

TOWN OF VIRGIL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Virgil Old Home Day
- Virgil Fire Department 100 Year Celebration
- Ordinary Hero's Poem
- Legislative Report
- Town of Virgil Makes the Cut in *Foundations of Freedom*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Virgil Fire 2
Department Turns

Virgil Yard 2
Sales Date Set

Poet Laureate 3

Community 3
Member Spotlight

Fire Safety 4

Town of Virgil News

VOLUME XI ISSUE I

SUMMER 2026

Virgil Old Home Day: July 18th



Come out and celebrate your hometown at the Virgil Old Home Days Celebration on Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM until dark!

Be sure to stop by the Virgil Community Living Center (the former Virgil Elementary School), located at 1208 Church Street, where special activities will take place from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Enjoy a fun-filled day featuring:

- Local crafts
- Live demonstrations
- Historical Society displays
- A photo booth
- Snacks and treats

Don't miss special guest Perry Ground, an acclaimed storyteller from the Onondaga Nation, who will share stories from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

This celebration is part of America's 250th Anniversary, making it a wonderful opportunity to honor our nation's history while celebrating the community spirit that makes Virgil special.

Bring your family, meet your neighbors, and enjoy a day of fun, history, and hometown pride. Admission is free—we hope to see you there!

Stories from the People of the Long House

Featured Guest: Perry Ground: Sponsored by C.O.V.E

Join us from 12:00–1:00 PM for a special storytelling experience with Perry Ground, an internationally recognized Haudenosaunee storyteller, cultural educator, and member of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation.

For more than 25 years, Perry has captivated audiences of all ages at museums, schools, universities, libraries, and cultural festivals throughout the United States. His engaging storytelling combines humor, audience participation, and centuries-old oral traditions that have been passed down through generations of the Haudenosaunee people. Through his stories, listeners gain a deeper appreciation of Indigenous history, values, and the enduring traditions of the Six Nations Confederacy.

A graduate of Cornell University, Perry has devoted his career to preserving and sharing Native American history and culture. He has been a featured presenter at nationally recognized institutions and has served as the Frederick H. Minett Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he helped educate students and the public about Haudenosaunee traditions and perspectives.

Whether you're hearing these timeless stories for the first time or returning to enjoy them again, Perry's warm, energetic style and remarkable ability to connect with audiences make this a memorable experience for children, families, and adults alike.

As we commemorate America's 250th Anniversary, don't miss this unique opportunity to hear one of the Northeast's most respected Native storytellers share the rich heritage and living traditions of the Haudenosaunee people.





**Celebrate 100
Years of the Virgil
Fire Department!**
**Join us on
Saturday, July 18,
from 2:00 PM to
9:00 PM as we
celebrate the
100th Anniversary
of the Virgil Fire
Department with
an afternoon and
evening full of
family fun,
community spirit,
and hometown
pride!**

Virgil Fire Department 100 Year Celebration



Celebrate 100 Years of the Virgil Fire Department! Join us on Saturday, July 18, from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Virgil Fire Department with an afternoon and evening full of family fun, community spirit, and hometown pride!

Bring the whole family and enjoy:

- Delicious food and refreshments
- Bounce houses and mini golf
- Live entertainment and demonstrations
- Raffles and great prizes
- Displays and activities for all ages
- And tons of fun at the Virgil Fire Station!

Thanks to Royal Motors, enjoy live music by Taylor Made, performing throughout the celebration. Don't miss the 5:00 PM Parade, featuring area fire departments, a bagpipe band, and local organizations as they honor a century of dedicated service to the Virgil community.

Then, cap off the evening with a spectacular fireworks display at dark!

A special thank you to our generous sponsors: Royal Motors, Stiles Construction, the Virgil Rotary Club, Whitmore Fence, Greek Peak Mountain Resort, and Cove for helping make this celebration possible.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to honor the dedicated volunteer firefighters who have faithfully served the Virgil community for the past 100 years. Come celebrate this historic milestone with your neighbors and help us thank the men and women whose commitment has kept our community safe for generations!

Virgil Annual Yard Sales— Saturday Aug. 8th

Mark Your Calendars for Virgil's Annual Community Yard Sales!

It's time to hunt for bargains and hidden treasures at Virgil's Annual Community Yard Sales on Saturday, August 8, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM!

If you'd like your yard sale included on the official community map, there's still time to sign up. There is no cost to participate! Simply call or text Alane at 607-749-0038 to have your location added.

Don't have a yard that's suitable for a sale? No problem! You can set up your sale at the Virgil Community Living Center or on the Town Green across from the Center.

Official yard sale maps will be available at the Virgil Town Hall, making it easy for shoppers to find all the participating locations.

Whether you're looking to clear out unwanted items, find great deals, or spend the day exploring the community, Virgil's Annual Yard Sales are an event you won't want to miss!

Attention Virgil Writers, We have a Poet Laureate



Cortland County Poet Laureate Philip Asaph Inspires a Love of Poetry

Poetry has the remarkable ability to capture life's joys, challenges, and everyday moments in just a few carefully chosen words. Few people understand that better than Philip Asaph, Cortland County's first Poet Laureate, whose lifelong passion for poetry continues to inspire writers and readers throughout the region.

A poet, educator, and meditation instructor, Asaph has been devoted to the written word since childhood. What began as a love of poetry grew into a distinguished career that has taken him from some of the nation's finest universities to classrooms, literary events, and community gatherings where he shares his passion for language and creativity.

Asaph earned scholarships and fellowships to Eckerd College, Bucknell University, and New York University, where he studied with some of America's most respected poets while earning his Master of Fine Arts degree. Throughout his career, he has combined academic excellence with a gift for making poetry approachable and meaningful for everyone.

For more than 20 years, Asaph taught poetry, creative writing, and public speaking at the Long Island High School for the Gifted and Talented in the Arts, as well as at numerous schools and colleges. His enthusiasm for writing has encouraged generations of students to find their own voices and discover the power of storytelling through poetry.

About a decade ago, Asaph made Cortland County his home, where he has become an active member of the area's literary and arts community. His poems have appeared in respected literary journals in the United States and abroad, including Poetry, Tampa Review, and The Humanist. Critics have described his writing as "tough and tender, playfully serious, and almost always accessible," reflecting both the depth and warmth that characterize his work.

Beyond poetry, Asaph is also widely recognized as a meditation instructor. He teaches meditation throughout the region, including at the Cortland YWCA, helping participants cultivate mindfulness, creativity, and inner calm. He is currently completing two new projects: an advanced meditation training manual and a new collection of poems titled *Here at the Heart of Western Civ.*

As Poet Laureate, Asaph is committed to making poetry an accessible and vibrant part of community life. Through readings, workshops, and literary events, he encourages people of all ages to discover that poetry isn't reserved for scholars or professional writers—it's for anyone with a story to tell.

One of his ongoing community efforts is The Poet Laureate's Corner, a feature in The Homer News that showcases the work of local poets. Whether you're an experienced writer or someone who's just beginning to put pen to paper, Asaph welcomes submissions.

He invites area residents to submit two or three original poems, along with their contact information, to: The Poet Laureate's Corner: A feature of The Homer News c/o Philip Asaph P.O. Box 294 Homer, NY 13077

The same address may also be used to request poetry readings, presentations, workshops, or to learn about upcoming literary events in the area.

Asaph believes that everyone has a story worth telling, and through poetry, those stories can connect communities, preserve memories, and inspire future generations. Whether you're an avid reader, an aspiring poet, or simply curious about the written word, Philip Asaph's work serves as a reminder that poetry remains one of humanity's most enduring and meaningful forms of

Ordinary Heros: A Poem By Jonathan W. Levy

First responders one and all please stand very tall
for you are ordinary heroes to be respected by all.
EMT's, firefighters and law enforcement a stride above
to serve and protect all those which we cherish and love.
When everyone else rushes out they rush in instead
to face and control what every danger lies ahead.
These superb heroes jeopardize their lives everyday
so others can continue their journey along the way.
No matter the time of day or exposure they may face
they equalize every hazard at an expedient pace.
These wonder/ ul people who risk all are very rare
with an abundance of compassion to show they care.
To many times they don't receive deserved respect
but they answer the call of duty while they gladly protect.
When moms or dads hastily respond out the door
they always know they might not return once more.
Unsung heroes are neighbors and friends on the street
who look like everyone else until danger they meet.
Volunteers give many hours of training to respond,
for them just another day, for me it's above and beyond.
God bless all those that offer so much just to serve
because all they do, our honor and respect they deserve.

Community Member Spotlight: Jonathan W. Levy

Every community is fortunate to have someone who quietly gives of themselves without asking for recognition. In Virgil, that person is Jon Levy.

A longtime Virgil resident, Jon has dedicated countless hours to preserving the town's history, serving his neighbors, and helping keep Virgil beautiful. One of his most remarkable accomplishments has been researching and identifying more than 300 veterans buried in Virgil's cemeteries. His tireless efforts to honor those who served our country earned him recognition from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Jon is also a proud member of the Virgil Volunteer Fire Department, where he continues his commitment to serving the community.

If you've admired the flowers at the Four Corners or the landscaping beneath the Town Hall and Virgil Church signs on Church Street, you've likely seen Jon's handiwork. He spends many hours caring for these public spaces, helping make Virgil a more welcoming place for everyone.

In addition to his volunteer work, Jon enjoys writing poetry and often shares his original poems with visitors at the Town Hall. His creativity and love for the community shine through in his writing.

Jon Levy is one of those special people who makes a lasting difference through kindness, dedication, and service. The Town of Virgil is grateful for all he does, and we're proud to recognize him as one of our community's true treasures.





Town of Virgil

The Virgil Town Hall
1176 Church Street
Virgil, NY 13045

Phone: 607-835-6174

Fax: 607-835-6668

**We're here to serve you. Visit
our website at:**

www.Virgilny.org



VISA



Virgil Town Supervisor: Jereme Stiles
Deputy Supervisor: Matt Denniston
Town Council Members: Dale Taylor
Ryan Mullally
Ayden Wilber

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: Debra Marrotte
- Town's Bookkeeper: Makenzie Eaves
- Town Accountant: Colin Cahill
- Town Justice: Lynnsay Ingalls
- Highway Superintendent: Matt Simpson
- Animal Control Officer: Lindsay Kemp
- Town Assessor: Brian Fitts
- Town Attorney: Daniel Ellis II, Esq.
- Code Enforcement: Kevin McMahon
- Zoning Officer Adam Brown
- County Legislator: Sandy Price
- Town Historian: Marsha Powell



Fire Safety: Simple Steps That Can Save Your Life

With the recent increase in home fires throughout our area, now is the perfect time to make sure your family is prepared. Fires can spread in a matter of minutes, but taking a few simple precautions today can make all the difference tomorrow. Install and Maintain Working Smoke Alarms Smoke alarms provide the earliest warning that a fire has started, giving you and your family valuable time to escape safely. Install smoke alarms: In every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, on every level of your home, including the basement. Test your smoke alarms twice a year and replace them when they reach the end of their recommended service life. When purchasing new smoke alarms, choose products that have been tested and certified by a recognized third-party organization.

Close Before You Doze®

One of the simplest things you can do each night is sleep with your bedroom door closed. A closed door can help protect you from smoke, toxic gases, carbon monoxide, and intense heat. Fire safety experts have found there can be as much as a 900-degree difference between a room with an open door and one with a closed door. While an open room may reach temperatures of nearly 1,000 degrees, a room with the door closed may remain around 100 degrees, giving occupants precious extra time to escape. Before going to bed each night, make it a habit to Close Before You Doze®. Make and Practice a Fire Escape Plan If a fire breaks out, every second counts. There won't be time to figure out what to do. Sit down with your family and create a home fire escape plan that includes: Two ways out of every room whenever possible (Plan A and Plan B) A designated outdoor meeting place a safe distance from your home, a plan for helping children, older adults, or anyone who may need assistance, a reminder to get out, stay out, and call 911 from outside the home. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year so everyone knows exactly what to do in an emergency. Firefighters see firsthand how quickly fires can become deadly. A few minutes spent installing smoke alarms, closing bedroom doors at night, and practicing an escape plan can save lives.

The members of the Virgil Volunteer Fire Department encourage everyone to take these simple fire safety steps. Being prepared today could make all the difference for you and your family tomorrow.

Foundations of Freedom

The Town of Virgil is proud to be included in Foundations of Freedom: An Anthology Celebrating New York Towns' Role in Shaping America the Past 250 Years and Beyond. Our town's story is featured on page 281, recognizing Virgil's place in New York's rich history and its contributions to local government and community.

NOW IN STOCK & READY TO SHIP!

Foundations of Freedom:

An Anthology Celebrating New York Towns' Role in Shaping America the Past 250 Years and Beyond

This limited-edition volume includes:

An essay exploring the evolution of local democracy and the concept of home rule.

More than 130 essays sharing New York town histories, profiles, and stories.

An appendix containing the founding dates of all 933 New York towns from 1677 to 2019.

All towns that sent a representative to the 2026 Annual Meeting & Training School will automatically receive one copy. All towns that contributed an essay will also receive one complimentary copy.

Additional copies are available for purchase:

\$20 for NYAOT members

\$30 for non-members

Order your copy today!

The Town of Virgil hopes to purchase additional copies to keep one available in the Historian's Office for residents to enjoy. If we are able to obtain an extra copy, community members will be welcome to borrow it and learn more about Virgil's story, along with the histories of towns from across New York State.

We are honored to have Virgil's history included in this special commemorative publication and encourage everyone to explore this remarkable collection celebrating the important role New York's towns have played in shaping our state's—and our nation's—history.