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## Catskills

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Catskills Confidential is published monthly May through September and in November, January and March by Catskill-Delaware Publications 845-887-5200

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### ON THE COVER

For some, Winter is all about hot soups and warm blankets, while for others Winter is a time for snowshoeing, sunrise walks in the brisk mornings, or testing out the skis you got for Christmas.

Autumn Schanil photo



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### dear friends of the Sullivan Catskills

s the seasons shift and a new chapter unfolds, the Sullivan Catskills remains as vibrant and inviting as ever. Our picturesque region is alive with winter activities and snow-filled experiences that are sure to captivate your heart and soul.

Winter in the Sullivan Catskills is nothing short of magical. From serene snow-covered landscapes to cozy gatherings by the fire, it's the perfect time to escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in relaxation. Whether you're seeking adventure or some down time, we have something for everyone.

For thrill-seekers, Holiday Mountain has unveiled some new equipment including a new quad chairlift, an updated learning center and 130 new snow guns, upgraded piping, and pumps to ensure the best possible conditions all winter long! Meanwhile, those looking to unwind can indulge in the luxurious amenities of any of our outstanding lodging opportunities.

For those eager to explore, the Sullivan Catskills offers endless opportunities to connect with nature and our rich cultural heritage. Stroll along our Dove Trail which is rapidly expanding to over 80 doves in the New Year, each dove tells a story of peace and artistic expression or take a guided snowshoe hike and witness the breathtaking beauty of our winter wonderland.

At the heart of the Sullivan Catskills is a community dedicated to creating unforgettable experiences. Our charming towns are filled with warm smiles, boutique shops, and farm-totable dining that make every visit feel like a homecoming. I encourage you to take this time of year as an opportunity to explore these towns and embrace the uniqueness each has to offer.

As we usher in 2025, the Sullivan Catskills will continue to surprise and delight with new attractions and opportunities to reconnect with what truly matters. We're also excited for the release of our highly anticipated 2025 Travel Guide coming soon, providing fresh inspiration and insights on our enchanting region.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your support and love for the Sullivan Catskills inspire us to keep growing and sharing the magic of this special place.

With warm regards,

Roberta Byron-Lockwood



Roberta Byron-Lockwood President/ CEO Sullivan Catskills



# watching eagles watching

story by Autumn Schanil photo by Gene Weinstein

ach year we like to dedicate a page of the Winter issue to the Bald Eagle. In part because they're more easily spotted in our region at this time (during the months of December through March), but also to bring attention to how powerful and important this raptor is, along with the ongoing importance of protecting them so they continue to thrive off of the endangered species list.

There are more than 60 species of eagles found throughout the world, but only two are found in North America, the Bald Eagle of course being one of them. They can weigh up to 15 pounds and are generally between 28-38 inches in size. Their wingspan can reach up to seven and a half feet compared to an osprey's wingspan of six feet or a red-tailed hawk's nearly five feet.

It's this large wingspan that enables them to soar for long periods without ever flapping their wings, and at great heights, often soaring 10,000 feet or more into the air using thermal air currents to support them and conserve energy.

Because they glide high above the ground, one thing they need for catching prey is impeccable eyesight. A Bald Eagle's eyesight is nearly eight times stronger than ours. They can spot a small animal two miles away with incredible clarity and have a 340-degree field of view.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy has an Eagle Watch program that offers information about eagles and their habitat, as well as proper eagle etiquette for safe eagle viewing. They run bus tours in January and February through the Upper Delaware River region where you can look for, and learn about, eagles while staying warm! Seats are limited so advance reservations are required.

For more information or to make reservations visit delawarehighlands. org. You can also call the PA office at 570-226-3164 or the NY office at 845-583-1010.

With their incredible eyesight, the eagles may just be watching you, watch them.



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**WINTER, 2025** CATSKILLS CONFIDENTIAL 9



"While we were helping, a ceramicist and good friend of ours who had her studio here, sent a message that she was making the move back to the city and needed help breaking down some of the things inside the space," explained A.J.

So with tools in hand, they took apart her kiln, shelves, tables etc., and as they were finishing up A.J. happened to look at the front window where sunlight was streaming in and told husband, Chris, to look too.

"I told him that I thought this would be the perfect place for a plant store," smiled A.J.

Within a week of getting in touch with the landlord back in February of 2024, A.J. and Chris were signing the lease.

continued on page 12

where earthly pleasures grow story and photos by Autumn Schanil



ine and plants. Both grow from the Earth, the ground, the land. Plants require nurturing, just as wine production demands careful cultivation of vineyards.

This was the thinking behind Terra Space, a unique and fun shop on Main Street in Jeffersonville offering educational wine tastings, diverse hard-to-find houseplants, ceramics, curated home goods, and more importantly - a space to grow.

For years, A.J. Ojeda-Pons and husband, Chris, frequently traveled to the Catskills from New York City visiting family in Fremont Center, before deciding to make the move themselves. They bought a house in Jeffersonville just in time to help their family and friends prepare to open Sullivan Sundries, just a few steps down from where Terra Space now resides.



Terra Space offers a comfortable setting not only to taste wines you may have never tried before but to learn about the region they come from, the production process, and even the texture of the Earth they grow

10 CATSKILLS CONFIDENTIAL WINTER, 2025 WINTER, 2025 CATSKILLS CONFIDENTIAL II

### continued from page 11

With A.J. 's extensive background in wine as a prominent sommelier, educator, and consultant along with Chris' background in the botanical and horticultural world, Terra Space came together.

You can book private wine tastings at Terra, or at your home, or purchase tickets on their website for the weekly planned wine tasting classes where you are brought on a journey through the vibrant flavors of Spain, explore the sun-kissed vineyards of Italy, or perhaps Bordeaux. Each wine tasting is different, and they take place in an unpretentious space of comfort surrounded by plants and beauty.

"You have to let the wine speak for itself," noted A.J. "Here in America, we have the tendency to validate or judge wine before we've even tasted it, and we tend to stick to things we know. In doing so, we limit ourselves, that's why the blind tastings are so powerful. We may fall in love with a flavor,

who want to grow.





You can purchase succulents, cacti, ferns, pothos, and other desired houseplants along with unique pots and planters from local artists when you visit, or book your next wine tasting.



### **Terra Space**

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### go for a glide

story and photos by Autumn Schanil From bones to blades, as a past form of necessary transportation to a current sport in the Olympics, humans have been ice skating for thousands of years. Not only does it improve upon our balance and coordination while enhancing our cardiovascular health, it's also just a lot of fun.

The Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation Department offers a classic skating experience at their ice rink located at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds. The time schedule, run by volunteers and the local community, offers skating times from Thursday through Sunday.

Everyone on the ice must wear a helmet, so either bring your own or borrow one when you get there. Skates are available at the rink if you don't have your own, but they are limited.

Donations of skates and helmets are much appreciated and always welcome.

For the ice skating schedule or updates to the schedule, please check the Town of Neversink Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page.



## SPECTOR DAR

### Wednesday, January 15

WSPL Computer/Technical Support @ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Delaware Free Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

Cricut Meetup group will be meeting on Wednesday, January 15th at 5:30pm at the Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library to discuss new ways to use a Cricut machine and work on a project together. More information and registration at WSPLonline.org.

### Thursday, January 16

Sew-cial Circle group meets every Thursday at the Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for needlecrafts including embroidery, cross stitch, needlepoint, and more. Basic supplies and general instruction will be provided. More information at WSPLonline.org.

Join us for Trivia Night at Tango Cafe on Thursday, Jan 16, 2025, from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Hosted by Arthur Aulisi, this fun, free event invites individuals and teams (up to 6 players) to compete for prizes in a lively trivia competition. Food and drinks available. Free entry, but registration is recommended!

### Friday, January 17

Craft Lovers will be meeting on Friday, January 17th from 4-6pm at the Delaware Free Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library. This month's craft will be 3D fireworks on canvas Registration and more information at WSPLonline.org.

### Saturday, January 18

The Livingston Manor Library is co-sponsoring a Repair Café, where broken household items and more can be fixed instead of thrown away, hosted at the Presbyterian Church, from 11:00am - 2:00pm. Located at 568 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor.

### Sunday, January 19

De Filippis Bakery in Monticello, 506 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701 presents "Every Sunday - Open Mike". 11AM-1PM. David Rosenberg as Master of Ceremonies conducts the chaotic Open Mike musical sessions in "The Gong Show" style. Owners Angelo Foglia is the Baker and Cannela Foglia is the cook. The packed crowd enjoys oven baked Italian bread, breakfast with cakes and cookies along with music and jam.

**Rafter's Tavern** invites you to Open Mike at 3p.m. every Sunday, 28 Upper Main St, Callicoon.

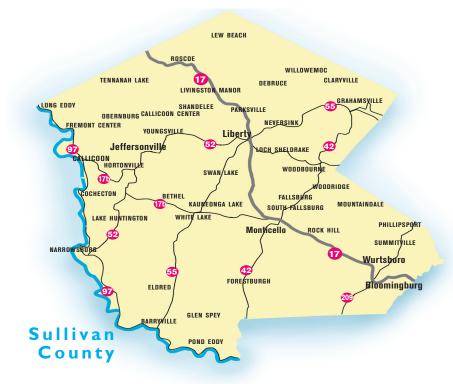
WSPL Youth Take-and-Make Kit: Register by Sunday, January 19th for a special Take & Make craft project for kids ages 6+. Kits include all the supplies you need to make your own Frozen Sun Catchers. Select your preferred branch during registration, then pick up your kit anytime between Wednesday January 22nd - Saturday January 25th. Register for a kit online at WSPLonline.org

### Tuesday, January 21

Kadampa Meditation Center New York offers a series to help you harness the power of intention for the New Year. Through meditation, learn to set positive intentions that will guide your actions and create lasting change. 7-8 PMCost: \$10 per class. No registration required—just drop in. For more info, call (845) 856-9000 or visit kadampanewyork. org/hurleyville.

**Tech Educational Series**: A.I. In Tiny Bites @ 12:00 via Zoom or In-Person at the Jeffersonville Branch





of the Western Sullivan Public Library: For those who want to begin learning about A.I. (Artificial Intelligence), and where to start. Visit the library's calendar at www.WSPLonline.org for more information.

WSPL Computer/Technical Support @ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

### Wednesday, January 22

Narrowsburg Book Club will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd at 11am at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library. This month's discussion will be about Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward, available to library patrons as a hardcopy, ebook, or audiobook. More information and registration at WSPLonline.org.

WSPL Computer/Technical Support @ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Delaware Free Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

### Thursday, January 23

The Livingston Manor Library will host Catalpa Creative for a Winter Wall Sign Workshop, at 5:30pm. \$25 per person, all participants will leave with their own sign. Sign up at www. livingstonmanorlibrary.org/programsignup. Located at 92 Main Street, Livingston Manor.?, January?

Sew-cial Circle group meets every Thursday at the

Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for needlecrafts including embroidery, cross stitch, needlepoint, and more. Basic supplies and general instruction will be provided. More information at WSPLonline.org.

### Saturday, January 25

The Livingston Manor Library invites the community to learn about Transcendental Meditation Technique, at 11:00am. Sign up at www.livingstonmanorlibrary.org/programsignup. Located at 92 Main Street, Livingston Manor.

Youth Podcasting Club will meet on Saturday, January 25th from 10am - 12pm at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library. This club meets twice a month and offers a space for teens to brainstorm, develop and record their own podcasts alongside their peers and adult mentors. More information at WSPLonline.org.

### Sunday, January 26

**De Filippis Bakery** in Monticello, 506 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701 presents "Every Sunday  Open Mike". 11AM-1PM. David Rosenberg as Master of Ceremonies conducts the chaotic Open Mike musical sessions in "The Gong Show" style.
 Owners Angelo Foglia is the Baker and Cannela Foglia is the cook. The packed crowd enjoys oven baked Italian bread, breakfast with cakes and cookies along with music and jam.

**Rafter's Tavern** invites you to Open Mike at 3p.m. every Sunday, 28 Upper Main St, Callicoon.

WSPL Youth Take-and-Make Kit: Register by Sunday, January 26th for a special Take & Make craft project for kids ages 6+. Kits include all the supplies you need to make your own Fire Breathing Dragons for Lunar New Year. Select your preferred branch during registration, then pick up your kit anytime between Wednesday, January 29th - Saturday, February 1st Register for a kit online at WSPLonline. org

WSPL Computer/Technical Support @ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

### Monday, January 27

WSPL Computer/Technical Support@ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

Teen Tech Time is a new program meeting every Monday at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. This program is an opportunity for teens ages 14-17 to discover, practice and explore new technological skills for school and beyond. More information at WSPLonline.org.

Narrowsburg Knitters meets every Monday at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Learn how to knit, bring a project that you're working on, and share ideas and your latest projects! More information at WSPLonline.org

### Tuesday, January 28

Kadampa Meditation Center New York offers a series to help you harness the power of intention for the New Year. Through meditation, learn to set positive intentions that will guide your actions and create lasting change. 7-8 PMCost: \$10 per class. No registration required—just drop in. For more info, call (845) 856-9000 or visit kadampanewyork.org/hurleyville.

WSPL Computer/Technical Support @ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

### Wednesday, January 29

Let's Play! will be taking place at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library on Wednesday, January 29th from 10:15-11:30am. Let's Play is a playgroup for babies, toddlers and caregivers that blends music, literacy, games and open play. Registration and more information can be found at WSPLonline.org.

WSPL Computer/Technical Support @ 1:00pm. Sign up for a 25-minute in-person session at the Delaware Free Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library or virtual session for troubleshooting, advice, and questions, along with assistance with library services like Kanopy, Ancestry, and more. Schedule your appointment by visiting the library calendar at wsplonline.org.

### Thursday, January 30

Sew-cial Circle group meets every Thursday at the Jeffersonville Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for needlecrafts including embroidery, cross stitch, needlepoint, and more. Basic supplies and general instruction will be provided. More information at WSPLonline.org.

### Sunday, February 2

De Filippis Bakery in Monticello, 506 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701 presents "Every Sunday - Open Mike". 11AM-1PM. David Rosenberg as Master of Ceremonies conducts the chaotic Open Mike musical sessions in "The Gong Show" style. Owners Angelo Foglia is the Baker and Cannela Foglia is the cook. The packed crowd enjoys oven baked Italian bread, breakfast with cakes and cookies along with music and jam.

**Rafter's Tavern** invites you to Open Mike at 3p.m. every Sunday, 28 Upper Main St, Callicoon.

### Tuesday, February 4

**Kadampa Meditation Center New York** (See January 28 for details.)

### Tuesday, February 11

Kadampa Meditation Center New York Kadampa Meditation Center New York (See January 28 for details.)

### Tuesday, February 18

Kadampa Meditation Center New York Kadampa Meditation Center New York (See January 28 for details.)

### Thursday, February 20

Join us for Trivia Night at Tango Cafe on Thursday, Jan 16, 2025, from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Hosted by Arthur Aulisi, this fun, free event invites individuals and teams (up to 6 players) to compete for prizes in a lively trivia competition. Food and drinks available. Free entry, but registration is recommended!



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