

THE HANCOCK HERALD

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AROUND TOWN

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** Meets every Friday at 7:00 o'clock at the Father Rausch Hall, 346 West Main Street, Hancock, NY.

Every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church on Monument Street in Deposit

■ **Town Board Meeting**—The first Tuesday of every month at the Hancock Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

■ **A spaghetti dinner** and basket raffle to benefit the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department will be held Saturday, January 15, 2022, from 4 to 6 p.m. Eat in or take out at the Hancock Fireman's Club Rooms, Park Street, Hancock. Dinner cost will be free will offering.

■ **The Lunch Bunch** will meet in Hancock, NY, at the Circle E Diner on Wednesday, January 19 at 11:30 a.m.

■ **Parkinson's Support Group** — Every 2nd Wednesday at 4:00 pm at the American Legion Hall, 210 Pennsylvania Ave, Hancock, NY

■ **Chess Night at The Library** The Louise Adelia Public Library will host a weekly Chess Night every Tuesday from 6-7:00 PM, beginning December 7th. It will be led by Johnny Farnsworth for chess play and learning, from beginners to experienced, all ages welcome. Chess sets are available, or bring your own. Private lessons are available. FREE!

■ **Village Board Meeting** — Every 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. at the Village Clerk's office. Department's meeting is held every fourth Monday at 9 a.m.

■ **Loaves and Fishes** — Hours 1-3 p.m. Every Tuesday at Fr. Rausch Hall, W. Main St., Hancock, NY

East Branch Food Bank is open every Thursday from 1-2:30 at the East Branch Community Center.

■ **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** Every Thursday morning at 8 a.m. at The Hancock House. All denominations welcome.

■ **Blood Drive** — Monday, January 10, 2022 at Father Rausch Memorial Hall, West Main Street, Hancock, NY from 1 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at Northern Wayne Fire Department, Crosstown Highway, Lakewood, PA 1 - 6 p.m.

■ **Writing Workshop** — Northern Wayne Community Library will host three Notes to Selves & Others Writing Workshops for teens and adults on January 7th, and February 11th. Workshops will be held from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Toddler Time will also be held January 8th at the library beginning at 10 a.m.

Pop-up COVID Shot Clinics Set in Delaware County

Delaware County is one of six counties in New York State chosen to receive support from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to conduct COVID vaccination clinics. Personnel from NYSDOH and the national guard will support the county operated clinics beginning January 7, 2022. The clinics will be held in Sidney, Stamford, and Hancock, throughout January and February.

The first location will be held in Sidney at the Sidney Elks Lodge, 104 River St., from

11 a.m.-7 p.m., on Friday January 7th, 8th, 28th, and 29th. The second in Stamford will be at the Catskill Veterans Outreach Center, 56 Main St., from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., on January 14th, 15th, February 4th, and 5th. The third location in Hancock at the Hancock Central School Bus Garage, 619 West Main St., Hancock, will be from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on January 21st, 22nd, February 11th and 12th.

Personnel will return to each clinic at each location in later weeks to administer the shots needed to complete a

full series of vaccination. On-line pre-registration links will be available in the near future. Walk-in appointments will also be available for all eligible individuals, according to a media release from Delaware County Public Health Services.

Teens 16-17 years old who received their Pfizer-BioNTech initial vaccine series at least six months ago are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech booster. Vaccines available at all sites include Pfizer 5-11; Pfizer 12 and older (first, second, third and booster); and Janssen/J&J

(primary and booster). All individuals five years of age and older that reside in the United States are eligible to receive the vaccine.

More information is available at Delaware County Public Health Services at (607) 832-5200.

See more information on page 6

Have You Tested Positive for COVID-19?

Patience, Not Panic, Is Best Response, Says Public Health

As COVID-19 cases continue to climb locally and State-wide, Sullivan County Public Health Services is remaining focused on vaccination, education and self-empowerment.

"As I've been saying since the pandemic began, staying safe from COVID starts with each of us taking personal responsibility," Public Health Director Nancy McGraw reaffirmed. "That's become even more important now, as this new wave has stretched government and healthcare resources to their limits. For example: the dramatic and ongoing spike in coronavirus transmission has overwhelmed the State's contact tracing system, meaning that it could be days before those exposed to someone with COVID-19 get follow-up notification."

Thus, Sullivan County Public Health Services recommends the following if someone tests positive, either via an at-home test or one rendered in a professional setting:

1. Isolate the positive case from other family members.

Household members who are not positive should wear masks while in the home, and quarantine. Those who are fully vaccinated (two or more doses) do not need to quarantine.

2. Notify close contacts so they can decide to get tested if they become symptomatic. However, anyone who is fully vaccinated (two or more doses) and is a close contact of a positive person does not need to quarantine unless they become symptomatic – but they should wear a mask at all times indoors.

3. Anyone who tests positive should not attend work until there's a dramatic improvement of symptoms, plus three (3) days without a fever (without the use of fever-reducing products). They must also wear a mask while in public: KN95s are recommended. Contact the Community Assistance Center at 845-807-0925 to find a local supply point.

4. Public Health and its local healthcare partners are not

recommending a confirmatory PCR test after a positive at-home test. Should someone test positive via an at-home kit, they should follow the steps outlined above.

5. If shortness of breath or worsening of symptoms is encountered, do not hesitate to call 911.

6. The above information does not take the place of medical advice from a provider; the individual's particular healthcare provider should be notified about specific symptoms or treatment questions.

7. Vaccination remains the best defense against serious complications from COVID, hospitalization, and death. Please visit www.sullivanny.us for a regularly updated list of clinics and pharmacies in Sullivan County where you can receive vaccines and boosters.

The NYS Department of Health issued an updated Advisory which supersedes portions of previous guidance related to returning to work after COVID-19 infection and reduces the isolation period from 10 days to 5 days under certain circumstances: www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/12/return-to-work-isolation-guidance_12-24-21.pdf. Please call Public Health at 845-292-5910 if under isolation and need guidance for returning to work.

New York State Fair to Ban Outdoor Smoking In 2022

Creating Designated Areas for Smokers

The Great New York State Fair will ban smoking on nearly the entire 375-acre fairgrounds for the 2022 Fair, creating small, designated outdoor smoking areas to increase the comfort of fairgoers, according to a media release from the Fair office. Smoking is already prohibited by law inside the fairgrounds' buildings and by policy at the Fair's Chevy Court and Chevy Park concert venues. Locations for the designated areas are to be determined.

The new policy only covers the fair. Smoking policies for non-fair events will remain the responsibility of individual event promoters in accordance with state law.

Founded in 1841, the Great New York State Fair showcases the best of New York agriculture, provides top-quality entertainment and is a key piece of the state's CNY Rising strate-

gy of growing the Central New York economy through tourism. The 2022 Fair runs from August 24 to September 5.

Alumni Association Seeking Organizer

The Hancock Central School Alumni Association is seeking someone to replace Donna DuBois as the organizer of the annual Alumni Dinner. DuBois, class of '63, has organized the dinner in previous years. "This past year has made it abundantly clear to me that I do not have the time required to handle the business of the Alumni Association," said DuBois. Though "retired" DuBois is far from idle, holding several part-time bookkeeping positions as well as serving on several boards of local organizations. "I am blessed to live near my seven grandchildren," she said. "I often provide substitute transportation or babysitting." She and her husband plan to spend winters in Florida.

In addition to hosting the annual dinner, the Alumni Association also raises money for a scholarship to a graduating Senior of Hancock Central School. COVID restrictions prevented the annual dinner from taking place in 2020 or 2021 but HCS alumni were "very generous" with donations enabling the Alumni Association to offer a larger scholarship for a Senior in the class of 2022.

Anyone interested in taking on this important role should contact Donna DuBois.

Trooper In Unadilla Shooting Identified

The New York State Trooper involved in a shooting which resulted in the death of a man on Wednesday, December 22, has been identified as Trooper Justin Miller, according to a New York State Police media release.

Trooper Miller is assigned to SP Sidney and has been a member of the New York State Police since 2016. The New York Attorney General's Office is investigating the incident pursuant to Executive Law Section 70-b in conjunction with the New York State Police.

Shortly after 7:00 p.m. on December 22, the New York State Police at Sidney were dispatched to a report of a domestic dispute at a residence on Lyons Street in the village of Unadilla. Trooper Miller was confronted by Mark A. Beilby, age 24, who was armed with a knife inside the home. Beilby did not comply with the trooper's repeated commands to drop the knife and advanced at the trooper. The trooper discharged his division-issued firearm, striking Beilby.

Beilby was transported to Tri-Town Hospital then transferred to Wilson Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. Funeral services were held on January 3, 2022 at C.H. Landers Funeral Chapel in Sidney, NY.



A new solar-powered clock graces the front entrance of the Hancock Central High School courtesy of the class of 1964. The original clock, which had ceased working, was presented as a parting gift from the graduating class of 1964.

The Odyssey of the Clock

A new clock and plaque were recently installed over the main entrance doors at Hancock Central School as a replacement for the clock that had been gracing the spot since 1964.

The class of 1964 had presented the original clock to the school as a parting graduation gift but when it stopped working a few years ago the class decided to replace it in honor of Helen and Wellington Lester, both native area residents, and long-time teachers at the school. Mr. Lester, who died in 2019, a science teacher, was also a long-time administrator at the school. Mr. and Mrs. Lester were also class advisors to the class of 1964 throughout high school.

"It ran, well, like a clock, until about 3 to 4 years ago," said Class of 1964 graduate, Joe Iozzi. "Finally it ticked it's last tock, and was removed." Iozzi, who wrote to The Herald to tell the saga of the clock, says he organized the clock replacement project largely due to the fact that he had formerly served as a secretary for the class of '64.

"So began the odyssey of the clock. After two years of pandemics, several meetings with school superintendents, principals, assistants, facilities managers, and school boards,

the clock was finally installed on the high school wall where the original clock once stood over a half century earlier," said Iozzi. An accompanying plaque was also installed in the same place as the original plaque.

The original clock and plaque had set the class of 1964 back a "whopping" \$200, according to Iozzi. Then again, the new clock, purchased from Innovation Wireless of Culver City, CA, was \$1,245, he noted. The new clock is solar powered, and the exact time is updated from a satellite. The new plaque was purchased from International Bronze Plaque Co., Inc. of Fort Myers, FL, for \$190.

"I have to say, I never thought it would be this hard to give away a clock," said Iozzi.

Thanks for help with the project is extended to school personnel Julie Bergman, Acting Superintendent, Tammi Wadeson, District Clerk, Jodi Newman, Facilities Manager, and Terrance Dougherty, Superintendent. Donations from classmates of the Class of 1964 were received with gratitude from Dale Whitmore, Sandy Grot,

ABOVE SOLAR CLOCK
GIFTED BY
CLASS OF 1964
IN HONOR OF
HELEN & WELLINGTON LESTER

The new clock, installed in honor of Helen and Wellington Lester, is accompanied by a new plaque.

Joyce Ripple Wuorio, Gerry Mackin, Gerry Wormuth, Lee Woodmansee, Dennis Swartwout, Pat Brown, Tom Kulesza, Cheryl Makowski, Buddy Todd, John Fucci, Scott Bennett, and Dixie Coe.

The class of 1964 has also begun a fund for a "Helen and Wellington Lester Award." A check in the amount of \$196.40 and certificate will be awarded each year, starting in 2022, to a graduating senior, without condition, for any purpose... "Go to college, buy a hat, whatever." Previously the class had provided a scholarship for science or art achievements in the names of deceased classmates. The new Helen and Wellington Lester award will replace those scholarships.

Sidney and Walton to Receive Grants for Water Quality Improvements

The Towns of Walton and Sidney have been awarded grants through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant program for water quality improvements.

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced that \$23 million in grants to help improve water quality across New York State while mitigating the effects of climate change have been awarded through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program, (GIGP) according to a press release from the Governor's office. \$20.8 million is being awarded to 17 projects that incorporate green storm water infrastructure, as well as implement energy and water efficiency measures. An additional \$2.5 million in Engineering Planning Grants (EPG) will help jumpstart planning for 56 water infrastructure projects. The funding is part of the \$750 million announced for Round XI of the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Of the 17 Green Innovation Grant Program projects, 13 projects worth \$17.9 million will impact "Environmental Justice Communities".

"To improve water quality for communities across New York, we must take action to ensure the resiliency of our infrastructure," Governor Hochul said. "These grants remove the financial barriers for local governments to invest in critical water infrastructure projects. New York will continue to prioritize funding for low-income communities and expand access

to clean water, supporting our state's economic growth and improving public health."

The Village of Sidney will be awarded \$480,000 in GIGP funds to install water meters equipped with advanced meter reading technology. These new meters will encompass the entire village, which is currently unmetered. The Village of Walton will be awarded \$30,000 in EPG funds to identify sources of inflow and infiltration, evaluate alternatives, and recommend improvements to the wastewater collection system.

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) supports projects across the state that utilize unique EPA-designated green stormwater infrastructure design and create cutting-edge green technologies. Competitive grants are awarded annually to projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change through the implementation of green practices, including green stormwater infrastructure, energy efficiency and water efficiency.

Engineering Planning Grants (EPG) help eligible communities afford and start the critical planning process so they can be better prepared to seek financing to help them complete their water infrastructure projects. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to develop an engineering report that identifies problems and potential solutions. These grants have helped municipalities across the state to complete 350 engineering reports since the program's inception in 2012.



At the podium, above, Senator Fred Akshar speaks during a celebration following the adoption of New York's new law allowing air ambulances to carry blood products.

Local Leaders Celebrate Air Ambulance Bill Now Signed into Law

New law allows New York air ambulances to carry blood

New York State emergency medical aircraft will be able to carry and distribute blood products following the adoption of a new law on December 23.

Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Senator Fred Akshar, and Assemblyman Joseph Angelino gathered in Binghamton on December 23 to celebrate Governor Hochul signing into law S4085A A2561B (Hinchey/Woerner) which allows for New York air ambulances to carry blood products. They were joined by Travis Flanagan and members of his family, along with a helicopter from Life Net of New York, according to a media release from

Senator Fred Akshar. This issue came to the legislators' attention after Travis Flanagan, a local man, was severely injured in a tragic farming accident. He was airlifted from Greene to Syracuse in an air ambulance based in Pennsylvania. The out of state helicopter made all the difference because those based in New York were unable to carry blood. Before this bill was signed into law, New York was the only state in the nation whose regulations prohibited medical helicopters from carrying these lifesaving products.

Senator Fred Akshar said, "Travis Flanagan's ability to cultivate positive and meaningful change out of tragic circumstances exemplifies the spirit of what makes our community great. Travis' determination helped give this legislation the momentum it needed to pass both legislative houses in short order and ultimately be signed into law by Governor Hochul. I was proud to cosponsor it and I thank Senator Rivera, Senator Hinchey, Assemblywoman Lupardo and Assemblyman Joe Angelino for working across party lines to help move this forward. Together, we got results and fixed New York's arcane regulations and help save lives."

Pic of the Week



New friends Stella and Fred were having a great time at the new Hancock Hounds Dog Park! [photo by G. Gothardt]