

HAPPENING IN HURLEY

Serving the Ulster County communities of Hurley, West Hurley and Glenford

WEBSITE: TOWNOFHURLEY.ORG FACEBOOK: TOWN OF HURLEY, NY YOUTUBE: @TOWNOFHURLEYNY



From Town Supervisor Mike Boms

Working to solve problems and serve you

What a soggy spring! We have been deluged with so much rain – six inches in March alone, and almost an equal amount in April – that rivers of stormwater have run through parts of Hurley.

The Town and its engineers are assessing what's needed to alleviate drainage problems and are working diligently on plans for mitigation. Work is progressing on drainage improvements along Pleasant Ridge Drive in Old Hurley, and a "request for proposals" (RFP) will be issued shortly for work on Wildwood Drive in West Hurley. And let's hope for

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UPCOMING TOWN GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Thursday, May 9: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, May 14: Town Board (workshop), 6 p.m., W. Hurley Firehouse

Thursday, May 23: Planning Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, May 28: Town Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, June 11: Town Board (workshop), 6 p.m., W. Hurley Firehouse

For a complete schedule of town meetings, go to townofhurley.org/calendar.

Property assessments can be challenged on May 28

The Hurley Board of Assessment Review will hear challenges to property assessments from 2 to 4



p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2024 (Grievance Day), in the Town Hall.

This is a walk-in event – first come, first

served; advance appointments will not be taken.

Those who wish to challenge their 2024 property assessments must fill out and bring with them a Grievance Application (Form RP-524), which can be found online at tinyurl.com/RP-524. Instructions for filling it out are at tinyurl.com/RP-524-instruct.

Those challenging their assessments also should bring with them:

- A certified appraisal, for valuation purposes only.
- Information about three comparable sales in their neighborhood that have occurred in the last 24 months.
- Proof of additional information to be considered when reviewing the assessment, such as photos of the issue.

If you have questions or need assistance, call the Town Assessor's Office at (845) 331-7474, ext. 4, or send an email to assesor@townofhurley.org.

Hurley Town Hall schedule for remainder of 2024

The Town Hall is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, except the remaining 2024 dates listed below, when the building will be closed. (**NOTE:** When the Town Hall is closed on a Monday, the Transfer Station is closed the following day. If a Town Hall holiday falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, the Transfer Station is closed the same day.)

Monday, May 27: Memorial Day Wednesday, June 19: Juneteenth Thursday, July 4: Independence Day

Monday, Sept. 2: Labor Day

Monday, Oct. 14: Columbus/Indigenous People's Day

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Election Day (but open for voting)

Monday, Nov. 11: Veterans Day Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 29: Native American Heritage Day

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas

Also: The Town Hall will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Supervisor's message

Continued from page 1 drier weather in the weeks ahead!

With May upon us, projects and programs beneficial to Town residents are coming to fruition.

We are in the process of receiving a grant from Ulster County of \$80,000 – which the Town will match, for a total of \$160,000 – to upgrade the Town Park on Dug Hill Road in West Hurley. The money will be used to repair and resurface the tennis courts, install pickleball courts, upgrade the basketball courts, and refurbish the baseball, softball and soccer fields. There also will be improvements to the kitchen in the park's pavilion. Deputy Supervisor John Perry, liaison Councilperson Diana Cline and the newly formed Recreation Committee will oversee the park work.

Memorial Day festivities also are taking shape. Our annual parade is planned for Monday, May 27. It starts at 10 a.m. at the THikit Print Shop, 185 Zandhoek Road, and ends at the Town Hall, where there will be a ceremony, food and drinks. (See complete details on page 3.) Groups or individuals who want to be in the parade or help with the food preparations and service should email Samara Genee at supervisorsec@townofhurley.org.

Finally, the Town Board, bookkeepers and Town Clerk are working to implement policies and procedures about how to soundly approach our finances and budget lines. We are moving forward in organizing the Town books and financial statements, and we ask for your patience. The challenges are daunting but not insurmountable. Everyone at the Town Hall is working hard, and the job will be done.

Memorial Day Parade set for Monday, May 27

The Town of Hurley's annual Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 27.

The staging area for the parade – the THikit print shop at 185 Zandhoek Road (formerly St. John's Mission) - will open at 9 a.m. Participants should arrive no later than 9:15 a.m., entering from Zandhoek Road.

The parade will step off at 10 a.m., proceed north on Zandhoek Road, turn right at the end of the Hurley Cemetery property, cross Hurley Avenue, travel the length of Main Street, cross Wynkoop Road, turn left on Wamsley Place and end at the Town Hall, where there will be a ceremony, food



A memorial ceremony was held in front of the Hurley Town Hall at the conclusion of the 2023 parade, and a similar ceremony will be held this year.

and beverages. The parade Grand Marshal will be Doug Eighmey of West Hurley. (See story below.)

A parade route map can be viewed online at tinyurl.com/hurley-parade.

Though the official deadline for parade entrants is May 3, the Town will welcome late-comers. People or groups wanting to march in the parade should, as soon as possible, print the form posted online at tinyurl.com/Hur-Parade-24 and fill it out.

Completed forms should be mailed to Memorial Day Parade 2024, Supervisor's Office, Town Hall, P.O. Box 569, Hurley, NY 12443; or scanned and emailed to supervisorsec@townofhurley.org.

Doug Eighmey will serve as parade Grand Marshal

Doug Eighmey has been chosen as Grand Marshal of this year's Hurley Memorial Day Parade.

Eighmey, of Clover Street in West Hurley, has been a Town of Hurley resident since 1976 and is a commissioner of the West Hurley Fire District. He previously served on the Hurley Board of Assessment Review for 20 years.

Eighmey is a retired truck mechanic who worked for the New York State Department of Transportation as a commercial vehicle safety inspector, covering a seven-county area.

Starting in 1978, he was employed by the former police department in Hurley for about 15 years.

For the past 23 years, Eighmey has operated Doug's Trike Shop, converting standard twowheel motorcycles into threewheel vehicles.

A hunter and fisherman, Eighmey is a member of the Wittenberg Sportsmen's Club in Woodstock.



Doug Eighmey

Eighmey has two adult children, as well as a teenage grandson who's graduating from high school this year.

Eighmey said it's "an honor" to be serving as Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day Parade.

GET TOWN NEWS IN YOUR EMAIL:

Sign up for email alerts from the Town by going to our website, townofhurley.org, clicking on the 'Subscribe to E-alerts' button (pictured) at the bottom right of the home page, and selecting the types of alerts you'd like to receive.

Subscribe to E-alerts

Gone fishing

In search of Striped Bass

By Tony Bonavist

Striped Bass, like other species of pelagic fish – those that roam coastal oceans and estuaries, and feed near the surface – have suffered periodic, yet significant, population declines over the years.

The first decline of which I was made aware occurred in the late 1970s and early '80s. That's when Striper populations all along the Atlantic Coast – except in the Hudson River – crashed. In 1976, though, Stripers collected from the Hudson were found to contain PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in concentrations in excess of federal standards, so the species was deemed unsafe to eat. As a result, all commercial fishing in the Hudson was curtailed, and a moratorium on the consumption of Striped Bass was implemented by New York State. General Electric Co. ultimately undertook an extensive cleanup of the Hudson to the north of Albany, where it had dumped PCBs into the water for 30 years, but commercial fishing for Striped Bass has never restarted in the river.

In recent years, Striper populations have once again declined – this time because of overfishing. Data provided by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission revealed about 8% of the Striped Bass population is lost to hooking mortality associated with catch-and-release fishing. That mortality is caused when Stripers are hooked deep in the mouth or throat by bait fisherman using J-style hooks. J Hooks are no longer legal; anglers now are required to use Circle Hooks instead.

Striped Bass enter the Hudson each April and stay until mid-June. Spawning takes place between West Point and Kingston. Striper eggs are demersal, meaning they sink without the movement of tides to keep them afloat. It is during this annual spawning run that Striper fishing in the Hudson reaches a fever pitch.

The Hudson has become a world-class fishery for Stripers, with some females caught in the river exceeding 40 pounds. Striper fishing in the Hudson is so good, in fact, that several charters operate along the river.

Striper fishing extends from the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, which crosses the river between



A Hudson River Striped Bass

Nyack and Tarrytown, all the way to the dam at Troy. That's where tidal influence ends.

Stripers are most active when water temperatures range from 55 to 68 degrees. May tends to be the best month for Striper fishing.

Most anglers who fish for Striped Bass use bait, with cut herring or live herring preferred. Bait is either cast to a likely spot and allowed to drift, or trolled behind a boat. Local hot spots for Stripers along the Hudson are off the mouths of the Rondout, Esopus and Catskill creeks.

Because bait provides the best results, few Striper anglers use lures or flies. Yet those two types of artificial bait work in other parts of the Atlantic fishery. I've read several articles in which fly fishermen said they've done well using large flies off the coast of Maine. And I'm certain, based on my own experience, that using Rapala Crank Baits definitely brings strikes form Striped Bass.

And while I don't know of anyone who fly-fishes the Hudson for Striped Bass, I'd like to try it at some point. A boat would be necessary, of course, in order to locate feeding stripers and get within casting range, which is about 50 to 60 feet when using a fly rod. Getting that close might be a bit tricky, but I don't believe the Stripers would be particularly difficult to catch. As a species that roams open oceans and coastal rivers, they are subject to little angling pressure and therefore are not leader-shy. So casting a large streamer fly into a pod of feeding stripers should yield good results.

Stripers are school fish, with large numbers of individuals in the same size range (though spawning females are much larger and less numerous). Stripers that exceed 10 pounds are common, so anyone deciding to fly-fish for these Continued on page 6

Something to crow about: Rooster Auction is June 7



A rooster painted by Hurley resident and artist Judy Howard (Photo provided by Hurley Heritage Society)

The Hurley Heritage Society, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will host the Hurley Rooster Auction on Friday, June 7, at the Cross Point Fellowship, 459 Hurley Ave.

Local artists are painting 23 metal roosters that were made by Hurley resident Wayne Waligurski, of Patentee Manor. The roosters will be on display and available for bidding at the live auction, which will include food, refreshments and live music.

The viewing of the roosters will begin at 6 p.m., and bidding will start at 7. (Photos of some of the roosters are posted at tinyurl.com/HHS-Rooster-Pre.)

Tickets for the auction are \$20 for HHS members, \$25 for the general public. Reservations must be made by June 1 at tinyurl.com/HHS-Rooster-Tix.

Hurley Heritage Society seeks 50th anniversary sponsors

The Hurley Heritage Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and has numerous sponsorship opportunities available for people or groups interested in providing financial support. (The Town is among the sponsors.)



Details about how to be a sponsor are posted online at <u>tinyurl.com/HHS-50-sponsor</u>.

Besides the Rooster Auction (above), the Hurley Heritage Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary by hosting Hurley Heritage Day on Sept. 21 and a gala holiday dinner in Dec, 6. See details at hurleyheritagesociety.org.

A reminder about Building Department procedures

As we approach the busy season for construction, please be aware of these Hurley Building Department procedures:

- All applications, inspection requests and general inquiries regarding building matters should be directed to Building Department Clerk Erin Stewart at (845) 331-7474, ext. 310, or building@townofhurley.org.
- Submissions that require Planning Board approval should be hand-delivered to Planning Board Clerk Maggie Colan in the Town Hall, 10 Wamsley Place, between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. weekdays. The Building Department will not accept Planning Board documents.
- Building-related complaints must be submitted in writing. Complainants can use the form posted at <u>tinyurl.com/Hur-bld-comp</u> or simply submit their own written



description
of the
situation.
Anonymous
complaints
are allowed;
they do
NOT need
to be

signed. Written complaints can be brought to the Building Department, which is off the main hallway in the Town Hall, 10 Wamsley Place; mailed to Town of Hurley Building Department, P.O. Box 569, Hurley, NY 12443; or emailed to building@ townofhurley.org.

Also, please note:

- Applications for building permits generally are processed in a few days, but it can take up to two weeks.
- When calling to schedule an inspection, please allow a minimum of 48 hours of lead time. If an inspector is available sooner, one will be assigned the job accordingly.

Hurley resident Jerry Chen is KHS Class of '24 Salutatorian



Congratulations to Hurley resident Jerry Chen (pictured at left) on being named Salutatorian of the Kingston High School Class of 2024.

Jerry also has been awarded an Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship, which provides up to \$40,000 over four years for a student to pursue a degree in Computer Science or Engineering, as well as a guaranteed paid programming internship at Amazon. Only 400 students nationwide receive the Amazon scholarship.

Jerry is the son of Xue Jing Chen and Feng Cai Chen. He earned the rank of Salutatorian at KHS with a weighted Grade Point Average of 103.085. His senior year classes include

Advanced Placement English Literature, AP Chemistry, AP Physics Mechanics and College Spanish II.

Jerry is a member of the KHS Tiger Marching Band, playing alto saxophone and serving as a section leader.

Congratulations, as well, to KHS Class of 2024 Valedictorian, Peter Dong of Kingston, who also was awarded an Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship.

Fishing the Hudson for Stripers

Continued from page 4

large, strong fish needs be prepared with stout tackle. I would opt for a 7- or 8-weight fly rod, with a floating fly line, tipped with a short, leader testing at least 15 pounds. For flies, large streamers that mimic herring, the favored food of Stripers, would work best. And funny as it may sound, large poppers also might work – although casting large, air-resistant lures any distance with a fly rod is quite a challenge.

The Hudson River Striped Bass season opened April 1 and runs until Nov. 30. There is a slot limit, which means only Stripers that are 18 to 28 inches long may be harvested. All others must be returned to the river. There also is a one-bag limit per angler per day. And while a freshwater fishing license is not required to fish the tidal portion of the Hudson, for Anadromous species – those that migrate from

saltwater to freshwater in order to spawn, including Stripers – anglers must enroll in the New York Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. Go to tinyurl.com/NY-RecMFR for details and to sign up. (Anglers who wish to fish in New York State for freshwater species, like Large- and Smallmouth Bass, need only a freshwater fishing license.)

Striper season is now in full swing in New York, so if you haven't fished for these wonderful game fish, now is the time to gather your tackle and head for the Hudson!

Tony Bonavist worked as a fisheries biologist for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for more than 25 years, and he taught fly fishing at the Wulff School of Fly Fishing and later at the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville. He's been writing for the River Reporter since 2017, and this column is reprinted courtesy of that publication. Bonavist lives in Hurley with his boxer, Marley.

Your Town Newsletter

HAPPENING IN HURLEY

Vol. 2, No. 4: May 2024

Town of Hurley, 10 Wamsley Place, P.O. Box 569, Hurley, NY 12443; Phone: (845) 331-7474 **Published on the 1**st **of each month** (Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the previous month) **Editor:** Jeremy Schiffres, Hurley Community Relations Specialist, (845) 331-7474, ext. 316,

informationofficer@townofhurley.org

Page 1 photo: Spring is in full bloom along Main Street in Old Hurley, evidenced by this photo taken outside the Old Guard House on Thursday, April 25. (Photo by Jeremy Schiffres)

Hudson Valley Farm Hub to hold Public Birding Day

Hudson Valley Farm Hub in Hurley is hosting a Public Birding Day on Tuesday, May 14.

Participants in the self-guided event will be able to observe Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, American Kestrels and Savannah Sparrows during their nesting season, and might see such less-common species as the Sedge Wren.

The walk, starting at 1875 Hurley Mountain Road, will cover a 1.3-mile loop around Hudson Valley Farm Hub's grassland bird field and will include such habitats as a pond, creeks, meadows and a floodplain forest. The terrain is mostly flat gravel roads, with minimal shade in some areas.

The public is welcome to visit anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on
May 14 and stay for as long as desired. During the event, the Applied Farmscape Ecology Program team will be available to answer questions.

The event is free, but people planning to participate should register in advance at <u>tinyurl.com/HV-FarmHubbirding</u>.



Temporary speed hump, with warning signs, installed on Joys Lane



The temporary speed hump previously announced for Joys Lane in Hurley has been installed by the Town Highway Department.

It sits halfway between Zandhoek Road and Lucas Avenue, and

there are two signs – one in each direction – alerting drivers to its presence.

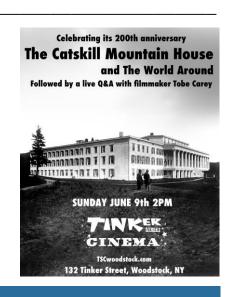
Hurley resident's film to be shown in Woodstock

"The Catskill Mountain House and the World Around" – a 2010 documentary film by Hurley resident Tobe Carey – will be shown at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 9, at the Tinker Street Cinema in Woodstock.

Carey will hold a Q&A after the screening, which will mark the 200th anniversary of the fabled hotel opening in Greene County.

The Tinker Street Cinema describes the 81-minute film as "the fascinating story of America's first great mountaintop hotel, romantic tourism, the Hudson River School of Art and cutthroat competition in New York's Northern Catskills."

Tickets for the June 9 screening are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and members of the military, and \$6 for children. They can be purchased online in advance at tinyurl.com/Cats-Mt-film.



Electrification Opportunities Series wraps up May 14

The third and final presentation in Hurley's Electrification Opportunities Series will be given at the May 14 meeting of the Town Board (rather than at the board's second April meeting, as originally planned.)

The May 14 meeting will start at 6 p.m. in the West Hurley Firehouse, 24 Wall St. The presentation – by Samrat Pathania, an energy coach, teacher and Co-Chair of the Climate Reality Project's local chapter – will focus on electric vehicle (EV) ownership. The February and March installments of the series were about split air/heat pump installations and solar energy, respectively.

The Electrification Opportunities Series is part of Climate Smart Hurley's effort to earn up to \$20,000 toward municipal clean energy upgrades. But the money can only be secured with the help of Town residents.

DID YOU:

- Purchase an electric vehicle after Nov. 28, 2023?
- Install a heat pump or heat pump water heater after Nov. 28, 2023?



 Sign up for community solar after June 1, 2023?

If the answer to any of the above is YES, help Climate Smart Hurley help the Town by emailing details to climatesmart@townofhurley.gov.

Climate Smart Task Force meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month and are held virtually. To join a meeting online, go to meet.google.com/eee-uuvh-ehy. To join by phone, call (912) 712-4401 and enter 283 106 119# when prompted for a PIN.

Safety Committee forms

Hurley has convened a new Safety Committee, made up of five residents who will collaborate with the Town Board on matters of local safety.

The committee members are Betsy Blair, Harry



McNamara, Vince Napoli, Julien Shapiro and Wendy Trojak.

Town Board member Debbie Dougherty (pictured) was instrumental in the formation of the committee, as well as an Emergency Medical Services Subcommittee that includes representatives from the Hurley and West Hurley Fire

Departments. Dougherty is serving as the Town Board liaison to the Safety Committee and EMS Subcommittee.



The Safety Committee held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday, April 24, in the Town Hall. Going forward, it will meet monthly to work on safety issues facing the Town and its residents. (A meeting schedule has not yet been finalized.)

Two immediate priorities for the Safety Committee are road safety and the shortage of EMS personnel in Hurley. Concerns about these matters have been raised at recent Town government meetings, and in seeking lasting solutions, the Safety Committee plans to collaborate with Ulster County and New York State officials, neighboring towns and area law-enforcement agencies.

WHO WE ARE, how to get in touch with us

All single-digit phone options and 3-digit extensions can be reached by calling (845) 331-7474 and then keying in the numbers at any time.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE (phone option 5)

Michael Boms, Town Supervisor: Ext. 300, supervisor@townofhurley.org
John Perry, Deputy Town Supervisor, jperry@townofhurley.org
Samara Genee, Executive Assistant to the Supervisor: Ext. 301,
supervisorsec@townofhurley.org
Jeremy Schiffres, Community Relations Specialist: Ext. 316,
informationofficer@townofhurley.org

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (phone option 2)

Tracy Kellogg, Town Clerk: Ext. 303, clerk@townofhurley.org
Cathy Hoppe and Stephanie Rice, Deputy Clerks
Wendy Trojak, Sr. Account Clerk, Ext. 340, bookkeeper@townofhurley.org

PLANNING and ZONING (phone option 6)

Planning Board – Maggie Colan, Clerk: Ext. 335, planning@townofhurley.org Zoning Board of Appeals – Samantha Mort, Secretary: Ext. 314, zoning@townofhurley.org

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE (phone option 4)

Brittany Santarelli: Ext. 302, assessor@townofhurley.org
Patty Smith, Assessor Clerk: Ext. 305, assessorclerk@townofhurley.org

BUILDING DEPARTMENT (phone option 3)

Paul Economos, Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer: Ext. 317 Harold Castellano, Municipal Code Officer, Assistant Building Inspector, Stormwater Management Officer: Ext. 313

Erin Stewart, Building Clerk: Ext. 310, building@townofhurley.org

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Michael Shultis, Superintendent: mshultis@townofhurley.org
Michael Bergenn, Secretary: Ext. 402, highway@townofhurley.org



TRANSFER STATION

hurleytransfer@townofhurley.org

COURT (phone option 1)

Roy Hochberg, Town Justice
John Parker, Town Justice
Erma Moore, Clerk:
emoore@nycourts.gov

TOWN BOARD

Diana Cline:
 dcline@townofhurley.org

Debbie Dougherty:
 ddougherty@townofhurley.org

Tim Kelly:
 tkelly@townofhurley.org

Gregory Simpson:
 gsimpson@townofhurley.org

Looking for something on the Town website? This should help



- Homepage: townofhurley.org
- ➤ News and announcements: townofhurley.org/node/1/news
- Calendar: townofhurley.org/calendar
- Town budgets: townofhurley.org/about/pages/budget
- > Town Board meeting minutes: townofhurley.org/node/1291/minutes
- Disaster preparedness: townofhurley.org/disaster-preparedness
- Highway Department: townofhurley.org/highway-department
- > Transfer Station: townofhurley.org/transfer-station-recycling-center
- Job and board/committee openings: townofhurley.org/job-and-board-openings

Things to do at the Hurley and West Hurley libraries

HURLEY LIBRARY 48 Main St.

(845) 338-2092, hurleylibrary.org

MONDAYS (except May 27)

Mile Walking Club – Meet at the library at 1 p.m.

Drop-In Tech Help – 3 to 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Scrabble – 1 p.m.

Chair Yoga – 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Story Time – 10 to 11 a.m.

Drop-in Tech Help – 3 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, May 9

Library Board meeting – 6 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Dungeons & Dragons – 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, May 11

Mother's Day Story Time – 11 a.m.

WEST HURLEY LIBRARY 42 Clover St.

(845) 679-6405, westhurleylibrary.org

MONDAY, May 13

Book Discussion Group – 6 to 7 p.m. Topic: "The Dictionary of Lost Words," by Pip Williams. To sign up and get a copy of the book, call the library.

WEDNESDAYS

Knit, etc. -6 to 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 15

Library Board meeting – 6 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Preschool Story Hour – 10 to 11 a.m.

FRIDAY, May 3

Home School Scientists (for ages 5+) – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topic: Skin. *NOTE: Session is full and registration is closed.*

SATURDAY, May 11

Plant, Book & Bake Sale – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit Friends of the Library.

Both libraries will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

Town of Hurley 10 Wamsley Place P.O. Box 569 Hurley, NY 12443