

# Herkimer County Newsletter

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2023



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## Herkimer County Senior Citizen Picnic 2023!

Herkimer County held its Senior Citizen Picnic on June 28, 2023. 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 450 seniors participating.

Seniors who registered were provided lunch from KFC and an opportunity to play bingo. 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! We could not be more thankful and humbled by our community supports.

A very special thank you to our national anthem singer, Lucy Johns! With the help of all involved, our Senior Picnic 2023 was a great success!



**Upcoming 2023 Legislature Meeting Dates:**

- July 12 – 2:00 PM
- August 9 – 7:00 PM
- September 13 – 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:**

- September 9

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:**

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

\*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded



County Office Building  
Summer Hours  
8:00AM—4:00PM  
May 26, 2023—September 1,  
2023

**SUMMER HOURS**



HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETINGS



During the July 12, 2023 Legislature Meeting, Chairman Bono presented outgoing Director of ETA, Karin Piseck with a plaque for her over 30 years of distinguished service to Herkimer County. Thank you, Karin! Best wishes in retirement!



During the July 12, 2023 Legislature Meeting, Legislator Weakley, with Commissioner Seymour looking on, presents awards to employees Chris Marsden (Coordinator), Cathy Lowell, Debbie Smith, Trinity Kirchberg, Kim Collis, Eva Kirchberg, and Mary Talbot, who volunteer their time to assist with the VITA Program.

**MENTAL HEALTH VISITS**

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Mar. - <b>664</b> (65% in person and 35% telehealth)	Apr. - <b>590</b> (63% in person and 37% telehealth)	May - <b>676</b> (66% in person and 34% telehealth)

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Mar. - <b>53</b>	Apr. - <b>44</b>	May - <b>78</b>



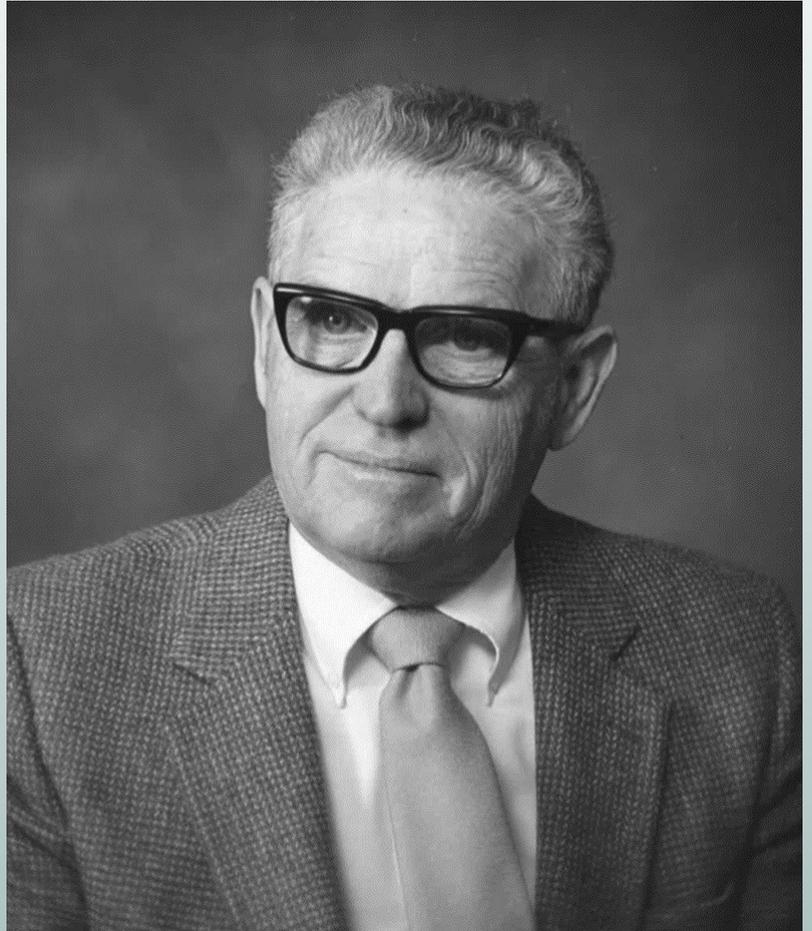
## FROM HERKIMER COLLEGE:

### Herkimer College Mourns Passing of Founding President

Robert McLaughlin, Herkimer County Community College's founding president, passed away on May 23, 2023, in Geneseo, NY at the age of 101.

Mr. McLaughlin's passion for education led him to a leadership role at SUNY Farmingdale, and then as president of Herkimer County Community College, where he served from 1966 to 1986. As the founding president, he played a pivotal role in shaping the institution's vision and ensuring its future success. Throughout his 20 years of dedication to Herkimer College, he initiated and oversaw the development of academic programs, student services, and institutional facilities. He also engaged the services of the original faculty. As a result of his many efforts, Mr. McLaughlin gained stature as one of the most respected presidents among the community colleges in SUNY system. The College Center was named for and dedicated to Robert McLaughlin on May 25, 1986. He also was named president emeritus upon his retirement and later honored with the Torchbearer award.

"President McLaughlin was a true visionary," Herkimer College Senior Vice President for Administration & Finance and Officer in Charge Nicholas F. Laino said. "His unwavering dedication to accessible education and bold leadership leaves behind a lasting legacy. We are deeply saddened at his passing, and on behalf of the entire campus community, we extend our most heartfelt condolences to the McLaughlin family."



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### College Presidential Search Process Announced

The Herkimer College Board of Trustees has begun the search process for the fifth president. To assist with the search, the Board has engaged Pauly Group, Inc., a national search consulting firm that assists in the recruitment and successful hiring of community college executives.

Trustee William Gregory will serve as chair of the Presidential Search Committee and recently announced to the campus details about the process, which includes final candidate meetings with various constituency groups in mid-November and approval of the successful candidate by the SUNY Board in mid-December. "It is an exciting time for Herkimer College. Please stay tuned for additional information about the process," stated Gregory.

The College's fourth president, Dr. Cathleen McColgin, has retired after serving nearly eight years at Herkimer. The Board of Trustees and executive team recently hosted a luncheon in honor of Dr. McColgin. She was also recognized publicly at the College's employee recognition and commencement ceremonies.

## HCCC CONT'D:

## New Board of Trustees Officers Elected



At the annual meeting of the Herkimer College Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, the Board elected officers for 2023-2024. Michael Stalteri of Herkimer was elected chairman, Daniel Reardon of Little Falls was elected vice chairman, and Joan Prymas of Ilion was elected secretary.

Stalteri was appointed to the Board of Trustees by the Herkimer County Legislature in October 2018. Stalteri is principal at both the Frankfort Schuyler High School and Middle School. He previously served as assistant principal at Strough Middle School in Rome, principal at Staley Upper Elementary School in Rome, and assistant principal at Rome Free Academy. He also has extensive experience as an adjunct instructor at both Herkimer College and MVCC, and as a school social worker and counselor. Stalteri holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from St. John Fisher College, Master of Social Work from Syracuse University, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Administration from SUNY Cortland.

“It is a great honor to have been elected by my fellow trustees to the chair position. I look forward to working with my fellow trustees, the administration, and the entire campus community in a collaborative manner in support of the mission of Herkimer College,” said Stalteri.



Reardon was appointed to the Board in November 2019. Reardon retired from a career in law enforcement and emergency management, including positions as sheriff of Herkimer County and incident management system coordinator at the New York State Office of Homeland Security. He also served as the liaison between the National Center for Security & Preparedness and the Oriskany, New York-based State Preparedness Training Center for the State University of New York at Albany. Reardon graduated from Herkimer College with an associate degree in social science. He also holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Cortland and a master's degree in education from Marywood College in Pennsylvania.

Prymas was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2015 by Governor Andrew Cuomo and has served as secretary since April 2021. Prymas retired from Herkimer College in 2004 at the rank of professor, after more than 30 years of teaching mathematics. She subsequently was awarded emeritus status. Ms. Prymas holds Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education, Master of Arts in Mathematics and Master of Science in Educational Administration from SUNY Albany.



Stalteri replaces Isabella Crandall of Herkimer as chair. Crandall has served on the Board for 25 years, and has served as secretary, vice chair, and chair. Reardon replaces William Gregory of Frankfort as vice chair. Both Crandall and Gregory will continue to serve as trustees.

## FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



### Herkimer College Athletics Places in Top 5 Nationally

Herkimer College has placed fifth in the 2022-23 Daktronics Cup standings for non-scholarship schools.

The Daktronics Cup is an annual award system run by The National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA), recognizing junior college athletic programs with the most success in post-season competition.

Herkimer had athletes from 11 teams compete in NJCAA Division III national championship tournaments this year.

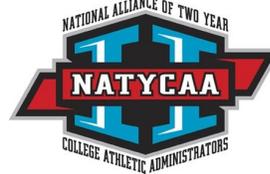


Herkimer is the only non-scholarship junior college program to place in the top 10 each year since the Daktronics Cup's inception in 2003-04 and has been in the top five in 17 of the last 18 years winning the top spot four times.



"I am proud of our athletic program for placing in the top five of this prestigious annual recognition," said Herkimer College Dean of Students/Athletic Director Don Dutcher. "It is a true testament to the year-round dedication from our coaching and athletic staff, student-athletes, faculty, and staff. The support of our campus community is a major piece of the foundation that has built a strong and successful athletics tradition at Herkimer."

NATYCAA is the professional organization of two-year college athletics administrators, and membership is open to all two-year institutions from throughout the country.



## Police Academy at Herkimer College Graduates Fifth Class

Herkimer College graduated its fifth class from the Phase I Pre-Employment Police Basic Training course at a ceremony held on Thursday, June 1, 2023. The course is offered in partnership with the Little Falls Police Department.

Members of the 2023 graduating class are Thomas Bronson, of Remsen, NY; Savka Browneski, of Whitesboro, NY; Jonathan Dupras, of Cambridge, NY; Michael Hagan, of Jordanville, NY; Joshua Muzzi of Johnstown, NY; Hunter Stevens, of Little Falls, NY; and James Waters, of Troy, NY.

Most of the seven cadets were hired prior to graduation by law enforcement agencies, including the Oneida County Sheriff's Department, the City of Little Falls Police Department, the Hoosick Falls Police Department, and the Waterford Police Department, where they will complete the remainder of their training. Herkimer College's Pre-Employment Police Academy launched in the Fall of 2018. Coursework covers topics such as criminal investigations, community relations, emergency preparedness, defensive tactics, and more. For more information about the Pre-Employment Police Academy, visit [Herkimer.edu/police](https://herkimer.edu/police).



## HCCC CONT'D:

### Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

#### Herkimer College Celebrates Class of 2023

Herkimer College held its 55th Commencement on Friday, May 12, 2023. There were 371 graduates and candidates for degrees and certificates eligible to participate.

Jessica M. Marshall '23, of Castleton, NY, delivered a student address titled, *Destinations*.

"At times I have run some stop signs, like taking more classes than I should have one semester," Marshall shared. "I've misplaced the keys and found them again, changing from one major to another trying to see which one fits. But miraculously I have reached my proper destination, and how lucky am I to reach it with all of you."

Jahiem Donell Barber '23, Utica, NY, also delivered a student address titled, *The Road to Success*. "Follow your dreams and don't let anybody tell you differently," Barber advised his fellow classmates. "Remember this quote, 'Be yourself, because originals are worth more than copies.' Don't sit around trying to be like everyone else, be your authentic self."

For the full list of graduates and a recording of the commencement ceremony, visit [www.herkimer.edu/commencement](http://www.herkimer.edu/commencement).  
recording and photo album can be viewed here: [www.herkimer.edu/commencement](http://www.herkimer.edu/commencement)



**Herkimer**  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



## FROM NYS PARKS & REC:

Summer is here and New Yorkers are making plans for how to spend their time enjoying the warm weather. For many, that includes time aboard a boat, soaking up the sun or exploring new waters - likely right in your town.

In 2022, there were 28 New Yorkers who set out for a relaxing day on the boat and never returned home. Recreational boating accidents do happen and, unfortunately, some are fatal. What you may find even more surprising is that more than half of those who died were not operating high speed motor boats, but were actually paddlers. Whether they were in a kayak, canoe, rowboat or on a stand up paddle board, there is one common denominator - wearing a life jacket likely would have saved their lives.

**New York State Parks is asking for your help to spread awareness of this issue and encourage all boaters, especially paddlers, to wear their life jacket every time they board their boat.** We created a 15 second PSA video that you can freely use and share through your social media channels, websites and any other public information channels.

### Helpful information

**Access the video** (and others!) from our YouTube channel. Consider featuring it on your website, distributing in newsletters and sharing it on your social media channels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjDLffKVq2s>

Feel free to **share our Facebook post** - it is pinned to the top of our page <https://www.facebook.com/WearItNewYork>

Looking for **more information** on safe boating? Visit our website: <https://parks.ny.gov/boating/>

**Have questions?** Send us an email at [boating@parks.ny.gov](mailto:boating@parks.ny.gov) or call the Marine Services Education Specialist at 518-408-1028

Towns, counties and other organizations can **host boating safety courses** for their constituents. Reach out to the Marine Services Education Specialist for assistance in locating an instructor in your area by emailing [boating@parks.ny.gov](mailto:boating@parks.ny.gov)

Thank you for your partnership in promoting safe and responsible boating in New York State!

## Marine Services Bureau

## FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP-DWI:

### DID YOU KNOW???

#### RISK ASSESSMENT MAJOR FACTOR IN DISTRACTED DRIVING

"It may come as a surprise, but many drivers still don't realize how dangerous it is to check a text message or glance at their Instagram feed while they're zipping along the road," said Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Research Associate Aimee Cox, the lead author of a recent distracted driving study. Most drivers surveyed agree that distracted driving is a dangerous practice, but not dangerous enough to counter the rewards that go along with it. However, a multifaceted approach could help end distracted driving, the IIHS study found. Since April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, I hope this article is timely.

Activities such as eating or putting on makeup can also increase the risk of a crash, but mobile phones are a particularly tempting distraction. Phone use is now so constant that around half of some 2,000 U.S. drivers surveyed by IIHS reported performing at least one device-based task on most or all drives over the past month. The problem of using apps enabled by smartphones is especially common among parents and drivers employed by app-based rideshare and delivery companies, part of the "Gig" Economy.

In the current study, Cox examined why some people are more likely than others to use their phones while driving and what might persuade them to stop. She found that overall, most drivers agreed that distracted driving increased their risk of crashing, causing a major injury or damaging their vehicle, and most agreed that being reminded by a person they care about that they might hurt or kill someone would motivate them to take steps to avoid distraction. Not surprisingly, however, drivers who regularly interacted with their phones while driving perceived the threat to be less severe and the barriers to giving up the practice to be greater.

In a previous article that I wrote, and when I addressed students in Driver Ed classes, I advised everyone to say something if they saw something that they knew increased the risk of a crash. It could be as simple as not using a turn signal to as dangerous as using a hand-held device while driving.

Erie Insurance commissioned a national survey based on the view of some experts that, for distracted driving to stop, people must be ashamed to do it – it must be socially unacceptable. Their survey found that even though texting while driving is banned in most states, 27% of Americans think it's considered socially acceptable. As for their inclination to speak up, nine out of 10 Americans (90%) say if they were a passenger in a motor vehicle and the driver started texting, they would be likely to tell them to stop.

Why wouldn't the remaining 10% say something? Thirty-seven percent don't feel it's their place to tell a driver what to do, while one in five (21%) say it's because they text while driving, too. Other reasons include "I wouldn't want to start an argument (33%), it would be uncomfortable to say something (32%), it doesn't bother me when someone texts while driving (21%), and I wouldn't want to offend the driver (13%)".

To help people who wouldn't speak up because they wouldn't want to offend the driver or feel it would be uncomfortable to say something, ERIE reached out to a psychology professor whose areas of study include vulnerable road users, driver training, driving styles and hazard perception in driving.

"If you are in a car and the driver starts texting, you could say, 'It looks like you really need to be texting someone right now so why don't you let me drive? I can drive and you can text, and once we get to our destination, you can get back into the driver's seat,'" said Stanislaw Kolek, visiting assistant professor at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. "It's a way to get them to realize that the behavior is not wanted and that you've already come up with a solution. Asking them if you can be the driver in that situation is usually a very non-antagonistic way of getting yourself out of a dangerous situation."

The Erie Insurance survey concludes that most Americans (87%) think passengers should tell drivers to stop texting because the problem will only be solved when it becomes socially unacceptable, while 9% say passengers should not speak up because it should be up to the driver to decide for themselves whether to text while driving. Only 3% say passengers should not tell drivers to stop texting while driving because there's nothing wrong with it.

"We were encouraged to see that passengers can make a difference in getting drivers to change their behavior," said Bob Buckel, vice president & product manager, Erie Insurance. "The more people speak up about unsafe distracted driving behaviors like texting, the less people will do it and the safer roads will be for everyone." Are you among the 87%? If you see something will you say something? I hope so.

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, Herkimer, NY  
315-867-1176**

**2023 RABIES VACCINATION SCHEDULE**



<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>East Herkimer Fire Department</b> 193 Main Road, East Herkimer
<b>April 13<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Ohio Community Rec. Center</b> 140 Nellis Road, Town of Ohio
<b>May 4<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Dolgeville Fire Department</b> 20 South Helmer Ave, Dolgeville
<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Old Forge Fire Department</b> 116 Fulton Street, Old Forge
<b>June 1<sup>st</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Norway Community Center</b> 3114 Military Road, Norway
<b>June 15<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Ilion-Frankfort VFW Pavilion</b> 4274 Acme Road, Frankfort
<b>July 13<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Danube Town Garage</b> 438 Creek Road, Little Falls
<b>August 24<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Salisbury Fire Department</b> 2549 State Route 29, Salisbury Center
<b>September 14<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Cedarville Fire Department</b> 960 State Route 51, Cedarville
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup></b> Thursday 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>Little Falls Town Garage</b> 478 Flint Ave Ext., Little Falls
<b>November 18<sup>th</sup></b> Saturday 10:00 - Noon	<b>East Herkimer Fire Department</b> 193 Main Road, East Herkimer

- All cats, dogs and ferrets three month or older must be vaccinated, even if they stay indoors.
- Every dog and cat need two rabies vaccinations, one year apart, then once every three years.
- Bring proof of the pet's vaccination history to receive a three-year certificate.
- Ferrets must be vaccinated every year.
- Dogs must be on a leash. Cats and ferrets must be in a carrier or pillowcase.
- *No vet exams will be given.*
- Owners are responsible to clean up after their animals. Supplies are provided.
- A \$5.00 donation per pet is suggested to defray costs.



***WALK-IN and PRE-REGISTRATION available for all clinics.***

***Pre-registration at 315-867-1176 will end at noon the day before all clinics.***