



Fresh air close to home **Pg. 14**

BLOOMING GROVE POST

BLOOMING GROVE'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSPAPER



The old McLaughlin corner store **Pg. 4**

FREE VOL. 2, NO. 3

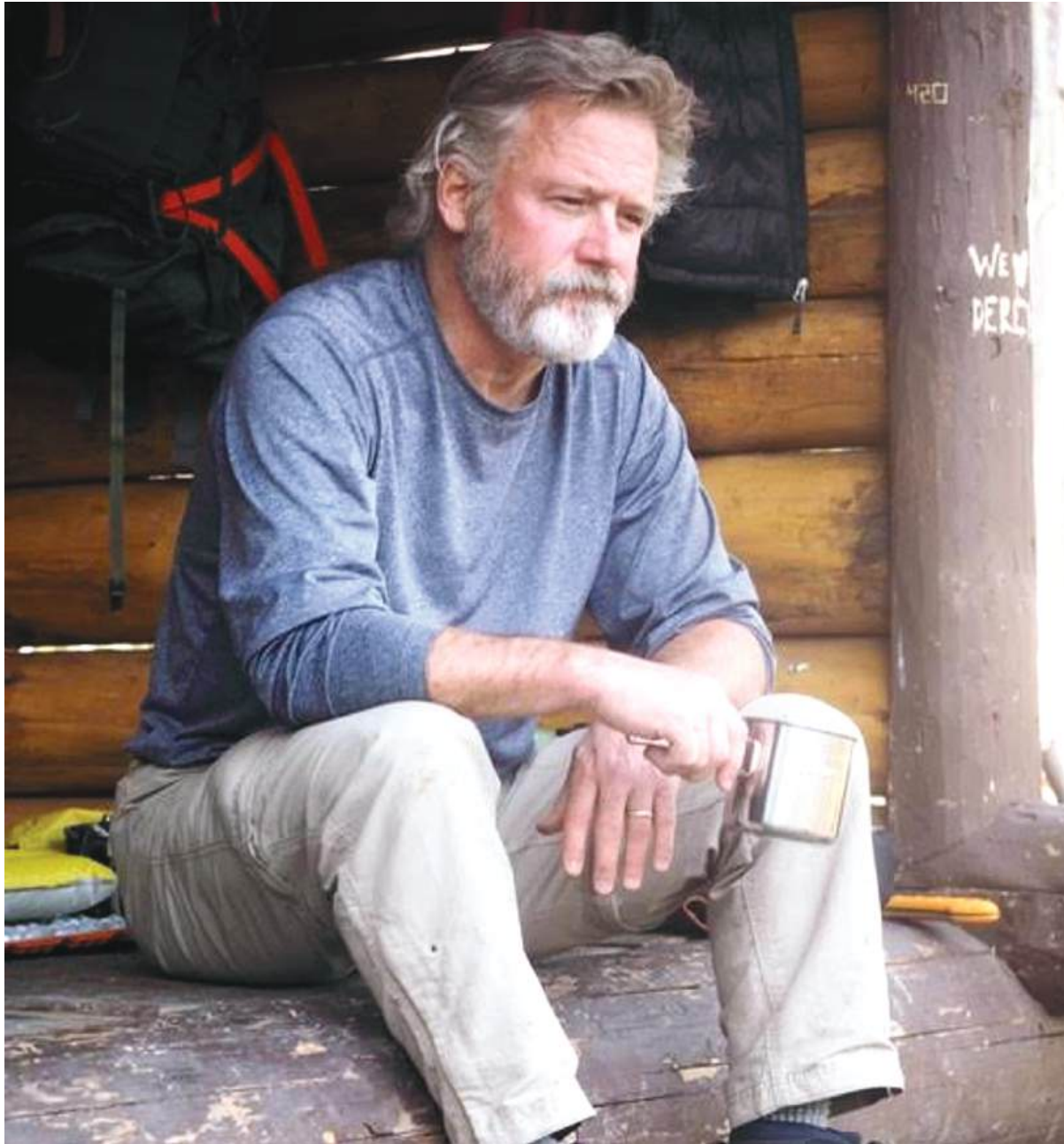
MAY/JUNE 2026

MOFFAT LIBRARY PUBLICATION

NATURE'S

CLASSROOM:

In a photo taken by a photographer friend, Brian Bacher sits in front of the Fox Hollow Shelter in the Catskills. Behind Bacher is camping equipment. Photo courtesy of Brian Bacher



The call of the mountains

The life of a true outdoorsman

By Caroline Korba and Katie Kornfeld
BG Post Student Reporters

June is National Great Outdoors Month. Starting as "Great Outdoors Week," by President Bill Clinton in 1998 to boost the outdoor recreation industry and motivate Americans to utilize public lands, it has gained traction and the recognition period was officially expanded to a national month by the U.S. Senate in 2019.

For our part, we at the *BG Post* can think of no better way to celebrate the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley than by spending time with avid outdoorsman, Cornwall Fire Department secretary and Washingtonville High School teacher, Brian Bacher.

When we asked what first got him into the outdoors, Bacher responded simply: "Boy Scouts." Born to young parents, he was a "wild child" who got put into a troop early in his childhood. For a lot of young boys, Boy Scouts is where not only handy skills are honed, but also where life skills and community are built. Growing up in Ohio, Bacher camped every

month, all year round. From hiking to cooking on a fire and doing all the things that the outdoors required him to do, Bacher fell in love with that life. "When you're younger, you tend to have a worldview based on the things that you're rooted in. I was rooted in the outdoors, in Boy Scouts, in being prepared and camping – and that worldview really hasn't shifted," Bacher said.

From Ohio to Kentucky to New York, whether living in the midwest, the sweltering south or up in the chilly northeast, Bacher has kept up his tradition of camping at least one

See *Fitting In*, page 9

Honoring the nursing profession

By Giada DeGiglio

BG Post Student Reporter

Each year, National Nurses Week recognizes the dedication and impact of nurses across the country. The celebration takes place from May 6 and concludes on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

NURSING HEROES

The nursing profession has evolved greatly over time, expanding from basic bedside care into a complex field that includes specialized training and advanced practice roles to improve patient outcomes.

See *Honoring*, page 8



NURSING EXCELLENCE: Catherine DeGiglio accepts the prestigious Nursing Sigma Award in December 2025.

Giada DeGiglio photo

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Turning the page toward brighter days

As the winter fades and spring fills our days with bloom, the promise of summer starts to warm our hearts. While the birds commence their morning chorus and sunbeams fill the air, spirits lift all around – and here at the *Post*, we return to our keyboards and pens to begin crafting stories.



Caroline Korba

With this “May/June” issue of the *Blooming Grove Post*, I’m proud to present a thoughtfully curated edition of our local paper. As always, our reporters and editors worked diligently to provide

this publication to you; from interviews with inspiring loved ones, teachers, coaches and community members to a comprehensive ice cream rating guide, this issue features a wide array of interests. And for the first time, we’re especially excited to share with you the initial installment of our hand-drawn comic strip: “The Adventures of Gorp.”

In reading and reviewing the pages of this paper, it becomes increasingly apparent to me how unique and incredible this community is – the place I’ve been so fortunate to call home all seventeen years of my life. As I – alongside the other seniors here in Washingtonville –

look ahead to graduation this June with excitement, there is also a quiet sense of nostalgia in preparing to leave this place behind. While this feeling is particularly present in my own life right now, it extends beyond those of us preparing to fly the nest. The connections we share with our hometown endure, and this paper serves as a tangible reminder of those ties to Blooming Grove.

But for now, we urge you to take it all in and live in the moment – hopefully with a copy of the *Blooming Grove Post* in hand as we turn the page into summer. Thank you for your support and happy reading!



SPRING SIGNS: Spring flowers begin to brighten gardens across the community.
wikimedia.org photo

IN THIS EDITION OF THE *BLOOMING GROVE POST*

News and Feature Stories

National Great Outdoors Month	1, 9
National Nurses Month	1, 8
Did You Know?: Police booth	3
Historic Landmarks: McLaughlin store	4
Historic Landmarks: Stewart Ice Cream	5
Orange Country Land Trust	6
Then & Now: Washingtonville Middle School	7
Italian American Club	10
Cycling Month	11
Double Life	12
Health column; Adventures of Gorp; Pete’s Puzzle	13
Schunnemunk Trail	14
Services, volunteers, worship and meetings	15

Sports

Father’s Day coaching	16
-----------------------	----

BLOOMING GROVE POST

STAFF

Caroline Korba, Editor-in-Chief

Carol McCrossen, Joel Solonche, Associate Editors, Mentors

Jeremy Joseph, Mentor | Shane Black, Art & Photo, Production Editor

Giovanni Berchielli, Isabella Briceno, Luke Broge, Emelia DeCarvalho,

Giada DeGiglio, Olivia Hanratty, Caroline Korba, Katie Kornfeld,

Javen Raymond, Rhea Trapnell

Blooming Grove Post Student Reporters

Sharen Casazza, Joel Solonche, 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 © 2026 Blooming Grove Post.

*This project is made possible by generous grants from
NYS Assemblyman Brian Maher and NYS Senator James Skoufis*

MEMORIAL DAY



A TRIBUTE

TO OUR VETS: Old Glory flies in the wind behind the town’s imposing monument to those of Blooming Grove who selflessly served our country and gave their lives for the cause of liberty.

Provided photo



Available FREE with your
Moffat Library card!

KANOPY provides Moffat Library patrons with a collection of classic, educational and mindful films – a majority of which you actually can’t find elsewhere online. This unique collection contains close to **30,000 films and TV series for all ages**. Start watching today at kanopy.com/en/moffatlibrary. To log in, enter your 14-digit Moffat Library card barcode and your PIN. Questions or assistance? Call us at **845-496-5483, x326** for assistance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hallock was such a beloved figure that when he got married, locals decorated the booth to welcome the newlyweds back from their honeymoon.



WATCHING OVER WASHINGTONVILLE: Chief Hallock on duty at the police booth in the 1950s, his “home away from home” from 1932 to 1963. At right, the booth stands as it is today in McLaughlin Square. Emily Solonche and Russell Hallock Jr. photo



W'ville Police Department's iconic booth

A small station with a lasting legacy

By Joel Solonche
BG Post Associate Editor

You’ve seen it dozens, maybe even hundreds of times while driving through Washingtonville. That thing that looks like a police booth on the island at the intersection of Routes 94 and 208. Well, it is indeed a police booth. But did you know that not only was it a police booth, it served as the primary station for local law enforcement before the Village of Washingtonville Police Department was formally established?

Washingtonville's first police station

Prior to the official formation of the village police department in 1974, the first police officer was stationed out of a small booth – yes, that one – located in the center of the Village. The first officer for the department was formally appointed in 1929; and the first full-time chief of police would be hired in 1932. He was Russell V. Hallock, and he served from 1932 to 1963. His home-away-from-home was the little police booth where he answered

distress calls and directed traffic during peak hours, especially when the school buses were out. There were no traffic lights back then, but there were stop signs, so he didn’t have to be in the booth all the time. When he wasn’t, he would receive calls at home. The traffic lights came later – with all the cars and all the traffic. Speaking of which, the first “police car,” according to Russell Hallock, Jr., Russel V.’s son, was his dad’s personal 1932 Plymouth convertible. “It had a rumble seat in the back which us kids loved to ride in,” Hallock said. The Village got its first official cruiser in 1952.

The man behind the badge

In a wide-ranging interview with the *BG Post*, Mr. Hallock related many anecdotes about his father, who in addition to being Police Chief, was the Dog Warden, the Fire Warden and “the water meter guy.” In his 31-year career, “my dad fired his gun only once – a warning shot in the air to get a perpetrator to stop. He didn’t stop, but was caught later,” Hallock noted. Probably his biggest



WEDDING DAY TRIBUTE: For Russell Hallock's wedding in August 1938, residents decorated his police booth in honor of the occasion. Russell Hallock Jr. photo

claim to fame was how he helped solve a bank robbery in Maybrook by noting the license plate number of a vehicle matching the description which “turned out to

A HISTORIC HEADQUARTERS

The Village of Washingtonville Police Department was founded in late 1974. They settled into their current headquarters located in the old Monell Engine Company fire station at 38 East Main Street because the Engine Company had outgrown it and moved into its bigger new facility at 89 East Main, which you can read all about the history of in the November/December 2025 issue of the *BG Post*.

be the get-away car,” Hallock chuckled. His father was such a beloved figure, he explained, that when he got married to Rose Gustowt in August of 1938, locals decorated the booth to welcome the newlyweds back from their honeymoon. “They even put a baby carriage on the roof,” he added.

No longer needed, the booth was removed in 1975 and brought to Russell Hallock Jr.’s residence. In 1994 it was returned to its present location at the center of town as a monument to Russell V. Hallock’s lifelong dedication to serving the community.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

History at the corner of E. Main and North St.

A loss to progress

By Jeanne Versweyveld

Washingtonville Village Historian

So much of the history of the Village of Washingtonville has been lost to the wrecking ball. In a few cases, the loss was due to progress – abandoning the old to make way for the new and improved. In other cases, it was Mother Nature that was to blame – hurricanes that flooded dwellings leading them to being condemned, with the most recent being the 2011 hurricane that destroyed many buildings in Washingtonville. Another recent case occurred in the center of the village at the site of the old Central Hotel, where a fire destroyed the entire building, leaving a gaping hole on East Main Street that is still there today.

VILLAGE FIRSTS

This story, however, is about the “progress” aspect of change. The original McLaughlin Building (as it was later known) was constructed and owned by John Jaques, a Scottish immigrant born in 1790, who was a cobbler by trade – one who makes shoes. He arrived in the village in 1809 and traveled around the area in a cart, selling his shoes and boots. With his earnings from that profession, Jaques ventured into the lumber trade. Then, in 1823 he built the corner store and leased the general store to several different merchants over the next twenty years.

The birthplace of brotherhood

In 1824, a year after the building was completed, Jaques planted grapevines behind the store with the intention of selling the grapes in New York City. When that did not prove profitable, he



HISTORIC INTERIOR: Interior of the McLaughlin store. Note the telephone, which was the first one to be installed in Washingtonville. Jeanne Versweyveld photo



MCLAUGHLIN LANDMARK: The McLaughlin store as it looked ca. 1890. Jeanne Versweyveld photo

turned his attention to winemaking itself. This little corner of Washingtonville became the birthplace of what we now know as the Brotherhood Wine Company, the oldest continuously-run winery in the U.S.

As for the Jaques store, in 1844, John turned it over to his son-in-law, Nathan H. McLaughlin, who operated it until 1876, when partners Green and Owen occupied the premises for the next three years. In 1879, Edward J. McLaughlin Sr. took ownership and remained until his death in 1937. His son, Edward J. McLaughlin Jr. continued in his father's footsteps and expanded the store to house the Clerk's Office of the Town of Blooming Grove until the store was razed in 1956, after which the Clerk's Office was moved to the Moffat Library building.

From storefront to service station

In the fall of 1956, a Gulf service station was constructed on the former site of the McLaughlin store and it operated until 1993, when it was replaced by a Stewart's Shop, which remains to this day.

The McLaughlin Store, as it was



commonly known then, was home to the first post office and the first telegraph service office in Washingtonville. The first private phone in the Village was installed in the building and connected to the McLaughlin residence. There were so many “firsts” in this little corner store which was lost to “progress.”

Upon reading of this story, the lesson to be learned is that while progress and change are inevitable, careful consideration and planning should be taken into account before we make changes we cannot undo, causing us to lose our most important touchstones of precious Village history.

A NEW STATION: After the demolition of the general store in 1956, a Gulf service station was constructed and operated by the Kincaid family until 1993.

Jeanne Versweyveld photo

HISTORIC LANDMARKS



SHERBET SMILE: A Stewart's associate serves up a delicious orange sherbet cone. BG Post photo

Everyone screams for ice cream!

New York's southernmost Stewart's

By Rhea Trapnell
BG Post Student Reporter

Washingtonville is home to a surprising tourist destination: Stewart's. This particular location is the southernmost Stewart's Shop in New York.

There is a lot of debate over what constitutes upstate New York, but one popular answer is the presence of a local Stewart's. If so, Washingtonville could be the line between the city and upstate culture. That idea became personal in my own family's story.

My dad grew up with Stewart's ice cream while living in upstate New York. After moving to South America and starting a family, he later got a job in New Jersey and returned to the United States. The closest Stewart's Shop was about forty-five miles away, yet we made that drive specifically for their ice cream.

Many years later, for unrelated reasons, we moved to Washingtonville and realized the Stewart's in town was the same one we had once traveled to for our longtime family tradition.

Now that Stewart's ice cream is more readily available, we have developed a rubric to rank the flavors:

- Flavor quality – 30 points
- Texture and creaminess – 20 points
- Flavor strength – 15 points
- Creativity or uniqueness – 15 points
- Overall enjoyment – 20 points

In recognition of National Dairy Month celebrated every June throughout the United States to honor the contributions of the dairy industry and in honor of Stewart's Shops winning 17 awards at the 2025 World Dairy Expo – we publish this piece, in hopes that you employ this ice cream rubric yourself.

So far, our top-ranked flavors are Peanut Butter Pandemonium with 97 points,



DID YOU KNOW? Stewart's Shops began as a family business in 1945 in Ballston Spa and they now employ over 5,000 people in over 400 shops across New York, Vermont and New Hampshire. In addition, Stewart's employees are also part-owners and share in the profits of the company.

Mango Dragon Fruit with 95 points, Butter Pecan and Colombian Coffee tied at 93 points, and Maple Walnut with 91 points. What is *your* favorite Stewart's flavor?

From Stewart's to your stomach, Washingtonville and its residents are surely grateful to be home to the southernmost location of this iconic "upstate New York" establishment.



THE CORNER TODAY: Stewart's in Washingtonville as it appears currently, standing on the same corner where the historic McLaughlin Store once served as a center of village life. BG Post photo

TOP-RATED FROSTY TREATS



1 A scoop of the first-place **Peanut Butter Pandemonium** ice cream at Stewart's.



2 The second-highest ranking flavor, **Mango Dragon Fruit** has a color that pops off our pages.



3 These two hold a tie for third place: **Butter Pecan** and **Colombian Coffee**.



4 To round out the rankings, **Maple Walnut** takes fourth against many other competing flavors.

OCLT: a growing organization with deep roots

Orange County Land Trust's role in conservation

By Luke Broge

BG Post Student Reporter

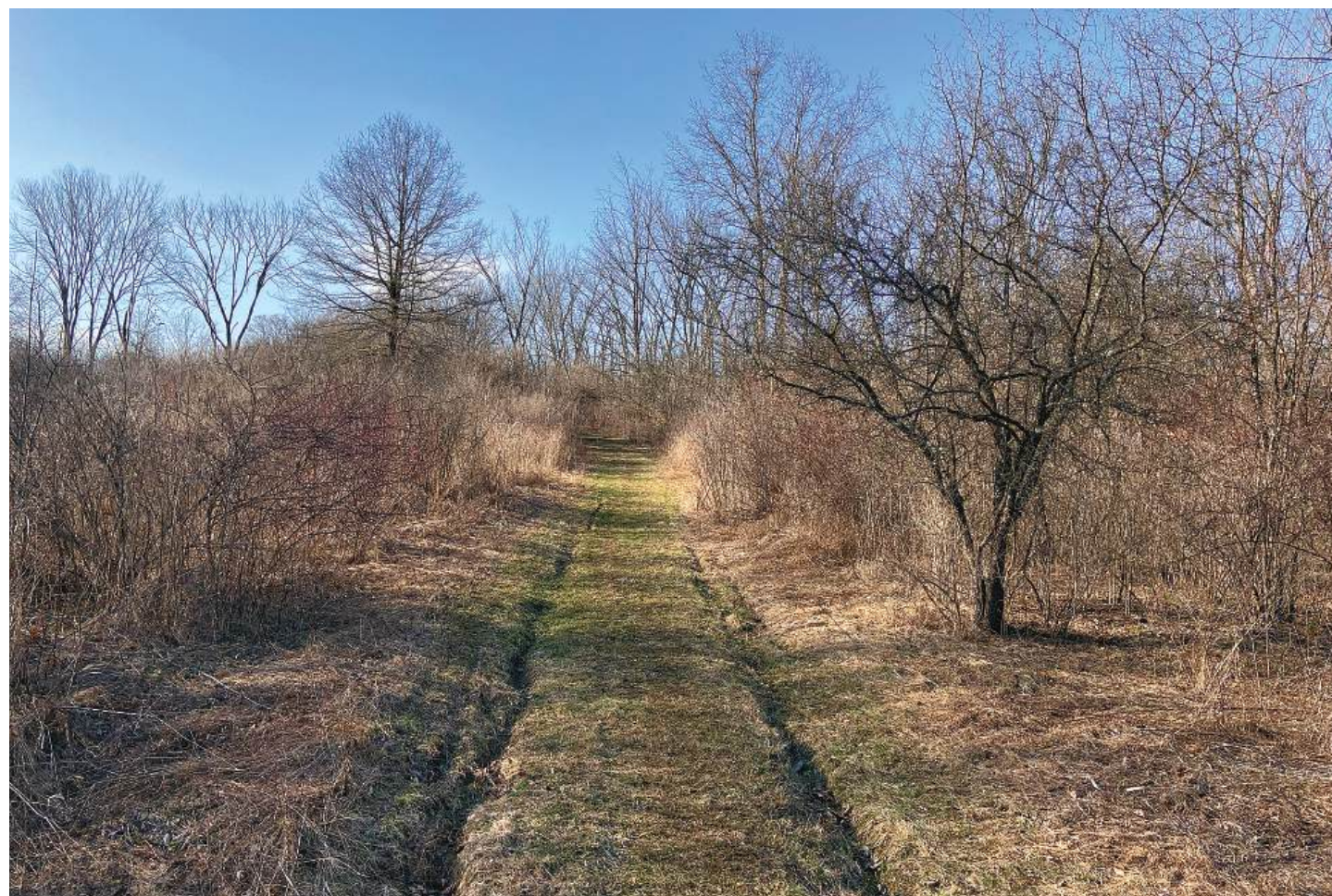
As a county made up of over 536,000 acres of land, it seems clear that some of Orange County's land would be conserved for natural, open spaces. But what is less clear is how exactly that land is conserved and protected from development. The Orange County Land Trust has been able to conserve 8,253 acres through a variety of methods that ensure the land is kept open and undeveloped.

A forest of logistics

Land trusts affect 93% of U.S. counties with the goal of permanently protecting large pieces of both private and public property. The Orange County Land Trust (OCLT) owns and maintains thirteen nature preserves which the public can visit and use as spaces to participate in outdoor activities like hiking and bird watching.

The OCLT is run by seven paid staff members and a volunteer board of directors as well as many other volunteers that help maintain land. One role of staff is to monitor land under conservation easements. To keep private land protected, the organization uses such conservation easements.

These are legal agreements that cer-



TRAIL THROUGH TIME: A path going through the property at the preserve. The Land Trust keeps paths mowed and clean. Luke Broge photo

tified land trust groups can make with individual land owners. Each easement is unique, but the agreement would outline exactly how a property must be protected and how it can or cannot be developed. The contracts are recorded by the County Clerk so that even if a property is sold, the easement still

stands and the land is permanently protected. The Trust also accepts donations of Conservation Easement Property when owners pass away or are ready to move. These donations can provide tax benefits to owners.

The Land Trust's roots

The history of the OCLT is closely intertwined with that of Orange County through the story of its founder Louis Van Orden Mills. Most famously serving as the county's first executive 1969 to 1977, he was also mayor of Middletown and First Vice Chairman of the National Association of Counties. His connection to nature came as a nominee to the Advisory Council of the Hudson River Valley Commission and a supporter of county parks while in office.

After Van Orden Mills' two terms as executive ended, he wanted to further focus on conservation efforts and founded the OCLT in 1993. He would go on to serve as the organization's president for the following ten years. Louis passed away in 2013, but his legacy of conservation in Orange County is an inspiration.

Growing towards the future

Today, the pride of the OCLT are its nature preserves. In order to keep these properties in good condition for the public, the trust focuses on tasks like "boundary posting, trail maintenance, trail construction, replacing signage, mowing, and so forth," the organization's

communications director Jeremy Schneider explained to the *BG Post*. They also rely on volunteers for bigger projects.

For Blooming Grove residents, the Hamptonburgh Preserve is an easy and rewarding spot to visit. The public is welcome to walk around and enjoy the land along the Wallkill River that is great for birdwatching or a stroll through the large wildflower meadows.

Across its various nature preserves, the OCLT will host events such as group hikes and birding programs. This is all with the intent to teach the importance of preserving natural resources. It is not easy to run a conservation organization, and the Trust faces struggles like loss of farmland due to development in the county and habitat fragmentation, or the breaking up of natural habitats into small patches due to human activity.

The Orange County Land Trust will continue fighting, however, because its supporters believe in the power of its conservation efforts. Referring to the organization's efforts to spread the word about conservation, the OCLT communications director explains, "[w]e feel that the more time people spend in the great outdoors, the more they will grow to appreciate the importance of the natural world and hopefully gain a better understanding of how all of us play a vital role in preserving it now and for future generations." More about the Land Trust and its continuous efforts in Orange County can be found at octl.org.



HISTORIC STEELWORK: An old steel trestle bridge that now carries Metro-North trains is easy to walk to from the parking lot in Hamptonburgh. Visitors can view trains, like this one on the bridge, from afar, but are not allowed to walk near train tracks. Luke Broge photo

THEN AND NOW

When W'ville's K-12 kids were all together

Everybody went to the Middle School

By Javen Raymond

BG Post Student Reporter

You've probably seen it entering the village a million times and may have even attended it, as many of the town's residents have in their early teen years. But did you know that the Washingtonville Middle School wasn't always the middle school? Yes, it's true!

Established in 1931, Washingtonville Central School (what it was called at the time) originally housed students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. It united kids from various one room schoolhouses in the area into one building, making it the second school district in Orange County to do so. This shift occurred because of a population increase in the Washingtonville area. One room schoolhouses no longer met the community's necessities; with the expanding student populous, they just didn't do the trick anymore. Washingtonville's high

Another article in our on-going series, "Then & Now," places as they once were and as they are now. This one features the Washingtonville Middle School.

school and elementary schools were built in later decades as the population continued to grow.

The school building hasn't changed all that much since its construction. However, the way students are instructed has changed dramatically. Back then, students were taught traditionally with chalkboards and pen and paper. Now, schools have technology to support kids in their learning such as Chromebooks and Smart Boards. In addition, the schools now have several clubs that students are able to participate in to further explore their interests. This privilege wasn't available when the school was initially centralized.

Though this shift to centralized schooling may not seem so important today, stu-



FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING: The Washingtonville Central School building during construction, ca. late 1920s. Moffat Library photo

dents in 1931 were excited at the time to step away from the one room schoolhouses of earlier decades. The new centralized system allowed students to continue their education and graduate in the same place where previously students had to go to a separate school for their final year. The first graduation of this system was in 1934 and consisted of only five students.

The Washingtonville Central School District has made many significant

strides in providing a fulfilling education for its students since its first establishment in 1931. While the exterior of the school building has remained relatively unchanged, the experience inside has evolved to meaningfully educate each new generation. Perhaps the next time you pass Washingtonville Middle School, you will remember the history and growth behind the familiar building.



THE SCHOOL TODAY:

A view of the current Washingtonville Middle School, standing proudly at 38 W. Main Street.

Javen Raymond
photo

NURSE HEROES

THE WOMAN WITH A PASSION FOR PATIENT CARE

Florence Nightingale (May 12, 1820 – August 13, 1910) was an English social reformer, statistician and the founder of modern nursing. She came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organized care for wounded soldiers and significantly reduced death rates by improving hygiene and living standards.

Nightingale's lasting contribution has been her role in founding the modern nursing profession. She set an example of compassion, commitment to patient care and diligent and thoughtful hospital administration. The first official nurses' training program, her Nightingale School for Nurses, opened in 1860. It is now called the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College London.

At their pinning ceremony at the end of training, all nurses in the U.S. recite the Nightingale Pledge, a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath. The pledge is a statement of the ethics and principles of the nursing profession. Here is the 1935 revised version still in use today:

"I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

"I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

"I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.

"With loyalty will I aid the physician in his work, and as a missioner of health, I will dedicate myself to devoted service for human welfare."



FIRST NURSE: Florence Nightingale photographed in 1860. wikimedia photo

Honoring the nursing profession

From pg. 1

One local nurse who has experienced change firsthand is Blooming Grove resident Catherine DeGiglio, RN (Registered Nurse), MSN (Master of Science in Nursing), and FNP-BC (Family Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified). With more than two decades in the field, DeGiglio has worked in a variety of healthcare settings while continuing to advance her education and career.

DeGiglio's path to nursing began during her college years. "In my first year of college, I went to SUNY Orange because I was undecided ... I initially thought about nursing, but it seemed very challenging, which made me hesitant at first," she stated. "I was committed to nursing, but wanted to be closer to New York City for better clinical opportunities, so I transferred to Pace University. This is where I completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree," she said. DeGiglio graduated Cum Laude and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Advancing her education

After seventeen years working in different areas of nursing, she decided to expand her role in patient care. "Returning to school to become an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse allowed me to deepen my clinical knowledge and take on greater responsibility in caring for patients," DeGiglio explained. She earned her master's degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Mount St. Mary College in December 2025 and received the prestigious Nursing Sigma Award.

Over the past twenty-two years, DeGiglio has worked in several areas of healthcare. She began in a hospital maternity ward before moving into the pediatrics department. She later transitioned into public health, a pediatrician's office and home care which focused on geriatric patients. Today, she works in a wound care center while preparing for board certification as a nurse practitioner.

Her inspiration to pursue nursing started much earlier than college. Catherine recalled when her interest first began around the age of eleven years old, as she observed a midwife during several of her mother's home births. DeGiglio told the *BG Post*, "Seeing the care and support she provided made a big impression on



UNITED IN CARE: Catherine DeGiglio, third from right, with her fellow nurses at Maria Farreri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. Catherine DeGiglio photo

me at a young age. It sparked my interest in healthcare and helping others."

As she advances into the nurse practitioner role, DeGiglio notes a major difference in responsibilities. "The biggest difference is the autonomy of being a

Nurse Practitioner. As a Registered Nurse, I provide direct patient care and follow treatment plans. However, as a Nurse Practitioner, I can independently assess, diagnose, prescribe and manage patients," she detailed.

For DeGiglio, the ability to directly influence a patient's health is one of the most meaningful parts of the profession. She notes, "The

most rewarding part of being a nurse practitioner, for me, will be knowing that the decisions I make can directly improve my patients' health and well-being."

Making a difference

Throughout her career, certain moments have reinforced her commitment to nursing. One occurred while working in pediatrics when she quickly recognized symptoms that required urgent

care for an infant patient. "Seeing the infant recover so quickly made me proud, knowing that my assessment and quick action played a direct role in preventing further harm," she recalled.

Nursing through change

According to DeGiglio, the nursing profession has changed significantly over the course of her career. Technology, electronic health records and evidence-based practices have reshaped how nurses work and collaborate with healthcare teams, while also creating more opportunities for specialization and advanced roles.

She believes strong clinical skills alone do not define a great nurse. Compassion, communication, and attention to detail are just as important when caring for patients and supporting families. For students considering a future in healthcare, DeGiglio emphasizes perseverance, curiosity, and notes that "it's a challenging but incredibly rewarding career. Ultimately, if you have a passion for helping people and a willingness to keep learning, nursing can be one of the most fulfilling careers."

As National Nurses Week highlights the contributions of the healthcare professionals worldwide, stories like DeGiglio's illustrate the dedication, growth and compassion that define the nursing profession.



'As a Nurse Practitioner, I can independently assess, diagnose, prescribe and manage patients.'

Catherine DeGiglio
Nurse Practitioner

COVER STORY



WINTER READY: For Bacher's January 2026 camping expedition, this was his sleeping system – a hammock, an under quilt, a top quilt and a tarp. This setup will get him to zero degrees ... seriously.

Brian Bacher photo

Fitting in on the outside

From pg. 1

weekend a month. After retirement, his goal is to camp in all fifty states, and he's already well on his way with fifteen! He loves the beauty of the West, with the utterly breathtaking terrain and vistas; the hot, dry conditions and landscape pose a stark contrast to those of the East. And still, even having visited Wyoming, Montana, Washington and Arizona, Bacher's most beloved place of all to camp remains New York. "There's something about the mountains. We've got the Catskills, the Adirondacks, the Ramapo Mountains in Harriman... and some are only half an hour away!" he exclaimed. His familiarity with these mountain ranges comes as no surprise, and that contributes in part to this area being his camping favorite. "I like it here the best because

of the comfort. I know which streams I can drink out of in the Catskills without treating it and I know where people are and aren't going to be," Bacher said. After many years exploring the woods of the Hudson Valley, he's developed an impressive level of comfort and knowledge, tailored just to our region.

Bacher's experience is backed by numbers. "There are challenges out there; you get a patch and you get a number if you complete them," he explained. He's hiked all the high peaks in the Catskills (the 2052nd person to do so) – and did it in the winter as well (850th). He's hiked every trail in the Catskills (22nd) and slept in every one of the lean-tos as well. He was the first person to ever accomplish the latter feat. "I'm also working on the Adirondacks... I've got twenty-three of those and there's forty-six total."



BEACH CAMPOUT: A photo of Bacher's tent, when he camped on Third Beach at Olympic National Park. He told the *BG Post* it was a very cool experience, but he said the sand got "everywhere." Brian Bacher photo

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Great Outdoors Month first started as a Great Outdoors Week under President Bill Clinton in 1998. What started as a seven-day celebration rapidly expanded. Over the years, succeeding administrations - including Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and

Joe Biden - have issued annual proclamations designating the entire month of June as Great Outdoors Month. The U.S. Senate officially designated June as Great Outdoors Month in 2019, aligning with National Trails Day, which falls during the first week of the month. Since then, Great Outdoors Month has been a month-long celebration of outdoor recreation and

America's parks, wildlife refuges, forests, monuments, marine sanctuaries, waters, national conservation lands and other natural treasures. Thousands of events are hosted nationwide, encouraging activities ranging from birding and outdoor photography to deep-sea diving and stargazing. You can find local events, learn about public lands, and plan

your own outdoor adventure through the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable at recreationroundtable.org/events/great-outdoors-month or by browsing the National Park Service guide at nps.gov/articles/great-outdoors-month.htm. Why not go for a walk on the conveniently located Schunnemunk Meadows Trail? Read more on page 14.

From brotherhood to community legacy

Heritage, service and scholarships

By Giada DeGiglio

BG Post Student Reporter

The Central Orange County Italian-American Association and its charitable partner, the Central Orange County Italian-American Foundation, continue to extend their impact across Orange County through cultural traditions, fundraising events and extensive charitable work.

Founded in 1986 by Goshen residents Anthony Antolino and Alvaro Ferrante, the organization began as a small social gathering for Italian-American men in the community. At its founding, the club had only eight members and primarily served as a place for people with shared backgrounds and values to meet and connect. "Realistically, it was founded back in 1986... as a way of keeping in touch with other Italian-Americans that had similar interests and values, and the importance of family," said Gio Pirraglia, president of the organization. "Family is of utmost importance to us as Italian-Americans."

Growing beyond a social club

Over time, the group evolved far beyond a social one. Members began raising funds for scholarships and community programs, gradually expanding the organization's role in Orange County.

What began as a single fundraising effort during the Great American Weekend has evolved into a year-round effort to support local causes. "The club's original mission when they first formed was really just as a social club," Pirraglia stated. "It grew into a 'brotherhood.' They had this wild idea to make some money and do fundraising to give scholarships."

Early fundraising efforts were modest. Members sold sausage and pepper sandwiches during local events in order to raise enough money for two scholarships worth \$500 each. Today, the organization raises roughly \$50,000 annually and directs the majority of those funds back into the community.

Investing in Orange County students

Scholarships remain a central focus of the organization's charitable work. In recent years, the foundation awarded thirteen scholarships valued at \$1,500 each to graduating seniors across Orange County schools. What once supported only two students in Goshen now helps a much broader group of young people pursue higher education.

The organization also contributes to numerous charitable programs and community services. Donations have supported groups that assist combat veterans with housing needs and home repairs. Contributions are also made to healthcare initiatives, including the Garnet Medical Center Foundation, which receives funds used to purchase books for the pediatric unit.



COMMUNITY LEADERS: Gio Pirraglia (pictured far left) with the board members of The Central Orange County Italian American Foundation during their Installation Dinner in December 2025. Central Orange County Italian American Foundation photo

Community outreach stretches into the holiday season as well. Members provide toys for children through programs associated with veterans' organizations and a migrant childcare center known as House on the Hill. Volunteers also prepare and donate Thanksgiving meals for needy families connected to the center.

Local food programs benefit from the organization's support throughout the year. Donations are made to food pantries in Goshen and Monroe, as well as to the Hudson Valley Regional Food Bank; and the group also supplies food for a backpack program at Goshen Middle School that provides food for students in need.

Bringing the community together

Fundraising events allow the organization to maintain these charitable efforts while also strengthening community ties. Annual activities include participation in Great American Weekend, a skeet shooting fundraiser each May, a golf outing in September and an Italian-American cultural festival held in Goshen in the fall.

Pirraglia noted that the organization's growth and community recognition represent one of its proudest accomplishments. "We are now officially recognized

by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable organization because of how we run and how we give back to the community."

Membership has expanded significantly as well. When Pirraglia first joined around 2005, the group had approximately twenty members. As of 2026, membership has grown to about seventy volunteers who support both the fraternal association and the charitable foundation.

Despite its expansion, the organization remains entirely volunteer-run.

No members receive payment for their work, and fundraising efforts are carried out by individuals committed to preserving Italian heritage while supporting their neighbors.

Looking ahead, Pirraglia said the organization hopes to keep developing programs with a community focus. "We want to continue to grow what we have already started ... [and to] hopefully have our kids take over when we aren't able to."

Through traditions, service and community support, the Central Orange County Italian-American Association and Foundation are working to build an incredible legacy that began with just a handful of members nearly four decades ago.



SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOLARS: The board members of the Central Orange County Italian American Foundation with the 13 recipients of their annual scholarships for high school graduates for July 2025. Central Orange County Italian American Foundation photo

A RIDE WITH A VIEW:

Cyclists ride on the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie. Provided photo



DON'T HAVE A BIKE?

If you don't have a bike or want to upgrade, Trek bicycles work for all levels of cyclists, as the brand has a wide variety and has an affordable price range. For more high-end bikes, try Specialized or Cannondale bicycles for their advanced cycling technology and more professional design. Although these models are often more expensive, for avid cyclists they are worth the money.



Pedal your way into summer adventures

Many places to ride bikes in our area

By **Emelia DeCarvalho**
BG Post Student Reporter

With the warmer weather underway, it's the perfect opportunity to engage in more outdoor activities, and taking the bicycle out for a spin is a great way to interact with nature and the community. Friends and family gather at local trails to spend quality bonding time together, all the while soaking up some vitamin D. However, the question remains. Where to go biking? Blooming Grove offers several options with miles of quality trails, including Stewart State Forest and the Orange County Heritage Trail. In addition, within less than an hour's ride, there are even more options for bikers at the Hudson & Wallkill Valley Rail Trails in neighboring Ulster county.

The Stewart State Forest is one of the largest state forests in New York with

access to biking, hiking and more. The 6,700 acre forest features 18 miles of gravel roads and more than 22 miles of dirt trails perfectly suited to mountain biking. The trails range in difficulty from a causal ride on the gravel roads to advanced and intermediate single-track mountain bike trails. Stewart State Forest can be accessed from state routes 207/208

NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

as well as Ridge Road or Barrons Road, with various parking lots and small access roads scattered across Orange County. This state park is accessible free of charge and open for public recreation – that is, until the start of hunting season in late October to early November.

Trails for every skill level

Another popular choice for exercise is the Heritage Trail passing through Goshen, Chester, Middletown and Monroe. Located across from the Trailside Treats Ice Cream parlor, the Heritage Trail begins in the town of Goshen and runs for approximately 24 miles, ending in Monroe. The trail follows a historic Hudson Valley railroad line connected to the original Erie Railroad. Parking can be found in all three towns along the trail, along with an entrance at the Chester Historical Society, which originally was home to the 1915 Erie Depot station in downtown Chester. In the opposite direction, the Heritage Trail also passes through Middletown. Past the end of West Main Street in Goshen is another access point to the Trail. This portion of the trail heads west towards Middletown and is about 13 miles round trip.

Both the Stewart State Forest and



ROUGH RIDE: Mountain biking in Stewart State Forest in Newburgh. Frank Glomb photo

Orange County Heritage Trail are local favorites for summertime cycling, but more opportunities await the avid outdoorsman beyond the Blooming Grove region. New Paltz in Ulster County has more paths perfect for spending time outdoors. The Hudson Valley Rail Trail begins in New Paltz, continues east to the Walkway Over the Hudson Bridge and goes on to connect with the expansive Dutchess County Rail Trail system in Poughkeepsie. This 30-mile system is 100 percent pavement with sections of shade and sunlight allowing users to enjoy all aspects of their ride. New Paltz also allows access to the River-to-Ridge Trail, a 6-mile gravel trail connecting the Village of New Paltz to the Shawangunk Ridge. A popular weekend destination, it offers rentals for those who may not own a bicycle.

A cool escape

Our region boasts many more trails, but the final highlight goes to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. A mere 45-minute drive

from Blooming Grove, the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail's main access lot is in Rosendale, NY. The 22-mile trail, which also connects to New Paltz, is a combination of pavement, gravel and dirt with extensive side trails that are commonly used by mountain bikers in particular. But what makes this trail so special? It's the ideal destination for cyclists on a 90-degree summer day. All along the path are multitudinous caves big and small that breach the surface of the earth and dive deeper into what lies below. The caves release a comforting flow of cool air, no more than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, even on the hottest days of the year. Essentially, the caves provide geothermal temperature regulation from the air beneath the surface of the earth to the surrounding woods during the summer heat.

All in all, from finding a new hobby to exploring endurance exercising to spending time with family and friends, cycling is open to all who are interested in bringing even more joy to the warmer weather of the summer days ahead.



Provided photo

Coffee for the day job, and music for the soul

The double life of Alex Arlequin

By Katherine Kornfeld
BG Post Student Reporter

Coffee fuels the body, music fuels the soul and together, they make the day worth living. No one knows that better than Alex Arlequin, a local musician whose songs have gone international and a fierce businessman in the world of coffee manufacturing.

A ten-year old Arlequin saw Ringo Starr playing the drums on the “Ed Sullivan Show” and just knew that he had to learn how to play. “I saw Ringo Starr up on the drum riser and thought it was the coolest thing in the world,” he recalled.

Brought up in a musically-inclined family, with an accordion-playing father and guitarist brother, music was a strong influence in Arlequin’s life. As a teenager, Arlequin played in local bands and eventually joined Honsanna, a band responsible for recording a song called “Hippit” that gained international attention. For a time, he believed music would become his full-time career. But like many young musicians, he encountered the darker side of the industry when a manager mishandled the band’s finances.

“That happens a lot in the music business,” he said. “It really turned me off at the time.” This setback made Arlequin focus on building a career in the coffee industry. With coffee connoisseurs for parents, Arlequin had a passion for coffee just as brewed as his passion for music. After starting as a clerk, his life was catapulted

RHYTHM AND FRIENDS:
Arlequin, second from right, standing alongside his bandmates. Alex Arlequin photos



into business and marketing when his boss wanted to run for Congress. Although Arlequin’s campaign trail was short-lived, his time as a “campaign manager” brought connections in bigger marketing industries. He was given work at an instant coffee plant owned by the Coca-Cola Company. He worked his way up through sales and eventually became a vice president in the coffee division of Eight O’Clock Coffee. What makes this story all the more impressive was that he was 40 years old, raising a family and making his way through college at the time.

Keeping the music alive

Even while climbing the corporate ladder, music never completely left his life. Arlequin played in wedding bands, local club acts, and jazz groups throughout the years. “Back then the club scene in New Jersey was huge,” he said. “Before DJs were everywhere, live bands were playing all the time.”

In 2000, Arlequin combined his two passions when he and his wife opened



JAVA JIVE: Arlequin’s at-home coffee station, brews fit for a connoisseur.

a coffeehouse called Casa Java in Cornwall, NY. The café quickly became a local gathering place for artists and musicians, hosting poetry readings, open mic nights and live performances. “That’s actually how I got back into music,” Arlequin

added. “People would find out I played drums and ask me to sit in.” He later joined a regional jazz group led by musician Judith Tulloch, performing Brazilian jazz and original music for nearly fifteen years. Today, he continues to perform locally with different groups, including jazz and acoustic rock acts that play venues throughout Orange County.

During his corporate career, Arlequin also worked with major coffee companies including Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, where he helped expand early distribution of single-serve coffee systems now known worldwide as Keurig Coffee Makers. At the time, the concept of single-cup brewing for home use was still new. “None of us realized how big it would become,” he commented. Today, Arlequin works with a company that supplies coffee for Panera Bread cafés and grocery products. His role involves coordinating coffee sales and distribution programs while working with retailers and marketing teams.

Despite his decades in business, Arlequin still finds time to perform music around the state. He believes having a creative outlet outside of work is essential. He currently plays for a band called No Strings Attached. “A lot of people have two lives,” he said. “They have their professional life and then something else they’re passionate about.”

As Arlequin considers retirement, he isn’t sure whether he’s ready to step away from the industry just yet. What he does know is that coffee and music will always remain part of his life, as they forever have been. “Those two things have always been there,” he said. “Coffee for the day job and music for the soul.”

Stream Award-Winning Stories from PBS

Watch now on Kanopy
with your Moffat Library card

kanopy
stream smarter



HEALTH

Protect your skin: know the many warning signs

By Sharen Casazza, MD

BG Post Community Reporter

Skin is the largest organ of the human body and demands our care and respect. It serves as the primary barrier against hazards like germs, chemicals and UV light. It also helps regulate body



Sharen Casazza, MD

temperature, provides sensations of touch, heat and pain, helps produce Vitamin D and aids in the prevention of dehydration. Skin can even regenerate and heal itself. Most of us have experienced minor cuts and injuries or surgeries to our skin and have seen it do just that – heal itself.

Sometimes cells of our skin mutate and cause skin cancer, the most common type of cancer. These mutated, abnormal cells can become basal cell, squamous cell or melanoma cancer. Basal cell cancer often appears as a pearly bump or a flat, flesh colored spot that grows slowly and rarely spreads. Squamous cell cancer presents as a firm, red nodule or a flat scaly patch that may grow deep or spread if left untreated. Melanoma is the most serious and aggressive form of skin cancer. It often develops from an existing mole or may appear as a new dark spot. It has a high tendency to spread to other

places in the body if not treated early. Early detection and treatment is key to treating any skin cancer.

There are several environmental and behavioral conditions that might increase one's susceptibility to skin cancer. Such risk factors include UV rays from the sun or tanning beds, fair skin, excessive moles, history of sunburns, weakened immune system and genetic factors. Although fair skin is a risk factor, anyone including us with dark skin can also have skin cancer.

Spotting the warning signs

You can be alert for new or changing spots on your skin. Use the ABCDE warning signs:

A: Asymmetry – one half of the spot doesn't match the other

B: Border – jagged or irregular edge

C: Color – several different colors in the same spot

D: Diameter – the spot is larger than a pencil eraser

E: Evolving – the spot is changing.

Physicians are trained to recognize these signs, so see your primary physician or a dermatologist if you're not sure about a spot on your skin. This is particularly important if you notice any of the aforementioned warning signs.

Prevention is important. Those of us who grew up in the 1960s to 1980s did not have the benefit of sunscreen with



SPF. Not as much was known about skin cancer and young people especially would lie in the sun, lathered in baby oil to try to get their summer tan. Now we know better and we can do better.

SPF, or sun protection factor, can block UV rays. It's helpful to use a daily skin moisturizer that contains SPF 15 or 30 every morning. Then when you go outside for work or play, you can use SPF 30-50. Higher than 50 is not helpful. If you've been to the beach lately, you have most likely noticed a big change in children's attire. Kids now can be protected in SPF 50 bathing suits with long sleeves and boxers. Gone are the skimpy children's bikinis and swim suits – instead, boys and girls alike wear SPF 50 shirts with

long sleeves.

Nearly all skin cancers are curable if treated early. Common procedures include:

■ Cutting out the cancer and a small margin of healthy skin.

■ Mohs surgery-removing skin layer by layer and looking under the microscope until no cancer remains.

■ Freezing the cancer with cryotherapy.

■ Chemotherapy creams, radiation or immunotherapy for more advanced cancers.

Check out the American Cancer Society Image Gallery or the Skin Cancer Foundation at skincancer.org/skin-cancer-prevention for more information.

OUCH!:

Excessive exposure to the sun's UV rays can cause serious damage to skin. dreamstime.com photo

PUZZLE

Pete's puzzlers

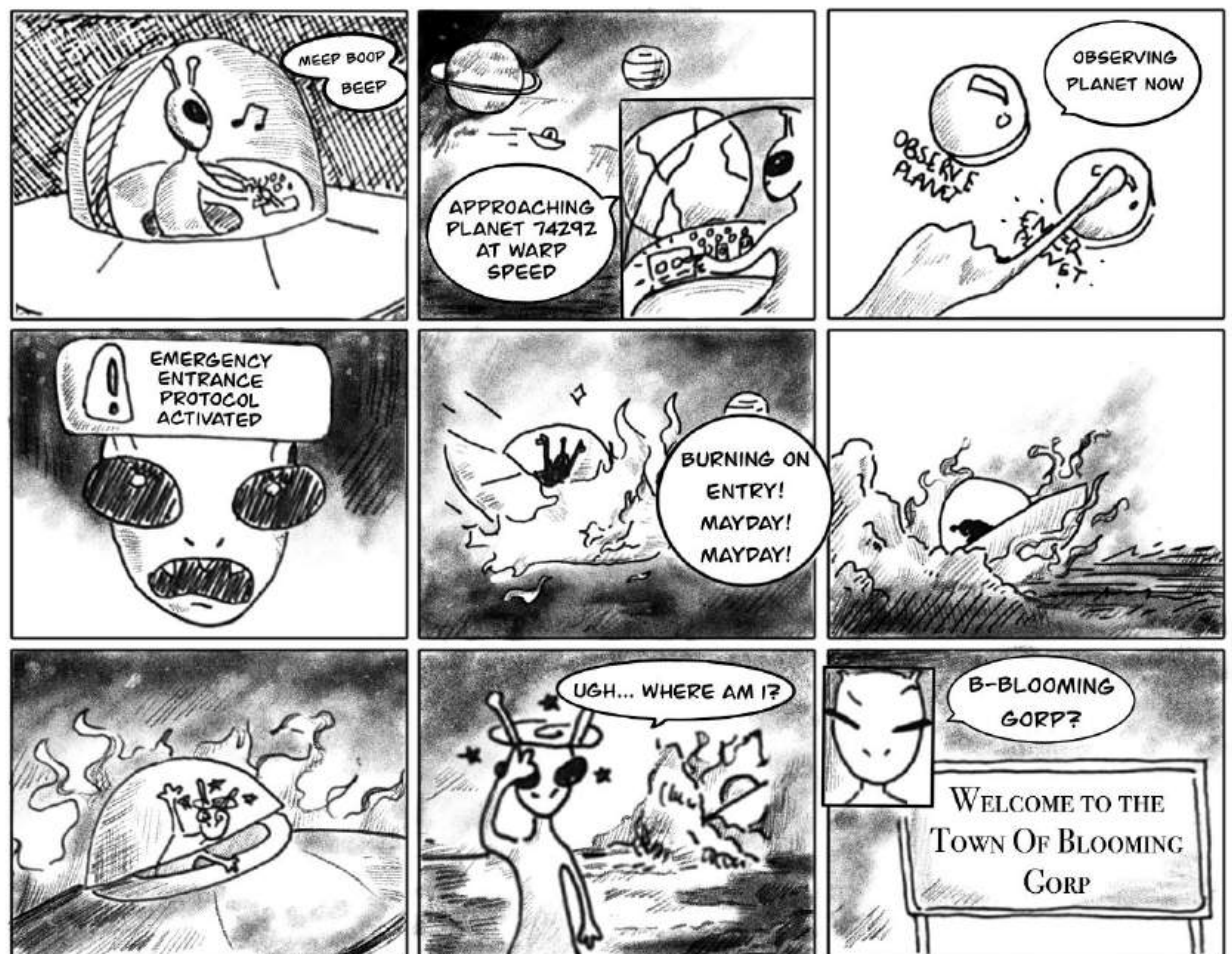
Here's another brain-teasing puzzle from our friend, postman Pete Devitt. You'll remember that when we stopped by the Blooming Grove Post Office last year to drop off copies of our first issue of the *Blooming Grove Post*, Pete offered us a set of puzzles for our first issue. This is his latest brainteaser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

1. 7 C. in the W. _____
2. 4 C.P. on a C. _____
3. 6 W. of H. the E. _____
4. 7 D.S. _____
5. 2 H. on a C. _____
6. 50 S. in the U.S. _____
7. 8 P. in the S.S. (without P.) _____
8. 2 P. in a Q. _____
9. 4 S. in a Y. _____
10. 3 W. M. _____

Stuck? Find the answers to these puzzles on page 15.

THE ADVENTURES OF GORP

By Isabella Briceno



MEADOW VIEWS:
The scene from above of the Schunnemunk Meadows Trail at Schunnemunk State Park, New Windsor, which opened in September 2025.
Bill Amos photo



Scenic steps at Schunnemunk Meadows trail

A perfect way to enjoy the outdoors

By Joel Solonche
BG Post Associate Editor

Do you enjoy hiking but don't want to drive to the Catskills or the Adirondacks, especially now with gas prices so high? Do you like to walk surrounded by nature but only have an hour break for lunch? If you answered "yes" to one or both of these questions, the *BG Post* has the perfect place for you – the new Schunnemunk Meadows Trail. Opened in September 2025, this four-season trail provides public access on Otterkill Road, right in our backyard.

Part of Schunnemunk State Park, the Meadows Trail was a joint project of The Open Space Institute (OSI), the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC). Designed and managed by the Open Space Institute, the new trail

includes 220 acres of scenic wildflower meadows – hence the name – and "features seating areas, two access points for fishing, two enhanced and paved parking areas with electric vehicle chargers, new information kiosks, and a portable restroom. OSI also improved the site's stormwater bioretention basins, which protect the trail against damage from extreme rain events."

The 1.7-mile multi-use trail offers sweeping views of Schunnemunk Mountain and the historic Moodna Viaduct (See *BG Post* Vol.1, No.1) The wide, gently sloping crushed stone paths, make it an ideal "outdoor destination for walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, cross-country skiers, and people of all abilities to enjoy the scenic beauty of the western Hudson Highlands."

For more about the park and the trail, go to parks.ny.gov/visit/state-parks/schunnemunk-state-park.

SCENES ON THE TRAIL



TRAILSIDE BEAUTY: Hikers walk the Schunnemunk Meadows Trail, above. Below, a view from above of the trail showing the Moodna Viaduct. Bill Amos photos



TRAILHEAD: The trail map and welcome sign. Emily Solonche photo



Bill Amos photo

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Please note: Check with the place of worship for updated information. Email listings to bloomingtonpost@gmail.com.

Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
1520 Rte. 94, New Windsor
Denomination: Presbyterian
Services: Sunday, 11 a.m.
845-496-9187

BG United Church of Christ
2 Old Dominion Rd., Blooming Grove
Denomination: Protestant
Services: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
845-496-9311

Echo Grace Church
(Formerly Grace Community Church)
2839 Rte. 94, Washingtonville
Denomination: Non-denominational
Services: Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m.,
9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
845-576-0730

El Shaddai Christian Church
26 Hallock Dr., Washingtonville
Denomination: Assemblies of God
Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. (English),
10 a.m. (first Sunday of the month),
11:30 a.m. (Spanish)
845-496-3756

Encounter Church
647 Station Rd., Rock Tavern
Denomination: Non-denominational
Services: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
845-497-0142

Hope Chapel Mission Church
40 Clove Rd., Salisbury Mills
Denomination: Non-denominational
Services: Sunday: 11 a.m.
Phone: 845-496-2475

Korean Buddhist Temple Wonkaksa
260 Clove Rd., Salisbury Mills
Denomination: Buddhist
Services: Sunday: 11:30 am (in Korean)
845-497-2229

St. Mary's Church
42 Goshen Ave., Washingtonville
Denomination: Catholic
Services: Daily, 9 a.m.; Saturday, 4 p.m.;
Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon.
845-496-3730

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
9 Vance Rd., Rock Tavern
Denomination: Unitarian
Services: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
845-496-9696

Westminster Presbyterian Church
560 Station Rd., Rock Tavern
Denomination: Presbyterian
Services: Sunday, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. (first
Sunday of the month only), 6 p.m. (other
Sundays only)
845-496-7971

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

BG Volunteer Ambulance Corps
Services: The BG Volunteer Ambulance Corps provides prompt, compassionate & high-quality emergency medical services to the residents and visitors of our community. We are committed to saving lives, supporting public health, and serving with integrity, professionalism, and volunteer spirit, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is a non-profit organization, consisting of volunteer members and paid staff.

Location: The Corps operates out of its station at 7 North Street in the Village of Washingtonville. BGVAC covers over 35.3 square miles of territory.

To volunteer: The BG Ambulance Corps is always looking for mature people to drive our certified ambulances, help provide first aid, or become an EMT. Please go to their website for details: bloomingtonpost.org

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@bloomingtonpost.org or go to their website at: bloomingtonpost.org

Blooming Grove Community Garden
Services: Coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers, the BG Community Garden provides plots for local community members to rent, so that they can grow their own plants and vegetables and donate most of the output to the Country Kids Food Pantry in Washingtonville to help feed our community members.

Where: The BG Community Garden is located at 6 Old Dominion Road in Blooming Grove (behind the Blooming Grove United Church of Christ)

Info: For more information or to see how you can help, contact Joseph Sciortino at: jsciortino49@gmail.com or via text at 845-774-9993.

Blooming Grove Senior Bus Program
Services: The BG Senior Bus services all residents over 60 years of age within the Town, including those in the Villages of South Blooming Grove and Washingtonville. 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). 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: townofbloominggrove.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.

When: Food is distributed on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm.

To donate: Non-perishable foods that have not reached an expiration date can be placed in the blue or red box on our front porch to the right of our door. For perishable items, such as turkeys, please bring them on a distribution day so they can be frozen or refrigerated.

Volunteering: If you are an adult or teen interested in volunteering to help out at the pantry, please go to: countrykidsfoodpantry.com/how-to-volunteer

To register: Contact Val Palmer at 845-496-2119.

FISH of Blooming Grove
Services: FISH of Blooming Grove is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is dedicated to providing residents of Blooming Grove with free medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers and crutches, commodes and other medical items to homebound patients.

To donate or volunteer: Call 845-496-7744
Info: Call 845-496-7744 or write: FISH of Blooming Grove, PO Box 58, Washingtonville, NY 10992.

Humane Society of Blooming Grove
Services: The Humane Society of BG is a nonprofit animal shelter located in Washingtonville NY and serving the town of Blooming Grove, including the villages of Washingtonville and South Blooming Grove.

Where: Located at 2741 Rte 94, Washingtonville

Hours: The shelter is open: Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Info: Call 845-496-6199, e-mail: bghumane-society@gmail.com or go to their website at humanesocietybg.com

To volunteer or donate: 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.

Where: Meetings are held at the BG Senior Center located at 6 Horton Dr., Blooming Grove

When: Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm at the Blooming Grove Senior Center.

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

BG Neighbors For Neighbors Program
Services: Jewish Family Services of Orange partners with the town of Town of BG and OC Office for the Aging to provide local transportation, help with grocery shopping and wellness calls and friendly visits to residents of Blooming Grove, Washingtonville, Salisbury Mills and South Blooming Grove who are over 60.

Info: Call 845-325-8775
To volunteer: Call 845-341-1173 ext. 305 or email volunteer@jfsorange.org

WHS Community Service Club
Services: Cultivates a collaborative environment of student volunteers focused on improving school and local community through events such as Adopt-A-Family, Coffeehouse, weekly recycling, drives for food and other activities.

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

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Town of Blooming Grove
Town Board meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. Town Planning Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. Meetings take place at Blooming Grove Town Hall, 6 Horton Rd., Blooming Grove For information and

updates, 845-496-5223; bloomingtonpost.org

Village of South Blooming Grove
Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 8 p.m. Village Planning Board meets on the fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. Meetings take place at South Blooming Grove Village Hall, 811 Rte. 208, Monroe For information and updates, 845-782-2600; villageofsouthbloomingtonpost.org

Village of Washingtonville
Village Board meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Village Planning Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Meetings take place at Washingtonville Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Dr., Washingtonville For information and updates, 845-496-3221; washingtonville-ny.gov

PUZZLE ANSWERS

PETE'S PUZZLER
The answers to the puzzle on page 13. How many did you solve? Let us know how you like Pete's puzzles at bloomingtonpost@gmail.com.

1. 7 continents in the world
2. 4 cardinal points on a compass
3. 6 wives of Henry the Eighth
4. 7 deadly sins
5. 2 hands on a clock
6. 50 states in the US
7. 8 planets in the solar system (without Pluto)
8. 2 pints in a quart
9. 4 seasons in a year
10. 3 wise men

BLOOMING
GROVE
POST

BG POST LOOKING FOR ORGANIZATIONS
For the benefit of our readers, we are planning to create a list of local nonprofit organizations and the services they provide. If you are a member or know of an organization in our area, please send all pertinent information including full name of organization; contact name, phone, email; services they provide; and any other information to bloomingtonpost@gmail.com.

TWO GENERATIONS OF COACHES:

Coach Michael White, Jr., with Cameron Snyder (who placed fourth in 2025 NYS Track & Field Championship), left, and Malachi Taylor (who placed first in 2025 NYS Track & Field Championship), with Mike's dad, Coach Mike White, Sr.

Robin White photo



Father, son coaching builds a lasting legacy

Dads, their sons and teamwork

By **Emelia DeCarvalho**
BG Post Student Reporter

Every year summer rolls around with many exciting moments to celebrate: Memorial Day, Fourth of July and the start of summer itself. It is also important to honor our loved ones, specifically on Father's Day. The first Father's Day was celebrated in June of 1910 in Spokane, Washington, and was commemorated by the daughter of a Civil War veteran and a single father. Inspired by Mother's Day, the daughter believed that fathers deserved their own day of appreciation, just as mothers did. This recognition started small, but it grew more popular annually until it became a national holiday in 1972.

Fathers affect the lives of all those around them, especially their own children. Father-son relationships in particular capture irreplaceable moments of connection and memories. There are three sets of such father/son duos on the Washingtonville High School coaching staff, and all have spent time speaking with the *BG Post* about their special relationships.

Michael White, Sr. and his son, Michael White, Jr. (who mostly goes by "Dubs" to avoid confusion) head the Girls and Boys Varsity Cross Country and Track teams. Stephen and son Daniel Malvey lead the Boys Varsity Basketball team while John and son Joseph Delgado coach the Varsity Football team. "It was an amazing season for me," said Coach John Delgado. "Just being there and sharing a successful season with my son was something I will never forget."



Daniel Malvey

These sentiments are shared by the other father-son coaching duos. Coach White and Coach Dubs agree that family means everything, and working with family is an unmatched privilege. In addition to the closeness and connection, such father-son coaching collaborations have inspired athletes to work cohesively as a team and achieve nothing less than the best results. Coach Malvey agrees that "the team fed off of the passionate coaching energy and cooperation and that they learned to support each other." In addition, there must be "balance on and off the field," notes Coach Delgado, something which a family dynamic facilitates.

What a positive difference these relationships make in our community! Coach White and Coach Dubs both



A VOICE FOR THE TEAM:

Coach John Delgado speaks on behalf of the Varsity Football team at a recent WCSD Board of Education meeting.

WCSD photo

'Just being there and sharing a successful season with my son was something I will never forget.'

John Delgado
Varsity Football Coach

believe that "these collaborations will help ensure that the Wizard legacy of excellence will continue," reminding readers that "going back to your hometown is always a great way to give back." For sure a legacy is being formed in Washingtonville. Our district is the only one with three father-son coach-

ing pairs, and each team involved has had tremendous success. Their athletic achievements are a testament to the positive energy passed down from coaches to players, and the familial bonds between coaches only enhance drive and determination of their athletes.

Since its first celebration back in 1910, Father's Day has grown to celebrate all the incredible fathers who help their families and communities grow into the best version of themselves. On this Father's Day – Sunday, June 21 – remember to celebrate the dads and thank them for their contributions to not just one's own life, but to the community as a whole.