



## Town of Westerlo Newsletter

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[TownOfWesterloNY.com](http://TownOfWesterloNY.com)

### Westerlo Gives Back

The Westerlo community is nothing short of amazing. Year after year, even with times being as hard as they are for so many, we come together and give to those in need during the holidays.

Holidays can be a time that is difficult for so many reasons. People can be lonely, sad, and depressed. Christmas is expensive. The costs are rising for everything which makes it hard on so many of us. If some of us can come together to make those who struggle a little happier, help them have a better holiday and bring smiles to their faces, why wouldn't we? Thank you to the many donors that showed up for these people this year. The Town of Westerlo once again came through to make a difference in at least twelve people's lives! Yes, twelve people! We were lucky enough to sponsor eight children, three seniors and one veteran this year.

The process sounds simple, but it is chaotic. We enlist the help of the Community Resource Center to provide a list of items for people in need within Westerlo. These people are anonymous with only their first names being provided which allows us to create a box for each of them to fill with gifts in preparation for wrapping. Then we get to work! With donations coming in, the Town Clerk's office starts shopping and getting as many and usually even all the items that were requested, within reason of course. Sometimes we request help from the community to purchase and donate specific items to help us out. Once we have all the items to fill the needs of our recipients, we organize a wrapping party. Some of you who are so generous donating to this cause, also volunteer to help wrap which is a blessing because it can be quite overwhelming with the number of gifts we get. We usually pick a day the week before Christmas and gather in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Each volunteer takes a person's box and wraps until the box is complete. This keeps things organized and makes the process move a bit faster. Once the gifts are wrapped, the Town Clerk makes multiple trips to the Resource Center to deliver the presents for the recipients to pick up. This keeps everything very anonymous.

Over the years, we've received excellent feedback. Seniors have said that they haven't celebrated Christmas or even unwrapped a gift in years. Kids can enjoy a day that they may otherwise not have been able to due to their parent's financial hardships.

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**Newsletters are available by mail by special request.**

**Please contact the Town Clerk's office!**

**WESTERLO TOWN HALL**

933 COUNTY ROUTE 401

WESTERLO, NY 12193

(518) 797-3111

**Supervisor**

Matt Kryzak

**Confidential Administrator**

Lisa DeGroff

Ext. 1014

**Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4 pm**  
**or by appointment**

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Karla Weaver

Ext. 1011

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday**  
**7:30 am – 3:30 pm**

**Thursday 1 pm – 7 pm**  
**or by appointment**

**Code Enforcement Officer**

Jeff Pine

**Ext. 1017 or cell (518) 410-5232**

**Thursday 5 pm – 7 pm**

**Town Assessor**

Melanie Bunzey

Ext. 1016

**Thursday 4:30 pm – 7 pm**  
**or by appointment**

**Assessor/CEO Clerk**

Nicole Grace

**Monday 2 pm – 5:30 pm**

**Tuesday & Wednesday 2 pm – 6 pm**

**Thursday 2 pm – 7 pm**

**Highway Superintendent**

David Pecylak

Highway Garage

671 County Route 401

(518) 797-3205

**Winter Hours: Monday – Friday**

**7:30 am – 4 pm**

**Summer Hours (May 1<sup>st</sup>–Oct 1<sup>st</sup>):**

**Monday – Thursday 6:30 am – 5 pm**

**Transfer Station**

88 Annabelle Rd

Westerlo, NY 12193

(518) 797-3536

**Saturday 8 am – 3:45 pm**

**Sunday 8 am – 11:45 am**

**Tuesday 8 am – 3:45 pm**

**Justice Court**

671 County Route 401

Westerlo, NY 12193

(518) 797-3239

**Tuesday hours vary – by appointment**

**Wednesday 4 pm – 7 pm**

**Court Session**

**Wednesday 7 pm**

*All Town Offices are CLOSED on HOLIDAYS*

## From the Supervisor's Desk



In reflecting on this past year, it is exciting to see all that we have accomplished. I am thankful for our Town employees and their commitment to our community. Below are just a few things we can all be proud of.

**New finance software** - New software was purchased for the Town including the Town Clerk and Tax Collector and Water District. This will update current software to a more municipal friendly platform with ease of use more report options and will integrate better with payroll. In addition, the new software will allow water district users to access their account online as well as pay online with a credit or debit card.

**New Server** – The Town updated its server which was old and outdated. It was last installed in 2012. The new server will allow for the use of more modern software applications.

**Replaced Roof on Justice Court** – The entire roof on the justice court has now been replaced. The old roof was leaking in spots and was unable to be repaired. The new roof will help preserve the building for more years to come.

**Paved Town Hall, Justice Court, Highway Department** – a long overdue project has been completed with newly paved parking lots and striping at all locations.

**Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)** – The Town Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of accessory dwelling units to be added to properties to help keep families together and parents living close by as they age in place. These units are secondary, independent dwelling units on the same parcel as the primary residence.

**New Containers for Transfer Station** – New containers replaced the old, rusty containers. A portion of the cost of the containers was refunded through a NYS grant.

**Right to Farm Law** – The Town Board passed a resolution in support of New York State's and Albany County's Right to Farm Law. The Resolution and existing law's purpose is to maintain and preserve the agricultural traditions of Albany County; to permit the continuation of sound agricultural practices necessary for the operation of farms; to encourage the initiation and expansion of farms and agribusinesses where it is compatible with existing land use regulations; and to promote effective and efficient means to resolve disputes which may arise concerning agricultural practices and farming operations.

**Local Law Codification** – Local Laws sent to General Code for Codification. This is the start of the process to be able to have all Local Laws codified and posted on the Town's website. Once posted they will be searchable by keyword. This will help residents, contractors and employees with laws right at their fingertips.

**Computer and Software Upgrades** - Upgraded two computers and upgraded all with the latest Windows 11 software. All devices previously using Windows 10 were exposed to security vulnerabilities.

**Tennis and Pickleball Courts** – Tennis courts were resurfaced and modified to include one tennis court and two pickleball courts. Each court had new posts and nets installed. The nets will be removed and stored every October and reinstalled

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## Boards and Committees

### Town Board

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 6 pm

### Broadband Research Committee

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month @ 7 pm

Chairperson

Carrie Wallace

tow.brc.chair@gmail.com

### Local Law Review Committee

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month @ 6 pm

Chairperson

Vacant

WesterloLawReview@gmail.com

### Museum Board

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month @ 6 pm

Director/Curator

Mary-Jane Araldi

museum@townofwesterlonny.com

### Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month @ 7 pm

Chairperson

Vacant

zba2@townofwesterlonny.com

### Water Committee

Chairperson

Bill Bichteman

### Westerlo Hometown Heroes

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 6 pm

Chairperson

Amie Burnside

WesterloHometownHeroes@gmail.com

**Please check the Town's website for upcoming Town meetings, cancellations, events and community news!**

**Legal notices can be viewed in the Altamont Enterprise.**

## Transfer Station

Transfer Station Permits are required for all town and seasonal residents for \$25 annually. Permits are not available to vacant landowners.

Purchase your 2026 permits now. To apply, pick up an application at the Transfer Station, Town Clerk's office or print one from our website! If you need one mailed, please call us at (518) 797-3111 opt. 2.

## Town Clerk's Corner

Fishing, hunting and marriage licenses may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk, 933 County Route 401. The Town Clerk's office also issues dog licenses, parking permits for persons with disabilities, Certificates of Residence, transfer station permits (residents only), birth/death/marriage certificates and copies of vital records. They can also assist with genealogy searches as well as free notary services.

Acceptable forms of payment include: cash, check, money order, credit/debit card. \*\*\*Please note: there's a fee for credit/debit cards however, they're NOT accepted for NYS DEC transactions\*\*\*

### NEW INFORMATION

It's tax time again! If you did not receive your tax bill the first week of January, please contact the Tax Collector's office at (518) 797-3111 opt 2. You can also view, print, or pay your bill on the Town's website by visiting the Tax Collector's page. If you have any questions at all, please give us a call and we are happy to walk you through it.

## Water Committee

Meetings are normally held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of March and September at 6 pm.

Please see the Town of Westerlo website for updates.

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We are so thankful to the donors who made this year's Christmas giveaway possible. We can only imagine the lives you changed with your support. We want to specifically thank the large donors who contribute to this cause year after year, especially, Mr. and Mrs. Witt who we feel we could not do this without. Also, a huge thanks to Ms. Connair, Museum Member Claire Marshall, Councilman Beers and Councilman Mahan. We had some new donors this year too, including previous Town Justice/Planning Board Member Andrew Brick. The smaller donors mean so much to us as well. With there being too many to list, including those who did so anonymously, we want to extend our appreciation to you.

We cannot go on without thanking the Town Clerk's office staff who put up with all the chaos right before tax time. They do it because they love it and because it helps the community.

If anyone would like to donate toward the 2026 Christmas drive, please feel free to do so by sending or dropping off monetary donations to the Town Clerk's office. Checks can be made payable to "Town of Westerlo", and receipts will be given for tax purposes. We will also accept new, unused toys, jackets, hats/gloves, socks, beauty and personal care items for all ages, although we have a specific shortage on toys for kids over the age of 8. We are also very happy to receive donations of gift-wrapping supplies.



*There were many boxes full of gifts to hand out but sadly, we were so enthralled in wrapping that we forgot to take pictures of the process. This is just a glimpse of what was done for eight children, three seniors and one veteran.*

## Town Board Change for 2026!

Councilman Joshua Beers graciously served a four-year term on the Town Board from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, until December 31, 2025. He did not seek re-election for 2026. Councilwoman Lorraine Pecylak who also served from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, was also up for election in 2026. She sought re-election for one of two open board seats on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Previous Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander and Planning/Zoning Board Chairman William Hall also ran for the two vacancies on the Board. Ultimately, Jody and Bill took the seats joining current members Supervisor Matthew Kryzak, Councilwoman Amie Burnside and Councilman Peter Mahan this year.

Thank you to both Councilman Beers and Councilwoman Pecylak for serving as Board Members for the past 4 years. A lot has taken place over that time. Being a member of the Town Board is certainly no easy feat.

If you see them, please thank Josh and Lorraine for their service and welcome Jody and Bill. Town Board is not a position that many of us want to run for. It can be hard but also rewarding. We hope more people come to meetings in the future and take an interest in these positions that are necessary to run our town.

1. In October, the Town Board acquired a new payroll company for the new year as well as a new website, purchased two new trucks for the highway department, hired Cricket Elderd to the position of CEO/Assessor/PB/ZBA Clerk to replace Claire Marshall, adopted the 2026 budget, approved Nicole Spinnato as a new library trustee, reappointed Sole Assessor Melanie Bunzey, awarded KB Engineering to provide a preliminary engineering report to the Water Board at a total cost of \$19,850.00, the Water Dist. was in need of an income study and G&G Municipal Consulting was awarded the project at a cost of \$7,250.00, and the Town finally passed a resolution to accept the Westerlo Rescue Squad building as a gift. It has yet to be determined what the building will be used for.
2. In November, the Town Board adopted the 2026 Budget, approved the purchase and installation of a new camera at the Town park, discussed the proposal from the union, appointed alternate member Laura Dillon to the PB/ZBA with a term that expired on 12/31/25, and hired a new CEO/Assessor/PB/ZBA Clerk Nicole Grace due to the resignation of Cricket Elderd. Her hours are on page 1 of this newsletter as the hours have changed from the previous clerk. Due to the Town Attorney's retirement on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Town Board advertised for proposals for the vacancy. Two proposals came in. One from Tabner, Ryan, and Keniry, and the second was from a resident, Attorney Andrew Brick who previously served as Town Justice and a member of the Planning Board for Westerlo. The Town also signed a contract for a new printer/copy machine and advertised for a new member of the PB/ZBA due to fact that Chairman William Hall is now a Town Board member. At this time a decision has not been made. The Town Board also discussed and scheduled a public hearing regarding a change to the Town's zoning law regarding signs.
3. In December, the Town Board passed Local Law No. 2 of 2025 to amend the zoning law regarding signs, they passed a resolution to install cameras at the highway garage and court and authorized the Highway Superintendent to order a new gas tank at the highway garage with a 50% deposit up front.
4. Upcoming topics being discussed are GPS trackers and forward and rear facing cameras in the highway vehicles, appointment of a new Town Attorney, and the appointment of a new PB/ZBA Member and/or Chairman.
5. The Organizational meeting will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

## Local Law Review

### Committee

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6 pm and are open to the public if anyone has input.

The community is encouraged to submit comments/suggestions/questions to:

[WesterloLawReview@gmail.com](mailto:WesterloLawReview@gmail.com)

## Costco - Guilderland

The new Costco coming to Guilderland is expected to open in August. It will have a gas station and a NY Oncology Hematology. Located at the corner of Western Ave and Crossgates Mall Rd.

## Ice Skating - Delmar

Elm Ave Park, ice skating is open daily for general skating when the ice is 4" thick with a good surface until 9:30 pm. When the green flag is flying, the rink is open. For updates (518) 439-4955, x 1621.

## Food Pantry Information

### Hilltown Community Resource Center

Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am – 4 pm. Pantries are by appointment only!

New location: 562 NY 143, Westerlo

Contact: Mary Beth Peterson (518) 966-7380

### Hugs for the Hilltowns

Hours: Friday 9 am – 12 pm

Location: Helderberg Lutheran Church basement

Contact: Jean Guarino (631) 626-5191 or Carrie Stewart Needham (518) 273-1568 or Kav Mann (518) 944-4588

### Rock Road Community Storehouse

Hours: Wednesdays 7 am – 9 am & Saturdays 9 am – 11 am

Location: Rock Road Chapel 96 Rock Rd., Berne

Contact: Martha Davis (518) 221-2479

### The Little Free Food Pantries

Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Location: Knox Town Hall and behind Helderberg Lutheran Church

Contact: Ted Kunker, [kunker4@hotmail.com](mailto:kunker4@hotmail.com)

H. (518) 872-1724, W. (518) 456-5810, C. (518) 275-9506

### Potter Hollow Food Pantry

Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Potter Hollow Union Church

4824 Potter Hollow Rd., Potter Hollow

Contact: Carol Miles (518) 860-3061

(You don't have to live in the town to utilize any food pantry listed!)

The fall months have been spent archiving items that were donated from the Hiawatha Grange. What is a Grange you ask?

## The Grange

### National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry

The grange is a U.S. fraternal organization for farmers and families, founded in 1867 to advance agricultural methods, promote social and economic needs, and advocate for rural interests, notably fighting high railroad rates and monopolies. It's a family focused community group with local chapters (Grange Halls) that foster community, leadership, and civic engagement, supporting initiatives like women's suffrage and temperance while remaining open to all faiths.

#### Key aspects of the Grange:

**History:** Established by Oliver Kelley, it grew rapidly in the 1870's as farmers faced financial hardship, becoming a powerful voice for agricultural reform.

**Mission:** To unite farmers, share knowledge, improve rural life, and advocate for policies beneficial to agriculture and communities.

**Structure:** Operates with local, state and national levels, with full membership starting at age 14, including programs for children (Junior Grange) and youth.

**Activities:** Hosts community events, forums, and educational programs; members participate in civic advocacy and community service.

**Legacy:** Played a significant role in the Populist movement and later progressivism, pushing for reforms like railroad regulation and direct election of senators.

#### Modern Grange:

Today it continues as a community organization with local halls often serving as community centers for events, arts, and public forums, preserving its agricultural roots while adapting to modern needs.

Here is some History on the Hiawatha Grange:

Hiawatha Grange #1480 was organized on March 24th, 1922, by County Deputy, William Blodgett. There were 34 charter members. The first meetings were held at the hall over Gibbon's store in Dormansville. The first Master, Jesse T. Court, accomplished a great deal and had many plans for the future, before his sudden death. His most important accomplishment was the purchase of the building on the corner of State Route 32 and Silver Creek Road. The building was formerly a tavern and hotel, a stopover for weary travelers from Albany to the Helderbergs, Northern Catskills and West.

For years, an important event was exhibiting in the Altamont Fair. By winning the first prize at the fair 3 years in succession, 1925, 1926, and 1927, a silver cup was awarded. By 1926, the building was paid off.

Membership increased during the thirties. Exhibits were still entered in the Altamont Fair.

In 1944, the second mortgage was paid off. During World War II, the Grange did its part in true patriotic spirit. Several brothers served in the Armed Forces, a number of dances were held to promote the sale of War Stamps and Bonds, and members donated blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank. In 1946, the first Turkey Supper was put on, proceeded by a fair displaying a variety of produce and canned goods. (The museum has a poster from one of the Turkey Suppers). Games of various sorts were also enjoyed by the patrons. By 1947, the Grange turned 25 years old. A special celebration was held to celebrate, and a booklet was printed denoting this. (The Museum has copies of this booklet). In 1948, the Junior Grange was organized. A separate room was completed for the children to use for their meetings. Hiawatha Grange continued to exhibit at the Altamont Fair during the 40's.

The 1950's and 60's saw many structural changes to the hall – a fire escape was installed in 1952, running water was installed, and an oil burner was added to the existing furnace. The fall Turkey Suppers and fair was held annually and exhibits at the Altamont Fair continued.

In the 1960's the Grange was 40 years old. New cellar stairs were installed, and improvements were made to the dining room and kitchen. A new roof was put on the south end of the hall in 1964 and a well was drilled. Prior to that, water came from an old dug well. Many community service projects were completed: donations to the Rensselaerville Library and the Westerlo ambulance fund. In 1965, Hiawatha won first prize on the exhibit at the State Fair regarding Empire Livestock Marketing.

The 70's decade saw the annual Turkey suppers continuing. In 1970, the Grange again had an exhibit on Poultry at the State Fair. Exhibits at the Altamont Fair continued, one on Flowers and Gardens winning first prize. By 1971, the Junior Grange was disbanded. The Grange turned 50 in 1972, again with a special celebration and program. (The museum has a copy of this program as well).

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## Low Cost Spay/Neuter

### Clinics and Other Services

There are many options for low cost spay and neuter clinics in the area as well as vaccinations, microchipping, deworming and humane euthanasia.

Some local options are:

#### Mohawk and Hudson Humane Society

You can schedule online at:[www.mohawkhumane.org](http://www.mohawkhumane.org)

#### Upstate Spay and Neuter Services

This is a mobile clinic that is located in the Advanced Auto Parts parking lot in Catskill. To schedule visit the following website:

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

## Westerlo Historical Society

The Westerlo Historical Society meets the third Monday of each month in April, May, June, September, October and November. June is their annual picnic meeting at the Veterans Town Park, and they have a "Post Holiday Party" in January and specially scheduled programs and trips. Regular meetings are at 7 pm at the Westerlo Reformed Church Hall.

### New members and ideas are always welcome!

If you would like to reach someone from the Historical Society, please contact Roland Tozer (518) 797-3050 [Rolandtozer@msn.com](mailto:Rolandtozer@msn.com)

## On the Road with the Highway Department

The Highway Department has been very busy with the most recent squalls coming through, in making sure roads are cleaned up and passable.

## Five Rivers

Visit Monday – Saturday  
9 am to 4:30 pm.  
Free to get in.

<https://dec.ny.gov/places/five-rivers-center>

## News from the Assessor

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Property tax exemption renewal forms were mailed to current recipients in November. If you did not receive your form, please contact the Assessor's office at (518) 797-3111, ext. 1016. All renewal forms and new applications are due no later than March 1, 2026. The Assessor is preparing to update assessments where improvements have been made. A notice of assessment change will be mailed for all parcels that have a change. It's important you are aware of any changes made in the event you don't agree with the change. Grievance hearings will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2026, if you believe your parcel is not fairly assessed.

## From the CEO

Wishing all a happy, safe and healthy new year. In case you missed it the Town recently passed the Accessory Dwelling Unit law (ADU). Two permits have already been issued for ADU and several more inquiries have been made to construct more. This law allows a second dwelling unit on one tax parcel. This law in a small way should help with the housing shortage. If you have any interest in building an accessory dwelling, please call the building department for more info. I want to wish all of you good luck in the coming new year -Jeff Pine CEO

## DEC Hunting and Fishing Info

Hunting licenses are required for any person over the age of 12 while fishing licenses are required for anyone 16 and over.

### Hunting licenses:

\$22 (ages 16-69), \$5 (70+), \$5 (ages 12-15)

### Bowhunting:

\$15 (ages 16-69), FREE (70+), \$5 (ages 12-15)

### Muzzleloading:

\$15 (ages 14-69), FREE (70+)

### Turkey:

\$10 (ages 12+)

### Fishing:

\$25 (ages 16-69), \$5 (70+)

## FISHING THE BASIC CREEK RESEVIOR

NYS DEC requires a regular fishing license to fish the Basic Reservoir. You must also purchase a permit from the City of Albany to fish there from dawn to dusk.

City of Albany residents: \$10

Non-city residents: \$20

Kids 16 and under: Free

Call (518) 434-5300 for more info.

DEC is offering FREE online Guide Licensed exams for individuals over 18.

Visit this website for more info!

<https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/fish-wildlife-plant/licensed-guide-program>

### WESTERLO HOMETOWN HEROES HONORS VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS



The Westerlo Hometown Heroes Committee held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hometown Heroes Banner Closing Ceremony in November. The ceremony honors all who have served in the armed forces, our first responders and specifically presents the new current year banner recipients and/or their family members with their banners.

Prior to the banner presentation, this year the committee held a medal award ceremony for two Vietnam Veterans who earned medals they were unaware they were entitled to. Scott Leslie, the Director of Albany County Veteran Services Bureau presented medals to Navy veterans Richard Filkins and Anthony Falese. Both veterans served in Vietnam. Upon accepting his medals Mr. Filkins remarked that he was standing before everyone to "represent the 58,279 U.S. military who were killed in Vietnam, and the 1,582 that are still missing."

A Congressional Gold Medal of Honor was also presented to Betty Filkins for her father, Charles H. Peck Jr., a WWII veteran. This honor is the highest civilian honor a person can receive. It was also announced that Mr. Peck Jr. was awarded a high school diploma from Voorheesville High School during their awards ceremony in June.

These medals would not have been possible were it not for the efforts of Capital Region volunteer Tom Mullins. Mr. Mullins works to investigate and whenever necessary complete the paperwork for veterans to receive the honors they deserve. Anyone who would like his contact information can email the Westerlo Hometown Heroes Committee at; [WesterloHometownHeroes@gmail.com](mailto:WesterloHometownHeroes@gmail.com).



For a second year, in addition to the medals, Westerlo announced its Honorary Hometown Hero. This year the committee selected County Executive Daniel P. McCoy. Mr. McCoy was chosen for his eight years of support of Westerlo Hometown Heroes, his 30 years of dedicated service in the National Guard as well as his numerous efforts and programs in Westerlo, including the many grants for Westerlo and the Hilltowns at large.

Approximately 180 guests attended the ceremony. In addition to the medal and banner presentations, Norwich University elite drill team the Shock Platoon participated with bagpipes, presentation and retiring of colors, buglers playing TAPS and the very talented vocalist, Evelyn Lawton. The committee was grateful for Girl Scout troops from Greenville who assisted presenting the banners to recipients. Following the ceremony, guests were served a complimentary dinner of chicken parmesan, penne ala vodka, green beans, salad and dessert.

The Westerlo Hometown Heroes is grateful for the First Baptist Church of Westerlo allowing us to use their facility for the past seven years. Without their generosity, this event wouldn't be the huge success it is.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans' Day Sunset Service moved inside the pavilion due to the extreme wind and cold. Nonetheless, it was a meaningful ceremony, honoring all who have and are currently serving. Scott Leslie was this year's guest speaker. Pastor Chris Allen gave the opening and closing prayer and vocalist Evelyn Lawton sang the National Anthem and Amazing Grace. Town Supervisor Matt Kryzak closed the program with a few poignant remarks. Many thanks to the Westerlo Volunteer Fire Company members, Auxiliary and Fire Police members for their continued support of this program and their annual attendance.



Beginning in January the committee will begin taking applications for new banners for the 2026 season. Honorees include veterans, past and present, and First Responders past and present. Applicants need to provide proof they currently live in Westerlo or did at some point. Veterans need to provide proof of honorable discharge and First Responders need confirmation from organization officers. Previous banner recipients can also complete a form to have their banner rehung for the 2026 season for only \$20. Placements will be on a first come-first served basis as locations are limited. The committee is also seeking sponsorships for banners and donations in any amount. For questions or assistance with applications, please contact the committee at [WesterloHometownHeroes@gmail.com](mailto:WesterloHometownHeroes@gmail.com) or call Amie – (518) 396-8787 or Lisa – (518) 396-0350.

Some of the families quite prominent in the early history of the village are no longer represented in the population.

A prime example is the Reynolds family. Among the early settlers of Smith's Mills (South Westerlo) was Jared Reynolds, born 1768 in Lower Salem, N.Y. There is no way of knowing the exact year that he arrived, but his wife, the former Hudah Cross, presented him with a son, Lewis, in 1798 at Smith's Mills--a fairly tangible evidence of his presence here.

One other son had been born at Lower Salem NY, Zerah, who later became a medical doctor but died in his early 30s. Old family deeds indicate that the original purchase of the Reynolds farm (more currently known as Colonial Manor) occurred in 1802, but the family may well have occupied before that time the ancient house on the west side of North Street surrounded by evergreens (the home of Mrs. Gladys (Poole) Adriance, widow of Howard Adriance in 1989. This house and adjacent land had apparently been in the possession of the Reynolds family many years when, in 1872, Jared II occupied the house at the time.

Jared II with his wife Delilah Showers, daughter of William Showers, owner of the Showers Tavern (now the church parsonage) lived at that time in what was known as the "Mill House" (NE corner of Main & North Street, home in 1989 of Mrs. Margaret (Boomhower) Bogardus, widow of Charles Bogardus, and in that same year of 1872 he sold his home and about six acres of land lying to the north to Leander Lockwood.

In all probability, Jared then bought from Leander Lockwood and renovated into a hotel the old store building built by Thomas Saxton in the 1820's and known for the later 20th century as the Bogardus Store (in 1989 the post office & 4 quaint shops). Here he ran an establishment known as the Cottage Hotel for over twenty years, offering rooms and meals to commercial travelers, a small line of general merchandise and physical if not spirited uplift at the hotel bar to all who applied. A small bottling plant was operated in the cellar.

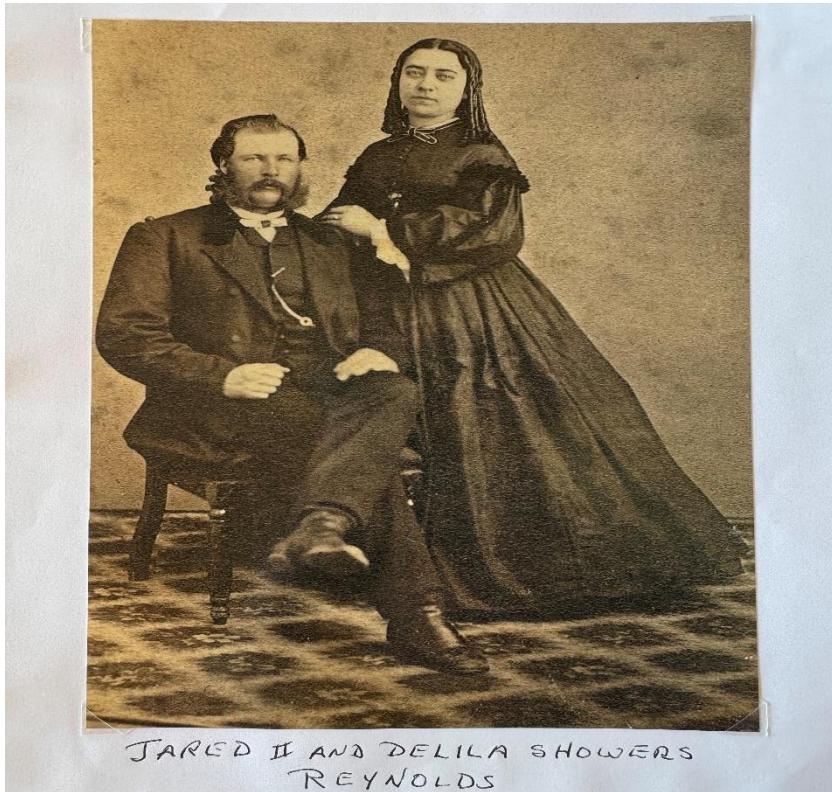
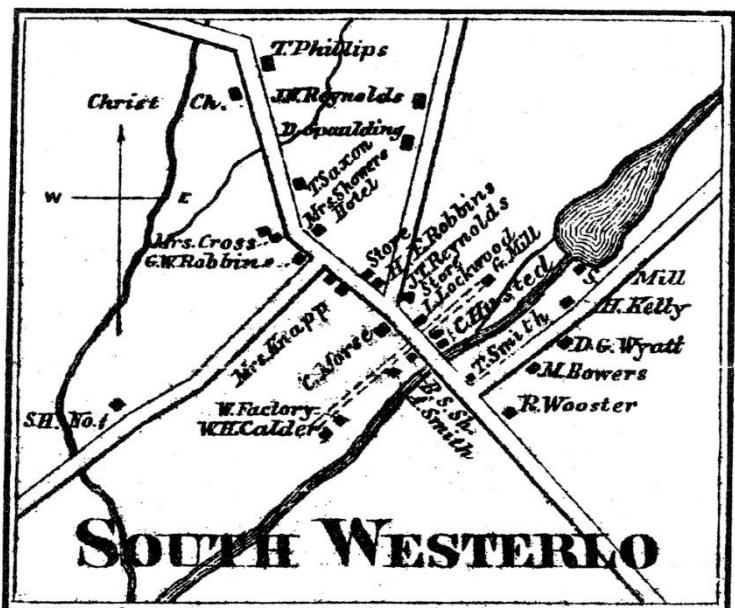
A large powerful man he maintained law and order in his establishment by the simple expedient of tossing violators out of the front door. In 1890 he embarked upon another enterprise, the nearby grist mill, which he operated a year or so before his untimely death in 1892. "Jep" as he was known by his friends, had been an integral part of the community for his 55 years.

On a winter day, as you drive by the old Reynolds farm (what was called "Colonial Manor" in the latter 20th century) you will see a small cemetery in the woods to the west. The last member of the Reynolds family to be buried here was Delilah Reynolds, the wife of Jared II. Delilah died in 1916, 24 years after her husband. The cemetery has 23 family members buried here including Jared I, the original settler, as well as William Showers, the tavern owner of South Westerlo.

Originally written by Thomas Blaisdell and updated by Gayle Hannay.

- Gayle Hannay, Town Historian

### *Map of South Westerlo*



## Continued From the Supervisor's Desk... Continued from page 2

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every May to preserve their lifespan.

**Easter Egg Hunt/Visit with the Easter Bunny, Fall Festival, Tree Lighting/Visit with Santa and the Grinch, After Party with Fireworks** – Once again, the Town sponsored several successful events for the community. Young and old enjoyed

the festive events with new features for each. This year's Fall Festival even saw record attendance. Following the festival the community enjoyed live entertainment with the band The Bluestones followed by fireworks. A portion of each of these events were made possible through generous donations from community businesses.

**Defensive Driving Class** – The first ever Defensive Driving Class was held this fall with a record number of Westerlo residents attending. Plans are in the works for another class this year.

**Wildplay Tickets** – With partial funding from Stewarts and the Town of Westerlo residents were able to secure free tickets to Thacher Park's Wild Play. The adventure courses at the park were fun for all age levels. Participants experience making their way from tree to tree by walking across tightropes, climbing up cargo nets, sliding down ziplines, flying through the air on rope swings, leaping onto swinging logs, and balancing on wobbly bridges.

**Website Change** – Residents will soon see an upgraded and updated Town of Westerlo website as the Town Board approved a measure to create a new site. This measure was initiated by the new requirement that all municipalities secure a .gov or .org website. Since the existing website is a .com, the Town needed to make a change.

**Additional Cameral in Veterans Memorial Park** - Added an additional camera which was installed at the park for increased security and monitoring for vandalism and other crimes.

**New Playground Equipment** - Blaisdell White Park – new playground equipment was installed. Veterans Memorial Park – a wheelchair swing was installed.

**Engineer for Water District** - Hired an engineer for water district to conduct a preliminary report for updates and maintenance.

**Zoning Law – Signs** - Updated Zoning Law for signs.

**Rescue Squad Building** - Acquired the former Westerlo Rescue Squad building on County Route 401. Future plans for the building are currently being discussed.

**Grants** - MVP Fitness Court, Albany County Parks and Recreation, add inclusive and accessible equipment to Town Hall Playground, install a gazebo, Transfer Station for new containers and reimbursement for new truck, Stewarts for WildPlay tickets, Bank of Greene County for Veterans Garden, Town Historian for historical markers, Town Hall playground for accessible and inclusive playground equipment, Callanan and GNH for After Party and fireworks Total for the year - \$265,741.72

A lot of the new updates and purchases were made possible by utilizing awarded grant money and the Capital Projects Reserve Fund. These accomplishments would not be possible without the collaborative efforts of our Town employees and our Town Board. We are also thankful for the generosity of our donors and volunteers. I am confident that 2026 will deliver similar results for Westerlo.

Happy New Year Westerlo!

-Supervisor Kryzak

## The Westerlo Heritage Museum Continued...

Continued from pg. 5

In 1975 a window display could be viewed for Grange Week which continued for 7 years. In 1976, the Gange took part in the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of our Country's birth by having a cake float in the Town of Westerlo Parade and in the Albany parade. From 1976-1978, the Grange sponsored trips: bus trips to New York City and Boston, a boat and train trip to Syracuse. Community Service work continued during this time and in 1977 the Grange won first prize at State Grange and honorable mention at National Grange. (Much of the Community Service Projects documentation is at the Museum). 1979 brought Defensive Driving Classes to the Grange for both members and nonmembers. Also in 1979, Hiawatha Grange entered into a contract with the Helderberg Senior Services, Inc. to use the downstairs dining room and kitchen to serve noontime meals to senior citizens.

The 1980's, 90's and 2000's continued with exhibits at the Altamont Fair and Community Service projects.

The Grange and Senior Services closed its doors in 2014, donating some of its artifacts to the Museum.

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Thank you to everyone who supported the Chance Auction that was held at the Christmas Tree Lighting event on 12/5 at the Town Hall. The money earned goes to the Museum Carriage House building fund.

Also thank you to all the supporters of Wreaths Across America held on 12/13 at all three cemeteries in the Town. Over 220 veterans were honored during this moving event. This is the sixth year that the veterans in our Town have been honored. Westerlo was among 5,598 locations that participated this year. Special thanks to the New York Patriot Guard Riders, American Legions Riders Post #977, The American Heritage Girls Troop and the Trail Life USA Troop (from the South Westerlo Congregational Church), Dennis (Ding) Boomhower, The Westerlo Fire Police and the Town Highway Department - especially Tiger Mackey.

# Read Up on the Library



**Westerlo Library**  
604 NY 143  
Westerlo, NY 12193

**Hours:**

**Mon** – 2 pm – 7 pm  
**Tues** – 2 pm – 7 pm  
**Wed** – 9 am – 2 pm  
**Thurs** – 2 pm – 7 pm  
**Fri** – 2 pm – 7 pm  
**Sat** – 9 am – 2 pm  
**Sun** – Closed

For more information call:  
**(518) 797-3415**  
Amy Powarzynski  
Library Manager  
[director@WesterloLibrary.org](mailto:director@WesterloLibrary.org)

## Gallery Space

The library has Gallery space that exhibits a local artist every two months. January and February will be an exhibit of the art of Rossella Cavaliere. The March artist is TBD (possibly BKW students work).

## Regularly Occurring Youth Programs

**Wednesdays 10:30 am – 11:30 am** – Storytime- Stories, movement, music and play with Miss Lee.

**Thursdays 5 pm – 6 pm** – Drop-in STEAM/Maker Space with featured activity each week

**Financial Literacy games (board and electronic), chess and checkers are available to check out.** The games are suitable for the age of 5 and up.

Bicycles and helmets for check out – balance bike (no pedals) for 2-4 yr olds, 12- inch bike with training wheels for 5-7 yrs old and a 16-inch bike for older children.

## Become a Library Trustee

The Library needs board members who have a deep appreciation for and understanding of library service, who are committed to the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community, and who are willing to actively work to accomplish the Library's goals and objectives. Submit a letter of interest to Westerlo Library Board of Trustees, PO Box 267, Westerlo, NY 12193.

### Celebrating 40 years in 2026!

The Library will have programs and exhibits related to the history of Westerlo and the Library monthly. In January look for an exhibit on the history of Westerlo, resolutions and celebrations for the New Year including Reading 40 Books in 2026 challenge. February will highlight romantic movies from the 1980s and March will be music of the 1980s.

### 2026 Trustee Meetings

7 pm in the Hannay Community Room  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026  
June 2026-No Meeting  
Wednesday, July 15, 2026  
Wednesday, August 12, 2026  
Wednesday, September 9, 2026  
Wednesday, October 14, 2026  
Wednesday, November 11, 2026  
Wednesday, December 9, 2026

All Trustee meetings are open to the public!

Policy Committee Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month – 6 pm at the library.

### LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS FOR 2025

#### **JANUARY**

Thursday, January 1 - New Year's Day  
Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

#### **FEBRUARY**

Monday, February 16 – Presidents' Day

#### **MAY**

Monday, May 25- Memorial Day

#### **JULY**

Saturday, July 4 - Independence Day

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Monday, September 7- Labor Day

#### **OCTOBER**

Monday, October 12- Indigenous People's Day

#### **NOVEMBER**

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

#### **DECEMBER**

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve  
Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day  
Thursday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

### Digital Collection

There are two ways to get e-books, audiobooks, comics, magazines, television, music, and movies through the library. First, there is Libby, an app that you can download from the App Store (Apple devices) or Google Play (Android) that gets you access to books, audiobooks, and magazines.

We also have Hoopla (another app) that has e-books, audiobooks, movies, television, music, and comics. Stop by the library for help getting started!

## Cemeteries in Albany County

Visit [https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/New-York/Albany-County/Westerlo?id=city\\_105189](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/New-York/Albany-County/Westerlo?id=city_105189) to search Westerlo Cemeteries

## Cemetery Records In Greene County

There is a wealth of information to be found in the old cemeteries that are located throughout Greene County. Many Westerlo residents may have family buried in Greene County and may find information about their ancestors by visiting this website:

[https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nygreen2/cemetery\\_records\\_greene.htm](https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nygreen2/cemetery_records_greene.htm)

## Hannacroix Rural Cemetery

### Route 411

The Hannacroix Cemetery is located on Rt 411 in Dormansville/Westerlo. A special thanks to all who have contributed to the cemetery in the past.

Whether you have a loved one buried there or would just like to give a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. We need your help to keep the cemetery maintained. Contributions can be sent to:

Hannacroix Rural Cemetery  
C/O Linda Smith, Treasurer  
115 SR 143, Westerlo, NY 12193

*Many thanks to all who have helped in the past.*

## What's Hot with the Fire Company

# TWFD BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

**SAT. JANUARY 24, 2026**

Come together with friends, family, and neighbors to support the Westerlo Fire Company as we raise funds to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Every bite you take will help us bring hope and assistance to build a new updated firehouse. ☀

8- 11 AM  
Woodmans Hall  
980 CR 401

\$10 Adult  
\$5 child  
under 2 free



Additional Fire Co. breakfast flyers can be found on pg. 25 of this newsletter.

## Westerlo

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## Cemetery Info

### Westerlo Rural Cemetery

#### State Route 143

The Westerlo Rural Cemetery is located at 771 SR 143 in Westerlo.

If you need to contact someone at the Westerlo Rural Cemetery, please call:

Betty Filkins, President:  
(518) 275-2935

Email: [BettyFilkins@protonmail.com](mailto:BettyFilkins@protonmail.com)



### Westerlo Central Cemetery

#### Route 401

If you need to contact someone at the Westerlo Central Cemetery, please call:

Dennis Boomhower, President:  
(518) 488-2285  
Diane Carl, Treasurer/Secretary:  
(518) 527-7850

### Cemetery Contact

#### Information

##### Westerlo Rural Cemetery

Betty Filkins  
(518) 275-2935

[BettyFilkins@protonmail.com](mailto:BettyFilkins@protonmail.com)

##### Hannacroix Cemetery

Linda Smith  
(518) 928-3428

##### Westerlo Central Cemetery

Dennis Boomhower  
(518) 488-2285

# VETERAN INFORMATION



Helderberg Heroes Project is a grass roots, all volunteer effort to support the courageous men and women who are serving our country. Their goal is simple, express gratitude and provide

encouragement by sending care packages of "goodies," letters and cards to deployed soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines around the world. A little bit of kindness goes a long way for a lonely soldier away from home.

Helderberg Heroes Project is an ambitious project which will require the support of many caring individuals, organizations and businesses. All donations will go directly to the benefit of our active duty military service personnel. The success will depend on the generosity of others.

#### Ways You Can Help

- Monetary donation: Make a donation to facilitate the purchase of supplies and mailing fees.
- Donate supplies: Donate or organize a collection of needed volunteers at one of our packing events. Register to be notified of future packing events.
- Register the name of a deployed soldier, airman, sailor or Marine. Write letters or cards: host a letter writing or card writing event.
- Share the word with family, friends, co-workers, your church or other groups you may be associated with.

*For more information or questions email:  
Connect@HelderbergFCO.com*



HELDERBERG  
FAMILY + COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATION

## Return the F.A.V.O.R. Discount for Veterans

Return the F.A.V.O.R. (Find & Assist Veterans of Record) is a merchant discount program for eligible Albany Co. Veterans. The program provides veterans with discounts on services or purchases at participating merchants. To enroll, bring your DD-214 to the Albany Co. Veteran Services

Bureau Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm. Download the application at <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/veterans-service-bureau>

## Albany County Veteran Services Bureau



Albany County Veterans Service Bureau can help veterans with many items such as medical care, disability, and compensation, pensions, education benefits, burial assistance, VA home loans, job referrals, return the favor card and more!

Please note, The Albany VA Medical Center is providing COVID-19 and flu vaccinations. If you are a veteran, please call (518) 626-7228, option 2 to schedule an appointment. They are also providing COVID-19 booster shots for veterans 65 and older. More information can be found at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau

Attn: Scott Leslie

#### New Address:

420 Western Ave  
Albany, NY 12203

Phone: (518) 447-7710

Email: [veteransbureau@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:veteransbureau@albanycountyny.gov)

Website: <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/veterans-service-bureau>

#### Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

## Help, Options, Prevention & Education (HOPE) App

Albany County's suicide and warning prevention app for your smartphone. This is a great source of information if you need help or if you know someone that does. It provides warning signs, what to say, help for Veterans, teens/young adults and adults by providing resources, contacts and assessments. Available through iTunes and Google Play!

## Access Disability Claim Decisions online!

Veterans can now access their disability benefit claim decisions on VA.gov instead of waiting for a mailed copy to be delivered.

To access your decision letters, veterans can login to [www.VA.gov](https://www.VA.gov) and check the status of their claim!



## Patriot Guard Riders New York

PGRNY is a diverse group of patriots who come together to show respect and support to US service members, veterans, first responders who die in the line of duty, and their families by standing flag lines and providing escorts at memorial services, only at the request of the family. They also stand flag lines for other events honoring veterans and military personnel by request.

PO Box 637  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
(585) 866-1747

<https://pgrny.org>

## Veterans Miracle Center

The Veterans Miracle Center is a special place for Veterans and active-duty military personnel, as well as their immediate families, who are in need of receiving daily life necessities absolutely free.

10 Interstate Ave.  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 486-8398

[www.VMCAlbany.org](http://www.VMCAlbany.org)  
Hours: Mon – Thurs 9 am – 4 pm  
Fri 9 am – 3 pm  
By appointment only

## YETI Discounts

Yeti offers special pricing for military members and veterans, first responders, nurses and government employees with the ID.me network. Learn more at [www.yeti.com/id-me.html](http://www.yeti.com/id-me.html)

## FREE Request for Honors

Honor guard detail is available for free for the burial of an eligible veteran. Families should make requests to the funeral director. This service is provided to veterans with an Honorable Discharge.

## VA Burial Benefits & Memorial Items

VA burial benefits can help service members, Veterans and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. Find out how to apply for burial benefits you've earned, and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

Call the National Cemetery Office  
(800) 535-1117  
or visit  
[www.va.gov/burials-memorials/](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/)

## Pact Act

The VA is ready to implement the PACT Act and deliver for toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors. If you think you might be eligible for PACT Act benefits, here's what you need to know:

- You can apply for PACT Act benefits now by filing a claim.
- As President Biden announced at the bill signing, all 23 presumptive conditions in the PACT Act are eligible for benefits effective August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- You can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT) or by calling 1-800-MyVA411.

## Veterans/Military Crisis Line (800) 273-8255 press 1

Connects Service Members and Veterans in crisis, as well as their family members and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat or text messaging service.

This free support is confidential and available every day, 24/7 to all Veterans, Service Members, National Guard & Reserve, family members & friends.

[https://www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

## Honor a deceased Veteran!

Each month Albany County honors a deceased Veteran with a ceremony at various locations throughout the County. Anyone may submit a nomination form and resume for consideration. Visit [www.albanycounty.com/veterans](http://www.albanycounty.com/veterans) or call (518) 447-7710 for more info!

## Reoccurring Veteran related events:

### Appointment only – Free Covid Vaccines

Albany Co. Dept. of Health (518) 447-4589  
175 Green Street, Albany

**Every Thursday 6 pm Sweat with a Vet Hot Yoga**  
1475 Western Ave, Albany

**Every Wednesday 9 am – 11:30 am Veteran's Coffee Club**  
Mike's Diner 3737 Carman Rd., Schenectady

**Every Friday 9 am – noon Arts4Vets**  
Am. Legion Zaloga Post, Albany

**Every Friday 8 am Veterans & Friends Breakfast**  
Gateway Diner, Albany

# VETERAN INFORMATION



**TO ALL Albany County VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN**

## Veteran Services

Any veteran and/or family member who has questions, needs assistance and/or would like more information on benefits available are strongly encouraged to stop in and speak with representatives from Albany County Veteran Service Bureau and Albany Stratton VA



**3rd Wednesday of every month**  
**9 am - 11 am**  
**Westerlo Town Hall**  
**933 County Route 401, Westerlo**

GET READY FOR AN EPIC NIGHT OF FUN, COMPETITION, AND CAMARADERIE WITH FELLOW VETERANS! WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED PRO OR JUST STARTING OUT, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS, MEET GREAT PEOPLE, AND HAVE A BLAST!

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## JOIN THE ULTIMATE VETERANS CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT!

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 6:00PM - 10:00PM  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, SHEEHY-PALMER POST 6776  
525 DELAWARE AVE, ALBANY, NY 12209



- FREE ENTRY
- No RSVP Needed (First Come, First Serve!)
- Open to All Veterans! VFW & Legion members are welcome, as well as any veteran. Non-veterans may attend as guests of members.

Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive  
Albany County Veteran Service Bureau | 100 Heritage Lane, Rm. 500, Albany, NY 12211 | (518) 447-7710

ALBANY COUNTY Cares about our veterans

Albany County Veteran Service Bureau | 100 Heritage Lane, Rm. 500, Albany, NY 12211 | (518) 447-7710

## Discounts and Free Stuff

NY Lifetime Liberty Pass: For qualified NYS Veterans, Gold Star Parents, Spouses and Children. Free vehicle entry to state parks and DEC-operated day-use areas, as well as numerous state boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums, and park preserves; free golf at 28 State Park golf courses; free swimming pool entrance at 36 State Park pools, and discounted camping and cabin rentals at all 119 State Park & DEC campgrounds.

Veterans, Gold Star Families Lifetime National Parks Pass: Free entrance to national parks for Veterans and their families. The pass gives free access to about 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands.

Intrepid Museum: Free admission for active military and Veterans. 20% off on individual, Dual and Family memberships. Special programs also available.

For more information, contact Albany County Veterans Service Bureau at (518) 447-7710

## Chair Yoga

Chair yoga at the Town Hall has been temporarily discontinued. Please check back for updates.

## Respectful Flag Disposal Information

There are flag disposal locations throughout New York State. Did you know the local Veterans of Foreign Wars or VFW Posts, American Legion locations, and Boy and Girl Scout organizations will accept your tattered and worn American Flags? Many locations have bins inside their posts.

The closest location to dispose of a flag is the American Legion Post 291.

54 Maple Ave, Greenville, NY 12083

We appreciate all our supporters. No matter the size of your contribution the impact you've made has been tremendous! If we have inadvertently forgotten to mention you by name, please know that you have not gone unnoticed. We appreciate you!

# Upcoming Local Programs and Places to Visit this, Winter!

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## Proctors

**January 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Monty Python’s Spamalot:** The musical comedy lovingly ripped off from the film classic, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, has everything that makes a great knight at the theatre.

**January 30<sup>th</sup> – Get The Led Out:** From the bombastic and epic, to the folky and mystical, Get the Led Out have captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage. The Philadelphia-based group consists of six veteran musicians’ intent on delivering Led Zeppelin live, like you’ve never heard before.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – CCC’s Lunar New Year:** The Chinese Community Center (CCC), founded in 1973, proudly presents its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lunar New Year Celebration – one of the Capital Region’s most cherished cultural traditions. What began as a small gathering has grown into a vibrant gala that now welcomes more than a thousand attendees each year, showcasing both community talent and professional artistry. Audiences will be treated to a diverse array of cultural and artistic expressions.

**February 12<sup>th</sup> – Dancing with the Stars: Live! 2026 Tour:** Straight from Hollywood, see Dancing with the Stars Live! See the glitz, glam and breathtaking performances of America’s favorite dance show in a city near you with this ALL-NEW SHOW starring your favorite pros.

**February 21<sup>st</sup> – Girls Night: the Musical:** has been thrilling audiences since its sensational Off-Broadway debut. This touching and hilarious’ tell-it-like-it-is musical takes audiences on a journey into the lives of a group of female friends. Follow five friends as they visit their past, celebrate their present, and look to the future on a wild and hilarious night out.

**March 4<sup>th</sup> – The Irish Comedy Tour:** The comics tackle everything from family life to modern absurdities. Together they shed stereotypes, share stories, and deliver the kind of no-holds-barred craic that has kept audiences roaring across North America for decades.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Kinky Boots:** Will lift your spirits to high-heeled heights! Captivates and entertains audiences around the world with the dazzling Tony-winning score by pop legend Cyndi Lauper, hilarious and uplifting book by four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein, and original direction and Tony-winning choreography by Jerry Mitchell. Follows the journey of two people with nothing in common... or so they think.

**March 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – The Sound of Music:** For 65 years, The Sound of Music has been one of our “favorite things.” With its timeless story and irresistibly charming score, this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic isn’t just meant to be enjoyed – it’s meant to be shared. Now, a critically acclaimed North American tour brings the cherished musical to stages across the country to teach a new generation to sing.

For a full list of programs visit:

<https://www.atproctors.org/shows/>

432 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305

(518) 346-6204

## Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Located at 195 New Karner Rd.,  
Albany, NY 12205



Phone: (518) 456-0655

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is open year-round with free admission. It features approximately 20 miles of multi-use trails that are marked and considered easy to moderate.

### Upcoming special activities that we think you might like:

**January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am – Pine Bush Pups: Sleeping, Sleeping all Winter Long:** Sleeping all winter long may sound like an easy way to deal with winter, but hibernation comes with its own challenges and risks! We will explore hibernation through story, song and play and learn what hibernation means and which animals of the Pine Bush hibernate. This program will meet inside the Discovery Center. Suggested donation: \$5.00

**January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am – Pine Bush Pups: Neat Feet:** Help us look for signs of animals that live in the Pine Bush. We will explore the practice of identifying animals by their tracks, read a book, play a game, and then create our own tracks! We will meet inside the Discovery Center. Suggested donation: \$5.00

**January 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10 am – Pine Bush Pups: Nuts for Squirrels:** Did you know that January 21<sup>st</sup> is National Squirrel Appreciation Day? Come learn about the squirrels that live in the Pine Bush. We will read a story, sing a song and take a short hike in search of signs of squirrels. We’ll end our program with a squirrel craft to take home! We will meet inside the Discovery Center. Suggested donation: \$5.00. Suitable for kids aged 2-5 years.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1 pm there is a similar program but also includes a film and is suitable for all ages.

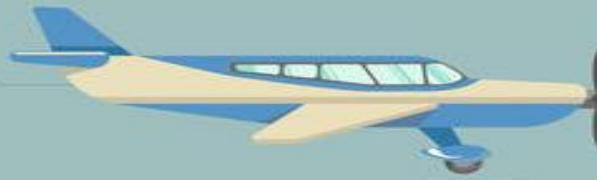
**February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11 am – Groggy Groundhogs:** Whether you call them groundhogs or woodchucks join us for a short talk and walk to learn more about these common mammals. We will also discuss the origins of Groundhog Day and make our own predictions about how long winter will last. We plan to walk approximately one mile over rolling terrain. Showshoes will be provided if needed. This program will take place inside the Discovery Center. Suggested donation: \$5.00.

**February 13<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm – 7 pm – Night at the Discovery Center:** You’re invited to see the exhibits come to life! Meet Pine Bush characters from the past and present and enjoy interactive exhibits, games, storytelling and more! Includes live local wildlife programs, re-enactors that bring historic exhibits alive, take home activity kit, and explore our exhibit *The Nature of Texture*. This is a free event that will be held rain or shine.

Please see the website for more information.

[Albanypinebush.org](http://Albanypinebush.org).

# HELPFUL RESOURCES



## Hilltown Community Resource Center

The Hilltown Community Resource Center is a great resource for anyone in need of FREE grocery items, assistance applying for SNAP or HEAP and many, many, other things!

Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am – 4 pm.

Location: 566 NY 143, Westerlo, NY 12193

Feel free to call them at (518) 966-7380 or stop by. They are happy to help!



<https://www.facebook.com/Hilltowns>

## Free Water Testing Kits

Would you like to know what's in your water?

Stop by the Albany County SWCD Office to receive a FREE Home Water Analysis Kit!

Kit includes tests for:

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1-Bacteria   | 1- Lead    |
| 2-Nitrates   | 2-Nitrites |
| 2-Chlorine   | 2-Iron     |
| 2-Copper     | 2-pH       |
| 2-Alkalinity | 2-Hardness |
| 1-Pesticide  |            |

Please call before stopping by to ensure staff availability. 24 Martin Rd., Voorheesville  
**(518) 765-7923**

## Healthy Homes Program

The Healthy Homes Program is brought to you by Cornell Cooperative Extension for residents living in Berne, Knox, Rensselaerville and Westerlo.

They will supply free products such as:

- Home safety products - smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers
- Child safety products - cabinet locks, shock stoppers, doorknob covers, and corner protectors
- Asthma control Items in conjunction with Asthma Education Program - allergen barrier mattress and pillow covers
- Cleaning supplies - wipes, baking soda and vinegar
- Safety products - flashlights and nightlights
- Pest management products to control mice

To schedule a Healthy Home visit:

Call: (518) 765-3512 Email: [dfp46@cornell.edu](mailto:dfp46@cornell.edu)

## Division on Addictions

Division On Addictions is an organization that helps vulnerable NY residents who are addicted to drugs or alcohol locate proper treatment options. Alcoholism and drug addiction are terrible crises affecting all ages in our communities – from teenagers to senior citizens.

Finding treatment facilities that are able to understand the underlying causes of the addiction, and that are able to cure an individual so as to prevent any relapse, is often a very hard task. This is where we come in. We help those in greatest need to find addiction treatment options that are the best for each individual situation. Our services are 100% free.

For more information, please visit their website at  
<https://www.divisiononaddiction.org/>

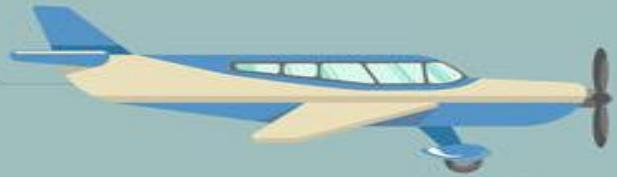
## Disposal of Used Motor Oil

Did you know you can dispose of used motor oil at Home Depot? They will accept up to 15 gallons, **free of charge**, as long as they have the space! You may want to call ahead to make sure they're not full.

*Drop off to the tool rental area of the store!*

**NYS law requires numerous service and retail locations to accept used motor oil from households for recycling. They must accept up to 5 gallons per day at no charge. Call your service location to confirm!**

# HELPFUL RESOURCES



## Single Point of Entry (SPOE)

Serving Women, Teen Girls, Children and Families.

The Single Point of Entry (SPOE) is a way for women, teen girls, children and families to connect with programs available through Albany County and community agencies. The SPOE serves as a point of information for families in need of help. Community agencies may also access the SPOE for information and resource connections.

An operator is available to offer assistance and support in areas including:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Health Insurance      | Child Development     |
| Pregnancy Support     | Breast Feeding        |
| Health Care           | Parent Education      |
| Domestic Violence     | Addiction Support     |
| Supportive Counseling | Healthy Relationships |
| Nutrition Education   | Social Services       |

To speak with a SPOE operator, please call (518) 447-7777, Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

A confidential Referral Form may be electronically completed and confidentially faxed to (518) 447-2515. Forms are available on the Albany County website.

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/8898/637602600712630000>

## Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Emergency HEAP can often help people who are confronted with heat-related emergencies, such as a lack of fuel, a utility shut-off, or inoperable/unsafe heating equipment.

Check HEAP income limits at:

[www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/)

Applicants who have no power or less than ¼ tank of fuel should appear at the DSS office at 162 Washington Ave. between 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

You can find more information & apply for HEAP at: <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap>

## Turn in your old electronics for a Walmart eGift Card!

Walmart offers a Gadget to Gift Card exchange. You can visit [Walmart.cexchange.com/online/home/index.rails](http://Walmart.cexchange.com/online/home/index.rails) to see what your electronic device may be worth.

You will need to ship the device to them, free of charge, and will receive an eGift card in exchange after the product is evaluated.

The gift card can be used at either Walmart.com or SamsClub.com.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters

Consider becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister. Bigs serve as supportive, positive role models and mentors to our youth. Kids are usually aged 6 and up.

To become a Big Brother or Big Sister, you can register at [www.bbbscr.org/home-page/get-involved/](http://www.bbbscr.org/home-page/get-involved/)

Want to enroll a child? Age requirement to enroll is 6 – 14 years.

For more information and to enroll, visit [www.bbbscr.org/home-page/enroll-a-child/](http://www.bbbscr.org/home-page/enroll-a-child/)

Dormansville thrift store is open  
Tuesdays, Fridays  
10 am – 2 pm  
Across from church

P.A.T.S. thrift store is now closed!  
P.A.T.S. is normally open from April – December  
Wednesdays & Saturdays  
9 am – 1 pm  
112 Church Rd., Berne, NY 12023

## United Tenants of Albany, Inc. (UTA)

UTA's Emergency Financial Assistance service assists tenants at-risk of homelessness by directly addressing arrears, utility delinquency, security deposits and/or 1<sup>st</sup> months' rent costs to prevent displacement. This service, in combination with crisis intervention and case management, allows low to middle income tenants in Albany County who are imminently at-risk of eviction and homelessness to stabilize their housing situations, and to avoid the traumatizing loss of their home.

UTA is restricted to provide financial assistance to tenants within Albany County who meet the income limits of 20-80% of the area median income.

Need housing assistance? All requests for assistance are handled through the Housing Hotline. Tenants seeking assistance can reach out to at (518) 436-8997 x 3. A housing counselor will return your calls in the order they are received. You may also send a request to [hotline@unitedtenantsalbany.org](mailto:hotline@unitedtenantsalbany.org)

Visit [www.utalbany.org](http://www.utalbany.org) for more information.

# Westerlo Public Library Information & Upcoming Programs

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**CYPRESS RESUME**  
*The smart way to go places!*  
A FREE SERVICE OF YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY  
[WWW.CYPRESSRESUME.COM](http://WWW.CYPRESSRESUME.COM)

## Museum Passes

The Westerlo Library has museum passes to check out! We have a museum pass for the Clark Art Institute and Empire pass (NYS Parks). Please call ahead to reserve passes (518) 797-3415.

## Fax Machine Service

Our fax machine is available for public use both for sending and receiving faxes. Charges are generally \$0.20 per page.

## Homeschool Resource

Educate Station is a Home School resource available online in the library and remotely with a library card. It covers curriculum for preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade with lessons, activities and worksheets. Find it linked on the Library website ([westerlolibrary.org](http://westerlolibrary.org)).

## Westerlo Library Community Room

The Westerlo Library has a lovely community room for use by groups for meetings. Stop by for an application for use or email [director@westerlolibrary.org](mailto:director@westerlolibrary.org), for more information.

## Regularly Occurring Adult Programs

**Coffee with Neighbors** – Wednesdays – 12 pm – Come to the library to meet and chat with your Westerlo neighbors.

**Spice Sampling** – Every month the library has a spice take and make, with spice samples and a recipe. January is Caraway seed, February is onion powder and March is thyme.

**Book Club** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 4:30 pm. Copies of the current book are available at the circulation desk.

## ANCESTRY.COM

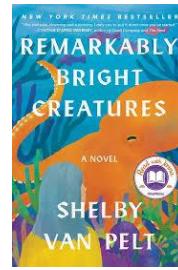
The next Ancestry Workshop will be held January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Town of Westerlo Historian, Gayle Hannay will be on hand to help you get the most out of Ancestry Library.

Ancestry Library is available free to use from the Library WiFi. Use your own device or one of the library's laptops to access this genealogy resource.

## Upcoming Book Club Picks

January 14<sup>th</sup>

Remarkably Bright Creatures  
By Shelby Van Pelt



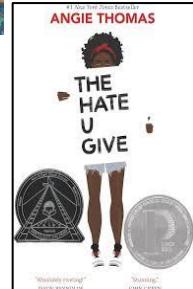
February 11<sup>th</sup>

The Snow Child  
By Eowyn Ivey



March 11<sup>th</sup>

The Hate U Give  
By Angie Thomas



## AFTER-SCHOOL AT THE WESTERLO LIBRARY

Mondays and Thursdays

3-5 pm



Registration required  
email [youth@westerlolibrary.org](mailto:youth@westerlolibrary.org)  
call (518)797-3415

## Westerlo Library Homebound Delivery!

Homebound delivery is a free library delivery service provided to the residents of the Town of Westerlo who are unable to visit the library. If you think this service might be right for you, or a friend or family member, please call (or visit) the library during regular business hours.

## Technology

Have questions about technology? We can help! If we don't have the answers, we can find them for you.

The library has 24/7 WiFi that is available outside. There are charging stations (USB and regular plugs) available around the patio.

There are computers available for use in the library.

# Greenville Public Library Upcoming Programs

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## Toddler Time

**Tuesdays 10:00 11:00**

Infants ~ Toddlers ~ Preschoolers

**Just Drop In!**

I am so excited to be spending Tuesday mornings with you and your child! We will have lots of fun! The following Tuesday dates in **red** are the days we will be meeting. **If Greenville Schools are closed due to weather or running on a 2 hour delay, we will not meet.**

Health & Safety Policy: Please do not bring your child to group if he/she has been ill with fever, croup, vomiting, diarrhea, flu like symptoms, pink eye, unexplained rash or skin infection, any childhood contagious diseases. Children should not attend if they have exhibited any of the symptoms within 24 hrs of group. Children must be fever free without the use of Tylenol or Motrin for 24 hrs. prior to coming to group. **THANK YOU!!**

If you have any questions please call the Greenville Library 966-8205

| January '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su          | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 4           | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11          | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18          | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25          | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| February '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 1            | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8            | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15           | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22           | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29           | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| March '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29        | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| April '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | S  |
| 5         | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

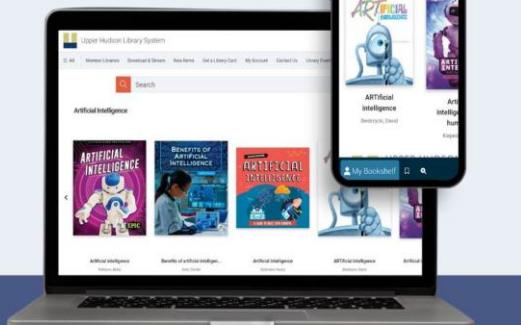
| May '26 |    |    | June '26 |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----------|----|----|----|
| Su      | M  | Tu | W        | Th | F  | S  |
| 3       | 4  | 5  | 6        | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10      | 11 | 12 | 13       | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17      | 18 | 19 | 20       | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24      | 25 | 26 | 27       | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31      | 1  | 2  | 3        | 4  | 5  |    |

## Berne Public Library Information

**Not Receiving the library's Newsletter and should be?**

Please check your spam/junk folder before calling the library at (518) 872-1246.

**New catalog coming soon!**



[discover.uhls.org](http://discover.uhls.org)

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM  
66 Libraries Great Community

## Download our new app!

- Manage multiple cards
- Store barcodes digitally
- Browse, search, make lists, & request items
- Track reading sessions
- Geolocate nearby public libraries
- Get push notifications about your account
- Scan any book to see if the library has a copy
- Find library events, hours, & directions
- Access eBooks, eMagazines, free language learning, & many more digital resources



or go to: [innovativemobile.net/Mid-HudsonLibraries](http://innovativemobile.net/Mid-HudsonLibraries)  
or search "mid-hudson libraries" in your app store

## Berne Public Library Programs

Manager/Director: Kathy Stemple

All programs below are free of charge unless otherwise stated.

### Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 am for pre-school children and their caregivers

### Book Club for Adults

First Sunday of the month at 7 pm

### Knit Wits

Third Sunday of the month at 7 pm for knitting or crocheting

**The Berne Public Library is located at 1763 Helderberg Trail, Berne, NY 12023**

**Phone: (518) 872-1246**

**Hours are as follows:**

Monday 2 pm – 8 pm

Tuesday 10 am – 8 pm

Wednesday 12 pm – 8 pm

Thursday 2 pm – 8 pm

Friday 2 pm – 6 pm

Saturday 9 am – 3 pm

Sunday Closed



"Berne Public Library"

[https://www.bernepubliclibrary.org/](http://www.bernepubliclibrary.org/)

**The Greenville Public Library is located at**

**11177 SR 32, Greenville, NY 12083**

**Phone: (518) 966-8205**

**Hours are as follows:**

Monday 9 am – 5 pm

Tuesday 9 am – 6 pm

Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm

Thursday 9 am – 6 pm

Friday 12 pm – 5 pm

Saturday 9 am – 12 pm

Sunday Closed



"Greenville Public Library, Greenville NY"

<http://greenville.lib.ny.us>

## Dormansville United Methodist Church

**21 CR 312, Westerlo, NY 12193**

Contact Betty-Jean Mueller

Cell: (845) 532-0057

Services are 8:45 am – 10 am Sundays!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1000644403>



## Westerlo Reformed Church

**564 SR 143, Westerlo, NY 12193**

**Pastor Chris Allen**

**Home: (518) 797-9203**

Services begin at 9 am on Sundays!

Donations are welcome toward senior care. Please make checks payable to "Westerlo Reformed Church" and write "For Senior care" in the memo and mail to address above.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064837502467>



## Saint John the Baptist

Masses at Greenville will go back to their regular schedule as of April 6<sup>th</sup>

Masses 9 am Sunday's  
Saturday, 4:30 pm Shrine in East Durham  
11 am Sacred Heart, Cairo

Visit sholk.weebly.com for mass updates

## South Westerlo Congregational Christian Church

Services begin at 10:30 am on Sundays!

Our Sunday begins with Sunday School hour 9:20 am - 10:20 am and our worship service begins at 10:30 am. Our worship service can be seen on Facebook by searching:

*South Westerlo Christian Church* <https://www.facebook.com/SouthWesterloChristianChurch>

Sunday night youth group  
5:30 pm – 8 pm

Our Senior lunch is every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month starting at 11 am for appetizers and lunch is at 12 noon.

Our Ladies Bible Study every Wednesday starts at 1 pm (Becoming spiritually mature 10 weeks series started 3/7/23)

Our Trail Life USA ministry for boys and American Heritage Girls for girls every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:30 pm – 8 pm



Our men's breakfast and devotional is every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
8 am – 9 am

Our men's Bible study every Saturday morning except for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 8 am – 9 am  
(Finding Jesus in every book of the Bible)

**282 CR 405, So. Westerlo, NY 12083**  
**Pastor Will Balta (518) 966-5094**

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthWesterloChristianChurch>

## Caregiver Support Programs

Caregiver support programs assist informal caregivers – spouses, adult children, other family members, friends and neighbors in their efforts to care for older persons who need help with everyday tasks such as:

- Information, Assistance, and Referral
- Counseling and Support Groups
  - Caregiver Training
  - Transportation
- Personal Emergency Response Systems\*
- Short-Term Respite\*

\*These services require an in-home assessment to determine eligibility

## Department for Aging

Older residents who are home-bound and in need of day-to-day assistance, including home-delivered meals, should contact Albany County NY Connects.

## Home Delivered Meals

The Home-Delivered Meal program provides balanced meals to eligible adults aged 60 or older, and spouse regardless of age, delivered right to their home. The home-delivered meal service may be temporary or long term.

The home-delivered program gives priority to the following target groups who have the greatest economic and social needs: minorities, low-income, frail, and vulnerable elderly aged 60 and older.

- Is incapacitated due to accident, illness, or frailty.
- Lacks support of family, friends, or neighbors; and
- Is unable to prepare meals due to a lack of inadequacy of facilities, such as refrigeration, stove, etc., inability to shop, cook or prepare meals safely, or lack of knowledge or skills.

Our registered dietitian ensures that all meals comply with the Older Americans Act and Nutrition Program Standards. Each balanced meal provides essential nutrients with focus on whole grains, fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy. Meals are also limited in sodium, saturated fats, and added sugars. Please be advised that therapeutic/special diets and modified consistencies are not accommodated through this program. Persons that have a known significant food allergy are unable to participate in this program.

The home-delivered meal program provides an opportunity for suggested voluntary contribution toward the service which helps expand services.

Referrals can be made by family, friends, or community agencies.

## Health Insurance Information and Counseling (HIICAP)

Through seminars, one-on-one counseling sessions, and the Information & Assistance Line; the Department's HIICAP program provides unbiased information, education, and counseling regarding Medicare (including Part D), New York State EPIC, Long Term Care insurance, and other insurance issues. Trained HIICAP staff and volunteers can help you:

- Compare private insurance plans that will best fit your needs
- Find ways to help you afford coverage and to fill Medicare gaps
- Understand what the 1% per month penalty for late enrollment means for you
- Solve issues and problems with your current plan

For all above services: (518) 447-7177

<https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/aging>

## **Take Precautions with Snow and Ice**

Take your time shoveling during the winter months. It's important to take breaks when you need to. It is a strenuous activity for those with medical issues. It's also important to be careful on ice. Make sure you have ice melt available before you need it.

## Senior Transportation Available

Come join us for a great time with the community, designed to help older adults get out and dine in the community. The purpose of this is to provide young-hearted adults the ability to interact with friends and other companions outside of their living facility.

- Must be 60+ and a resident of Albany County to participate.
- Meal vouchers will be distributed each month to participating Albany County residents
- Vouchers are limited and can only be used by participants of the program. To view participating restaurants, please visit [www.albanycounty.com](http://www.albanycounty.com)

Call (518) 447-7198 or email: [aging@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:aging@albanycountyny.gov)

## Huyck Preserve

Trails are open from dawn to dusk year-round. Admission is free to walk and hike the trails, picnic, fish and boat (non-motorized) on Lake Myosotis. Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed. Dogs must be on a leash at all times and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Huyck Preserve is a carry in, carry out preserve. Please help us keep our Preserve beautiful by taking all trash with you. Also, please respect any research sites you may come across while at the Preserve.

For more information, visit [huyckpreserve.org/visit.html](http://huyckpreserve.org/visit.html)

Location: 5052 Delaware Turnpike, Rensselaerville

Phone: (518) 797-3440

Email: [info@huyckpreserve.org](mailto:info@huyckpreserve.org)

## Looking for Housing?

Housing options for Senior Adult Housing and care facilities in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties, can be found by visiting: [albanyguardiansociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020\\_housing-directory.pdf](http://albanyguardiansociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020_housing-directory.pdf)

You can also search statewide for senior and disabled housing by visiting: [hcr.ny.gov](http://hcr.ny.gov)

If you are a senior who does not need 24-hour skilled nursing and want to remain in your home, and are looking for alternatives to a Nursing Home in Albany County, visit: [albanycounty.com/departments/aging/alternatives-to-a-nursing-home](http://albanycounty.com/departments/aging/alternatives-to-a-nursing-home)

**Beverwyck** – Located on 80 beautiful acres in Slingerlands, NY with 177 one and two bedroom senior apartments as well as 29 two bedroom cottages. For more information call (518) 280-8385

**Glenmont Abbey Village** – One and two bedroom apartments with amenities located in Glenmont, NY.

There are many other alternatives available locally. For a Housing Directory, visit [albanyguardiansociety.org](http://albanyguardiansociety.org)

## The Gathering Place

50 Plus Community Center  
127 Kenyon Rd.  
Cobleskill, NY

Monday – Wednesday & Saturday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday & Friday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Closed Sunday

Their mission is to provide cultural, social, and recreational activities and help meet the needs of the 50 plus community in Schoharie County and surrounding areas.

Call (518) 823-4338

Member and Non-Members can join for all activities!

Silver Sneaker fitness classes (an insurance benefit included in more than 65 Medicare health plans), trips, learn to play the casino, play cards, games, join book club, pool table available, learn how to use your computer and MORE!

Visit The Gathering Place at:

<https://www.schoharieseniors.com/community-center>

Find applications online.

Memberships are \$25 a year which gives you access to all programs, amenities and services.

Please note: there are small fees for some of the classes to cover costs.

## More Senior Housing Local Options

### Assisted Living

**Terrace at Beverwyck** – Full Service Assisted Living Community located in Slingerlands, NY with 41 private one and two bedroom senior apartments. Also offers Short-term Respite Care. For more information, call (518) 280-8385

**Teresian House** – Long term care available on Washington Ave. Ext., Albany. For more information, call (518) 724-2703

### Independent Living

# Senior Happenings

## WESTERLO CONGREGATE MEALS!

Join us every **Thursday at 11:30 a.m.** for an opportunity to socialize, make new friends and enjoy a nutritious meal!

**Reservations must be made by 1 pm the Wednesday before the meal by calling 518-797-3111 ext. 1014**

**WESTERLO TOWN HALL  
933 COUNTY ROUTE 401  
WESTERLO, N.Y. 12193**

No Cost to residents 60+ years old of Albany County

suggested meal contribution - \$3.00

Guests are welcome, call to learn more!!

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AVAILABLE\*  
CONTACT ELDER SERVICES FOR DETAILS AND  
TO SCHEDULE: 518-437-5161**



## THE ACCESS TO HOME PROGRAM

The Access to Home Program provides funding to make the home accessible, including ramps, widening doors and alterations that enable Albany County residents with disabilities to remain or return to their own home, rather than enter or remain in more costly and restrictive institutional settings.

For more information, contact:

**Albany Community Action Partnership's  
Access to Home  
333 Sheridan Avenue, Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 463-3175, ext. 2.**

## Helderberg Family & Community Org.

The HFCO welcomes caring adults to share their hobbies and talents with our community's children. If you are interested in volunteering to present a workshop, please contact HFCO at [connect@helderberggco.com](mailto:connect@helderberggco.com) or call Maryellen Gillis at (518) 872-1899.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Most Medicare Supplement insurance plans include using the YMCA for free! There is a YMCA in Delmar and Coxsackie. Call them and they can tell you if you can get a free membership. Delmar even has a pool and free classes for older adults!**

**Hours vary so call before you go!**

**Bethlehem YMCA- (518) 439-4394**

**Coxsackie YMCA- (518) 731-7529**

## Hilltown Senior Citizen

The **Hilltown Seniors** continue to be an active, caring, fun loving, travel-ready group. Our travel organizer stays busy planning trips from April to October.

This year the planned trips are as follows:

In April – Philadelphia

In October – Lancaster to see Joshua at the Sight n Sound Theater

We meet every second Saturday of the month at 11 am at the Senior Center at 1360 Helderberg Trail in Berne. Come join us if you or your spouse are at least 55 years old. Bring a pot lunch dish to share for lunch. To qualify for a discount on trips and dinners:

- Pay \$5 a year for dues
- Attend 3 meetings a year
- Work on the kitchen committee once a year

We have informational speakers and/or entertainment and acknowledge upcoming local events at every meeting. Come join us for a fun experience. Never a dull moment!

Any questions, please contact Jane Snyder @ [Jamasn500@aol.com](mailto:Jamasn500@aol.com)

## Senior Transportation Available

Are you a senior who needs transportation to doctor's appointments or to the Westerlo Food Pantry? If so, we can help!

To make arrangements, please call the Town of Rensselaerville Town Clerk's office at (518) 239-4225



**There is no cost for this service!**

## Health and Safety

Stay warm: Dress in layers, wear socks/slippers, use blankets and keep indoor temps at 68° or higher, even mild indoor cold is risky.

Prevent Falls: Wear non-skid shoes, use railings, clear ice/snow from walkways, and consider delivery services for groceries.

Watch for Hypothermia: Watch for confusion, drowsiness, pale skin, and shivering; body temp below 95° needs immediate care.

Hydrate: Drink plenty of water and warm beverages like tea.

Eat Well: Maintain weight to help with warmth, limit alcohol.

Stay Active: Walk indoors, join virtual classes, or find senior center activities such as bowling or crafting.

Combat SAD: Get some safe outdoor time, maintain social connections, and be aware of symptoms like increased tiredness, appetite changes, or low mood (seasonal affective disorder).

Home Safety: Place CO detectors, keep space heaters 3' from flammable items, and have emergency supplies.

Car Safety: Winterize your vehicle, let someone know your travel plans.



## Westerlo Baptist Church

618 SR 143, Westerlo, NY 12193

**R. Scott Boger, Senior Pastor Jeff Diehl, Associate Pastor**

We invite you to join us as we worship and serve the Lord together in Westerlo.

### Sunday Morning Worship Service

Sundays – 9:30 am

Childcare Provided: Nursery: 0-2yrs. Tot-K: 3 yrs.-K and Children's Church: Grades 1-3

### Fellowship

Following the morning worship service 10:45 am – 11:15 am/Library Open

Everyone is invited for coffee & fellowship in the gymnasium following this morning's worship service



### Sunday School Classes

We offer classes for All ages from 11:15 am-12:15 pm.

Plan to stay, join a class and grow in the Lord!

### Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays – 7 – 8 pm

Prayer and Praise Bulletins are available

### Other Ministries

#### \*Men's Basketball

Monday's at 7 pm

#### \*Co-Ed Adult Pickleball

Tuesday's 6 pm

#### \*Co-Ed Adult Volleyball

Thursday's 7 pm

Praise Team  
Bible Studies

Sportsmen's Dinner  
Ladies Banquet  
Youth Retreats  
Mission Trips  
\*Small Groups

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting  
Meet in Sanctuary 7-8 pm  
Everyone is welcome!



*\*These ministries meet September through May*

### Library

10:45 am – 11:15 am

### Sunday School

11:15 am – 12:15 pm for all ages



### Church Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9 am – 3 pm

### Parents, Grandparents, and Friends

You are cordially invited to attend **Pioneer Clubs & CSB Sunday** at **First Baptist Church of Westerlo**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**Worship Service: 9:30 AM**



During the service, children from our Pioneer Clubs will participate by singing special music, serving as greeters, and assisting in other meaningful ways. Our Stockade boys will present the flags.

Following the service, guests are invited to remain for:

- **Refreshments in the ARK/Gymnasium**
- **Our 2026 Camp Fair**, featuring information on summer camp opportunities to help families plan their child's summer activities.

We look forward to welcoming our church family and community as we celebrate the ministry of Pioneer Clubs and Christian Service Brigade.

Additional information regarding the church on pg. 25

### Evening Services

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – 6:30 pm

Hymn Sing & Fellowship

### Kids Club

Pioneer Clubs & Stockade for boys (ages 4 yrs – 6<sup>th</sup> grade) & girls (4 yrs – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Wednesdays 6:40 pm – 8:15 pm

### Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays – 7 – 8 pm

Prayer and Praise Bulletins are available

### Other Ministries

#### \*Men's Basketball

Monday's at 7 pm

#### \*Co-Ed Adult Pickleball

Tuesday's 6 pm

#### \*Co-Ed Adult Volleyball

Thursday's 7 pm

Praise Team  
Bible Studies

Sportsmen's Dinner  
Ladies Banquet  
Youth Retreats  
Mission Trips  
\*Small Groups

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting  
Meet in Sanctuary 7-8 pm  
Everyone is welcome!

**\*Pioneer Kids Club (For: preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grades)**  
Meets Wednesday evenings 6:40 pm -8:15 pm  
  
**\* Christian Service Brigade**  
(Boys grades 3-6 also on Wed. Nights)

**Youth Group – Grades 6-12**  
Call Pastor Jeff for details (518)776-8890

## Got Teens?

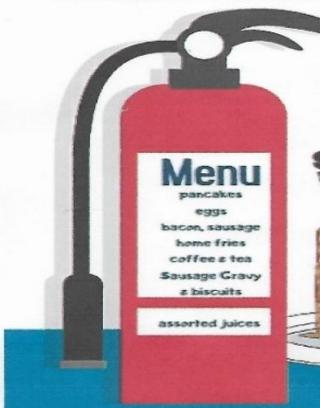
**Every Friday Night is Youth Group**

When: Friday Nights 6:30-8:30  
Where: Westerlo Baptist in the Gym and Youth Room  
What: Games, Friends, Bible Study, Music, & Snacks  
Why: To Pursue God and His Will for our Lives



## WESTERLO FIRE COMPANY

### presents: FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST



Saturday  
Feb 28, 2026  
8-11 AM

980 CR 401  
Woodmans Hall



**Menu**  
pancakes  
eggs  
bacon, sausage  
home fries  
coffee & tea  
Sausage Gravy  
& biscuits  
assorted juices

Adults \$10  
Children under 12 \$5  
Children under 2 eat free

Come join us for a  
TWFD FUNDRAISER

### BREAKFAST

#### All You Can Eat

Sat. March 28,  
2026 8 - 11 AM

Woodmans Hall  
980 CR 401  
Westerlo NY

ADULTS \$10.00  
KIDS (12 and under) \$5.00  
Kids Under 2 are free

Menu includes:  
pancakes, eggs,  
toast, bacon,  
sausage plus  
sausage gravy,  
juices, biscuits,  
coffee & Tea



## Westerlo Baptist Church Continued...

### Sonshine Christian Preschool

**SPACE STILL AVAILABLE!**

**618 SR 143 Westerlo, NY 12193**

First Baptist Church of Westerlo's **Sonshine Christian Preschool** is now accepting applications. We are a preschool where the Son shines into our teaching!

It is our commitment to provide a quality Christian education to students Three and four years of age by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the applying school year.



We believe that learning should be fun and look forward to having the opportunity to teach your child our Biblically based academics in a hands-on, loving environment. We operate September through June on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am to 12 noon. Space is limited, so apply today! ☺

Call the church office at (518) 797-3927 for our detailed packet of information.

### SPORTSMANS BANQUET



Attention All Men & Boys 14+

### SPORTSMAN'S Dinner

**\*No Cost\***

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Vendors, Seminars, Dinner, Keynote, Door Prizes

Demonstrations & Early Door Prizes at 1:00pm

Seminars Run from 2:00 - 5:00pm

Dinner & Program Starts at 5:30pm

Westerlo Baptist Church - 618 SR 143 Westerlo, NY



March 29 – Palm Sunday Worship Service 9:30am

April 3 - Good Friday Community Service 7:00pm

April 5 - 7 am Easter Sunrise Service location TBD

9:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service

## Newsletter Information

The newsletter is created in the Town Clerk's office. If you are interested in submitting information for an upcoming newsletter issue, deadlines are as follows:

March 1, 2026

For April 2026 Newsletter

June 1, 2026

For July 2026 Newsletter

September 1, 2026

For October 2026 Newsletter

December 1, 2026

For January 2027 Newsletter

For newsletter comments, suggestions, and submissions contact:

The Town Clerk's office @ (518) 797-3111 opt 2  
[WesterloNews@gmail.com](mailto:WesterloNews@gmail.com)

We will do our best to accommodate your suggestion as space allows. We reserve the right to edit articles for grammar, spelling, spacing and content based on available space.

**\*\*The newsletter is usually posted the first week of the month but may be delayed\*\***

### DISCLAIMER

The Town of Westerlo is not responsible for facts or opinions in this newsletter nor those contained within any links provided.

## Justice Court

Location: 671 County Route 401,  
 Westerlo, NY 12193

Phone: (518) 797-3239 Fax: (518) 797-3598

Court Session Hours: Wednesday @ 7 pm

**Town Justice – Kenneth Mackey Sr.**  
 Email: KMackey@NYcourts.gov

**Town Justice – Joshua Ostrander**  
 Email: JOstrander@NYcourts.gov

**Court Clerk – Jaimee Motschmann**  
 Email: JMotschmann@NYcourts.gov

Clerk to the Justices Hours:  
 Tuesday hours vary – call for an appointment  
 Wednesday 4 pm – 7 pm

Forms of payment: cash, money orders, personal check or credit card

*Closed on holidays*

## Check out these Facebook pages

[Town of Westerlo Government News](#)

[Westerlo Hwy Dept](#)

[Westerlo Public Library](#)

[Westerlo Heritage Museum](#)

[Westerlo Farmers Market](#)

[Westerlo Hometown Heroes](#)

[Westerlo Rural Cemetery](#)

[Official BKW Alumni Page](#)

[Helderberg Family Community Organization- HFCO](#)



## Contact Us

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Code Enforcement

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Assessor

**Melanie Bunzey**

[assessor@TownOfWesterloNY.com](mailto:assessor@TownOfWesterloNY.com)

Stay up to date with the latest news and meeting announcements by visiting the Town website

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



**933 County Route 401**

**Westerlo, NY 12193**

**Phone: (518) 797-3111**

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

# 2026

## January

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Town Board Workshop Mtg 6 pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Museum Board Mtg 6 pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Library Trustee Mtg 7 pm @ Hannay Community Room
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 19<sup>th</sup> – LLRC Mtg 6 pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Town Board Mtg 6 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Fire Co. Breakfast (See flyer on page 11)
- 26<sup>th</sup> – PB/ZBA Mtg 7 pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Hometown Heroes Mtg 6 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall

## February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to pay property taxes without penalty
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Town Board Workshop Mtg 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Library Trustee Mtg 7 pm @ Hannay Community Room
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Museum Board Mtg 6 pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 16<sup>th</sup> – LLRC Mtg 6 pm & BRC Mtg 7 pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Town Board Mtg 6 pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – PB/ZBA Mtg 7 pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Hometown Heroes Mtg 6 pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Fire Co. Breakfast (See flyer on page 25)

## March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to pay property taxes with 1% interest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Town Board Workshop Mtg 6 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Water Board Mtg @ 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Library Trustee Mtg 7 pm @ Hannay Community Room
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Museum Board Mtg 6 pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 16<sup>th</sup> – LLRC Mtg 6 pm & BRC Mtg 7 pm
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- 26<sup>th</sup> – Congregate Meals 11:30 am @ Town Hall
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Fire Co. Breakfast (See flyer on page 25)

With a new year and a new Town Board, meeting dates and times are subject to change as of the production of this newsletter. Please double check the Town's website for the most up to date information.

## 2025 Christmas Event Recap

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Westerlo held the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. This is always a fun event for families. Year after year we try to bring something new, whether that be a different type of food we serve or a fun new activity. This year, we were blessed to have The Grinch come to town. The Grinch took pictures with visitors by the beautiful Christmas tree at Town Hall and handed out lollipops. There was even a fun picture moment between The Grinch and Santa Claus.

This is a smaller event but it's always one that is enjoyed by all that come by. The Town employees put their hearts into decorating and making the few hours spent celebrating the holidays magical for all. Having Santa and Mrs. Claus here gives kids the ability to dive into the magic of the holiday season. They get to write letters and take pictures with Santa, tell him what they want for Christmas, decorate ornaments, partake in arts and crafts and enjoy snacks with their families.

This was a small fundraising event. Any donations received went directly towards the families in need for Christmas. It's so fun to celebrate the holidays and to give back to Westerlo.

A special thanks to employees Dan Rohrmiller, Joshua Austin and Nick DeFrancesco.



\* Permission was received for use of this picture. \*

The Town's website will be switching from a .com to a .gov address soon. Please check the Town's website and Facebook page for updates. The emails will also be changing to .gov. Emails will be forwarded for a period of time for convenience.