

Herkimer County Newsletter

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2024



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Mental Health Visits</i>	2
<i>Italian Heritage Month</i>	2
<i>Leg Meeting Dates</i>	2
<i>County Clerk</i>	3
<i>HCCC</i>	4,5
<i>Working Solutions</i>	6, 7 10
<i>STOP DWI</i>	8
<i>Board of Elections</i>	9
<i>Public Health</i>	9

RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW LOCATION FOR VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY



There was a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday September 18, 2024 for the Herkimer County Veterans Service Agency and the PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer Support Project located at 25 Central Plaza, Ilion. Here at the Herkimer County Veterans Agency Community Center the office is stocked with TV's, computers, a reading area, free coffee and refreshments, a full refrigerator and microwave, along with a private area equipped with free Zoom for VA medical and compensation.

There were more than 50 people in attendance, including members of the Herkimer County Legislature, Herkimer County Department Directors, as well as State Assemblyman Brian Miller. The new location will function as a place for veterans to interact and to meet informally or formally.

Funding was provided by the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Services Program.

The New York State Office of Mental Health, in conjunction with the New York State Division of Veterans Services, provides support for the Dwyer Program throughout the state. Our office works directly with Herkimer County Office of Mental Health.

The Dwyer Project was initially intended to provide peer counseling services to veterans suffering from PTSD and transitioning from military life to civilian life. The program also addresses suicide prevention and intervention measures and encourages a sense of connection to the community as well as outreach.

If you know of a veteran in need, please reach out at 315-867-1127.



Upcoming 2024 Legislature Meeting Dates:

- October 2 @ 2:00 p.m..
- October 23 @ 7:00 p.m.
- November 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- December 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

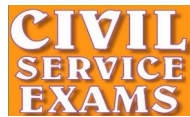
Be sure to check our website at a later date for 2024 meeting dates and times.

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

Civil Service Exams:

- October 26
- November 9
- December 7

Please visit www.herkimercountyny.gov and click on "Civil Service Exams" for more information!



Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:

- October 14 – Columbus Day
- November 5 – Election Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 28 – Thanksgiving Day
- November 29—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 3, 2024 to May 27, 2024.

winter hours



ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH FLAG RAISING CEREMONY:

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, **ROBERT D. HOLLUM,** do deem it fitting and appropriate to proclaim the entirety of October 2024 as **"Italian Heritage Month"** in Herkimer County and urge the residents of the County to join in the celebration.

Dated: October 2, 2024.

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



**Robert D. Hollum, Chairman
Herkimer County Legislature**

MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Jun. - 585 (25% telehealth and 75% in office)	Jul. - 648 (25% telehealth and 75% in office)	Aug. - 636 (23% telehealth and 77% in office)

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Jun. - 37	Jul. - 57	Aug. - 47

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE:



Sylvia M. Rowan was first elected to public office in 1986 as a Herkimer County legislator. She held that position until June 1996, when she was appointed by former Governor George Pataki as Herkimer County Clerk. She has been elected to her current position four times.

While serving in the County Legislature, Ms. Rowan chaired the Properties and Judicial committees, served on the Administration, Education and Human Resources committees, and served as Majority Leader.

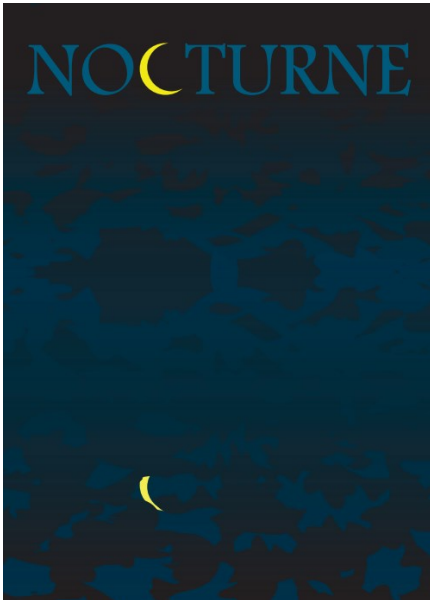
The Revolutionary Trails Council's 2009 Scout of the Year, Ms. Rowan is a past recipient of the Mohawk Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross Great Heroes Award, the Retired and Senior Volunteer program of Herkimer County's 2007 Outstanding Contribution Award, and the 2002 Herkimer Salvation Army's "Others" Award.

An active participant in numerous civic organizations, Ms. Rowan is a member of the Executive Board of Revolutionary Trails Council No. 400 Diamond District of the Boy Scouts of America, and is a board member of the Herkimer County Historical Society, the Herkimer Salvation Army, and the Mohawk Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. She has also served on the board of the Valley United Way.

Throughout her tenure and involvement with numerous organizations, Ms. Rowan has certainly proven to be a dedicated member of her community. She continues to serve and be an inspiration for the next generation of leaders.

Ms. Rowan is a graduate of the Utica School of Commerce and the Leadership Mohawk Valley program. She and her husband, Robert, reside in East Herkimer, and are the parents of four children and two grandchildren.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



NOCTURNE Exhibit to Feature Local Artwork with Themes of Night and Darkness

Herkimer College's Cogar Gallery will present NOCTURNE Monday, September 30 through Thursday, October 31. The exhibit will showcase artwork that encompasses the artists' interpretation of themes and elements of the night and darkness.

Entries for NOCTURNE were solicited from within 100 miles of campus. Artists were encouraged to contemplate nocturnal themes and conjure up inspiration for their work as we enter this transitional and transformational time of year, shifting from summer into autumn.

NOCTURNE and the artists will be celebrated with a fun and special closing reception on the eve of Halloween, Wednesday October 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In the spirit of the season, reception attendees are encouraged to wear costumes, though it is not required.

For more information about the Cogar Gallery and its current exhibit, visit www.herkimer.edu/cogar.

Four Retired Faculty to be Honored with 2024 Torchbearer Awards

The prestigious Torchbearer Award is presented every five years to individuals who have made substantial contributions to the College's development and success. The recipients of the 2024 Torchbearer Award are: Faye Eichholzer, Ph.D. of Utica, the late Anne Greco, Ph.D., Raymond Lenarcic of Herkimer, and William Pelz of Herkimer.

Herkimer College Board of Trustees Chairman Michael Stalteri said, "The Torchbearer class of 2024 is a distinctive group of dedicated educators who have gone above and beyond throughout their careers to engage and inspire their students and provide leadership and service to the campus community. As Torchbearers, their legacies will live on and inspire future generations of students, faculty, and campus leaders."

The four individuals will join an exclusive group of 26 previously honored Torchbearers with engraved plaques displayed in the Robert McLaughlin College Center. The plaques will be unveiled at an invitation-only event to be held on October 18, 2024.



HCCC CONT'D:



Chief Masi is Appointed Assistant Professor

Michael A. Masi was recently appointed to the position of assistant professor of criminal justice and forensic investigations. Chief Masi also serves as director of the Pre-Employment Police Academy at Herkimer College.

Masi became a police officer for the City of Little Falls in 1992, and he advanced through the ranks to the position of chief of police in 2008 until his retirement in 2019. He served as director of the Little Falls Police Academy from 2000 to 2018 and was instrumental in bringing the Phase 1 Pre-Employment Police Academy to Herkimer College in 2018. Masi has also instructed in numerous other academies around New York State and is a member of the New York State Law Enforcement Training Directors Association. He holds an associate degree in criminal justice from Herkimer College.



SAVE THE DATE:

Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair
 Saturday, November 9th
 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This long-established fine arts and crafts fair, presented by the Herkimer County College Foundation, is one of the largest and most well-respected in the region. The juried show is set to feature over 100 top artisans showcasing their works including pottery, gourmet foods, woodworking, textiles, weaving, jewelry, and more.

Upcoming Events

- Region III Cross Country Championship: Saturday, October 26
- Region III Men's Soccer Championship: Sunday, October 27
- Fall Open House: Friday, November 1 www.herkimer.edu/openhouse
- Cogar Gallery Exhibition by Artist Brooks Wenzel: November 4-December 13
- Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair: Saturday, November 9 www.herkimer.edu/ac
- American Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, November 14, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Alumni Hall
- Robert H. Wood Great Artists Series--Modernistics Holiday Show: Saturday, December 7, 7 p.m.



FROM WORKING SOLUTIONS:

Upcoming Job Fairs at Herkimer Working Solutions

Wednesday, November 13, 2024: 10am-12pm

Tuesday, January 14, 2025: 12pm-2pm

Thursday, March 13, 2025: 9am-11am

All events are held at Herkimer Working Solutions (320 N. Prospect St. Herkimer)

Businesses interested in tabling at a job fair should contact Career Center Manager, Nicole, at 315-867-1400 or nwilson@herkimercountyny.gov

Note: All dates and times are subject to change, follow us on Facebook at Working Solutions-Herkimer for up-to-date information and flyers.

Summer Employment Programming, 2024

Herkimer Working Solutions runs two summer employment programs throughout the summer and 2024 was another success!

Our College Corps Internship program, sponsored by the Herkimer County Legislature, employed 10 Herkimer County residents currently attending a college program! Each year, this program aims to give individuals entering their junior or senior year of college a chance to earn PAID experience in their field of choice.

The Summer Youth Employment Program employed 92 Herkimer County youth between the ages of 14-20. In partnership with Herkimer BOCES and several county agencies and businesses, this program provides essential, entry level employment and skills to the up-and-coming workforce.

Interested in participating in one of these programs in 2025? College Corps applications will be available by mid-March and Summer Youth Employment Program applications will be available April 1.

For more information on how to participate as an employee or a worksite, please contact Career Center Manager, Nicole, at 315-867-1400 or nwilson@herkimercountyny.gov

WORKING SOLUTIONS CONT'D:**Out of School Youth Program Success!**

Jess came to us in May on 2024 after finding himself unemployed through no fault of his own. Through working with the Youth Employment Specialist at Herkimer Working Solutions, Jess learned that his interests and previous background indicated he would do well in a position working with his hands in a physically demanding environment. He completed the Welding Fast Track program through MVCC, then transitioned into a paid work experience with the Loaves & Fishes Cooling Center. During his time at the cooling center, he was able to network with other professionals and start building back his work experience. Now, Jess is employed full time at Hummel's Office Plus as a Delivery Driver! Congratulations Jess and keep up the good work!

The Herkimer Working Solutions Out of School Youth Program assists individuals aged 18-24 who are no longer attending school and who have a barrier to employment. This program aims to assist individuals with meeting their employment and/or education goals. Services are very customizable based on what each individual is seeking. Enrollment is open year-round. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the program, reach out to the Youth Employment Specialist, Makayla, at 315-867-1400 or mmiller@herkimercountyny.gov

Looking for assistance finding a new job?

Have a job in mind that you want to apply to, but don't have a resume?

Need help preparing for an upcoming interview?

We can help!

Herkimer Working Solutions provides FREE services (in person, over the phone, and via email) to job seekers of all backgrounds, whether employed or not. These services aim to assist job seekers with navigating online job boards, writing resumes in the most up-to-date fashion, and assisting with interview preparation to help you land your dream job!

Services are available Monday-Friday, 8-4:30 pm. Call 315-867-1400 to speak with an Employment Specialist today!

FROM STOP-DWI:

DID YOU KNOW???

CAR SEAT KNOWLEDGE VITAL FOR CHILD SAFETY



For many years the loosely accepted standard for turning the rear-facing car seat to forward-facing was on or just after baby's first birthday. However, the American Academy of Pediatrics in the last several years has dropped that as a minimum age, updating its guidelines to recommend that babies remain in rear-facing safety seats in the back seat of vehicles until age two. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, AAA and other car-safety experts agree with that recommendation, citing research that shows one-year-olds are five times less likely to die or be seriously injured in a crash if they ride in a rear-facing car seat.

California law *requires* children under two to ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat until they reach at least 40 pounds or are at least 40 inches tall. The law also requires that children under age eight and under 57 inches must be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat. While California law is not applicable in NYS, it reflects the findings of some of the recent studies that show rear-facing seats reduce head and neck movement in small children in the event of a crash, especially a front-impact collision. Such movement can lead to spinal and head injuries.

For those who might balk at keeping their one-year-old in a rear-facing seat, Michael Molina, a community health educator at Children's Hospital of Orange County, California, cites videos and public service announcements that show the difference of how a car crash affects small children in front-facing vs. rear-facing car seats. "You can see during a simulation when a baby is rear-facing in a front-impact crash, there is almost little to no movement" of the head and neck, he says.

Parents often think their kids are uncomfortable, but they're not, according to Molina. "Kids are more flexible; their joints aren't fully formed yet; they don't get stiff the way we do. They can do the frog leg position, or put them up, and they're fine", says Molina.

If children turn two but are still under the height or weight limit for the seat, they should still be kept rear-facing. Age two is the minimum recommended age for children to ride rear-facing, and safety experts recommend children do so until they have grown to the height and weight limits of their car seat.

To answer the question as to when can a child graduate to a booster seat, safety advocates recommend keeping your child in each seat stage as long as possible. This is because with each switch, there's a reduction in the level of protection for your child. A child is ready for a booster seat when he or she has outgrown the weight or height limit of their forward-facing harnesses, which is typically 40 to 65 pounds.

Information contained in this article comes from Kathie Bozanich, a freelance writer/editor who worked for nearly three decades at the Los Angeles Times, and provided by the National Sheriff's Association and Sheriff Kevin Mulverhill. Credit and appreciation go to all mentioned.

This article was made available through the Herkimer County STOP-DWI Program with permission of the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board.



FROM PUBLIC HEALTH:

Healthy Families Program enjoys the Utica Zoo!

This past August, the Healthy Families Program of Herkimer County hosted an exciting day of fun at the Utica Zoo! Families from across the area gathered to enjoy the beautiful summer weather while exploring the zoo's amazing animals. The event was filled with laughter, learning, and the joy of coming together as a community.

The Healthy Families Program is here to support new and expecting parents in Herkimer County. Our dedicated team of seven professionals is trained to offer personalized guidance on parenting, child development, and connect families with local resources. Whether you're navigating pregnancy or adjusting to life with a newborn, we're here to help!

If you or someone you know is expecting or recently had a baby, don't hesitate to reach out. Give us a call at 315-867-1176 and let's work together to ensure your family's bright future!



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:



General Elections: November 5, 2024: 6am – 9pm

Early Voting for the General Election: City of Little Falls
Holy Family Parish, 763 Main St. Little Falls, NY 13365

The dates and times for Early Voting are as follows:

Saturday October 26th 9am-5pm

Sunday October 27th 9am-5pm

Monday October 28th 9am-5pm

Tuesday October 29th 12pm-8pm

Wednesday October 30th 12pm-8pm

Thursday October 31st 9am-5pm

Friday November 1st 9am-5pm

Saturday November 2nd 9am-5pm

Sunday November 3rd 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@herkimercountyny.gov

On October 10 from 9:00 to 12:30 the BOE will be holding Local Registration at Herkimer County Veteran Service Agency, 25 Central Plaza, Ilion. We invite veterans and community members to stop by and register to vote. Remember the General Election will be held on November 5, 2024. We can also assist voters with Absentee or Vote by Mail with questions at that time.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED

The Herkimer County Board of Elections is looking for paid poll site workers for multiple positions. All registered voters are eligible. Poll sites are open from 6:00 am until 9:00 pm. Paid training is required.

If interested please contact the Board of Elections at 315.867.1102 or hcboe@herkimercountyny.gov.



FREE COMPUTER TRAINING



**Struggling to job search in the digital age?
Need computer skills to increase your employability?
WE CAN HELP!**



**The NYS Department of Labor has partnered with
Northstar Digital Literacy to offer FREE computer training
and certifications to New Yorkers**

Northstar Topics Include:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Internet Basics
- Career Search Skills
- Microsoft Word and Excel
- And more!

Interested in Learning More? Join Us at Herkimer Working Solutions for an Information Session!

When? Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month

Where? 320 N. Prospect St. Herkimer

Time? 2pm

Sessions will last approximately 1 hour. Attendees will get set up with a Northstar account and will be given an overview of the program, along with completion options.

Walk-ins welcome

*Please bring photo ID for career center registration

HERKIMER WORKING SOLUTIONS

320 N. Prospect St.
Herkimer, NY 13350
315-867-1400

Upcoming Sessions:
September 5,
September 19, October 10*,
October 17, November 7

*Outside regular schedule