

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- DEC Events
- BOE Voting to take place at the Town Hall
- Vacation Bible School in Virgil
- Farmers Market
- Spring Tea
- Virgil Girl's Basketball Team
- Virgil Youth Commission

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# Town of Virgil News

VOLUME III ISSUE I

SPRING 2017

## Hollenbeck's in the Summer - yes!

Matt Hollenbeck will be a vendor at the Virgil Farmer's Market this summer! Matt, who took over the Cider Mill in November, is an accomplished baker and also attended a special baking school this winter to expand his repertoire. The community can't wait to see what goodies he brings to the Market!

We should be very busy in this, our 9th year, and we are seeking new vendors. If you have crafts, extra produce, or other homemade products, Virgil is a great place to start since there is no vendor fee and no commitment to attend every week. The Farmer's Market is open Saturdays from 9am - noon from mid-June to October.

By: Chris Applegate



If you are interested, stop in to the Town Hall for an application or contact Chris Applegate. [chrisapplegate39@gmail.com](mailto:chrisapplegate39@gmail.com)

## Virgil Community Circle Spring Tea



On April 5, we held the second annual Virgil Community Circle Spring Tea. The roses and china cups were on the tables and the candles were set aglow. The ladies brought cucumber tea sandwiches, chocolate cherry almond scones, lemon meringue squares, coconut cookies, tea cakes, and other old-fashioned delights to share. But the best part was spending time with old friends, meeting new friends, and sharing life's stories while relaxing over a cup of tea.

If you would like to learn more about the Virgil Community Circle, please contact me at [margehubbert@frontiernet.net](mailto:margehubbert@frontiernet.net). We welcome all women who are Virgil residents! And if you would like to be placed on the email list for information about the 2018 Spring Tea, please email me. You can find our calendar of meetings/events at <https://www.virgilny.org/virgil-community-circle.html>

By: Marge Hubbert



## DEC Proposes Additional Free Fishing Days

Based on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's signed legislation in 2014 authorizing additional statewide free fishing days, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is proposing four free sport fishing days be added to complement the state's existing free sport fishing days. DEC is seeking public comments on the proposed changes.

First established in 1991, free sport fishing days allow New York residents and non-residents to fish for free without a fishing license at any of the state's 7,500 lakes and ponds or 70,000 miles of rivers and streams. The free events give people who might not fish a chance to try the rewarding sport at no cost, introduce people to a new hobby, and encourage people to support the sport by purchasing a New York State fishing license.

The proposed additions are:

- Presidents Day Weekend (the weekend immediately preceding Presidents Day in the month of February) - These two days generally coincide with winter recess for schools, making it ideal for families to try ice fishing.
- National Hunting and Fishing Day (one day) - Takes place annually on the 4th Saturday in September and links to events taking place nationwide. Fishing at this time of year is generally good for many species, including fall salmon fishing in the Great Lakes tributaries.
- Veteran's Day (one day) - Fishing is considered one of the most therapeutic outdoor activities, making it an excellent tribute to veterans and those currently serving. Governor Cuomo specified Veteran's Day as a free fishing day in 2015, and this proposal would make it a permanent free fishing day.

In addition, to avoid confusion concerning the existing free fishing days in June, DEC is proposing the regulation be changed from "the weekend which includes the last Saturday in June," to the "last full weekend in June."

Defining specific free fishing days allows DEC to more effectively promote these days well in advance of their occurrence, ultimately increasing public participation. Furthermore, having a designated set of free fishing days allows those planning vacations around these dates to do so without issue.

Public comments will be accepted through May 6, 2017. Comments can be sent to the address below or emailed to [fwfish@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fwfish@dec.ny.gov) - enter "Free Sport Fishing Days" in the subject line.

Joelle Ernst NYSDEC  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
625 Broadway, 5th Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-4753





“Mark your calendar May 16th, will be the Board of Education and School Budget votes for all School Districts.”

“As a whole, the group constantly sought to be pushed harder at practice, realizing that their success hinged not only on skills but also on hustle.”

## Board of Education Election/Budget Vote May 16th By: Alane Van Donsel

The 2017 School Budget and Board of Education Votes will all be held on May 16th 2017. With in the Town of Virgil there are residents living in four different school districts. Residents of Virgil living in the Cortland Enlarged City School District will be voting at the Virgil Town Hall from Noon to 9:00 PM.

If you reside in the Dryden Central School District voting will take place at the Middle School-High School auditorium from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Folks residing in the Marathon School district vote at the Marathon High School room 107 from noon to 9:00 PM. Finally if you reside in the McGraw Central School District voting will

be held in the High School Auditorium from noon to 8:00 PM. Hope this information is helpful. It can be very confusing having four different school districts and having them all be held at different times. For more information call the school district in which you reside.



## Virgil Youth Commission Spring Events By: Teri Pelton

The Youth Commission's Ski Club had a great winter, topping off the season with fun at the Water Park. Thanks to Greek Peak for this wonderful program, and to Amanda Peck and her helpers for volunteering to coordinate the activities. We just finished the 2nd Annual Sock Hop, with 35 students dancing shoes off! Get ready for the next

events: on May 21st our 3rd Annual Book Talk will be centered on Harry Potter books. Come to the Virgil Town Hall at 2:00. There will be “wizardsing” crafts, foods and discussions. Please respond to our Facebook page, so we know how many people to plan for. The 2nd annual Father/Daughter Dance is scheduled for May 26th,

from 6:30 to 8:30. The theme for this year is “An evening in a Fairy Forest”. Watch for more details on this popular event. We are in the process of planning for another “Glow Walk” as well. Please come be a part of the planning process: our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:00 at the Town Hall. All are welcome!

## 2017 Town Board Meetings By: Alane Van Donsel

The Virgil Town Board meetings are held every second Thursday of each month. This year the board voted to start the meetings a half hour earlier at 6:30 PM. The 2017 schedule for the rest of the year will be April 13th, May 11th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th,

October 12th. November 9th and December 14th. Some topics of discussion have been solar farming, high speed internet grant, the purchase of a new highway truck, and many others. Budget workshop's will begin in

September. All board meeting agendas and attachments are available on our website. Visit [www.VirgilNY.Org](http://www.VirgilNY.Org) for more information. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.

## VIRGIL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ENJOYS A SUCCESSFUL SEASON By: Jim Povero

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade girls who chose to take part in this year's Cortland Youth Bureau basketball league learned a lot more than just basketball skills by season's end. It was obvious that they could shoot, defend, and rebound better in January than they could when practices started in November. But the life skills they also learned far outweigh the improved basketball skills.

They learned that hard work pays off. As a whole, the group constantly sought to be pushed harder at practice, realizing that their success hinged not only on skills but also on hustle. The end result was ending the season tied for first place in the league.

They learned to work together to achieve a common goal. Fourteen girls are NEVER going to consistently see eye to eye during dozens of practices and five games, but they worked hard to ignore their personal differences for the good of the team.

They learned to balance their busy schedules, successfully

juggling academics, family, music, dance, skiing, and other sports with their basketball schedule. For over two months, they were able to develop a skill that will help them throughout their lives.

Special thanks go out to Coach Bill Turner for his valuable help throughout the season. Extra-special thanks go out to the parents and families of the players for their unmatched support: Virgil sure isn't the largest elementary school in the Cortland District, but this community takes a back seat to no one.

The players: Sixth Grade - Lia Barber , Suzee Barber, Kendall Keep, Ryleigh Larkin, Cassidy Ligas, Megan Stull, Mallory Turner

Fifth Grade- Madison Fitch, Velerosa Gambitta, Claire Turner.

Fourth Grade- Bree Byrnes, Ruby Mullally, Aubree Larkin and Danika Peck

# DEC Announces Central New York Pesticide Collection Event

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today that DEC will hold its spring 2017 CleanSweepNY pesticide collection event during the week of May 8, 2017, and is targeting Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and Tompkins counties. Since CleanSweepNY's inception, more than 1.6 million pounds of chemicals and over 870 pounds of elemental mercury have been collected and safely disposed of. In addition, approximately 5,000 plastic pesticide containers have been collected for recycling, which may otherwise have been disposed of in landfills. "CleanSweepNY complements the ongoing work of Governor Cuomo's Water Quality Rapid Response Team to protect New York's drinking water," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "The disposal of dangerous pesticides and chemicals can have serious consequences on our drinking water and the environment.

CleanSweepNY helps remove these unwanted chemicals from our communities to ensure they don't pose a threat to public health or the environment. I encourage all eligible institutions to take advantage of this opportunity to help build a toxic-free future." CleanSweepNY is a unique opportunity for agricultural and professional pesticide applicators, golf courses, cemeteries, marinas, and schools to dispose of unwanted and/or obsolete pesticides and chemicals, including elemental mercury, as part of a statewide effort to protect public health and the environment and promote a healthy and sustainable New York. Empty, triple-rinsed high-density polyethylene plastic (HDPE-2) pesticide containers will also be collected and recycled. CleanSweepNY is an Environmental Benefit Project originally established by DEC in 2002 with approximately \$2.2 million from several enforcement settlements through the agency's Pest Management program to promote proper disposal practices of these poten-

tially harmful chemicals. The pesticide and chemical collection during the week of May 8 marks the 23rd CleanSweepNY event. CleanSweepNY is administered by DEC's Bureau of Pest Management. The New York State Department of Transportation collaborates with DEC on CleanSweepNY by providing accessible sites for collection of the unwanted chemical wastes. The program is also supported by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the New York Farm Bureau, the Agricultural Container Recycling Council, and agribusiness and related associations. CleanSweepNY services are not available to homeowners. The next CleanSweepNY event is anticipated to take place this fall in DEC's Region 8. Preregistration is required to participate in the CleanSweepNY program. Completed registration forms are due by April 21, 2017. Find out more about CleanSweepNY (link leaves DEC's website) by visiting their website, or toll free at 1-877-SWEEPNY

**New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation  
(DEC)  
Commissioner  
Basil Seggos  
announced today  
that DEC will  
hold its spring  
2017  
CleanSweepNY  
pesticide  
collection event  
during the week  
of May 8, 2017,**

## OPERATION ARTIC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

By: Gayle Kryger

Operation Artic Vacation Bible School is coming to the Virgil United Methodist Church  
JUNE 26-30, 9 a.m. - noon

Beyond thrilling! Exciting to explore! Breathtakingly beautiful! Full of treasure! Words that describe the Arctic for sure, a fascinating region like no other in the world.

The mission begins at Snowfall Station with the Opening Assembly, a high-energy opening with entertaining welcomes and rockin' songs. Explorers won't want to pass up the cool treats that are waiting to melt in their mouths at Klondike Corner. At Glacier Gap, the recreation location, explorers discover that preparation is "snow" easy and games are filled with chills and thrills.

After finishing the day's rotation, everyone heads back to Snowfall Station for the closing assembly that

includes more singing, a Creature Feature, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the day.

Meet Blizzard the Polar Bear, Snowball the Arctic Hare, Spike the Narwhal, Shaggy the Musk Ox, and Dash the Siberian Husky.

The drama begins in the city with a high-powered executive who is fed up with the rat race. He decides to move to the wilderness for a quieter, simpler existence. Little does he realize all what's in store – missing treasure, goofy bad guys, unexpected visitors and plenty of action!

Sound fun? Then, let's plunge on in to this cold world. It promises to be a flurry of fun and excitement at Operation Arctic!

All children, pre-K through to those who have just completed 6th grade



are invited from 9:00 a.m. to noon daily, June 26-June 30. Watch for the red and white sandwich boards at the four corners in June and sign up at the Virgil Country Store.

For more information now, Call Gayle Kryger 543-0833



## Town of Virgil

The Virgil Town Hall  
1176 Church Street  
Virgil, NY 13045

Phone: 607-835-6174

Fax: 607-835-6668

E-mail: [virgilhall@frontiernet.net](mailto:virgilhall@frontiernet.net)

**We're here to serve you. Visit  
our website at:  
[www.Virgilny.org](http://www.Virgilny.org)**



Virgil Town Supervisor: John Kaminski  
Town Council Members: Jereme Stiles  
Eric Snow  
Gary Pelton  
Matt Denniston

The Town Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 P.M.

- Town Clerk/Collector: Alane Van Donsel
- Deputy Clerk: Carla Plunkett
- Town's Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse
- Town Justice: R. Scott Elston
- Highway Superintendent: John Morse
- Animal Control Officer: Lindsay Kemp
- Town Assessor: Brian Fitts
- Town Attorney: Patrick M. Snyder, Esq.
- Code Enforcement: Craig Umbehauer
- County Legislator: Sandy Price
- Town Historian: Marsha Powell

## Mail Delivery in the Early Days of Virgil By: Marsha Powell



Ed Oakes' First Mail Carriage

Communications were needed to connect the pioneers of Virgil to family, friends and business associates elsewhere. The U.S. Postal System was established in 1795 and by 1808 Virgil had a first postmaster. Dr. Zophar Moore moved to Virgil in 1805 and tried his hand at different ventures before becoming postmaster in 1808. He was officially appointed by the federal government in 1811. While postmaster, he went to Cortland on foot at least once a week to bring back mail. Later he traveled on horseback. He served 17 years as Virgil postmaster.

In the early days, mail was charged by the distance it traveled rather than the weight. The federal government charged: 6 ½ cents for traveling up to 50 miles, 12 ½

cents up to 100 miles, 18 ¾ cents for travel between 200 and 500 miles and 25 cents for travel over 500 miles. There were no envelopes, so letters were folded and sealed with sealing wax. Stamps were not used until 1847.

Ed Oakes had been a stagecoach driver between Virgil and Cortland. Later he became the first rural mail carrier for Virgil, using his horse and carriage. In the winter snows he used his horse and sleigh instead.

A total of 26 postmasters served the town of Virgil. The last, Wilfred B. Muncey, served until the post office was closed in 1912.

Virgil at one time was the largest town in Cortland County with a population of over 4,000. Because residents were spread out from Messengerville, through

East Virgil to Virgil center and on to what is now Harford, several post offices were established. In 1825 or 1826, one was established in the Harford area. In June 1840 a post office was established in East Virgil. This area had grown considerably mostly because of the mills along Gridley Creek. In August 1855 a post office was established in Messengerville.

The railroad from Binghamton to Syracuse was completed in 1854 so Messengerville became a popular stop for business.

Through the years, people moved and post offices closed. East Virgil closed in 1909 and Messengerville in 1934. Finally the post office at Virgil center closed on August 31, 1912. Over 100 years of having a post office was replaced with rural delivery from Cortland.

