

Herkimer County Newsletter

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2019



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HERKIMER COLLEGE TO HOLD SUNY COBLESKILL COURSES AT HERKIMER CAMPUS

Dr. Lynn Kattato and Nicholas Laino will be teaching the first two courses offered as part of SUNY Cobleskill's Bachelor of Business (BBA) degree completion program at Herkimer College. Both have extensive higher education teaching experience and bring a wealth of real world expertise to the classroom. The first cohort of students will be starting the program on January 22, 2019.

Dr. Kattato holds an Ed.D. in Executive Leadership and has a wealth of knowledge and experience in human resources and management. She is active in a number of professional and civic organizations. Dr. Kattato has taught numerous business management, human resources and economics courses at several area colleges. She will be instructing BADM 320 Ethics and Management from January 22 to March 14, 2019.

Laino is Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance at Herkimer College. He has a broad background in higher education administration, as well as transportation, banking, business and public management. Laino has taught courses at six colleges including business management, finance, international business, and organizational behavior. He will be teaching BADM 305 International Business from March 20 to May 10, 2019.

Classes will be held on the Herkimer campus on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in eight-week blocks. The BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) at Herkimer is designed for traditional students and working adult learners. SUNY Cobleskill's upper-level major field courses are taught on the Herkimer College campus, with additional courses offered online. For more information, contact SUNY Cobleskill's Office of Professional and Continuing Education at 518-255-5528 or at pace@cobleskill.edu.



HERKIMER COLLEGE TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH SUNY CORTLAND FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION GRADS



Herkimer College recently entered into a new transfer agreement with SUNY Cortland. The agreement creates a seamless transfer into Cortland's Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education for graduates of Herkimer's associate in science degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Childhood Education.

Herkimer College has more than 150 transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities in both the private sector and SUNY. More than 60 percent of Herkimer College students transfer to continue their educations after graduation.

Upcoming 2019 Legislature Meeting Dates:

- January 2— 2:00 PM
- January 23—7:00 PM
- February 13—7:00 PM
- March 13—7:00 PM

All meetings are held in the Legislature Chambers
 109 Mary Street
 Herkimer, NY 13350
 Check our website for Meeting minutes at www.herkimercounty.org

HERKIMER COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETING 12/12/18

MEET THE NEW DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SHARON EWANYK COUNTY AUDITOR



Herkimer County is pleased to announce the appointment of Sharon Ewanyk as County Auditor. Sharon was appointed at the Herkimer County Legislature meeting on November 14, 2018, commencing January 26, 2019. Sharon earned her Associate Degree from SUNY Morrisville.

Sharon began working for the Herkimer County Department of Audit in June of 2013. She then became Deputy County Clerk in November of 2015.

The County Auditor may be reached at 315-867-1101.

Civil Service Exams:

- January 5
- January 19
- March 2
- March 16

Please visit www.herkimercounty.org and click on "Civil Service Exams" for more information!



Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:

- January 1— New Years Day
- January 21—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 18—Presidents' Day

*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded



County Office Building
 Winter Hours
 8:00AM—5:00PM
 September 4, 2018 to May 24, 2019.



Outgoing County Auditor, Jeri Frederick will retire effective January 26, 2019 after 30+ years of service.
 Thank you Jeri!



MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Sept. - 706	Oct. - 439	Nov. - 619

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Sept. - 49	Oct. - 61	Nov. - 61

MEET THE NEW DEPARTMENT HEADS CONT'D:

BRITTNEY VISCOMI, **CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE**

Outgoing Clerk of the Legislature, Sally Deming, will retire effective March 26, 2019 after 24 years of service.
Thank you, Sally!



Herkimer County is pleased to announce the appointment of Brittney Viscomi as Clerk of the Legislature. Brittney was appointed at the Herkimer County Legislature Meeting on December 12, 2018, commencing March 26, 2019.

Brittney earned her Associate Degree in Business from Herkimer County Community College.

Brittney began working for Herkimer County as Secretary to the County Administrator in January of 2012. She then became Deputy Clerk of the Legislature in July of 2017.

The Clerk may be reached at 315-867-1307.

FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER:

The 2019 Budget has been complete and was adopted at the December 12th Legislative meeting. This budget includes appropriations of \$102,514,241, department revenues of \$43,208,278, Sales Tax revenues of \$31,232,706, and appropriated highway fund balance and reserves of \$683,050, making the 2019 tax levy \$26,707,157. There was NO increase to the County Tax Levy for 2019. The tax rate per \$1.00 of full value for the County homeowner, on average, will be \$5.50, down from \$5.61 in 2018, depending on individual town and village equalization rates. The average savings on a home valued at \$80,000 would be \$8.80.



The 2019 budget was challenged by increasing health insurance costs posing a negative impact of approximately \$373,863. Fuel and oil costs drove the highway budget contribution up \$157,995, and College Chargebacks (the amount paid for Herkimer County students attending other institutions) increased approximately \$219,000. The County's sponsor contribution to Herkimer College was also increased by \$100,000. The increases in minimum wage, proposed legislation for Indigent Defense, increased program costs and State mandated program costs were also major drivers this year.

This year's budget did have some positive changes. Sales Tax revenues were up \$700,000, Interest and Earnings \$225,000 and Safety Net, which is traditionally one of the County's larger mandated programs, is down \$177,500. The biggest expense in the County's budget, Medicaid, is down \$26,497, coming in at \$13,189,503. All of these factors along with conservative budgeting by our departments, allowed the Legislature to keep the tax levy flat.



Through the combined efforts of the Ways & Means Committee, the full Legislature, County Administrator, Budget office and Department Heads, the 2019 Budget developed into a solid, fiscally smart financial plan. Thank you to all involved for your cooperation and effort in developing the 2019 Budget.

2018 Herkimer County Equalization Table for 2019	<u>Anticipated Tax Rate</u>	<u>2018</u>
City of Little Falls	27.91	28.54
Columbia	6.20	6.26
Danube	7.05	7.01
Fairfield	7.39	7.36
Frankfort	7.98	7.93
German Flatts	7.04	7.20
Herkimer	5.97	6.08
Litchfield	6.15	6.21
Little Falls	7.52	7.58
Manheim	8.35	8.17
Newport	5.52	5.47
Norway	8.07	7.88
Ohio	5.60	5.66
Russia	5.58	5.70
Salisbury	5.55	5.67
Schuyler	6.33	6.36
Stark	9.57	9.56
Warren	8.84	8.89
Webb	5.62	5.63
Winfield	6.19	6.25

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP DWI



**WINTER TIRES –
WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING ON?**

DID YOU KNOW???

As winter driving has now arrived, are you prepared for the inevitable slippery roads? Do you know what the difference between winter snow tires, all-weather tires, and all-season tires is? Are you aware of the differences in these tires?

An interesting article from Consumer Reports helps educate us about what tires we should use in winter. According to a number of studies and surveys, including Consumer Reports' own tests, if you live in an area where snow is a constant throughout winter, having dedicated winter/snow tires can improve your safety.

More than half of Canadian drivers install winter/snow tires on their cars, and they see a real benefit. There are fewer winter-related accidents, injuries, and deaths when cars are required to be fitted with winter/snow tires, a Quebec-based study found. And the most recent survey report from the Tire and Rubber Association of Canada suggests that two-thirds of Canadian drivers are using winter/snow tires (required in some provinces, including Quebec). Visitors to Quebec are not required to have snow tires.

In the U.S., the use of winter/snow tires is much lower among snow-belt drivers. Just two in five American motorists use winter/snow tires, according to a new survey commissioned by Michelin. The Michelin survey, which focused on the U.S., also found:

- 67 percent of respondents thought they didn't need winter tires because they had all-season tires. Consumer Reports' testing clearly shows that most winter/snow tires have better snow traction than the average all-season tires.
- 53 percent thought winter/snow tires weren't needed if they had an all-wheel-drive vehicle. But Consumer Reports subscribers consider winter/snow tires to be beneficial whether they have a two-wheel-drive or an all-wheel-drive car or SUV.
- Michelin found that three out of four drivers are nervous about driving in snow, with younger drivers more concerned than older drivers.
- The survey showed that a vast majority of drivers avoid, limit, or change plans because they don't want to drive in wintry weather. Drivers are worried about the "other guy" on the road, losing control, or getting stuck. Ultimately, staying off the road is the best way to improve safety in foul weather. Most drivers using winter/snow tires are more confident and less concerned about other drivers and the loss of traction.

However, all-weather tires—a variation of all-season tires designed to excel in tough winter conditions—can be a convenient option if you want to avoid switching to winter/snow tires in the fall and replacing them in the spring. Consumer Reports' snow-traction testing of 64 car tire models found that the best all-weather tires rival traditional all-season tires in mild weather and can provide traction in severe snow and ice conditions.

All-weather tires don't quite match winter/snow tires for maximum snow traction and ice braking, but they do have an advantage in dry braking, wet braking, handling, and tread life. They can be a year-round convenience and ultimately reduce operating costs, making them an appealing choice for drivers who face winter weather but don't need to tackle the most severe conditions.

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH:



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HERKIMER COUNTY HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM!

The collaboration between Herkimer County Public Health and Kids Oneida operating the Healthy Families Program has continued to remain a success. At the program's recent site visit from the Office of Children and Family Services, the staff was informed that the Herkimer County Healthy Families program is the top performer in the State; meeting and exceeding all of their performance measures and their children and family outcomes! The program benefits over 100 overburdened families in Herkimer County, per year. Best Practice Standards set forth by the State are consistently met and exceeded by their strong team. Due to the fact that they continually exceed their performance measures and deliver strong outcomes, the program will be receiving additional funding based on that performance. We look forward to seeing what 2019 will bring for the program and how it will continue to positively impact our community!

FROM HERKIMER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING:



The Student Council at Central Valley Academy wanted to complete a community project to be able to give back to the Mohawk and Ili-on communities. The students decided that they would like to help home-bound older adults. The students worked with the Herkimer County Office for the Aging to locate older adults in the community who would like a little holiday cheer. The students gathered items and



prepared Holiday baskets. On Wednesday, December 19, 2018 students from Central Valley Academy will deliver over thirty Holiday baskets. The delivery will begin at 8:30am and continue until all the baskets are delivered. The students did not want older adults to be forgotten and wanted to bring them some holiday cheer.



Office for the Aging placed gift tags on the Christmas tree in the lobby of the County building in Herkimer. With the help of county employees, Legislators, and other community members Office for the Aging was able to distribute 50 Christmas gifts to older adults in Herkimer County. Many of these older adults who received the gifts did not have family and this was the only gift they received this holiday season.

Office for the Aging staff delivered the packages to the older adults. The staff were greeted with smiles and some tears after the older adults received their package. These individuals appreciated the generosity of all of those individuals who contributed to this effort.

We hope to continue this event in 2019 and hopefully we will be able to provide additional older adults a bit of Christmas cheer. Office for the Aging staff would like to thank all individuals who assisted with this effort.

For more information or for questions please contact the Office for The Aging/NY Connects office at 315-867-1415. Or visit the OFA website at www.herkimercounty.org, go to departments, then to Office for The Aging. If anyone is interested in volunteering please call.



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Pictured from left: Students Ebony Gregory (Brooklyn, NY) and Sierra Hart (Little Falls, NY) with intern Alyssa Crowe donating children's winter apparel to Catholic Charities.



The Human Services Club at Herkimer College collected gently used winter necessities in donation boxes on campus. The items were donated to children in need within Herkimer County through Catholic Charities.

Club members identified the growing need of winter necessities for children in the community who go without or are not sufficiently dressed for winter weather.

In total, the campus community donated 20 pairs of boots and winter shoes and more than 100 winter clothing items, including under-garments, scarves, gloves, socks, hats, jackets and sweatshirts.

The Human Services Club at Herkimer College is an organization that provides an opportunity for students in various disciplines who are interested in outreach efforts for human needs, crises, raising awareness to significant subject matters and promoting a social atmosphere for students who share a common interest.



Photo: Career Connections, a division of Arc Herkimer, and Herkimer College are recipients of a national job placement award for their collaboration for the Project SEARCH program. Pictured from left: Career Connections Assistant Program Director Catherine Loomis, Career Connections Employment Services Specialist Nicole Knapp, Herkimer College Associate Dean of Academic Affairs - Humanities/Social Science Dr. Robin Riecker, Herkimer College President Dr. Cathleen McColgin, Arc Herkimer President/CEO Kevin Crosley, Career Connections Director Robin Mattox, and Arc Herkimer VP - Supports & Services Shawn Schultz.



Career Connections, a division of Arc Herkimer, and Herkimer County Community College earned a national job placement award for the Project SEARCH program. The award, presented at the annual Project SEARCH Conference in Savannah, GA honored the organizations for their collaboration to secure 100 percent placement for the first class of interns for jobs in the community earning at least minimum wage. The program is in its third year of collaboration between the nonprofit and the college.

Project SEARCH is a 40-week intern program for young adults with disabilities, ages 18 to 34, with a sole objective and intensive focus on achieving competitive employment and maximum independence for each participant. Interns, supported by Career Connections and college staff, participate in daily classroom instruction and gain hands-on work experience by rotating among three unique, unpaid internships at various sites at Herkimer College throughout the academic year.

HERKIMER COUNTY HEALTHNET:



Photo: Dr. Thomas Curnow and Elyse Enea with Herkimer County HealthNet recently presented a check to the Herkimer County College Foundation to help fund improvements to the nature trail. Pictured from left: Nicholas Laino, Sr. Vice President for Administration and Finance, Herkimer College; Julie Lewis, Director of Business & Finance, HCC Foundation; Tom Stock, Assistant Director of Facilities, Herkimer College; Dr. Thomas Curnow, Executive Director, Herkimer County HealthNet; Elyse Enea, Program Coordinator, Herkimer County

Nature Trail Upgrades Include New Picnic Areas, Signage and Wildflowers



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With a \$4,500 grant from Herkimer County HealthNet and \$4,500 in matching funds from the Herkimer County College Foundation, the Nature Trail at Herkimer College has three new picnic table areas, as well as new signage placed at various entrance points. Additional ‘trail head’ signs are planned, as well as directional signs pointing trail users to various sections of the trail system.

Assistant Director of Facilities Tom Stock said, “At the pond/bridge location, two picnic tables were placed, and these will make a nice location for trail users to sit and take in the quiet location. Not far from those tables, another table is located at a wildflower bed. The bed was seeded in the fall in hopes that the 10 varieties of wild flowers in the seed mix will offer a nice addition to the area.”

The nature trail, located just beyond Wehrum Stadium, is used for instructional purposes by the College and local schools. Community members also enjoy walking, hiking, running, nature watching, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, bicycling, photography, bird watching, and more.

In their commitment to improve community health, Herkimer County HealthNet partners with organizations to help improve the health and well-being of our area. “We are grateful to Herkimer County HealthNet and the Foundation for their generous investment and support of this wonderful community resource. We welcome the community to utilize the trails for their health and wellness activities, and to enjoy the serenity and beauty of our campus,” said President Cathleen McColgin.



FROM HERKIMER COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING:

Our IRS Certified VITA volunteer preparers are fully trained to complete your Tax return at **NO CHARGE**.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

To make an appointment

Call (315) 867-1503

Walk-ins also welcome until 7p.m.

Walk-ins will have a longer waiting time



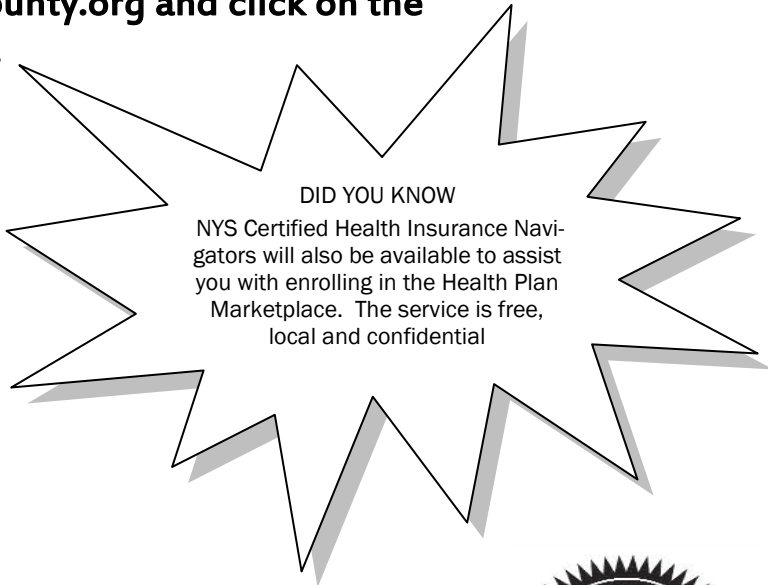
If you've worked in the past year and earned \$54,884 or less, you may be entitled to valuable tax credits! You could qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit for up to \$6,431. You can also visit HerkimerCounty.org and click on the MYFREETAXES link.

We will also be holding **Community Tax Days**

Dates: February 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 25th, & 27th

Time: 4 PM – 8 PM

Location: Working Solutions One Stop Center



DID YOU KNOW

NYS Certified Health Insurance Navigators will also be available to assist you with enrolling in the Health Plan Marketplace. The service is free, local and confidential



What should you bring?

Photo ID

Social Security (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) cards for you, your spouse, and your dependents.

All 2018 W-2, 1099 and 1095A forms you received

Daycare records

Any other tax documents including last year's tax returns

Direct deposit information (routing and account number)

Your spouse, if you filed jointly

