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BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 75, Number 02 *January 14, 2026*

Parade, program to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 19

By Morgan E. Maier

To honor the message of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Springfield Baptist Church and Southern Dutchess Coalition (SDC) announce the 47th birthday celebration. The lineup of events to observe and honor Beacon's community and the service of Dr. King welcomes people of all backgrounds, cultures, and races.

On Jan. 19, the historic church, at 8 Mattie Cooper Square in Beacon, will hold a meaningful observation and no-cost opportunities for the wider community to connect. Not just with one another, but also the message of Dr. King. In "Keeping the Dream Alive," the celebration honors his everlasting legacy.

Participants should expect a day of fellowship, according to executive chairperson Jennifer Baker-McClinton. Government officials will be in attendance, including Mayor Lee Kyriacou and Beacon City School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl. The "Keeping the Dream Alive" student essay contest submissions will also be presented.

Beginning with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., attendees can share a meal with their community neighbors before the 11th annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade at 9:30 a.m. Parade participants are encouraged to bring banners, flags, and posters that express messages of peace and inspiring commitments to love. Singing of Negro Spirituals and songs of parade founder Pete Seeger highlight the celebration, as the Southern Dutchess Mass Choir will again perform.

Guest preacher Rev. Barbara Williams will lead the 10:30 a.m. celebration service, which includes prayers to unity and a special presentation to this year's SDC Honorees. This year's honorees are: L'Quette Taylor, Gahiji Manderson, The 84 Diner, Junior Dabashi, and Ruth E. Anderson.

Taylor, a Poughkeepsie native, has organized community cleanup days and youth leadership initiatives with the nonprofit Community Matters 2. He further established NextGen Career Connections to provide impactful professional opportunities, plus programs for mentorship and financial literacy. Manderson has promoted firearm safety and education for the BIPOC community as the co-founder of the Hudson Valley Nubian Gun Club. An educator in the Beacon City School District, he further advocates for young people's mental health, emotional support, and career opportunities.

The 84 Diner, owned by Tony Trigonis and Anthony Moustakas, is a staple in the local community and is a constant supporter of the SDC and its programs. Dabashi fundraises for nonprofits and volunteers for food pantries and veteran support programs. He is deeply involved with community organizations, including I Am Beacon and the Beacon Islamic Center. The owner of three businesses, Anderson has established Taking it to the Streets, which feeds, clothes, and educates the Homeless in her Fishkill community while prioritizing their dignity. She is an esteemed Bible instructor, and shares her encouragement and entrepreneurial experience with youth in seminars.

After the service, a lunch will be provided free of charge to take out or eat in the church dining room. Since its conception 47 years ago, the celebration has been held at Springfield Baptist Church. Established by Beacon community members, including McClinton's late mother, Barbara Baker, the birthday celebration for Dr. King serves as a yearly reminder to commit to unity and equality.

The snow date for the event is Feb. 16.

Working together is message of new Legislature Chair Valdés Smith

By Curtis Schmidt

Yvette Valdés Smith (D- Fishkill, Beacon) addressed residents of Dutchess County and the Legislature with a unifying message of working together after being elected as Chair during the Reorganization Meeting on Jan. 5.

Control of the 25-member Legislature flipped from a 15-10 Republican majority to a 15-10 Democratic majority in the November election. This will be the first Democratic majority since the 2008-2009 term.

"Swearing-in ceremonies serve as strong reminders that there is more that brings us together, than could ever drive us apart as Americans," said Valdés Smith. "Swearing to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of New York is a tradition and commitment that I hold in my heart and mind as a guiding principle."

In welcoming nine new legislators, she said, "I'm proud to say that we are a diverse body and come from wide ranging backgrounds. What we all have in common is our commitment to serving our neighbors, friends, family - no matter what party you belong to or don't belong to. We work for each of you. And we are here to listen, govern, and make our residents' lives better."

Valdés Smith also praised veteran members of the Legislature, saying "In my past two terms, we have accomplished a great amount of work together for the people of Dutchess County. We have accomplished much of that work in a bipartisan manner - through collaboration and respect. I am confident that we will continue and build upon that work as we deliver for every district across Dutchess. Together, we have kept property taxes low, fought a sales tax increase, increased our housing trust fund, and have invested in our Climate Smart goals."

Looking ahead, she said, "We have much to accomplish. We will make Dutchess a county that works for all - not just for some. We deserve affordable, safe, equitable and supportive communities throughout our great county. And we are committed to stewarding in an era of

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Yvette Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill, Beacon) speaks at the Reorganization Meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature on Jan. 5. She was elected Chair of the Legislature, now controlled by Democrats for the first time since the 2008-2009 term.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Aymar-Blair takes Oath of Office in ceremony at FDR Museum

By Curtis Schmidt

For Dan Aymar-Blair, "a one-year term is a test and a three-year term is trust."

The Dutchess County Comptroller was referring to his recent re-election to the role as he addressed a large crowd at his Oath of Office Ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Museum in Hyde Park.

Aymar-Blair defeated Gregg Pulver in the 2024 race for Dutchess County Comptroller and served the final year of the four-year term of Robin Lois, who resigned to become the state's deputy comptroller for local government and school accountability.

In November, he defeated Republican challenger Will Truitt to serve a regular term. His four-year term is shortened by one year (as are thousands of offices in NY) because local elections are moving to the even years.

After taking the Oath of Office administered by newly-elected Dutchess County Court Judge Kara Gerry, Aymar-Blair initially thanked his family members and commented, "That's the hardest part of this type of work – sometimes you have to put your most sacred priorities second."

Continued on page 5

County Executive Serino welcomes Chair Valdés Smith, all legislators

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino gave the following statements following the 2026 Reorganization Meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature on Jan. 5.

"We congratulate each member of the Dutchess County Legislature, both newly elected and those returning, as they are sworn in tonight and begin the 2026 Legislative session. These 25 women and men represent 20 towns, eight villages and two cities, and we look forward to working together in our shared service to all the people who call Dutchess County home.

"Congratulations as well to Yvette Valdés Smith on her election as Chair of the Legislature. Together, we are marking an exciting moment in Dutchess County Government history - the first time women are serving concurrently as County Executive and Chair of the Legislature. I look forward to continuing our collaborative relationship as she steps into this new leadership role. I know we share a commitment to always serving with the best interests of our neighbors in mind.

"There is much work ahead and my experience has taught me that the best results come when we listen to one another and work collectively. My door is always open for the conversations and collaborations that build positive and productive partnerships and help to enhance the lives of our Dutchess County neighbors."

Yvette Valdés Smith, left, new Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, is pictured with County Executive Sue Serino.

-Courtesy photo

Working together is message of new Legislature Chair Valdés Smith

Dutchess County Legislators are sworn in.

-Courtesy photo

Continued from cover

progress, growth and sustainability. Economic development will strengthen and grow as we invest in our communities. We have spoken to thousands of residents throughout our county, and the Message is Clear - the county must do more to support our working families, seniors, veterans, and those struggling with mental health. Affordability, housing, EMS and transportation must be addressed at every level of government and we as your legislators are committed to finding solutions and easing the burden so many of us have felt."

She added, "My door will always be open, and I will serve as everyone's Chair, and I'm grateful and honored to do so.

"Dutchess County, we hear you - We are here, ready to work for you."

Yvette Valdés Smith, new Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, speaks to residents and Legislators.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Treybich confirmed as Counsel to Dutchess County Legislature

At the body's January Organization Meeting, the Dutchess County Legislature confirmed Michael Treybich, Esq. as Counsel to the Dutchess County Legislature. Pursuant to the County Charter, the position of Legislative Counsel is appointed by the Chairman and confirmed by the full Legislature. Treybich is an attorney in private practice in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Treybich said, "It is my honor and privilege to put my skills to use on behalf of the Dutchess County Legislature and to serve the people of Dutchess County, my home."

Chair Yvette Valdés Smith said, "Michael Treybich has the experience and deep legal expertise that is essential for the role of legislative counsel. In addition to his extensive knowledge and skills, he is also incredibly well respected in our community. Mr. Treybich will serve the Dutchess County legislature well, and we look forward to working with him."

At the reorganization meeting, Legislators Michael Polasek (R-LaGrange) and John Metzger (R-East Fishkill) brought up a point of order related to the position of Counsel to the Legislature.

Polasek commented later, "We do not question Mr. Treybich's qualifications, and our concerns were never about the individual appointed. Our concern is with process and precedent. The County Charter provides for a fixed five-year term for Counsel to the Legislature, and terminating a sitting counsel mid-term without articulated cause, findings, or due process raises serious institutional questions. The intent of the original law is clear: this position was designed to provide continuity and professional independence, not to turn over with changing political majorities. We also raised concerns that the Legislature acted without the benefit of independent legal advice due to an inherent conflict, and we proposed addressing the issue through a local law to bring clarity and long-term stability. While the resolution has passed, we believe this issue warrants further review so it does not repeat itself."

Legislator Kristofer Munn (D-Red Hook, Tivoli and Rhinebeck) responded, "The charter language is clear: the legislative counsel serves 'at the pleasure of the legislature' as do the vast majority of legislative appointments. The suggestion that counsel could be terminated if there was some sort of cause or findings proves that point. The five-year term simply states how long he or she can act in that capacity without reappointment. In addition, NYS legal ethics give clients unfettered authority to choose their own attorney and it would be unethical for an attorney to try to remain where he is not wanted."

Treybich's 17 years of experience as an attorney includes acting as parliamentarian for and representing dozens of companies, condominium and coop boards in their governance, running annual meetings, and their commercial lawsuits; and municipalities, elected officials and candidates in election law matters. His clients have trusted him to deliver results in million dollar commercial cases and he has successfully sued and defended lawsuits by mortgage lenders and insurance companies who failed to meet their obligations.

Boil Water Notice lifted after water main break in Beacon

The estimated cost to fix a water main break that occurred in the Groveville area of the City of Beacon will cost around $25,000, according to City of Beacon Administrator Chris White. The water system lost pressure due to a significant water main break on a 10-inch water main on Jan. 7, according to a Boil Water Notice posted on the City's social media, as well as distributed on Jan. 8 via paper copy. The notice applied to Fishkill Ave. from Conklin St. to the City border at Prospect St., and included Meade Ave., De Soto Ave. and State St. Schools in the Beacon City School District were let out early on Jan. 7 while crews fixed the break. White said the water main was "roughly 90-100 years old."

On social media, it was posted, "The City has completed emergency repairs to address the water main break along Fishkill Avenue, and water service is fully restored. The City is issuing a targeted boil water advisory for water customers along Fishkill Avenue from Conklin Street to the Town of Fishkill border, including all side streets."

According to the Boil Water Notice, "when water mains lose pressure it increases the chance that untreated water and harmful microbes can enter [one's] water." The notice told residents and business owners to boil water for the next four days and they would be told when boiling water is no longer necessary.

It was added, on the social media post, "If you are experiencing discolored water, please run cold taps until water runs clear. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience. We also are grateful to our Water Dept which went above and beyond today to address this emergency."

Asked if there would be any other necessary work done to that water main besides the work that was done on Jan. 7, White replied there would be "[a]dditional water shut-off valves will be installed."

Asked if the break had anything to do with the Fishkill Ave. project, White responded, "None."

The boil water notice was lifted on Jan. 10.

IMPACT PR & Communications

Investing in Our Community: The Lasting Power of Local Giving

See OP-Ed, page 4

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

IMPACT PR & Communications

Beacon City Council members take oath

By Kristine Coulter

The City of Beacon Swearing-in Ceremony took place at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main St. on Sunday, Jan. 4.

Terry Nelson, who formerly represented Ward 1, hosted the ceremony.

Nelson remarked to those who were about to take the oath of office, "I commend you all for stepping up to the plate and serving us."

Pastor John E. Perez, of the Family Transformation Church, gave the opening Invocation and closing Benediction during the ceremony. Perez gave thanks for those who are stepping forward to represent the city.

"May they listen deeply, especially to those voices too often overlooked," he remarked.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou offered remarks. "Congratulations to our candidates who will soon be sworn in." He offered thanks for their community service.

The mayor noted he has been in community service for almost 30 years and "the motive in every case was community service," he said about those who have previously served, adding "try to remember that."

Kyriacou mentioned his parents and how he learned from them hospitality.

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson thanked the outgoing elected officials for their service to the community and asked those in attendance to give them a hand. Those City of Beacon Council members were George Mansfield, Pam Wetherbee, and Jeff Domanski, as well as County Legislator Nick Page.

"To the newly elected officials, you'll be surprised to find out how many of your neighbors watch the City Council meetings." said the assemblyman. He noted he is looking forward to working with them and his door is always open to them.

Yvette Valdés Smith was sworn in for Dutchess County Legislature District 16.

"It is an incredible honor to serve the incredible city," said Valdés Smith.

Molly Rhodes took the oath to represent County Legislature District 18.

Rhodes told those in attendance, "We would not be here without you."

Lastar Gorton was sworn in to represent Ward 1 residents.

Zack Smith took the oath to represent residents in Ward 2.

Ward 3 residents will be represented by Sergei Krasikov, who was sworn in during the ceremony.

Carolyn Glauda took the oath and is now the Council Member for Ward 4 residents.

Amber Grant and Paloma Wake were sworn in to serve again as at-large council members.

The elected officials were sworn in by City of Beacon Judge Gregory Johnston.

Presentation of the Colors & Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scout Troop 1 of Beacon and Girl Scout Troops of Beacon.

Melvin Tunstall III sang "Lift Up Every Voice & Sing."

The National Anthem was sung by Anastasia and Sophia Kyriacou.

Newly sworn in City of Beacon elected officials made comments during the Mon., Jan. 5 meeting in City Hall. That was the first meeting of the year with the new council members.

From left: Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou, Ward 1 Council Member Lastar Gorton, Ward 4 Council Member Carolyn Glauda, Ward 3 Council Member Sergei Krasikov, At-Large Council Member Paloma Wake, Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair, Ward 2 Council Member Zack Smith, Dutchess County Legislator Molly Rhodes, Dutchess County Legislator Yvette Valdes Smith, NY State Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson. (Not pictured At-Large Council Member Amber Grant).

-Courtesy photo City of Beacon

Gorton said anyone who has any concerns should feel free to contact her.

"I'm very excited and happy to be here," she said.

Smith thanked those who offered suggestions.

Krasikov, who now represents Ward 3, said, he is "very happy to be on this side of the table." He thanked everyone who supported him.

Glauda stated there is an open seat on the Traffic Safety Committee, which she was previously served on.

"I just wanted to say it's an honor to be here for my fifth term," remarked Grant. She said she is excited to work with the new council and welcomed.

Those who were sworn in for the Council faced no opposition on the ballot. The Mayor position was not on the ballot in November.

Change made to 2026 Council meeting schedule

By Kristine Coulter

The 2026 meeting scheduled was discussed by the council during the first meeting of the year. They will meet at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of the month, unless it is a holiday..

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou brought up having two meetings in the month instead of four. There would be a workshop meeting and then the regular council meeting. The council has done type of schedule in the past during the summer, noted the mayor.

"Let's talk about the meeting schedule. As I described, the last several summers, we have the schedule, what we're doing this evening, which is have a workshop and immediately following have a formal council meeting. We did that for this first meeting, because under our rules you would have had to come to workshop in December, which was a little early for you all and we're required to hold the first meeting on the first Monday of the year," remarked the mayor.

The proposal was for a schedule for 2026 that we do that as the general rule going forward, according to Kyriacou. "If we need to have additional meetings we can certainly do that. If we need to change it, we can certainly do it," he added.

Attorney Christian Gates explained, it is very common to adopt new scheduled for whole year at the beginning of the year. This will allow notice to be given to community and media without having to be continuously given, he said. This would help the administrator staff and attorney staff with agenda items, according to Gates, and allows for more time to have a real thought-out progress of agenda items for council.

Kyriacou mentioned that no other local community meets as much as Beacon.

At-large council member Paloma Wake said she is not saying 'no,' but wanted to make sure there are no unintended consequences. Wake said council members have to make sure there is space for the council and public to have time to consider issues.

City Administrator Chris White said they can wait on complex items, but any member of council can flag items that might need additional time and build that in.

At-large council member Amber Grant said it could possibly help the public by not having to keep track of four meetings. It might be good if the public could tune in for workshops meetings more where council spends sometimes hours talking about issues.

White said, "We do try to figure out how much is time sensitive…and if you think we're doing too little or too much, let us know."

Kyriacou remarked, "We'll try it out and collect input."

By April they will have discussion on how the meetings are going, it was remarked.

Grant was appointed as Acting Mayor, if the Mayor is absent.

John Gunn, James Vermuelen, Kevin Byrne, and David Jensen were appointed to the City of Beacon Planning Board.

Przytula welcomed by fellow Fishkill Town Board members

By Kristine Coulter

Donald Przytula was welcomed as the newest Town of Fishkill Board member. Councilwoman Jacqueline Bardini was welcomed back to the Board at the Board's Jan. 7 meeting at the Fishkill Town Hall.

Councilman Greg Totino said, "I would like to welcome our new colleague."

Councilman Brian Wrye remarked to Przytula, "I also want to welcome you."

Wrye said he looks forward to working with Przytula.

"You and I had a good meeting today," Wrye said to Przytula.

Przytula said to his fellow board members, "I just want to say thank you for welcoming here today. I hope, over the next couple years, I earn the trust the town has put in me and elected me to this position. Thank you very much."

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra thanked former Councilman John Forman. He said Forman played an instrumental part "in us getting our parks, infrastructure" up to par.

Albra also thanked former Town Clerk Becki Tompkins.

Albra welcomed Przytula. "Don is one of the many people who loses his first election and the second time they get it." Wrye and Totino won their first election, noted Albra. Three (Albra, Bardini and Przytula), lost their first election, Albra mentioned. "If you lose, try, try again and you'll eventually succeed," suggested the supervisor. The Supervisor position was not on the ballot in November.

Albra welcomed Cooper Leatherwood, the new Town Clerk.

"Thank you, Cooper for all your hard work and dedication to the town," remarked Albra.

Przytula was named delegate for Association of Towns of the State of New York's 2026 annual meeting in Feb.

Viewpoints

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon. Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to newsplace@aol.com, and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

Public service is about improving people's lives

The following is a letter written by Assemblyman Anil R. Beephan Jr. to his colleagues about public service.

To my colleagues in public service:

Congratulations to each of you as you take the oath of office and begin this new chapter of leadership. Regardless of party or ideology, I am proud to call you partners in government, united by a shared responsibility to serve the people who placed their trust in us.

I have never believed in prioritizing politics over people. Our residents expect—and deserve—leaders who are willing to work together, listen thoughtfully, and focus on solutions rather than divisions. I look forward to collaborating with each of you in that spirit as we address the issues that matter most to our communities.

We have no shortage of work ahead. From the urgent need for affordable and reliable energy, to finally designating EMS as an essential service, to confronting our housing crisis and rising medical costs, the challenges before us are significant—but not insurmountable when approached with cooperation and good faith.

Public service is about outcomes, not headlines. It is about improving quality of life, strengthening our communities, and ensuring that government works for the people it serves. I am eager to work alongside you to advance policies that reflect those values and deliver meaningful results for our residents.

Once again, congratulations, and best wishes as you begin your term of service. I look forward to the work ahead and to what we can accomplish together.

Anil R. Beephan Jr.
New York State Assemblyman, District 105

BEACON FREE PRESS

Published Weekly, Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc.
84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Albert Osten, President

serving the communities of:
Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wiccopee,
New Hackensack and Stormville
Publisher - Albert Osten
Editor - Kristine Coulter
Reporter - Morgan E. Maier
Art Director - Sharon Browne
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Advertising Representative - Jaimie Rodriguez
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Advertising rates - furnished upon request
To advertise - 845-297-3723 - sdnadvertising@aol.com
Advertising deadline is Friday at noon
Telephone: 297-3723 Fax: 297-6810
E-Mail address for letters: newsplace@aol.com

(USPS 665900) (USPS 665900)

THE BEACON FREE PRESS (ISSN 0192-9631) is published weekly by the Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc., 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Second-Class postage paid at Wappingers Falls, 12590 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEACON FREE PRESS, 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

Investing in our community: The lasting power of local giving

By Laura Washington

As we begin a new year, many of us are planning for the year ahead. During these conversations, the importance of investing in our community has never been clearer. Here in the Hudson Valley, local giving is a year-round commitment and a critical investment in our regional resilience.

Your Role – Supporting the Causes That Matter to You - When you give locally, you:

- Keep essential services running during the toughest months of the year.
- Support nonprofits that provide food, shelter, childcare, education, and mental health care.
- Strengthen the volunteer networks that hold our communities together.
- Help build long-term systems that ensure our towns and cities remain livable, equitable, and vibrant.

Local giving offers something uniquely rewarding: the ability to see the impact of your contributions. You can meet the organizations you support, witness the change your dollars help create, and take pride in knowing your generosity strengthens the place you call home. An Invitation to Belong - One key insight from the conversations I have been having since joining Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley stands out: "Service isn't a transaction. It's an invitation to belong."

As we turn the calendar and look ahead to the year before us, I invite you to embrace that sense of belonging, not only through your charitable gifts but also through your presence, partnership, and belief in the Hudson Valley's potential.

Think of your recent giving and your commitments for the year ahead as:

- A vote of confidence in the Hudson Valley's future.
- A commitment to equity and opportunity for all our neighbors.
- A gesture of belonging in a region where we rise or fall together.

Whether you contribute to a local nonprofit, volunteer your time, or collaborate with us at CFHV to build long-term community investments, your generosity shapes the narrative of who we are and who we can become.

As we start this new year, I invite you to invest where you live. Together, we can ensure that the Hudson Valley remains not just a home, but a place where every family, child, and community can thrive.

Laura Washington is President and CEO of Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

'So many of our worries are specters of our own creation'

To the Editor:

My father died 8 years ago this month. Although we weren't as close as we might have been, I find myself missing him more as the years go by. Perhaps sadder memories melt with time, leaving the happier ones to shine. Maybe as I have gotten older, life has humbled me, and I look less harshly on his shortcomings now that my own have become so exposed. I don't know.

As I stand by his grave, I think of all the worries, stress, fears and anxieties that weighed him down at times, now forgotten and buried with him. I gaze about his neighbors and realize they too shared many of the same troubles. How unimportant they all seem now, though at the time they robbed them of their peace. No one cares now, certainly not those in the grave, but it does seem strange to me that those things which so often haunt us are so quickly and easily forgotten.

There's a lesson in all this. So many of our worries are specters of our own creation. How silly to dwell on them.

Rest in peace, Dad. There are no more bills, no more restless nights, no more worries.

It's advice we who stand on the other side of the grave would do well to take.

Jeffrey Mahoney
Hyde Park

Thank you to all who have donated to help the people of Ukraine

To the Editor:

With Russia's tremendous escalation of attacks on heat, power and water as temperatures in Kyiv plunge below zero, I want to remember and thank the Stanford Fire Company and their clothing, jacket, and sleeping bag drive back during that first winter of full scale war.

Thank you to everyone who donated--those items are saving lives still.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

Democratic Caucus set for Jan. 24 in Wappingers Falls

Notice is given to all enrolled Democrats in the Village of Wappingers Falls a meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 2:30 p.m. at W. T. Garner Firehouse, 25 W. Academy St., in Wappingers Falls.

Thr purpose is to select and nominate candidates for the Village Board of Trustees from Wards 1, 2, and 3.

Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. and one must sign in before 3 p.m. when doors close.

All Democrats enrolled in the Village of Wappingers Falls are eligible and encouraged to attend, it was noted.

Board of Health to meet on January 15

The Dutchess County Board of Health will be holding the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 4 p.m. at the Dutchess County Department of Health, at 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 106, in the City of Poughkeepsie. One may participate via Microsoft Teams by calling 1-516-268-4602 and entering the Conference ID number: 933 903 82#.

Aymar-Blair takes Oath of Office in ceremony at FDR Museum

Dan Aymar-Blair is sworn in as Dutchess County Comptroller by Dutchess County Court Judge Kara Gerry at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum on Jan. 10 in Hyde Park. He is pictured with members of his family.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

Continued from cover

He added, "I am pleased to work with Sheriff Kirk Imperati, District Attorney Anthony Parisi, County Executive Sue Serino and everyone who witnesses my commitment to the people of Dutchess County."

According to the Dutchess County website, the comptroller serves as both the chief accounting officer and chief auditing officer of the county, auditing "all county departments and outside agencies funded by the county."

Aymar-Blair said his role is "to assess, to study what we have learned and to do better in the future." He promised to serve the needs of the people of Dutchess County, innovate, lead and overcome challenges.

Guest speaker New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli called Aymar-Blair "an in-depth partner to help (county residents) navigate challenging times." He said federal cuts will be felt at the state level and local towns and counties and "we will be doing our best to minimize the effect of those cuts, but they will make it very difficult on all of us." He said Aymar-Blair will be "a voice for accountability and keep you informed of how money is used and being spent. He uses plain language to explain government accounting. He is a model for what being a comptroller is all about, a fiscal watchdog and an ethical compass, putting people first."

Yvette Valdés Smith, newly-elected chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, said "In Dan, we have clarity and transparency, making sure your tax dollars are not wasted. Integrity is the cornerstone of good government. Dan is a win for all of the people of Dutchess. He is a true public servant."

New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli offers remarks during Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair's swearing-in ceremony in Hyde Park on Jan. 10.

Additional speakers included NYS Assemblymember Didi Barrett and Dutchess County Legislator Brendan Lawler. Dr. Edward L. Hunt, pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, provided the invocation; County Veteran Services Director Adam Roche led the Pledge of Allegiance; Sarah-Grace White sang the National Anthem; members of the Marine Corps League of Dutchess County Carmen Ramputi Detachment 861 handled the Presentation of Colors, and the emcee was Nedra Patterson Thompson, majority leader of the Poughkeepsie Common Council.

Swearing-in ceremony held in Wappinger

The Town of Wappinger Swearing-in Ceremony was held on Jan. 2 at Carnwath Historic Site and Park in Wappinger.

-Courtesy photo Town of Wappinger

By Kristine Coulter

The Town of Wappinger Inauguration Ceremony was held at Carnwath Farms Historic Site and Park on the evening of Friday, Jan. 2. Sworn in were Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, Councilman William Beale, Councilwoman Heather O'Dell, Councilman Christopher Phillips, Councilman Al Casella, Dutchess County Legislator Kevin Giles, Dutchess County Legislator Alix Winsby and Dutchess County Legislator Robert Faust. Wappinger Town Justice Heather Kitchen also took the oath of office.

NYS Senator Rob Rolison led the ceremony. "What a wonderful evening here at Carnwath Farms in this beautiful hall, which is representative of the great Town of Wappinger and what we're about to do here tonight, the swearing in of our newly elected officials," remarked Rolison.

Judge Nicholas Maselli swore in the officials.

"We ask you to be with us this evening, as we celebrate, those Lord, who you have ordained to lead our community," said Dr. Edward L. Hunt, pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. He added, "Help us to be a community of oneness."

Beale was sworn in to office for another term to represent Ward 1.

O'Dell took the oath for the first time to represent those residents in Ward 2.

Phillips took the oath for another term. He represents Ward 3 residents.

Ward 4 will be represented by Casella again, who took the oath of office during the ceremony.

Giles took the oath to represent District 13.

Giles said he has great memories at Carnwath Farms. Giles thanked his family members, offered appreciation to his mom for his work ethic.

"Most of all I want to thank the residents of Wappinger for this honor," remarked Giles. He said he would enhance the quality of life for the Wappinger residents.

Winsby was sworn in to represent residents in Dutchess County Legislature District 14.

Faust was sworn in to represent District 15 again.

Cavaccini was sworn in for his second term.

He said he was filled with gratitude and pride.

"This is a huge milestone for our town, not just at this site but how we operate our town moving forward. Rehabilitating and reimagining the places we have had for years." said the supervisor. He noted the recent time capsule that was planted for the 150th year of the town.

Cavaccini's remarks included the mention of the Town's new community center at Brexel-Schlathaus Park.

"Our goal remains simple and steadfast - to make Wappinger a place that you are proud to live," said Cavaccini. He said he wants Wappinger to be a place to thrive, where one can put down roots and enjoy benefits of a government that works for the residents. He thanked all the Wappinger employees.

Michele Baez, "our resident singer," said Rolison, sang the National Anthem.

Wappinger Scouts from Pack 140 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I wish you nothing but the best in your positions," said Rolison.

County Clerk's Record Room temporarily relocated starting Jan. 15

Starting Thursday, Jan. 15th, the Dutchess County Clerk's Record Room and Requisition Desk will be temporarily relocated to the third floor of the County Office Building (COB) at 22 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. The facilities, currently located on the second floor, will close to the public at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14th for the move and will reopen on the 3rd floor at noon on Thursday, Jan. 15th. Signage will be posted directing visitors.

The temporary relocation is part of ongoing work in the COB on a multi-year, building-wide HVAC improvement project. During construction, which is anticipated to continue through the summer, there may be delays with accessing paper records or record retrieval. Many Dutchess County land and legal records are available 24/7 online at https://www.dutchessny.gov/countyclerk. Dutchess County Supreme Court records are also available online at the New York State Courts Electronic Filing (NYSCEF) website.

For questions or concerns, contact the Dutchess County Clerk's office at 845-486-2125.

Fjord Trail environmental impact statement completed

The Notice of Completion of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) was published by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), it was announced on Jan. 7. The FGEIS includes responses to all comments received during the public review period. The review period was from Dec. 4, 2024 through Mar. 4, 2025.

"OPRHP's Notice of Completion of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement is a significant milestone for the Fjord Trail project. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to review the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) and submit comments. We are especially appreciative of NYS Parks as lead agency for conducting such a thorough and deliberative review," said

Peter Mullan, HHFT President and CEO.

"The diligence and care that State Parks has taken in preparing the FGEIS reflects our shared commitment to honoring, protecting, and stewarding the extraordinary natural resources in the Hudson Highlands while providing safe access to this landscape to people of all ages and abilities. This document will meaningfully inform the Fjord Trail project as we move forward," said HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala.

The document can be reviewed at https://hhft.org/.

SUNY awards DCC $10,000 grant to improve transportation access for students

The State University of New York (SUNY) awarded Dutchess Community College a $10,000 grant to improve transportation access for students who struggle to access a safe, reliable way to get to class.

-Courtesy photo

The State University of New York (SUNY) awarded Dutchess Community College a $10,000 grant to improve transportation access and support students who struggle to access a safe, reliable means of getting to class.

Many DCC students live on campus or in rural areas, and many are low-income. These students are disproportionately more likely to rely on public transit to get to and from class, work, medical appointments, grocery shopping and anywhere else they may need to go.

"Transportation is crucial to access and success for our students who commute to school, field experiences, different DCC locations, and jobs — sometimes in the same day. When they must choose between covering transportation costs or feeding their families, they rightly choose to take care of their loved ones," said DCC President Dr. Peter Grant Jordan. "This funding will allow us to build on our previous work to mitigate or eliminate one of the major barriers to access and completion that our students face. We truly appreciate Governor Kathy Hochul, the State Legislature, the SUNY Board of Trustees, Chancellor King, and our entire system leadership, and thank them for their foresight and support on behalf of students in our region."

DCC will use the funding to strengthen partnerships with local transit and government agencies, improve route communications and explore other ways of making transportation work better for students. The College is one of five SUNY campuses to receive the funds and is part of a larger SUNY effort to address basic needs insecurities that can stand in the way of current and prospective students' ability to access and complete a higher education.

"At SUNY we are committed to equipping our students with all the resources that they need to succeed in their studies and achieve their dreams," said SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. King Jr. "This means providing affordable academic excellence, while also ensuring that our students have access to essential support such as food, housing and transportation."

Arlington wrestlers win, Presidents show strength at Highland tournament

By Morgan E. Maier

Though only one team was victorious at the Highland High School round robin wrestling tournament, each of the 10 attending programs displayed their strongest talents on Saturday, January 10. Reigning Section 1 champion Arlington and the emerging Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidents scored a barrage of statement wins and top finishes, capped by the Admirals' win in the team tournament.

Led by captains Antonio Quinones and Dylan Rodrigue, who earned their weight class titles in rapid succession, Arlington scored 250 team points for the tournament win. Senior Dennis Byrne kick-started the momentum in the final stage with a third place finish in the 126-pound class.

"My team is on a mission. They know when they're at a winnable tournament from a team standpoint. They have a great mindset, they're out there trying to get pins. The ultimate reason we're here [at the Highland tournament] is to get mat time, learn lessons, to get better as the season goes on," said Arlington head coach Dave Grafmuller following the tournament's third round.

Chase Mulvany took first in the 110-pound final over John Jay's Pharoah Wright, 13-2. Zavier Durandisse took on another Wappingers wrestler, Sami Shahid, securing gold and 18 points for his Admirals team with the fall at 4:07. Liam Tompkins outlasted reigning Section 9 champion Jacob Declair with an 8-0 win. Antonio Quinones followed by securing first place in the 157-pound group at 1:55. Abdur Deonarayan took second and fourth in the 215-pound group.

Talan Rampolla came third in the 103-pound weight class after an impressive pool play performance, including one especially gritty, come-from-behind victory to earn a placer (top six) position.

"They're really buying into making their opponents work for everything, so they can be on the mat longer, they can learn more, and hopefully end up with the win," added Grafmuller of his team's mid-tournament performance.

Different than the normal wrestling bracket, the round-robin style offers an opportunity to face unknown teams and opponents, and further grow from each second of experience.

The Roosevelt wrestlers displayed their aggressiveness, as noted early by head coach Eric Scuitto.

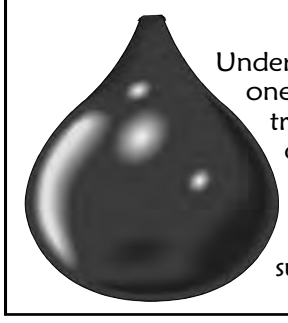
"I see a lot of excellent hand fighting. We're taking lots of good risks, we're seeing it, and we're immediately taking the shots and wrestling in better positions. A lot of confidence today, a lot of grit, and a lot of resilience in tough situations," said Scuitto.

Scuitto was pleased with his team's opening performance, as they won 11 of 13 first round matches. The team that once appeared at the very Highland tournament with a handful of overall wins ended tied for fifth place with the hosting Huskies. The growth is palpable, the potential undeniable for this program.

The individual performances, including 11 placers (top six finishers), highlighted the Presidents' tournament. Brennan Paul, Malakhi Sellers, and Dillon Scott took a team-high third place in their respective weight classes. Paul got the pin in 3:22, while Sellers went the distance in a dominant 18-1 performance. Cingston Lambert took 6th in the 190-pound class, pinned by Arlington's Griffen Realmuto.

"It's nice to be back in the action. We were at some really challenging tournaments, the Mid-Hudson Tournament and Eastern States, so it feels good to come to a tournament that we can all compete in, and know that we're right in the mix," added Scuitto.

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE



Who needs blood?

Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

Dutchess County District Attorney Drug Task Force announces record-breaking year

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force announced a historic year of aggressive, intelligence driven operations that directly targeted narcotic and dangerous drug traffickers across the county. In 2025, the Task Force executed more raids and made more felony arrests and conducted more covert narcotics buys than at any point in its 36-year history, a clear message that drug dealers will face swift and decisive consequences in Dutchess County.

"Our top priority is protecting the people of Dutchess County and saving lives," said Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi. "The District Attorney's Drug Task Force and law enforcement partners use intelligence-driven investigations and smart, strategic prosecution to disassemble drug networks and keep fentanyl and other deadly substances out of our communities. Every investigation, every arrest, and every seizure puts traffickers on notice if you deal drugs in Dutchess County, you will be identified, targeted, and held fully accountable under the law."

Created in 1989, the Drug Task Force has always been committed to saving lives by removing lethal substances from local communities. But 2025 marked a year defined by relentless investigative pace, coordinated intelligence with precise execution, and a refusal to allow narcotic and dangerous drug dealers to operate with impunity. Working side by side with prosecutors from the District Attorney's Office Violent Crimes and Dangerous Drug Unit, the Task Force continues to set operational standards for narcotics enforcement.

"Drug dealers are killing our residents with Fentanyl and other poisons," said Drug Task Force Coordinator Adam Harris. "This year, we made it unmistakably clear: if you sell deadly drugs in Dutchess County, we will find you, we will dismantle your operation, and we will hold you fully accountable. These numbers are not statistics, the work done by the District Attorney's Drug Task Force saves lives. Every warrant or raid, every arrest, every seizure is one less opportunity for a dealer to put Fentanyl and other dangerous drugs into the hands of our residents."

2025 Results: A new level of accountability

37 search warrants and raids executed across Dutchess County targeting high risk drug operations.

75 felony arrests (Class A, B, and C) of narcotic and dangerous drug dealers.

10 illegal handguns seized from individuals engaged in drug trafficking.

230 covert drug purchases conducted to identify, infiltrate, and dismantle distribution networks.

The Drug Task Force is composed of investigators and agents from multiple law enforcement agencies, each contributing specialized expertise to a unified mission:

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office – 1 Supervisor, 3 Investigators

District Attorney's Office – 1 Legal Secretary, 1 K 9 trained in narcotics detection

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration – 1 Agent

City of Beacon Police Department – 1 Investigator

Town of East Fishkill Police Department – 1 Investigator

City of Poughkeepsie Police Department – 1 Investigator

Town of Hyde Park Police Department – 1 Investigator

Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department – 1 Investigator

Town of Fishkill Police Department – 1 Investigator

The Task Force extends its appreciation to the tactical and specialty units whose support was essential in executing high risk operations:

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Unit (SWAT)

Poughkeepsie Joint SWAT Team

New York State Police Community Stabilization Unit

These partnerships allow us to move faster, strike harder, and operate with the precision these dangerous and critical investigations demand.

The Task Force emphasized that 2025 is not an outlier — it is the new baseline.

"We are not slowing down. We are not backing off. If you choose to sell narcotics in Dutchess County, understand this: we are coming" said Drug Task Force Coordinator Adam Harris.

If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, you are urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by emailing one's tips to Drugtaskforcetips@gmail.com.

DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

www.DCHSNY.org/ddp

DCHS Dutchess County Historical Society

1776: The launch of journeys of the working class

By Bill Jeffway

The July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence announced the creation of a nation based on a radical premise at the time: that all men are created equal and possess unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This stood in stark contrast to the European world most colonists had come from—a world of an inherited monarchy (and inherited poverty) with its fixed economic and social ranks.

The promise of equality was heard by many as including economic fairness and equal economic opportunity. They challenged the new nation to dismantle the old systems that kept wealth, land, and power in the hands of a few, and started to remove the barriers that made poverty permanent.

Yet long before 1776, those old systems were deeply rooted locally.

With the 1706 creation of the Little Nine Partners Patent to the north, just over a dozen wealthy men owned and controlled virtually all the land in what was or would become Dutchess County. This is just less than a century after the 1609 arrival of Henry Hudson on behalf of the Dutch.

Four years later, in 1710, more than twelve hundred impoverished German Palatine immigrants—the largest single migration to the colonies up to that time—settled at what is now Germantown, on Livingston Manor, then making up northernmost Dutchess County. They arrived with hopes of economic fairness and opportunity. Instead, they found the same European feudal system.

Under this system, a great landowner held full title to the land and leased farms to tenants in exchange for annual rents, often paid in wheat or fowl. The tenant could improve the farm buildings and land, but never own them. Because voting rights were tied to property ownership, this system excluded most working class and farmers from political power. Without ownership, there was little chance to build lasting wealth.

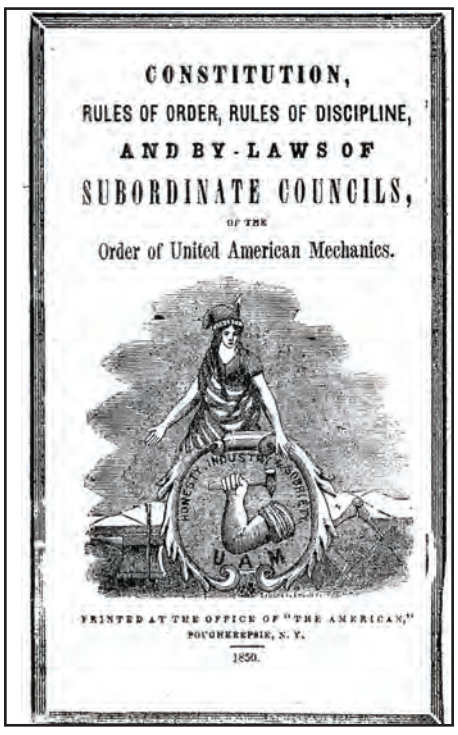
On top of this, the Palatine settlement's original economic purpose—producing tar and turpentine from pine trees for the British Navy—failed immediately because the local pines were the wrong species.

Grievances and uprisings

Violent tenant uprisings in the 18th century in the Philipse Patent in what was then southern Dutchess (today's Putnam County), and in both the 18th and 19th centuries at Livingston Manor, reveal just how deep and persistent these grievances were. Although the American Revolution swept away the legal titles of lords and manors, it did not immediately eliminate the landlord–tenant system itself.

In Dutchess County, the last major remnant of this structure survived until 1889, when 28 farms totaling 4,000 acres in the Little Nine Partners Patent were finally sold off at auction. Many tenant farmers could not afford to buy the farms their families had been on for generations.

Still, by the time the Declaration of Independence was published, expectations of fairness and opportunity were already in the air. In this period, the term "mechanics" was used broadly to describe the entire working class: artisans, laborers, and tradesmen.


CONSTITUTION,
RULES OF ORDER, RULES OF DISCIPLINE,
AND BY-LAWS OF
SUBORDINATE COUNCILS,
OF THE
Order of United American Mechanics.

HONESTY · INDUSTRY · SOBRIETY

U A M

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF "THE AMERICAN,"
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.
1850.

In 1850, Dutchess County had a disproportionately high concentration of councils of the Order of United American Mechanics with groups organized in Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Hyde Park, Fishkill Landing, Schultzville (Clinton), and Pine Plains.

On May 29, 1776, just weeks before the Declaration of Independence, Lewis Thibou, chairman of the General Committee of Mechanics of New York City, presented what became known as the Mechanics' Declaration of Independence, demanding justice from those "whose dominions have been made rich by our commerce." The country's founding documents were being literally adopted and used to advance working class rights.

Progress came slowly and unevenly. In New York State, property requirements for white male voters were finally eliminated with the 1822 constitution, but were retained for Black citizens until the 1870 adoption of the 15th US Constitutional Amendment made them illegal.

Imprisonment for debt was abolished in 1831. Child labor laws requiring three months education of children emerged in 1836.

Ideas from reformers

Early reformers included radical voices, such as Frances Wright. She argued that inherited wealth itself should be abolished. In her vision, every person would begin life with equal resources. Children would be educated uniformly, even removed from their families, to prevent inequality from reproducing itself. These ideas were too extreme for most Americans—but they reveal how deeply some people believed the social order itself needed to be rebuilt.

This image is from the Poughkeepsie Journal Building, built in the 1940s. Founding father Benjamin Franklin was frequently invoked by the 19th century mechanics movement as the ideal of the working man, in this case, a printer. The movement argued that trough virtue, sobriety and frugality, any man can rise to leadership positions in the nation.

-Images courtesy of DCHS Collections

A local man, Rhinebeck's Nathan Darling (1802–1866), cast an important vote in 1830 in the burgeoning labor movement in New York City to push the effort to a more moderate middle ground. Born into deep poverty, Darling moved to New York City and worked as a house painter. In 1830, he became a delegate in the organized mechanics' labor movement at a critical moment. When the movement was at risk of being defined by proposals that were too radical to win broad support, Darling cast a pivotal vote that helped shift the program toward achievable political and economic reforms. That moderation allowed the workingmen's movement to grow rather than fracture. Darling later went on to a successful military and political career and built the 1858 home that still stands today.

The Working Man's Advocate of October 19, 1844 reported on a meeting in the town of Clinton at Salt Point. Labor advocates argued at the gathering that Dutchess County contained "7,000 landless slaves," explaining that in Dutchess County for every one landowner, there are seven who are landless.

The moral urgency behind the movement remained unmistakable. In 1845, the Working Man's Advocate declared: "The right of an oppressed and downtrodden man to labor and enjoy what it produces, must finally triumph!" The article asked, in anguish, why "these savage hovels" stood beside "vast and gorgeous palaces," and why ignorance persisted amid supposed provisions for education. The writer was standing at a place overlooking what was Livingston Manor and northern Dutchess County.

Education itself became one of the great battlegrounds. The long struggle to establish free public education culminated in a statewide system by the 1860s. This was preceded by efforts to create free circulating libraries and reading rooms to make knowledge accessible to all.

In 1849, Jesse Torrey Jr. announced that Poughkeepsie would serve as the base for his American School Library, a national effort to push away the dominant use of British schoolbooks for American children. It is most revealing that the appendix to his 1828 book, "Mental Museum for the Rising Generation," includes the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and his own plans for free circulating libraries—clearly seeing them as parts of the same democratic project.

By the time of the American centennial, progress had been made. But the emerging industrial age was bringing a whole new set of workplace challenges. Meaningful child labor laws were still a generation away. But the journeys to working class equality and economic fairness have clear roots in the 1776 American Revolution's promise.

Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsny.org or 845-293-7711.

Village of Wappingers Falls Republicans to meet Jan. 27

The Village of Wappingers Falls Republican caucus meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at Johnson's firehouse, 5 School Street, in Wappingers Falls.

The agenda will include nominating candidates for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wards in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

love to cook **by vicki frank day**

Healthy and happy

Lentil Pilaf is a hearty, nutritious and satisfying winter dish.

We're just far enough into January that it's safe to write about eating healthier without it seeming like a New Year's resolution. In years past I've made known the fact that I'm not a firm believer in them, but that's not to say I'm opposed to anyone who does. It's just I know myself well enough that I'm not apt to stick to any resolutions I might make in the throes of fresh-start zeal, no matter how good the intentions.

I'm actually writing about healthy eating because, after the holidays' mass consumption of rich, decadent foods, my body is craving lighter, fresher meals because High Cholesterol has moved in and it's time for her to pack her things and go. The other day, a tossed salad was just what I needed to kick things off, but because it's so cold outside I'm now wanting warm comfort. Usually, for me, that means The Big Three: pot pies, cheesy gratins and pasta in cream sauce; but they traditionally don't fit the healthy bill, so it was time to put on my thinking apron.

I thought it logical to start by substituting ingredients in The Big Three to lighten them up but, much like drinking non-alcoholic wine, it just wasn't the same and only served to remind me that what I wanted was the real thing. So then I made a mental list of my favorite non-salad healthy foods, which included salmon, lentils, ground turkey, nuts, avocados, root vegetables and bitter greens. Putting all of those together would be delicious, but I chose just a few inspired by a fond memory.

Once upon a time, my sister and I shared an apartment. We were working for a landscaper at the time and not only were in great shape but also had access to some great fresh produce generously given to us from clients' gardens. We also had a small garden patch of our own, so vegetables were always on the menu. But woman cannot live on vegetables alone (well, those hard-working women couldn't), so a favorite go-to meal for us was lentil pilaf with sauteed beet greens on the side, which was my starting point. Sadly, I did not have beet greens, but I did have arugula, so I made a side salad with a bright lemon-olive oil dressing, which was the perfect contrast to lighten up the hearty pilaf and rich salmon.

The lentil pilaf we made back then was a boxed Near East product, which has since been discontinued. That meant that, if I wanted it, I had to come up with a recipe on my own based on what I remembered. A little research and experimentation helped get me the results I wanted: a healthy, hearty dish to feel good about.

LENTIL PILAF

When researching the best way to include lentils in this recipe, it was widely suggested that they should be parboiled before adding to the rice to ensure they're fully cooked, so that's what I did. Once cooked, they're added to a skillet with uncooked rice and the broth added does the rest. In my excitement I forgot how much rice and lentils expand when cooked, so this makes a LOT of pilaf. If you like it as much as I do that isn't a problem, because it's a great side for a salmon dinner and there's leftovers for lunch the next day or two. If you won't use it within a few days or don't have a crowd to feed, you might want to cut the recipe in half. Make it vegetarian by swapping out chicken stock for vegetable broth. You can use brown rice instead of long-grain white, but it may need longer cooking time. A note on rice: you should always rinse it under cold water until the water runs clear. This removes any dust and dirt but also washes away excess starch for fluffier cooked rice. You will need a large skillet with a lid for this.

INGREDIENTS

¾ cup lentils (I used brown lentils)

Olive oil (for the skillet, about 2 tablespoons)

1 medium onion, chopped

2 carrots, peeled and chopped (1-2 cups worth)

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup uncooked long grain rice (like Basmati), rinsed under cold water

Salt and pepper to taste

2 cups chicken broth or stock (you may need to add ½ cup more as it cooks)

Cumin, cinnamon and coriander to taste (start with ½ teaspoon of each – you can always add more)

A squeeze of fresh lemon juice

Lentil Pilaf served with salmon and arugula salad.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

Chopped fresh parsley (optional)

METHOD

Place the lentils in a sieve and rinse well with cold water. Put them in a medium saucepan and add water to cover by 2 inches. Add ½ teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer, 10-15 minutes (no more or they get too mushy. I cooked mine for 12 minutes.). Drain and set aside.

In a large skillet, heat the olive oil. Add carrots and onion and sauté until onions start to brown and carrots are just tender, 5-10 minutes. Stir in garlic, salt and pepper. Add uncooked rice and cook for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add lentils, stir and cook 5 minutes more.

Add chicken stock, spices and lemon juice and stir to mix. Cover and cook over medium-low heat until rice is done, 15-20 minutes. Check after 15. If it seems dry, add a little more stock, cover and cook a few minutes more.

Add more seasonings to taste. Sprinkle with fresh parsley and serve. Makes 6-8 side portions.

Tasting lentil pilaf again after so many years was as comforting as it was delicious. It was admittedly not quite the same as I remember, I think because I don't know what the packaged variety used for seasoning. But it's easy enough to tweak it and play with spices to suit your taste (and mine). Served alongside salmon pan-seared with olive oil, salt, pepper and fresh orange juice and a baby arugula salad was just what I wanted: warm, flavorful comfort that made me feel good inside and out. No cheese or cream sauce necessary! Enjoy!

Vicki Frank Day's background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years' experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.

get growing! **by mark adams**

The King Ranch

A re-routed vacation to Texas finds Mark and Sue visiting the largest working agricultural operation in the country.

Mark and Sue booked the same room at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio where Capt. Richard King – founder of the King Ranch – died. It's said King's ghost walks the halls of the hotel.

-Photos by Mark Adams

"The ghost of Richard King still walks the halls of the Menger Hotel." So said our tour guide Karen Knight, as we crossed Alamo Plaza under a full moon. After an aborted attempt to vacation in the South American country Suriname, Sue and I ended up in San Antonio, Texas. Always interested in agriculture, we decided to check out the King Ranch, the largest working agricultural operation in the country, bigger than the state of Rhode Island.

First, we stayed at South Padre Island for a few days, which is sort of the Fort Lauderdale for Midwesterners. We even met some folks from Alaska, after I became famous for taking a dip in the tumultuous Gulf of Mexarica. One morning we drove an hour south to Brownsville, for a quick visit to Mexico. Sue and I were surprised how easy it is to walk over the border and back, at least for people with U.S. passports. On a Tuesday morning, we parked our car on the street across from the Port of Entry, putting four dollars into the four-hour parking meter. Then we paid one dollar each to walk across the bridge over the surprisingly skinny Rio Grande River (it looked more like Wappingers Creek). The pueblo of Matamoras was bleak—the only open store was a 7-11.

At a fairly nice restaurant above a parking garage, I drank a bottle of Modelo especial while Sue braved a Coke Zero poured over Mexican ice. I tried to engage the waiter in political conversation. Not surprisingly, he was reluctant to voice an opinion. Just a shrug of the shoulders. Heading back an hour later, we stood in line just long enough to play "Delta Dawn" on my phone ("all the folks 'round Brownsville say she's crazy"). We just walked past the border patrol. I've been subjected to more screening at the Mid Hudson Civic Center.

The King Ranch was established in 1853 by Captain Richard King (he was a steamboat captain) who lived a hardscrabble life before amassing a fortune running steamboats along the Rio Grande during the Mexican-American War (18461848). When King bought the ranch, it was already home to wild longhorn cattle. These iconic longhorns were well suited to survive the harsh arid conditions of southwest Texas—they could survive several days without water—but their meat was tough and tasteless. King set about improving the breed by crossing the longhorns with Brahman and Shorthorn cattle, finally creating the Santa Gertrudis, ideal for warm weather beef production. Nowadays, half of the 10,000 head on the ranch are sold for breeding purposes, and the other half for steaks. Interestingly, our guide Marlette Richardson told our group that the King Ranch closed down its slaughterhouse twenty years ago when government regulations made it too complicated to operate – and this is on a 10,000 head ranch! What does this say about the problems our Hudson Valley farmers are experiencing when it comes to beef processing?

The King Ranch is also famous for its horse breeding operations, specializing in quarter horses, although it did raise the thoroughbred Assault, the 1946 triple crown winner.

Looking to the future, King Ranch (now partly owned by Taylor Sheridan of "Yellowstone" fame) is branching out into crops – 70,000 acres of cotton and sorghum, hunting expeditions, a saddle shop, dozens of John Deere dealerships, and a turf grass company (odd for a ranch that is experiencing a ten-year drought). Agritourism is a tiny addition; only eight people were on the only tour of the day.

Cattle at the King Ranch in Texas are Santa Gertrudis, a breed produced by crossing longhorns with Brahmans and Shorthorns.

The Ranch's herd of longhorn cattle is maintained as a tourist attraction.

At the age of 61, Captain King traveled to San Antonio to see his doctor. He died of stomach cancer in his bed at the Menger Hotel. But his ghost lives on.

Amazingly, Sue and I were able to book the same room during our stay in San Antonio. The bed is still there! Sue believes in ghosts. We'll see what happens tonight.

Stay tuned.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

Vets and families invited to Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall

Jan. 24 event in Poughkeepsie will connect America's heroes with support services, resources

The Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County invite veterans and their families to a Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at American Legion Post 1302, 55 Overlook Road in Poughkeepsie. This free event will connect local veterans with local service providers for an open, informative discussion focused on the programs, services and supports available to local veterans, their loved ones and caregivers.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Our veterans have taken care of us and we in Dutchess County will always take care of them. That's why we continue to expand our outreach and are co-hosting the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall, to meet veterans where they are so they know they are heard and never alone. We want to hear directly from our veterans about their needs, concerns and experiences and help connect them to the resources they deserve."

Attendees at the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall will have the opportunity to:

- Familiarize themselves with the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, meet its director, Adam Roche, and the learn about work he and his staff perform daily to advocate for local veterans;
- Hear from local VHA leadership about benefits, enrollment and services, along with other important updates about how they are putting veterans at the center of everything they do;
- Connect with fellow veterans offering shared lived experience support through MHA's Vet2Vet peer support program;
- Ask questions directly of veterans service providers and leaders; and
- Access guidance on navigating benefits, claims and local resources.

Staff from the Office of Veterans Affairs will be on hand to explain the full range of services Dutchess County offers, including benefits counseling, claims assistance, transportation support, outreach initiatives and referrals to community partners.

This town hall is part of Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs' continued effort to expand outreach to veterans. Dutchess County Veterans Affairs also recently added a "mobile" Veterans Service Officer (VSO), who is available in the community during evening hours to help veterans and their families receive in-person assistance with understanding and applying for the benefits they've earned.

The VSO has scheduled outreach at the Marine Corps League Post 861, 413 Main Street in Beacon, on Jan. 15 and at VFW Post 7765, 30 Elizabeth Street in Red Hook, on Feb. 9; both outreach sessions are scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., and more are being scheduled throughout Dutchess County in the coming weeks and months. Upcoming VSO outreach sessions will be listed on the Veterans Affairs calendar of events: https://www.dutchessny.gov/CalendarPage.htm?myselectedDeptid=213.

The Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs helps veterans and their families understand, apply for and receive the benefits they've earned through their service. For more information about the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall or County Veterans Affairs' services, residents can call the office at 845-486-2060.

DC Veterans office to host outreach events

The Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs recently launched Operation: Mobile Outreach. A Veterans Services Officer is visiting local communities to help every veteran, especially those recently discharged, as well as family members and caregivers, navigate the extensive, and often overwhelming process of applying for benefits from the VA, State and Dutchess County.

Come to a Mobile Outreach event to:

- Learn about & register for benefits;
- Find out about emergency funding & transportation assistance;
- Have your questions answered;
- Get help with health care, disability, education & training, housing assistance and more.

No appointment needed.

Upcoming events:

- Thursday, Jan. 15, 5-7 p.m.
Marine Corps League Post 861
413 Main St., Beacon

- Saturday, Jan. 24, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Veterans Town Hall with VA Hudson Valley & MHA Dutchess Veterans Programs
American Legion Post 1302
55 Overlook Road, Poughkeepsie

- Friday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building
413 Main St., Beacon

Visit dutchessny.gov/veterans for more information.

Obituaries

William Clarence Rumble

William Clarence Rumble, 82, of Wappingers Falls, NY died peacefully on January 8, 2026 surrounded by his loving family at Taconic Rehabilitation and Nursing at Hopewell. He succumbed to an illness stemming from his rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Bill was born on May 21, 1943 in Bronx, NY and was the son of Clarence Lincoln Rumble and Edwina Greenfield Ham(m). He was a proud citizen with a 300-year American Heritage. He was descended from several large early immigrant families including the Rumble and Reber families of Schuylkill County, PA, the Hamm family of Columbia County NY, and the Greenfield family of Middletown, CT. His great-grandfather was Colonel Edwin Truman Greenfield, a Civil War colonel and a renowned inventor with dozens of electrical patents filed around the world. "Billy" was the youngest of nine children. He was proud of his big family, including his twenty-five nieces and nephews.

After graduating from The New York School of Printing in 1961, he joined the Brotherhood of New York City Ironworkers where he had a 50-year career as an active member of Local 46. He always enjoyed pointing out to family and friends the many skyscrapers he worked on. One of his proudest moments as an ironworker was the December 1970 topping-off ceremony of the World Trade Center's north tower when a steel column with the American flag was placed on top making it the world's tallest building at the time. During the immediate days following the September 11 attacks in 2001, Bill was part of the ironworkers' bucket brigade, a human chain formed by ironworkers, construction workers, and other volunteers at Ground Zero, passing buckets of debris and remains to help clear the site. He will always be remembered for his bravery and dedication to this heroic effort.

Bill had a strong passion for playing billiards and in his early days he was a patron of many pool halls in The Bronx. In 1972, when he moved his family from The Bronx to Wappingers Falls, he insisted that his new home have a commercial-grade regulation pool table. After bringing decades of entertainment, laughter, and joy to the family, that pool table still stands in its original place.

In April of 1965 he married the love of his life, Monica Ann Broderick, who survives at home. Also surviving are his son, Bill Rumble of Fishkill, NY and his daughter, Carole Rumble of Wappingers Falls, NY. He was predeceased by his eight siblings who he adored immensely; Edwin, Charles, and Raymond Weiler, Ann Cerezo, Joan Brando, Patricia Gavaris, Barbara Schmidt, and Dorothy Weiss.

Family and friends may call on Friday, January 16 from 2-6 PM at McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, 1089 Main St., Fishkill NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 17 at 10:00 AM at St. Mary, Mother of The Church, 106 Jackson St., Fishkill, NY.

Eugene T. Trifilo

Eugene T. Trifilo, a lifelong local area resident, passed away peacefully with his son by his side on Monday, December 29, 2025, in Middletown, NY. He was 84.

Son of the late Frank J. and Penelope (Cristo) Trifilo, he was born in Newburgh, NY on July 26, 1941. Gene graduated from Beacon High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving our nation until he was honorably discharged from service in 1961.

For many years, he co-owned and co-operated Gene & Sandy's, Trifilo's Office Supplies and Beacon Taxi with his wife Sandra.

Gene was a communicant of St. John - St. Joachim Parish in Beacon and life member of the Beacon Elks Lodge. He cherished his prized Beechcraft Musketeer and piloted countless flights from Hudson Valley Regional Airport with family & friends. Throughout his life, he raised several German Shepherds: Pepper, Lucky, Toby, and Heidi. He was also an avid New York Yankees fan, especially during the postseason, and always enjoyed sharing magic and card tricks with everyone. Eugene loved stand-up comedy and enjoyed napping during his son Gene's set only to wake up and enjoy the many outstanding headliners Gene Jr. worked with over the years.

On November 22, 1959, he married Sandra A. Murphy at St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill, NY. Gene was predeceased by Sandra in 2017.

He is survived by his son, Eugene J. Trifilo, of Glenham, NY; his grandchildren: Sonya, Chelsea, Sean, Gabe, Peter, Jay, Melissa, Marc, and Nikita; his six great-grandchildren; his daughters-in-law: LeAnn Trifilo, Eris Belew, Patti Dragon Trifilo and Jessica Lorant; his siblings-in-law: Donna & David Bamond, Patricia & Richard Roza, Doreen Murphy, and Bernadette Murphy; as well as many nieces, nephews, and countless other loving family members.

In addition to his wife and parents, Gene was also predeceased by his son, Frank Trifilo; his son, Mark Trifilo; his daughter, Staci Trifilo Elan; his brother, Samuel Trifilo; and his brother-in-law, Edward Murphy.

Calling hours were on Friday, January 9 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, January 10 at St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Willow Street, Beacon, NY.

Donations in Gene's memory may be made to Evergreen Minds, Inc., PO Box 586, Fishkill, NY 12524 or by visiting www.evergreenminds.org.

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If you are interested in this position you may email or mail resume and cover letter to Attn: Village Clerk 2582 South Avenue Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590 (Fax 845-298-2645) Email jkarge@wappingersfallsny.gov Applications will be accepted through January 2026.

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Virtual Live-Staged Readings to offer thrills & chills on Jan. 17

The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Columbia County, will open its 2026 Virtual Live-Staged Readings with a new pair of chilling Suspense Theater radio dramas. This performance is being presented on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, in collaboration with Roving Actors' Repertory Ensemble (RARE) Inc.

"Return Trip" - A routine visitor's bus departs a psychiatric hospital on a winter night, winding its way through the mountains as snow begins to fall. The passengers are strangers – nervous, quiet and eager to get home.

They don't know that the driver is dead. Escaping confinement, a dangerous patient has taken the driver's place, disguising himself among the terrified travelers. As the storm worsens and an avalanche traps the bus on the road, fear turns inward. Accusations fly. Every passenger becomes a suspect. Every silence feels like a lie.

"Cabin B-13" - A luxury ocean liner. A honeymoon voyage. And a man who vanishes without a trace. When Ann boards the ship with her new husband, she expects romance and calm seas – not terror. Within hours, her husband is gone. Crew members insist he never existed. Passenger lists show no record. Even their stateroom, Cabin B-13, is said not to exist.

As the ship cuts silently through the night, Ann is trapped between truth and madness, pursued by a conspiracy designed to erase her reality. Onboard secrets, shifting identities, and calculated deception turn the voyage into a deadly psychological game – where survival depends on uncovering who is lying ... and why.

To learn the rest of these stories you'll have to R.S.V.P to www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org and then see these thrilling dramas in the comfort of your own home on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

Upcoming Suspense Theater shows are set on Feb. 7 and 28, when The Two of Us Productions will present two more sets of classic thrillers.

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RMS honor students named for 1st quarter

The Rombout Middle School administration announced the following students are on the 1st quarter honor roll.

Principal's Honor Roll
6th Grade

Josiah Agosto, Reese Anderson, Thiago Anel, Henry Aymar-Blair, James Barrett, Caroline Brown, Abeni Buffin, Baylyn Carr, Oceane Cloutier, Emilia Colarusso, Alice Courtney, Edward Cygan, Reina Cygan, Gianni DeLayo, Alexander Diaz, Theodore Embry, Charles Flynn, Nigella Follari, Harrison Fowler, Oona Giunta, Henri Green, Gus Greenberg, Alessandra Guerra, Brynn Harvey, Hazel Harvey, Asma Husna, Vivienne Jemison, Ruby Kimberg, Charlotte Larsson, Pietro Laygo, Henry Limanni, Zoey Martinez, Bo Mason, Amelia Mawson, Ryan McNally, Eliot Merkhofer, Morgan Meyer, Joshua Mingst-Tuttle, Kelsey Murphy, Madison Nicholas, Zadie O'Shea, Clara Partlow, Jayson Pavelock, William Pereira, Mateo Pintado, Merit Roan, Walter Roberts, Grace Santiago, Olivia Santise, Leonardo Sardanopoli, Emily Seymour, Jackson Troust, Will Varricchio, Amelie Vigeant, Evan Zalewski

7th Grade

Logan Alvarado, Maya Ariel, Dylan Brown, Adeline Clark, Emmett Coleman, Violet Costello, Frances Coulon, Rana Craig, Grace Daley, Arianna Diaz, Iris Dotson, Alden Emich, Evan Eraca, Aoibhinn Fehilly, Audrey Fisher, Linnea Gabel, Margo Gentle, Nyomi-Navii Gillman, Allayna Graham, Orly Groen, Samoya Haye, Zavier Hazim, Mia Hernandez, Makenzie Kiernan, Ania Krasikova, Dean Macaluso, Samuel Mack, Jack McGrath, Camille Murphy, Danny Nivicela Jarama, Cassidy O'Sullivan, Evan Pantojas, Atticus Perez, Anya Piester, Mosammat Rahman, Acadia Rodriguez, Julian Romero, Emily Rottenkolber, Ryleigh Russak, Gisella Sanchez, Jose Santiago, Sabine Schenck, Macon Stadler, Fiona Suckow, Olivia Velazquez, David Verdesi, Madelyn Westlake, Delanie Winther, Finn Woolston

8th Grade

Nia Abonyoh, Alexis Aduamah, Lucinda Arginsky, Leo Aymar-Blair, Gianna Cruz, Sofia Cruz, Dean Cumming, Meera Diebboll, Sarai Horne, Kai Illa-Hanca, Charlie Jelliffe, Jonah Landahl, Regan Laug, John McKay, Asa Partlow, Tavin Pennock, Colten Powlis, George Robitaille, Lorenzo Saiet, Roberto Sampson, Emmylou Shay, Anna Sheehy, Madeline Smith, Victoria Squilla, Yidoen Tenzin, Kevin Vogrincic

High Honor Roll
6th Grade

Anjali Arya, Howard Blumenthal, Francis Boyle, Elliot Browning, Fabian Cabrera Ortiz, Emily Calle, Alexis Campbell, Samuel Cerchiara, Miah Cooper, Jordan Cuevas, Avery Dent, Lily Di Pietro, Reese DiTata, Aiden Fish, Maci Greenspan, Timoteo Haskell-Ramirez, Henry Hernandez, Michaela Jawor, Victoria Jimenez Bueso, Cynnel Johnson, Paige Johnson, Nyla Jordan, Walter Lackaye, Caleb Lampon, Ella Langkafel, Charles MacDougall, Mason Marinaccio, Howard Mauks, Stella McEvoy, Mariah Mercer, Brody Miller, Liam Miller, Serenity Oleksa, Lewis Page, Ruby Pages, Peyton Pawlak, Chase Pultz, Rory Roman, Jennifer Sansone, James Vogrincic, Porter Wilson, Dylan Witkowski

7th Grade

Mackenzie Alicea, Henry Allee, Ember Allred, Iiya Armwood, Christian Alzate, Alexander Arroyo, Daisy Bernacchia, Madison Bostock, Haley Brandstrom, Caiden Burks, Maximus Burton, Amadou Ceesay, Skyler Ciancanelli, Chloe Daniels, Savannah Dick, Maxxum Digneo, Mirella Digneo, Samara Friedman Quinn, Lucas Genao, Carlos Gonzalez Jr, Francesca Guido Taylor, Oliver Jackson, Morgan Jamin, Alyssa Keels, Elijah Macaluso, Caleb Martell, Jake Maxaner, Sonja McCollum, Carter McVicker, Madyson Mericle, Jesus Perez Jr, Ella Posey, Emma Posey, Vincent Pulcastro, Luna Punsoda-Drew, Mavis Quezada Farez, Ezekiel Rodriguez, Phoebe Roy, Naomi Simons, Orion Sinift, Scott Solano, Mason Soltish, Mateo Spaccarelli, Ava Spence, Elan Stim-Fogel, Alejandro Suscal Sinchi, MacKenzie Thorpe, Liam Velazquez Benitez, Leo Virgadamo, Finnegan Zellinger, Rufus Zimmerman, Skyler Zingone Redfield

8th Grade

Grey Andersen, Mikaela Arce, Evelyn Barreto Llivipuma, Jessiah Beckwith, Olivia Bellis, Parker Bennett, Preston Bennett, Lucas Campos, Adran Conklin, Kamilah Corte-Illescas, Ali Cosentino, Mason Cruz, Mia Cuautle, Trey Davis, Riley DiTata, Nathan Domanski, Radcliffe Dunne, Marina Garcia Llivipuma, Gianna Giangrasso, Josiah Gibbs, Mia Gombiner, Asher Hetling, Jayden Kasmaei, Ciel Koerner, Jonah Lipman, Johanna Marquez, Cole Martin, Laila Martinez, Kai Mason, Damien Mayers, Patrick McEvoy, Mikayla McMahon, Mason McNair, Charles Montleon, Ava Morgan, Daniel Mulligan, Conal O'Sullivan, Anthony Patino, Avery Persico, Mary Rinaldi, Mari See, Ledion Shtanaj, Olivia Spiecker, Joscelyn Sweat, Adelyn Theiss, Elliot Trabka, Justinas Turner, Nathen Velazquez Benitez, Louisa Virgadamo, Nathanyel Walden, Braden Webster, Henry White, Zuri Yeboah

Honor Roll
6th Grade

Gianna Antunes, Austin Beal, Sylar Benitez, Holland Brickman, Ameer Camara, Leilah Cintron, Leon Cleaves, Makaylah Cooper, Megan Decoteau, Stefanos Diaz, Thomas Dunne IV, Alexander Fuentes, Jose Garcia Llivipuma, Za'Kyrah Green, Harper Hughes, Honesty Kearney-White, Jayden Konco, Emma Kostro, Brandon Mejia, Samantha Mendoza, Oliver Michaels, Damecia Ortiz, Aayan Patel, Hartley Plimley, Kay Reeves, Anthony Rhodus, Thomas Rinaldi, Brielle Rivera, Na'yeli Robinson, Josiah Torres, Isaiah Williams, Dara Zalewski

7th Grade

Nana Adusei, John Alvarez, Amelie Aquino Collins, Kingsley Ashton, Kevin Boyle Jr, Jacob Bustamante Cruz, Chasity Campbell, Connor Campbell, Anthony Constantino, Zoey Darcy, Hana Dika, Cooper Figlia, Catalynn Figueroa, Daniel Figures Jr, Bryan Flores Urzua, Arielle Franklin, Christian Garcia, Athena Grey, Milania Hubbard, Nahlia Kelland, Riley Klipp, Lev Martin, Maxwell McKinnon, Scarlett Mejia, Eliza Montanez, Lesly Morocho Llivipuma, Michael Owens, Maaliya Paulin, Timothy Perez-Sample, Arron Pittman, Madeline Richardson, Christian Robinson, Otis Robitaille, Arvin Roci, Jackson Simonetta, Sebastian Smith, Jariel Solis, Rozlyn Spiro, Max Staab, Ariya Valverde, Lucas White, Zameer Wise-Sweat

8th Grade

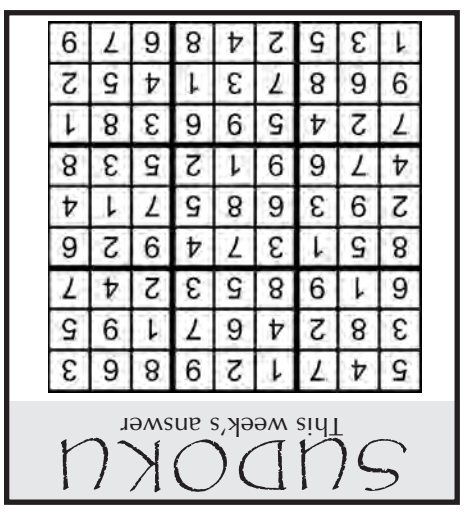
Daniel Aquino, Even Aquino, Erick Arpi, Myla Ballard, Walter Bean, Aiden Berry, Mateo Buckland, Amaziah Buffin, Troy Burch, Ninalyse Caccomo, Madison Clark, Layla Clarke, Tyger Cobb, Gabriel Concepcion, Theodore Culler, Gia DelBianco, Liam Elwood, Riley Elwood, Hudson Faust, Avery Fisher, Julianna Gannon, Alicia Green, Elias Havers, Matilda Hoffman, Phillip Johnson, Mario Jovel, Zeev Korman-Bennis, Luca Lentinim, Max Mawson, Qahtan Murshed, Maya Pellegrin, Jaxson Pultz, Ian Ramkalawon, Jack Reeves, Ella Reyes, Aaliyah Ridore, Naomi Rivera, Annalise Saiz, Sean Sanders, Hailey Seddon, Lucas Simms, Angelina Soria, Janiely Torres, Angel Vigil Garay, Trinitee White, Eoin Williams.

'The First Lady' topic of afternoon book club on Jan. 14 in East Fishkill

The EFCL Afternoon Book Club will meet at the East Fishkill Community Library on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 at 1 p.m. to discuss this month's selection "The First Lady" by James Patterson. Copies of the book are available within the Library system. All are welcome to come and join in the discussion of this work.

The library is at 348 Roue 376 in East Fishkill.

this week's puzzle solutions



Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-05-26

Fast Trac Cargo Trailers

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 22th day of January 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-16-26

Aging Health Promotion and Development Contractor

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., January 26, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-08-26

Implementation and Facilitation of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Framework

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 3, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given the Legislature of Dutchess County will be holding public committee meetings for the following committees on January 15, 2026 at 5:30pm: **Public Safety, Budget, finance and Personnel and Family and Human Services.** The meeting agenda can be found at: https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/County-Legislature-Meeting-Agenda.htm

The public has the right to attend the meeting at the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers located at 22 Market Street, 6th floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Greg Totino
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given the Legislature of Dutchess County will be holding a public meeting of the whole on January 20, 2026 at 6:30pm. The meeting agenda can be found at: https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/County-Legislature-Meeting-Agenda.htm

The public has the right to attend the meeting at the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers located at 22 Market Street, 6th floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Greg Totino
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature

The deadline for Legals is every Monday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Friday at noon.

Diversions

SUDOKU

5				2			6	3
	8				7			
6			8		3	2		7
		1			4			
		3				7		
			9			5		
7		4	5		6			1
			7				5	
1	3			4				9

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

1		5		2	4
	3			1	
1					
			3		
					5

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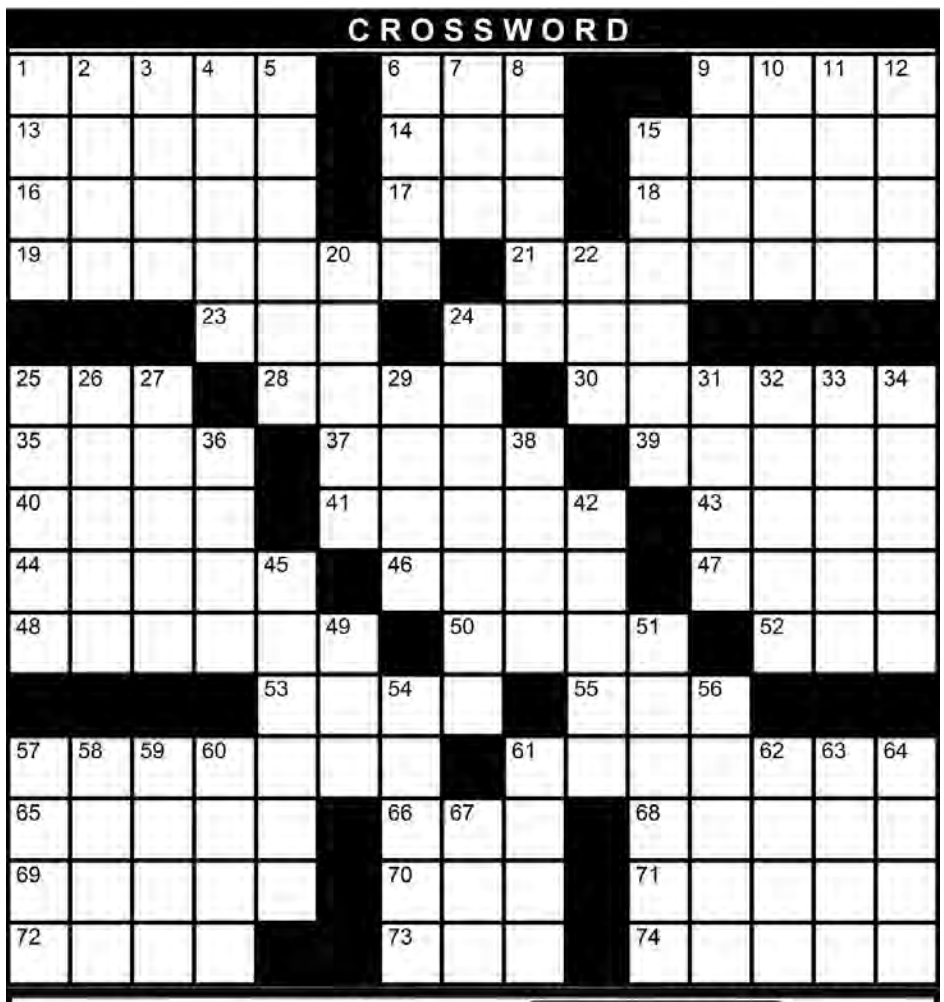
The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: ON THE FARM

ACROSS
1. Laura Ingalls' notebook
6. Boozer
9. Biblical pronoun
13. Sacred text, to some
14. "Fat chance!"
15. Afrikaners' ancestors
16. Cake spread
17. Chowed down
18. Clear the blackboard
19. *Barn chore
21. *John Deere, e.g.
23. Nirvana's "Come as You ____"
24. Spasm of pain
25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
28. Mark for omission
30. Recessed space
35. "____ and the Real Girl," movie
37. "Shoot!"
39. E in baseball box score
40. Oil org.
41. Intelligent
43. A mixture or medley
44. Children's respiratory disease
46. Foggy view?
47. Politicians, for short
48. In a sympathetic manner
50. Ski hill ride
52. Maiden name indicator
53. Bald eagle's nest
55. Repeated Latin dance step
57. *a.k.a. harvester
61. *Opposite of pasture
65. *Common varieties are yellow, red and white
66. Tall tale
68. Smooth, in manner
69. Audience's approval
70. "____ at ease"
71. Stomach sore
72. Caribou or moose
73. Soldier's bed
74. Harsh

DOWN
1. *Separate cream from milk
2. Locus, pl.
3. Seed coat
4. Form of Japanese poetry
5. Encircle
6. Deep pile carpet
7. *Cereal grass
8. Sorority letter
9. Cleopatra's necklace
10. Thermostat option
11. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
12. Olympic cast-out, e.g.
15. Charles Darwin's vessel
20. Must-haves
22. Ribonucleic acid, acr.
24. Fine
25. *Group of chickens
26. Birthplace of Caprese
27. Oedipus' successor
29. *Baby sheep
31. *____ rotation
32. Acrylic fiber
33. Bridal veil fabric
34. With a jagged margin
36. Gulf War missile
38. *Pasture-raised chicken's morsel
42. Vanish without this?
45. Lamentation
49. Japanese capital
51. Rh in Rh disease
54. Indiana Jones' find, e.g.
56. Not a minor
57. For boys and girls
58. Popular fairy-tale beginning
59. Stephen King's "The Green ____"
60. *Male pig
61. Abe Lincoln's hat material
62. Tatted cloth
63. Done
64. Seaside bird
67. UN labor grp.

CROSSWORD



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The solutions to the Sudoko, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14.

Wappingers CSD honors law enforcement

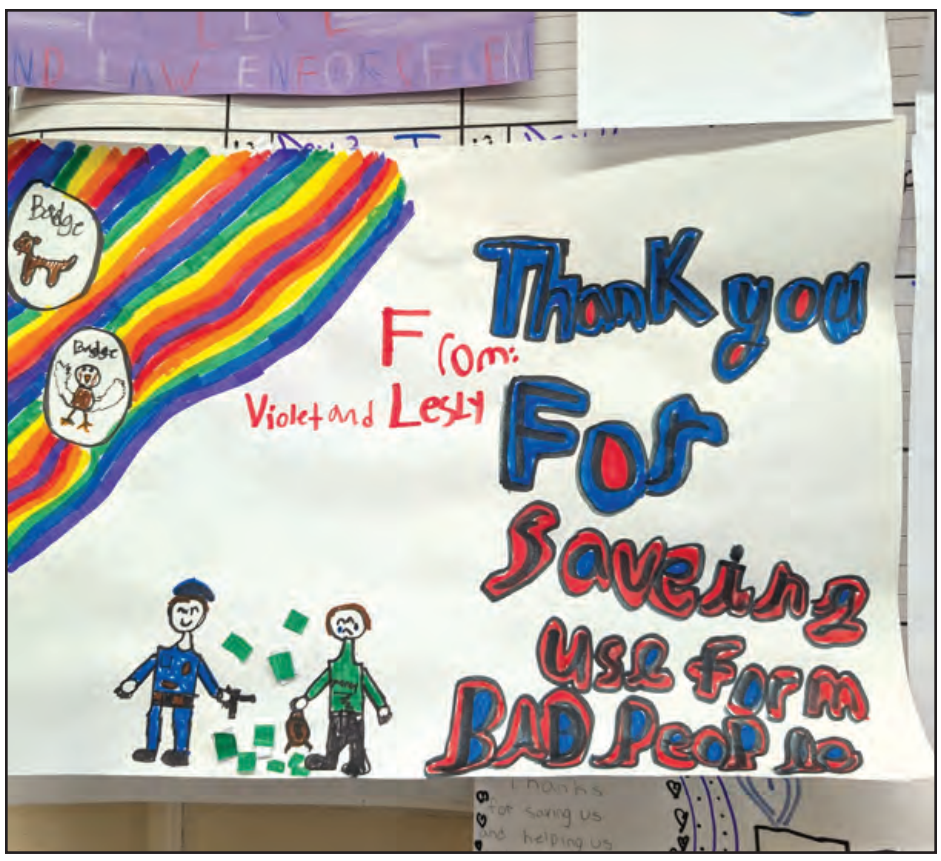
In honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Wappingers CSD Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk recognized the seven agencies that serve the District: the New York State Police, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, and our town and village agencies: the Town of East Fishkill, the Town of Fishkill, the Town of Poughkeepsie, the Village of Fishkill, and the Village of Wappingers Falls.

"I truly value the relationships that we have built with our law enforcement agencies," Dr. Bonk said. "We work collaboratively with one common goal: to create a safe and secure environment for our staff and students that fosters optimal teaching and learning for all."

Dr. Bonk expressed his gratitude to Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati for his invaluable support of the district's Safe Schools Initiative. "By pairing an increased law enforcement presence with a significant expansion of student mental health services, we are creating the safest school environment possible–one where our students and staff can learn, thrive, and ultimately reach their highest potential," he said.

"I want to thank Dr. Bonk and the District for recognizing all law enforcement for their hard work and dedication to our community," said Sheriff Imperati. "Our relationship with the District is extremely strong, and we remain committed to the safety and security of students and staff. I look forward to continuing our work together."

Throughout the district, individual schools collaborated with their PTAs to honor and celebrate the officers in their buildings, who don't just play a key role in keeping our schools safe: they also serve as role models and offer students a safe place to reach out for help. Wappingers CSD, it was stated, is proud to honor the valued law enforcement partners, today and every day.



Members of the Wappingers Central School District recently recognized law enforcement in honor of Law Enforcement Day.

-Courtesy photos Wappingers CSD

Key of Q singers celebrate 10th anniversary with concerts

Key of Q, an auditioned group of LGBTQ+ and allied a cappella singers, celebrates a decade of harmony, pride and community with a series of concerts titled "It's About Time." Set Jan. 16-18 at venues in Beacon, New Paltz and Kingston, the chorus explores the many ways we experience the elasticity of time - how we spend it, save it, waste it, and watch it fly - through inventive vocal arrangements and storytelling.

Formed at the beginning of 2016, Key of Q focuses on mostly-modern secular music in four-part harmony. Common themes within selected music include equality, love and celebration of identity in its many forms.

The first concert is set Friday, Jan. 16, from 7 to 8 p.m., at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. The next, on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 7 to 8 p.m., will be held at The Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center, 300 Wall Street, Kingston. The third performance will take place on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 2 to 3 p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 90 Route 32 South, New Paltz.

Admission is $15 in advance, $20 at the door (suggested donation). Tickets are available at https://keyofq.org/tickets/.