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TAKE ONE FREE

TRACTOR PARADE

Sunday, June 8
Lower Main St.
Callicoon
Noon



A Special Section of the
SULLIVAN COUNTY

Democrat

June 3, 2025
Callicoon, NY
Section T

Get your motors running for the 29th Callicoon Tractor Parade this Sunday, June 8

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Callicoon will be bursting with excitement on Sunday, June 8 as they welcome the 29th Annual Tractor Parade to town. The Grand Marshal of the Parade will be Town of Delaware Clerk Tess McBeath.

The parade will kick off at noon sharp starting on Lower Main Street. Guests are encouraged to come and join in on the fun and make some grand memories.

After the parade, attendees can keep the fun going by coming over to the Delaware Youth Center (DYC) for a delicious barbecue and some snacks.

In addition, collectors Tractor Parade t-shirts will be available in a limited supply. They can be found for sale in town and at the

DYC.

Important to note is that tractor registration opens at 8 a.m. at the DYC. There is a nonexistent fee in order to enter the parade but the DYC does accept and appreciate donations of any size to offset the cost of putting the event on.

Some rules to keep in mind

While attendees are encouraged to have a great time, the DYC urges everyone to keep in mind several important things.

They strongly discourage parking at AGWAY. Also, if you have a tractor, you are strongly urged to come early to the DYC to drop off your tractor and to register.

Other vehicles, on the other hand, will be directed elsewhere in town for parking. If you only bring a tractor, then you can just line up at the DYC and drive the tractor in

the parade when it begins.

To help out, volunteers will be on hand along the route and cooperation is much appreciated in following their directions. Children are also strongly urged to not be on laps or fenders, as it is extremely dangerous.

Speaking of driving safely, alcohol is not allowed and drinking and driving will be strictly off limits. To enforce this, police will be on hand keeping a watchful eye.

As the DYC states: "Be smart and careful!"

Pulling tractors will also not be allowed, proof that the tractor can run and has working brakes will be requested. In addition, this parade is not for political or commercial gain, so political signs and advertisements are a big NO.

Guests and registrants are en-

couraged to have fun and come out. It's sure to be a day of excitement, memories and tradition.

And Don't Forget about the Food

Also, Tractor Parade Sunday features a delicious Pancake Breakfast, compliments of the Callicoon Fire Dept. on Route 97, Callicoon.

The breakfast runs from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m., giving eaters time to get downtown and find a place to watch the parade.

And, the Delaware Youth Center will be featuring a chicken barbecue or pulled pork dinner along with a hay bale throwing contest – for all you wanna be farmers out there – as well as a Tractor Parade Super Slide raffle.

There are also plenty of restaurants in Callicoon to enjoy a bite or beverage during the parade.

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Callicoon Tractor Parade

'Celebrating our community's heritage in farming'

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Katy Stabile hugs daughter Leela as the two chat with a driver in the parade.

Credits

Photos from last year's parade – including the cover photograph – were taken by Sullivan County Democrat Reporter/Photographer Jeanne Sager, who has been a staple at the annual event for longer than we can remember.

The Sullivan County Democrat would also like to thank Katrina Graby LaGrutta and the entire Delaware Youth Center board for their help in producing this special section.



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Tess McBeath to lead the 2025 Tractor Parade as Grand Marshal

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Clerk honored for
decades of service
and community
leadership*

STORY AND PHOTO BY SEAN KUHN



Tess McBeath at the Town of Delaware Municipal Building.

Tess McBeath, longtime Town Clerk for the Town of Delaware, will lead this year's Callicoon Tractor Parade as Grand Marshal. The recognition comes as she prepares to retire after 28 years in office. "I think it's [because] I'm retiring," McBeath said of the honor, "and all the volunteering I've done all the years."

A lifelong Hortonville resident, McBeath reflected on her childhood. "We just had the run of town," she said. "Nobody's yard was sacred. We were all over the place and in the hills."

McBeath has a long history with the event, which began in 1997.

"It was the brainchild of Rosie de-Christofaro and Kathy Langley of the Callicoon Business Association," she said.

Once the Youth Center took the reins in 2004, the parade grew exponentially.

McBeath was integrally involved for eight years. "It's a tremendous volunteer effort," she said. "Back in the day, we had a great board ... and they all worked together to organize

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the event."

McBeath explained exactly what goes into planning such an event. "The devil's in the details," she said, "T-shirts, registrations, parking, food, police, ambulance – it all takes time to coordinate."

McBeath was sure to highlight the efforts of the many people that work hard to put together the event.

"I once asked a friend to work in the hot dog stand," she said, "she was there three years before telling me, 'Tess, I'm a vegetarian.' She just did it out of the goodness of her heart."

As Youth Center president, McBeath helped bring the organization back from financial hardship.

"We were \$10,000 in debt," she said.

The Youth Center hustled to raise funds. McBeath said, "We sold hot dogs and candy bars at soccer games. We brought it back after three floods."

Her favorite projects included updating the playground and ath-

letic fields. "We redid the tennis and basketball courts," she said. "We raised money and put clay on the infield – but then the 2004 flood sent all that clay down to New Jersey."

After attending Holy Cross and Delaware Valley schools, McBeath spent 13 years in Colorado, working for the governor's office and social services. She returned home, worked for a lawyer, raised her son, and was elected town clerk.

"Twenty-eight years later, I'm ready to pass the torch to another town clerk," she said.

As Grand Marshal, she's proud to ride in a parade she helped build. "We need farmers, and farmers need tractors," McBeath said. "Today, we celebrate relics from the past—tractors all spiffed out to show the town they're proud of where they come from. It's a chance for locals and new locals alike to come together and celebrate farming."

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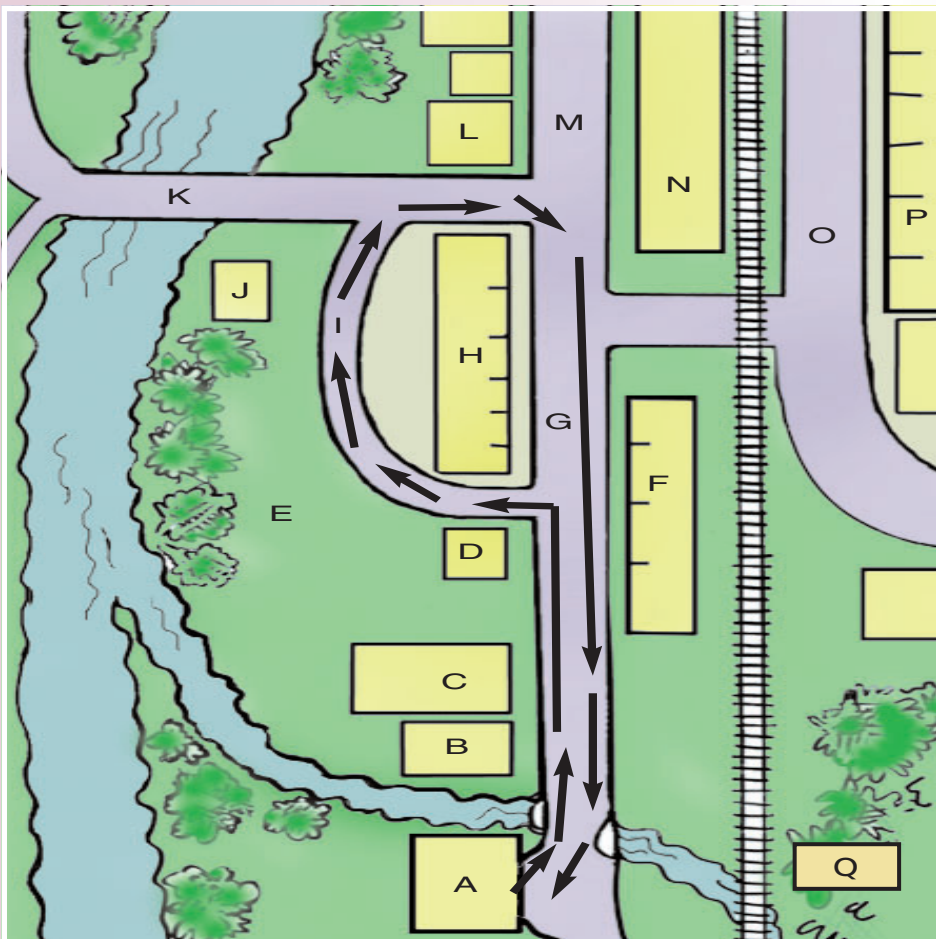


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Callicoon & the Parade Route

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| B The Sullivan County Democrat office | J Callicoon Caffé |
| C Peck's Supermarket | K Bridge to Pennsylvania |
| D Laundromat | L Wayne Bank |
| E Callicoon Creek Park | M River Road |
| F Lower Main Street Businesses | N Train Depot |
| G Lower Main Street | O Upper Main Street |
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If You Go...

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What: 29th Annual Callicoon Tractor Parade

When: Sunday, June 8, 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 8

• 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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What does Callicoon think of the Tractor Parade?

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT KURZROCK

The **Sullivan County Democrat** went around town to talk to locals about their thoughts on the parade. Here were their responses:



"It's a very festive and lively gathering. I love seeing the early arrivals at 6 in the morning as they look to secure the best location."

John Erik Karkula



"I am so thankful for the Delaware Youth Center for putting this on. I love the Tractor Parade. I have pictures from 15 years back of my kids enjoying the parade."

Lyndsey Lentini of Peppino's



"The parade is a great and terrific event. I cannot wait for it to come around each year."

Joe Lentini of Peppino's

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"I think this is great for our town and local economy and I love all the festivities."

Alec Santos

"It's a day Callicoon comes alive. It's all about family. Families get together and it's just a really great community gathering."

Susie Busing



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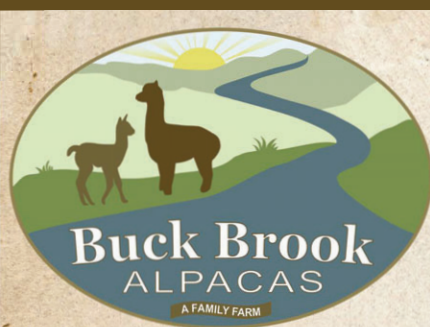
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SCENES FROM THE

Callicoon Tractor Parade 2024



JEANNE SAGER PHOTOS
1. Tractors come in every shape, size – and color.

2. Many tractors have seen years of farmwork.

3. A tiny hand pokes her hand out of the window of a tractor to wave to the crowd.

4. Shoshana Mitchell of Monticello and Brandon Morier found the perfect seat for parade – watching right inside a giant tractor wheel.

5. Many drivers have helpers during the Callicoon Tractor – drivers in training.

6. Some parade goers wear ear muffs to protect themselves from the sound.

7. This tractor has been well-kept.

8. Teddy Strickler, 3 1/2, is a "tractor enthusiast," so it was only fitting that he visit his grandparents in Milanville, Pa. and attend the Callicoon parade.

9. This Farmall has a patriotic driver who even brought his own flag.



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Meet Callicoon Tractor Parade T-shirt designer, Stephanie Carmona



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES BY
STEPHANIE CARMONA
Stephanie Carmona is the designer of this year's Callicoon Tractor Parade T-shirt
2025 T-Shirt design



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BY MATTHEW ALBECK

The creator of this year's t-shirt for the 2025 Callicoon Tractor Parade is Stephanie Carmona, who designed a playful and colorful adaptation of a tractor crossing street sign in bold complementary orange and blue colors. To create the t-shirt design, Carmona, who runs Serious Crafting Skillz, worked in collaboration with the Delaware Youth Center.

Carmona started Serious Craftin' Skillz in 2020 when she needed a creative outlet during the COVID pandemic. She was a brand new mom and found herself in a new place, so she thought making arts and crafts would be a good way to reach out to the local community. Before moving to Jeffersonville, Stephanie lived in NYC, where she was born and raised.

Serious Craftin' Skillz offers personalized artwork, t-shirts, gifts, digital art, and other crafts. Stephanie said whatever a client's vision might be, her specialty is honing in on that idea and seeing it through

until there is a completed project. She works with local businesses including Cuppie Cake Desserts and has designed t-shirts for Sullivan West School District.

Stephanie's favorite part of operating her business is developing ideas and working with a client's vision to produce a new creation; the collaborative nature of her work inspires her creativity. She said the most challenging aspect of operating a business is balancing her work as an artist with her responsibilities as a mother.

Stephanie enjoys the peacefulness of Sullivan County and appreciates the comforts of a small-town life. She is a big fan of the tractor parade and attends regularly with her family, saying that she loves "the cool machines, the new tractor models, food, and games. We're huge fans; my kids love the programming, so it was amazing to contribute."

If you are interested in personalized artwork, you can contact Stephanie Carmona at seriouscraftingskillz@gmail.com.

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STORY AND
PHOTO BY
SEAN KUHN



Dennis Eschenberg sits upon a Husqvarna TS 348XD outside John H. Eschenberg Inc. on Route 17B in Callicoon.

was going to be washed away.”

The family originally relocated from New York City during the Great Depression, bringing workers and relatives to the Callicoon property. “They didn’t have anything,” Eschenberg recalled. “In the wintertime, they would stay in the house while they built their own homes.”

The current showroom has

Dennis Eschenberg, owner and operator of John H. Eschenberg Inc., has been part of the family business since 1959, when he began working for his father at just nine years old. Now more than six decades later, Eschenberg still keeps the doors open on Route 17B, running the shop with the same work ethic it was founded on.

“Since 1947,” Eschenberg said. “I came to work for him as a kid in 1959... I’ve been here ever since.”

He shared the history of the property — a former farm with roots going back to 1915. He pointed out the original barn floor and the family house, which survived a devastating flash flood in 1947. “My mother stood back in the house... she thought the house

grown through a series of additions. “When I graduated from school in ‘68, I said, ‘Dad, we need to put more room,’ but we couldn’t get anyone to do the foundation,” Eschenberg said, “of course now you could never get the permit. ‘Well,’ he said, ‘you dig the hole and we’ll put the foundation,’”

“Everything was done by hard work,” he said proudly.

Though he has never driven in the tractor parade himself, Eschenberg is a supporter of the event and its role in the community:

“Anything that’s good for the community is good for us. It’s good for Callicoon.”

Today, the business continues to sell and service a wide range of outdoor equipment.

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(left to right) Thomas Stauch, Josh Kurpil, Michael Mullally, Mary Beth Waite, Kyle Julkerski, Tim Mullally (Owner), Chris Franke with a John Deere Gator and Compact Utility Tractor.

STORY AND PHOTO BY SEAN KUHN

Mullally Tractor Sales on Route 52 in Jeffersonville is a family-owned and operated dealership serving the local community and surrounding areas. Established in 1981, Mullally has been a consistent participant in the Tractor Parade.

"Every year we put at least 3 or 4 tractors, if not more. It just depends on who's around [to drive the tractors]," employee Chris Franke said, "We try to make a day of it."

Franke has been attending the Tractor Parade since he was a kid. He says, "It's grown tremendously since then."

The John Deere machines Mullally brings to the parade reflect the equipment they sell and service year-round. For Frankie, the parade is a way to stay connected with the community.

"We may try and bring a trailer with some people to throw candy to the kids," he said.

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Catskills Equipment

Catskills Equipment is a family-owned and operated outdoor power equipment dealership and repair center located in Jeffersonville.

Established in 2021 by Jaimee and Ryan Lowe, the business emerged to meet local demand for small engine repair and equipment sales. Their facility features a 50-by-70-foot, four-bay repair shop capable of handling everything from routine maintenance to complex heavy equipment repairs.

Ryan has been part of the Callicoon Tractor Parade since he was a young boy.

"I've been participating in the tractor parade since I was 12 years old," he said. "I used to drive Bill Fulton's machines."

He credits community members like Terry Zierse, who ran Jeff Garage, and Bill Fulton, owner of Fulton Well Drilling, for giving him early chances to take part in the event.

STORY AND PHOTO
BY SEAN KUHN



Ryan and Jaimee Lowe are the dynamic duo behind Catskills Equipment on Route 52 in Jeffersonville.

His wife, Jaimee, is excited to see their young children join in the tradition.

"It's one thing to be a spectator, but it's another to be in it," she said. "It's cool to see something Ryan grew up doing, and now our kids are going to grow up doing it too."

Ryan and Jaimee opened Catskills Equipment in 2021. Before that, Ryan worked in heavy equipment repair starting in 2016. Their current location on Route 52 includes a service facility with space for sales, repairs and parts orders.

"We started the equipment side back in 2016," Ryan said. "But the dealership and new shop came together in 2021."

Catskills Equipment is an authorized dealer for brands including Cub Cadet, ECHO, Exmark and Troy-Bilt. The business offers equipment sales, repair services, parts ordering and financing options.

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SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY



Roger (left) and Lloyd stand with a New Holland compact tractor outside their shop.

Fosterdale Equipment

STORY AND PHOTO BY KUHN

Fosterdale Equipment is owned and operated by Roger and Lloyd Brucher. The Brucher brothers have been part of the community, selling tractors and other heavy equipment on Route 17B since 1975. While their inventory is focused on New Holland equipment, they can also request parts for customers and service the equipment they sell.

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The town got help from both the State Police and Sheriff's Office to close off the roads to traffic and ensure the safety of the 1,000 visitors to Callicoon. Joseph Gagliardo of the Sheriff's Office was on duty right in the center of town last year.



A visitor to the Callicoon Tractor Parade enjoys his complimentary copy of the Tractor Parade tab, published by the Sullivan County Democrat.

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