 14th. Most of the roses we gift for Valentine's Day come from Ecuador, Kenya and Columbia.

The color of flower given on Valentine's Day holds meaning.

While a red rose has traditionally symbolized love, other colors like deep pink, purple or white — which symbolize happiness, royalty and sympathy respectively — may be given on the holiday too.

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/valentines-day-ideas/a26863/valentines-day-facts/>



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Making Space for Loved Ones: Elegant Ways to Welcome Guests This Winter

February is a month that naturally brings people together. Between winter celebrations, Valentine's gatherings, family birthdays, and long weekends, our homes often become the place where loved ones gather, linger, and sometimes stay the night. Whether you are hosting a dinner party, welcoming out-of-town guests, or simply creating a space where friends and family feel comfortable spending time, thoughtful furniture choices can make all the difference.

At Grace Furniture in Marcy, we believe that a welcoming home is one that balances beauty with function. High-quality furniture is not only an investment in style, but also in how your home supports the moments you share with others.



Designing for Entertaining Without Sacrificing Style

When guests come over, seating is often the first challenge homeowners face. Instead of pulling mismatched chairs from around the house, consider incorporating versatile seating options that blend seamlessly with your décor. Sectional sofas with generous proportions invite conversation, while accent chairs placed strategically around a living room create natural gathering zones. Benches and upholstered stools can be tucked away when not in use and easily brought out for larger groups.

In dining spaces, extension dining tables are a timeless solution. They allow you to host intimate family meals most days while still accommodating larger groups when the occasion calls for it. Paired with comfortable, well-crafted dining chairs, your dining room becomes a place where guests want to linger long after dessert is served.



Creating Comfortable Overnight Spaces

Not every home has a dedicated guest room, but that doesn't mean overnight visitors need to feel like an afterthought. Today's sleeper sofas and daybeds are designed with both comfort and appearance in mind. Modern options feature supportive mattresses and elegant upholstery that look just as refined as a traditional sofa.

For homes with limited space, multifunctional furniture is key. Storage ottomans, media consoles with hidden compartments, and dressers that double as nightstands can help you transform an office or den into a cozy guest retreat. A thoughtfully furnished space tells your guests they are truly welcome.

Thoughtful Details That Make a Difference

Beyond major furniture pieces, small details elevate the guest experience. Side tables provide a convenient place for drinks, books, or personal items. Proper lighting—such as table lamps or floor lamps—adds warmth and makes spaces feel inviting during the darker winter months. Soft textures like upholstered headboards, area rugs, and throw pillows help create an atmosphere of comfort and relaxation.

Entryways also deserve attention, especially during the winter season. A well-placed console table, bench, or

coat cabinet helps guests settle in comfortably while keeping your home organized.

Investing in Quality for Everyday Living

Furniture that works well for guests should also enhance your daily life. Well-made pieces offer durability, comfort, and timeless design that will serve your family for years to come. Choosing quality over quantity ensures that your home remains functional, elegant, and ready for any gathering—planned or spontaneous.

At Grace Furniture, we take pride in helping our customers select pieces that reflect their lifestyle and personal taste. Our curated showroom in Marcy, NY features high-end furniture designed to bring people together while elevating the look and feel of your home.

As February encourages us to slow down and reconnect, consider how your space supports the people you love. With thoughtful design and the right furnishings, your home can become the place everyone looks forward to visiting—and staying a little longer.

Grace Furniture is located in Marcy, NY and has proudly served the Mohawk Valley with quality furniture and personalized service for generations.

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.

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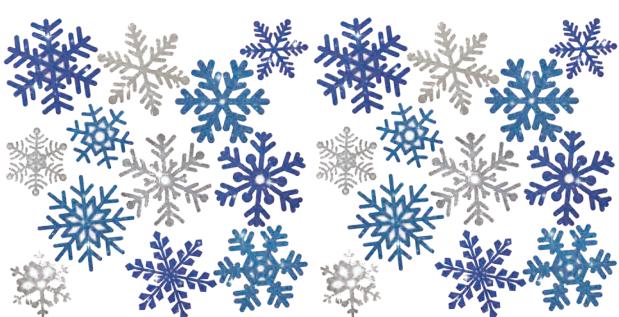
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February 18th, 2026

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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.

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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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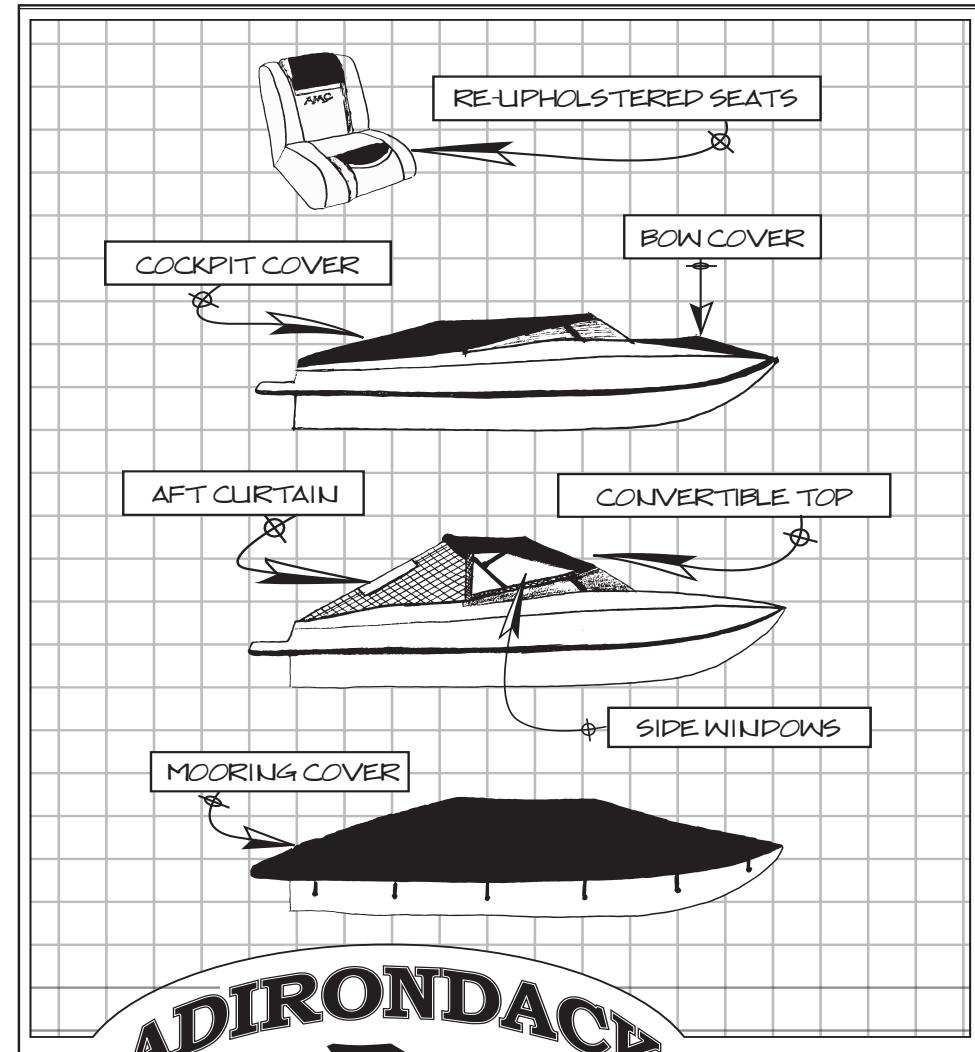
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Spring Into Scouting at the Into the Woods Ball to Benefit Scouting America's Leatherstocking Council

Enchanted evening of celebration and fundraising set for March 20, 2026 at DoubleTree by Hilton Utica

Community leaders, supporters, and friends of Scouting are invited to step into an enchanting spring evening at Spring Into Scouting: the Into the Woods Ball, a signature fundraising event benefiting Scouting America's Leatherstocking Council. The event will take place Friday, March 20, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. EDT at the DoubleTree by Hilton Utica (Crystal Ballroom).

Set within a woodland-inspired atmosphere, the Into the Woods Ball blends refined celebration with the heart of Scouting, supporting youth leadership, character development, and outdoor adventure programs across the region. The event aims to raise \$50,000 to strengthen and expand local Scouting opportunities for young people.

Guests will enjoy an unforgettable night featuring VIP speakers, lively music and dancing, live and silent auctions, and a cozy s'mores dessert station that captures the magic of the outdoors. Attendees and sponsors will play a direct role in advancing Scouting's mission and impact throughout the area.

2026 VIP Community Champion Awards

During the evening, the Scouting America Leatherstocking Council VIP Community Champion Awards will be presented to three outstanding local leaders whose service and support help Scouting thrive:

Jill Hayes, CEO of NY Sash, current Board member, and committee member for the Women Leaders Impact Scouting event, will be recognized for her exceptional leadership, generosity, and commitment to the mission of Scouting. Under her leadership, NY Sash proudly serves as the council's Premier Media Sponsor, helping amplify the visibility and reach of Scouting across the region.

Big Mike Morrill of Total Solutions, Premier Sponsor of the council's Annual Golf Tournament, will be honored for extraordinary generosity and steadfast support. In addition to major event sponsorship, Morrill provides the council with valuable in-kind IT support, helping ensure strong and secure operations that sustain programs serving youth throughout the council.

Brian McKee, CEO of the House of the Good Shepherd, current Board member, and Volunteer Vice President of Development, will be recognized for leadership and dedicated service advancing the council's fundraising efforts. McKee has played an integral role in supporting Karen Murphy in her role as Director of Development and in helping shape the council's 2026 fundraising plans, bringing strategic vision and collaborative leadership to strengthen Scouting's local impact.

Tickets can be purchased at: <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/400/event/760>



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Genesis Group News

As we look back on 2025, the significance of the year's accomplishments can be measured not just in one calendar year but in the last quarter century. I recently had the honor as the keynote speaker at the Genesis Group's 25th anniversary celebration to recap the last 25 years of growth in our region. Beginning in the year 2000, Genesis certainly was a catalyst for reigniting the spirit of the Mohawk Valley Region and challenging all residents, businesses, educational institutions, and certainly elected officials, to focus on the positive. That focus has inspired many organizations, including government, to adopt the "why not here" theme that has led to the growth we have experienced over the last 25 years.

I often state that our region, and particularly Oneida County, looks dramatically different than it did 10 years ago. However, to really examine the difference one must go back to the year 2000 and see where we were. At that time, we were still reeling from the loss of Griffiss Air Force Base, Lockheed Martin and Chicago Pneumatic along with the workforce and population that exited with them. Those losses were then exacerbated by empty space and acres of land. It was in 2000, that the late local real estate developer and businessman Joe Carucci planted the seed for a new organization that would focus on the positive of the region and look to leaders in all aspects of the community to step up their game. He enlisted the help of people like Sherry Boehlert then congressman and Peter Cayan, then President of SUNY. Others came along and Genesis was born.

No one could have predicted what was next when the attacks of September 11, 2001 affected everyone and everything. The economy was struggling, and more businesses were closing. In Oneida County, the once largest employer Oneida Limited could succeed no more. There was some promise on the horizon as the Griffiss Business and Technology Park began taking shape. A new aviation employer was there, and planes were flying in once more. Other businesses came to the park and Con-Med, a locally-owned business founded in Utica, expanded to take the plant that formerly housed Lockheed Martin. Other new retail establishments came and growth was happening. But once again we would face a challenge. In 2005, the federal government came calling once again with another base closure process. This one targeting Rome Lab and DFAS. So once again, we had to defend those assets and solidify not only a major piece of

our economy but assure the community that we would not buckle and go through another exodus of people. All hands were on deck from our federal representative, the governor, state officials, county and city governments and the community. We were not only successful, but overwhelmingly. The solidification of the lab ensured that the technological aspect of our growth plan would continue.

As the first decade of the new century was moving forward, the economy again took another slide. The nation saw another recession as the markets took a dive, and every community was dealing again with job loss and tax increases. Throughout all this, the region plowed ahead. Still focused on nanotechnology and the redevelopment of old industrial sites.

Genesis continued to see the glass half full and focused with us on attraction and recruitment. It was in 2012 and 2013 that the glass began to fill up even more. First the American Hockey League, which had existed in Utica in the 90s, was convinced by Rob Esche, Frank DuRoss and a united community that professional hockey could succeed at the Utica Memorial Auditorium. Through their investment hockey was back and with it an enormous fan base. With state and county leadership \$10 million was invested in the building and the season began in 2013. Another \$10 million was invested a year later to add luxury suites to the now Adirondack Bank Center. Months before the first puck was dropped a settlement was reached with the Oneida Indian Nation. The agreement between the state, Oneida and Madison counties and the Nation ended 30 years of litigation. This historic agreement began with a partnership that generates millions of dollars in revenue for the county and established a working relationship centered around tourism and economic development with the largest employer in central New York. The agreement paid immediate dividends, as the AHL brought its All-Star game to Utica in 2015, just two years after the Comets arrival. With the OIN as the main sponsor, the game broadcast Oneida County around the world. It was so successful that we landed it again two years later.

The dynamic changed again in 2015 with the announcement that Mohawk Valley Health Systems had secured \$300 million in state funding to build a new hospital in downtown Utica. The pieces were coming together. A new hospital, a refurbished Aud and the prospect of the semi-conductor plant that we were waiting for all happening at the same time. We also got into the drone business becoming one of only seven FAA test sites in the U.S., again making Griffiss a key player in new aviation technology. We secured Wolfspeed to build the largest silicon carbide wafer fab in the world. We then planned and began the process of building what would become the Utica University Nexus Center. Three more sheets of ice for hockey or soccer or lacrosse.

Even a pandemic could not stop us, as construction continued throughout that time on the hospital, Wolfspeed and Nexus. Nexus opened in December of 2022 and in 2023 the others followed. Wolfspeed opened in the spring and the hospital in the fall with a donation of \$50 million from former Utican and casino entrepreneur Steve Wynn.

As Nexus thrived, it has since held the International Ice Hockey Federations Women's World Championship, with nine countries and the USA playing over the course of 14 days. Months later the World Lacrosse Box Championship was held, this time with 37 countries and both men and women's teams.

I recap these events of the past 25 years as a reminder of how far we have come and what can be accomplished when a community continues to move forward despite outlying circumstances and the occasional negative commentary. We look different as a community and most important we feel different. We have had some great challenges but have persevered. We have seen damaging storms with flooding and heavy snow, and over the last

two years devastating tornadoes in which neighborhoods were destroyed in the first one and lives lost in the second. But we responded as a government and as a community. Donations in the hundreds of thousands of dollars from our residents and millions from our county government. A recent study showed that Oneida County was one of the most generous communities when responding to tragedy. That is who we are.

This last year of the quarter century mark was another for the ages. In the spring we announced that Chobani, the famed yogurt and natural food producer, would build a 1.4 million square-foot facility, the largest natural food processing facility in the nation in Rome at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park. The shovels are already in the ground, and we look to early 2027 for opening. But it doesn't stop there. Our friends and partner the Oneida Indian Nation will open the Turning Stone Evolution in June with a new hotel and restaurant, and in the fall, the largest convention center in upstate New York. With their current hotels and the new one, Turning Stone's resort will rival any other convention center with room availability and space capacity.

Plans are also in the works to retrofit the large hangars at Griffiss into a multi-use sport complex to compliment Nexus. When complete, "The Runway" will provide indoor fields and courts for soccer, baseball, pickleball and basketball. Plans also envision a food court and other recreation amenities. We are continuing to invest in Union Station and the REA Wing to create a food hub as well as renovations to the main building.

Our vision for the U-District continues with the proposed Nexus neighborhood on Oriskany Street. With the potential for retail and residential buildout. We are also continuing to improve and expand the housing stock in our county. The recent study we commissioned outlined the need for 6,000 new units in the next five years. With Chobani, Turning Stone and all our existing businesses growing, we will need them.

Above all we continue to provide essential services to all our county residents. Whether in public safety, where we are installing street cameras throughout cities, towns and villages. Or in public health, where we continue to monitor and work with our health care system to ensure all are taken care of. We are leading. We will continue to assist all municipalities as the need arises, and keep our roads, bridges and water systems at the highest standards possible.

I began this column talking about Genesis and how it started in the year 2000. While the word is generally associated with the first book of the Old Testament, its other definition is a beginning. We can look at these last 25 years as a beginning of sorts. While some may argue the point, the facts tell the story. There were many that had written off our region, and in particular this county, after many setbacks and population loss. But that is why I love our home, because we don't quit, we help our neighbor like no one else does, we continue to look ahead and not behind, and we know that the future was yesterday. Today is our time and it keeps getting better. Nothing was done by one person or entity. In all our investments, partnerships are number one. Thanks to Genesis and the people that got in that room and said "we need to be the catalyst for positive change." Twenty-five years have shown it worked.

I have been writing a year-end column for many years and always end it with gratitude. I appreciate the honor to serve as your County Executive. I appreciate the love and support of my wife and family. And I am proud of the family of Oneida County. This is our time, and we are not stopping.

May good health and love surround you and let 2026 be filled with both. God bless our home Oneida County.



utica, new york



The Byrne Brothers are Heading North This Winter

It's surely a sign that spring will be here early this year as one of the hottest acts in traditional Irish music make their way north from their home in Florida to heat up the stage at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley on Friday February 6 at 7 PM.

No strangers to Central New York Irish music fans, The Byrne Brothers are a high-energy, multi-award-winning Irish Trad Folk Dance band from Donegal, currently based in Florida. Recognized for their electrifying musicianship and stage presence, they have become one of the most in-demand Irish touring acts in the United States—headlining major Irish and Bluegrass festivals and capturing international audiences both live and online. Blending traditional Irish music with contemporary production, The Byrne Brothers have developed an exciting modern traditional sound that just screams for audience interaction.

All members are Fleadh champions and seasoned entertainers, having performed with Disney for the past eight years when not on tour. Have performed at festivals in 49 US states as well as many Caribbean Cruises, Royal Highland Hoolie Edinburgh and The Forge Pub Miltown Malbay at the Willie Clancy Festival, Fleadh TV and one of the headlining bands at the biggest Irish festival in the world, Milwaukee Irish Fest.

You can attend this concert at the Five Points Public House Event Center at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, 623 Columbia St, Utica. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Tickets, available at the Five Points Public House or online at <https://bit.ly/49dCQ36> are \$30, Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

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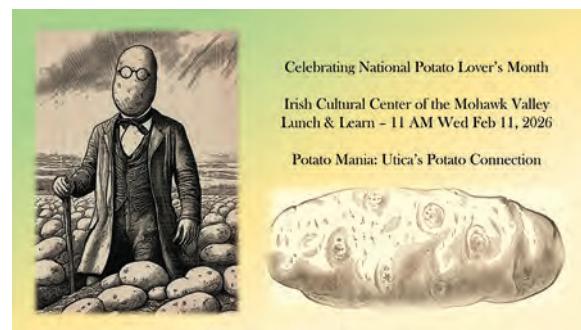
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Potato Mania: Utica's Potato Connection

Come celebrate National Potato Lover's Month at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley with its highly acclaimed Lunch & Learn series on 11 AM Wed Feb 11, 2026.

Did you know that a potato developed in Utica in the 1840s helped save the world from malnutrition and starvation? This remarkable achievement not only transformed agriculture but also nourished countless lives. Join us for "Potato Mania: Utica's Potato Connection" with Patrick Reynolds, Director of Public Programs at the Oneida County History Center. Potato snacks will be served.

Often overlooked in history, Reverend Chauncey Goodrich is known as "the patron saint of potatoes." Goodrich was chaplain at the Utica Lunatic Asylum and an amateur botanist. When the Great Potato Famine began, he developed a blight-resistant potato, called the Garnet Chili. This spud went on to become the most important potato ever created and is the genetic parent of most commercially grown potatoes today.

Goodrich believed that potatoes had lost their vigor and were weakened by years of inbreeding. To address these issues, he obtained seed potatoes from South America and began crossbreeding them with local varieties. After years of research and thousands of plant trials he developed several strains that were resistant to the devastating blight.

Goodrich gave his new varieties to farmers virtually for free. One farmer who received the Garnet Chili variety was Albert Breese of Vermont, who soon after developed a new variety, the Early Rose, in 1861. Luther Burbank crossbred the potatoes yet again, developing the Burbank Russet potato in 1872. This variety is now the most popular worldwide and is used to make french fries.

Patrick Reynolds is the Director of Public Programs at the Oneida County History Center. He holds an M.A. in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and has worked in large and small museums across the nation, and loves potatoes.

A \$20 registration fee will cover the program and lunch; meal tax and gratuity are included. Please register at this link, <https://bit.ly/49eEFgf>, or 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.



**H.A.R.P.
M U S E U M**

at the Irish cultural center

HARP Museum Youth Lunch & Learn Programs Return

The H.A.R.P. Museum at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley is pleased to announce the resumption of Lunch & Learn sessions for area youth during the February and April 2026 area school breaks.

The February sessions will be held Thursday February 19, with a morning session starting at 10 AM, lunch

served at noon, followed by an afternoon session from 1 PM to 3 PM. Lunch will be available for attendees to both sessions at noon.

At the morning session, children will create colorful paper Celtic knot designs on black backgrounds incorporating the knots weave patterns. Simpler similar projects such as shamrocks or claddaghs will be available for younger children as needed.

The afternoon will be spent teaching children about the ancient Ogham alphabet used primarily in early Irish language writing. Children will learn how to write their names and other simple words using this alphabet.

All supplies will be provided, all they need is their imagination and enthusiasm. Their projects will be saved for display in the Museum's space during March Irish Heritage month.

April sessions will be held during the week of April 6 -10. Date, time, and program topics to be announced by mid-March.

There is no charge for these classes, which is being offered to children of all ethnicities aged 8-14. As each class has limited seating, advance registration is required, at <https://bit.ly/4q9XNSx>.

Call and leave a message at 315-733-4228 Ext 6 for questions or information.

Lunch will be included for the students for both sessions at noon.

Parents/guardians are welcome to attend any of the events (they won't count against the cap, but will have to pay for their own lunch).

This youth programming series, aimed at introducing young people of our area to the history and culture of Ireland, is funded through the Mohawk Valley Gives program and matching funds from the UpMobility Foundation and the James H. Donovan Foundation.



Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones

Fans of Irish music are in for an incredible afternoon of songs and stories as we celebrate our Irish heritage a bit early at 3PM Sunday Feb 22, 2026 with Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones. Led by front man Derek Warfield, this group of talented young musicians will keep your hands clapping, toes tapping, and voices singing with fresh, high-energy arrangements of traditional tunes and rebel songs.

A special group of Irish men and women have been responsible for preservation of the tradition of Irish ballad singing over the past 50 years. Derek Warfield is a distinguished name among them. Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones are bringing that musical tradition forward with a reverence for Ireland's past and the energy and optimism of a new generation of Irish musicians.

Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones are thrilled to be celebrating 15 years On the One Road and are delighted to be celebrating it in style with the release of a new CD "Let The Free Birds Fly" released in June 2022, and performances all over America including some great Irish American venues.

"We're presenting an old tradition in a new package – and I've the same passion for it now as I had when it all started 50 years ago!" - Derek Warfield

You can attend this concert at the Five Points Public House Event Center at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, 623 Columbia St, Utica. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Advance Tickets, available at the Five Points Public House or online at <https://bit.ly/4p44VPZ> are \$30. Tickets at the Door cost \$35. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.



Christopher J. Carbone

Why Rebalancing Can Be So Important

Imagine sitting in a rowboat and wanting to get back to shore. If you just sit there, the wakes from passing boats and the wind could cause you to drift further toward the middle of the lake — not where you want to be. Of course, they might actually move you toward the shore. Who knows?

On the other hand, you could use your paddles. It's more work, but it'll increase the possibility of your reaching your destination.

It's similar with your portfolio. If you neglect it, market activity may cause it to drift away — possibly far away — from where you want it to be.

Take, for example, a portfolio that starts out 60% stocks/40% bonds. If stocks were to have a particularly good year and bonds a bad one, the allocation could shift to, say, 70% stocks/30% bonds without the investor even realizing it. While this portfolio likely has better growth potential than the original, it could also take a bigger hit if stocks, which tend to be more volatile than bonds, turn around and have a bad year.

To help avoid this, you should consider periodically "rebalancing" your portfolio. This involves looking at how you're diversified across different types of investments and considering selling some investments and buying others when necessary to bring your portfolio back to the asset allocation you originally intended. In the example above, you might think about selling stocks and buying bonds to get to 60% stocks/40% bonds.

All investing involves risk, including loss of principal.

Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market.

Investments in fixed-income securities are subject to market, interest rate, credit and other risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can cause a bond's price to fall. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and/or principal. This risk is heightened in lower rated bonds. If sold prior to maturity, fixed income securities are subject to market risk. All fixed income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions and the perception of individual issuers. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities.

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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178 Woods Park Drive
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Direct: (315) 801-2546
christopher.carbone@wellsfargoadvisors.com
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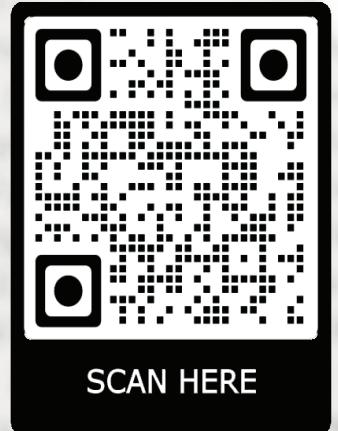


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towncrier@pjgreen.com | 315.723.4827



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 firstumconline.org
 Easily accessible building, sanctuary, and bathroom.

SAUQUOT 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.
 Nursery care is provided during worship.

The choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:10.

Children's Sunday School (Sunday Club) precedes worship and starts at 9:30. An Adult Study Group meets at that same time (starting Feb. 8) and also on Tuesday mornings at 11:00. A fellowship/coffee hour for everyone follows each Sunday morning worship service.

A quiet, meditative Taize service is held the first Wednesday evening of each month and in February will take place at 7 p.m. on the 4th.

Except as noted, regular Church Office hours are 8:30am -3pm Mon - Thursday and 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Friday.

The February schedule:

2/1 — 9:10 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 2/1 — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Club
 2/1 — 10:30 a.m. Worship

2/3 — 7 p.m. Deacons mtg
 2/4 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
 2/4 — 7 p.m. Taize service
 2/8 — 9:10 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 2/8 — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Club & Adult Study Group
 2/8-10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Moment for Mission
 2/8 — 11:45 a.m. NHP Women's mtg
 2/10 — 11 a.m. Adult Study Group
 2/11 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
 2/11 — 12 p.m. Members & Friends Lunch
 2/11 — 6 p.m. 4-H mtg
 2/15 — 9:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 2/15 — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Club & Adult Study Group
 2/15 — 10:30 a.m. Worship
 2/16 — President's Day, NHPC closed
 2/17 — 11 a.m. Adult Study Group
 2/17 — 7 p.m. Session mtg (tentative)
 2/18 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
 2/22 — 9:10 a.m. Choir rehearsal
 2/22 — 9:30 a.m. Sunday Club & Adult Study Group
 2/22 — 10:30 a.m. Worship
 2/23 — 12 p.m. Oneida County Senior Lunch Program
 2/25 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
 2/25 — 6 p.m. 4-H mtg
 2/27 — NHPC office closed
 2/28 — 3 p.m. Hope House meal preparation

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 11:45 AM (please note new time)
 Zoom and In-Person Worship Services - All Welcome!

Please contact St. Margaret's for the information to join by Zoom

Wednesday Lunches at 12:30 PM

Please make a reservation by the Friday before - Suggested donation \$15

Monthly Activities

Men's Group | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM - Meant to be a time of fellowship and exploration, Father Nick Smith will begin each week by asking "What is saving your life today?" Is it spiritual practice? Is it coffee? Is it some curious enigma? Let's find out and share our conclusions!

Conversations with Father John | 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 PM - Join us for conversations about faith hosted by Father John LaVoe.

Caregiving Support Group | 3rd Mondays at 2 PM - Facilitated by the Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves, the 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.

Grief Support Group | 3rd Fridays at Noon - St. Margaret's continues to host a peer facilitated grief support group for anyone experiencing loss - new members are welcome to join.

Coffee and Conversation with Rev. Deacon Jean | 4th Wednesdays at 1:30 PM - Join The Reverend Deacon Jean Skinner for conversations about faith. Please consider bringing a few cans of food for our food pantry as a donation.

Monthly Dinners: Dine In at 5:30pm and Take Out at 6pm Suggested Donation \$19; Please reserve your seat by the preceding Wednesday.

February 17th: Spaghetti with Meatballs, Sausage, Garlic Bread

March 24th: Corned Beef & Cabbage

April 21st: Grilled London Broil with Potatoes

Special Events

Book Club with Judy - 3rd Thursdays from 10:30 to Noon Please register one week prior to each session. Feel free to bring snacks to share!

February 19th: Closer Than Your Next Breath by Susie Larson

March 19th: The Opposite Life by Alex Seeley

April 16th: A Jesus Shaped Life by Lisa Harper

Ash Wednesday | **February 18th** at 11:45 AM

St. Margaret's weekly Holy Eucharist will include the Imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday. All are welcome.

Psalms Come Alive with Father John | Feb. 18th and Mar. 4th at 1:30 PM

Are psalms poems, prayers, or songs? Are they somber, outrageous, or puzzling? Speakers and those addressed

change without warning. They're not like gospels, epistles, history, laws or prophets, yet there's nothing "hard" about them. Register for two sessions that make sense of psalms, and answer your questions. Wednesday, February 18th, and Wednesday, March 4th from 1:30 to 3:00 PM.

Lenten Study | February 23rd to March 23rd, Mondays at 2 PM - Join Rev. Deacon Barb Groves for this year's Lenten study, based on James Moore's book, Give Up Something Bad for Lent. We are invited to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. How much better would your life be? Please register by February 16th. For more information or to register for any event, please call St. Margaret's: 315-724-2324 or email info@stmargaretshouseny.org

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 threesteeple@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 Feasts 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 Hierarchical 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 at UUUtica. Services are at 10:30 AM on Sundays, in person and on Zoom.

Hospitality hour with coffee and snacks follows each service.

February 1 – Rev. Jill Farnham-Us – How Journaling Changed My Life - Journaling for more than a week can lead to real growth and healing. Rev. Jill discovered "The Monk Manual", and that has made all the difference for her. Focus, organization, and gratitude can change your life too!

February 8 Gianluca Avanzato – Healing and Honoring the Body - Gianluca Avanzato is a writer, artist, poet and teacher living in upstate New York. Gianluca holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, where he studied religion and spiritual care. He has engaged in interreligious dialogue trainings and sessions around the world and holds a Diploma in Interreligious Studies from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. Avanzato teaches writing as a spiritual practice of self-knowledge and offers one-on-one creativity coaching. Along with his work in higher education and teaching Italian, he has developed and led workshops, pilgrimages and programming around the United States and Europe, including Sacred Writing Circles and Apothecary of the Word. Gianluca strives to help others honor, enkindle and cultivate their sacred creativity and connect more deeply to the universe.

February 15 – Katie Spires and the Inclusion Team: My Intersex Valentine - A service presented by the UUUtica Inclusion Team

February 22 – Rev. Joe Cleveland, Kneeling as an Art of Resilience - Rev. Cleveland explores how the cultivation of wonder can be a can be a source of resilience. As a means to this, we'll consider the art of Chiura Obata, his appreciation for nature, and his experience of being removed from his home to internment camps for Japanese Americans during the Second World War.

Rev. Joseph Cleveland is a banjo player, peanut butter and jelly sandwich maker, and Doctor Who fanatic. Trained in both science and literature as well as religion, Rev. Joe is fascinated by how we find and create meaning in our lives through music, ritual, and story.



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.tbeutica.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.

Presidential Fun Facts

Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th president of the United States in 1860. He was 6 feet, 4 inches (1.9 meters), making him the tallest U.S. president.

Many presidents had unusual careers before entering the White House. Jimmy Carter, the 39th president, was a peanut farmer. Ronald Reagan, the 40th president, was a famous movie star. And Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, once worked chopping rails for fences.

Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, was a tailor before he was president. Harry Truman, the 33rd president, was a haberdasher, someone who deals in men's clothing and accessories, particularly hats.

Before Theodore Roosevelt came to office in 1901, the White House wasn't even called the White House! People called the building the President's Palace, the President's House, and the Executive Mansion. Roosevelt officially named it the White House.

Theodore Roosevelt wasn't the only president to invent a new expression. Martin Van Buren, the eighth president, is sometimes credited with creating the expression "OK." Van Buren was from Kinderhook, New York. During his campaign, Old Kinderhook (O.K.) clubs formed to support the president. Later "OK" came to mean "all right."

Teddy Roosevelt was the first president to ride in a car while in office. His fifth cousin and the 32nd president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was the first to ride in an airplane.

The first left-handed president was James Garfield, the 20th president.

Millard Fillmore, the 13th president, was the first president to have a stepmother.

The only president who studied to become a medical doctor was William Henry Harrison, the ninth president.

The 18th president of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, was given a \$20 speeding ticket for riding his

horse and buggy too fast down a street in Washington, D.C.

The White House's first website went online in October 1994 during President Bill Clinton's administration.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/presidential-fun-facts>

Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. Seeks Donations for 2026 Spring Online Auction

Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. is now accepting donations for its Spring Online Auction, taking place April 27-30, 2026. The organization invites local businesses, community partners, and individuals to contribute items, experiences, or gift cards to help support compassionate end-of-life care for patients and families throughout the Mohawk Valley.

Last year's auction raised more than \$20,000, directly benefiting Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.'s mission-driven programs and services. With continued community support, the organization hopes to surpass that success in 2026.

High-demand auction items include unique experiences and gift cards that encourage people to try new places, such as restaurants, entertainment venues, travel experiences, wellness services, and family-friendly activities. Donated items provide meaningful exposure for businesses while offering bidders exciting opportunities to support a vital local nonprofit.

Donors receive recognition through auction promotions, online listings, and event publicity, allowing businesses to reach a broad and engaged audience while demonstrating their commitment to the community.

All donation forms and items are requested by March 6, 2026, to allow time for promotion and auction preparation.

For more information or to arrange a donation, please contact: Joanne A. Moskal, Chief Operating Officer at 315-735-6487 ext. 1039 or jmoskal@hospicecareinc.org.



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