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**INSIDE**

# A TIME AND A PLACE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pet Me Please!..... 10

Book Love..... 14

**CATSKILLS  
COMMERCE** .....15-17

Fire Prevention....20 & 21

Bites..... 24 & 25

History of

Our Hamlets ..... 26-29

Green Living ..... 30

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## Family Friendly Movies to enjoy this Halloween

PLAY

The Addams Family (1991)  
Addams Family Values (1993)  
Hocus Pocus (1993)  
The Haunted Mansion (2003)  
Halloweentown (1998)  
Labryinth (1986)

Ghostbusters (1984)  
Casper (1995)  
Practical Magic (1998)  
The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)  
The Witches of Eastwick (1987)  
Monsters Inc. (2001)

### How to Watch *The Great Pumpkin*

Thankfully the famous flick will air for free this year on PBS and PBS Kids – in addition to its new home on Apple TV+. But Peanuts fans should mark their calendars: It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown will air just once, on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. ET.

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Get your  
**PINK ON!**

October is  
**BREAST CANCER**  
Awareness Month

# Every ribbon makes a difference

One in eight women (about 13%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2021, an estimated 281,550 new cases are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., and 43,600 women are expected to die from it this year alone. For women in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer, besides lung cancer. As of January 2021, there were more than 3.8 million women with a history of breast cancer in the U.S.

Additionally, an estimated 2,650 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. A man's lifetime risk of breast cancer is about 1 in 833.

Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, here are four ways you can get involved in the cause to eradicate this disease.

## 1. Make a donation

You can make a one-time donation or a monthly contribution to charitable organizations that help fund breast cancer research and initiatives that

provide resources to people living with breast cancer.

## 2. Raise money

Organize or participate in a fundraising event such as a run or charity dinner. Alternatively, you can support a person or team taking part in a fundraiser by sponsoring them.

## 3. Shop pink

Purchase pink clothing, notebooks, luggage and more from companies that have partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society and pledged to donate part of the proceeds to breast cancer initiatives.

## 4. Volunteer

You can sell pink ribbons, join an event committee, become a community ambassador or otherwise donate your time to support the cause.

For more information about breast cancer and how you can get involved in the fight against it, visit the American Cancer Society website at [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org).

# A magical evening in Windham

Join Magician Sean Doolan for ***Magic on Main – An Intimate Parlor Experience***, a magic show in his private library located in a historic building on Main Street in Windham.

Sean weaves his personal story of transitioning from a trial lawyer to a magician in interactive, mind-blowing magical routines. In this parlor show, he'll demonstrate the limitations of the human mind through techniques he learned as a student of the ancient art of sleight of hand, and a lifetime as a trial lawyer.

A recent show attendee had this to say, "We had a fantastic time at your show! We've been talking about it all morning, trying to remember all the jokes and tricks. It is hard to find an activity that everyone will enjoy, and you hit the nail on the head! It was just what we were hoping for."

Two special shows on Thursday, October 7th and Thursday, October 14th will be performed at 8pm. Tickets for those performances are \$5 for seniors, veterans, current service members or law enforcement, and their companions (general admission is \$10). Regularly priced shows (no discounts offered) are \$10 per ticket and will be performed on Friday, October 8th; Saturday, October 9th; Sunday, October 10th; Friday, October 15th; Saturday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 30th.



Can't make those dates or times? You may request a different date for your group. The show is perfect for corporate events, birthday parties, wedding groups, bachelor and bachelorette parties, and special occasions.

The show is approximately 60 minutes and appropriate for ages 10 and up. Seating will be limited to 10 people. Sorry, no walk-ins. Reserve your seat by texting or calling (518) 734-4218 or emailing [WindhamMagic@gmail.com](mailto:WindhamMagic@gmail.com). For more information about Sean Doolan, visit [www.SeanThePrankster.com](http://www.SeanThePrankster.com) and you can follow him on Facebook @MagicOnMain.

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# STRANGE BUT TRUE

by Lucie Winborne

- During the entire run of Gilligan's Island, it was never revealed if "Gilligan" was his first or last name.
- Tic Tacs got their name from the sound they make when they are tossed around in their container.
- The gelatin in Haribo gummy bears contains nine out of the 10 amino acids that are essential to our bodies.
- On Feb. 1, 2005, the Emergency Alert System was accidentally activated in portions of Connecticut, calling for the immediate evacuation of the entire state. Later studies showed that citizens' common sense prevailed, with the typical response being to "change the channel" or seek other confirmation.
- Between 12,000 and 15,000 bicycles are retrieved from the bottom of Amsterdam's canals each year.
- In Ethiopia, a spot known as "The Gateway to Hell" is one of the hottest on earth, with air that's toxic to humans. Scientists have found organisms in its acid pools that are capable of surviving without oxygen.
- After the release of the 1996 film "Scream," which involved an anonymous killer calling and murdering his victims, Caller ID usage tripled in the U.S.
- Your ears secrete more ear wax when you are afraid than when you aren't.
- The blood in that infamous "Psycho" shower scene was actually chocolate syrup.
- While shedding, geckos will eat their skin in order to prevent predators from finding and eating them more easily.
- A man named Ronald MacDonald robbed a Wendy's in 2005.
- The sequel to the 1953 film titled "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" was called "Gentlemen Marry Brunettes."
- The term "plastic surgery" was coined in 1839, 70 years before plastic was even invented. It comes from the Greek word "plastike," which means "the art of modeling" of malleable flesh.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends avoiding drinking camel urine to prevent contracting Middle East respiratory syndrome. Thanks, guys, but we'll wait for the shot.

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# Catskills Center Offers Updated Welcome to Historic Catskill Park

by Jonathan Ment



Nestled just out of view of state Route 28 in Mount Tremper is the official visitor center for the Catskill Park operated by the Catskill Center in partnership with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Named for the late Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, the Catskills Visitor's Center sits on a 60-acre site of forest, fields and wetlands — home to trails, picnic areas, a pavilion, and more — including 1.4 miles of nature trails with sections of the trail accessible for those with disabilities.

Staff is on hand year-round with information, maps and advice to ensure visitors get the most out of their Catskill Park time. While the global disruption of the past 18 months did force a temporary change to that availability, the team did not go fully virtual. In fact, a long-planned renovation was completed while the public continued to be served.

"Renovations have been in the works for several years and were to happen in 2020," said Visitor Experience Coordinator, Kelli Huggins, of the Catskills Visitor Center.

"As soon as we were able to get back on track we started," she said, adding "We were open all summer

on our porch — full services from a pop-up while the building was shut down."

In fact, staff have been on property since the previous summer, she said.

"The renovation was to create a series of small exhibits that will orientate people to what the Catskills have to offer. Some of those exhibits are pull out drawers, some small 3D exhibits. The centerpiece of the renovation is a new wall built toward the center of the room which houses a moving mural we commissioned by Lauren Samsariq," said Huggins, adding, "(Samsariq) paints in the style of the Hudson River School. It tells the history of the Catskills over time. It's automated. You can sit back and watch it."

The Catskills Visitors Center welcomes a wide range of visitors spanning all ages, and efforts were made to make different parts of the exhibit work for different demographics, according to Huggins.

"For example, there is a scientist desk that has hands-on activities for kids. The drawer and mural exhibits all have information for an adult audience," she said.

The center is easy to miss if you don't know it's

there or what to look for.

Huggins said people tend to learn about it through their trip planning research, recommendations from local hotels and other businesses and by catching sight of the roadside sign.

Huggins said guests are once again able to enter the building, though masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

While the center is open year round, hours are reduced during the winter months. You can also call or contact the center ahead of your visit.

### Catskills Visitor Center

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# HONEYBEE HERBS

## A shop your body, mind and senses will not forget

by Michael Martin; Independent Writer/Author

There is a shop right in the heart of Margaretville where the owner is just as much the attraction as the store. I'm talking about Honeybee's and its owner Kelley Edkins. Once you meet Kelley you will see why. She is energetic, driven and immediately a friend. And the shop — it's just a feast for the eyes and the senses. Honeybee Herbs is one of those places where it's impossible to take in everything at one time, it requires several visits, as does Kelley.

The shop, as I said, truly is a feast for the eyes. It feels like you have been transported. The shelves are lined with jars of handcrafted, micro-batched teas, loose herbs and elixirs. Just describe to Kelley your needs and she either has something on the shelf or will be able to create a custom product just for you. Kelley, a beekeeper, gardener and herbalist, prepares organic pure herbals from her beehives and organic gardens. No pesticides, no GMO's, everything is organic and made in microbatches right there in her shop. Kelley has always been a "farmer". She grows most of the herbs used in the shop.

Kelley got her love of plants and herbs from her grandmother, a master gardener. Kelley worked and learned at her grandmother's side. Later she found herself creating garden spaces, and soon was creating gardens professionally. Kelley says most of her clients have become lifelong friends.

Now I'm not talking about vegetable gardens. No, these gardens are works of art — a combination of plantings, stone, landscape and imagination. As a single mother in 1999, Kelley this turned into a business called Gardens by Kelley.

Kelley is very involved with community and the environment. She has a large online presence where you can order almost anything. But there is a difference though... your order will not arrive packed with those styrofoam peanuts. She uses flowers and herbs used in her process to pack around your order. Much better for the environment and you can use it

SHOP



around your gardens also.

And the bees! Kelley has 12 hives that she tends, using the honey and the wax in many of her products. As she reminds us; no bees, no food! Bees are part of the necessary plan to pollinate most of the foods we eat. In addition to all this, Kelley is very involved in community activities. She has a community, artistic-type garden right across the street from Freshtown in Margaretville. The garden is pesticide free and full of interesting plants, rocks and handcrafted structures. Compost is donated by local eateries. Kelley welcomes your help and anyone interested should give her a call or stop by the shop.

Stop in! The shop is right in the heart of Margaretville, across the street from HomeGoods. Browse the offerings, let Kelley tell you about her products, the bees and the gardens. You won't be disappointed.

### Honeybee Herbs

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# Pet Me Please!



Heart of the Catskills  
Humane Society

by Laura Wright



## Before surrendering a pet, consider this...

As an animal shelter, we are here for the homeless cats and dogs in our community. We take in strays, surrenders, and sometimes animals from hoarding or other unique situations. There are many reasons why animals come in to our shelter, and ultimately, we are happy and grateful to be able to care for and house these animals in need, with the help of our caring donors, supporters, volunteers, foster caregivers, and staff.

Like any shelter, we sometimes become overwhelmed and full, and we always do the best we can to keep things running smoothly and keep our animals safe and healthy while they wait for new homes. At times, there is no other recourse for someone but to surrender a beloved pet to the shelter, and we understand that. That is the reason we are here! But sometimes there are other options, and we would like to offer some thoughts and suggestions to anyone who has considered, or may have to consider in the future, surrendering a pet to the shelter. This is a big subject, so we will be splitting the discussion up into two separate articles.

Though we strive to create a calm, loving, healthy, and cheerful an environment for the animals as possible, the shelter setting is still very stressful, especially for pets who have previously known a loving home. Making a plan ahead of time for your pets in the event of having to move, an emergency trip away from home, an unexpected illness or death, or health issues arising for your pet, can save you and your pet a lot of stress.

Have you asked friends or family members if they are willing to take your pets in this type of situation? Have you located and talked with local boarding facilities? Do you have a trusted pet sitter or two

on your phone list? Have you thought of putting your wishes for your pets in your will? Have you put together an emergency disaster kit and plan for your pet in the event of a natural disaster? Have you considered looking into getting a Care Credit card in the event of veterinary emergencies that may arise above and beyond what you can afford?

We have so many animals come to us from folks having to move who can't find a place that will accept animals. It's a sad fact that many landlords don't welcome animals, and it makes it difficult to find places to live. But we have also seen so many people in this situation wait until the last possible minute to try to find their pets a new home, and the pet has had to come into the shelter. This is a frustrating situation for all, and stressful for the pet. The same thing often happens because of an unexpected death in the family, and though it is sometimes unavoidable, it's a sad and confusing thing for an animal to lose its

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## HERE'S A TIP by JoAnn Derson

- This tip will change your life when peeling eggs: After you have hard-boiled your eggs, drain and submerge in ice water. Put them back in the pot, put the lid on and shake. Shake in all directions. The eggs practically slip right out of their shells. Just rinse and prep. -- *JoAnn*
- If you keep birds, here's a reminder: Never pre-heat pans on high heat -- especially nonstick pans. They can let off a chemical that you or I cannot detect but can be a health hazard if your bird friend is in the kitchen area. Don't keep birds in the kitchen when cooking.
- Two ways to remove a bandage: Rub a little baby oil or vegetable oil over it. The oil will soak in and make it easier to remove. With kids, have them soak in the bath and use baby shampoo to soften the sticky edges.
- A baking soda and water mix is great for a quick mop up of tile floors. If a lot of your floors are tile, do yourself a favor and invest in a steam mop. They clean and sanitize, leaving your floors brilliant.
- Be sure you use a trivet or other protectant when placing flowerpots on wood floors. Also, purchase felt pads for the bottoms of furniture. This will eliminate divots or other kinds of depressions or scratches in the floor.
- "Tiny tears in your window screen can be secured with clear nail polish. I dab the spot, then use tweezers to line up the tiny wires, then dab again. Just make sure the window is open, or the screen might stick to the windowpane." -- *T.T. in Indiana*
- If you need to pick up small shards of glass, use a cotton ball that's been moistened, or a slice of white bread (insides only) wadded up.
- Glass and chrome will shine if you clean them with newspaper. You can mist the paper with water first, but not too much. Rub ... and the shine comes right out, plus no streaks or lint!

beloved owner and then end up in a shelter.

The shelter setting can be just too stressful for some animals. Pets who are very high strung, some breeds of dogs who don't do well long-term in a kennel setting and get "kennel crazy," senior pets, or pets with diabetes or other diseases that require careful monitoring and care just don't do well in a shelter setting. It is best to make other arrangements for these animals, if at all possible. The staff and volunteers spend as much time with the animals in our care as we can, but considering we have 200-250 cats and dogs at any given time, it's just not possible for every animal to get as much attention as it deserves. Having foster homes willing to house special needs animals and young kittens who get sick easily in a shelter setting is extremely helpful. We love our foster homes!

There are many other reasons animals show up at our door, and we have some more suggestions and options to share with you in the next edition if you must consider re-homing a pet. Stay tuned for the November article!

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# FIDDLERS! 28



*Cedric Watson plays an apparently bottomless repertoire of songs and is also a prolific songwriter, and writes almost all of his songs on his double row Hohner accordion. His live performances are unforgettable.*

You can't keep this autumn tradition in the Catskills down! The first snap of autumn, the vibrant colors on the mountainside, and the scent of harvest means its time for FIDDLERS! at the Roxbury Arts Center, Sunday, October 10th. RAG will welcome several exceptional musicians to this year's event where they celebrate the tradition of fiddling.

For 28 years, the Roxbury Arts Group has presented FIDDLERS! to celebrate the folk tradition of fiddling here in the Catskills and around the world. This year is no different as RAG invites world renowned fiddlers, bringing the sweet sound of southern fiddle to the Catskills.

The Empty Bottle Ramblers play traditional Cajun dance music from southwest Louisiana and focus on driving accordion two-steps and aching twin-fiddle waltzes sung in Cajun French.

Missy Roser (fiddle, vocals) fell in love with this music after a misspent youth in orchestras and string quartets, traveling to study with Cajun standard-bearers on a range of instruments. Erica Weiss (guitar, vocals) has been learning from and playing with mentors from Louisiana for years and is well known as an old-time musician, caller, and dance instructor. Missy and Erica are also longtime members of legendary Cajun band, Bayou Brew, and have regularly appeared on the stage of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles in Lafayette and festivals all over the Northeast and mid-Atlantic. Tim Kness (accordion, vocals, fiddle) has longtime ties to this community as a dancer and musician; he's also begun making a name for himself forging Cajun triangles in the old style. Danny Birnbaum (upright bass) rounds out EBR and travels often to the Cajun parishes for festivals and visits, besides regularly lending his talents to old-time and country bands.

Sami Braman has been playing the fiddle since she was 6 years old, coming up amid the music festivals and jamming communities of the Pacific Northwest's

vibrant traditional Old-Time music scene. A buoyant, intuitive, and versatile fiddler who values deep understanding of the stories behind the tunes, she most frequently plays in the Old-Time, Cape Breton, and Bluegrass styles, but her enthusiasm extends in many directions, including Irish, Scandinavian, Scottish, and jazz. She'll be performing alongside bandmate Vivian Leva. Leva grew up steeped in the Appalachian and country music of her Lexington, Virginia home. Though still in college, Leva's musical roots run deep. She grew up going to fiddle festivals with her parents, both acclaimed roots musicians themselves. At 9, Leva began penning songs and performing with her father at venues like the prestigious Carter Family Fold.

Jourdan Thibodeaux, straight from the boggy woods of Cypress Island, Louisiana, is the guy you picture when someone says the word "authentic." He is one of a small number of young people who still speak Cajun French today.

Joel Savoy is a GRAMMY-winning recording engineer and record producer as well as a ten-time GRAMMY nominee. Recently appointed the Artistic Director of the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, Washington, Joel is a versatile fiddler and guitarist and he has played and taught music around the world for the last 20 years. He has worked with the best in southwest Louisiana as well as with folks like John Fogerty, Linda Ronstadt, Steve Earle, and T-Bone Burnett.

Cedric Watson is one of the brightest young talents to emerge in Cajun, Creole and Zydeco (Louisiana French) music over the last decade. Cedric is a four-time Grammy-nominated fiddler, singer, accordionist and songwriter with seemingly unlimited potential. Originally from San Felipe, TX (population 868), Cedric has performed French music in 17 countries and on seven full-length albums.



*At FIDDLERS! 28, enjoy a riveting performance by GRAMMY-winning recording engineer and record producer and ten-time GRAMMY nominee, Joel Savoy.*

FIDDLERS! 28 is Sunday, October 28 at 3:00pm, at the Roxbury Arts Center. Tickets are \$20, and \$18 for students and seniors. Tickets purchased on the day of the performance are \$25. Children 9 & under are admitted free. Attendees will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. To purchase tickets, and for complete details about this and all Roxbury Arts Group programs, visit [roxburyartsgroup.org](http://roxburyartsgroup.org) or call (607) 326-7908.



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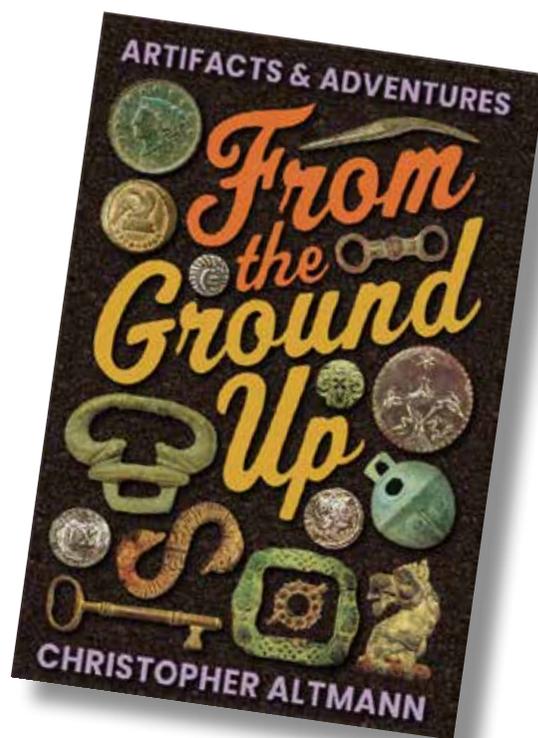
Reviews by  
Jessica Reed

## ***From the Ground Up***

The moment you hold this glossy book by Christopher Altmann in your hands, it feels promising. Above the title, the words, Artifacts and Adventures, beckon you. I riffled through it like a “flip book” and over 200 full-color images of jewelry, medals, coins and other trinkets sped by like a kaleidoscope. Intrigued, I then read it page by page studying each corresponding photograph, soaking in the history. I rarely encounter such a beautiful and clever layout for a book. The way the text and photographs are configured drew my eye from paragraph to picture as my promise of “just one more chapter” fell by the wayside.

Altmann, a born collector and seeker of the hidden, engaged in stamp and coin collecting as a child, moving on to collectable beer cans as an adolescent. But it wasn't until he was grown and his wife Kim surprised him with a metal detector for Christmas, that his true passion was born. The duo made their first “find”, an 1817 coin and the rest is HISTORY! Though they started as a tag team, sharing one detector, Kim quickly became hooked herself. A friend, Jason Schwartz, soon joined them and now they detect most weekends donating their finds back to the landowners. It is clear though, that their greatest joy is their annual trip to England where the history runs deeper. My favorite stories were about the childhood Catskills home of the author and a “Frozen Charlotte” doll that Kim discovered in Vermont.

This book is a comprehensive look at the hobby of metal detecting but it is not a dry, how-to book. It is informative, yet equal parts stories, mysteries,



Author: Christopher Altmann

Publisher: BookBaby

and things that go bump in the night. Altmann's writing is astute and funny and when coupled with the impeccable editing skills of Kim, the result is a book that would be an asset to any reader. You just might catch Altmann's infectious passion for metal detecting. What's under the ground you are standing on?

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**Dr. Michael MacDonald**  
Walton Central School

**Valerie Nichols**  
Delhi Telephone Company

**Todd Pascarella**  
Union Grove Distillery

**Jim Reynolds**  
sfcu

**Tara Vitti**  
Feather & Stone Restaurant

**Seth Wildenstein**  
UHS Delaware  
Valley Hospital

## 10 Ways to Retain Talent

Community support and strong commitment to helping young people realize their individual goals make our primary and secondary schools, two BOCES centers, and SUNY Delhi dynamic places of learning. These community hubs build the skills needed for all future social interactions, expand aspirations, and prepare our children for life-long careers.

Imagine if every business partnered, even in a small way, with its local school. We can boost student academic achievement, increase parent participation, build career awareness and job preparedness, and enhance the learning environment, leading to more motivated students and less dropouts.

Pretty lofty goals, huh? Yes, but very attainable is we work together and commit to a few simple actions. Connecting with business makes a real and significant difference to young people's life goals, and it's something that every business, regardless of size, can do.

Studies inform us that when young people have four or more encounters with an employer, they are five times less likely to be unemployed as adults. Career preparation starts well before high school and business owners can use their expertise to educate students in ways that are real-world, relevant, and meaningful.

Here are a few ideas to start some collaborative thinking:

1. Offer internship or employment opportunities for students
2. Allow short-term shadowing experiences for students and/or teachers
3. Participate in a career day program
4. Host a visit to your business facility
5. Participate in a school advisory council — this could be a specific curriculum, district-wide strategic planning, or event committee.
6. Speak about such career awareness topics as interviewing, resumes, etc.

7. Conduct mock interviews with students
8. Provide paid "release time" for your staff to volunteer at schools
9. Invite teachers and administrators to attend in-house skills training seminars
10. Provide guest speakers for faculty development workshops or parent meeting

When students achieve their educational goals, everyone benefits. Business engagement helps to show relevance to students and secures the value of business in our communities and society. Students are more motivated to complete their education when they are more aware of how it correlates to success, and, when students see the relevance for pursuing a career in a specific industry, they are motivated not only to stay in school but also to do their best. This encouragement helps create long-term positive growth within our communities.

That's why the Chamber is asking every employer to recognize your role in keeping our students in our region, preparing young people for the demands and opportunities of the modern world, connecting with our education system, and celebrating those students who choose to build lives here. Assess the ways in which your business could tangibly support our schools, tech centers, and colleges, using these ideas as launching points for your own thoughts. ...And don't forget to tell the team at the Chamber what you're doing--we want to share the inspirations!



Ray Pucci, President

**JOIN US!**

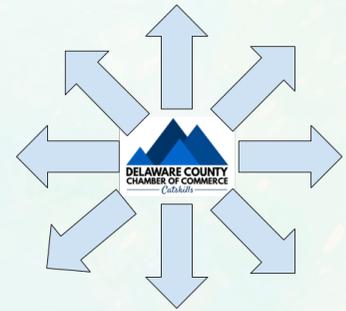
## NYS Cannabis Control Board Member Jen Metzger is Featured Chamber Speaker Oct. 21

Former NYS Senator Jen Metzger, who represented New York's 42nd senate district and was recently appointed by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to the state's Cannabis Control Board will be the featured speaker for our next FREE, virtual Third Thursday : Chamber Connects program on October 21, 2021 from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Metzger will speak about the implementation of the rules and regulations that will guide adult use cannabis sales in New York.

Our Third Thursday program is a great way to start your day with a productive and potentially profitable virtual learning opportunity!

Third Thursday  
**CHAMBER CONNECTS**



**OCTOBER 21  
8:30 to 9:30am**

Stay current on what's happening in Delaware County and the region, and learn how to effectively pivot toward a sustainable and thriving business model.

To register for this informative program [CLICK HERE](#). Once you are registered you will automatically be sent a Zoom link to attend the program.

**ATTENTION  
EMPLOYERS**

## State Unemployment Tax Hike Coming!

A surge in unemployment claims at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly depleted the New York State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, resulting in the state borrowing from the federal government to pay claims. State unemployment insurance tax rates have already risen to the highest level permissible under law in 2021. Unless the state or federal government takes significant action, federal unemployment insurance tax rates on employers will also increase in 2022 and beyond, according to a report issued today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

From the fourth quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020, regular state unemployment benefits paid increased from \$530 million to \$6.5 billion — an increase of 1,124%.

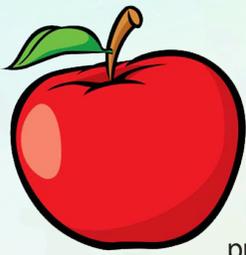
Unemployment benefits are paid for with federal and state taxes collected from employers. State tax rates are determined for each employer based on their length of time as a liable employer, utilization of benefits by former employees and prior tax contributions, and the balance of the unemployment insurance fund. Rates can grow with increased employee claims or a low fund balance.

Given the current negative balance in the state unemployment trust fund, rates for New York employers increased to a range of 2.1% to 9.9% of taxable payroll, up from 2020 rates that ranged from 0.6% to 7.9%. As a result, employer tax payments grew between 26% and 160% in 2021.

Until the balance in the state account returns to a positive level, employers will continue to make state UI contributions between 2.1% and 9.9%.

If New York continues to hold a negative balance on Jan. 1, 2022 and does not meet certain federal rules by Nov. 10 of this year, employers' federal tax rates will also go up from 0.6% to 0.9% for 2022. The federal tax rates will continue to grow by 0.3% each year until the maximum rate of 6% is hit for as long as New York continues to hold an outstanding balance.

The advertisement features a dark blue and orange background with a fiber-optic network graphic. At the top left is the "VU-IT!" logo with "Powered by T" below it. The central logo is "MTCTelcom" with "Margaretville Telephone Company" underneath. Below that is the slogan "'Connecting Our Communities'" followed by "With A Fiber-Based Network". At the bottom, there are three circular icons representing a laptop, a monitor, and a telephone. Below these icons is the text ". High-Speed Internet . Cable TV . Phone . Business Class Services". At the very bottom, it says "Call us toll-free: 1-877-727-2288 | www.mtctelcom.com" and includes a Facebook icon.



## It's Apple Season in Delaware County!

Love apples? We do too! And, we love our apple producers and their products. Enjoy these video member profiles of **Green Sun Orchard**, located in Trout Creek; **Red Kill Mountain Homestead** in East Branch; **Awestruck Mill** in Walton, and **Sunrise Mountain Orchard** in Bloomville. Shop local and please support the businesses that support our communities!

- ▶ **Awestruck Mill**
- ▶ **Red Kill Mountain Homestead**
- ▶ **Green Sun Orchard**
- ▶ **Sunrise Mountain Orchard**

## Annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

The Chamber has partnered with New Haven Consulting Group, Inc. to provide our members with an online "Preventing Sexual Harassment" workshop that meets the requirements of the new law.

This program is available at a Chamber-member reduced price of \$20 per participant.

[CLICK HERE TO START](#)

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## New Mandates for NY Businesses

New mandates have been issued under the NY HERO Act which require employers to implement work safety plans to protect employees from exposure and disease in an airborne infectious disease outbreak.

The New York State Department of Labor has developed an Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standard, a Model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan, and various industry-specific model plans for the prevention of airborne infectious disease. Employers can choose to adopt an applicable template/plan provided by NYS DOL or establish an alternative plan that meets or exceeds the standard's minimum requirements.

Your Chamber, along with nearly 30 other business advocacy groups across New York, urged Governor Hochul to not invoke the HERO Act because it would further burden small businesses. Many small businesses do not have human resources departments or labor law lawyers to help them navigate the complex requirements or advise them of new regulations.

For detailed information about the new requirements [CLICK HERE](#).

For template plans for your business, [CLICK HERE](#).

## HOBART IS ALIVE!



**Thanksgiving Weekend Sale  
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*Excludes some books on Consignment or Special Reserve and excludes New Books which will be only 10% Off.*

[www.hobartbookvillage.com](http://www.hobartbookvillage.com)

**Open DAILY thru 10/11/20 11 am to 5 pm.**

**After 10/11 Book Village hours are 11-5 WEEKENDS**

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[www.muralartgallery.org](http://www.muralartgallery.org)

[www.hobartfestivalofwomenwriters.com](http://www.hobartfestivalofwomenwriters.com)

**Details at:**

# Nest

## CREATIVE KEEPSAKES

by Michael Martin; Independent Writer/Author

Now here's an interesting shop located in Margaretville, the ever-growing place to visit. First of note, Nest Creative Keepsakes is a woman-owned business. Margaretville seems to have cornered the market on that. In a previous life, Heidi, the owner, was a knitwear designer, had her own line of knitting yarns, and taught knitting and crochet. Heidi found herself making personalized crocheted items for pet owners. Heidi also created a line of custom crocheted pillows featuring customers' pets.

Along came Covid. It's basically impossible to teach knitting or crocheting on Zoom. It must be done in person. Enter the next phase in her life, the need to make a living for herself and her children, embarking on her dream of opening her own shop. A scary process. But Heidi accomplished just that in opening the Nest.

Heidi opened The Nest for business just recently. The Nest held a "soft-opening" in mid-July of this year. Heidi explains the attitude of her shop as an eclectic mix, items of opposing looks or use that when joined together form a unique harmony. Heidi says the shop strives to only provide items that are useful, have a purpose, not just for looks. Heidi also says the shop looks to provide items that are handcrafted or have a meaning, a history and that can be passed down and cherished for generations.

It's this attitude that makes the shop a clean, uncluttered space. Creations are not just displayed to make the shop look full. The minimalist approach creates a shop that is easy on the eyes, not stressful



or overwhelming. As items are sold, a carefully selected replacement is bought out to replace it, to complement, not just fill the void.

Heidi takes ordinary objects, destined for destruction and reimagines them. Objects like an old dresser that had served a full life has now been reborn into a bench seat with a drawer. This is the kind of creativity Heidi infuses with all the items in the shop.

Stop in, chat with Heidi. There is a lot more to her, as is the case with all the local shop owners. They are, as Heidi is, artists... and the shops are just small outlets for their creative passions. In addition

to running the shop and assembling these creations, she knits, she crochets and is now into foraging. All these loves, these skills, become part of everything she does, everything she creates.



In the short time the shop has been open, Heidi has become proud to be a part of the Margaretville community. She's grateful for the help and guidance offered by the shops around her.

The trick to discovering all the delights offered at the Nest, as with the other shops, is to park your car and walk, explore. Margaretville is not a drive through Village. To enjoy all there is, the hidden delights, the unexpected surprises, walk around. Don't be afraid to enter any shop. Open doors. There you will find owners, like Heidi, ready to guide you and answer your questions. Especially at Nest Creative Keepsakes.

### Nest Creative Keepsakes

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precious keepsakes.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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## FIRE PREVENTION CAN SAVE LIVES

### Have two ways out!

Planning how to get out of the house quickly is an important step in preparing your family for the possibility of a fire. **Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9.** Make it a point during this week to see that your family knows how to get out of a burning house.

Visit each room in your home with every family member to make sure they are aware of two ways out. In most rooms, that means making sure that in addition to the door, there is at least one window in good working order that a person can use to get outside. Make sure that exit windows are not painted shut and that screens are removable. Show children how to open the window. If the window is high up, draw a child's attention to a piece of furniture they can move and stand on to reach the window ledge. Talk to your local fire department about the suitability of a rope ladder for upper level windows.

Here are some additional fire safety steps to review or refresh *often* with your whole family:

1. Get your kids to help draw a map showing all doors and windows in your home. Post it somewhere central in the home so it can be reviewed frequently.
2. Make sure your home is equipped with smoke alarms, and push the test button monthly to make sure each alarm is working.
3. Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
4. Pick a meeting place outside, in front of your home where everyone would meet if you ever have to escape a fire.
5. Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
6. Make sure your kids can dial 911 and speak with the emergency services dispatcher.
7. Practice your home fire escape drill!



The Great Chicago Fire took place in October 1871. It took 27 hours for the firemen to get it under control and caused 250 deaths, 100,000 people to be homeless, and destroyed 17,400 buildings. Fortunately, a catastrophe on this scale is unlikely to happen today because of modern infrastructure and the very latest in firefighting techniques. However, we can never be too cautious: fire prevention should be everyone's concern.

Taking every precaution to eliminate the potential risk of fire in your home is not a complicated task. Start by checking the batteries in your smoke detectors. There should be a minimum of one alarm on each floor of your residence. Consider getting a fire extinguisher. They are inexpensive and take up little space. Having one could make the difference between an incident quickly brought under control or the loss of your home. Many appliances found in our homes could be the source of house fires due to defects or manufacturing flaws. Register new electronics and appliance purchases on the manufacturer's website to validate your guarantee and ensure your safety.



# FIRE PREVENTION CAN SAVE LIVES

Being a volunteer firefighter is about a lot more than just putting out fires. It's an opportunity to learn cutting edge skills that prepare you to help members of your community when they need it most.

Here in the U.S., seven out of ten firefighters and emergency responders are volunteers. Our local fire departments are *all* volunteer, and many are in need of your support. If you have the heart to serve your community, contact your local department today to find out how to become a volunteer.

## **Margaretville Fire Department**

77 Church St Margaretville, NY 12455  
(845) 586-4419

## **Arkville Fire Department**

43365 NY-28, Arkville, NY 12406  
(845) 586-3003

## **Halcottsville Fire Department**

363 Halcottsville Rd, Halcottsville, NY 12438  
(607) 326-3999

## **Fleischmanns Fire Department**

1298 Main St, Fleischmanns, NY 12430  
(845) 254-5221

## **Roxbury Fire Department**

53613 NY-30, Roxbury, NY 12474  
(607) 326-7691

## **Andes Fire Department**

5259 Co Rd 1, Andes, NY 13731  
(845) 676-4588

## **Grand Gorge Fire Department**

60753 NY-30, Grand Gorge, NY 12434  
(607) 588-7547

## **Stamford Fire Department**

111 Main St, Stamford, NY 12167  
(607) 652-7241

## **Hobart Fire Department**

80 Cornell Ave, Hobart, NY 13788  
(607) 324-1049



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— Sarah Hubbell

**We need volunteers. Join us!**



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[hello@margaretvillefiredept.org](mailto:hello@margaretvillefiredept.org)

**Margaretville Fire Dept.**  
[www.margaretvillefiredept.org](http://www.margaretvillefiredept.org)



## TikTok Video Goes Viral

# Hundreds Flock To The Hobart Book Village

If you're not familiar, TikTok is a video-sharing, social networking service owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. It's a platform for creating, sharing and discovering short videos. The app is used by young people as an outlet to express themselves through singing, dancing, comedy, and lip-syncing, and allows users to create videos with durations from 15 seconds to three minutes and share them across a community.

Before you go checking it out, be forewarned... TikTok can be addictive. More than one lofty-thinking individual has lost a Saturday afternoon scrolling through clip after clip of shuffle tutorials, recipes, well-executed (and some not-so well-executed) pranks, and general "train wreck" videos.

In late July, a popular posting figure known as "clumsygirltravels", who has over 80,000 followers and well over 1 million "likes", came to the Hobart Book Village. She recorded a short minute-plus video of some of the eight bookshops and shared it.

The video went viral. To date there have been 5 million views, 960,000 likes, 17.9 thousand comments and 74.2 thousand shares.

### It's the Fastest Growing Social Media App in the World

Celebrity partnerships have been a key tactic in TikTok's geographical expansion strategy. The app uses celebrities and influencers to drive buzz around the platform and generate viral content. These celebrities not only post content on TikTok but also promote TikTok on other social media channels.

Daily foot-traffic within the Book Village from June through September is traditionally strong, but since clumsygirltravels' TikTok posting there has been a 50% increase. The posting has attracted more under-thirty-year-olds than ever before. Visitors are coming from as far away as South Carolina, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Iowa and Pennsylvania. Additionally, residents in very close proximity to Hobart are learning of the existence of the Book Village.

The Hobart Book Village is now in its collective 16th year. Since 2016, a tally has been kept tracking the number of the "first-time" visitors against

“return visitors” and the average has been 73% in favor of newcomers. This does not mean that once they come they are not interested in returning, but is rather a reflection of increased promotional efforts, word-of-mouth and free publicity. For example, a heavily viewed positive review on the blog Atlas Obscura caught the interest of NBC’s Today Show which sent a film crew to Hobart for interviews, which was seen by CGTN America, a cable television network in Washington, DC... who also sent their film crew a few weeks later.

Over the years, the annual visitor totals have steadily increased, with the exception of a not surprising drop-off during 2020’s pandemic. The importance of the record keeping has been an aid to the Book Village when applying for statewide grants which are available for those organizations who are promoting the arts and cultural events, such as the *Festival of Women Writers* which the Hobart Book Village hosts annually.

Now, with this explosion of TikTok visitors, the Hobart Book Village has already reached its all-time highest total of 4,199 visitors (an increase of 1,330 from the previous high) and a new high of 3,307 newcomers (an increase of 1,313) and, there are still three months left in the year. Many are amazed to learn of the astounding numbers TikTok has produced, while many others are amazed to learn of the only book town east of the Mississippi.

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# BITES

Sick... Gross... and  
Deliciously Nasty

## ZomBie Boogers

### INGREDIENTS

- 10 cups plain popped popcorn
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 20 drops Yellow Food Coloring
- 10 drops Green Food Coloring
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 200°F. Place popcorn in large bowl.
2. Bring sugar, butter and corn syrup to boil in medium saucepan on medium heat. Cook and stir 4 minutes. Stir in food coloring and baking soda. (Mixture will foam up.) Remove from heat. Pour over popcorn in bowl. Toss to coat evenly. Spread popcorn evenly on foillined 15x10x1-inch baking pan.
3. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Cool completely on wire rack. Store in an airtight container.

# HALLOWEEN PARTY FOOD



## Severed Fingers



### DIRECTIONS

Cut lines in your hot dogs to resemble knuckles. Near the middle of the hot dog cut out very small, curved, thin strips in crescent shapes. Then cut a few more "knuckles" closer to the nail. For the fingernail, shave off a little of the top skin near the end of the hot dog to resemble a fingernail shape.

Cook your hot dogs, either boil, fry or microwave them. A crockpot or slow cooker works great for large quantities. Microwaving or frying will causes the hot dogs to curl, the skin to peel and the knuckle cuts to spread open more... creating a more gruesome finger!

Presentation is everything! Place the severed fingers in a bun then add "blood" with a healthy drizzle of ketchup (the messier, the better). For added effect, press a thinly sliced square of white onion or radish in the fingernail indentation. Be sure to add more ketchup at the bottom of the finger... where it was *severed* from the hand.



# BITES HALLOWEEN PARTY FOOD

## Kitty Litter cake

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (18.25 oz) package German chocolate cake mix
- 1 (18.25 oz) package white cake mix
- 2 (3.5 oz) packages instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 (12 oz) package vanilla sandwich cookies
- 3 drops green food coloring
- 1 (12 oz) package tootsie rolls
- New kitty litter box and litter scoop  
(and plastic liner for full effect)

### DIRECTIONS

Prepare cake mixes and bake according to package directions (any size pan). Prepare pudding according to package directions and chill until ready to assemble. Crumble sandwich cookies in small batches in a food processor, scraping often. Remove 1/4 cup, add a few drops of green food coloring and mix. When cakes are cooled to room temperature, crumble into a large bowl. Toss with half of the cookie crumbs, and the chilled pudding. Probably don't use all the pudding, the cake should be just

moist, not soggy. Line kitty litter box with the plastic liner. Put cake mixture into the box.

Unwrap tootsie rolls and in a microwave safe dish heat half until softened. Shape the ends so they are no longer blunt, and bend slightly. Bury tootsie rolls randomly in the cake and sprinkle with remaining cookie crumbs. Sprinkle a small amount of the green colored cookie crumbs lightly over the top.

Heat 3 or 4 of the tootsie rolls in the microwave until almost melted. Scrape them on top of the cake and sprinkle lightly with some of the green cookie crumbs. Heat the remaining tootsie rolls until pliable and shape as before. Spread all but one randomly over top of cake mixture. Sprinkle with any remaining cookie crumbs.

For maximum gross out, realism is critical. Hang the remaining tootsie roll over side of litter box and sprinkle with a few green cookie crumbs. Serve with the pooper scooper.

## Quick & Easy *but still really gross*

Mix together cream cheese, chopped pecans and a little maple syrup. Stuff in pitted dates for Stuffed Cockroaches. Be sure to put a few fake cockroaches on the serving platter... on their backs.

Freeze plastic spiders in ice cubes

Stick mini-marshmallows on lollipop sticks and dip lightly in melted caramel — Dirty Q-Tips

Bloody Eyeballs — [CLICK HERE](#) for instructions



## The Dr. Best House & Medical Museum

### An Erie Trip Back Into More Than Just Time

by Suzanne M. Walsh

For some strange and unusual reason, the veils between the material world of our so-called reality, and the nether world of the non-material, seem somehow to grow thin and porous around this time of year, especially here in New York State. Whether you're inclined to agree or not, it seems that restless and unquiet spirits are more afoot around October time, when the orange color of pumpkins and the incredible riches of the region's harvest dominate the rural landscape.

This underlying collective unconsciousness seems to go back to ancient times, laying the groundwork for coaxing out of the closet more than just a few notable places in our upstate area with admissions of having a resident ghost or two... or even more.

The Dr. Best House Museum in Middleburgh—a village over three hundred years old—is just such a place.

"It is creepy [this paranormal stuff]" said Trish Bergan, mayor of the Village of Middleburgh in Schoharie County, during an interview as Director of the Best House Museum, "—but nothing scary

*"Being that surgery was performed in the kitchen," says Trish Bergan, former director of the Dr. Best House, "I believe it's reasonable to assume that some patients didn't make it through their procedures... it stands to reason that there would be residual energy inhabiting the House."*

or horrible has ever happened here..."

Though no longer director, Trish is still actively involved with the museum, often stepping in as tour guide when needed. Current Museum Director, Debbie Brigadier, is just as passionate about the museum as Trish and just about everybody living around the Middleburgh area—local library staff, teachers and regional residents alike.

Although Trish says she hasn't personally witnessed anything paranormal in the museum, she has heard stories reported from guests and staff telling of whispering voices, footsteps, and objects moving around on their own in what was originally the home of Dr. Christopher Best. Built

PHOTO BY KAREN NEWMAN, COURTESY OF DR. BEST HOUSE.

in 1884 as both the place for his medical practice and home with his first wife Laura and daughter Blanche. Eight years after Laura's passing, Dr. Best's second wife Ursula raised their following children born there, one of whom tragically died at age 6 from peritonitis.

After Dr. Christopher Best passed away, his son Duncan, who had also become a doctor, continued practicing medicine from the home, living there along with his wife and his sister Emma. Some of the current older residents in town have shared memories as children being sent to Dr. Best's house to take music lessons from Emma Duncan, who played the piano. Eerily, to this day the unexplainable sounds of a piano playing somewhere in the house have been reported.

"There's a long and well documented history of paranormal activity at the Best House," said Trish recently regarding the unusual happenings reported in the museum over the years. In a photograph taken of the front parlor over thirty years ago, the silhouette of a woman clothed in Victorian dress can clearly be seen. The photographer had related that it was only after the film was developed that the apparition of the ghostly woman appeared.

"Being that surgery was performed in the kitchen," Trish says, "I believe it's reasonable to assume that some patients didn't make it through their procedures. We also know of at least three family members who passed away there. So, it



stands to reason that there would be residual energy inhabiting the house."

Such energy has attracted the attention of Gary Robusto of the Tri-City New York Paranormal Society who, for the past 15 years has used the Dr. Best House Museum to train paranormal investigators.

Gary has held similar investigations for several public institutions, including the Proctor Theatre in Albany, the Gilboa Museum, and multiple private residences in the Tri-City area. His events — always charity donations to the sponsoring institutions — include an array of thermal and full-spectrum cameras and infra-red equipment. His passionate mission, he says, is not only to investigate the unseen but also to educate people — especially young people — with the importance of our area's unique history in New York State. "If I can get just one person to come away remembering only one

"Gretchen, you have done an amazing job with this magazine. I am so impressed. I learned so many things just looking through the September issue. Keep up the good work! Looking forward to the October issue."

**Mary Colfer**

*They're Singing Our Song!*

*Gretchen*

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historical fact they didn't know before, I consider our evening's work a success!"

For those getting in the mood of the season, October 15 is the date for the "Hunters Full Moon Spirit Circle" at 7:30pm in the Best Museum, followed by the "Private Paranormal Investigation with Tri-City NY Paranormal Society" on October 21 at 9:30pm. One more paranormal-related event to be announced is scheduled for the night before Halloween.

For further information, please call the Dr. Best House & Medical Museum in Middleburgh NY at 518-827-7200 or check out their website at drbesthouse.com.

And have yourself a very safe, happy and... interesting Halloween this year.



## It's Less **SCARY** for Our Communities When You Shop Local

They may be small, but they're mighty. They are the way your families, neighbors, and friends may make their living. And when you shop at a small business, it profits our communities as well. Small businesses are a source of local jobs. In fact, two thirds of new jobs created in the U.S. are from small businesses

For many folks, our neighbor's entrepreneurial dream goes beyond his door to help and provide for the goals of another. Along with providing jobs, money that is spent at a small, local business is money that stays within the community.

According to a Civics Economic Study, if you spend \$100 at a small business, \$68 stays in the local economy. Only \$43 spent at a national chain stays here at home. Small business owners, actually over 90% of them, are also more involved with the community, volunteering and donating to local events and serving on city boards or local government.

So no tricks this Halloween. Treat these hard working individuals to your business, and let them know they're appreciated.



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# History of Our Hamlets

Photos and recollections courtesy of Diane Galusha, Historical Society of the Town of Middletown



The 8th Living History Cemetery Tour brought 16 souls to life on a bright summer's day July 10, when the cast, docents and directors gathered for a portrait. The event at Margaretville Cemetery, organized by the Historical Society of the Town of Middletown, drew 120 attendees to meet these people from the past, including **Deborah Carpenter Landon**, portrayed in antebellum splendor by Emily Vieyra Haley; **Ebenezer Laidlaw**, shown with his blacksmith tools, portrayed by Howie Futterman; and attorney **Mabel Derringer Fenton**, played by Marge Hellenchild. Watch for news about the 2022 tour coming next spring!



What kind of music do mummies listen to?

WRAP MUSIC





## 4 eco-friendly ways to deal with yard debris

Now is an ideal time to clean up your yard. Here are four ways to get your property ready for winter without sending your grass clippings, dead leaves and garden debris to a landfill.

### 1. Grasscycle and leafcycle

Rather than throw away grass clippings, spread this organic material evenly across your lawn to serve as a natural fertilizer. The same can be done with leaves by mulching them with your lawn mower.

### 2. Create a blanket for your garden

A layer of dead leaves, fallen petals and other organic debris can be used to protect the roots of trees, shrubs and other plants in your garden from insects, animals and winter temperatures.

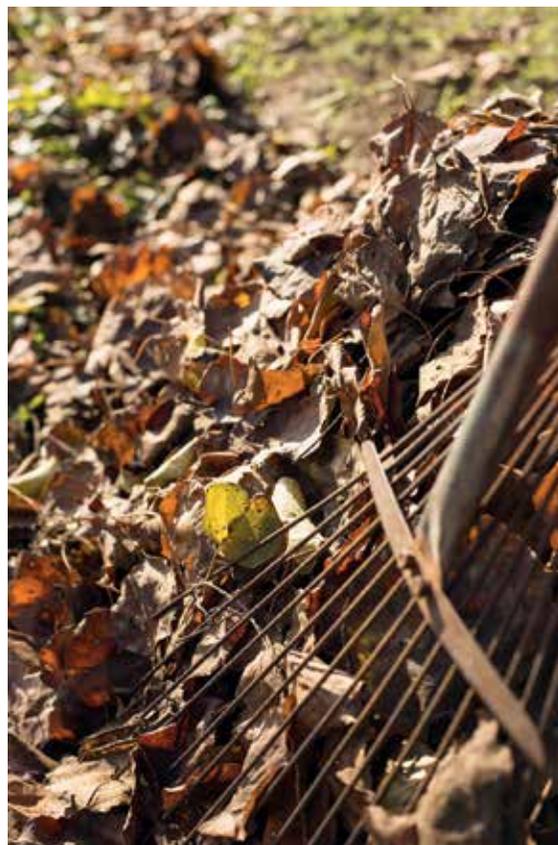
### 3. Turn your leaves into mulch

Rake up all the leaves in your yard and place them in large garbage bags. Pierce a few holes in the bags, and store them in your garage or shed for the winter. In the spring, you can use the material as mulch for your garden and flower beds.

### 4. Compost your yard debris

After you mulch leaves with your lawn mower, rake them up and store them in aerated bags or containers. This organic matter can be gradually added to your compost bin to help the decomposition process. Just make sure they're free of pests and disease.

Visit local hardware and garden stores to find all the tools and equipment you need to prepare your yard for winter.



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