

Herkimer County Newsletter

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2022



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Herkimer County held its first in-person Senior Citizen Picnic since 2019 on June 22, 2022. All Herkimer County departments contributed with organizing and volunteering their time and personnel for an all hands on deck event. The Senior Picnic Committee enjoyed a great turnout with over 250 seniors participating.

Seniors who registered were provided lunch from KFC and an opportunity to play bingo in person for the first time in over 2 years!! Much fun was had by all throughout the many lively sessions of bingo! The overwhelming generosity of our legislators, county employees, county administration, community members, and our many local businesses provided a wealth of prizes for bingo, and it is deeply appreciated. Please continue to direct your support to our local businesses as they are the heart of our communities! The prizes donated are valued at over \$20,000. One business in particular, Tractor Supply, went above and beyond and donated over \$15,000 worth of merchandise. We could not be more thankful and humbled by our community supports.

A very special thank you to our national anthem singer, Madison Congdon, who has shared her lovely singing voice with us for two consecutive years. With the help of all involved, our Senior Picnic 2022 was a great success!



Upcoming 2022 Legislature Meeting Dates:

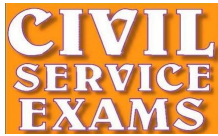
- July 6 – 2:00 PM
- August 10 – 7:00 PM
- September 14 – 7:00 PM

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:

- September 17

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



Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:

- July 4— Independence Day
- September 5—Labor Day

*Highway and Deputy Sherriff’s Association Employees excluded



County Office Building
 Summer Hours
 8:00AM—4:00PM
 May 31, 2022—September 2, 2022

SUMMER HOURS



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETINGS



During the May 18, 2022 Legislature Meeting, outgoing Director of Information Services, Kathy Wright, was presented a plaque for her 25 years of distinguished service to Herkimer County. Thank you, Kathy! Best wishes in retirement!

Mental Resources for Children and Adolescents

The Neighborhood Center

Herkimer Clinic, N. Prospect Street Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 272-2600
 Satellite Clinics in the following: CVA, Town of Webb, Dolgeville, and Mount Markham.

Family Ties Program

AIM Program-located within CVA School District

Community Health and Behavioral Services

Herkimer Clinic, 235 N. Prospect Street Herkimer, NY 13350 (315) 866-2863

Cuda Counseling

Herkimer Clinic, 336 E. State Street Herkimer, NY 13550 (315) 866-0100

Hotline Numbers:

Mobile Assessment Crisis Team (MCAT): 315-732-6228

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Crisis Text Line: Text Home to 741741

NY Project Hope: 1-844-863-9314

MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Mar. - 786 (45% in person and 55% telehealth)	Apr. - 657 (42% in person and 58% telehealth)	May - 744 (48% in person and 52% telehealth)

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Mar. - 65	Apr. - 37	May - 26



Mental Health Awareness month happens every year during May. Mental Health Awareness month aims to reduce stigmas associated with mental and/or behavioral health illnesses.

This year, the Herkimer County System of Care initiative raised awareness across the community in many different ways. The SOC Child and Family Team with ICAN put out a call-for-art across Herkimer County schools and agencies for youth to take an opportunity to create 2D artwork illustrating something that makes them feel happy, healthy, and hopeful. We had about 10 artwork pieces to showcase at our Mental Health and Wellness Fair on May 12th at the Arc Park.

At the Wellness Fair, SOC partnered with approximately 30 various agencies, healthcare providers, and programs to host an event aimed at providing families with resources and information for services available to them in the community. Overall we had about 200 individuals come through and make connections within their community!

System of Care Project Director, Sandra Bellasai, and Herkimer County DSS Commissioner, Tim Seymour, went live on the radio with Talk of the Town in May to discuss the evolution of the SOC initiative and how we continue to support youth and families with mental health needs in our community every single day (<https://wutqfm.com/icans-sandra-bellasai-dss-commissioner-tim-seymour-talk-system-of-care-for-mental-health/>).

On May 19th, SOC partnered with the Herkimer Police Department, Herkimer CSD football teams, SOC families, and ICAN to hold an awareness walk that brought mental health information and resources right to the heart of residents' homes between Harmon Field and the Arc Park in Herkimer. WKTV was there to capture the moment as well! (https://www.wktv.com/community/mental-health-awareness-walk-in-herkimer/article_17dab602-d93d-11ec-ac76-d73384b8794d.html)

Finally, we finished off the month with a virtual workshop hosted by ICAN. About 60 participants engaged in activities designed to reinforce the importance of coming together and how that supports positive mental health.

Herkimer County SOC had a busy month and can't wait to do it all again (and some) next year!



FROM HERKIMER COLLEGE:

Herkimer Generals Baseball Team wins first World Series Championship; three players named All-Americans



For the first time ever, the Herkimer College baseball team is the NJCAA Division III World Series championship team. Herkimer is the first junior college in New York to win the NJCAA World Series since 1966.

The Generals qualified for the tournament as the sole at-large team after losing in the Region III final. They were the sixth seed of eight teams in the tournament.

Herkimer outscored teams 37-14 in its four games in the tournament despite being the highest seed to win the NJCAA Division III World Series since seeding began in 2016-17.

Sophomore pitcher and Louisville commit Greg Farone, of Schenectady, was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the tournament after throwing 13 innings, allowing just five hits and 25 strikeouts. He also was named an NJCAA Division III First Team All-American.

Sophomore pitcher Ryan Packard, of Oneonta, was also named First Team All-American. Packard, who served as the student representative on the Board of Trustees and president of the Student Government Association, finished with a 10-0 record and six complete games. He also finished the season with a 1.32 ERA; the second-lowest in the country. He accepted a full athletic scholarship to continue his baseball career at the University of Dayton.

Sophomore outfielder Dakota Britt, of Rockwall, Texas, was named a Third Team All-American. He finished fourth in the country with 14 home runs and finished top-five in Region III in RBI, runs scored and slugging percentage.

Sophomore second baseman Kyle Caccamise, of Hopewell Junction, was awarded the Best Offensive Player of the tournament after hitting 9-for-17 (.529) with six runs and six RBI's.

The dominant performance from his team gave 17-year Herkimer College baseball head coach Jason Rathbun his first ever Coach of the National Tournament award.

“All the credit goes to our guys,” Rathbun said. “They went from losing the Region III championship game — unsure if they’d ever play together again — to winning the NJCAA Division III World Series. It’s a remarkable achievement and I’m so proud of this team.”

Track Newcomer wins a National Championship

Avion Harris, of Niagara Falls, NY, who also played basketball for the Generals, won the NJCAA National Championship in the 1500 meter run, and was awarded First Team All-American honors. Avion also placed third in the 800 meter run, and for that, he was named an All-American honorable mention.



Herkimer College Students Obtain CarePath Certification



Several Human Services students successfully completed their CarePath coach certification through the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS). The newly certified coaches are Jordan Brelinsky, Little Falls, NY; Olivia Gasparinatos, Herkimer, NY; Hannah Napier, Dolgeville, NY; Jasmine Rivera, Utica, NY; Kayla Suppa, Oneida, NY; and Haley Thomas, Ilion, NY.

Herkimer College is the only SUNY school partnering with MHANYS to include the CarePath curriculum for all students graduating with a degree in Human Services. Assistant Professor Grace Ashline, who also serves as coordinator of the Human Services program said, “This unprecedented partnership between Herkimer College and MHANYS is raising awareness across New York State agencies that seek to support mental health for individuals, families, and their communities. This is on the heels of state funding by the Office of Mental Health earlier this year pledging to support CarePath and its inclusion in health care facilities, schools, and other agencies targeting wellness for individuals, families, and their communities.”

The MHANYS CarePath program supports the wellness of individuals in need, alongside their family members or chosen supporters, through offering the assistance of a certified CarePath coach. Since its launch in 2019, the program continues to gain acknowledgment through the New York State Office of Mental Health and has garnered state-wide and national attention for its relational approach to mental health and recovery.

Students graduating with their degree in Human Services and a certification in CarePath become part of a state initiative, employment opportunities, and community partnership. The program provides students with 20 renewable credit hours as peer support specialists, peer family advocates, youth peer advocates, and Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors (CASAC). Career opportunities are available at hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and human service agencies both in the non-profit and for-profit sectors.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Herkimer College Appoints Kaylynn Iglesias as Director of Admissions

Kaylynn E. Iglesias, of Frankfort, has returned to her alma mater as director of Admissions.

Kaylynn has more than 10 years of admissions experience. She has served as director of admissions at SUNY Morrisville, associate director of admissions at Utica College (now Utica University), senior assistant director of transfer admissions at Utica College, and transfer coordinator at SUNY Institute of Technology (now SUNY Polytechnic Institute). She has also been an adjunct instructor at Herkimer College, SUNYIT, and Utica College.

Kaylynn holds an associate degree in General Studies from Herkimer College, a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Hartwick College, and a master's degree in English Literature from Mercy College.



Employees Honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Two Herkimer College employees have been honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence for 2022. According to the State University of New York, the excellence awards are designed for faculty and staff who personify professional excellence and serve as role models not only for the State of New York, but for the College as well. They publicly acknowledge superior professional achievement while encouraging the pursuit of excellence.

Lisa Holynski, office assistant in Admissions, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service. Holynski has been employed at the College for more than 47 years. Katherine Scanlon '01, director of the Advisement Center, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

Local students graduate from Herkimer College Police Academy



Herkimer College graduated its fourth class from the Phase I Pre-Employment Police Basic Training course at a ceremony held on Thursday, June 2, 2022. The course is offered in partnership with the Little Falls Police Department.

All nine graduates have already secured employment as police officers within a variety of departments including Herkimer County, Village of Dolgeville, City of Little Falls, the villages of Canajoharie and St. Johnsville, and Seneca County. The officers will complete the remainder of their training with their departments.

According to former Little Falls Police Chief and Program Director Michael Masi, this training offers an experience that is unparalleled.

"This program provides opportunities for participants that they may never have had," said Masi. "By putting themselves through 85 percent of the required New York State Basic Course for Police they have not only demonstrated their abilities and commitment to the profession, but they have also made themselves marketable to communities at a significant savings. The men and women

that are successful at completing this course have truly achieved something worthy of being proud of. They have proved they are ready and competent to enter a career in one of the most noble professions."

Pictured from left: Herkimer College Director of Campus Safety Timothy Rogers, William Bateholts (St. Johnsville), Darya Don (Jordanville), Elijah Griffin (Interlaken), Michael Hagan (Herkimer), Nathan Jenkins (Cold Brook), Giosue Lanza (Cooperstown), Katarena Pate (Mohawk), Tyler Perkins (Dolgeville), Neiko Scarano (Little Falls), Phase I Pre-Employment Police Basic Training Program Director Michael Masi, and drill instructor Dave Morrissey.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Herkimer County Community College held its 54th Commencement on Friday, May 13th. This was the first in-person ceremony since 2019. Thank you to Legislator Peter Manno for attending the ceremony, and to Legislator Mark Gaworecki '01 for addressing the graduates and guests on behalf of Chairman Jim Bono. The list of graduates, video recording and photo album can be viewed here: www.herkimer.edu/commencement



Herkimer
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



FROM THE HERKIMER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

The Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation district and a Town of Litchfield farm were awarded funds in 2018 through CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program Round 2 for a new concrete waste storage structure. The new structure holding 5.2 million gallons will bring the farm's total storage capacity to over 6 months. This is a requirement to be compliant with their SPEDES permit and allow proper timing, rate, and placement of manure optimizing the available nutrients.



Figure 1. Topsoil being stripped from the area.



Figure 2. Large elevation change was required.



Figure 3. Thousands of yards of soil being removed to obtain rough storage bottom elevation.



Figure 4. A geologic investigation is required for any new waste storage structure project under the CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program. The investigation revealed that bedrock was encountered increasing the risk of impacting groundwater resources. A synthetic liner was placed under the footprint of the storage.



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONT'D:



Figure 5. Walls are poured and grading has started.



Figure 6. Concrete forms are being removed.



Figure 7. Backfilling resumed in May of 2022 after the winter.



Figure 8. Project was completed and fully functioning in June.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY WORKING SOLUTIONS:



Sat. June 11
LITTLE FALLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH
PRIDE
Working Solutions

The Little Falls Community Outreach hosted their 2nd annual PRIDE celebration on Saturday, June 11, 2022 in downtown Little Falls and the Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center was in attendance to share our many resources!

Free Online Skills Training



Take FREE Classes on our Metrix Online Learning Platform!

There are more than 5,000 free courses on the self-paced learning platform! There are courses in IT, Healthcare, Manufacturing and many more. And you can take as many courses as you want. Some can be completed in less than 30 minutes!

- Learn New Skills
- Beef Up Your Resume
- Stand Out from the Crowd

This FREE self-paced online skills training is available to all businesses and job seekers in Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties!

View the catalog here:

<https://www.metrixlearning.com/catalog-search.cfm>



INTRODUCING a new website free for both job seekers and employers. This site was launched to be a comprehensive regional hiring tool for businesses along the Route 28 corridor into the Adirondacks. The scope is from Boonville (Lewis County) through Forestport (Oneida County), through Town of Webb (Herkimer County) and into Inlet (Hamilton County).

The goal is to provide job seekers looking for employment in the Western Central Adirondacks a one stop shop in their job seeking process. Job seekers can go to workforceadk.com and create a quick profile, they can even upload info from an existing LinkedIn or Google account, making the signup even easier.

This site could assist job seekers looking for an amazing job in the serenity and beauty of the Western Central Adirondacks. If you have to commute 35-40 minutes to work, why not commute up into some of the most beautiful forested lands in the North Eastern US? They have full time, part time, seasonal, year round and every type of job in between!

6 STEPS TO GETTING AN ADIRONDACK JOB

<p>Go to workforceadk.com</p> 	<p>Create an account or use your LinkedIn/Google Account to sign in</p> 
<p>Upload your resume or create a resume</p> 	<p>Browse jobs of all types within the beautiful Adirondack Mountains</p> 
<p>Interview with your new employer for your ADK dream job</p> 	<p>Get excited knowing that you have amazing work to look forward to</p> 

Work in the Woods:

WORKFORCE ADK.com

FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY IDA:

KK&P Presents Findings from Herkimer County Food Processing Study

In June, the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency, in partnership with KK&P, a NY-based food systems consultancy, hosted a public participation session. At this session, the findings from an ongoing food processing study were discussed with residents from Herkimer County. Although the study is ongoing, KK&P was able to discuss some of their findings;

Themes & Findings from Research:

25% of the population of the US and Canada live within 200 miles of Herkimer County. The close proximity of Herkimer County to a variety of high-populated markets has allowed us to efficiently support our B2B food manufacturers who are serving those areas. Access to a large population number is only the beginning, Herkimer County has access to key resources food manufacturing depends on. Those resources are:

1. Abundant water & sewer capacity
2. Existing natural gas hook-ups with room for expansion
3. Affordable electricity with ample capacity
4. Widespread broadband/fiber coverage

Utility providers capable of affordably meeting the needs of food manufacturers at a variety of scales

Since COVID broke out in 2020, individuals want to know where their food is coming from; and Herkimer County is bolstered to provide its residents with those needs. There are nearly 300 food & beverage manufacturing, distribution, and related businesses in the county and the surrounding region. The Mohawk Valley is expected to see a projected growth of 4.6% in Mohawk Valley's food manufacturing sector from 2018-2028. In terms of manufacturing presence, food manufacturing is Mohawk Valley's third-largest sector.

Herkimer County already has individuals with the experience food manufacturing companies are looking for. Over 5,000 people are already within food & beverage manufacturing in Herkimer County and its 10 surrounding counties. 1 in 7 Mohawk Valley manufacturing workers are employed by food businesses.

You can learn more about this study on the Herkimer County IDA website: www.herkimercountyida.org/projects/herkimer-county-food-processing-study/, or contact the IDA at (315) 866-3000.



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP-DWI:



DID YOU KNOW???

VLOGGING WHILE DRIVING A DANGEROUS PRACTICE

Do you know what vlogging while driving is? I'll admit I didn't, until I received an email from Abby Keefe from Erie Insurance. Vlogging while driving is a relatively new trend that involves popular social media influencers talking to a camera mounted on their dashboards to create videos for their followers. While the behavior may seem safe because it's hands-free, an internationally recognized expert on distracted driving says it's anything but.

"The research is absolutely clear. Hands-free is not safe," said Paul Atchley, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at the University of South Florida, who has been studying distracted driving for more than 20 years. "It's your brain that's the problem, not touching a phone. And we know when your brain is engaged by a phone call – even a hands-free one – the risk for a car crash increases."

Erie Insurance showed Atchley several videos gaining buzz online showing influencers looking back and forth between their camera and the road, fiddling with the camera on their dashboard, and in one case, almost swerving off the road. "As a car insurer that wants everyone on the roads to be safe, Erie Insurance keeps on top of the latest driving trends. This one is particularly troubling because the people doing it probably think it's safe since it's hands-free," said Jon Bloom, vice president of personal auto, Erie Insurance. "We reached out to Dr. Atchley to shed light on what's going on in the brain that makes this behavior actually much more dangerous than people realize."

The answer, says Atchley, is that multi-tasking is a myth. People can switch back and forth between tasks but can truly only do one thing at a time.

To see how vlogging while driving, even with a mounted camera, is distracting, it's important to understand the meaning of the term. A distraction is something that's not related to the primary task. If the primary task is driving, then creating a social media video is a distraction. There are three categories of distractions: manual, visual and cognitive. In the case of videotaping oneself while driving, the manual distraction is taking hands off the wheel, the visual is looking at the camera instead of the road, and the cognitive distraction is "performing" for the camera instead of focusing on driving.

"I hope that social media influencers who vlog while driving realize that they are influencing a portion of the population that is more likely to die in a car crash than the next three causes of death combined," said Atchley. "So not only are they demonstrating bad behavior, but they're also demonstrating it to a group of individuals who already are at high risk."

Since this vlogging thing is new to me I googled 'vlogging while driving' and watched a video of a young female driver doing the vlogging thing and it was very enlightening.

In the video I watched, the girl driving can be seen taking her eyes off the road almost 20 times within the first 20 seconds of her video, "Vlogging While Driving Is Not illegal. I even have both hands on the wheel," she justified at the beginning of her over six-minute video, filmed entirely in motion. Despite her hands on the wheel safety disclaimer, at some points in the video she does remove at least one hand entirely from the wheel, like when she films her cat which is sitting directly on her lap. She also holds her phone/camera in her hand while she drives.

Vlogging while driving per se may not be illegal, but it certainly exhibits dangerous distracted driving. No responsible safe driver would ever think of vlogging while driving. I hope you don't either.

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.

**STOP
DWI** New
York



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH:



301 North Washington Street
Suite 2300
Herkimer, NY 13350

Tel: 315-867-1176
Fax: 315-867-1444

Christina Cain, RN, BSN, MS, MA
Director Public Health

2022 Immunization Clinic Schedule

All clinics are by appointment only.

Call 315-867-1176 to schedule an appointment.

Clinic Location:

301 N. Washington St. (3rd fl.)
Herkimer, NY

Clinic Guidelines:

1. Adults and children are welcome at all immunization clinics.
2. Bring all insurance cards and/or valid college ID. We bill most insurance.
3. We will submit your bill to your insurance. If your insurance does not pay for your shot(s) you will be billed for the balance due.
4. Bring immunization records with you regardless of your age.
5. Children under the age of 18 must have their immunization record signed by a parent/legal guardian.
6. Tuberculosis tests (PPD/Mantoux) for \$10.00 (cash only) are placed on Tuesday and read Thursday or Friday by appointment.

Clinic Dates/Times:

Tuesdays

9:00 – 11:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

& the following

Mondays 3:00 – 6:00

June 13th

August 8th

August 22nd

September 12th

September 19th

October 17th

November 14th

December 12th

Farmers Market Coupons



Coupons can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables at any participating Farmer's Market. **YOU QUALIFY IF** you are at least 60 years of age **AND** have a monthly income at or below: \$2,096 for a one-person household, \$2,823 for a two-person household, \$3,551 for a three-person household, or are at least 60 years of age and currently receiving or eligible to receive SSI, food stamps, public assistance, or Section 8 housing subsidy. **Each eligible senior living in a household may receive their own booklet, but they must be present to sign for them.** Coupons will be distributed at the following centers on a first come, first served basis. You can pick up coupons at any of the following sites:

Mon. July 11	9am-Noon: London Towers, 100 W. Main St., Ilion 1pm-3:30 pm: Prindle Apartments, 80 E. North St., Ilion
Tues. July 12	9am-11:30: Galinsky Apartments, 105 Protection Ave. Herkimer 1pm-3:30pm: Valley View Courts, 760 E. Monroe (Hillside Dr.) Little Falls
Wed. July 13	1pm-3:30pm: Midtown Apts. 315 N Prospect St., Herkimer
Thurs. July 14	9am-11am: Litchfield Manor, 402 S. Litchfield St., Frankfort 1pm-3pm: Greenwood Terrace, 1 Greenwood Terrace, Mohawk
Fri. July 15	9:00-11:00am: Parkside Courts 53 S. Main St., Dolgeville 1:30-3:00pm Rockton Plaza, 550 E. John St. Little Falls
Sat. July 16	9am-11am: Little Falls Farmers Market, Albany St., Little Falls
Mon. July 18	9:00am-11:00am Scott House , 56 South St. West Winfield 1:30-3:00pm Willoughby Hall, 3041 Hillside Meadows Dr, Newport
Tues. July 19	10:00am-11:30am Schuyler Firehouse, 120 Newport Rd. Utica
Thurs. July 21	10am-Noon: Lakeside Terr. Apts., 110 South Shore Rd, Old Forge
Fri. July 22	1pm-3pm: Old Forge Farmers Market, 201 North St., Old Forge

Instructions for Coupon Distribution:

All distribution sites will be set up outside (weather permitting). Individuals may pick up their coupons at the table or may remain in their vehicle and have the coupons brought to them.

In an effort to keep both OFA staff and clients safe, please practice social distancing and refrain from congregating around the giveaway location. Please call 315-867-1124 for more information.

All eligible older adults must be present to receive the coupons. If an older adult is unable to pick up the coupons in person, a Proxy or Power of Attorney (with required documentation) may sign for the coupons instead.