

Herkimer County Newsletter

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2023



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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a crime and deep rooted societal problem with enormous and tragic consequences for abused individuals, children and families; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is abusive behavior - a pattern of coercive tactics which can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic and emotional abuse perpetrated by one person against a family or household member, with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control over the victim; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many different forms and includes behaviors such as threats, name calling, preventing contact with family or friends, withholding money, actual or threatened physical harm and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, Each year in New York State, our police receive over 400,000 calls to help victims of domestic violence, more than 15,000 individuals stay in emergency shelters each year and there were 137 intimate partner homicides in the State, the vast majority of them women; and

WHEREAS, In Herkimer County alone, from January 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023, the volume of calls to hotlines reached 1,295, with 130 new domestic abuse cases established; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence awareness month provides the unique opportunity for Shine the Light on Domestic Violence and Turn New York State Purple; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That I, VINCENT J. BONO, Chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature, do deem it fitting and appropriate to proclaim, October 2023 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Herkimer County!"

Dated: October 19, 2023.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the County of Herkimer, New York, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Vincent J. Bono, Chairman
Herkimer County Legislature



Upcoming 2023 Legislature Meeting Dates:

- October 4 @ 2:00 p.m..
- October 25 @ 7:00 p.m.
- November 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- December 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to check our website at a later date for 2024 meeting dates and times.

All meetings are held in the Legislature Chambers
109 Mary Street
Herkimer, NY 13350
Check our website for Meeting minutes at www.herkimercounty.org

Civil Service Exams:

- October 7
- October 21
- November 4
- December 2

Please visit www.herkimercounty.org and click on "Civil Service Exams"



Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:

- October 9 – Columbus Day
- November 7 – Election Day
- November 10 – Veterans' Day
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Day
- November 24 – Day after Thanksgiving
- December 25 – Christmas Day

*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded

County Office Building
Winter Hours
8:00AM–4:30PM
September 5, 2023 to May 24, 2024.



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETINGS
8/9/23 & 9/13/23:

During the August 9, 2023 Legislature Meeting, Legislator Weakley presented a proclamation to the Poland Central School Girls Varsity Softball Team. The team won the New York State Section III Class D Championship by defeating West Canada Valley Central School with a score of 6 to 1 on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, the first time since 1991. The Tornados continued on with a 7 to 0 win over Edward Knox Central School for the Central New York State Class D Regional Championship on June 3, 2023. The Tornados went to the State Semifinals (Final 4) in Long Island but lost in the first round to Scio-Friendship Central School with a score of 0 to 6 on June 9, 2023.



During the September 13, 2023 Legislature Meeting, Chairman Bono presented outgoing Director of Probation, Garry Murphy with a plaque for his over 24 years of distinguished service to Herkimer County. Thank you, Garry! Best wishes in retirement!

MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Jun. - 632 (31% telehealth, 69% in office)	Jul. - 566 (32% telehealth, 68% in office)	Aug. - 708 (31% telehealth, 96% in office)

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Jun. - 69	Jul. - 78	Aug. - 81

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP-DWI:

DID YOU KNOW???

CAR INSURANCE COSTS DETERMINED BY RATING BASIS

I received an interesting email a few weeks ago from an agency called Autoinsurance.org, a free online resource for anyone interested in learning more about auto insurance. At this website you can compare insurance rates from various insurance companies for free. I did visit the website, but I did not do this for rate comparison but rather because the person emailing me posed an interesting question – he wrote: “you could be the best driver in the world and have the cleanest driving record, but still be charged more because” and then added several factors that go into insurance rates. This website provided much of the information for this article.

All drivers need insurance – it’s required by law. So, how are the rates we pay determined? Are the rates fair? What are some of the non-driving factors that determine what we pay?

Where you live affects the rate you pay. A driver’s ZIP code is one of the most crucial non-related driving factors that insurers use to calculate rates. There is a multitude of reasons behind this factor. A driver may live in an area prone to crime, making their car more likely to be stolen or vandalized. Or they may live in a busy area with an above average crash rate.

Age is another common factor that insurers use to determine rates. While it may not initially seem related to driving, the insurers base rates on age by arguing that the more experienced drivers are, the less likely they will crash. The result is that older and younger drivers are often charged more, especially teenagers. However, part of this age discrimination is based on crash data, as insurers look at crash patterns amongst ages.

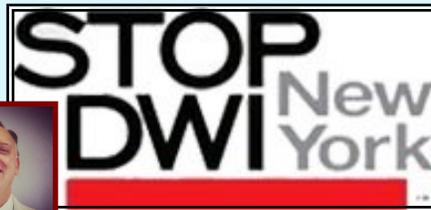
Some insurers also use credit scores as a factor in their rate calculations. Drivers with a lower credit score will have slightly higher rates than drivers with a high credit score. The reasoning behind this is that drivers will be more likely to make payments on time if they have a high credit score.

Both your occupation and education are used together to determine how much you will pay. Professionals in skilled positions and executives who have completed college tend to pay less for insurance than entry-level or blue-collar workers who have only a high school diploma. The Consumer Federation of America has done an analysis to show that most major insurers charge their clients with less education and a lower status job higher rates.

While a few states have banned insurers from using sex to determine auto insurance rates, many insurers still practice this. Men often have higher rates than women, as crash data from sources like the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) often show men are more likely to be in a fatal crash than women. However, many argue that basing rates on sex is outdated, and drivers should be charged based on their driving merit, not their sex.

Determining insurance rates may or may not be fair, but at least rating-based costs have statistics behind it. However, while many non-driving-related factors are outside your control, driving safely and keeping a clean driving record can help you save on auto insurance. It may also save your life.

This article was submitted by the Herkimer County STOP-DWI Office. This article is a one in a series of articles developed and published by the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board and is being reprinted with their permission.



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



HerKimer College to Hold Fall Open House

HerKimer College will host prospective students and families for a Fall Open House on Friday, November 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Several local high schools will bus their students for the event. Prospective students will learn about academic programs, tour campus, and meet faculty, staff, students, and alumni. For more info: www.herkimer.edu/openhouse



HerKimer
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



SATURDAY
NOV. 11
HERKIMER COLLEGE



HCCC CONT'D:

College Presidential Search Update

The search for the fifth president of Herkimer County Community College is underway. The position profile may be reviewed at www.herkimer.edu/presidential-search.

The close date for applications was Monday, September 25th. The Presidential Search Committee will identify eight to 10 semifinal candidates on October 2nd for confidential first-round interviews to be held the week of October 23rd. It is anticipated that the names of three or four final candidates will be announced on Tuesday, November 7th.

The final candidates will have the opportunity to visit campus, meet with groups, and tour the service area. Tentative dates for final candidate visits are November 8, 9, 14, and 15.

The Board is expected to select the successful candidate at a special board meeting to be held November 16 or 17, after which the successful candidate will be forwarded to the SUNY Chancellor for consideration prior to any public announcement.

Cogar Gallery to Feature Makers in the Region

Herkimer College is slated to once again host Makers of the Mohawk Valley, September 29 – November 10, and is calling for contributors.

Makers of the Mohawk Valley debuted in the fall of 2022 as a celebration of the artists, crafters, and other creatives living and working in the Mohawk Valley region. The goal of the exhibit is to showcase the diverse richness of makers in Herkimer, Oneida, and surrounding counties.

According to Justin Como, Herkimer College associate professor of studio art and exhibit coordinator, he's looking forward to showcasing the best this area has to offer.

"Last year's exhibition showcased excellent work from our community. We hope to see a return of those artists and more. If you've never shown or are a seasoned exhibitor, please submit your work so we can all see what's being made in the Mohawk Valley."

Submission is free and is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who lives or works in the Mohawk Valley. More information and entry forms are available online at www.Herkimer.edu/cogar or by emailing Associate Professor of Studio Art Justin Como at comojm@herkimer.edu.

The Cogar Gallery is located in the Robert McLaughlin College Center and is free and open to the public, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, when the College is open.



FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY IDA:

In 2022 the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) received a \$500,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. We have been working with HRP Associates on this grant, which is a multidisciplinary environmental and engineering consulting firm that strives to minimize the environmental risks associated with their client's projects and help them reach their intended business goals. The Herkimer County IDA gained approval from the EPA in February and June of this year to move ahead on assessing fourteen brownfield properties in Herkimer County. About \$51,000 of brownfields grant funding has been used so far, and we continue to work with both HRP Associates and the EPA to make the best use of this grant for our county. If you think you have a brownfield property that might qualify for redevelopment, please advise the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency at (315) 866-3000 or jpiseck@herkimercountyida.org. We are open to discussion!



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU:



Herkimer County BOCES hosted a day camp over the summer targeting females aged 14-17, to give them exposure to various careers in the emergency services sector. Herkimer County Public Health assisted in developing the "Rescue Heroes" program, to address the concern that there is a shortage of females in the first responder field. Funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services via the Herkimer County Youth Bureau, the program offered hands-on training in CPR, First Aid, "Stop the Bleed", and AED use. Over the course of the week-long camp, participants also gained increased health literacy, exposure to volunteer opportunities, and knowledge of mental health issues through a "Youth Mental Health First Aid" training. The youth also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the first female police chief and firefighter in Herkimer County. Each day, the youth also had the opportunity to participate in a physical activity, including tai chi and a self-defense class. The funding received is part of the state's "Youth Sports Education" initiative, designed to improve the physical and mental health well-being of groups with higher barriers to participation in sports. The Herkimer County Youth Bureau was pleased to partner with Public Health and BOCES to offer this vital training to young women in our community.

FROM WORKING SOLUTIONS:

Through our Working Solutions office, we are able to provide small grant funding to Herkimer County residents attending short-term training. Each year, the Herkimer BOCES LPN Program and Herkimer Working Solutions partners to identify students in need and provide that financial assistance. During the 2022-2023 school year, the Working Solutions office sponsored 8 LPN students and all 8 successfully completed their training in June and are now working as LPNs in healthcare facilities throughout the region!



SUMMER UPDATES

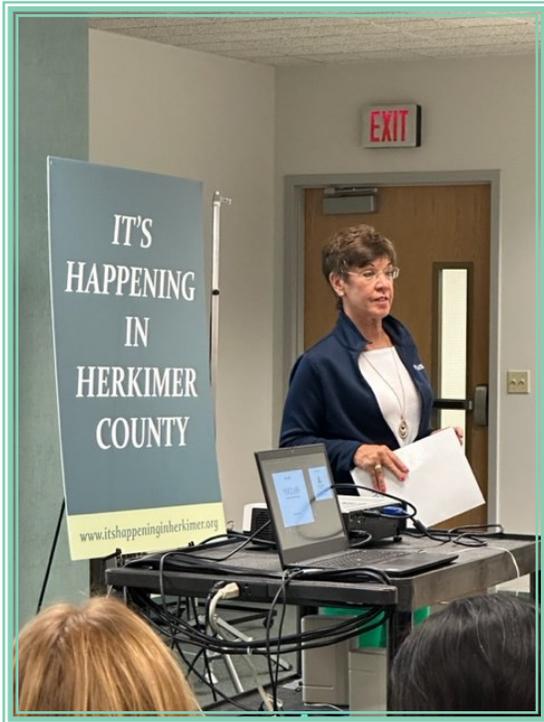
The 2023 College Corps program employed 9 individuals at various agencies throughout the area including GPO Federal Credit Union, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Herkimer College, and various Herkimer County Departments. The College Corps program is approved by the Legislature to provide college students entering their junior or senior year of college gain valuable work experience and knowledge in their chosen field.

The 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) also saw another successful year! Through the SYEP, Herkimer Working Solutions employed 85 Herkimer County youth at 26 worksites around the county. This year, youth helped in local schools, libraries, museums, retail spaces, and government office buildings. Our 14-15 year old program at Herkimer BOCES was also a huge success this year, allowing employees to rotate through their Culinary and Hospitality, Conservation, and Advanced Manufacturing. Through the SYEP, participants gain valuable work experience in local agencies, work readiness training, and financial literacy education.



Herkimer County is actively seeking candidates to fill vacancies in various departments. Please check out www.herkimercounty.org for civil service exams and job postings. In an effort to increase recruitment please share these vacancies and exam information with individuals that may be interested.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:



PUTTING PROJECTS IN HIGH GEAR EVENT FOR LOCAL HERKIMER COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

Herkimer County and Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. held an event on Tuesday, September 26th from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Herkimer County Office building N. Washington Street on "Putting Projects in High Gear, Work Smarter Not Harder!" The event was designed to help connect communities to the resources available to them within the region as well as educate local government leaders on available programs, requirements and other opportunities.

This is a first of a kind event for elected officials, board members, clerks, trustees and municipal employees. Topics include; Election Updates; Payroll, HR and Insurance; Emergency Management, ARPA State and local fiscal recovery funds, NYSERDA. Brownfield Opportunities, Comprehensive Planning, Record Management, Infrastructure and Broadband, Tax credits and much more.

With the success of this event, we will offer this in the spring to those that were not able to attend and newly elected officials.



ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The United States is named for the Italian explorer and geographer, Amerigo Vespucci; and

WHEREAS, Over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1992. Today, there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States; and

WHEREAS, **Italian Heritage Month** exists to celebrate the rich history, traditions, culture and abundant contributions of the Italian people; and

WHEREAS, Herkimer County, New York is home to 10,312 Italian-Americans, 16.7% of its overall population; and

WHEREAS, Herkimer County recognizes the enrichment provided by the many Americans of Italian descent among our population and throughout our great country;
Now, Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That I, **VINCENT J. BONO**, do deem it fitting and appropriate to proclaim the entirety of October 2023 as “**Italian Heritage Month**” in Herkimer County and urge the residents of the County to join in the celebration.

Dated: October 4, 2023. Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the County of Herkimer, New York, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

**Vincent J. Bono, Chairman
Herkimer County Legislature**



It's time to renew your Fidelis Insurance!

If you need assistance with your renewal, please reach out to Francesca Zumbo, Fidelis Care Health Benefit Representative Enroller at 315-271-1221 or Rebecca Salem, Fidelis Care Health Benefit Representative Enroller at 315-795-5719. Francesca and Rebecca are also available at the Herkimer County Social Services office Monday-Friday from 8:30-4:30 pm.

Health insurance is no longer being automatically renewed for members in our Medicaid Managed Care, Essential Plan, Child Health Plus, or HealthierLife (HARP) plans. Members will need to **renew their health insurance** to keep their coverage without interruption.



FIDELIS CARE

STREET SIDE

BRINGING HEALTH COVERAGE TO YOU.

Fidelis Care StreetSide is on the road and in your neighborhood!

Stop by this convenient location near you:

**2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**Arc Herkimer Goods Store
105 N Caroline Street
Herkimer, NY 13350**

This provider also accepts other health insurance plans.



For a full list of StreetSide locations, visit: fideliscare.org/streetside

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1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547) • TTY: 711



fideliscare.org

@fideliscare

DEC UPDATES STATUS OF ELM ZIGZAG SAWFLY IN NYS

The Sun Community News (Elizabethtown, NY)

8/29/23

A report states that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is spreading awareness about the exotic insect pest called the elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*). The elm zigzag sawfly (EZS) is an exotic insect pest native to East Asia that feeds exclusively on the leaves of elm trees. EZS can most easily be identified by their unique zigzag feeding pattern. Just this summer (2023), EZS has been found in Allegany, Ontario, Madison, Ulster, Schenectady, Albany, Saratoga, Warren, and Clinton counties, with new counties being confirmed weekly.

<https://suncommunitynews.com/news/104113/dec-updates-status-of-elm-zigzag-sawfly-in-nys/>

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:



Earlier this year, the County Legislature approved the use of new voting machines by all voters. The machines were purchased from Hart Intercivic and we are excited to announce that the equipment is live for this election cycle! The voting machines are sleek in design and a TouchWriter for use by our handicap accessible voters. Already having been used in the June Primary, our voters rated them favorably for ease of use! The ballot formatting will look different, while still meeting all State requirements.

Pictured with the new machines, left and below: Commissioners of Elections, Kim Tranter and Rob Hoyt; Democratic Commissioner Rob Hoyt and Site Supervisor Joe White.



From The Office of

HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

109 MARY ST. SUITE 1306
HERKIMER, NY 13350-2920

Telephone: (315)-867-1102 Fax: (315)-867-1106



General Elections: November 7, 2023: 6am – 9pm

Early Voting for the General Election: Little Falls Library Community Room

10 Waverly Place

Little Falls, NY 13365

The dates and times for Early Voting are as follows:

Saturday 10/28/2023 9am-5pm
Sunday 10/29/2023 9am-5pm
Monday 10/30/2023 9am-5pm
Tuesday 10/31/2023 12pm-8pm
Wednesday 11/1/2023 12pm-8pm
Thursday 11/2/2023 9am-5pm
Friday 11/3/2023 9am-5pm
Saturday 11/4/2023 9am-5pm
Sunday 11/5/2023 9am-5pm

If a Voter votes during the Early Voting period listed above they are not eligible to vote on Election Day at their respective Poll Site.

All Registered Voters within Herkimer County are eligible to vote at this site during the designated hours.

This Poll Site is accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

If you have any questions please contact our office at
315-867-1102 or hcboe@herkimercounty.org