Herkimer County Newsletter

October, November, December 2020

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Herkimer County

Virtual Senior Citizen's Picnic

Wednesday, October 21st, 2020

FOR: Herkimer County, 60+ individuals

TO SIGN UP: Call Michele @ 315-867-1152 by October 14th, 2020.

HOW IT WORKS: A free barbecue meal. The meals will be distributed at a location in Herkimer and one in Old Forge. We will be providing delivery for homebound clients who are unable to pick up their meal at one of the pick-up locations.

BINGO SESSIONS: We will also be providing an opportunity to participate in virtual bingo. Information on how to participate in the virtual bingo will be given at the time you pick up your meal.

DONATIONS: We are asking community members and organizations to donate gift certificates for local businesses that will be given as prizes for the senior picnic. We ask that the gift certificates be in $10 increments. You are welcome to purchase several gift certificates to support your favorite local business. If any community member or organization would like to donate a gift certificate for a local business you can mail them to: Herkimer County Sheriff's Dept. at 320 N Main Street Suite 2900 Herkimer, NY 13350 or you can contact the Sheriff's Dept. with any questions at 315-867-1168.

thank you!

Herkimer County is actively seeking candidates to fill vacancies in various departments. Please check out www.herkimercounty.org for civil service exams and job postings.

In an effort to increase recruitment please share these vacancies and exam information with individuals that may be interested.

Upcoming 2021 Legislature Meeting Dates:

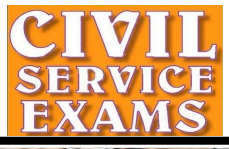
Be sure to check our website at a later date for 2021 meeting dates and times,.

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 12 & 26
- October 10

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



Legal Holidays, All Herkimer County Offices will be closed:

- October 12—Columbus Day
- November 3 – Election Day
- November 11—Veterans' Day
- November 26—Thanksgiving Day
- November 27—Day after Thanksgiving
- December 25—Christmas Day

*Highway and Deputy Sherriff's Association Employees excluded

From Herkimer County Community Services:

Mental Health Wellness Tips

Take Care of Your Body

- Eat Healthy
- Stay Hydrated
- Exercise
- Mainain a routine
- Shower and get dressed daily
- Get plenty of sleep
- Take medications as prescribed
- Follow-up with routine medical examinations
- Avoid excessive use of alcohol or tobacco

Connect

- Mobile Crisis Assessment Team: 315-732-6228
- Herkimer County Mental Health: (315) 867-1465
- National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- COVID NY Mental Health Hotline: 1-844-863-9314
- Addiction Crisis HOPE-NY 1-877-846-7369

Take Breaks

- Spend at least 30 minutes each day with family or friends
- Limit exposure to news media and social media
- Engage in a hobby
- Take a walk
- Meditate
- Spend time with pets
- Engage with spiritual supports

Common Signs of Distress:

- Feeling anxious, fearful, or angry
- Difficulty concentrating or Change in activity level
- Changes in appetite (decrease or increase)
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Increased use of alcohol or tobacco

Mental Health Visits

Mental Health Clinic Visits		
Jun. – 711	Jul. – 564	Aug. - 690

Mental Health Jail Visits		
Jun. – 51	Jul. – 36	Aug.— 51

From Herkimer County STOP-DWI:

DID YOU KNOW???

SAFE DRIVING DEPENDENT ON THREE PARTS – THE CAR, THE ROAD, AND THE DRIVER

Consumer Report had an interesting article, asking the question can we save more lives with advances in safety technology that is reshaping the auto industry. CR questions why the highway death toll is still so stubbornly high. Good question.

As the CR article continues, it makes it clear that there are three parts to safety – the car, the road, and the driver. We are doing an excellent job using technology to develop crash avoidance safety features in cars, such as automatic emergency braking, pedestrian detection, forward collision warning, and blind spot warning. CR believes that these safety systems should become standard on all models because they save lives. But, with every new safety feature there is a corresponding negative side. Drivers may rely too heavily on what they perceive as the ability of the technology to bail them out of trouble.

The promise of self-driving cars is so exciting because the technology could significantly reduce traffic deaths. More than 90 percent of crashes are linked to driver error, according to National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. In theory, a robot-driven car doesn't fall asleep or get drunk. It doesn't make human mistakes.

The Roads

A poorly designed road can escalate a small error into a fatality. Traffic engineers know that a minor change in the sweep of a curve or an unclear road sign can have an impact on safety. For this reason, dozens of cities in the U.S. are completely rethinking road design with safety top of mind.

In the U.S., there are about 12 roadway deaths per 100,000 people per year, according to the World Health Organization. In much of Western Europe, it's fewer than five. In Sweden, it's less than three. Some communities are changing their street design and traffic laws. In 2014 New York was one of the first cities in the U.S. to adopt the Vision Zero concept, which calls for city planners to rethink everything about roads, bike lanes, and pedestrian routes. The goal is to eliminate all vehicle-related deaths.

Speed limits also play a key role in road safety, yet outside of cities, the trend has been to set them higher. During the 1970s energy crisis, the U.S. adopted a nationwide 55 mph limit. Now, most states have a speed limit of 65 or 70 mph on highways. Seven states have adopted an 80-mph speed limit on some highways, and the speed limit is 85 mph on a 40-mile stretch of Texas tollway between Austin and San Antonio.

The Driver

Motorists have become used to driving faster than the posted speed limit no matter the number, says Russ Martin, director of policy and government relations at the Governors Highway Safety Association. Even though almost everyone recognizes that speeding isn't safe, they do it anyway.

It's no mystery that driver mistakes contribute to highway crashes and injuries. Drunken driving, speeding, and failing to wear a seat belt are three major reasons. Sometimes drivers engage in more than one of these risky behaviors at the same time. Each contributes to about 10,000 traffic deaths per year. Human behavior remains the most common contributor to crashes, but it's also the hardest to change.

Safety advocates say the solutions are well-known. Seat-belt use, for example, is higher in states with strong enforcement. States with tougher drunken-driving laws have lower death rates. Most states ban driver texting and the use of hand-held devices while driving, but many drivers do it anyway.

Many drivers think they can multitask while operating a car safely. But National Transportation Safety Board research shows that's a myth; humans can focus cognitive attention only on one thing at a time, says Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the NTSB. "We try to fix human nature here, but that's really hard." Hard or not, we need to do it. This article is being reprinted with the permission on the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board.

From Herkimer County Community College:

Herkimer College Welcomes Students; Implements Pooled Surveillance Testing

Herkimer College recently welcomed students and employees back to campus, adhering to a variety of new safety measures and protocols designed to detect and contain any spread of COVID-19. “Our number one priority is the health and well-being of everyone in our campus community,” said President Cathleen McColgin.

The majority of on-campus, in-person classes were transitioned to real-time remote for the fall semester. Real-time remote means that students and instructors meet virtually together as scheduled using Microsoft Teams (similar to Zoom). The College conducted a variety of student outreach prior to classes starting to assist students with Microsoft Teams training and to address any concerns or challenges.

The College reduced occupancy in on-campus housing by making all bedrooms singles. Three apartments were kept vacant to accommodate students who may need to be quarantined or isolated. Students were assigned specific time slots to move in, and were only allowed to bring one guest to aid them in order to reduce the amount of outside traffic to the area. Throughout move-in weekend, a total of 392 COVID-19 rapid response tests were conducted by Primary Urgent Care (both students and guests were tested). Of these tests, there were two positive results, with those individuals, and anyone accompanying them, required to return home. The College now has 228 students living on campus.

“Once again, I must reinforce how very important it is for all of us to remain vigilant in wearing our masks, washing our hands often, and keeping a safe distance from others,” President Cathleen McColgin said in an email to the campus community. “We all must do our part to protect ourselves and our community, so we can all have a healthy and successful semester.” Residential students were required to sign a “HERK Safe” pledge clearly outlining the new rules and putting them on notice of the consequences of noncompliance.

The College will continue monitoring for COVID-19 through a pooled surveillance testing method. SUNY was approved by the New York State Department of Health in August to undertake pooled surveillance testing for COVID-19 — an innovative method where numer samples can be run as part of one test. SUNY's pooled testing approach was developed and validated by SUNY Upstate Medical University. It uses multiple saliva samples, allowing for several people to be screened for the SARS-CoV-2 virus in one test. With a negative result, the entire pool is presumed to be COVID-19 free. If a positive result comes up, only the individuals in that pool will be tested.

Residential students; commuter students enrolled in one or more on-campus, in-person classes; and all student-athletes regardless of the type of class delivery they are enrolled will be tested every other week. A COVID-19 case tracker is available on the College's website at www.herkimer.edu/restart ensuring transparency regarding testing results and other key data points.

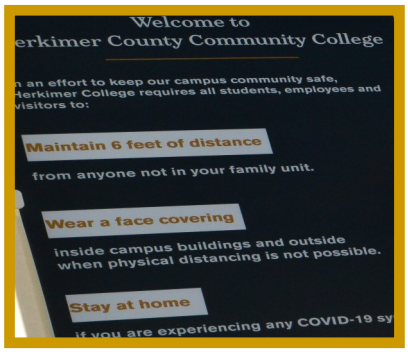
Herkimer | INTERNET ACADEMY
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Herkimer College named No. 2 online community college in New York State

Herkimer College and its Internet Academy program have been ranked the No. 2 online community college in New York State for 2020.

New York is home to 30 community colleges that provide opportunities to earn an online associate degree or certificate. Each college was assessed based on several factors, such as retention rate, graduation rate, percentage of online enrollment, and the number of online associate degrees offered. Herkimer College was deemed the second-best choice, following only behind Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY.

The rankings were done by Optimal, formerly known as the SR Education Group, an organization that uses data to help empower students to be able to make the best decisions on higher education and career path. This is the second year in a row Herkimer College has been recognized by the group.



From Herkimer County Clerk's Office:

Herkimer County Clerk

109 Mary Street – Suite 1111
Herkimer, NY 13350-2923
Phone: 315-867-1129
Fax: 315-866-4396
Email: srowan@herkimercounty.org

Sylvia M. Rowan

Deputy County Clerk
Krystal M. Carbone
Phone: 315-867-1134
Motor Vehicles Supervisor

Phone: 315-867-1132

September 14, 2020

On August 28, 2020 Herkimer County Clerk, Sylvia M. Rowan announced via Press release that starting Tuesday, September 1, 2020 the Herkimer County libraries will have various Department Of Motor Vehicles forms, driving books, and instructions for transactions available to the public. The following libraries will be participating: Ilion Free Public Library, Little Falls Public Library, Mid York Library System Inc., Weller Library, Middleville Free Library, Frank J. Basloe Library, West Winfield Library, and Newport Free Library.

In August 2020, Mrs. Rowan spoke with a constituent regarding Department of Motor Vehicles forms, the constituent was unable to obtain DMV forms as they did not have a computer and was unable to drive to the County building. The constituent asked if the forms were available at local libraries, unfortunately they were not available at this time. The Department of Motor Vehicles was able to send the forms needed to the constituent. Through this conversation the idea was created to connect each Herkimer County Library and deliver forms/driving book for constituents to obtain.

Since the program started libraries have stated that they have had a great turn out of constituents and the program has been very successful. Forms and Driving books will continue to be supplied to libraries involved as needed. Other libraries in Herkimer County that wish to participate can connect Mrs. Rowan at 315-867-1129.

Mrs. Rowan is very grateful that the County Clerk's office is able to help the constituency of Herkimer County and for the assistance of the Herkimer County libraries. The Department of Motor Vehicles and County Clerk's Office will continue to provide the best customer service to the community during this difficult time.

FROM INFORMATION SERVICES:

Working Remotely: How to be Safe, Secure, and Successful

Home IT devices, such as unsecured off-site routers, modems, and other network devices are subject to many of the same threats as on-site business devices. They can be attacked from any device on the internet. Remote devices are also vulnerable to unauthorized access from neighbors and passersby.

As we continue to work, attend school, and connect with friends and family remotely, there are steps you can take to reduce the risk and improve the security of home networks. Consider the following list to gauge the amount of risk involved and improve the security of your home network:

- Are your network devices physically secured?
- Have you changed the default manufacturer/administrative account password on your network devices (modem and router)? Many routers will come preconfigured with a password. The default password for most router models are easily accessible on the internet, making it extremely important to change the administrative passwords and not use the default.
- Do you have a unique password and two-factor authentication (2FA) enabled on your network devices (modem and router)?
- Do you have a password policy in place? Do you have a unique password and 2FA enabled on your internet service provider's web portal?
- If you use a mobile application for network management, do you have a unique password and 2FA enabled?
- Have you installed the latest updates for your network devices (i.e., modem, router, laptop/PC) or have you enabled auto-update with the device's administration page?
- Does your network device (router/modem) support Wi-Fi Protected Access Version 2 (WPA2) or Wi-Fi Protected Access Version 3 (WPA3)? WPA2 should be the minimum.
- Have you turned off/disabled Wireless Protected Setup (WPS) and Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) on your network? If enabled, these might allow attackers to connect to your devices without permission.
- Have you changed the Wi-Fi network name to something unique that doesn't provide any identifying information?
- Have you enabled firewall on your network devices?
- Have you disabled remote management? Most routers offer the option to view and modify their settings over the internet. Turn this feature off to guard against unauthorized individuals accessing and changing your router's configuration.
- Have you hardened your device by removing ports, software or services that are unused or unwanted?
- Do you run updated antivirus and malware protection on your device?

Security during virtual meetings

In order to help protect you and your organization from potential threats, here are some cybersecurity tips on how to securely configure your virtual meetings, whether they be for work or your classroom experience:

Sharing of your information assets during virtual meetings

Avoid adding your meeting to any public calendars or posting it on social media
Require participants to enter an access code
Avoid reusing access codes or meeting pins
Distribute the meeting link and access code directly to the intended participants
Remind invited guests not to share the access code
Before sharing your screen, close unused windows to ensure you do not share sensitive or confidential information
Use a privacy shield or cover over your webcam when it is not in use

Managing your information assets and password policy

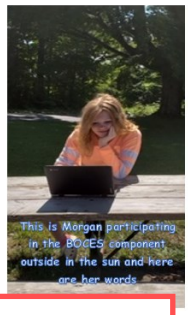
Use your organization's provided services and devices
Do not record the meeting unless it is necessary and be aware that others may be able to record the meeting
Disable the "Anyone Can Share" feature to prevent unauthorized screen sharing
Muting users on entry can prevent potential disruptions
Prevent users from sharing video by default; allow video sharing only when necessary
Validate the participant list against invited attendees, or have participants identify themselves as they join the meeting
Do not trust the safety of links shared in meeting chats
Schedule "Unlisted" meetings and hide specific details, such as its host, topic, and starting time
Do not allow attendees to "Join Before Host"
Set up each meeting to require all attendees to enter a password
Create a unique password comprised of upper, lower case, numbers, and special characters for each meeting
Exclude the meeting password from attendee email invitations. Provide the password to attendees via a separate email or by phone
On reoccurring meetings, always check to ensure one-time attendees are not included in subsequent meetings or meeting chat threads.
Do not list personal information, such as location, phone number, or date of birth on your Skype profile

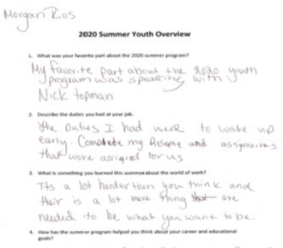
Remember, just like you protect your physical assets (shed, kayak, or bike) with a padlock, you need to lock down connectivity devices to protect information assets! A resilient cybersecurity mindset contributes towards being able to have a clear view of the objectives. For some, end points might have become a primary concern, for others, the corporate assets might have become even more susceptible in light of the increased amounts of ransomware. This dual pronged problem especially became more evident during this new world of COVID-19 with more staff working remotely.

From Employment & Training:

Lindsay, a student in the virtual BOCES program wrote this to her instructors:

Thank you guys for the gift card. It was an honor to work with both of you. Thank you for showing me what true adult hood means. I'm going to say this right now as we hung up today I cried knowing that I won't be waking up to listening to you guys explain what adult hood means. Again thank you both for helping me find all these amazing friends. Good luck when school starts




Morgan Rios

2020 Summer Youth Overview

1. What was your favorite part about the 2020 summer program?
My favorite part about the 2020 youth program was speaking with Nick Tepman

2. Describe the duties you had at your job.
The duties I had were to wake up early complete my resume and assignments that were assigned to us

3. What is something you learned this summer about the world of work?
Its a lot harder than you think and their is a lot more thing that are needed to be what you want to be.

4. How has the summer program helped you think about your career and educational goals?
Well I was pretty set on what career I had already wanted but I figured out there are lot more things you need to learn.

Herkimer County
Summer Youth Employment Program

Program funding approved: July 2nd
Recruitment: July 3rd-August 14th
Program Dates: 14-15 year olds: 7/27-8/21
16-20 year olds: 8/3-8/28

We have offered an extension to 9/30 for any youth that are not in school or have delayed school start dates

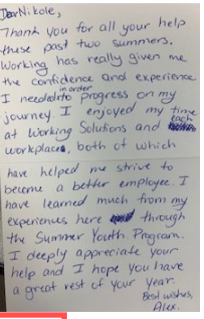
Stats: Total Applicants: 68
Ineligible, No Show, Other Job, Injury: 15
Placed: 53

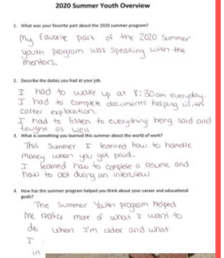
37 Youth Placed at Worksites

Herkimer Home
Little Falls Housing Authority
Little Falls YMCA
Little Falls Community Co-op
Alpine Nursing Home
Holy Family Parish
Valley Health Services
Oak Hill Cemetery
HC Office for the Aging
Village of Herkimer Clerk
HC Sewer District

Humane Society
Town of German Flatts
Freedom Farm
Central Valley CSD
Frankfort Schuyler CSD
Frankfort Library
Middleville Library
West Canada CSD
Newport Library
Poland Library
West Winfield Office
United Way

16 youth (ages 14-15) served virtually in a career exploration/job readiness program through Herkimer BOCES


Jen Nicole,
Thank you for all your help these past two summers. Working has really given me the confidence and experience I needed to make in order progress on my journey I enjoyed my time at Working Solutions and both workplaces, both of which have helped me strive to become a better employee. I have learned much from my experiences here through the Summer Youth Program. I deeply appreciate your help and I hope you have a great rest of your year.
Best wishes,
Alex.


Laci Rios

2020 Summer Youth Overview

1. What was your favorite part about the 2020 summer program?
My favorite part of the 2020 summer youth program was speaking with the mentors.

2. Describe the duties you had at your job.
I had to wake up at 7:30am everyday. I had to complete documents helping with career exploration. I had to listen to everything being said and taught to me.

3. What is something you learned this summer about the world of work?
This summer I learned how to handle money when you get paid. I learned how to complete a resume and how to act during an interview.

4. How has the summer program helped you think about your career and educational goals?
The summer youth program helped me realize more of what I want to do when I'm older and what I [illegible]

GREAT JOB!

You have completed the first half of your summer job and you have done all of the hours that you were given!

That shows responsibility, hard work and respect for your worksite and your supervisor!

Being a good worker is a very valuable trait!

**As a little treat, please use this $50 VISA card to get something you need or have been wanting!

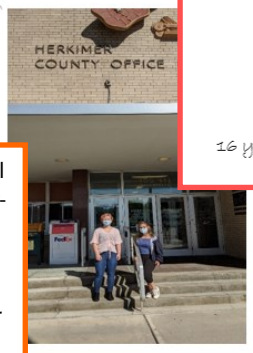
KEEP UP the Good Work

If you keep this up until the end of the program, there will be an extra $200 mailed out to you with your last paycheck!

To use your gift card:
At checkout, swipe your Card, select "credit" on the keypad or enter a 4-digit number as your PIN

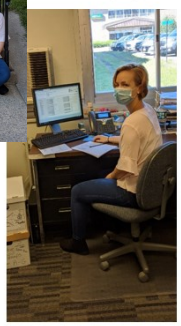
--Working Solutions Staff

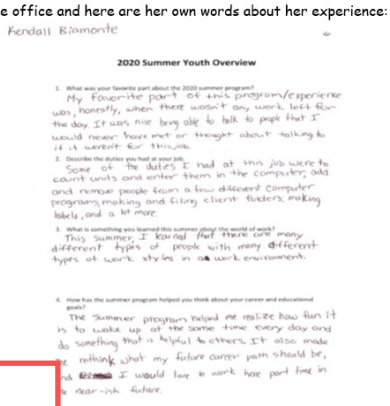
At the half way point of their jobs, we sent anyone who had perfect attendance this letter and a $50 VISA gift card. 41 out of 53 earned it!



Hannah & Kendall worked at the Herkimer County Office for the Aging. From Kathy Fox, Executive Director of OFA: "Kendall and Hannah did a great job. Hannah has been riding with one of our older meals on wheels drivers and they have developed a nice relationship with each other. They have even exchanged addresses and are going to stay in touch. The driver said that she has enjoyed Hannah helping her."

Kendall worked in the office and here are her own words about her experience:




Kendall Bramonte

2020 Summer Youth Overview

1. What was your favorite part about the 2020 summer program?
My favorite part of this program/experience was, honestly, when there wasn't any work left for the day. It was nice being able to talk to people that I would never have met or thought about talking to if it weren't for this job.

2. Describe the duties you had at your job.
Some of the duties I had at this job were to count units and enter them in the computer, add and remove people from a few different computer programs, making and filing client folders, making labels, and a lot more.

3. What is something you learned this summer about the world of work?
This summer, I learned that there are many different types of people with many different types of work styles in a work environment.

4. How has the summer program helped you think about your career and educational goals?
The summer program helped me realize how fun it is to wake up at the same time every day and do something that is helpful to others. It also made me rethink what my future career path should be, and I would love to work here part time in the near-ish future.

Hannah was able to meet a lot of different people in the community and feel proud that she was contributing something good to someone's day. After she helped with Meals on Wheels, she would return to the office where she would help with filing, answering phones, and preparing little COVID kits that had masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves for the drivers and program participants. She was able to learn how to conduct herself in a work environment. This was her first job and she learned how important it was to be reliable and dependable. She stated that it was also nice to get back on a real schedule after the shutdown. She also learned how to collaborate with others in a professional environment, which she said would apply to things like group projects in school too.

Congratulations

Please let us be the first to congratulate you on completing your summer job!

YOU DID NOT MISS ANY TIME!!

As promised, here is an extra $200!
(We do apologize that converting to VISA has this amount had to be taxed as it is slightly less than $200)

Why are you getting this?

- You got all the hours in that you were supposed to
- You took your work seriously and were respectful on the job site
- You gained valuable work experience and earned some money

We hope that you enjoyed your experience this summer!

"A Great Attitude becomes a great day which becomes a good month which becomes a great year which becomes a Great LIFE."

--Working Solutions Staff

This letter and a $200 incentive check is being sent out this week to any youth who had perfect attendance throughout the entire SYEP experience. Out of 53 earned this!

Employment & Training Cont'd:

HERKIMER COUNTY'S FIRST EVER DRIVE-THRU Job Fair

On March 20th of this year the Herkimer Working Solutions Career Center, like many other places of business, was forced to close its doors due to the coronavirus pandemic. Staff from all of the separate agencies that make up our center had to get used to delivering their services from their homes, in some cases, or to figure out how to efficiently assist job seekers in ways in which we hadn't had to before. Since March, staff have become adept at working with customers by phone, email and through platforms like ZOOM and Webex. We have been able to register customers and provide job searching, resume development, interview tips, Unemployment advice and online training options. We are now open by appointment only, however, working virtually is still our preferred method of service delivery if possible.

Since we are a system that also provides assistance to businesses, we needed to find a way to help them as well. More and more as the local economy began to pick up, we heard from employers who were seeking candidates to fill their open jobs. However, all of the traditional means of recruiting applicants, (office job fairs, hiring events, open houses) would not fit the social distancing requirements that we all now lived under.

After reading an article about an interesting event that another area in the state had tried, we decided to see if it would work in Herkimer. A first time drive-thru job fair entered the planning stages! We approached our longtime partner, Herkimer County Community College and they jumped on board immediately, offering their stadium parking lot as the venue. Our NYS DOL Business Services Representative, Ellen Bennett, reached out to businesses to see if they would be interested in giving this a try and 15 of them joined in right away.

Our event was held on Thursday, September 17th from 10-12 and it was a huge success! Employers were safely spaced out in the parking lot and attendees were told that they had to remain in their cars with masks mandatory. Our staff handed out bags filled with materials provided by the businesses in order to limit the physical interaction as much as possible. We had 40 attendees who patiently waited in line to speak with each employer and although office job fairs may yield bigger numbers, the employers felt that this format enabled them to talk to each and every person who came and share more about their businesses and positions than they normally would. Here are some of the comments we received from the employers after the job fair:

Mark Cushman, VP Org. Dev. From Giotto Enterprises wrote:

"You folks hit a real home-run! Thank you for inviting Giotto Enterprises to participate; the event <u>exceeded expectation</u> in terms of turn-out AND applicant quality. Please keep us in mind for future events…"

Cali Riese, Public Ed. & Community Outreach Specialist from the Cancer Services Program of the Central Region wrote:

"Thank you for including the Cancer Services Program! We were able to share information about our program, provide education about the importance of cancer screening, and connect with one individual who may be in need of cancer screening."

This was a great example of a team effort in developing an out of the box, innovative way of delivering services!

From Herkimer County Office for the Aging :

HERKIMER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING
PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release
August 31st, 2020

Page 1
Contact: Jackie Murphy
315-867-1371

Medicare Savings Program

The Medicare Savings Program offers a variety of possible savings and relief for lower income older adults by offsetting the costs associated with Medicare. The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) can pay the monthly premium for Medicare (which is currently $144.60 a month). An additional benefit of the Medicare Savings Program is an automatic enrollment into Extra Help for Medicare Part D. Extra Help is a program to help people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug program costs, like premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance. Below are the income and resource guidelines under the Medicare Savings Program.

Individual	Couples	Resource Limit	Couple Resource Limit
$1,456/mo	$1,960/mo	None	None

Call Herkimer County Office for the Aging at 315-867-1371 for an application. Find us at herkimercounty.org. Click on services/departments, then Office for the Aging. Please like us on Facebook. Type in the search bar "Herkimer County Office for the Aging" and give us a like!

Herkimer County Office for the Aging
Medicare Open Enrollment

When's the Medicare Open Enrollment Period?
Every year, Medicare's open enrollment period is October 15 - December 7.
What's the Medicare Open Enrollment Period?
Medicare health and drug plans can make changes each year—things like cost, coverage, and what providers and pharmacies are in their networks. October 15 to December 7 is when all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for the following year to better meet their needs.
How do people know if they need to change plans?
People in a Medicare health or prescription drug plan should always review the materials their plans send them, like the "Evidence of Coverage" (EOC) and "Annual Notice of Change" (ANOC). If their plans are changing, they should make sure their plans will still meet their needs for the following year. If they're satisfied that their current plans will meet their needs for next year and it's still being offered, they don't need to do anything.
When can people get information about next year's Medicare plans?
Information for next year's plans will be available beginning in October.
Where can people find Medicare plan information or compare plans?
1-800-MEDICARE or Medicare.gov or call Herkimer County Office for the Aging's HIICAP program at (315)-894-9917

From the Highway Dept.:

The Gray-Wilmurt Road Bridge is open! On September 2nd, approximately 10 months after the bridge collapsed, a new bridge has been rebuilt in its place.

The 2019 Halloween Storm that caused widespread damage throughout the County washed out the original bridge causing an abutment and the bridge deck to collapse into Black Creek. For the last 10 months, traffic traveling Gray-Wilmurt Road has been required to take a lengthy detour around the site located in the small hamlet of Gray on the border of the towns of Norway and Ohio.

FEMA has been providing financial assistance to each of the municipalities affected by the storm, but the County, under the direction of Herkimer County Highway Superintendent, Mark A. Nagele, P.E., really took the initiative to accelerate this bridge replacement. A typical project of this size completed under other State or Federal funding programs typically takes a minimum of 1½ to 2 years to complete, so taking this project through design, bidding, and construction with the bridge able to be opened before the start of school required hard work by all the parties involved. In addition to that, an interim contract was completed for the removal of the original bridge resting in the Creek as a preventative measure for possible spring storms and snowmelt.

The new bridge not only meets NYSDOT standards and carries today's full legal loads, but it also has been designed to eliminate the potential for collapse if another storm of this caliber were to happen again. The northern abutment has been constructed directly on bedrock, while the southern abutment is supported by drilled piles into bedrock where it drops to a much lower elevation.

Prior to its collapse, an application was submitted by the Herkimer County Highway Department to the 2018 NYSDOT Bridge NY Program to replace this structure. The Bridge NY program provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate or replace bridges. Unfortunately, the Gray-Wilmurt Road Bridge was not selected for funding under this program.

Barton & Loguidice worked with the County to complete the design and Bette & Cring Construction Group constructed the new bridge.

Highway Dept. Cont'd:

Deputy County Highway Superintendent – Stephanie L. Tyoe, PLS

Stephanie graduated from SUNY Alfred and holds degrees in Construction Engineering & Surveying Engineering Technologies. Her professional career began as a survey technician and continued a 10 year employment finishing as a party chief for Joanne Darcy Crum, PLS, Esq. of Cobleskill, NY prior to starting at Herkimer County. Stephanie joined the highway department in 2000, beginning as the Jr. Civil Engineer and served the past 16 years as Senior Civil Engineer for the department. She has been a NYS licensed Land Surveyor for 17 years.

Stephanie is a member of the Herkimer County Water Quality Coordinating Committee and resides in Dolgeville.

Senior Civil Engineer – Thomas J. Metauten

Thomas graduated from SUNY IT and holds a degree in Civil Engineering Technologies. His professional career began when he joined the highway department in 2012, where he served as Associate Civil Engineer for the past 8 years.

Thomas resides in the Town of Ohio.

Herkimer County Legislature Meeting 9/18/20:

Mark Nagele
County Highway Superintendent

Herkimer County is pleased to announce the reappointment of Mark Nagele as County Highway Superintendent. Mark was reappointed at the Herkimer County Legislature meeting on September 16, 2020, commencing September 25, 2020.

Mark earned an Associate Degree in Engineering Science from SUNY Delhi, and a Bachelors for Civil Engineering from Clarkson University.

Mark began working for the Herkimer County Highway Department in May of 2001. He became Deputy County Highway Superintendent in July of 2007 and then became Highway Superintendent in 2016. He holds a New York State Professional Engineer License.

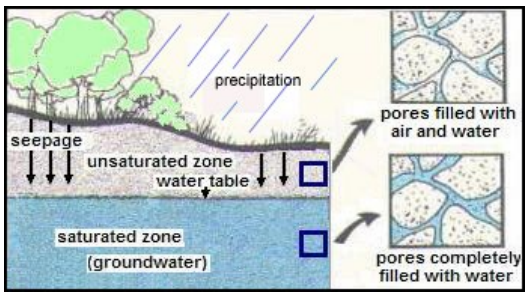
The County Highway Superintendent may be reached at 315-867-1193.

From Herkimer County Soil & Water:

Farmer takes AEM at Groundwater Protection

This farm in the Town of Stark had recently completed a prescribed grazing system through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP in 2017. The grazing system provided appropriate forage and more vigorous growth within the grazing acres. Secondary cattle-lanes were installed as part of that project, but the main laneway was not a resource concern at the time. The farm contacted the Soil and Water Conservation District because this main laneway was denuded from 36 milking cows travelling on it 4 times per day (Pictured on Top). The mud and muck were causing the cows to not want to travel out to pasture or to try to find an alternative way to the pasture. The farm's soils are consistent with karst topography and the potential for soil and manure to enter the groundwater system was present. The farm had an Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) plan developed previously so the District was able to amend the plan to include the laneway as a concern. The District staff surveyed and designed a new cattle lane through AEM Tier 4 BMP Implementation. The SWCD requested funds through the Herkimer County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, where the project was awarded Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance funding by the committee. The project is now complete and protecting the valuable soil and water resources of Herkimer County (Pictured Below).

If interested in getting started in the AEM program contact Tyler at 315-866-2520 ext. 5 or tyler.kelley@ny.nacdnet.net



From Herkimer County Board of Elections:

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

General Elections: November 3, 2020: 6am – 9pm

Early Voting for the General Election: 100 Reservoir Rd, Herkimer, NY 13350

The dates and times for Early Voting are as follows:

Saturday October 24th 9am-2pm

Sunday October 25th 9am-2pm

Monday October 26th 9am-5pm

Tuesday October 27th 12pm-8pm

Wednesday October 28th 12pm-8pm

Thursday October 29th 9am-5pm

Friday October 30th 9am-5pm

Saturday October 31st 9am-2pm

Sunday November 1st 9am-2pm

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