

# Herkimer County Newsletter

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2020



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## DAIRY FARMERS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL NUTRITION TO FAMILIES DURING PANDEMIC

American Dairy Association North East worked with Dairy Farmers of America, the Food Bank of Central New York, the Office of Legislator Robert Schrader and the Herkimer County Legislature, and community partners to facilitate the distribution of more than 4,000 gallons of milk and 25,000 pounds of meat and produce through a local drive-thru event on June 30th at Herkimer Central School. There were 800 boxes each of meat (10 pounds/box) and produce (22 pounds/box). Vehicles received two gallons of milk and one of each box. Herkimer County also distributed 1,000 five-pack of cloth face-masks.



AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST



Herkimer Central School District



Food Bank of Central New York

**Upcoming 2020 Legislature Meeting Dates:**

- July 1 – 2:00 PM
- August 12 – 7:00 PM
- September 16 – 7:00 PM

Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being held via teleconference.  
 109 Mary Street  
 Herkimer, NY 13350  
 Check our website for Meeting minutes at [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org)

**Civil Service Exams:**

- September 12
- September 26

Please visit [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org) and click on "Civil Service Exams" for more information!



**Legal Holidays. All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:**

- July 3— Independence Day
- September 7—Labor Day

\*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded



County Office Building  
 Summer Hours  
 8:00AM–4:00PM  
 May 26, 2020–September 4, 2020

**SUMMER HOURS**



**FROM ETA/WORKING SOLUTIONS:**

More than 5,000 courses to choose from



2020  
Herkimer County  
College Corps. Internship Program

This 200 hour summer internship program is open to any Herkimer County residents who will be entering their junior or senior year of college in the fall. Youth are paid \$12.00/hour with this cost being shared between the County and the host employer. This program is limited to 20 individuals. For more information, interested youth or employers can contact Karin Piseck or Mike Werenczak at:

Herkimer County Employment & Training Administration  
 located at  
 Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center  
 320 N. Prospect St.  
 Herkimer, NY 13350  
 315-867-1400

**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 [hcboc@herkimercounty.org](mailto:hcboc@herkimercounty.org).

**MENTAL HEALTH VISITS**

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Mar. - 669	Apr. - 766	May - 669

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Mar. - 32	Apr. - 27	May- 32



PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS, Linda Robbins** is the Assistant Director/Nutrition Educator of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) in Herkimer; and

**WHEREAS, Linda Robbins** began her career with Cornell Cooperative Extension as a Food & Nutrition Educator on July 1, 1970, and has since served in many roles including Food & Nutrition Program Leader, Home Economist, Staff Supervisor and Acting Executive Director. She also fulfilled such roles over the years for surrounding counties, including Oneida, Otsego, and Hamilton counties, as well as having worked on over forty community boards and professional committees dedicated to nutrition education and lifestyle improvement; and

**WHEREAS, Linda Robbins**, together with her husband Harry Robbins, has built a rich life in Herkimer County raising twin sons, being active in the Schuyler community and owning and operating their business, Beechwood Farms through which they are leaders in the Herkimer County Dairy Promotion and the county branch of the New York Farm Bureau; and

**WHEREAS, Linda Robbins**, through her Herkimer County Local Foods Map encourages residents and tourists to patronize the sixty-two local farms who participate in the mapping project; and

**WHEREAS, Linda Robbins** is respected by staff and community alike, having been recognized by her colleagues throughout the Cornell Cooperative Extension system. She has received many awards including the Community and Development Innovator Award from Cornell University and National and State Distinguished Service Awards from Epsilon Sigma Phi; and

**WHEREAS, Linda Robbins** has achieved a milestone of 50 years in the CCE System, and they and we are better for it; *Now, Therefore, be it;*

**RESOLVED,** That I, **VINCENT J. BONO**, do deem it fitting and appropriate to proclaim Wednesday, July 1, 2020, as **“LINDA ROBBINS DAY”** in Herkimer County and urge the residents of the County to join in the recognition of her many years of service.

Dated: July 1, 2020

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the County of Herkimer,  
New York, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty.

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**VINCENT J. BONO, Chairman**  
**Herkimer County Legislature**

## ETA/WORKING SOLUTIONS CONT'D:



### Herkimer County Employment & Training Out of School Youth Program Karyna's Story

\*In May of 2018, a 20 year-old young lady named Karyna walked into our Center seeking assistance to become an LPN. She had a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree earned while attending a pre-nursing program at HCCC. During her initial assessment, she was determined eligible for funding as a member of a low income, non-traditional family unit. Her mom, a naturalized citizen from the Dominican Republic, gave birth to Karyna and her younger brother in New York City but moved to our area a number of years ago to raise her children in a more rural area.

\*Karyna began the fulltime LPN program in July of 2018 and maintained high grades while also working part time. In December of 2018, we were able to combine our funding with another local grant to maximize the financial assistance impact available to her. Through both grants, besides tuition, she was reimbursed for uniforms, shoes, state board licensing fees and received incentive payments for completion, certification and employment.

\*LPN graduation was held at Herkimer County BOCES in June of 2019. Karyna became a fully Licensed Practical Nurse in January 2020 and began working fulltime at a local long term/assisted living facility in February. In April she became a mom for the first time with the birth of a beautiful baby boy!

\*When asked if we could share her journey, Karyna agreed immediately. The following is her story in her own words:

*"I moved from NYC when I was 2 years old. We moved to the valley because it's a small, quiet town compared to the city life. I've lived in Illon specifically for 11 years now.*

*My grandma was a doctor in the Dominican Republic, so healthcare has always run in the family. All my sisters are nurses. When my sister got diagnosed with leukemia it confirmed that I truly wanted to be a nurse, and care for people. Seeing the way they cared for my sister when she could not care for herself, really put into perspective what I wanted to do for a living.*

*When my grandma came home from hospice I was still in nursing school. I was using my skills that I learned in the nursing program firsthand. When it hits close to home, it's really hard to hold back all the emotions you're dealing with. But there's no better feeling than being able to care for my grandmother as she once took care of me. I really enjoy taking care of people, it's such a great feeling knowing you're helping people who unfortunately can no longer help themselves. I help people hoping one day someone will help me when the time comes, and I need help in return.*

*Being a licensed practical nurse is everything I expected and more. No teacher can teach you how to be a shoulder to lean on when a residents crying, or how to be compassionate and understanding. We are self-taught these things and find comfort in making residents feel happy and cared for. We're the family away from family. Especially now, during these times in which no visitations are allowed.*

*I enjoy every aspect of personal care. There's a sense of comfort knowing you made someone's day a little easier. Feeding someone who cannot feed themselves, giving them their medication because they can't remember when to take it, etc. When a resident goes to bed at night and you tuck them in, there holds a feeling of nurture that every nurse carries. All these things my grandmother and sister would be so proud of.*

*There's nothing about being a nurse that I dislike. Yes, some days are easier than others. Yes, some days you're so stressed out you cry. But all the hardships you deal with are temporary, and helps you build character. There's beauty in the struggle, and there's no better feeling than over coming challenges that come your way.*

*Being a mom has changed my life in so many ways. Lots of sleepless nights, cries, burps, throwing up, etc. Some days may seem like you're never going to get out the house on time, and most of the time you're tired, but none of that matters when you look into your baby's eyes and see who you've created. I never thought I could love someone as much as I love my son. He's the best blessing God has ever given me. The best part about being a mom is just loving my baby, and doing absolutely everything in my power to love and protect him. He's shown me how strong a woman really is. He's shown me what true love is. He's shown me how to be patient, gentle, and responsible. He's evolved my life, bringing out only the best in me. Now that he's here, I can't imagine life without him.*

*The advice I have for other young nurses is just to never give up. There's going to be days you feel you cannot honestly go on any longer. Endless nights of studying, homework, clinicals, keeping your grades up, tests and much more is expected of you. There'll be days you feel like you're just not good enough but you are. You can accomplish anything you're willing to work hard for. Nothing worth having comes easy. In the end you will know why you endured everything you did, and you will be so proud of yourself.*

*My advice for other moms is to just be present in the moment. These are the times where your child is so young and innocent, you really want to take advantage of the time you have with them. They grow up so fast and you don't want life's obstacles to ever make you not present, or feel like you're not present enough. You can get your job back, but you can never get back these precious moments. These times are the times you're supposed to enjoy your new bundle of joy. Everyone nowadays is always focused on the next big thing without thinking about the present. You won't ever regret making memories with the people you love. These memories you'll cherish forever.*

*I personally would just like to thank my mom, sisters, boyfriend and Working Solutions. I honestly could not have successfully completed the program without the support of these people who have helped me. They have helped me by being an ear to listen to, a hand to hold when I really needed it, and a shoulder to cry on. Nursing school is not easy to complete, or have as a career. If it was everyone would do it. With the help of my close family and friends I was able to make a career and a living for me and my family, and that is something I'm greatly thankful for. Words cannot describe my gratitude, and I cannot wait to see what life has in store for me."*





**Free Online Skills Training**  
**Don't miss this valuable opportunity!**

Metrix Learning® is available **for free** to all businesses and residents of Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, and Otsego, NY, Counties.

This comprehensive online self-paced learning platform offers more than 5,000 Soft Skills, Business, IT and other courses that can help set you up for success.

- Gain new skills
- Keep current skills fresh
- Help your resume stand out
- Prepare you for re-entry into a new job market

Along with online skills training, the platform also offers career exploration tools, career pathways, job search tools, and assessments, giving job seekers a clear picture of where they are and what skills they need to gain to get them where they want to be.

**Check out these popular courses that you can take for free:**

- >Writing Effective E-mails and Instant Messages
- >Time Management: Quit Making Excuses and Make Time Instead
- >Being an Effective Team Member
- >Becoming More Professional through Business Etiquette
- >The Art and Science of Communication
- >Abbreviating, Capitalizing, and Using Numbers
- >Roadblocks to Excellent Listening
- >Working with the Interface and Performing Basic Tasks in Word 2016
- >Getting the Details Right: Spelling Basics

**More than 5,000 courses to choose from**

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**[News from the Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center](#)**

Our Career Center is currently open to the public by appointment only Please call 315-867-1400 to schedule Throughout the pandemic we have been available to assist job seekers and businesses through a variety of virtual means

If you would like to request virtual services, please click here:

**[Working Solutions Virtual Services](#)**

And select your county!

Like our **[Facebook](#)** page for local job openings, and training opportunities!

Would you like to search local job opportunities? Our website now offers a resource where you can input job titles and search available positions in real-time in 6 counties! Openings are pulled from over 30,000 sites! Click here: **[Job Search Link](#)**

Subscribe to the HMO Workforce Development Board newsletter!  
Our monthly newsletter is jam packed with news. You can subscribe at:

**<https://www.working-solutions.org/>**

scroll down to the very bottom of the page



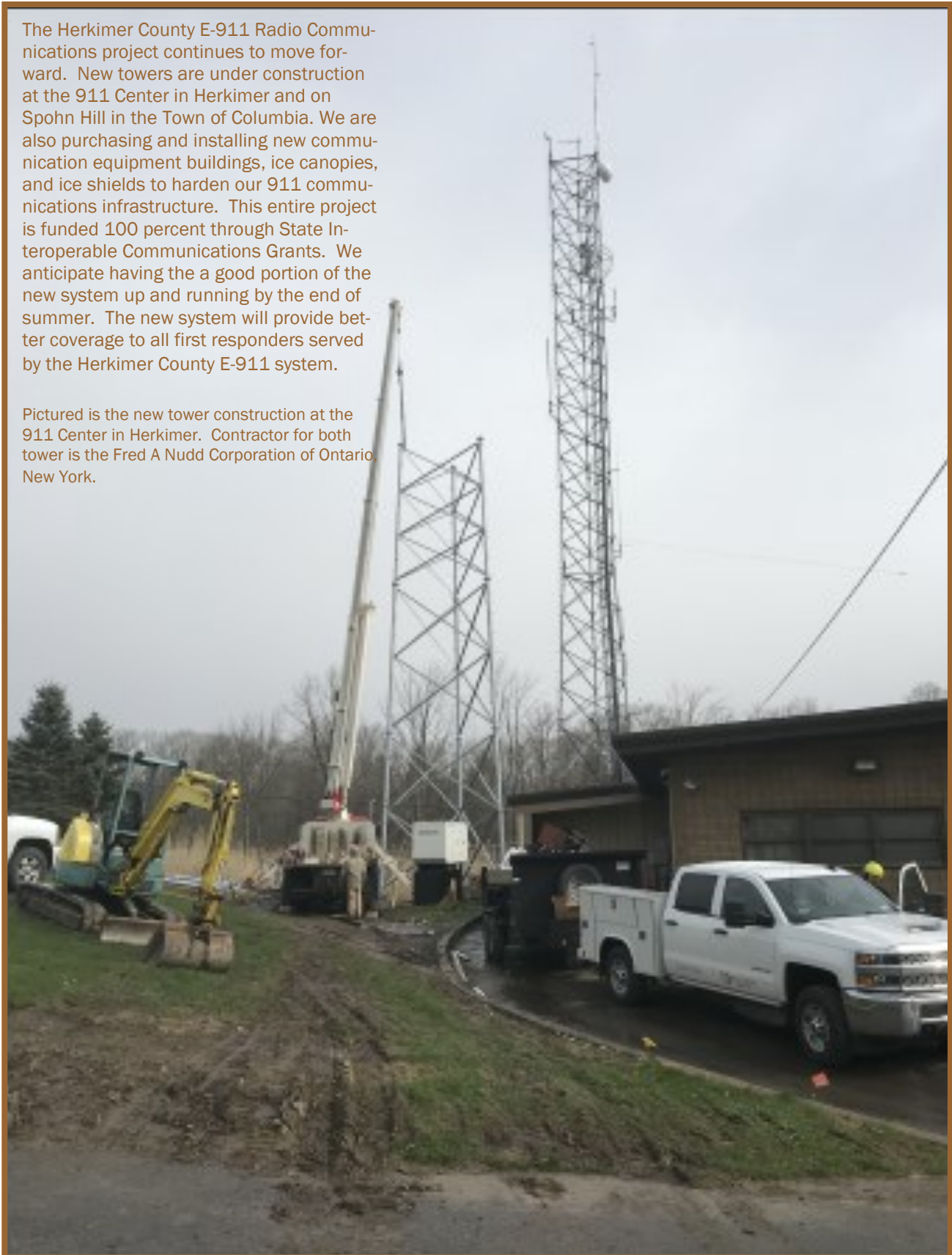
You can also find our link on the Herkimer County website:

**<https://www.herkimercounty.org/employment/working-solutions.php>**

## FROM HERKIMER COUNTY E-911:

The Herkimer County E-911 Radio Communications project continues to move forward. New towers are under construction at the 911 Center in Herkimer and on Spohn Hill in the Town of Columbia. We are also purchasing and installing new communication equipment buildings, ice canopies, and ice shields to harden our 911 communications infrastructure. This entire project is funded 100 percent through State Interoperable Communications Grants. We anticipate having the a good portion of the new system up and running by the end of summer. The new system will provide better coverage to all first responders served by the Herkimer County E-911 system.

Pictured is the new tower construction at the 911 Center in Herkimer. Contractor for both tower is the Fred A Nudd Corporation of Ontario New York.



# HERKIMER COUNTY HEALTHNET:



## VIRTUAL LIVING WELL PROGRAMS

**BE ABUNDANT IN HEALTH**

Herkimer County HealthNet is offering free zoom workshops or weekly phone sessions! Your choice!!

All workshop materials mailed to you!

**Living Well with Diabetes**  
Every 3rd Tuesday of July- August

- 6-8:30pm
- 7/14/2020
- 7/21/2020
- 7/28/2020
- 8/4/2020
- 8/11/2020
- 8/18/2020

**Living Well with Chronic Pain**  
Every 3rd Wednesday of July- August

- 6-8:30pm
- 7/15/2020
- 7/22/2020
- 7/29/2020
- 8/5/2020
- 8/12/2020
- 8/19/2020

**Living Well with Chronic Conditions**  
Every 3rd Monday of July- August

- 9:30-12pm
- 7/20/2020
- 7/27/2020
- 8/3/2020
- 8/10/2020
- 8/17/2020
- 8/24/2020



Ask about our Quit Smoking Program  
To Register Call us at 315-867-1552

# ETA/WORKING SOLUTIONS CONT'D:

HERE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH AGES 18-24 TO GAIN NEW SKILLS AND GET PAID AT THE SAME TIME!



## PAID JOB TRAINING



For more information and eligibility contact:

DeQuan Watson  
315-624-9930 Ext. 2275  
dwatson@mvcaa.com

Art Rapp  
315-798-3679  
arapp@working-solutions.org

### WHAT TO KNOW:

- For "out of school youth" Ages 18-24
- MVCAA offers educational opportunities for gainful employment in a variety of different agency departments
- Participants will have the opportunities to experience on the job training and obtain trainings in resume writing , work readiness, personal finance, budgeting and explore career interests
- Receive *FREE* tools and supplies to help you become successful in your chosen field
- Participants will earn \$11.80/hr for up to 200 hours of job training



Paid Job Training  
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FROM HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



# Herkimer

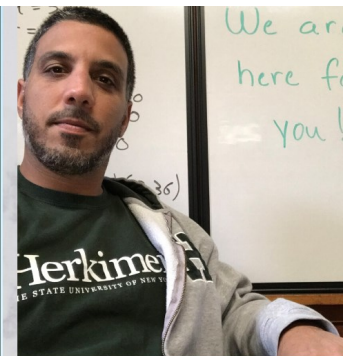
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Summer Session 2020

Herkimer College is offering a variety of online courses this summer, including a large number of general education courses. Summer session is open to all students, regardless of what college they attend. Many courses will utilize Open Educational Resources (OER) eliminating the need to purchase expensive textbooks. With more than 20 years of experience delivering online courses and full degree programs, as well as online support services, Herkimer College offers a premier online experience. Learn more at [Herkimer.edu/summer](http://Herkimer.edu/summer).



**We are  
here for  
you!**  
#HERKCARES  
#HERKFROMHOME



## FROM THE HERKIMER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

### SWCD - 2020 Municipal Hydroseeding Program

The Soil & Water Conservation District offers hydroseeding services to municipalities for soil stabilization and erosion control. These services are provided *at no cost* to the municipality on a *first come, first served* basis. Hydroseeding is an effective practice to reseed exposed soil after ditching roadsides or disturbing soil in a right-of-way. The vegetation in the seed mixture creates root structures that help hold soil in place. Seeding exposed soil reduces erosion, and it helps preserve the quality of our water resources.

Only municipal-owned roadsides and rights-of-way are eligible for this service. For additional information, or to schedule a time to meet and discuss your seeding sites, please call the District at (315)-866-2520 ext. 5. You can also email our Conservation Aide, Bob, at [robert.tilbe@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:robert.tilbe@ny.nacdnet.net).



Disturbed site being hydroseeded.



Site four weeks after being hydroseeded.

# 518-704-2704

**IS AN OUTBOUND NYS DOL PHONE NUMBER.**

ANY CALLS YOU RECEIVE FROM THIS NUMBER ARE FROM  
REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR UI CLAIM

**WE ARE YOUR DOL**

