

# Herkimer County Newsletter

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2021

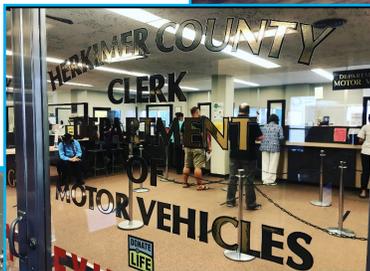


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## Department of Motor Vehicles Reopens to the Public

As of July 1, 2021 Herkimer County Clerk, Hon. Sylvia Rowan declared the Department of Motor Vehicles open to the public. In a brief statement, the Clerk expressed her joy in making the transition for a welcome return to normal. The dropbox system which was put in place as an answer and a means to conduct business safely and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic is still in place for those who wish to avoid a wait. Also, those who currently hold appointments will see those dates and times honored.



**Upcoming 2020 Legislature Meeting Dates:**

- July 7 – 2:00 PM
- August 11 – 7:00 PM
- September 15 – 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](http://www.herkimercounty.org)

**Civil Service Exams:**

- July 17
- August 7

Please visit [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org) and click on "Civil Service Exams" for more information!



**HERKIMER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES::**

**Mental Health Services**

- Herkimer County Mental Health (315) 867-1465
- Herkimer Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic (315) 866-7630
- The Neighborhood Center Herkimer Children and Youth Clinic (315) 272-2600
- The Neighborhood Center School Satellites (CVA, Dolgeville, Town of Webb, and Mount Markum). (315) 272-2600

**Substance Abuse**

- The Beacon Center- Mental Health and Outpatient Substance Abuse (315) 717-0189
- Catholic Charities Prevention Program (315) 894-9917
- Rise Recovery Recovery and Community Outreach (315) 894-9917

**Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:**

- July 5– Independence Day
- September 6–Labor Day

\*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded



**FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:**



**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. Training for the November 2, 2021 General Election will be held in September.

If interested please contact the Board of Elections at 315.867.1102 or [hcboe@herkimercounty.org](mailto:hcboe@herkimercounty.org).

County Office Building  
Summer Hours  
8:00AM–4:00PM  
June 1, 2021–September 7, 2021

**SUMMER HOURS**



**MENTAL HEALTH VISITS**

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Mar. - 847	Apr. - 750	May - 720

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Mar. - 50	Apr. - 38	May- 38

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County

## The Invasion of Gypsy Moth Caterpillars

Judging from the phone calls here at Cornell Cooperative Extension, one would think that the aliens have landed here in our county. The truth is that Herkimer County is in the middle of the largest outbreak of Gypsy Moths in the Northeast in decades. Throughout the county residents are seeing the trees in their yards defoliated by tens of thousands of the two inch, hairy caterpillars that not only eat leaves, but crawl up walls, and fill driveways and roads with their droppings. The outbreak is very severe in some communities with trees losing their leaves in a matter of days and residents feeling as if they are under siege by the creatures because they cannot leave their homes without having caterpillars drop on them or crawl up their legs.

The damage Gypsy Moth caterpillars cause is a significant stressor to our trees. The moths target oak and then will chew their way through other species like alder and aspen. In heavily impacted areas they will eventually they will eat most of the foliage on a homeowners' property making the trees look like November in July. Although the health of the trees suffer from this attack, over 80% will completely recover by next spring.

What can you do to combat the Gypsy Moth invasion? The good news is that the caterpillars will pupate and become moths by mid-summer. For actions that you can take now and to learn how to control next year's population visit CCE's webpage on Gypsy Moths <https://blogs.cornell.edu/cceherkimer/programs/horticulture/invasive-species/invasive-species-pests/> or call our office at 315-866-7920.



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**FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING:**



Herkimer County Office for the Aging is trying to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated. We understand that people are concerned about getting vaccinated. If someone that you know is concerned about getting vaccinated listen to their concerns without judgement. If you have been vaccinated share your experience with them. This has been a tough year for everyone. Please be understanding of people's concerns. Show people kindness.

We want people to share their vaccination experiences.

If you would like to share your vaccination experience or the reasons why you are got vaccinated please give us a call at 315-867-1121. If you need assistance scheduling a vaccination please give us a call. Thank you to all that have gotten vaccinated and everyone that has taken measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. We are all in this together.

**Let's All Get Vaccinated!!!**

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— JOIN THE TEAM —  
*We're Hiring*

Herkimer County Office for the Aging (OFA) is looking for volunteer or a paid drivers for a Home Delivered Meals routes for all areas in Herkimer County. The paid drivers receive minimum wage plus mileage. We need your help and if you are interested or know anyone interested in the position please contact us at (315)867-1414.

Herkimer County OFA is also hiring substitute meal site managers for our Nutrition sites that will be opening in July. If you interested please contact us at 315-867-1414.

# FROM THE HERKIMER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

## Working with Willows: Soil & Water Partners with County Highway Department for Bank Stabilization Project

The County Highway Department reached out to the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) for assistance with the installation of willow stakes on a bank stabilization project along White Creek in the Town of Newport. White Creek is designated as a Class C(T) protected trout stream, indicating habitat that may support trout populations.

The October storm event streambank of White Creek to wash out. the infrastruc- County High- ment worked engineering a design to parameters. originally in- stakes to help bank.

Extensive con- place in 2020 roadway, as a functioning dissipate the water around bend. Flood-



31st, 2019 caused the and a section Road (CR60) To stabilize ture, the way Depart- with a private firm to create meet FEMA This design cluded willow stabilize the

struction took to rebuild the well as create floodplain to energy of the the stream plains are crit-



ical in preventing erosion by providing space for the water to spread out and slow down when the stream channel cannot handle the water capacity.

The SWCD partnered with the Herkimer BOCES Conservation Class for this project. The class manages two Streamco willow plantations on BOCES property. These plantations are used to provide willow stakes for many soil stabilization projects throughout the county. The root systems of these willows work great for holding soil in place along streambanks, reducing erosion. Once established, the willows will also provide shade, benefiting trout habitat.

For this project, SWCD staff cut a total of 2,000 willow stakes of various lengths and installed them along 550' of floodplain and 550' of the toe slope of the bank. The staff spent many days working on this project, including watering these willow stakes to improve their success of establishment.

The SWCD was happy to assist the County Highway Department with an unexpected emergency infra- structure project that also aids in the protection of potential trout habitat.

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONT'D:



District Manager, Gerry Smithson and Conservation Aide, Bob Tilbe packing



One group of the BOCES Conservation Class students having fun and packing



More than 300 packed tree orders, waiting to be picked up.

### Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Tree and Shrub

Despite social distancing requirements due to COVID-19, the 2021 Herkimer County SWCD tree program was again a fantastic success, thanks to all our valued customers! The District Manager ordered trees in September as usual; but for April handout, many precautions were taken to protect the health and well-being of staff and the public. To ensure the safety of staff and customers, more than 40 tree and shrub orders were delivered by district staff prior to the handout, and a “Drive-Through” method was once again implemented for pick-up. Customers were mailed detailed instructions prior to handout, and staff loaded orders into customers’ vehicles for them so appropriate distances were maintained. The BOCES Conservation Class were instrumental in helping pack trees along with Hamilton County SWCD. April 23rd and 24th, we handed out trees and shrubs to 320 individuals, including pre-deliveries and extra sales. Nearly 16,000 trees and shrubs were packed, sold, and donated along with planting accessories, compost, rain barrels, and blue bird nesting boxes. This valuable program provides high quality bare root planting stock at affordable prices. It is our largest earned income program and helps the Herkimer County SWCD to offset budget costs while continuing to enhance the natural resources of Herkimer County. Even with the ongoing pandemic, this year was our most financially successful program to date! We sold out of almost everything that we ordered, and could have sold more of many species, but there was no more nursery stock availability. We appreciate everyone who participated, and we will continue to offer this program for those interested next year. As always, if you have questions or comments on our program, please contact our office at 315-866-2520 ext. 5.



Volunteer, Jessica Smithson, working the traffic control station for the drive-through tree handout.



District Conservation Aide, Bob Tilbe, loading a tree order into a landowner’s vehicle during handout.





## Workforce Development Board, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida Counties, Inc. (HMO WDB)

Do you want to explore new training and employment opportunities in in-demand careers such as healthcare, IT/cybersecurity, manufacturing and more?

Do you need education, training or job placement help or other supportive services?

**We Have Grant Programs That Can Help!**

Many of these grant programs are available to residents in 16 counties across New York State!

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Rural Healthcare Workforce Grant
- Dislocated Worker/Opioid Grant
- American Apprenticeship Initiative Grant
- The NY College Apprenticeship Network (NYCAN) Grant
- Women in Apprenticeships and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) Grant
- Career Pathways Grant
- IT/Cybersecurity Workforce Grant

### CONTACT US

315.207.6951

[www.working-solutions.org](http://www.working-solutions.org)



## What do WDBs Do?

Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) direct federal, state, and local funding to workforce development programs, such as Grant Opportunities that offer training and incentives and more. The HMO WDB is overseeing several grant opportunities in your area that you may be eligible for!

WDBs also oversee the American Job Centers, such as Working Solutions and CDO Workforce, where job seekers can get employment information, find out about career development training opportunities, and connect to various programs in their area.



CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

## FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

### [Herkimer College plans for in-person instruction this fall](#)

Herkimer County Community College is planning a return to in-person instruction for the 2021-22 academic year. Students can expect to receive a more traditional college experience, with the majority of classes being held face-to-face at the start of the Fall 2021 semester.

"While we are optimistic about the fall, we will of course continue to monitor the situation, as the health and safety of students, staff, and faculty are and will remain our priority," said Cathleen McColgin, president of Herkimer College. "Our plans to return to in-person class delivery will be contingent on positivity rates and guidance from SUNY, the CDC, and local and state public health agencies."

All necessary steps for getting classrooms, laboratory spaces, and other facilities ready for the fall semester will be taken in accordance with guidance from SUNY and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The College also plans to return to normal on-campus housing procedures and occupancies within its three apartment-style residence halls for the Fall 2021 semester.

Students preferring virtual learning can do so through the College's existing Internet Academy, which recently earned Herkimer College the No. 2 ranking for top online community colleges in New York State.

Changes to the instructional plan or other related safety updates will continue to be posted at [www.herkimer.edu/restart](http://www.herkimer.edu/restart).



**NEW: Commit<sup>2</sup> Complete** program provides \$1,000 toward on-campus housing

Herkimer College is piloting a new Commit 2 Complete program for incoming students. Students accepted into the program will be part of a cohort of on-campus residential students who will move through college together, reporting to a specialized adviser, taking part in unique events, and receiving a \$1,000 award toward on-campus housing. More information is available at [www.herkimer.edu/commit](http://www.herkimer.edu/commit)

## Herkimer College accepted into Community College Research Center's summer institute for rural colleges

Herkimer County Community College has been selected to participate in a summer institute hosted by the Community College Research Center.

The program is only open to colleges and universities that are considered rural or serve rural populations. In addition to providing census data, the College had to submit an application and undergo a rigorous interview process to gain access to the program. Only 22 colleges have been invited to participate.

The program, titled "Guided Pathways at Rural Colleges: Using Data to Launch Large-Scale Reform," will help participating colleges lead large-scale student success efforts using the guided pathways framework, which aims to help students choose, enter, and complete programs aligned with their goals for careers and further education.

By the end of the two-week institute, colleges will have data-informed plans for developing and implementing changes that will help them recruit and retain students, improve student success rates, and close equity gaps.

Herkimer College has been independently exploring opportunities for integrating guided pathways as a strategic principle for overall college programming for at least the past five years. It currently uses a similar structure in its new first-year academic advisement model, which provides all new students with guidance and support for successfully transitioning to college-level studies and making informed decisions about the academic goals they want to pursue.

The integration of the College's programs and services into an increasingly seamless system of guidance and support for students will take another important step forward starting next fall with the launch of the College's new First Year Experience model, which integrates orientation, freshman seminar, academic advisement, and other support services.



# Herkimer

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## Congratulations to the Class of 2021!



Herkimer County Community College held its 53rd annual Commencement virtually on Friday, May 14th. There were 389 graduates and candidates for associate degrees and certificates. Of those, 84 completed their degrees entirely online through the College's Internet Academy.

The student speech, titled "Who Are Your Mentors," was delivered by Aidan McFerran '21 (Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S.) of Delmar, NY. McFerran said, "I am proof that mentorship can change someone's life. Find your mentor, and be that mentor for others. Welcome advice, and use it to educate others. Remember, you are limitless. Continue to create small goals and act on them today as we have this whole year."

A list of the graduates and a video of the ceremony are available at [www.herkimer.edu/commencement](http://www.herkimer.edu/commencement).

## Students & staff collect 28 bags of trash during spring highway clean-up

Herkimer College students and staff did their part to help clean up the community on May 6<sup>th</sup>. About 25 students and employees voluntarily spent their evening cleaning up litter and other debris along a two-mile stretch of Route 5, between Herkimer and Little Falls. Within a two-hour timeframe, the team was able to collect 28 full bags of trash for proper disposal. The initiative was created in collaboration with the regional Clean & Green program by Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful (KMVB), an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful program representing the six-county, Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council. The clean-up effort was conducted along the route adopted by Herkimer College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

"We were happy to be able to do our part for the community and environment, while also enjoying the fresh air and camaraderie," said Rebecca Ruffing, director of public relations.



## FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP-DWI:



DID YOU KNOW???

### BIKING LAWS REVIEWED FOR BOTH CYCLISTS AND DRIVERS

Now that nice weather is here, biking will be on the increase. It's a great way to get exercise and enjoy our rural roads at the same time. But, biking can be dangerous, and contributing to this is lack of knowledge of applicable laws by both drivers and cyclists.

You may have read a recent news article describing how retired NBA player Shawn Bradley, 48, was paralyzed after a car crashed into his bicycle in Utah in January. Adding literal insult to injury was the way the news media, including the Salt Lake Tribune, ESPN, The Boston Globe, and nba.com, covered it: most stated something like "former NBA center paralyzed in cycling accident". Using the word "accident" implies that the situation could not have been prevented. However, that is usually not the case when it comes to drivers in cars hitting cyclists. "Crash" is a better choice than "accident" because it's a simple factual statement of what happened.

Now let's review applicable traffic laws. First, and most important, bicycles, by law, have just as much right to use our streets and roads as do motor vehicles. However, cyclists are also required by law to obey the same laws that apply to drivers, like stopping for pedestrians in a crosswalk, and obeying all traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. This includes stopping for stop signs and red traffic signals, which an incredible number of cyclists seem to ignore. Bicycles are required by law to **ride on the right side of the road, with traffic**, not against traffic like pedestrians must do when walking along the road. Bicyclists are more visible and their movements more predictable when they ride with traffic. Riding against traffic is one of the leading causes of crashes.

The law requires bicyclists to use hand signals for turns or lane changes. They must have a bell or horn audible for 100 feet, and if they ride at night, they must have a white front headlight visible for at least 500 feet, and a red taillight visible for at least 300 feet. LED technology is readily available for cyclists and is very important to their safety. Riding with a red rear LED light on "flashing" mode during the daytime increases the safety of the cyclist. These lights get the attention of motorists coming from behind. Flashing lights on bicycles, as opposed to vehicles, are allowed because a bicycle is not a "motor vehicle". High visibility clothing is also important for the safety of the bicyclist.

The law also requires bicyclists less than 14 years old to wear a certified bike helmet. A parent who permits his or her child to violate this helmet law is subject to a fine of up to \$50. For safety reasons, **ALL** bicyclists should wear helmets. Adults should set the example because children learn from what they see.

Children 1 to 4 years old carried on a bicycle as a passenger must wear a certified bicycle helmet AND ride in a child safety seat. Children less than one are prohibited from being transported on a bicycle.

Now for motorists - first, remember that bicyclists have just as much right to use the street or road as you do. Respect them, and give them space. Any collision between a bicyclist and a motor vehicle will result in the motor vehicle winning. When approaching a bicyclist from behind, move over into the oncoming lane if no vehicles are approaching. It's permissible to cross even a double solid line to pass a bicyclist, provided it is safe to do so. If there are approaching vehicles, move as far to the left of your lane as possible and SLOW DOWN! Section 1122-a of Vehicle and Traffic Law requires the driver of a vehicle overtaking, from behind, a bicycle proceeding on the same side of a roadway to pass to the left of such bicycle "**at a safe distance until safely clear thereof**".

So let's be courteous and share the road, motorists AND bicyclists. Now get out there - get your daily exercise and safely enjoy your bike ride.

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



## FROM HERKIMER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT.:



According to Herkimer County Highway Superintendent Mark Nagele, spring is a very busy time of year for the Herkimer County Highway Department. They maintain 574 centerline miles of highway, keep 2 local cemeteries nicely mowed on a regular basis and perform numerous other maintenance tasks. This week the department was able to identify and remove a flagpole from the Fairview Cemetery in Little Falls that was in need of repair due to rust damage near the base of the pole. The pole has since been repaired and replaced in the Veterans' section of the cemetery just in time for observance of Memorial Day.



## ETA/WORKING SOLUTIONS:

News from



### Success Story: Alexandria



In 2019, Alexandria spent her summer working for the Herkimer County Employment & Training Summer Youth Employment Program. She was 16 years old at the time and it was her first experience having a job. When she applied for the program, Alex expressed that she was interested in the healthcare field and hoped to one day become a nurse or a doctor!

During that summer, we placed Alex at The Grand Rehabilitation & Nursing at Mohawk Valley in Ilion, NY, as an Activities Aide. Throughout her six weeks at The Grand, Alex gained confidence and valuable experience in her field of interest. She was able to realize how important socialization is for residents in nursing homes. By the end of that first summer she was actually leading activities! This allowed her to develop leadership qualities and gain public speaking experience!

The summer of 2020 presented challenges for everyone, including the Summer Youth Employment Program. Despite the restrictions of a global pandemic, we chose to offer the program with all of the required safety protocols in place. Alex, wanting to expand her healthcare experience, was placed this time at Valley Health Services in Herkimer, NY. At this facility, she was able to shadow the Resident Assistants, LPNs, and CNAs, and assist with more direct care duties. The evaluations from her supervisors and co-workers at the end of the summer provided proof that Alex cared about her work and obviously excelled at it.

After her summer job ended, Alex found part-time employment with Kinney Drugs as a pharmacy clerk, and has worked there throughout her senior year of high school. With graduation fast approaching, we were recently thrilled to learn that Alex has been named salutatorian of her graduation class and is planning to start the nursing program at MVCC this fall!

We want to congratulate Alexandria and wish her well on her journey! We know that she will continue to work hard to achieve her goals and we are so glad that she could be a part of our program for the last two years!



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**NOW HIRING**  
**For the BEST JOB EVER!**

Transportation is available for Herkimer County & Lewis County

FREE Staff Housing\* is available for ages 18+ (\*Restrictions Apply)



Great Employee Perks!

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Love being outdoors?  
←APPLY TODAY! ↓  
WaterSafari.com/jobs

