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Organized in 1926 the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association (SCVFA) has served as a communication and interactive organization dedicated to the enhancement of the volunteer fire service throughout Sullivan County.

The objects of the organization shall be the advancement, instruction and protection of the interests of the fire service in general, throughout the County of Sullivan as well as promotion and strengthening of their bonds of unity and the encouragement of social, instructional and firematic activities.

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# Happy 150th to the Monticello Fire Department

BY DEREK KIRK

*Historical information and photographs were gathered with the assistance of Town of Thompson Historian and Monticello Fire Department member, Al Dumas, as well as by the accounts of Sullivan County Historian John Conway and former Thompson Town Historian Marge Smith.*

**O**n the eighth of March in 1875, two hose companies banded together with 82 members strong, forming the fledgling Monticello Fire Department (MFD). One hundred and fifty years later, Station 22

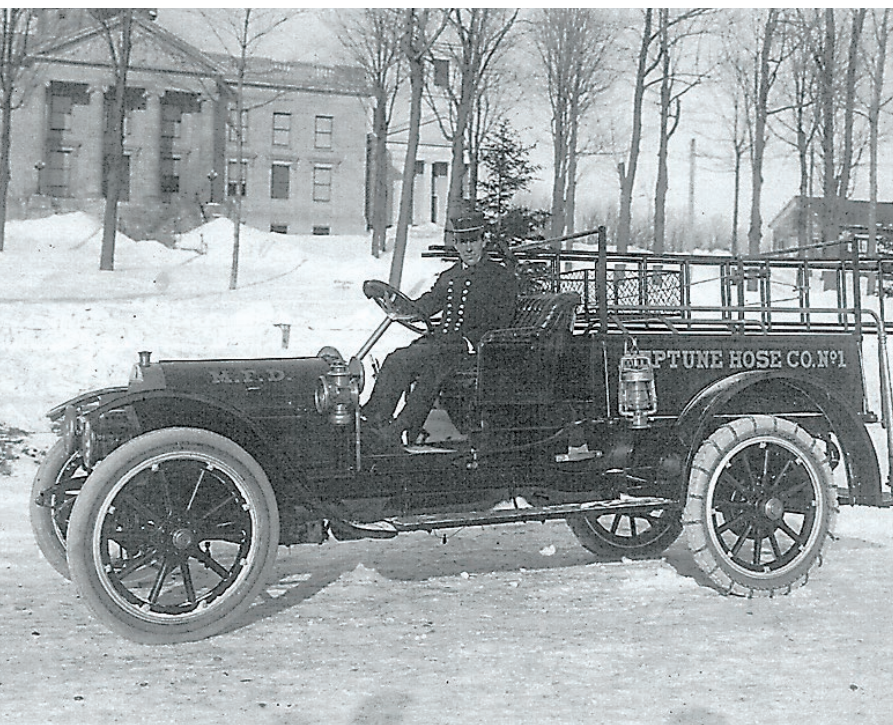
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Above: The Mountain Hose Company #1 Truck, which operated from 1904 to 1914.

At left: The old firehouse stood at the corner of Prince Street and Broadway, which housed both the fire apparatus and the police station from 1875 to 1955.





The Neptune Hose Company #1 Truck in 1919 just outside the Courthouse in Monticello.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5E

still stands strong against issues that threaten the village and surrounding communities.

With the combination of the

Neptune Engine Company No. 1 and the Mountain Hose Company No. 1, and the 1926 blending of the two, then already known as the MFD, and the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company gave the

village the steadfast protection it has today.

Before then, way back in 1875, the decision to create the MFD as a new, reorganized department was prompted by four massive fires in 1844, 1871, 1874 and finally in 1875.

The third of which destroyed several major structures including the Exchange Hotel, Hindley's Saloon, Kent's Barber Shop, The Republican Watchman newspaper office, Billing's Flour & Feed Store, and Curley's Hotel, according to the MFD. Under the guidance of the very first MFD Fire Chief Friend W. Johnston and first Chief Engineer John F. Tymeson, the company began their protection

over their hometown of over 900 people.

The matters that prompted those to action 150 years ago are still attended to by the diligent Monticello fire men and women, whose actions protect over 65 square miles within the county.

### The tools that helped make it happen

The equipment used by the Monticello Fire Department were products of their day, but assisted countless firemen and women in performing their duties. Where they went, so did their tools, such as the original Neptune Engine Company's hand drawn engine

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8E

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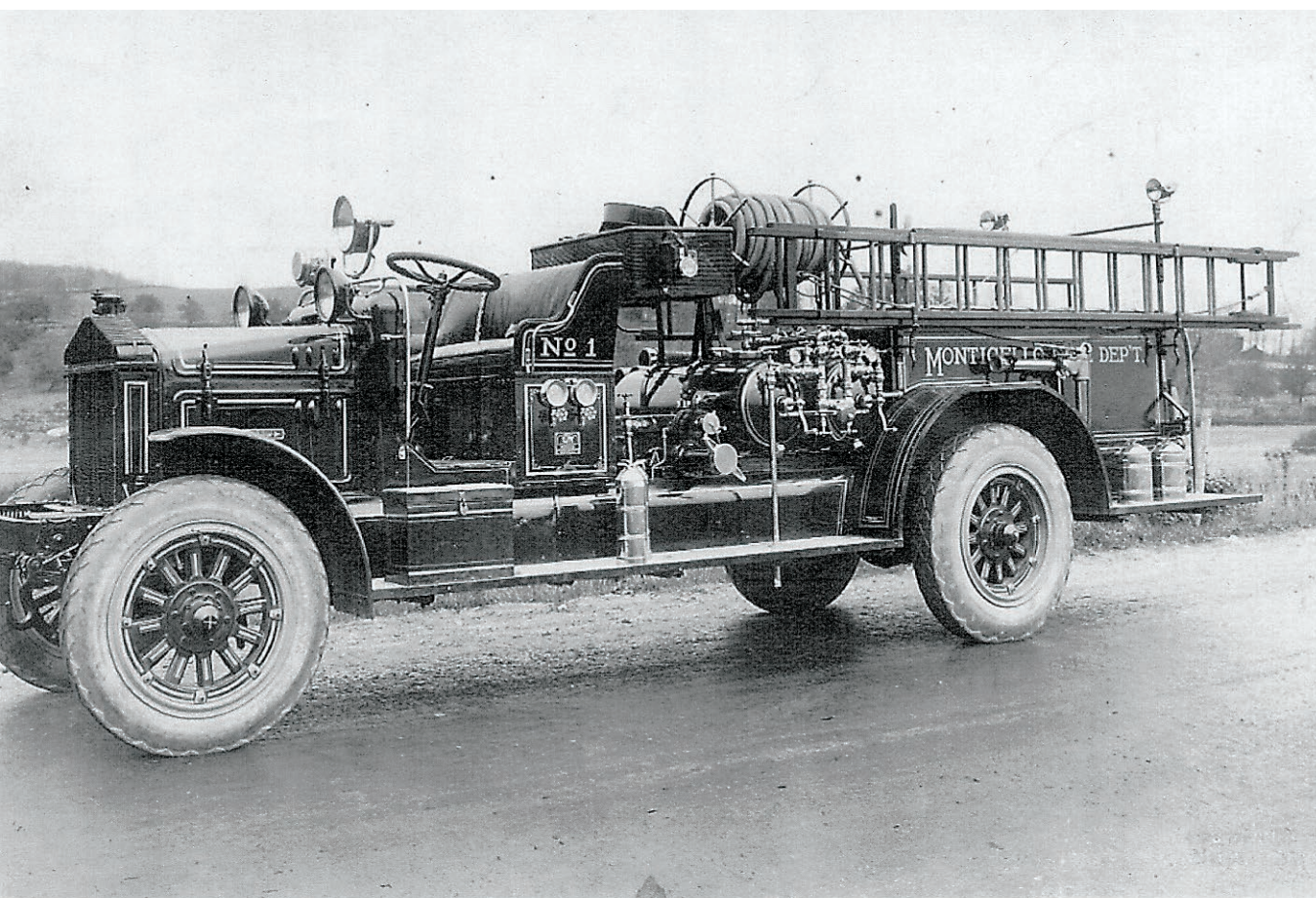
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**Thank you to all our emergency services for all that you do!**



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This 1928 Piece Arrow Pumper was in service from 1928 to 1939.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6E

which was purchased from the City of New York in 1875. One year later, a hook and ladder was built by John Mapledoram for the department.

Moving into the age of engines at the turn of the century, the MFD acquired a 1914 Cole, which was used by the Mountain Hose Company and later destroyed by fire in May 1916. Thankfully, the loss of that engine did not spell the end, as the department moved forward and purchased two Ford Model-T's piston pumps in 1920 for \$3,300, and later acquired a Pierce Arrow pumper for \$9,000. Eventually in 1929, the first American LaFrance was acquired by the village for \$12,500.

These machines are just a few examples of the tools used by the department throughout its lifes-

pan. In their protection from all things dangerous and intrusive to village life, MFD also utilized two 1,000 gallon American LaFrance, one a 1939 model and the other a 1952 model and a Dodge emergency utility truck (1948). Leading up to current, the department has modernized their tricks and equipment to match the firefighting standards of today.

### Historic membership

The MFD was a trailblazer in many aspects of firefighting and community protection throughout Sullivan County, but one major breakthrough the department had was that of the color barrier, knocked down by the first African American volunteer firefighter in the county, Harvey Griffin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10E

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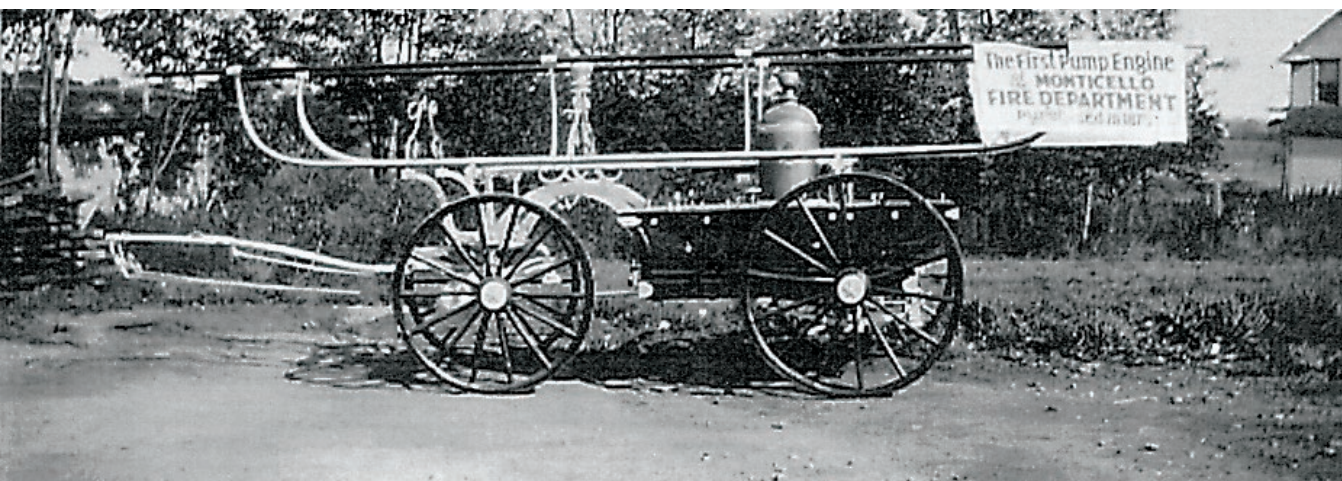
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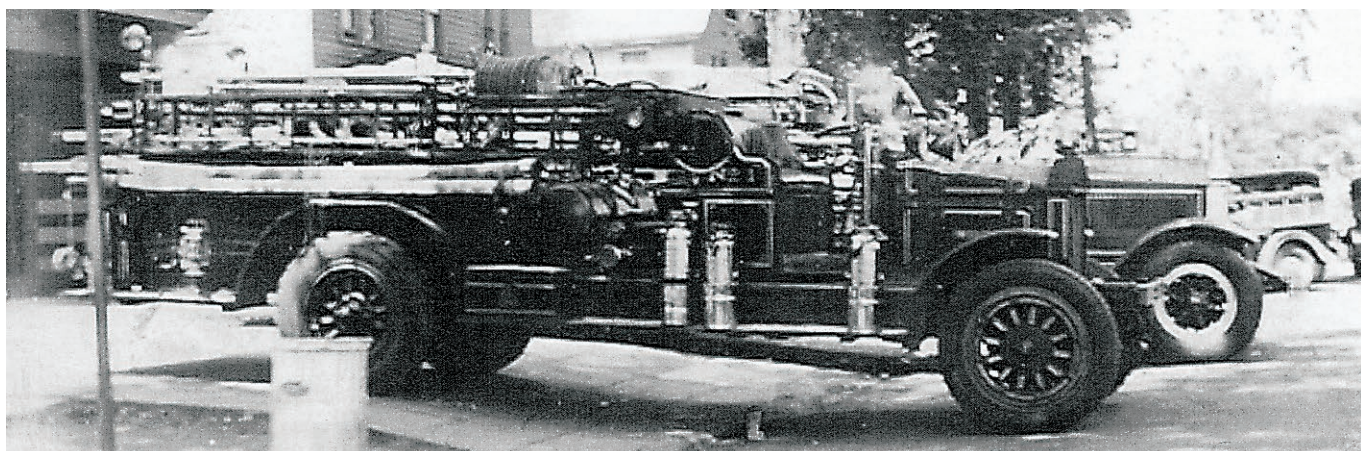
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The first ever pumper for the Monticello Fire Department, which lightened the burden for the department in 1875.

The 1928 Pierce Arrow Pumper that was purchased for \$9,000, which served the department for over a decade.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE8E

According to Sullivan County Historian John Conway, Griffin, also affectionately known as Black Harvey, was one of the few Black

Americans living in the area at the time. The volunteer suffered from health issues, but that did not impede his ability to fight fires alongside his fellow depart-

ment members and to receive the time-honored accolade of marching in parades.

In addition to being a dutiful firefighter, Griffin was a porter to

After moving from their original fire house which housed the departments for fire and police, the Monticello Fire Department settled down here from 1955 to 2005.

the expansive garden that supplied the Mansion House hotel's dining room with fresh produce, marking his place in the village economy and tourism industry to be just as fruitful to his place in the protection of all things Monticello.

Griffin remained a member of the MFD until his death to Tuberculosis in 1882, whereafter his story was lost to time for over one hundred years until 1998 where firefighter Carl Houman uncovered the start to unraveling what is now known as Griffin's lasting legacy. The year he was rediscovered, a plaque was placed in Griffin's honor and memory on February 15.

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Even after 150 years, membership within the Monticello Fire Department is still going strong – a testament to the history and the passion of the people who call the village their home.

Many hands have worked together to ensure the Monticello Fire Department's survival for a century and a half, especially those of the Women's Auxiliary.



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# Gear up for the Volunteer Firefighters Parade in September

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

**T**he 96th Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association Annual Parade is set to take place on Saturday, September 6 in Monticello.

Hosted by the Monticello Fire Department, this event will bring the community together for a day of celebration, tradition and entertainment.

While the schedule is always subject to change, one can expect that the event will kick off in the morning with truck judging at Rutherford School from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

At noon, Broadway will be closed in preparation for the parade with lineup taking place at 1 p.m. with the official step-off at 2 p.m.

Following the parade, marchers

will be welcomed at the fire-house from 3 to 7 p.m. for food and beverages while festivities continue at Somerville Field with food, drinks, children's games and music from 3 to 9 p.m.

An awards ceremony will take place between 5 and 6 p.m. recognizing first and second place winners of the third annual Healthiest Fire Department Challenge run by Sullivan 180.

The evening will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. at Somerville Field.

This year's Grand Marshal, George Kinch, will be honored for his 60+ years of service to the community. Residents and visitors are encouraged to come out, support their local fire departments and enjoy a day filled with fun, food and community spirit.



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# Livingston Manor Volunteer Ambulance Corps is ready for anything

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY MATTHEW ALBECK

**T**he Livingston Manor Volunteer Ambulance Corps (LMVAC) is nestled in an unassuming building at 98 Main St. in Livingston Manor, and this is the headquarters for Captain Ralph Bressler and his 25-member team of volunteers.

"We're the corps that responds to anything at any time," said Bressler, and they responded to 1,060 calls in 2024 alone.

LMVAC is responsible for maintaining ambulances and equipment, raising funds for supplies, advocating for defibrillators in local businesses, and completing bi-monthly training. Bressler said routine training is important because some medical emergencies are unpredictable: "We train on the common things [Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), heart attacks, splinting limbs] because we do them very often and we need to know how to do them, but we also train on the uncommon things [delivering a baby] because we don't do them very often and need to know how to do them."

Bressler has been a CPR trainer for the American Heart Association for 45 years, and his father Herman Bressler was a founding member of the Bethel Volunteer Ambulance Corps. "I can remember [my father] bringing home the Cadillac station wagon on Sunday afternoons, and my sister and I would wash it off and restock it." When it was time for Ralph to volunteer, "it was between fire and ambulance, and I just had more of a pull to



Ralph Bressler unveils the automatic lift in an ambulance

the ambulance corps."

Bressler said his biggest challenge is scheduling volunteers for shifts and recruiting new ones. Some people sign up without realizing they can't handle the commitment, he said; others will drop everything to volunteer, but even the most dedicated members encounter bumps in the road (injuries, tending to a sick relative, pregnancies) that prevent them

from serving. "It's always better to have more [volunteers]."

Bressler's primary motivation as a responder has always been to help people, although he recalls a younger self that was excited by encountering an unprecedented medical problem that challenged his abilities. Now that he is older, his simple goal is to serve his community, and when he goes on an emergency call to help a pa-

tient, "I am hoping, and actually praying, that they're just fine."

To promote overall health and prevent medical emergencies, Bressler recommends getting regular exercise, improving diet, and doing activities that reduce stress. To manage his own stress, Bressler likes running, cycling, and hiking.

## CPR Training

If you have the fortune of training with Ralph Bressler, his natural teaching abilities will be immediately obvious. His instruction imparts kindness, patience, and a desire to help and educate. This is crucial for a CPR instructor, who must present complex medical concepts, life-saving techniques, and the mechanics of complicated equipment, in a way that is understandable and not overwhelming to the student.

*Following is a basic overview of CPR theory and practices learned through a training session with Captain Ralph Bressler; it is meant to educate and inspire volunteerism but should NOT be taken as a comprehensive guide to CPR.*

The purpose of CPR is to keep oxygenated blood flowing through the body. By doing chest compressions on a patient, you circulate their blood; by giving them breaths, you oxygenate their blood. Though both chest compressions and giving breaths are helpful, The American Heart Association has approved hands-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16E



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14E

only CPR [only chest compressions]; this decision was made after they found that in real-life situations, citizens were unlikely to blow into someone's mouth without a device.

The AHA's research also found that by pushing on the chest, you are compressing both the heart and the lungs; when you push on the chest, air is pushed out, and when you let up, air returns to the lungs. It is still better if chest compressions are complemented by giving intermittent breaths, but the approval of hands-only CPR will hopefully lead to more citizens stepping up in an emergency to offer help to a stranger in need.

Because the chances of restarting the heart with CPR alone are close to zero, Bressler advocates for the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED). Defibrillators are used to restore a normal heartbeat by delivering an electric shock. They also evaluate the electrical current in a patient's body to determine if a shock is warranted.

### **On the scene: a person is lying on the ground and not moving**

The first thing a responder must do when answering an emergency call is to make sure the scene is safe for the patient and all medical personnel. Once the scene is safe, the responder will tap the patient on the tops of their shoulders and ask loudly, "Are you OK? Are you OK?" If they sit up and say "Yes! Why are you hitting me?" then the ordeal may be over.

If they don't answer, the responder should call 911 and obtain an AED; if other people are on the scene, they can tell someone to "call 911 and get an



**Ralph Bressler demonstrates the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and a Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) during a CPR training session.**

AED!" The responder will first gently tilt the head back to open the airway, and then look, listen, and feel for signs of breathing. If there is no breathing, they will try to find a pulse in the neck. If there is no pulse, the responder will start chest compressions. They should be administered with clasped hands on the lower third of the sternum and should be forceful and relatively quick. After 30 chest compressions, the responder will give the patient two breaths (with a face mask,

and then return to compressions. The 30:2 compressions to breaths ratio will be continued until they are relieved by another responder or the AED arrives.

The AED is connected to the patient's chest through two pads that must go on either side of the heart. It will evaluate the heart's activity and instruct the responder to administer an electrical shock or not. If the AED says "shock advised" the responder must yell "Clear! Everybody Clear!" to make sure no one is

touching the patient. By pressing a red button, the responder can easily administer the AED shock that will hopefully restore the heart's normal functioning and save the patient's life.

### **How to get involved**

If you are interested in volunteering or getting certified in CPR, you can contact your local ambulance corps (LMVAC: 845-439-4150) or the American Heart Association (cpr.heart.org, 1-800-242-8721). SUNY Sullivan offers an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Refresher Class and an EMT Basic Course (info@sunysullivan.edu, 1-845-434-5750).



**Captain Ralph Bressler of the Livingston Manor Volunteer Ambulance Corps**



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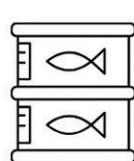
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## Sullivan County Emergency Preparedness Webpage:



For more resources and information:

NYS Office of Emergency Management:

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Last Monday, members of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Dept. in Monticello and the Monticello Police Dept. demonstrated the use of the M.I.L.O. training system. From the left are Deputy Daiana Doran, Monticello Police Chief David Lindsay, Det. Chris

Valastro and Corporal Brian Kelting, Director of Training. Below, is the M.I.L.O. system, with the computer and screen.

# M.I.L.O. training helps sharpen Sheriffs' and police officers' skills

STORY AND PHOTOS BY FRED STABBERT III

**I**t's midnight on Route 17B and a Sheriff's Deputy has just pulled over a car for speeding. As the officer approaches the car she notices a handgun sitting on the seat.

What should she do?

Although that question has probably been reviewed during training, the Sheriff's Dept. can now put officers through real-life scenarios such as that to insure their skills are sharp and they are observing what they see.

Thanks to a \$35,000 grant from Homeland Security, the Sheriff's Dept. purchased the M.I.L.O. training system, which offers



hundreds of different situations an officer might encounter in the field.

M.I.L.O. – Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives – is a training system which enables local law enforcement to practice their de-escalation skills as well as prepare an officer for potential armed encounters in a safe and controlled environment.

On Monday, Deputy Daiana Doran, a member of the Sheriff's Dept. since last June, was put through several tests by Sheriff's Dept. Training Officer, Corporal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20E



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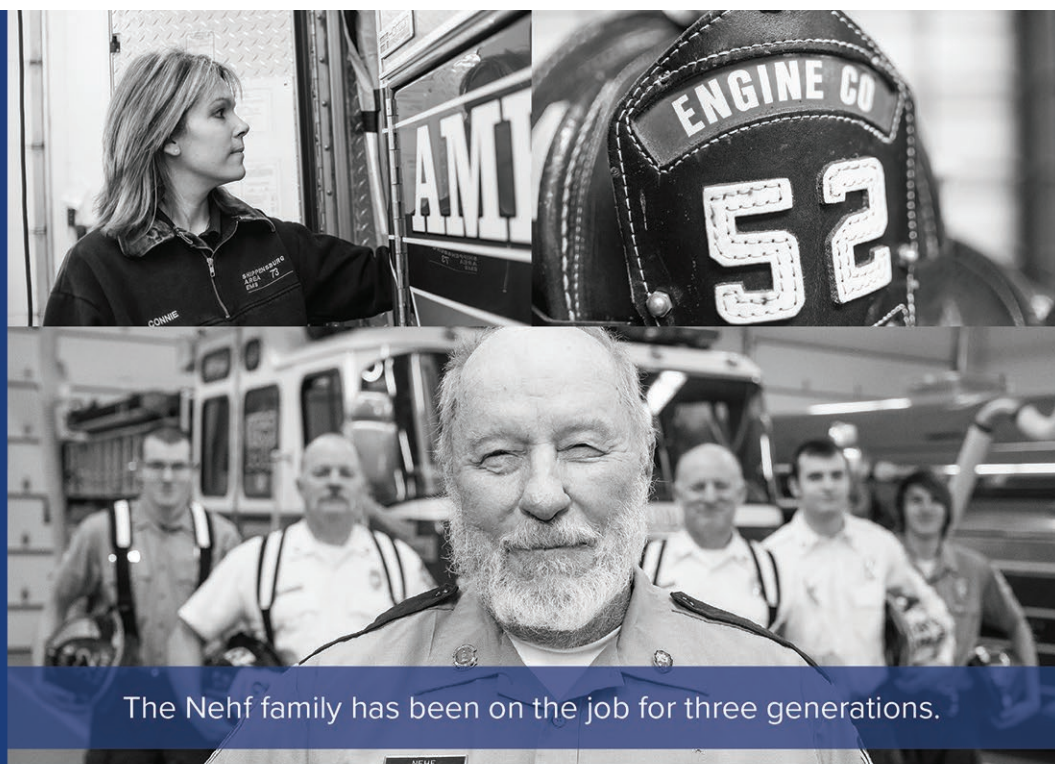
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The M.I.L.O. system also comes equipped with a flashlight so officers can simulate night-time encounters. "The flashlight integrates with the screen," Corporal Kelting said. This scenario teaches officers how to keep safe while securing a firearm that is visible on the seat.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18E  
Brian Kelting, and Detective Chris Valastro.

Kelting and Valastro are also Certified Firearms Instructors.

In the scenario where Deputy Doran had pulled over a car, she used a flashlight to look into the

vehicle. Spotting a handgun on the front seat she asked the driver to identify herself.

The driver pulled out her badge and Deputy Doran then realized she was a police officer.

"There are hundreds of scenarios available," Kelting said. "There is a lot of versatility. We

can make it so officers have to reload their firearm to make the training as realistic as possible."

Kelting also coaches the officers following each scenario to see if there were better ways of handling each situation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22E



Monticello Police Chief David Lindsay tests his accuracy and speed with this scenario. The Sheriff's Dept. purchased the exact handguns that each police department in Sullivan County uses to make the practice that much more realistic.



Sheriff Deputy Doran practices de-escalation with this scenario of a woman holding a handgun outside her house.



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 22E

The virtual training includes real-life movies projected onto a screen and officers holding a gun which resembles their own handgun, but shoots lasers instead of bullets.

"This training is a testament to the culture of innovation in the Sheriff's Dept.," Sullivan County Public Safety Commissioner Scott Schulte said. "It's available to any police department in the county and demonstrates a great

collaboration of services.

"We ordered their [each police department's] guns which shows forward thinking," Schulte said. "We can leverage constant and repeated training as often as we need to."

Sheriff Michael Schiff agreed.

"This program helps us to find the problems," Schiff said. "We are always looking at what we need to fix. All the scenarios in M.I.L.O. are designed to show the weak spots.

"Learning how to do it better,"

Schiff said. "That's what we want from our department."

Schulte added, "You can go the range and shoot perfectly [but] this brings reality home. This becomes second nature.

"It's a great opportunity that our officers have this experience to train," he said. "They can practice a myriad of situations, and there are no injuries."

Monticello Police Chief David Lindsay was on hand Monday to go through several scenarios himself.



While Cpl. Brian Kelting pulls up the program, Deputy Doran gets in position to go through the first scenario.

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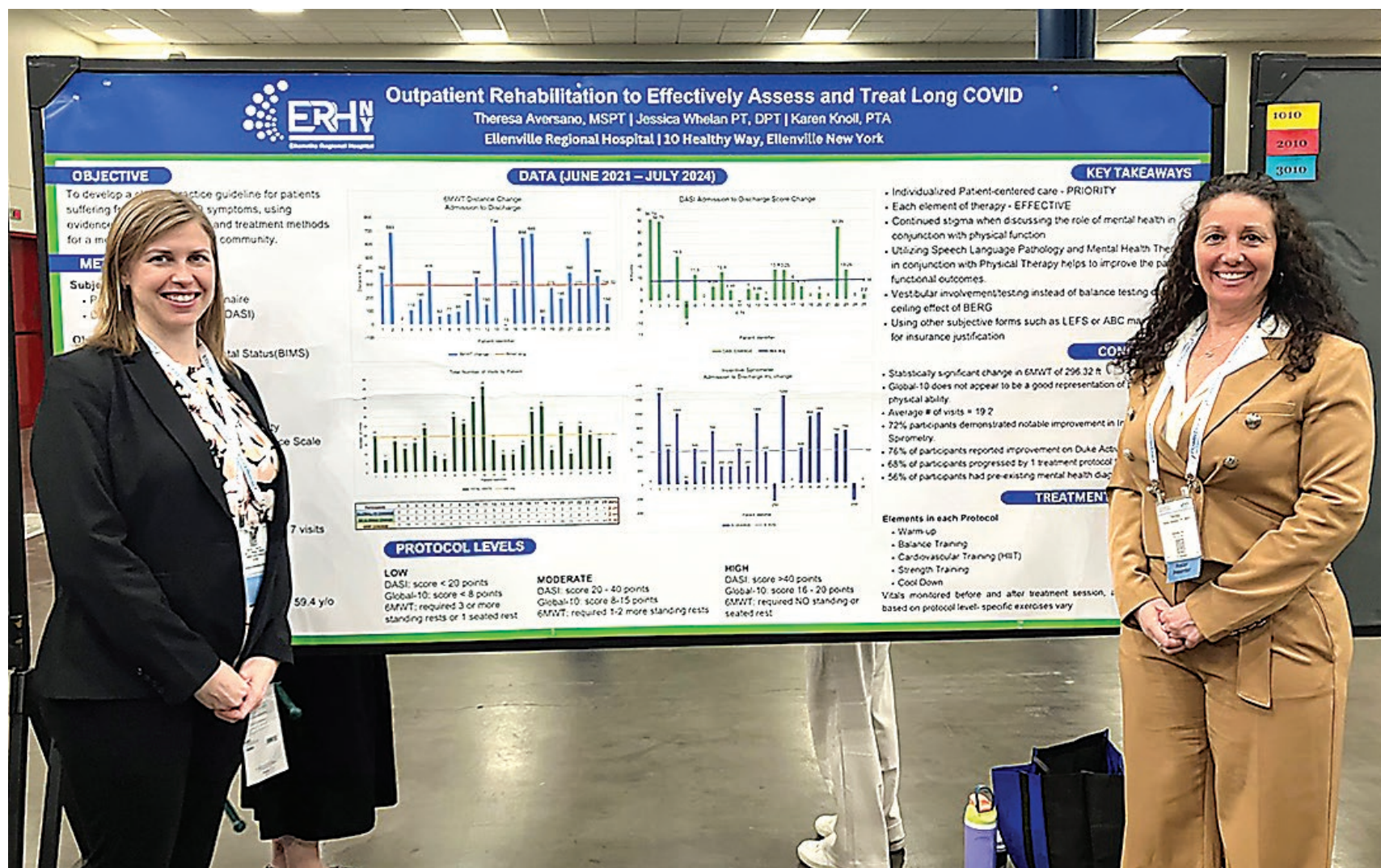
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Theresa Aversano, Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (right) and Jessica Whelan, Assistant Manager, Rehabilitation Services (left)

# Ellenville Regional Hospital presents innovative outpatient COVID program at National Conference

Ellenville Regional Hospital (ERH) proudly represented the community at the Annual American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting, held February 12-15, in Houston. With over 16,000 physical therapists and physical therapy assistants attending nationwide, the event marked a significant gathering in the physical therapy profession.

During the conference, ERH's team presented their pioneering Outpatient COVID Program and the innovative clinical protocols they've developed specifically to

treat patients experiencing Long COVID. These protocols position Ellenville Regional Hospital as a national leader in effectively managing and rehabilitating individuals facing persistent COVID symptoms.

"Our presence at the APTA conference underscores our commitment to advancing healthcare through research and clinical innovation," said Theresa Aversano, Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation representing ERH at the event. "We're dedicated to sharing knowledge that improves patient outcomes nationwide."

ERH team members also participated in

several continuing education courses at the conference, including critical sessions on Long COVID, heart failure management, updated clinical practice guidelines, and medical documentation.

Looking ahead, Ellenville Regional Hospital is preparing to publish their COVID treatment protocols in the prestigious APTA Rehabilitation Journal, aiming to expand the reach and impact of their groundbreaking work.

For more information about Ellenville Regional Hospital and their innovative healthcare programs, visit [ERHNY.org](http://ERHNY.org)





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# Garnet Health offers innovative treatment for AFib



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured, left to right, are Chris Keefer, CVT; Mike Maggi, RN; Eric Tracy, Boston Scientific EP Clinical Manager; Stan Youmans, CVT; Dr. Paul Eugenio, Electrophysiology Medical Director; Chris Sabatello, Boston Scientific – AF Solutions Territory Manager; Katrina Grandolfo, NP Clinical Program Manager; and Matt Esposito, RN.

This pulsed field ablation system is transforming the treatment of atrial fibrillation

**G**arnet Health, a leader in comprehensive cardiac care in the Hudson Valley, announces yet another cutting-edge technology for advanced heart care. Farapulse, now available at Garnet Health Medical Center, is an innovative pulsed field ablation (PFA) system that is transforming the treatment of atrial fibrillation (AFib) by providing a safer, more precise, minimally invasive solution.

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AFib is a common heart-rhythm problem where the heart beats irregularly and too fast. If left untreated, it can lead to serious health conditions such as an increased risk of stroke or heart failure. Traditional ablation procedures use heat (radio frequency) or cold (cryoablation) to destroy the problematic heart tissue causing AFib. While effective, these methods carry risks of damaging surrounding structures. PFA targets irregular heart rhythms with unparalleled accuracy, using short, high-energy, nonthermal electrical pulses to selectively target and disable the faulty heart cells causing AFib—thus reducing the risk of damage to surrounding tissue and organs.

“Patients treated for AFib via the pulsed field ablation procedure can look forward to faster recovery time, improved outcomes and a renewed quality

of life,” explained Paul Eugenio, MD, Garnet Health Medical Center Electrophysiology Medical Director. “We are excited to bring this groundbreaking treatment to our community, ensuring patients receive the best possible care, close to home.”

In both Orange and Sullivan counties, heart disease continues to be a leading cause of death. Garnet Health remains committed to expanding on its award-winning heart care program, bringing only the very best cardiac care to the Hudson Valley region.

Learn more about this innovative procedure at [garnethealth.org/pfa](http://garnethealth.org/pfa). If you are concerned about your heart health, please see your cardiologist. If you need a cardiologist, call Garnet Health Doctors Cardiology in Middletown at (845) 333-7575, or in Harris at (845) 333-8909.



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# Garnet Health announces Employees of the Year Award

**G**arnet Health recently announced the recipients of the 2024 Employees of the Year Award: Destiny Arroyo and Enrique "Rick" Rodriguez. Destiny is a medical assistant at Garnet Health Doctors' Monticello location, and Rick is a courier for the health system. Both Destiny and Rick exemplify Garnet Health's core values of compassion, excellence and dedication.

"At Garnet Health, we take great pride in recognizing the dedication and excellence of our team members," said Jonathan Schiller, Garnet Health president and CEO. "I am proud to honor Destiny and Rick, who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to patient care, teamwork and service to our community."

Destiny Arroyo, Medical Assistant, Garnet Health Doctors – Monticello

Destiny's relentless dedication to her patients is nothing short of extraordinary. When a patient faced multiple obstacles in obtaining the necessary compression devices, Destiny refused to give up. She spent weeks searching for a vendor, making countless phone calls, coordinating orders, providing clinical details and ensuring the patient was informed every step of the way. Thanks to Destiny's persistence, the patient received the much-needed devices, covered by insurance, and was able to continue treatment. Destiny's unwavering commitment and patient-centered approach truly embody the spirit of Garnet Health.

Enrique "Rick" Rodriguez, Courier, Courier Services, Garnet Health Medical Center

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Destiny Arroyo

and willingness to go the extra mile make him an essential part of Garnet Health. From coordinating deliveries for the Beyond the Walls holiday community collection efforts to delivering thousands of pounds of food for the Food Pharmacy, Rick's dedication is unmatched. Without his support, many of Garnet Health's most impactful community initiatives

would not be as successful. He plays a critical role in ensuring patients receive essential resources to aid in their recovery after discharge. Rick's kindness, diligence and selfless service is inspiring to all.

Each example is just one of many for these two honorees. Their kindness, compassion and hospitality toward all they come in contact with provide an environment that patients and their families appreciate.

Employees of the Year are selected from among the 12 Employees of the Month at Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills and 12 Employees of the Month at Garnet Health Medical Center.

Anyone can nominate a Garnet Health employee, volunteer, provider or department for an award by emailing us at [BEEaward@garnethealth.org](mailto:BEEaward@garnethealth.org). To join our team, visit [careers.garnethealth.org](https://careers.garnethealth.org).



Enrique "Rick" Rodriguez

Garnet Health is a New York State not-for-profit corporation headquartered in Middletown, New York, approximately 60 miles northwest of New York City. It is the corporate parent of Garnet Health Medical Center, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills, Garnet Health Doctors, Garnet Health Urgent Care, Garnet Health Foundation and Garnet Health

Foundation – Catskills. Garnet Health is dedicated to developing specialty services, medical programs and needed healthcare services that allow residents to remain close to home to receive quality care.

Providing healthcare to over 500,000 residents in Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties, Garnet Health was designed to improve the quality, stability and efficiency of healthcare services in the mid-Hudson and Catskills region. Garnet Health employs more than 4,000 professionals and over 850 medical staff members. An academic affiliate of the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Garnet Health retains compassionate professionals who continually strive toward the hospital's mission to improve the health of our community by providing exceptional healthcare. To learn more about Garnet Health, visit [garnethealth.org](https://garnethealth.org)



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Forestburgh, NY 12777  
**Todd Petrowsky Jr. • 794-7899**

Grahamsville FD  
205 Main St., PO Box 331  
Grahamsville, NY 12740  
**Michael Kelly • 985-2260**

Hankins-Fremont Center FD  
20 Newman Hill Rd., PO Box 164  
Hankins, NY 12741  
**Chris Berner • 887-2028**

Highland Lake FD  
144 Highland Rd., PO Box 65  
Highland Lake, NY 12743  
**Warren Wagner • 557-8788**

Hortonville Fire Company  
100 Main St., PO Box 71  
Hortonville, NY 12745  
**Kurt Buddenhagen • 887-5177**

Hurleyville Fire Company  
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Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
**David Casey** • 252-3328

Neversink FD  
7486 State Route 55, PO Box 627  
Neversink, NY 12765  
**Russ Turner** • 985-7198

North Branch FD  
20 North Branch-Callicoon Center  
Rd., PO Box 28  
North Branch, NY 12766  
**Gary Ziegler** • 482-5134

Rock Hill FD  
61 Glen Wild Rd., PO Box 116  
Rock Hill, NY 12775  
**Brian Soller** • 794-8961

Roscoe/Rockland FD  
1964 Old Route 17, PO Box 401  
Roscoe, NY 12776  
**Nate Routledge** • 607-498-4292

Smallwood/Mongaup Valley FD  
181 Ballard Rd., PO Box 28  
Smallwood, NY 12778  
**Charlie Kalinowski** • 583-5487

Summitville FD  
3978 Route 209., PO Box 296  
Summitville, NY 12781  
**Craig Blakesley** • 888-5531

Swan Lake FD  
52 Stanton Corners Rd., PO Box 130  
Swan Lake, NY 12783  
**Tim Eronymous** • 292-6918

Westbrookville Vol. FD  
39 Pine Kill Rd., PO Box 182  
Westbrookville, NY 12785  
**Warren Bloom** • 754-8848

White Lake Fire Company  
1596 State Route 17B, PO Box 51  
White Lake, NY 12786  
**Shane Cunningham** • 583-5170

White Sulphur Springs FD  
3352 State Route 52, PO Box 86  
White Sulphur Springs, NY 12787  
**Eric Bradley** • 292-5468

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Wurtsboro FD  
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Wurtsboro, NY 12790  
**Rusty Russo • 888-4611**

Youngsville FD  
PO Box 78  
Youngsville, NY 12791  
**Kenny Abplanalp • 482-3600**

Yulan FD  
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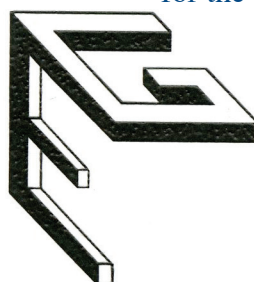
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Livingston Manor, NY 12758  
**Captain Ralph Bressler •**  
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Woodbourne Fire Company No. 1, Inc.  
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★ Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
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★ Wurtsboro • 888-2681  
★ 2954 ST RT 209  
★ Wurtsboro, NY 12790  
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★ 58 Old Route 17  
★ Monticello, NY 12701  
★ Jail: 794-7102  
★ Civil Division: 791-7979  
★ Patrol: 794-7100  
★ **Michael A. Schiff - Sheriff**

★ **Town and Village Departments**  
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★ 19 Railroad Plaza • PO Box 2019  
★ South Fallsburg, NY 12779  
★ (845) 434-4422  
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★ 159 North Main St.  
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★ (845) 292-4422  
★ **Chief Steven D’Agata**  
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★ Village of Monticello  
★ 2 Pleasant St.  
★ Monticello, NY 12701  
★ (845) 794-4422  
★ **Chief David Lindsay**  
★  
★ Village of Woodridge  
★ 655 Green Ave  
★ Woodridge, NY 12789  
★ (845) 434-6644  
★ **Chief John Calvello**





# ★ CALENDAR ★ OF ★ EVENTS ★

## MARCH

**Sun., March 30** - Jeffersonville FD, Chicken BBQ Takeout

## APRIL

**Sun., April 6** - Neversink FD, Spring Breakfast  
**Tues., April 8** - SCVFA Meeting Beaverkill Valley  
**Sun., April 13** - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast  
**Sun., April 13** - Woodbourne FD, French Toast Breakfast  
**Thurs., April 17** - SCFPA, Lava  
**Sat., April 19** - Woodbourne FD, Easter Egg Hunt  
**Sun., April 27** - Hortonville FD, Chicken BBQ Takeout  
**Sun., April 27** - Livingston Manor FD, Pancake Breakfast

# 2025

## MAY

**Sat., May 3** - Neversink FD, Annual Dinner  
**Sun., May 4** - S.C.V.F.A. Memorial Service, Government Center, 2pm  
**Sat., May 10** - White Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church Roast Beef Dinner  
**Sun., May 11** - Claryville FD, Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast  
**Thurs., May 15** - SCFPA, Forestburgh  
**Sat., May 24** - Woodbourne FD, Craft Fair  
**Sun., May 25** - Mountindale FD, Pancake Breakfast

## JUNE

**Sun., June 1** - Rock Hill FD, AACA Car Show  
**Sat., June 7** - Loch Sheldrake FD, Gun Raffle  
**Sun., June 8** - Neversink FD, Horse Shoe Tournament  
**Sun., June 8** - Fallsburg FD, Pancake Breakfast  
**Tues., June 10** - SCVFA Meeting Bloomingburg Annual Meeting/Election  
**Sat., June 14** - Jeffersonville FD, Golf Tournament

**Sat., June 14** - Livingston Manor FD, Chicken BBQ  
**Sun., June 15** - Claryville FD, Father's Day Pancake Breakfast  
**Thurs., June 19** - SCFPA, White Sulphur Springs  
**Sat., June 21** - Hurleyville FD, Bass Tournament Morningside

## JULY

**Sun., July 6** - Smallwood FD, 5K and Open House  
**Sat., July 12** - Hortonville FD, Golf Tournament  
**Sat., July 12** - Loch Sheldrake FD, Takeout Chicken BBQ  
**Sat., July 12** - White Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church Chicken BBQ  
**Thurs., July 17** - SCFPA, Woodbourne  
**Sat., July 19** - Kauneonga Lake FD, Drive Thru Chicken BBQ  
**Sun., July 20** - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast  
**Sun., July 20** - Rock Hill FD, French Toast Breakfast  
**Sun., July 27** - Roscoe - Rockland FD, Car

Show 9 - 11am, Firemans Field  
**Sun., July 27** - Woodbourne FD, Craft Fair

## AUGUST

**Sat., Aug., 2** - Fallsburg FD, Chicken BBQ  
**Sat., Aug. 9** - Neversink FD, Chicken BBQ  
**Sun., Aug. 10** - White Sulphur Springs FD, Chicken BBQ  
**Tues. Aug., 12** - SCVFA Meeting Callicoon  
**Sat., Aug., 16** - Hurleyville FD, Bill Carlson Golf Tournament  
**Thurs., Aug., 21** - SCFPA, Narrowsburg  
**Fri. - Sun., Aug. 22/24** - Neversink FD, Softball Tournament  
**Sat., Aug. 23** - Claryville FD, Open House Craft/Yard Sale  
**Sat., Aug. 23** - Hortonville FD, Parade/Field Day  
**Sat., Aug. 23** - North Branch FD, End of Summer Race  
**Sun., Aug. 31** - Smallwood FD, Pancake Breakfast

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# ★ CALENDAR ★ OF ★ EVENTS ★

CONTINUED FROM 37E

## SEPTEMBER

Sat., Sept. 6 - S.C.V.F.A 96th Annual Parade - Monticello  
Sun., Sept. 14 - Neversink FD, Horse Shoe Tournament  
Thurs., Sept. 18 - SCFPA, Loch Sheldrake  
Sun., Sept. 21 - Woodbourne FD, Chicken BBQ  
Sun., Sept. 21 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast  
Sat., Sept. 27 - North Branch FD, Chicken BBQ 1 - 5 p.m.  
Sat., Sept. 27 - Monticello FD, Sportsman's Raffle  
Sun., Sept. 28 - S.C.V.F.A. Annual Past President's Brunch

# 2025

## OCTOBER

Sun., Oct. 12 - Loch Sheldrake FD, Pancake/French Toast Breakfast  
Tues., Oct. 14 - SCVFA Meeting Callicoon Center  
Thurs., Oct. 16 - SCFPA, Smallwood  
Sat., Oct. 18 - Jeffersonville FD, Roast Beef Dinner  
Sun., Oct. 19 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast  
Sun., Oct... 19 - Monticello FD, Fall Pancake Breakfast  
Sun., Oct. 26 - Neversink FD, Fall Breakfast  
Sun., Oct. 26 - Livingston Manor FD, Pancake Breakfast  
Fri., Oct. 31 - Woodbourne FD, Trunk or Treat

## NOVEMBER

Sun., Nov. 2 - Swan Lake FD, French Toast Breakfast  
Sun., Nov. 2 - Hurleyville FD, Pancake Breakfast  
Tues., Nov. 4 - White Sulphur Springs FD, Election Day Clam Chowder  
Sat., Nov. 8 - Woodbourne FD, Veteran's Day Parade  
Sat., Nov. 8 - Neversink FD, Ladies Auxiliary Craft Fair  
Sun., Nov. 9 - Hortonville FD, Pancake/French Toast Breakfast  
Thurs., Nov. 13 - SCFPA, Roscoe/Rockland  
Sat., Nov. 15 - Woodbourne FD, Holiday Craft Fair  
Sun., Nov. 16 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast  
Fri., Nov. 28 - Jeffersonville Holiday Parade  
Sun., Nov. 30 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales

## DECEMBER

Mon., Dec. 1 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales  
Sun., Dec. 7 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales  
Mon., Dec. 8 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales  
Sun., Dec 14 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales  
Mon., Dec 15 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales  
Sun., Dec 21 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales  
Mon., Dec 22 - Highland Lake FD, Xmas Tree Sales



Delicious BBQ chicken dinners or Pancake Breakfasts and other events help to support our volunteer emergency services. FILE PHOTO



## THE LAST WORD

# Emergency responders deserve our praise

Devoting an entire section of your newspaper to the emergency responders of Sullivan and Wayne counties is no small feat and many days of planning, hard work and attention to detail go into making this section a reality.

But we are only too happy to sing the praises of our devoted law enforcement, emergency responders and healthcare workers who make our county safer and healthier, often with little or no fanfare.

*We know the devotion it takes from our community to keep all these organizations going.*

The editor of our newspaper, Derek Kirk, had a grandfather who was a stalwart with the Callicoon Volunteer Fire Dept. for decades, Gerald "Skip" Mudge.

The publisher of our newspaper, Fred Stabbert III, had a grandfather, Fred Sr., who was a charter member of the Callicoon Volunteer Fire Dept. and his father, Fred Jr., was also a long-time member.

Coincidentally, after Fred Sr. died in 1963, his widow, Nellie Stabbert, married Herbert Persbacker, who was president of the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Assn. in 1937.

Yes, it's a very small world.

That all being said, the staff of the **Democrat** knows the devotion it takes from our community to keep all these organizations going. The challenges that each department has to overcome to respond to fires, accidents, airlifts, and all emergencies are now steep.

Training, which is essential to the safety of our volunteers and paid responders, is extensive and very time consuming. Also the necessary equipment is not only expensive but also needs extensive training to operate properly.

That all being said, we hope that you consider helping your local volunteer organizations in any way you can. Whether it is being a fire police, volunteer fireman, ambulance corps member or just attending the organization's fundraisers, your time and support will be greatly appreciated.

And to all the volunteers who are now in the field, we want you to know how important your service is to everyone in our county.

Please keep up the great work, stay safe and know that your are very much appreciated.

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# 150 YEARS OF SERVICE & SACRIFICE 150

# 150

Every single day, without applause or spotlight, first responders step forward. They meet danger head-on, standing between us and the chaos, keeping our communities safe. At Formaggio, we carry deep gratitude in our hearts for these everyday heroes, especially here in Sullivan County, where we've proudly been part of the fabric for more than two decades.

This year, Monticello marks a remarkable milestone—150 years of unwavering service. A sesquicentennial of courage, compassion, and sacrifice. We pause to honor them, to tell them, simply but sincerely: we see you, we thank you, and we stand with you, just as you've stood with us.

It's no small thing to put your life on the line for a stranger. Yet these men and women do it instinctively, answering calls in the darkest hours, charging into uncertainty when others turn away. Their bravery isn't for show—it's their way of life. We owe them more than thanks; we owe them our enduring respect.

The truest kind of love is selfless service. Too often, the quiet, relentless dedication of Monticello's firefighters, EMTs, and emergency personnel goes unsung. But not today. Today, we raise our voices to say: your commitment never goes unnoticed. Your sacrifices are etched into the soul of this community.

To all the first responders: thank you for protecting lives, for safeguarding homes, and for showing up—always. As Monticello celebrates 150 years of valor and vigilance, know this: we love you, we honor you, and we are forever grateful.



**Formaggio wishes to thank First Responders of all kinds everywhere**