

The Granville Sentinel

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A surprise from Slate Valley Center's resident council president

At the resident council meeting that took place on Monday, Feb. 27, Slate Valley Center's resident council president Eugene "Gene" Smith surprised everyone by presenting recreation director Andrea Kelley and director of social services Jordyn Avery with a cake and card thanking them for their continuous hard work.

It seems that Smith, 67, from Gansevoort, New York - who had just celebrated his birthday on Feb. 24 - had been working behind the scenes for the past month to get everyone at the center to sign the card. He worked with the facility's driver Mandy Hansen to make a cake for Andrea and Jordyn, too.

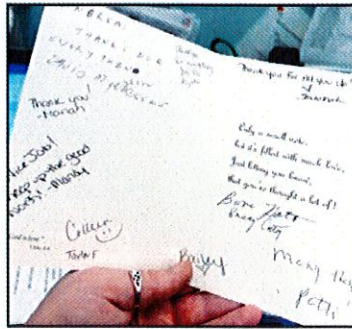
"We had no idea what he was up to!" said Kelley. "It was very kind and really thoughtful. On behalf of recreation and social work we say thank you. We truly enjoy working with our residents here at Slate Valley, and our hearts are



The cake and card thanked recreation director Andrea Kelley and director of social services Jordyn Avery for their hard work.

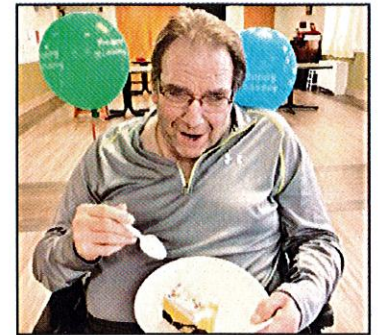
touched!"

Smith has been the resident council president for the past 14 months and was re-nominated this year for the excellent job he's doing.



A card was circulated and signed by Slate Valley residents and staff.

Most skilled nursing facilities across the country elect a resident of the facility to become the resident council president for a specified term. This chosen person becomes the advocate and voice for the residents to



Resident council president Gene Smith with the surprise cake.

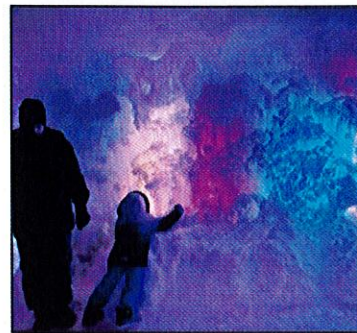
make sure they are heard on all fronts, from new happenings at the facility as well as challenges and concerns they may have. Resident council presidents demonstrate leadership skills and a desire to serve and represent.

Ice Castles in Lake George closed for season

Winter is quickly winding down, and with it one of the seasons most cherished attractions has closed for the season. Ice Castles at Festival Commons in Lake George, New York, closed on Sunday, March 5.

The warmer-than-average winter delayed the opening of Ice Castles until Feb. 6, and even caused a week-long cancellation in mid-February.

But during the shorter-than-expected season, tens of thousands of people visited the frozen experience, which featured ice-carved tunnels, fountains, slides, frozen thrones and towers of cascading ice that light up at night.



Ice Castles in Lake George

Simpson seeks nominations for 'Women of Distinction' through March

New York State representative Matt Simpson's office is seeking nominations for the inaugural 114th District "Women of Distinction" tribute.

"March is Women's History Month. I'd like to take the opportunity to announce that my office will begin accepting nominations for the 114th District's inaugural 'Women of Distinction' program to honor local women who have made lasting contributions to the betterment of our communities," said Simpson. Beginning today and through the

community member who deserves recognition for the impact she has made as a leader, mentor or friend to those around her.

Perhaps she has served in the armed forces or is a first responder. Perhaps she reaches the young minds of her students in the classroom or maybe she is simply a caring neighbor known for her kindness.

To nominate a Woman of Distinction, visit tinyurl.com/SimpsonWoD2023 to complete a short application due by Friday, March 31.

DEC: Be coyote conscious

Have you heard or seen coyotes around recently? According to a press release from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York is currently in the midst of coyote breeding season which generally runs from January to March.

During this time of year coyotes are especially active as they mate and begin to set up dens for pups that will arrive this spring. They also tend to be more territorial which can increase the risk of conflicts with people and pets.

To minimize this risk, DEC recommends that everyone follow the tips outlined below.

- Never feed coyotes.
- Feed pets indoors
- Appreciate coyotes from a distance. Residents who see a coyote should be aggressive in their behavior, standing tall and holding their arms up or out to look as large as possible. If a coyote lin-

gers for too long, the DEC suggests making loud noises, waving arms and throwing sticks and stones.

• Do not allow pets to run free. Small dogs and cats are especially vulnerable.

If a coyote is exhibiting bold behaviors and shows little or no fear of people, contact the Regional Wildlife Office or, in emergency situations, the local police department.

Visit dec.ny.gov/press/12/213.html for more information on coyotes and preventing conflicts with coyotes.

BE COYOTE CONSCIOUS!

From forests and fields to greenhouses, our cities and towns, coyotes are a part of New York's landscape. People and coyotes can share these spaces if we keep coyotes wild by taking these actions:

- NEVER feed coyotes. When coyotes associate people with food, they lose their natural fear of humans.
- Feed pets indoors. Secure garbage cans and trash containers. Remove pet leashes after April 1st and keep your dog on a leash whenever outdoors.
- Do not allow pets to run free. Walk dogs on a leash. Small dogs and cats are especially vulnerable.
- Appreciate coyotes from a distance. If you see a coyote, stand tall and hold your arms up or out to look as large as possible. Do not stare.
- Secure livestock. Use electric fencing and guard dogs. Lock up chickens at night.

COYOTES are an important part of New York's landscape. Making smart choices about how we live and work can help us coexist with them. Following these guidelines will help us share our land safely with our wild neighbors.

Coyotes are about the size of a medium dog, weighing on average about 25 lbs.