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Hochul unveils ambitious agenda in 2026 State of the State

Compiled by Kate Goldsmith

On Jan. 13, Gov. Kathy Hochul delivered her 2026 State of the State address, outlining more than 200 initiatives to make life more affordable, keep New Yorkers safe, and expand opportunity. Hochul's proposal lays out a clear, actionable plan to meet the challenges families face today, while preparing New York for the road ahead. The Governor provides a path to universal child care, to lowering energy bills, protecting consumers, and confronting the rising costs that hit working families hardest. The plan continues to invest in public safety with strategies that work – including targeted enforcement, cutting-edge technology, and a mental health system that treats people with dignity while keeping communities secure.

"I've said from the beginning: Your family is my fight. And in this moment, when the future feels full of promise, but under real threat: your future is my fight as well," Hochul said. "I fight every day to make life more affordable, keep people safe, and expand opportunity – not shrink it. My 2026 State of the State lays out a clear, actionable plan to meet the challenges families face today, while preparing New York for the road ahead."

A summary of highlights follows.

Making New York more affordable

Hochul said she is committed to making New York a place where all our families can afford to live. Since taking office, she has moved aggressively to put money back where it belongs – in the pockets of working people. In 2026 she is doubling down on these efforts in ways people can feel. To do that, Hochul proposes:

- Putting New York State on a pathway toward achieving universal, affordable child care, increasing funding by \$1.7 billion to provide care for children around the state;
- Cracking down on fraud to lower vehicle insurance rates for everyday New Yorkers, and ensuring bad actors can't get large payouts;
- Tackling rising home insurance costs by increasing accountability and transparency for providers and expanding automatic discounts;
- Protecting renters by increasing the income eligibility limits for New York's Rent Freeze programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities;
- Tackling utility costs by demanding strict fiscal discipline from utilities, empowering the State to fight more effectively for lower bills, and supporting New Yorkers to make energy saving investments like weatherization and smart thermostats;
- Helping New Yorkers put food on the table with additional investments

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County Office of Veterans Affairs goes mobile with outreach efforts



Members of the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Operation Mobile Outreach team include, from left, Veterans Outreach Coordinator Beth-Anne Canero, Program Assistant Rose Joerg, Deputy Director Julie Leslie, Secretary Paige Walag and Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

By Kate Goldsmith

Responding to a growing need, the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs is going on the road to meet veterans and their families where they live. Operation: Mobile Outreach is a new program that expands the county's veterans support services beyond the Veterans Affairs' regular weekday hours, making it more convenient for those veterans who work and don't live near the office in Pleasant Valley.

In addition, the department is continuing its series of informational outreach events – in conjunction with the MHA Dutchess Veterans Programs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – with the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall this

Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 1302, at 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. (More information is provided at the end of this article.)

Veterans Outreach Coordinator Beth-Anne Canero has worked with the county's Office of Veterans Affairs since July 2025 and joins its team of Veterans Services Officers, all of whom have served our nation. She presides over the mobile outreach events, the first of which took place on Jan. 8 at the American



Legion Post 429 in Rhinebeck. Speaking via phone last week, Canero said about 10 veterans attended, five of whom she was able to assist with various claims on that evening, along with follow-up calls, with everyone in attendance learning more about the office's services and programs.

"I'm glad we're finally off and running [with the mobile outreach]," she said. "I look forward to seeing how participation continues in the upcoming months."

"Beth-Anne was the perfect person to perform this job," said Adam Roche, director of the county's Veterans Affairs office. Canero retired from the Marine Corps in 2021 and has worked in various positions since then. She has expertise as a Veterans Service Officer and trained for the last five months to become the department's Veterans Outreach Coordinator.

Roche said response to Operation: Mobile Outreach has been enthusiastic since information about the events was posted on the county's website and Facebook page, facebook.com/dutchesscogov.

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Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for Community Fridge

By Kristine Coulter

There was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Community Fridge at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., Beacon. The event highlighted the partnership between Howland Public Library and Fareground. According to organizers, the fridge is to increase access to nourishing food in the community.

"This fridge would not be possible without collaboration," stated Jamie Levato, executive director for Fareground.

Acceptable donations, according to organizers, include fresh fruits and vegetables, bread and baked goods, fruit or vegetable juices, pasteurized dairy products and dairy alternatives, deli items, and packaged or prepared meals from grocery stores, restaurants, or certified kitchens.

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held recently at the Howland Public Library for the new Community Fridge.

-Photoby Kristine Coulter



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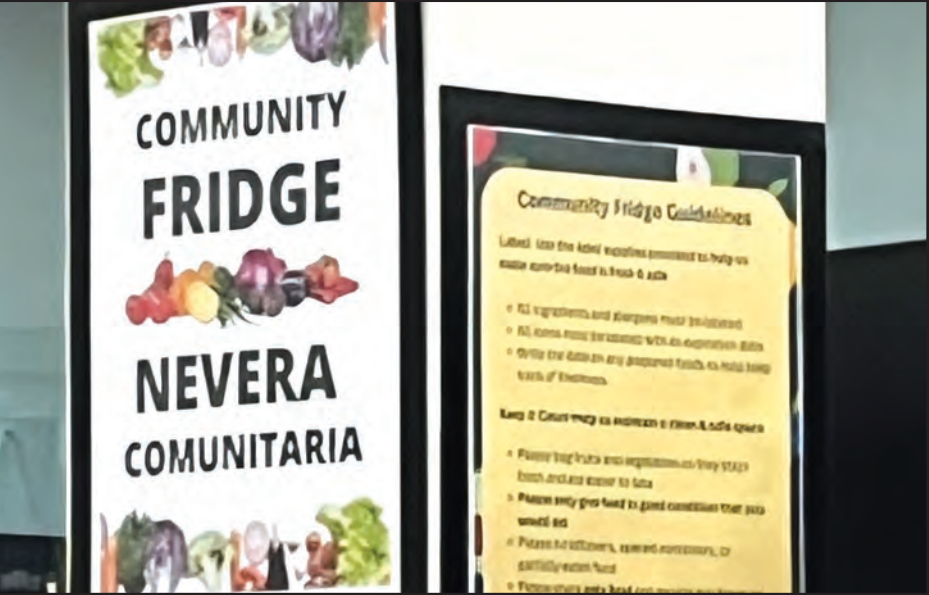


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Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for Community Fridge



There is a list of Community Fridge guidelines posted next to the refrigerator. -Photos by Kristine Coulter

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The refrigerator is “at [the] heart of who we are as a community,” said Yvette Valdés Smith, Dutchess County Legislature Chair, who represents parts of Fishkill and Beacon.

The refrigerator is located inside the library, which allows the public access to food seven days a week, during regular library hours, it was stated.

Levato thanked Michelle Rivas, head of Adult & Community Services for the library. Levato also thanked the library staff and volunteers.

Beacon Councilmember Laster Gorton remarked, “I think it’s lovely.” Gorton said the temperature of the refrigerator will be monitored.

If one is looking to make a donation, it is asked that donors first look over the library’s list of Acceptable Items. Library staff are available if one needs assistance with mak-

ing sure of how to label donated items.

“The library has always been about meeting the needs of the community,” Emily Pullen, president of the Board of Trustees of the Howland Public Library, said during the ceremony. Pullen added, “We could not have done this without Fareground.”

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson said it was “a library of books,” then “a library of things” and now “it’s a library of food.”

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou thanked everyone for being at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and offered congratulations on the community refrigerator.

To learn more about Fareground, visit fareground.org.

Library Hours are Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday Noon-4 p.m.



The Community Fridge is located at Howland Public Library on Main St.

County Office of Veterans Affairs goes mobile with outreach efforts

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“[The feedback has been] this is something that was definitely needed, it’s a need that wasn’t being met by our office [due to being open Monday to Friday, 9 to 5],” he said. “What we do in our office, we can fully do on the spot for them now. Especially younger vets who have a family with younger children – they [might] need child-care, because it can take an hour or couple of hours to fill out a claim.

With these outreach events, Roche’s message to veterans is, “We’re coming to you, to your VFWs, to your town halls.”

Roche said department personnel “met with every municipality to let them know what our plan is.”

Canero added, “We’ve been talking to municipalities all [last] fall,” and said the department has done “a deep dive” to find out where the bulk of veterans reside in Dutchess County. The outreach events are then set in these areas, creating a hub to reduce travel time. For example, if a veteran living in Rhinebeck had to travel to the DC Veterans Affairs office in Pleasant Valley, the drive alone would take a lot more time than visiting an outreach event at the local American Legion Post.

Eligibility requests

Some of the most common requests Roche’s office gets, unsurprisingly, relate to eligibility for programs available to veterans and their families.

“It’s lack of knowledge, not knowing exactly what they’re eligible for,” he said. “A lot of times we get children of veterans, especially the older vets, where the mother or father passed away and they’re paying for a health aide, who are seeking eligibility [for assistance programs].” As an example, Roche noted that spouses of Vietnam veterans can apply for DIC (dependent indemnity compensation), entitling them to a sum of money.

“There’s so much out there, but it’s not automatic. They have to be submitted [as claims],” Roche said. “We try to keep the [paperwork] process as simple as possible. We’ll walk them through the entire process.”

Canero noted that veterans are sometimes reluctant to claim benefits.

“In regard to younger veterans, they believe there’s some kind of stigma to apply for some type of claim, or that they’re not eligible,” she said. “All veterans are eligible because they served their country. There’s a whole slew of benefits that they earned through their service. Some benefits depend

on war time service, [but they] don’t necessarily have had to put boots on the ground to be eligible for benefits.”

Roche pointed out, “The way the VA [federal Veterans Administration] is funded depends on the amount of people who utilize [it].”

What to know if you go

The outreach events are a great way to find out what benefits are available and what is needed to get the process going.

“If you do come to these [events], bring your paperwork with you,” Roche advised. “Bring your discharge papers so we can get you into our system. We can do an ‘intent to file,’ which gives them one year from that submission date to submit a fully developed plan.”

Roche and Canero hope that many of our county’s veterans will learn more by attending a Town Hall or Mobile Outreach event in the near future.

“If you have any questions whatsoever, we’d love to sit down and let you know what you are eligible for,” Roche said.

Upcoming outreach sessions are listed on the Veterans Affairs calendar of events, accessible via dutchessny.gov/veterans. For more information about the Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall or County

Veterans Affairs’ services, residents can call the office at 845-486-2060.

More information about upcoming town halls

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.

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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:

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.



IMPACT

PR & Communications

A Sweet Arrival: Fruition Chocolate Works to Open at Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie





IMPACT

PR & Communications



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Hochul unveils ambitious agenda in 2026 State of the State

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in the Department of Health (DOH)’s Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and tackling theft of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;

- Eliminating state income taxes on tips; and
- Freezing tuition for SUNY and CUNY students for the seventh year in a row.

Keeping New Yorkers safe

Hochul has made public safety her top priority, committing over \$3 billion to initiatives that are producing results statewide. During her time in office, Hochul strengthened New York’s bail, discovery, and gun laws; invested record-level funding to support local and state law enforcement efforts; and secured funding to drive down gun violence, subway crime and pandemic-era surges in motor vehicle thefts, retail thefts, and other larcenies. The Governor said she will continue to drive down crime and protect New Yorkers by:

- Stopping illegal homegrown guns by strengthening New York’s nation leading gun laws and cracking down on illegal 3D-printed firearms and firearms that can readily be converted to DIY machine guns;
- Confronting the unprecedented escalation in aggressive federal immigration enforcement by establishing a right to sue federal officers for Constitutional violations and protecting New Yorkers in sensitive locations;
- Protecting individuals from harassment and obstruction by advancing legislation to establish buffer zones around houses of worship and healthcare facilities while preserving the right to lawful expression;
- Sustaining record lows in subway crime by putting police on platforms, expanding SCOUT teams, and protecting riders through platform edge barriers;
- Enhancing resources that are available to support law enforcement officers and first responders, combat crimes, and ensure justice for New Yorkers;
- Safeguarding New York’s roads by empowering New York City to stop super speeders through intelligent speed assistance and ensuring safety first in New York’s work zones; and
- Improving New York’s emergency and disaster response to better protect the lives of New Yorkers during times of public safety risks, disasters and emergencies.

Investing in critical infrastructure New Yorkers need

When Hochul took office, she vowed to re-establish New York’s position as a leader in building world-class infrastructure. She has demonstrated that the state can build at scale and with urgency so that New Yorkers get the housing, transportation, water, parks, and other infrastructure they desperately need. The Governor will build upon this progress by:

- Building more housing by enacting common-sense policies to tackle the housing shortage and bring down housing costs, and investing additional funding in building or preserving units and innovative manufactured home models;
- Delivering clean and safe drinking water led by a bold five-year \$3.75 billion commitment to water infrastructure;
- Upgrading state parks by expanding green spaces across New York State to provide children and families opportunities to be outside, unplug and play, and spend time with loved ones;
- Strengthening communities by launching NY Kicks: A World Cup Legacy

Investment Fund, to build soccer pitches, as well as investing in community centers, preserving performing arts space, and investing in county fairs;

- Committing \$50 million to advance design phase to reimagine Jamaica Station for its millions of commuters; and
- Beginning preliminary engineering and design to extend the Second Avenue subway tunnel westward across 125 Street to Broadway, saving project costs and time.

Cutting red tape to better serve New Yorkers

Whether standing up the homes that will house a new generation of New Yorkers, running a business that will serve and employ our neighbors, or constructing the 21st-century infrastructure that undergirds the economy, too often New Yorkers who want to build something new are stymied by red tape and bureaucratic obstacles that drive up costs and waste time. Building on past progress, Hochul is redoubling her commitment to saving New Yorkers time and money through an all-of-government effort to cut red tape and better serve New Yorkers, while making government work for all:

- Launching the “Let Them Build” agenda, a set of common-sense reforms to get the state out of the way of progress, allowing localities to build housing and other critical projects faster and more affordably while continuing to protect the environment;
- Reforming the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) to speed up the building of zoned and permitted housing while preserving environmental safeguards;
- Accelerating critical infrastructure projects that New Yorkers depend on;
- Establishing clear timelines and transparency for environmental review;
- Making every New Yorker count in the 2030 census by planning early to ensure the state gets its fair share; and
- Tackling outdated and burdensome government regulations

Protecting New York’s consumers and workers

For Hochul, affordability and consumer protection go hand in hand. For the past four years she’s pushed back on institutions that prioritize profit over people, and that fight continues today. Protecting consumers means protecting them online, as well; New Yorkers should be able to trust technology and safely interact with tools that work for, not against them. The Governor will build on this work by:

- Creating a new Office of Digital Innovation, Governance, Integrity & Trust (DIGIT), to serve as a central, authoritative body for digital safety and technological governance;
- Protecting New Yorkers’ personal information by cracking down on shadowy data broker industry;
- Requiring labeling for AI-generated content, protecting elections from misleading or deceptive AI content, and prohibiting misleading “discounts”;
- Ending taxes on tips for hardworking New Yorkers;
- Fighting workers’ compensation fraud and combating wage theft; and
- Improving disclosures for student loan refinancing and setting cosigner standards for student loans

Driving innovation and economic development by and for New Yorkers

Since taking office, the Governor has ushered in a new era of economic growth by prioritizing job creation, community develop-

ment and economic revitalization. Hochul remains committed to growing New York’s vibrant economy, bringing jobs back home, revitalizing communities, and cementing New York as the center for innovation:

- Driving innovation and economic growth across the state through investments in, quantum technology, biotechnology, semiconductor chip design, and modern manufacturing;
- Launching Empire AI Beta and creating the first independent AI research center at SUNY Binghamton;
- Enhancing the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and New York Forward;
- Launching the next phase of New York’s Autonomous Vehicle pilot program outside of New York City;
- Uplifting businesses statewide by eliminating outdated restrictions on dancing, modernizing the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, and investing in equity across the cannabis supply chain; and
- Preparing SUNY and CUNY students for the workforce, connecting them to experiential work experiences, and expanding SUNY and CUNY Reconnect to cover additional in-demand fields such as logistics, air traffic control and transportation, and emergency management.

Helping New York’s students learn and thrive

Hochul is committed to building on her robust track record as a champion for students, families, and teachers to creatively address many of the challenges New York families confront. The Governor is advancing a bold agenda that strengthens New York’s schools, universities and colleges, youth mental health services, and online safety:

- Transforming math and literacy outcomes through evidence based instruction and professional learning;
- Creating an accelerated teacher preparation pathway for career changers;
- Establishing the inaugural Empire AI Student Challenge;
- Investing in high-impact tutoring to accelerate student success;
- Investing in Indigenous youth education and mentoring and leadership resources for young Black and Latina women;
- Doubling the size of the Empire State Service Corps on SUNY campuses;
- Enhancing supports to educate borrowers navigating the increasingly complicated student loan landscape;
- Directing SUNY and CUNY to develop standardized, system-wide policies govern-

ing emergency aid for students, and directing SUNY to permit additional flexibility over tuition liability policies in emergencies;

- Implementing statewide teen mental health first aid training; enabling kids to support their peers;
- Protecting kids from predators, scammers and harmful AI chatbots on online platforms; and
- Safeguarding kids online by ensuring fair play in online sports betting and promoting responsible digital citizenship.

Keeping New Yorkers healthy

Since taking office, Governor Hochul has made historic investments in New York’s health care system. Where the federal government has prioritized draconian cuts that threaten the most vulnerable New Yorkers, Hochul has invested billions to strengthen and stabilize health systems, expand coverage, lower the consumer cost of care, bolster the health workforce, and drive long-term transformational change within the health sector. The Governor will build on these investments by:

- Strengthening safety net hospitals by investing in transformational partnerships;
- Bolstering patient protections by keeping drug costs down;
- Keeping New Yorkers safe by safeguarding scientifically based vaccine policies and coverage from federal politicization;
- Strengthening cardiac emergency readiness across the state; and
- Increasing support and resources for New York’s older adults.

Securing New York’s energy future

New York’s grid is already among the cleanest in the country. By treating energy policy as economic policy, the Governor is ensuring that decades from now, New Yorkers will inherit a stronger, cleaner, and more secure energy future. The Governor proposes to build on these efforts by:

- Introducing the NYS Affordable Utilities Omnibus Legislation, to ensure oversight and accountability for utilities;
- Supporting consumers to make energy investments that save them money in the long-term, from investing in weatherization to money back in their pockets for smart thermostats;
- Requiring data centers to pay their fair share for the massive amounts of energy they consume

For details on these policies, visit <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/2026-state-state>.

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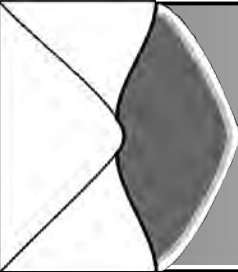
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Viewpoints



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Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
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- 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.
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- 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.

Winter Coat Giveaway organizer offers gratitude

To the Editor:

On Saturday, January 10th, we hosted a Winter Coat Giveaway, and it was truly a community-powered effort. A heartfelt thank you to St. Andrew-St. Luke Episcopal Church for generously providing space at 15 South Avenue, allowing us to bring this initiative to life. We are also grateful to our partners - the Beacon City School District, Beacon City School District Student Council, and Beacon High School National Honor Society - for their collaboration and support. This initiative was organized with the support of I AM Beacon, whose commitment to working collaboratively with schools, faith partners, and community leaders continues to make efforts like this possible. By bringing partners together around shared goals, I AM Beacon helps turn collective care into meaningful action for our neighbors. Through the district’s collection efforts, 365 winter coats were gathered. Special thanks to Tim Newman and Dave Kotchie, Beacon High School Student Council Advisors, and Kim Gonzalez, Rombout Middle School Student Council Advisor, who led the charge in organizing, collecting, and sorting coats by size. On the day of the giveaway, we received additional last-minute donations, had an incredible showing of student volunteers (yes—girls really do rule the world!), and were able to distribute approximately 50 coats back into the community. We extend our sincere thanks to Patricia Lassiter for sharing powerful words of inspiration and encouragement with our student volunteers, grounded in her lived experience. We are also grateful to Patricia and her team, who operate the St. Andrew-St. Luke Episcopal Church Food Pantry every Saturday, for helping inform pantry patrons about the coat giveaway happening upstairs. Thank you as well to newly elected Ward 1 Councilwoman LaStar Gorton for stopping by to support our youth and for jumping in to help coat seekers navigate the room. Lastly, we appreciate Deborah Wilkins Flippin, a representative from St. Andrew/St. Luke Episcopal Church, for taking time to speak with and getting to know more about our student volunteers. All remaining coats will be donated to Dutchess Outreach at 29 North Hamilton Street (Family Partnership Center), Suite 220, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, ensuring they continue to reach individuals and families in need. This day was a powerful reminder of what’s possible when collaboration, youth leadership, and community care come together.

Reuben Simmons
Executive Director, I AM Beacon

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Scenic Hudson statement on Hochul’s 2026 State of the State Address

To the Editor:

Affordability, renewable energy, and investments in sustainability go hand in hand — which is why Scenic Hudson was pleased to see Governor Kathy Hochul’s attention to these issues in her 2026 State of the State address, amidst growing challenges at the federal level. The Governor showcased her commitment to the well-being of all New Yorkers by announcing her continued investment in environmental protection and energy affordability. Scenic Hudson also hopes to see those priorities advanced in the Executive Budget through increased investment in renewable energy and advancement of the goals laid out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said, “We are thrilled that Governor Hochul’s 2026 State of the State address highlighted strong commitments to funding the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), expanding programs for clean drinking water, and climate resilience support for at-risk New York communities. The Governor’s proposal to maintain \$425 million in record funding for the EPF will ensure the continuation of critical farmland preservation, native habitat restoration, public land stewardship, and other crucial conservation programs in the Hudson Valley and throughout the state. Furthermore, her bold \$3.75 billion commitment to modernize New York’s water systems over the next five years will bolster and expand the state’s nation-leading drinking water protection programs, and strengthen the ability of drinking water suppliers to protect communities from toxic “forever chemical” contamination. Scenic Hudson is proud to partner with Governor Hochul to help ensure that New York remains a national model for conserving our precious land, water, and agricultural resources.” Pete Lopez, Scenic Hudson Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Science, said, “At a time of skyrocketing utility bills, Governor Hochul has announced important steps to decrease costs for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers through expanded funding for programs like Empower+. Scenic Hudson applauds those efforts, along with the Governor’s plan to support farmers and schools in decreasing their utility costs by integrating solar energy. Governor Hochul’s focus on affordability must prioritize renewable energy, which is the fastest, cheapest way to put new energy on the grid and decrease costs for ratepayers. Reliance on new fossil fuel infrastructure like gas pipelines is not just bad for the environment — it will also make energy more expensive down the road. As federal tax credits for solar and wind power are phased out, it is imperative that New York State support renewable energy development by both cutting red tape and investing in renewables. Scenic Hudson looks forward to working with Governor Hochul to achieve those goals and urges her to include the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power Act in the Executive Budget, which would save billions of dollars for ratepayers by making it cheaper and easier to build rooftop and community solar projects in New York. Similarly, we request that Governor Hochul continue working to achieve the goals laid out in the CLCPA, which are not just compatible with her affordability agenda, but essential to achieving it.”

Ned Sullivan, Pete Lopez
Scenic Hudson

In regard to Venezeula, we can learn from the past

To the Editor:

In Terrence McNally’s play “Adaptation,” a man’s life is portrayed as a board game, jumping from one life situation after another, never finding the sought-after “opportunity” square that leads to happiness. “If only I could have found that opportunity square,” he bemoans. Off stage, a voice says he could have declared any square or situation to be the opportunity event. In Venezuela, during the last 25 years, we (U.S.) had an opportunity for both countries regarding oil - just be less insistent on how much income went to Venezuela, and how it was used. Chevron’s continuing production and sale of Venezuelan oil demonstrates the possibility. In Saudi Arabia, the U.S. is not telling the monarchy how to run things. Like Iraq, there are now proposals to have private security contractors to give oil companies whatever they want above what Chevron gets. In Iraq, contractors had a hundred thousand U.S. soldiers backing them. Perhaps President Trump can take a lesson from Barrick Mining Corporation. Its African mine closed when a new government’s request for a better deal was refused. There things stood, until the old company president left, and the new people in charge somehow resolved the African dispute. The future of Trump’s muscular, “We’re gonna run things for our benefit” approach is easy to see from recent history. The East European satellites quickly abandoned Soviet-centered oversight at the first chance. Basic principle, from horses and rabbits: carrots work better than sticks.

Frank Stoppenbach
Red Hook

Meet with your Town Assessor to potentially reduce assessment value of property

To the Editor:

Did you know you can discuss and potentially reduce the assessment value of your property by meeting directly with your Town Assessor at no cost? Recently, municipalities all over Dutchess County have been in litigation with third-party companies, who commence tax certiorari proceedings on behalf of county residents. These proceedings cost the taxpayers in court fees and overtime hours for town employees. Additionally, these third-party companies charge anywhere between 30%-50% commission on any money they save a resident, if they reduce the property’s assessment. Would you opt for a minimum of 30% charge on your savings if you knew you could do this for free? Most likely not. These companies bank on you being too busy to handle this directly with your town assessor. If the assessor agrees that your assessment is too high, they can lower it for the next fiscal year. A meeting with your assessor does not guarantee that your assessment will be lowered. If not, you still have the option of filing a Grievance with the Board of Assessment Review, which is the fourth Tuesday in May every year. You also have the right to eventually commence a tax certiorari proceeding. The Tentative Roll with any changes to your assessment comes out on or around May 1st each year and is available online and at the Town Hall. It is our job as town employees to let residents know: There is a better way to address an issue with your property’s assessed value. Aside from the annual Grievance Day held by each town’s assessor’s office, residents are encouraged to contact us first before accepting a third party’s proposal to take the matter up on your behalf. Town of Milan’s 2026 Grievance Day is held at Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY 12571 between the hours of 10 a.m. – noon, 1 – 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on May 26. We ask that you call ahead to schedule an appointment for that day, or you will have to wait in line. Keep your money in your wallet! Call us first. 845-758-5133 Ext. 4

Pat Warren
Deputy Assessor
Town of Milan

Hochul announces investment for statewide universal child care

As part of her \$4.5 billion investment to deliver statewide universal child care, Governor Kathy Hochul announced Jan. 14, in Poughkeepsie, the State will partner with Dutchess County, Monroe County and Broome County in a new State pilot program to help counties offer additional child care options in their communities. This pilot program will include a total of \$60 million in State funding, along with new investments from each of the three counties, as they expand child care access with a particular focus on serving children 0-3.

Hochul said, "As part of my plan to support every county statewide, this new pilot program will help counties develop and expand new models for providing child care for families, regardless of their income status."

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers said, in part, "This investment will make a meaningful difference for families in Poughkeepsie by expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care. Governor Hochul's partnership with Dutchess County will help parents participate in the workforce, support local child care providers, and ensure our youngest residents get a strong start in life."

Under the plan, the state will provide each of these counties with \$20 million for their pilot, with the counties contributing an additional 10% in funding. The programs will support up to 1,000 seats for 0-3s in each county, with the first tranche coming online in 2027. These efforts build on existing, county-led efforts to support child care and the welfare of families in each respective community, including Dutchess's DAY ONE Teacher Apprenticeship program, Early Learning coalition, and childcare professional development program and Monroe's recent increased child care investments and eligibility awareness campaign and their ongoing Project Prospect anti-poverty program.

Gov. Hochul's statewide plan to deliver universal child care for all New York children under the age of five also includes:

While four-year-olds in some parts of New York have long had access to Pre-K, there are dozens of school districts that have

not yet been able to make it available. Governor Hochul is providing additional support to ensure truly universal Pre-K for all four-year-olds in the State by the start of the 2028-2029 school year.

The State will not only fund additional seats to achieve universality but will also increase funding for existing seats, bringing them up to the greater of \$10,000 or the applicable school district's current selected foundation aid per pupil, so that districts have what they need to provide high-quality Pre-K. This combination reflects a commitment of roughly a half-billion dollars and will ensure that every child in New York State enters kindergarten ready to learn.

Continuing access to low-cost, Affordable Child Care Assistance Programs

New York has more than doubled investment in the state's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which provides subsidies to help low-income families access child care, according to the Governor's Office. By increasing the State's investments in the program while expanding eligibility, the program now supports 2.5 times more children — an additional 100,000 — than when Hochul took office; the number of children served has increased by almost 25 percent in the past year alone. Most of the families of the 170,000 children served by the program pay no more than \$15 per week for child care.

This year, Governor Hochul will continue to grow the State's investment in child care subsidies for those that need it with a \$1.2 billion increased investment, bringing the total available for subsidies to over \$3 billion. This is more than 3.5 times more than the \$832 million provided prior to the Governor taking office, and a nearly 40 percent increase from what was made available in the FY 2026 Enacted Budget.

Office of Child Care and Early Education

A new Office of Child Care and Early Education will oversee and support roll out of universal Pre-K, continued investment in 3K, launch of 2-Care and other innovative care options, expansion and improve-



Gov. Kathy Hochul announced her plan for statewide universal child care in Poughkeepsie on Jan. 14.

-Courtesy photo Governor's Office

ment of vouchers, and ongoing support for the workforce.

Supporting the workforce through Early Childhood Educator preparation

Hochul's plan includes expanding existing workforce scholarships, seeking opportunities for new Workforce Pell grants, and directing SUNY and CUNY to take a number of steps to expand and streamline early childhood education programs, it was stated.

Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Credit

Hochul will expand and simplify the child and dependent care tax credit to provide an additional average benefit of \$575 for 230,000 tax filers. She will also undertake a thorough review of existing tax incentives for employers with the goal of helping them better serve the child care needs of their employees.

Senator Michelle Hinchey said, "Getting to Universal Child Care across New York will be incredibly important, and the Dutchess County Early Learning Coalition and the DAY ONE Program have been leading the way to find innovative models to get there. Today's announcement selecting Dutchess County as one of the State's first pilots is incredibly exciting, and I'm thrilled to see both the Coalition and DAY ONE recognized for their work. I thank Governor Hochul for elevating the expertise, creativity, and leadership here in Dutchess as a

model, and for her commitment to achieving Universal Child Care across the state."

State Senator Rob Rolison said, "Affordable, high-quality child care is critical for working families and the future of Dutchess County. Governor Hochul's partnership with the county through this new pilot program will expand access for families with young children, strengthen the early childhood workforce, and build on proven local efforts like DAY ONE. This is a smart investment that helps parents work and ensures children get the strong start they deserve."

Assemblymember Didi Barrett said, "I am thrilled to see the Governor's commitment to universal child care is coming to Dutchess County — building on my own recent investment of \$1 million to fund the expansion of child care facilities and services at Dutchess Community College to include infant care for the first time. Universal child care sets our children up for success while allowing parents and caregivers to get back to work, creating and ensuring good-paying jobs, and bolstering economic development. Today's announcement shows New York's commitment to making child care truly universal — reaching children of all abilities in all regions of the state."

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson said, "In the past, universal programs have too often left out the Hudson Valley and Upstate. Today's announcement shows that the Governor is committed to including us. I look forward to seeing this program grow across my district."

Assemblymember Anil R. Beehan Jr. said, "I've spoken with local officials here in Dutchess County, and there is strong support for this investment. I'm glad to see taxpayer dollars returning to our community in a way that directly benefits our residents. Any time we can bring resources home and improve quality of life for families in Dutchess County, that's a win for the entire region."

'STAR' tax event at Boardman Road Library on January 22

Have you received mail from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance in the past month? The letter may have requested something called "Form RP-5300-WSC" — in other words, a request for documentation of your income, as part of qualifications for New York State's STAR tax savings program.

The letters went specifically to homeowners who were not required to file 2024 New York State income tax returns. If you did file a 2024 state tax return, the state already has your information, and no further action is required

on your part. Still, if you have other questions about STAR, you'll want to know about this upcoming event.

State tax department employees will be on hand to help individuals submit income information, and to answer other questions about the STAR program, on Thursday, Jan. 22, from noon to 3 p.m., at Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. Walk-ins are welcome.

For additional information on STAR, visit tax.ny.gov/star or call 518-457-2036.

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Phone—Cell: 845-417-5377
Email: richardlw47@gmail.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**OPERATION:
MOBILE OUTREACH**

Our 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 for the VA, State and Dutchess County.

Check the upcoming schedule for a location near you with the QR Code to the DCOVA calendar

In your browser find calendar: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Calendar-Page.htm>
This ad space courtesy of Southern Dutchess News Group as we Support Veterans.

Firefighters attend leadership conference

Members of the New Hackensack Fire Department, Hughsonville Fire Department, and Town of Wappinger hosted a leadership conference on Saturday, Jan. 10. This event was organized in collaboration with the Fire Chief’s Council of Dutchess County, Dutchess County Association of Fire Districts and the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association.

The workshop attracted over 120 firefighters from across the Hudson Valley, highlighting the strong commitment to professional development within the region’s fire service community.

Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, a best-selling fire service author and the 2025 FDIC Instructor of the Year, led the conference. He presented his critically acclaimed interactive leadership program, “Step Up and Lead.”

The workshop was designed for a wide range of participants, including firefight-



Over 120 firefighters from across the Hudson Valley attended the leadership conference at the New Hackensack Fire Department on Jan. 10.

-Photos by Vincent Galvin

ers, lieutenants, captains, chief officers, future fire officers, and commissioners. Recognizing the ever-changing nature of the fire service, the program emphasized that firefighters can always add another tool to their toolbox by engaging in ongoing leadership training.



Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, Dutchess Count Emergency Response Commissioner William Beale and Chief Ray Valentin are pictured at the conference.

Beacon boys improve to 11-1 with 75-60 win over Port Jervis

By Morgan E. Maier

At the turn of the new year, boys’ and girls’ teams across Dutchess County bounce through both ends of the basketball spectrum (all records as of Sunday, Jan. 18). Amid each division’s individual and team performances, some standings hold tight as others start to widen.

Bulldog boys stay on top - The Beacon Bulldogs are a proven force in league play. The boys’ team boasts a 2-0 record, staying perfect atop the Division 3 leaderboard. On Jan. 14, the Bulldogs took on Port Jervis in an interdivisional matchup. Led by 20 points from senior Ryan Landisi and 18 by Jahcier Ballard, Beacon improved to 11-1 with the 75-60 victory.

Seeking wins in Section 9 - A few squads still look to their first wins of the season. On the boys’ end, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidents haven’t found it in their first six games. Somto Awaka has had a few stellar performances for FDR, including a 33-point performance against the Wallkill Panthers.

Dover’s teams have found limited success on both sides. Sitting at 3-5 overall, the boys still seek the coveted divisional win. The girls have lost their first five divisional games. They will need a scorching end to January to overcome the sluggish start in Division-III.

Also in girls’ competition, the undefeat-

ed Mount Academy and winless Pine Plains bookend the Division-IV standings, as the 1-9 Bombers have fallen in their first four interdivisional matchups. In near-identical standing, the boys’ team also trails the pack in its division. With five straight losses to start the season, Pine Plains’ 0-5 is the contrast to Mount’s 5-0 start. The Eagles hold a one-game lead over Webutuck (4-4 overall, 3-1 in division), while widening the gap over Rhinebeck (4-6, 2-2 in division) and Millbrook (3-5 overall, 1-4 in division).

Unstoppable court forces - Red Hook is the boys’ team to beat in Division-II of Section 9. With a 7-0 overall record (2-0 in divisional play), including the most recent 62-52 win over Our Lady of Lourdes, the Raiders have shown early success in tournaments, within the division, and across nonleague matchups. With it, they will likely have to fight the Highland Huskies for top spot in the division.

Spackenkill has also enjoyed a strong start to its boys’ season, undefeated across its first four divisional contests. The squad boast a 6-3 record overall, including a resounding 82-57 win over Mount Academy to bolster its nonleague resume. Jalin Thompson led the Spartans with 36 points, while Kason Cummings notched a triple-double against the Eagles.

Renegades, Heritage Financial Credit Union issue expanded Rascal’s Reading Challenge for 2026 season

The Hudson Valley Renegades, High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and Heritage Financial Credit Union, a local Credit Union serving communities in and around the Hudson Valley for over 85 years, have announced that they have teamed up to expand “Rascal’s Reading Challenge” for 2026, an educational program aimed at encouraging students throughout the Hudson Valley to pick up a book and read.

Renegades mascot Rascal is challenging students from grades K through 8 to hit a Grand Slam by reading four (4) books beyond their regular reading requirements for school during the duration of the challenge. Students that reach this goal will earn two (2) complimentary tickets to celebrate at the Rascal’s Reading Challenge Night of their choice at Heritage Financial Park. Students can read books of any length, subject, or reading level.

“We are excited to expand our community partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union to expand upon this initiative focused on literacy to incentivize and encourage students throughout the Hudson Valley to read,” said Tom Denlinger, General Manager of the

Renegades. “We saw this program have great success in its first season in 2025, and we are looking forward to this being a cornerstone of our impact on the community for years to come!”

The Rascal’s Reading Challenge games in 2026 are Tuesday, May 7 vs Winston-Salem, Sunday, May 16 vs Frederick, and Tuesday, June 9 vs Jersey Shore. First pitch on May 7 and June 9 is scheduled for 6:35 p.m., and at 2:05 p.m. on May 17. Students who complete Rascal’s Reading Challenge will be able to take place in a pregame parade around the warning track at Heritage Financial Park.

Parents and family members may purchase additional tickets to celebrate their child’s accomplishment at the ballpark through the link sent to redeem the complimentary ticket. Rascal’s Reading Challenge is open to all K through 8 students in Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland and Sullivan Counties.

The Hudson Valley Renegades offer many school programs, and we invite you to learn more by visiting: hvrenegades.com/schools.

Police ask for public’s help in investigation

The City of Beacon Police Department asks the public for assistance regarding the investigation of an alleged assault that occurred on Jan. 14 near Tioronda Ave. and Wolcott Ave.

“As of this time we are requesting that individuals check any available cameras, in Beacon, for footage from 1/14/26, of a white male, wearing a black jacket or coat (not a puff coat), a black knit hat and blue pants or jeans. The suspect is further described as possibly being in his 30s-40s, approximately 5’11” with a medium build and having a brown, very close beard,” Beacon Police Chief Thomas Figlia stated in a release on Jan. 15.

Anyone with any footage depicting an individual that could possibly fit that description should contact the City of Beacon Police Department immediately at

845-831-4111, the police chief stated.

Figlia, in that release, noted concerns from the public regarding the release of information about the case. Figlia remarked the Department “[does] not take the public’s concerns lightly at all.”

“Please understand that this is a sensitive investigation and that in certain, traumatic cases, it is note even appropriate to fully take a statement from a victim until time has passed,” stated Figlia. “It would therefore be irresponsible for us to prematurely release information which we, objectively, could not rely on.”

In the first release, on Jan. 14, from the City of Beacon Police Department, it was stated the Department was “currently investigating a possible past occurred, assault.” It was also noted that the Beacon City School District was notified as a pre-

caution (in a subsequent release it was noted that Sargent Elementary School was close in proximity to the location and was on lockdown as a precaution until the area could be searched and no one was found). In the initial release, it was mentioned, “The area was checked and there does not appear to be a specific danger to the public in that area at this time. This investigation is still ongoing and so further information cannot yet be released.”

That same day, an update was released which included, that on Jan. 14, at around 9:20 a.m., the police received a call from Dutchess County 911 to assist Fire and EMS “who had received a call regarding a female who was unconscious and may have been a victim of a crime.”

Then it was stated, “Upon arrival it had been determined that there was reason to

believe that the female victim had been seriously assaulted.” It was stated the victim was in stable physical condition.

“Given the nature of the incident, however, the department is, even now, still working with her in order to determine key details of the crime. Because of this, we are not releasing any information that is not yet fully confirmed,” Figlia stated.

“We, again, must also balance the public’s need to know with the needs of the victim’s privacy and potential to compromise an investigation and/or prosecution. The department is continuing to devote its full resources to this investigation and is receiving assistance from other agencies as well,” stated the police chief on Jan. 15.

that’s italian!

by luigi coppola

‘Shopping with Pop’

A trip to buy strawberries has an unexpected twist.



The other day I went to the grocery store to buy fruit for the restaurant. I needed some strawberries for a dessert I was making. I was in a hurry, so I was walking very fast with my head down. I come around the corner and nearly ran into my father, who was shopping for home.

Pop looked at me with a big smile.

Pop: Whea Luigi! Ima so happy to see you!

Me: Hi, Pop!

Pop: Listen, I need you to pick me up a few things, okay?

Me: But, Pop, I’m in--

Pop: OK. I need 1 1/2 bananas

Me: What? 1 1/2? What?

Pop: Yeah, just break it off. I do it all the time.

Me: Pop, you can’t do that.

Pop: Why? Youa pay by the pounda, no?

Me: It’s not right.

Pop: Itsa OK. Nonja you worry. OK, then getta me two apples anda five grapes.

Me: What? Huh?

Pop: Whatsa matter for you.

Me: Five grapes?

Pop: Yeah. You getta five grapes and put them in a little bag. Oh. Maka sure you use double bags. Thisa way I cana put the broccoli di rabe ina the freezer.

Me: What? Huh?!

Pop: Thena I wanta the ... Come si chiama (How is it called)? Cachi.

Me: Persimmons?

Pop: Yeah! Geta me four.

Me: Four? Don’t they come in a box of six?

Pop: Yeah, so? OK, Imma gonna wait right here for you.

So I go over the fruit aisle and I get everything he asked for, including the 1 1/2 bananas double bagged, and I run back put everything in his cart, give him a kiss goodbye and run out to my car. I zip back to the restaurant and run inside and ... I forget the strawberries! That man has a way of confusing me.

At least I can tell you the recipe for the strawberry dessert I was going to make.

STRAWBERRY CHOCOLATE BRUSCHETTA

Ingredients

6 slices crusty Italian bread

10 oz. semi sweet chocolate

10 oz. Strawberries, diced

1/2 cup pistachio nuts, coarsely chopped

2 oz. Grand Marnier liqueur

Method

Preheat the broiler and toast one side of the bread. Remove the bread, add chocolate to each slice and return to the broiler until chocolate is melted.

Add diced strawberries, pistachio nuts and sprinkle Grand Marnier.

Serve with espresso

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Joe Ely named new chairman for

Ulster Savings Bank Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Ulster Savings Bank has announced the appointment of Joe Ely as its new chairman beginning in 2026.

Ely, who has chaired the Risk committee, the Audit committee, and served as a former chair of the Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation during his 14 years as a bank trustee, recently retired after serving in numerous engineering, program management, and executive roles in a wide range of other intensive technology businesses.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Harford, and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He previously held national and New York State securities and insurance licenses.

His professional involvement included membership in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Project Management Institute (PMI). He has served as an advisor on the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council, the I-95 Corridor Coalition, and OmniAir payment interoperability. He was also granted a U.S. Patent.

Ely previously served on the Rhinebeck Technology Committee and the Cable



Joe Ely

-Courtesy photo

Franchise Board of Control. He’s been involved with other community organizations including the Southlands Foundation, Little League Softball, Neighbor’s Gun Club, Mensa, and Intertel.

Ely currently resides in Rhinebeck.

Mid-Hudson Library members awarded more

than \$1.7 million in NYS Library Construction Aid

The FY 2024-2025 State Aid for Public Library Construction Grant Program Awards were announced on December 23, and 13 Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Member Libraries have been awarded funds, for a total allotment of \$1,715,727.

2025 Awards in the Mid-Hudson Library System include the following in the Mid-Hudson area:

- Hyde Park Library District: \$121,250 - Energy Efficient HVAC System Upgrade
- Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library (Cold Spring): \$55,296 - Energy Efficiency Project
- Kingston Library: \$587,708 - Basement Renovation
- Marlboro Free Library: \$288,681 - Children's Library Upgrades and Improvements
- Patterson Library: \$176,068 - Phase 2 Adult Collection Area Improvements
- Plattekill Public Library: \$22,719 - Septic System Replacement
- Pleasant Valley Library: \$14,323 - Installation of 2 Double EV Charging Stations

- Putnam Valley Free Library: \$72,709 - Renovation of the Community Room
- Woodstock Public Library District: \$302,833 - Fire Safety and Accessibility Renovation

“We are grateful to our elected officials for their support of this critical state aid program,” said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director, “These funds greatly assist local libraries keep up with the aging infrastructure our libraries are operating within.”

There is a documented need of \$1.75 billion for public library construction and renovation in New York State. More than half of the over 1,000 public library buildings in New York are now over 60 years old and one third are between 30 and 60 years old. The funds for all listed projects are from \$44 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the FY2024-2025 State Budget. To view other projects that were funded and to learn more about the urgent need New York’s public libraries have for renovations and upgrades, visit nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/info/plcovrvw.htm.

Ryan endorses Kaul in Democratic

primary for NY Senate District 39

Hudson Valley Congressman Pat Ryan is backing New York State Senate candidate Lisa Kaul in the Democratic Primary for New York State Senate District 39.

“As a true servant leader, Lisa puts others first, listening to constituents and working tirelessly to address their needs. Lisa has the courage to fight for what is right, even when facing opposition, and most importantly, she delivers results. I’m proud to endorse her in this race,” said Ryan.

The pair appeared together at a special event in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, Jan. 18 for the announcement. “I am deeply honored to be endorsed by Congressman Pat Ryan,” said Kaul. “I have been inspired by his straightforward and fierce commitment to doing right by his constituents. He shows up, he does the work, and he delivers. Congressman Ryan’s servant leadership mirrors my commitment as a New American to giving back to the country I’m proud to call home.”

Kaul, a second-term Dutchess County Legislator and Chair of the Environment Committee, announced her campaign a month ago. “I’m running because we are at a critical moment. Working people are being crushed by rising costs. Our freedoms and basic dignity are under attack. And climate change threatens our future,” said Kaul. “I’m running because we all deserve the opportunity to thrive, not just make ends meet. To get there, we need new leadership who will fight and deliver for us.”

In the 21 years that she’s lived in the Hudson Valley, Kaul has contributed extensively in her community—including leading a fight to keep her local elementary school from closing, and then being elected to the Board of Education; organizing the Poughkeepsie Women’s March Across the Hudson; and serving on the board of Planned Parenthood Greater New York Action Fund.

Transportation Planning

Committee to meet on Jan. 28

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will hold a virtual Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 10 a.m.

They will discuss membership updates, the Draft 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program, the long-range plan -

Moving Dutchess Forward, and other planning efforts.

Join on the web by entering meeting ID: 292 820 773 310; Passcode: NL9Vv2Rc or call in (audio only) +1 516-268-4602; Phone Conference ID: 932 321 65#.

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A Sweet Arrival: Fruition Chocolate Works to open at Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie

Fruition Chocolate Works (Fruition), the region’s premier specialty chocolate maker, will bring its award-winning product to the east side of the Hudson River with a second location at Eastdale Village Town Center in Poughkeepsie. The new location will offer an immersive experience for learning and tasting the world of high-quality chocolate, featuring confections crafted at its flagship Shokan store by master chocolatier and co-owner, Bryan Graham. The grand opening celebration will take place on Feb. 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., welcoming locals and visitors across the Hudson Valley to taste, shop and learn.

“The second location marks a major milestone for Fruition,” said Dahlia Graham, co-owner of Fruition. “Eastdale Village is a vibrant live-work-play community, and we’re excited about being a part of it, offering a unique space where visitors can taste, learn and appreciate chocolate the way we do.”

In addition to Fruition’s celebrated creations, the Eastdale location will feature hand-selected craft chocolates from around the world, highlighting other ethically sourced makers whose products complement Fruition’s own, alongside an espresso and hot chocolate bar. The shop will also offer locally made jams and syrups used to enhance Fruition chocolate, creating a curated experience for visitors.

Founded 14 years ago and operated today by husband-and-wife duo, Bryan and Dahlia Graham, Fruition has earned an international reputation for crafting high-quality, ethically sourced chocolate and goods that have been refined to perfection. Both the business and chocolati-



Fruition Chocolate Works co-owners Dahlia and Bryan Graham are pictured at the new Eastdale Village location.

er, Bryan Graham, have received international recognition for its products, including multiple Gold Medals from the International Chocolate Awards, accolades from the Academy of Chocolate and

honors from the Good Foods Awards. Graham has previously been named one of the Top 10 Dessert Professionals in America, a distinction reflecting his skills



In addition to Fruition’s celebrated creations, the Eastdale location will feature hand-selected craft chocolates from around the world. Above is a packaged Fruition chocolate bar.

-Courtesy photos

and dedication to the craft and testament to his education at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park.

To learn more about Fruition Chocolate Works or place an order, visit: fruitionchocolateworks.com or connect with Fruition on Facebook (Fruition Chocolate) and Instagram (@fruitionchocolate).

Award-winning pianists to perform at Howland Jan. 25

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will continue its 2025-2026 Piano Festival with a duo of award-winning pianists, Timo Andres and Aaron Diehl. They will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, January 25, at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit www.howland-music.org. The Howland Cultural Center

is at 477 Main Street in Beacon. Andres and Diehl are both composers and pianists. Andres studied at the Yale School of Music and has performed as a soloist (on his own and with many of the world’s great orchestras) and as a chamber musician. Andres has performed and edited Phillip Glass’s Etudes, and was recently nominated for a Tony award for his orchestration of Sufjan Steven’s “Illinoise,” a dance-musical folk/ballet. Diehl studied at The Juilliard School and,



The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will welcome the award-winning pianists Timo Andres and Aaron Diehl. They will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Jan. 25 in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

like Andres, is also a noted soloist and chamber musician. He has been described as “redefining the lines between classical and jazz,” having performed since the age of 16 with Wynton Marsalis, and other jazz greats.

For HCMC, Andres and Diehl will preview repertoire that the two pianists will play later that week at Carnegie Hall. The program includes two of Andres’ compo-

sitions, his arrangement of Thelonious Monk’s Nocturnes, and works by Monk, Poulenc and Bach as well as contemporary composer Julia Wolfe.

HCMC now offers tickets at prices to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to each concert.

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✓ Projects you "planned" to do-but put off because of cost

You may qualify for special home improvement funding programs not available to the general public.

✓ Lower out-of-pocket costs

✓ Spread payments over time

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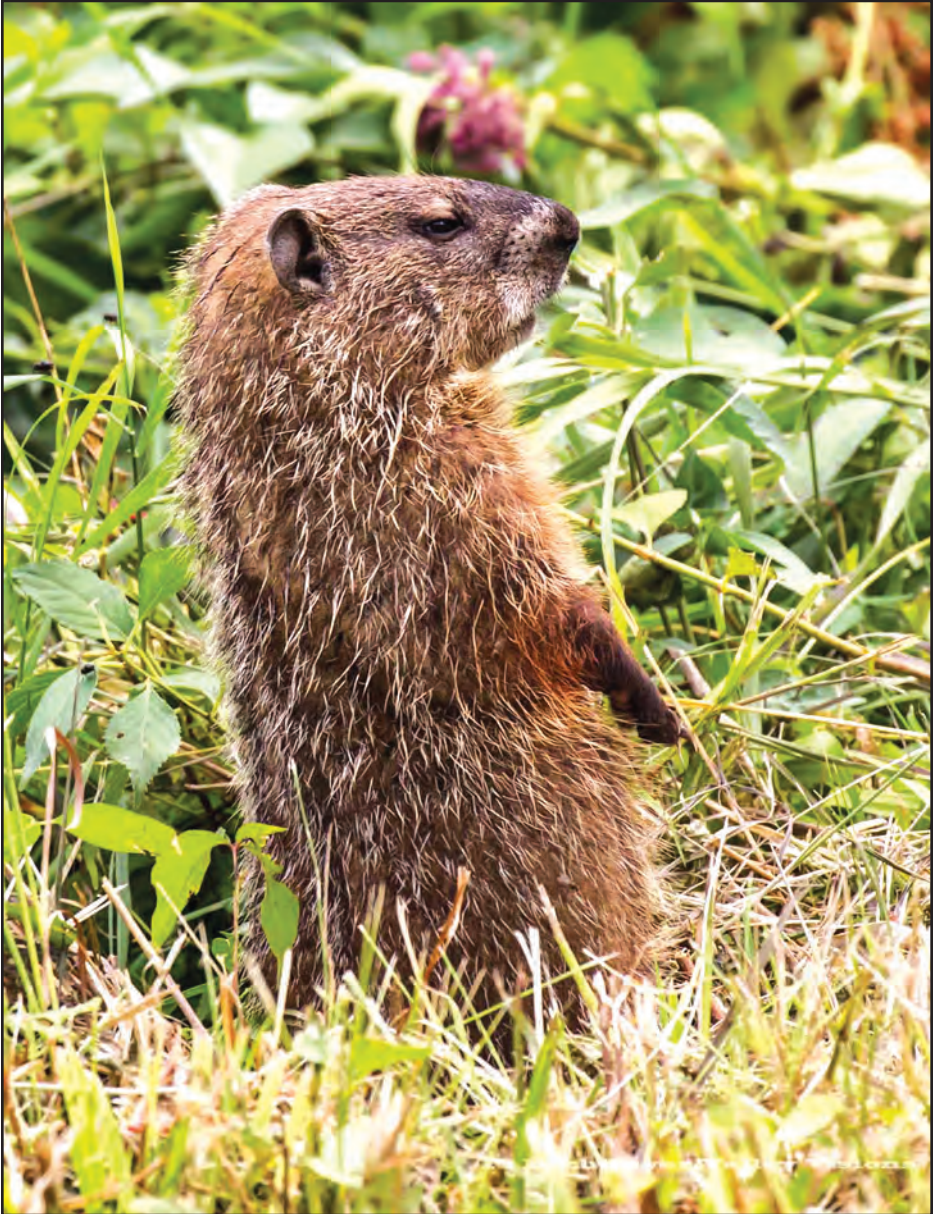
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Procreation, not prognostication



Groundhog on Guard, Bowdoin Park.

-Photo courtesy Valley Visions

Beasties are tuned into the weather. Birds can detect changes in air pressure and humidity and seek shelter in advance of severe conditions. The largest mammals, as well as subterranean insects, move to higher ground before a down-pour. Restlessness in dogs can result from their smelling ozone changes caused by approaching lightning. Critters can hear a storm in the distance before its rumble is audible to humans.

The acuity of their senses to environmental shifts enables animals to perceive climatic changes earlier than we can. And they alter their behavior to prepare. In autumn, squirrels and mice gorge, as well as store food in caches for later consumption. Bears become hyperphagic to gain fat for energy and insulation. Groundhogs also add girth for their winter hibernation. Their thick layer of fat sustains them during a three-month-long dormancy.

As winter draws to an end, when temperatures begin rising, groundhogs emerge from their sleep. In some cases, the event is the subject of great observation and fanfare. But, even with the rodents’ animalistic sensitivities to environmental cues, their documented accuracy at meteorological predictions is only 30-40%.

Wise woodchuck or squirrely substitute?

The custom of using hibernating animals to predict weather is an ancient European practice. In that continent, the badger, *Meles meles* (related to

shrews), and the hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus* (related to weasels), were used to forecast winter’s end. As Europe became Christianized, in the 5th through 9th centuries, the Pagan Festival of Imbolc, which signified the beginning of spring, was blended with Candlemas, a holiday that uses blessed candles to represent Christ’s light and bring a sense of peace.

In the 1800s, when European immigrants brought their traditions to North America, they found that *Marmota monax* (related to squirrels) were a more readily available alternative to the animals used in their former home. The woodchuck became their pinch-hitter. The settler’s regional tradition of Groundhog Day was first publicized in 1886, by the Punxsutawney Spirit newspaper in Pennsylvania.

Long shadows = more winter

I find it counter-intuitive, but cloudless, sunny days in winter can be indicative of chilly weather. Usually cold, northern air brings clear conditions. There are also fewer daylight hours in winter, which means that there is less time for heat to accumulate. And clouds act as an insulating blanket; without clouds, any heat reaching us quickly radiates back into space. Most importantly, though, in winter, the sun’s rays are spread over a larger area, less effectively heating the ground and air.

So, if Bucky the Unlucky Woodchucky lumbers outside his burrow one fine, sunny February 2nd, he will see a much

more elongated shadow than he would observe in June, when the sun is more directly overhead. He will thusly return to his den for an additional month-and-a-half of slumber. So-sayeth the tradition and its adherents. (Conversely, a cloudy February 2nd foretells an early spring, as Bucky would not throw shade).

Thumb stubs and limited shoulder range-of-motion

As if marmots could throw anyway! These land-based, chisel-toothed rodents have “thumb stubs” that only allow them to grip small items. Without fully opposable thumbs they could not hold a branch. Plus, they lack the complex biomechanics necessary for chucking anything. Their limbs are built for powerful, linear movement needed for moving dirt.

Whistle Pigs are habitat engineers; they aerate the soil and cycle nutrients, keeping it healthy through their digging. They are often seen guarding their burrows, emitting a high-pitched noise if they become alarmed.

Though their monikers include woodchuck, marmot, and whistle pig, they are most commonly called groundhogs. “Woodchuck” is a phonetic corruption.

The Algonquians’ name for the animal is “wuchak,” which prompts the query, “How much wood would a wuchak chuck if a wuchak could chuck wood?”

Final observations

According to the Oregon Zoo, their hedgehogs have an accuracy rate of about 50% at predicting the arrival of spring. There is no data on the accuracy rate of badgers’ predictions, as it is not a widely studied phenomenon. Scientists have observed that male groundhogs emerge in search of females and don’t seem particularly interested in the length of their shadows. That’s procreation, not prognostication.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County.

Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.

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Obituaries

Beatrice G. Cornell



Beatrice G. Cornell, formerly of Wappingers Falls and a resident of Red Hook, NY, was Called Home peacefully to rest on January 14, 2026 at her home; at the age of 106 years old. She was born on November 13, 1919 in Wilmington, DE, daughter of the late Lawrence R. & Julia (nee Byrne) Maenner.

On April 26, 1941 at the Ascension Catholic Church in Bowie, MD, Malcolm D. Cornell, who predeceased her after 41-years of marriage on September 7, 1982.

She was a devoted wife and loving mother; Beatrice was a former parishioner of the St. Martin de Porres Parish in Poughkeepsie. She was a member and enjoyed attending the Rhinebeck Seniors. She also enjoyed playing card games and other games, and was an avid bowler in her younger years.

Beatrice is survived by her six children:

Malcolm D. Cornell, Michael D. Cornell, Mary Dolores Shultis and her husband Eugene, Lawrence R. Cornell and his wife Karen, Joseph A. Cornell and his wife Sandra, Julia A. Cornell and her husband David Mergendahl. She is also survived by her 23 grandchildren, and a host of great-grandchildren & great-great-grandchildren.

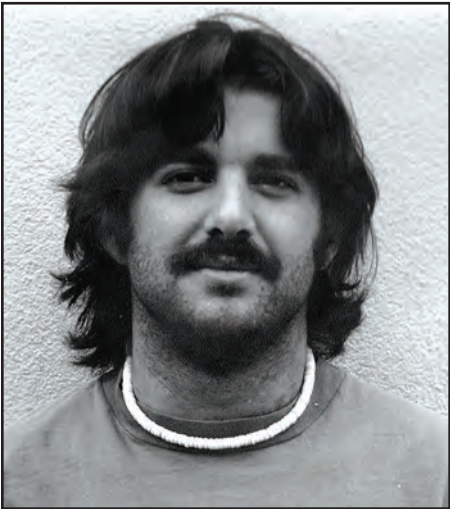
Along with her husband and parents, Beatrice was predeceased by three grandchildren, Mark Langridge, June West and Suzanne Chennault; and her four sisters.

As per her wishes, there will be no-calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11AM, Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the St. Martin de Porres Church, 118 Cedar Valley Road, Poughkeepsie, New York. Her Family will receive Friends starting 10:30AM prior to Mass. Interment will be private at a later date in the St. Mary's Cemetery, Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, New York.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes for memorial donation to be made in Beatrice's memory to Shriners Children Hospital, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607 and/or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

David Arthur Matthews



David Arthur Matthews, devoted father and beloved son and sibling passed away peacefully on January 14, 2026 surround by his son and his two brothers.

Born in Yonkers, NY, Dave was the son of Jo Anne (Corso) and Peter Matthews. His father being a career Marine, David grew up in many different locations between Yonkers and Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, but always considered New York home. David earned his bachelor's degree at SUNY New Paltz where he discovered his love for cooking and was a chef in several restaurants in Dutchess and Westchester counties. With the birth of his son Jeremy, David gave up the crazy hours of a restaurant chef seeking a more regular schedule and became the head cook at Indian Point power plant. He worked there until 2012 when a car accident would no longer allow him to remain on his feet for

long periods of time and ended his working career as an insurance agent for Combined Insurance.

Dave will be remembered for all the great meals he cooked for friends and family, for his devotion to his son and to his cats, his generosity to family and friends as well as being a fan of comic books and all things Star Wars.

Dave is survived his son, Jeremy, his mother Jo Anne, his sisters Elizabeth and Elaine, and his brothers Peter and Michael.

He was preceded in death earlier this year by his father, Peter Sr.

Dave will be fondly remembered by family, friends and all who have tasted his cooking!

At the request of his family, David will have a private interment. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

John J. Seymour, Jr.



John J. Seymour, Jr., a longtime Wappingers Falls resident, passed away on January 11, 2026; at the age of 92. He was born on January 23, 1933, in Bronx, NY, son of the late John J. Seymour, Sr. and Ethel (Brown) Seymour.

John served in the United States Army National Guard during the Korean Conflict and received an honorable discharge for his service.

On July 20, 1958, in The Bronx, he married Josephine Paciullo, who predeceased him on April 20, 2013, after 54-years of marriage.

John worked for over 30 years as an appliance technician for General Electric in Newburgh, NY; until he retired.

John enjoyed many things in life; he was an outdoorsman, he loved hunting. He enjoyed sports, an avid fan of boxing and the NY Yankees; he enjoyed his casino trips.

John had a huge love for bowling; he was proud of the few 300 games he had bowled. He was also proud of his photograph spotlighted on the cover of the Evergreen Review magazine in 1955.

John is survived by his two sons, John J. Seymour III and Robert Seymour. He is also survived by his four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Along with his wife Josephine Seymour, John was also predeceased by his beloved daughter Patricia Serna; his one sister and four brothers.

His Family received Friends on Monday, January 19th at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where a Funeral Service was held, Tuesday, January 20th followed by entombment to the Community Mausoleum at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, Poughkeepsie, New York.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Paul L. Welsh



Paul L. Welsh, affectionately known as 'Gulsh', passed away at his home in Staatsburg, NY on January 8, 2026; at the age of 66, after a long and trying battle with multiple illnesses.

He was born in Schenectady, NY and raised in Jersey City, NJ, son of the late Edward H. & Dorothy Mae (Smith) Welsh.

Paul was a skilled carpenter; he could build anything. He worked in freight trucking for the Long Shoreman's Union in Ridgefield, New Jersey.

'Gulsh', as he was affectionately known by his family and friends, loved his New York Sports teams, and was an avid NY Yankee and NY Giants fan. He also loved muscle cars, and collecting and listening to various types of music. He loved his family dearly, especially his sons and following their activities and sports.

Paul is survived by his two sons, Paul T. Welsh and Jonathon T. Welsh; their mother, Romona Burger, who was also his companion of twenty-five years. He is also survived by his brother and sister Jay R. Welsh and Cindy Gregorio; his half-brother Edward 'Mickey' Welsh. As well as his nieces and nephews: Samantha Gregorio, Nadine Gregorio, Mark Welsh, Kenny Welsh and Corey Mullen; his great-nieces and great-nephews, Chelsea Scianna, Corey and Dominick Mullen.

Along with his parents, Paul was predeceased by his step-son Ryan Burger; his nephew 'JJ' Welsh; his half-sister Maryanne Berliner. As well as, his two beloved dogs Brady and Dex.

His Family received Friends on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where a prayer service will be offered. A Spring Burial will be held at a later date in the Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, West Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Bernice 'Bebe' M. Terwilliger



Bernice 'Bebe' M. Terwilliger, a longtime Village of Wappingers Falls resident, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on January 9, 2026; at the age of 83. She was born on June 13, 1942 in Poughkeepsie, NY, daughter of the late Dominick and Helen Sylvia (Schaffer) Imperati.

On May 13, 2006, she married David R. Terwilliger, who survives her at home. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

'Bebe' as she was affectionately known, was an avid volunteer; she loved lending a hand in her community. She was a longtime member of the VFW Ladies Auxillary Post 170 of Poughkeepsie; she also enjoyed being a school crossing guard in Poughkeepsie. Bebe was a member of the Village of Wappingers Falls Recreation for 17 years; always helping with various events for the Village and in Mesier Park, such as the concerts and movies in the

park, to name a few. She had a huge heart for giving back to her community.

Along with her beloved husband of over 19 years, Bernice is survived by her 6 children: Philomena (Keith) Anderson of Clinton Corners, NY, Ruthann (David) Holdeen of Mount Pleasant, NC, Robert (Marie) Palmatier of West Haven, CT, Betty (Jeffrey) Junge of Crossville, TN, John Rizzo of Poughkeepsie, NY, Charles (Cathleen) Rizzo of Wappingers Falls, NY. She is also survived by 22 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Along with her parents, Bernice was predeceased by her 6 sisters and 3 brothers, and dear cat Muffin.

Her Family received Friends on Tuesday, January 13th at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where a Funeral Service was held Wednesday January 14th followed by interment to St. Mary's Cemetery, Wappingers Falls.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Martha A. Delio



Martha A. Delio, a longtime resident of Wappingers Falls, NY, passed away peacefully on January 4, 2026 surrounded by her family; at the age of 65. She was born on July 15, 1960, daughter of Nicholas and Ann Rose (Imbroto) Spero.

Martha worked for 20 years for Du Pont Photomasks in Danbury, CT; as a clean room operator, until she retired. Early on she worked as a pharmacist assistant at Hopewell Pharmacy in Hopewell Junction, NY and the Community Care Pharmacy in Fishkill, NY.

Martha had a love for the sun and sand; she enjoyed laying out at the pools and the Florida beaches. She was an avid NY Mets fan. She also enjoyed 1980s music, and dancing her head off to 'Mambo No.

5' and other classics with her family & friends. Martha loved her family dearly, especially her nieces and nephews.

Martha is survived by her devoted and loving husband of 14-years, Robert Delio; her brother Anthony Spero and his wife Rhonda; her brothers-in-law, David Delio and his wife Christine) and Raymond Delio; her sister-in-law Victoria Benn and her husband Rich. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews all whom she loved dearly: Amanda (Jason) Berube, Melissa Spero (Tory Delmonico), Jacqueline Delio, Emily Delio, Eric Benn, Matthew Benn and Adam Benn.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. Her Family will gather for a Celebration of Life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family wished for memorial donations to be made in Martha's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704 Hagerstown MD 21741.

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Obituaries



Jane Travis

Our Mom, Jane Travis passed away peacefully January 4, 2026 at home to rejoin her husband Bob, and daughter Margaret in heaven. Mom was born November 17, 1935 in Cold Spring, N.Y. to Gaetano (Thomas) Etta and Elizabeth (Bush) Etta. She spent her childhood in Cold Spring with her parents, brother Joe, and sister Ann. She graduated from Our Lady of Loretta Elementary School in 1949 and Haldane High School in 1953. She then pursued a Nursing career and attended the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Poughkeepsie from 1953 to 1956, where upon after she received her diploma and RN License from NY State.

Over the years, she would work at various facilities, beginning with Butterfield Hospital in her hometown, and also Elmhurst Hospital for two years while she attended Columbia

University. She would finish her nursing at the Central Dutchess Nursing Home in Wappingers Falls after a seventeen-year career there.

On October 17, 1959 she married Francis Robert Travis Jr. (Bob) at Our Lady of Loretta Church in Cold Spring. They would raise their family of four children in Wappingers Falls.

Over the years, Jane was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and enjoyed going to the Town of Wappingers Senior Center. It was there that she enjoyed the parties, games, day trips and most especially the friendships. Jane was predeceased by her husband Bob and daughter Margaret Varuzzo as well as her parents and brother Joe.

Jane is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Connie Travis and Bob and Nancy Travis of Wappingers Falls, as well as her daughter and son-in-law, Eileen and Dave Horton. She is also survived by grandchildren, Brian and Jenn Travis, Michael and Christina Travis, Alex and Brianna Horton, Zach and Erica Horton, Taylor and Kyle Henry, Bob Travis and Sedona Petagine. She was also present to enjoy her eleven great grandchildren. In addition to her children's family, she is also survived by her sister Ann Lisikatos and sister-in-law Sheila Travis, as well as her nephews and nieces.

The family would like to thank Hudson Valley Hospice for their assistance during the last days of Mom's life, as well as Dr. Edward K. Schneider and Hands-On-Healing Private Care for their help, most especially Gingi. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Poor Clares Nuns of New York, 70 Nelson Avenue, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590; or a charity of your choice.

Her family received Friends on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, January 9th at St. Mary Church, 11 Clinton St., Wappingers Falls, followed by interment in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: DelehantyFuneral.com.

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Queen size wood sleigh bed box spring mattress included. Exc. Cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

503 Furniture

4 set Antique wood dining chairs upholstered seats exc. cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

Day Bed Frame Twin white Decorative Head and Side Frame. Excellent condition, \$100. 845-226-8896

Patio set, glass top with four chairs with cushions. 9 foot umbrella with stand. Used once, \$350. Call 845-297-4741

516 Misc. Merchandise

New Quickie Q500m power Wheelchair with Sedco Pro seating and advanced controls, use indoor or outdoor reduced to \$2,250. Call: 845-221-361

Paintball Equipment for sale. Guns cases hoppers tanks masks all in good working order. Asking \$150 for all. 914-420-5626



516 Misc. Merchandise

Tor-1950's Tube AM,FM & Record Player, \$250 OBO. 845-831-8698

Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105

Post Hole Digger Blade 9 inches long 5 inches wide Handle 43 inches long Heavy Duty, \$30. 845-226-8910

Magnesium Alum Alloy 16' extension ladder, 8' glass reinforced step ladder, Make offer. 845-297-6369

AC Ptable, \$80 - Dehumidifier, \$60, Grill Free, Snare Drum, \$80, Wicker shelf, Lamp, \$40. 845-418-0069

Four Kenwood KL777 100W speakers, wood cabinet, exc. cond., \$225. 845-337-6509

Snow Blower, Electric, 18 in., Powersmart Brand, Hardly used, Exec. Cond, \$60 OBO. Cell: 845-797-9724

516 Misc. Merchandise

Elvis Presley photo given at the opening of Love Me Tender at Academy Theater in Wappingers Falls, NY, \$125. Call: 845-582-0450

801 Trailers

2 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath Trailer minutes from Ocean, Edgewater, Fla. Fully furnished, new beds, TV etc. Screened Porch, W/D, \$17K neg. Call 386-847-4397

900 Autos For Sale

2006 Honda Civic, 4DR EX 140hp, 246944 miles key inob, \$600. 845-897-5455

Pets for Adoption

Karla, German Shepherd Dog Mix. Adult, 3-8 yrs, Female, Medium 26-60 lbs, short hair, color, Black. She's Affectionate, Playful, Athletic, Protective, Smart and Loyal. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon NY

PETS

Tabby: Domestic short Hair Cat. Adult 3-8 yrs, Female, Medium 7-11 lbs. Tabby is a Buff/Tan/Fawn color. Personality is Affectionate, Curious, Gentle, Playful, Quiet and Shy. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY

Gabby: Domestic Short Hair Cat. Senior 8+ yrs, Female, small 6 lbs, color: Tortoiseshell, Calico. She's Curious, Friendly, Playful, Athletic, Smart and Funny. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY

Champ, Dachshund & Terrier Mix. Adult 3-8 yrs, Male, Small 0-25 lbs, Medium coat, color, White/Cream, Red/Chestnut/Orange. He's Friendly, Loyal, Loves kisses, Protective and Affectionate. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon NY

Pets For Adoption
ARF, Beacon, NY
845-831-5161
54 Simmons Lane
PO Box 1129
Beacon, NY 12508

Hello, my name is Cupcake! I am a 8 week old boxer/hound mix looking for my forever home! I am super sweet and playful and love everyone I meet. I am fully vetted up to what is age appropriate and I can't wait to find my new family. If you would like to adopt me please go to www.incrediblepupspetrescue.com and submit an adoption application.



Hello, my name is Binx! I am a 7 month old Collie mix looking for my forever home! I am super sweet and playful and love everyone I meet. I'm good with kids, dogs and cats. I am fully vetted up to what is age appropriate and I can't wait to find my new family. If you would like to adopt me please go to www.incrediblepupspetrescue.com and submit an adoption application.

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If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.

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

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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

		2			
2		5			3
		4			
	1				
		3		1	

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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: THE GRAMMYS

ACROSS

1. Inundated
6. Word before humbug
9. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
13. Rough, as in voice
14. Kimono sash
15. Misrepresent
16. Do like ivy
17. Go for the bronze?
18. Poem of lament
19. *Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
21. *KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song
23. Sought at crime scene
24. Lord's worker
25. Rob Manfred's org.
28. Jab, in speech
30. *____.com Arena
35. Rowboat engine, pl.
37. ____ gum, ingredient
39. Cowboy's cry of joy
40. Big attraction
41. Spring holiday honoree
43. Live bait
44. Daytime moth
46. Puerto follower
47. Finger move
48. Colonnade
50. Invitation letters
52. "Zip it!"
53. Trash bag brand
55. Polar helper
57. *Lady Gaga's nominated album
60. *Tyler of CHROMAKOPIA, with The
64. Prejudiced one
65. Busy one
67. Do penance
68. Approves
69. Make a mistake
70. Sans-____ font
71. "I, Claudius" role
72. Jack and Jill did this
73. Changes to a manuscript

DOWN

1. Parentheses, e.g.
2. "Star Trek" speed
3. Away from port
4. Not be frugal
5. What TikTokers are often doing
6. This and that
7. Legal grp.
8. Door holder
9. Mix together
10. Away from wind
11. Leo or Libra, e.g.
12. *Wonder's "Songs in the _____ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
15. Where bats are?
20. Eurasian goat-like antelope
22. Middle-earth dweller
24. Pelican or albatross, e.g.
25. Person in an ad
26. One of Florida Keys
27. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
29. *Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian Bill _____
31. Swerves
32. Sound units
33. Synagogue scroll
34. Zing or pizzazz
36. *Justin Bieber's nominated song
38. Fabled fliers
42. Red one, send somebody over!
45. Unalienable ones are in the Declaration of Independence
49. Draft pick
51. Give satisfaction
54. Spot for prehistoric fly
56. Doomed
57. *MCA, Ad-Rock and _____ D, Grammy-winning Beastie Boys
58. Culture-growing turf
59. Walk-the-dog toy
60. What concerning and discernable have in common
61. *Nine-time Grammy-nominated Amos
62. Fonzie's comeback: "Sit _____"
63. Whistle blowers
64. * _____ lver of SABLE, FABLE fame
66. Historical period

CROSSWORD

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
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
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	57	58	59					60				61	62
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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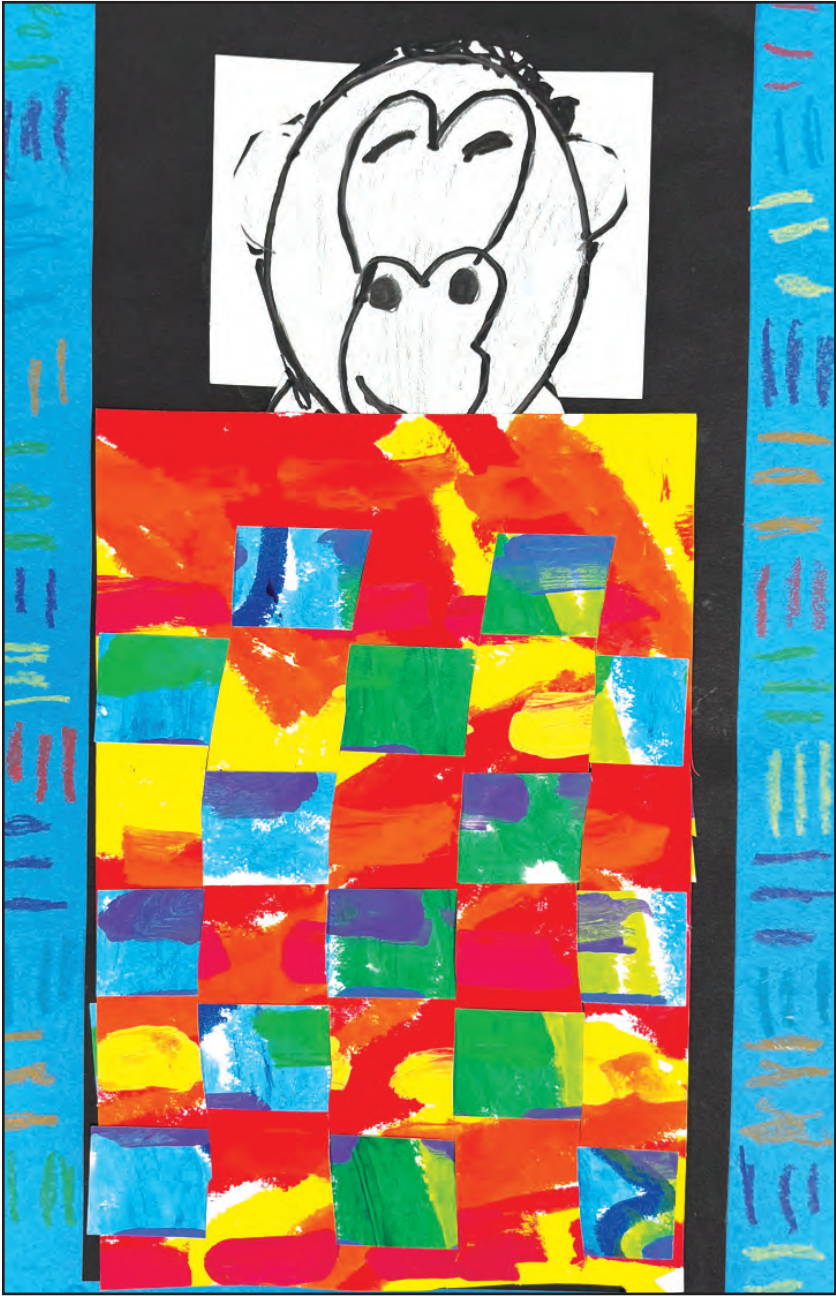
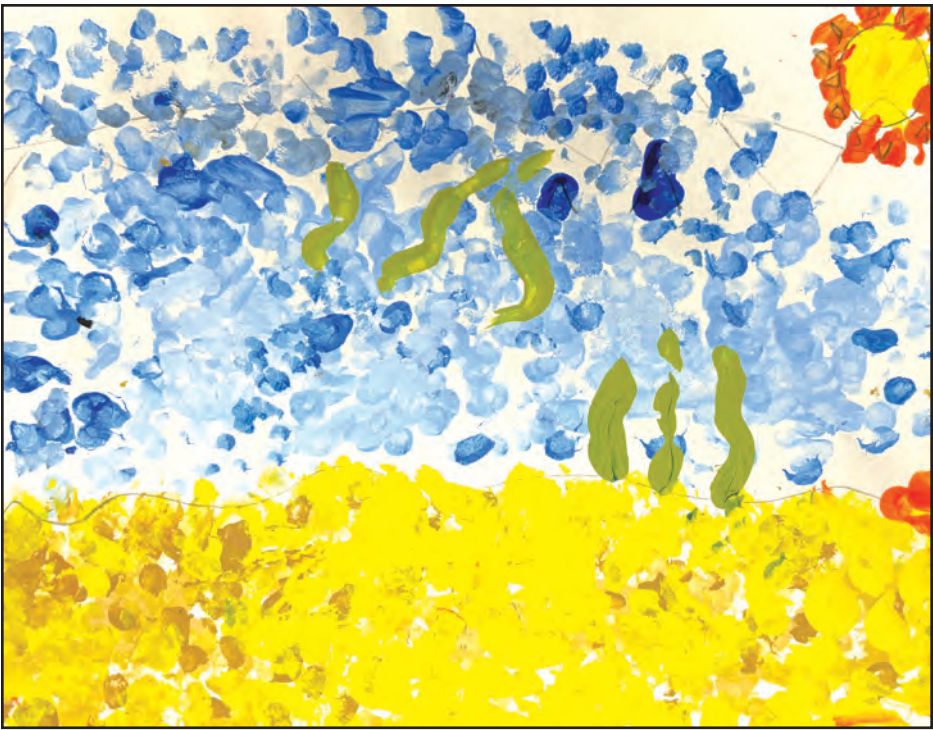
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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on page 14.

Howland Public Library presents ‘Art is Elementary’

Opening reception set for Jan. 24



Howland Public Library will present “Art is Elementary.” Artwork is by Beacon City School District students.
Artwork, clockwise from top left, is by Julius C., first grader, Xochitl P., second grader, Noah F., second grader and Leo S., second grader.
-Courtesy photos Howland Public Library



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The Howland Public Library will present “Art is Elementary,” an exhibition celebrating the creativity and imagination of elementary students from Beacon City School District schools. The exhibit features a selection of artwork from elementary students who attend Glenham, Sargent, South Avenue, and J.V. Forrestal schools.

A public reception honoring the student artists and their teachers will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 1-3 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

“Art Is Elementary” showcases a diverse range of student work and offers a glimpse into the vibrant art-making taking place in elementary classrooms across the district. The exhibition invites the community to celebrate young artists and the role of arts education in fostering creativity, confidence, and self-expression.

The exhibition will be on view in the library’s Community Room during regular library hours. Please note that the gallery may not be accessible during some library programs. Visitors are encouraged to call the library at 845-831-1134 or visit beaconlibrary.org before planning their visit.

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main Street, Beacon.