

Tompkins Weekly

February 12, 2025

Vol. 20, No. 7

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

TompkinsWeekly.com

FREE

Newfield supervisor responds to concerns of tax increase from solar project

Town of Newfield Supervisor Mike Allinger responded to concerns from residents of a possible increase in taxes if a proposed five-megawatt solar facility off Millard Hill Road is approved.

Allinger provided a message on the town's website in response to residents who were voicing their concerns on the Newfield NY Community Facebook page:

"I'm writing [on Feb. 3] to clear up some bad information that has come to my attention. It was posted to the Newfield NY Community Facebook page that taxes would go up if a proposed solar project is approved in Newfield. In fact, it went on to say 'If this project is approved every taxpayer in Newfield will be paying higher taxes for the next 25 years.' This is based on the incorrect assumption that an approval of the solar project will remove land from the tax rolls. That is not the case. Approval of the project will not remove any property from the tax rolls.

"The post went on to accuse the town board of 'trying to accomplish their personal agendas and not the needs of our community' along with some other wild accusations. I won't engage in disparaging anyone in a public forum but know this: the town board has one job and that is to work for the best of the Newfield Community. Full stop."

TJA Clean Energy, based in New Bedford, Massachusetts, with a satellite office in Syracuse, proposed the solar farm in August.

The project, led by Michael Frateschi, president of TJA, will be a community solar farm spanning 25 to 30 acres. Frateschi noted that the proposed solar farm will share land with the current owners. According to Frateschi, the owners currently use more than 50 acres for farming.

Allinger, who recently spoke with the Tompkins County Assessor's Office about payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements, explained how those agreements will line up with the proposed solar project in town.

"When a project like this gets payment in lieu of taxes, in their mind that would take it off the tax rolls," Allinger said. "But the way a PILOT works is that in most cases it refers to the structure being built on top of the land, leaving the land underneath it



By Kevin L. Smith

Big changes coming for elected boards due to redistricting, retiring members



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Deborah Dawson (left), Amanda Champion (center) and Anne Koreman are all retiring from the Tompkins County Legislature this year. So far, six legislators have announced they will not be seeking reelection.

By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

The next general election takes place Nov. 4, and the Tompkins County Legislature is poised for a big change.

The legislature will have a sea of new faces in 2026, as many legislators have announced that they will not run for another term.

"By mid-April, we should have a good handle on who the candidates are for all the local offices here," said Stephen DeWitt, Tompkins County Board of Election's Democratic commissioner for the past 22 years.

On Jan. 8, five legislators — Amanda Champion (District 12), Susan Currie (District 3), Deborah Dawson, (District 10), Dan Klein (District 7) and Anne Koreman (District 5) — announced in a joint statement that they will not be running again.

Democrat Rich John (District 4) has also said that he will not be seeking another term.

"It is changing," said Tompkins County Democratic Committee Chair Linda Hoffman. "It is a very positive thing. ... The people who are in the legislature who are stepping down — that is their decision. I'm not critical of them at all."

There are 64 offices up for election in November, 16 of which are in the Tompkins County Legislature, which will increase by two members after the upcoming election. "Another 48 or so [offices] are split up among the other municipalities," DeWitt said.

Five seats on Ithaca Common Council are up for a vote in November.

Petitioning to get on the ballot begins Feb. 25, with petitions due to the Board of Elections on April 3.

"Theoretically, someone could decide on April 1 that they want to run for legislature and get the minimum number of signatures and get them filed, and they're good," DeWitt explained.

"I think it's time for younger people to step up, because you're the ones who are going to be living with the long-term consequences of whatever the legislature decides."

DEBORAH DAWSON
Member, Tompkins County Legislature

The towns of Newfield, Groton and Dryden hold democratic caucuses, and the towns of Ithaca and Dryden have Republican caucuses to choose which candidate will be on the ballot. The other municipalities have primary elections, which occur when more than one candidate for the same party successfully petitions to be on the ballot. Primaries will take place June 24.

Hoffman said that she encourages voters to find out which district they reside in, since redistricting will go into effect for the first time this November.

Tompkins County was redistricted as required by law following the 2020

Census. An independent redistricting commission took a multitude of factors into account, including minimizing the population differentials between districts, adhering to existing municipal boundaries where possible and considering communities of interest — groups of people who share common interests, values or goals.

Many of the county's districts have changed, and the districts are numbered differently in this election.

Hoffman encouraged voters who have questions about which district they are in or any other aspect of voting to contact the county Board of Elections at 607-274-5522.

"It is time that we come into 2025, and we really need to hit the ground running," Hoffman said, adding that she would encourage those who are considering running for office to contact the official who currently holds the seat they are interested in.

"Anyone and everyone who's interested should run," said Champion, whose district is in the town of Ithaca. "We need people to step up in my district, which will turn into District 14. There's not a lot of interest yet, so I'm getting a little concerned."

Republican legislator Mike Sigler (District 6) has announced he will run again, as has his colleague, Republican Randy Brown (District 8).

Sigler will be running in what is now called District 8, which has district lines that are very close to the former District 6 that he represents now (which encompasses a portion of the town of Lansing).

PAPAJOHNS[®]
Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

HEART-SHAPED PIZZA

ADD YOUR FAVORITE TOPPING



LOVE AT FIRST BITE
\$11.99
THIN CRUST | 1-TOPPING

ADD A
DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CHIP BROWNIE
ALL FOR
\$18.00

PIZZA LOVE

**ARRIVES UNHEATED
- 15 MINUTES**

PAPAJOHNS.COM
607-273-7272 (PAPA)
435 FRANKLIN STREET ITHACA
SYRACUSE • BIG FLATS • JOHNSON CITY • ROCHESTER
PICK-UP • DELIVERY • DINE-IN

We accept all Major Credit Cards. Special Offers cannot be combined. Customer pays all applicable taxes.

*Offers valid Sat 2/14 and Sun 2/15 only
Trust Papa John's to make your order Better!

FREE

NYS Vehicle Inspection with purchase of an Oil Change



Offer expires February 28, 2025.

WINK'S BODY SHOP
COLLISION & AUTO REPAIR

Make Appointment Online, Call, Text or Stop by.
720 W. Court Street, Ithaca | www.WinksBodyShop.com | 607.252.4979

Guthrie Walk-in Care



GUTHRIE

Convenient Walk-in Care Made for You

From minor burns and UTIs to strains and sprains, Guthrie Ithaca City Harbor offers walk-in care for minor illnesses and injuries, with no appointment needed.

Walk-in care is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekends.



**Guthrie Ithaca City Harbor
Walk-in Care**
720 Willow Avenue
Ithaca, NY 14850



Visit Our Website www.Guthrie.org



Medical Minds Podcast www.Guthrie.org/MedicalMinds



Electronic Medical Record www.eGuthrie.org

Our question, your answers

Street Beat

By Jaime Cone Hughes

Who is your Valentine this year?



My girlfriend, Brooke.
James, Ithaca

With the subzero temperatures Tompkins County has experienced this year and potentially more cold weather



By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

to come before winter is over, there are multiple precautions that homeowners and tenants can take and methods they can employ to keep their homes warm and safe — while protecting their wallets, as well.

Stay safe this winter by being very careful when using space heaters, said Alix Gresov, public information officer for Trumansburg Fire Department. With subzero temperatures comes an increase in fires related to these heating devices being improperly used.

On Jan. 23, a fire on West Seneca Road in Trumansburg caused by a space heater burned for six hours and led to the death of a pet.

Gresov advised people to use a surge protector with space heaters and to make sure heaters are not placed too close to curtains, a bed or other highly flammable materials. Never drape a towel or clothes over a space heater, she said.

Be sure to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors multiple times a year; a good habit is to check them when the time changes to daylight saving time and back again, Gresov suggested.



My spouse, Marisa.
Kate, Ithaca



My girlfriend, Kelly.
Fred, Ithaca



Photo provided

Steven Schapiro, a New York state licensed real estate broker and owner of CSP Management.

It is most important to place carbon monoxide and smoke detectors near bedrooms. Do not place carbon monoxide detectors near a furnace, Gresov said, as the heater can emit a small, harmless amount of carbon monoxide that can, over time, erode the sensor and cause the detector to stop working.

“A lot of these fixes are things that can be done by a homeowner who is even slightly handy, and they’re not terribly expensive, either.”

**Steven Schapiro, Owner
CSP MANAGEMENT**

Steven Schapiro is a New York state licensed real estate broker and owner of CSP Management, a real estate management and development company that serves tenants and property own-

Sustained cold temps have area homeowners on alert



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Alix Gresov, public information officer for the Trumansburg Fire Department, cautioned homeowners to use space heaters properly this winter.

ers in Ithaca, Dryden, Trumansburg and the surrounding areas.

The company has recently seen an increase in specific repairs and requests, he said.

“For one, we’ve been doing a lot of window winterization,” Schapiro said. “Especially in Tompkins County and Ithaca, there are a lot of older homes, many with preserved windows, some of which are drafty or lack insulation.”

For drafty windows, Schapiro recommends that homeowners look into winterization kits, which can be found at home improvement retail stores such as Lowes, Agway and Home Depot.

“They are essentially a plastic skin you apply to your window to block any drafts,” he explained, adding that CSP has been busy applying the plastic in many owner-occupied and tenant-occupied spaces this year, though one doesn’t need to be a professional to do it.

“A lot of these fixes are things that can be done by a homeowner who is even slightly handy, and they’re not terribly expensive, either,” he said, adding that it takes about 10 to 20 minutes on average for one window.

“The first couple [of windows] take longer, and then, like anything, you start flying through them,” he said. “If you don’t want to do it, or can’t do it, then we can do it for you.”

CSP, a full-service property management company that has operated in Ithaca for 35 years, is now offering its maintenance services to the general public. “We have tried to make ourselves accessible to the community to provide whatever service people need,” Schapiro said.

Weather strips, which block drafts under doors, are another commonly requested cold-weather fix.

“These things can also help prevent drafts and those sorts of efficiency leaks, where heat escapes,” Schapiro said, adding that weather-proofing can add up to significant savings in heating costs. He said it also reduces stress on the building’s furnace, thereby lengthening the lifespan of the appliance be-

cause it does not have to work so hard to maintain a comfortable temperature.

Schapiro has seen a number of frozen pipe breaks among CSP’s clients. Prevention is key, and there are certain places that are more susceptible, such as bathrooms and kitchens where the pipe fixtures are along the exterior of the home. Finding a way to keep those fixtures insulated before there is an issue is best. “The biggest key to success is looking at it from a preventative standpoint,” he said.

One of the biggest signs that you may have a frozen pipe is a lack of water when a faucet is turned on. Slowly heating the pipe back up with a haird-

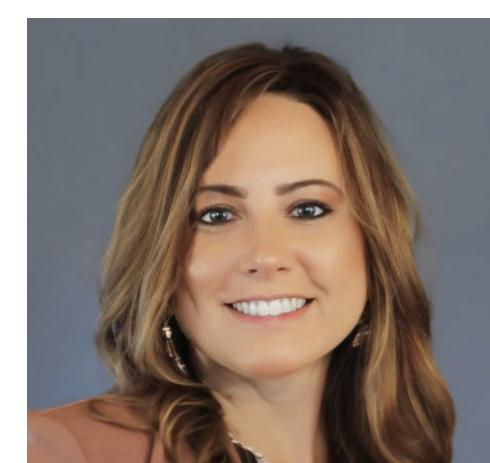


Photo provided

Jamie Murphy, territory manager/marketing coordinator for Security Mutual Insurance.

ryer can prevent further damage, but do not try to use more extreme methods of heating up the pipe, as that could cause a fire, cautioned Gresov.

If a pipe bursts and there is more than an inch of water on the floor, the fire department has equipment that can help.

“If pipes are bursting and filling the building with water, that’s what the fire department is there for,” Gresov said.

The fire department’s pumps are not able to suck up less than an inch of water, but the department will help to mitigate the problem as best it can, she

See HOME on pg 6

5 Stop Shop: A hidden gem in the hamlet of McLean

If you have passed through the hamlet of McLean in the past 10 years, you may have noticed a small, eclectic-looking shop nestled between the McLean Fire Department and The Elm Tree Inn. If you never stopped in, you may have wondered what the establishment might be. Well, wonder no more — it is a specialized antique shop.

Aptly named "McLean's 5 Stop Shop," the store sits right in the center of McLean, where five different stretches of road require vehicles to stop at the respective stop signs. The shop's owner, Tom Ludgate, laughingly said, "It was too easy to name."

Tom grew up with his parents, Ann and the late Richard Ludgate, in the Ellis Hollow area of Ithaca, and Tom is a 1980 Ithaca High School alumnus. He said he spent his weekends and summers throughout his high school years working for his uncle, the late Paul Ludgate, at Ludgate Farms on Hanshaw Road in Ithaca. Tom helped with planting and harvesting vegetables and fruits; he also worked in the store that was a destination

for many in the area for many years.

"I went to TC3 [Tompkins Cortland Community College] for a semester after high school, but it wasn't for me," Tom said. "I still continued working for my uncle, but I also did food prep at What's Your Beef at the East Hill Plaza and worked the night crew at P&C Ithaca for a while. Then I started doing self-taught body work for about 16 years before I bought this [store] in December 2014."

"I often have a brief love affair with certain items. I enjoy them while they're here until they get purchased."

TOM LUDGATE
Owner, McLean's 5 Stop Shop

Tom said he purchased the building from a friend, but proudly noted, "It has always been a store of some sort for the past 220 years," and he is glad to have recently celebrated his 10th year in business. He describes his shop as one in which he buys, sells, trades and barter antiques.

The main items featured in the shop



Photo by Linda Competillo

The 5 Stop Shop in McLean might be an overlooked hidden gem for some. Recently celebrating its 10th year in business, the establishment has been operational as some sort of store for the past 220 years.

are rock-n-roll records, vintage metal toys, 100-year-old post cards and vintage cookware such as Pyrex, but there are many other treasures within its walls.

"I just like old stuff, and I like talking to people," Tom said. "I often have a

See SHOP on pg 5

Folk band Mama Look! to play concert in Trumansburg

Three Tompkins County musicians are aiming to bring healing and a positive message to their audiences at a time of what they consider worldwide distress.

Mama Look! — the new folk band formed by Amy Puryear, Uniit Carruyo and McKenzie Jones — is set to bring the group's songs of resilience, love and community to an intimate evening of music at the Perry City Friends Meetinghouse, located at 6324 state Route 227 in the hamlet of Perry City in Trumansburg. The concert will take place Feb. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. A suggested donation of \$15-\$30 can be provided

at the door; the concert's proceeds will go toward supporting the Perry City Friends Meetinghouse.

Puryear, Carruyo and Jones are all veterans of the local music scene, starring in such bands as Laila Belle, Sim Redmond Band and Strange Heavy. The three musicians got their start as an outfit last July, days after the Grassroots Music Festival in Trumansburg.

"We've sung together in little bits here and there, but we've never been in a musical project together like this before," Puryear said. "We were talking at Grassroots about how fun it would be to make some music together, and instead of just talking about it, we right then and there set our first rehearsal date for two days after the festival. It just instantly felt like

this magical, super healing and bonding project to be in together. We've been working together ever since."

Their goal? To become an oasis for listeners at an arid time, colored by global distress.

"To be a beacon of light during a time that feels very trying and difficult in a lot of ways," Puryear added. "It feels like we can share our songs and our voices and our hearts to create something that's hopeful and beautiful, meaningful and healing for people right now, not just for our own selves."

Her band's music, Puryear said, can connect with audiences who are coping with the effects and the aftermath of natural disasters like the wildfires in Los Angeles, and also the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Some of the songs are about love and motherhood. Others are about revolution and peace.

"To me, it all feels very connected, and this feels like one thing that I can do," Puryear said. "The one thing I know how to do is to share my voice and share my heart. We're creating something that feels like synergy. We are three women, we are three mothers, and we are three voices. We're creating something bigger than just the three individuals coming together."

Puryear said that bringing the collective spirit of people together through music is partially the antidote to the dire times we live in. The Perry City Friends Meetinghouse, then, might be the doctor to deliver the cure.

"This concert is more than just a night of incredible music — it's a chance to support the Perry City Friends Meetinghouse, a community space dedicated

to peace, justice, and spiritual connection," Puryear said in a press release promoting Mama Look's! show. "The Meetinghouse is currently the home for Curiosity Collective, SingSong Music Classes, Women's Wellness Wednesdays, ArtsCool and more."

"It feels like we can share our songs and our voices and our hearts to create something that's hopeful and beautiful, meaningful and healing for people right now, not just for our own selves."

AMY PURYEAR
Band Member, Mama Look!

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, Puryear hosts SingSong Music Classes for children ages one to four. On Wednesdays, she also hosts Women's Wellness Wednesdays, a women's empowerment and self-care event.

"It feels like [the Meetinghouse] is one of the most important things we have; it brings us together as a community," Puryear said. "And when the community is together and has places to gather, then we can also find ways to help outside of our own community."

Joining Mama Look! will be Tenzin Chopak and Travis Knapp, each performing a solo set. Both performers are staples of Ithaca's music scene. Chopak's soulful songwriting and intricate guitar work have captivated local audiences, while Knapp's uplifting folk mel-

See BAND on pg 7

TompkinsWeekly

Jaime Cone Hughes, Managing Editor, Editorial@VizellaMedia.com

Todd Mallinson, Publisher, ToddM@VizellaMedia.com

Todd Mallinson, Advertising Director, ToddM@VizellaMedia.com
 Tina Mallinson, Business Manager/Legal Ads, TinaM@VizellaMedia.com
 Andrew Gross, Business Development Manager, AndrewG@VizellaMedia.com
 Cameron Perks, Business Development Manager, CameronP@VizellaMedia.com
 Sydney Trumble, Digital Development Manager, SydneyT@VizellaMedia.com
 Aidan Van Zile, Development Support, AidanV@VizellaMedia.com
 Ryan Gineo, Sports, RyanG@VizellaMedia.com

Contributors:
 Linda Competillo, Kevin L. Smith, Eddie Velazquez

Calendar Listing: Editorial@VizellaMedia.com

Letters and Commentary Policy

Tompkins Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. They should contain no more than 450 words. Letters should be emailed to Editorial@VizellaMedia.com, or mailed to our address below. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number; unsigned letters will not be published.



CONTENTS OF TOMPKINS WEEKLY ARE COPYRIGHT (C) 2023, BY VIZELLA MEDIA, LLC
 All rights reserved. Events listed in Community Calendar are listed free of charge, however not guaranteed due to space availability and are not of routine nature. SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$106 for one year, include check or money order to Tompkins Weekly, 3100 N. Triphammer Rd, Suite 100 Lansing, NY 14882. ADVERTISING: Deadlines are noon on Thursday for display, classified and legal notices. Tompkins Weekly will not be liable for failure to publish an ad, for typographical error, or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the space in which the actual error appeared in the first insertion. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter any advertising copy or graphics deemed unacceptable for publication. Tompkins Weekly is distributed weekly on Wednesday. Vizella Media is located at 3100 N. Triphammer Road, Suite 100 Lansing, NY 14882. Phone is (607) 533-0057

Dryden's longtime Southworth Library director to step down

When Diane Pamela was homeschooling her five sons, she became a frequent visitor to Southworth Library in the village of Dryden.

One day, in 2005, the library staff encouraged Pamela to apply for an open aide position. To Pamela, it made sense because she was already taking advantage of the resources and materials on a regular basis.

Pamela, previously a mechanical engineer for seven years, applied for the job and got it. It was also a good time for Pamela to start working there, with her last two sons entering middle school.

"I've always loved the library, so I applied," Pamela said. "It's how I ended up making that switch."

Almost 20 years later, Pamela is set to step down as the library's director at the end of March. Pamela became the director in 2007. She secured her master's degree in library sciences with a concentration in rural library leadership from Clarion University in 2009.

"I feel like I've been able to accomplish a lot in the 20 or so years I've been working here," Pamela said. "We have a great team, and I've been able to see us grow so much."

Pamela, 66, made the decision to retire next month so she can spend time with family, including her grandchildren.

"It's been a blast," she said. "It's kind of bittersweet to step down, but I know that the library is in a good place. It's a time in my life where I can look at what the next 20 years are going to be."

In the two decades she's been at the helm, Pamela has plenty of accomplishments she's proud of achieving. Her biggest one was creating programs and events for all ages.

"All of the programs are pretty vibrant, whether it's the preschool or adult programs," Pamela said.

SHOP

Continued from pg 4

brief love affair with certain items. I enjoy them while they're here until they get purchased. I also like to think about the hundreds of people who have come through that door in all the years it's been a store — maybe even Millard Fillmore could have been here! You never know who's going to walk through that door."

Tom enjoys his home right in the 5 Stop Shop building, but he is open for business only from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Perhaps he spends some of the rest of his time wondering who his next visitor might be, or what new treasures he might have the pleasure of hosting for a while.

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:

Pancake breakfast in McLean

The McLean Fire Department Auxiliary will host a breakfast buffet at the

Pamela said that the library obtained multiple increments of grant funding in order to offer programs.

"That's how we've been able to do more programs and events — because we have been able to get grant funding to supplement our regular budget," Pamela said. "We were able to increase our library usage between 200-300% because of it."

"It's been a blast, It's kind of bittersweet to step down, but I know that the library is in a good place."

DIANE PAMEL

Director, Southworth Library

Pamela also reminisced about the sale of Abraham Lincoln's historical victory speech document from 1865. The document, which was sitting in a bank vault in pristine condition, had been in the library's possession since 1925.

When Pamela and the library's board realized they needed more space in the building, they decided to sell the document in February 2009. Pamela said that the document sold for a record \$3.44 million. The money allowed for an extension to the library to be built. Today, the section is used for a children's area, open space for reading and computer usage.

Pamela praised the library board for executing the decision.

"It was worth it. The space is perfect," Pamela said. "The library has seen so much change. It's really become a community center here in Dryden."

Pamela is also proud of the library receiving \$50,000 in annual funding from the Dryden Central School District. In 2022, the community voted in favor of the library getting the funding from the tax money that Dryden CSD collects on a yearly basis.

The arrangement has allowed the library have a more stable budget,

McLean Fire Station from 7:30 to 11 a.m. or until gone, Sunday, Feb. 16. On the menu will be three different kinds of pancakes with real maple syrup, French toast, scrambled eggs, home-fried potatoes, sausage links, ham, sausage gravy with biscuits, assorted desserts, an assortment of juices, white and chocolate milk and coffee. The cost for adults is \$13. For senior citizens, the cost is \$10, and for children ages 5 to 12, the cost is \$8. Children under four years old may eat free of charge.

GPL Book Club

The Groton Public Library Book Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. February's book is "The Notebook" by bestselling author Nicholas Sparks. For more information email director@grotonpubliclibrary.org or call 607-898-5055.

Free food at the library

Did you know that the Groton Public Library is not only a hub for books and learning, but you can also get free food there? The "Free Food Day" takes place the first Saturday of every month. Bread, pastries and more from Ithaca Bakery and a delivery of assorted items from Tops are available. While various



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Diane Pamela, director of Southworth Library in Dryden, is stepping down after nearly two decades.

which Pamela said was crucial following the years of the COVID pandemic.

"It's been a huge game changer for us," Pamela said.

Pamela noted that the library is collecting applications for her replacement. The applications will be reviewed by board members in the coming weeks, and the library hopes to have a new director by mid-March.

"I felt it was time for someone else's fresh vision to come through, keep up with what we created here and put their own good spin on it," Pamela said.

Aside from her staff, Pamela will miss the people who come in and use the library, along with the interactions she has with visitors every day.

"They've all become very dear to me. I'll miss the daily interaction," Pamela said.

Pamela will now use her last month-and-a-half as director to absorb as many memories as she can.

"I really appreciate the community I've been able to interact with," Pamela said. "Whether it's a young mom with

children that comes for preschool or it's the adults in discussion groups and programs that we do, they've inspired and encouraged me as I've been here."

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

In brief:

Silent book club at the library on Feb. 24

Southworth Library in the village of Dryden will hold a silent book club gathering at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 24.

"We'll spend some time chatting and getting snacks, and give a preview of the give away book and then you will be free to grab a cozy seat and read in a room with other readers, no conversation required," according to a description on the library's website.

The club allows people to choose a free book from the library's pile to read and take home. Participants can also bring a book to the gathering.

The club is for ages 16 and older. To register, go to southworthlibrary.org.

bread and pastries are almost always part of the delivery, sometimes other goodies such as candy, juices, packaged veggies and fruit and more might also be found.

Every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2 p.m. is

"Free Healthy Food to Go" day. There is a selection spread out in the great room for you to choose from. If you are unable to come, call the library at 607-898-5055 and they can set a box of food aside for you to pick up later.

Let's discuss risk.

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



SIDLE
INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT
Service is our Product

607-387-5258

SidleInsurance.com

State funding or Lansing schools rises 2%

The initial school aid projections from Gov. Kathy Hochul show Lansing Central School District (LCSD)



will be getting an increase as administrators prepare a 2025-2026 school year budget. But that increase is not likely to be significant. By Eddie Velazquez LCSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration Kathryn Heath told district Board of Education members at the board's Jan. 27 meeting that the first proposal from Gov. Hochul only signifies a 2% increase in state aid from last year's final number.

The school aid account would see an increase of around \$6,887. Last year's total aid from the state came in at \$11,971,487. This year's first projection is set at \$11,978,374.

That number could increase if the district reviews its transportation costs and reports to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) final costs on parts of LCSD's capital project.

"The state made some formula changes," Heath said. "The formula that goes into foundation aid [one of the types of funding streams that makes up state school aid] is really long and extensive and complicated."

The bump LCSD is getting comes from a flat, 2% base aid increase to every school district in the state.

"If nothing else, if you didn't qualify for any increases, you were at least getting that minimum 2%," Heath said.

The district could see an increase in building aid, which makes up part of the total aid formula, if it reports the completion of construction or renovation projects.

"If we haven't filed a final cost report on a project we have ongoing, they don't necessarily know we are about to complete this project," Heath said. "Anything we are about to complete, which we are, is not necessarily included in these numbers."

One of the projects the district would report to the state is the non-pipeline

alternatives (NPA) project. Lansing's NPA overhaul is a project that started in 2019, when New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) requested proposals to ensure that Lansing would be less reliant on natural gas. LCSD sent multiple proposals to NYSEG focusing on improvements to Lansing Middle School, which is close to the end of a natural gas pipeline.

"It is basically [a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)] upgrade at the middle school, with boilers, rooftop units and ventilators upgraded to be more energy efficient," Heath said.

"If nothing else, if you didn't qualify for any increases, you were at least getting that minimum 2%."

KATHRYN HEATH

Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration, Lansing Central School District

The first phase of the district's capital project, approved by voters in 2023, would also be included.

"The aid on those particular projects is not included in the number they provided," Heath said.

Another move the state recently made could help local districts, Heath said.

"I think what is really critical here doesn't necessarily impact us yet, but they changed how they are calculating poverty data," she said. "Instead of looking at data from 24 years ago, they are looking at the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates [SAIEP], and those estimates are updated annually based on how the economics of a particular area are changing year over year. So that will be really helpful to some of our districts in our region."

So far, this school year has brought lower costs than anticipated. Based on projections calculated by the end of January, the district is hoping to run a surplus of about \$800,000 by the end of the 2024-2025 budget year.

"Health care costs are a little bit



Photo by Jaime Cone Hughes

Initial school aid projections show Lansing Central School District getting a 2% bump in state aid, which is the minimum base increase for all school districts across the state.

lower than we anticipated due to some changes in the plans people elected, what type of plan, and if they took health insurance at all based on your initial projections," Heath said of the largest source of savings so far. The district is projecting that the health care budget line will come under budget by \$190,254 by the end of the year.

"When we talk about rollover, we are saying: if everything remains the same, no new hires, no one laid off, all of our contractual and supply budgets are the same, and we are just keeping our staff and our benefits, that is what that rollover budget is," Heath said. "Because of our contractual obligations, that means our budget is going up even if everything else remains the same."

Other significant savings could come from supplies, which projects a potential surplus of \$190,131 so far.

"That will fluctuate as we go through the remaining months and expenses start rolling in," Heath said.

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](https://twitter.com/ezvelazquez).

In brief:

The Lansing Community Library is hosting a "Barnyards & Birds" art exhibition by local artist Danielle Clare. The exhibition will be on display at the library until the end of March.

"Check out our newest LCL Art exhibition, Barnyards & Birds, featuring the incredible work of Clare. [She] is a talented self-taught artist based in Lansing," reads a post on the library's website. "[Clare] draws inspiration from roadside barns, nature, and wildlife in Tompkins County. Growing up in a creative environment that encouraged artistic exploration, [Clare] has developed a unique style that incorporates watercolors, India ink, and also driftwood sculptures. [Clare] shares her passion for art with her children, each of whom has contributed a piece to the exhibition as well. Come see this beautiful collection that will be on exhibition from February through March."

HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY



THE HISTORY CENTER
in Tompkins County

George Johnson, a barber in Ithaca, was an active member of the Underground Railroad who was credited with helping dozens of formerly enslaved people. He gathered funds and clothing from supporters and placed escapees aboard the Simeon DeWitt, a steamship with a sympathetic captain. He later served as the first African American juror in Tompkins County.

HOME

Continued from pg 3

said.

For homeowners who find themselves in a situation where they have water damage due to a burst pipe or any other cold-weather issue, one of the most important things to do is notify their homeowner insurance company right away, said Jamie Murphy, territory manager/marketing coordinator for Security Mutual Insurance.

"What we've been seeing are a lot of freezing claims where either the batteries expired or the furnace stopped working," Murphy said. "If you know you're going to be away for

an extended period of time, you should definitely have someone checking on the property."

Murphy said that a property owner should take photos of the damage before and after repairs and send them in promptly, as well. And don't wait to do repairs.

"As time goes by, there is potential further damage to the property," she said. "Be proactive to make sure that we are taking the initiative and being proactive on our end to get an inspector out there to evaluate that claim."

"Request a very detailed estimate from a contractor with a breakdown of damages, as well," she added. "As much documentation as you can have, with the photographs as well, is the best."

SOLAR

Continued from pg 1

still a taxable parcel."

Developers from TJA first brought the PILOT agreement information to the attention of the town board, which Allinger confirmed with the county assessor.

Allinger noted that a lingering assumption throughout town was that if the land near Millard Hill Road came off the tax rolls, Newfield residents would carry that burden.

"But that is not the case," Allinger said.

Allinger said the question of whether or not taxes will go up is "still a misguided statement."

"There is no reason for everyone else to carry the tax burden of removing the land from the tax rolls," Allinger said.

The notion prompted Allinger to provide an example of numbers to further explain how the process works:

"Let's use a 2MW solar development as an example. A 2MW array would sit on a 10-acre lot. Agricultural land in Newfield is currently taxed around \$50/acre ... 10 acres x \$50 = \$500 tax for school, town and the county. The town sees about 20% of that, so the town would be out \$100 from the tax rolls for that 10 acres."

"Enter the PILOT agreement. Currently, the IDA is writing PILOT

agreements for \$4300/MW so that would be \$8,600 that is now collected on that same 10-acre parcel. So, 20% of the \$8,600 is now \$1,720 the town receives from the PILOT versus the \$100 they would have received for just the ag land. So, I fail to see where anyone's taxes would go up."

"The town board has one job and that is to work for the best of the Newfield Community. Full stop."

MIKE ALLINGER

Supervisor, Town of Newfield

Allinger also mentioned that the town's planning board, the lead agency in terms of the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for the proposed solar project, did work on the site plan review and "quite a considerable amount of work overall."

However, based on local law, the town board is now the lead agency for the SEQR.

"The town board is taking up the task of SEQR now because it was brought to our attention by our developer, and our lawyer has concurred that our local law reads that the town board is responsible for large-scale solar projects when it comes down to a SEQR review," Allinger said.

The town board has been working



Photo by Joe Scaglione

Town of Newfield Supervisor Mike Allinger spoke out recently regarding a TJA Clean Energy solar project proposed for Newfield. The project would not take land off the tax rolls, he said. The solar project would take place at this site on Elmira Road, which is off Millard Road.

with Barton & Loguidice, a consulting firm in Syracuse, to guide interested agencies to recognize and accommodate that the lead agency will go from the planning board to the town board.

Allinger noted that the TJA developers are working to move the project forward. According to Frateschi, the goal is to begin project construction sometime this year.

"There's some hurdles for the project to clear before the green light is given," Allinger said.

As Allinger provides clarity on the tax situation, he notes that Newfield is a town with no zoning regulations.

"We're a town that believes in the landowners' right to do with their land as they see fit, as long as it doesn't harm the environment and it follows the letter of the law," Allinger said.

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

BAND

Continued from pg 4

odies and powerful storytelling bring warmth and inspiration to listeners.

"Funds raised will help maintain and preserve the Meetinghouse and grounds for future generations to continue to gather, enjoy and benefit from," Puryear said. "Built in the late 1800s, the structure is in need of exterior painting, full building insulation, a new roof and a parking area. These major projects need funding in the coming year."

An assortment of fresh baked goods will be available for purchase at the venue.

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.

In brief:

Trumansburg Central School District welcomed Hilary Ewing as the new principal of Charles O. Dickerson High School on Feb. 4.

Below is a message from TCSD Superintendent and former Charles O. Dickerson High School Principal Megan Conaway:

"I am writing with much enthusiasm to announce the next principal of Charles O. Dickerson High School, Ms. Hilary Ewing. Ms. Ewing will begin this role on March 17, 2025. With a background in engineering and extensive experience as a math teacher, department leader, and associate principal, Ms. Ewing brings over 15 years of educational expertise to our district. Currently

serving as Associate Principal at Ithaca High School, Ms. Ewing has extensive leadership in enhancing community collaborations as well as expanding college and career readiness programs. Operating with a growth mindset, Ms. Ewing believes that every person has the ability to learn and grow. Ms. Ewing is deeply committed to the power of community in building connections and creating safe, inclusive spaces for students. With a proven track record for initiating meaningful change, Ms.

Ewing has worked collaboratively with staff to share her passion for increasing access to STEAM and other elective programs. We look forward to the leadership and positive impact Ms. Ewing will have on our community!

"During this transition time, Ms. Ledley will continue as acting High School Principal through the first week of March. Thank you to our stakeholder members who assisted with our interview process and helped to guide this very important decision."

70 Asbury Road



\$310,000

Nestled on a quiet side road between Lansing Schools and northeast Ithaca, this charming 3-bedroom home offers the perfect blend of convenience and privacy. Enjoy easy access to shopping, parks, schools, and Cornell University, all while being tucked away on a scenic knoll, set back from the road for added tranquility. Inside, the home boasts a bright and inviting living room, with hardwood floors throughout most of the main floor and updated thermopane windows that fill the space with natural light. The oak kitchen boasts abundant cabinetry, seamlessly flowing into a dining area with a sliding glass door leading to the deck—perfect for outdoor dining and entertaining. The lower level provides a cozy family room warmed by a gas heating stove, plus ample storage, workshop space, or potential for additional living areas. A recently installed high-efficiency heat pump ensures year-round comfort, offering energy-efficient heating, cooling, and hot water. Outside, the deep, private yard invites endless possibilities. Whether you envision lush gardens, a play area, or a custom outdoor retreat with patios, fire pits, and landscape lighting, this large lot is a blank canvas for your dream outdoor oasis. With a garage and municipal water, this home is a rare find in an ideal location—don't miss this opportunity!



Steve Saggese

LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

The cornerstone of your next move

Integrity - Expertise - Professionalism - Results

Over 25 years of experience



607-280-4350 Steve@IthacaHomeFinder.com

www.IthacaHomeFinder.com



Photo provided

Mama Look! is aiming to bring healing and a positive message to their upcoming concert at the Perry City Friends Meetinghouse, located at 6324 state Route 227 in the hamlet of Perry City, Trumansburg. (Left to right): Uniit Carruyo, Amy Puryear and McKenzie Jones.

Sustainability through trust

What do connection, sustainability, and social and planetary well-being have in common? The quality of our relationships greatly impact the way we experience life, but what does that look like in the big picture?

From a sustainability perspective, people navigating emotions, facing fears, and clearly communicating needs is consistent with what nature teaches as interdependent relationships emerge to ensure resiliency. Communities that understand the importance of creating space for building healthy relationships support the well-being of individuals and the whole community.

Healthy communities happen when we transparently work with our vulnerabilities as a show of good intention. From a community viewpoint, being clear about what we need to survive is essential, and being able to work towards that requires trust.

Trust is the way we relate to each other, the level of mutual understanding we're willing to work towards in order to cope with trauma, overcome codependency, and engage as a community.

Trust helps people find the courage to re-imagine and heal relationships through mutual support. With this support it becomes easier to see and acknowledge that blame, anger, criticism, excuses, guilt, punishment, and victim mindsets block pathways

for personal healing. This is also true for building coalitions around sustainability.

As community members, we have the choice to align our collective power with the important work of building trust. Connection as community strengthens and expands our collective insight around the deeper moral implications of specific ecological and social issues.

Still the lure to blame and reside in fear exists. As vulnerable social beings, we struggle with our sense of self, which can cause us to forget what we really need. Doing the work of nurturing healthy relationships in our everyday lives takes courage and commitment. Our ability to authentically assert our needs and thrive in abundant trust grows when we prioritize relationships as community.

Sometimes we need a little inspiration. Children can often accept challenging circumstances but they also hold a super power: they instinctively build community that will help support the potential they imagine. Children understand the pure need to express and receive love. They also learn to equate kindness with trust.

As community, we learn that it's important to bear witness to the vulnerability each person lives with, no matter their ideals and perspectives. In doing this, we acknowledge that the quality of our collective relationship is central to how we as individuals experience life. Trust is invaluable.

People need space to build trust in their personal exchanges, identify

misunderstandings, inform each other of unmet needs, and invent ways of supporting each other at all levels. Every cautionary tale we've heard since childhood warns us about what happens when communication and trust break down.

Today's realities are very difficult to understand. The most challenging issue that communities face today is disconnection. The rawness of isolation can be very damaging, one person's struggle can impact the community as a whole, no matter that person's circle of influence.

Stories individuals share provide not only relatability but also relevant insights necessary for designing sustainable initiatives. People are naturally more equipped to grasp first hand stories and the relatable insights and inspirations that feed our collective imagination. If we value personal and collective well-being, we need to be intentional about creating space for this to happen.

In Tompkins County, many local organizations make the time to learn and improve the way they function, especially when it comes to providing space for community members to share their concerns and ideas. The most effective of these are the ones that take time for each person to not only participate but also to share authentically, informing initiatives designed to serve the greater community.

Creating space for insights from community members is essential to deciding what to prioritize and how to develop solutions to complex challeng-

es. Trust ensures that the work we do is relevant. It also honors our parent's legacy and our children's right to exist and experience joyful resiliency.

Sustainability relies on weaving stories, creating, understanding, and designing together in social spaces. Asserting our individual uniqueness and worth adds value to our collective identity and contributes to our greater good.

Sharing our most challenging and rewarding experiences with others opens up emotional space to playfully imagine inclusive solutions. People initiate positive change through actively sharing their stories, repairing and nurturing relationships, and building community-wide understanding of the intricate interconnection between personal experience, community organizing, social systems, and policies.

People with the ability to understand experiences from a wholistic perspective can more readily access their own sense of "why" establishing sustainability and trust as community is relevant to their own well-being. It's possible to listen with care to a mosaic of diverse personal perspectives, and then to address everyone's needs collectively.

Lifting up universal truths and intentionally building inclusive and trusting spaces frees us all because we need each other in order to thrive.

Cathleen Banford is a community educator and a board member of Sustainable Finger Lakes. Signs of Sustainability is organized by Sustainable Finger Lakes.

Pianist Jonathan Biss to perform Bailey Hall

Jonathan Biss will perform in the next Cornell Concert Series (CCS) production on Friday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Bailey Hall.

Praised as "a superb pianist and also an eloquent and insightful music writer" (The Boston Globe) with "impeccable taste and a formidable technique" (The New Yorker), Biss has appeared internationally as a soloist with the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, the Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco Symphonies, and the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, as well as

the London Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw, the Philharmonia, and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, among many other ensembles. He has served as the Co-Artistic Director of the Marlboro Music School and Festival alongside pianist Mitsuko Uchida since 2018. He served on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music for ten years and has been a guest professor at schools such as the Guildhall SOMAD and the New England Conservatory of Music. As author of *Unquiet: My Life with Beethoven*, he examines music and his

own life's journey through the lens of Beethoven's last piano sonatas.

Biss is a teacher, musical thinker, and performer whose repertoire ranges from the core canon to contemporary commissions. At Cornell, he will be performing works by Franz Schubert and Tyson Gholston Davis.

In addition to the February 21 concert performance, Biss will also give a talk on performance and mental health during the Midday Music series at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20 in Lincoln Hall room B20.

A master class featuring piano students of Xak Bjerken will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20 in Barnes Hall.

Artist and program information, subscriptions, single tickets, and student memberships are available through the CCS website, cornellconcertseries.com.

Free evening parking is available at the Forest Home [37 Forest Home Dr.] and Hoy garages. More information and campus maps can be found at transportation.cornell.edu and cornellconcertseries.com.

SMALL BUSINESS & HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE

BAILEY PLACE INSURANCE
Ithaca - Dryden - Cortland

BaileyPlace.com
607-319-0094

FL & C FINGER LAKES FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY INSURERS SINCE 1875



Photo provided
Jonathan Biss, a teacher, musical thinker, and performer whose repertoire ranges from the core canon to contemporary commissions, will play at Bailey Hall on Feb. 21.

SPORTS

KEY HIGH SCHOOL MATCHUPS: 2/13 Boys Basketball: Lansing vs. Elmira • 2/15 Indoor Track & Field: Finger Lakes Invitational (@ SUNY Cortland) • 2/16 Wrestling: Section IV Championships (@ Visions Veterans Memorial Arena)

T-burg's Nalini Minors part of Bermuda soccer history

Of the billions of people across the globe, only a small percentage have the opportunity to be part of a national soccer team and represent their country on the big stage. Even fewer people can say they've helped make history with their team. In the case of one Trumansburg native, she did so 961 miles from home.

By Ryan Gineo
ESPN ITHACA

Nalini Minors is the backup goalkeeper on the Bermuda under-17 women's national team. From January 27-31, the team took part in the qualifying round for the CONCACAF Women's U-17 Championship (CONCACAF is the governing body of North American soccer). They were able to punch their ticket and become the first U-17 team (men's or women's) from the country to achieve this feat. Although Minors did not see any playing time, it was a truly special moment to be a part of.

"It's thrilling. It's an honor to be able to do that, even if I didn't get to play."

NALINI MINORS

Backup Goalkeeper, Bermuda under-17 women's national team

"It's thrilling," Minors said. "It's an honor to be able to do that, even if I didn't get to play. It was just an honor to be on that roster, knowing that I was there helping to represent the girls on my old club team who might dream for that spot one day [and] that it's possible even when I thought I couldn't do it."

When the final whistle blew for Bermuda's final qualification game, the



Photo by John Brehm

Trumansburg's Nalini Minors (right) controls the ball against Watkins Glen's Michaela Wheaton (left) during the 2024 IAC Large School Championship. Recently, Minors was part of the Bermuda Under-17 women's national team that qualified for the CONCACAF Championship for the first time in the nation's history.

team didn't actually know if they had made it through. After beating Cayman Islands 2-0 and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 5-1, all they needed was to avoid defeat against Puerto Rico to top their group and qualify. It looked like they would do so with the game tied at 1-1 heading into stoppage time, as a tie would have been enough. But in the 95th minute, Puerto Rico scored a last-gasp goal to win the game and leave Bermuda shell-shocked.

But there was a saving grace: they could still go through as one of the two best second-place teams throughout qualifying because of their goal differential. Of the six runners-up in their respective groups, Bermuda had the

second-best goal differential of plus-five, and that was enough to get them over the line. When Minors and the rest of her team found out they had qualified later that day, it was pure jubilation.

"[When] they announced who was going through, I jumped up and down," Minors said. "It was like this huge weight was lifted off of me. It was like this amazing feeling. My teammates were in the shuttle, and they were all screaming and yelling. [They] kind of scared the shuttle driver, but it was definitely an amazing feeling. I grabbed my cat. I was dancing with my cat. It was just straight up joy. I wasn't even worrying about what will come

after we make it. I was just happy in that moment, just pure happiness."

Minors is eligible to compete for Bermuda as a dual citizen because her father is from the island. She began her international career on the under-14 team, and she worked her way up to the under-15 team. She was originally supposed to be the backup goalkeeper during the CONCACAF Girls' U-15 Championship in Trinidad and Tobago last year, but the starter dropped out after getting an offer from a professional team. Minors rose to the occasion and helped Bermuda to a second-place finish in their group, winning two of three

See SOCCER on pg 10

Lansing bowling rolls through regular season

By Ryan Genio
ESPN ITHACA

Last season, the Lansing bowling teams each enjoyed remarkable campaigns. The boys team captured the IAC championship and a 51-9 overall record, while the girls team finished 37-23, making it the first winning season it's had in many years. The good times keep on rolling this time around...literally.

The boys team ended the regular season with a 50-22 record, while the girls team had a solid campaign at 35-37. Their recent spell of success has attracted plenty of attention throughout the community, and head coach Lee Christopher is

ecstatic to see their fan base continue to grow.

"[Over] the last two years, I've got parents, a lot of grandparents, and brothers and sisters, which normally we never had," Christopher said. "But this year and last year, I'm very, very happy to see the fan base. A lot of people are watching us. I've always said we're that sport nobody sees. We're not in the gym or the swimming pool. We're not there in the school. You have to go to the bowling lanes, wherever they may be, and we've got a good following."

One bowler who has certainly wowed the crowd this season is Nicco Binns. The sophomore leads the Bobcats with an average score of 196,

matching last year's average that also paced the team. It's clear that consistency has been the recipe for his still-burgeoning career with the Bobcats, and it's something he honed in on to improve his game.

"I just gotta stay positive and cheer everyone on, help them when they're struggling, but overall have a positive atmosphere for everyone and hopefully win."

NICCO BINNS
Bowler, Lansing High School

"I've worked a lot on making more

spares and having a more solid system for that, as well just being more consistent with my release every time and getting my misses a lot more closer to my good shots and needing to strike a lot more and being confident in picking up my spares when it doesn't strike," Binns said.

Continuing with the theme of consistency, Binns credited Christopher for being the dependable presence for over a decade leading the program.

"He's been here a while, and he's a very good coach and just helps everyone improve," Binns said. "From there, you see all the players get along and create a community to be

See BOWLING on pg 10

Sports

BOWLING

Continued from pg 9

able to help each other improve."

Despite only being an underclassman, Binns is actually a veteran presence on the team. This is his fourth year on the Bobcats, meaning he's bowled for them since he was in seventh grade. This season, the shoe's on the other foot with four seventh graders on the boys team. Bowling is one of very few sports that allows middle schoolers to take part at the varsity level since it's a non-contact sport. Christopher has liked what he's seen from the new crop of bowlers.

"They were intimidated, especially when they first got there [in the] first couple practices," Christopher said. "They're throwing a six-pound ball, maybe an eight-pound [ball]. The boys in the varsity high schoolers are throwing 15-pound balls, so they're gonna get more hits, they're gonna get more carries. With a six-pound ball, it's a slower roll and it doesn't deflect off pins as hard. The maturity will come, and as they grow, they'll be there. It's just nice to know that I got that many kids right now." Despite losing a few bowlers, the boys team's numbers are even greater this year with 12 on the roster compared to eight last season. Apart from Binns, there are quite a few other bowlers who have stood out, including freshman Tyler Paige with an average score of 185 and sophomore Nathan Armstrong with

an average score of 180.

The girls team's numbers are also strong with nine bowlers. They're a pretty well-balanced unit with six bowlers averaging scores in the triple digits, while two others average just under 100. Sienna Wright paces the Bobcats with a 146 average score. With their scores so close to each other, it's only natural that the bond they share is also tight-knit.

"The girls have a good time," Christopher said. "They get along real good. There's three seniors. They're always having a good time. Same with the boys, when it's time to bowl in matches, they've got their game face on."

With another excellent regular season, the Bobcats went into the IAC Championships in Waverly on February 8 with great momentum. While neither team would hoist the title, they each put on commendable showings, with the boys team finishing in fourth place and the girls team placing seventh.

More postseason action is on the horizon with the Section IV Championships coming up from February 21-22 in Vestal. No matter how things turn out at sectionals, the Bobcats will continue to have an ever-growing crowd supporting them for years to come. That high level of enthusiasm has evidently resonated throughout the entire team.

"I just gotta stay positive and cheer everyone on, help them when they're struggling, but overall have a positive atmosphere for everyone and hopefully win," Binns said.



Photo by John Brehm

Lansing's Nicco Binns has continued his stellar bowling career in his sophomore season. Binns led the Bobcats with an average score of 196 during the regular season.

SOCCER

Continued from pg 9

games. That put her on the map to get the call up to the under-17 team at only 14 years old. While she went back to backup duties, she learned a lot from her experience at the next level.

"Even if I'm told I won't play, I always have to be ready," Minors said. "I still

have to go for that mental preparation before the game. I wasn't able to train as much as them because they weren't aiming for me to play, so the warm-up time was mostly given to [the starter], but I could see her confidence and her mental game was on another level than me. It really showed me how I can aspire to try and get there, because I feel like it will be a lot of work, but her skills are in my grasp, and I can do it if

I really put my mind to it."

Minors won't have to wait too long to suit back up for Bermuda. The Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship will take place from March 31 to April 6 in Mexico. The tournament also acts as a qualifier for the Women's U-17 World Cup, with the four remaining teams taking part in Morocco later this year. While Bermuda will enter as significant underdogs, Minors is hoping

the team can impress on the continental stage once again.

"I want us—as a team and me too as a player—to always be in the game," Minors said. "Even if I'm not on the field, I still want to imagine I'm there on the field and cheering my team on. If we win one game in the championship, my life would be complete. Even if we don't, I just hope that we fight our hardest to the last whistle."

CONGRATULATIONS
JHAKEEM HALTOM

HOMETOWN
HEROES
—AWARD—

Tompkins Weekly

Presented By
SECURITY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Award Sponsor
canopy
by Hilton®

"IT'S NOT ABOUT ALWAYS ENJOYING IT OR COMING TO WORK WITH THIS FEELING OF LIKE, 'THIS IS MY LIFE PURPOSE,'" HALTOM SAID. "IT'S A PROFESSIONAL SKILL THAT I'VE LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND BEING ON THE FRONT LINES OF TEENAGE MENTAL HEALTH."

To Nominate Visit: www.TompkinsWeekly.com/Hometown-Heroes/

Create
the next
family
heirloom.

ithacajewelbox.com

CAD
Setups to make
design in line
Set in
+ STM
125ct
Antique elements
Milligan

Pritchard
automotive

WE WROTE THE BOOK ON
QUALITY & VALUE

(607) 272-8822 | PritchardAutomotive.com
SALES | SERVICE | BODY SHOP

WIN TICKETS

Enter by Feb. 17 for a chance to see *Flight of Fancy* featuring Christina Bouey on Sat, Feb. 22.

Go to: TompkinsWeekly.com/Cayuga-Chamber-Orchestra-Ticket-Giveaway/

CAYUGA
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA



WEDNESDAY 2/12

Midday Music for Organ: Anne Spink

February 12 @ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Free
Guest Anne Spink presents "The Art of the Organist." Includes music by Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Mozart and Connor Chee. photo credit: Blake Sourisseau Sage Chapel 147 Ho Plaza Ithaca, 14853



The Brobot Adventure

February 12 @ 7:00 pm - February 24 @ 8:30 pm The Brobot Adventure by Darian Dauchan, Directed by Andrew Scoville Through live looped vocals, rhymes, and beatboxing, an android spreads its message of peace, love, and openness. A Sci-Fi Hip Hop solo concert that defies both space and time. Kitchen Theatre Company 417 W. State St./ Martin Luther King Jr. St., Ithaca, 14850

THURSDAY 2/13

Valentine's Day Bake Sale

February 13 @ 10:00 am - 6:30 pm Stop by the Newfield Public Library on Thursday, February 13th for our Valentine's Day Bake Sale. Lots of baked goods and treats to choose from! Get here early to see the best selection! Make a DIY gift basket! Donate \$10- select a treat, book, and a movie! Donate \$20- add a bottle of wine! All proceeds benefit the library. Newfield Public Library 198 Main St Newfield, NY, 14867



FRIDAY 2/14

Ithaca Loves Teachers

February 14 @ 12:00 am - February 28 @ 12:00 am Free Honoring preK-12 educators, Ithaca area businesses & attractions unite to host a community-wide celebration with over 150 activities, discounts, and events throughout Tompkins County. It's our way of saying thanks to educators everywhere for all of your hard work and dedication! Ithaca Loves Teachers is open to all public

and private school teachers, school district employees/staff, teacher union retirees, homeschool teachers, and childcare workers regardless of where you live. This year marks our 20th annual celebration!

Registration is free; sign up for the digital pass to view all special offer. To redeem deals and upon checking in to accommodations, please be prepared to show your school ID badge or equivalent, or proof of employment in education/teachers union retiree status. In mid-January 2025 we'll share a list of special offers and deals to browse. In the meantime mark your calendars for February 14th-28th, and visit www.visitithaca.com/ithaca-loves-teachers/ for events happening and to sign up for the mobile pass once it launches. For discounts on overnight stays, go to the lodging coupons page — hotel & inn deals are not listed on the digital pass. Plan to book in advance directly with the accommodation for the best rate.

Cornell University Department of Music presents a concert for Valentine's Day, plus events with pianist Jonathan Biss

ITHACA, NY — The Cornell Department of Music celebrates Valentine's Day with a Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards Salon "Un Amour Glacé: Meditations on Love, Sadness, & Nature in Francophone Salons" on Friday, February 14 at 5:00 pm at the A.D. White House. Inspired by both seasonal and cosmic ennui, baritone Jean Bernard Cerin and pianist Sezi Seskir explore how French, Canadian, and Haitian composers have explored melancholy and escapism in the mélodie (French art song) and piano music. The event is free and open to the public with no tickets required.

Additionally, the Cornell Concert Series welcomes pianist Jonathan Biss for events February 20 and 21. Praised as "a superb pianist and also an eloquent and insightful music writer" (The Boston Globe) with "impeccable taste and a formidable technique" (The New Yorker), Biss has appeared internationally as a soloist with the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, the Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco Symphonies, and the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, as well as the London Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw, the Philharmonia, and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, among many other ensembles. Biss is a teacher, musical thinker, and performer whose repertoire ranges from the core canon to contemporary commissions.

As part of the Midday Music series, on Thursday, February 20 at 12:30 pm in Lincoln Hall B20, Biss will be in conversation with Professors Ronald Hoy and Xak Bjerken discussing performance and mental health. At 5:00 pm in Barnes Hall, Biss will give a public master class with Bjerken's students.

The mainstage concert takes place Friday, February 21 at 7:30 pm in Bailey Hall. Biss will perform works by Franz Schubert and Tyson Gholston Davis. Tickets are \$17-44 at cornellconcertseries.com

Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards: Salon

February 14 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Free Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards Salon: "Un Amour Glacé: Meditations on Love, Sadness, & Nature in Francophone Salons." Inspired by both seasonal and cosmic ennui, baritone Jean Bernard Cerin and pianist Sezi Seskir explore how French, Canadian, and Haitian composers have explored melancholy and escapism in the mélodie and piano music. A. D. White House 27 E Ave Ithaca, 14853

Songs of Love

February 14 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm \$75 Back for its second year, Songs of Love returns, featuring performers Steven Stull, John White and the Ithaca College Vocal Ensemble. Guests will be treated to live music, hearty

hors d'oeuvres by Serendipity, a cash bar, and desserts by Sinfully Sweet. Join in the sing-alongs, mingle with friends, and take a chance on CCO raffle baskets for some added fun. Museum of the Earth 1259 Trumansburg Road Ithaca, 14850

2025 Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival

February 14 @ 7:00 pm - February 15 @ 10:00 pm Ignite your passion for adventure, action and travel! Cornell Outdoor Education is proud to present The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour.

The World Tour Films will exhilarate you with amazing big-screen stories and adventure films when it comes to Bailey Hall on Friday, February 14 and Saturday, February 15, 2025. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., show starts at 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters and climb the highest peaks. Get your tickets today and be taken away to the most captivating places on earth. Tickets for Night 1, Night 2, or a 2 Night Package is available at CornellTickets.com Bailey Hall at Cornell University 230 Garden Ave Ithaca, 14853

this program will also include pieces by Dale Trumbore, Sarah Quartel, Rosephayne Powell, Libby Larsen, and Alice Parker, accompanied by piano and string quartet. St. Luke Lutheran Church 109 Oak Avenue Ithaca, 14850

Cayuga Vocal Ensemble

Sorrow into Song

Sunday, February 16th, 4pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church 109 Oak Ave Free Admission Donations Welcome

A program of choral pieces by women composers, including Larsen, Trumbore, Quartel, Beach, Powell, Parker, and Shaw

MUSIC AT ST. LUKE

CAYUGA VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Sean Linfors, Artistic Director
CAYUGA-VOCALORG

MONDAY 2/17

Maker Mondays

Monday, February 17, 2025, 4:00pm-6:00pm Let's Make Something! 3D Printing, Laser Cutting, Cricut, etc... Teens are invited to the Makerspace for two hours of open-making time. Participants will have the opportunity to learn and use the Makerspace. The Makerspace will also offer a variety of crafting supplies to participants as well. No registration is required to participate. Please be aware this program is first come first serve for Makerspace machines, materials, and assistance. Tompkins County Public Library 101 East Green Street Ithaca, NY

TUESDAY 2/18

Comic Book Club Meeting on Tuesday, 2/18/2025 — "The 50th Anniversary of the Comic Book Club of Ithaca!"

February 18 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free At the meeting on February 18, 2025, the Comic Book Club of Ithaca — the oldest continuously running comic book club in the country — will celebrate its 50th Birthday! Yes, well before the current MCU or DCU, and even before the first Christopher Reeve Superman movie, the Comic Book Club of Ithaca was meeting regularly, and the Club held its very first meeting on 2/18/1975! Gather 'round at the Tompkins County Public Library on this February 18 to celebrate 50 years of pop culture with comics, books and other memorabilia, and, perhaps, cake!

The Comic Book Club of Ithaca is a registered non-profit organization. The Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and meetings are free and open to pop culture fans of all ages. For more information, see the Club's website at comicbookclub.org, which includes links to the Club's Facebook page, and to other events such as ITHACON, the annual comic book convention.

If you like to read — books, comic books, graphic novels, on-line comics, you name it — check us out!

SUNDAY 2/16

"Sorrow Into Song" with the Cayuga Vocal Ensemble

February 16 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Music at St. Luke presents Cayuga Vocal Ensemble: Sorrow Into Song. Taking its title from the poem Sorrow into Song by Sara Teasdale, as set to music by Christine Donkin, this concert features choral pieces written and arranged by women composers. It will feature both classic and contemporary works, from a section of Amy Beach's Mass in Eb to Caroline Shaw's To the Hands. Under the direction of Sean Linfors,



To submit your own event visit:
**[tompkinsweekly.com/
event-submission/](http://tompkinsweekly.com/event-submission/)**

Activities

HOROSCOPE

Week of
February 9 to 15, 2025

ARIES
You may have to wait at home all day for something like a package delivery. It'll be the perfect opportunity to consider a stylish interior makeover.

TAURUS
If you're going somewhere that's hard to find, precise directions will be essential to avoid wasting a lot of time. A GPS navigation app will be your best friend.

GEMINI
Nobody likes feeling deprived, but it can motivate you to seek solutions. You'll be ready to act once you figure out how to gain financial freedom.

CANCER
Exciting activities abound, bringing a whirlwind of commitments that will fill up your schedule. However, you'll skillfully organize all your tasks and meet all your deadlines.

LEO
A cold is often your body's way of telling you it's time to slow down and recharge. If you're feeling stressed, take some time to unwind with relaxation and meditation.

VIRGO
You'll be in a leadership role, and your team will look to you for guidance. You'll have plenty of opportunities to showcase your management skills. Embrace the position you've earned and assert your authority with confidence.

LIBRA
As you juggle family and professional commitments, you won't have much spare time or any time to devote to your own activities. You'll also have to organize professional or social gatherings.

SCORPIO
At work, your productivity will catch the attention of your superiors, who will feel compelled to offer you a raise to secure your longevity with the company. You'll have every reason to be proud!

SAGITTARIUS
You may be faced with existential questions this week, which may prompt you to seek a more enlightened outlook on life. In your relationship, loyalty and dedication are highly valued.

CAPRICORN
You'll find common ground with those around you after a conflict. Your wisdom will be crucial in this situation. Quick action will be needed to stop things from getting worse.

AQUARIUS
This week will be full of professional challenges. Set realistic expectations to ensure your success matches your efforts. Keep an eye out for potential friction with colleagues who may be jealous of your achievements.

PISCES
All the attention will be on you this week. You'll receive well-deserved praise for your amazing accomplishments. This will give your self-confidence a major boost.

The luckiest signs this week:
LIBRA, SCORPIO AND SAGITTARIUS

★★★

Break Time

COMICS

By Jack Young

Sudoku

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.

RECIPE of the week

BLUEBERRY LEMON MUFFINS

Ingredients (Makes 12):

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour	- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar	- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tsp baking powder	- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp salt	- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1/2 cup milk	
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil	

Directions:

1. Preheat Oven: Set to 375°F (190°C). Line a muffin tin with liners.
2. Mix Dry Ingredients: In a bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
3. Mix Wet Ingredients: In another bowl, combine milk, oil, eggs, lemon zest, and vanilla.
4. Combine: Add wet to dry ingredients, stirring until just mixed. Fold in blueberries.
5. Bake: Divide batter into muffin cups and bake for 18-22 minutes, until golden brown.
6. Cool & Enjoy: Let cool slightly before serving. Perfect for a bright, citrusy treat!

CROSSWORD

1. Come to a halt	32. Eating regimen	59. Dogs and gerbils
5. Stags and bucks	34. "Without My Daughter"	60. Old pronoun
12. Slaps	36. Dress for Caesar	61. Golfers' pegs
13. Layers	37. Play a lute	
14. Be indebted to	39. Hair accessory	
15. Feel a dull pain	41. Plant	
16. Expanded	42. Inexperienced	
17. Garden produce	44. Senses	
18. Fur wrap	46. Wreck	
19. Ironies	50. Horse's sound	
20. Garden produce	53. Fence bar	
21. Indication of future events	54. Look like	
22. Young bug	56. Florida Key, e.g.	
23. Beg	57. Gal of song	
24. Ironies	58. Purple fruit	
25. Carry with effort		
26. Dads		
27. Sty resident		
28. Female sheep		
29. Four-door auto		
30. Environment		
31. Cake froster		
32. Got a Way"		
33. Kind of caterpillar		
34. Bystander		
35. Biblical song		
36. Sty resident		
37. Female sheep		
38. Four-door auto		
39. Environment		
40. Cake froster		
41. "How do I love _____?"		
42. Got a Way"		
43. Kind of caterpillar		
44. Bystander		
45. Biblical song		
46. Sty resident		
47. Female sheep		
48. Four-door auto		
49. Environment		
50. Cake froster		
51. "How do I love _____?"		
52. Got a Way"		
53. Kind of caterpillar		
54. Bystander		
55. Biblical song		
56. Sty resident		
57. Female sheep		
58. Four-door auto		
59. Environment		
60. Cake froster		
61. "How do I love _____?"		

12

Tompkins Weekly

February 12, 2025

Highlights of the Feb. 4 legislature meeting

Below are the highlights of the Feb. 4 meeting of the Tompkins County Legislature.

Proclamation of February as Black History Month

A proclamation was read recognizing the significance of February as Black History Month in Tompkins County. Special honors were given to local Black historical figures: civil rights leader Dr. Dorothy Cotton, Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley, Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, and Ruth Carol Taylor (the first black flight attendant in the United States), among others. The Pan-African flag will be flown on all County flagpoles during Black History Month.

Addressing Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in Tompkins County

Public comment was heard in response to ICE activity that occurred in Ithaca last week. A letter was read by a community member with over 200 sig-

natures from County residents, in support of Sheriff Osborne and the County in the face of federal pressures. Ithaca City Common Council representatives shared that they will be reaffirming the City of Ithaca's Sanctuary City status at Common Council meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

County Attorney Maury Josephson shared statements that had been put forth to the media following the Department of Justice's press release to clarify NYS laws and local policies were followed: "The Sheriff and his staff acted consistently with New York State law and judicial decisions, County policy, guidance of the New York Attorney General's Office, and guidance of the New York State Sheriffs' Association. There was no interference with federal immigration enforcement efforts. DOJ's assertion that the Tompkins County Sheriff did anything to put federal law enforcement officers in danger is false

and offensive. The safety of all law enforcement is our top priority. In contrast, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were notified of when the individual in question was going to be released and had every opportunity to come to the jail to obtain the individual in question without any need for a pursuit or other incident."

Many legislators thanked their constituents for being active with expressing concerns. Legislator Shawna Black (D-Ithaca) reminded the community of the resolution passed by the County Legislature in 2017, to Maintain a Safe, Inclusive Government and Ensure the Protection, Order, Conduct, Safety, Health, and Well-Being of All Persons in Tompkins County. Attorney Josephson reiterated how this resolution informs county staff on appropriate steps to take when encountering federal law enforcement within work-place settings.

Resolution to arm probation officers

returns to legislative floor

A resolution was brought forth by Chair of the Public Safety Committee Rich John (D-Ithaca) to arm designated Probation Officers when responding to high-risk situations. Originally brought forth in September 2024, the resolution was revised following community engagement sessions to include language advising when probation officers would be armed, when the officer may need to carry concealed vs. carry openly and calls for use of psychological testing for officers who would carry arms, similar to those taken by law enforcement officers. The resolution carried 12-2 following discussion, with an amendment to develop a parallel policy for the use of body cameras for armed probation officers when engaged in field work. The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services will need to approve any policy set forth by the TC Legislature before implementation.

Tax exemption applications due March 1

The Department of Assessment mailed all renewal applications to property owners who are currently receiving these exemptions on Friday, December 13, 2024. This mailing included the following applications:

- Low-Income Senior Exemption
- Low-Income Disability Exemption
- Clergy Exemption
- Partial Exemption for Wholly Ex-

empt Properties

- Housing Trust Exemption
- Volunteer Fire Fighter/Ambulance Worker Exemption
- Living Quarters for Parent/Grandparent
- Agricultural Land Exemption

These applications are due on March 1, 2025 except for the Agricultural Land Exemption which is due on April 1, 2025.

Tompkins County has increased their limits for the low-income senior and disability exemption for the 2025 Assessment Roll. The limit is now \$44,900 for a 5% exemption and \$36,500 for a 50% exemption. Many more towns are also planning to follow suit for this year (or next year).

The City of Ithaca voted to increase their scale to \$58,400 for a 5% exemption

and \$50,000 for a 50% exemption. They have already mailed out applications to property owners that NYS has told them are possibly eligible for this exemption so that we could give property owners enough time to file for this exemption considering the new higher limits.

Please contact the Tompkins County Assessment Department at 607-274-5517 with any questions.

MORE CARS! LOWER PRICES! SIMMONS-ROCKWELL



SCAN WITH MOBILE DEVICE
TO FIND YOUR NEW CAR!



Tompkins
Weekly



LANSING GIRLS BASKETBALL

Top row (left to right): Izzy Wilder, Seeta Hidari, Piper Mason, head coach Greg Wilder Middle row (left to right): Madison Nolan (manager), Marissa Nolan, Isabella Rosas Mendez Leon, Molly Mingos, Jenna Geise, Kayla Geise (manager) Bottom row (left to right): Nasia Whyte, Leilani Drake, Liana Newman

STATS:

-5-5 record in January (4 wins coming against IAC Large schools) -Izzy Wilder: 13 PPG, 10 RPG, 6 APG; multiple double-doubles, including a career-high 26 points with 10 rebounds vs. Whitney Point -Marissa Nolan: 12 PPG, 5 RPG, 4 APG, 3 SPG -Leilani Drake: Career-high 12 points vs. Whitney Point -Piper Mason: 5 PPG, 6 RPG, 5 APG; career-high 20 rebounds vs. Newfield

Photo Credit: Adrian Mitchell, Old Stage Photo

**FL
F&C**
FINGER LAKES
FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY
**TOMPKINS
TEAMS
OF THE
MONTH**
**JANUARY
2025**

**ESPN
(ITHACA)**



DRYDEN BOYS BASKETBALL

Top row (left to right): Head coach Zachary LeViere, Peter Nydam, Alexander Scott, Scott Baylor Jr., Daniel Murphy, assistant coach Daryl Nydam Bottom row (left to right): Jayceon Miles, Luke Eshelman, Wyatt Gleason, Masyne Holmes, Carmelo Miles

STATS:

-8-1 record in January -6 wins by over 20 points -Ranked as high as #10 in the state in Class B -Allowing 48.1 points per game entering February (#1 in the IAC) -Xander Scott: team-high 19.2 points per game and 10 rebounds per game -Peter Nydam (14.6 PPG) and Daniel Murphy (13.5 PPG) round out top 3 scorers

Photo Credit: Darl Zehr Photography



BaileyPlace.com
607-319-0094



MaguireFamilyInsurance.com
607-261-1301



TrueInsurance.com
607-273-7511



TheWoodOffice.com
607-266-3303

ELECTED

Continued from pg 1

"I love serving the Lansing community and my neighbors, and I hope they'll turn out again and vote for me in November," Sigler said.

For those who have decided not to run again, leaving the legislature is bittersweet.

"I think it's time for younger people to step up, because you're the ones who are going to be living with the long-term consequences of whatever the legislature decides," said Dawson, who represents the villages of Lansing and Cayuga Heights.

"I think it would be a good thing if, for example, we had some younger people who are raising families," Dawson said, adding that because of the time commitment required, local politics tends to attract those who are older or, on the opposite end, people in their 20s.

"I think [the legislature] should be representative of the community — people who have families, who are a little younger," agreed Koreman. "So, I just think it's time for the next set of folks to get in there."

"The problem," said Dawson, "is that economics and the demands on people's time when they're raising a family, for example, means that the people in what I consider my sweet spot rarely have the time and energy to do the work on the legislature or [Ithaca] Common Council."

Dawson said that she feels especially close to the group of five legislators who were also elected for the first time in 2017, including Champion and Koreman.

Henry Granison, who was also part of that group, passed away in 2022.

Democrat Shawna Black (District 11) also joined at that time and has announced that she will run again. Incumbent Democrats Travis Brooks (District 1), Veronica Pillar (District 2) and Gregory Mezey (District 13) have also announced bids for another term. Tompkins Weekly is not

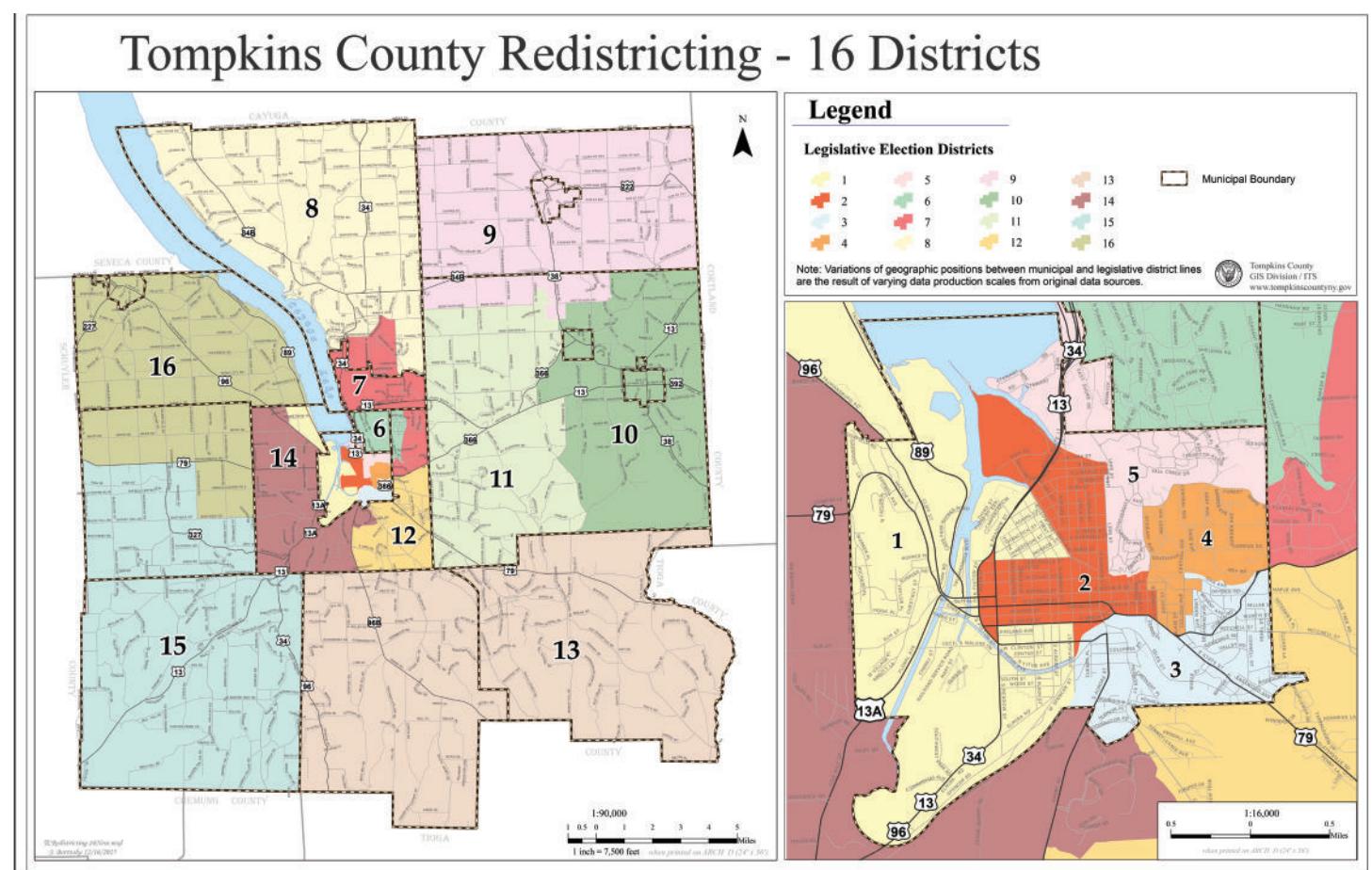


Image provided by Tompkins County

This map of redistricted Tompkins County shows new boundaries that will go into effect in the November election, as well as two new districts.

aware of any statements by current legislators Michael Lane (District 14), a Democrat, or Lee Shurtleff (District 9), a Republican, regarding their potential candidacy.

"I think when the original five came on board ... some of our colleagues who were more experienced may have found it trying to deal with us," Dawson said. "And when the latest new crop came on, that shook us up, too."

"The job in and of itself is inherently full of conflict," Champion said. "I think that's good — we want people who are strong willed and opinionated, and I'm definitely that — but after eight years, I'm definitely ready for a rest."

Champion said that some of her proudest accomplishments in the legislature had to do with new environmental initiatives, including helping to institute green policies within county government, such as an environmentally preferred purchasing policy.

environmental initiatives, including helping to institute green policies within county government, such as an environmentally preferred purchasing policy.

"I give all the props to the staff, because they're the ones doing the work that is going into the policies that the legislators are implementing," Champion said.

Koreman also mentioned advancing more environmental goals when asked what she is most proud of.

"The airport is now geothermal, the highway department has geothermal heating and air conditioning, and we're working on — hopefully, if we get a grant — for the [Tompkins County] Department of Emergency Response to be geothermal," she said. Koreman also said that she is very proud to have spearheaded labor representation on the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and pushed for a labor policy for the IDA, which states that any local development receiving a tax abatement must use 75% local labor.

Dawson said that some of her greatest accomplishments in the legislature have been working with former legislators Martha Robertson and now-New York State Representative Anna Kelles to establish a Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board and securing funding for a county chief sustainability officer.

She said that she looks forward to seeing what the future holds for local politics.

"Fully half of the next legislature could be new people," Dawson said. "That's going to be huge."

Red Cross: Donors needed now to build up the blood supply

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets in February to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month. People of all blood types — especially those with type O negative blood — are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter.

Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of blood drives have been canceled and more than 15,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected due to severe winter weather and wildfires. As February continues, so does the potential for additional weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which could also force more people

to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

Give with your whole heart this month. To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give Jan. 27-Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Feb. 16-28:

Brooktondale

2/20/2025: 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Brooktondale Fire Department, 786 Valley Rd.

Dryden

2/25/2025: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tompkins Cortland Community College, 170 North St.

2/26/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Dryden Fire Department, 26 North Street

Ithaca

2/19/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Vineyard Church of Ithaca, 23 Cinema Drive

2/26/2025: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Cornell University Stocking Hall, 411 Tower Rd.

2/27/2025: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1019 N. Cayuga Street

2/28/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Cayuga Medical Center Bonnie Howell Education Center, 101 Dates Drive

Lansing

2/17/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Lansing United Methodist Church, 32 Brickyard Rd.

Pet PASSAGES
DIGNIFIED PET CREMATION

Dignified Cremation
Euthanasia Services
Online Planning | Memorialization

607-236-4122
fingerlakes.ny.petpassages.com

**GUIDING
YOU THROUGH
THE LOSS OF
YOUR PET.**

Trout in the classroom! Discover Cayuga Lake

Since 2003, Discover Cayuga Lake, a non-profit organization based in Ithaca, NY, has been sharing a wide array of fun and fascinating hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages--on their boat, at streams, and in classrooms.



By Marjorie Olds
As more people get to experience life on, and in, the water, and learn about and explore Cayuga Lake, DCL hopes we become protectors of our great treasure.

Discover Cayuga Lake offers many different cruises from May-October, and Floating Classroom experiences for students on their much loved boat, the MV Teal. All of their cruises include cultural and ecological information about the lake and many of them also offer interactive activities on board that highlight certain aspects of lake life.

The activities on board are engaging and eye-opening for all ages.

Astrid Jirka, DCL's Director of Tourism and Outreach: "We want people to have a great time when they are on board, while also experiencing something new and interesting. There's always something new to learn, and most people don't realize the complexity of what lives in the lake. One of things we always do on our eco-cruises is give people the chance to look at a drop of water under a microscope. There's a whole world of living organisms living in there! People are astonished by what they find."

During the winter DCL provides its Finger Lakes Trout in the Classroom Program. Right now, there are DCL aquariums in 20 local elementary and middle schools surrounding Lake Cayuga, and nearly 1,500 students are raising trout! DCL collects Brook and Brown

Trout eggs from regional hatcheries and places them into the aquariums and the students monitor and care for them. The kids get to feed their fish all year long and observe them as they develop from eggs to small fingerlings. Teachers and DCL educators, share lessons about the lifestyle and habitat needs of their trout, which will eventually be released into local streams. Busy teachers know they can call on Discover Cayuga Lake since DCL staff are available 24/7 to assist with their aquarium needs.

"We want people to have a great time when they are on board, while also experiencing something new and interesting."

ASTRID JIRKA

**Director of Tourism and Outreach,
Discover Cayuga Lake**

Once the fish are big enough, and as the school year comes to a close in June, DCL staff organize the much anticipated and exciting release of the young trout in streams adjacent to participating schools. Astrid describes the countdown followed at each release: "Teams of two kids receive a jar with a trout, which they then carefully walk to the water's edge. They're given some time to get used to the idea that they will be setting their trout free into the wilderness, and some children say a special farewell, a blessing, or a prayer."

"When everyone is lined up, the countdown begins, 5-4-3-2-1!

Then the students all release their trout at the same time!

For some students it can be a little emotional. The process of raising the trout and the discussions the program has generated, really



Photo provided

Students look on as Astrid Jirka, director of tourism and outreach for non-profit organization Discover Cayuga Lake, feeds the program's fish.

connects young people to these living beings. They really start to care, and that's what we're aiming for."

"This kind of experiential learning helps our region's children, the future protectors of our waterways, not only discover the wonder of fish (which play a key role in our lake's healthy ecology and its future) but to develop positive relationships with the natural world."

John Brook, a 4th grade Science Teacher in Enfield observes:

"Trout In the Classroom is a remarkably engaging program where students get hands-on science experience through raising trout, participating in activities associated with trout, and making connections to the natural world. Ideally, this program sets the foundation for students to become stewards of our natural resources. As a science teacher, I know that this program has had a lasting effect on students. When students come back to visit me, whether one year, five years, or even 10 years later, one of the first questions they ask me is, 'Do

you still raise brown trout?' When I tell them that I do, they often tell me it was the best activity they did in elementary school and one they always remember."

This year, Discover Cayuga Lake is asking generous fans of Cayuga Lake to sponsor a classroom aquarium (\$250.00). Sponsors can pick a school that they have a connection to, and will be invited to the ceremonial Trout Release. Over a dozen local businesses and individuals have already claimed an aquarium, but there are still some aquariums requiring sponsorships this year.

Next time a loved one's birthday, anniversary or other special occasion is on the horizon, consider gifting a Discover Cayuga Lake Trout in the Classroom aquarium in the honor of your celebrant.

This unique and thoughtful gift will inspire future champions of Cayuga Lake.

Contact Astrid at astrid@discovercayugalake.org if you're interested.

Obituaries

Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories

RECENT DEATH NOTICES

Name:	Age:	Town, State:	Death Date:	Arrangements:
John J. Sorgi	77	Trumansburg, NY	Feb-8	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Florence Iona Blodgett	90	-	Feb-8	Perkins Funeral Home
Carol Ann Levitsky	81	Ithaca, NY	Feb-6	Bangs Funeral Home
Larry Kent Hein	85	Trumansburg, NY	Feb-6	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Mary L. Camobreco	90	Ithaca, NY	Feb-6	Bangs Funeral Home
Anne Schaffer	89	Harrisburg, PA	Feb-2	Ness-Sibley Funeral Home
Maryjo Mashlykin	76	-	Feb-1	Perkins Funeral Home

Placing an Obituary with Tompkins Weekly

Contact Us Today:

We are dedicated to publishing meaningful and lasting tributes. Contact us today with questions or send your obituary with a preferred photo and begin the process of honoring their memory.



Celebrating Lives, Honoring Memories
(607) 533-0057 | TinaM@VizellaMedia.com | 3100 N. Triphammer Road, Suite 100, Lansing, NY 14882



CENTRAL NEW YORK CREMATION SERVICE

Dignified, Compassionate, Simple

Serving Tompkins, Cortland & Cayuga Counties
22 Church St., Moravia | (607) 423-3830
centralnewyorkcremationservice.com

**Offering CREMATION SERVICES &
DIRECT BURIAL**

Direct Cremation \$950 + Cremation Fee \$350

ARTHUR WEBB - NYSLFD

Danby receives state grant money to repair residences

Danby and West Danby homes in need of crucial fixes and updates will receive free upgrades and repairs thanks to a \$695,000 New York State Block Grant.

"This should help about 14 low-to-moderate-income homeowners to rehabilitate their homes and provide upgrades," said Gregory Hutnik, town of Danby planner, "such as things that help with energy savings, like new heating systems, new insulation, new roofs — people have benefited from new windows — some really necessary upgrades to help homeowners save energy."

"We have quite a lot of older, rundown places that need help, and oftentimes it's older residents that are retired but didn't make very much money, and didn't have the money to fix houses up," Joel Gagnon, Danby Town Supervisor, said.

Administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Office of Community Renewal, the grants are made through state and federal programs including NYS HOME, NYS Community Development Block Grant, Access to Home, Access to Home for Heroes, Access to Home for Medicaid, Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement, and RESTORE.

"I am pleased to see this grant funding benefit municipalities and nonprofits working to make homeownership a reality for working families across our district," New York State Senator Lea Webb said. "Safe and affordable housing is a fundamental human right. I am proud of the work we are doing in New York to tackle the housing crisis and to find and implement solutions to ensure safe and affordable housing for everyone in our community. These grants are a direct result of the work we did in the FY25 budget to address New York's housing crisis and make our state more affordable for working families."

This is not the first time Danby has secured a grant for this program. Several years ago, Danby fixed up 12 homes with a grant of around \$500,000.

"It dealt with some of the worst cas-

es," Gagnon said.

Older Danby and West Danby homes, like these on Brown Road, may be eligible for repairs, thanks to a New York State Block Grant that dedicates \$695,000 to the repair and improvement of the town's residences.

"This is just kind of a keeping-the-ball-rolling kind of grant," Hutnik said. "We've already done a lot of great work, and the state recognizes that, and so we applied again."

Tompkins County provided seed money to take the initial steps toward applying for the grant, Gagnon said.

"This is where the county played a critical role," he said. "We identified a need, but the county has invested in sort of a pro-housing policy, making money available for us to apply for this Block Grant with."

"We have quite a lot of older, run-down places that need help..."

JOEL GAGNON

Supervisor, Town of Danby

Gagnon said that Danby's older homeowners are sometimes unable to make repairs on their own, causing small problems to worsen over time.

"What happens with some people

is that sometimes, if they have more money, they can downsize or move out to a communal living situation and, ideally, have some sort of end-of-life plan," Gagnon said, "and they can afford it. We have working class folks who may own their house, and then when they get into retirement they can't afford to fix it or can't afford to live anywhere else, either. They tend to stay put, and then the houses tend to fall apart around them."

"There are really bad situations like leaky roofs that can cause a lot of damage if you don't fix it," he added.

Outside, porches fall off or steps become unsafe, Gagnon said, creating a risky situation.

"The grant is targeted toward fixing what needs fixing that is going to get worse," Gagnon said. "If you've got a leaking roof, it's a high priority ... or a bathroom floor that's rotted, so people have to step over holes or are falling through. Really basic stuff."

After Danby administered the first grant to the 12 homeowners who were chosen, there was still a waiting list of people who were hoping to be helped.

"But there wasn't the money to do it," Gagnon said, "so given the extraordinary job our administrators have done, we applied for another run and got it."

"It was more money this time, but it may not help that many more houses [than the previous grant]," he said, explaining that the rules have gotten stricter around lead and radon remediation since the previous grant. The grant program is now responsible for repairing any issues related to lead and radon found in the home.

In the United States, the federal government banned lead-based paint in consumer products in 1978. "In Danby we have an awful lot of houses built before 1978, and often those are the ones that need the most help," Gagnon said.

He said that in the event the homeowner sells the property within five years of the repairs being done, the grant turns into a loan that is paid back by the property owner.

Those who are interested in receiving repairs through the grant are encouraged to call the Danby Town Offices at (607) 277-4788.

Tompkins County launches Critical Incident Stress Management Team

The Tompkins County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team is now available to assist local first responders with what is sometimes called 'psychological first aid'.

CISM is an intervention protocol developed specifically for dealing with traumatic events. The CISM Team — consisting of first responders and mental health clinicians from across Tompkins County — will be activated for a specific incident and assist with short-term crisis response.

"The CISM Team is not a counseling or therapy provider or intended to be a substitute for either" said Joe Milliman, Tompkins EMS Program Manager and CISM Leader. "But rather, it is a team of first responders here to support the mental health of our fellow responders utilizing peer support."

A CISM Team response can be requested to the scene for large-scale events, or at a debriefing a day or two afterwards. CISM is open to, and encouraged for, all first re-

sponders involved in the event who wish to attend.

"The CISM Team will work hand in hand with Overwatch Peer Support (OPS), which will focus on providing individual support to those requesting it," stated Danielle Schwarz, Peer Support Coordinator at the Department of Emergency Response. "These two initiatives will work hand in hand towards addressing first responder mental health and removing the stigma surrounding it." Overwatch Peer

Support (OPS) is a program that will launch later this year through a partnership between NAMI Finger Lakes NY, NAMI North Texas, and Tompkins County Emergency Response.

Questions regarding the CISM Team or inquiries about joining the team should be directed to Joe Milliman, EMS Program Manager, at jmilliman@tompkins-co.org or Danielle Schwarz, Peer Support Coordinator, at dschwarz@tompkins-co.org



Photo by Joe Scaglione



By Jaime Cone Hughes
Managing Editor

"such as things that help with energy savings, like new heating systems, new insulation, new roofs — people have benefited from new windows — some really necessary upgrades to help homeowners save energy."

"We have quite a lot of older, rundown places that need help, and oftentimes it's older residents that are retired but didn't make very much money, and didn't have the money to fix houses up," Joel Gagnon, Danby Town Supervisor, said.

Administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Office of Community Renewal, the grants are made through state and federal programs including NYS HOME, NYS Community Development Block Grant, Access to Home, Access to Home for Heroes, Access to Home for Medicaid, Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement, and RESTORE.

"I am pleased to see this grant funding benefit municipalities and nonprofits working to make homeownership a reality for working families across our district," New York State Senator Lea Webb said. "Safe and affordable housing is a fundamental human right. I am proud of the work we are doing in New York to tackle the housing crisis and to find and implement solutions to ensure safe and affordable housing for everyone in our community. These grants are a direct result of the work we did in the FY25 budget to address New York's housing crisis and make our state more affordable for working families."

This is not the first time Danby has secured a grant for this program. Several years ago, Danby fixed up 12 homes with a grant of around \$500,000.

"It dealt with some of the worst cas-

es," Gagnon said.

Older Danby and West Danby homes, like these on Brown Road, may be eligible for repairs, thanks to a New York State Block Grant that dedicates \$695,000 to the repair and improvement of the town's residences.

"This is just kind of a keeping-the-ball-rolling kind of grant," Hutnik said. "We've already done a lot of great work, and the state recognizes that, and so we applied again."

Tompkins County provided seed money to take the initial steps toward applying for the grant, Gagnon said.

"This is where the county played a critical role," he said. "We identified a need, but the county has invested in sort of a pro-housing policy, making money available for us to apply for this Block Grant with."

"We have quite a lot of older, run-down places that need help..."

JOEL GAGNON

Supervisor, Town of Danby

Gagnon said that Danby's older homeowners are sometimes unable to make repairs on their own, causing small problems to worsen over time.

"What happens with some people

is that sometimes, if they have more money, they can downsize or move out to a communal living situation and, ideally, have some sort of end-of-life plan," Gagnon said, "and they can afford it. We have working class folks who may own their house, and then when they get into retirement they can't afford to fix it or can't afford to live anywhere else, either. They tend to stay put, and then the houses tend to fall apart around them."

"There are really bad situations like leaky roofs that can cause a lot of damage if you don't fix it," he added.

Outside, porches fall off or steps become unsafe, Gagnon said, creating a risky situation.

"The grant is targeted toward fixing what needs fixing that is going to get worse," Gagnon said. "If you've got a leaking roof, it's a high priority ... or a bathroom floor that's rotted, so people have to step over holes or are falling through. Really basic stuff."

After Danby administered the first grant to the 12 homeowners who were chosen, there was still a waiting list of people who were hoping to be helped.

"But there wasn't the money to do it," Gagnon said, "so given the extraordinary job our administrators have done, we applied for another run and got it."

"It was more money this time, but it may not help that many more houses [than the previous grant]," he said, explaining that the rules have gotten stricter around lead and radon remediation since the previous grant. The grant program is now responsible for repairing any issues related to lead and radon found in the home.

In the United States, the federal government banned lead-based paint in consumer products in 1978. "In Danby we have an awful lot of houses built before 1978, and often those are the ones that need the most help," Gagnon said.

He said that in the event the homeowner sells the property within five years of the repairs being done, the grant turns into a loan that is paid back by the property owner.

Those who are interested in receiving repairs through the grant are encouraged to call the Danby Town Offices at (607) 277-4788.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mandeville & Son, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 894 Ithaca Rd., Spencer, NY, 14883. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mandeville Property Group, LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 894 Ithaca Rd., Spencer, NY, 14883. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 01/08, 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Articles of Organization for TRIPHAMMER PARTNERS LLC ("LLC") were filed with the Secretary of New York ("SSNY") on January 2, 2025. Office Location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC, 202 East State Street, Suite 403, Ithaca, New York 14850. Purpose: To engage in any lawful activity. 1/15, 01/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Dragons Can Be Defeated Therapy and Consulting, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

GMR Auto Sales, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 01/10/2025. 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. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 108 N. Cayuga Street, 4th Floor, Suite 1, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 02/19, 02/26, 03/05/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

HeyaLLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/2024. 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 230 Port Watson Street, 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. 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

McNeil Fabrication, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 01/13/2025. 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. SSNY shall mail copy of process to PO Box 213, Homer, New York 13077 which is the principal office of the limited liability company. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose. 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BHEDA LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/2025. 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 Chrissy Smith @ 4470 Country Meadow Dr., High Ridge, MO 63049. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

To Wonder at Beauty, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/03/2024. 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 Chrissy Smith @ 4470 Country Meadow Dr., High Ridge, MO 63049. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Vintage Dreams, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/17/2024. 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 Anthony Muro @ 9680 Kingtown Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

the SSNY on 01/14/2025. 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, 108 N. Cayuga Street, 4th Floor, Suite 1, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 02/19, 02/26, 03/05/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mini City Garage LLC filed Art. of Org. with the SSNY on 12/16/2024. 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 PO Box 1, McLean, NY 13102. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Potter Ridge, LLC filed Art. of Org. with the SSNY on 01/17/2025. Office: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 3142 Cascadilla Hall, 115 Cascadilla Place, Ithaca, NY 14853. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Stand Guard Over Truth, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/28/2024. 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 Incorp Services, Inc., One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave. STE 805-A, Albany, NY 12210-2822.

Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws. 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

RESTORATIVE HARMONY, LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 29, 2024. Office Location: Tompkins County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 206A Dryden Road, PMB#113, ITHACA, NY, 14850.

Arts. of Org. filed with NJ Dept of Treasury, Div of Revenue and Enterprise Services. POBox 252, Trenton, NJ 08625-0252. Any lawful purpose. 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19/2025.

**To Advertise Classified, Legal, or LLC, Contact: Tina Mallinson (607) 591-0249
TinaM@VizellaMedia.com
TompkinsWeekly.com**

1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

REIDAVID LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/20/2025. 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 208 Cypress Court, Apt. 4, Ithaca, NY 14850. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law. 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

2-3-4 STORE, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/23/2025. 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 4080 Piety Ridge Road, Marathon, NY 13803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Christina Cushman, 81 E Main St, Dryden, NY 13053. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law. 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19/2025.

NOTICE of FORMATION of a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

TOMPKINS COUNTY FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

I AM LIFE LIFTED LLC Auth. filed with SSNY on 12-04-2024. Office location Tompkins. LLC formed in NJ on 11-12-2024. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 206A Dryden Road, PMB#113, ITHACA, NY, 14850. Arts. of Org. filed with NJ Dept of Treasury, Div of Revenue and Enterprise Services.

POBox 252, Trenton, NJ 08625-0252. Any lawful purpose. 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19/2025.

Solutions to Puzzles on Page 12

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



Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid!

Funded by Medicaid, choose FAMILY or FRIENDS as your paid caregiver.

Your caregiver gets paid same day!

STEP 1 **Get Assessed:** As soon as you call and get qualified, a nurse will reach out to determine how many weekly hours of care you can get.

STEP 2 **Choose a Caregiver:** You choose a caregiver you love. We schedule an orientation call to finalize your enrollment.

STEP 3 **You Get Care - They Get Paid:** You get care you can trust, your family member or friend gets paid instantly.

OVER 5,000 5-STAR REVIEWS!

Find out if you are eligible today.

CALL 607.407.7686

Real Estate Transactions

DANBY

- Rachel Lamson bought from Joel & Cindy Lamson in Danby, NY 13053 on 01/16/25 for \$270,000.

DRYDEN

- Karen Barden bought from Sandra W. Herrington at 2169 Hanshaw Rd, Dryden, NY 14850 on 01/10/25 for \$210,000.

- Frank C. Schroeder bought

from R. D. Colle in Dryden, NY 13053 on 01/16/25 for \$15,000.

GROTON

- Amber Carmichael bought from Lauretta G. Sovocool at 625 Cortland Rd, Groton, NY 13073 on 01/10/25 for \$150,000.

- John H. Hinch & Babbie J. Hart bought from Clifton Fenner at 101 Elmwood

Ave, Groton, NY 13073 on 01/10/25 for \$87,000.

- Kenneth R. & Janell L. Pease bought from the Loren P. Aiken Estate & Jared A. Aiken at 473 Lafayette Rd, Groton, NY 13073 on 01/10/25 for \$50,000.

- Kurt R. & Kelly J. Willard bought from Harvey R. & Sue E. Hatfield in Groton, NY 13073 on 01/15/25 for \$71,250.

ITHACA

- River Carson bought from David E. Durham at 110 Court St W, Ithaca, NY 14851 on 01/13/25 for \$325,000.

- Rakin R. & Makayla Hall bought from Zeming Sun at 50 Penny Ln, Ithaca, NY 14850 on 01/14/25 for \$300,000.

LANSING

- Anthony Dodd & Vincent Bedwell bought from Rodney A. & Patricia E. Bowman at 146 Lansingville Rd, Lansing, NY 14882 on 01/10/25 for \$350,000.

- William & Marcia Easley bought from Cardamore Home Builders Inc at Woodland Park, Lansing, NY 13068 on 01/15/25 for \$652,000.

NEWFIELD

- Jason Banfelder & Lucy Skrabaneck bought from Wesley K. & Karen V. Blomquist at 432 Seely Hill Rd, Newfield, NY 14867 on 01/13/25 for \$125,000.

- Pistolesi Holdings LLC bought from Serena Morse & Paul G. Gardner in Newfield, NY 14867 on 01/16/25 for \$280,650.

Classifieds

ATTORNEY

- Injured in an accident? Don't accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-454-4717. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider.

AUTO DONATIONS

- Donate your car to veterans today! Help and support our veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398.

- Got an unwanted car?

Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-888-251-3135.

AUTOS WANTED

- We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three-step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-403-3374.

BUYING / SELLING

- We buy houses for cash as is! No repairs. No fuss.

Any condition. Easy three-step process: Call, get cash offer, and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-704-5670.

HEALTH

- Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit. Call 1-855-399-2719.

- Attention: Viagra and Cialis users! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. Call now: 1-855-399-2582.

- Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free information kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258.

- Hearing aids! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and nearly invisible! 45-day money-back guarantee! 855-819-7060.

- MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical

alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long-term contracts! Free brochure! Call 1-888-489-3936.

- Struggling to hear? Audien Hearing delivers crystal-clear sound with affordable, invisible hearing aids. Starting at \$189! Call now: 888-760-1015.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

- Aging roof? New homeowner? Got storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091.

- Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189.

- Beautiful bath updates in as little as one day! Superior quality bath and shower systems at affordable prices! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call now! 1-855-399-2076.

- Do you need a roof or energy-efficient windows & help paying for it? You may qualify through new relief programs (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify.

- Do you know what's in your

water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers free water testing and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little as one day. 15% off your entire purchase.

Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your free test today. Call 1-866-247-5728.

- Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall, or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-833-399-3595.

- Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off entire purchase. 10% senior & military discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936.

- Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-844-501-3208.

- Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a free 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call

1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

- Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect (TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A.

Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496.

- Replace your roof with the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited time offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & first responders.) 1-833-370-1234.

- Water damage cleanup: A small amount of water can cause major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out wet areas & repair to protect your family & your home

value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809. Have zip code!

Unlimited talk, text and data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3 5G networks, one low price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 844-329-9391.

SERVICES

- Pest control: Protect your home from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, bed bugs, rodents, termites, spiders, and other pests. Locally owned

and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-866-448-8311. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

- Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get a free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971.

TRAVEL SERVICES

- Save on your travel plans! Up to 75% off. More than 500 airlines and 300,000 hotels across the world. Let us do the research for you for free! Call: 877-988-7277.

TV, INTERNET, PHONE

- Affordable TV & internet. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-855-399-2803.

- DirectTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos. Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/ Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405.

JACUZZI

BATH
REMODEL

**Safety. Style.
Stress-Free
Installation.**

CALL NOW
866.753.9521

SPECIAL OFFER
**Waiving All
Installation
Costs!**

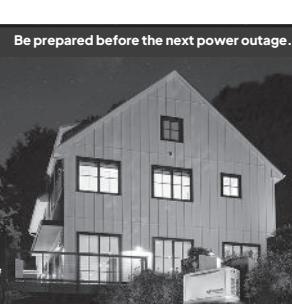
Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 3/30/25.

**It's not just a
generator.
It's a power
move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 866-643-0438 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC



**LIMITED
TIME
OFFER!
SAVE!**

**UP TO
50%
OFF
INSTALLATION**

**FREE ESTIMATE
1.833.370.1234**

Expires 4/30/2025 MADE IN THE U.S.A.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. (Erie). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, and other electronic means. Erie is not affiliated with any cellular or mobile service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homewebcompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erie-licenses.

**Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SPECIAL OFFER

**SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB**

1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSELB 1062165 NSCB 0082395 0083445

Baba Yaga: A circus play for the family

The Cherry Arts is delighted to present the new production Baba Yaga, from the team that created last season's Cherry family hit, Peter and the Wolf. Baba Yaga opens Friday, Feb. 21 at the Cherry Artspace.

Baba Yaga is woven from a tapestry of Slavic folktales, using physical theatre, aerial performance, and shadow puppetry. Director Jen Pearcy-Edwards, the General Manager of the Cherry Arts, brings a wealth of expertise in devising and physical theater from a long career in London theater.

Flying in as Baba Yaga is aerialist and actor Mara Neimanis, bringing her signature airborne performance skills to the Cherry after her 2023 solo show Air Heart.

"To play a character like Baba Yaga and to have her fly is a wonderful recipe," says Neimanis. "She's a witch, she's the Earth mother! She has a lot of twists and turns, just like the aerials. The flying becomes like a character."

The production is devised by the company, in collaboration with Russian theater artist Arthur Groys, an Ithaca City of Asylum (ICOA) and Artist Protection Fund Fellow in residence at Ithaca College.

"As a native Russian speaker, Baba

Yaga is a cherished part of my childhood memories," says Groys. "When the Cherry Arts team invited me to take Baba Yaga to a higher level of artistic presentation, I couldn't resist the temptation."

Actor Lucy Purnine (Kitchen Theatre's Extended Stay and Syracuse Shakespeare) plays Vasilisa. The ensemble includes Sylvie Yntema (Rosa and Blanca, Peter and the Wolf) and Barbara Geary (And What Happens If I Don't, House of Ithaca's The Skriker). Live music is performed by Isaac Sharp, classical guitarist and member of Lilypad Puppet Theatre. The team is joined by movement director Robin Guiver, internationally celebrated puppeteer and motion-capture performer, known for his work in Wicked, The Little Mermaid, and Star Wars.

The production stage manager is Emily Pugh, lighting design is by Claire Chesne, scenic and costume design is by Mo Dransoff, and projection design is by Norm Scott.

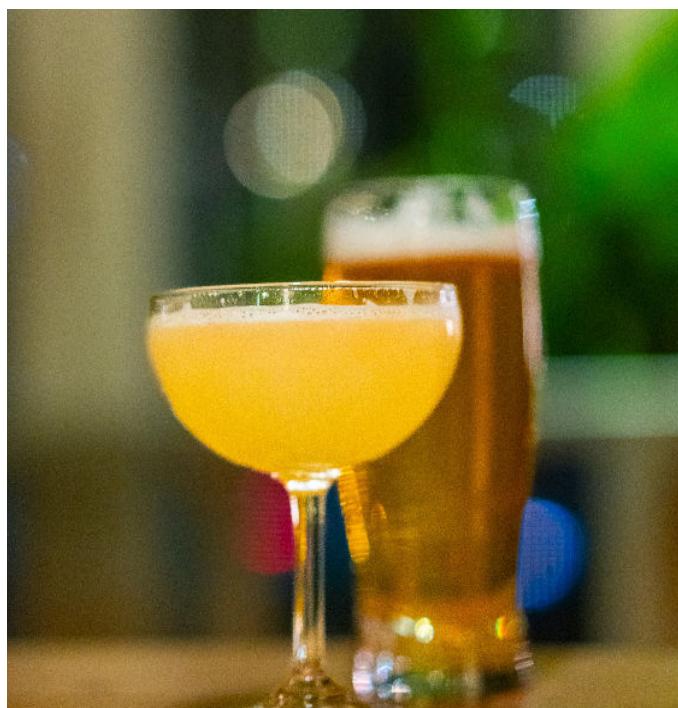
Interviews with members of the creative team are available upon request. More information is available at <https://thecherry.org/baba-yaga/>. Tickets are available on a sliding scale, starting at \$15. Performances:



Photo provided

Baba Yaga opens Friday, Feb. 21, at the Cherry Artspace in Ithaca.

Fri Feb 21, 7:30 PM // Sat Feb 22, 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM // Sun Feb 23, 2:00 PM Fri Feb 28, 7:30 PM // Sat Mar 1, 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM // Sun Mar 2, 2:00 PM



@wildpreciousnow

20th Annual

ITHACA LOVES TEACHERS

Feb 14-28, 2025

Enjoy deals on dining, activities, overnight stays, and more through a free digital pass!

Open to all preK-12 teachers, school staff, retired teachers, childcare workers and school bus drivers.

Sign up now open!

ITHACALOVESTEACHERS.COM

Thank you to presenting sponsor Visions Federal Credit Union.

Ithaca area businesses and attractions have been teaming up for 20 years to recognize educators with over 150 activities, special offers, and events throughout Tompkins County -- our gesture of gratitude for their tireless commitment.

Ithaca Loves Teachers is made possible in partnership with Visit Ithaca, Downtown Ithaca Alliance, and the Tompkins Chamber.

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 607-407-2586 to
schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC®

SMG

SECURITY MUTUAL GROUP

Providing Property and Casualty
Insurance for homes and businesses
represented by a network of over
400 independent agents throughout
New York State.



SECURITY
MUTUAL
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Established 1887



SECURITY
COOPERATIVE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Established 1910

Visit: securitymutual.com



ZIRBEL

FUNERAL HOME

Serving all of Tompkins & Cortland Counties

Preserving Legacies & Shifting Perspectives
with Integrity & Passion

We have abolished all charges for services common to funeral homes that we find unfair, we believe these services should be given at no extra charge to the family members left behind. These adjustments have led us to become the most affordable funeral home in Tompkins and Cortland Counties by far (see 2023 price survey at FingerLakesFunerals.org)



All services with prices are listed
on our website

Art Webb
Owner/Funeral Director

Amos Malone
Owner/Pastor



To give you 100% peace of mind, we now offer
guaranteed pricing on any pre-funded funeral
arrangements. Without this guarantee,
your loved ones may still be responsible for
some of your final expenses.



115 Williams St., Groton • (607) 898-3867
ZirbelFuneralHome.com

Local & responsive coverage
through your trusted
hometown agents:

Bailey Place Agency
607-319-0094 | BaileyPlace.com

Robert C. Dempsey Insurance
607-898-5134 | RCDempsey.com

Haylor, Freyer & Coon
607-257-1003 | Haylor.com

Larkin Insurance
607-273-4732 | LarkinInsuranceAgency.com

Maguire Family Insurance
607-261-1301 | MaguireFamilyInsurance.com

Tompkins Insurance Agencies
888-261-2688 | TompkinsIns.com

True Insurance
607-273-7511 | TrueInsurance.com

P.W. Wood & Son, The Wood Office
607-266-3303 | TheWoodOffice.com