

Herkimer County Newsletter

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2025



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National Runaway Prevention Month



Pictured are: Front Row (L to R): RHY Director Trisha Alford, RHY Caseworkers Regina Carter and Ashley McGowan, Catholic Charities Executive Director Maureen Petrie, Employment and Training Director Nicole Wilson, Youth Bureau Director Rachael Case, and RHY Caseworker Teira Davis. Back Row (L to R): Herkimer County Administrator James Wallace Jr., Probation Director Mike Scalise, and DSS Commissioner Tim Seymour.

National Runaway Prevention Month brings to light the issues runaway and homeless youth face every day, and the local resources available to support youth in crisis. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHYP) of Catholic Charities of Herkimer County provides a 24-hour hotline with crisis services, for youth who have run away, as well as those living on the streets. Herkimer County is pleased to observe National Runaway Prevention month, by displaying a handmade bench outside the Herkimer County Office Building for the month of November, to remind our youth that they are not invisible or alone, and that our community cares about them.

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.



Upcoming 2024 Legislature Meeting Dates:

- January 2 @ 2:00 p.m..
- January 24 @ 7:00 p.m.
- February 14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- March 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:

- January 18
- March 1
- March 15

Please visit www.herkimercounty.org and click on "Civil Service Exams" for more information!



Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:

- January 1— New Years Day (observed)
- January 20—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 17—Presidents' Day

*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded

County Office Building
 Winter Hours
 8:00AM—4:30PM
 September 3, 2024 to May 23, 2025



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE:



Chairman Hollum presented Patrick Russell with a plaque in recognition of his dedicated service as a Herkimer County Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Russell!

Patrick E. Russell
 Herkimer County Legislature
 District 15
 2000-2024

Majority Leader
 2003-2021
 January – May 2024

Vice-Chairman
 2022-2023

In recognition of your over 24 years of Distinguished Service to the County of Herkimer and its Residents



MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Sept. - 602	Oct. - 701	Nov. - 448

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Sept. - 48	Oct. - 68	Nov. - 75

FROM OFFICE FOR THE AGING:

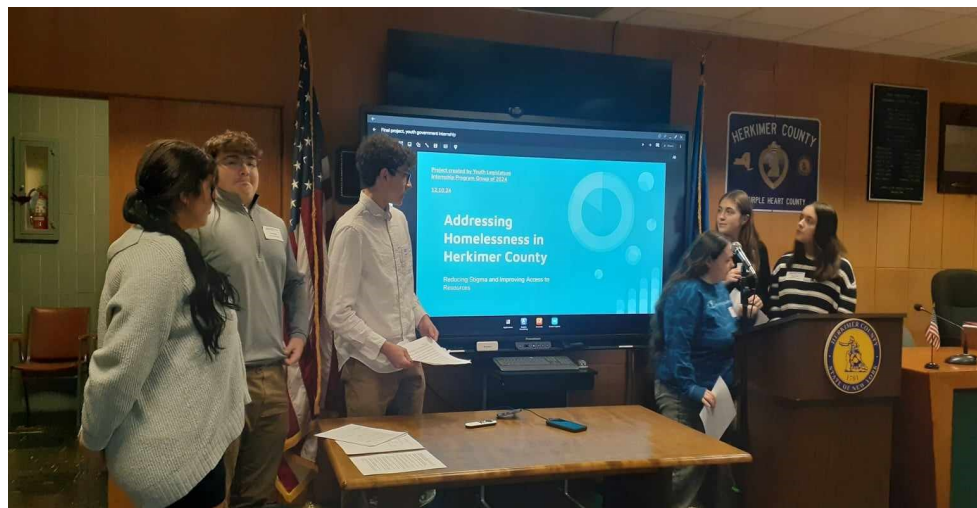


Herkimer County Office for the Aging would like to express our sincere appreciation to Ava Jaunzems from Clayville. Ava served on our Advisory Council for many years. Ava has been an advocate for older adults in her community. She will be missed.



Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County

CCE 4-H Youth Development Program recruits students to participate in the 4-H Government Program. Special emphasis is on the participants “youth voice” in working for solutions to community issues in Herkimer County. The students meet four times in the fall, and another group of students meet four times in the spring. In addition, students travel to Albany to meet local state representatives. The program is sponsored by the Herkimer County Legislature.



This Fall students from Herkimer, Poland, Mount Markham, Frankfort Schuyler, and Richfield Springs worked together to come up with solutions to the homeless population in and around Herkimer. Students addresses the need for storage of possessions, access to programs, and a sense of safety for county residents so that they can work towards permanent housing and secure employment. The students were given certificates by legislators for completing the program.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Provost Michael Oriolo Inducted into the Genesis Group Education Hall of Distinction

Provost Michael Oriolo was inducted into the Genesis Group's Hall of Distinction for lifetime achievement at The Genesis Group's 18th Annual Celebration of Education on November 21.

Herkimer College employees also inducted into the Genesis Group Hall of Distinction include Dean Emeritus Mary Ann Carroll in 2022 and Professor Emeritus William Pelz in 2021.

Herkimer College Officer-in-Charge Nicholas Laino said, "Michael has a deep knowledge of higher education policies and programs, specifically within SUNY and at Herkimer College, and most importantly he approaches every decision by asking what is best for the students."

Oriolo joined Herkimer College in 1981 as a mathematics instructor. He has fulfilled leadership roles in the college including division chair, division dean, and dean of academic affairs before his role as provost. As provost, he oversees over 40 associate degree, certificate, and micro-credential programs, and is responsible for services including the Library, Academic Support Center, Internet Academy, and more.



Herkimer

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Two Herkimer College Trustees Recognized with NYCCT Awards

Two Herkimer County Community College Board of Trustees members were recently honored by the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT).



Isabella S. Crandall, of Herkimer, was presented with the Anne Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement, the highest accolade that NYCCT awards to a trustee. The award recognizes extraordinary leadership and achievement throughout or in part of the term of his/her service as a trustee. Crandall has been a dedicated member of the Herkimer College Board of Trustees for 25 years, including serving as chairwoman for nine years. She actively attends and participates in board meetings and represents the College at many campus and community functions. Being in the forefront during the growth of the campus, Crandall assists in guiding the College through the development of many innovative initiatives and capital projects.

Patrick E. Russell, of Old Forge, was recognized with the Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service. The award recognizes community college trustees with dedicated and effective service over an extended time. Russell has served on the Herkimer College Board of Trustees for over 13 years. As a trustee, Herkimer County legislator, and chairman of the County Ways and Means Committee, Russell was an advocate for obtaining approval for the annual college budgets. Russell fully understands the operational and capital budgets and has been instrumental in securing millions of dollars for the College's capital needs.

NYCCT is a voluntary nonprofit consortium of community college trustees established to strengthen the effectiveness of NY community college trustees as an active force in the development and implementation of public policy impacting community colleges. NYCCT represents the appointed board members who govern the 30 community colleges in the State University of New York (SUNY) system.



HCCC CONT'D:

New Competitive Analytics A.A.S. Degree Program

Applications being accepted for Fall 2025



Herkimer College is accepting admissions applications for a new degree program in Competitive Analytics.

The A.A.S. degree program is designed to teach the skills necessary to analyze company data to achieve competitive advantage. Coursework will cover the breadth of business operations, the role and strategic value of information within the business, and the analytic skills needed to perform a variety of required applications.

Competitive analytics is a fast-growing need across various industries such as finance, healthcare, and aerospace.

“Business data is growing exponentially, and so is the need to translate that data into actionable information that can be analyzed to support business strategy fulfillment and day-to-day business decisions,” said Provost Michael Oriolo. “Herkimer’s new Competitive Analytics program will provide the tools and techniques to translate data into information required to achieve competitive advantage.”

The program includes a capstone course in which students will participate in an experiential project with internal and external business partners. This program can be taken online, but some components will require on-campus participation.

For more information, visit www.herkimer.edu/competitive-analytics.



Herkimer College to Host NJCAA Men’s Basketball National Championship Tournament

Herkimer College will welcome the national basketball championships to campus March 12-15, 2025.

Greg Witkop, NJCAA DIII Men’s Basketball Chair, praised Herkimer’s selection and said, “Herkimer College has demonstrated an outstanding ability to provide a quality experience for student-athletes and a high level of professionalism in tournament operations. We are confident that Herkimer will continue to elevate the NJCAA Basketball Championship experience.”

Herkimer College previously hosted the tournament in 2023 and 2024 and has a long-standing reputation in organizing successful NJCAA events, including soccer, lacrosse, and softball championships. This recognition from the NJCAA reinforces Herkimer’s position as a leader in hosting collegiate sporting events.

For more information, visit www.herkimergenerals.com



Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drives at Herkimer College

Thursday, January 30th & Thursday, March 27th

10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Alumni Hall (located in the Robert McLaughlin College Center)

To register for a donation time, visit www.redcrossblood.org/give

FROM THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING:



Herkimer County Office for the Aging/NY Connects is launching "Blooming Health" a new communication service for you to receive timely information and alerts about our programs and activities.

- These messages will be sent either to home phone via Voice message, a text message to your cell phone, or an e-mail.
- If you would like to sign up it is easy. Just provide: Name, Phone Number or E-Mail, Language, & your preference of communication.
- Once you provide your information you will begin receiving communications from Herkimer County Office for the Aging from the following numbers: **315-860-0271 & 315-860-0272**

Questions or To Sign up

Go to herkimercounty.org then

Office for the Aging or

Call us at 315-867-1121

**A NEW WAY
TO STAY IN
TOUCH**

**RECEIVE
NOTIFICATIONS OF
UPCOMING
COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**RECEIVE
NOTIFICATIONS OF
PROGRAMS
OFFERED BY THE
OFFICE FOR THE
AGING**

**PARTICIPATE IN
SURVEYS TO TELL
US HOW WE ARE
DOING AND WHAT
THE NEEDS ARE IN
THE COMMUNITY**

Herkimer County Office for the Aging



FROM STOP DWI:

Thank You

Office for the Aging placed gift tags on the Christmas tree in the Office for the Aging in Herkimer. With the help of county employees, Legislators, local churches, Fidelis, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield and many other community members and organizations, the Office for the Aging will distribute over 214 Christmas gifts to older adults in Herkimer County. The Office for the Aging partnered with the Old Forge Library to bring some joy to our older adults in the North Country. The older adults who receive these gifts are always so thankful that someone was thinking of them.

Office for the Aging staff and volunteers will deliver the packages to the older adults. The staff and volunteers are always greeted with smiles. These individuals appreciate the generosity of all of those individuals who contributed to this effort.

We hope to continue this event in 2025 and hopefully we will be able to provide additional older adults a bit of Christmas cheer. Office for the Aging staff would like to thank all individuals who assisted with this effort. Every gesture of kindness helps make our community a better place to live.

The Office for the Aging would like to remind community members to stop in and visit with an older adult during this time of the year. You will make their day.



FROM THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING:



Central Valley Academy Students Spread Holiday Cheer

The Student Council at Central Valley Academy wanted to complete a community project to be able to give back to the Mohawk and Ilion communities. For the past nine years the students decided that they would like to help homebound older adults. The students worked with the Herkimer County Office for the Aging to locate older adults in the community who would like a little holiday cheer. The students gathered items and prepared Holiday baskets. On Thursday, December 19, 2024 students from Central Valley Academy delivered over thirty Holiday baskets. The students did not want older adults to be forgotten and wanted to bring them some holiday cheer.



Galaxy S22

FROM STOP DWI:

DID YOU KNOW???

WHY DO WE STILL DRINK AND DRIVE???

Driving while intoxicated (DWI) of alcohol or drugs has declined over the years due to increased awareness, stricter laws, and public campaigns. However, the percentage of fatalities from DWI has remained at about one out of every three fatalities for the past decade – it appears to have plateaued.

Hardcore drunk drivers continue to wreak havoc on our nation's roads, accounting for nearly 70 percent of drunk driving fatalities.

Every driver certainly knows it is not acceptable to drive under the influence – so why do so many continue to do so? Do we think we can handle it, and nobody will know? Do we just lose track of how many drinks we have consumed? Are we having so much fun or enjoying it so much we just can't stop?

In a November 4 article from the Albany media, there is an example of someone who just can't seem to stop drinking and driving. The article states: A 65-year-old Schenectady man with nine drunk driving convictions faces up to life in prison for crashing into a gas pump and driving over a motorcyclist. The male was found guilty on Oct. 31, after a jury trial on multiple charges stemming from incidents in 2022 and 2023. The male will be sentenced on Jan. 8, 2025. If he is deemed a persistent felony offender, he faces a minimum of 15 years in prison and a maximum of 25 years to life, according to the published article.

And, from Northeast Public Radio this past summer, it was reported that a Plattsburgh politician was stopped by Plattsburgh police on August 22 and a breath test showed a blood alcohol level of .10 percent. The driver said she had three drinks at a local bar before leaving to visit a friend. She faced charges of driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol level exceeding .08 percent, and failure to signal.

Also, last summer, enforcement agencies in New York State issued 1,227 arrests for alcohol/drug violations from 6 p.m. on July 3 to midnight on July 7. Additional patrols over the July 4th holiday weekend targeted reckless and aggressive driving and included sobriety checkpoints.

In November NY Police agencies participated in a special traffic enforcement initiative to crack down on unsafe driving behaviors during the Thanksgiving holiday period from November 27 through December 1. Utilizing sobriety checkpoints and extra patrols, NY State Police said they arrested 251 drivers for driving under the influence over the 2024 "Thanksgiving enforcement period". The number was up from last year, when 178 got DWI charges during the same period.

In total, police said 24,191 tickets were issued during the holiday surge, up from 18,690 in 2023. These tickets included 4,338 for speeding, 371 for distracted driving, 2,520 for seatbelt violations, and 242 for failing to obey the Move Over Law.

In 2022, the most recent complete year for statistics, there were 13,524 alcohol related fatalities nationwide, 32 percent of the total fatalities. This continues to be unacceptable. We need to do better!



FROM THE IDA:



STAFF

JOHN J. PISECK, JR.
Chief Executive Officer

VICTORIA L. ADAMS
Operations Manager

JENNIFER L. YOUNG
Administrative Office Assistant

ERIN E. SPINA
Marketing & Communications Specialist

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Secretary

ANN GAWORECKI
Director

TIM DAY
Director

ALANA BASLOE
Director

COUNSEL

ANTHONY G. HALLAK, Esq.
Felt Evans, LLP

For Immediate Release

Former Remington Arms Property under Purchase and Sale Agreement

December 19, 2024

Turin Management LLC, a women-owned development company, has executed a purchase and sale agreement for the entire Remington Arms Facility located at 14 Hoefler Avenue, Ilion, NY 13357. This agreement allows the Turin team up to 4 months to complete due diligence on the property, which will include, but not limited to, infrastructure and environmental assessments.

As of now there are no definitive plans for the site. The village of Ilion is working with Turin Management and evaluating many different options. For additional information please contact the Herkimer County IDA.

John J. Piseck

315-866-3000

420 East German St.

Herkimer NY 13350

Demolition has begun on the former Chip's Service Station in Frankfort, NY!



FROM WORKING SOLUTIONS:



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:
January 2, January 16,
February 6, February 20,
March 6, March 20