

Tompkins Weekly

Proposed Lansing barbecue restaurant under site plan review

The town board fielded an application for a site plan review for “Fittnell Barbeque,” a prospective new restaurant serving tender, smoked meats. The new culinary offering would be located at 42 Seacord Ln. in Lansing. Jacob Marnell, co-owner of the restaurant, said that his team will retrofit the existing structure on Seacord to build out the restaurant.



By Eddie Velazquez

“We have been a business for seven years, looking to establish ourselves in a physical location. We found this property and felt it fits all of our needs for providing a good establishment for our vision, where you can come enjoy a meal, relax for a bit, move on.”

Marnell, who is a design professional in the area, said that he will only be seeking small changes to the structure.

“A small cover on the kitchen on the backside is the only change to the physical building that we are doing,” he noted. Marnell said he wants to build a cover for a smoker.

Fittnell started seven years ago, catering pop-up events and other outings.

“It grew to a food truck,” he said. “The last year and a half we have operated in two different locations in downtown Ithaca: inside a brewery, and before that inside a bar. While those partnerships were nice, they also don’t fit our ultimate goal of having a place of our own, making it in our image, being able to present our food and our business in a very distinct way.”

In the last three years, Marnell said, the team has been looking to rent a space.

“This is the right location, right market,” he said. “A lot of our customer base typically lend to north northeast of Ithaca. A lot of our customer base have followed us and spent a lot of time with us in Freeville, Summerhill. There is a lot of growth around.”

Planning Board Chair Al Fiorille asked Marnell what the hours of operation would be.

“The initial goal, we’d probably ease into it,” Marnell said. “We’d start Saturday, Sunday. Our typical hours are 11 a.m. to sell out. That is determined by the crowd. We sell out on average by 4 to 5 p.m.”

Marnell added that they could tinker

See RESTAURANT on pg 10

Tompkins County 2024 year in review



Photos left and right provided. Middle photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Addressing local homelessness, discussions of raising the minimum wage, and the implementation of the county’s first Rapid Medical Response program marked a busy year for Tompkins County staff and elected officials.

From left to right: Legislature Chair Daniel Klein speaks a recent press conference to announce the county’s purchase of land on Cherry Street in Ithaca for the purpose of constructing a 100-bed homeless shelter while County Administrator Lisa Holmes looks on, the legislature passed a resolution committing the county to the exploration of establishing a local wage and allocated \$50,000 to the study of the issue, and Joe Milliman, Tompkins County EMS program manager, stands next to one of the county’s rapid medical response units.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

From minimum wage to emergency medical services, this past year saw the county tackle some challenging and complex issues. Below is a look back at some of the biggest news stories to come out of Tompkins County in 2024 – and a glimpse of what’s to come in 2025.

Grappling with local homelessness

“When you ask people, ‘What’s on your mind politically, or what the biggest issues are in our area, homelessness is what people talk about,” said Daniel Klein, Tompkins County Legislature chair. “It’s what impacts them the most.”

This past year, the county’s only permanent shelter closed after St. John’s Community Services informed the county in October that starting in November it would no longer be running the facility. In response, the county contracted with a local hotel to provide rooms for unhoused individuals.

“Like all the municipalities, we’re dealing with it the best we can,” Klein said of the homelessness issue. “It is the most difficult issue, in my opinion, because no one really knows what to do. It’s obvious we need more housing, but that’s easier said than done. And then, when we find the housing, we find that it doesn’t solve everything we thought it would. When you look at the is-

sues at Asteri or Arthaus, it’s not as easy to solve as everyone thought it was. It doesn’t solve all the problems. It creates some new problems, and it’s clear this issue is more than just about providing four walls and a roof.”

“Broadband – for me and my constituents – it is the thing I hear about the most, on average once a week ... So I’m hoping 2025 finally solves the problem.”

DANIEL KLEIN Chair, Tompkins County Legislature

The county is charged with providing both long-term shelter and Code Blue shelter, which is an immediate-access emergency shelter during the cold winter months.

In the past, rooms at the Econo Lodge across from the Cayuga Shopping Mall off Triphammer Road served as Code Blue shelter for those in need, but when the Econo Lodge went into bankruptcy, county officials decided to repurpose a county-owned former bank, located at 300 N. Tioga St. in Ithaca, as a temporary solution for 2024-2025. The county plans to tear down the former bank in order to build a new Tompkins County Center of Government.

A new 100-bed homeless shelter will be constructed on property on

Cherry Street that was recently purchased by the county.

“It’s worth pointing out that we spend all this time on shelters, and every once in a while someone reminds us this is just a little piece of the puzzle,” Klein said. “But it is a critical piece, and the piece we’ve been specifically tasked with.”

The county has hired a consultant for the new permanent shelter on Cherry Street, and Klein said that he is confident that the planning stages of the project will progress in 2025.

“A lot of pieces of it are in place, so hopefully it will all come together and move the project forward significantly,” Klein said.

Raising the minimum wage?

In 2024, there was discussion of raising Tompkins County’s minimum wage to an amount that is higher than the current statewide minimum wage of \$15 an hour. While there was much debate about how much the wage would be raised and potential unintended consequences, in August the legislature passed a resolution committing the county to the exploration of establishing a local wage and allocated \$50,000 to the study of the issue.

“There are people interested in moving this forward,” Klein said. “We set aside \$50,000, but what we did not agree to do is to put that on a timeline. ... We didn’t actually authorize the money to be spent yet, and there is a chance there will be

See REVIEW on pg 11



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Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

What is your New Year's resolution?



Read more.
Dan, Ithaca



To get better at my Medieval combat.
Matt, Freeville



To not make any New Year's resolutions.
Skip, Etna



Saving money better.
Ari, Groton



Making better use of vacation days.
Will, Alden

Ithaca Coffee Company closing its Triphammer location, opening cafe downtown

Ithaca Coffee Company (ICC) is moving its espresso bar and coffee retail business to its roasting location — 702 Hancock St., Ithaca — and closing its Triphammer Marketplace location very soon.



By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

“It’s business as usual through the end of 2024, and the Triphammer espresso bar will remain open in January and February 2025 while we build out our Hancock space,” stated a press release sent out by ICC last week.

“I think it’s going to give us the visibility to grow our brand.”

**Julie Crowley, Co-owner
ITHACA COFFEE COMPANY**

ICC obtained its full liquor license last year so that The Roost cocktail bar could serve more than just wine and beer. The Roost will be open until mid-January, and there will be a “last call” celebration there.

“We want to thank our loyal customers for 20 years at Triphammer Marketplace,” said the press release. “During that time, we’ve put our heart and soul into the business, growing and developing our business to meet customer expectations. And while we will



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Julie Crowley, who owns Ithaca Coffee Company with Lisa Kerslake, at the Triphammer Marketplace location that is set to close within the next two months with plans to relocate to Hancock Street in Ithaca, where the company currently roasts its coffee and bakes its baked goods.

disappoint some loyal customers, we’ve decided it’s time to step back, and focus on coffee and our location at 702 Hancock.”

The company plans to renovate the Hancock Street space, which it owns, to add an espresso bar and the ability to provide fresh roasted coffee on site.

The site will also host a “pop-up” version of its Holiday Marketplace at the Hancock location next year and will keep the public posted about that development on its website.

ICC was established 20 years ago in

See COFFEE on pg 5

Melissa Holland tells the story of the New Year's Eve towers lights at Ithaca College

A couple of times a year, my stepfather, Ted Dean, would bring work home to plan an event for his job at Ithaca College. Ted



By Marjorie Olds
as told by
Melissa Holland

planned the setup of graduation, concerts, and the change of the Tower lights at midnight on New Year's Eve. After Thanksgiving, Ted would take over the dining room table for his temporary office/planning board. He had multiple drawings for the Towers, note paper, folders, pencils, ruler, yellow highlighters, big erasers, reading glasses and his cigarettes. Ted would work weeks to plan how to best switch the numbers on the Towers using windows, curtains, and desk lamps. The current year, like the '79' of 1979, was created by moving desk lamps lit in windows with carefully arranged curtains, so that the lights that shined out created part of the huge numbers sparkling on the building to celebrate the new year. Back then, there was no technology to plan or carry out the simultaneous switch of numbers at midnight. It was all done by people manipulating simple items in rooms.

The first year I got to help was New Year's Eve, December 31, 1979, when I was 10 years old. Both Towers had the numbers '7' and '9' lit up for the year, 1979, from inside each building. At midnight, the numbers on the Towers had to be switched from '79' to '80'. Many people were needed to handle the multiple floors in both buildings. Ted would prepare at home and at the



Photo provided

Pat and Ted Dean with Dean Grandchildren at Pat's 50th birthday party in 1994.

office, reviewing previous years' plans, to decide which rooms would be used and what specific curtain in the selected room to open/close, or which lamp positioned in the middle of selected windows needed to be turned on/off. He and his staff also figured out how many people would need to be on a particular floor of the Tower to make the transition run smoothly.

The goal was to make the people in Ithaca think it was a flawless automatic process. That once midnight hit and the New

Year began, the light instantly changed to the new year. So, the change had to happen quickly, as if by a master switch; when in reality, it took a whole team of volunteers running from room to room at the same time, to make it look like someone flipped a switch.

We left our New Year's Eve party around 11:30 p.m. and drove to the IC Towers. At midnight, the fire alarm (our signal)

See HOLLAND on pg 8

Newfield CSD’s initiative for healthier food continues to roll on

Through its food service department, the Newfield Central School District (CSD) continues to strive to serve healthier foods in its cafeterias during the 2024-25 school year.



By Kevin L. Smith

The goals, according to Newfield CSD food program coordinator Rosemarie Hanson, are to “move away from processed foods, decrease foods with high sugar content, increase New York state ingredients in the menu and involve high school students in menu planning.”

Newfield is partnering with the Park Foundation’s Chef Ann Foundation, an organization that is “dedicated to promoting whole-ingredient, scratch-cooking in schools,” according to a description on its website.

As noted on the website, scratch cooking “enables schools to serve the healthiest, tastiest meals so that kids are well-nourished and ready to learn.”

Hanson provided a presentation on the district’s progress at the Newfield Board of Education meeting on Dec. 5.

Based on strategic planning, New-

field CSD set its goals in August, 2024. In terms of food, the district has accomplished the following:

- Completed monthly inventory
- Participated in New York Thursdays at least twice a month
- Utilized mosaic by printing recipes, production records and entering production records
- Decreased chocolate milk consumption
- Participated in farm-to-school institute work

“[Our goal is to] move away from processed foods, decrease foods with high sugar content, increase New York state ingredients in the menu and involve high school students in menu planning.”

ROSEMARIE HANSON

Food Program Coordinator, Newfield Central School District

Regarding facilities, the district has achieved its goal of transitioning food production to the elementary school. The district, however, still hopes to

complete monthly food safety audits at each building, Hanson said.

The district still looks to reach a handful of goals, including the following:

Finances

- Evaluate monthly financials including food costs, MPLH, ADP and revenue
- Update a monthly financial spreadsheet

Human Resources

- Implement weekly standing meetings per kitchen
- Develop and host culinary training for all staff

Marketing

- Post on social media at least once a month
- Develop and implement an annual marketing plan and include monthly highlights

With primary goals in mind, Newfield CSD has the following additional goals:

- Continue to transition away from highly processed foods and increase scratch cooking with high-quality ingredients
- Revamp menu and purchasing to achieve the 30% incentive from the state



Photo provided

In 2009, Chef Ann founded the Chef Ann Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping schools take action so that every child has daily access to fresh, healthy food.

- Increase participation and satisfaction in the high school by involving students

See FOOD on pg 11

Groton’s Gary Watrous reflects on time spent in Vietnam - then and now

As the year comes to a close, Gary Watrous is reflecting on a different sort of closure — his trip to Vietnam, where he served in the U.S. Army nearly 56 years ago. Gary and his wife, Kathy, joined Charlie and Janet Lieb and Peter and Christine Meloro on a 15-day quest for closure on the time Gary, Charlie and Peter had spent there.



By Linda Competillo

Gary, Charlie and Peter had spent there.

“Charlie talked about going back for years, but I had no interest in it,” Gary said. “Actually, neither of us really wanted to, but finally Charlie made a plan and invited us and the Meloros to

go, so we went.”

The three “comrades in arms” have remained in contact through the years and had seen one another periodically at reunions. Most interesting, though, is that they rarely saw one another while in Vietnam but became close via radio communication.

“I was 19 when I went over [to Vietnam], and I was the youngest in our area, so they gave me the [radio] call name Teenager,” Gary explained. “Charlie’s call name was Tuna, and we only knew one another by those names for most of the time we were over there because radio was the only communication we had.”

Gary and Charlie each led a platoon but were out in the jungle miles away

from one another. Peter was the company clerk, described by Gary as their “Radar O’Reilly from M.A.S.H.” They rarely, if ever, saw one another until the last two months of Gary’s tour of duty.

“Charlie and I spent every day together those last two months at a fire base, which is an area that had a perimeter on a hilltop that would make it difficult for the enemy to reach,” Gary explained. “That’s when we became good friends.”

And so, the friends reunited in this very special way as they visited the country they’d actually seen very little of when they were there previously. Gary said that he never saw a civilian or a village or a road the whole time because they were always in the jungle, so everything he saw on the recent trip was brand new to him.



Photo provided

Kathy (left) and Gary Watrous cruised on the Mekong River in Vietnam during their memorable trip to the land where Gary served in the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army.

on the guided tour that Charlie had arranged.

Some of the other cities they toured were Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City. Gary said that they tried to get the tour guide to take them to “Ripcord,” the hilltop where he and Charlie had spent their last two months in Vietnam together, and where Gary had been wounded, but they were told that it was too overgrown to even find.

“We went all over in every mode of transportation there was,” Kathy said. “We traveled by vans, rickshaws and Vespas, which were electric scooters, and fishing boats, which were baskets made by the Vietnamese women. In

See WATROUS on pg 11

TompkinsWeekly

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Vizella Media is located at 3100 N. Triphammer Road, Suite 100 Lansing, NY 14882
Phone is (607) 533-0057

New culvert in Ulysses to reduce erosion, improve watershed connectivity

The town of Ulysses is part of a list of municipalities across New York that recently received state funding to improve parks, historic properties and heritage areas.



By Eddie Velazquez

The announcement from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) came on Dec. 23, when the state agency declared it had allocated \$28 million to go toward municipal matters and projects related to recreation and preservation.

For Ulysses, this means receiving a grant of slightly more than half a million dollars to improve a culvert on Garrett Road.

Ulysses Town Supervisor Katelin Olson said the town has been looking to secure money for infrastructure, and this \$520,352 award from OPRHP is only one grant in a series of funding streams the town has received in the past two years.

“I have prioritized investing in replacing or repairing aging infrastructure, and this wonderful award for Garrett Road is part of the approximately \$2.8 million Ulysses has received in the last two years to address culvert and bridge deficiencies,” Olson told *Tompkins Weekly* in an email. “I look forward to undertaking this important project and am grateful to New York state for the funds.” The project description, according to OPRHP, states the following: “The town of Ulysses will replace an undersized culvert on Garrett Road with a new arch culvert with a natural channel bottom. The new culvert will reduce erosion, stabilize the streambank, and improve aquatic connectivity in the Cayuga Lake watershed.”

The \$28 million in funds are part of the state’s Environmental Protection Fund, an initiative that is in its 14th round of funding through the respective Regional Economic Development Councils that help municipalities across the state access state money. Tompkins County is part of the Southern Tier Regional Econom-

ic Development Council (STREDC).

These grants help local governments and not-for-profits improve parks, historic properties and heritage areas, according to a press release from OPRHP.

“...This wonderful award for Garrett Road is part of the approximately \$2.8 million Ulysses has received in the last two years to address culvert and bridge deficiencies.”

KATELIN OLSON
Supervisor, Town of Ulysses

“The fourteenth round of REDC grants will fund transformative recreation and historic preservation projects in 38 counties, strengthening the fabric of daily life for New Yorkers and driving investment and growth,” OPRHP Commissioner Pro Tempore Randy Simons said in a press release. “Our agency concludes its centennial year by working with the Regional Economic Development Councils to help communities achieve their goals and realize a brighter future for New York state.”

The REDC process continues to support and empower regional stakeholders in developing strategic plans and funding priorities that meet local economic needs, the press release states. Regional councils reviewed projects from this program and provided scores that reflect how well a project aligns with a region’s goals and strategies. Applicants utilized New York’s consolidated funding application, the state’s single application for state resources, which includes programs for numerous agencies. The application is designed to provide expedited and streamlined access to a combined pool of grant funds and tax credits from dozens of existing programs.

“Investing in regional projects that offer innovative, long-term solutions is vital to addressing statewide challenges and creating opportunities that benefit all New Yorkers,” Empire State Development President, CEO



Photo by Joe Scaglione

The view of Cayuga Lake looking from Taughannock Gorge in Trumansburg. Ulysses recently received a grant of slightly more than half a million dollars to improve a culvert on Garrett Road. The project is expected to reduce erosion, stabilize the streambank, and improve aquatic connectivity in the Cayuga Lake watershed.

and Commissioner Hope Knight said in the press release. “The Regional Economic Development Councils know their communities’ needs best, and their track record of fostering collaboration and forward-thinking ideas at the local level are essential towards strengthening our state’s future.”

The REDC initiative is a key component of the state’s approach to state investment and economic development, state officials said in the press release. In 2011, 10 regional councils were established to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government and nongovernmental organizations. The regional councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom-up approach and establishing a competitive process for state resources, officials said in

the press release.

Ulysses Connection appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Eddie Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter) [@ezvelazquez](https://twitter.com/ezvelazquez).

In brief:

The Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts (TCFA) will host its “Can Give Concert” to benefit the Trumansburg Food Pantry on Jan. 26 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The show will take place at the Ulysses Philomathic Library.

“Lynn Wiles, George Cook and friends will be performing a live mix of jazz, folk and blues tunes. Drop in and catch some live music,” TCFA officials wrote in an online post promoting the event. “Drop off canned/dry goods for the Food Pantry! Admission is free, but please bring cans/dry goods to donate (no minimum quantity). Personal hygiene and cleaning items are also welcome, but no clothes.”

COFFEE

Continued from pg 3

Triphammer Marketplace. The company roasted coffee in the back of the shop until 2013, when the Hancock Street building was purchased for that purpose.

Another ICC location, in the Gateway Commons building in Ithaca’s downtown, opened in 2007 and closed in 2020.

The Triphammer location was taking up too much time with not enough payoff, said Julie Crowley, who owns Ithaca Coffee Company with Lisa Kerslake. Crowley also owns Triphammer Wines and Spirits, a family-owned business which has operated in Ithaca since

1963.

“It’s just a totally different market, post-COVID,” Crowley explained. “It is a business that requires owners to be there and be active, so if we could find some young people with energy [to buy it], it’s a great location.”

Crowley said that she has also noticed a change in clientele since the pandemic. “There are more people working at home,” she said. “Less happy hours. It’s stuff like that that compounds.”

There is daily foot traffic from the customers who frequent the espresso bar, so the regular customer base already exists in the location, Crowley pointed out, though she added that she hopes her loyal customers will follow ICC to the new Hancock Street location.

“We want to invest in our own prop-

erty,” Crowley said, adding that the espresso bar will be open from around 7 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. “We’d be adding to a depressed area — adding some positive activity.”

She added she is hopeful that potential plans to build an intersection at Route 13 and Fifth Street — a project that has been under discussion for years — will come to fruition eventually and give drivers easier access.

The new café location will house the coffee-roasting operation, the kitchen for the baked goods and a seating area. She said they plan to serve breakfast and lunch sandwiches. Crowley said that renovating this location will allow the company to bring customers in for tours so they can see how the coffee is roasted.

“It’s a nice space people will want to frequent for our excellent coffee and will be a comfortable space,” she said.

“I think it’s going to give us the visibility to grow our brand,” she added. “I think we could expand regionally with packaged coffee or espresso bars.”

Customers can always buy coffee online with the option to pick up their order at the Hancock location. Packaged coffee is currently available at Wegmans, P&C Fresh and Doordash.

Crowley is happy to talk to anyone who may be interested in the retail operation at Triphammer. “We have a great location, next to Triphammer Wines & Spirits, and a loyal customer base,” she said. “There’s opportunity there for someone that wants to put in the energy and time to take it to the next level.”

Cross to challenge Murphy in Dryden village mayoral bid

Trevor Cross has lived in Tompkins County for more than five years.

In the short time that he has lived in the area, he's noticed that there needs to be more awareness about housing.

"A few years ago, it occurred to me how tenuous housing really is," Cross said.

It's what led Cross to join the tenants' union in Ithaca, spread tenant advocacy and even help fellow tenants handle a rent collection dispute with a landlord.

"[That dispute] was a pretty cut-and-dry case," Cross said.

When others saw and heard what Cross does for people, they encouraged him to run for mayor in the village of Dryden. Cross, who's lived in the village for over a year, has been told he's a "very vocal person."

"Dozens of people have come to me about different things. I've been told I'm very approachable," Cross said.

Cross will run as a Democrat. Before being placed on the ballot for the village mayoral election on March 18, Cross will go up against incumbent mayor Mike Murphy in a special Democratic caucus near the end of January.

Murphy intends to run for a fifth and final term in the spring. Cross listened to the pleas of individuals wanting him to run for mayor, so he decided to take action.

"It's sort of shocking to me. I never thought I'd find myself in this endeavor," Cross said.

Cross graduated from the now-defunct Cabrini University in 2014. He worked at the University of the Sciences of Philadelphia, also defunct, for three years as a lab tech before he became a graduate student at Cornell University.

As a grad student at Cornell's College

of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cross focused on microbiology and endobiotic stress responses in certain opportunistic pathogens.

Cross is currently a postdoctoral associate at the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell. While he loves working with life sciences, Cross is looking to shake things up professionally.

"A calling is such a strong term, but I do feel like I'm being called to do something."

TREVOR CROSS

Democratic Mayoral Candidate, Village of Dryden

"This is sort of a sign," Cross said. "The last several years I've really shown interest in being a [public servant]. A calling is such a strong term, but I do feel like I'm being called to do something."

Cross finds the village "charming, delightful and incredibly nice." Some day, he could make the village his permanent home, especially since he's moved five times in the previous seven years.

For most of his life, Cross has been passionate about housing awareness and affordable housing. Cross, living in a variety of different places, was reminded of his upbringing with his mom when they would move from one place to another.

"That led to me opening my eyes on how to deal with [housing] at so many different levels," Cross said, noting that housing is a "personal motivation."

Cross labeled his views on housing as "affordable housing and beyond." He is preparing to ask questions and get answers on the topics that people want to know. "The fact that housing is really seen as a commodity and a very for-profit industry for such a basic human need really activates me," Cross said. "It's one

thing I think about every day now."

Cross noted that "it'd be a dream" if the village could continue to expand on housing projects like, for example, the Dryden House for Women or Ezra Village.

Other than housing, Cross would like to make the village website be more efficient with public notices, forms and more. He also wants meeting agendas available online a day or so before the scheduled session.

"These are some things I want to tighten up," Cross said, noting a social media presence and possible monthly meet-and-greets.

Cross is ready for competition with Murphy, while also being satisfied with the best outcome. Cross also noted that, depending on the result, he hopes for continual engagement and feedback from people.

"It's people's opinions that's making me realize that this is possible — and ideally helpful," Cross said. "In the spirit of healthy democracy, I think having [competition] at these levels is good in general. I'm perfect with whatever the result is."

Dryden Dispatch appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com.

In brief:
'Coffee with the Superintendent' is Jan. 13

Dryden Central School District (DCSD) superintendent Josh Bacigalupi will host "Coffee with the Superintendent" on Jan. 13 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Dunkin' Donuts at 36 North St. in the village of Dryden.

The event is an opportunity to meet and have a conversation with the district superintendent.

For information, contact DCSD at 607-844-8694.

Yoga for Life held every Wednesday in Freeville



Photo provided

Trevor Cross, democratic challenger for the office of Village of Dryden mayor, is a grad student at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Village of Freeville resident Michelle Dardia hosts a Yoga for Life session every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Freeville United Methodist Church at 37 Main St.

The drop-in fee for the session is \$10. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Some experience is helpful but not required, as the sessions are committed to being accessible.

Variations and modifications are offered, and extra mats and blocks will be available at each session.

For information or questions, contact Dardia at dollysdaughter@hotmail.com or 607-279-4785.

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES

Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:
Eleanor Angers	90	Danby, NY	Dec-27	CNY Cremation Service
John Page	34	-	Dec-26	CNY Cremation Service
Phyllis Anne Hauck	87	Cortland, NY	Dec-24	Perkins Funeral Home
Dorothy Irene Hall	91	Groton, NY	Dec-24	CNY Cremation Service
Toshiko Matsumura Toland	96	Ithaca, NY	Dec-24	Lansing Funeral Home
Robert Raymond Mancini	99	Ithaca, NY	Dec-24	Bangs Funeral Home
Michael C. Mosher	60	Ithaca, NY	Dec-23	Bangs Funeral Home
Donald T. Bell Jr.	68	McGraw, NY	Dec-23	Perkins Funeral Home
Janice Marie Kottke	83	Ithaca, NY	Dec-20	Bangs Funeral Home
Ethel Carr	95	Groton, NY	Dec-20	Zirbel Funeral Home
Jaime Alan Zappala	65	Ithaca, NY	Dec-19	Perkins Funeral Home
Carmen Ciaschi	63	Ithaca, NY	Dec-19	Bangs Funeral Home
Bonnie Bun Bun Whittaker	81	Brooktondale, NY	Dec-19	Perkins Funeral Home
Lynnette Lux	62	Elmira, NY	Dec-18	Bangs Funeral Home
Fallie L. Padwa	69	Endicott, NY	Dec-17	Lansing Funeral Home
Richard O. Wagner	75	Bath, NY	Dec-17	Perkins Funeral Home
Carol Caward	77	Cortland, NY	Dec-17	Perkins Funeral Home
Charles Frank Corbett	71	Groton, NY	Dec-16	Bangs Funeral Home

Placing an Obituary with Tompkins Weekly

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May love and happiness come into your home during this time of sharing.



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Physical therapist gives presentation about frailty

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

When thinking about medical conditions that can affect our ability to thrive as we age, frailty often flies under the radar.

“Frailty doesn’t get the attention it deserves,” said Anne Reilley, physical therapist, who gave a presentation about this prevalent but often underdiagnosed ailment at the Aging Services Network meeting Dec. 13 at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging.

Physical frailty is a medical syndrome with multiple causes and contributors that is characterized by diminished strength, endurance, and reduced physiologic function that increases an individual’s vulnerability for developing increased dependency and/or death, according to the National Institutes of Health.

It is a clinical syndrome characterized by decreased reserves resulting in increased vulnerability to adverse outcomes when exposed to stressors as well as weakness, slowness, low energy, increased vulnerability, comorbidity and poor health outcomes.

She said that people can think of frailty in terms of how much gas they have in the tank. Those who can just barely get through the day and complete the necessary tasks without any energy left over to do anything else are probably already experiencing the effects of frailty, she said.

The more gas one has in the tank, the more they are able to tap into that reserve in the case of a medical event. Reilley said one of the reasons why it is important to pay at-

tention to frailty and its progression is because it is a contributing factor in a patient’s prognosis coming out

“On a positive note, there is good research supporting catching it early and seeing a change.”

ANNE REILLEY
Physical Therapist, Reilley Physical Therapy

of surgery. In 80% of individuals, weight loss is generally the tipping point for frailty, and by then it may be too late to reverse it.

Hospital stays are critical inflection points to frailty. Reilley cited a study that found a 10-day hospital stay in older adults of a mean age of 67 years resulted in a 2.2-pound loss of lower limb lean tissue mass.

Frailty is a significant problem for older adults as it can lead to bone fractures, delirium, weight loss, falls, recurrent hospital admissions, malnutrition and increased health care costs. Rates of frailty occurrence are higher in men than women, and the condition is increasing in more recent generations, Reilley said. The musculoskeletal system is the entry pathway to frailty, and as they age, people typically see a 3-8% reduction in muscle mass each decade, caused by mechanical factors.

People also typically see 5-10% strength loss each decade before age 70 and 10% strength loss each decade after 70.

There is a greater loss of power and strength than endurance, but

physical activity can slow this loss down by 50%.

The good news is that power and strength training can prevent or slow the progression of frailty considerably. Progressive resistance exercise and balance training are some of the best physical activity interventions.

Often older people do a lot of walking or other low-resistance activities for long periods of time. This is not necessarily beneficial for those attempting to prevent, slow the progression of, or reverse frailty.

“I think it’s just important to highlight how much change can happen with the right amount of exercise,” Reilley said. “If you’re exercising hard enough, a few days a week gives more benefit than trying to do a lot of not the right stuff.”

“People sometimes feel overwhelmed because they’re exercising all the time, but it’s not hard enough resistance or moving fast enough, and they’re doing a high number of things that they don’t need to be doing,” she added. “On a positive note, there is good research supporting catching it early and seeing a change.”

Recommended exercises include moderate-intensity aerobic activity, which is anything that gets your heart beating at faster counts, for at least 150 minutes per week, and muscle-strengthening activity that makes the patient work harder than usual, at least two days a week.

In summary, frailty should be considered early on in adulthood when subtle changes in activity, energy and vigor can be identified and discussed prior to onset of frailty, Reil-



Photo provided
Anne Reilley, physical therapist, gave a presentation about frailty at the Aging Services Network meeting Dec. 13 at the Tompkins County Office for the Aging.

ley said.

Early identification of frailty is critical to promote early interventions and prevent further decline and maximize possibility of reversibility. Annual assessments of frailty are needed, and exercise interventions that are high intensity and focus on strength and power training have potential to prevent, slow progression of and reverse frailty.

“The first thing,” Reilley said, “would be to talk to a primary medical care provider.”

Let’s Elect a Pro-ERA Congress in 2026

Editor’s note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of author Linda Hoffmann and are not representative of the thoughts or opinions of Tompkins Weekly.



By Linda Hoffmann
As the 118th Congress concludes this week, it’s tempting to brood over the business left undone by this least-productive class in congressional history. For women of my generation, it’s been yet another session in which Congress failed to make progress on adding the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the United States Constitution.

Originally proposed in 1923, the ERA in its current form was sent to the states for ratification in 1972, with a deadline extended to 1982. It was ratified by the required 38 states, but three of the states did so after the deadline, and five states subsequently rescinded ratification. The status of the amendment has been the subject of litigation ever since.

In 2024, the pro-ERA organization Sign4ERA promoted a pe-

tition calling on both houses of Congress to recognize the ERA as ratified, and eliminate the timeline. (You may remember a visit from the Sign4ERA bus, which came to Ithaca in September.) The petition won support from all 214 House Democrats. We only needed support from four Republicans to bring the petition to the floor for a vote.

But we couldn’t get them. At the close of the first quarter of the 21st century, the Republican congressional caucus stood united against gender equality.

We, the voters, must hold them accountable in the 2026 midterm elections.

In recent weeks there were calls for President Biden to order the National Archivist to certify and publish the ERA in the Constitution. This yearning for a decisive stroke is understandable. But former Rep. Carol Maloney, who spent 30 years trying to push the ERA through the House, cautioned that this path is fraught with risk.

“President Biden has no role in this amending process,” Maloney recently wrote. “His inter-

vention could set off a chain reaction, handing ERA opponents an opportunity to challenge the amendment in court. A judicial gauntlet with Trump-appointed judges risks obliterating decades of progress, forcing us to begin again.” Starting over would mean winning another two-thirds vote in the House and Senate, and ratification by three-fourths of state legislatures.

Former President Biden has repeatedly expressed support for the ERA, saying in a 2022 statement that, “We must recognize the clear will of the American people and definitively enshrine the principle of gender equality in the Constitution. It is long past time that we put all doubt to rest.”

He added that, legally, “there is nothing standing in Congress’ way from doing so.”

“Congressional actions are the only viable route to affirming the ERA is part of the Constitution,” Maloney writes. “Article V of the Constitution is clear: the power to amend lies solely with Congress and the states. It is Congress that must act to repeal the time limit and recognize the ERA’s ratifi-

cation by 38 state legislatures. The time for half-measures has passed.”

Fixating on half-measures also provides cover for the real obstructionists. Republican leaders and their extremist, anti-woman followers have blocked the ERA effort for more than a century. It is time to call them out.

We are grateful to everyone who worked on Sign4ERA over this past year. Now the only way forward is through the voting booth. We must elect enough ERA supporters to Congress to ensure the amendment is recognized, published and shielded from judicial challenge.

If you can dedicate a few hours each week or month to the cause, send an email to team@sign4ERA.org, and become an ERA Champion. Sign4ERA will get right back to you with action steps you can begin taking immediately.

Let’s start now to lay the groundwork for enshrining equality in our Constitution. It’s a legacy no court can overturn.

Linda Hoffmann is Chair of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee.

HOLLAND

Continued from pg 3

would activate, and we had to go to the assigned rooms on our floor and make the lamp and/or curtain adjustment needed, then move to the next room. Even though Ted and the staff had advised us volunteers what needed to be done, on NYE they reminded us of our assignments. And as we were heading out to our first room assignment, Ted reminded us “not to leave the dorm room doors open, to avoid the hallway lights shining into the darkened rooms!

My sister and I were assigned to work with our Mom in 1979. Mom had done the switch before, so she was our guide. We had one floor and Mommy assigned us the room to which we would each run to complete the task.

I remember I was nervous. I did not want to let my stepfather down by messing up the task he had assigned us. I am not the fastest person. Mommy assured me we would do fine. “Just remember to try to move fast, and don’t let the hall light inside be seen out the window.” We stood at the end of the hall waiting for the alarm and remembering to breathe.

After more than 40 years I cannot

remember what my exact task was, but I suspect it was unplugging or plugging in a lamp. Something easy for my first assignment. We were escorted to the floors we were assigned to cover. Ted and his staff had unlocked the doors we would need to access. After the switch, we would wait for them to return, relock the doors and escort us back downstairs to the parking lot.

Ted assured us all we did a great job. Once we all gathered together in the parking lot, we could finally wish each other Happy New Year, then return back home to our New Year’s Eve party and guests.

I helped switch the lights for a few more years. The last year I helped was December 31, 1985. We only had to switch the ‘5’ to the ‘6’, so not as many people were needed. I partnered with my cousin, Kathy Love, that year.

Ted let us know we did a good job every time we helped. I would also ask the kids at school that knew I did this odd and magical New Year’s Eve custom, if they saw the changing of the year on IC’s tower. They always gave positive feedback. It was fun, but it was very nerve wracking. Nice to be part of something the town loves, but I didn’t want to be the

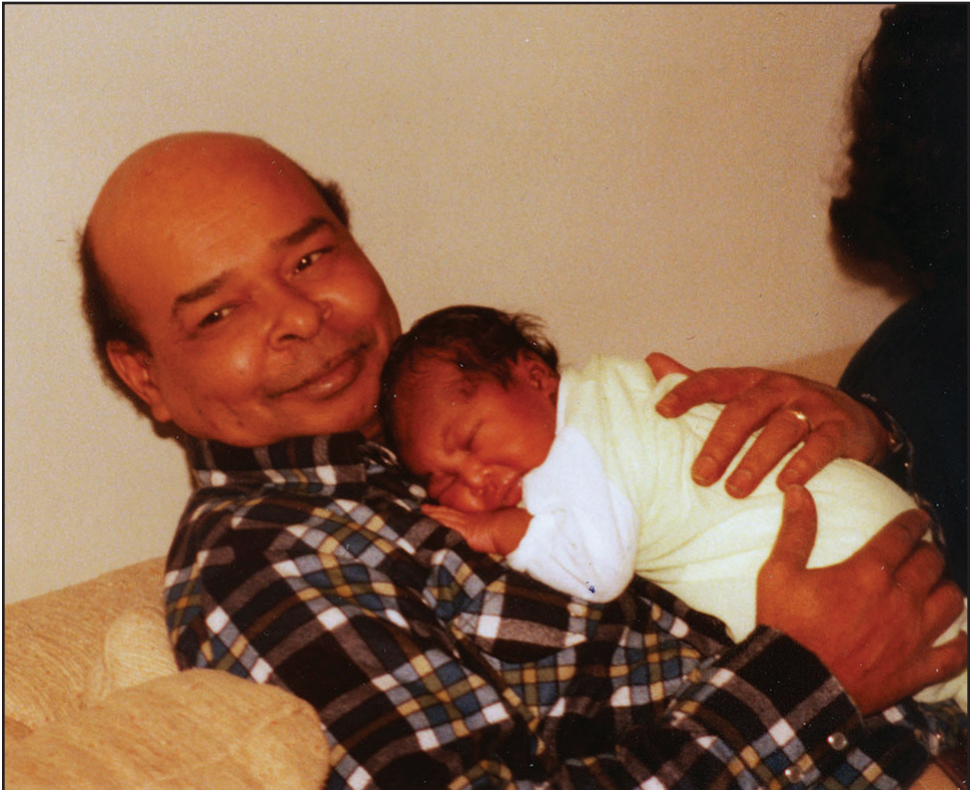


Photo provided

Grandpa Ted Dean with baby Yolanda Lewis in 1981.

one who messed it all up.

My stepfather worked on the event until 1987 or 1988, when he had to leave his job, due to medical issues. For a short

time, thanks to my stepfather, my family got to be a part of something that was and still remains, a unique and beloved Ithaca tradition.

United Airlines to launch direct service between Ithaca Tompkins International Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport

Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (ITH) is thrilled to announce the return of direct flights to Washington

Dulles International Airport (IAD) starting March 30. United Airlines will offer twice-daily service on 50-seat jets,

perfectly timed to allow travelers seamless same-day trips to Washington, DC, and connections to hundreds of global destinations through United’s growing hub at Dulles. A third daily flight is planned to be added in August 2025, further enhancing connectivity for the region.

The reintroduction of this key route marks the first direct service to Washington, DC since 2022. Travelers can now experience greater convenience, with Dulles International Airport’s recently opened Metro rail line providing quick and affordable transportation to downtown Washington, DC.

“Tompkins County may be centrally isolated, but we want and need to be connected to the world. Having a direct flight to Washington, DC will provide economic benefit and improved travel options for Tompkins County and for our region. I believe these flights will be very popular,” said Dan Klein, Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature. United Airlines operates 250 daily flights from Dulles and will expand to 280 daily flights by April 2025, providing unparalleled domestic and international connectivity. “We’re thrilled that ITH will be offering these new direct flights to Washington, DC, providing travelers from Tompkins County and surrounding areas with greater options for connectivity and convenience,” said Lisa Holmes, County Administrator.

Flight Highlights:

- Route: Twice-daily service between Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (ITH) and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) beginning March 30, 2025. Third-daily flight beginning August 2025.
- Aircraft: 50-seat regional jets operated by United Airlines.
- Connections: Convenient access to United’s growing domestic and international network, including over 280 daily flights by April 2025.

“We are excited that Ithaca marks the 15th new domestic destination announced for Washington Dulles this year. IAD is becoming the best connecting airport on the east coast and this twice-daily service provides Central New York travelers with seamless access to both our nation’s capital and United’s robust global network,” said Ben Sanchez, United Airlines Managing Director of Domestic Planning.

Travelers flying into Dulles will also enjoy the new Silver Line Metro rail service, which opened in 2023. The Metro station, conveniently located inside the airport’s departure hall, allows passengers to reach downtown DC in under an hour, with trains departing every five minutes.

“We are excited to welcome United Airlines’ direct service to Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). These new flights will offer our travelers more consistent and convenient connections to the nation’s capital and United’s extensive global network. This route is a significant step forward in enhancing connectivity for our community,” said Roxan Noble, Director of Ithaca Tompkins International Airport. “Restoring United Airlines service to Washington, DC provides convenient connections for the most frequently traveled destinations in the United States and over 105 international connections. Thanks to the dedicated staff at ITH, United’s new service will not only increase connectivity for local travelers, but also increase revenue to the airport, which like many other regional airports, have struggled to regain market share post-Pandemic,” added Heather McDaniel, President of Ithaca Area Economic Development.

Washington Dulles International Airport serves as a vital gateway to the world, offering direct flights to over a dozen world capitals, including Rome, Barcelona, Paris, Dublin, Mexico City, and Tokyo.

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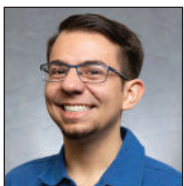
Tompkins Weekly SPORTS



KEY HIGH SCHOOL MATCHUPS: • 1/3 Girls Basketball: Dryden @ Trumansburg
• 1/3 Boys Hockey: Ithaca @ Cicero-North Syracuse • 1/7 Girls Basketball: Groton @ Marathon

Newfield athletics inducts first Hall of Fame class in 14 years

After a 14-year hiatus, the Newfield Athletics Hall of Fame has some new company.



By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

On December 20, the school held the induction ceremony for the Class of 2024 during halftime of the girls basketball team's game against Deposit-Hancock. When Hank Neubert took over as Newfield's athletic director in 2023, one of the big things on his mind was to resurrect the Hall of Fame and honor the many people who have made athletics in the town so strong.

"Athletics here in Newfield is very important," Neubert said. "With everything going on through the years, the Hall of Fame went away for one at one reason or another. When I got the job, I really wanted to bring it back... We've had a lot of distinguished student-athletes, teams and coaches. What we're doing with this first class is we're getting in three great former student-athletes, we're getting an entire team, and then two of our coaches who are still coaching with us but just so vitally important to our entire community, as well as our athletics and the district."

The two coaches that were recognized have been at Newfield for decades and are still heavily involved. Ricky Stewart has been a pillar of the community for so long, mainly known for being the longtime assistant coach of the boys basketball team and as the head coach of the track and field team. But that doesn't paint the entire picture of the countless number of hours he's put in volunteering for the students and the community.

"The first line of Ricky's plaque reads, 'A true supporter of the entire

Newfield community,'" Neubert said. "When I put this together and wanted that to be the first line, it epitomizes what this gentleman is. We see he's on the sidelines with our football. He's there on the sidelines with our basketball and he coaches track and field for us. He is a figure. He is a dominant force in our community. Whether it be with the musicals or the dramas, he is involved in everything, as well as being a great coach."

The other coach being honored is David Green. Not only has he taught physical education in the district for over three decades, he's coached multiple sports, including track and field and boys and girls soccer.

"When kids look at that plaque and they see that bottom line 'National Honor Society,' that's something to shoot for."

HANK NEUBERT

Athletic Director, Newfield Central School District

"Coach Green taught here for over 30 years, coached here for 35-plus years," Neubert said. "He started here in 1991 and he's still coaching our modified track here. His wife was also a great teacher here, so we're excited to have him here. He also coached our varsity girls and boys track, as well as every single level of our track team. [He's] just an all-around great guy."

The 1985-86 boys basketball team is credited for sparking the town's passion for the sport. Led by head coach Gary Emerson, the Trojans won the Section IV Class D title and made it all the way to the state championship game and the program's first-ever appearance in the New York State Tour-

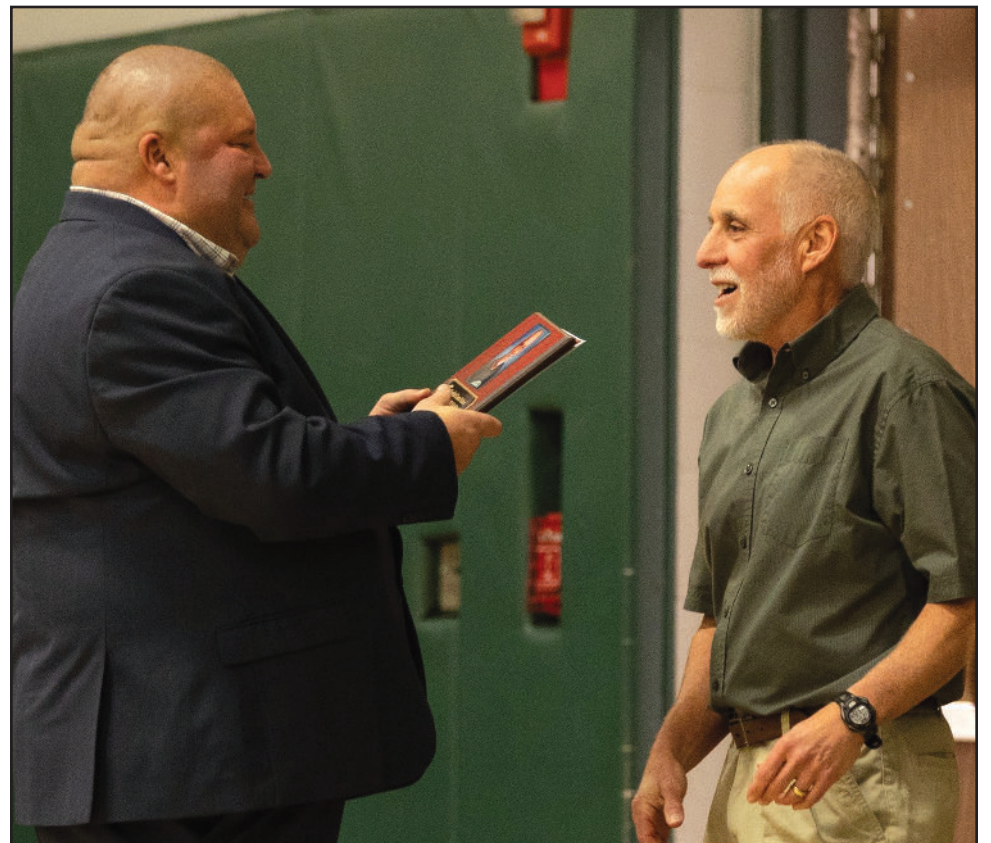


Photo by John Brehm

Newfield athletic director Hank Neubert (left) hands longtime coach and teacher David Green (right) his plaque during the Hall of Fame ceremony on December 20. Green is one of six inductees as part of the Class of 2024, the school's first Hall of Fame class since 2010.

nament.

"[They're] the team that started the obsession and love of basketball here in Newfield, with that group of young men who have gone on to still give back to our community and be around," Neubert said. "[They're a] great group of guys."

Rounding out the inductees are a trio of standout athletes. Megan Pym (2004 graduate) was a three-sport athlete in soccer, basketball, and softball. It was basketball where she really thrived, averaging over 20 points per game in her junior and senior seasons and was named an IAC and Sec-

tion IV All-Star. She went on to have an illustrious career at Old Dominion University, winning four conference championships and compiling a 102-32 overall record.

Tom Bishop (2004 graduate) was another three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. He flourished on the gridiron, being named a three-time IAC and Section IV All-Star and continued playing football at the University of New Hampshire. In 2008, he broke a single-game NCAA playoff record by making five field

See NEWFIELD on pg 10

A look back at Tompkins County sports in 2024

By Ryan Genio
ESPN ITHACA

2024 was yet another tremendously successful year for the Tompkins County sports scene. Whether it was the high school, collegiate, or professional level, local athletes and teams flourished on the biggest of stages.

On the global stage, Kyle Dake continued to dazzle. The Lansing native and Cornell alum captured his second Olympic bronze medal in Paris, repeating his feat from three years ago in Tokyo. Dake bounced back from an upset loss in the semifinals to Japan's Daichi Takatani by taking down Serbia's Hetik Cabolov 10-4 in the 74-kilogram freestyle bracket. He did so in

comeback fashion, trailing 4-1 with 48 seconds to go and rattling off nine unanswered points in a 10-second span to bring another Olympic medal back home.

Dake wasn't the only Cornell wrestler to triumph this year. Vito Arujau claimed his second straight national championship at the 133-pound weight class, defeating Oklahoma State's Daton Fix in a 5-3 decision. It took 21 minutes to decide a victor due to multiple blood stoppages and challenges, but in the end, Arujau came out on top to become the sixth Big Red wrestler to win multiple national titles, joining Dake in the process.

Two weeks prior to Arujau's victory, another Cornellian won a na-

tional championship. Veer Chotrani became the first men's squash player in program history to win a national title, capturing the Division A Pool Trophy at the 2024 National Collegiate Individual Championships.

Staying on the national stage, there were two Ithacans who reached the summit of college sports. In March, Kailee Payne took home two national diving championships, one off the one-meter boards and the other off the three-meter boards. Payne became just the second diver in school history to win both events. Then in May, Shea Baker helped the Boston College women's lacrosse team win its second national title (and first since 2021) after beating Northwestern in an absolute

thriller. It was a moment of redemption and vengeance after Baker and the Eagles lost to the Wildcats in last year's title game.

Rounding out the college standouts, the Tompkins Cortland Community men's basketball team won the Mid-State Athletic Conference (MSAC) championship for the first time since 2014 and advanced to the regional semifinals.

There was plenty more to celebrate at the high school level, particularly in Ithaca. The Little Red boasted two state champions this year, both excelling on the track. During the indoor season, Riley Hubisz won the boys

See LOOK BACK on pg 10

LOOK BACK

Continued from pg 9

3,200-meter run with a time of nine minutes and 1.42 seconds, which also earned him the federation title. Fast forward to the outdoor season, Joshua Kwakye-Minott captured the Division I boys long jump title at states with a leap of 23 feet and 4.25 inches.

The Little Red racked up tons of sectional titles, as well. During the winter, boys hockey claimed the inaugural Section IV championship, three wrestlers (Daniel Parker, Quentin Getzin, and Dikota Hamilton) won wrestling titles, and unified bowling came out on top. In the spring, 12 athletes won outdoor track sectional titles, with Tsadia Bercuvitz the lone athlete to win two events (the girls 1,500-meter and 3,000-meter runs). Girls lacrosse captured back-to-back Class B titles, and boys tennis made it a three-peat of sectional titles. After the summer break, the Little Red got right back at it in the fall with girls soccer winning the Class AAA championship, the boys cross country team took home its second straight Class A title, and Hubisz and Bercuvitz winning

individual cross country titles.

The sectional conquests continued over in Lansing. Starting off the year, the boys indoor track and field team won the Section IV Class C/D championship and eight event wins across the boys and girls teams, while a quartet of swimmers (Connor Lajza, Nicholas Hwang, Stephen Geise, and Dylan Rooney-Monger) won at least one event at sectionals. As the weather warmed up, girls golf captured its first-ever sectional title, the boys outdoor track and field team won the team title while eight track and field athletes won an event. Most recently, Kathleen Sullivan and Trent Thibault each won cross country championships in Class C.

Trumansburg’s crowning achievement this year occurred on the gridiron. The football team won its first-ever Section IV title by beating Moravia in the 8-man final, exacting their revenge after losing to the Blue Devils in last year’s championship game. Libby Foster also won an outdoor track sectional title in the girls 800-meter run.

Groton also had multiple athletes excel on the track. Ross Bush won the indoor 1,000-meter run and outdoor 800-meter run sectional titles, while



Photos by Tony Rotundo/WrestlersAreWarriors.com

Ithaca College Athletics, and John Brehm 2024 was another outstanding year for sports in Tompkins County at both the high school and college level. Lansing’s Kyle Dake (top left) won his second Olympic bronze medal in Paris, Ithaca’s Kailee Payne (top right) captured two national diving titles for Ithaca College, and Ithaca High School’s Riley Hubisz (bottom left) and Joshua Kwakye-Minott (bottom right) each won individual track & field state titles.

Carter Naginey did the same in the 600-meter run (indoor) and 400-meter run (outdoor). The girls bowling team also claimed the Section IV Class D championship.

Dryden had one sectional champion in 2024, as freshman Reagan Burnham

won two events during the outdoor track season: the girls 1,500-meter and 3,000-meter runs.

Newfield’s sectional titles also came during the outdoor track season, as the boys and girls 4x100-meter relay teams both prevailed.

NEWFIELD

Continued from pg 9

goals.

Dustin (Dusty) Marshall (2006 graduate), played the same sports as Bishop, and basketball was his true calling. He was a two-time IAC and

Section IV All-Star with the Trojans, selected to the NYSPHSAA All-Tournament Team, and was the 2003-04 Gatorade New York Player of the Year. He ended up playing at Alfred State and SUNY Cortland.

Not only are those three inductees connected by their outstanding athletic prowess, they’ve also been high-

lighted for their academic excellence, something that Neubert hopes can inspire the current and future generations of student-athletes in town.

“The bottom line of all of their plaques is that they are members of the National Honor Society,” Neubert said. “That was something that, as a committee, we thought this is im-

portant to put on there because yeah, it’s an Athletics Hall of Fame, but to achieve that goal and be an all-around scholar-athlete, that’s important to us, and that’s important for people to see. When kids look at that plaque and they see that bottom line ‘National Honor Society,’ that’s something to shoot for.”

RESTAURANT

Continued from pg 1

with starting their work week Friday or even Thursday.

“Our goal is to open and sell out as fast as possible so I can get the smoker loaded for the next day and get some sleep,” Marnell said.

The restaurant will primarily rely on counter service.

“You approach the meat cutter, you order your meats, you order your sides, check out, sit down,” he said.

Marnell said that there is an existing gravel lot, but Fittnell plans to add an adjacent parking lot.

“Our goal is just to sell food to customers, become a part of the commu-

nity, weave ourselves in,” he said. “We don’t want to have a lot of amenities where people stay for an hour or two.”

“We have been a business for seven years, looking to establish ourselves in a physical location. We found this property and felt it fits all of our needs for providing a good establishment for our vision...”

JACOB MARNELL
Co-owner, Fittnell Barbeque

One of the concerns the board had regarding the project was that the documents submitted did not account for



Photo provided

Jacob Marnell, co-owner of Fittnell Barbeque, said that his team will retrofit the existing structure at 42 Seacord Lane in Lansing to build out a new restaurant.

the nearby residents.

Board member Larry Sharpsteen said he did not see in the plans how nearby residential properties would be affected. Sharpsteen said the restaurant might require fencing or some sort of buffer.

“You have a driveway laid out. My immediate question would be: the approach to your place on Seacord comes all the way through a residential district before it gets to your place,” Sharpsteen said. “I would encourage you to develop your alternate driveway location rather than depending on Seacord to bring people into your property. It is just being a good neighbor.”

Marnell said that a new driveway would be about \$30,000 due to how woody the area is.

“While I do agree that going through the neighborhood is atypical, the zoning allows for this usage, and this project was approved with two different variations with the road continuing back there,” Marnell said.

The project will come in front of the board again in early 2025.

At the meeting, the board also honored longtime member Sharpsteen, who will retire from the board after 40 years of service.

“On behalf of the board and the community, I want to express my deepest appreciation for your wisdom, as well as your quips throughout the years,” Fiorille said.

Sharpsteen thanked Fiorille and the board.

“I have been very happy to use my professional experience and training in some small role to benefit the town,” he noted. “It’s been a hoot for me, and I have enjoyed every minute of it.”

Lansing at Large appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com. Contact Eddie Velazquez at edvel37@gmail.com or on X (formerly Twitter): @ezvelazquez.

Let’s discuss risk.

When did you last review your insurance strategy with a local independent agent?



607-387-5258

SidleInsurance.com

RESTAURANT

Continued from pg 1

enough hesitation in people’s minds that it is possible the study won’t even happen.”

“I think we will look to hire a consultant to see what it would mean to have a county living wage, and I also know there’s quite a few people in our community who don’t think this is a good idea,” Klein added. “We are far from a consensus.”

In early 2024, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that the living wage in Tompkins County has increased to \$24.64, a number that Ian Greer, research professor at Cornell University and director of the ILR Co-Lab, said will likely align with the ILR School’s new calculation, which it will release in early 2025.

“That’s a very sobering number,” Klein said. “If [the difference] was 50 cents an hour, it would be easier to visualize a county living wage, but that’s like a 25% increase ... It’s going to be a very interesting exploration.”

County welcomes new administrator

In October it was announced that Lisa Holmes will retire from her position as Tompkins County administrator at the end of January, with

Korsah Akumfi starting in the role.

Collaboration is key, said Akumfi, current Schoharie County administrator. He said that for years he has viewed Tompkins County as a positive example. “I look up to the county,” he said. “The efficiency and effectiveness of it, some of the programs they have been able to build over time.”

“I am excited about the new county administrator,” Klein said. “I know he’s coming in with a lot of enthusiasm. This is a big step for him, and he’s going to hit the ground running.”

“He has been in another county in New York state, so that’s a great training ground,” Klein added. “There is a lot of structure that is similar, and state mandates are the same. He knows the language and the job, and the challenge will just be to get to know Tompkins County — the cast of characters and relationships are very important in any work ... and that’s the part that’s going to take some time for him.”

“I think it’s going to take a while before he makes the county his own,” Klein said. “He will eventually bring it around to the direction he’s pursuing, but that’s going to take a while.”

Holmes is retiring after being employed with the county for 26 years.

“I have been fortunate to grow my career within the same organi-

zation,” Holmes said. “I don’t know how often that happens anymore. I have been fortunate to continue to learn and grow: first as a planner, then director for the Office for the Aging, then moving on to work in county administration.”

Implementing Tompkins County Rapid Medical Response program

A new fleet of three SUVs that provide emergency services to the most underserved parts of the county went into service April 2, and Klein said that so far they have done exactly what they were supposed to do — reduce wait time for those in need of emergency medical attention.

“It took a long time to build momentum,” Klein said. “For these really big problems, it takes a lot of money.” Issues have to reach a critical mass before solutions take off, he said, and “EMS reached that point last year.”

Klein said that he is unsure whether or not the program will expand in the future, as it is hard to predict what might happen in terms of state mandates when it comes to EMS. “We have to wait to see what the state does in its budget process,” Klein said.

He added that in 2025 there will likely be more discussion about a countywide ambulance tax, an initiative that he said is currently be-

ing pushed by the Tompkins County Council of Governments. There are a number of different ways the tax could be implemented.

“They want us to start planning for it,” Klein said.

Broadband for the whole county?

“Broadband — for me and my constituents — it is the thing I hear about the most, on average once a week,” Klein said. Currently, about 1,000 addresses throughout the county are without high-speed broadband. “It was 1,200 when we did the study, which was less than a year ago,” Klein said. “For the majority of people who have internet, they don’t think about it, but if you don’t have it, you think about it a lot.”

“So I’m hoping 2025 finally solves the problem,” Klein said.

The county submitted a grant request to New York state last spring, and Klein said that he is hopeful the county will hear back from the state soon. The grant would provide a buildout for every unserved residence, minus Dryden and Caroline, which are currently building out their own municipal broadband network.

“If we get the full grant, [construction] will start very quickly,” Klein said. “It might take a few years to reach every single house, but it will accomplish its goal.”

FOOD

Continued from pg 4

- Recruit and hire more substitutes
- Coordinate and plan menus and tastings

Hanson and Newfield CSD provided a statement on the “sweet spot” for serving food at their buildings:

“Food is delicious and appealing — and students want to eat our food and will become repeat customers. A sustainable menu balances food cost and labor hours, as well as sourcing challenges. Food is nourishing, wholesome, health promoting and meets USDA requirements.”

Newfield Notes appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Send story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com.

In brief:
Upcoming meetings for the town of

Newfield

The Newfield town board is scheduled to meet on Jan. 9 and 23, each time at 7 p.m. at the town hall on 166 Main St. The public is invited to attend either in person or via Zoom.

The town’s planning board is slated to meet today, Jan. 1, at 7 p.m. at the town hall. This meeting can also be attended either in person or Zoom.

For more information, contact the town hall at 607-564-9981. Meeting agendas are available at newfieldny.org.

Newfield CSD board of education meeting schedule for 2025

Newfield Central School District’s board of education meeting schedule for the second half of the 2024-25 school year is as follows:

- Jan. 16
- Feb. 6 and 27
- March 6 and 20

- April 3 and 23
- May 1, 6 and 22
- June 5 and 19

For more information, go to newfieldschools.org.

Yoga for beginners held on Saturdays this month

A yoga for beginners class will be held on Saturdays at Newfield Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m.

Phyllis KuanYin Chi, a yoga teacher certified through Yoga Farm in Lansing, will lead the class. The instructor also has additional training in trauma-informed yoga.

The class is on the second floor of the library. It is suitable for people new to yoga or those with mobility issues. There is also an opportunity to deepen poses for those with more experience.

The class is for ages 18 and older. Participants must have their own yoga

mat or blanket. The class is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10.

‘Mind Over Body’ program on Jan. 25

The Newfield Public Library will host its “Mind Over Body” program on Jan. 25.

The program, led by instructor Mitch Raymond, will take place on the second floor of the library at 6 p.m. The presentation from Raymond breaks down how to “improve the strength, flexibility, stability, balance and skill” of participants’ bodies through practices that “enhance neuromuscular connection and physiologic well being,” according to a description.

The library recommends bringing a yoga mat to the program, and participants will work with the library’s chairs and table to assist with stability. The program will have a suggested donation of \$10.

WATROUS

Continued from pg 4

fact, the women do all the work over there!”

Both Gary and Kathy were amazed that everyone spoke English everywhere, and that the children were well dressed and wore school uniforms. Overall, they said the trip was beyond what they could have imagined — that everything was lovely, the food was wonderful and the only thing they needed to be aware of was to drink only bottled water.

“I had many sleepless nights even thinking about going back,” Gary said. “It was just too emotional. I was worried about being welcomed, but everyone was very friendly and welcoming, especially the children.”

“This trip meant a lot to me because Gary had talked about his time in Vietnam, but never any details, not even in the letters that he sent,” Kathy said. “I just wanted to see where he had been and go through the emotions Gary had gone through.”

“It was enlightening for us and good for all our wives,” Gary said. “It definitely gave us closure because the people are better off now than when we were there. I thought it would be more backward, but the country has progressed so much, especially in education!”

Many in Groton know Gary from his many years of service at the First National Bank of Groton. Those who might like to learn more about him and his service to the bank and to our country while serving in the Army may read the Sept. 4, 2019 issue of this

column. Gary is a 1967 Groton High School (GHS) alumnus, who was inducted into the GHS Distinguished Graduate Hall of Fame in 2013, and a decorated war hero!

Groton on the Inside appears every week in Tompkins Weekly. Submit story ideas to editorial@vizellamedia.com or text or call Linda at 607-227-4922.

In brief:

Southern Gospel music concert

The Rolling Hills Southern Gospel Quartet will present at Groton City Church, 47 Groton City Rd., at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. A free-will offering will be received, and refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Youth basketball coaches needed

Groton Recreation is looking for

coaches for its youth basketball sessions. The program is designed to introduce basketball to young players in kindergarten through second grade. Each session will be based on basic skills and fun drills/games.

All sessions will be held at the Groton Elementary School gym on Saturdays Jan. 11 through Feb. 16. Please email Becky at recreation@grotony.org for more information or if you would like to volunteer to coach.

Town parking restrictions

Just a reminder that the parking of vehicles is prohibited on all town highway rights-of-way within the Town of Groton between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. from Nov. 1 to May 1 of each year. Violators may be fined, and vehicles may be towed at owners’ expense.

Break Time

HOROSCOPE

Week of
December 29 to January 4, 2025

ARIES
Get ready to shine as the ultimate party planner. You'll arrange one of the most memorable events for your loved ones. Your enthusiasm will be contagious, especially when you get involved in the entertaining.

TAURUS
Feeling lucky? You may want to consider buying a lottery ticket with your family — you might just hit the jackpot! You'll solidify plans with your loved ones, quite possibly going on a spontaneous journey.

GEMINI
If family tensions arise, you'll be the master of defusing them with your creativity and problem-solving skills. You'll earn the title of family hero with your organizational finesse.

CANCER
You'll succeed in uniting family and friends, overcoming the challenge of bringing together two families that are sometimes at odds with one another. Your attention to detail and generous nature will work wonders in easing tensions.

LEO
During your next gathering, whether you're hosting or attending, your nurturing nature will shine through. You have a strong urge to be helpful, from serving to tidying up, you'll be the ultimate helper.

VIRGO
Gatherings, big or small, will be your stage to shine. Get ready to steal the spotlight with your captivating remarks. You'll be surprisingly charismatic this week.

LIBRA
Someone from a different background will join one of your gatherings. They'll stimulate your curiosity to learn about their culture and share more about yours. You'll introduce exotic tastes and music to spice things up.

SCORPIO
You'll be the life of the party, lighting up the atmosphere and getting everyone in the mood to celebrate. Be smart on your late-night adventures; don't get behind the wheel after indulging in certain vices.

SAGITTARIUS
Now isn't the best time to overspend, but your generosity will warm hearts, even those of strangers. You'll also spoil yourself a bit.

CAPRICORN
Parties and gatherings will be your playground because you'll feel the need to move, dance and relax. You'll come up with creative ideas and stimulating games to get everyone involved and participating in the festivities.

AQUARIUS
Avoid staying up too late so you don't spoil your enjoyment of the festivities. Take time to catch up on your sleep or get rid of a nasty cold or flu bug.

PISCES
Prepare for unexpected visits that might require extra effort and planning. You'll be fully committed to making it a memorable time for your loved ones. Remember to take care of yourself too!

The luckiest signs this week:
PISCES, ARIES AND TAURUS



COMICS By Jack Young



Sudoku

8					4	6		7
		4	9	3				
							4	
	4		7		3			2
	6							
				8			9	
7			2			5		
	5			9		3		4

How to play:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
				21				22				
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
		36	37					38				
39	40					41				42	43	44
45					46					47		
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

RECIPE
of the week



Crab Rangoons

INGREDIENTS (MAKES 20):

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 6 oz lump crab meat (or imitation crab), chopped
- 1/2 tsp. soy sauce
- 2 green onions, finely
- 20 wonton wrappers
- Vegetable oil (for frying)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Prepare the Filling: In a bowl, mix cream cheese, crab meat, green onions, garlic powder, and soy sauce until well combined.
2. Assemble the Rangoons: Place 1 teaspoon of filling in the center of each wonton wrapper. Wet the edges with water, fold into a triangle or pinch the corners together to seal tightly.
3. Fry the Rangoons: Heat oil in a deep pan to 350°F (175°C). Fry rangoons in batches for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown. Remove and drain on paper towels.
4. Serve: Serve warm with sweet chili sauce or soy sauce for dipping.

These crispy and creamy crab rangoons are a crowd-pleaser, perfect as an appetizer or snack!

ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian snake
- 23.Salon treatments
- 41.Neighboring: hyph.
- 4. Upper limbs
- 26.Vegetable holder
- 45.Possession
- 8. Blemish
- 27.Embroider
- 47.Seek to persuade
- 12.Also
- 30.Gather in
- 48.Kind
- 13.Ooze
- 31.Sleepy's roommate
- 49.Fog
- 14.Mama's fellow
- 32.Slangy assent
- 50.Misspeak
- 15.Possessive pronoun
- 33.On in years
- 51.Phase
- 16.Financial officer
- 34.By way of
- 52.Notable periods of time
- 18.Ready the oven
- 35.Like seawater or tears
- 53.Lay eyes on
- 20.Ordinary language
- 36.Chilled
- 21.Footed vase
- 38.BPOE member
- 22.Ballet skirt
- 39.Look hard

DOWN

- 1. At the peak of
- 22.Muscle twitch
- 87.“My Fair Lady”
- 2. Rotten
- 23.Amateur's opposite
- 39.“_____ and Lovers”
- 3. Skin opening
- 24.Slippery as an _____
- 40.Tease
- 4. Purplish flowers
- 25.Brightness
- 5. Telecast again
- 26.Large snake
- 6. “_____ the Press”
- 28.Have a bite
- 7. Luxurious resort
- 29.Child's question
- 8. Spew
- 31.Achieved
- 9. Carnival ride
- 32.Babbles
- 10.Makes like
- 34.Swerve sharply
- 11.Occasional
- 35.Inclines
- 17.Whirled
- 37.Oaf
- 19.Camel's feature
- 38.Doolittle of

Wednesday 1/1



Walk the Labyrinth
First Baptist Church in Dewitt Park invites the community to come Walk the Labyrinth in this age-old spiritual practice of reflection and prayer December 28 - January 1 from 4:30 - 6:30 and January 2 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.
Where: First Baptist Church in Ithaca at Dewitt Park BEHIND THE COURTHOUSE 309 N. Cayuga St. Ithaca, NY The event is free and all are welcome.

Thursday 1/2

“How Not to Diet”
Join the Health Eating Support Community on Jan. 2 from 4:30-5:30 (and every two weeks thereafter) to find support for your 2025 healthy eating goals, and discuss Dr. Michael Greger’s science-based book “How Not to Diet.” Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca. cl2742@cornell.edu

Jazz Thursdays with MAQ
Thursday, January 02, 2025 , 5:30pm-8:30pm
Suggested donation \$5-10 for the musicians. Join us every 1st and 3rd Thursday for cider, food and live jazz with some of the best local musicians! \$5 suggested donation for the band MAQ is a musical ensemble based in Ithaca, NY comprised of some of the area’s best seasoned jazz and Brazilian-music musicians. Its members have individually toured throughout the United States and Europe, in venues from concert halls to clubs, performing everything from classic and modern jazz to Brazilian bossa and folk music. South Hill Cider 550 Sandbank Rd. Ithaca, NY

Friday 1/3



Tapestry
Friday, January 03, 2025 , 12:00pm-5:00pm
A tapestry is defined as a heavy cloth or canvas with designs or pictures woven into it. The January exhibit will weave together images from thirteen of our artist members. The result promises to be a colorful and diverse sampling of paintings, photos, sculpture, and fiber arts. The show will run from January 2nd through February 2nd, 2025. Opening reception Friday, January 3rd, 5–8pm.



The 10th Annual Ithaca Chill Challenge

On January 1, 2025 at the Ithaca Yacht Club, Ithaca Community Recovery (ICR) will be hosting its 10th annual Ithaca Chill Challenge, a unique “dip-or-dodge” event to raise money for recovery-related programming in the Ithaca area and broader community. This year, ICR aims to raise \$50,000 to support its vital services. Participants raise money from community members, friends, loved ones, coworkers, and other donors. For each participant, donors contribute to either “dip” the participant into the lake, or let them “dodge” and cheer from the shore. On New Year’s Day at noon, the higher total for each participant prevails. Participants commit to doing whatever their donors decide. Regardless of who winds up in the lake and who watches from the shore, all donations go to support ICR. People who are active in the recovery community, the people who love and support them, the people who only know of them, and everyone else will be able to come together to celebrate and to welcome in the new year. The Chill Challenge raises money for Ithaca Community Recovery, which plays an invaluable role in helping people whose lives are affected by addiction; people who come together to practice recovery, fellowship, and service; and people who have created a vibrant and caring community of support. For the past 24 years, ICR has provided a home base at 518 West Seneca Street. Our commitment is to make ICR’s home base safe, affordable and available 365 days a year. Ithaca Chill Challenge registration is open now and closes on New Year’s Eve. Find out more information or donate to any registered participant at www.ithacachillchallenge.org. Then come celebrate with us on New Year’s Day at the Ithaca Yacht Club at 1 p.m. There will be cake, as well as prizes for the top fundraisers and for best costumes. We will be joined by Mayor Cantelmo and other electeds. Donations welcome anytime!

Regular hours Thursday-Sunday 12-5 pm. 120 W State St. Curbside parking and ADA accessibility. 607-277-1626. Made possible in part with funds from the NYS Council on the Arts, administered by the Community Arts Partnership. State of the Art Gallery 120 West State Street Ithaca, NY (607) 277-1626

Cole DuMond @ First Fridays with South Hill Cider
Friday, January 03, 2025 , 6:00pm-8:00pm
Join us for a First Friday Celebration with farm to table food, cider and art! Local artist, Cole DuMond “I had a big imagination when I was a kid, especially whenever my family and I would travel, I would look out of the car or plane window for hours creating moving scenes and creatures, but they would always leave when I shut the door, and as I grew up, I looked out the window less and less. I always kept my foot in that imaginary door, with every drawing I create it opens more and more, welcome to my journey to reopen that door.” South Hill Cider 550 Sandbank Rd. Ithaca, NY

Saturday 1/4

Free Speech Club of Tompkins County Meeting
Saturday, January 04, 2025 , 10:15am
Our mission is to advocate for First Amendment rights in Tompkins County by supporting residents who have faced violations by the criminal justice system and ensuring they have access to legal representation and resources through collaboration, education, and community fundraising. Event Format Virtual <https://meet.google.com/asu-boqu-dyx>

Ink Shop Member Show 2024
Saturday, January 04, 2025 , 12:00pm-4:00pm
Each year The Ink Shop launches a Members' show, giving our membership the opportunity to exhibit

their newest work. This exhibit gives the public the opportunity to see the new work coming out of The Ink Shop, one of Central New York’s best printmaking facilities. This year’s Member Exhibit will be joined later by our Holiday Print Sale. Look for more fabulous prints on display during our December Gallery Night Reception. The Ink Shop 330 E. MLK/State St Ithaca, NY (607) 277-3884

Sunday 1/5

Your Vision for 2025
Sunday, January 05, 2025 , 2:00pm-4:00pm
Find clarity and support in setting your intentions for the new year. Gain greater awareness of the deeper desires under your goals and intentions, guide your attention towards your body, and more fully take a stand for yourself! We will end by making a vision board to have a visual representation of your dream! \$25.00 to \$30.00—Preregister for a discounted ticket of \$25 Foundation of Light 391 Turkey Hill Rd Ithaca, NY 607-391-0245

Psychic Party at The Trees Estate
Date: Sun, Jan 5 2025 • 3:00 PM EST Location: 1822 Trumansburg Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/psychic-party-at-the-trees-estate-tickets-1115889027119?aff=ebdsshothoter&utmsharesource=favorite-events_android

Monday 1/6

Clay Studio 1
Monday, January 06, 2025 , 10:00am-12:00pm
At Lifelong, \$5 drop in, membership required, with membership \$35/month unlimited Creative Arts activities eligibility Explore your creativity in clay. The guidance of a skilled clay artist is available if you want. Materials provided: clay, glazes, and

tools, This is not a wheel studio, but your work will be fired. Participants are asked to attend only one Clay Studio each week, as space and attention from the instructor are limited. Facilitator: Jennifer Brown Lifelong 119 W. Court St. Ithaca, NY

Poetry and Prose Open Mic
Come share poetry, prose, share a story, perhaps a brief performance or just to enjoy the night and meet others with a love for language and expression. Open to all! Song, show-and-tell, or some other kind of performance is welcome. 6:30 Doors The Downstairs is located at 121 West Martin Luther King Jr St, Ithaca NY The Downstairs 121 W M.L.K. Jr. St. Ithaca, NY

Writers Group
Monthly Monday Night Writer’s Group hosted by Rebecca of Red Frame Publishing redframepublishing.com Join us from 5-7 for creative and supportive feedback on your writing. Bring yourself and a shorter piece or 2 to share with the group. \$5 suggested donation to the Downstairs Programming Fund. Venmo accepted- or put cash in our little red basket. (Poetry & Prose Open Mic Night to follow) Support the downstairs! Become a member or donate to the Programming Fund! thedownstairsithaca.com/membership The Downstairs is located below The Watershed at 121 West Martin Luther King Jr Street in Ithaca NY The Downstairs 121 E M.L.K. Jr. St. Ithaca, NY

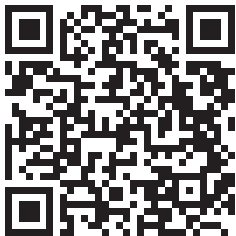
Tuesday 1/7

Open Studio Mixed Media
Tuesday, January 07, 2025 , 9:00am-12:30pm
Bring your own supplies to work on art projects of your choice. All media and experience levels welcome. <https://tclifelong.org/event/open-studio-mixed-media-2/2025-01-07/>

Meditation and Mindfulness
Tuesday, January 07, 2025 , 5:00pm-6:30pm
Join Anna Salamone of FireFly Farm Retreat for a monthly meditation and mindfulness practice. Anna is a Certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Teacher, and has experience facilitating a variety of mindfulness, meditation, and stress-reduction classes. Supplies such as yoga mats and blankets will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own if desired. This program is part of TCPL’s Information Saves Lives project, and is funded by the Tompkins County Opioid Task Force grant. This program is intended primarily for people who’s lives have been affected by addiction, who may have loved ones with substance use disorder, or who have experienced or are experiencing substance use disorder themselves. However, anyone is welcome and encouraged to participate with respect for the potential struggles of others within the program.

Future Dates:

NARCAN Training with REACH
Wednesday, January 08, 2025 , 4:00pm-5:00pm
Join the REACH Project to learn how to recognize an overdose, respond to an overdose emergency, and administer NARCAN. This skill could help you to save a life. This program is part of TCPL’s Information Saves Lives project, and is funded by the Tompkins County Opioid Task Force grant. Tompkins County Public Library 101 Eat Green Street Ithaca, NY



To submit your own event visit:
tompkinsweekly.com/event-submission/

Real Estate Transactions

DANBY
- Jasmine Bustle bought from 1312 Coddington LLC at 1312 Coddington Rd, Danby, NY 13053 on 11/18/24 for \$158,849.
- Danielle Taylor & Patrick Taylor bought from Nancy Willow at 451 Hornbrook Rd, Danby, NY 14850 on 11/15/24 for \$329,000.

DRYDEN
- Emily S. Adams & Shane M. Adams bought from Jordan G. Papkov at 5 Tannery Cir, Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/22/24 for \$245,000.
- Emily Dunuwila bought from Randall Bushnell & Brayden Bushnell at 2 Pebble Dr, Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/26/24 for \$265,000.
- Graham Gorsline & Lauren Kelly bought from Akaren Lynn Baker Estate & Graig M. Baker in Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/27/24 for \$525,000.
- Karley S. Kidney & Fred Ennis Jr. bought from

Mary Lou Zink Estate & Scott Thomas in Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/22/24 for \$249,000.
- Pinckney Rentals LLC bought from GSLB Properties LLC at 192 Pinckney Rd, Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/22/24 for \$785,000.
- Wild Pines RE LLC bought from Daniel B. Elberty & Cynthia M. Elberty in Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/27/24 for \$400,000.
- Sherry Fitzgerald bought from Mary Mancinell in Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/20/24 for \$248,000.
- Matthew E. Haney bought from Drylan Apartment LLC in Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/19/24 for \$40,000.
- Arianna Ramirez & Bryan Connelly bought from George A. Wildridge 3rd & Jennifer J. Wildridge at 102 W Main St, Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/19/24 for \$180,000.
- Sandra Stewart & Charles Stewart bought from Michael Castrenze

in Dryden, NY 13053 on 11/15/24 for \$276,000.

ENFIELD
- Jnelle Cahoon & Richard Cahoon bought from Scott Duell & Shirley Duell in Enfield, NY 13073 on 11/25/24 for \$535,000.

GROTON
- Nicholas Dyson & Alexandria Dyson bought from Suzette Proper & Vickie Gilbert in Groton, NY 13073 on 11/22/24 for \$70,000.
- Lucas Warner bought from Rebecca L. Collins & Thomas W. Billups in Groton, NY 13073 on 11/22/24 for \$560,000.

ITHACA
- 900 Stewart Avenue LLC bought from Anndruyan RET & Ann Druyan in Ithaca, NY 14851 on 11/26/24 for \$2,000,000.
- Buds House LLC bought from Mary J. Williams at 414 Stewart Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/22/24 for

\$1,156,000.
- JackSuns Place LLC bought from Eiron Driscoll at 308 Pleasant St, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/25/24 for \$232,000.
- Omotoke O. Missh & Comlan M. Missih bought from Kevin S. Fullagar at 142 Giles St, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/25/24 for \$265,000.
- William Abeles bought from Allyson Butler at 118 Texas Ln, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/15/24 for \$349,000.
- Eric H. Kramer & Maria T. Schettino bought from Shawn M. Gavin & Lisa M. Krueger-Gavin at 116 N Sunset Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 11/15/24 for \$559,000.
- Haley Sammis bought from Andrew D. Tkacik in Ithaca, NY 14851 on 11/18/24 for \$259,000.
- Cynthia Scheibe & Ariana Carvell bought from Jean Lomax in Ithaca, NY 14851 on 11/15/24 for \$343,000.

LANSING
- Richard W. Burke & Karun L. Burke bought from Timothy S. Cornell in Lansing, NY 13068 on 11/27/24 for \$90,000.
- Jeremiah B. Herron bought from Warren E. Miller in Lansing, NY 13068 on 11/22/24 for \$127,500.
- Meredith S. Robinson & Craig Robinson bought from Kenneth A. Sears Jr. in Lansing, NY 13068 on 11/27/24 for \$115,000.
- Emily Holdorf & Bradley Bartlett bought from Nicole Martin at 518 Buck Rd, Lansing, NY 14882 on 11/20/24 for \$345,000.
- Nicole H. Martin & Christopher L. Martin bought from Rebecca Hagen RET & Rebecca Hagen at 1388 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882 on 11/19/24 for \$545,000.
- John J. Novotny & Rebecca L. Novotny bought from Dennis Mogil & Michelle Mogil at 26

Asbury Rd, Lansing, NY 14882 on 11/19/24 for \$499,500.

NEWFIELD
- Jeremy Coon & Courtney Eframson bought from Marc E. Redman at 812 Vankirk Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 11/26/24 for \$350,000.
- Shauna Dack bought from Deborah A. Redman in Newfield, NY 14867 on 11/22/24 for \$130,000.
- Ronald Randolph & Jessica Randolph bought from David C. Moore & Tammy S. Moore at 11 Butternut Dr, Newfield, NY 14867 on 11/20/24 for \$243,000.

ULYSSES
- Stephen Fischer bought from Patricia A. Chaffie & Robin L. Woodard at 4241 Dubois Rd, Ulysses, NY 14850 on 11/26/24 for \$326,000.

Classifieds

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SPECIAL OFFER

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January 1 - January 7, 2025

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Harrington Donnelly & Associates, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/06/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 132 Bundy Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Moonbow Magic, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/06/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 502 N. Albany St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Advanced Mower R&S LLC filed Art. Of Org with New York Secretary of State (SSNY) on 10/14/24. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 27 Dutcher Rd. Freeville, NY 13068. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Village Heritage Apartments, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 08/22/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to 203 East Cortland Street, Groton, New York 13073 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BARKER HILL RD LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/1/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BLUE RIVER DEVELOPMENT LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/1/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

GORGES REAL ESTATE, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/23/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

HIGH ABOVE PROPERTIES, LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/12/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

JAMOONYOU LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/5/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 151 Lake Rd., Dryden, NY 13053. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NEIGHBORHOOD GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS LLC filed Cert. of Auth. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/04/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 921 Snyder Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

RAMONA'S DOMESTIC SERVICES LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/13/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Nathan Cook, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

SYNBIOTIC DAIRY FOODS, LLC filed Cert. of Auth. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/5/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 210 Summerhill Drive Apt. 1, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

TDB PROPERTIES 1520 LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/19/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Adam Klausner, Klausner Cook, PLLC, 179 Graham Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LAW OFFICE of JOHN A. FITZGERALD, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of State of NY (SSNY) on October 28, 2024. Location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on PLLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to John A. Fitzgerald, PO BOX 426 Ithaca NY, 14851. Purpose: Law. 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

John-Paul Mead, M.D., PLLC ("PLLC") filed Articles of Organization with the NY Sec. of State ("SSNY") on 8/28/24. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY is designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to 103 W Seneca St, Suite 302, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: to practice the profession medicine. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Bookwork Solutions LLC filed Arts. Of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 47 Whig Street, Trumansburg, NY 14886. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

DVM Detective LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/28/2023. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 205 Columbia Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/27, 12/04, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08/2024

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BAYLEA & CO LLC Articles of Organization filed Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") 11/22/2024. Office location: Chemung County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 2219 Doolittle Rd., Lockwood, NY 14859, USA. Purpose: any lawful purpose.12/04, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 01/15/2024

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Heron Hale Holdings LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of

NY (SSNY) on 11/14/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 131 Cambridge Place, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: any lawful act. 12/04, 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/14/2024

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

La Colmena Ink LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 04/24/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail process to 117 Winston Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activated permitted under NYS laws. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Rockabill Properties LLC (the "LLC") filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on 11/12/2024. LLC office location: Tompkins County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to Rockabill Properties LLC, 80 River St, Suite 3C, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Stately Apartments Member LLC (the "LLC") filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on 11/12/2024. LLC office location: Tompkins County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to LLC, c/o Rockabill Development LLC, 80 River St., Suite 3C, Hoboken, NJ 07030. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Conifer Healthcare Solutions LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 11/22/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 3105 N. Triphammer Rd. Suite 7, Lansing, NY 14882. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

PURSUANT TO SECTION 206 OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

Name: GEHRING FARM LLC

Articles of Organization filed with NYS SOS on December 5, 2024.

Office of the company located in Tompkins County.

The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the company upon whom process against it may be served, and the post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process so served is Gehring Farm LLC 1208 Trumbulls Corners Road, Newfield, New York 14867.

Purpose: any lawful business.

2/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Farber Imports, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/4/24. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 6 Sunset West Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/11, 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Ellison Property Group, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/5/24. Office: Chemung County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 241 Cherry St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

AnyBody & EveryBody LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/30/24. Office: County of Tompkins. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 241 Cherry St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Red Bird Tile LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was May 19, 2023. Office Location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to 2197 Ellis Hollow Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 12/18, 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Downey Farm LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/13/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: ZenBusiness Inc., 41

State Street, Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Warren Refrigeration, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 12/18/2024. Office location: Cortland County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to 2045 Maxfield Road, Cortland, New York 13045 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Sprint Alumni Engagement, LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was 11/29/2024. Office location: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 856 Snyder Hill Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS law. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Herman Handyworks LLC was filed with the New York State Department of State on October 15, 2024. The LLC is located in Tompkins County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231. The LLC is formed for any lawful purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mecenas Holdings LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/7/2024. Office: Tompkins County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, PO Box 81, Ithaca, NY 14851. Purpose: any lawful act. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ROWAN'S RENOVATIONS, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/24. Office: County of Tompkins. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 46 Drake Road, Lansing, NY 14882. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/01, 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5/2025.



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Solutions to Puzzles on Page 12

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STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

COMBINED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PERMIT CONDITIONS, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, AND COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUES DETERMINATION PROCEDURE

Applicant: Yellow Barn Solar, LLC Attn.: Mitch Quine, Vice President, Project Development 2045 Lincoln Highway Edison, New Jersey 08817 info@CSEnergy.com

Facility Location: Towns of Groton and Lansing, Tompkins County, New York

Applicant's Attorney: James Muscato II, Esq. Young / Sommer, LLC Executive Woods, Five Palisades Drive Albany, NY 12205

ORES Permit Application No.: 23-00048

Facility Description: Applicant applied to the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (Office or ORES) for a permit pursuant to Public Service Law article VIII to construct and operate a 160-megawatt (MW) solar energy facility located in the Towns of Groton and Lansing, Tompkins County, New York. Applicant filed the application with the Office on November 3, 2023. A notice of complete application was issued on October 15, 2024 (see <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 23-00048). ORES staff published draft permit conditions on December 16, 2024. The draft permit conditions may be accessed at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 23-00048.

ORES Staff Position: On issuing the draft permit conditions, ORES staff takes the position that the proposed facility, together with the uniform and site-specific standards and conditions contained in the draft permit, would comply with applicable laws and regulations. ORES staff recommends that the Office elect not to apply, in whole or in part, any local law or ordinance that as applied to the facility is unreasonably burdensome in view of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act targets and the environmental benefits of the proposed facility.

Public Comment Hearing: A public comment hearing pursuant to 16 NYCRR part 1100 to hear and receive unsworn comments from the public will be held at the **Groton High School Gymnasium, 400 Peru Road, Groton, New York 13073, on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** All persons, organizations, corporations, or government agencies who may be affected by the facility are invited to attend the hearing and comment on the application and the draft permit conditions. Lengthy comments will not be accepted and instead should be submitted in writing. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments. To ensure that all interested persons have an opportunity to speak, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) may limit the time available for oral comments to three (3) minutes per person. The public comment hearing will be transcribed for inclusion in the administrative record. The hearing location is reasonably accessible to persons with a mobility impairment. Interpreter services shall be made available to deaf persons, and English language translator services shall also be made available, at no charge for either service, upon written request to Chief ALJ James T. McClymonds, Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242, (518) 473-4590, ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov. All requests must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2025. In the event that the in-person public comment hearing needs to be canceled, rescheduled, postponed, or conducted virtually, notification of any change will be available at the ORES website at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores>.

Written Public Comments: Written comments concerning the application and the draft permit conditions must be filed with ORES by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025. Persons filing written comments are strongly encouraged to post their comments on the ORES Permit Application Portal (ORES Portal). To post a comment, go to <https://dps.ny.gov/ores>, click on "ORES Permit Applications," click on Project Permit Application Number 23-00048, and click on "Post Comments" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Written comments may also be emailed to ORES at ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov or mailed to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242. Written comments will be considered equally with oral statements delivered at the public comment hearing, provided they are postmarked by Friday, February 21, 2025, or e-mailed or posted on the ORES Portal by 5:00 p.m. on that date. Please take notice that written public comments will be publicly posted on the ORES Portal. ORES reserves the right not to post duplicate or repeat comments. In addition, ORES reserves the right to remove, without notice, comments containing any defamatory, infringing, obscene, indecent, discriminatory, confidential, or unlawful material or information of any kind.

Issues Determination Procedure: Pursuant to 16 NYCRR 1100-8.3(b), a pre-adjudatory issues determination procedure will be conducted by the assigned ALJ. The procedure will be conducted solely on papers and briefing unless the ALJ, in the judge's sole discretion, determines that oral argument is necessary. The purpose of the issues conference is to determine party status for any person or organization that has properly filed a petition (as indicated below), and to narrow and define those issues, if any, that will require adjudication in this matter. Participation in the issues determination procedure is limited to ORES staff, applicant, and those persons or organizations requesting party status.

Filing for Party Status and Proposed Issues: Persons seeking to participate in the issues determination procedure and any subsequent adjudicatory hearing must register on the ORES Portal and file a written petition explaining whether their request is for full party status or amicus status. For the required contents of petitions for full party status, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(c)(1) and (2). To determine whether an issue is substantive and significant, see 16 NYCRR 11008.3(c)(2) and (3). For the required contents of a petition seeking amicus status, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(c)(1) and (3). Petitioners may also file written briefs making arguments in support of their petitions. All petitions requesting party status and briefs in support must be E-Filed on the ORES Portal no later than **4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025**. Instructions for registering on the ORES Portal and E-Filing documents may be found at: <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-resources>. Address all petitions to John L. Favreau, Administrative Law Judge, New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242, telephone: (518) 473-4590, email: john.favreau@dps.ny.gov; and Henry James Joseph, Administrative Law Judge, New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242, telephone: (518) 473-4590, email: henry.joseph@dps.ny.gov. At the same time petitions and briefs are E-Filed on the ORES Portal, a copy of all papers must be emailed to the ALJ at the email address above, and furnished to applicant Yellow Barn Solar, LLC's attorney, James Muscato II, Esq., Young / Sommer, LLC, Executive Woods, Five Palisades Drive, Albany, NY 12205, telephone: (518) 438-9907 Ext. 243, email: jmuscato@youngsommer.com; and to ORES at the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242, (518) 4734590, ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov. Service of petitions and briefs by email is authorized provided they are received by all of the above parties and the ALJ by the 4:00 p.m. deadline. Any questions about filing requirements or other hearing procedures may be addressed to Chief ALJ James T. McClymonds by telephone at (518) 473-4583. ORES's regulations may be found at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-regulatory-documents>.

Statement of Compliance with Local Laws and Regulations: Any municipality, political subdivision or an agency thereof that received notice of the filing of the application pursuant to 16 NYCRR 1100-1.6(a) must file a statement indicating whether the proposed facility is designed to be sited, constructed and operated in compliance with applicable local laws and regulations in effect as of October 15, 2024, if any, concerning the environment, or public health and safety. The statement must be filed and served by **4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025**, in the same manner as petitions for party status. **Any municipality, political subdivision, or an agency thereof that proposes to adjudicate any issues related to a facility's compliance with local laws and regulations must file a petition for party status as provided for in 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(c) and include the statement of compliance with local laws and regulations.**

Applicant Statement of Issues: No later than **4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025**, applicant shall file and serve on ORES staff and the ALJ a statement of issues applicant intends to raise with respect to any determination of the Office, and briefing in support. Applicant shall serve the statement of issues and brief on persons filing petitions for party status within five (5) days of such filing. For the required contents of an applicant's statement of issues, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(b)(1).

Responsive Briefing and Response to Comments: No later than **4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025**, ORES staff may file and serve a response to any petitions for party status, any statement of issues by applicant, and the statement of compliance with local laws and regulations. By the same deadline, applicant may file and serve a response to any petition for party status or statement of compliance with local laws and regulations. In addition, the applicant shall file and serve on ORES staff a response to public comments received during the public comment period, including any supplemental information.

Document Availability: Copies of all application materials and draft permit conditions are available for inspection at the Office's Albany office during normal business hours: Contact the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, W.A. Harriman Campus, Building 9, 4th Floor, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12227, (518) 473-4590, ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov. Electronic copies are available at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permitapplications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 23-00048. Copies of all application materials are also available at the following locations: Groton Town Hall ATTN: Robin Cargian, Town Clerk Groton Town Hall P. O. Box 36 Groton, NY 13073 Lansing Town Hall ATTN: Debbie Munson, Town Clerk P. O. Box 186 Lansing, NY 14882 Groton Public Library ATTN: Sara Knobel, Director 112 East Cortland Street Groton, NY 13073 Lansing Community Library ATTN: Susie Gutenberger, Library Director 27 Auburn Road Lansing, NY 14882

Statutory and Regulatory Provisions: The application is being processed and this proceeding is being conducted according to Public Service Law article VIII and 16 NYCRR part 1100. James T. McClymonds Chief Administrative Law Judge December 16, 2024 Albany, New York