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# Town of Virgil News

VOLUME V ISSUE VI

FALL 2019

## Virgil Youth Commission Ski & Ride Club

The Virgil Youth Commission is working hard to get the word out about the 2020 Ski and Ride program. It is a little tricky this year, because of the Virgil Elementary school closing. The program is open to all students in grades 3-6 who live in the Town of Virgil. The program only costs \$20.00 per student. More information is available in the student packets that are available at the Virgil Town Hall and on the Virgil Website at [www.VirgilNY.org](http://www.VirgilNY.org). Please call Alane the Van Donsel the Virgil Town Clerk for more information or to get the name of the program director.



## Virgil Farmers Market

We all wanted to thank you so much for your patronage this year. It was a great season. We love catching up with old friends and also enjoy meeting new customers. As always, we view the market as a way to bring the community together over wonderful food. Thanks for all the great recipe ideas. Now that the garden is winding down, I plan on cooking up a storm! Chris Applegate

## Virgil Historical Society

Join Marsha Powell at 10am on Saturday, October 26th at the Virgil Town Hall for the annual cemetery tour! Marsha has new interesting details, so if you attended last year you should plan to join again! We will have Hollenbeck's cider and doughnuts afterwards.

We are asking for a \$5 donation to the Historical Society.

## Watchable Wildlife: Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexipus*) begin their annual fall migration in mid to late August. These butterflies are the great-great-grandchildren of the monarchs that migrated south last fall, overwintered in Mexico, and began one leg of the journey north.

You can help monarchs by providing food (nectar) and keeping those areas protected:

- Turn a portion of your lawn into a wildflower meadow—plant milkweed or other native wildflowers.
- Delay mowing areas with milkweed until later in the fall.
- Avoid using herbicides—they kill all life-stages of monarchs (egg, caterpillar, cocoon, and adult).
- Report sightings of adults online at <https://journeynorth.org/reg/> View a map of the sightings so far this year at <https://maps.journeynorth.org/map?map=monarch-adult-fall&year=2019>

Don't know when their migration peaks in your area? Check out this chart that breaks it down by latitude. <https://www.monarchwatch.org/tagmig/peak.html>

### Did You Know?

- Monarchs, like all other butterflies and moths, go through egg, larval (caterpillar), chrysalis (cocoon), and adult stages.
- Monarch caterpillars ingest milkweed that contains a toxic compound. The presence of this toxin is used by the monarch butterfly as a defense against predators.
- Other butterflies, such as the Viceroy, mimic the Monarch's colors to pretend that they are also toxic to predators
- In late August, masses of monarch butterflies begin an epic migration stretching thousands of miles from areas across the United States and as far north as Canada (east of the Rocky Mountains) to overwinter in mountaintops of Central Mexico.

### What to Watch for:

- Size: 3-5 inch wingspan
- Appearance: The wings look like stained glass, with reddish-orange coloration and conspicuous black veins bordered in black and speckled with white dots. Males have thinner veins with a black dot on the inside of the hind wings; Females have thicker veins and



Photo by: Susan Shafer

lack the dot. The chrysalis (cocoon) and caterpillar of the Monarch butterfly. Photo: Susan Shafer

- Where to Watch: Monarch butterflies are found in open meadows and fields that usually contain a variety of wildflowers including milkweed, coastal beaches with dunes, and man-made butterfly gardens.
- When to Watch: Throughout spring and summer in the daytime.
- More Information about Monarch Butterflies: Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard (Butterfly Gardens) <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43609.html#Yard>
- Follow and track the Monarch Butterflies migration journey online by visiting the Journey North website <https://journeynorth.org/monarch/index.html>

Article Written by NYS DEC

**“The Society is now looking to publish volume II. Please share your typed or handwritten stories, 100 words to 700 words long.”**

**“Our mission is simple: To provide snow sports experiences and skill development for people with disabilities utilizing the safest and most effective adaptive equipment and qualified/trained volunteer staff”**

## Virgil Historical Publication Virgil Stories Volume II

The Virgil Historical Society publication “Virgil Stories” was a huge success. There are still a few copies available for anyone who wishes to purchase one. They are \$20.00 each.

The Society is now looking to publish volume II. Please share your typed or handwritten stories, 100 words to 700 words long, on topics such as Virgil Roads, how did the roads get their names, the Mills of Virgil/Industries of Virgil, Virgil Artists and Writers/ Songs and Musicians of Virgil, Geology/ Deep in the History of Virgil-What

is under our feet, Houses that tell tales/If buildings could talk, Flow-ers, Farms and Gardens of Virgil, Who are we? Demographics of Virgil, then and now, Ghosts and Ghost stories, Virgilites Travel the Nations/Globe, Virgil in Time of War/Veterans of Virgil, Virgil Experiences Climate Change/ A Century of Seasons in Virgil.. Consider any of the above topics or choose your own.

Writers of all ages are welcome. Copies of photos to accompany your story are welcome. Volunteers are available to

interview you if writing is just not your thing. To contribute a story, contact:

Susan Connelly (607)423-0490  
sjconnelly@aol.com  
Lynn Olcott (607) 423-9777  
lolcott@twcny.rr.com



## Hollenbeck’s Now Opened By: Matt Hollenbeck

The weekend before autumn officially began the Cider Mill’s opened for our 87th season! On Saturday September 21st at 9 am, the doors opened for those first tastes of fall; hot and crispy donuts, fresh cider, and warm apple pie. We’re thrilled to continue these traditions that are beloved by many, and hope to help others develop new and enduring family traditions.

This year’s cold, wet spring and cool, fall-like weather in August has slowed the ripening of the apple crop. While we will have the apples, we need for cider and pies, the selection of apples for fresh eating will be a little slim to start the season. Don’t worry, we’ll have all of your favorite apple varieties before long! To keep it moving in the bakery

we’ll only have Apple, Dutch Apple, and Pumpkin pies available on a first come, first served basis through Sept 30, at which time we’ll start baking other varieties and taking orders. We’ll be pressing cider on Saturdays and Sundays, and will have donuts 9 am- 4 pm every weekend thru early November. If you’re looking for weekday pressing, your best bet is Wednesdays or Thursdays. We’ll have grape juice again this year, but won’t start until a week or two into the season.

We always appreciate the support of Virgil residents in their patronage, and their understanding with the sudden increase in traffic on 392.



## Town Budget Hearing Scheduled: Nov. 7th

The Town Board has been working on completing the town’s 2020 budget. They held a series of workshops that were open to the public. Thank you to all who attended the budget workshops and who took the time to get involved in this important part of our government process.

The budget determines the tax levy for the coming year. The board has done an amazing job at keeping the town’s portion of the budget low. Town Taxes will be going up this year only .08¢ per a thousand dollars of assessed value. There are copies of the proposed budget available for preview in the town clerk’s office and on line at [www.VirgilNY.org](http://www.VirgilNY.org). A public budget hearing is being held on Nov. 7th at 6:00 PM. The board will listen to input from you at the public hearing. After the public hearing the board will then approve the final budget a regular town board meeting scheduled for Nov. 14th at 6:30 PM.

## Adaptive Snow Sports at Greek Peak By: Rhonda Wade

Since the last day of skiing last year, I have been looking forward to the next ski season. Yes, I am one of those weird people whose favorite season is winter; beautiful, fresh sparkly snow represents fresh starts, a clean slate, and new beginnings.

Last year was my first year as a volunteer for the adaptive ski program, which made something I love even better than I could ever have imagined. I received complete training, learned new skills and made many new friends and lifelong memories while teaching others how to ski. There is nothing more rewarding than hearing the squeal of excitement as a student makes it down a new slope that you coached them down.

“With structure and determination,” per Kristy Gault, the Volunteer President, “the focus of our organization is to be inclusive.” Per Merriam-Webster, this means,

“All embracing, broad in orientation or scope” and that is exactly how to describe the desire of each volunteer for all participants; that no one who wants to experience the freedom of skiing, is left behind.

Our mission is simple: To provide snow sports experiences and skill development for people with disabilities utilizing the safest and most effective adaptive equipment and qualified/trained volunteer staff in a fun, supportive, and positive learning atmosphere.

If you dare to come and check it out, be prepared to laugh, cry and leave each session with a full heart. Look for more information keep checking the website for the date of the November General Meeting and the two December training weekends: [www.gpadaptive.org](http://www.gpadaptive.org). Ski you later!

# Election Day: Tuesday November 5th

Election Day is just around the corner. Polls will be open at the Virgil Town Hall on November 5th 2019 from 6:00 AM– 9:00 PM. There are several local positions up for election this year, these include: State Supreme Court Justice, County Clerk, County Sheriff, County Treasurer, County Coroner, County Legislator, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk/Collector, Town Justice and Two Town Council Members. A Sample Ballot is available on the Virgil Town Website at [www.VirgilNY.org](http://www.VirgilNY.org) and on the Cortland County Board of Elections website.



## Chicory By Val Ross

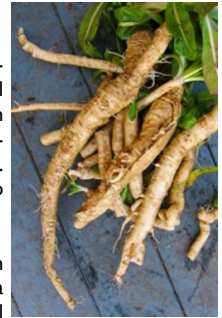
Early Fall was the time of year we see lots of chicory lining the roadsides. This is a plant with some history! It's not native here, but has become widely naturalized. It originated in Europe around the Mediterranean. Its scientific name is *Cichorium intybus* and it's in the dandelion Family, Asteraceae. Other common names are blue daisy, blue dandelion, coffeeweed, and succor. The sky blue flowers bloom in the morning and tend to close up if the day is hot.

In 19th century France after Napoleon initiated the Continental Blockade, coffee supplies were cut off. Desperate coffee fiends discovered that the roots of this plant, after being baked and ground, made a terrific coffee additive or substitute. In fact, it tasted so good that people continued mixing chicory and coffee long after the blockade was lifted. Today in France you can buy Ricore, which is 60% chicory and 40% coffee, and in England a

similar mix is sold as "camp coffee." The French people who settled in New Orleans brought chicory with them, and this was one early source for the plant's introduction in the US. It took off and grows pretty much everywhere now. During the Civil War in the US, the Union naval blockades cut off the port of New Orleans and chicory became a popular coffee substitute once again. During the Depression, it was a readily available cost-free substitute for coffee. The taste grew on people. It's still a popular beverage in the South and you can buy Community Coffee at Walmart that has some chicory, and even one line that is 100% chicory. Some beer-makers are adding chicory root to their stouts for a coffee flavor.

It's fun to make yourself a real natural cup of chicory, but it's not easy. Dig up chicory roots in the fall. They are taproots, so go quite deep. Clean them well, dry thoroughly in the sun for a few days (one blogger recommends the hood of

your truck for this purpose), and cut into small chunks. Bake in the oven at 350 until brown, usually an hour or two. Cool, and grind them up in a coffee grinder.



Chicory has been used medicinally for a very long time and still makes an appearance in herbal stores. It is said to "increase mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being." Well, great! Just like coffee! It also kills intestinal worms, an added bonus. In European folklore, the blue flower was said to be able to open a locked door.

Reflect on the usefulness of this colorful plant as you whiz by it in your car.

## The Virgil Volunteer Fire District

The Texas Road House is holding a fundraiser for the Virgil Fire District. Please head over to the Texas Road house in Ithaca on November 17th to support the Department. You will need an invitation in order for the department to get the 10% donation. To the right is a copy of the invitation that is posted on the Virgil Fire Department Facebook page. You will be able to print the invitation off from there. If you need help with this stop into the Town Hall and see Alane Van Donsel. Like the Virgil Fire Department page to get more information about what is going on with the Department.



## Virgil Historical Society

Meeting times: third Thursday of Sept. November, March, and May 7PM  
 Virgil Town Hall, 1176 Church St, Virgil NY  
 Last meeting was September 19, 2019  
 Speaker was: Valerie Ross: "A Trip to Vaudeville"

Val gave a talk that she previously gave to the Cortland County Historical Society Lunch 'n' Learn group several months ago. This was a multi-media presentation featuring local Vaudeville stars, the Dillon Brothers. They grew up in Cortland and were widely known on the national entertainment circuit from around 1880-1920. Most well-known was brother William, who penned the song "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl Who Married Dear Old Dad" and hundreds of others. They saw a Vaudeville show, perused some old Dillon sheet music, and heard some old forgotten risqué number, "Hip, Hip, Hypnotize Me." The audience sang in this show!  
 Don't miss all the fun at the next meeting scheduled for November 21st at the Virgil Town Hall.

## Thank you from The Vigil Town Clerk

I personally want to thank you all for your patience and concern while I was out of work for my surgery. I especially want to thank Makenzie Morgan my deputy and Diane Michaud assistant deputy for holding down the fort while I was out. I truly appreciate all of you and I feel so blessed to be able to work for a town that truly cares for one another.

I happy to report that I am on the mend and back to work. This news letter is a little late this fall, as I had intended to get it out before my surgery, but was unable to do so. Thank you for understanding. Sincerely, Alane Van Donsel.

## Virgil Youth Commission: Trick or Treat

The Virgil Youth Commission is holding a Trick or Trick Event on Oct. 26th from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Virgil Gazebo. For more information visit the Virgil Youth Commission's Facebook Page. Like the page to keep up with is going on with the Youth Commission.





## Town of Virgil

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

**[www.Virgilny.org](http://www.Virgilny.org)**

Virgil Town Supervisor: John Kaminski  
Deputy Supervisor: Jereme Stiles  
Town Council Members: 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: Makenzie Morgan
- Town's Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse
- Town Justice: R. Scott Elston
- Highway Superintendent: Britt Morse
- Deputy Highway Supervisor: Dan Courtney
- Animal Control Officer: Lindsay Anderson
- Town Assessor: Brian Fitts
- Town Attorney: Patrick M. Snyder, Esq.
- Code Enforcement: Kevin McMahon
- County Legislator: Sandy Price
- Town Historian: Marsha Powell



## Burials Through Time by Marsha Powell, Virgil Historian

In early times when a person died, they were buried at that location. As families established homesteads, a portion of their land was set aside as a family burial plot. Markers for the graves developed over time. At first, stones were often placed over the grave. Later markers were made of wood, and finally local stone slabs. The stone slabs could be carved to provide a more permanent marker with details of the person buried there.

Once community cemeteries were available, many homestead burials were moved to it. And that was the beginning of cemeteries in many towns. The first community cemetery in Virgil is the one located on Church Street, often referred to as the Pioneer Cemetery.

There are many traditions, myths and superstitions about burying the deceased. Some believed stones placed over the burial plot would keep the spirit from

coming back to haunt the living. Many cemeteries followed the tradition of burying bodies with the feet at the east, head at the west. Reasons for this included that the sun rises in the east, or the Christian belief that Jesus would return from the east and so the deceased could see these events coming. Some bodies were buried facing north or south, but were placed on their sides to face east.

More elaborate headstones evolved over time. Beautiful artwork decorated many graves. Meaning has been given to the objects being depicted. Examples include, hands pointing skyward represented the hope of going to heaven. A lamb usually denoted the death of a child. Many included inscriptions beyond providing name, birth and death dates. Often family relationships were listed (mother, father, wife, son, daughter). And sometimes inscriptions included poems or rhymes.

Two inscriptions found in our cemeteries include:

Remember Youth as you pass by;  
As you are now so once was I As; I am  
now soon you must be; Prepare to die  
and follow me

My children dear assemble here; A mother's  
grave to see; Not long ago I dwelt  
with you; And soon you'll dwell with me

And one inscription not found in our cemetery showing either humor or disdain:

It does my heart a world of good; To see  
you in a box of wood

Take an educational walk through our cemeteries. Look at the beautiful artwork, learn about history and symbolism being used.