

A Special Section of the



June 2, 2023 • Callicoon, NY • Section C

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

JUNE 2023



Tractor drivers get a chance to chat just like the crowd! Ilir Mustafaj of Honesdale and sons say hey to a passing driver.



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Callicoon Tractor Parade hits 27th year Story BY NIC BIRGHER PHOTO BY LEANINE SAGER

PHOTO BY JEANINE SAGER

Kyle and Amy Kerber wave to the crowd during last year's parade.

The Callicoon Tractor Parade rolls into its 27th year on Sunday, June 11. Historically on the second Sunday of June, the Tractor Parade kicks off at noon and will continue down Lower Main Street before ending in front of the Delaware Youth Center (DYC) in Callicoon.

The annual tractor parade is a staple event and often brings thousands of people from all over the county and beyond to Callicoon, so be sure to arrive early if you would like to find parking in town!

Event coordinators ask that you follow the rules, and that parents keep a watchful eye on their little ones as the more than 200 tractors parade around town to the delight of one and all. There is no fee to participate in the parade, however the DYC will happily accept donations of any amount.

In addition to the parade, the Callicoon Vol. Fire Dept. is hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the firehouse and the DYC will also be holding a BBQ immediately following the event at the Delaware Youth Center. Tractor Parade t-shirts – a true collector's item – will also be on sale all day. All proceeds go to support the DYC.

Check out the Callicoon Farmers Market from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. or maybe even see what is playing at the Callicoon Theatre.

Enjoy the charming hamlet of Callicoon, which has something for everyone.





Bill Pykus Sr. 01/30/1950 – 05/25/2023

Bill was the proud owner and operator of Bill Pykus Excavating. He founded the company in 1974 with a goal to make a positive impact in the communities in which he served. Bill took a lot of pride in workmanship and valued his loved ones and employees.

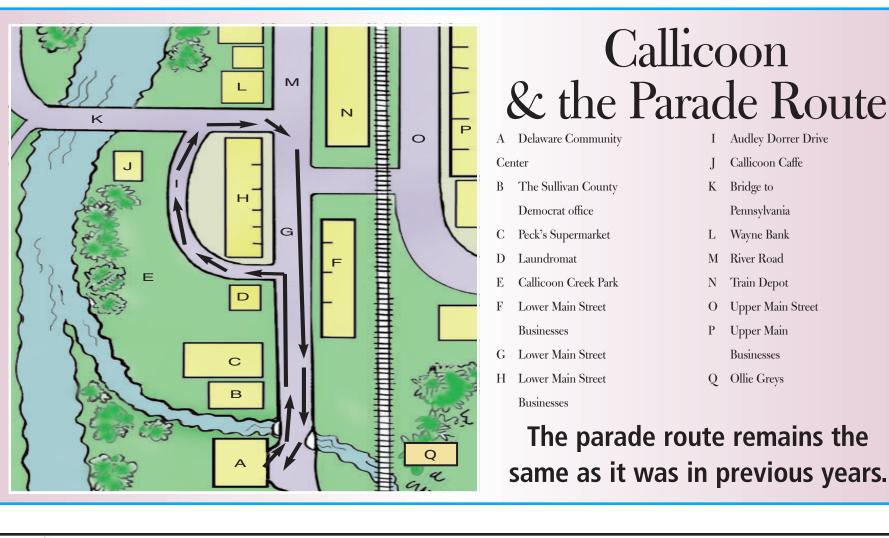
His involvement with the Callicoon Tractor Parade is over 20 years. Bill often entered over 20 tractors in the parade. Many of his friends and family looked forward to being in the parade and it quickly became a tradition.

Rest in peace Bill!

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If You Go...

Who: Local farmers and residents proudly parade their tractors along Callicoon's main thoroughfare

What: 27th Annual Callicoon Tractor Parade

When: Sunday, June 11, at noon

Where: Main St., Callicoon

Why: To celebrate the rich heritage of farming and agriculture in our community and to support the Delaware Youth Center!

Also on June 11

Pancake Breakfast
Callicoon Fire Dept. Firehouse, Route 97 from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 Callicoon Farmers Market

Callicoon Creek Park, Dorrer Dr. from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• Pork and Chicken Barbecue catered by The Ugly Smoker Pit BBQ

Following the parade at the Delaware Youth Center

T-shirts available

\$15 for adults, \$10 for youth, sold in several area locations



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JEANNE SAGER PHOTOS

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CALLICOON TRACTOR PARADE 7T





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Scenes from the Calicoon Tractor Parade





Left: Kerry Hirsch waves from her spot on a trailer behind her dad's tractor.

Below left: Nicole Klinger motors out of the Youth Center on a 1964 Massey Ferguson. JEANNE SAGER PHOTOS

At left: Austin and Ron Ferber man a 1951 John Deere.

At right: Herm Herbert was one of the many farmers in lasr year's parade.

Below: Robert Buck drove Mike Devrieze's 1958 Allis Chalmers D17 in the 2022 parade.





CALLICOON TRACTOR PARADE 11T





At top: Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther did the honors as last year's parade grand marshal on a tractor driven by Briscoe farmer Dave Weiss.

Above: There were big waves from the seat of Brandon Gries' 1975 International.

Bridget of the

Benzina River

Mart says, "I go

every year and

I love it. It's a

great event for

the community as

everyone enjoys

it."

Word on the street

PHOTOS BY ALEX KIELAR

ith the 27th Annual Tractor Parade coming up, the Sullivan County Democrat asked local residents and business employees about what they thought of the annual event.



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with his mom Leila at The Pantry, says, "It's a pretty exciting [event] because it only happens once a year." He says he loves all the tractors, balloons and cookies. Leila says that Samuel has been in the parade every vear since he was born.

Samuel McCullough

Roisin Ni Mhordha says it is her first time seeing the tractor parade since moving to the area from Dublin, Ireland. "I don't know much about [the tractor parade], but I am very excited to get a chance to see it," she said.

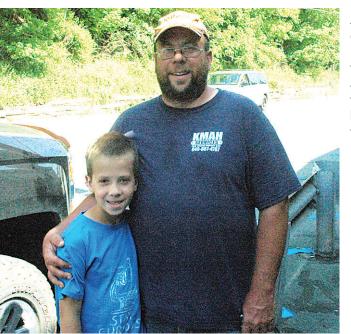


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Aidan, with his dad Kevin, says, "My favorite thing is riding around in the tractor. I love being a part of the parade."

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Judy, right, and Mickenna of the Callicoon Caffe say, "It definitely helps to bring more people into the community." Judy says it is a good distraction from the normal day-to-day.





Riley from Peppinos says her family has been in the parade for at least 20 years. "My grandfather and uncle have been involved with it for a long time and all 11 of my cousins have been on a tractor," she said. "It's a very exciting event."



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SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT



JEANNE SAGER PHOTO

The Kays Farm tractor that always ends the parade always puts on a show! Waving from the front of the giant rig are Kays grandkids Carrie and Beth Sykes.



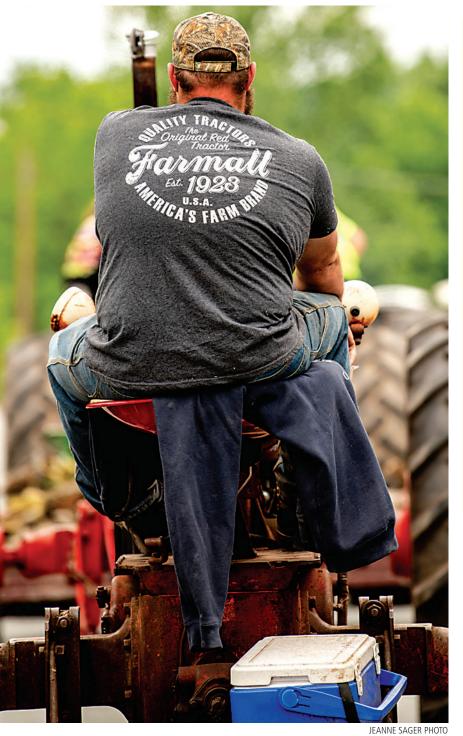
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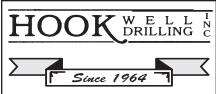
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Kratzes to headline parade

embers of the Delaware Youth Center board often refer to one of the grand marshals of this year's tractor parade as the Youth Center historian.

It's a fitting name. Clarence Kratz has volunteered on the non-profit board for some 40 years now, ever since his own children were young kids who used the facility to roller skate and swim. Those kids are now parents themselves, and Kratz's grandkids have likewise used the Callicoon facility created decades ago to provide youth of the Callicoon community a place of their own.

Still, Kratz stays on the board, he says, because it's his way of continuing to serve his own community.

"It gave me a sense of personal accomplishment being able to support the community the best way I possibly could," Kratz said of his tenure on the board. STORY AND PHOTO BY JEANNE SAGER



Loretta and Clarence Kratz have been honored as this year's marshals.

And now the center that he's given so many years to is honoring Kratz, naming him and wife Loretta as this year's Tractor Parade grand marshals.

It's a tribute that's fitting not just for their combined years of service to the Youth Center — Loretta also volunteered for several years on the board — but the Kratz family's deep roots in the local agricultural community.

Clarence Kratz was raised on the site where the couple now live in the hills above North Branch, a site that was then a working dairy farm. His father was the fifth generation to work the farm that dated back to the 1800s.

After high school, Clarence Kratz joined the US Navy while Loretta, who had moved to the Callicoon area as a young girl, left for college. Married a few years later, the couple eventually returned and set down roots, both working a number of jobs before finding the



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jobs that would define their careers. Loretta spent years at the Monticello Raceway, eventually taking over as director of party packages, while Clarence worked for the New York State Department of Transportation.

In 1983, they purchased a small store in Hortonville, running Kratz's Kountry Korner for a decade as kids Erik and Kristine grew up.

While Clarence volunteered at the Youth Center, Loretta was elected to the Delaware Valley Central School Board of Education, serving 15 years.

Their service was important as parents, Loretta said, but that was just a piece of it. "It was not only for our kids but for the kids in general in the community," she noted.

It's a spirit that drives the many volunteers at the Youth Center, Clarence said, and it's one that's brought people out time and again over the years to help keep the non-profit facility alive and open.

"There'd be times where we'd be \$500, \$600 in debt, no fuel in the tank, and someone would make a donation or Tamarack hunting club would hold a function or the Hortonville Fire Department would hold a ball tournament, helping us out," he explained. "Pinpointing names ... you'd have a book of people who have volunteered."

Those people keep him coming back too, and he's honored as much to be among them as he is with the honor of leading this year's parade.

"I enjoy the people I work with there and the rewards that come out of everybody's effort, theirs more than mine!" Clarence noted.

Those efforts will be on display once again at this year's volunteer-run parade. After all, it's a fundraiser for the non-profit where Kratz has given so much of his time.



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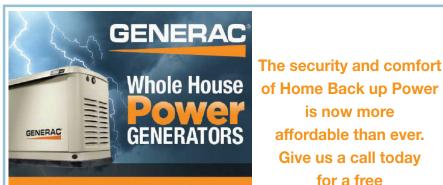
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