



MARCH 19, 2026

Public transportation returns to Chenango County

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

NORWICH — On March 9, under a bright and sunny sky, Chenango County Board Officials held a grand opening for the return of public transportation.

After a year of working through a new transit contract, county officials, local residents, and the Cathay Express Transportation management team gathered at the ribbon cutting event in Norwich.

The ceremony marked one of the most important events in Chenango County, bringing back mobility and community connection for all residents.

City of Norwich Mayor Robert Jeffrey



On March 9, Chenango County officials held a Grand Opening for the return of public transportation. (Photo by Kelli Miller)

said mobility is one of the areas greatest needs and the transit system is going to help with employment, rides to

medical appointments and grocery stores, and so much more.

“Anytime you have a bus system that will take

you all around the county, especially with the closure of Grand Union,

it’s going to be a significant benefit to those

without reliable transportation or who don’t own a car,” said Jeffrey.

“This is going to be a huge boost and we’re

really excited to have transportation back,” he said.

“This is a major win for the City of Norwich and Chenango County,” Jeffrey added.

Chenango County Board of Supervisors Clerk Sheri Howe said the return of transit marks renewed commitment for accessibility and connections.

Howe noted the year long pause in transit service was educational as they listened to the needs of the community, evaluated the situation and worked diligently in building a new transit system that would bring strength and reliability to the county.

She extended a sin-

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“Maple Magic” weekend celebration at Rogers Center

SHERBURNE - Spring is on the way, and maple season is here! The final two weekends in March have been designated as New York State Maple Weekends, where the public can get a first-hand look into local operations and learn about the seasonal process of maple sugaring.

The beloved Upstate NY tradition of making maple syrup will be highlighted this year at Rogers Environmental Education Center during their Maple Magic Weekend Celebration at the end of March. The event will be led by Friends of Rogers staff, as well as three students from Colgate University who are volunteering this season to support burgeoning Maple Magic programs at Rogers Center.

The Chenango County Historical Society will also provide information on the rich history of maple sugaring in CNY,

and details about the Maple Sugar Heritage Collaboration that brought the Sugarshack to Rogers Center. The Sugarshack opened for operation in February of 2025 during Winter Living Celebration. This will be the inaugural Maple Weekend event at Rogers Center.

“It has been sap-tacular getting to work with Rogers this season! We hope other people will come out to support and spend some quality time at the Sugarshack. We can’t wait to see you there!” said Simon Romano, a Colgate student volunteer from Arlington, Virginia.

This year’s Maple Magic Weekend Celebration will be in Sherburne on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29, and will run from 12PM-3PM on both days. The evaporator will be bubbling and boiling in the Sugarshack, which will be open for deli-



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cious syrup samples and educational demonstrations of the Indigenous and colonial methods of maple sugaring. The event will also feature live acoustic music with traditional maple folk songs.

“The Sugarshack building and operation has been collaborative with so many community partners like the Chenango County Historical Society, DCMO Boces, the DEC, and Clear Path for

Veterans,” said Aria Mitchell, Educator and Communications Lead for Friends of Rogers. “We’re thankful to have volunteers to help lead events where the community that helped us build this program can

be truly involved in the beloved art of making maple syrup.”

Rogers Center is one of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) four environmental education centers. Rogers Center is located at 2721 state highway 80, Sherburne NY, 13460.

The mission of the Friends of Rogers is to provide outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.

Photo Caption: Colgate students Simon Romano, Valeria Reyes, and Dylan Murphy, Class of 2026, by the boiling evaporator in the Sugarshack at Rogers Center.

- Information from the Friends of Rogers

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Sherburne mulls proposed industrial battery storage facility as NY law seeks to limit input from impacted communities

BY JESSICA BENSON
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

SHERBURNE – The Sherburne Planning Board met on Tuesday night and continued the discussion of the proposed battery storage facility on Knapp Road in the Town of Sherburne.

Last month, the town held a public hearing on the battery storage facility. Town residents overwhelmingly came out against the project citing health and safety concerns.

A six-month moratorium was passed, which provides a legal pause on permitting and approval of the project. Town of Sherburne Supervisor Charles Mastro explained that the town is using that time to create a local law that will set clear safety rules and regulations. The town is planning to extend the moratorium for an additional six months to give themselves time to enact the local law. They plan to hold a public hearing in November of 2026 to present the new battery storage law.

“It is important for residents to understand that New York State Law

“It is important for residents to understand that New York State Law allows battery energy storage facilities in communities like ours. The town does not have the legal authority to permanently prohibit these projects if an application meets state and local requirements.”

- Town of Sherburne Supervisor Charles Mastro

allows battery energy storage facilities in communities like ours. The town does not have the legal authority to permanently prohibit these projects if an application meets state and local requirements,” Mastro said in a recent update to the town.

While the town cannot prohibit battery storage facilities, the battery storage law can put



Nexamp, a clean energy company, shared an image of a similar site online, showing an already existing battery site. The Village of Sherburne is considering a proposal to build a battery storage facility on Knapp Road in Sherburne.

strict guidelines in place for the type of battery storage that is permitted. Dylan Harris, the town’s attorney is actively working on crafting the law. The planning board discussed whether lithium ion batteries were a safe storage system and the possibility of banning that type of system. “Other battery systems are much safer. Lithium batteries are the negative,” Mastro said.

Many town residents have been opposed to the project. A petition against the project has been circulating in town

and more than eight pages of signatures have been collected.

“This could all be null and void if the state comes through and pushes this,” Mastro explained. A state senate bill has been introduced which would render battery energy storage systems immune from zoning rules and regulations. Senate bill s5506 is currently in committee.

Town resident Judith Webb addressed the board to explain her concerns regarding the proposed plan. A Knapp

Road resident, Webb said she has advanced degrees in health care and is concerned about the health effects the battery facility would pose on Knapp Road and to the greater community.

“Residents are opposed to this,” Webb said. After researching the company, Webb said she is not happy with Nexamp’s proposal. After looking at their list of facilities, she said they are currently all attached to wind or solar generation. “They have no stand-alone facilities.

They haven’t done this yet,” she explained. In addition, Webb pointed out issues with the site. “It’s a tiny road. If there were a fire, I’m worried about the trucks coming up and turning around.” She explained that portions of the road washed out last year due to flooding. The location of the site is closed to farm land, a protected trout stream, protected forest, and a wet land down the hill from the proposed site.

The private company Nexamp reached out to town officials in November to inform them of their plan to build a lithium-ion battery storage facility on a 13.2 acre site that they had already leased. In 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul doubled New York’s energy storage goal, calling for 6-gigawatts of energy storage by 2030, making it the highest energy storage goal in the country. The proposed project would create a 40-megawatt battery storage facility made up of 12 battery storage pods. Representatives from Nexamp did not respond to requests for comment.

Bainbridge Farm and Artisan Market searches for additional vendors

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

BAINBRIDGE – The Bainbridge Farm and Artisan Market, formerly known as The Bainbridge Farmers’ Market, will open soon and invites additional vendors to sign up.

The market will be held on Friday evenings, from 4 to 7 p.m., starting

April 3, and is located at 5 Prospect Street, in the Bainbridge Community Center in Bainbridge.

Market Manager Samantha Frederick said they have eight vendors signed up now and she hopes to sign at least 20, making the event a successful shopping experience for community members.

Last year, 12 vendors

filled the building, offering fresh produce, home baked goods, arts and crafts, therapeutic oils, and more.

The fee to sign up is \$25 per month or \$10 a week. Costs go toward renting the building and advertising.

To become a vendor, call 607-616-8926, or email thebainbridgefarmersmarket@gmail.



Last year, Davis Acres owner Paul Davis brought his fresh produce to the Farmers’ Market. This year, the market has changed its name to The Bainbridge Farm and Artisan Market and will be open from 4 to 7 p.m., April 3, and every Friday following, located at 5 Prospect Street, in the Bainbridge Community Center in Bainbridge. (Samantha Frederick)

com.

Frederick said vendors are preparing a variety of Easter desserts and decorative items for opening day. Vendors who have signed up already include Black Oak Farm, Bob’s Boxes, Davis Acres, Pies by Terri, Hoffman Bread, A ClayCookie for

your Garden, Healing Wild Homestead and Apothecary, and Glistening Water.

“By supporting our neighbors, we know exactly where our goods are coming from, and in doing so, not only do we help them, but we help ourselves and our com-

munity prosper,” said Frederick.

Frederick gave thanks to the vendors, adding, “We would not have such a wonderful market without you.”

For more information, visit their Facebook page at The Bainbridge Farm and Artisan Market.

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New York spring burn ban now in effect

REBECCA LAIBOWITZ
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

CHENANGO COUNTY - New York State's annual Spring Burn Ban will be taking effect from March 16 to May 14.

Open burning is regulated under Part 215 of Chapter III, Subchapter A, of Title 6 of New York State's code. It is enforced by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The law allows for on-site brush burning between March 15 and the following March 15, in most towns with fewer than 20,000 residents. Hence an annual brush burn ban is in place from March 16 to May 14 when there are heightened conditions for wildfires. It is illegal to burn trash statewide per Part 219 of the same NYS code. You can review the NYS code at govt.westlaw.com/nycrr

According to the NY DEC the single largest cause of spring wildfires is open burning of brush and debris. The burn ban was instituted in 2009, and according to DEC officials, since being codified it has reduced wildland fire occurrences by 40%.

The Norwich City Fire Chief, Gerald Parry Jr., said that, "This is a team effort and we just need to have the community involved with making sure that the regulations are followed and everybody takes into consideration the safety, the concerns that exist not only for themselves but their neighbors. It also poses hazards for the first responder side as well because our personnel are going out there to put

out those fires that were unnecessary or accidental and that poses a risk to our personnel too."

While New York State does not typically see the same magnitude of wildfires as compared to states on the West Coast, they do occur throughout the year. At the recent press conference to announce the ban this year, NYDEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton stated that the Forest Rangers fought 200 wildfires across the state last year and Forest Ranger Captain Scott Jackson expressed that rangers had already responded to a handful of fires this year caused by debris burning.

Chief Parry, also said that Chenango County sees fires happen every year.

There was once incident last week in Oxford, said Parry, "And it didn't take much time for it to spread. But you know, the appropriate responses and so forth from the fire departments," he added explaining how the Norwich fire department deployed their brush unit over to aid in the fire suppression and the collective fire teams' response was able to put it out quickly.

This time of year poses a unique risk for wildfires as dead grasses and branches become exposed due to the snow melting. Even with damp conditions or snow still on the ground, wild fires can spread through dead plant matter and high winds as the temperature warms and humidity fluctuates.

Forest Ranger Captain Jackson explained, "The reason brush burning is



The NYS annual spring burn ban is in effect from March 16 to May 14. There is an increased risk of wildfire as dead vegetation becomes exposed through snow melting. Pictured are NYS Forest Rangers who will be responding to reports of forest fires. (Submitted Photo by DEC)

prohibited this time of year is the dormant grass and dead leaves that are becoming available as the snow melts. I know a lot of areas are still wet, but by the time we do get the dry days that come in the spring, we get a lot of weather patterns with low relative humidity and high winds and those dead grass and dry dead leaves dry out very quickly from that so we could have rain in the morning and then drying and things could be ready to burn in the afternoon."

State Fire Administrator James Cable added, "I encourage New Yorkers to comply with this annual burn ban, which has successfully reduced the number of outdoor fires and wildland fires that fire departments and Forest Rangers must respond to during this time of the year. Dry vegetation, winds, and warming temperatures create conditions where outdoor fires can quickly grow and spread out of con-

trol, threatening homes and nearby structures, requiring firefighters and Rangers to fight fires which should have and could have been prevented," reiterating the importance of following the ban this time of year.

Chief Parry, spoke about common actions people take in spring that might pose additional risks, "This time of year a lot of people are trying to get out and about and clean up their yards and their opportunity to try to get rid of the debris, and so forth, is to, 'let's burn it.' And it's not the optimal time to do something of that nature. There's other ways of discarding and getting rid of that refuse. But garbage and stuff, especially like that, burn barrels, they all seem to be common denominators when it comes time for incidents for wild land fires."

Small contained fires are allowed during the ban. DEC Commissioner Lefton explained that,

"During this time of year, you can still have a small fire. A small campfire that's no higher than three feet or wider than four feet. You can still have a small contained cooking area, and again, it needs to be contained. But you shouldn't have any fire that's left unattended. because fire safety is of the utmost importance."

If having a backyard fire pit, campfire, or small cooking fire, you can only burn charcoal, or dry, clean, untreated, or unpainted wood. These fires as described by Lefton, must stay less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter. The DEC and local fire department stress that no fire should ever be left unattended.

Open fires on agricultural land are not subject to the annual ban given the following general restrictions: only organic agricultural wastes are burned on-site where they are grown and/or generated; the materials

are capable of fully burning within 24 hours; no pesticides, plastics, trash, or other non-organic material; and no burning of tires and other waste for smudge. The DEC will review burning permits related to animal disease or pest outbreaks.

Chief Parry expressed, "Generally, for the most part, a lot of the agricultural society actually does a pretty good job staying along with the same safety concerns that exist. We really haven't had too much of a major impact from the agricultural side."

Before having any fire outdoors whether its brush burning or for cooking, its important to check the Fire Danger Rating in you area. New York State DEC updates it weekly on their Fire Danger Map found online at dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/wildfires/fire-danger-map

Chief Parry urges residents to make use of this map, saying that as they also check it to prepare the appropriate responses to incidents.

Violating the Burn Ban is a misdemeanor and a minimum fine of \$500 that can go up to \$18,000. The regulations are enforced by both the Forest Rangers and Environmental Conservation Officers, as well and state and local law enforcement as complaints are received. Norwich City Fire Chief relayed that citizens should report illegal or suspicious burning to the local Forest Rangers 1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264).

Public transportation returns to Chenango County -

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cere thank you to county officials and said their leadership, guidance, and unwavering support made this relaunch possible.

Howe explained it took a lot of people coming together to make this happen. From planning and budgeting to coordination and oversight, and pointed to the key part of the work being the partnership with Cathay Express Transportation.

"We are proud to partner with an organization known for its professionalism, quality service, and dedication to

the people they serve," Howe added. "Their values align closely with what we envision for the future of transportation in Chenango County."

Howe said public transportation is more than buses and routes adding, "it's access to work, healthcare, education, and opportunity."

"It supports independence for those who need it most, and strengthens our entire community," Howe continued, "With today's re-opening, we reaffirm that commitment."

Although the system was shut down for the past year as the cost

proved too high for taxpayers, the return of transit brings a monumental leap forward with confidence.

"We look forward to a continued and long-standing relationship with Cathay Express," she said. "One that will support our residents for many years to come. Together, we will ensure that riders experience the level of service, safety, and respect they deserve."

Howe gave thanks to everyone who helped bring the transit system back to life, and thanked residents for their patience.

She also thanked the Planning Department and Matt Gladstone for his help and guidance in determining bus stop locations and creating route maps and Melissa Potter, for her expertise in public transportation and said her help in rebuilding the program was unmeasurable.

According to the Chenango County website, Chenango County Public Transit allows anyone to ride, all ages and abilities. Children under five are free and all children, any age, must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Catch a ride by check-

ing route maps and schedules, arrive five minutes early to the stop, pay exact fare when boarding, drivers cannot make change, and let the driver know your destination.

Bus routes can be found at www.chenangocountyny.gov/705/Bus-Routes.

Route deviations are available within 3/4 mile. Call Chenango County Public Transit one day in advance. Call 607-367-1999.

All buses are ADA accessible and equipped with mobility lifts.

Monthly passes and bus tokens are available

for unlimited travel on Chenango County Public Transit fixed routes. They can be purchased at Cathay Express, located at 126 Leilanis Lane in Norwich, NY.

No service days will be New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Additional information regarding routes, schedules, and fares can be found at the County's website: www.chenangocountyny.gov/702/Public-Transportation.

OBITUARY

AUDREY LOY PALMER GREGORY

Audrey Loy Palmer Gregory, 89, of Morris, passed away after a short illness on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Audrey was born on October 1, 1936, daughter of the late LeRoy and Laura (Eldred) Palmer. On July 16, 1960, she married Dr. Peter Burnham Gregory at Zion Episcopal Church in Morris, NY.

A lifelong Otsego County resident, Audrey was aptly born in Welcome, NY, a portent of the spirit in which she would live the rest of her life: she welcomed simply everyone. Audrey graduated from Morris Central School in 1953, whereupon she entered the nursing program at Hartwick with a goal of traveling the world as a flight attendant. However, her aspirations were cut short by scarlet fever, and her life took a different path.

In her early adult life, Audrey worked as a shop girl at Bresee's Department Store, then became a telephone operator for Ma Bell. Following her marriage, Audrey became a partner in The Gatehouse Antiques in 1966, and through that business her lifelong devotion to historic preservation was ignited. She was deeply entrenched in her family history, passing on from her own father such brilliant witticisms as "Here's your hat, what's your hurry?", "Did you walk to school or carry your lunch?", and the Palmer family mantra, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." At others, she snickered but did not repeat because they were inappropriate.

Audrey's interest in history, in particular antiques, was paralleled only by her lifelong love of travel. Although her ambition to travel independently was dashed, she and her husband Peter managed to visit more countries than can be counted on two hands. Their tours to Africa, Asia and countless American and European countries were a constant source of wonder and joy. Audrey and Peter also organized several family trips and vacations (never forgetting to include tours of historic homes for the edification of their children, and every historic church she could find for the edification of Peter's soul) and loved to share in this planning with friends who became family, Ted and Lois Hopkins.

Audrey dedicated herself to her community as a 4H leader, a member of the Butternut Valley Garden Club, and an active and enthusiastic member of Zion Episcopal Church. Through Zion, Audrey served on the vestry, as chair of the Building and Grounds committee for many years, as Sunday School Superintendent, as a member of the Altar Guild, as a leader of the Memorial

Committee, and as a Food Pantry coordinator. She was an avid gardener, active not only in the Butternut Valley Garden Club, but as a well-respected judge and coordinator of Garden Club events throughout New York State.

Audrey loved nothing in the world as much as her friends and family, and delighted in every visitor who ever appeared at her doorstep. Having been born in Welcome, it was second nature to Audrey to help every person who crossed her path feel comfortable and appreciated. She was the quintessential hostess, with careful attention to every detail and careful thought for every guest. We are forever better for having been welcomed by her in every way.

Audrey was predeceased by her devoted husband Peter; her parents, LeRoy and Laura; her brother Fred; her son John; and her daughter-in-law Angela Hailey-Gregory. She is survived by her children Stacia (Gary) Norman of Morris and James (Maggie) Gregory of Oxford; her grandchildren, Galina and Roman Norman, Sara and Rowan Gregory, and Hannah Dorsey; and her great-grandson, Grayson Bard. She is also survived by her sister Sharon (Charles) Bosco of Morris and their children Mark, Pablo and Soraya; her brother James (Regina) Palmer of Hartwick, and their son Orion; her nieces and nephews Elissa, Brayton, Matthew, Briggan, and Lydia; and by her extended Hopmorehousenco family.

Calling hours will be held at the Johnston & Stanimer Funeral Home, 60 Broad Street, Morris on Monday, March 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Her funeral service will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 2:00 pm at Zion Episcopal Church, 158 E. Main St., Morris, NY 13808. Burial will be this spring at Hillington Cemetery in Morris.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Zion Episcopal Church Buildings and Grounds Fund, Morris, or the Morris Historical Society.

Audrey's family as entrusted her care to Edd Stanimer of the Johnston & Stanimer Funeral Home in Morris. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.johnstonfh.com.





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TOWN OF BURLINGTON NOTICE TO BIDDERS FUEL BIDS: APRIL 2026–APRIL 2027

The Town Board of the Town of Burlington will receive sealed bids on the following until 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Sealed Fuel Bids may be mailed to: 6011 St. Hwy. 51, Burlington Flats, NY 13315 or hand delivered to the Town Clerk's Office in the Burlington Municipal Building or to the Highway Department at 293 Norton Road during business hours or put in our drop box. Bids may also be dropped off in person before the start of the meeting at 7:00 PM.

FUEL BID SPECIFICATIONS

**ULTRA LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL
60/40 BLEND DURING WINTER MONTHS NOV.-MARCH**

#2 HEATING OIL (MUNICIPAL BUILDING)

**PROPANE FOR THE HIGHWAY GARAGE
(THE BUILDING IS HEATED WITH PROPANE)**

**(BE ADVISED THE TOWN OWNS THE TANKS AT THE
HIGHWAY GARAGE. THE TOWN WOULD LIKE AN
ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE TANKS FROM THE
AWARDED BIDDER.)**

GASOLINE

Bidders MUST be able to DELIVER WITHIN 3 HOURS NOTICE. All bids must be submitted in writing in a sealed envelope marked "FUEL BID". Bids will be opened at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

Questions can be directed to Highway Superintendent Jason Rous at 607-965-8947 M-F 6:00 AM -2:30 PM. The Town Board reserves the right to reject ANY and ALL BIDS.

Deborah Wengert, Town Clerk

The Early Files *by Peggy Finnegan*

**WEEK #12
FORTY YEARS AGO
March 19, 1986**

Glorious summer weather resulted in water running in all directions. A week of heavy rains brought the Unadilla onto many lawns.

Rose Ellis is purchasing the double home of Art McKenna.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballard Miller celebrated their 40th anniversary as guests of their family at Cathedral Farms.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO
March 18, 1976**

Fred Shaver took a load of youngsters roller skating in West Burlington for a happy time for all ages.

Marjorie Poole was a quiet, sincere Christian woman whose passing leaves an empty space in the circle of family and friends.

Bryan Johnson was an overnight guest of his friend, Andy Fairchild.

MEN'S LEISURE SUITS Styles by Wrights. Pants \$14, jacket \$21. New Berlin Clothes Shop

**SIXTY YEARS AGO
March 25, 1966**

Residents are enjoying the signs of spring, seeing robins and early crocus.

A short circuit in the fuse box at the NBCS closed school at 11:00 am Friday as the current was shut off.

Friends and relatives honored Mr. and Mrs. Leon Gray on their 30th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Benjamin moved to their maple sugar camp.

Only one person out of 100 in Finland is illiterate.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO

March 20, 1946
We are enjoying pleasant spring weather much before it is due. We hope the preview is as good as the main event.

Only 23 votes were cast in the village election.

Walter Elliott is back on the farm and Kenneth Patrick will live in the house.

Since her marriage, Mary Friar Horton spent her life on Columbus Hill. She was a devoted wife and mother.

Ralph Beardslee shot a fox which attacked him while he was hunting crows. The animal approached unnoticed and bit his boot before he shot him.

Cars driven by Herbert Larson and P.W. Ferris collided in the No. Edmeston road and were badly damaged.

With donations of a dollar from all sportsmen in the county, it will be possible to have a central game-rearing station.

NINETY YEARS AGO

March 19, 1936
Flocks of robins have been seen. They look like the "smile on an old friend's face."

Only 12 votes were cast in the village election.

Gaining entrance to Taranto's store through a skylight, robbers looted the establishment of \$165 in cash.

Mrs. Libby Stone, wife of Dwight Stone, was a woman of sterling character, a loving wife and mother.

Don Lidell was in Columbus one day recently.

Harry Bice gathered 1,001 eggs Thursday

from his flock of 1,550 hens.

V.T. Foster tapped his maples along the roadside and had a splendid run of sap to boil.

Floyd Wilcox sold his hens.

Water overflowed the banks of Aunt Pat Brook and river and the Gaffney Church and Nelson places are surrounded. The river almost reached the floor of the new bridge on Lake street, but the village brook behaved nicely.

A woodchuck ventured forth at Early Sunrise farm and was immediately captured by the dog.

HUNDRED YEARS AGO

March 19, 1926
Where is the man who prophesied an open winter?

Unusual interest was manifested at the village election due to the proposition to purchase a motor triple combination truck for the fire department. Of 189 votes cast, 174 were affirmative, 10 negative, 3 spoiled and 1 void.

Clara Bootman Welch left the use of nearly her entire estate to her husband, former Judge U.G. Welch, who may use both principal and interest as he desires.

Everyone is as God made him, and sometimes a great deal worse. Cervantes

Miss Otis is entertaining the flu at her home.

We do not believe mail order installment buying is a good thing.

While working in the woods on Frank Jones' farm. Fred McNitt was attracted by some unusual sounds. To his amazement he saw two

large bears snarling at each other and playing around a tree.

It would be a good idea for the U.S. to annex Ireland so we can raise our own policemen.

Miss Griselda Spurr was in Utica on Saturday.

Preparations are being made for maple sugaring as soon as it warms up at all. Quite a number of bushes are to be worked more than usual.

Why is it that U.S. auto tires sell for 25% less in England than they do here?

Mark VanSteinberg fell from his wagon and had the misfortune to crack a rib.

Mrs. Bertha Webb is a new victim of the grippe.

Geno Rogers and Horace Roberts had their houses wired for electricity. C.W. Belden is doing the work.

Letters praising the military advantages of the proposed all-American canal between Lake Ontario and the Hudson river stirred up flurries in Washington.

**110 YEARS AGO
March 18, 1916**

News is very scarce this week. Everyone is snow-bound and still the snow keeps falling. At present the depth of accumulated snow is 32.5 inches.

Shirley Talbot lost his four-year old colt.

The amount of snow that has fallen in the past few days brings to mind the great blizzard of 1888.

Mrs. H.H. Williams has had electric lights placed in her home.

Three first-growth pines were cut on an Otsego county farm and scaled 6,000 feet of clear lumber.

Over 100 friends of Mrs. J. C. Babcock thoughtfully recognized her 83rd birthday with a postal card shower.

A record low price for hops was made at Cooperstown when one grower disposed of his for 2c a pound. He had been offered 33c in 1914.

George Dopp is confined to the house with an attack of grippe and bronchitis.

The Sherburne mail carrier walked to the Center from Earl Clapp's and M. Prentice drove straight up from New Berlin and over to the Shawler Creek road, returning the same way.

The wagon shed attached to Irvin Adams' barn collapsed, demolishing several cutters and wagons.

Joe Grant moved into George Jennison's tenant house, vacated by Will Ashley, who has moved to the Almanson Phillips' farm on Great Brook. John Moore moved from C. Howe's house to Miss Edith Chapin's house, vacated by Tracy Moore, who moved into Leafy Matteson's house. Eugene Morse and Allie Lamb have each moved their families into the Hoboken Hotel.

Edison Amberol Records and phonographs for sale at Kneeland's. If you want a talking machine of any make, see us about it.

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Businesses invited to connect with future employees

NORWICH - DCMO BOCES is inviting local businesses and industry professionals to participate in Applications Day 2026 on Tuesday, March 31, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Alan D. Pole Campus in Norwich. This event connects businesses with Career and Technical Education students and adult learners who are preparing to enter the workforce. Participating businesses will have the

opportunity to meet students, review resumes, and assist with applications for full-time, part-time, or summer employment.

Businesses will be stationed in program-related classrooms and are encouraged to bring information about open positions and employment applications. Electronic applications are welcome.

Our campus offers 13 Career and Technical

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Businesses can register using this form: <https://forms.gle/C8TJ9D4kW8qmTrM28>

For more information, please contact Sonnet Constable, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, at 607-335-1415.

- Information from DCMO BOCES

Chenango County Sheriff's Office recognizes dedication and service to the community at awards ceremony

REBECCA LAIBOWITZ
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

NORWICH - The Chenango County Sheriff's Office held its 34th annual awards ceremony at the Northeast Classic Car Museum last week, on Friday March 6, to recognize officers and civilians alike, for their dedicated and outstanding service to the community.

The Chenango County Sheriff's Office has served the community 24 hours a day for the last 228 years, since the year 1798. This awards ceremony was started to give credit to those who work diligently day in and day out to keep the agency moving forward.

"For me, I think what's important is everyone deserves an award. There's so many people that work hard every year, officers, particularly in corrections, working a lot of overtime. The 911 center faces challenges with the CAD system going down or failing. We have to get that back up and running. That's the nerve center for all public safety response, whether it has to do with law enforcement, fire, EMS, the corrections division, the civil division, everything that's kind of our information system, the CAD system. They've been dealing with that. The law enforcement, they're out on the front lines every day. They work hard and they do a tremendous job going through all the positive and the negatives that are out there," said Sheriff Ernest Cutting Jr.

The Sheriff's Office is made of four divisions, law enforcement, corrections, communications, and civil. People are nominated to receive awards out of each division, except civil but an award will be started for them next year. After receiving nominations the Sheriff holds several awards committee meetings to discuss facts and circumstances surrounding each nominee.

This year they gave out the usual awards of Officer of the Year, Perfect Attendance, and Firearms, but they also gave the Sergeant



The 34th annual Chenango County Sheriff's awards ceremony took place last Friday at the Northeast Classic Car Museum. Lieutenant Tracy Rotundo was presented the most prestigious award, the Sheriff Joseph J. Benenati Jr. Award recognizing her 25 years of dedication and outstanding service to the community. (Submitted photo)



At the 2026 Chenango County Sheriff's Awards, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Carrie Edick, received the award for Civilian of the year for her contributions to the behavioral health services at the agency. She was said to have greatly improved access and delivery of these services. (Submitted photo)

Michael R. Friot Award and the Joseph J. Benenati Jr. Award.

Michael Friot was a sergeant at the sheriff's office and a dedicated corrections officer, who sadly passed from an illness. According to Under Sheriff Dustin Smietana, "It was just, no matter what, he worked here until the moment he couldn't work here. And he put in 100 percent every day. He came early. He stayed late. He showed up on his days off just to help out this agency. So we look for that individual every year that goes above and beyond."

This year that person was Correction Officer Gregory Burlingame.

The Sheriff Joe Benenati award is one that is highly deliberated before given out and not always awarded each year, only when the Sheriff personally selects someone he finds deserving.

According to Smietana, "He exempli-

fied what it is of public trust, service above self. And we look for an employee every year. It could be any division within this facility."

This year the Benenati award was given to Lieutenant Tracy Rotundo. Rotundo oversees the entire correctional divisions and facility maintenance. She has served a 25 year long career at the Chenango County Sheriff's Department and it was said by Undersheriff Smietana that, "she's given a lot of effort into this place to bring it where it is today."

When it comes to the Officer of the Year awards Smietana relayed, "It's somebody that stood out. They had a great year. And it doesn't mean they arrested the most people. It's not a metrics-based award. It's a totality of them working in the community and the level of service they've given back to the



The Chenango County Sheriff's Department held their annual awards ceremony on Friday March 6. Officers and department employees were awarded for their dedicated and outstanding service to the community. Deputy Tyler White was awarded Officer of the Year. (Submitted photo)

community. It's what matters to us the most."

The awards for Officer of the Year were given to Correction Officer Brittney Fahringer, Public Safety Dispatch Kenneth Ulrich, Deputy Tyler White, and Civilian Carrie Edick.

The Civilian of the Year Award for Edick was given for her major contribution to the agency providing behavioral health services. Smietana describes working with her as a "breath of fresh air" and that she has greatly improved the accessibility of these services at the agency.

The other awards pre-

sented at the ceremony included those for Most Improved and Perfect Attendance.

"There's people that have worked their entire year here with overtime. Because, listen, some of our divisions aren't fully staffed, so people are working overtime to cover the posts and the workload that has to be taken up. And they didn't take a single day off other than vacation day or personal leave day or something. They never called in sick. They've shown up to work every day they're supposed to be here," said Smietana.

The Perfect Attendance awards were given to the Cook Theresa Cook, Deputy Michael Smith, Deputy Sergeant Chad O'Hara, Deputy Tyler White, Corporal Robert Patterson, and Deputy Bruce Winter.

Most improved is an award reserved for the recognition of newer officers who have through time made major strides in their performance and training. This year they recognized Deputy Michael Smith and Corrections Office Sean Donohue.

Firearms awards were also presented. This award recognizes the highest scores received on a yearly qualification that the agency does for corrections and patrol officers. In patrol first place was Sergeant Nathen Warner, second Deputy Korbin Neudel, and third Deputy Kyle Hinman. For corrections Sergeant Robert Sickmond, Corrections Officer Wayne Root, and Corrections Officer Bryce Abbott.

Most of the awards were presented by Sheriff Cutting and others by Division representatives, Lieutenant Jeff Barton from patrol, Lieutenant Tracy Rotundo from corrections, and George Finch

from communications.

"We're not perfect. We're pursuing excellence. We can always be better. We're always looking to be better. And that's what ties into being an accredited agency," Smietana said.

The sheriff's department state accreditation demonstrates a commitment to constant improvement. They work diligently to stay updated on new law enforcement technology, laws and regulations, and training techniques. This year the department is working towards updating the computer-aided dispatching (CAD) software and system to replace the current one which is over 20 years old. The upgrade to digital communications will improve emergency services and law enforcement communications across the county.

"A lot of our job is to connect people with unmet needs with the resources that are provided within the county structure," said Smietana who expressed that their major concern is helping citizens within this community.

"We appreciate the public. We know there's a lot of support. On the other hand, we're there for the public. They come first. Public safety comes first. We work hard every day, day in and day out to continue to try to be the most efficient and cost effective we can and supply tremendous service. It's not always perfect. We're not perfect. We're humans, but we try to improve every day and every year," said Cutting.

Soup and sandwich luncheon offered at Gilbertsville New Life Fellowship Hall, Baptist Church

GILBERTSVILLE-A soup sampler luncheon with sandwiches will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to

1 p.m. at the New Life Fellowship Hall, Baptist Church, Commercial Street, Gilbertsville. The menu will feature a vari-

ety of about 10 soups to sample, chili, sandwiches and cake for dessert. Eat in or take out with a free will offering.

Sherburne-Earlville juniors win NY State Robotics Championship

BY JESSICA BENSON

GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

SHERBURNE — On March 4, three teams from Sherburne-Earlville attended the New York State Vex Robotics Championships, competing amongst 67 other northern New York State teams.

When the competition was over, Sherburne-Earlville juniors Blake Smith and Avery Solloway walked away with the championship and a spot at the world finals in St. Louis.

The Sherburne-Earlville School District celebrated the win with a parade in honor of the students on Monday afternoon.

VEX Robotics is a middle school and high school robotics competition with more than 20,000 teams in 50 countries playing worldwide. Each year, a new engineering challenge is presented and students have to design, build and program a robot that can complete the tasks. This year's task challenged students to find a way to pick up plastic blocks, load them into goals. The round starts with an autonomous period in which the robots have to be able to operate without being controlled by students.

This year, Sherburne had 10 students compete on three different teams. All three teams qualified for the state competition.

"SE's robotics is not



The Sherburne-Earlville Robotics Team, juniors Blake Smith and Avery Solloway, center, with robotics teacher Wesley Macker and club advisor Jon Ryan, won the NY State Championship and earned a spot at the world finals in St. Louis. The S-E School District celebrated the success of the team with a parade this week. at the school yesterday. (Submitted photo)

just a club, it also has an attached dedicated class that starts in the middle school and feeds into the program. The team gets 40 minutes of class time every day, and sometimes more when students come in during lunch and study



halls, as well as 2 hours or more of after school time just about every day," explained robotics teacher Wesley Macker.

Macker and club advisor Jon Ryan, attributed the success of the program to the dedication

of the students.

"Blake and Avery are also trisport athletes, they are very short on time. Many of the other members do at least one sport or other club activities," Ryan said. "This is a huge commitment.

You have to pick that you want to be there. These kids come in over breaks and during summer vacation. They choose to do this."

Solloway has participated in robotics since 8th grade. In her first year, her team automatically qualified to go to Worlds. "There were 3 teams competing as middle schoolers, and there were three slots for middle school teams to go to worlds," Macker and Ryan explained, but they added that the team was deserving of the opportunity. Last year, the team was just three points away from qualifying for worlds.

Smith is in his third year of robotics, but he is no stranger to the competition. His older brother Brayden Smith was a founding member of Sherburne's robotics team and was giving the Amaze Award, a judges award which was given to him at states for having a consistently high scoring robot, his first year.

"The most challenging part of robotics is definitely problem solving and overcoming challenges," Smith said. In a typical robotics competition, once teams are ranked they pick alliance partners who they will be teamed with for the duration of the competition. "I really like the teamwork aspect of it. Getting to work random other schools and sharing ideas," Smith said.

For Solloway, the best part of robotics is getting

to be creative and problem solve. "The most challenging part is communicating how we want the robot to function and look in a way that makes sense to both of us."

"Robotics isn't just for nerds," Smith said, "There's a bunch of different aspects and roles that are needed to complete a team." Smith plans to go to college for engineering and use what he has learned in robotics to help him get there.

"Our program is a wonderful way for kids to be creative, build connections as a team and with others, and help guide a path for their future if they aren't quite sure what they want to do. Not only by introducing them to engineering, but also talking with others and learning about other things they may be interested in," Solloway said. Solloway hopes to pursue nursing post graduation, but she hopes to continue with robotics as a hobby or a side project.

Smith and Solloway will compete in the VEX World Championships April 21-24 in St. Louis. Fundraising is currently in progress to raise money to support the trip. SUNY Morrisville's STEP Program has actively helped the program. A bottle drive and other fundraising activities are being scheduled as well. Anyone wishing to help support Sherburne robotics can email ryanj@seonline.org.

B-G's Larsen and SID/UN's Tuttle compete at bowling states

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER

GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

SYRACUSE — The 2026 NYSPHSAA bowling championships were held over the weekend at AMF Syracuse Lanes, featuring Bainbridge-Guilford senior Ryan Larsen and Sidney/Unatego freshman Stacy Tuttle.

Tuttle finished 25th

in the girls' division II standings, where she came away with a total score of 975 with a high game of a 184.

Larsen ended his final bowling season with a 26th place finish in the Boys' division II with a total score of 1141 with his highest game of a 224.

Congratulations to both Stacy and Ryan.



Congratulations to both Bainbridge-Guilford senior Ryan Larsen and Sidney/Unatego freshman Stacy Tuttle on competing in the 2026 NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships. (Submitted photos)



B-G hosts Section IV Badminton/Table Tennis championship; Bobcats win first title since 1993



Congratulations to the Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats, who won the 2026 Badminton /Table Tennis Sectional title, which is named after Larry Hynes, for the first time since 1993. (Submitted Photo)



B-G's Harpo Hardt and Elias Ohlman finished second in the boys' table tennis doubles behind a good Windsor team. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

BAINBRIDGE — The Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats hosted the 2026 Section IV Badminton/Table Tennis Championship on Saturday, March 9 at the Bainbridge-Guilford High School.

The event featured nine teams: B-G, Afton, Norwich, Sidney, Windsor, Vestal, Watkins Glen, Deposit, and Maine-Endwell, and had a total of 65 athletes competing on the day.

The Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats won the 2026 Badminton Table Tennis Sectional title, which is named after Larry Hynes, for the first time since 1993, noted Coach, coordinator, and MC of the day, Israel Lorimer.

Also, this win marks the eighth sectional title in the program's history.

Congratulations, Bobcats, who won with a total score of 31 points overall.

Sidney finished second with 24 points with Windsor in third (16 points), Norwich in fourth with 13 points, and Afton tied for seventh with Deposit with one point.

Watkins Glen, who finished sixth, won the Jody Hughes Sportsmanship

Norwich's Josh Lindridge and Connor White defeated B-G's Keegan Milk and Ben Porter in the boys' doubles badminton finals to come out on top (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

award.

B-G's mixed doubles partners Davis Barnard and Jayslin Henderson won the doubles' Paul Gerlamo Awards for being the Outstanding Badminton players.

BADMINTON:

B-G's Breanna Casey won the Badminton girls' singles as Norwich's Riley Wolford came in second.

Norwich's Joey Hall came in fourth place in the boys' singles as Sidney's Gabe Cirigliano won overall.

B-G's Beckett Longwell took second in the boys' singles.

Norwich's Josh Lindridge and Connor White defeated B-G's Keegan Milk and Ben Porter in the boys' doubles badminton finals to come out on top.

Norwich's Mia Tang and Paulina He took second in the girls' doubles as the Bobcats' Merren Lorimer and Brooklinn

Hall came in third place.

Jayslin Henderson and Davis Barnard won the mixed doubles for the Bobcats with Norwich's Troy Schack coming away with a third place finish as a solo after his mixed doubles partner could not play.

Afton's Makenna Schultz and Marcus Chavis picked up the team's lone point with a fourth place finish in mixed doubles.

Table Tennis:

While Badminton took place in the main gym, table tennis took place downstairs and finished early before Badminton officially got finished with pool play.

B-G's Laeni Baldwin earned the victory in girls' singles while Abbagayle Fitzgerald and Marissa Mayo won the girls' table tennis doubles and brother and sister duo, Alessandra Cafasso and brother Anthony Cafasso won



Congratulations to the Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats table tennis winners: Anthony Cafasso, Alessandra Cafasso, Abbagayle Fitzgerald, Marissa Mayo, and Laeni Baldwin. (Submitted photo)

the mixed doubles to sweep three out of four Bobcat victories.

Harpo Hardt and Elias Ohlman finished second in the boys' table tennis

doubles behind a good Windsor team. Great job to all.



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The Annual Meeting of the Butternut Valley Cemetery Association
Residence of Ann Yurenka
March 30th at 6:30 pm
meeting will be held at 2093 Cty. Hwy 16, Burlington Flats
For Members and New Members, ALL ARE WELCOME!

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- What is fiber internet
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- Advantages of SherburneConnect
- Get answers to any and all questions
- Light refreshments and N/A drinks provided

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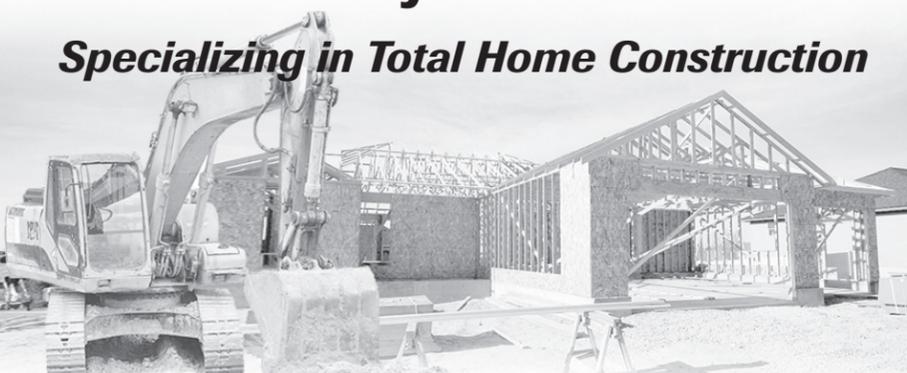

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TOWN OF BURLINGTON
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SAND BIDS: APRIL 2026 - APRIL 2027

The Town Board of the Town of Burlington will receive sealed bids on the following until 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Sealed Sand Bids may be mailed to: 6011 St. Hwy. 51, Burlington Flats, NY 13315 or hand delivered to the Town Clerk's Office in the Burlington Municipal Building or to the Highway Department at 293 Norton Road during business hours or put in our drop box. Bids may also be dropped off in person before the start of the meeting at 7:00 PM.

SAND BID SPECIFICATIONS

SAND 3/4 IN. MINUS: 0-5,000 YARDS
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3/4 IN. ITEM #4: 0-3,000 YARDS
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All Bids must be submitted in writing in a sealed envelope marked "SAND BID". Bids will be opened at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

Questions can be directed to Highway Superintendent Jason Rous at 607-965-8947 M-F 6:00 AM - 2:30 PM. The Town Board reserves the right to reject ANY and ALL BIDS.

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REBECCA LAIBOWITZ
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

OXFORD – Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango and the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford recently finalized a long-awaited partnership which now allows residents of the home and their families to receive hospice care from the nurses and volunteers of the organization. Prior to this partnership the home would have to send away people in seeking hospice care as strict regulations require a contract between a nursing home and hospice care provider in order for that type of care to be administered.

Kurt Apthorpe, Administrator at the NYS Veterans Home at Oxford, expressed how “excited and pleased the Veterans Home is that we can partner with such a meaningful group of people with the hospice program to be able to help us serve our veterans and residents.”

Kendall Johnson Executive Director of Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango said, “For us it’s really exciting because we want every resident of Chenango County to be able to access hospice services regardless of where they live, but we have to have a contract with the nursing home to provide services. Sometimes nursing homes are resistant to doing that, so this is really exciting for us.”

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango have been providing end-of-life care and grief support throughout the County since 1991. Hospice care becomes an option to anyone with a prognosis for only 6 months or less to live, and it is typically paid for by Medicare. The goal of this type of care is to provide comfort, based on the individual needs of the patient. According to Johnson, about 97% of their patients are cared for in their home setting, but they recognize that not every family has the ability to provide in-home care.

Registered Nurse and Case Manager from Hospice Chenango, CarrieAnne Bentley said, “What this partnership means is that patients that are veterans, that are here, at the Veterans Home, are able to get



NYS Veterans Home at Oxford solidifies partnership with Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango. Pictured in Front Row (left to right): CarrieAnne Bentley RN & Case Manager, Kendall Johnson Executive Director of Hospice, Kurt Apthorpe Administrator, and Pat Henderson Director of Nursing at the Veterans Home. Back Row: Kimberly Styles LMSW, Jessica Dayton LMSW, Kristina Reynolds LMSW, at the Veterans Home and Janette Grainger LMSW, APHSW-C, Sarah Green CVA Director of Volunteers and Outreach at the Hospice. (Photo by Rebecca Laibowitz)

their services here, but they’re also able to get comfort care services from us. It also means that we can aid the Vets Home in giving these patients specific, comfortable, end-of-life care and more support. So we just get to sort of bolster the medical team and we have an extra set of eyes and hands to aid with comfort, medication management, and actual physical care.”

“Being able to have contracts with nursing homes or other places where patients can get the level of care that they need, but also then have hospice on top is really beneficial,” said Johnson.

Apthorpe added to that saying, “Before, if somebody was on hospice or wanted to be in hospice, they would have to get out of hospice. We couldn’t have hospice come in without this partnership. So it was really a loss for the community to not have that.”

The New York State Veterans Home at Oxford, while not the first in the Nation, was the first to open in New York State in 1897. While having a contract with the VA, they are actually one of five state owned and operated facilities most of which are actively pursuing agreements with hospice partners in their areas.

“We’re all trying to be part of this state-wide effort,” explained Apthorpe, further explaining, “the state is trying to make an effort

to get hospices in nursing homes.”

New York State is currently ranked last among all states in the proportion of Medicare enrollees that received hospice services prior to death. Earlier this year, Governor Hochul renewed a \$35 million investment in non-medical in-home services for older adults and announced she plans to direct the Department of Health (DOH) to launch awareness initiatives informing clinical providers and staff about options for community-based palliative care, hospice care, and the importance of advance care planning.

“So New York State is 51st in hospice utilization, dead last behind Washington, D.C. One of the biggest things that has been identified as that reason is that nursing homes do not contract

with hospices. And nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, those are kind of like a no-brainer in terms of where hospice patients are. So there’s this whole set of the New York State population that is needing to live in a skilled nursing facility, but then they don’t have access to hospice,” explained Johnson providing another reason why this partnership is so crucial.

With this partnership Hospice Chenango will now be able to send four registered nurses as well as volunteers to the Veterans Home. The current Veterans Home building was built and opened in 2009, with a licensed capacity for 242 residents, providing both long-stay and short-term care. With this new partnership any resident will be able to receive hospice care, there will be no limit placed on the

number of beds available for this program. In 2025 they had the most admissions in a year since 2010 at 146 residents. The first resident enrolled in the hospice program is set to move in today.

Both organizations rely on the work of nurses, social workers, and volunteers. Volunteers while not providing medical care, provide invaluable services and comfort to patients. They are able to do things, such as play music, read to, or just keep company to those on hospice. Whatever an individual patient or their family expressed they would enjoy, a volunteer can be found.

“A lot of times families in our home settings are able to do that, but in this setting the family is farther away. So its going to allow us to sort of bridge that gap for them,” said Case Manager and RN Bentley.

“We also have Veteran volunteers on our team too, that can come and meet and have a conversation with this patient, and do what’s called ‘We Honor Veterans,’” added Hospice Chenango Director of Volunteers and Outreach Sarah Green.

If you would like to become a volunteer with Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango, contact Sarah Green. To volunteer at the Veterans Home call their main line and ask to speak with their volunteer coordinator. Due to regulations each organization has a different vetting process for volunteers, but it is possible, and common, to be a volunteer for both organizations.

The partnership between Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango and the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford provides greater access to patient care, comfort management, and a higher degree of honor when it comes to a resident’s end-of-life wishes.

Speaking on how hospice services honor both the Veteran and their family, Bentley said, “It recognizes his service and says, hey, we’re so appreciative of what you did. It matters to us. And that’s again, that partnership. The Veterans home is already doing that. It’s another community organization saying, we recognize you, we value you, we honor you.”

NY Assemblyman Angelino announces farm grants for local communities

ALBANY – Assemblyman Joseph Angelino (R,C-Norwich) is announcing that \$1.7 million in grants is available for 2026 through the New York Farm Viability Institute for farmers with 10 years or less of farming experience.

Projects can receive up to \$200,000 and will require a 5% match. The grants can be used for the start-up, improve-

ment or expansion of a farm operation; the purchase of agricultural land and physical structures; the purchase of machinery, equipment or livestock; the construction or improvement of physical structures, including semi-permanent structures; worker or apprenticeship training; and marketing activities. More information can be found here.

“Farmers are the

backbone of our economy, and we must work to help support our new generation of farmers. That is why I am so proud to announce these grants. I want to thank the New York Farm Viability Institute for making these grants available, and I encourage all eligible farmers to apply. And as always: No Farms, No Food,” said Angelino.

A s s e m b l y m a n

Angelino represents the 121st Assembly District, which includes parts of Broome County, Delaware County, Madison County, Chenango County and Otsego County. Follow Assemblyman Angelino on Facebook here.

- Information from Office of NY Assemblyman Angelino

New Berlin Library Corner

Tax season

NEW BERLIN - As tax season approaches, the New Berlin Library is offering several resources to help community members prepare and file their taxes.

Although the library does not stock printed tax form packets, patrons can request staff to print basic federal and state tax forms, such as Form 1040. This service helps residents access essential documents they may need for filing their taxes.

The library also provides free, internet access and public computers for individuals who prefer to file their taxes online. These resources allow patrons to complete their tax returns using official government websites and other trusted online services. Staff can assist patrons with basic computer navigation, including accessing websites, downloading forms, and printing documents. However, library staff cannot assist with tax

preparation, provide tax advice, or help complete tax forms.

The New Berlin Library understands that privacy and security are important to the community, especially when dealing with tax filing. To address these issues, the library has installed privacy dividers between the public computers. Additionally, the public computers have Reboot Restore installed. This program automatically erases all download information and forgets all passwords with every restart.

In addition, printing and photocopying services are available for tax-related documents. These services are typically offered at no cost, making it easier for residents to organize and prepare their paperwork.

Library staff encourage anyone needing assistance locating or printing tax forms to visit the library and ask for help. By providing access to

technology and important documents, the New Berlin Library aims to support the community during tax season.

The New Berlin Library is holding a jellybean guessing contest. The public is invited to guess how many jellybeans are in a jar. The person who guesses the closest wins the jar of jellybeans and a goodie filled basket. If more than one person guesses correctly, the winner will be randomly drawn between the correct answers. The winner will be announced on Friday, March 27. All items in this prize basket were donated to the New Berlin Library. This contest is free and open to the public.

On March 23 the library will be a Spring Bunny Plaque adult art class. This class will teach participants to paint a stylized bunny on a wood plaque, perfect for hanging on your door to celebrate spring. Registration is required.



The Annual Spring Egg Hunt, returning to the library on March 28. Children ages 12 and younger are invited to search for colorful eggs, and special prize eggs hidden throughout the main floor of the library. Games, food and crafts are also part of this event. To register your children, reach out to the library 607.847.8564.

New Berlin Library Board will be meeting on March 25 at 6pm. These meetings are open to the public. Minutes are posted on the New Berlin Library website.

Some great new additions to the library include: We're Going on an Egg Hunt by Martha Mumford and Laura Hughes, The Flower Thief by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater, Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang, Little Blue Truck's Springtime by Alice Schertle and Jill McElmurry, barn in Spring Out to Explore on the Farm by Chambræ and Taia Morley, and the Very Hungry Caterpillar's First Spring by Eric Carle.

The New Berlin Library is located at 15 South Main Street, New Berlin. The Library is open Monday and Wednesday 10AM-8PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10AM-5PM; and Saturdays 10AM-noon. The web address is <http://libraries.4cls.org/newberlin/>. Please contact us at 607.847.8564 or like and message our Facebook page New Berlin Library and Museum (<https://www.facebook.com/newberlinlibrary.newberlinny>) with any questions.

- From the New Berlin Library

Shortcuts[®]

by jeff harris

GETTING TO KNOW GARLIC

Historians believe ancient humans began cultivating the garlic plant more than 7,000 years ago. They used garlic as both a food and as a type of medicine. Today, garlic continues to be an important flavoring that is used in dishes prepared by cooks in nearly every part of the world.

MAKING A BIG STINK
Consuming garlic can cause bad breath and body odor. This happens because sulfur-containing compounds are created as your body metabolizes the garlic. The sulfur compounds are then absorbed into your blood and released through your breath and sweat.

GARLIC BREADTH
The ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all used garlic as a spice and as medicine.

During the two world wars, garlic was used as an antiseptic to prevent infection in wounded soldiers.

A garlic clove is about 80% water.

The papery material that covers a garlic bulb and each clove is called a "tunic."

WHAT'S COOKING?
Can you help these cloves reach the sauce?

What did Archimedes say when he discovered garlic breath? You-reek-a!

WORD SEARCH
Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | A | L | L | O | T | O | N | S | P | I | C | E |
| F | L | O | W | E | R | C | L | O | V | E | C | O | O |
| F | L | A | V | O | R | T | U | N | I | C | B | O | L |
| A | L | L | I | U | M | C | R | O | P | S | L | E | E |
| G | A | R | L | I | C | C | H | I | V | E | B | O | B |
| P | L | A | N | T | G | R | O | W | E | A | T | E | A |
| U | R | A | N | I | U | M | E | L | E | M | N | T | |
| C | A | S | E | V | E | N | A | P | M | O | O | N | |
| S | H | P | O | I | N | T | T | O | F | L | I | A | |
| C | H | I | P | G | R | O | V | A | L | F | N | L | |
| C | V | C | V | P | A | P | G | A | O | E | O | P | |
| R | I | E | B | E | A | R | H | L | W | B | E | K | |
| O | B | N | V | S | O | S | L | L | E | P | O | K | |
| P | U | O | U | W | C | H | A | I | R | O | Y | B | |
| S | L | A | N | T | U | B | B | U | C | K | E | T | |
| C | B | A | N | A | N | A | S | M | A | L | L | S | |

This cartoon stinks!

What do you get when you cross garlic with a cyclops? Stink eye.

What's the best way to taste garlic? Gar-lick it.

How did the garlic feel when he got dumped by his girlfriend? Crushed.

The bulb is the most commonly used part of the garlic plant, but the leaves and flowers are also edible.

More than 24 million tonnes (26 million tons) of garlic are harvested worldwide each year. More than three-fourths of that crop is grown in China.

According to the folklore of many countries, garlic has magical powers that can be used to ward off vampires or demons.

Garlic belongs to the "Allium" group of plants, along with chives, onions, leeks, scallions and shallots.

A garlic bulb is divided into several fleshy parts called "cloves."

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Garli Quinn.

I'm definitely more of an acquired taste.