

BEACON FREE PRESS

COVID-19 update

Mitigation steps extended, positivity rate retired as indicator

By Kate Goldsmith

With COVID-19 case rates decreasing over the past week or so, the state is taking proactive measures to help ensure the trend continues. On Friday, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the “mask-or-vax” mandate will continue through at least Feb. 1.

In addition, SUNY and CUNY students and faculty will be required to receive a booster vaccination when eligible. Those who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccination are eligible for a booster at least five months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Those who received Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccination are eligible for a booster at least two months after receiving their J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination.

Hochul also reiterated her goal of keeping children in school by continuing “test to stay” practices to minimize absenteeism and learning loss which can occur during traditional quarantine at home. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro has promoted the program locally, and recently wrote a letter to Hochul requesting its state-wide implementation.

For the week ending Jan. 14, the CDC reported cases in Dutchess County decreased by nearly 3 percent. The total deaths, however, numbered 14 in that time frame, an increase of more than 50 percent. Hospitalizations and deaths are lagging indicators, because of the time frame between infection and the point at which an individual might need to be hospitalized or die. The testing rate was up by more than 45 percent over that seven-day period.

A new statistic replaces positivity rate

Last week, the Dutchess County COVID-19 Community Impact Dashboard stopped reporting the positivity rate, which had ceased to be an accurate indicator of transmission; with the expansion of at-home testing, no negative results from those tests are being reported, so the data became skewed and showed artificially high percentages of positive cases. (Recall that the positivity rate is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests by the number of total tests on any given day.)

Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado, the county’s health commissioner, introduced the new metric in a video last week: new daily positive cases per 100,000 county residents, as reported to the New York State Department of Health, which provides a more accurate picture of positive cases in the community.

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January 19, 2022

‘A dream come true’

Hudson Link to offer higher education program at Green Haven

By Kristine Coulter

Hudson Link for Higher Education has announced that Green Haven Correctional Facility will be the sixth site for its Higher Education in Prison program, a college-in-prison program that will start in the Spring 2022 semester. The new program will offer the 1,300 incarcerated people in the maximum-security prison a chance to earn an Associate Degree in Individual Studies. The program is a partnership between Hudson Link for Higher Education, Columbia-Greene Community College (C-GCC) and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Students will be enrolled as C-GCC students and take classes at Green Haven four days a week during the evenings.

“The original request for the expansion of programming came from the Department of Corrections, who wanted to partner to expand opportunities for people inside Green Haven Correctional Facility,” explained Sara Alpert, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Hudson Link.

Alpert said Program Director Joel Jimenez was thrilled about the opportunity to start a new program at Green Haven. Jimenez stated, “Green Haven holds an important place in my heart. I spent eight years there, and it is where my life began to change for the better.” Jimenez added, “I want to afford that to other people behind the wall. I want them to know that life does not end behind these walls and bars and that Hudson Link can help to prepare them every step of the way to return home as contributing members to their community.”

According to a press release from Hudson Link, Jimenez spent twenty-two and half years incarcerated. He graduated as the 2010 valedictorian for Hudson



Program Director Joel Jimenez and Rachel Boehr, Academic Coordinator, prepare supplies for Green Haven students.

-Courtesy photo

Link’s program with Mercy College at Sing Sing.

There have been more than 120 applications for the program at Green Haven, according to Alpert. The new session will begin with a group of 35 for the first semester who will be taking introductory college classes such as English, Mathematics, and History, said Alpert. The remaining students will be placed on

a waitlist and start in future semesters.

One of the professors scheduled to work at Green Haven in the spring is Jillian McRae. McRae is a full-time English teacher at Ossining High School in Westchester County and is a Columbia-Greene Community College adjunct professor.

“I am an educator at heart. For the majority of my teaching career (20 years)

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Local superintendents comment on Hochul’s plan for bus driver shortages

By Kristine Coulter

A plan to address the shortage of bus drivers and truck drivers was announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul last week. The proposed plan would expand the availability of road tests for Commercial Driver License (CDOL) applicants.

A public hearing, which will be held by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, has been set for Wednesday, Jan. 26. The hearing will take place from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via WebEx. Members of the public can make comments or submit written comments from Jan. 18 to Feb. 4 at CDLThirdPartyTesting@dmv.ny.gov.



A plan to help alleviate the shortage of school bus drivers has been released by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

-Archive photo

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Superintendents comment on Hochul’s plan for bus driver shortages

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“It continues to be a daily challenge to cover all of our 390 bus routes. The proposal by Governor Hochul is a step in the right direction to begin to address this issue,” said Wappingers Central School District (W.C.S.D.) Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk. Bus drivers, he said, “have a very challenging job, as they are responsible for the health, welfare, and safety of our students to and from school.”

The W.C.S.D. have and will continue “to advertise for Bus Driver positions as well as instituting a driver training program for our candidates which has been helpful in recruitment,” said the superintendent.

“We are pleased that the CDL process can now be expedited,” commented Aviva Kafka, Superintendent of the Hyde Park Central School District.

Beacon City School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl did not respond to request for comment by the deadline.

“Governor Hochul’s quick and decisive action will increase the number of school bus driver testing sites across the state and help to alleviate New York’s school bus driver shortage problem,” said New York Association for Pupil Transportation executive director David Christophe in a statement.

“As we continue to fight this pandemic, we remain committed to expanding opportunities for New Yorkers, supporting our schools, and doing all we can to address the supply-chain issues that have



A plan to help alleviate the shortage of school bus drivers has been released by Gov. Hochul.

-Courtesy photo

affected many businesses throughout our state and country,” Hochul said. “By enabling third parties to give the road test for truck and bus drivers, we will create new avenues for New Yorkers to begin exciting careers, for our children to get to school, and to ensure that vital goods get where they need to be.”

“This seems like a good plan to start, however new drivers still need time to be trained. In addition, we do not have a pool of candidates. There needs to be a focus on recruitment,” stated Janet Warden, Superintendent Red Hook Central School District.

The proposal can be heard during the public hearing. According to the Governor’s Office, the “proposal that calls for a phased roll out of this initiative that would initially allow other state agencies and authorities that have large fleets

of commercial vehicles to begin conducting CDL road tests. The second phase would include qualified private entities. The DMV will establish a rigorous monitoring system to ensure that qualified CDL trainers safely administer the road tests in compliance with state and federal regulations. The DMV will use the feedback gathered during the public hearing to evaluate and develop an implementation plan.”

As part of the effort to assist with the school bus driver shortages, it is proposed that the DMV expedite the process for obtaining a CDL by removing the 14-day waiting period between the permit test and the road tests. The state also increased capacity to administer road tests and, through cooperation with county-operated DMV offices, to increase testing capacity for written exams, according to the

Governor’s Office.

DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said in a press release, “We at DMV know how important it is to have qualified truck and bus drivers on the road, and we are committed to doing what we can to address the need. We look forward to gathering public input at this hearing and then acting to enable qualified third parties to offer CDL road tests to give New Yorkers greater opportunity to take the test and to get good jobs driving these essential vehicles.”

Those interested in obtaining a Commercial Driver License can find more information at <https://dmv.ny.gov/commercial-drivers>.

For more information about DMV, visit dmv.ny.gov, or follow DMV on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

New educational program at Green Haven

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I have been in the high school classroom, but I have always loved adult education (whether that was working with pre-service teachers, or with my colleagues as an instructional coach). I think now, I am shifting more toward adult education. Teaching high school students has always had its challenges, but adults typically want to be there. There is an earnestness of engagement and interest. I’m looking forward to a setting of few(er) distractions

and a community who has a willingness and desire to learn,” commented McRae, via email.

McRae will be teaching SL 110 (Cultural Diversity). “I am excited about this course in light of our current socio-, political, and economic context. There is crisis and trauma all around us, and the course will aim to uncover and analyze the systemic and systematic underpinnings of injustice, marginalization, power, privilege, and vulnerability that is ingrained in our society,” said McRae.

Rachel Boehr will be employed by

Hudson Link as a full-time Academic Coordinator at the facility. Boehr will be supporting students through their academic journey and facilitating the logistics of running a college program inside a prison.

Boehr said in the release, “Everybody from the college to the correctional staff has been supportive, and the students are motivated to succeed. We’re just happy to be facilitating that.”

One prospective student shared in the release, “given the opportunity to obtain higher education through this program would be a dream come true and allow me to enhance the skills I have been learning while participating in [other] programs.”

Another prospective student remarked, “I have been in Green Haven for a little over ten years and have taken great strides in self-improvement, responsibility, community development, personal

development, and most importantly, the resurgence of my character inside and outside of the prison system. I will be honored to enroll in Hudson Link’s prison degree program to have the chance to educate the younger generation, especially at-risk youth.”

McRae noted, “I hope students can frame themselves not only as scholars but as people who can bring about change (and/or shifts in thinking) in their own spheres of influence. There are so many ways to view the world and the issues within. I hope to create an environment where perspectives can be shared, challenged, acknowledged, and supported.”

Since 1998, Hudson has partnered with nine colleges to award more than 750 degrees across program sites. As the program develops, Hudson Link plans to establish a bachelor’s degree pathway at the facility, according to the release.

Dance Jam set Jan. 20

Get On Down at the Towne Crier Dance Jam on Thursday, Jan. 20th at 7 p.m. at 379 Main St., Beacon. Enjoy a vibrant mix of musical styles played by DJs Rhoda and Al in the rear performance room. Fine dining, snacks, desserts and full bar are available. There is a \$10 admission. Proof of COVID vaccination required.

For more information, call 845-765-0667 or email rhodaja@optonline.net.

‘Crazy’ Gene Trifilo in All Star Comedy Night

Three comedians will perform on Saturday, Jan. 22. Laugh with “Crazy” Gene Trifilo, Paul Bond and Adam Izzo. Seating begins at 6:30 p.m. Showtime is 8 p.m. tickets are available at the Elks Lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave., in Beacon or call Terry at 914-204-2300. Tickets are \$30, 21 and older, appetizers and show included.

All are welcome. Proceeds benefit Elks local charities.

Celebrating Musical Diversity in the Hudson Valley

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COVID-19 update

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week: new daily positive cases per 100,000 county residents, as reported to the New York State Department of Health, which provides a more accurate picture of positive cases in the community.

As of Jan. 14, Dutchess had 4,348 active cases (down from 5,683 on Jan. 7), 176 hospitalizations (up from 155 on Jan. 7) and a total of 565 deaths (up from 547 on Jan. 7). The community transmission rate remains high - 216.87 per 100,000 residents.

Reminder: Testing, vaccination expanded at county site

Last week, Molinaro has announced expanded opportunities for residents to get tested for COVID-19, with both PCR testing options, as well as get vaccinated against the virus at its site at the former JCPenney store at the Poughkeepsie Galleria.

Testing will be offered at the site Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Testing results turnaround time for PCR testing is up to 48 hours from receipt of testing, though the time frame can vary based on demand. There is no out-of-pocket cost to residents for either of these testing options.

COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster shots, are now available on the lower level of the JCPenney site on

Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., in addition to the previously scheduled days, expanding access to vaccine on the following days and times:

- Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

Dr. Santiago-Rosado said, “Since COVID-19 vaccines were first available a year ago, we’ve seen the impact they’ve made – lessening the severity of cases and reducing hospitalizations and deaths. With omicron now the dominant variant across the nation, we urge residents more than ever to get fully vaccinated and receive their booster, when eligible. We are expanding access to these life-saving vaccines, knowing the importance they make on our community, and we are hopeful even more residents will choose to get vaccinated.”

New York State Department of Health is supporting the expansion of testing and vaccination opportunities, providing additional vaccinators and test administrators to support the county’s JCPenney site.

Molinaro said, “We are grateful to the NYS DOH for these additional resources and encourage residents to take advantage of our testing and vaccination opportunities to protect themselves and their families.”

For more information on COVID-19, including testing, vaccinations, booster shots, current guidance and much more, visit www.DutchessNY.gov/Coronavirus.

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress appoints Adam Bosch as President and Chief Executive Officer

The board of directors at Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress today announced the appointment of Adam Bosch to be the organization’s next president and chief executive officer. Bosch, a lifelong resident of the Hudson Valley, worked as a journalist, college professor, and policy analyst across the region before joining the senior leadership team of the New York City water supply system. He will become Pattern’s sixth president since the organization was founded in 1965.

“I am excited to lead the team at Pattern for Progress during a time when the Hudson Valley faces so many challenges and opportunities,” Bosch said. “Our region has long trusted Pattern to develop plans and policies that are based on objective research, steering our communities toward a more prosperous and equitable future. I’m eager to amplify the work of Pattern’s talented staff by collaborating with leaders across the region who have the passion and authority to turn our research into action.”

“As Pattern enters into this next chapter of its history, I am excited to work with our new President and CEO Adam Bosch, our talented staff, and our committed and dedicated board of directors,” said Anthony Campiagorni, Chair of the Pattern for Progress Board of Directors. “Adam is the right leader for Pattern at this moment. He has demonstrated success in developing actionable research for the region, he brings an exciting vision for the Hudson Valley and Pattern’s role in advancing that vision, and he demonstrates an inspiring passion that will undoubtedly attract new individuals and organizations to Pattern’s critical mission.”

“Adam is the perfect choice to lead Pattern for Progress at this important time for the Hudson Valley,” said Jonathan



Adam Bosch

Drapkin, who stepped down as president of Pattern in December after leading the organization for 15 years. “Throughout his career, Adam has built many strong relationships across the region. Those who have worked with Adam respect and trust him for his savvy advice, creative thinking and ability to knit issues together. Adam is a thorough researcher and an articulate communicator who will help the region assess where it was before the pandemic, and where it needs to go in the future. Pattern was indeed fortunate to attract Adam to this vital position.”

Bosch will join Pattern for Progress on Jan. 31. He can be reached at abosch@pfprogress.org.

Maloney, Delgado announce \$450,000 aviation grant for DCC

Representatives Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) and Antonio Delgado (NY-19) have announced \$450,000 in grant funding for Dutchess Community College from the Federal Aviation Administration to support students pursuing careers in aviation maintenance.

“Aviation maintenance is critical to our national security and function of the entire transportation industry. With this grant, DCC will help students start successful careers in this essential trade,” said Rep. Maloney.

“Empowering young folks to take on an education and career in the aviation industry will support and maintain our country’s transportation system for years to come,” said Rep. Delgado. “I am proud to join Rep. Maloney in announcing this funding that will help prepare New York students to pursue aviation maintenance careers. I will

keep fighting for programs that support trade students as they enter the workforce.”

“Dutchess Community College already has a reputation for being one of New York State’s leading aviation education providers,” said DCC President Peter Grant Jordan. “This funding in support of our new aviation maintenance technician programs allows us to be a driving force in meeting the workforce needs of the aviation industry. We owe a special thanks to U.S Representatives Maloney and Delgado as well as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and their teams for their vision and commitment to this important grant program, which provides us with the support we need to broaden our role as Dutchess County’s foremost hub of learning.”

Ongoing breast cancer support groups scheule meetings

Breast Cancer Options provides direct services in the Hudson Valley counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster. Its Zoom support groups welcome survivors from all over, and the organization provides information to survivors no matter where they live.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Peer-Led Support Groups:
Free free to join any online group meeting using the Zoom mobile apps or desktop applications for Windows and Mac.
Join a meeting using one of these methods:

1. Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.
2. Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and tap Join Meeting.
3. The Password to join any group is: BCO101.

CORNWALL/BEACON BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
1st Monday, 6-7:30 p.m.
Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8481222222>

After registering, you will receive an email with information about joining the meeting.

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER MEETING
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8481222222>

After registering, you will receive an email with information about joining the meeting.

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER MEETING
4th Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8481222222>

After registering, you will receive an email with information about joining the meeting.

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NY Public school retiree pensions set new record

Albany, NY — Average pension benefits for newly retired public educators outside New York City reached a record high of \$73,552 last year, according to data posted last week at SeeThroughNY.net.

The figures are from the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS), which covers school professionals across most of the state.

The 2,685 members of NYSTRS who retired during the 2020-21 school year with at least 30 years of credited service time are eligible for a maximum pension benefit averaging \$73,552, up from \$71,074 for the 2019-20 retiree cohort.

More than ten percent of these new retirees (289) are eligible for six-figure pensions, the highest being the \$271,275 maximum benefit earned by former Locust Valley School District Superintendent, Dr. Anna Hunderfund.

Reflecting regional salary differences, average pensions among the new retirees are highest among those retiring from New York City suburban districts. The Long Island region had the highest average pension at \$94,108, as shown in the table below. The top five individual pensions also belong to retirees from schools in either Nassau or Westchester counties.

Average Eligible Benefit for 2020-21 NYSTRS Retirees with Over 30 Years of Experience

Region	Number	Avg. Benefit
Capital	271	\$63,592
Central New York	224	\$56,670
Finger Lakes	263	\$61,754
Long Island	713	\$94,108
Mid-Hudson	520	\$83,668
Mohawk Valley	118	\$57,785
North Country	108	\$54,946
Southern Tier	196	\$55,148
Western New York	272	\$63,060
Total	2,685	\$73,553

The average maximum pension for the entire cohort of 5,461 newly retired NYSTRS members is \$55,017. That broader average includes both part- and full-time public school teachers, many of whom attained only a minimum five-year vesting requirement before leaving the system.

Among all NYSTRS members earning benefits in 2020-21 (both new retirees and earlier ones), 4,061 are eligible for six-figure pension benefits. Other six-figure pensioners included 50 retirees eligible for benefits of \$200,000 to \$300,000, and four eligible for pensions exceeding \$300,000.

These data are made public thanks to the Empire Center's successful court challenges against efforts by public agencies to conceal information from taxpayers. The Center remains involved in litigation to protect and expand the public's ability to examine public pensions and spending.

Mount to host graduate admission event Jan. 26

Mount Saint Mary College will be hosting a virtual information session for those interested in exploring the college's graduate programs in Business, Education, and Nursing on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The Graduate Showcase will be held at 5 p.m. via Zoom. Register at [msmc.edu/gradshowcase](https://www.msmc.edu/gradshowcase).

Meet with the college's dedicated graduate admissions counselors to have your questions answered, learn about what a master's degree program entails, and even apply for free.

For questions, email gradadmissions@msmc.edu.

BEACON FREE PRESS

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

Albert Osten, President • Beatrice Osten, Secretary - Treasurer
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(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.

HV Alzheimer's Association chapter offers helpline, Alzheimer's warning signs

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley chapter has a variety of programs and services available for the general public and for families living with dementia. Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, most of these are currently being provided virtually or by phone.

The Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 is always available to answer any questions and concerns. Typically, during and after the holidays, the number of calls increase when people who recently visited friends and family that they haven't seen in a while notice changes in their loved ones. The Helpline is an ideal place to find answers and resources for additional assistance.

"Helpline calls often lead to local referrals to our chapter for additional resources, such as free education programs and personalized family care consultations," said Meg Boyce, Vice President of Programs and Services for the Hudson Valley Chapter.

"As our loved ones age, we often attribute memory loss to a normal aging, although some behaviors or signs of cognitive decline may result from something more severe. Boyce noted it can be tempting to remain in denial about such changes in a loved one's behavior, but that putting off a diagnosis can add to difficulties down the road.

"Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging. It is a progressive disease, in which the symptoms gradually worsen over time," she said. "Ignoring signs of cognitive impairment out of fear or denial can lead to greater heartache and the possible worsening of the situation."

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter encourages families to keep the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's in mind:

- Memory changes that disrupts daily life, such as forgetting important events
- Challenges in planning or solving problems, such as keeping track of monthly bills
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks, such as driving to routine places
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and being unable to retrace steps, such as putting keys in the freezer
- Decreased or poor judgment, such as giving large sums of money to telemarketers
- Withdrawal from work or social activities, and forgetting how to work on a favorite hobby
- Changes in mood and personality, such as becoming angry or fearful for seemingly no reason

"If you notice someone struggling with a familiar task, it's important to reach out to their healthcare providers," Boyce said. "Early diagnosis is crucial, as it gives the person living with the disease and their family more time to plan for the future, as well as the opportunity take advantage of some drugs that can help manage symptoms in the early stage."

The association offers free educational programs for the general public with advice on recognizing warning signs, how to live a healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of developing dementia, information on legal and financial planning and more. Educational programs for those directly affected include advice on managing care throughout the disease, common dementia-related behaviors and how communication changes as the disease progresses. Live programs via Zoom or phone can be found by searching by zip code at alz.org/crf. Pre-recorded educational programs are available anytime at: alz.org/help-support/resources/care-training-resources.

Wappinger receives one of 17 state grants for wastewater collection system improvement

Governor Kathy Hochul announced \$23 million in grants to help improve water quality across New York State while mitigating the effects of climate change. Through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program, \$20.8 million is being awarded to 17 projects that incorporate green storm water infrastructure, as well as implement energy and water efficiency measures. An additional \$2.5 million in Engineering Planning Grants will help jumpstart planning for 56 water infrastructure projects. The funding is part of the \$750 million announced for Round XI of the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Of the 17 Green Innovation Grant Program projects, 13 projects worth \$17.9 million will impact Environmental Justice Communities.

Among the projects awarded a grant:

- Town of Wappinger - \$100,000 to identify sources of inflow and infiltration in the Mid-Point Park Sewer District, evaluate alternatives, and recommend improvements to the wastewater collection system.

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) supports projects across the state that utilize unique EPA-designated green stormwater infrastructure design and create cutting-edge green technologies. Competitive grants are awarded annually to projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change through the implementation of green practices, including green stormwater infrastructure, energy efficiency and water efficiency.

Engineering Planning Grants (EPG) help eligible communities afford and start the critical planning process so they can be better prepared to seek financing to help them complete their water infrastructure projects. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to develop an engineering report that identifies problems and potential solutions. These grants have helped municipalities across the state to complete 350 engineering reports since the program's inception in 2012.

Mount offering Open House Jan. 30

Mount Saint Mary College is offering an Open House event for all interested students on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Those interested may register at www.msmc.edu/OpenHouse.

County health meeting set for Jan. 20

The Dutchess County Board of Health will hold its meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20, virtually using Microsoft Teams, at 4 p.m.

To listen to the meeting, call 1-516-268-4602 and enter the Conference ID number: 723 279 553#.

DISPATCHES FROM THE VFW

by Tom Zurhellen

Working together, we can end veteran homelessness

When we created the VetZero project in 2019, our mission was in the name: Our goal was zero veteran suicides and zero veteran homelessness in our community, and some day, in our country. That goal might sound naïve to some, but we believe anything’s possible if we all work together.

We’ve long assumed the ongoing COVID pandemic would have a negative impact on the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in America, but there has been no hard data to support that assumption, until now. Recently the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, known as HUD, released its annual report on homelessness, and the number of veterans experiencing homelessness is going back up again, after a long period of decline.

Over the previous decade, the number of homeless veterans in America was basically cut in half, from about 75,000 in 2009 to a low of around 40,000 in 2020. That was due to a growth of both public awareness and also government funding of programs that support our veterans. But now, according to that recent HUD report, that downward trend has been halted over these past two years of the pandemic.

Even before I walked across America, I knew what it feels like to be a homeless veteran. When I got my discharge from the Navy back in 1997, I found myself in a strange city with no friends or family, no real support, and no real plan as to what I was going to do next. I was lost. All my friends

were on the ship I had called home for years. I had no home of my own and very little money in the bank, even though I found work at a local hardware store. Luckily, after a few months I managed to enroll in a graduate program with the help of the G.I. Bill, but I will always remember the fear and depression I experienced during that time.

Oftentimes we can get jaded when we think about the mounting problems facing our veterans. After all, we see the same issues day in and day out, and sometimes we just figure those issues will never get better. At least, not in our lifetimes. But that’s simply not true. Think about it: between 2009 and 2020 we basically halved the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in America. That’s amazing. And now it’s our mission to keep that downward trend going after the COVID pandemic ends. We shouldn’t stop until that number reaches zero.

Did you know there are 82 communities across America that have indeed reached “zero” for homeless veterans? Places like Houston and New Orleans have declared an end to veteran homelessness. Now, I’m sure those numbers won’t stay at zero every single day, but it shows these communities are taking a stand. It shows they are being proactive with supporting our veterans in need. And that’s a comforting thought.

Many of our veterans experiencing homelessness will be invisible to the untrained eye. Most homeless veterans do not fit that tired stereotype of a ragged old vet sitting on



Liberty Station in Poughkeepsie is operated by Hudson River Housing and is Dutchess County's only dedicated veteran shelter.

-Courtesy photo

the side of the road with a cardboard sign. No, most homeless veterans have jobs, and they have the same problems and responsibilities we all have in life. As we have said before, veterans do not ask for help, especially when they need it. But that goal of zero veteran homelessness is within our reach, if we all work together.

Thanks for listening! See you next time!

A Navy veteran, Tom Zurhellen has been Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Poughkeepsie for the past three years. In the summer of 2019, he walked across America from Portland, Oregon, to Poughkeepsie to raise awareness on veteran suicide and veteran homelessness in our country. He continues to work with local veterans in need through the VetZero Project, in partnership with Hudson River Housing.

R.M.S announces honor students for 1st quarter

The following students are on the Rombout Middle School honor roll for the 1st quarter of the 2021-22 school year. The students are:

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL:

8th Grade: Nadeen Ahmed, Alianna Alijaj, Farhana Antora, Patrick Apmann, Alexander Browning, Parker Capawana, Skylar Clair, Christian Clay, Peter Cohen, Tye Elias, Marisah George, Zenia Haris, Christina Hernandez, Ruby Hotchkiss, Everly Jordan, Alina Joseph, Gabrielle Khalil, Aidan Kinsley, Griffin Kitzrow, Aron Li, Alma Mart, Oscar McKible, Alexander Pascal, Liliana Rybak, Kayla Selander, Matthew Tumidaj, Juan Tutasi Jr., Addison Zittel.

7th Grade: Mikayla Acevedo, Cecilia Allee, Maayan Alon, Lauren Antonucci, Savannah Brace, Juniper Breault, Danica Brennen, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Shannon Colandrea, Emily Coldrick, Theodore Concepcion, Mateo Cruz, Haziel Decena Meran, Victoria Diaz, Travis Dickston, Ka'Dera Elliott, Elijah Epps, Tyler Evans, Khordae Facey, Fionn Fehilly, Hailey Fish, William Flynn, Khloe Franklin, Brandon Fremer, Valeria Garcia, Kayla Gerardes, Emilio Guerra, Elma-Taherin Hassan, Abigail Haydt, Madeleine Hayes, Miguel Herrera, Reinabelle Jaafar, Shaun Jabar, Ruby King, Wenang Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Lily Mack, Yadriana Manzano Cabello, Asha Marcus, Ethan Maxaner, Victoria McKay, Isaac McKible, Shyanne McNair, Lily Murr, Lyris Pennock, Sabine Perez, Sarah Ramkalawon, Lillian Ray, Stella Reinke, John Rose, Charlotte Rossi, Katherine Sendelbach, Livia Simons, Tabitha Smith-White, Januario Stageman, Harper Strang, Jesiah Swanigan, Elliott Thorne, Gavin Troiano, Isaac Tschang, Farrah VanCott, Rudolph Vergolina, Jesse Vermeulen, Fabiola Vogrincic, Aslynn Way, Lila Welsh, Parker White, Julie Whittemore.

6th Grade: Owen Allee, Jesse Apostolou, Caden Balfour, Breannah Brace, Gavin Bruno, Engel Cabrejo, Skylar Carr, Claire Cumming, Vaughn Davis, Jake DeLuise, Evelyn DePalma, Ryan DiNobile, Saoirse Fehilly, Christa George, Henry Greenberg, McKenna Griffin, Henry Gute, Maeve Haley, Fareed Iddris, Drew Kelly, Maximilian Kong, Christopher Lee, Mia Lentini, Heidi Maeng, Justin Mann, Victoria Maruggi, Oliver Meyer, Claire Morgan, Henry Mulligan, Sigil Netboy, Zora Nicholls, Sofia Posso Salcedo, Nour Raouf Said, Maeve Rinaldi, Giana Rodriguez, Isabella Ruffy, Nathaniel

Salvati, Evangeline Santise, Benjamin Seaman, Shane Signorelli, Hunter Smith, Gonzalo Soria Velecela, Caellum Tripaldi, Derek Waltke, Caleb Wells-McGurk, Hayden Wilson, Owen Youatt, Josefine Zezza.

HIGH HONOR ROLL

8th Grade: Mira Bagriyanik, Grace Beston, James Bouchard III, Ella Brill, Samuel Callan, Lola Ciccone, Erin Cleary, Alistair Cunningham, Kiera D'Ippolito, Diego Dickinson Case Leal, Teo Fairbanks, Isabella Galbo, Ayden Gilleo, Kayla Hammond, Natalie Hayden, Daisy Herrera, Dylan Hetrick, Milo Isabell, Vincent Joao Jr., Oren Kelleher, Maceo Koerner, Savana Kush, Ryan Landisi, Josiah Lind, Anthony Lopez, Brayden Manning, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Anselm McKee, Jahsaia Monelle, Aiden Montleon, Nolan O'Malley, Adrien Okoye, Richie Omira, Stori Owen, Roman Proft, Victoria Reyes-Miele, Jonathan Richards, Mikaela Sanchez, Zachary Schetter, Katrina Skorewicz, Aiden Spiecker, Jonathan Trentacosta, Marcos Velasco, George Walker, Alexander Young.

7th Grade: Savannah Acuti, Jay Adams, Lily Amundson, Molly-Rose Archer, Dakota Barden, Emma Bellis, Tamirnes Bernstein, Casey Brandstrom, Hartley Brickman, Shea Bullers, Myasia Burch, Michael Cahill, Anthony-Joseph Cathers, Angeleah Decker, Naim Dika, Daniel Echevarria, Adriana Fazioli, Hudson Fontaine, Olivia Gilleo, Maliah Graham, Cole Heath, Elidonya Hudson, Ryan Huynh, Hailee Jennings, Richard Johnson Jr., Gabriel Khan, Syeira Kozlik, Bria Lopez, Yianniz Male, Arianna Malinowski, Ryan Mowen, Ray Noble IV, Lilly Pendley, Nicholas Perry, Brady Philipbar, Amari Powell, Abbey Premuto, Olivia Reynolds, Julian Rivers, Noah Sanderson, Za'layni Shand, Caeleb Smith, Samirah Smith, Savannah Steinman, Madison Thompson, Kiarra Tice, Brevin Timm, Vincent Tonyes Jr., Nolan Varricchio, Slater Way.

6th Grade: Mark Aakjar III, Kendall Adnams, Jacqueline Albra, Kiersten Barber, Lily Berry, Skye Brooks-Brown, Michai Brown, Jayla Bunch, Wyatt Burgos, Erica Cabrera, Hawah Camara, Sarah Camara, Anthony Castano, Henry Cerchiara, Piper Clark, Zooey Dedring, Eva DeJesus Calle, Andrea Delgado, Joseline Duran, Fiyinfoluwa Egieya, Abilena Eriksmoen, Leah Fahlman, Kyle Fairbanks, Liani Garcia, Annabel Goodman, Tania Griffin, Zoe Hammond,

Jayden Harrison, Troi Harvey Semple, Alejandro Herrera, Brianna Hunt, Mikayla Jolly, Odell Lowery, Josue Martell, Ruby Martin, Edwin Martinez Jr., Braelyn Milligan, Elise Moran, Catherine Musorofiti, Payton O'Connell, Brandon O'Dell, Mohammad Rahman, Caleb Ramirez, Luis Ramon, James Reyes, Daimon Rivera, Khloe Roci, Thalia Rodriguez, Antonio See, Joshua Tonyes, Eliot Waterman, Cayden Williams, Jude Williams, Trey Zapencki, Nicholas Zippo.

HONOR ROLL

8th Grade: Ashland Assael, Emanuele Bagala, Jahcier Ballard, Logan Blum, Jayden Bostick, Lacianna Brown, Serenity Bunn, Mirianjelis Chavez, Emmanuel Dickinson Case Leal, Sofia Domanski, Gabriel Godbee, Jazmine Gonzalez Aguilar, Kylee Graff, Michael Jones, Cameron Just, Taylor Kelliher, Eric Kruze, Kiran Kumar, Carlos Lampon III, Frankie Lin, Tania Lindsay, Quincy Miles, Annalea Miller, Eli Netboy, Jaiere Newton, Aiden Nieves, Annabelle Notarthomas, Michael Ramos, Jaiden Rivera, Jalaysia Robinson, Thomas Senior, Desirae Smith, Noah Spiak, Clive Stewart, Mya Wright.

7th Grade: Ziarra Beamon, Caroline Bell, Giovanna Bottiglieri, Giovanni

Bowley, Aniyah Brown, Jayden Concepcion, Naomi Conklin, Jason David, Bryanna Deleon, Christopher Diaz, Leo Garcia, Austin Halley, Julian Hannah, Aiden Heaton, Ava Lassiter, Jayden Lassiter, Jayshon Lopez, Gianna Mercer, Lakota Newman, Logan Nicholson, Adryanna Pantojas, Brianne Papo, Selena Perez-Sample, Devon Pipkin, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Marciano Rodriguez, Stella Sheehy, Jazier Smith, Jamir Spence, Adryanah Sweat, Connor Varricchio, Maikol Ventura Encarnacion, Brady Way, Andrew Whittemore, Ny'el Woods, Piper Yewchuck, Ysabella Zappala.

6th Grade: Femmie Akinwunmi, Kiann Allen, Benjamin Betancourt, Noa Buckland, Janyia Burch, Jennifer Chacon, Lia Cosentino, Ramon Dewey-Brink, Chanel Dickey, Kaileigh Edie, Kaemani Facey, Kareem Fandi, Richard Ferdinand, Trinity Gill, Enid Hernandez, Melody Longino, Ziryab Malik, Shayne Maxaner, Gabriel Montleon, Ismael Munoz, Olivia Ortiz, Sofien Oueslati Bourgeois, Stephanie Ramon, Delano Rigby Jr., David Segarra Jr., Angel Silva, Vardan Singh, Shea Tanaka, Sophia Tomasik Dume, Eliza Verdichizzi, Az'Rel Vergo, Julie Vogrincic, Luna Yawman.

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Miller named 2021 NY Trustee of the Year by LeadingAge NY

Robert Irving Miller Jr., managing attorney of Sholes & Miller, PLLC, was awarded the 2021 NY Trustee of the Year Award from LeadingAge NY at their annual awards ceremony held on Dec. 1, 2021. Miller received this honor for his dedication and service as treasurer and member of the board of trustees of the Community at Brookmeade, a not-for-profit senior living retirement community located in Rhinebeck, NY. The Community at Brookmeade is located on 75 country acres and offers independent living, assisted living, long-term care, sub-acute rehabilitation, palliative care and out-patient rehabilitation services. The community will also open a medical model adult daycare center this spring.

The Trustee of the Year Award is bestowed on those who have served selflessly and with distinction on the board of trustees of a LeadingAge NY member organization. The selection committee looks for significant contributions of time and effort toward the betterment of his or her organization and the

people it serves or service to the elderly and infirm.

LeadingAge NY is an association of 6,500 not-for-profit organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging. They advance policies, promote practices and conduct research that supports, enables and empowers people to live fully as they age. One can find out more about LeadingAge NY and view the 2021 virtual awards presentation at www.leadingageny.org.

Miller has contributed his time and resources to the betterment of the Community at Brookmeade, serving for seven years on the board of trustees and for three years as treasurer. Mr. Miller holds the distinction of being a Nurse-Attorney, as he is both a registered nurse and a practicing attorney. He is also a former hospital and nursing home administrator. His extensive experience in the fields of law and medicine, along with his leadership and commitment, make him a valuable asset to the Community

at Brookmeade.

Sholes & Miller, PLLC is celebrating 21 years in the Hudson Valley during 2022. The law firm of Sholes & Miller serves the New York metro area, the Hudson Valley, and the capital region. With a strong reputation for representing the particular and varied legal needs of medical professionals and facilities, practice areas also include comprehensive legal representation of individuals, families, companies, and other lawyers. The firm's services include malpractice defense and personal injury litigation; professional discipline/medical license defense; business law, including labor, employment, construction and prevailing wage law; appellate litigation; general liability; civil rights; hospital and nursing home law; guardianships and mental health; Title IX/sexual harassment; and wills, trusts and estates. To learn more about the diverse legal services offered by Sholes & Miller, PLLC Attorneys and Counselors at Law, visit www.SholesMiller.com.



Robert Irving Miller Jr.

Howland Chamber Music Circle to present pianist Roman Rabinovich

Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) continues its 2021-2022 season with a live performance by pianist Roman Rabinovich on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon.

To attend the concert, tickets are

available for purchase at <https://howlandmusic.org/Tickets.html>.

In order to ensure the safety of its patrons, HCMC is following all CDC and local COVID guidelines. Concerts will be held at half capacity to enable social distancing, and a proof of vaccination is

required prior to entry. (The wearing of masks will be determined by the prevailing CDC and local government mandates and guidelines.) As guidelines may change, HCMC thanks its patrons for their flexibility and cooperation.

For more information on this performance and on the entire 2021-2022 HCMC season, please visit howlandmusic.org.

The pianist Roman Rabinovich has been highly lauded by The New York Times, BBC Music Magazine, the San Francisco Classical Voice and others. He has performed throughout Europe and the United States, in many major concert halls as both a soloist and a featured artist with world-renowned symphony orchestras. Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Rabinovich immi-

grated to Israel with his family in 1994, beginning his piano studies there; he went on to graduate from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and earned his master's degree at the Juilliard School in New York City.

A true polymath, Rabinovich is an accomplished composer, as well as a visual artist. During the pandemic he and violinist Diana Cohen have played free weekly concerts in their front yard.

Rabinovich will play an eclectic program at the Howland Cultural Center: 6 selections from 18th-century composer Jean-Philippe Rameau's Suite in g-minor; 3 Impromptus by 19th-century composer Franz Schubert; a Sonata by the 20th-century's George Walker; and 12 Etudes by the 19th-century's Frederic Chopin.

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MHCM’s Brian Powers appointed Chair of Miles of Hope’s Board of Directors

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit committed to funding support services for people affected by breast cancer in the Hudson Valley, has appointed Brian Powers, vice president of marketing and business development at Mid Hudson Construction Management (MHCM), to chair its board of directors effective Jan. 1.

For the past four years, Powers served

as vice chairman and treasurer of Miles of Hope’s board. He replaces Salvatore V. Raccuia, M.D. as chair, after back-to-back years of service.

“Brian’s innovative leadership and ability to target development opportunities, plus more than a decade of integrative marketing and operations experience, will ensure that Miles of Hope continues to expand its impact in the region,” said Pari Forood,

executive director of Miles of Hope.

“The mission of this organization is one that is near and dear to my heart and my past four years of service has only deepened my commitment,” said Powers. “I am honored to take on an even greater role and to help Miles of Hope continue making the incredible mark it has on those bravely fighting breast cancer battles in our community.”



Brian Powers

Forty-two organizations to receive \$7 million in Funding for Workforce Development Awards

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that 42 organizations across the state have been awarded \$7 million as part of the Workforce Development Initiative. This series of awards is the first group made under the second round of funding, which began in August, and makes \$48 million available to support strategic regional efforts that help New Yorkers prepare for and find quality, well-paying jobs, meet businesses’ short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, expand apprenticeships, and address the long-term needs of growing industries. Applications continue to be accepted through the rolling Consolidated Funding Application Process.

Funding and incentives provided in this round of awards by Department of Labor, SUNY and CUNY will support critical job training and employment opportunities in high-demand industries for more than 2,550 New Yorkers across the State.

“We need to deal with the harsh reality that the pandemic left too many New Yorkers suddenly out of work and searching for new skills to reinvent themselves and relaunch their careers,” Governor Hochul said. “These workforce awards will provide critical skills training, connect New Yorkers with the high-demand and good-paying jobs of the future, and create harmony between education, business, and public investment that will accelerate our state’s economic recovery. To the New Yorkers who were driven out of work by the pandemic or deciding on their next career steps during these uncertain times, we are building a new New York worthy of your talents and ambitions.”

New York’s Regional Economic Development Councils have a key role in recommending applications for funding, based on regional economic needs and

opportunities. Businesses and organizations receiving Workforce Development awards include:

- Mid-Hudson: Nicholas Center, Williams Lumber, ShopRite, Dutchess Community College

The Workforce Development Initiative began in 2019 with a mission to invest \$175 million throughout New York State for innovative, creative, and regionally customized workforce development projects. Awards under this Consolidated Funding Application support strategic regional efforts that meet businesses’ short-term workforce needs, address long-term industry needs, improve regional talent pipelines, enhance flexibility and adaptability of local workforce entities, and expand workplace learning opportunities.

In the first round of WDI funding, over \$70 million was awarded to 225 organizations to support regionally significant industries in emerging fields with growing demands for jobs -- including clean energy, life sciences, computer science, and advanced technologies -- as well as efforts to improve the economic security of women, young workers, and other populations that face significant barriers to career advancement. Funding supports critical job training and employment opportunities in high-demand industries for over 51,000 New Yorkers across the State.

In this second call for applications, the Workforce Development Initiative is bringing together the resources, plans, and perspectives of multiple state agencies and authorities, the Regional Economic Development Councils, nonprofit training providers and private sector employers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information about the Workforce Development Initiative and the awards

announced to date can be found at workforcedevelopment.ny.gov.

Program for men to discuss ‘living with loss’

Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program: It’s Okay to Grieve, Let’s Talk: An Open Discussion for Men Living With Loss. It will held via Zoom video conference on Tues., Feb. 1, from 7 - 8 p.m. The program is open to men nationwide who have lost a spouse or partner to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer, regardless of how much time has gone by.

To learn more or to register, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290 by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31.

The open discussion format provides a safe and supportive venue to talk with others coping with similar challenges. Share concerns, experiences and information with others who’ve been there too.

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Obituaries

Jeanne M. Lancto



The family of Jeanne M. Lancto are saddened to announce her passing on January 13, 2022 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, following an extended, but rapidly

deteriorating, illness. Jeanne was born on October 30, 1946 in Pensacola, Florida to Jud B. Lancto and Jane Marek Lancto. Shortly after the conclusion of our father’s military service (Naval Aviator and Ensign - USN), the family returned to New York State, where Jeanne lived the remainder of her life. She lived most of her life in Wappingers Falls Jeanne attended the Wappingers Central School District, graduating from Roy C Ketcham High School in one of its original graduating classes. Jeanne continued her association with and commitment to the Wappingers Central School District spending over 42 years in a senior secretarial support position, primarily in the Main Office of Fishkill Elementary School. She had a dedicated affection for the school and made many lasting friendships there. It was the primary focus for almost all of her life. She was very active in and was an advocate for many of the school’s organizations and activities, including serving as a Past Treasurer for the PTA. She also served in a number of leadership position with her local union representing her coworkers in the district. She will be fondly remembered and missed by her many coworkers and former students. Go Frogs! Jeanne was the first-born child of our immediate family of five children and was the first-born child of a new generation within the extended family. She was our loving matriarch as our parents departed us over time. Her family was her life, and her passing has devastated us all. Jeanne is survived by her immediate family of her brothers, nieces and nephews, and their families, and her numerous extended family of cousins. She and our other older sister have taken the first steps into the next stage. Jeanne is survived by her three brothers - Jud F. Lancto and Jon K. Lancto of Wappingers Falls and Jeffrey D. (Fran) Lancto of Cass Lake, MN, and our other brother in life, Larry A. Cohen, of Wappingers Falls, formerly of Oneonta, NY. She is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews and their extended families, including Shawn M. Cohen of Beacon, NY, Michelle L. Cohen Kozlowski of Gardiner, NY, Corey D. Lancto of MN, Sarah Lancto Campbell (Jene) of MN, and her extended family of nephews - Jason Montana (Angela) of MN, Ari Schwartz (Linette) of MN and Jared Schwartz of MN. Jeanne is also survived by a large family of cousins and great nieces and nephews, and sadly will not be here to celebrate the upcoming birth of a anxiously anticipated great nephew. Jeanne is also survived by her surviving Aunts and Uncles, Henrietta and George Bouyea of Plattsburgh, NY and Percilla and Carroll Graves of Prosper, TX and all of our cousins.

Jeanne was predeceased by our parents and our sister, Janet L. Cohen. Reunited again. They were the family everyone expected until the three boys came along. She was also predeceased by her grandparents and most of our father’s siblings and their spouses - our Aunts and Uncles, and our nephew Gavin Schwartz. The family wishes to thank Dr Edward and Mrs. Sheila Schneider for their many years of caring for Jeanne and our other family, and to all the healthcare providers who cared for and treated Jeanne. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Delehanty Funeral Home is honored to assist Jeanne’s family with funeral arrangements www.delehantyfuneral.com

Victoria A. Zamudio

BEACON – Victoria A. (Gronkowski) Zamudio, Beacon, NY passed on January 8, 2022 with her family by her side. She was 92 years old. Vicki was born in Poughkeepsie, NY, daughter of Anna and Karol Gronkowski. Following high school, she avidly pursued a career in nursing, a career that mirrored her passion for loving and caring for people and animals alike. She started her nursing path graduating from White Plains Hospital Nursing School and later worked at Vassar Hospital, where she met the love of her life, Rodolfo Zamudio Sr. M.D. They were married in 1960. Vicki attended mass every day and was a parishioner of St. Joachim – St. John the Evangelist Church but also had a strong connection with the VA chapel at Castlepoint in Beacon, NY and St. Mary’s Church in Fishkill, NY. She is survived by her three beloved children, Lisa (Tom) Koscal, Kevin (Nancy Caminiti) Zamudio, and Rod (Jennifer) Zamudio; her three beloved grandchildren, Natalie, Trevor and Jordan. Vicki is also survived by her brothers, Henry Hochlowski and Chester Gronkowski, and numerous loving nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her husband, parents, and siblings, H. Jean (Hochlowski) Johnson, Joseph, Walter, Vincent, Frank, Jan Hochlowski and John Gronkowski. Vicki formed many close and life-long friendships over the years and is beloved by all who knew her. Never one to remain idle, she had many interests and hobbies. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, acting as the family photographer, baking pizzelles, and had a lifelong enjoyment of both jigsaw and crossword puzzles. She enjoyed traveling, participated in the local garden club, played tennis, bowled, and collected seashells on the beach with her husband, Rudy, children, and grandchildren. She and Rudy also loved music and dancing together. Vicki was a beautiful person, and she was always there when you needed her. She thrived on helping others and often volunteered in her church community, drove cancer patients to their appointments, and worked at a local charitable organization, Nifty Thrifty, every Monday until the pandemic. Most of all, her children, her grandchildren, and her family were everything to her, and spending time together and being involved in her grandchildren’s interests brought her great joy. There was no visitation at this time due to the pandemic. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, January 15 at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon. A Graveside Service will be held directly after mass at Calvary Cemetery in Poughkeepsie, NY. A memorial gathering will be held at a later date for friends and family. To send a personal condolence and to live stream the funeral serv-

ice please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Therese Barron

EAST FISHKILL – Therese Anne Barron, 88, died peacefully on January 10, 2022 at the Ghent Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, with family at her side. She had been a resident of East Fishkill for over 50 years. Born in Yonkers on March 7, 1933, Therese was the daughter of the late Michael and Pauline (Wall) Kutka. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1951. She was employed as an accountant by the Herald Statesman in Yonkers. Following the start of their family, Therese moved up to Dutchess County with her husband, Floyd, where she was the brains of the operation behind Floyd’s Service Station in Fishkill Plains. Therese was also employed for over thirty plus years by the Dutchess County Board of Elections, and the Wappingers Central School District as a Poll Worker for varied elections. Therese was a volunteer at the East Fishkill Community Library for many years. She was a Girl Scout Leader for both Brownies and Junior Scouts with the Dutchess County Girl Scout Council. She and her husband, Floyd enjoyed CB radio for many years and were well known by the handles of Dreamer and Little Boy. Therese was into crafting and making ceramics. She would often sell her creations at local holiday craft sales under the name of "Terrie’s Treasures". She enjoyed playing cards with her friends on Saturday nights and when in Florida as a Snow Bird, she would enjoy the casino cruises as a special treat. Therese was a true lover of small dogs and had many throughout her life. She was particularly fond of chihuahuas and is survived by her 15-year-old chihuahua and corgi mix, Lil Boy who has been lovingly adopted by a family friend. He was her pride and joy up until the very end! On January 8, 1955 at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, Therese married Floyd John Barron who predeceased her in 2010. She is survived by her daughters, Suzanne Barron Flannigan and her husband Patrick of Washingtonville and Christina Barron McComish of Valatie; her grandchildren, Nicole Barron Robinson and her husband Bradley of Washingtonville, Megan McComish and her boyfriend Zachary Dragon of Watervliet, Jeremy McComish of Wayne, NJ, and her great-granddaughter Madison McComish of Valatie. In addition to her parents and husband, Therese was also predeceased by her siblings, Michael Kutka, Jr. and Patricia Kutka. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by burial at St. Denis Cemetery. Donations may be made in Therese’s memory to Dutchess

County SPCA. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Mary Sahagian-Scocozza

EAST FISHKILL – Mary Sahagian-Scocozza, 59, an area resident for over 30 years, died on January 13, 2022 at Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital. She previously lived in White Plains and Jackson Heights, Queens. Born in Manhattan on November 24, 1962, Mary was the daughter of the late Joseph and Cecilia (Belardo) Sahagian. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Pace University in computer science. Mary is survived by her sons, Dayne Scocozza and Austin Scocozza and his wife Sabrina; her sister, Joann Folchetti; her husband, Ralph Scocozza; and several nieces and nephews. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Denis Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, followed by entombment at Rose Hills Memorial Park, 100 Mill Street, Putnam Valley. Since Mary loved giving to charities, donations may be made in Mary’s memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Gwendolyn Viola

EAST FISHKILL – Gwendolyn R. Viola, 83, an area resident since 1969, passed away peacefully at home on January 13, 2022. She previously lived in Peekskill. Born in Peekskill on June 18, 1938, Gwendolyn was the daughter of the late Eldorus Demout Slater and Harriet Stotlar. She had been employed by IBM in East Fishkill for 25 years and then worked at Frankie’s Superette in Hopewell Junction for almost 20 years. She was a talented ice skater who also enjoyed bowling. Most importantly, she loved watching and spending time with her grandchildren. She is survived by her children, Emilio “Pete” Viola of Poughkeepsie, Vincent Joseph Viola of Manhattan, Marie Viola of Poughkeepsie, and Denise Strang of Hopewell Junction; her grandchildren, David, Brian, Katie, Rachel, Mary, Richard, Joseph, and Nicholas; many great-grandchildren; brother, Leroy Slater and his wife; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Gwendolyn was also predeceased by her husband, Emilio “Pete” Viola in 1992; and her granddaughter, Nicole Tomlins in 2020. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Wednesday at 10 am at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by burial at St. Denis Cemetery. Donations may be made in Gwendolyn’s memory to Hudson Valley Hospice. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Appointments available during National Blood Donor Month

This National Blood Donor Month, New York Blood Center (NYBC) continues to call for more donors as the blood shortage extends into the new year. The region’s blood supply continues to be threatened by low donor turnout and blood drive cancellations due to surging levels of Omicron cases. Schools that had begun to reinstate student blood drives are once again canceling, perpetuating the dramatic decline in youth and first-time donors. Prior to the pandemic, 50,000 annual blood donations were made at high schools, but the threat of a return to remote learning is making it nearly impossible for them to commit to hosting blood drives.

This is always a challenging time of year for the blood supply, as holiday plans

and travel make donating blood less of a priority and winter weather can lead to blood drive cancellations. This year, those seasonal challenges are coinciding with a new wave of the pandemic. Blood centers across the country are and have been suffering from shortages since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020.

“A strong blood supply is essential and can be threatened at any time with emergencies such as inclement weather, which we are currently seeing with the snowstorm to our south, and the surge of Omicron cases that we are seeing nationwide,” said Andrea Cefarelli, Senior Executive Director at New York Blood Center (NYBC). “National Blood Donor Month is a great time to sign up to donate blood and start the

year by giving back, especially now as we continue to experience this blood shortage.”

Donating blood is safe and only takes one hour. We are taking extra precautions to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19. All NYBC staff are vaccinated. As always, people are not eligible to donate if they’re experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms. People can donate blood regardless of vaccination status. Additional information on donor eligibility and COVID-19 precautions is available.

Donors can schedule appointments by calling 1-800-933-2566 or visiting www.nybc.org.

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105 Employment Opportunity

106 Business Opportunity

107 Situations Wanted

120 Schools

121 Special Instruction

122 Musical Instruction

140 Nursery Schools

141 Child Care

142 Day Care

143 Baby-sitting

145 Adult Care

150 Announcements

151 Adoption

152 Novenas

154 Lost & Found

155 Personal

200 Services

201 Home Improvement

202 Cleaning Services

203 Lawn Services

221 Professional Services

222 Tax Experts

223 Beauty Services

225 Business Services

226 Travel & Services

227 Bridal Services

295 Financial

296 Mortgages

300 Real Estate

301 Townhouses & Condos

302 Commercial Property

304 Mobile Homes

305 Lots & Acreage

400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

401 Apartments for Rent

402 Rooms for Rent

403 Furnished Rooms

404 Furnished Apartments

405 Wanted to Rent

406 Garages for Rent

407 Vacation Rentals

408 Houses for Rent

420 Commercial Rentals

500 Musical Merchandise

501 Kid Stuff

502 Clothing

503 Furniture

504 Appliances

505 Free Items

506 Computers

507 Sports Equipment

508 Exercise Equipment

509 Office Equipment

510 Firewood

511 Lawn & Garden Equip.

512 Winter Merchandise

516 Misc. Merchandise

700 Pets & Supplies

701 Free Pets

702 Lost & Found Pets

703 Pets for Adoption

710 Garage & Yard Sale

711 Tag Sale

712 Moving sale

713 Rummage Sale

714 Flea Market

715 Craft Corner

716 Barn Sale

717 Estate Sale

718 Auctions

719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted

721 Wanted to Buy

722 Bazaar

723 Consignments

724 Farmers Market

725 Collectibles

750 Events

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The Hudson Valley Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (HVLTCOP), a non-profit agency is seeking an ideal candidate as an Associate Program Director. This LTCOP serves Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. Primary responsibilities include being resident centered, providing advocacy to assist in resolution of concerns for residents living in long-term care settings, as well as managing and developing programmatic policies and procedures for staff and the program's corps of volunteers.

Necessary qualities for interested candidates include leadership and a fundamental respect for seniors residing in long term care facilities. The Associate Program Director will be working directly with the present Program Director for future transition into the role of Program Director for this regional LTCOP.

The ideal candidate should have experience in marketing and outreach to the community to promote the program, recruitment strategies for volunteer growth, program development, as well as excellent written and verbal communication skills. Knowledge of computers and office equipment is a MUST. Bilingual is a plus.

This is an amazing opportunity to lead and expand this very important program to serve our senior community living in long term care facilities, and to work with amazing volunteers and staff. Extensive trining will be provided post hire. Required travel to various long term care facilities within the six counties noted above.

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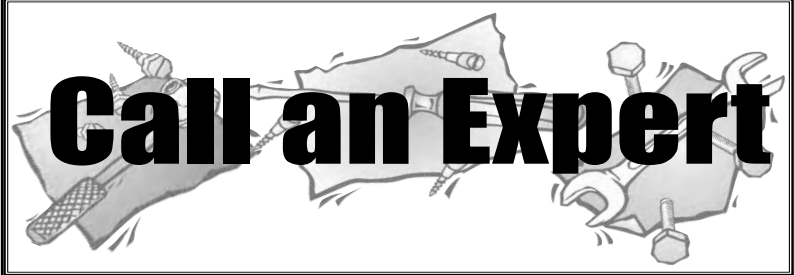
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Legal Notices

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pleasant Valley Fire District held their Re-organizational meeting on Sunday, January 2, 2022. The Board has scheduled their monthly meetings for 2022 to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Pleasant Valley Fire District Headquarters, 1619 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY. All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. Workshop meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month; except the month of November which the Workshop meeting will be the third Wednesday of the month. Workshop meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and they will be held at District Headquarters.

By order of the Pleasant Valley Board of Fire Commissioners:
Jennifer Broas
District Secretary

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Chelsea Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold its regular meeting for the year 2022 on the second Monday of each month. All meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. on that day at the Chelsea Firehouse located at 15 Liberty Street, in the Town of Wappinger, and are open to the public. This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Chelsea Fire District.
Claire Gibson
Fire District Secretary
Chelsea Fire District

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Chelsea Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold a special meeting on January 25, 2022. The meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Chelsea Fire District Office located at 15 Liberty Street, in the Town of Wappinger, and is open to the public. This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Chelsea Fire District.
Claire Gibson
Fire District Secretary
Chelsea Fire District

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - RFB-DCH-

Legal Notices

2022-03 NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Bridge R-8 (BIN 3343780) Over Landsman Kill, Mill Road, Town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County; Project Description: Removal of an existing single-span multi-girder bridge superstructure and the partial removal of abutment substructure. The existing bridge will be replaced with a 65' single-span multi-girder bridge supported on cantilever abutments. The project also includes limited approach work such as paving, guide rail and roadside embankment. Beginning Wednesday January 19, 2022 at 8:00AM: Bid Documents may be obtained in person or by mail (provide your FedEx account number or SASE) at: Dutchess County DPW Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. The bid documents will be distributed on a USB Flash Drive. You must give the following information to obtain the flash drive: Company Name; Address; Contact Name; Phone Number; E-mail Address - All Addendums will be issued via E-mail. A refundable deposit of \$15.00 in the form of a

Legal Notices

check made payable to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance or cash will be required for each set of bid documents. The deposit is refundable in accordance with General Municipal Law Section 102 and will be made by the County upon receipt of a written request accompanied by said USB Flash Drive. Bids for the above project will be received by: Denise Spens-Gallagher, Contract Specialist Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Bids due on or before Thursday 11:00am February 10, 2022 and at that time opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Due to COVID-19, the bid opening for this solicitation will be conducted through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud will need to call into the phone number listed below, in-person attendance at a bid opening will not be allowed. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due time to ensure you are connected properly. All call-ins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hemp-

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stead (Toll) Conference ID: 414 589 785#. All Addenda will be issued to Plan Holders via E-mail, but also posted on Bid-Net Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by 3pm on Wednesday February 2, 2022 and shall be emailed to dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, with the County's response published in Addenda by close of business Monday February 7, 2022. The anticipated start of construction is April 4, 2022, the anticipated substantial completion date is September 9, 2022, and the anticipated completion date of construction including all punch list work

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is October 14, 2022. Failure to meet these dates will result in liquidated damages and engineering charges in accordance with the NYSDOT specifications January 1, 2020. This project is subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2022000251. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals. Bidders shall promptly notify the County of any errors, omissions, conflicts, and/or ambiguity that they identify in the contract documents by emailing dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Hughsonville Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold its regular meeting for the year 2022 on the second Wednesday and the fourth Wednesday of each month. All meetings will commence at 7:00 p.m. on that day at the Hughsonville Firehouse located at 88 Old Hopewell Road, in the Town of Wappinger, and are open to the public. This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the

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Hughsonville Fire District.
Kim Flower
Fire District Secretary
Hughsonville Fire District

NOTICE OF 2022 TOWN AND COUNTY TAX COLLECTION TOWN OF WAPPINGER, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Lee Anne Freno, the undersigned Receiver of Taxes for the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess and State of New York, have duly received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Wappinger for the year 2022. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, and that I will attend at 20 Middlebush Road, in the said Town of Wappinger from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on each day, excepting Saturdays, Sunday and holidays for the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on said roll. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that taxes may be paid via drop box, in person, online or by mail. Check or money order is to be made out to Lee A. Freno, Receiver of Taxes. Payments made in person will be subject to the town's current COVID-19 protocol. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that payment may be

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made any time from the receipt of bill to February 28, 2022 without penalty. Payments made March 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022 incur a two percent (2%) penalty. Payments made from June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022 incur a four percent (4%) penalty. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Section 987 of the Real Property Tax Law provides that after the interest-free period for payment of taxes elapses and taxes remain unpaid, the tax collecting officer is required to send a notice of unpaid taxes to the owner. The expense of this notice is a two dollar (\$2.00) charge which is added to the parcel. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of law, no payments will be accepted at this office after August 31, 2022. After August 31, 2022 the tax roll of the Town of Wappinger will be returned to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance. Information may be obtained by calling the tax office at (845) 297-4342 or by visiting the Town's website at townofwappingerny.gov. Dated: January 14, 2022
Signed: Lee Anne Freno,
Receiver of Taxes,
Town of Wappinger

Clean/Blank Newsprint Sheets



20lb Box ~ \$12. Per Box
Approximately 400 sheets 23" x 34"

This is blank newsprint,
folded like a newspaper just NO INK.

Great for:

- 1. Coloring, sketching, & all kinds of art projects.
- 2. Drop Cloth for all kinds of messy situations, very absorbent.
- 3. Gardeners love this for weed control & water retention.
- 4. Packing & moving. Clean and won't smudge.
- 5. You decide. Hey, it's a crazy mixed up world.

Pick up at: Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main Street • Wappingers Falls, 12590

Diversions

SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.

The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.

Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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

Suguru

2					3
		4			
				4	
		3			
5					5

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.

- ACROSS

1. Role on “Cheers”

6. Remnant

11. Pronoun

14. Opera songs

15. Forfeit

16. Layer

17. Substitute player

19. New Testament bk.

20. French article

21. Coin

22. In an impolite way

24. Fluid accumulations

26. Used the other end of a pencil

28. Preposition

30. Kampala resident

33. Trims

36. Uncooperative one

38. Part of the psyche

39. Inert gas

40. Parts of fishhooks

41. HST, JFK or LBJ

42. ___ du Diable

43. Mother-of-pearl

44. Adjective for a brat

45. Process liquor

47. Completely absorbed

49. Played “Taps”

51. In conclusion

55. Dead to the world

57. Mr. Stravinsky

59. Charlotte ___

60. Crushing reptile

61. Old cars, sometimes

64. Olive Oyl’s hairdo

65. Steaming

66. Licoricelike flavoring

67. Antlered animal

68. City in Ohio

69. Men’s nicknames
- DOWN

1. Word with car or TV

2. As slender as ___

3. Dishwasher cycle

4. Resinous substance

5. Trash receptacles

6. Graceful waterbird

7. A la ___

8. Border

9. Means

10. Thorough reading

11. Cheese crumblers

12. Despicable person or part of his foot

13. Covetousness

18. Adam or Mae

23. Group of scouts

25. Bearing

27. Hose material

29. Seer’s revelation

31. Grows gray

32. Too inquisitive

33. City in Oklahoma

34. Place to buy salami

35. Forgets one’s answer

37. Have reason to say “Oops!”

40. Game site

41. Buchanan and Nixon

43. Cameroon’s neighbor

44. No-frills

46. Part of every wk.

48. African succulent

50. “Same for me!”

52. Quality

53. Slip of the memory

54. Affirmatives

55. Priestly title: Fr.

56. Type of music

58. Secluded valley

62. Paver’s goo

63. Ribonucleic acid, familiarly

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17					18							19		
20				21					22		23			
24			25				26	27						
			28			29		30					31	32
33	34	35				36	37					38		
39					40						41			
42				43						44				
45			46					47	48					
		49					50		51			52	53	54
55	56						57	58				59		
60				61		62					63			
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

Jim Gaffigan returns to Poughkeepsie Feb. 26

Jim Gaffigan will bring his “We All Deserve This Fun” Tour to Poughkeepsie’s NJN Convention Center (formerly the Mid-Hudson Civic Center) on Saturday, Feb. 26.

The last time Gaffigan was in Poughkeepsie, in March 2019, he sold out two shows at the MJN Convention Center.

Gaffigan is a five-time Grammy nominated comedian, actor, writer, producer, two-time New York Times best-selling author, two-time Emmy winning top touring performer, and multi-platinum-selling recording artist. He is known around the world for his unique brand of humor, which largely revolves around his observations on life.

On the silver screen, his many credits include “Three Kings,” “Super Troopers” 1 & 2, and “Chappaquiddick.”

In April 2019, Gaffigan was seen alongside Alec Baldwin and Salma Hayek in Bron Studios’ “Drunk Parents.” Additionally, Gaffigan recently released his unprecedented seventh stand up special, “Quality Time,” with Amazon Studios making history as their first original comedy special. He also continues to tour around the world.

In addition to two seasons of the critically acclaimed semi-autobiographical “The Jim Gaffigan Show,” which he wrote and produced with his wife Jeannie, and his widely popular stand-up comedy specials, Gaffigan has guest starred on many television comedies and dramas, ranging from “Portlandia” and “Bob’s Burgers” to the HBO cult hit “Flight of the Concorde” to dramatic roles in “Law & Order.”

Gaffigan regularly does humorous commentaries on “CBS Sunday.” He has served as master of ceremony at The Al Smith Memorial dinner. In 2015, Gaffigan had the great honor of performing for Pope Francis and more than 1 million festival attendees at the Festival of Families in Philadelphia.

Gaffigan and his wife currently live in Manhattan with their five loud and expensive children.

Tickets for the show are available through TicketMaster.com and at the NJN Convention Center box office; call 845-454-5800 or visit in person at 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie.



Comedian Jim Gaffigan will bring his “We All Deserve This Fun” Tour to Poughkeepsie’s NJN Convention Center.

-Courtesy photo

Arts Mid-Hudson receives grant for school poetry program

Arts Mid-Hudson received \$2,000 toward its Folk Art Program from the Robert R. Chapman Fund of the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley for Rhythmic Crossings: International Poets and Students Share Poetry. This project will bring immigrant and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) poets to high school English classrooms in Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park this coming spring.

Led by Dutchess County Poet Laureate Lucia Cherciu, pairs of poets will visit classrooms (in person or virtually depend-

ing on COVID-19 conditions) to work with the students. The teaching poets will be Lucia Cherciu, Molly McGlennon, Saida Agostini and David Gonzalez. Cherciu and McGlennon teach poetry writing and have exercises to prompt students to write. Cherciu and Gonzales are bilingual (Romanian and Spanish respectively) and incorporate their language into their work. Mono-lingual students will experience poetry in a new way, through sound and emotion. Multilingual students will be encouraged to experience poetry through the lens of their cultural experiences and be

exposed to poets who speak multiple languages as they do. All students will be encouraged to write about their cultural background and experiences, as well as in all the languages they speak.

The Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program researches the arts and traditions of the region’s rich cultural, ethnic, religious, and occupational heritages. Through educational and public programs like Kakizome, the Folk Arts Program shares these traditions. The program is open to ideas and suggestions about how to assist in celebrating your

community’s heritage.

Arts Mid-Hudson is the preeminent nonprofit arts service organization serving the Mid-Hudson region. Since 1964 our initiatives have engaged and promoted the arts benefiting our artists, arts organizations, and communities. Arts Mid-Hudson provides vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson region.

For more information about Arts Mid-Hudson and future art events, sign up for the monthly E-newsletter at www.artsmidhudson.org.



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