

Volume 23 Number 5

FALL 202

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Explore the Sullivan Catskills this Fall

September paints the Sullivan Catskills with hues of gold, crimson, and amber as the foliage undergoes its annual transformation. The region's forests and hills become a canvas of vibrant colors, creating a captivating backdrop for outdoor enthusiasts and photographers.

The cooler temperatures make it an ideal time to explore the region's numerous recreational activities. Hiking trails like the Neversink Unique Area or the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area offer a perfect opportunity to witness nature's artistic expression up close.

As the summer harvest reaches its peak, September in the Sullivan Catskills is a gastronomic delight. Farmers' markets burst with an abundance of fresh produce, locally crafted cheeses, and artisanal goods. The Sullivan Catskills Farm Trail encourages visitors to explore farms, fields, and markets, providing a genuine taste of rural life and a chance to savor the flavors of the season.

Festivals, craft fairs, and community events

celebrate the region's rich heritage, inviting visitors to engage with the vibrant local culture. There are many festivals such as the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, In the Works - In the Woods festival at The Forestburgh Playhouse, and the Big Eddy Film Festival held during the fall.

The Upstate Coffee Crawl connects you to our Sullivan Catskills and beyond coffee shops so you can try them all. Visit ten or more locations and get your card stamped and you'll be entered to win a big prize. This is a great way to celebrate coffee and support local businesses. The event is ongoing now through September 29, which is National Coffee Day!

Whether seeking adventure, inspiration, or relaxation, this captivating region offers an unforgettable experience that lingers in the heart long after the leaves have fallen.

Find more information at www.sullivancatskills.com and follow @SullivanCatskills on Facebook and Instagram. Plan your ultimate getaway on our free app – Sullivan Catskills GO!



Roberta Byron-Lockwood President/ CEO Sullivan Catskills





Editorial Designer Rosalie Mycka Advertising Design Petra Duffy Advertising Director Barbara Matos Special Sections Coordinator Susan Panella Business Manager Sara Wendell

Publisher Fred Stabbert III Editor Autumn Schanil

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ON THE COVER

As the heat of summer falls away and the crisp cool nights of autumn usher in, the leaves on the trees begin to transform, as do we all. Yellow, orange, and red foliage grace the mountain views and harvest season begins. contibuted photo



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a place to make memories

story and photos by Autumn Schanil

Rall is often the preferred season for weddings in the Catskills with cool, breezy nights and warm, golden sunny days. Life starts to quiet down and the leaves begin to change while wild flowers are still sprinkled throughout the fields.

At Handsome Hollow, a wedding venue and grounds tucked away on 93 acres of meadows, fields, fern forests, and mountain views in Long Eddy, the season of weddings also includes a rustic, nearly 300 year old barn and farmhouse.

"To this day, I still don't know

exactly how everything happened," laughed owner Kate Murphy, sitting down at the table on the farmhouse porch. Behind her, the sun was glistening on the roof of the barn while the breeze blew through the trees.

The Handsome Hollow wedding barn, she says, was a working dairy barn until the Spring of 2014 on a property upstate near Albany.

"My husband and I bought this property back in 2000 because we wanted a place to be outside with our kids. The farmhouse was in really bad condition and needed a lot of work, so it became a proj-





The photo to the left, contributed by Love & Wolves Co, shows the walk family and friends take through the meadow to the wedding barn where dance, food, cocktails, laughter and love awaits. The above photo, contributed by Alea Lovely, captures the elegance and richness of the barn ready for the wedding guests.

ect for us," she explained, "but the property was stunning. Throughout the years we always wanted to do something more with it, and that's when I saw barns for sale online."

Kate proposed an idea to her husband, who worked in film and she in advertising, to get the barn, and to make it into a wedding venue to host weddings.

"He told me it was a terrible idea," she laughed, "and then the next morning he changed his mind and said, 'you know, wedding barns apparently are a thing."

So in early 2014 the company selling the barn, dismantled it, fumigated it, re-enforced it, and by October the timbers were delivered and the frame was assembled on site in just 10 days. Over the next eight months local craftsmen worked on the barn and the grounds, bringing it to completion in July of 2015.

"Not long after, we hosted our first wedding," Kate said, scooting her chair back to stand up. "Let's go look at it."

Walking into the barn, you can smell the sweet scent of wood that has been standing tall and strong in the sun for decades. With all the original posts and beams, you can see saw and hammer marks from its initial construction. Touching a post is touching history. The barn has soaring ceilings and large sliding doors on three sides giving the continued on page 8

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CATSKILLS CONFIDENTIAL 7



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feel of being a part of the outdoors while being sheltered from the sun, the wind, and the rain. With over 4,000 square feet of space, the barn comfortably seats 200 people.

Two bathrooms are to each side of the lower level, while stairs made from the barn's original floor lead up to a lounge loft that overlooks the venue. A full commercial kitchen, banquet tables and vintage wood chairs, two bluestone cocktail patios and a large bonfire surrounded by Adirondack chairs complete the package.

Walking from the barn to a pathway through the trees, there are three ceremony sites to choose from: the bluestone ruins of the original property's barn, a clearing in the forest surrounded by ferns and maple trees, or a mountain view in the middle of an open field. All of which surround you with nature, and make for unique and magical photos.

And let's not forget the late 19th century farmhouse, which is one of the first things you see when continued on page 10



One of the sites you can choose to get married is at the bluestone ruins of the property's original barn just a short walk from the wedding barn itself. Handsome Hollow's farmhouse is nestled into the trees, where the couple can stay for the weekend alone, or with guests.



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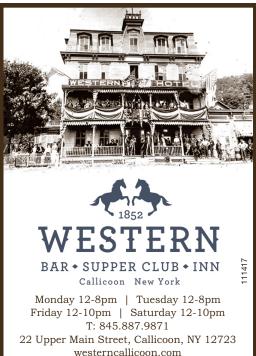
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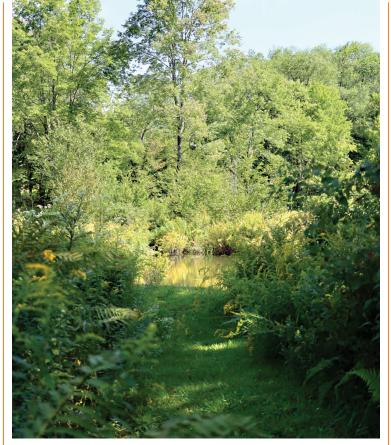
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There are several walking paths close to the wedding barn, some leading to little ponds or streams, making for unique wedding photo backdrops.

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you arrive, and where it all began. When renovating the farmhouse, they made sure they kept all of its original details while also giving it a clean, contemporary feel. There are two oversized bathrooms to get ready in, along with three simple, cozy bedrooms, a wood stove in the sitting room, a full kitchen, and a wrap-around porch.

"Sometimes it's just the couple that stays here on the property," said Kate, "and sometimes it's the bridesmaids and the bride. It all depends

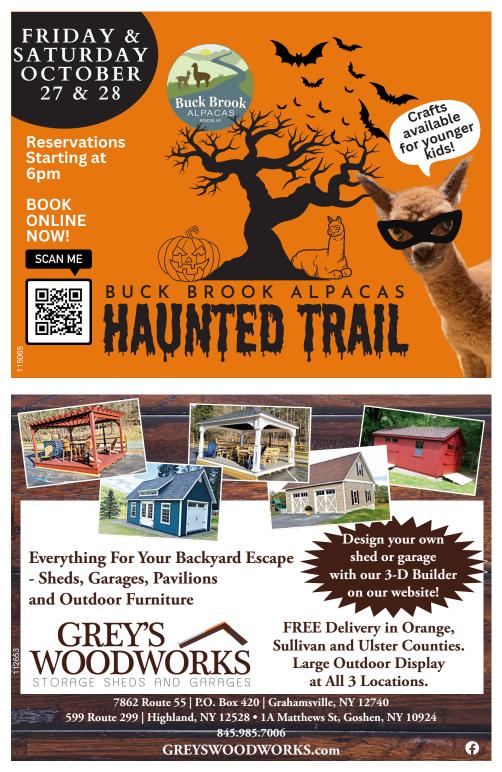
Handsome Hollow

5256 County Road 28 Long Eddy, NY 12760 www.handsomehollow.com on what the bride and groom want."

Kate, her husband, and her team make sure everything is just right, from fresh flowers in the vase near the window to firewood stacked in the shed outside.

"After all these years and all these weddings, the thing that I love the most, is seeing how happy both the couples and their friends and family are at the end of a weekend," said Kate looking out over the property. "It just feels really nice to know that all of this has brought so much beauty and joy."

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FALL, 2023





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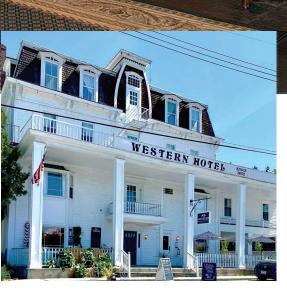


victorian venue

Testled in the heart of the charming town of Callicoon, The Western Hotel is a distinguished Victorian mansion listed on the National Historic Register with a rich history dating back to 1852.

The bar and restaurant is a focal point of the establishment, showcasing the original mahog-

any Bar Room, a paneled billiard room, and a wood paneled fireside lounge with an additional white dining room. Patrons can indulge in a selection of local beers, finely crafted spirits, and a thoughtfully curated seasonal farm-to-table menu that embraces the region's culinary delights. With a fusion of old-world charm and



The Western Hotel stands tall in the heart of Callicoon, with history and charm throughout.

EXIT

contemporary elegance, The Western Hotel sets the stage for an unforgettable experience.

Complementing the venue, The Western boasts ten renovated guest rooms, providing guests with both historical elegance and modern comforts for overnight stays. The historical essence of its ballroom and other various rooms on the ground floor make it a unique and enchanting space for hosting intimate weddings, terrace events, rehearsal dinners, and other special occasions.

Over the years, The Western, which will be

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celebrating its eighth anniversary this fall, has fostered strong partnerships with esteemed local wedding venues such as Handsome Hollow, Seminary Hill, and Callicoon Hills, often accommodating couples with the option to reserve the entire hotel for their wedding guests. The Inn also hosts rehearsal dinners, welcome cocktails, and farewell brunches, framing the backdrop with views of Callicoon's historic Main Street, mountain vistas, and sunsets.

From elegant wedding rehearsal dinners or cocktail parties in the fall, to summers outside on the patio with live music, the Western has a bit of joy for everyone.

The original Mahogany Bar Room is perfect for intimate nights with finely crafted spirits or having a local beer.



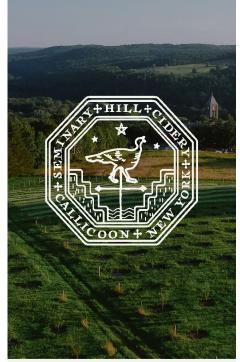


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FALL, 2023



Pearly two years ago, H e a t h e r DeGori took the jump and launched Cuppie Cake Desserts, a bakery specializing in birthhave your cake...

by Autumn Schanil

days, dessert bars, "just because" treats, and of course, weddings.

DeGori's desire to bake started in 2012, but at that point it wasn't anything serious. When she and her sister decided to take classes at Wilton School of Cake Decorating in Darien, Illinois, learning about cake decorating, gum paste, fondant, etc in early 2014, she realized it was more than just a desire. It was a passion and a love for what she was creating.

"From there, my sister and I started a business called K&H Confections, but she ended up meeting the love of her life and moving away," DeGori said. "I was in college full time, working, and raising little girls so we decided

to close the business."

It wasn't long before DeGori felt the pull to revisit what she had left, missing baking and creating for customers, so she rebranded and Cuppie Cake Desserts quickly came to life.

"The inspiration behind the name was my kids," smiled DeGori. "Some people said the name seemed childish since it's a play on cupcakes, but to me it just reminded me of why I started this business and why I work so hard."

continued on page 24



From rustic and chic wedding dessert bars to dried flowers and floral design wedding cakes, Cuppie Cakes does it all, with a punch of flavor.

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FALL, 2023



...and cookies too

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DeGori runs the business solo, but has plenty of help from her mom and mother-in-law, often helping her with deliveries, grocery runs, and setting up the dessert bars.

Cuppie Cakes offers a variety of desserts from custom cakes and dessert bars, to monthly cupcake specials and cookie boxes. Recently DeGori has been hosting Cake & Sips, where you bring a friend and your favorite drink, while she brings the supplies so you can learn the basics of cake decorating. When the night is over, you get to bring the cake home.

Being a mother to two little girls, time management is key in what she does. Most weekends she has eight or more orders, so prep and understanding how many hours or days are needed for each step in the baking, decorating, and packaging process is crucial.

"Royal icing takes about 24-48 hours to dry," said DeGori. "Baking time is about 30-50 minutes

Cuppie Cake Desserts

Narrowsburg, NY cuppiecakedesserts@gmail.com @cuppiecakedesserts

for cakes, but then frosting can take 30 minutes or hours depending on the cake."

One of her favorite things to bake, but also oddly has a love/ hate relationship with, are sugar cookies.

DeGori aims for that crunchy outside and chewy inside - a clear sugar cookie taste with a kick of flavor.

She puts thought, passion, and experience into everything she bakes, including her popular wedding cakes and desserts, offering two different packages for the dessert bars, each with a different variety of treats for guests to dig into at the reception.

"I have so many fun ideas, but I think the best part is seeing people's reactions to my creations," DeGori expressed, "whether it be the design or the flavor. My dream is to have a traveling dessert bar, so we'll see what happens." Cookies of all shapes, flavors and for all occassions.



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Empowering a Healthier Generation Competition

Sullivan 180's Empowering a Healthier Generation Program has 5 schools competing for awards in the amount of \$75,000 and \$50,000 that will be presented on September 21.

Participants in the competition include:

- Benjamin Cosor Elementary, Fallsburg
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- Livingston Manor High School
- Cooke Elementary, Monticello
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FALL, 2023

SPECALENDAR

Saturday, September 16

Learn about Monarchs and their Fall Migration, then help us net, tag and release Monarch Butterflies for Citizen Science! \$5/person Please call the Mamakating Environmental Education Center at (845) 644-5014 to register. This will be from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. located at 762 S Rd, Wurtsboro.

Sunday, September 17

- **The Tony Award-nominated** Callaway sisters continue The Bradstan Cabaret Series on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. Located at 1040 State Route 55, Eldred.
- The Claryville Fire Department is hosting an all you can eat pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. until noon. Cost for adults is \$11, children ages 5-11 are \$5 and children under 5 years of age eat for free. Locatd at 1500 Denning Road, Claryville.

Saturday, September 23

- **Chris Helm** has an exhibit on photography at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.
- **Dani Case** has an exhibit on photography at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

The 7th Annual Narrowsburg Honeybee Fest promotes awareness, demonstration and education about our precious pollinators. Starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

Join Dr. Walter Jahn, board member of the

Orange County Audubon Society, as he introduces basic bird identification for children and leads them on a short hike to search for birds on the grounds of MEEC! This will be from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. located at 762 S Rd, Wurtsboro.

Friday, September 29

Big Eddy Film Festival, produced by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, the festival draws filmmakers and film lovers to the picturesque Catskill Mountains with a unique creative upstate energy. Celebrating their 12th anniversary in 2023 from September 29 - October 1! This will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and will end at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

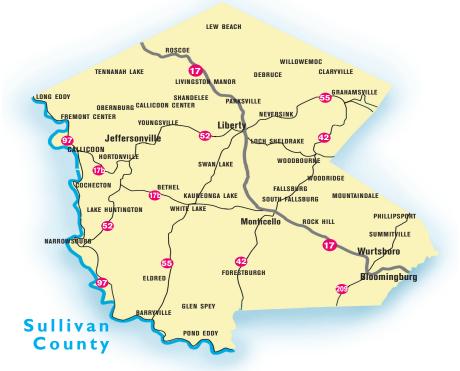
Thursday, October 5

Don't miss Jethro Tull's Martin Barre: A Brief History of Tull at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. Performance starts at 8 p.m. and is located at 200 Hurd Road, Bethel.

Friday, October 6

The Rivoli Theater in Fallsburg presents: Haunted Theater Tours. This will occur on multiple days. It will be on the 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th of October. Tickets are \$15 dollars for adults and \$12 for students, seniors and vets.





Saturday, October 7

Join for Narrowsburg Logging Days. This free, family-friendly event features a celebration of our region's heritage, with a centerpiece event of the Lumberjack Contest on the Delaware Riverfront, with the iconic Narrowsburg Bridge as a backdrop. Music, vendors, food & kids' activities round out the day. This event begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

Join the Neversink River Craft Co-op Show through October 8th to see local artists' work, including original pottery, jewelry, woodwork, stained glass, resin art, paintings, photography, and cards, displayed in a rustic, historic barn. This will be from 10 AM - 5 PM at 2554 Frost Valley Road. For information call 845-985-7564.

Sunday, October 8

Join for the 2023 Callicoon Artwalk. The Callicoon Artwalk will be showcasing the growing art and music scene in the picturesque hamlet of Callicoon on the Delaware. The event will highlight the arts in unconventional spaces throughout the hamlet including storefronts and public spaces. There will be public performances, workshops throughout the day, then video projections and outdoor art installations will be featured into the evening hours. This will take place from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. Breakout comedy star Tom Cotter concludes The Bradstan Cabaret Series at 7 p.m. Located at 1040 State Route 55, Eldred.

Friday, October 13

The Old Time Fiddlers are performing at the Unity Grange Hall at 7:30 p.m. in Damascus, PA. Come enjoy many performances throughout the night. Located at 554 Galilee Road, Damascus, PA. Donation at the door is \$10 per person.

Saturday, October 21

- Join for Halloween in Narrowsburg. Join the Tusten Youth Commission in Narrowsburg for the annual Halloween at FORT DELAWARE! This event has something for ALL AGES. Food truck on premises. Trunk or Treat in Fort Delaware Parking lot. Located at 6615 NY-97, Narrowsburg. This event begins at 4 p.m. and will end at 11 p.m.
- Join us at our 2nd Annual Over the Rainbow Gala as we, once again, celebrate all that is The Allyson Whitney Foundation! Drink, Dine & Dance the evening away as we celebrate our accomplishments, our cancer warriors and our supporters, all while raising money for young adults battling cancer. Event starts at 6 p.m. and is located at 2257 Goshen Tpke, Middletown.

Sunday, November 12

Don't miss Mat Kearney at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. Performance starts at 8 p.m. and is located at 200 Hurd Road, Bethel.



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Rocky Horror Live October Weekends Forestburgh Playhouse

The Big Sip Wine & Spirits Festival October 7-8 Bethel Woods

Peace, Love & Pumpkins October 13-29 Bethel Woods

Restaurant Week Oct 30–Nov 12

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