

# Herkimer County Newsletter

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2023



## FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY

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Herkimer County Veterans' Service Agency held a ceremony to unveil 47 names of Herkimer County Veterans that have been engraved in the Herkimer County Veterans Memorial Park. The ceremony took place on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The Veterans Memorial Park is located on the campus of Herkimer County Community College by the entrance to Wehrum Stadium.

There were numerous veterans, family members, and local visitors in attendance to honor the veterans. A special thanks to Major General Schanely, US Army Retired, as the guest speaker and to deliver her message on what Veterans Day signifies. Also, in attendance were Assemblyman Miller and Assemblyman Smullen to greet and thank the veterans for their service. The ceremony was kicked off by the playing of the National Anthem and ended with the playing of Taps by Patrick Carney of West Winfield. Thank you all in attendance and the continued support for our local veterans.

**Upcoming 2023 Legislature Meeting Dates:**

- January 4— 2:00 PM
- January 25—7:00 PM
- February 15—7:00 PM
- March 15—7:00 PM

For information and meeting minutes visit our website at [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org)

**Civil Service Exams:**

- January 28
- February 11 & 25
- March 4 & 25

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:**

- January 2— New Years Day (observed)
- January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 20—Presidents' Day

\*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded



County Office Building  
Winter Hours  
8:00AM—4:30PM  
September 2022 to May, 2023



**FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER:**

The 2023 Tentative Budget requests appropriations of \$112,182,839 which represent an increase of \$4,766,566 or 4.44%, from the 2022 budgeted appropriations. Revenues for the 2023 Tentative Budget are recorded at \$48,463,777, up \$2,469,544 or 5.37 % from 2022.

Appropriated General Fund Balance is \$0 for a fifth year in a row, and Appropriated Highway Fund Balance totals \$1,000,000. There was NO increase to the County property tax levy, and due to changes in equalization rates the average tax rate will drop from \$4.71to \$4.32 per \$1000 of assessed value.

Through the combined efforts of the Ways & Means Committee, the full legislature, County Administrator, budget office and department heads, the 2023 Budget developed into a solid, fiscally smart financial plan without any increase to the taxpayer. Thanks to all involved for your cooperation and effort in developing the 2023 Budget.



- Herkimer County Mental Health: (315) 867-1465**  
[www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/mental-health.php](http://www.herkimercounty.org/services-and-departments/mental-health.php)
- Beacon Center (outpatient substance abuse): (315) 717-0789**  
[www.beaconcenter.net/locations/herkimer/](http://www.beaconcenter.net/locations/herkimer/)
- Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT): (315) 732-6228**  
[www.neighborhoodctr.org/services/mobile-crisis-assessment-team/](http://www.neighborhoodctr.org/services/mobile-crisis-assessment-team/)
- RISE Recovery Community Outreach Center: (315) 717-3162**  
[www.risercoc.org](http://www.risercoc.org)
- NY Project Hope: 1-844-863-9314**  
[Nyprojecthope.org](http://Nyprojecthope.org)

**MENTAL HEALTH VISITS**

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Sept. - 726	Oct. - 681	Nov. -615

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Sept. - 53	Oct. - 50	Nov.- 57

FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

"The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation has awarded \$279.3 million in WIIA and IMG grants to support nearly \$1 billion in projects across the state that protect public health or improve water quality. The Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency (HCIDA) has received **\$9,358,800** of this total, which is one of the largest grants awarded. This opportunity is helping Herkimer County develop the Eastern Mohawk Valley Regional Water Transmission Main, a 10.4-mile line that will serve the Villages of Herkimer, Ilion, and Frankfort, and the Towns of Herkimer and Schuyler. The new transmission main will be connected to the Mohawk Valley Water Authority's existing water delivery system, which will provide quality drinking water service to over 22,000 residents as both a primary and backup supply for several communities in Herkimer County."



FROM STOP-DWI:

**DID YOU KNOW???**  
**ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, PLUS DRIVING EQUALS BAD COCKTAIL**

Alcohol has been legal since the days of prohibition. Recreational marijuana has been legal in NYS since 2021. A third of drivers who drink alcohol and use marijuana at the same time report getting behind the wheel within two hours of consumption, a new study from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) shows. That's a concern because evidence suggests the combination of alcohol and marijuana worsens driving performance more than either substance by itself.

Only 1 in 10 drivers surveyed by IIHS reported using alcohol and marijuana simultaneously over the past year, compared with 7 in 10 who reported past-year drinking. But among those simultaneous users, 33 percent reported drinking alcohol and consuming marijuana and then getting behind the wheel within two hours.

"Alcohol impairment is associated with almost 30 percent of the fatalities on our roadways, and we have made very little progress to reduce this toll over the past three decades. Now we are adding another impairing substance to the mix," IIHS President David Harkey said ahead of his presentation at the annual meeting of the Governors' Highway Safety Association in Louisville, Kentucky.

Recent research shows that young adults are more likely to drive or take other risks after using both substances than after consuming marijuana alone. But while legalization is associated with increases in the number of people who sometimes drink alcohol and sometimes use marijuana, it's unclear from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health how frequently they're consuming the two substances simultaneously.

To begin exploring that question, IIHS surveyed more than 3,000 adult drivers across Connecticut, Delaware, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia about their opinions and behaviors related to alcohol, marijuana, and driving. Connecticut, New York, and Virginia all legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2021, while it remains illegal in Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Past-year alcohol use was lowest among drivers ages 18-20 and highest among those 30-39, while past-year marijuana use was lowest among drivers 70 and older and highest among drivers ages 21-29. Self-reports of driving within two hours of using alcohol, marijuana or both followed the same broad pattern.

Men were more likely than women to use either substance before getting behind the wheel. About 25 percent of men reported drinking and driving, compared with 15 percent of women. Twelve percent of men reported using marijuana and 5 percent reported using both marijuana and alcohol before driving, compared with 8 percent and 3 percent of women.

"We don't have enough data yet to draw conclusions about how the legal status of marijuana may be affecting how people are using it," said Senior Research Scientist Angela Eichelberger, lead author of the paper. "We're working on that question now to see if we can identify any clear trends."



A substantially greater portion of drivers ages 50 and older than drivers ages 18-29 agreed that marijuana increases crash risk, while at least 90 percent of drivers from all age groups agreed that alcohol makes driving more dangerous. What do you think?

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.



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING:

**Please find below the information about our 2023 Office for the Aging Person of the Year Awards. The Herkimer County Advisory Council recognizes to older adults each that have given back to our community. We encourage you to nominate any adult over the age of 60 that has given back to our community.**

**Please help us get the word out about these awards.**

**The Herkimer County Office for the Aging's Advisory Council is seeking nominations for their two (2) annual awards: Office for the Aging Person of the Year and Outstanding Contribution.**

**Nominees must be Herkimer County residents at least 60 years of age and have a history of volunteer service to other senior citizens. All nominations must include the name, address, and age of the nominee, along with a brief narrative (less than 400 words) of the reasons why the person should receive the award. Anyone who has been nominated before but was not selected can be re-nominated. Self-nominations will not be accepted.**

**The person submitting the nomination should include his or her own name, address and phone number.**

**Office for the Aging Person of the Year award nomination information is also available at our web site; please see [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org), then 'Departments', then 'Office for the Aging', then 'Annual Awards.'**

**Nominations must be received by Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Please send them to: Advisory Council, Herkimer County Office for the Aging, 109 Mary Street, Suite 1101, Herkimer, NY 13350 or by email to [hcofa@herkimercounty.org](mailto:hcofa@herkimercounty.org).**

**OFFICE FOR THE AGING CONT'D:**

**Office for the Aging placed gift tags on the Christmas tree in the lobby of the County building in Herkimer. With the help of county employees, Legislators, local churches, and many other community members and organizations the Office for the Aging was able to distribute over 135 Christmas gifts to older adults in Herkimer County. These older adults who received the gifts and food were so thankful that someone was thinking of them.**

**Office for the Aging staff delivered the packages to the older adults. The staff were greeted with smiles. These individuals appreciated the generosity of all of those individuals who contributed to this effort.**

**We hope to continue this event in 2023 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.**

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 FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

**PRESIDENT McCOLGIN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Herkimer County Community College President Cathleen C. McColgin announced her retirement in November, after serving as the College's fourth president. McColgin's retirement will be effective August 31, 2023.

"I am so proud to have worked with the dedicated faculty and staff at Herkimer College," McColgin said. "Together we have realized so many accomplishments. While Herkimer College will always hold a special place in my heart, I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life and spending time with my husband and family."

During McColgin's seven plus years as president, several new programs were developed including Health Professions, Electrical Technology, Supply Chain Management, and Communication and Media associate degree programs; Pre-Employment Police Basic Training and Emergency Management certificate programs; and a Supply Chain Management micro-credential program.

McColgin also led the multi-million dollar construction project of an electrical technology smart grid lab in partnership with the New York Power Authority. Recent student success initiatives have included the Commit 2 Complete and BookMarket programs, a General's Cupboard food pantry, and several new mental health and wellness services.

McColgin has been a staunch supporter of the Generals Athletics program, attending as many competitions as possible. Under her leadership, the Generals won national championships in baseball, men's basketball, men's soccer, track and field, and cross country. Additionally, the College added men's golf and esports to its growing catalog of intercollegiate athletic teams.

It was refreshing to have someone like the president listen to the students and make changes that benefited us," Kyle Poulos, Herkimer College Board of Trustees student trustee said. We could also always rely on seeing her supporting our athletic teams at the games."

McColgin led the College through the unprecedented, challenging COVID-19 pandemic, responding to the ever-changing information and guidance in a careful, compassionate, and hands-on manner. Every decision made was guided by her commitment to continuing to provide an excellent education and student support, while ensuring the health and safety of the campus community. She also directed the College through a successful Middle States reaccreditation process and development of its new five-year strategic plan, Building on Our Legacy, Investing in the Future.

According to Herkimer College Board of Trustees Chairwoman Isabella Crandall, McColgin has served the institution with dedication and diligence. "Dr. McColgin has been a tireless advocate for community colleges and especially for Herkimer College, Crandall said. "She has led Herkimer through very challenging times including a worldwide pandemic, and she is leaving the College positioned for growth in the future. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank Dr. McColgin for her outstanding leadership, service, and commitment to Herkimer College and wish her all the best in her retirement."

Dr. McColgin serves as president of the New York Community College Presidents (NYCCAP) and is a member of the President's Advisory Council for the National Junior College Athletic Association Board of Regents. She is a member of the Higher Education Research and Development Institute, a national advisory board comprised of community college presidents; and serves as an evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

McColgin also has served on numerous boards and committees in the Mohawk Valley. She currently serves as vice president of the Board of Directors for the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley and is a member of SUNY Polytechnic Institute's College of Health Science Advisory Board, the Regional Advisory Board of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Utica Region, the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties Board of Trustees, and the Mohawk Valley EDGE Board of Directors.

McColgin joined the Herkimer College community in June 2015 after serving as provost and senior vice president at Onondaga Community College. She previously held roles as provost of Cayuga Community College's Fulton Campus and as a faculty member and coordinator of the Nursing Arts Laboratory at Cayuga. A registered nurse, she served as an officer in the United States Army Reserve as a member of the 376th Combat Support Hospital, obtaining the rank of captain.

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HCCC CONT'D:



### Herkimer College Establishes Partnership with Embry-Riddle

Thanks to a new partnership, students in the Emergency Management Certificate program at Herkimer College can now transfer up to 18 credits toward the fully online Bachelor of Science in Emergency Services degree offered by Embry-Riddle's World-wide Campus.

Herkimer's certificate program in Emergency Management provides contemporary knowledge and expertise to lead, manage, or support disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in emergency management. It is an online, one-year program designed for transitioning professionals and those seeking industry-specific course work essential to support whole community emergency management programs.

Embry-Riddle's B.S. in Emergency Services is among the few that carry the "Certificate of Recognition" from Fire Emergency Services Higher Education and is also accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. With a curriculum specifically designed to address all critical knowledge areas needed for today's emergency responders, their program is globally recognized for providing career advancement opportunities.

For more information about Herkimer College's program, as well as the partnership with Embry-Riddle, visit [www.herkimer.edu/em](http://www.herkimer.edu/em).



### Herkimer College to Host 2023 NJCAA Men's Basketball Championship

Herkimer College has been selected as the host site for the 2022-23 NJCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship, set to take place March 14-19, 2023. The upcoming national tournament will mark the first time the event will be held at Herkimer College.

Last year's tournament was held in Rockford, IL, and in 2019 and 2020, it took place in Rochester, MN. Herkimer is the third location in New York State to host the tournament.

"Herkimer is grateful to the NJCAA for being selected as the host institution of the 2022-2023 NJCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship," said Don Dutcher, Herkimer College Dean of Students/Athletic Director. "We will take great pride in providing an exceptional experience for the student-athletes, coaches, families, friends, and community involved with the tournament. It is a unique opportunity for Herkimer to be part of the national spotlight in showcasing a high-level basketball tournament."



## FROM SOIL & WATER:

### When AEM and EQIP join forces!

An organic dairy farm grazes their 100 cows on the rolling hills of Schuyler NY and was interested in optimizing the quality of their grazing lands. With this goal in mind, the farm reached out to the Herkimer’s USDA Natural Resources (NRCS) office. A pasture evaluation determined a lack of diverse forage species, livestock concentration areas, soil compaction and inconsistent utilization of the pasture; along with the dairy cows having full access to multiple tributaries of Sterling Creek a Class C stream. With these issues as the focus, NRCS worked with the farm and assisted in creating 2 Prescribed Grazing Systems – one for the lactating herd and another for the dry herd. Each system included a series of rotational paddocks, laneways, fence, water distribution and some financial assistance all designed to treat the issues found during the pasture evaluation.

The farm presented the project to the Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District because the pandemic had caused a very dramatic increase in the price of materials and project costs. Starting in AEM Round 16 a Tier 4 Cost Share Program was added to aid in the implementation of best management practices on farms who work through the AEM program tiers. The district had seen the potential impacts on water and soil quality this project would make in the Sterling Creek watershed. The district applied for these funds for the implementation of a watering system as a part of the prescribed rotational grazing system in AEM Round 17.

The watering system includes livestock pipeline, watering facilities, pumping plant, critical area planting, and mulching. The watering system is a vital component of the prescribed rotational grazing system allowing the livestock to be grazing for extended periods of time without them needing to access a different water source, which could create a potential risk for water quality. The farm’s contractor has installed the watering system as seen in the pictures below.



Figure 1. Contractor and farmer assembling the first frost-free hydrant.



Figure 2. Completed frost-free hydrant with shut-off valve.

SOIL & WATER CONT'D:



Figure 3. New holding and pressure tanks were installed because of conflicting pipe sizes between the barn and the watering system.

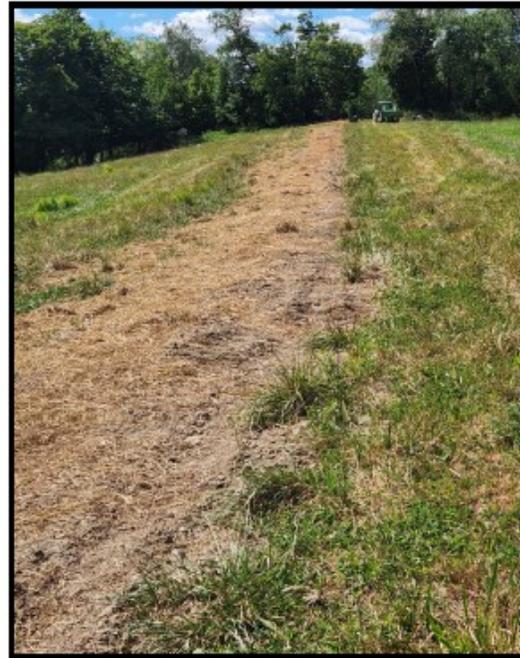


Figure 5. Any disturbed area's were seeded and mulched.



Figure 4. New watering facility being filled from the system.