



Learn about The Ramapough

Pg.6

BLOOMING GROVE POST

BLOOMING GROVE'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSPAPER



Decades spent making the town safer
Pgs. 8,9

FREE VOL. I, NO. 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

MOFFAT LIBRARY PUBLICATION



Depot Antiques: After the closing of the line, the Washingtonville station building was purchased by E.J. & Joan McLaughlin, who turned it into an antiques shop called aptly The Depot Antiques. This photo was taken in the 1970s. Provided photo

Riding the trails through time

Local rail lines given new life

By **Caroline Korba**
BG Post Editor-in-Chief

As the leaves begin to turn, and in their warm colors drift down from their branches, Orange County welcomes the autumn months, chilly mornings and cozy sweaters. To many residents, the “perfect” fall day may include time spent outdoors: leaf-peeping car trips, hayrides, a bike ride or a walk in nature, taking advantage of our region’s spectacular foliage. While local rail trails offer residents and visitors ideal paths on which to stroll, skate, cycle or run, we tend to overlook the history behind these trails, as well as their impact on our local communities over time.

With its proximity to the Hudson River and New York City, Orange County has a rich past. Beginning with the original Native American inhabitants and the first European explorers, the means by which goods and people have moved around our area have changed with the centuries, reflecting population shifts,

technological advances and geographical barriers. While early routes were forged by the Lenape Tribe, with their Wawayanda Path extending westward from Danskammer (near New Windsor) into Pennsylvania, later settlers built upon existing trails. Foot traffic made way for horses, then stagecoaches, then trolleys and trains and eventually, automobiles.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

During the industrial rise of the nineteenth century, coal, timber, dairy, farm goods, metal and other products needed to traverse the Northeast - as did passengers. However, existing methods were slow and unreliable. As highlighted by author and historian Peter A. Brill, the journey between Newburgh and Goshen via stagecoach in 1820 could be completed in about three hours - a lengthy trip made in an inefficient vehicle. Enter the Erie Railroad.

Chartered in 1832, “the Erie” was one of many enterprising railroad companies that saw the need for laying rail lines to link major transportation and commercial hubs. In its day, the Erie Railroad



In this ongoing series, the *Blooming Grove Post* highlights Historic Landmark designated properties and areas in our town and its outskirts, so residents can learn more about the places where our history began. For our sixth article in this series, we look at the Erie Railroad.

achieved several “firsts” - first to connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, first to ship milk by rail, first long-line railroad in the United States, first to use a conductor’s bell-cord and first to construct telegraph lines along its right-of-way. Initially, the Erie’s Main Line connected Harriman and Howells Junction. In 1850, the New York and

Newburgh Railroad began operating the line that, once acquired by the Erie Railroad in 1869, became the Newburgh Branch. This rail spur joined with the Erie Main Line at Greycourt (east of Chester) and terminated in Newburgh, after traveling through Blooming Grove, Washingtonville, Salisbury Mills and Vails Gate.

From the outset, the Newburgh Branch was a mixed-use rail line, carrying people, goods and freight. Its locomotives stopped at passenger depots and at businesses such as Borden’s Creamery (now home to the WCSD bus garage) located off of Route 94, across from Washingtonville High School. At the close of the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, the Erie (and railroads in general) enjoyed tremendous advantages over other, more antiquated and smaller-scale means of transportation. But just as the trains hastened the end of stagecoach transit, the rise of the automobile in the 1920s and ‘30s spelled doom for the railways. The final passenger train ran on the Newburgh Branch in 1936.

As people took to cars, the Erie pivoted to a freight-focused business model, still capitalizing on the necessary criss-crossing

Erie Main Line, pg. 12



MURDER ON THE CREEK: The picturesque Moodna Creek keeps many secrets wrapped in fascinating historic folklore.
Katie Kornfeld photo

IN THIS EDITION OF THE BLOOMING GROVE POST

News, Feature Stories

Historic landmark: Erie Railroad . . . **1, 12, 13**
 The truth about Moodna Creek . . . **3**
 Joan Siegel . . . **4**
 9/11 Memorial . . . **5**
 Ramapough Lenape . . . **6**
 Cats . . . **7**
 Monell Fire Department . . . **8, 9**
 Ira Weissman . . . **10, 11**
 RCLS Trustee of the year . . . **14**
 Hamilton . . . **16**
 Puzzle . . . **18**
Sports . . . **20**

BLOOMING GROVE POST

STAFF

Caroline Korba, Editor-in-Chief
 Carol McCrossen, Joel Solonche, Associate Editors, Mentors
 Jeremy Joseph, Mentor | Mimi Estes, Art & Photo, Production Editor
 Giovanni Berchielli, Emelia DeCarvalho, Caroline Korba, Katie Kornfeld, Javen Raymond
Blooming Grove Post Student Reporters
 Joel Solonche, George Thompson, Jeanne Versweyveld
Blooming Grove Post Community Reporters

HOW TO REACH US

Email: bloominggrovepost@gmail.com
Mail: The Blooming Grove Post, 6 W. Main St., Washingtonville, NY 10992

The Blooming Grove Post is published bi-monthly by the Moffat Library of Washingtonville. Letters and story suggestions welcome. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. All contents, stories and BG Post photos are © 2025 Blooming Grove Post.

This project is made possible by a generous grant from NYS Assemblyman Brian Maher.

A SUDSY SATURDAY IN WASHINGTONVILLE

By Emelia DeCarvalho
 BG Post Reporter

This past September 13, the Washingtonville High School Class of 2027 hosted their annual car wash to fundraise for class events. Starting bright and early at 9:30 in the morning, the event commenced near the WHS administration building, dubbed Washingtonville’s own “White House.” The car wash provides members of the community with a local and inexpensive option for a fresh, clean car, and in return, the students earn the money they need to host memorable moments such as Junior Prom and Senior Banquet.

Class president Katie Sullivan gave the *BG Post* insight into the behind-the-scenes process of the bubbly fundraiser. “Throughout the day, classmates got to rotate different jobs, including promoting the car wash in town with decorative

signs, and wetting, washing and drying the cars,” said Sullivan. “No matter what job each of us had,” she added with a smile, “we gave our best work and had so much fun.”

From fundraising and beyond, the juniors are backed by a duo of class advisors, Bonnie Decosta and Courtney Roberts, who made the car wash possible by contributing supplies and drumming up support throughout Washingtonville. The Class of 2027 is looking forward to hosting more events throughout the year, especially another car wash in May, which will be advertised in advance for all those who wish to participate. The Class of 2027 graciously accepts any financial donations and is very grateful for the opportunity to include their message in the *BG Post*.

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Holidays will soon be here

Here’s to another edition of the *Blooming Grove Post* — the first issue of our paper to cover the holiday season! As the fall



Caroline Korba

foliage fades to a winter wonderland, the *BG Post* warmly welcomes you to our corner of the literary world, with a local focus.

For “November/December,” we have compiled a thoughtful collection of pieces; not only for your enjoyment, but also for your contemplation.

As we began to put together this issue, a theme became evident: the rich history of our community and the incredible individuals who helped shape it. From conversations with dedicated members of the Ramapough Nation to talks of railroad trails with Doug Barberio and Russ Tice, from student sports commentary to

interviews with local art icons and those honoring hometown heroes, our shared pride in Blooming Grove is on full display in the pages of this paper. We are inspired to look forward to a bright future as we reflect on the tales of our region’s past. Whether you read the latest from the *BG Post* under the lingering autumn sun, the bright lights on a Christmas tree or the glowing candles of a menorah or kinara, take the time to make new memories and celebrate old ones.

To continue our part in the preservation of the past and promotion of the spirit of change, the *BG Post* is, as always, seeking prospective writers, editors and photographers; if interested, we’d love you to email us or stop by the Moffat Library! Thank you, readers, for deciding to pick up our newspaper - a seamless blend of passions and personal connections. We hope that you love it as much as we do!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Do you have a Blooming Grove event, fundraiser or meeting going on during the months of January and February? Send us the information by Nov. 15 and we’ll post in our next issue. Include the full name of the sponsoring entity or individual; the date(s) and time(s) of the activity; its name and a short description; where to go for further information; and any other pertinent information about the agency or activity. In addition, please include your full name and contact information so that if we have any questions, we have a way to reach out to you. Send your information in text format only to **bloominggrovepost@gmail.com**. No flyers, please. Please note that we will accept activities that are taking place in or sponsored by an entity located in the Town of Blooming Grove and its immediate environs. Activities taking place outside this area will be selected as space allows. Thank you!

Murders on the Moodna

Fifteen and a Half Miles of Folklore and Fact

By Katherine Kornfeld
BG Post Student Reporter

What's the creek called? Waoraneck? Murders? Moodna? The small tributary of the Hudson River has coursed through many towns, gone by many names and has even taken on many colors. Despite its importance to our town's topography, the creek is also deep in history and lore.

THE CREEK'S MANY NAMES

Let's start with Waoraneck, the creek's original name. Before European settlement, the Lenape Tribe named the creek after themselves. Originally from Delaware, the Lenape expanded into New York, eventually resettling in the Catskills - what we now call the Hudson Valley.

Next, the elephant in the room: who was killed at the creek? According to local legend, it would have been in the nineteenth century that there was a war between early settlers and Native Americans. The story goes like this: An older Native man, Naoman, warned the Stacy family - who had a cabin at the mouth of the creek - that members of his tribe had a plan to attack and massacre the white settlers. In a desperate attempt to flee, the Stacy family allegedly tried to cross the Hudson; however, they were captured before they made it across. The Native tribe reportedly demanded to know how the family uncovered their plot. Mrs. Stacy kept her lips sealed, for Naoman had been a good friend to the family. The Stacy family's defiant demonstration of loyalty prompted Naoman to come forward and confess his actions to his tribe, ultimately leading to both his and the Stacy family's brutal executions. The Stacy home was burned, and the waterway was forever named Murders Creek, a moniker that seemed to loom larger over the creek than the shadows of the trees did.

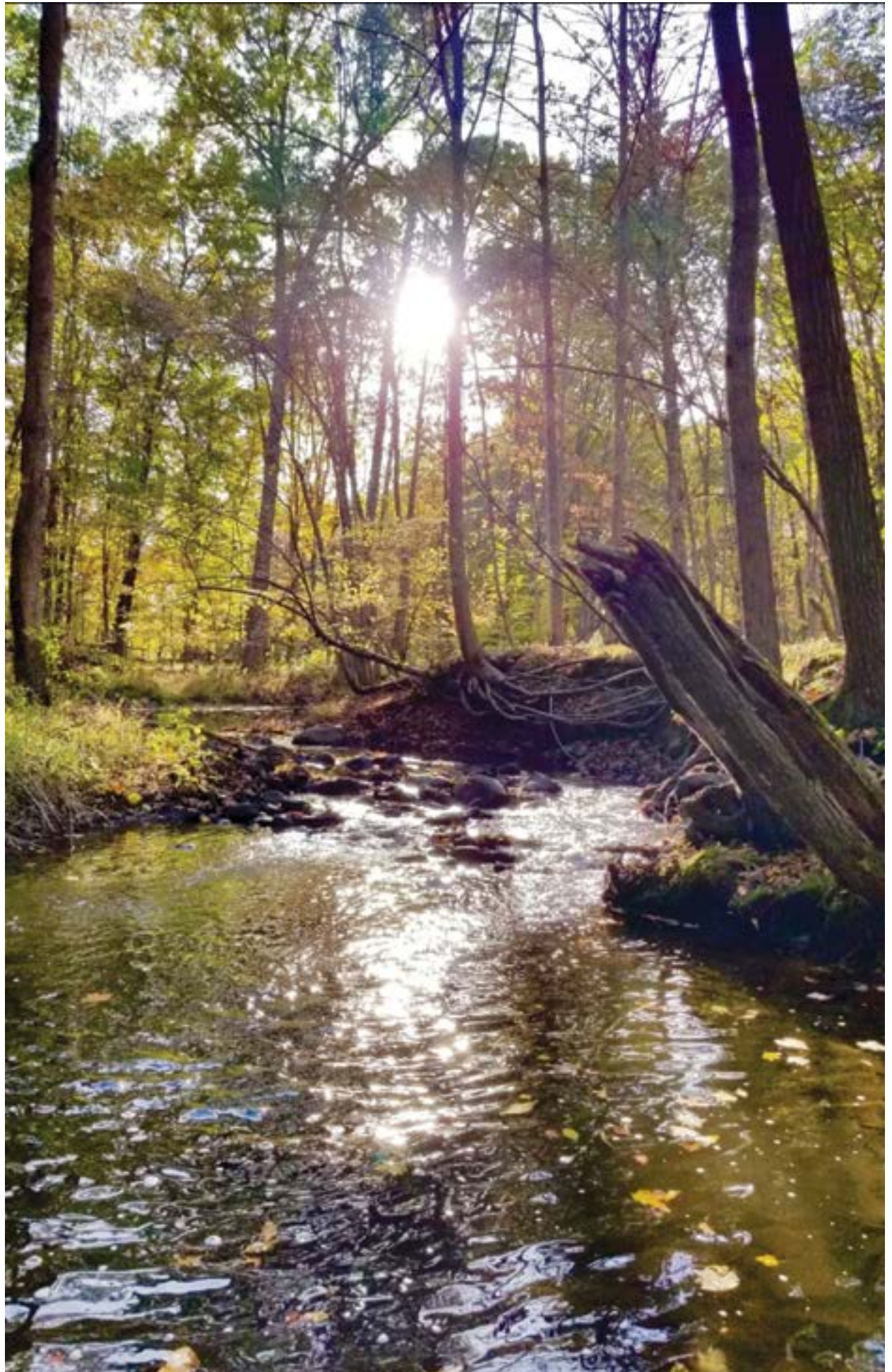
This validity of this story, however, has been called into question. As the years passed, details shifted. Names, dates, and locations - what any historian would call the backbone of truth - became blurred. Eventually, it came to light that the violent tale may have been more rumor than record.

Now, where did Moodna come from? Cornwall writer Nathaniel Parker Willis once speculated that Murders was a corruption of Maringamus, a Waoraneck tribal leader's name, and popularized the title Moodna.

A LONG, TROUBLED HISTORY

By the 20th century, the name "Moodna" was appearing on maps and in the town's conversations. Disturbingly, part of the legend that haunted the surrounding lands never left: the creek's color. It supposedly ran red with the blood from the massacre. Well, actually, it ran more than just red. In 1965, the creek was green, pink and blue! The culprit? A nearby paper mill was caught dumping waste into the water, staining not only the creek but also the town's air with a sour odor. Heard through the grapevine, the stench of the water was scarier than the stories from it.

Waoraneck, Murders, Moodna - remind us of our town's layered history. What was once a Lenape landmark has become a site of folklore, as well as a physical lesson not only of human mortality but also of environmental fragility. Its waters carry both the myths of the past and the marks of modern industry, urging us to realize that the stories we tell - and choose to remember - will continue to shape our town for generations to come.



The sun glows behind trees along the creek's historically "haunted" banks. Photo by Katie Kornfeld

In Memory of Joan I. Siegel

Blooming Grove resident for 45 years, Joan I. Siegel passed away peacefully in her sleep at home of advanced Alzheimer's dementia on August 25, 2025 at age 79.

She was Professor Emerita of English at SUNY Orange, where she taught for 30 years. Beloved by her students and highly esteemed by her colleagues, Professor Siegel developed the highly popular Women Writers Course and in 2007, won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. An acclaimed poet, she published in many prestigious journals, including *The Atlantic*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Commonweal* and *New Letters*, which gave her its 1999 Poetry Award, as well as six poetry books.

She was an accomplished classical pianist, studying with the noted music pedagogue, Alexander Lipsky and with Susanna Nason, the longest serving pianist of the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra. As a young teenager, Joan studied dance with Hanya Holm, who was known as one of the "Big Four" founders of modern dance. She is survived by her husband, Joel Solonche and her daughter, Emily Solonche.

Joan's books can be borrowed from the Moffat Library, Washingtonville, NY. They can also be purchased – if available – on Amazon. Here is one of her poems from the 2017 collection, *Archaeology*:



Joan Siegel

Listening To Vaughan Williams' "The Lark Ascending"

by Joan I. Siegel

Rising on a silver thread
from that dark place

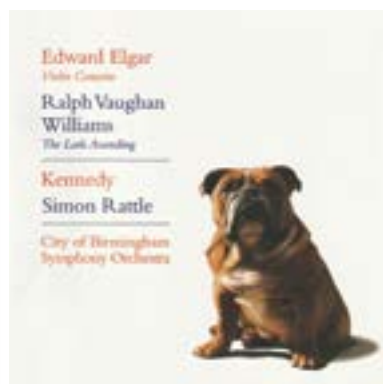
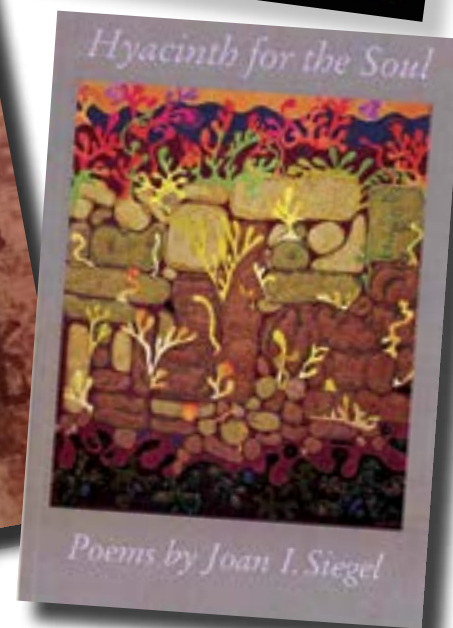
where you go each night
to meet yourself,

speak to the dead,
know all there is to know:

Stories that happened once
and happen again and again,

this ritual of transcendence,
ancient as the first sunrise.

Joan's books
can be
borrowed from
the Moffat Library



Vaughan Williams: *The Lark Ascending*

English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' piece, *The Lark Ascending*, is based on an 1880s British poem that describes an English skylark in flight. Poet George Meredith's 122 lines of verse deeply moved composer Ralph Vaughan Williams and it inspired him to write a duet for violin and piano, with the violin taking on the flight of a skylark. In 1920, Williams had the duet arranged for orchestra and the piece is now more famous than the old poem that inspired it. To hear the piece that inspired Joan to write her poem, "Listening To Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*," check out one of these two recordings available for loan at the Moffat Library.

9/11 Heroes Honored at Memorial Park

By Giovanni Berchielli
BG Post Student Reporter

As Blooming Grove knows all too well, “September Eleventh” is a date that will forever be engrained in our minds. In four coordinated terrorist attacks, the Islamist extremist group al-Qaeda killed 2,977 people, making this the deadliest terrorist attack ever on American soil. Communities across New York were directly affected, including Blooming Grove. And we were hit hard.

IN
MEMORIAM

Washingtonville lost five men that day: Battalion Chief Dennis Devlin, Lieutenant Gerry Perry, firefighter Robert Hamilton, firefighter Gerard Nevins and firefighter Mark Whitford. Since that fatal day, five more lives have been claimed by 9/11-related illnesses - firefighter Ray Philips, police officer Ronald Becker, Detective George Remouns, Detective Tommy Barnett and firefighter Robert Welsh. Their names, however, are not a relic of the past. They are a roadmap for our future.

Our ten local heroes - may they rest in peace - showed us what it means to serve; what it means to put everyone else before yourself; what it means to demonstrate bravery in the face of the impossible. We should never take such sacrifices for granted, so it is only right we take the time to remind ourselves of their courageous actions. We in Blooming Grove do so annually by gathering in Memorial Park around the monument dedicated to the men, the husbands, the fathers, the brothers, the loved ones we lost.

The main memorial consists of brass casts of Chief Salka’s helmet and plaques that bear the department identification number of each of the five firefighters who passed. Additionally, there is a more recent memorial set up alongside its predecessor honoring those who have subsequently succumbed to 9/11 sicknesses.

After the dust settled at the towers, our community sprang into action. The Washingtonville Five Firefighters Memorial Fund, a program administered by the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan Counties, was established in remembrance of them. With the support of Blooming Grove residents, an annual service was initi-



THE MAIN MEMORIAL : Along with Chief Salka’s helmet that has been cast in brass, are plaques commemorating the department number of each of the five firefighters who also passed in the attack.

ated for the first anniversary of 9/11 in the year 2002. This service has been held every year since, and in 2008, the ceremony incorporated a monument in Memorial Park.

Retired fire chief John Salka took the helm of organizing the event, along with dozens of other local firefighters and community members. One of these key contributors is Tim Pillsworth, whom the *BG Post* thanks for providing his perspective on the event and the widespread effects of its aftermath. As Pillsworth explained, “The thought or the hope was that no one would forget the terrorist attack that day. Thousands of Americans were murdered because of who they are. They were Americans, and we really came together as a country when they were taken away from us - and unfortunately, that unity and support for one another has really been shifting away.”

Patrick Mannion, a local scoutmaster for Troop 416, shared with us the story of one of the men he knew who perished on September 11. “One of the Washingtonville Five that were lost in the attacks was a Washingtonville volunteer firefighter and a former Scout from Troop 416. His sacrifice demonstrated the essence of service to the community as we learn in Scouts, as well as being loyal, helpful and brave.” This was one of the reasons that John Salka chose to include local Scout troops like the 416 in the ceremony every year.

Tim Pillsworth emphasized that government officials not be involved. “Local government, not at all, which I fully agree with. It’s a ceremony just to remember those taken away that day. So the local fire departments

*Our ten local heroes -
may they rest in peace -
showed us what it means
to serve; what it means to
put everyone else before
yourself;
what it means to
demonstrate bravery
in the face
of the impossible.*

come in uniform, stand at attention at a guard, and the local Boy Scout Troop 416 is the one that always leads the Pledge; and a local pastor or priest will do an open prayer and a benediction. It’s short. It’s sweet. There are no political speeches, which is probably the best thing about it because you don’t - we don’t - want politics on a day like that,” he said.

In his final statement, Mr. Pillsworth told the *BG Post* what he believes our town should do to honor its brave men. “Probably what was said in the days afterwards, which was: Never Forget. Most of the young people in our society weren’t born yet. All the boys in our Boy Scout troop who go to that event now, none of them were alive that day. My older son was six months old. So it’s already a generation old. The idea I want to leave you with is: Never forget the events of that tragic day.”

With that in mind, we here in Blooming Grove are committed to commemoration and are proud - not only on the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, but every day - to have such brave men from our town.



TO PAY RESPECTS: Since 2002, every September 11th, hundreds gather to remember those who lost their lives in the attack on the World Trade Center.

December is National Cat Lovers Month

Few months present as many celebrations as December, but what you may not know is that December is also National Cat Lover's Month. National Cat Lover's Month is an opportunity to honor the beauty, smarts and sass of our feline friends.

Evidence suggests that cats were domesticated more than 9,500 years ago, and according to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, 25 percent of households are home to a cat. Cats are one of the most popular pets for many reasons - not only are they quiet, independent and usually require less maintenance than other pets, but they are also great companions. Cats can sense when you need comfort and are proven to reduce anxiety and stress levels. People form deep, intimate bonds with these sleek creatures who provide a lifetime of love and affection.

This National Cat Lover's Month, we call on you to adopt a cat in need from your local animal shelter. You can be a hero and save a life, providing a sweet cat with their purrfect forever home.

Last November, Moffat Library held a cat adoption event in partnership with the Humane Society of Blooming Grove. The good news is that most of the kittens from that event were adopted. There is still one at the shelter, Bella, a calico kitten. According to a source at the BG Humane Society, the kitties up for adoption "literally all found the exact right homes for their personalities."

So this year we are showing you some of the cats that are currently up for adoption at the BG Humane Society, along with their bios.

If you want to find your purrfect kitty companion, why not start your search here in Blooming Grove?

The Humane Society of Blooming Grove is located at 2741 Rt 94, Washingtonville. The shelter is open: Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sundays 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.. For more info, call (845) 496-6199 or go to their website at: humanesocietybg.com. Interested in volunteering or making a donation? Go to: humanesocietybg.com/how-you-can-help.html

Kitties currently up for adoption at BG Humane Society

Bella - She is an active girl with typical calico personality. She loves her play time and treats. She has grown into a sweet loving girl who doesn't mind a bit of cuddle time.



Hazel - If you're looking for a kitty that is independent and curious, she's the one for you. She is affectionate once she knows you and loves her treats so she's easy to win over. She gets along well with other cats.

Maggie - If you're looking for a cat that will be a snuggler, Maggie is waiting for you. She is a little nervous at first, but once she's settled and familiar with you, she will be a lap kitty. She gets along with other cats and loves to play.



Daisy - She is a shy girl and will need a person who understands that she will need time to get comfortable with people. A quiet home is best for her.



Duncan - Duncan is a friendly guy but will need time to adjust to a new home and family. He loves to play and explore, and in time will be an affectionate, loving boy.

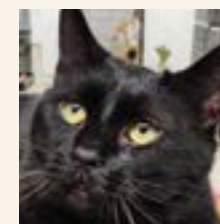
Frenchie - Quiet, thoughtful girl who would love a home where she can just hang out and lay in the sun. She is affectionate once she knows you and she just likes to observe things for a while before diving in.



Patty - Feisty girl who lives by her own rules. She loves to play and is full of energy. She isn't much of a cuddler and prefers her own space, but she does love treats!



Piper - A complete diva kitty who likes to tell you when she wants to be petted, and will let you know when she's done. She is the perfect cat for someone who loves a low maintenance girl.



If one of these beauties strikes your fancy, why not stop by and visit the wonderful cats wishing for a fur-ever home?

A Poem for National Cat Lovers Month

By **Joel Solonche**
BG Post Associate Editor

Because December is National Cat Lovers Month, the *BG Post* is celebrating by publishing "Five Cats," a poem written by the noted American poet, William Stafford. In April of 1987, Mr. Stafford, who was Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress at the time, flew up from Washington D.C. to Orange County for a reading at Orange County Community College. He came to our house for lunch. My wife, Professor Joan Siegel, cooked, I washed and Bill dried. That evening he gave a brilliant reading to the packed theater on the Middletown campus. The next morning, before Joan and I drove him down to Westchester County Airport, he surprised us with a poem he had written about our array of cats, aptly entitled "Five Cats." Having spent a good amount of his time in Oregon, Stafford dubbed the 14-line poem an "Oregon sonnet." To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time it appears in print.

To celebrate National Cat Lovers Month, our own Associate Editor, Joel Solonche, sent us photos of his own cats, along with comments of their own!

Five Cats

by William Stafford

These millionaires of smell and hearing inhabit an estate that arches above our poverty. They leave that country out there and bring such eyes inside that they burn and lose a deep gaze to play hunter through the glass. No paw can touch their riches, but a fur intensity brings it near and still.

They offer us largesse, then leap and walk, the bequest of life that thrills along their tails. We try to deserve that world by staring beyond and accepting, or not accepting, what is immediate, till we blink and give it all away.



BG Post Associate Editor, Joel Solonche, can't start work until Rachel opens the Jack Daniels.



Time for Mocha Chip's close-up.



Amy says, "You may scratch me now."



Amy to Mocha: "Whew! You have bad breath!"



Do I spy Rudolph? No, it's the beloved Lovesy!

Lovesy is the Editor-in-Chief's cat.

Do you have a photo of your cat or pet that you'd like to share with us? Please send to: bloominggrovepost@gmail.com. Please include pet's name, your name and anything you'd like to tell readers about your pet. Thanks!

Monell Fire Department: A History

By Jeanne Versweyveld

Washingtonville Village Historian

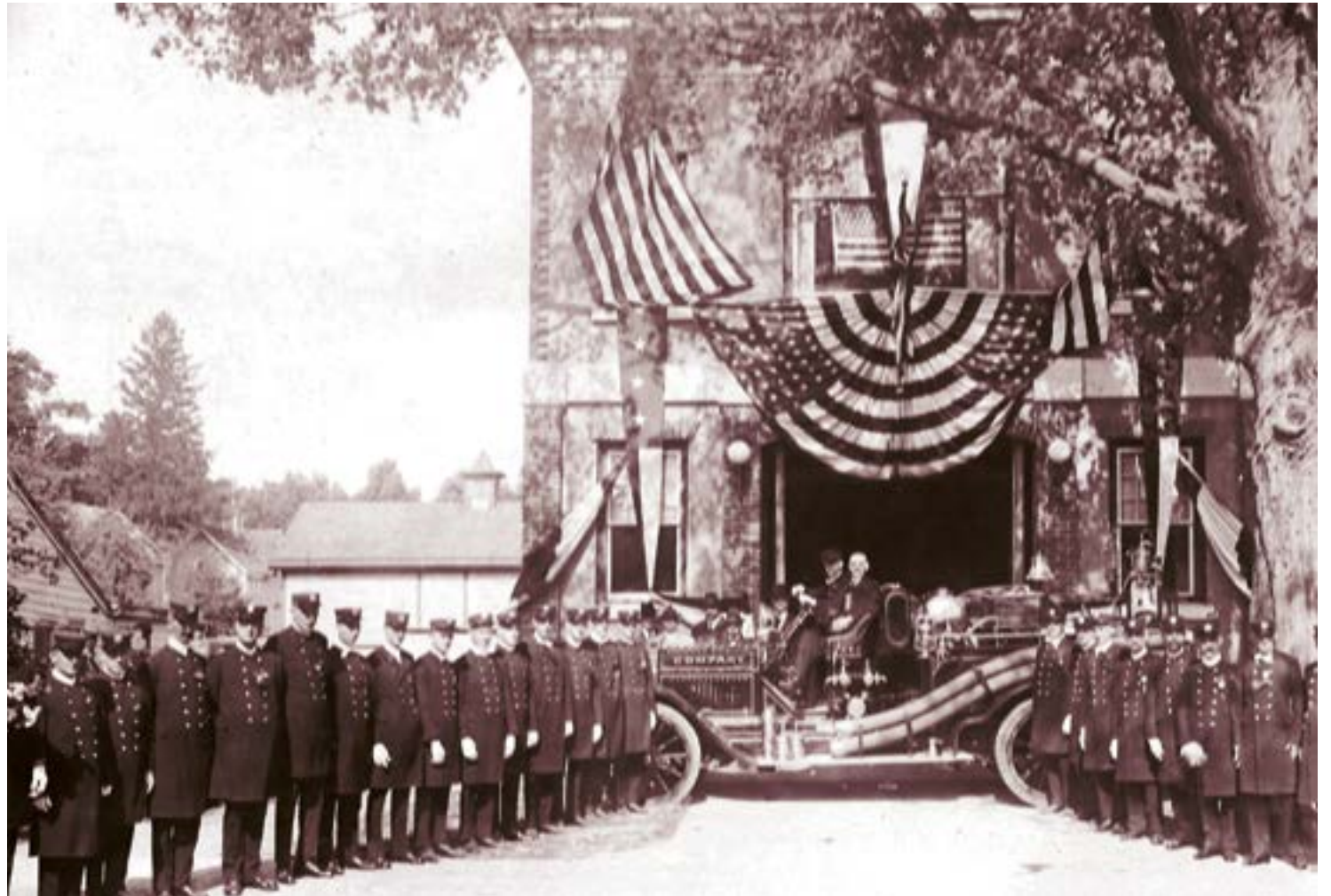
In the early days, Washingtonville was a village of dirt roads, stonewall fences and homes and barns constructed of wood. Fire protection amounted to unorganized bucket brigades operated by the closest men to the fire. The buckets were long, narrow, with rounded bottoms and made of leather.

Prior to the modern convenience of piped-in water systems in 1892, the men had to rely on homeowners' wells for the water. The Newburgh Journal weekly reported that there were several fires – mostly barns – that were destroyed. Some were insured, but one resident, in particular, was forced to cancel his insurance a week before the fire that decimated his barn, resulting in him having to sell off his herd to cover the cost of rebuilding.

Based on the number of fires over the years, the village fathers recognized the need to have an organized fire department. The impetus for this idea came through William H. Hallock, who in 1886, purchased a used hand pump, which was the first real piece of firefighting equipment for the village. It was stored downstairs in a building on Goshen Avenue - formerly where Spear Printing Company was located before being sold in the 2010s. Men from the village began meeting upstairs in a room known as Hallock Hall, which was also home to various civic groups. It took about four years before the pump was mounted on a cart, which was pushed by the men to the site of a fire. It was capable of delivering 50 gallons of water per minute.

On December 8, 1892, a volunteer fire company was officially formed as the Washingtonville Fire Department; and in February, 1893, the Washingtonville Fire Department By-Laws were adopted. (see the

**VOLUNTEER
FIRE
COMPANY**



FORMING A FIRE DEPARTMENT: An early photo of the Monell firemen standing outside the firehouse. Photo courtesy of Moffat Library

Text of Bylaws on the next page)

A campaign supported by village merchants and residents raised enough money to purchase a second piece of equipment, a hose cart. With the unlimited water supply, the department had the advantage of the hoses, but the water pressure was limited and they couldn't reach very high. But by 1897, they were able to purchase 1,100 feet of new hose, which gave them the height advantage

they needed to extinguish a fire effectively.

Fifteen years later, the fire company was finally able to purchase its first fire alarm - a metal locomotive tire hung in the center of the village. A ten-pound sledge hammer did the job of sounding the alarm, which was apparently so loud that it would ring in the ears of those nearby for the rest of the day. The alarm met its demise when the end of WWI was announced and villagers struck it to death in celebration of the war's end.

Despite the fact that over the years farmers lost their barns and residents lost their homes to fires, it took the December 1915 fire at the Fulton Mill on Depot Street (near where Fulton Square is today) to bring home the fact that an engine was needed. In anticipation of acquiring a fire truck, Isaac Nicoll was designated engineer-in-charge of the fire company in June 1916, with the power to choose his assistants; and that same year, Ambrose Monell was made an honorary member. Monell was a summer resident with a home on Beattie Road, who had made his fortune as the innovator of Monel Metal. See the next page for more on Monel Metal.

Armed with a building plan developed by Charles Bowman, Nicoll made the trek to visit Monell at his New York City office and Monell agreed to fund the building of Washingtonville's first fire house. On September 20, 1916, the name was officially changed to the Monell Engine Company in honor of the man responsible for the construction of the fire department's headquarters (which is currently the home

of the Washingtonville Police station).

Another plea from the community brought in funds to partially cover the cost of a new fire truck. Support even came from as far away as Denver, Colorado. In July 1917, David Moffat Jr., who had built the Moffat Library 30 years earlier, sent money to his hometown to help fund the fire company, in keeping with the ethos of bettering communities via philanthropy.

By the mid-twenties, the fire company became a NYS fire district serving a circumference of four miles around the village. Fire taxes were at a rate of 70 cents per thousand. By 1925, the first siren was installed and in 1929, the Fire Police was established.

In 1934, the fire company acquired a new American LaFrance engine with the ability to carry 250 gallons of water. Some controversy occurred in 1938 when the Company wanted to become a separate fire district apart from village control. When the village prevailed, nearly half of the members resigned in protest. But other than that, the Monell Fire Company persevered.

By the 1950s newer innovations were administered in the form of better nozzles for the fire hose allowing one man instead of four to handle it. Masks manufactured by the Scott Air Pack Company allowed firefighters to breathe better and stay longer in a fire. The first emergency truck was purchased along with a portable pump allowing the men to go where the larger truck could not.



Early 1900s fire pumper used by Washingtonville Fire Co. Photo courtesy of Jeanne Versweyveld



Early 1900s fire cart used by Washingtonville Fire Co. Photo courtesy of Jeanne Versweyeld

Although their headquarters has now moved to the other side of East Main Street farther down the road, the dedicated members of the Monell Engine Company continue to work tirelessly around the clock responding to countless calls for life-saving assistance.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the men

who worked so hard to establish our first fire department and to all those who continue to volunteer and come to the aid of many who are faced with the devastation of fire. This includes our other dedicated companies - Salisbury Mills, South Blooming Grove, and Mountain Lodge. Thank you, one and all!



The original Monell Fire Company is now home to the Washingtonville Police Department Photo Courtesy of Moffat Library

The Washingtonville Fire Department By-Laws (1893):

Article I - The officers of this organization shall consist of a Foreman, Assistant Foreman, Second Assistant Foreman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and five Trustees...to be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting each year.

Article II - Section 1. No person shall be proposed for membership under eighteen years of age.

Article V - It shall be the duty of the Foreman to see that the engine house and everything appertaining thereto, shall be kept from damage as far as in his power may lie, and at each regular meeting to detail the rotation, a sufficient number of active members to keep the engine clean and in good working order, and also buckets and hose...

Article X - It shall be the duty of the members to repair (arrive) immediately to the apparatus on an alarm of fire and assist in drawing the same to the fire. The two members first arriving at the engine house may take the trumpet and act in capacity of foreman and assistant foreman until the arrival of such officer. The persons so in command must see that the door of the engine house is closed before leaving; Section 4. It shall be the duty of each member to see that boys or improper persons are not admitted into the rooms.

Article XI - Section 1. The proposition fee for each member shall be \$1;
Section 2. The monthly dues of each member shall be 10 cents;
Section 3. Should there at any time be a deficiency in the treasury, the same may be made up by equal assessment of all the members.

Article XII - Each member shall provide himself with such uniform as the members shall hereafter adopt.

Article XIV - Section 1. The two first members who may arrive at the engine house on an alarm of fire shall be entitled to the pipe;
Section 2. The pipe shall always be under the control of the officer in command.

Article XVIII - Section 1. For neglect of duty prescribed to each of the respective offices a fine of not less than twenty-five cents;
Section 2. For disobedience of orders going to or returning from a fire each member shall pay not less than fifty cents or more than one dollar;
Section 3. For not answering to his name at first roll call at meetings, 10 cents; second call. 15 cents. For not answering at fire roll call, 25 cents;
Section 4. For interfering with the Foreman or Assistant Foreman or person in command, by giving counter orders at a fire, not less than 50 cents not more than \$1.00;
Section 7. Any member making use of profane or indecent language or smoking during any meeting shall be fined 50 cents;
Section 9. Any member visiting the engine house in a state of intoxication, shall be fined \$1.00, and expelled for the second offense

The Miracle of Monel

ABOUT MONEL METAL: Monel has been with us since 1905. It was one of the sole "natural" alloys refined directly from its ore and fit to any and every purpose, a trailblazer for stainless steel that is still found in our built environment today.

Like many metallurgical quests, Monel had its roots in alchemy. Three different chemists were all attempting to find a more affordable route to nickel

silver from the sulphur-laden ores of Sudbury, Ontario. But it was chemist Robert C. Stanley who ultimately refined the first ingot and, currying favor with his employer, named it after INCO Chairman Ambrose Monell, later truncated to "Monel" due to trademark law.

Monel appeared, rather advantageously, during a frenzied demand for nickel products. As wars of expansion

raged, militaries witnessed the technological advantages of a base metal that helped annihilate the Philippine fleet with only a single American casualty. Armament purchases exploded as conflicts and complicated imperial ententes culminated in the The Great War.

By the 1920s, Monel was used in 23 different industries, with uses ranging from naval battleship parts to special-

ized ice-cream cabinetry. Advertising touted Monel as a white metal that was corrosion proof, stronger than steel and of silvery appearance, brighter than nickel. This wonder metal alloy saw its decorative use explode during the heady expansion of the art-deco age, while acid and seawater resistance and low coefficient of expansion, among other properties, saw utilitarian use for industry methodically rise even

The folk art of Ira Weissman

Blooming Grove artist gains recognition

By Joel Solonche
BG Post Associate Editor

I like my job as one of the associate editors of this newspaper. I like mentoring the talented Washingtonville High School students who write most of its content. I like working with Carol McCrossen, my fellow associate editor and founder of this newspaper. But probably what I like most is discovering things about Blooming Grove I hadn't known before and sharing those discoveries with our readers. For instance, I learned that one of our town's master plumbers, Bill Cypher, is a fantastic sculptor and that Mays Field is named for Duane Mays, a promising local ball player who died tragically young. I learned that the Blooming Grove United Church of Christ is of historical and architectural importance and that Washingtonville resident Naomi Sewell Richardson was a life-long educator and civil rights activist. Now, I would like to share a new discovery - the folk art of Ira Weissman.

Ironically enough, it was through Bill Cypher that I learned about Mr. Weissman. Bill called one day to ask if I'd be interested in publishing an article about a Blooming Grove artist named Ira Weissman. Of course, I said yes. He informed me that his widow, Iwona Weissman - Mr. Weissman died in 2023 at the age of 94 - still resides in their home in Blooming Grove. I called, and Mrs. Weissman invited me over. When



The Sailboat

my daughter, Emily, and I walked in, we could scarcely believe our eyes.

There wasn't a wall that wasn't covered with a painting or a wood carving. Iwona enthusiastically guided us from room to room while Emily took pictures. You can see some of them here - truly a small fraction of the many hundreds in the house and of the many more in their New York City home, which was their primary residence. By the way, the Blooming Grove house itself is of historic interest. It was built in 1830 and was originally a working farm. The old silo still dominates the property. Mr. Weissman purchased the place for its privacy about forty years ago. There is also a small shed where he worked on his wood carvings. The shed looks like he may have carved it himself.

Ira Weissman was born in New York City in 1928. A self-described "hippie" in his early days, he became a civil engineer and a successful real estate developer. He soon recognized the potential of the underused industrial lofts in Soho where he had once lived illegally, so in the 1970s, with other investors, he renovated the Little Singer Building and several other buildings on Broadway and Lafayette Street.

Ira was an entrepreneur throughout his life, starting businesses including a sand and gravel company, a recording studio and an antique store. But above all, Ira loved art. He attended two wood carving classes at the New School for Social Research, which turned out to be all he



Crowded NYC sidewalk



These are my stories

1999. According to Iwona, he was painting on the last day of his life, in the house he loved, in the town he loved: Blooming Grove.

If you want to see more of his art, an exhibition of the folk paintings and wood carvings of Ira Weissman is being presented in the Mindy Ross Gallery of Kaplan Hall on the Newburgh Campus of SUNY Orange, GPS: 73 First St., Newburgh. The show will run from October 19th through December 16th. The gallery is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is free to the public. Ample free parking is available in the garage.



A new Eden



THE ENTREPRENEUR: Noted Folk Artist, Ira Weissman, displayed many of his talents in the field of art. But he also was a civil engineer and successful Real Estate developer.

Photo provided

needed. He taught himself the rest and became an accomplished folk art painter and wood carver, exhibiting at the American Folk Art Museum, Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building, the Museum of the City of New York, the S.E. Fineman Gallery in SoHo and other venues. "One day I was just a schmuck with a knife, and the next day I was an artist. I've never done anything in business that gives me more pleasure than my art," he said in an interview with The Orlando Sentinel in



Donation of Ira Weissman art to the Town of Blooming Grove

On August 13, 2025, Town of Blooming Grove Supervisor, Robert Jeroloman, accepted the donation of two artworks by the late folk artist Ira Weissman from his widow, Iwona Weissman. As well as living in New York City, the Weissmans were also Blooming Grove

residents for over 20 years. The painting and the wood carving will be displayed in the Blooming Grove Town Hall and in the new Blooming Grove Lasser Park Recreation Center located at 49 Station Road, Salisbury Mills.

Photos by
Emily Solonche



Secrets of Ira's Success



The 10th floor



ABOVE: The Monroe Diner
LEFT: The Woodbury Commons

Erie Railroad

from pg 1

of goods throughout the northeast. The Erie's various lines in New York remained busy from the 1940s through the early 1970s, providing the livelihoods for many, from company presidents on down.

In *Newburgh, NY and The Erie*, author Peter A. Brill "tried to recognize those who may not have achieved renown but were nevertheless important...because they faithfully carried out their vital duties to the best of their ability, day in, day out, year after year." Thankfully for the *BG Post*, the Editor-in-Chief happens to know one such dedicated Erie employee: her grandfather, Russ Tice.

From 1968 to 1973, when the Erie was operating as a freight line, Tice was a "signal man," a position that entailed maintaining signals, switches and gates controlling train and vehicle traffic. The offsite Erie dispatcher in Hoboken would review the train timetables, confirm there were no locomotives scheduled to come through, and give Tice the all-clear. Using a "high-railer" (a truck with special wheels that fit the rails) or a railway motorcar (an open-air contraption resembling a buggy) to go about his appointed rounds, Tice would then travel and inspect the signals along the tracks, mainly of the Newburgh Branch. This passage often took him through the Washingtonville and Blooming Grove area, the setting for many of his unforgettable anecdotes.

Ever seen the Moodna Viaduct or driven beneath it, craning your neck to get a better view of the massive structure? Well, the 193-foot-high, 3200-foot-long steel trestle spanning the creek of the same name came up in an interview for the *BG Post*, when Tice shared his first-hand memories of working on the Erie.

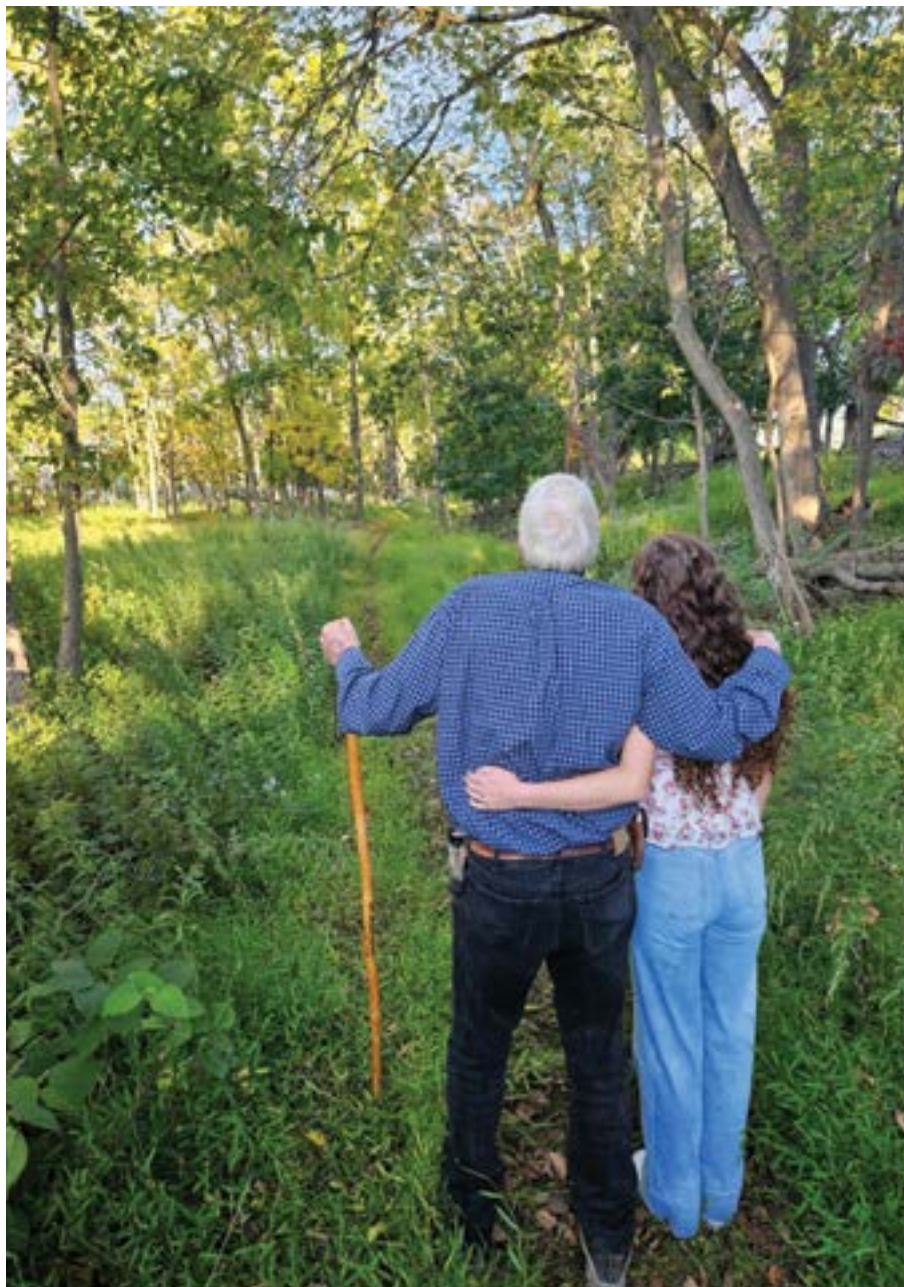
One day, Tice and a coworker had to cross the span to verify the working order of the signals across the way - vital for indicating to engineers if a train was safe to pass, or if there was trouble up ahead. At the opposite end of the high trestle, the two-man team was to continue a few miles east down the tracks, where they were to manually turn the motorcar around using a pair of handles, one for each assigned employee. The trek was understandably intimidating - nearly two-hundred feet up, wind blowing, with an overhanging walkway on one side and no guard rails whatsoever - but it was part of the job. As Tice started the mission, his shiftmate hung back, unwilling to venture across the viaduct. "He was afraid of heights," Tice chuckled with the kind of amusement that comes from since-disolved annoyance. Having completed the journey solo, "I had to turn the motorcar around alone." The height clearly didn't bother Tice: while still in his thrill-seeking youth, he was a frequent skydiver and once even free-climbed the trestle whose tracks he'd soon often cross as an Erie employee.

No matter what time of year, working



Above, LONGTIME FRIENDS: Russ Tice (L) and Doug Barberio (R) hold up a railroad picture for the camera.

Below, EDITOR WALKS WITH GRANDFATHER: *BG Post* Editor-in-Chief Caroline Korba and her grandfather Russ Tice stand together in a path that was once occupied by Erie Railroad lines. Photos by Corey Korba



on the railroad had its lighter moments. On sweaty summer days, railroad pals would quip it was unsafe to sit on the tracks' joints, for they would expand in the heat and pinch the rears of unassuming victims. On freezing winter nights, camaraderie was built and endless memories were made. Tice and his friends joked of tarantulas swarming out of the freight cars full of bananas, and fondly referred to their railroad as the "Weary Erie." Other companies received less diplomatic names - the Middletown and Unionville Railroad, or M & U, was dubbed "Mean and Useless," while the Ontario and Western Railroad, or O & W, was called "Old and Weary." After his years on the Erie, in the early 1970s Tice moved on to other ventures, while the railroad lumbered on - at least for a few more years.

With the rise of highways and interstates, tractor trailers and air freight, railways were becoming outdated - just as their predecessors had. The last freight train ran on the Newburgh Branch in 1977, and the railway, by then the Erie Lackawanna, tore up most of the steel rails and timber ties of its old lines. Interestingly, as noted by railroad historian and Archivist of the Middletown and New Jersey Railway Historical Society, Doug Barberio, the Newburgh Branch is highly unusual in that its operators chose to leave the line's defunct bridges and trestles in place, although nearly all others were dismantled or scrapped. Surely, most Blooming Grove residents have seen the rusted lattice rail bridge over the Moodna (east of Weir's Ice Cream), and countless locals know stories of risk-takers who have crossed the now-rickety "Tin Bridge" behind the aforementioned Washingtonville

Erie Railroad
from page 12

bus garage.

While the Erie's old bridges may have fallen into disrepair, the paths once lined by steel rails quietly persisted and are now being reclaimed and revitalized by local municipalities. The once-bustling Erie Main Line is now best known as the Heritage Trail, the popular multi-use paved path running from Harriman to Middletown. Most excitingly for Blooming Grove residents, the Newburgh Branch is being reborn as the Schunnemunk Rail Trail, which, like its previous form, will connect with the Heritage Trail.

Tice has experienced the rise and fall of the railroads; born at the end of the Erie's passenger days, maturing during the line's bustling freight years, Tice contributed to a pivotal operation he later witnessed decline and vanish. In collaborating for this feature, Tice retraced the lines to which he dedicated years, seeing them in a new light after decades of desertion. Walking through Washingtonville, Tice spotted remnants from the past and beacons from the future of the rail trails. Between the Heritage and Schunnemunk, Tice is pleased to see the repurposing of the paths. "It's great that they're using the trails, and old-time railroad people can appreciate what it used to be," he said with a smile.

As one chapter in the story of the trails ends, another begins. The preservation effort continues thanks to organizations such as the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (who transformed the Heritage Trail into the version we know today) and the Open Space Institute (who shielded the Schunnemunk from urban development) and, in a different manner, dedicated historians and living individuals who embody the spirit of the railroads they once worked.

And so, as we honor the past and chug ahead towards the future, the Editor-in-Chief would like to extend sincere gratitude to all those involved with both the Erie and this article. Many thanks to Doug Barberio, the same railroad expert, who, when interviewed by the *BG Post*, humbly introduced himself as "the guy who knows enough to know he doesn't know it all," then proceeded to share a remarkable wealth of knowledge. Nor would this piece be possible without the wonderful contributions of Peter A. Brill, the photographers whose works are reprinted here and her own, living history-book-of-a-grandfather, Russ Tice.

WANT TO READ MORE ON THE ERIE?

YOU CAN BORROW THE BOOK, NEWBURGH, NY AND THE ERIE, GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE MOFFAT LIBRARY BY ITS AUTHOR FOR THIS PROJECT.

Thanksgiving Delicacies

Old World Plymouth Style and New World Veggie Style

By Giovanni Berchielli

BG Post Student Reporter

Everyone loves a good Thanksgiving meal - turkey, ham, mashed potatoes - you name it! Food-focused holiday gatherings have become a huge part of American culture, and we look forward to the time we get to spend with our families every

year. However, you might be surprised to learn that the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth looked a little bit different than ours today. So, if you're looking for a Thanksgiving like they had back in the seventeenth century, then consider incorporating some of the recipes from "The Plimoth Colony Cook Book," by the Plymouth Antiquarian Society, which is filled with recipes culled from

various books written during the 1600s. And on the other side of the spectrum, some New World Thanksgiving vegetarian recipes from the Moosewood Collective's "Moosewood Restaurant Celebrates: Festive meals for holidays and special occasions." For more recipes from these and other cookbooks, stop by Moffat Library today!

OLD WORLD THANKSGIVING RECIPE

TOAD IN THE HOLE (a traditional English dish c. 1600s)
(Recipe from "The Plimoth Colony Cook Book" by the Plymouth Antiquarian society)

1 pound beef steak
2 cups milk
1 egg
1 cup flour
Salt and Pepper

Cut meat in small pieces and place in a well-greased baking dish. Beat egg, add milk, beat in flour and seasonings. Pour over the meat and bake for 1 hour in a moderate oven (350°). Cooked meat may be used, if desired. Makes 3-4 servings.

NEW WORLD VEGETARIAN THANKSGIVING

For some delicious vegetarian options this holiday season, check out the cookbook, "Moosewood Restaurant Celebrates: festive meal for holidays and special occasions" by The Moosewood Collective, available for loan at the Moffat Library.

ROASTED AUTUMN VEGETABLES

Total Time: 75 minutes
Yields: 4 servings (as main dish alone)

Ingredients:

Herbed garlic marinade
1/3 cup olive oil
2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar or fresh lemon juice
5 garlic cloves, minced or pressed
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ground black pepper
1 to 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary or sage

Vegetables

1 large onion, peeled and ends trimmed
3 medium carrots
2 sweet potatoes
3 medium zucchini
2 red or yellow bell peppers
10 ounces baby portobellos or other firm mushrooms
6 to 8 fresh plum tomatoes
Salt to taste

Directions

- 1) Preheat the oven to 450°. Lightly oil two large baking pans.
- 2) In a bowl, mix together all of the marinade ingredients.
- 3) Thickly slice the large onion. Toss with about 1 tablespoon of the marinade to evenly coat and place on a large baking pan.
- 4) Peel the carrots. Cut lengthwise into halves and then crosswise into 2-inch pieces. Toss with about 1 tablespoon of marinade, add them to the baking pan, and roast the onions and carrots for 30 minutes.
- 5) Meanwhile, prepare the rest of the vegetables for roasting. Peel the sweet potatoes and cut them into generous bite-sized chunks or wedges. Trim the ends of the zucchini, slice into quarters lengthwise, and then cut crosswise into 2-inch pieces. Halve and core the bell peppers and cut into 2-inch squares. Trim any tough mushroom stems and cut larger mushrooms in half. Halve the plum tomatoes lengthwise.
- 6) Coat each type of vegetable with about 1 tablespoon of marinade.
- 7) When the onions and carrots have roasted for 30 minutes, stir them and lower the oven temperature to 400°.
- 8) Place the newly prepared vegetables on the second large baking pan. If there isn't enough room, push the onions and carrots to one end of their pan and add the remaining new vegetables to the hot pan.
- 9) Roast all of the vegetables for 15 minutes, stir well, and continue to roast for another 10 to 15 minutes, until tender and slightly caramelized.
- 10) Add salt to taste.
- 11) On a big platter, arrange the roasted vegetables.



Barnett with Moffat staff, trustees & Friends



Barnett with Moffat staff, trustees & Friends



TRUSTEE AWARD: 2025 Anthony J. Knipp Library Trustee Award presented to Dennis Barnett of the Moffat Library of Washingtonville.

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR:

RCLS Trustee of the Year Dennis Barnett giving his acceptance speech on September 12, 2025, at the RCLS Annual Meeting and Legislative Breakfast.

Photos by Dave Cosco & Carol McCrossen

Dennis Barnett Awarded RCLS Trustee of the Year

On Friday, September 12, 2025, Moffat Library trustee Dennis Barnett was awarded the 2025 Ramapo Catskill Library System Trustee of the Year Award at RCLS' Annual Meeting and Legislative Breakfast that took place at the Wallkill Golf Club in Middletown, New York. The award was named for Anthony J. Knipp, a Moffat Library board member and a longtime resident of Blooming Grove.

When Dennis first was elected to the Moffat Library board in 2001, it was Tony Knipp who

took it upon himself to take Dennis under his wing. Following Tony's passing in 2003, Dennis took over as president of the Moffat Library board – a post he retained through many changes at Moffat. Changes that included hurricane Irene and the flooding of the Moffat building in 2011, the library's subsequent move to a temporary space in Campbell Hall thanks to the generosity of business owner Jim Smith, the "buyback" of the Moffat building from the Town in 2013, the 2017 renovation and expansion of the national histor-

ic landmark-designated Moffat Library thanks to the residents of the Washingtonville school district, and today, by helping to provide enhanced services and programs to the Blooming Grove community through the Library.

Dennis Barnett is a true public servant and one to be recognized for his many years of commitment and dedication to not only the Moffat Library, but to his community at large. Congratulations, Dennis, on this well-deserved award!



SENATOR SPEAKS: Senator James Skoufis speaking at the RCLS Annual Meeting and Legislative Breakfast on September 12, 2025.



FRIENDS AND TRUSTEES:

Dennis Barnett pictured here with Friends member Mary Ann Marrero and Moffat trustees Kathleen Amend, Robert Borrebach, Victoria Drake and James Amend.

Photos provided

Shoveling correctly to save your spine

By George Thompson DC
BG Post Community Reporter

Shovel Smart This Winter - Tips from Your Local Chiropractor

As winter approaches, so does one of the season's most common chores: snow shoveling. While it may seem like a simple, everyday task, it's also one of the leading causes of back pain and injury this time of year. Each winter, thousands of people end up in doctors' offices or emergency rooms due to snow shoveling mishaps - many of which could have been prevented with proper technique. As a local chiropractor, I often see patients with lower back pain, shoulder strains, and neck injuries caused by poor snow shoveling habits. Luckily though, most of these injuries are preventable.

Here are some quick tips to help you protect your spine and muscles while still getting the job done.

Warm Up First - Before shoveling, take a few minutes for some light stretching. Think of shoveling as a workout - make sure to stretch your back, hamstrings, shoulders, and hips. Start with a small area to get your body moving, and remember to take frequent breaks to stand tall, stretch your spine, and catch your breath.

Wear proper footwear - Falls on ice are another top cause of winter injuries. Make sure you're wearing proper boots with good traction. For extra security, consider adding slip-on spikes to your footwear. All the power for shoveling starts at your feet so make sure you have a solid base before you start.

Lift With Your Legs, Not Your Back - One of the biggest mistakes people make is relying solely on their

arms and back to lift heavy snow. Instead, bend your knees, keep your back straight, and use your leg muscles to do the heavy lifting.

Push, Don't Toss - Whenever possible, push snow instead of lifting it. Use your body weight and momentum to slide the snow out of the way. It's easier on your back, shoulders, and neck.

Maintain a Strong Stance - Keep your feet about shoulder-width apart with one foot slightly forward for balance. Keep your chest up, core engaged and avoid hunching. Bent elbows help absorb the shock if you hit uneven surfaces under the snow.

Pivot, Don't Twist - If you do need to lift and toss snow, pivot your whole body by turning your feet, not just your upper body. This reduces strain on your spine and shoulders. And remember to take small scoops. Overloading the shovel puts unnecessary pressure on your body.

Choose the correct shovel - Choose a shovel that is long enough so you are not bending too much during use. Plastic is preferable for weight reduction. There are even ergonomic shovels with D handles and bends in the shaft to limit bending and aid in lifting.

By taking a few simple precautions and using proper techniques, you can avoid winter injuries and keep your body feeling great all season long. And if you do feel stiffness, soreness, or nagging pain, don't ignore it.

A chiropractic check-up can help realign your spine, ease tension, and prevent small issues from becoming bigger problems. Whether it's for pain relief or proactive care, your chiropractor is here to help you stay strong, mobile, and healthy all winter.



ID 114329938 | Dreamstime.com

PLACES OF WORSHIP

All information was verified as of October 2025 unless otherwise noted*. Please check with the church for updated information. If we are missing any place of worship in Blooming Grove or the information listed is incorrect, please contact us via email: bloominggrovepost@gmail.com.

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church

Address: 1520 Route 94 New Windsor, NY

Phone: 845-496-9187

Denomination: Presbyterian

Services: Sunday: 11:00 am

Blooming Grove United Church of Christ

Address: 2 Old Dominion Road Blooming Grove, NY

Phone: 845-496-9311

Denomination: United Church of Christ/Protestant

Services: Sunday: 10:30 am

El Shaddai Christian Church

Address: 26 Hallock Drive, Washingtonville, NY

Phone: 845-496-3756

Denomination: Assemblies of God (Evangelical - Pentecostal)

Services: Sunday: 9:30 am (English); 10:00 am (first Sunday of the month); 11:30 am (Spanish)

Encounter Church

Address: 647 Station Road, Rock Tavern, NY

Phone: 845-497-0142

Denomination: Non-denominational

Services: Sunday: 10:30 am

First Presbyterian Church Washingtonville

Address: 30 Goshen Ave Washingtonville, NY

Phone: 845-496-3814

Denomination: Presbyterian

Services: Sunday: 9:30 am (in-person & livestream)

Echo Grace Church (formerly Grace Community Church)

Address: 2839 NY-94, Washingtonville, NY

Phone: 845-576-0730

Denomination: Non-denominational

Services: Saturday: 5:00 pm; Sunday:

8:00 am; 9:30 am; 11:00 am; 12:30 pm (in-person & livestream)

Hope Chapel Mission Church

Address: 40 Clove Rd, Salisbury Mills, NY

Phone: 845-496-2475

Denomination: Non-denominational

Services: Sunday: 11 am

Korean Buddhist Temple Wonkaksa

Address: 260 Clove Road, Salisbury Mills, NY

Phone: 845-497-2229

Denomination: Buddhist

Services: Sunday: 11:30 am (in Korean only)

Life Changing Word Church of Orange County - Haitian American Christian Church*

Address: 30 Goshen Ave, Washingtonville, NY (*as of this writing, the church is meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville)

Phone: 845-418-2889

Denomination: Non-denominational

Services: Sunday: 11:30 am

St. Mary's Church

Address: 42 Goshen Ave Washingtonville, NY

Phone: 845-496-3730

Denomination: Catholic

Services: Daily: 9:00 am; Saturday: 4:00 pm; Sunday: 7:30 am; 9:00 am; 10:30 am (in-person & livestream); 12:00 pm; 6:00 pm (first Sunday in September-last Sunday in May only)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Address: 9 Vance Road Rock Tavern, NY

Phone: 845-496-9696

Denomination: Unitarian

Services: Sunday: 10:30 am

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Address: 560 Station Road Rock Tavern, NY

Phone: 845-496-7971

Denomination: Presbyterian

Services: Sunday: 10:00 am; 2:00 pm (first Sunday of the month only); 6:00 pm (other Sundays only)



Lin-Manuel Miranda soaks up the spotlight during a Broadway performance.

Photo provided

History has its eyes on “Hamilton”

A Decade of Daring

By Caroline Korba
BG Post Editor-in-Chief

On the ten-year anniversary of the smashing success Broadway musical, “Hamilton,” history buffs and theater kids alike are flocking to theaters to be in the room where it happens. Conceptualized in 2008 by Lin-Manuel Miranda after reading Ron Chernow’s biography, *Alexander Hamilton*, the idea to turn the journey of one of America’s founding fathers, first Secretary of the Treasury, into a hip-hop show seemed absurd. But to its audacious creator, “A. Ham.” (as the main character in the musical is referred to) was more than deserving to have his life honored on the big stage.

BY THE NUMBERS

The original production featured a total of forty-six songs, ran two hours and forty-five minutes excluding intermission, has been performed over three and a half thousand times, won eleven Tony Awards and surpassed one billion dollars in gross income. The rotating star-studded cast once included names such as Leslie

Odom Jr. (Aaron Burr), Daveed Diggs (Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson), Renée Elise Goldsberry (Angelica Schuyler), Christopher Jackson (George Washington) and Lin-Manuel Miranda (Alexander Hamilton). Yet it was not simply a shared passion for the revolutionary-era scholar that brought the entertainers together.

WHAT IS A LEGACY?

As the musical’s main storyteller defines the term, it’s planting seeds in a garden one never gets to see. And boy, did Hamilton plant a garden. It’s been on Broadway since 2015, collecting accolades and attracting fans worldwide in the process. The musical and its original (and subsequent) cast members devoted themselves entirely to Hamilton in its run, hoping to spread a message beyond that of a historical figure’s trials and triumphs, a message of dignity, of music. It reimagines a tale, lost to the centuries, through an immigrant’s perspective. Led almost exclusively by Latino and Black actors, the multicultural heritage of the real Alexander Hamilton is purposefully highlighted.



The playbill of “Hamilton,” depicting the founding father’s silhouette encircled by stars.

Photo provided

Audiences experience the power of forgiveness, the delicate balance of action and patience, the crippling weight of choices and the enduring relevance of foundational moments. Given its immense popularity and international impact, it’s important to note that the *BG Post’s* own home has a piece of the puzzle that was Hamilton’s life and is his legacy.

A NOTEWORTHY NAMESAKE

Before it became the village we

know it as today, Washingtonville held several prior appellations. Colonial records first called the area “Matthews Field,” named after its first white European settler in 1731, Vincent Matthews. Once the settlement reached a population of nine households in 1809, it became known as “Little York,” but that name was short-lived. In 1818, the village was given its new name in honor of Alexander Hamilton’s commander, ally and close friend, former general in the Revolutionary War and first President of the United States, George Washington. It is said that during his New York Campaign, Washington himself traveled through Washingtonville, stopping to water his horse at a trough located in the center of the village, which now bears his surname.

Although it takes artistic liberties, “Hamilton” unflinchingly projects the voices of a marginalized Founding Father and his overlooked contemporaries, while at the same time empowering those of the diverse, underrepresented individuals of the modern stage.

MOFFAT LIBRARY CALENDAR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025 PROGRAMS

Please Note: All programs take place at Moffat Library unless otherwise noted. Registration is required for all library programs as space is limited. Please register online at: moffat.librarycalendar.com

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Jr. Scientist Club (For grades K-5 with an adult)
Wednesday, November 5 & Tuesday, December 9, from 5-6 p.m.: Enjoy an afternoon of science and fun with our teen volunteers!

Learning Lab (For grades K-6)
Monday, November 3, 10, 17 & December 1, 8, & 15, from 4-6 p.m. (30-minute sessions):
Need extra help with math, reading, or writing? Sign up for a 30-minute session with a certified elementary school teacher! This program is designed to give students individualized attention in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Read Dogs With Paws For A Cause (For ages 6+ with an adult)
Wednesday, November 19, December 17, from 4-5 p.m. (15-minute sessions):
Build reading skills and confidence by reading to a calm and comforting dog from READ (Reading Assistance Dogs) through Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause Therapy dogs. There will be one dog at each session and 4 appointment slots open.

Books & Babies (for babies 6-23 months with an adult)
Thursday, November 20, from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.: Our youngest patrons and their grown-ups are welcome to

join us to explore early literacy with songs, stories, & playtime.

Playdough Playtime (For ages Pre-school-Kindergarten)
Wednesday, November 5, from 4-5 p.m.: Join us at the Moffat Library for Playdough Playtime, a fun and hands-on session for preschool and early elementary-aged children! Explore creativity while building fine motor skills and early literacy through playful activities with playdough. We'll provide the playdough; you bring the imagination!

LEGO Club (For grades K-5)
Monthly on Wednesdays @ 5 - 6 pm
Meets November 12, December 3
Come by the Moffat Library for an hour of Lego free play for elementary school-aged children. We provide the Legos & you provide the creativity!

TAKE & MAKE CRAFT (For kids of all ages)
New craft kits available on 11/1 & 12/1 during library open hours.
Come pick-up a free Take & Make craft activity to complete at home.
PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meetings (For ages 13-18)
Tuesday, November 4 & December 2, from 4-5p.m.: Looking for community service hours? Become a TAB member and attend monthly meetings

where teens share ideas and help shape how young adults experience the library by helping to develop new clubs, programs, and events. Earn volunteer hours! Stop by the library to pick up an application today!

Teen Art Club (For ages 11-18)
Friday, November 14 & Friday, December 12, from 4-5 p.m.: Your creative haven within the library's welcoming space! New projects every meeting with local artist Fable Culhane! If you're a high school or middle school student with a flair for art or a desire to explore your creative side, this club is perfect for you!

Dungeons and Dragons Club (For ages 13-18)
Friday, November 21, from 4-5:30 p.m.: Every session is an epic adventure waiting to unfold! Whether you're a seasoned Dungeon Master or a first-time player, our club is your gateway to the magical world of D&D and tabletop role-playing games.

Sushi Felting w/ Christine (For ages 13-18 + adults)
Tuesday, November 4, from 6-7:30 p.m.: Join crafter Christine Adams to make your own adorable sushi using needle felting techniques.

(PLUSH) SNOWBALL FIGHT! (For ages 11-18)
Friday, December 19, from 6-7 pm:
Get ready to duck, dive, & throw (soft plush snowballs, of course!) at our epic indoor Snowball Fight! Bring your energy and join us for a fun-filled winter battle with games, laughter, and

lots of friendly competition. No coats or mittens required — we're keeping it warm and wild inside the library!

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

TECH HOUR (For adults)
2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10 - 11 am
November 12: Email Basics | December 10: Library Apps: Join Moffat Library's Digital Navigator for one of these monthly technology-based classes. Each month we'll focus on a different topic and gain a new skill!

WASHINGTONVILLE WRITERS' CIRCLE (For adults)
Last Saturday of each month @ 11 am - 12:30 pm - Meets: November 29, December 27
Share your writing endeavors in a productive and encouraging environment!

SHELF LOVE BOOK CLUB (For adults)
4th Monday of each month @ 6:30 - 7:30 pm - November 24th - Landline by Rainbow Rowell
Moderated by Lara Sibley, this new book club focuses on feel good, romance, & heartwarming books.

GREAT BEGINNINGS BOOK CLUB (For adults) (In-person & Zoom) -
Moderated by John Donaldson
2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 - 9 pm unless otherwise noted*
*Wed, November 12th - The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides
December 9th - Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

UPCOMING EVENTS IN BLOOMING GROVE AND ENVIRONS

"42nd Street" – Live!
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7-9 and Nov. 14-16;
Theatre on Main Street, 6 Depot St., Fulton Square, #207, Washingtonville.
Theatre on Main Street will present the classic Broadway musical "42nd Street" this November! With lyrics by Al Dubin and Johnny Mercer and music by Harry Warren, the 1980 Broadway production won the Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Choreography. Do not miss this perennial favorite! For tickets and show times, go to: theatreonmainstreet.com or call 845-237-2456.

BG Senior Bus Trip: Wind Creek Casino!
Tuesday, November 18, Bus leaves from BG Seniors Center at 9 a.m., Cost: \$10.00
Experience the thrill of playing over 1,700 of the newest and most popular casino games on a floor built for comfort and big wins at the Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem, PA! For reservations and info, call Julie Southwick at: 845-783-1489

BG Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 6, Parade from 6 p.m.-7 p.m., Tree lighting at 7 p.m., Starts at L. Vern Allen Park on Rte. 94 (Main Street) and ends at Washingtonville High School, Rt. 94, Washingtonville.
Experience Washingtonville's 13th annual Holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony – the highlight of the season of lights! The parade is capped of by the arrival of Santa atop the Monell Firetruck to light the tree at the center of town signaling the beginning of the holiday season! For more info, go to: bloomingtonchamberofcommerce.org

Holiday Parade Warming Station
Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m.-7 p.m., Moffat Library, 6 W Main St., Washingtonville.
In tandem with the annual BG Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade, Moffat Library will keep its doors open after hours, so that parade-goers can stop in to warm up, grab a hot beverage & some tasty treats and use the facilities during the parade.



Presented by the Friends, Trustees & Staff of Moffat Library. For more info on Moffat events, go to: moffat.librarycalendar.com

Whoville in Washingtonville
Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; village of Washingtonville.
Join us for the annual Whoville Celebration! Voted as finalist for Best Annual and Best Christmas Attraction by "Hudson Valley" magazine! For info, go to: washingtonvillenyevents.com.

LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES

Blooming Grove Chamber of Commerce:

Services: The chamber is a group that's dedicated to protecting and promoting the local business community by: helping local business owners network and grow; keeping business owners on top of important ever-changing issues and trends within their community and local marketplace; making new connections in the community.

Where: The Blooming Grove Chamber meets at various locations in the town of Blooming Grove in order to highlight the businesses and services that are available in our community.

Info: For more info on becoming a Chamber member or to find out more about how the Chamber can help you, email them at: membership@bloominggrovechamberofcommerce.org or go to their website at: <https://bloominggrovechamberofcommerce.org/>

Blooming Grove Senior Bus Program

Services: The Blooming Grove Senior Bus services all residents over 60 years of age within the Town of Blooming Grove, including those in the Villages of South Blooming Grove and Washingtonville. This program is partially funded by the United States Administration on Aging, the New York State Office for the Aging and the Orange County Office for the Aging.

Please Note: The Bus will pick up passengers at home at the time scheduled when reservations are made. All services require reservations with 24 hours notice which can be made by calling 845-496-4411 Monday through Friday. Seniors are requested to donate \$1.00 upon entering the bus (each way). Once all passengers are loaded, the bus will proceed along its route to the pre-identified location of that trip. Please note that all trips are subject to change and trips can be canceled due to lack of ridership.

Schedule: Wednesdays: Monroe Shopping to Walmart; Target Shopping Area; Woodbury Commons; Shoprite and Stop & Shop and other area stores. Thursdays: Vails Gate/Newburgh Shopping including Price Chopper; Walgreens; Shoprite; Walmart; Kohls; Adam's Fairacre Farm; other area stores. Fridays: Monroe Shopping to Walmart; Target Shopping Area; Woodbury Commons; Shoprite and Stop & Shop and other area stores

Info: For more info or to make a reservation, call (845) 496-4411 or go to: <https://www.townofbloominggroveny.com/Departments/Senior-Bus>

Country Kids Food Pantry:

Services: Providing food to families within the Washingtonville Central School District experiencing food insecurity since 1988.

Where: The Country Kids Food Pantry is located at 2 Father Tierney Circle in Washingtonville, NY.

When: Food is distributed on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm. Upcoming 2025 distribution dates: November 5; November 19; December 3; & December 17.

How to Register: If you live within the Washingtonville Central School District you may register to receive food on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of the month between 3pm and 6pm. Explain at the door that you wish to register to receive food; you will be invited into the pantry registration office and receive help signing up. The registration form is simple. However, you must provide: 1) Photo ID 2) A bill addressed to you that proves you live within the WCS.D. (this must be mail sent to a street address and not a PO Box); & 3) Your most recent Tax Return OR a Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, SSI or WIC card, which proves need. Registration is renewed every fall for the following year.

Want to donate? Country Kids gladly accepts non-perishable foods that have not reached an expiration date. Items can be placed in the blue or red box on our front porch to the right of our door. These boxes are checked daily. For perishable items, such as turkeys, please bring them on a distribution day so they can be frozen or refrigerated.

Volunteering: Interested in volunteering? If you are an adult or teen interested in volunteering to help out at the pantry, please go to their website for details: <https://www.countrykidsfoodpantry.com/how-to-volunteer>

Info: For more information contact Val Palmer at 845-496-2119.

Humane Society of Blooming Grove

Services: The Humane Society of Blooming Grove is a non-profit animal shelter located in Washingtonville NY. It has been in existence since 1975 and is dedicated to

giving shelter to unwanted and abandoned animals. We currently serve the town of Blooming Grove NY, including the villages of Washingtonville and South Blooming Grove.

Where: The Humane Society of Blooming Grove is located at: 2741 Rt 94 (mailing address: PO Box 226), Washingtonville, NY 10992

When: The shelter is open: Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays: 9am-5pm; and Sundays 9am - 2pm

Info: For more info, call (845)496-6199, e-mail: bghumanesociety@gmail.com or go to their website at: <https://humanesocietybg.com/>

To volunteer or to make a donation, go to: <https://humanesocietybg.com/how-you-can-help.html>

Kiwanis Club of Washingtonville

Services: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Washingtonville was chartered in February 2015 with 37 members. We are a group of community-minded citizens whose focus is to improve our community.

Where: Meetings of the Kiwanis Club of Washingtonville are held at the Blooming Grove Senior Center located at 6 Horton Dr., Blooming Grove, NY 10914 (Mailing address PO Box 397, Blooming Grove, NY 10914)

When: Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm at the Blooming Grove Senior Center. Featured speakers present informative/educational programs during the member meetings.

Info: For more information: email Kiwanis at: kiwanisclubofwashingtonville@gmail.com or call/text: 845-728-1376

Town of Blooming Grove Neighbors For Neighbors Program:

Services: Jewish Family Services of Orange partners with the town of Blooming Grove and Orange County Office for the Aging to provide local transportation, help with grocery shopping and wellness calls and friendly visits to neighbors in our town who are over 60.

Where: Services residents of Blooming Grove, Washingtonville, Salisbury Mills and South Blooming Grove.

Info: For info, call (845) 325-8775

Volunteering: Interested in volunteering? Help is needed in the Blooming Grove and Washingtonville area. Become a volunteer with the Blooming Grove Neighbors for Neighbors program and help your neighbors! Call 845-341-1173 ext. 305 or email volunteer@jfsorange.org for more information on how to become a volunteer.

Washingtonville High School's Community Service Club

Services: Cultivates a collaborative environment of civic-minded student volunteers focused on improving school and local community through events such as Adopt-A-Family, Coffeehouse, weekly recycling, drives for food, books, gifts, clothing, holiday or personal care items, and creating cards for distribution to senior citizens, veterans and hospital patients.

Where: Auditorium, Washingtonville High School

When: Monthly afterschool meeting dates announced on Google Classroom (code - giwcuup5)

To volunteer: Every student is welcome; email advisor at: efrey@wcsdk12.org or president at: ckorb07@wcsdk12.org

UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Town of Blooming Grove**Town Board meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm**

Upcoming Town Board meetings: 11/5, 11/18, 12/2 @ 7 pm

Town Planning Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 pm

Upcoming Town Planning Board meetings: 11/19, 12/17 @ 8 pm

Meetings take place at Blooming Grove Town Hall, 6 Horton Rd., Blooming Grove, NY

For more info & updates: PH: 845-496-5223 | <https://bloominggrove-ny.gov/>

Village of South Blooming Grove**Village Board meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 8 pm**

Upcoming Village Board meetings: 11/3, 11/17, 12/8, 12/29

Village Planning Board meets on the 4th Friday of the month @ 10 am

Upcoming Village Planning Board meetings: 11/28, 12/26

Meetings take place at South Blooming Grove Village Hall, 811 Route 208, Monroe, NY For more info & updates: PH: 845-782-2600 | <https://www.villageofsouthbloominggrove.com/>

Village of Washingtonville**Village Board meets on the 1st & 2nd Mondays of the month at 7 pm**

Upcoming Village Board meetings: 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15 @ 7 pm

Village Planning Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Upcoming Village Planning Board meetings: 11/11, 12/9 @ 7 pm

Meetings take place at Washingtonville Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, NY

For more info & updates: PH: 845-496-3221 <https://www.washingtonville-ny.gov/>

LOOKING FOR ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN OR SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF BLOOMING GROVE!

For the benefit of our readers, we are looking to create a list of local nonprofit organizations and the services they provide. If you are a member or know of an organization that serves the residents of our area, please send all pertinent information including: full name of organization; contact name, phone, email; services they provide; and any other information to: bloominggrovepost@gmail.com. Thank you!

Pete's puzzlers

Here's another brain-teasing puzzle from our friend, postman Pete Devitt. You may remember that when we stopped by the Blooming Grove Post Office to drop off our first issue of the Blooming Grove Post, Pete offered us a set of puzzles for our next issue. This is his latest brain teaser and, once again, can you guess what the initials mean?

1. **10 Y in a D** _____
2. **3 H on a C** _____
3. **360 D in a C** _____
4. **1000 Y in a M** _____
5. **3 W on a T** _____
6. **2 is C 3 is a C** _____
7. **100 C in a D** _____
8. **5280 F in a M** _____
9. **90 D in a R A** _____
10. **24 K is P G** _____

L. A. Times, Wed, Oct 22, 2025

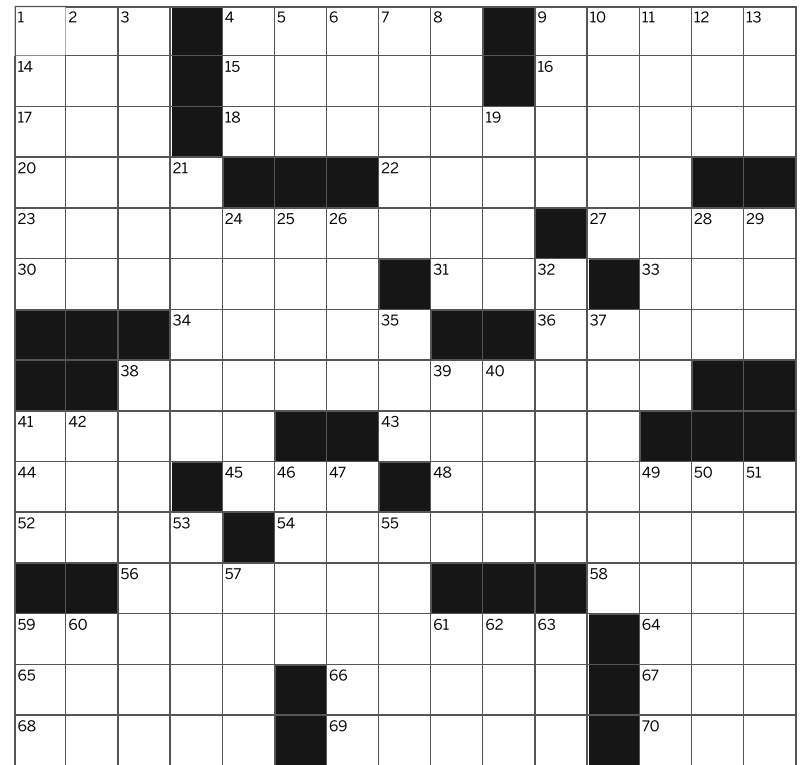
By Emma Oxford / Ed. Patti Varol
© 2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

ACROSS

- 1 Civil War POTUS
- 4 Anklebones
- 9 Lawn ornament in a hat
- 14 Bagel topping
- 15 Not suitable
- 16 Aspirational, as goals
- 17 Hill worker?
- 18 1977 Top 20 single by Boz Scaggs
- 20 DEA agent
- 22 44th first family
- 23 "Love your work!"
- 27 Drive-__
- 30 Polite assent in Seville
- 31 Court figs.
- 33 Rower's implement
- 34 "The Mystery of __ Drood"
- 36 Face With Tears of Joy, for one
- 38 Engagement ring option
- 41 Selected
- 43 Cars
- 44 Zeus, e.g.
- 45 Skip the grass seed
- 48 Cloaks
- 52 Highlander of ancient Peru
- 54 Aspiring musician's goal
- 56 Zeus's daughter
- 58 Not fooled by
- 59 Dramatic presentation often staged during Lent
- 64 Do some mending
- 65 The Ivies, e.g.
- 66 Leader of the girl group Red Velvet
- 67 Before, before
- 68 Some Southwest landmarks
- 69 Things to read on the road
- 70 Australian airport code

DOWN

- 1 "Ironic" singer Morissette
- 2 Brand of scouring powder
- 3 Bonuses
- 4 Up to, for short
- 5 Alex and __ jewelry
- 6 "Tubular!"
- 7 "Spaceballs," for one
- 8 Bleak assessment
- 9 Down in the dumps
- 10 Skim, in the dairy aisle
- 11 Branch
- 12 The NHL's Canadiens, on a scoreboard
- 13 Quiet part of a hurricane
- 19 "Pitch Perfect" actress __ Mae Lee



- 21 "Here's to you!"
- 24 Boxers or briefs
- 25 Formal dress
- 26 Actor Stoltz
- 28 "The Big Bang Theory" character
- 29 New England sch.
- 32 __ fiddle
- 35 Teacher's org.
- 37 High-priority activity, per some guidebooks
- 38 Downloads before a long road trip, perhaps
- 39 Japanese sport
- 40 Rating unit
- 41 Much of the F/X in the MCU
- 42 Babe
- 46 Black-and-white treat
- 47 "Mystic River" novelist Lehane
- 49 Inserts in some frames
- 50 Diner or bistro
- 51 Lost steam
- 53 Lost
- 55 Island off Naples
- 57 Battleship successes
- 59 Juice brand with distinctive bottles
- 60 Nail, as a test
- 61 Relay segment
- 62 "The Baby-Sitters Club" writer __ M. Martin
- 63 "Affirmative"

Stuck? Find the answers to these puzzles on page 6

T Z O P G U Q Y C Q B N V C X Y G I S O
M P P W S P M C L X T F F S K O V U U C
N N O V E M B E R V F X S R P U U W W J
W G E T H F S V T U I Q H F O I G B C E
V Y J Y I V P N E T R H O A W S R W A S
G H A R O Z S T L S E J P A Y I T I N J
V G J R P K D I C E P E P H D U E N A Y
H I C E D O P C I V L B I L G J C T M T
C O V K R Y T B C R A A N C J V T E W O
T C L Q C O L D I A C K G U Z H W R O B
U M O I N E U I K H E I E D N S Y Y N O
R Y O O D S L E I G H N V J Y H D H S G
K H F V K A P E T Q V G W R G T J M Y G
E S N O W I Y E B Z M D E C E M B E R A
Y K R B X D E C Z R R P T F D V O O J N
H A F M K P V S H Q A R J S L S T I U T
G Z P R E T F Y C D C T D L I Q L F S T
L N V A S A F W J A O G I T A S N T E W
V T I V X J A G L I J K Z O H T P Z N S
D X E N M K V T P Y K L P V N F N N M B

WORD SEARCH:

Find this month's words, selected especially for Wintertime

- WINTER**
- SNOW**
- NOVEMBER**
- DECEMBER**
- SNOWMAN**
- TURKEY**
- SLEIGH**
- TOBOGGAN**
- HARVEST**
- COLD**
- HOLIDAY**
- FROST**
- SHOPPING**
- FIREPLACE**
- ICICLE**
- BAKING**
- COOKIES**
- ICE SKATING**
- CELEBRATION**

Gee Wiz!

Wizards Varsity Football destroys the competition

By Giovanni Berchielli
BG Post Student Reporter

The 2025 Washingtonville High School Varsity Football team is shaping up to have a killer season. With hard work and resilience, they are making sure that this is their year to shine. The program's head coach, Joseph Delgado (Washingtonville Class of 2017), had this to say about the team's improvements this year:

"Leadership is definitely something I've noticed improving this year. Everyone's more focused, paying more attention and overall just doing what they need to do to get ready to go on the field and kill it."

Coach Delgado has led the team to an impressive record of three wins and no losses at the time this piece was written. He, along with his father, John Delgado, and the other varsity coaches have clearly been putting in the hours with their

student athletes to help them achieve excellence. They noted that a huge part of the team's success this year has been their special bonds with one another.

Co-captain Frank Schiraldi told the *BG Post*, "Honestly, the team chemistry this year is amazing. Everyone loves each other and I think it's proven on the field. We're doing great right now and although we've got a lot of tougher teams to play, I think we'll be fine as long as we keep our efforts and our spirits high." The senior plays on the offensive and defensive line for the Wizards and is an integral part of the team. Another instrumental athlete is Brennan Tesseyman, a junior and another co-captain who has now been starting on varsity for two years. "Going out there and playing for my guys is the best thing in the world," Brennan commented. "I just want to go out there and win for them."

With their determination



A media day photo of the Varsity Football Wizards, posing proudly on their home field. Photo from Wizards Facebook page.

and team-first mentality, this group is poised to go far this season, and after speaking with its coaches and captains,

I wouldn't be surprised if they do. As a junior at Washingtonville, I can certainly attest to how much the team means to

all of us, peers and community members alike. We wish them good luck on a successful season!



THE LADY WIZARDS: Together, the Washingtonville Varsity XC girls circle up and hold hands as part of their starting line ritual. Photo by Denni Lozza

Mud, Sweat and Cheers

A Look at WHS Girls XC

By Emelia DeCarvalho
and Caroline Korba
BG Post Reporters

Coming off a strong outdoor track season, the Washingtonville High School Girls Cross Country team is back in full swing with a bright outlook for the end of the season. The official start of their season was marked by the "All-Night

Relay," an annual fundraising event to support the team. As the sun dipped beneath the horizon on Friday, August 29, the girls got to running. With the evening wearing on, individual groups within the team would run one mile on the track every hour, collecting monetary donations while enjoying the cheers of their sponsors. Jogging underneath the lights

illuminating their second home, the runners and community combined to celebrate the event as a fun night, supplying funds for the team and alleviating the financial stress of their upcoming season.

However, the real work began with the first race of the season. On Saturday, September 6, the girls' team took second place at the Wizard Invitational, falling just behind Cornwall Central School District. With their first dual meet on Tuesday, September 9, the team snagged a victory against Valley Central, the triumph serving to boost morale and starting their year on a positive note. With another promising team, the girls have the dreams, dedication and talent to win the Section IX Championship title, a feat not accomplished by the WHS Girls' Cross Country program for over two decades.

The face of their organization - a face familiar to nearly every runner, parent, or coach in the region - is that of former Washingtonville athlete and the reporters' dedicated head coach, Mike White. The *BGP* had the opportunity to hear his thoughts on the excitement of the season:

"The Girls XC team is off to a great start with a second place finish at the Wizard Invitational. They are working hard and showing improvement every week. I see nothing but potential in these young women, and I'm confident they will achieve their goals this season. We are focusing our training to peak at the Section 9 Championships in November."

After six new school records were set during the 2024-2025 Indoor and Outdoor Track seasons, the team has continued to push themselves both physically and mentally, literally going the distance by training diligently throughout the summer in hopes of becoming Section IX Champions. The season continued with invitationals on September 20 and 27, followed by more on October 4, 11 and 18, preparing the team for the Orange County meet and bringing the ladies closer and closer to Sections on November 4.

Running around the clock, the Washingtonville girls have exemplified determination and drive, and eagerly anticipated the fall smiles their summer miles would bring.

WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THEIR JOURNEY?
COME CHEER ON THE LADY WIZARDS AT HOME MEETS, OR KEEP UP
WITH ALL RELATED NEWS ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE!