

# Herkimer County Newsletter

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2019



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***Herkimer County received fantastic news*** that we were selected to receive a \$989,447 grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for our System of Care Expansion and Sustainability Project,” announced Chairman Peplinski of the Herkimer County Legislature.

He added “This grant is a fantastic collaboration between our BOCES, our school systems, the United Way, SUNY Poly, the Center for Family Life and Recovery, ICAN, Herkimer County Catholic Charities, the Neighborhood Center, the PHIP, as well as our County agencies. A special note of thanks to our Director of Public Health, Christina Cain, who spearheaded this grant.”

Ms. Cain stated “There are three important pieces to the four year grant. Firstly, the funding will be used to hire additional Family School Navigators at the schools, which in a limited capacity have already shown marked success for improving our kids’ outcomes in many capacities. Secondly, DESSA software will be purchased for Herkimer County schools, which will assist them with the early identification of children with, or at risk of developing, SED (Serious Emotional Disturbances) and then to track and manage their services to ensure those services are making a positive difference for the child. Lastly, this funding will be used to expand existing services with our local agencies to serve additional children as well as providing intensive services to our children who are currently receiving services.”

Fred Shaw, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee added “This will be a great resource for the children and families in our community allowing the enhancement and expansion of an already existing System of Care. Being awarded this grant is a reinforcement of the successful collaborative process we have followed with fidelity over the last 20 years in Herkimer County.”



**Herkimer County is actively seeking candidates to fill vacancies in various departments. Please check out [www.herkimercounty.org](http://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 2019 Legislature Meeting Dates:**

- October 2— 2:00 PM
- October 23—7:00 PM
- November 13—7:00 PM
- December 11—7:00 PM  
w/Budget Hearing 6:30 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:**

- September 28
- October 19
- December 14

Please visit  
[www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org) 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—5:00PM  
September 3, 2019 to May 22, 2020.

**winter hours**



**HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETINGS**

Mr. Shaw presented a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month while the Legislators wore purple to show their support for the cause, during the October 2nd Meeting of the Legislature.



**MEET THE NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD:**



**JOHN RAYMOND  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Herkimer County is pleased to announce the appointment of John Raymond as Director of Emergency Services.

John was appointed at the Herkimer County Legislature meeting on May 15, 2019. John became a member of the Poland Volunteer Fire Department in 1999. He then began with the County as a Public Safety Telecommunicator in 2003, achieving the position of Senior Telecommunicator in 2007, serving as such until his appointment to Deputy Director of Public Safety, on February 25, 2019.

The Director of Herkimer County Emergency Services can be reached at 315-867-1212



<<<Herkimer County is pleased to announce the re-appointment of Beth Sadlon, Director of Real Property.

The Director of Herkimer County Real Property Tax Services can be reached at 315-867-1153.

>>>Herkimer County is pleased to announce the re-appointment of Christina Cain, Director of Public Health.

The Director of Herkimer County Public Health can be reached at 315-867-1176.



**MENTAL HEALTH VISITS**

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Jun. - 639	Jul. - 672	Aug. - 666

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Jun. - 50	Jul. - 65	Aug.- 62

# FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP DWI:



## DID YOU KNOW???

### SPEED LIMIT 85 MPH

Twenty five years ago the nation’s maximum speed limit was 65 mph. Interestingly, in 1993, a few states, New York included, still had a maximum speed limit of only 55 mph. Over the past 2 1/2 decades, maximum speed limits have been raised in most states, and now the maximum speed limit in the US is 85 mph on some roads in Texas. Many of the mid-west states allow speeds up to 80 mph, while most of the eastern states allow maximum speeds of 70 mph. Only a few remaining states, New York being one of them, have a maximum speed limit of only 65 mph.

An interesting article in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety’s (IIHS) April issue of “Status Report” says rising speed limits over the past 25 years has cost nearly 37,000 lives, including more than 1,900 in 2017 alone, a new IIHS study shows.

Maximum speed limits are set by the states, and they have been rising since the mid-1990s. Proponents of raising the speed limit often argue that such increases simply bring the law in line with reality, since most drivers exceed the limit. Once the limit is raised, however, drivers go even faster.

Today, 41 states have maximum speed limits of 70 mph or higher. Six states have 80 mph limits, and, as previously mentioned, drivers in Texas can legally drive 85 mph on some roads.

For the new study, Charles Farmer, IIHS vice president for research and statistical services, analyzed the effect of changes in the maximum posted limit in every state from 1993 to 2017. Looking at annual traffic fatalities per mile traveled for each state and taking into account other factors that affect fatality rates — including changes in unemployment, the number of potential young drivers (ages 16-24) and the seat belt use rate — he calculated the effect of speed limit increases.

Farmer found that a 5 mph increase in the maximum speed limit was associated with an 8 percent increase in the fatality rate on interstates and freeways — the roads most directly affected by changes to the maximum speed limit — and a 3 percent increase on other roads. In total, over the 25-year study period, there were 36,760 more deaths — 13,638 on interstates and freeways — and 23,122 on other roads — than would have been expected if maximum speed limits hadn’t changed over that time. “Driving 70 instead of 65 saves a driver at best 6½ minutes on a 100-mile trip,” Farmer says. “Before raising speed limits, state lawmakers should consider whether that potential time savings is worth the additional risk to lives.”

Putting this in perspective, in the 25 years from 1993 to 2017, the same period studied by the IIHS, the total fatalities from all commercial airline crashes in the US totaled 1,379, or an average of 55 people per year. It would take about 670 years to kill the same number of people in commercial airline crashes that the IIHS attributes just to the increase of speed limits in the US over the past 25 years.

How important is a few minutes per trip? You be the judge!



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

**2019 Torchbearer Award Recipients Announced**



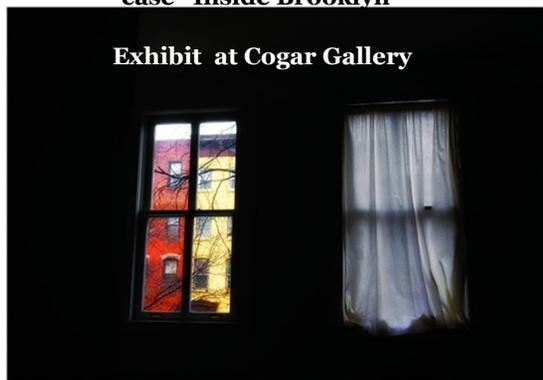
Herkimer County Community College presents Torchbearer Awards every five years to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions to the College's development, with particular attention given to those whose contributions were made in the first 20 years of the College's history (1966-1986). The Torchbearer Awards have been presented since 1999, and recipients include members of the College's emeritus faculty and staff, as well as community members who contributed significantly to the growth and success of the College.

The recipients of the 2019 Herkimer College Torchbearer Awards are: Jeanne Galvin of Richfield Springs, NY; the late Thomas W. Lenahan, who is being honored posthumously; Donald J. Snyder of West Winfield, NY; and Dr. Ronald F. Williams of Herkimer, NY. Check the College's website to learn more about the honorees.

From left: Jeanne Galvin, Thomas W. Lenahan, Donald J. Snyder, and Dr. Ronald F. Williams.

**Utica Local Returns to Showcase "Inside Brooklyn"**

**Exhibit at Cogar Gallery**



Former central New York resident Kathleen Nathan is returning to her roots, bringing her solo photography exhibit "Inside Brooklyn" to Herkimer College's Cogar Gallery.

Nathan grew up in Utica, beginning her studies in photography at RIT and Visual Studies Workshop. She received an A.S. from Empire State College and a B.A. from Stockton College in New Jersey. She headed west to continue developing her photography skills, pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree. She graduated from the Las Vegas Nathan has shown her work extensively in both group shows and solo exhibits across the United States for the last 30 years. "Inside Brooklyn" focuses on the urban landscape viewable out Nathan's apartment window when she moved to the city in February 2011 from Southern California. The pieces explore the nuances of daily life in the city through pictures of nearby windows and brick walls, roof top edges, slices of city skyline, and the 34-story, art deco landmark skyscraper, Williamsburg Savings Bank Tower. University of Nevada with an M.F.A. in 1991. "Inside Brooklyn" will be on display through Friday, October 4. The Cogar Gallery is open to the public free of charge Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. when the College is open. For more information, visit [www.herkimer.edu/cogar](http://www.herkimer.edu/cogar)

**Upcoming Events:**

**Robert H. Wood Great Artist Series presents: The Modernistics**  
 Friday, October 18, 7 p.m.  
 Sarkus-Busch Theater  
 Free and open to the public.

The group performs upbeat shows of music and dance from the Great American Songbook, with crowd-pleasing favorites by Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, Dorothy Fields, George Gershwin and other great American tunesmiths. More info at [www.herkimer.edu/greatartists](http://www.herkimer.edu/greatartists)

**Fall Open House**  
 Saturday, October 19  
 10 a.m. to Noon  
 Robert McLaughlin College Center  
 Join us for Open House! It's a great way for prospective students and their families to learn about our programs and services, meet faculty and students, tour the campus and get answers to all your questions. See you here! Reserve your spot at [www.herkimer.edu/openhouse](http://www.herkimer.edu/openhouse)

**43rd Herkimer County Arts & Crafts Fair**  
 November 9 & 10  
 Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 \$4 admission, children under 5 are free  
 Join us for our annual fundraising event for the Herkimer County College Foundation. Proceeds support student scholarships. Free Parking. Dining Center open. Over 120 vendors. Don't miss this pre-holiday shopping extravaganza! Learn more at [www.herkimer.edu/ac](http://www.herkimer.edu/ac)

**Robert H. Wood Great Artists Series presents: String Orchestra of NYC**  
 Friday, December 13, 7 p.m.  
 Sarkus-Busch Theater  
 Free and open to the public.

Celebrate the season with traditional holiday music as performed by the String Orchestra of New York City. SONYC, founded in 1999, comprises some of this nation's extraordinary string players in a critically acclaimed tour de force ensemble. A conductorless chamber group, SONYC's members rehearse in a collaborative effort that allows each musician to have an impact on the artistic process. The flexibility and intimacy of a string quartet are thus fused with the power and scope of an orchestra.

More events at [www.herkimer.edu/events](http://www.herkimer.edu/events)

## HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONT'D:

### New Paralegal Studies Certificate Program Announced



Herkimer College will be offering a 31-credit certificate in paralegal studies beginning in Fall 2020. The program's focus will be on acquiring training in the core legal content areas such as torts, property/real estate law, contracts, wills trusts, and estates, legal research and writing, civil procedure and litigation, criminal law, family law, and legal ethics.

The certificate program is for individuals interested in seeking employment as paralegals or legal assistants for law firms, district attorney or public defender offices, businesses, governmental agencies and other settings where paralegals are utilized.

Successful graduates from this program will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of legal concepts in the areas of contracts, torts, real property law, civil litigation and procedure, administration of wills, trusts, and estates, and domestic relations law;
- apply the ethical rules and aspirations governing the legal profession to specific factual scenarios;
- conduct legal research on defined issues via computer-assisted and manual methods; and
- prepare drafts of legal memoranda and select pleadings pertinent to various legal content areas.

The paralegal studies certificate may be completed on campus or online through the College's Internet Academy.

### Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS) partners with Herkimer College to offer first-of-its-kind certification on a college campus



From left: Grace Ashline, Instructor and Supervisor of Human Services at Herkimer County Community College; Herkimer College President Cathleen McColgin; Glenn Lieberman, CEO of the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.; and Deborah Faust, Director of Family Engagement & Support Services at the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc., pose for a photo after a signing ceremony at the College on Aug. 15, 2019.

addiction rehabilitation centers, youth residential settings, correctional facilities, etc. A CarePath™ Coach offers support through the engagement of the individual and their family and/or supporters all embarking on the process of recovery together.

The CarePath™ Coach certification course at Herkimer College will provide a comprehensive overview of evidence based and best practices for assisting individuals and families managing mental health and/or substance use challenges. CarePath™ provides a strong foundation for a career in the helping profession, and students enrolled in CarePath™ may also qualify for 20 continuing education credit hours toward the requirement to become a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) through the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

Herkimer College President Cathleen McColgin said, "In addition to providing a valuable credential for our matriculated students in the Human Services program, this partnership allows Herkimer College to expand continuing education opportunities for professionals in the community."

Herkimer County Community College and the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc., (MHANYS) are partnering to offer CarePath™ Coach certification within the College's Human Services degree program. This is the first time MHANYS has teamed up with a college to offer academic learning opportunities.

MHANYS is a not-for-profit organization that aims to end the stigma surrounding mental illness and promote mental health through training, education, advocacy and innovative programming.

CarePath™ is a support tool used to assist individuals and their families and/or supporters during a transition from hospitals, supportive housing,



## GROUNDBREAKING!



Ralph Giovinazzo (Partner), John Piseck (Herkimer County IDA), Assembly woman Marianne Butenschon, Tim Dillon (Partner), Jim Bono (Herkimer County IDA) Senator James Seward, Anthony Giovinazzo (Partner), Glenn Asnoe (Town of Frankfort Supervisor)

Adirondack Food & Fuel held its groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at their new location in Herkimer County at 1 Country Mile in Frankfort in the 5S South Business Park with the Tractor Supply Distribution Center, JBF Stainless and Heidelberg Bakery.

From their website: "Adirondack Food & Fuel is more than a convenience store or a truck stop. It is a one stop shop with fresh quality quick serve food options, readily accessible fueling without congestion & long wait times; and an eclectic grocery selection."

They are hoping to fill a number of positions as the construction of their facility wraps up next month.



FROM EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING:

Herkimer County Employment & Training  
Summer Youth Employment Program 2019

This year our program again offered two separate components. The first one is aimed at those youth ages 16-20. These young people worked 16 hours per week for 7 weeks and were placed at various worksites throughout Herkimer County according to where they lived and what type of job they might be interested in. Leanna (left) and Alexandria (right) are both 16 years old and starting their junior year of high school. This summer they worked at The Grand Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Ilion. When asked about their experiences at the end of the program, they told us that they liked learning new skills at the Grand. In addition, they felt that the experience taught them ways to communicate better with co-workers and how to handle difficult situations at work.



We also offered a separate component to those youth ages 14 & 15. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, we partnered with Herkimer BOCES to give student workers an opportunity to explore the BOCES Career and Technical Education programs, while also working to obtain job skills throughout the six weeks of summer vacation. The CTE programs included Automotive, Conservation, Culinary, and Manufacturing. Students were able to spend a six day rotation in each of these areas in order to learn more about each individual career path and complete work associated with that path. Employment readiness and life skills were infused throughout their day and financial literacy instruction was also included.

During the six weeks, youth were able to work both on and off the BOCES Campus. Field trips included:  
Village of Herkimer - Brookwood & Meyers Park - Students provided ground cleanup and trash removal.

Advance Auto Parts, Herkimer - Students provided free car washes to the community. On average students washed 40 plus cars a day.

Remington Arms - Students toured the facility to review manufacturing and assembly lines.

Heidelberg Bakery - Students toured the facility to learn about food production, manufacturing, packaging, and assembling.

ARC Goods Store, Herkimer - Students assembled furniture for the store to sell to customers.

Herkimer BOCES does a beautiful job of running this program. Each year they have provided free breakfast and lunch to the students through a grant and they also coordinate bus transportation for each student from their home district if needed.

Here are some pictures from this years' 14/15 program:



# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, According to the 2010 Federal Census figures, Herkimer County is home to over 15,022 Senior Citizens that reside in Herkimer County; and

WHEREAS, Our Senior Citizens have survived the depression, fought wars, raised families, built businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, Through their experience and dedication to a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice they are the substance of what has made Herkimer County great; and

WHEREAS, The Senior Citizens of Herkimer County are being honored with a Senior Citizen Picnic with bingo games, prizes, food and fun; Now, Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That I, BERNARD PEPLINSKI, SR., Chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature do deem it fitting and appropriate to proclaim, Wednesday, June 19, 2019 as, "SENIOR CITIZEN DAY" in Herkimer County and urge all the residents of the County to join in the celebration.

Dated: June 18, 2019.

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



*Bernard Peplinski, Sr.*

BERNARD PEPLINSKI, SR., Chairman  
Herkimer County Legislature

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH:



**Herkimer County Public Health**

301 N. Washington St.  
 Herkimer N. Y. 13350  
 Phone (315) 867-1176 Fax (315) 867-1612

**2019 Rabies Vaccination Schedule**

All cats, dogs and ferrets three months or older must be vaccinated even if they stay indoors  
 Every dog and cat needs two rabies vaccinations one year apart then one every three years

Bring proof of the pet's vaccination history to receive a three year certificate  
 Ferrets must be vaccinated every year

Dogs should be on a leash, cats and ferrets should be in a carrier or pillowcase  
 NO EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN, Please help to move the clinic along, Thank you.

Owners are responsible to clean up after their animals, supplies are provided.

**A \$5.00 donation per pet** is suggested to defray costs, Thank you.

Date/Day/Time	Location
<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup></b> , Thursday 5:30-7:00 pm	<b>Little Falls Town Garage</b> 478 Flint Ave. Ext. Little Falls
<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup></b> , Saturday 10:00-12:00	<b>East Herkimer Fire Department</b> 193 Main Rd. East Herkimer

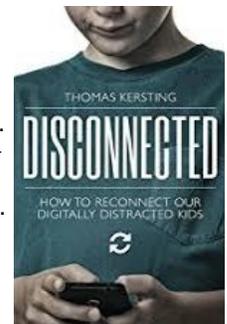
FROM HERKIMER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU:

**Disconnected: How to Reconnect Our Digitally Distracted Kids**

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Violence Prevention Committee, chaired by Herkimer County Administrator James Wallace, was pleased to facilitate a speaker on the topic of youth and the effects of electronics on their brain and social development. Over 500 people attended the 2 ½ hour event at Herkimer College, with heavy attendance from teachers and staff from 3 local school districts. Central Valley Academy, Frankfort-Schuyler, and Herkimer schools were very well represented, as well as representatives from Herkimer County government and area human services agencies.

Tom Kersting, a long time school counselor, psychotherapist, author and nationally sought after speaker, spoke to the audience about how the excessive use of electronics (smart phones, tablets, computers) is affecting the developing brains of youth. He explained research that has shown how too much time spent in the cyber world is actually re-wiring kids' brains, affecting their ability to flourish in the real world as anxiety, depression and attention issues soar among our youth. Mr. Kersting showed actual slides of the neural pathways in young brains, and shocked the audience with the realization that the pathways responsible for social interactions are "dying" as a result of not being used, while the pathways stimulated by electronics are increasing in number. He spoke of the effects of the overuse of technology by youth as resulting in increasing rates of attention deficit, depression, anxiety and a general lack of interpersonal skills, and how in his role as a school

counselor he has noticed how quickly these issues are beginning to overwhelm students. Additionally, lack of sleep due to use of electronics during what should be sleep time for youth, adds to the issues our kids are facing. Mr. Kersting offered advice to the audience



on ways to help reduce screen time to help our children "reclaim their brains and their lives"; using such simple solutions as family dinner hour, playing interactive board games, and no electronics in youth bedrooms.

Comments from the audience: I believe his comments were helpful for elementary teachers, especially regarding the importance of having recess without technology.

We should send home information regarding Tom's book to

give our parents an opportunity to dig deeper into the topic.

I think he was a tremendous presenter. We should make his comments and suggestions available to the community. I thought the presentation was excellent. I was struck by the information about how screen time affects kids, social interactions, self-esteem and overall mental and emotional well-being. This would be a great presentation to have parents sit on. Overall, I related to his "old school" way of parenting.

## SWCD Hydroseeding Program – From Webb to Warren

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has offered hydroseeding services to municipalities for its third season. The SWCD has worked with municipal Highway Departments, as well as the County Highway Department to hydroseed 21 sites throughout 7 towns so far in 2019. These sites total over 208,000 square feet, which include nearly 5 linear miles of road ditch. The benefits of hydroseeding include stabilizing exposed soil, reducing erosion, and improving water quality. The SWCD offers these services at no cost to municipalities within Herkimer County for seeding municipal-owned property and rights-of-way on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a great practice to implement after ditches have been cleaned out. This program runs from early summer through late September. Below are photos of District staff hydroseeding in the county's northern-most town, Webb (1 & 2), and hydroseeded sites in the southern-most town, Warren (3 & 4). For additional information, feel free to call the office at (315) 866-2520 Ext. 5.



1. Hydroseeding Joy Tract Rd. at Bisby Rd. intersection.



2. Hydroseeding Moose River Trail at Russel St. intersection.



3. Recently cleaned ditch hydroseeded on Atswell Rd.



4. Recently cleaned ditch hydroseeded on Hicks Rd.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

*From The Office of*

**HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

109 MARY ST. SUITE 1306

HERKIMER, NY 13350-2920

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



Early Voting is being provided to the voters of Herkimer County at the Herkimer County Office Building at 109 Mary St in Herkimer in room 301 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The dates and times for Early Voting are as follows:

Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:00AM-2:00PM  
Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> – 9:00AM-2:00PM  
Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> – 9:00AM-5:00PM  
Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> – 12:00PM-8:00PM  
Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup> – 12:00PM-8:00PM  
Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup> – 9:00AM-5:00PM  
Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> – 9:00AM-5:00PM  
Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9:00AM-2:00PM  
Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:00AM-2:00PM

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 in Within Herkimer County are eligible to vote at this site during the designated hours.

This Poll Site is accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

If you have any questions please contact our office at  
315-867-1102 or [hcboe@herkimercounty.org](mailto:hcboe@herkimercounty.org)