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December 2026

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Blood Drive!

NHFD Holds American Red Cross Blood Drive

The New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, December 31, 2026, from 10am to 2pm at the fire station. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-RED CROS (1-800-733-2767). Reservations are appreciated and walk-ins are always welcome.

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NYS Approved Defensive Driving Classes

New York State approved defensive drivers class for insurance and point reduction programs will be given by AARP at the New Hartford Public Library from 9am-3:30pm.

The next class will be on December 29th.

For registration and other information please contact Mary Merritt at (315)724-0096.

Call early classes fill fast. Open to all ages.

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Donna Grippe and her daughter Ondrea Grippe Getz

Celebrating Over 60 Years of Beauty, Passion & Dedication ~ Honoring Donna Grippe

Sixty years in the beauty industry and still doing what she loves!

Some people choose a career, and others find their calling. For Donna Grippe, the beauty industry has never been just a job. It has been a lifelong passion.

Born and raised in a small town, Donna grew up surrounded by a hardworking family, many of whom were farmers. From an early age, she learned the importance of dedication, determination, and a strong work ethic—values that would stay with her throughout her life.

After graduating from high school, Donna moved to Utica to pursue her dream of becoming a cosmetologist. Little did she know that this decision would lead to a remarkable career spanning more than six decades!

Donna went on to become a cosmetology instructor at BOCES, where she dedicated 40 years to teaching, mentoring, and inspiring future generations of hairstylists. Her knowledge, encouragement, and love for the industry helped shape countless careers. At one time she managed and owned seven salons in the area spanning from Holland Patton to Westmoreland.

In addition to teaching, Donna has served as a New York State Board Examiner for cosmetology and nail technology. She has always believed in supporting fellow stylists, sharing her knowledge, and encouraging others to succeed.

But perhaps the most amazing part of Donna's story is that after more than 60 years, she has no plans of slowing down!

Still working six days a week, Donna continues to welcome clients of all ages into her chair. From longtime clients who have trusted her for decades to younger generations looking for the latest styles, she continues to learn, grow, and keep up with today's trends. Her passion for hair is just as strong today as it was when she first began.

Today, Donna has the special opportunity to work side by side with her daughter, Ondrea, sharing not only a profession but also a love for the beauty industry. What began as one woman's dream has become a beautiful family tradition. Although Ondrea is now the owner of the salon, Donna will always be the "boss."

Donna Grippe is proof that when you truly love what you do, it never feels like just a job.

Her story is one of hard work, perseverance, passion, and a genuine love for people. She has spent a lifetime making others look and feel beautiful, while inspiring those around her to follow their own dreams.

And if you ask Donna when she plans to retire, the answer is simple—she's not ready to put down her scissors anytime soon!

Congratulations, Donna, on over 60 incredible years in the beauty industry! Your dedication, talent, and love for what you do are truly something to celebrate.

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Angels Among Us Food Pantry

Dec 5th & 19th 2026
2027: Jan 9, 23; Feb 6, 20; March 6, 20
April 10, 24; May 8, 22; June 12, 26;
July 10, 24; Aug 14, 28; Sept 11, 25
Oct 9, 23; Nov 6, 20, Dec 4, 18
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!

TEFAP Income Eligibilty Table

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	$35,910
2	$48,690
3	$61,470
4	$74,250
5	$87,030
6	$99,810
7	$112,590
8	$125,370

For households with more than 8 persons, add $12,780 for each additional person

happy holidays

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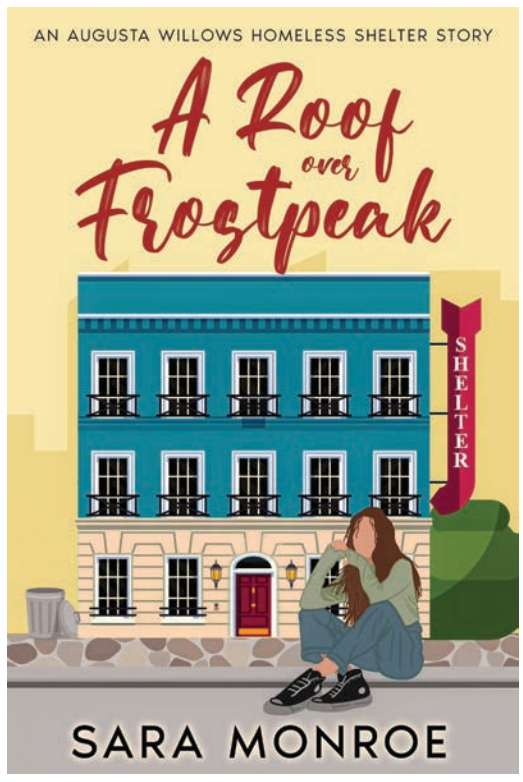

New Hartford Author Publishes Third Book

Sara Monroe's third book in the series is now available! You can find it at the library and also on Amazon.

A Roof over Frostpeak: Everyone deserves a roof over their head. In Frostpeak, keeping one there may take a whole town.

After rebuilding her life at A Roof Over Frostpeak, Alex Bauer is ready to leave the city's only homeless shelter behind. With a plan for the future and the confidence to stand on her own two feet, she is preparing for a life she's determined to build on her own terms.

But just as Alex prepares to move forward, the shelter that helped her rebuild her life is facing an uncertain future of its own.

Knowing firsthand what could be lost if the shelter closes, Alex accepts a seat on its board of directors and proposes a community fundraiser to help keep its doors open. Before plans can get underway, an allegation of financial misconduct brings fundraising to a halt and raises troubling questions about what has been happening beneath the shelter's roof.

Inside the shelter are lives Alex has come to know well. An elderly man learning how to live without the wife he loved for sixty-two years. A family of five who had been sleeping in their car. A woman trying to escape abuse. A mother battling addiction while raising her young daughter. Their stories unfold alongside Alex's own, revealing the grief, trauma, friendship, and unexpected moments of hope found beneath one roof.

Return to Frostpeak and reconnect with familiar faces from The Girl from the Diner and Amidst the Boulevard. Then come inside A Roof Over Frostpeak, where everyone has a story and everyone deserves a place to tell it.

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

Happy Holidays!

The Library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Inclement Weather Policy

With winter approaching we want to share 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. Closings will be announced on WKTV, and the Library's social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram).

Stay Connected With Us!

For up-to-date information regarding closings, reopening, programs and crafts:

Website: www.newhartfordpubliclibrary.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/newhartfordpubliclibrary

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/new_hartford_public_library/

Mid York Library System App

Download the Mid York Library System App to search our catalog, place holds, view your account, and see what's happening at any Mid York library!

The app allows you to log in with one or more Mid York library cards, search for items, place holds, see library locations, check out and read OverDrive books and magazines, search and filter library programming, bring up a digital library card, and much more. The app is available in the 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, at 315-733-1535.

Community Rooms

Community Rooms are available for groups and organizations to use. You can find more information on our website, by calling 315-733-1535, or by visiting our circulation desk at the library.

Display Case Available for 2027

Attention civic groups, non-profits and local artists: The display case at the library's main entrance is available, without charge, for groups or individuals to display works of art, collections or educational displays. Exhibits must be in keeping the library's mission to meet the educational, cultural and recreational needs of the community. Exhibits may not be for entrepreneurial or commercial purposes, for the solicitation of business for profit or for fundraising. Religions proselytizing and partisan political recruitment are similarly prohibited. Applications for the case are on a first come, first served basis and are limited to one month, with displays also limited to one per year per individual, group or organization. Exhibits will be reviewed in advance before being displayed. Applications for use of the case are available at the library's front desk. If you have questions or are interested in using the display, please call the library at 315-733-1535, and ask to speak to John, the display coordinator.

Christmas Village

A holiday tradition returns in December when the Friends of the New Hartford Public Library decorate the library for the season. Of special interest for patrons young and old alike is the Christmas village installed in the hallway display case of the library's main entrance. The work begins early in the month. The decorations will remain on display until the end of the month. Make sure to check out the decorations when you visit and thanks go to the Friends for all the work they do on behalf of the library.

Santa Mail Express at the Library!

The New Hartford Public Library is proud to partner with the big man up North this holiday season. There will be a special red mailbox inside the library to help get those letters to Santa Claus! Don't forget to add our special "Library Stamp" before dropping it in the mailbox to guarantee a letter back from the big man himself. The library will have special paper available at the circulation desk for children to write their letters with. You may also use the paper you already have at home. Grownups with questions about this can call the library at 315-733-1535.

This magical "Santa Mailbox" is not part of USPS and solely for library use purposes.

NHPL Board of Trustees 2026 Meetings

The Board of Trustees will be meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd at 4:30 in the Sammon Room.

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 charge your car while enjoying our books, events, and community spaces. Stop by, plug in, and stay a while!

Park Passes

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:

Utica Children's Museum

The Wild Center

Fort Rickey Children's Discovery Zoo

Adirondack Experience

Munson

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.

Winter Sport Season is Coming!

Your library card can get you more than just books. With winter quickly approaching, stop in and borrow ice skates or snow shoes for free with your library card! Sporting equipment must be checked out on an adult library card. Though we have removed fines for books and DVDs, fines still apply for our sporting equipment and park passes.

Tech Help

We have a volunteer at the library each Tuesday from 11:00 am-2:00 pm to assist patrons with all their tech questions.

After Breast Cancer (ABC) Support Group

The ABC Group will be meeting on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00 in the Sammon Room. Representatives from Oneida County Health Dept. will be doing a presentation on fall prevention. This is a timely topic with winter approaching.

Griffo and CNY Veterans Outreach Center Kick off Annual Cell Phones For Soldiers Collection Drive

In recognition of Military Family Appreciation Month and Veterans Day, New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo was recently joined by the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center to kick off this year's Cell Phones For Soldiers collection drive.

The collection drive runs through Saturday, Dec. 12. The public can drop off gently used and unwanted cell phones and/or tablets at several public locations throughout Sen. Griffo's district.

Drop-off locations include:

Jervis Public Library: 613 N. Washington St., Rome

Central New York Veterans Outreach Center: 726 Washington St., Utica

Chanatry's Hometown Market: 485 French Road, Utica

Utica State Office Building: 207 Genesee St., Utica

New Hartford Public Library: 2 Library Lane, New Hartford

Bridgewater Municipal Building: 404 NY-8, Bridgewater

Oneida Public Library: 459 Main St., Oneida

Hamilton Public Library: 13 Broad St, Hamilton

West Winfield Library: 179 South St., West Winfield

Sherburne Public Library: 2 E State St., Sherburne

Madison County Distillery: 2412 Rt 20, Cazenovia

For every donated phone, mobile device or tablet valued at $5, Cell Phones For Soldiers is able to provide 2.5 hours of free talk time to deployed troops via calling cards. All proceeds from the recycled devices will be used to buy long-distance calling cards and other communication services for troops at home and abroad. Some of the phones collected also will go directly into the hands of veterans in need as a part of a recent initiative started by the organization. The phones will come with unlimited talk and text.

This is the 11th year that the collection drive has taken place. Overall, residents throughout Sen. Griffo's Senate District have donated approximately 8,400 devices and have provided troops with approximately 890,000 minutes of free calls.

"The holidays can be a difficult time for members of our military because they are often so far away from their families," Sen. Griffo said. "The simple sound of a loved one's voice can go a long way to lift their spirits. These brave men and women have stepped up to serve our nation, and I am proud to be teaming up again with the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center, Cell Phones for Soldiers and local libraries and businesses to help connect these troops to their families back home."

"I thank Sen. Griffo for spearheading this initiative and appreciate his ongoing support of the men and women serving in our armed forces and their families," said Vincent Scalise, Central New York Veterans Outreach Center executive director. "This annual collection drive has helped many veterans and military members. I know that the community will once again step up to help our troops."

Cell Phones For Soldiers was founded in 2004 by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist at the ages of 12 and 13. The charity has since provided more than 300 million minutes of free talk time to servicemen and women stationed around the world through its calling card program, Minutes That Matter. Funds raised from the recycling of cellular phones are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards.

On average, Cell Phones For Soldiers distributes 1,500 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies and VA hospitals. Since 2004, the charity has provided U.S. troops with more than 400 million "Minutes That Matter" and distributed more than 5 million prepaid international calling cards and have recycled more than 25 million mobile devices, reducing the impact on landfills.

A donation of a mobile device to this community collection drive doesn't just help connect active military and veterans with loved ones, it also helps protect the

environment by properly and safely recycling them so not to cause electronic waste, which can be extremely harmful to the environment if it ends up in a landfill. Electronics such as mobile devices do not last a lifetime, yet they are made with products that are non-disposable, such as cadmium, mercury, and lead as well as lithium batteries and rare-earth minerals, and commonly cased in plastic—all things that can cause damage to water supplies and ecosystems.

Cell Phones For Soldiers works with a recycling partner which dismantles the device securely, identifying which components may be resold for reuse - which helps cut the demand for mining in vulnerable locations, and provide funding for the organization to help service members communicate with home and support veterans in need.

For more information on Cell Phones For Soldiers, please visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

***To prepare your mobile phone for donation here are some tips on how to erase all personal information that may be stored on it to protect your privacy:

Remove your phone's SIM card, erase your address book, photos, messages and other stored information.

Restore the factory settings on your device.

For instructions on how to do this, go to the owner's manual or to the manufacturers' web site.

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 at 315-733-1535 and ask to speak to our Book Club Coordinator, Danielle.

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

>NHPL Silent Book Club: Are you feeling a bit of cabin fever? Want to get out and chat about books with fellow readers? The Silent Book Club is for you! Join us the second Friday every month in the Corasanti Room. This book club is designed for those that wish to be among readers but would love to read their own book of choice while still being able to hear about what others are reading. This is a great way to find new books and authors that you may not have read yet. Bring your current read, read solo for a bit and then if you feel up to it, share your book. This is a very informal book group....just show up and chat if you'd like or read among fellow readers. The choice is yours!

>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 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/

Local Author Visit and Spotlight: Jared Chontow The Crimson Spear

Jared Chontow has loved writing stories since he was a kid. What started as a hobby slowly became something much more. Now, he writes fantasy stories filled with action, adventure, and characters readers can remember. Born in New Jersey and raised in the Greater Utica area, Jared hopes his stories give readers a fun escape and leave them wanting to read more. Stop in for a reading and book signing on December 5th at 11:00 am.

Cleanne Johnson: Helping Others See the Beauty in Their Own Stories January 5th 5:30 Sammon Room

For Cleanne Johnson, some of the most meaningful connections begin with a story, an honest conversation, or a reminder that someone matters. An award-winning author, speaker, podcast host, and registered dietitian based in New Hartford, New York, Cleanne brings a heartfelt message to her work: "Know yourself. Love yourself. Choose yourself."

Her message grew from personal experience. Having faced childhood bullying and hurtful judgments about her looks. Cleanne understands how deeply other people's words can shape the way we see ourselves. Her journey toward self-acceptance inspired her to create books and conversations that encourage others to recognize their worth and feel more comfortable being themselves.

With 11 published books, Cleanne explores identity, resilience, healing, and the courage to begin again. Her titles include Love My Colors, Finding Beauty In and Out, The Love Hate I Get, and Beauty of Colors Poems. Whether she is writing for young readers or adults, her work invites people to look beyond painful labels and reconnect with their own voices.

Among her accomplishments, Love My Colors was recognized as a 2025 Distinguished Favorite in the NYC Big Book Awards, and Beauty of Colors Poems received a Readers' Favorite Gold Medal. Cleanne has also been named a 2026 International Impact Book Awards Author of the Year finalist. These honors celebrate a writing journey rooted in a desire to help readers feel seen, encouraged, and less alone.

That same spirit carries into her Beauty of Colors podcast. With more than 250 episodes across seven seasons, Cleanne welcomes guests into thoughtful conversations about self-love, resilience, identity, and finding a way forward through difficult experiences. Her warm, curious approach makes room for stories that listeners may recognize in their own lives.

Beyond the page and microphone, Cleanne enjoys connecting with readers through book signings, school visits, and community conversations. She especially values opportunities to encourage children to appreciate their individuality and treat one another with kindness. As a registered dietitian, she also supports people in caring for their health through practical, compassionate nutrition counseling.

Her creativity extends to acting, singing, and songwriting, giving her additional ways to express the experiences and emotions that connect us.

At the heart of Cleanne's work is a welcoming invitation: make room for yourself in your own story. Through her books, her voice, and her community connections, she reminds people that their experiences matter, their voices belong, and there is beauty in their colors.

Connect with Cleanne, explore her books, and discover the Beauty of Colors podcast at linktr.ee/beautyofcolors66

Heritage Doll Club

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

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

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.

December Themes:

· November 30, December 1, 2: Cold Weather

· December 7, 8, 10: Snowmen

· December 14, 15, 17: Glitter & Glue

· December 21, 22: Holiday Pause – No Story Time*

· December 28, 29, 31: Holiday Pause – No Story Time*

Apply to be a Kid Librarian!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to work in a library? What does it feel like to be surrounded by books all day? How do librarians choose and create book displays? We would love to show you! Apply to be a Kid Librarian!

This program is open to children ages 8-12. Kid librarians will create their own book display, design a sign to promote it and use a scanner to check books out to the display. The Child Librarian will make an appointment (30-45 minutes) and choose their books for their display. They will scan and check the books out and will create signs for their display. Books must be owned by the New Hartford Public Library. The display will be in the Children's Area and will be displayed for 2-4 weeks, depending on the number of applicants.

Interested? Please complete this form, which is also listed on our website under the Programs menu tab: https://forms.gle/zX8J8qyZNrnEdk198

Library Tote Bag Painting

Join us December 19th (time to be determined) and personalize a New Hartford Public Library tote bag. We will supply the paints, stencils and even a free library tote. The library will host two painting sessions: one for kids 12 and under and one YA/Adult. Families are welcome to come together (mixed ages) during our kid session. For questions, please contact the library at 315-733-1535. *Registration is required. Limit one per person.

Build A Dino – December 28th

Dinosaurs are once again taking over our Corasanti Room on December 28th! All day (10am-7:30pm) our Large Foam Dinosaur bones will be out for use. Create a Dinosaur from memory, look up one in our large collection of dinosaur books or just make one that is custom to you. Your imagination is endless!

Dinosaur bones are to remain in the Corasanti Room at all times. This is a drop-in program.

Drop-In Legos December 29th

Get out of the house this Winter Recess and come to the library. On December 29th from 10am-11am we will have the Corasanti Room reserved for freestyle Lego building. Tryout one of our Lego Challenges or build something BRICKING-AWESOME! We hope to see you there!

This is a drop-in program. Adult supervision is required.

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.

NHPL's New Puzzle League

Grab your friends and start a team! 10 teams will compete to see which group can assemble their puzzle first.

The group will meet every other month from 6:30-7:45 in the Sammon Room on 12/15/26, 2/16/27, 4/20/27, 6/15/27, 8/17/27, 10/19/27 & 12/21/27

Please call to register your team 315-733-1535.

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 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-11:30am and Friday mornings from 11:00am to 12:00pm for Chair Yoga in the Sammon Room. There is no charge for this class.

Mat Yoga Class

Mat yoga will take place Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 AM in the Sammon Room.

Meditation Class

12:30-1:30pm Mondays. 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

Cont. on page 6

Cont. from page 5

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.

Mohawk Valley Lyme Support Group

Will hold monthly meetings for those affected by Tick-Borne Illnesses. Family members and

caregivers are also welcome to attend. Shared resources, experiences & knowledge foster understanding and healing. Meetings at New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford

Next meeting will be December 13 2-4 pm

Contact: (please put Lyme in the heading)

Bmarris60@gmail.com

So2say@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/mohawkvalleylyme/

Upcoming Blood Drives

The American Red Cross will be at the New Hartford Public Library on December 10th from 12-4pm for a blood drive.

To register, please visit www.redcrossblood.org.

December Social Security Workshop December 8th at 6:00 pm

This public-service program is presented by John Kalil, FSCP®, a Financial Advisor with Kalil Wealth Strategies. No financial products or services will be sold. Mr. Kalil brings more than 30 years of retirement income planning experience and has offered similar programs at many public libraries across upstate New York since 2014. Call 315-733-1535 to register.

Painting Class

Join us for a free painting class on the second Tuesday of the month on December 8th, January 12th, February 9th, and March 9th, from 12:45-2:15. Relax and have fun trying your hand for the first time or continuing your painting journey. Themes will be: Bells & Holly, Candlelight & Old Books, Vintage Tea Cups & Real Flowers, and Pottery & Fruit Display. Also try a new tea each month. Registration is suggested, call 315-733-1535. This group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Hartford Public Library.

Friends of the New Hartford Public Library

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the Friends of the New Hartford Public Library. Your assistance in updating our materials and programs contributes to the growth of our community and is greatly appreciated by its residents. Follow our website for what's new or stop by the library to share ideas for programs and fundraisers.

Panera Fundraiser

On December 17th from 4-8 PM, 30% of sales will benefit the Friends of the NHPL. Be sure to support the Friends so we can support the library!

Knitting Group

Knitting in a tangle? crochet hook bent from frustrated hands or you don't know how to begin despite the instructions? The knitting group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the large study room and will gladly assist you.....or just bring your materials and join them.

Mitten Tree

The mitten Tree is waiting to spread warmth and joy among its branches with mittens donated for all ages in need. 'Tis the season of giving. "Warm hands warm hearts."

Help Wanted!

Decorating the library for the holidays on Friday, December 4 at 10:00 - All are welcome.

New Hartford Public Library TOTE BAGS are available for $3 each to carry your treasures home.

Annette Barber Used Book Room

Best Deals in Town!!! Each "gently used" book sold assists the library in providing quality resources for the enjoyment of all ages. Thank you for your donations.

ACCEPT: hardbound, paperback books, magazines, records, DVD's, 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, audio cassettes, VHS tapes and computer games/books or CDs.

Limit your donation to 1 box/bag at a time. Please drop them at the circulation desk! Please do not drop them off in the hallways, at drop boxes or outside when the library is closed!!!!!! Thank you.

Friends of the NHPL Membership form can be found on next page





New Hartford Chamber of Commerce

Located in:
New Hartford Village Offices
48 Genesee St, New Hartford
(315) 796-1520
Facebook • NewHartfordChamber



Members of the Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley gathered at Mulligan's in Waterville NY on October 21st hosted by Waterville First for their monthly meeting to discuss the continued economic development and growth taking place throughout our region. It's inspiring to see the collaboration, investment, and momentum that continue to strengthen our communities and make the Mohawk Valley a great place to live, work, and do business. The Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley is an association of independent chambers of commerce and community organizations that meets monthly for information sharing, mutual support, and networking.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

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PHONE _____

Email _____

_____Annual Membership $15 _____Life Membership $100

Membership is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to: Friends of the New Hartford Public Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford, NY 13413



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December Band Schedule

Tuesday 12/1 - R&R 6-9
Fri 12/4 - Matt Beadle & The Yard Cats 8:30-11:30
Sat 12/5 - Shawn Smith 8:30-11:30
Tues 12/8 - Shawn Smith (Girl Dinner) 6-9
Fri 12/11 - Tom & Ashley 8:30-11:30
Sat 12/12 - Isaac French 8:30-11:30
Tues 12/15 - Frank & Gina w/Vinny Cavo 6:00-9:00
Wed 12/16 - Riptide 6:30-9:30
Fri 12/18 - Showtime Full Band 8:30-11:30
Sat 12/19 - Grit & Grace 8:30-11:30
Mon 12/21 - Shawn Smith 8-11
Tues 12/22 - Matt Beadle & The Yard Cats 8:00-11:00
Wed 12/23 - DJ Oh Kane 8:30-11:30
Fri 12/26 - Last Left 8:30-11:30
Thur 12/31 - Soul Injection 9:30-1am





WHAT THE HISTORY (WTH!)

Christmas Traditional Eats

When the temperatures start to drop, the snowflakes start drifting from the cotton candy clouds, and the snowplows are gassed for the ready, it means we are inching towards Christmas. The December 25th holiday is all about family, friends, and food. There are some Christmas eats that no matter where you go in the United States are part of the family tradition. So here, dear reader, are in no particular order five popular and long-standing staples of any Christmas get together and meal. 1. Fruit Cake: Why we all can recall being a child and staring with awe and fear at this block of fruit jelly chunk-infused sweet bread that had the density of a brick. Hand delivered to the festivities by our dear old grandma or great grandma. Yet when we got older, we loved this sweet treat that began in 17th century England. Fruit cake is made of sweet bread, dried fruits, nuts, spice, and soaked in spirits. 2. Peanut Brittle: This is a cracked piece of flat hard candy infused with peanuts and able to snap a tooth in a single bite. The origin of peanut brittle is unknown but I like the legend of the man who encountered a rising river from heavy rains and threw barrels of large peanuts and molasses into the waters to stem the flood. The legend states that it was successful when the townspeople broke up the clog to free the waters and thus peanut brittle was made for the entire village to enjoy. Dentists around the world rejoiced at the surge of tooth repair business. 3. Eggnog: We've all sipped it with some loving it and others turning our nose away from it, yet what is Christmas without a punchbowl filled with a liquid concoction comprised of milk, eggs, cream, and sugar with sometimes alcohol added in or cinnamon sprinkled on top. Eggnog was invented in 13th century England and was called, "posset." 4. Mince Pie: Why this is very similar to fruit cake but with a twist. Besides fruits, nuts, spices, and booze, there's beef and sometimes vinegar mixed into this delicious alchemy of holiday joy. No worries as the kids and grandkids won't eat it, so more for us adults. 5. Candy Cane: What is Christmas without this white and red hard candy shaped into a shepherd's walking stick. Candy canes go back to 1670 in Cologne, Germany where they were used in church to calm children during services. I'm sure I missed some of your holiday favorites but no matter what you like, it's the best if it brings joy, fun, and love to the family get together. I hope you all have a wonderful and snow-filled holiday season wearing the ugliest of sweaters, eating a slice of fruit cake while twirling a candy cane on your finger.



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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Know Someone Ready for a Career, Not Just a Job? Share This with Them

By Sarah Reeske, Pre-Apprenticeship Workforce Development Specialist, MACNY, The Manufacturers Association

Most of us know someone who is ready for a fresh start. Maybe it's a grandson finishing high school who isn't sure what comes next, a neighbor whose job was cut, or a friend in her forties who is tired of working hard without getting ahead. If someone like that comes to mind, share this opportunity with them and help connect them with a pathway to a rewarding career in manufacturing here in the Mohawk Valley.

The Advance 2 Apprenticeship® program, is a no-cost 12-week direct-entry pre-apprenticeship program that prepares adults for careers in advanced manufacturing. The next cohort begins January 25th and runs through April 21st, with classes held Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Class sizes are limited, so don't wait to get started.

Participants learn online and in-person at Mohawk Valley Community College's Utica campus. Classes include tours of three local manufacturers and two interview nights with employers. Participants build in-demand skills while strengthening essential workplace skills, including communication and resume writing. Graduates can earn their Certified Manufacturing Associate (CMfgA) certification, helping them stand out to prospective manufacturing employers.

As part of the program, participants have access to supportive services designed to help remove barriers to participation and support their success throughout the program. Depending on individual needs, assistance may be available for expenses such as transportation, childcare, work attire, and technology.

Past participants range from young people looking for a long-term career rather than of just a job to adults making a career change later in life. The program is a strong fit for anyone unemployed or underemployed, or looking to pursue a new career path, particularly those who like working with their hands. Manufacturing today is dynamic, innovative, and technology-driven, offering a wide range of career opportunities in modern work environments.

Graduate Luis Feliciano, now working as an aluminum finisher at EJ, put it this way:

"Before joining the Advance 2 Apprenticeship program, I was struggling with a difficult past and didn't have a clear path forward. The program has been a transformative experience, not only expanding my skill set, but boosting my confidence. If you're committed and willing to learn, it can change your life."

If someone you know comes to mind who is at least 18 years of age, able to learn in English both online and in-person, legally authorized to work in the United States and is seeking full-time work in manufacturing, the Advance 2 Apprenticeship® program could be a great option for them.

Getting started is simple. Fill out a short general interest form, and a member of the Manufacturers Association of Central NY (MACNY) team will reach out to you about next steps.

So here's my request: clip this article, forward it, or start a conversation around the dinner table. You might be handing someone the start of a new career and a brighter future here in the Mohawk Valley.

Get started by scanning the QR code or visiting www.mfgtalent.org/Advance-2-Apprenticeship.

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Bank of Utica NEW YEAR'S EVE
Presented with the City of Utica and its Public Safety Departments
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Downtown Utica to 'Light the Night' with Fireworks and Family Fun on New Year's Eve

Event Details:

Where: Genesee Street, between Bank Place and Devereux Street

When: Thursday, December 31, from 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

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

Entertainment: Music by Sophistafunk and Soul Mine

Food/Drink Specials: F.X. Matt Brewing Company, Utica Coffee Roasting Company

About Bank of Utica

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

About the Performers

Sophistafunk blends funk, soul, jam, and electronic grooves. They have graced stages from their home base at Funk 'N Waffles in Syracuse to national TV shows and festivals across the country.

Soul Mine brings two decades of experience performing across New York State, featuring its high-energy rhythm and horn sections, to the New Year's Eve stage.

Gab-Bee is a local powerhouse singer and recording artist whose voice transcends genres, covering a mix of R&B, pop, and ballads that will move you.

D King Events (Doneilous King) has gained a huge following for his unique DJ style. His high-energy set will keep the party going and get downtown dancing.

Utica Royalties dance group is a favorite in the community, entertaining and giving youth an opportunity to share their culture through performance.



Sugar Cookie Fudge

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

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

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

Stir in desired amount of Christmas sprinkles.

Pour mixture into prepared pan and top with more sprinkles.

Place in the refrigerator and allow to set before cutting.

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Sitrin's Hydro Aerobics class combines stretching with cardiovascular exercise while you move to the sound of energetic workout music.

Stay Warm and Fit Year-Round at Sitrin

Many people find it convenient to stay fit during the summer months through outdoor activities such as walking, running, golf, and tennis. Now that the winter season is soon approaching, it can be a challenging time to stay active, with colder temperatures, slippery conditions, and fewer daylight hours. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), staying physically active is one of the best ways to improve your mental and physical health, even during the colder months.

Sitrin's Wellness & Aquatic Center offers a variety of classes to keep individuals fit all year long. With two heated therapy pools and a full-scale gym, the Wellness Center is designed to help adults reach their health, fitness, and recovery goals.

"A regular workout routine can improve many factors in our lives including overall function, balance, strength, brain health, and even increase socialization, something we can all benefit from during the colder months," said Shawna Marmet, Physical Therapist and Wellness Coordinator at Sitrin. "At Sitrin, we make it possible for individuals to remain active year-round by providing an array of 8-week aquatic class sessions and open swim/gym for those who wish to customize their own workout routine."

Finding a consistent way to incorporate physical activity that people enjoy into their lifestyles is also extremely important. At Sitrin, individuals can choose from a variety of aquatics classes including Aqua Yoga, Ai Chi, Cardio Splash, Hydro Aerobics, and Spin and Splash. Sitrin's two inground therapy pools, both heated at 92 degrees, provide an exciting, fun-filled approach to physical fitness all year long. The newly added land class, Strength & Stretch, is designed to tone muscles, support posture, and improve flexibility. In addition to the array of classes offered, Sitrin also offers a state-of-the-art fitness center with a variety of exercise equipment including treadmills, Ski-Ergs, elliptical, recumbent bike, and rowing machine.

All Wellness & Aquatic Center appointments must be scheduled in advance. Individuals can utilize the scheduling system on Sitrin's website, www.sitrin.com/wellness/wellness-center-appointments, or by downloading the app, "Wellness & Aquatic Center at Sitrin." This app is available in both Apple and Google Play stores. With this system, participants can sign up for open swim/gym, aquatics classes, and purchase and manage memberships.

For more information, call (315) 737-2451.

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.

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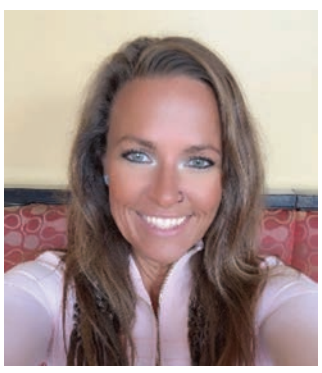
Dietary Supplements

submitted by Jim LaFountain, All American Fitness Center

Dietary supplements have been around for over a century. They are perhaps the most "scammed" component in physical fitness, particularly among athletes. Let's cover the most popular supplements. Creatine Monohydrate: a compound found in the brain and muscles. During high intensity, low volume exercise, like resistance training, the body converts creatine monohydrate into adenosine triphosphate (ATP) a primary source of energy for cells. It also promotes water retention, improving muscle growth and improved strength. Generous amounts of water are necessary to metabolize creatine. Creatine also accelerates recovery from high intensity exercise. When choosing what creatine monohydrate to use make sure creatine is the first and primary ingredient listed on the container, not crowded by several other unproven ingredients that may reduce the effectiveness of creatine. As with most ergogenic aides, it's wise to stick with supplements made in the USA. Protein Supplements: derived from concentrated sources of animal or plant foods and associated with muscle growth and recovery from intense physical training. Whey protein is the most popular and is a fast digesting, milk based protein that aides recovery and helps build muscle. There are nine essential amino acids and are organic compounds that your body can not produce on its own. The nine includes Histidine, Isoleucine, Leucine, Lysine, Methionine, Phenylalanine, Threonine, Tryptophan and Valine. They are associated with muscle growth and recovery from intense exercise. Complete Proteins are foods or supplements that contain all nine essential amino acids. They must come from food or supplements because the body can not produce them. Those who are sedentary require about 0.8 grams of protein per kilogram (divide your scale weight in pounds by 2.2) per day, while regular exercisers should get 1.1-1.7. Those who are on a severely restrictive diet would do well to ingest 1.6-2.4 kilograms per day. Vitamin C: formally called ascorbic acid and can not be produced by the body and must come from food or supplements. It is important for making collagen, our body's most abundant protein that helps skin health, blood vessels, cartilage, bones, tendons and teeth. It is also an antioxidant, supports our immune system, aides in iron absorption, wound healing, tissue repair and supports healthy vascular function. It can be found in citrus fruits, bell peppers, strawberries, tomatoes, broccoli and spinach. Recommended daily intake for men is 90 milligrams and for women 75 milligrams. Vitamin B12: supports red blood cell formation, neurological function and DNA synthesis. Red blood cells transport oxygen through the body, preventing anemia and reducing fatigue. It also maintains myelin, the protective coating around nerve fibers and our memory, along with our mood. Foods rich in Vitamin B12 include eggs, fortified cereals, milk and Greek yogurt. B12 injections result in better brain function, stronger bones, better vision, improved cardiovascular health and more energy. It's recommended that we get 2.4 micrograms per day of iron. Most people don't take iron supplements arbitrarily. Usually blood work reveals a deficiency and the need for supplementation. Signs of iron deficiency include constant fatigue and low energy, difficulty to concentrate, shortness of breath during light activity, frequent infections or weak immunity, headache or dizziness. Plant based forms of iron are absorbed more efficiently and better tolerated. 25-35 milligrams per day seems to be safe and effective. Hopefully, this clears up vitamin supplementation and by passes the sales and marketing hype. It's important to mention that nothing replaces a sound diet, and supplements simply assure that our bodies are supplied with necessary nutrients to function at our highest level.



Erin Reichenback

Erin Reichenbach Joins All-American Fitness Center

Cindy and Jim LaFountain, owners of the All-American Fitness Center in New Hartford are pleased to announce Erin Reichenbach, as the newest member of their Personal Training Team.

Erin, her husband, Stephen and their six children live in New Hartford and the children all attend New Hartford Schools. Erin is a graduate of Christian Liberty Academy, SUNY Onondaga and a graduate of the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Her goal of improving the health of our community is consistent with that of the All-American Fitness Center.

Trent Carrig, club manager said, "Erin interviewed like she had worked here for a decade."

She is currently accepting new clients. Her contact information is tinywifereichenbach@gmail.com or you can call the All-American Fitness Center at 315-735-2219.





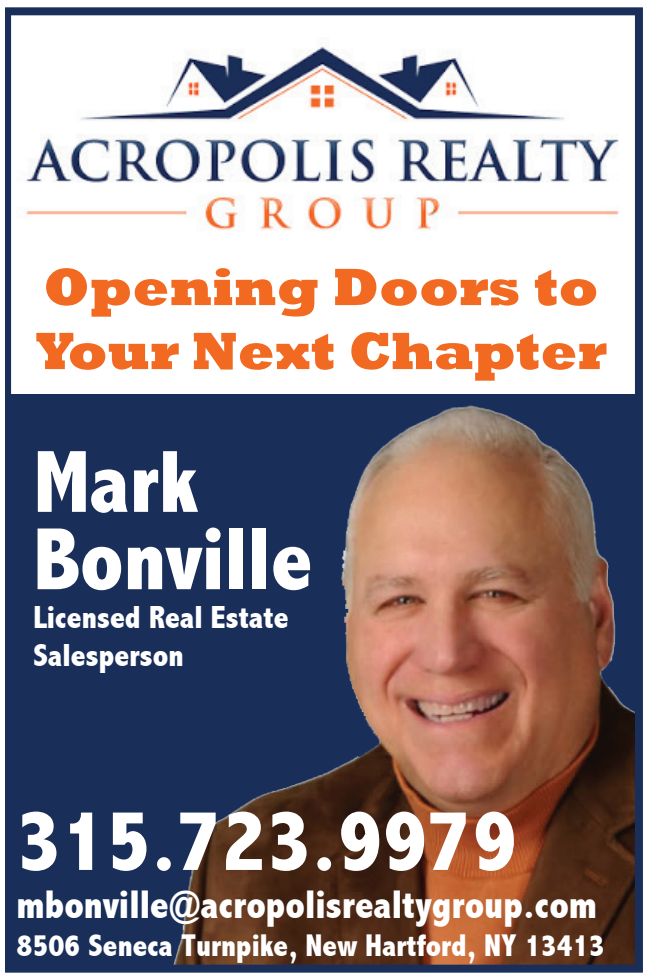


Fair Trade Shop

Find your reason for the season with our Christmas Day must-haves! Come shopping in our winter wonderland. Make it a simply beautiful holiday season: we feature gifts to win a smile from the whole family! The following are some of the items we have; clothing, jewelry, soup mixes, ornaments, baskets, board games, candles, string doll keychains, scarves, hand towels, bud vases, Haitian garden art, embroidered pillows, maracas, flutes, wallets, quilled cards, shampoo bars, picture frames, wool hats, beaded birds, wind chimes and much more.

These and many, 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. 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://buildingstonesshoppe.square.site or www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe.







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NHFD News

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

Fires = 0
EMS = 54
Hazardous = 0
Service Type = 11
Good Intent = 0
False Alarms = 0
Order of Gas = 1
Automatic Alarm = 16
Investigations = 6
Motor Vehicle Accidents' = 9
Wires Down = 1
Weather Related = 0
Other = 0

Total alarms for the Month of October 2026 = 98 bringing the total number of alarms year-to-date through October 31, 2026, to 1,062. Of the 98 alarms, 85 were in the Town and 13 were in the Village.

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

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

From The Chief's Desk…
Decorate With Care: Keeping the Holiday Glow Out of Trouble

Thomas A. Bolanowski, Fire Chief, New Hartford Fire Department

In October, New Hartford firefighters answered 98 alarms, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,062. Fire crews don't pick the season. But a few decisions made in the next few weeks will affect how often we're called to a home in December and January.

For most of us, the holiday season is a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate together. Holiday decorations make our homes feel like the season. They also bring hazards that some people may not think about.

Start With the Lights

Inspect every strand before it goes up. Look for frayed cords, bare wires, cracked sockets, and broken or loose bulbs. Replace damaged strands rather than wrapping them in tape. Buy only lights certified by an independent testing laboratory, and check the package to confirm they are rated for indoor or outdoor use. Don't use indoor lights outside.

Don't connect more strands than the manufacturer allows. Avoid daisy-chaining extension cords. Keep cords out of walkways, away from doorways, and out from under rugs. Hang lights with clips, not nails or staples, which can cut through insulation.

Trees: Keep Them Watered and Don't Keep Them Long

Christmas trees are a small share of home fires, but they're serious when they start. NFPA estimates that from 2020 to 2024, about 143 home structure fires a year began with Christmas trees, causing seven deaths and 13 injuries. More than one-third of home Christmas tree fires happen in January. A dry tree left up too long is a fire waiting to happen. Water it daily, keep it at least three feet from heat sources, and turn the lights off when you leave the room or go to bed. Take it down as soon as the holidays are over.

Flameless Candles: The Same Glow, Without the Flame

We recommend flameless candles, and we stand behind them. Modern LED candles give the same warm glow as the real thing without an open flame. Put them on the mantel, the dining table, or the entry table, and you can enjoy them all evening without a second thought.

If you do choose to burn real candles, please never leave them burning in a room where no one is present, and blow them out before you leave the room or go to bed. Keep them clear of garland, curtains, and greenery. NFPA reports that three in five candle fires start when something that can burn is too close to the candle, so a little space goes a long way.

Choose Flame-Resistant Decorations

Look for decorations labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant, and check the packaging before you buy. In 48 percent of fires involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or operating equipment. Keep decorations away from lamps, heaters, and anything that gets hot.

Keep Windows, Doors, and Exits Clear

Keep decorations away from windows and doors. Wreaths, garlands, and displays should never block a path to an exit. If a fire starts, you need to get out quickly.

Outdoor Displays

Outdoor lights and cords should be rated for outdoor use. Plug them into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), the kind with the test and reset buttons. Use timers so lights don't run all night. Bring cords and strands in when they're no longer needed, and inspect them each year.

Your Smoke Alarms Still Matter

Decorations are a reason to check your smoke alarms, not a substitute for them. Alarms sold in New York State must now have sealed 10-year batteries. If the alarms in your home are older, check their batteries and dates and replace any that are past their service life. Test them this week, and make sure everyone in the house knows the sound.

This is a great time to enjoy the season with family and friends. If an emergency does come your way, don't hesitate to call 911. We are a phone call away, and we would always rather respond to a call that turns out to be nothing than miss one that matters.

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

For additional information, please visit nhfd.com.



Blood Drive!

NHFD Holds American Red Cross Blood Drive

The New Hartford Volunteer Fire Department will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, December 31, 2026, from 10am to 2pm at the fire station. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-RED CROS (1-800-733-2767). Reservations are appreciated and walk-ins are always welcome.







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Thursday, Dec. 10 — noon to 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Holiday Open House

Thursday, Dec. 10— 5 to 7 p.m.

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Free for Children Under 12

VISIT MUNSON.ART/HOLIDAYS TO LEARN MORE!



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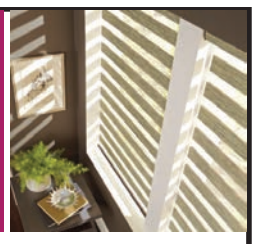

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New Hartford Home Games

** subject to change without notice*

Tuesday, December 1st

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
5:00 PM	Swimming & Diving Boys Varsity	Holland Patent Central	New Hartford Senior High School

Wednesday, December 2nd

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Modified	Central Valley Academy - Blue	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
5:30 PM	Basketball Boys JV	East Syracuse Minoa High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Basketball Boys Varsity	East Syracuse Minoa High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Hockey Boys Varsity	Cazenovia High School	New Hartford Rec Center New Hartford Rec Center

Friday, December 4th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Modified	Central Valley Academy - White	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
5:30 PM	Basketball Boys JV	Central Valley Academy	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Basketball Boys Varsity	Central Valley Academy	New Hartford Senior High School

Monday, December 7th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
5:30 PM	Volleyball Girls JV	Holland Patent Central	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Varsity	Holland Patent Central	New Hartford Senior High School

Tuesday, December 8th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
5:30 PM	Basketball Boys JV	Rome Free Academy	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Basketball Boys Varsity	Rome Free Academy	New Hartford Senior High School

Wednesday, December 9th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Modified	Whitesboro High School - White	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
6:00 PM	Wrestling Boys Varsity (NH-UP-SV)	Camden Central High School	Robert L Bradley Elementary Bradley Elementary Gym
7:00 PM	Hockey Boys Varsity	Oswego City School District	New Hartford Rec Center New Hartford Rec Center

Thursday, December 10th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Basketball Boys Modified	Rome Free Academy - Black	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
5:30 PM	Volleyball Girls JV	Utica Proctor	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Varsity	Utica Proctor	New Hartford Senior High School

Friday, December 11th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
5:00 PM	Swimming & Diving Boys Modified	Holland Patent Central	New Hartford Senior High School
4:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Modified	Central Valley Academy - White	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
5:30 PM	Basketball Girls JV	Notre Dame High School (Utica)	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Basketball Girls Varsity	Notre Dame High School (Utica)	New Hartford Senior High School

Monday, December 14th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Bowling Boys Varsity	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill	Vista Lanes Vista Lanes
4:00 PM	Bowling Girls Varsity	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill	Vista Lanes Vista Lanes
5:30 PM	Volleyball Girls JV	Whitesboro High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Varsity	Whitesboro High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:30 PM	Hockey Boys Varsity	CBA/JD Hockey	New Hartford Rec Center New Hartford Rec Center

Tuesday, December 15th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Basketball Girls Modified	Utica Proctor - JFK 7th/8th	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
5:30 PM	Basketball Boys JV	Notre Dame High School (Utica)	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Basketball Boys Varsity	Notre Dame High School (Utica)	New Hartford Senior High School

Thursday, December 17th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Basketball Boys Modified	Whitesboro High School - Blue - 8th	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
4:00 PM	Bowling Boys Varsity	Camden Central High School	Vista Lanes Vista Lanes
4:00 PM	Bowling Girls Varsity	Camden Central High School	Vista Lanes Vista Lanes
5:00 PM	Swimming & Diving Boys Varsity	Oneida City School District	New Hartford Senior High School
5:30 PM	Basketball Boys Modified	Rome Free Academy - Black	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry

Friday, December 18th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
5:30 PM	Basketball Girls JV	Whitesboro High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Basketball Girls Varsity	Whitesboro High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Hockey Boys Varsity	Skaneateles Central Schools	New Hartford Rec Center New Hartford Rec Center

Monday, December 21st

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
4:00 PM	Wrestling Boys 7/8th (NH-UP-SV)	Rome Free Academy and 1 others	Ralph W. Perry Junior High Perry
5:30 PM	Volleyball Girls JV	East Syracuse Minoa High School	New Hartford Senior High School
7:00 PM	Volleyball Girls Varsity	East Syracuse Minoa High School	New Hartford Senior High School

Wednesday, December 23rd

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
1:00 PM	Hockey Boys Varsity	Auburn High School	New Hartford Rec Center New Hartford Rec Center

Saturday, December 26th

Time	Team	Opponent/Title	Site
7:00 PM	Basketball Boys Varsity	Downtown Classic (TBA Participants)	Utica University Nexus Center
7:00 PM	Basketball Boys Varsity	Downtown Classic (TBA Participants)	Utica University Nexus Center

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Please join us for an enjoyable Saturday afternoon of holiday songs followed by refreshments.



The MV Trout Unlimited

The Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited monthly gathering will be Thursday December 10, 6:30 PM at 69 Steakhouse. This month will be the fourth in our "Learn Our Local Waters" series. A project devoted to learning about regional cold water fishing opportunities and issues facing these watersheds in the Mohawk Valley, southern Adirondacks, and Tug Hill.

This month we'll host another talk in our "Learn Our Local Waters" series. The evening will be all about the Raquette Lake Region, including South Inlet and other tributaries. Local Adirondack guide, fisherman, and rod builder, Jordan Ross, will present some secrets for accessing and fully experiencing this incredible natural area. Get ready for an entertaining and informational presentation, including access, equipment, techniques, fly patterns, history and conservation issues facing this unique section of the Adirondacks. The whole evening will be devoted to this incredible 100 square mile nearby treasure.

Come early for a delicious bite to eat, refreshments, and to meet new local TU members. The presentation will be followed by brief remarks and updates on chapter activities. These monthly gatherings are a great way to meet fellow anglers and conservationists, learn about issues affecting our local waters and upcoming TU events, as well as comparing notes with other anglers. Be sure to check out our website at www.mohawkvalleytu.org to find more events.

In addition, please consider donating to our Embrace-A-Stream Challenge, the Mohawk Valley TU chapter recently received an Embrace-A-Stream grant for a tree planting event next spring along Big Creek, an important tributary of Oriskany Creek, in Waterville. You can help support this habitat improvement project by visiting our Challenge website at https://go.tulocalevents.org/299e11/t/mohawkvalley/Team/ Details from November 30 to December 7 and making a small donation. Any amount will help plant more trees along this recently repaired reach of the stream. Also, if you wish to participate in the tree planting, please contact mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com or watch out for the upcoming event announcement on our website and social media posts.





The Secret to a Home That Never Goes Out of Style

Why Timeless Interiors Will Always Be in Fashion

Trends are a funny thing. One minute, everyone is painting their walls gray, and the next, we're being told that gray is officially over. Furniture styles come and go, colors fall in and out of favor, and what was once considered the height of sophistication can suddenly feel dated.But have you ever walked into a home that seems completely untouched by time? Not because it hasn't changed, but because it never needed to chase the latest trend in the first place. That's the beauty of timeless design.

After more than fifteen years in design, I've come to believe that the most beautiful homes aren't necessarily the trendiest. They're the ones that feel collected, comfortable, and effortlessly elegant, regardless of what happens to be fashionable.

Invest in the Pieces That Matter

A timeless home begins with thoughtful investments. Your sofa, dining table, and bedroom furniture are pieces you interact with every single day. These are not the places to sacrifice quality for a passing trend. Look for well-constructed furniture, classic silhouettes, and materials that will age gracefully. A beautifully tailored sofa or solid wood dining table can remain relevant for decades.

Save the experimentation for accessories. Pillows, artwork, and decorative accents are much easier to change than an entire living room. Save the experimentation for accessories. Pillows, artwork, and decorative accents are much easier to change than an entire living room. And before heading to the big-box stores for the latest mass-produced décor, consider exploring your local antique shops, thrift stores, or estate sales. You'll often discover beautifully crafted, one-of-a-kind treasures with far more character and quality than their modern counterparts. Not only will these pieces give your home a more collected, personal feel, but choosing something with a history is also a wonderful way to keep perfectly good furnishings out of landfills.

Natural Materials Never Lose Their Appeal

There's a reason designers continually return to hardwood, stone, linen, leather, and wool. Natural materials have an authenticity that manufactured imitations often struggle to replicate.Even better, many develop character as they age. A well-loved wood table, a beautifully worn leather chair, or a wool rug brings warmth and depth to a room. These elements create interiors that feel substantial rather than disposable. And don't be afraid of imperfections. A little patina often makes a room more interesting.

Mix the Old With the New

One of my favorite ways to create a timeless interior is by incorporating pieces from different periods. An antique chest paired with a contemporary lamp. A traditional sofa complemented by modern artwork. A vintage mirror above a clean-lined console. These unexpected combinations prevent a room from looking overly coordinated or tied to one particular decade. The goal isn't to recreate a specific era. It's to create a home that feels as though it has evolved naturally over time.

Choose Color With Confidence

Contrary to popular belief, timeless design doesn't mean everything must be beige. Rich blues, earthy greens, warm whites, and even dramatic colors can have remarkable staying power when used thoughtfully. Rather than selecting colors simply because they're trending, consider your home's architecture, natural light, and personal preferences.

A color you genuinely love will always feel more appropriate than one chosen because it's currently popular.

Comfort Is Always in Style

Perhaps the most overlooked element of timeless design is comfort. A beautiful room should invite you to sit down, relax, and stay awhile. Furniture should accommodate real life, not just look impressive in photographs. At Grace Furniture in Marcy, we believe thoughtful design and lasting quality go hand in hand. Helping people select pieces they'll enjoy for years, rather than just a season, has always been part of our philosophy.

Design Tip of the Month

Before making a major furniture purchase, ask yourself one simple question: Would I still love this piece if I saw it ten years from now?

If the answer is yes, you're probably making a timeless choice. Ultimately, the most enduring interiors aren't created by following a formula. They're built slowly, through thoughtful decisions, meaningful objects, and pieces that reflect the people who live there.

Because a truly beautiful home never needs to be in fashion.

It simply needs to feel like home.



Grace Furniture is located in Marcy, NY and has proudly served the Mohawk Valley with quality furniture and personalized service for generations. 9785 River Road Marcy, www.gracefurniture.com, 315-735-0732 and follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

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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ANTIQUE TALK

'From The Mailbag'

Q. I have an antique amethyst tumbler that was given to me by a dear friend who passed away earlier this year. It has a marking of an underlined N. I know she treasured it, as I do, and was wondering if you could tell me anything about it and its value?

A. Your beautiful tumbler is carnival glass and was made by the Northwood Glass Company in the early 1900's. The pattern is Wishbone. Northwood was the largest producer of carnival glass in the country and your tumbler is a fine example of it. I would value it at $75 in today's market. What a nice item to remember your friend by.

Q. I can remember this silver butter dish on my grandmother's dinner table growing up. I was lucky to have it passed down to me. It is very ornate and has etched designs of flowers and birds. It was made by Meriden. Although I would never part with it I'm curious as to what it's worth?

A. Your silver-plated Victorian covered butter dish is a great reminder of times gone by. The Meriden Silver Plate Company operated out of Meriden, Conn. from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. Because of the great detail I would estimate your piece at $100.

Q. While helping a friend clean out a relative's house we came across this neat item that hangs on the wall. Neither of us were sure about what it was used for and were hoping you could tell us?

A. What you have is a very fine example of a Victorian hanging magazine rack. Copies of Harper's Weekly, Punch or other popular publications no doubt were kept neatly in this handy item. You have a very fine example of this uniquely Victorian ingenuity.

Happy collecting!

Support Your Historical Society!

If you haven't already done so, now is the 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. This important community organization deserves our support!

NH 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 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 vjfariello@gmail.com. Any photos submitted will be returned upon request.



Many Victorian homes had a hanging magazine rack.



An ornate covered butter dish from the Victorian era



A nice carnival glass tumbler made by Northwood.





ICC Holiday Paint & Sip

Mark your calendar, the annual ICC HOLIDAY PAINT & SIP is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th at 6.00pm. It will be held in the H.A.R.P. Museum at the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley on Columbia Street in Utica. Jill Rae Venerra will once again lead our artists in creating a holiday masterpiece, which will make a perfect gift for a friend or to yourself!

Get ready for the holidays as Jill deftly guides you through the process of creating your own personalized wooden jewelry box designed for most any occasion. There will be several size and design choices. The $40 fee includes a wood jewelry box, paints and appliqué materials, instruction, adult beverage, and light snacks.

Instructor Jill Rae, is the owner of Easels on the Gogh, a full service mobile painting studio, and Jill Rae Signs. She has a degree in Fine Arts and Art Therapy. Easels on the Gogh hosts parties for adults, children, schools, colleges, and nursing homes. Everything you will need for your creation will be supplied. Everyone is an Artist! Please reserve your spot by registering at this link https://bit.ly/3X6MSiN or call and leave a message at 315-733-4228 Ext 6.

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



The Constable Family and 'A Visit From St. Nicholas'

The Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley welcomes all to their December Lunch and Learn at 11 AM on Wednesday, December 9, when Steven Kernan presents "The Constable Family and 'A Visit From St. Nicholas.'"

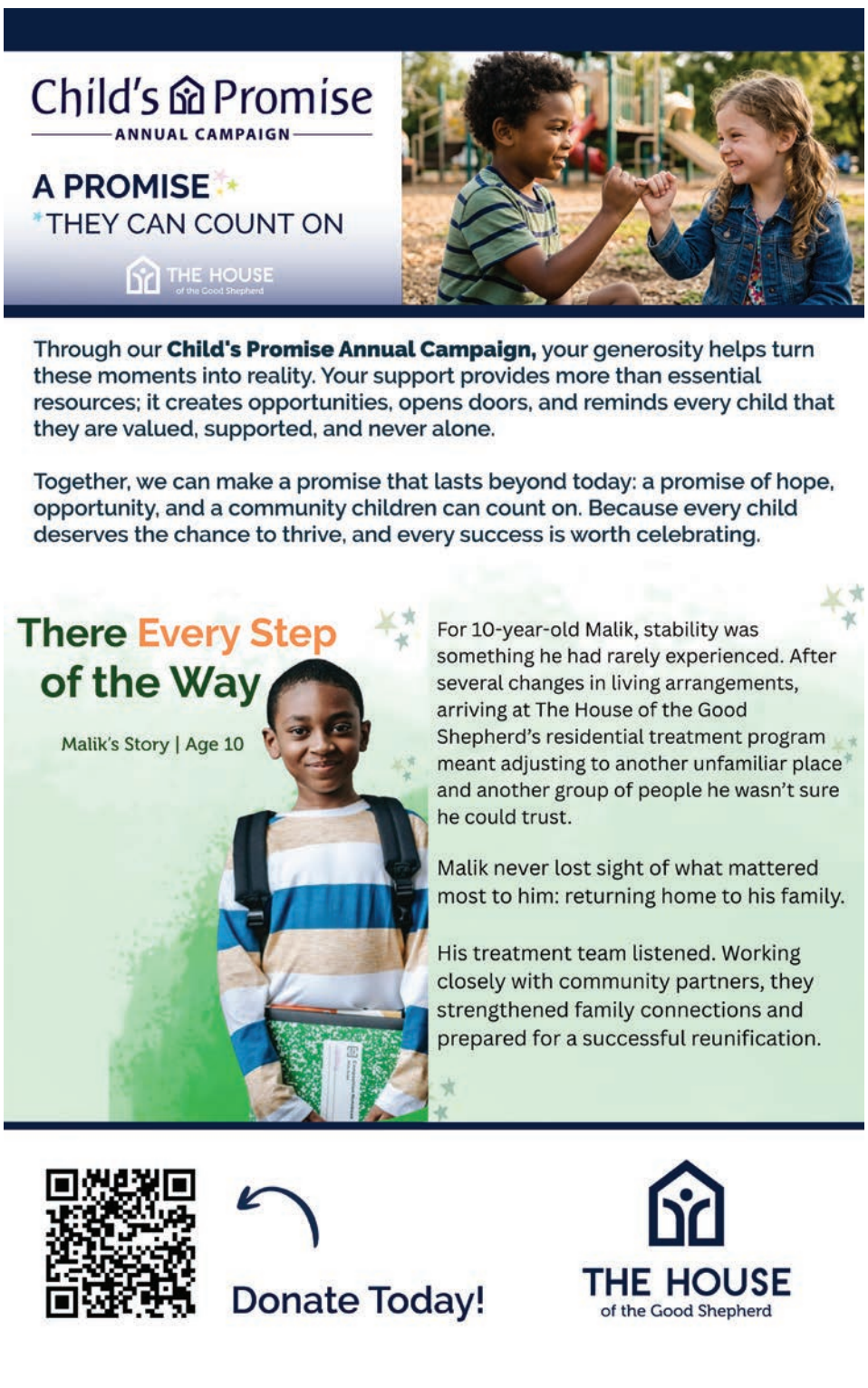
The Constables were one of the great Irish families of early New York. Dr. John Constable came from Ireland in the 1700s, and his son William became the purchaser of the vast Macomb Purchase lands in the north country. William's son built Constable Hall at Constableville, where the family has kept its history ever since.

Steven Kernan, whose grandmother Elizabeth Cook Constable Kernan was a Constable, will tell the family's story from the unique perspective that could only come from a family member — illustrated with photographs from the family's own books and papers. He will also tell the story his grandmother passed down: that Clement C. Moore wrote "A Visit From St. Nicholas" — "Twas the Night Before Christmas" — for the children of the widow Constable at Constable Hall in 1822, with the Hall's caretaker, Peter, as the model for St. Nicholas.

A $20 registration fee will cover the program and lunch; meal tax and gratuity are included. To ensure we have adequate seating in the gallery and restaurant please register at this link, https://bit.ly/4zggkjW, or leave a message at 315-733-4228 Ext 6.









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DECEMBER 2026

The Town of New Hartford

Town Hall Highlights



A Year of Progress and Appreciation

From the office of James Messa, New Hartford Town Supervisor

As I close out my first year as Town Supervisor, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year and express my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make it a productive and successful one.

It has been a busy year, with many projects, improvements, and initiatives moving forward. As Town Supervisor, my goal has been to identify areas where we can improve, address the needs of our residents, and ensure the Town continues to operate effectively and responsibly. None of this work happens alone, and I am grateful for the dedication and support of our Confidential Secretary, Christine Martin; Town Clerk, Michele Moran; Deputy Supervisor, David Tehan; Assistant Personnel Director, Christina Lacy; Highway Supervisor, Rick Sherman; Highway Foreman, Chris Moran; Parks Director, John Randall, Police Chief, Ron Fontaine; and all Town employees and staff. I also thank our Town Council members and Town Attorney for their hard work and continued support.

I would also like to recognize our public safety partners: the New Hartford Police Department, New Hartford Fire Department, Willowvale Fire Company, New York Mills Fire Department, and Edwards Ambulance Service. Your commitment to protecting and serving our community is greatly appreciated.

At our November Town Board meeting, several important updates were discussed that I would like to share with residents:

Town Finances: One of my priorities throughout the year has been getting the Town's financial records and reporting caught up. I am pleased to report that we have officially accomplished this goal and are now positioned to begin working on our 2026 financials in February 2027.

Recreation Center: Recent roof repairs were completed to address several leaks. The Town Board approved this emergency work to resolve the issues before winter and help prevent further damage.

Town Hall Improvements and New Tenants: We completed improvements to the Town Hall entrance, including the installation of a new door, canopy, and sidewalk, to address water infiltration and eliminate a safety concern. Following the departure of the New Hartford Central School District, we also began working to secure new tenants for the available space. I am pleased to welcome Assemblyman Brian Miller and his staff to Town Hall, and we are actively pursuing another promising tenancy opportunity.

Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption: I am currently working on legislation that would provide a property tax exemption for eligible disabled veterans residing in the Town of New Hartford. I look forward to sharing more information as this initiative moves forward.

Serving as your Town Supervisor is an honor, and I remain committed to working with our employees, Town Board, and community to keep New Hartford moving forward. While we have accomplished a great deal this year, there is always more work to do, and I look forward to the opportunities ahead.

As we enter the holiday season, I wish all of our residents and their families a safe, healthy, and joyful holiday season and a happy New Year!



Highway Department News

Submitted by: Richard Sherman, Highway Superintendent

I want to begin by thanking everyone for your patience during our summer work season. We accomplished a lot and apologize for delays in paving some roads. Scheduling depended on the paving company's availability, and we appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for getting your leaves out for pickup. Our crews have been busy in every neighborhood, collecting leaves a couple of times each week. After the holidays, please dispose of your live Christmas trees promptly so we can collect them before they interfere with plowing.

Our plow trucks, sanders, and brine anti/de-icing trucks are ready for winter. Brine is applied before storms to help prevent snow and ice from bonding to road surfaces and afterward to speed melting. Liquid brine is more cost-effective than traditional road salt, and we use it whenever possible to keep roads safe while saving money.

Each winter, we see snow left in roadways after driveways are plowed. Please remember that New York State law prohibits placing or leaving snow and ice on public roads:

• **NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law §1219** Prohibits placing or permitting snow or ice to remain on a highway in a manner that endangers travel.

• **NYS Highway Law §214** Prohibits depositing snow or other materials onto public highways.

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

Please remember that **parking on Town roads is prohibited between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM, October 1 through April 30.** This restriction allows our crews to clear snow and ice effectively.

We also ask residents to keep the Town right-of-way clear of portable basketball hoops and other obstacles. These items can interfere with snow removal and may be damaged by plowing equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our roads safe and accessible this winter!

WE ARE HIRING!

PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PART-TIME FIRE INSPECTOR

PART-TIME ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

APPLY HERE: **www.townofnewhartfordny.gov/jobs**

DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Board	Dec. 9	6:00pm
Planning Board	Dec. 14	5:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Dec. 21	6:00pm
Stormwater Committee	TBD	

Schedule subject to change.
Visit the website for schedules, agendas and minutes.

LIVE-STREAMED Town Board Meetings

SCAN THE CODE and Click "LIVE" tab.

www.youtube.com/@TownofNewHartfordNY



A Year in Review

Submitted by: Michele Moran

As 2026 comes to a close, the Town Clerk's Office is proud to look back on a year marked by progress, innovation, community involvement, and a shared commitment to making New Hartford an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

The Town Clerk's Office is focused on service to residents. Whether assisting with vital records requests, election-related duties, marriage, gaming or dog licenses, local permits, Veterans flags, or the important duty of maintaining the official proceedings of Town government, we were honored to serve as a trusted resource for our community each day. The Office also continued to support the Town's goal of keeping residents informed through regular communication via the Town's website and Facebook page. We are also proud to have been instrumental in bringing the Town Board meetings to your living room via livestream.

Perhaps most importantly, 2026 reminded us that local government is at its best when residents, businesses, volunteers, elected officials, and Town employees work together. The collaborative spirit displayed throughout the year helped move important projects forward and fostered meaningful improvements across the Town

As we prepare to welcome a new year, the Town Clerk's Office extends its sincere appreciation to our residents, Town Board members, department heads, employees, first responders, community organizations, and volunteers whose dedication contributes to the continued success of New Hartford. We look forward to building on the momentum of 2026 and continuing to serve the community with professionalism, integrity, and pride.

On behalf of the Town Clerk's Office, we wish everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Michele Moran

NEW HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 2026 ACTIVITY

950 TOTAL POLICE INCIDENTS

- Alarms: 52
- Animal Control Officer Calls: 6
- Animal Shelter Intakes: 4
- Arrests: 48
- Burglary: 4
- Community Policing Details: 5
- Criminal Mischief: 7
- Domestic Incident/ Disputes: 12
- Driving While Intoxicated: 2
- Grand Larceny/Stolen Motor Vehicle: 2
- Homeless Person Welfare Checks: 1
- Mental Health Crisis Calls: 6
- Misdemeanor/Felony Assault 3
- Motor Vehicle Collisions: 74
- Petit Larceny & Grand Larceny: 53
- Robbery: 0
- Supplemental Neighborhood Patrols: 264
- Traffic Stops: 318
- Vehicle & Traffic Law Tickets: 174

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- TEMPORARY HEATING, ELECTRICAL AND BOARD UP AVAILABLE
- LARGE COMMERCIAL DOWN TO SMALL RESIDENTIAL

FROZEN AND BURST PIPES! WATER DAMAGE…
BURST PIPES, TOILET OVERFLOW, SUMP PUMP FAILURE, SEWER AND DRAIN BACK UP

When a property experiences water damage from either ground water flooding, sump pump failure, burst pipes, toilet overflow etc. the first few hours determine the extent of the long-term damage. Leaving water smoke unaddressed or improperly mitigated creates the perfect breeding ground for environmental hazards. Property owners need a seasoned, licensed partner who understands the science of drying and if necessary, the strict legal protocols of mold removal. Because we focus entirely on the mitigation and remediation phases rather than reconstruction, our team is uniquely optimized to dry, clean, and stabilize your property with unmatched precision.

As a **full-service emergency mitigation company,** we manage all necessary operational support under one roof—from securing temporary power to protecting your personal property—ensuring your recovery begins seamlessly, no matter the scale of the facility.

Precision Water Damage Mitigation & Structural Drying

Water is a progressive destroyer. Within hours, it weakens structural materials, warps wood, and ruins finishes. Disaster Services deploys specialized, high-capacity equipment to intercept water migration immediately, minimizing structural losses and preventing mold before it can take root. We are fully equipped to handle specialized, complex water scenarios, including:

- **Category 3 Sewer Backups**: Biohazard contaminated wastewater requires immediate containment and professional sanitation. We extract toxic black water, remove unsalvageable porous materials, and completely sanitize the environment to safely eliminate pathogens, viruses, and bacteria.
- **Commercial Sprinkler System Discharge:** A single triggered fire sprinkler can release hundreds of gallons of water per minute, flooding multiple floors of a commercial structure in no time. We deploy high-volume drying strategies to quickly stabilize business environments and prevent widespread secondary structural failure.
- **Winter Ice Damming Backups:** Severe New York winters cause ice dams that force melting snow upward beneath roof shingles, leaking directly into ceilings and exterior walls. We use structural drying and thermal mapping to track and dry this hidden, gravity-driven moisture before it rots framing or sparks mold growth.
- **Scientific Moisture Mapping:** Water easily hides behind baseboards, under vinyl flooring, and inside insulated walls. We utilize advanced thermal imaging cameras, invasive moisture meters, and digital hygrometers to map the exact path of the water, ensuring no hidden moisture pockets are left unaddressed.
- **Proactive Secondary Damage Prevention:** Delays in proper mitigation lead to catastrophic secondary complications like splitting wood, swelling drywall, buckling subfloors, and severe structural rot. By initiating immediate control protocols, we stabilize the building's microclimate to arrest material degradation in its tracks.
- **Applied Structural Drying (ASD):** We establish a controlled drying environment using industrial-grade LGR (Low Grain Refrigerant) and desiccant dehumidifiers paired with high-velocity air movers. By continuously monitoring relative humidity and vapor pressure, we aggressively draw moisture out of heavy structural framing, subfloors, and drywall.

NYS-Licensed Mold Remediation

Because mold can begin growing within 24 to 48 hours of water exposure, immediate, compliant intervention is crucial. As a New York State licensed mold remediation contractor, Disaster Services strictly adheres to **NYS Department of Labor Article 32** regulations, ensuring your property is legally compliant, safe, and biologically clean. From long standing mold damage to newly formed biological growth, from attics to basements we handle it all.

Site Stabilization & Asset Protection

A major disaster often compromises a building's utility infrastructure and threatens the safety of its contents. We deploy immediate logistical support to keep the property stable and salvage your belongings.

- Temporary Power and Climate Control: When structural power is knocked out, drying equipment cannot run and buildings risk freezing or overheating. If necessary, we can deliver and manage portable generators, temporary heating units, and climate distribution networks to maintain structural integrity and power our mitigation systems.
- Contents Cleaning and Professional Pack-Out: To protect your valuable inventory, electronics, or personal belongings from soot, high humidity, and cross-contamination, our team carefully inventories, packs, and transports your contents to a secure location for specialized cleaning, deodorization, and storage.

Fire, Smoke, and Soot Decontamination

- Corrosive Soot Removal: Soot is highly acidic and will permanently pit, stain, or corrode metals, glass, and finishes if left untreated. We neutralize and clean these surfaces immediately.
- Deep Odor Decontamination: Rather than masking smells, we utilize advanced air scrubbing, hydroxyl generators, and thermal fogging to eliminate deep-seated smoke odors at the molecular level.

Seamless Claims & Flexible Financing Options

The mitigation phase requires exact documentation to prove the property was returned to a dry, safe, and sanitary condition.

- For Insured Claims: We provide comprehensive moisture logs, drying charts, photo documentation, and itemized billing using industry-standard estimating software to help streamline your insurance claim.
- For Non-Insured Losses & Self-Pay: If you are paying out-of-pocket, we offer transparent project oversight to keep costs manageable. To ease the sudden financial burden of an emergency, we offer flexible financing options available to qualified property owners, allowing you to secure your property immediately without delaying critical safety repairs.

The 45-Year Difference

For nearly a half-century, New York residential and commercial property owners have relied on Disaster Services to handle the heavy lifting during their most stressful moments. From a single residential room to an expansive commercial complex, we utilize precise environmental engineering to ensure your property is completely dry, safe, and biologically clean. Be sure to check out our website for a full list of services we offer to keep your property protected. We are fully equipped to service all job sizes, from individual homeowners to large-scale commercial and industrial structures. We are not a franchise or insurance carrier vendor. Our mission is simple: to represent the homeowner ensuring your mitigation project is done right and in your best interest along with guiding the insured through the process working with all parties involved. Owner on site, on every job for the last 45 years!

Contact Disaster Services Today

Do not wait for secondary damage to take hold of your home or commercial facility. Disaster Services is standing by **24/7** to respond to your emergency.

- **Call Us 24/7: 315-797-1128- All Calls Personally Answered**
- **Visit Our Website: disasterservices.us**
- **Open your camera over the SCAN ME, as a quick access for our contact information.**
- **E-Mail: disasterservices@roadrunner.com**

SCAN ME

happy holidays

DANIEL T. DREIMILLER, CPA

DANIEL T. DREIMILLER
Certified Public Accountant

104 Genesee Street, New Hartford
ph: 315-749-7076
www.dreimillercpa.com
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Focus Education ~ Mohawk Valley Region

by Raymond J. Durso, Jr., Genesis Group President/CEO

Education is the cornerstone of our democracy—a vital space where young minds unlock their potential. During the recent observance of "American Education Week," we looked behind the classroom doors to celebrate the immense dedication required to make our schools thrive.

First established in 1921 by the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Legion, American Education Week serves as a powerful reminder that a quality education system is a shared civic responsibility. It truly takes an entire ecosystem to support a child's learning journey. Teaching demands incredible mental and emotional resilience; every day, educators skillfully balance complex curricula, diverse student needs, and an ever-evolving educational landscape to ensure every child feels safe, valued, and empowered to grow.

Recognizing this profound impact, the Genesis Group and First Source Federal Credit Union partner annually to honor outstanding educators and programs. On November 19th, hundreds gathered at Hart's Hill Inn in Whitesboro for the 20th annual Celebration of Education. As a billion-dollar industry, education acts as a vital economic engine for our region. Ultimately, when we invest in and celebrate education, we are directly investing in the future of our students, schools, colleges, and the entire community.

Congratulations Class of 2026:

Genesis Group and First Source Federal Credit Union Honor Outstanding Educators



Education Hall of Distinction: (Top Left) Bonnie Hibbard & (Top Middle) Mary Rossi
Education Distinguished Service Award: (Top Right) Jackie Edwards, (Bottom Left) Michael Head, (Bottom Middle) Thomas Shypski & (Bottom Right) Richard "Dick" Tantillo

The 20th Annual Celebration of Education was held November 19th at Hart's Hill Inn.

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Outstanding Programs

Poly Pals
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement
MVCC Rome Campus
Sauquoit Valley High School Counseling Department
Sauquoit Valley CSD

Outstanding Educators

Brett Bostic/Whitesboro CSD
Dr. Michelle Boucher/Utica University
Garrick Brown/New Hartford CSD
Susan Combs/Madison BOCES
Abbie Sutliff-Getman/Whitesboro CSD
Rebecca Guerrero/Utica CSD
Megan Kempney/Sauquoit Valley CSD
Megan Lamb/Holland Patent CSD
Emily Laurey/Remsen CSD
Jeanne Marley/NY Mills Union Free School
Kathy McEvoy/West Canada Valley CSD
Christopher O'Neil/Whitesboro CSD
Dr. Terri Provost/Utica University
Ken Regner/Vernon-Verona-Sherrill CSD
Dr. Patricia Roach/SUNY Poly Institute
Brigid Russell/Rome CSD
Jennifer Scalise/Madison BOCES



Special Recognition

Rev. Fr. Jason C. Hage/Notre Dame Schools and Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish....Recipient of Catholic School Administrators Association of NYS - 2026 Lighting the Fire for Catholic School Education

Special Anniversary Recognition

60th Anniversary
Herkimer County Community College
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
80th Anniversary
Mohawk Valley Community College
Utica University

Special thanks to all Educators, Faculty and Staff for all you do!

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Christopher J. Carbone

Dividend-Paying Stocks: Pros and Cons

A dividend is a portion of a company's profit that's paid to shareholders. That means dividend-paying stocks may provide a source of income. But they can also carry some degree of risk.

So, what do investors need to consider when it comes to dividend-paying stocks? In this Q&A, Sameer Samana, head of equities and real assets with Wells Fargo Investment Institute, provides important information for investors to keep in mind.

1. What are the potential benefits of dividend-paying stocks?

"One of the big benefits is that these stocks may provide a more reliable income stream compared to some other investment options," Samana says.

Companies tend to issue dividends on a routine basis, such as quarterly or semi-annually, which may create a dependable income stream. Another benefit? The stocks can yield some favorable tax treatment.

"It's going to depend on your tax situation," Samana says, "but in general, you may have a relatively lower tax rate for dividends compared to income gained by selling investments." As long as the dividend-paying stock meets IRS requirements for a qualified dividend, the dividend is taxed at the lower long-term capital gains tax rate instead of being taxed as regular capital gains income. "So an investor could receive income from a dividend-paying stock without selling the stock and have a lower tax bill compared to that of a non-dividend-paying stock, which must be sold to receive income," he says.

2. Who should include dividend-paying stocks in their portfolio?

Many types of investors have the potential to benefit from dividend-paying stocks. "But these stocks may be more valuable for investors who are a bit older — maybe those in retirement or close to retirement who really value a more reliable income stream," Samana says. "I think they're typically beneficial from a diversification perspective, especially when interest rates are low. Dividend-paying stocks tend to have an inverse relationship with interest rates: When interest rates go down, you may see some of these dividend-paying stocks perform better."

3. What are the risks associated with dividend-paying stocks?

"Firms can reduce or cancel their dividends — especially during times of economic uncertainty and times of crisis," says Samana. "And there's still the risk that dividends could be cut periodically, even without the trigger of a crisis event. And if tax rates change, it could mean you'd pay more, as well."

Explore your options with professional advisors

Samana stresses that investors should discuss the pros and cons of dividend-paying stocks with a financial advisor to help make sure they fill a need within an individual investment portfolio and make sense for a specific financial situation.

"You should also talk to your CPA or tax professional to make sure that you understand what the tax consequences are for your particular situation," he advises.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities. There is no guarantee that dividend-paying stocks will return more than the overall stock market. Dividends are not guaranteed and are subject to change or elimination.

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

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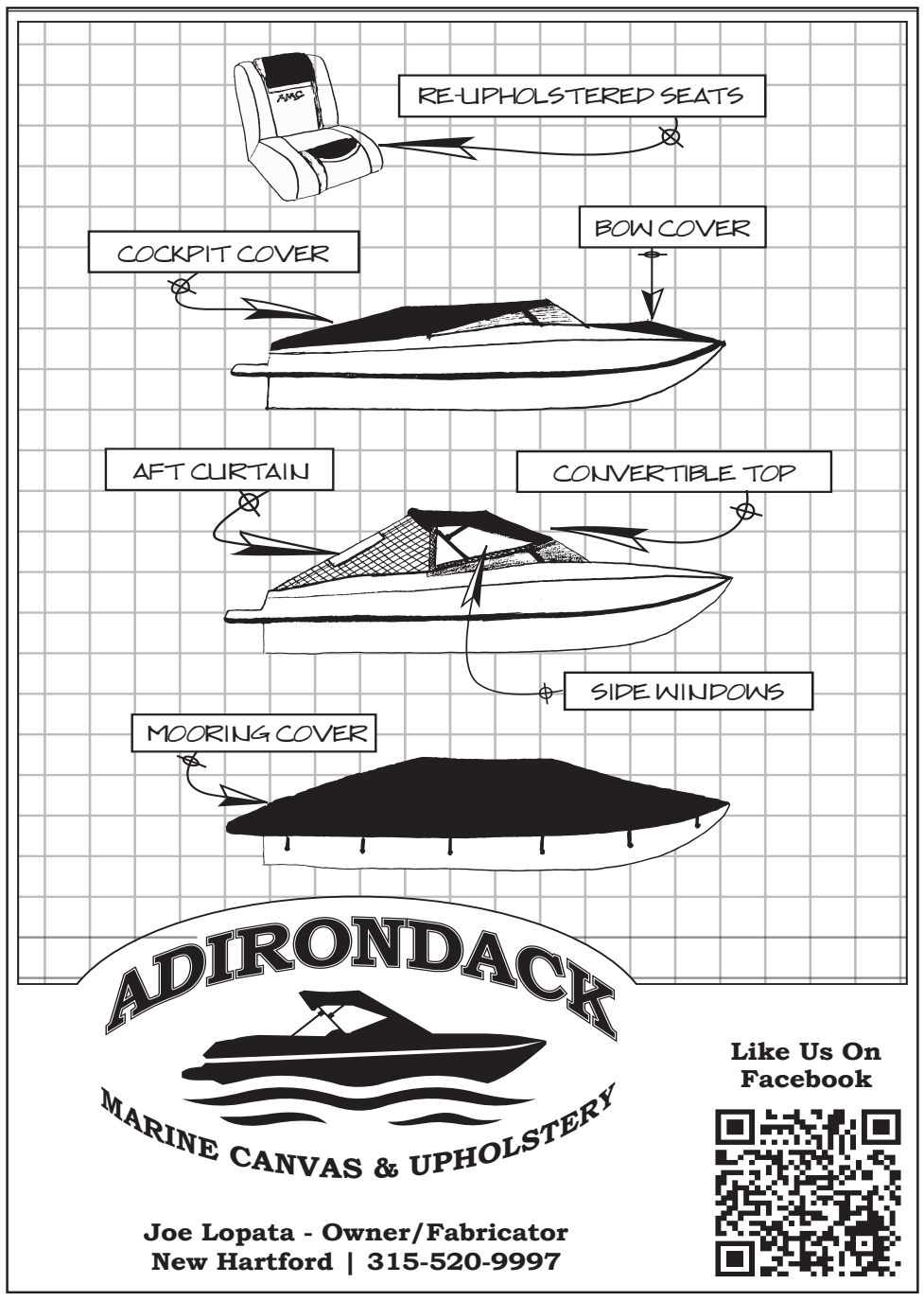



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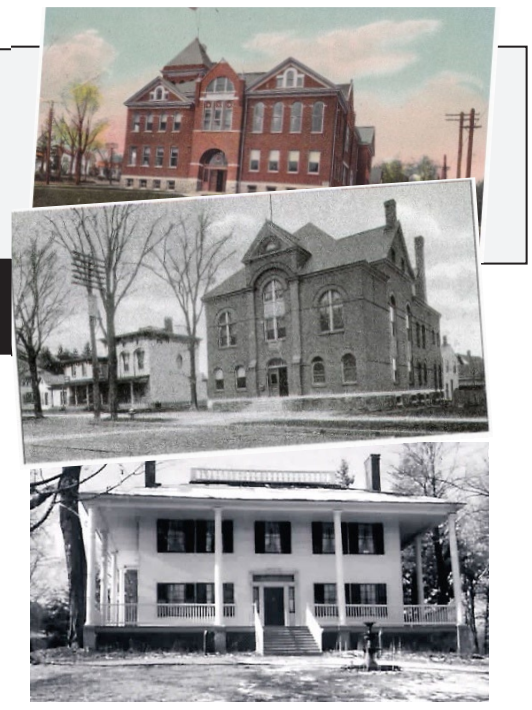
NEW HARTFORD PAST TIMES

December 2026



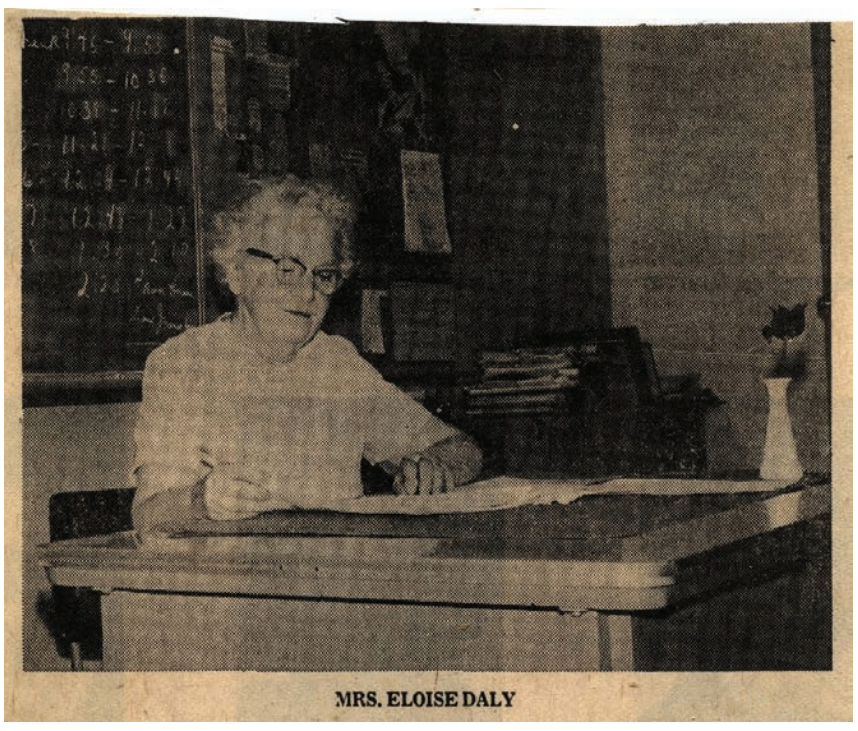
NEW HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 Sisters, nearly 80 years dedicated to educating the youth of New Hartford!

Two young women from Newport, Mary E. Daly (1901-1968) and Eloise H. Daly (1902-1977), would follow in their mother's footsteps and become teachers themselves. Coincidently, their careers would have them working less than 4 miles apart from each other in two different schools serving the residents of New Hartford.

Mary began teaching in Chadwicks circa 1923. After teaching for two years, she would become Principal, a position she would hold for 31 years retiring in 1956. Her sister Eloise would come to New Hartford around 1928 beginning with teaching physics. She would work in various positions, including Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance. In 1944 Eloise would be the first Guidance Counselor in New Hartford and one of the first in the area. She would stay in that position until retiring in 1964 to care for her ill sister. During the next four years, she realized how much she missed teaching. After Mary passed in 1968, Eloise would return to New Hartford to continue doing what she truly loved.

When Eloise retired for a second time in 1975, the Village would rename School Street "Daly Place" in her honor. Sadly, Miss Daly would pass in September of 1977 at the age of 75.



MRS. ELOISE DALY



Mary E Daly



BECOME A MEMBER!

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

Planning a Class Reunion?

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

Call 315-724-7258 to schedule your group.

Museum is Open To the Public

Currently by appointment.

FREE ADMISSION

Village Point Apt. Building
2 Paris Road – 315-724-7258

Email: historicalnh@yahoo.com

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New Hartford Historical Society
~ Membership Form ~

Please check one of the following:

[ ] $20.00 Individual
[ ] $25.00 Family
[ ] $50.00 Contributing
[ ] $100.00 Corporate

[ ] Renewal
[ ] New Member

Name:_____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please send check made payable to:

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

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

Friendly Reminder:
You can join, pay dues and donate online!
newhartfordhistory.com
As always, we also welcome new members.
Please consider joining today.
We appreciate your support!



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

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

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.hopeallianceny.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.

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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.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Tom Taylor
(315) 797-0404
4431 Middle Settlement Rd, New Hartford
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:45am
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 6:30pm

NEW HARTFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Hannah Ratliff, Pastor
45 Genesee Street, NH 315-732-1139
newhartfordpresbyterian.org • office@newhartfordpres.org
Sunday morning worship is at 10:30. Services are live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. A time of refreshments and fellowship follows each worship service.
The choir rehearses at 9:10 each Sunday morning. Through December 17, the Choir is also rehearsing Thursday evenings at 7.
An Adult Study Group precedes worship and meets at 9:30 Sunday mornings and also on Tuesday mornings at 11:00.
Children's Sunday School (Sonday Club) will meet on Sunday morning December 13 at 9:30.
The New Hartford Presbyterian Women will hold their Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m.
Angel Tree donations to benefit children at The Neighborhood Center will be collected through Sunday, December 13.
A Blue Christmas service will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16.
The Oneida County Senior Lunch Program will be held at NHPC at 12 noon on Monday, December 21.
NHPC's annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will start at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 24.
NHPC will be closed on Fri, December 25, for Christmas.
The Church Office will be open 9 a.m.—12 Noon Tuesday, December 1 through Thursday, December 3, and closed Friday, December 4. The Office only will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31. Office hours are otherwise 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30—11:30 Friday.
NHPC will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day, Friday, January 1.
The December schedule:
12/1 — 11 a.m. Adult Study Group
12/1 — 5:30 p.m. NHP Women's Annual Christmas Dinner
12/2 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
12/2 — 6 p.m. 4-H mtg
12/3 — 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal
12/4 — Church Office Only closed
12/6 — 9:10 a.m. Choir rehearsal
12/6 — 9:30 a.m. Adult Study Group
12/6 — 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion
12/6 — 11:45 a.m. Christmas Tree Decorating Luncheon
12/8 — 11 a.m. Adult Study Group
12/8 — 7 p.m. Deacons mtg
12/9 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
12/9 — 12 Noon Members & Friends Lunch
12/10 — 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal
12/13 — Last day for Angel Tree donations
12/13 — 9:10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
12/13 — 9:30 a.m. Adult Study Group
12/13 — 9:30 a.m. Sonday Club
12/13 — 10:30 a.m. Worship
12/13 — 11:45 a.m. Session mtg
12/15 — 11 a.m. Adult Study Group
12/16 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
12/16 — 6 p.m. 4-H mtg
12/16 — 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
12/17 — 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal
12/20 — 9:10 a.m. Choir rehearsal
12/20 — Adult Study Group (final)
12/20 — 10:30 a.m. Worship
12/21 — 12 Noon Oneida County Senior Lunch
12/22 — 11 a.m. Adult Study Group (final)
12/23 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
12/24 — Church Office Only closed
12/24 — 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
12/25 — Christmas, NHPC closed
12/26 — 3 p.m. Hope House meal prepared
12/27 — 10:30 a.m. Worship, pulpit supply
12/30 — 10 a.m. Sew 'n Sews
12/31 — Church Office Only closed
1/1 — New Year's Day, NHPC closed

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
"There's a Place for You Here"
Rev. Marie Duquette
630 French Road, New Hartford
Phone: 315-765-8065
Email: office@zionluth.com
Website: www.zionlutheranNY.org
Facebook: Zion Luteran Church, New Hartford, NY
YouTube: @zionlutheranNy
Sunday Morning Worship at 10am; Coffee Hour at 11am
Worship is also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.
December 6 – Advent 2, Hanging of the Greens, Rev. Marie Duquette
December 13 – Advent 3, Deacon Patsy Glista
December 17 – Retirement Tea at 2:00 p.m. Featuring a presentation on the Christmas Truce of 1914
December 20 – Advent 4, Rev. Marie Duqueete
December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m., Rev. Marie Duquette
December 27 – Lessons & Carols: A Morning of Scripture and Song
Al-Anon Meetings, Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.
Handicapped Accessible

ST. MARGARET'S ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CTR
47 Jordan Road, New Hartford
To learn more about any of our events or volunteer opportunities, for lunch and monthly dinner reservations, or to inquire about a personal or group retreat, please call 315-724-2324 or email info@stmargaretshouseny.org. Our regular office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
Please note: St. Margaret's is closed Dec24-Jan 1.

Weekly Activities

Quiet Space Available for Clergy in the Library | Tuesdays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
It Takes A Village | Tuesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM - Our social action initiative volunteers at the St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Episcopal Church. Please contact us to volunteer for one or more Tuesdays.
Holy Eucharist | Wednesdays at 11:45 AM - All are welcome. Clergy members will take turns presiding at St. Margaret's weekly services.
Wednesday Lunches | Wednesdays at 12:30 PM - Call or email to make a reservation. $15.

Monthly Activities

Men's Group | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30 AM - A time of fellowship and exploration with Father Nick Smith, beginning with the question, "What is saving your life today?"
Friends of Emmaus House | 2nd Wednesdays at 10:00 AM - This group meets monthly to identify needs, plan outreach and fundraisers, and support the women and children staying at Emmaus House.
Caregiving Support Group | 3rd Mondays at 2:00 PM - Facilitated by the Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves, this group offers a place to receive support and exchange ideas for caring for loved ones.
Grief Support Group | 3rd Fridays at Noon - A peer-facilitated gathering for anyone experiencing loss. New members are welcome.
Conversations with Rev. Deacon Jean | 4th Wednesdays at 1:30 PM - Join the Rev. Deacon Jean Skinner for conversation about faith. Donations of a few cans of food for the pantry are always appreciated.

Special Events

Christmas Concert | Thursday, December 3 at 1:30 PM - Join us for an afternoon of seasonal music, fellowship, and Christmas joy at St. Margaret's. Refreshments and time for conversation will follow. All are welcome.
"Be Still and Know That I Am God" - **Advent Quiet Day with the Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves** | Monday, December 7 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM - A quiet, spiritually oriented day to help us pause and recharge for the holidays. The day will offer time for prayer, reflection, reading, journaling, and quiet use of the house and grounds, along with gentle opportunities to gather. The $20 fee includes lunch. Please register by November 30.
Movie of the Month | Monday, December 14 at 2:00 PM - Gather for an afternoon film and conversation. The movie selection will be announced before the showing.
Book Club with Judy | Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00 AM - This month's selection is The Night Is Normal by Alicia Britt Chole. Please register one week before the session. Feel free to bring a snack to share!
Blue Christmas: A Service of Reflection for the Longest Night | Monday, December 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM - The holiday season is not bright or joyful for everyone. If you are carrying grief, missing a loved one, facing a difficult diagnosis, or feeling overwhelmed by life right now, you do not have to put on a brave face. Rev. Carol Jubenville will be our guide as we come together for a gentle, contemplative service of scripture, quiet music, prayer, and candle-lighting as we acknowledge our pain and look toward the quiet promise of God's light in the darkness. All Are Welcome

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

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

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

ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT RUSSIAN ORTHODOX MEMORIAL CHURCH
1009 Conkling Ave, Utica, N.Y. 13501
Fr Archpriest Michael Taratuchin, Rector
(315) 723-7475 (frmichaelt@msn.com)
Fr. Priest Ephraim Willmarth, assistant priest
Find us on Facebook www.stjkutica.org
Vigil 5pm Saturdays (6pm for weekday services)
Divine Liturgy Sundays and Feastdays at 10am
Potluck lunch following Sunday Divine Liturgy.
Our Patronal Feast Day will take place on Saturday November 1st. The greeting of the Bishop will take place at 9:30 AM, followed by the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy (with the Procession of the Cross, weather permitting).

MUSLIM COMMUNITY ASSOC. of MV
1631 Kemble Street, Utica NY 13501
E-mail: Uticamasjid@gmail.com
Friday Prayer at 1:15 pm
Quran Classes 5-8 pm
Sunday School 10am to 1 pm.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of UTICA
10 Higby Road • www.uuutica.org
The Unitarian Universalist Church is an open minded, open hearted interfaith 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.
December 6 – Sara Miller: Ichigo Ichie, Ritual vs. Tradition and The Art of Making Meaning. What is the difference between ritual and tradition? Does the distinction matter? The practice of ritual alongside the Japanese principle of ichigo ichie might just build the unifying bridge we need. Music from Ryan Miller.
December 13 – Glenn Coin and Jerry Reed - What do words like "Worship", "God", and yes, even "Church", mean to our interfaith UU community? Glenn Coin and Jerry Reed grapple with these concepts. Music from Betsy LaPorte & Jeff Chard
December 20– Melissa Barlett: Carry the Light Through Winter Solstice - On the longest night of the year, we gather in from the cold, bringing the harvest of our year: the people, stories, and lessons that sustain us. Join us as we kindle the flame together and pass it hand to hand, remembering that no one has to carry the light through the darkness alone. When one of us grows weary, another holds the flame, and together we keep it burning until the sun returns.
Thursday December 24 – 7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Rev. Joe Cleveland - We celebrate the meaning of Christmas and the enduring values of compassion, connection, hope in a troubled world. Whatever your beliefs, UUUtica welcomes you to join us for reflection, candlelight, and fellowship as we share in the beauty and spirit of the season. Music with Peg Spencer Behrendt.
December 27: Taizé Service - Join us for this contemplative Taizé service rooted in peace, reflection, and connection. Simple chants, readings, music and silence create space to pause, listen, and nurture the spirit in this quiet time of community and renewal. We'll write down our regrets and release them in a ceremonial burning, making room for new hopes and possibilities in 2027.

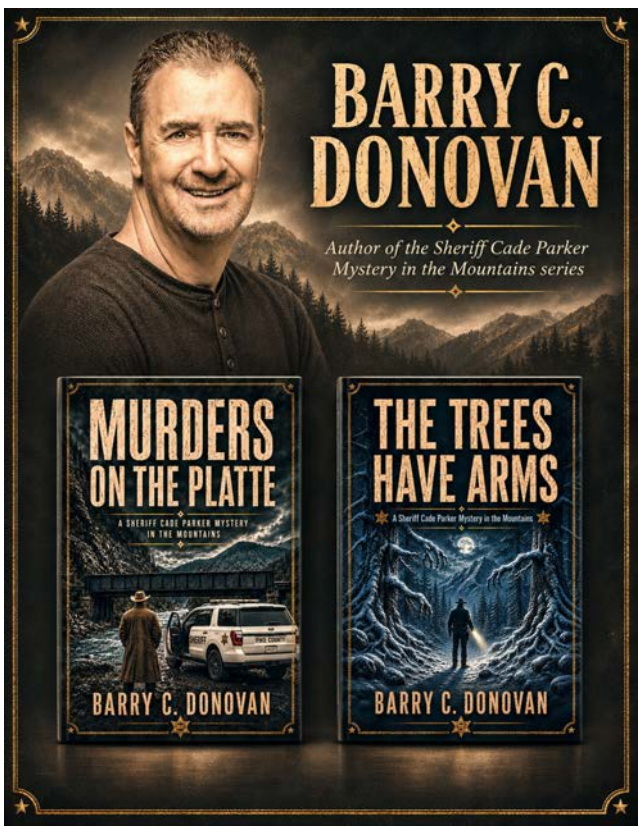
TEMPLE EMANU-EL
2710 Genesee St Utica, 315-724-4177
teuticaoffice@gmail.com
Friday Evening Shabbat Services 6pm.

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.





Chadwicks Native Barry C. Donovan Releases Second Book

Chadwicks native and author Barry C. Donovan has released The Trees Have Arms, the second novel in his Sheriff Cade Parker Mystery in the Mountains series.

The new book follows Murders on the Platte, which introduced readers to Sheriff Cade Parker, a small-town Colorado lawman whose quiet leadership, integrity, generosity and devotion to the people he serves are central to the series.

In The Trees Have Arms, a holiday tradition turns into Sheriff Parker's most urgent investigation yet when a child disappears during a family Christmas tree-cutting outing. Footprints lead deep into the forest and search teams race against fading daylight and worsening weather. Sheriff Parker begins to recognize signs that the disappearance may not have been random.

While both novels take place in the Colorado mountains, many of the people, places and values behind them have roots close to Donovan's childhood home in Central New York.

Donovan said the main character, Sheriff Cade Parker, embodies attributes of his late father, New York State Sen. James H. Donovan. "Cade isn't meant to be a portrait of my father, but there are definitely parts of my dad in him: his love of community, his integrity, his generosity and his willingness to help people," said Donovan. Similarly Alice Parker, the sheriff's wife, reflects qualities Donovan remembers about his mother. And their dog Frisky is named after one of his family's dogs.

Donovan also drew on his family's involvement in a law enforcement. His eldest son is a former sheriff's deputy, one of his brothers previously served as a police officer, and several nephews and great-nephews currently serve in law enforcement. Donovan himself works with law enforcement agencies, and has created digital platforms to help crime victims access information about their rights, available resources and sources of assistance.

A central theme in The Trees Have Arms is the amount of information people unintentionally reveal about themselves and their families through social media. A photograph, a location tag, an annual tradition, or a post about family plans can create a digital trail that someone with the wrong intentions may be able to follow.

At the end of The Trees Have Arms, Donovan includes an author's note focused on child safety and social media awareness, encouraging parents and families to think about how seemingly harmless posts can unintentionally reveal information about their children, routines and locations. Readers are also given access to a free child safety companion app containing additional information and resources related to the subject.

Donovan grew up in Chadwicks, Oneida County, and now lives in Colorado, where years spent traveling mountain roads, hiking remote trails and photographing rugged landscapes helped inspire the environment of the Sheriff Cade Parker books.

But Central New York continues to find its way onto the pages.

One familiar landmark, relocated to fictional Buffalo Ridge, is Black Bridge, a railroad trestle across the street from Donovan's childhood home in Chadwicks. Donovan also had fun adapting the names of friends and family members for his fictional characters.

The Trees Have Arms is the second installment in the Sheriff Cade Parker Mystery in the Mountains series. Donovan is currently writing book three, The Thaw, which is planned for release in spring 2027. All three novels explore the balance between mystery, law enforcement, family, technology and community.

The Trees Have Arms and the first Sheriff Cade Parker mystery, Murders on the Platte, are available now on Amazon.

About Barry C. Donovan

Barry C. Donovan grew up in Chadwicks, New York, and now lives in Colorado. He is the author of the Sheriff Cade Parker Mystery in the Mountains series, including Murders on the Platte and The Trees Have Arms.

A professional photographer, marketing professional and creator of digital information solutions for law enforcement agencies, Donovan brings both a photographer's sense of place and a strong interest in community, victim advocacy and child safety to his fiction.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. (Never known to Fail) O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

For information on how to place an article for your community event or local news, please call 315-723-4827 or email towncrier@pjgreen.com
Our monthly paper is currently mailed to residents in the 13413 zip code. If you know someone who wishes to receive our publication, we will gladly add the address to our subscription list for a yearly fee of $25.
Please mail a check to - The Town Crier, PO Box 876, New Hartford, NY 13413

The Town Crier is privately owned and not affiliated with the Town of New Hartford.



19TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE TO BENEFIT FAMILIES THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER!

Stop down to any of our 8 locations and take a tag from our Giving Trees set up in our showrooms.

Please return the unwrapped gift, with the tag attached, to our tree by Tuesday, December 15th by 10am.

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

STEET PONTE

SteetPonteAutoGroup.com

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