

AMSTERDAM

# Liberty Foundation hosts annual Denim and Diamonds event

In its seventh year, Liberty Foundation hosted its annual Denim and Diamonds BBQ & Country Concert featuring Skeeter Creek on Friday, September 22 on their Liberty ARC Campus Drive in Amsterdam. The event raised more than \$45,000 to provide life-enriching experiences and vital services for people with disabilities in Montgomery County.

It was a lovely evening saying goodbye to summer and hello to fall under the big tent while supporting a great cause in the community. Overall 335 guests were in attendance.

Every year, Liberty Foundation's Denim and Diamonds funds and provides vital programs, services, improvements to homes, and experiences which are not funded through government programs to the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities supported by Liberty ARC. Monies raised through the annual event this funded items like memorable trips, including to Santa's Workshop and a cruise luncheon in Lake George, updated gym equipment, passes to local gyms, and an adjustable drawing table for those in wheelchairs to take part in art activities. In years prior Liberty Foundation has provided funds for purchases such as a sensory playground, medical equipment, and updated furniture.

Liberty Foundation and Liberty ARC would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to the following community businesses and business partners for their generous support of this year's event:

- 10K Blue Diamond Sponsor — Marshall & Sterling Insurance, Inc.
- Saloon Sponsors — AllSquare Wealth Management, LLC and HealthDirect Pharmacy Services
- Bull's-Eye Sponsor — The Bonadio Group, CDPHP, KeyBank, Kitchens and Baths by K.A.B., and St. Mary's Health Care



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PHOTOS PROVIDED

FORT HUNTER

## Schoharie Crossing to offer eighth annual NYS History Month Lecture Series

Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site will be offering its eighth annual New York State History Month Lecture Series on Thursday evenings this October.

These lecture programs will be held online and cover a range of history connected to New York State.

Each program will start at 7 p.m. via the WebEx meeting platform.

For Thursday, Oct. 19, independent historian Kelli Huggins will present "Looking for Railroad Jack: A Historian's Search for a Long-Lost Canine Celebrity."

In the 1880s and 1890s, there were few dogs as famous as Albany's Railroad Jack. Along with his contemporary, the Postal Service's Owney, Jack captivated the public with his train-riding antics.

When he died in 1893, his body was taxidermied and, subsequently, lost from the

historical record. This talk will explain what Jack and fellow animal celebrities tell us about the history of the Gilded Age and will explore attempts to figure out what happened to him.

Rounding out the series on Thursday, Oct. 26 will be "Camillus on the Erie Canal" with Lisa Wiles, Coordinator of the Liz & Dave Beebe Camillus Erie Canal Park. She will discuss the history of the canal as it passed through the community as well as what preservation efforts went into the re-watering of the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct.

These free online presentations will be hosted through WebEx and do not require pre-registration.

The links for these programs can be found on the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site official NYS Parks website and social media. However, if you would like a

direct link sent to your email, please contact the site.

For more information about programs at Schoharie Crossing, please contact the Visitor Center at (518) 829-7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit our NYS Parks webpage.

The Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site Visitor Center is located at 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter, NY 12069.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual state parks, historic sites, golf courses, boat launches and recreational trails, which are visited by 78 million people annually.

For more information on any of these recreation areas, call (518) 474-0456 or visit www.nysparks.com, connect on Facebook, or follow on Twitter.

BROADALBIN & PERTH

## Broadalbin-Perth recognized as Project Lead The Way distinguished school

Broadalbin-Perth has been recognized as a 2022-23 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. It is one of only 35 school districts in New York State to receive this recognition for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through the PLTW Launch curriculum. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of students and teachers, pre-K through grade 12, in schools across the U.S.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Broadalbin-Perth had to have more than 75 percent of the student body participating in the program and had to offer at least one PLTW Launch module at each grade level during the 2021-22 school year.

In addition to this special recognition, PLTW teacher Beth Tomlinson is one of 38 teachers across the U.S. to earn the 2023-24 Outstanding PLTW Teacher Award, which recognizes educators who demonstrate a strong record of delivering an inspiring and empowering student experience while expanding access to PLTW programs and transforming teaching.

PLTW Launch, a curriculum designed for students in pre-K through grade 5. Tomlinson has been a teacher at Broadalbin-Perth for 26 years and teaches PLTW courses at both the elementary and junior/senior high schools. She is also a certified PLTW trainer and helps fellow educators prepare to teach the PLTW curriculum.

Studies show that students decide as early as elementary school whether they like and think they're good at math and science. Whether designing a car safety belt or building digital animations based on their own short stories, PLTW Launch students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and develop a passion for and confidence in STEM subjects.

"We are proud to recognize Broadalbin-Perth for their com-

mitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences while ensuring equitable access to PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "We congratulate them on this achievement and celebrate their important work empowering students with the knowledge and skills to succeed, not only in STEM subjects but also more generally in life and career."

Broadalbin-Perth is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities.

For more information about PLTW's recognition program, visit pltw.org.

# NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT 8-OCT 14, 2023

## How to make homes safer from fires

Over a five-year period beginning in 2015 and 2019, fire departments across the United States responded to roughly 347,000 home structure fires per year. That data, courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association, underscores the significance of home fire protection measures.

Smoke detectors are a key component of fire protection, but there's much more homeowners can do to protect themselves, their families, their belongings, and their homes from structure fires.

- Routinely inspect smoke detectors. Smoke detectors can only alert residents to a fire if they're working properly. Battery-powered smoke detectors won't work if the batteries die. Routine smoke detector check-ups can ensure the batteries still have juice and that the devices themselves are still functioning properly. Test alarms to make sure the devices are functioning and audible in nearby rooms. Install additional detectors as necessary so alarms and warnings can be heard in every room of the house.

- Hire an electrician to audit your home. Electricians can inspect a home and identify any issues that could make the home more vulnerable to fires. Ask electricians to look over every part of the house, including attics and crawl spaces. Oft-overlooked areas like attics and crawl

spaces pose a potentially significant fire safety threat, as data from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) indicates that 13 percent of electrical fires begin in such spaces.

- Audit the laundry room. The laundry room is another potential source of home structure fires. NFPA data indicates around 3 percent of home structure fires begin in laundry rooms each year. Strategies to reduce the risk of laundry room fires include leaving room for laundry to tumble in washers and dryers; routinely cleaning lint screens to avoid the buildup of dust, fiber and lint, which the NFPA notes are often the first items to ignite in fires linked to dryers; and ensuring the outlets washing machines and dryers are plugged into can handle the voltage such appliances require. It's also a good idea to clean dryer exhaust vents and ducts every year.

- Look outward as well. Though the majority of home fires begin inside, the NFPA reports that 4 percent of such fires begin outside the home. Homeowners can reduce the risk of such fires by ensuring all items that utilize fire, including grills and firepits, are always used at least 10 feet away from the home. Never operate a grill beneath eaves, and do not use grills on decks. Never leave children unattended around firepits, as all it takes is a single mistake and a moment

for a fire to become unwieldy.

- Sweat the small stuff. Hair dryers, hair straighteners, scented candles, clothes irons, and holiday decorations are some additional home fire safety hazards. Never leave candles burning in empty rooms and make sure beauty and grooming items like dryers, straighteners and irons are unplugged and placed in a safe place to cool down when not in use.

Fire departments respond to hundreds of thousands of home fires each year. Some simple strategies and preventive measures can greatly reduce the risk that a fire will overtake your home.



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