## Herkimer County Newsletter

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2019



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### VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE



#### Herkimer County DSS's VITA Program volunteers

Shown left to right: Michelle Rasch, Mary Talbot, Martha Caliguire, Christine Marsden, Legislator Mr. Frederick J. Shaw, Jr., Commissioner of Social Services Tim Seymour, Eva Kirchberg, and April Galletta. Absent from photo: Debbie Smith, Cathy Lowell, Kim Collis

Nine Department of Social Services employees received awards for their volunteer work with the VITA program. Frederick J. Shaw, Jr., Chairman of the Human Resources committee of the Herkimer County Legislature presented the awards to the employees at the July 10 Legislature meeting, as he expressed his appreciation while praising the volunteers dedication and work ethic. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is a free IRS sponsored program to help low and middle income workers have their Federal and State personal income taxes prepared and filed electronically at no cost. The program, through the efforts of its volunteers also strives to ensure that workers receive all of the tax credits which they are entitled. All preparers are certified by the IRS in the program areas as well as Standards of conduct. Please contact Commissioner Seymour for further details.



#### Some history of the VITA Program::

The program formally began at the Herkimer County Department of Social Services in 1999. At the time, the program consisted of primarily processing paper returns and was loosely organized. The VITA Program took shape by 2003 and as e-filing became increasingly prevalent. The volume of returns continues to increase. VITA volunteers have processed returns at the Department of Social Services and at regularly scheduled intervals at Working Solutions in the evening. Additional outreach sites include Old Forge and Little Falls.

TAX YEAR	RETURNS FILED	TOTAL REFUNDS
2003	79	\$173,800
2018*	649	\$1,123,308

\* Tax Year 2018 includes returns filed via VITA tax site and My Free Taxes

#### Upcoming 2016 Legislature Meeting Dates:

- July 10 2:00 PM
- August 7 7:00 PM
- September 11 7:00 PM
  - October 2–2:00 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

#### Civil Service Exams:

• September 28 2019

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



Legal Holidays, All Herkimer
County Offices will be closed:
100 V
• • • duly 4) 2019-
Independence Day
• September 2, 2019 –
Labor Day
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# JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH!



Pictured from left to right: Dairy Ambassadors: Julia Frasier of Little Falls, Natalie Fredericks of Little Falls and Katie Livingston of West Winfield; and Mr. Peter Campione, Herkimer County Legislator

FROM THE HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:



### POLL WORKERS NEEDED

The Herkimer County Board of Elections is looking for paid poll site workers for multiple positions. All registered voters are eligible. Poll sites are open from 6:00 am until 9:00 pm. Paid training is required.

If interested please contact the Board of Elections at 315.867.1102 or <u>hcboe@herkimercounty.org</u>.

MENTAL HEALTH VISITS:

P			ł
	PROCLAN	1ATION	
WHEREAS,	<b>John E. Rathbun</b> is husband to the la Marianne, Robert and James; and	te Elizabeth 'Betty' Rathbun and father to Susan, HERKIMER COUNTY	,
WHEREAS,	John served in the United States Army Corporal; and	/ from 1951 till 1953, retiring as	
WHEREAS,	John began working with Herkimer C	ounty's Highway Department in 1953; and	
WHEREAS,	John has served the Highway Departm Operator, Garage Mechanic Foreman, as Maintenance Supervisor ; and	ent in many capacities. As Motor Equipment Automotive Mechanic Foreman and since 1977,	
WHEREAS,	J <b>ohn</b> has demonstrated the highest leve the position of Maintenance Supervisor	etern leadership, commitment, and dedication in ; and	n
WHEREAS,	<b>John</b> will retire after 66 years of except and the residents of Herkimer County;	bional dedication to the Highway Department <i>Now, Therefore, be it;</i>	1
RESOLVED,		eem it fitting and appropriate to proclaim RATHBUN DAY" in Herkimer County	
-	and urge the residents of the County to service.	join in the recognition of his many years of	
Dated: July 10		and the Great Seal of the County of Herkimer, r of Our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.	4
1	BERNARD F	<u>Peplí<i>nskí, Sr.</i></u> PEPLINSKI, SR., Chairman ounty Legislature	
	OFNEW		t

### FROM HERKIMER COUNTY STOP DWI:

### DID YOU KNOW??? PHONE ADDICTS THE MOST DANGEROUS THREAT ON THE ROAD

Phone Addicts are glued to their phones, so they're more distracted, more dangerous, and more likely to cause a crash than even drunk drivers. They pick up their phones four times more than the average driver, use their phone six times longer than the general population, and are on the road longer than any other category of drivers.



These are the findings of Zendrive's 2019 distracted driving study. Zendrive is a mission-driven company, working to improve road safety with data and analytics. Their smartphone-based system

company, working to improve road safety with data and analytics. Their smartphone-based system measures and analyzes driver behavior, focusing on the behaviors most likely to contribute to collisions: speeding, driver phone use, aggressive acceleration, and hard braking.

Phone Addicts are growing at a rapid pace. In just one year, the number of hardcore Phone Addicts doubled. Today, one in every twelve drivers on the road is a Phone Addict, according to Zendrive. What's even worse is that most people don't realize they're Phone Addicts, or that their behavior is harmful. So any one of us could be a danger on the roads and not even know it.

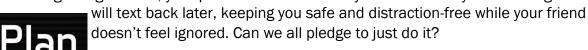
When asked about their opinion on distracted driving, 85 percent of respondents identified the issue as a very important problem. When asked to rate their overall driving safety, 90 percent claimed to be safe drivers, but 47 percent admitted to using their device so often they fall in the Phone Addict category. What do we do when almost half of all drivers on the road classify themselves "safe drivers" despite spending 10 percent of their time distracted behind the wheel?

In 2016, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported 10,497 deaths as a result of drunk driving and 3,450 for distracted driving. Although the statistics show that drunk drivers cause more deaths, what most people fail to take into account is that driver phone use fatalities are much more difficult to track. Drivers often fail to admit they were distracted prior to a crash plus inconsistencies in police reports make it difficult to arrive at an accurate number.

Zendrive's study found that distracted driving went up in every state year over year. They also found that the general population averaged 1 minute, 48 seconds of phone use per hour of driving. When you just look at Phone Addicts, Zendrive found that they use their phones for 6 minutes or more for every hour behind the wheel. This is almost double last year's amount of distraction, when they found habitual phone users spending an average of 3 minutes, 30 seconds on their phones each hour.

Could there be a positive correlation between larger screen sizes and driver phone use? Zendrive data shows that the larger the screen, the more distracted the driver. As phone screens have gotten larger, drivers can't help but look at their screen while behind the wheel.

Can we do anything about this problem? Well, since we don't even realize how often we're distracted, Zendrive encourages everyone to pledge to turn on their driving autoresponder. With this technology, when you're driving and get a text, your phone will automatically text back that you're driving and







### FROM THE HERKIMER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

#### SWCD TREE & SHRUB PROGRAM

The Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) once again put on a successful Tree & Shrub Program. To make it happen, the District Manager, Gerry Smithson, put in many hours working with multiple nurseries to reserve trees in September. The BOCES Conservation Class helped District staff pack over 18,000 trees and shrubs into each of the 305 individual pre-paid orders. These orders were handed out on April 26th and 27th, and extra trees were also available for purchase. A total of 344 individuals purchased trees. In addition to the trees and shrubs, planting accessories, bags of compost, rain barrels, and barley straw for algae control in ponds were also sold during the program. Extra trees not purchased were donated to the BOCES Conservation Class. This program provides a great opportunity for individuals in local communities to acquire high quality bare root planting stock at affordable prices. It is the largest earned income program for the Herkimer County SWCD, and it helps them offset budget costs as well as continue to improve the natural resources of Herkimer County. The District thanks everyone who participated, and they will continue to offer this program for those interested next year.







If you have questions or comments on the program, please contact the SWCD at 315-866-2520 ext. 5.



### JAIL PROGRESS UPDATE:

#### <u>IULY UPDATE</u>

Construction is progressing at a rapid rate after the installation of the pre cast concrete cells in June! The cells were shipped from the Pennstress plant in Pennsylvania and were set in place in each pod. The process was completed in just over a week!

Structural steel erection began on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Once the steel is set in each pod and the underground electrical and sanitary is complete, the slab-on-grade pouring will be done. Concrete pours are scheduled for the last week in July. Electrical and plumbing is being run to each cell unit to complete the installations.

Interior and exterior masonry walls will continue to be constructed throughout the facility. The next five weeks will be spent preparing for the arrival of the roofer in September. The building is slated to be completely closed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow the contractors to complete the interior areas during the winter months.

The Sheriff's transition team has been onsite and at work since March! The team of four officers are located on site for the entire duration of the project. Their job is to monitor the construction process to become familiar with layout, systems and flow of the building. They verify that hardware and equipment are conducive to a corrections environment and they try to anticipate and resolve any building issues before they arise.

The team's primary focus is to develop policies and procedures to operate the new facility. Once the building is completed, they will be tasked with training the staff and ensuring the new procedures are effective and efficient. The design of the new facility is a pod system that allows for direct supervision of inmates. This will be a new concept for the officers and they will need become familiar with the set up before inmates are allowed in.

The construction to date is running smooth with minimal delays and issues. Hopefully it will continue down this path and we will be up and running by September of 2020!

Stay tuned for more updates next month!!











### FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT:



#### Herkimer County Announces Launch of New Responsive Website

HERKIMER, New York - Herkimer County is excited to announce the launch of its new responsive website. Working with the Central New York based digital marketing agency Quadsimia, the new website was created to meet the high demand for mobile accessibility, while being user friendly with improved visuals, content reorganization and thoughtful use of navigation. "For Herkimer County's new website, we developed a high quality, dynamic design that's fit for today's modern mobile user." Quadsimia's Director of Business Development Rocco Fernalld explained.

New features, including the newsletter sign up integration and homepage alert bar, make the new website an ideal tool for tourism, agriculture and workforce development, and community information. Directories and search function create an easy to use contact source for county residents, while the fully dynamic Content Management System (CMS) allows Herkimer County personal the ability to update content and documents. In addition, the new "How Do I?" button links users to information on social services, civil service, and other popular topics easier than ever before.

The new responsive website offers users across all platforms easy access to county information and services. The official launch celebration will take place on July 26

> th at 8:30AM at the

Legislature Chambers located at 109 Mary Street, 3rd Floor in Herkimer.

Herkimer County is a municipal corporation of the State of New York. The County is governed by the Legislature made up of 17 members who are elected bi-annually. Herkimer County has a land area of approximately 1,300 square miles including 574 miles of road and 66 bridges. The most current census shows the County with a population of approximately 64,000.

###

If you would like more information, please call (315) 867-1119 or email sferdula@herkimercounty.org

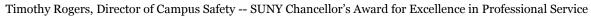


#### Employees Honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Congratulations to the following Herkimer College employees: :

Debora Brunner, Office Assistant, Copy Center -- SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

Lisa Elwood-Farber, Professor of English -- SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Activities



Kathleen Stables, Assistant Professor of Corrections -- SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

The SUNY Chancellor's Award program was created to publicly recognize and honor superior professional achievement by faculty and professional staff, and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. The award is designated for faculty and staff members who personify professional excellence and serve as role models not only for the State University of New York community, but for Herkimer County Community College as well.

#### Mary Ann Carroll Granted Emeritus Status

In recognition of her demonstration of exmitment to Herkimer College, the Board of Trustees tus status to Mary Ann Carroll, effective September retiring in August after 33 years of service. She 1986 as a junior instructor and was promoted to in 2003. After serving two years as an associate pointed associate professor for the Radio-TV Broad-2012, she was appointed assessment coordinator, named assistant dean of academic affairs for assesstional effectiveness.

Throughout her tenure, Carroll served on committees and provided leadership and assistance accreditation reports. Carroll was respected and dents and colleagues alike, and was awarded the Award for Excellence in Faculty Service in 2014.

Carroll said, "It has been a wonderful 33



cellence and comhas granted emeri-1, 2019. Carroll is joined the faculty in assistant professor dean, she was apcasting program. In and in 2014, she was ment and institu-

numerous college with institutional admired by her stu-SUNY Chancellor's

years as a faculty

member and administrator at Herkimer. My students and colleagues have enriched my life and I am forever grateful! Best of all, I met my husband of 35 years right here, as students in the Radio-TV program! Two of our adult children are also Herkimer grads. So proud to tell our Herkimer College story. It's a blessing!" *Pictured are Mary Ann Carroll and her husband Jim Carroll at the 2019 Employee Recognition Ceremony held at Herkimer College.* 





#### INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

#### July, August, September 2019

#### HCCC CONT'D:

#### **Pre-Employment Police Academy Graduates First Class**

Sixteen cadets graduated from the new Pre-Employment Police Academy on Saturday, June 1. It was the first class to graduate from the program, which is a partnership between Little Falls Police Department and Herkimer College.

Tom Carinci was chosen unanimously by his peers to speak on their behalf at the ceremony. Carinci had always wanted to be a police officer, but until this program started, he did not see any opportunity to get into the profession. At 50 years old, he was unable to take the civil service test to get hired by a police de-

partment due to his age. As a result of entering this program, he was hired part-time by Little Falls Police

Department and part-time by the Village of Frankfort Police Department. He has since retired from his career at Birnie Bus and accepted as a campus safety officer at Herkimer College.

"To become a police officer is an honor and a privilege. Many of us have dreamed about this moment growing up. We now have the opportunity of going forward realizing our dreams and putting our training into use," said Carinci.

Retired Little Falls Police Chief and Program Director Michael Masi said, "This program has provided opportunities for people that they may never have had. By putting themselves through 85 percent of the New York State required basic course for police, they have not only demonstrated their abilities and commitment to the profession, but they also have made themselves marketable to communities at a significant cost savings."

The program at Herkimer College prepares students for a career as a police officer prior to being hired by a law enforcement agency. Although the program does not guarantee admissions into a police department, every standard required by a full-time basic police academy applies including academics, attendance, and physical fitness. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates receive a transcript and a certificate indicating completion of Phase 1 of Pre-Employment Police Basic Training. This certificate gives students two years to secure employment in a police department and complete the Phase II portion of the training before being awarded a full Basic School Certificate from the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The Phase II training is presented only to sworn police officers and contains the remainder of police training units which civilian students are prohibited by state law from participating in.

#### Fall Fest and Alumni Weekend

Herkimer College Saturday, September 28, 2019 Noon – 3 p.m. Free and open to the public Schedule of events can be found at <u>www.herkimer.edu/fallfest</u>

There will be a car show, horse drawn wagon rides, novelties, pumpkin painting, entertainment, and much more! Come celebrate the fall season with us!







#### HCCC CONT'D:

### Congratulations to the Class of 2019!



Herkimer County Community College held its 51st annual Commencement on Friday, May 17, 2019 in the varsity gymnasium. There were 463 candidates for associate degrees and certificates. This year's class included 63 students who completed their degrees entirely online through Herkimer College's Internet Academy.

Student speaker Elaha Noori, originally from Afghanistan, explained facing her fears and overcoming challenges. Noori said, "Today, I would like to call on everyone, especially to other women, to face our fears and embrace the challenges we encounter. This is what makes us and future generations stronger."

President Cathleen McColgin said, "Regardless of your goals coming to Herkimer, there is no doubt you leave Herkimer with valuable new skills and a greater awareness of the world. You have learned to overcome challenges, be independent, manage your time and be self-disciplined. Many of you have developed and honed your leadership skills and you have grown personally through participation in cultural, civic and social activities. Most importantly, you have met your academic goals, and prepared yourselves for the future."

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



**FROM** THE **OFFICE** FOR THE **AGING**: Each year the Office for the Aging and our Advisory Council recognize two older adults in the community. With the help from our Advisory Council we have chosen two very deserving older adults who have done great work in our community. On June 13th, 2019 at Francesca's in Ilion the 2 awards were presented at the RSVP Luncheon.

#### Senior Citizen of the year:



Martin K. Sorensen is 91 years old, who resides in Herkimer, NY 13350.

Martin is an American through and through and has been a devoted Herkimer County resident for his entire life. He has been an active member of the VFW and American Legion for more than 75 years, rarely missing meetings or events. He was the East Herkimer VFW Post Commander for many years and played an integral role as an officer until the merger with the Herkimer VFW Post.

Martin's other accomplishments include: Boy Scout Troop Leader, Volunteer with Clear Path for Veterans, and a volunteer at the Herkimer Reform Church. Martin has always answered a call where help was needed and provided his skilled workmanship with plumbing, masonry, painting, roofing, etc. He has taught others willing to learn his talents as a tradesman. Martin is an extremely accomplished handyman, He can fix just about anything!

Martin has also provided, at his own expense, rides for people in need to get to chemotherapy and radiation treatments. He is the kind of man who gives of himself and does not expect anything in return. He is willing to help those that need a "hand up" to get through a time when help is needed most.

Martin portrays the essence of Americanism at its finest. His daughter states "I am proud to be his daughter; he has taught me well what it means to be community minded, a good person, and what it means to be American."

Martin is a WWII Navy Veteran who served our country with respect and pride. He served in the Pacific Theatre and remembers seeing the aftermath of Hiroshima and Pearl Harbor.

Martin is a selfless, honest and compassionate man, who deserves to be recognized.

Martin has four children, eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Martin says "Volunteering is interesting. Try to help and give people a hand up."

#### **Outstanding Contribution:**



Margaret VanDelinder is full-blooded Irish and was born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1949. She resides in Old Forge, NY.

Margaret has spent many years working for the Home Aide Services of the Central Adirondacks, Inc. (HASCA). She is no stranger to assisting with the needs of the aging population. She has volunteered for Hospice for over 20 years and has compassionately supported many families and individuals as they navigate through end-of-life issues

Margaret serves on the board of directors for the Community Health & Wellness Fund, an organization dedicated to sustaining the availability of basic health care in our community, particularly critical for seniors, as well as sponsors our area senior social program, known as SHARP.

Margaret also volunteers with the area not-for-profit thrift shop called The Mission Boutique. She helps sorts

through donations and display them. This is an important shop for the community as all items are available on a donation-only basis and allows all the community, including seniors on a fixed income, to easily acquire good quality clothing and household goods.

Margaret has served on the Town of Webb Historical Society. She also has volunteered for the Polar Bear Ski Club which provides support to the youth of the community to learn how to ski. Margaret assisted the club with fund raising and assisted with ski events that the club supported for the youth in Old Forge.

Margaret is a volunteer for the weekly Senior Health, Activity and Recreation Program (SHARP). She has a good sense of humor and doesn't seem to ever have a "bad" day. She is a dependable, active volunteer, ready to help out nearly every week. Many of our liveliest seniors really look forward to playing cards with Margaret. She is often found using her skills in the kitchen when cooking is needed, sharing other life skills with the participants and also helping with serving lunch and cleaning up. Often she brings in special surprise treats to go with the season, like a homemade heart cake on Valentine's Day or candy corn at Halloween time. Of course, she goes all out when she has total control over the St. Patrick's Day decorating and events. One year she even did an Irish dance for us!

Margaret and husband Jim have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Margaret states she has always loved helping others in her community and Old Forge is a great place to live.

Margaret says, "It feels good to help someone else, it keeps you active and moving."

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### of HERKIMER COUNTY (800) 342-9871 (315) 867-1121 Herkimer County Office for the Aging

Herkimer County Office for the Aging/NY Connects is assessing the needs of older adults in our community. Every four years our office completes a Needs Assessment to determine what types of services older adults in our community need to remain living independently in their homes. Part of the Needs Assessment is a survey that we are asking older adults and any service providers who work with older adults to complete. Once the Needs Assessment is completed we will utilize the information to plan services for the next four years. We need your help. To complete a survey you can call or e-mail the office to obtain a paper survey or you can use the link below to complete it online. <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WLLLYPT">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WLLLYPT</a>

#### If you need assistance completing the survey we can assist.

Herkimer County Office for the Aging/NY Connects- Phone # (315)867-1121 or e-mail <u>hcofa@herkimercounty.org</u>. If you have any questions about services that we provide please feel free to contact us.



On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Herkimer County Intergenerational Clean-Up Day was held. Volunteers of all ages helped older adults who live in their homes, but may need a little help with yard clean-up. Over 20 houses in the area received assistance from the volunteer effort. The Herkimer County Office for the Aging planned the volunteer event that was a huge success. We would like to thank all of the volunteers which included; Herkimer County Employees to include volunteers from Mental Health, Probation, and Office for the Aging. In addition we had volunteers

from Herkimer County Office for the Aging's Advisory Council, Little Falls Hospital, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, ARC Herkimer, Feld-



meier Equipment, Inc, and students from Herkimer County Community College. We would like to send a special thank you to

the Herkimer County Highway and Maintenance Departments for allowing our group to use rakes, brooms, and shovels. Hannaford in Herkimer donated items for the event. Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful also donated items to assist with the volunteer effort. Eileen and Peter Manno also donated funds to support the event. Without our volunteers and the community support we would not be able to assist these older adults. The volunteer effort not only helped with Spring Clean Up but showed older adults that people care and are there to help. One older adult said that, "My lawn looks great and I could not have done this without you."

We all know an older adult that may need a little assistance. I would encourage everyone to lend a helping hand if you can. You will find that it is not only good for the older adult but it also brings you joy. Thank you to all who assisted us with this project.

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONT'D: From The Office of HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 109 MARY ST. SUITE 1306 HERKIMER, NY 13350-2920 Telephone: (315)-867-1102 Fax: (315)-867-1106 Kim S. Tranter Anthony C. Fuma

*Kim S. Tranter* Republican Commissioner 315) 867-1104 Anthony C. Fumarola Democratic Commissioner (315) 867-1103

A big change beginning this year is the passage of early voting. The State Legislature has outlined a policy and passed legislation for all Boards of Election to create a plan for 10 days of early voting as part of the election process. Starting with the general election of 2019, the requirement for Early Voting will be conducted for every primary and every general election going forward.

Early Voting will be held from October 26, 2019 through November 3, 2019 in the Herkimer County DMV building, 109 Mary Street, Herkimer, NY in room 301, located on the third floor. The dates and times are:

Saturday October 26th – 9:00AM-2:00PM Sunday October 27th – 9:00AM-2:00PM Monday October 28th – 9:00AM-5:00PM Tuesday October 29th – 12:00PM-8:00PM Wednesday October 30th – 12:00PM-8:00PM Thursday October 31st – 9:00AM-5:00PM Friday November 1st – 9:00AM-5:00PM Saturday November 2nd – 9:00AM-2:00PM



If a Voter votes during the Early Voting period listed above they are not eligible to vote on Election Day at their respective Poll Site.

All Registered Voters in within Herkimer County are eligible to vote at this site during the designated hours.

This Poll Site is accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 315-867-1102 or hcboe@herkimercounty.org