

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Fireworks are back at Hope Lake Park
- The Tioughnioga
- County Legislators Report
- A Message from our Legislator
- Healthy Cortland Event
- Historical Society Event

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

- History of the Town Clerk 2
- Hiking the Tioughnioga 2
- Sandy Price reads Local authors book 3
- County Health Event 3
- Virgil Stories II book 3
- Historian's Corner 4

Town of Virgil News

VOLUME V ISSUE V

SUMMER 2019

Fireworks Back at Hope Lake Park-2019

Thanks to the Hope Lake Park Committee chaired by Gary Pelton and to many local sponsors the Virgil Fire works event is returning. To Hope Lake Park. The park will open from 10:30am -11:00 pm. You can enjoy boating, fishing, swimming, basketball and volleyball. There will be no park-

ing or admission fee to the park, however there will be the standard rental fees on equipment. In the past there was a dish to pass event and free food, due to health department requirements we will not be able to host the picnic. The

Virgil Fire department will be selling hamburgers and hotdogs. The fireworks display are set to go off at 10:00 pm. Visit the Town of Virgil's website for more information. www.virgilny.org.

Help Monitor Wildflowers with the AVID Method

This year's rainy weather has provided plenty of water for spring wildflowers, but even so, forest favorites like trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit can be hard to find. One reason these plants are much less common than they used to be in many areas is that they are being eaten by deer. Deer populations in parts of the state are high enough to harm their habitat and the forest ecosystem. The lack of wildflowers may be one of the most obvious signs, but the entire forest can be threatened if deer browsing prevents tree seedlings from growing up to replace trees that fall. Heavy grazing of shrubs and ground cover by deer also destroys habitats for birds and other wildlife.

DEC has partnered with Cornell University to provide a way for forest owners and people concerned about forest health to assess and monitor the ecological impacts of deer.

It involves marking some plants and measuring their height at the same time each year. The method is called Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID), and the AVID website, <http://aviddeer.com>, provides all the information you need to start monitoring. For people who would like some hands-on training using AVID, Cornell Cooperative Extension offers half-day workshops. Look for a workshop near you at <http://aviddeer.com/contact-us/training-and-events>.

Copy rights go to the Department of Environmental Conservation



Young Bears are On the Move — Take Steps to Avoid Conflicts!

This article was written by the New York State Department of Conservation: The potential for conflicts between people and bears typically increases in summer due to the dispersal of young bears from family groups, the onset of the breeding season, and a lull in natural food availability prior to the ripening of local berries and other natural food sources. There are a few simple things you can do to keep bears from taking up residence in an area, like storing garbage in secure buildings, stopping bird feeding, and feeding pets indoors. Preventing access to food sources is key.

If a bear is seen in your immediate area, residents should simply be aware of the bear's presence and avoid any interaction with it. While bears can be intimidating, they generally shy away from getting into conflicts with people. Nearly all of the bears observed in suburban areas disappear as quickly and quietly as they appear, without serious conflict or need for physical removal. Bears do not want to be in an urban or suburban environment any more than people want them there. If you remove food attractants, they are less likely to stay in the area.

There have been some bear sightings in Virgil in the past, so be on the look out.

More information on avoiding conflicts with bears is available on DEC's website. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6995.html>



“the modern Hebrew translation of Town Clerk is "Mazkir Ha'ir" which literally translated, means city or town "Reminder:" The early keepers of archives were often called "Remembrancers" and before writing came into use, their memory served as the public record. “

“Our County Hike Series offers people a chance to avoid the logistical nightmares of spotting cars, or else walking out and back, by hiring busses which pick us up each month”

History of the Municipal Clerk; Early Beginning

The Municipal Clerk is the oldest of public servants in local government, along with the tax collector. The profession traces back to before Biblical times. For example, the modern Hebrew translation of Town Clerk is "Mazkir Ha'ir" which when translated, means city or town "Reminder:" The early keepers of archives were often called "Remembrancers" and before writing came into use, their memory served as the public record. Ancient Greece had a city secretary who read official documents publicly. At the opening of a meeting, one of his first duties was to decree a curse upon anyone who should seek to deceive the people.

St. Paul and his followers during his missionary work in Persia (now Western Turkey) owed their safety to the action of a town clerk. As related in Acts 19:22-41, written in A.D. 58, the artisans of Ephesus who made the idols of the time, feared the effect of Paul's missionary work on their trade. They incited a mob to seize two of Paul's followers. The town clerk, however, spoke out against this action and insisted that charges laid against these men had to be settled in the proper manner and before the proper authorities. There was no justification for riotous conduct. With that, the clerk, dispersed in the crowd.

I thought this was a very interesting article, I hope you enjoyed it. Excerpt taken from "History of the Municipal Clerk" www.iimc.com



The Tioughnioga! By: Irene Szabo

As a hiker on the Finger Lakes Trail, I've long regarded the Tioughnioga River as a giant pain, because bridges across it are so far apart. So it was fascinating to read in the Winter edition of the Town of Virgil's Historical Newsletter that crossing that river has long been a challenge, to the point of lost life in the case of that story. We hikers sure don't try to wade across that one, so for years had used the Blodgett Mills' bridge after a long road walk on West River Rd., from just below Stafford Rd. I, like many others, had taken that long road walk, peaceful on the west side of the river, and then a tad harrowing on the east side down the shoulder of US 11 until Hoxie Gorge Rd. took us east, under the Interstate high above, and into the very north edge of Hoxie Gorge State Forest.

People who are out for a pleasant day hike wouldn't bother with that very long road walk, so only those with a feverish desire to walk the WHOLE 560-mile footpath across upstate N.Y. wouldn't waste a day on that. So locals probably saw very few hikers other than the demented and inspired, except perhaps when the Finger Lakes Trail was throwing one of its giant county hike projects. Then you might see a hundred people passing through Blodgett Mills in one day, spread out over miles.

Our County Hike Series offers people a chance to avoid the logistical nightmares of spotting cars, or else walking out and back, by hiring busses which pick us up each month of the spring, summer, and fall at the end of that day's hike, so that we all could walk at our own speed back to our cars. And "our own speed" varies widely; I used to hike at the back end of the slow group with the teenage kid of a medium speed daddy, who always got a two hour nap before we showed up!

So on the day a county hike series sent at least a hundred people past Blodgett's Mills, surely the locals were bewildered, but then again, a county hike series typically occurs there only once every seven years. This year we are walking Chenango County that way, so next year is your turn for the big one-day crowd, rather than the occasional nut job doing the road walk.

However, we no longer pass through Blodgett Mills! Somewhere around 2014 some ambitious volunteers (this whole trail is built and maintained entirely by



The River: Pictured from NewYorkUpstate.com

volunteers!) decided to make the road walk much less daunting. Road walk miles didn't become shorter, but by heading south on West River Road, instead of north, now we follow that very peaceful walk along the N.Y. Susquehanna and Western Railroad, the "Susie Q," all the way to a junction with N.Y. 392, which takes us across the river for a very short walk on US 11 before we head east on Steve Russell Hill Rd. From there, we quickly enter Hoxie Gorge State Forest from the south end and enjoy walking northward through its entire forested length, to rejoin the old trail at the north end.

So the river is still a major pain, right in everybody's way down a slice of the middle of the state, but we slowpoke walkers still manage to get around it. And on either side of the river and Interstate 81, there are plenty of state forests where hikers can enjoy our trail in the woods.

Should you want your own map of the trail on either side of the river, shop for Map M20 at our website, www.fingerlakestrail.org, or call the office at 585/658-9320 between 9 and 2 daily. The maps are detailed, have descriptions on the back, and are printed on Rite-in-the-Rain paper, which does not disintegrate when you've folded it thirty times in the rain! Follow those white-painted 2" wide x 6" high blazes on trees and poles into great walks deep in state forests.

Written by: Irene Szabo, "one of those volunteers"

Cortland County Legislator, Sandy Price's Report for July 2019

The Cortland County Health Dept. Healthy Neighborhoods Program will be at the Harford Senior Center on Wednesday, July 10th at 4:30 for dinner, and presentation and a bag of healthy homes items smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, fire extinguisher and other safety items. For reservations please call Joyce Van Deweert at 844-3808. Additionally you may call 607-428-5410 for a free Healthy Home assessment.

Healthy Cortland, a no cost medical event, is coming July 11-20 at Homer School. Services are dental, medical, optometry, veterinary. No income, insurance, or residency requirements. For more information on scheduling appointments and volunteering visit www.healthycortland.org or call 607-753-5049. This is a result of another successful grant that Dan Dineen of the Planning Dept. wrote. Appointed to the position of Cortland County Manager of Audit and Financial Projects was Stephen Trobert. Shoring up the county's financial duties are continuing.

Discussions and exploration of the future of the Virgil School building and playground continue. It is planned that a referendum will be on the November ballot on whether to obtain it for a community center. Stay tuned.

A tax is a tax is a tax. NYS has banned plastic shopping bags as of March 2020 and counties may impose a five cent fee on each paper bag. All Legislators voted no on a resolution that I sponsored.

The jail has been reopened after the roof leaked and caused damage -inmates have returned. Once again I am soliciting nominations for the second annual Legislator Good Neighbor Award. Please let me know who you think should be recognized. All nominations are confidential. Last year we had twenty one. I wonder how many this year ????

The Sandra L. Price Legislators Award for perseverance was presented Kaden Hickson. It is given to a dedicated and hard working graduating sixth grader at Virgil School in recognition for out-

standing effort to overcome any and all obstacles. My advice is "Never stop trying!". I would also like to send letters to congratulate area seniors but I need your help in their names.

Is there anything I should be aware of or doing?

Quote for the month:

Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?



Healthy Cortland: No Cost Medical Event

Healthy Cortland is a No-Cost Medical Event at which medical services are provided by Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Professionals. Also known as an "Innovative Readiness Training", IRT is a DoD deployment exercise to provide real world training opportunities for our service members while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities. Services that will be provided are:

- Dental examinations, filings & extractions

- Medical: School physical will be available. Other possible services include: Screenings (Diabetes, Blood Pressure, etc.), Nutrition Counseling and more!
- Optometry: Vision Examinations, Testing for Cataracts, Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration, and Single-Focal (Distance or Reading) Prescription Glasses (Manufactured On-Site).
- Veterinary: Walk-ins welcome for deworming & vaccinations: rabies, DHL-PP,

and FVRCP for companion animals (dogs & cats). Limited to two pets per family. Please note, Spay and Neutering is also limited to 2 pets (dogs or cats) per household. Animals cannot exceed 75 pounds and must be a minimum of 6 months old and cannot be over 5 years old and are by appointment only.

The event will take place July 12-20, 8:00 AM-5:00PM at the Homer Intermediate School/Jr. High School 58 Clinton St. Homer, NY 13077. For more information visit www.healthycortland.org

"Maggie Moo Bully"

By Sandy Price

Maggie and the Moo Bully is a book written by Amber Hines and illustrated by Patricia McEvoy. When I was organizing some of my abundance of stuff I came across it, read it and thought the message was very timely. Rather than put it back on the shelf, I called the secretary at Virgil School, and asked would it be possible to read to some of the classes there. The principal read the book gave the OK and teachers set dates for me to read. Then in my head I thought hmm wouldn't it be nice to see if the author could join me.

Some years ago I met Amber when I was a judge for the Fair Queen and she was a contestant. I was immediately impressed and knew she was a special person who had a lot to offer. The other judges thought so too and she was chosen to be the fair queen. From time to time I would run into her at the Maple Festival and the 1890 Union Fair. She went to college wrote a book, taught preschool, married, had a baby and was living the life of a busy working wife and mother.

I expect the last thing she would ever think of was me calling her to join me in my adventure. With her love of children and the knowledge of the importance of her message she quickly said yes and we became a team.

We read, discussed and did related activities with the kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth grades. What a wonderful experience with these wonderful students at Virgil School. The message of the hurtfulness of bullying and the kindnesses of acceptance was well received. Plus they got to meet a real life author. Wow! The amazing thing is they too could be authors someday just like Amber. She was definitely an inspiration in more than one way to the students.

Amber met many new friends and others who knew her and had connections with Marathon or as her former teachers: Eileen Fitzgerald Spiehs, Cheryl Loope, Deidra Canfield Scalza, Kelly Peri, Jim Povero and Corena Morse. It's a small world after all just like that Disney song.

This experience was the highlight of my week. I love the students at Virgil School and

I love our neighborhood school. I hope it was a meaningful for Amber, the students and the wonderful staff we had the privilege to spend time with. It sure was for me!

P.S. You just never know where a simple task of cleaning and organizing will take you. We just have to go with the flow. Ain't life grand!



Amber Hines Author of "Maggie and the Moo Bully" at Virgil Elementary School



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

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

Town's Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse

Highway Superintendent: Britt Morse

Animal Control Officer: Lindsay Kemp

Town Attorney: Patrick M. Snyder, Esq.

County Legislator: Sandy Price

Deputy Town Clerk: Makenzie Morgan

Town Justice: R. Scott Elston

Deputy Highway Supervisor: Dan Courtney

Town Assessor: Brian Fitts

Code Enforcement: Kevin McMahon

Town Historian: Marsha Powell



Virgil Stories II

The first printing of the Virgil Stories book is sold out and we are onto the next printing. This volume of "Virgil Stories" a personal history collection of stories from Virgil residents sold a 100 copies rather quickly. The second printing sold very fast too, there are only a few copies left at the Town Hall. This volume contains over fifty fascinating stories, enhanced by dozens of beautiful photographs, all contributed by current and former Virgil residents. The narratives cover more than a century of life in Virgil. The book costs \$20.00. The Virgil Historical Society is looking head to volume II. They are looking for folks who wish to contribute to the second issue. If you or someone in your family wish to be a part of the second issue., please contact the Virgil Town Clerk at 607-283-9326 ext. 2

Virgil Historical Summer Day Trip

The Virgil Historical Society has scheduled a summer day trip on Saturday July 20. A caravan will be leaving from the Virgil Town Hall at 9:00 AM. The caravan will travel from Virgil to Ludlowville NY. They will follow the original Chaplin Road as close as possible. Joseph Chaplin was the first settler in Virgil in 1794. For more information call the Virgil Town Clerk at 607-835-6174 ext 2. The next Historical meeting will be held on Sept. 19th at 7:00 PM at the Virgil Town Hall.



Barely Escaped Death

By: Marsha Powell, Historian

We all hear how hunting and fishing stories can be exaggerated. This is nothing new. Here is a story from early 1800 Virgil. After reading the account, I have quoted much of the original story to share the descriptive language.

A gentleman by the name of Turpening came to Virgil from Newburg. He was 'desirous' to take a hunt. Charles Hotchkiss, of Virgil, did warn him that it would be unsafe for him to proceed alone. However, others present persevered and convinced him to go on alone. Then Mr. Hotchkiss had some fun.

Mr. Turpening was told that if he should happen to kill a deer it would bleat. The bleating would arouse every deer in hearing distance and they would surely kill him. "Having equipped himself in hunting order, he sallied forth for glorious

war." Approaching the deer-lick south of Virgil Corners, he espied a young fawn just upon the outskirts. Keeping one eye on the gun and one on the deer he waited some time for the appearance of other deer. None appeared, so he blazed away. "Presuming the story of Mr. Hotchkiss to be true, and expecting a whole clan of mad, frightened deer to be upon him with their bloody antlers poised to gore him to the heart, he hurriedly made tracks for town."

Along the way, he stripped off hat, coat, vest and boots and hurled them to the ground. He was huffing and puffing for breath when he reached the pioneer's home. He declared "every deer in the lick was at his heels, frothing and foaming. They had gored him almost to death".

Farmer's Market Open

The Virgil Farmer's Market is in full swing. Visit the market on Saturday Mornings from 9:00-Noon in the parking lot of Hollenbeck's. Different types of produce are being added weekly. Below is last weeks market E-mail:

The gardens are enjoying the heat this week. The gardeners and bakers - not so much!

Produce: Lettuce in many colors and textures,, Swiss chard and Kale, Garlic Scapes, Scallions, Broccoli, Sweet, sweet carrots, Baby beets with beet greens, radishes, salad turnips, fresh herbs, Fancy Feathers Farm Fresh Eggs, Stacy's Baked Goods, breads, scones, cinnamon rolls, Donna's raspberry, rhubarb, and other plants, Hidden Hollow Farms Healing Balms Ole Miss Franny's Goat milk soaps Hand marbled silk scarves Fused glass pendants NEW THIS YEAR! Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/virgilfarmersmarket/>