

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## LUNAR NEW YEAR



The Beacon Spring Celebration of Light Parade will take place on Saturday, February 21 on Main St. in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Spring Celebration of Light

### Spring Celebration of Light to highlight Year of the Fire Horse

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon Spring Celebration of Light is set for Saturday, Feb. 21 in Beacon. At 5:30 p.m. attendees will gather at Polhill Park, Main St. and South Ave., with lanterns. Then at 6 p.m., the parade will step off on Main St. (where there will be a rolling closure).

"This year is the year of the Fire Horse so all our lanterns reflect this animal of the coming Lunar New Year:

the lanterns decorated by all the children at our Lantern Decorating sessions at the various libraries in the area; the handmade lanterns hanging in local businesses; and the giant centerpiece horse lantern that will lead the parade down Beacon's Main St." explained organizers Christine Wang and Jessica Jelliffe via email to Beacon Free Press.

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### East Asian Culture Club sets Spring Festival Feb. 21 in Beacon

By Morgan E. Maier

The Lunar New Year began on Feb. 17, marking the Year of the Horse, as it was in 1954, 1990, 2002 and 2014. No matter their sign, all people are welcome to join the Hudson East Asian Culture Club's celebration of Chinese and East Asian culture on Saturday, Feb. 21.

This Spring Festival will immerse attendees in East Asian culture with a full slate of performances and activities celebrating traditional customs, food, and arts. Demonstrations on traditional Chinese and Eastern wellness practices, such as Tai Chi (known as "meditation in motion") highlight the interactive activities.

The celebration will take place at Industrial Arts Brewing Company, 511 Fishkill Avenue, in Beacon. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. with performances from 3 to 5 p.m.

The performances are special highlights for East Asian Culture Club co-founders Pearly Huang and Yu Ling Zhang, who have backgrounds in the practices of Tai Chi and traditional dance. Among others, lion dancing and the ancient Japanese art of Taiko drumming, where music meets martial art



The Hudson East Asian Culture Club will host a Spring Festival on Saturday, Feb. 21 in Beacon.

-Courtesy image

will also be performed.

The refreshments will also highlight some authentic, delicious flavors not often found in the Hudson Valley. Spring rolls, cookies, a tea tasting, plus other freshly made, preservative-free

Continued on page 2

# Ryan stresses more affordable, safe and free Hudson Valley

Congressman Pat Ryan delivered his annual State of the Hudson Valley address on Sunday, Feb. 15 at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie. Ryan focused on the work he's doing in Washington to deliver a more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley, and thanked the entire community for their help in that fight.

"My mission, every single day, is to deliver the more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley that all of our families deserve. The last year hasn't been easy, but I want to be clear: The State of the Hudson Valley is strong. It is proud. And it is unapologetically Patriotic," said

Ryan. "Strong in the face of harm. Proud of neighbors who refuse to turn their backs on each other. And Patriotic for the country we know to be the greatest in the history of the world - for everything we know American can be. It's the honor of my life to represent this community, and there's no one else I'd rather fight alongside. Now let's get back to work." In his speech, Ryan recommitted to passing his Affordability Agenda - his very first legislation introduced this Congress. The agenda is a comprehensive package of bills that fights the affordability crisis across the board:

- The Lowering Grocery Prices Act, to

hold corporate price-gougers accountable and bring down food prices for consumers.

- The Stopping Pharma's Rip-offs Act, to make it easier and cheaper to produce and access the medication you need.

- The Bold Housing Agenda, a four bill package to cut through red tape and government waste to build more housing you can afford.

- The Protecting Social Security Act, to ensure your earned benefits are protected and that you can access them right in your own community

Ryan also commended his casework team for closing more than 5,000 cases

helping members of the Hudson Valley community navigate federal programs and access their benefits. To date, Ryan and his team have returned more than \$43 million from federal agencies, right back into the pockets of Hudson Valley residents.

During his time in office, Ryan has secured more than \$700 million in federal funding for community projects across Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties. That funding has built community centers, fixed roads, pipes, and bridges, purchased new fire engines, and bolstered law enforcement capabilities across the Hudson Valley.



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# Spring Celebration of Light to highlight Year of the Fire Horse

Continued from cover

Participants will walk the length of Main Street with light, music and cheer, said organizers.

Asked what they enjoy about hosting the annual Spring Celebration of Light Festival, Christine and Jessica replied, "We love the engagement with all the different people from all over the Hudson Valley from kids to grandparents and everyone in between. And we love their excitement to learn about this wonderful festival that is celebrated all over the world."

At 6:30 p.m. there will be a celebration at The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane, in Beacon.

Jessica and Christine said they have never seen the parade – because they are always in the parade.

"[E]veryone that comes to watch inevitably gets caught up in the excitement of the lanterns and the music and joins us! So, what we would describe would be the feelings of joy and connection we get from being a part of this beautiful parade in the middle of the darkness of winter. It's really wonderful to get out in the cold and celebrate with so many fellow celebrators," Christine and Jessica said.

For those who plan on attending the event, Jessica and Christine said, "Bring your lantern or bring a light or bring something to make noise with. But whatever you do... COME!"



The Beacon Spring Celebration of Light will take place on Saturday, February 21 on Main St. in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Spring Celebration of Light

## Wappinger board passes exemption on Town property tax for permanently disabled veterans

The Wappinger Town Board unanimously adopted a local law creating a 100% exemption on Town property taxes for permanently and totally disabled military veterans during the Monday, Feb. 9 meeting. According to Wappinger officials, this makes Wappinger the first municipality in Dutchess County to fully adopt this New York State legislation at the local level.

This action reflects the Town's continued commitment to honoring veterans through concrete policy initiatives that provide meaningful support to those who have sacrificed for our nation, it was stated. By aligning local law with state authorization, Wappinger is ensuring that eligible veterans may receive full relief from the Town portion of property taxes on their primary residence.

Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini stated, "Wappinger is proud to lead the way as the first municipality in Dutchess County to adopt New York State's legislation fully exempting 100% disabled American veterans from

Town property taxes. This is more than policy — we are ensuring that those who sacrificed the most for our nation will never be forgotten here. From our first-of-its-kind Walk of Heroes to the revitalization of our war memorials, we honor service with action. While the Town portion is the smallest share of the tax bill, we hope other taxing authorities will join us in doing their part to support the heroes who protected our freedoms."

Senior Councilman William H. Beale stated, "Our town has a proud record of supporting military service veterans. It was an honor to vote for this local tax benefit." Beale represents First Ward residents.

Second Ward Councilwoman Heather O'Dell said, "The Town of Wappinger is proud to honor the service and sacrifice of our disabled veterans by providing this new property tax exemption. This local law ensures that those who have given so much for our country receive the recognition and support they deserve right here at home."

The exemption applies to veterans

who meet specific eligibility requirements established under New York State law, according to information from Town officials. Generally, qualifying veterans must have a 100% service-connected disability rating with a Permanent and Total designation, or be designated as Totally Disabled based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, it was explained.

Third Ward Councilman Christopher Phillips shared, "Veterans have already paid their share through service and sacrifice. Removing local taxes is one small but meaningful way we can say thank you and ensure veterans can continue to build their lives right here at home."

Fourth Ward Councilman Al Casella added, "I fully support the resolution for a tax exemption for disabled veterans in the Town of Wappinger. It is a meaningful way to show our commitment to helping our veterans. This is not a handout, but a recognition of service, sacrifice, and a promise to those who gave so much for our freedom.

While this is a small token of our gratitude, we want our veterans to know they are very much in our hearts for all that they have done for our country."

Additional eligibility criteria is dictated by the State of New York and includes certain qualifying service-related conditions recognized under New York State Veterans' Services Law, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), or Military Sexual Trauma (MST), as well as eligibility for the VA's Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant. Discharged LGBT veterans with an other-than-dishonorable or bad conduct discharge may also qualify under state guidelines, noted officials.

This action, it was stated, reflects Wappinger's ongoing dedication to remaining a veteran-friendly community and honoring the important role veterans play in strengthening the Town.

Eligible veterans can apply through the Town of Wappinger Assessor's Office for this exemption that would take effect during the 2027 tax cycle.

## East Asian Culture Club sets Spring Festival Feb. 21 in Beacon

Continued from cover

foods will be offered. The club strives to provide a space for Asian and Asian-American individuals to create meaningful friendships. Through events like the spring festival, supportive networks can be created for those who share similar experiences, while they share traditions with other

Hudson Valley neighbors.

"Even in the present day in 2026, we are an under-represented demographic in the Hudson Valley. We are hoping the East Asian Culture Club will support individuals who identify as Asian or Asian-American and also facilitate more meaningful connections between the Asian and non-Asian members in

our local communities," said Zhang.

Since relocating to Beacon from Chinatown, where celebrations for Lunar New Year and other important occasions were common, Huang has looked for a platform to connect people with their heritage and community.

"Through community gatherings, cultural events and shared meals, we aim

to introduce and celebrate East Asian traditions — including our food, festivals, and customs — so that people from non-Asian communities can better understand us," said Huang. "We also hope to help Asian and Asian Americans in the Hudson Valley rediscover and strengthen their cultural identity."

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**Impact PR & Communications Founder  
Filomena Fanelli to be Inducted into DCC Alumni Hall of Fame**

See story, page 8



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# National event sparks progress for Wappinger United girls



Members of the Wappinger United Elite Spartans girls soccer team pose for a team photo at the U.S. Youth Soccer Winter Invitational on Jan 30 in Mesa, Arizona. -Courtesy photo



Members of the Dutchess County Legislature welcome the Wappinger United Elite Spartans girls soccer team on Feb. 9. Courtesy photo

**By Morgan E. Maier**

Sixteen teams were invited to participate in the U.S. Youth Soccer (USYS) Winter Invitational Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, and one mighty 15U squad from the Hudson Valley especially made waves in the American Southwest. The Wappinger United Elite Spartans girls soccer team returned with their ever-burning competitive fire stoked, as Dutchess County welcomed them home from a job well done.

Players within Wappinger United Soccer Club hail from various corners of Dutchess County, Wappinger and Hyde Park to Poughkeepsie and more. On Feb. 9, the county celebrated the team's return from the invite-only weekend of competition. The club's volunteerism and contribution to community sport was honored with a special nod to the dedication of Coach Eli Lopez.

The Spartans had a special sendoff by the Town of Wappinger on Jan. 28, complete with a "National Elite Spartans Day" proclamation. With the entire Wappinger United Soccer Club and community behind them, Spartans touched down in Mesa, Arizona. A weekend of competition against fierce, nationally-ranked talent awaited them there.

The growth is one of the more remarkable achievements - not only of season, but all six that the team has spent together. At one match in Mesa, the Spartans found themselves down some goals, but they were not out. Fighting as one unit, Spartans remained in the game. That became one of Lopez's most proud moments as a coach. "Playing in a small town, we don't have all the facilities that the big guys do, but for them to march along and just keep that was really amazing to see. I keep watching the games from the last weekend, and it just inspires me

more," said Lopez.

The work to position a homegrown program on the national map happens year-round. Fall and winter practices call for floodlights in the bed of Lopez's truck, the team continuing its grind as days grow shorter. The winter season got them to the top of state, regional, and national leader-boards, earning the right to play against Arizona's rolling landscape.

The development of the team comes with big-ticket experiences and training without the heavy price tag on Dutchess County families. Each coaching certification elevates the club, aimed to blip the radars of prospective collegiate programs. All are self-funded by the volunteer coaches at Wappinger United Soccer Club. Such resources come standard for many of the Spartans' competitors, those elite soccer academies and private clubs scattered across the country. Yet 2011 Elite Spartans, the small team among giants, proved its mettle in its inaugural National League season.

"They got the taste of what that stage looks like, and their dream is really being at the top of their game," said Lopez.

The squad hones its craft, driven anew by the cross-country showcase. Spartans could earn another seat at nationals in July with a strong spring campaign, which starts March 8. Dutchess County will watch and root for its hometown soccer team.

Team members include Stephanie Lopez, Casey D'alessandro, Jackie Avila, Juliette Honovic, Josephine Ragusa (Aka JoJo), Khole Bradley, Madison Booth, Olivia Krstovich, Megan Hurley, Emliy Olenik, Giavanna White, Cecilia Galati, Daphne Pouani, Makayla Blau and Tatiana Johnson. The Team Manager is Jennifer Lopez.

**A FEW GOOD MEN**  
By Aaron Sorkin  
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# Viewpoints

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

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

Thanks to the team at Northern and Southern  
Dutchess News, Beacon Free Press

### To the Editor:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and your staff.

Before the holiday, I purchased ad space in the Dutchess County Gift Guide, looking to promote my caricature illustration, party, and gift service. I spoke with Curtis Schmidt, general manager, who walked me through the steps to create an inviting and meaningful ad. He was knowledgeable, personable, and patient - a pleasure to work with and I felt very much like it was a creative collaboration. He dropped an idea during one of our conversations about maybe featuring my work as a special interest piece in one of the regular publications.

After the holidays passed, Curtis and I revisited this idea, and soon thereafter, he put me in touch with Morgan Maier. From beginning to end, her communication style is warm, professional, and generous. She is a very special person, and I feel that she put together an exceptional piece that I am so proud to share with friends, family, and clients. Indeed, since its publication, I have been contacted by a variety of people, and am now happily busy responding to emails, filling holes in my calendar, and deepening my network.

Thank you for bringing this light to a cold winter!

Marlene Kryza  
Newburgh, Orange County

## Elks host Friday Night Lenten Dinners

Elks will hold Friday Night Lenten Dinners at the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, 900 Wolcott Ave. in Beacon. On Friday, Feb. 20, the dinner will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Meal costs are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and

\$10 for children 10 and younger. One can eat in or take out (\$1 more). Proceeds will benefit charities.

Stuffed shells with salad, garlic knots and dessert will be served on Feb. 20.

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## Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. announces \$450,000 matching grant

Following the release of the SEQR Findings Statement for the Fjord Trail last month, Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT) announced last week its pledge of \$450,000 in grant matching funds for completion of the Fair Street sidewalk in the Village of Cold Spring and plans to start Fjord Trail construction north to Beacon.

HHFT pledges \$450K matching grant to complete Fair Street sidewalks in Cold Spring

Recognizing the importance of local collaboration and the shared goal of improving the existing pedestrian conditions along Fair Street in Cold Spring, HHFT has announced its commitment of a \$450,000 grant to the Village of Cold Spring and Town of Philipstown, designated as matching funds for the municipalities' application for a NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) grant.

"HHFT is pleased to support the Town of Philipstown and the Village of Cold Spring to complete the sidewalks on Fair Street," said HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala. "A continuous sidewalk along Fair Street is a meaningful first step in our larger effort to create safe pedestrian connections from the Village of Cold Spring through the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and all the way to Beacon."

The municipalities are seeking a grant from DOT, through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), to extend the existing sidewalk on Fair Street from Mayor's Park to Little Stony Point. The funds offered by HHFT would satisfy the 20% match required for the grant. TAP grants support DOT's commitment to community-centered transportation by providing safe, reliable, and resilient transportation systems, including sidewalks.

Construction of Fjord Trail North will begin this year

In response to feedback from project area communities, HHFT's implementa-

tion plan prioritizes Fjord Trail North - encompassing the area north of Breakneck Ridge in Fishkill to Long Dock Park in Beacon.

"We could not be more thrilled to move forward in bringing the vision of the Fjord Trail to reality," said HHFT President and CEO Peter Mullan. "Fjord Trail North includes a variety of ways to experience and appreciate the Hudson Highlands that will make them accessible to all, renewing and deepening people's connection to this extraordinary place and landscape. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in collaboration with the City of Beacon and Town of Fishkill, where several hallmark elements of the trail will be located."

"I am pleased and appreciative that the Fjord Trail is coming sooner to Beacon," said City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou. "Beacon is already partnering with HHFT on details and timing, including a maintenance facility alongside the trail on city property. The city has also committed to rapidly building the Beacon Rail Trail, which will connect the Fjord Trail to Main Street, parks, the train station, and eventually the 700-mile Empire State Trail. Together, these intertwined trails are my top priority as Mayor, which will have transformative quality-of-life impacts on our community." Work on Fjord Trail North will begin this year and include construction of a new accessible trail connecting Breakneck Ridge to the City of Beacon, new public restrooms at Long Dock Park, a new pedestrian bridge over Fishkill Creek, a new parking lot at Wade's Hill and a connector to the Wilkinson Trailhead, and investments in ecological restoration and repair of the adjacent forest and marsh habitats.

The Breakneck Ridge Connector project is currently under construction and is slated to open in 2027. Specific timelines for construction of Fjord Trail North elements will be announced later this year.

## DC Comptroller's Office releases first audit of 2026 for Grace Smith House, Inc.

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office has completed its audit report of Grace Smith House, Inc. (GSH) for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. Grace Smith House is a private not-for-profit organization that provides residential and non-residential services to victims of domestic violence and their families in Dutchess County. The last audit of the non-profit conducted by the Dutchess County Comptroller's Office was released in 2015 for year-ended 2014 financials.

Grace Smith House, Inc. received approximately \$3.8 million in contracted County funding during the 2022-2024 period, with additional funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS) from various counties, government and private grants, and community contributions. The Comptroller's Office identified

no significant deficiencies but made recommendations for improvement regarding timeliness of contract execution and claim submissions, regular updates to financial Policies and Procedures, and maintaining FDIC limits on bank balances when feasible.

"Grace Smith House provides an invaluable service to the taxpayers of Dutchess County," said the Comptroller. "Our Office was grateful for the opportunity to verify the success and competence of this crucial agency partner providing life-saving services to victims of domestic violence."

The Comptroller's Office thanks the team at Grace Smith House, Inc. for their assistance in the preparation of this audit. The Grace Smith House, Inc. Audit Report can be found on the Comptroller's website - [Comptroller@DutchessNY.gov](mailto:Comptroller@DutchessNY.gov).

## Beephan appointed to Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. announced on Feb. 12 that he has been appointed by Assembly Republican Leader Ed Ra to serve on the New York State Assembly's Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions.

Beephan had previously requested the assignment due to the committee's significant oversight responsibilities, particularly over public utilities and public authorities that directly impact residents across the Hudson Valley and throughout New York State.

"As energy costs continue to rise and utility regulations place increasing burdens on families and small businesses, it is critical that our district has strong and

engaged representation at the table," said Beephan. "This committee plays an essential role in overseeing the entities that shape our energy policy and directly affect ratepayers."

The Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions reviews legislation and conducts oversight related to public utilities, state authorities, and various corporate regulatory matters.

"Our community deserves an active voice in the legislative process governing these entities," Beephan added. "I look forward to working to ensure greater transparency, accountability, and policies that put ratepayers first."

## VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

# Commemorate the sacrifices Black Americans made serving in the military



As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor and recognize the contributions and achievements that Black Americans have made throughout the history of our nation, particularly the accomplishments and sacrifices that for far too long went unnoticed.

In particular, at our Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, we are proud to commemorate the Black Americans who have served in our Armed Forces for centuries. Since Peter Salem of Massachusetts first served in the Continental Army in 1775, fighting during the American Revolution, countless Black service members in every branch of our military have faithfully served and protected this country. We are grateful to them all for defending our freedom since our nation's founding.

Of particular note to those of us in Dutchess County is the life and service of Army Private First Class Charles Johnson, a Millbrook native whose selfless duty posthumously earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for valor, more than 70 years after his bravery in the face of an enemy attack saved the lives of nine of his fellow soldiers during the

Korean War.

The third of Robert and Pearl Johnson's six children, "Charlie" attended Millbrook High School for three years before transferring to Arlington High, where he graduated in 1951, renowned as a three-sport star athlete and Senior Class Vice President, who also took part in the school's chorus and band. Following his freshman year at Howard University, Charlie was drafted into the Army in 1952 and deployed to South Korea.

A Browning automatic rifleman with Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Charlie and his unit defended Outpost Harry, a remote outpost on the Korean Peninsula, on the night of June 11, 1953, as some 3,000 Chinese soldiers attacked. Realizing they could not hold their position, and without thinking about his own safety, Charlie, already wounded by gunfire and a grenade, left the bunker, stood between the enemy and his wounded comrades, telling them he would do everything he could to stop the enemy before succumbing to the attack. This final act of heroism cost Charlie his life at the age of 21, but it saved the lives of nine fellow soldiers, including 1950

Arlington graduate Donald Dingee.

More than seven decades later, on Jan. 3, 2025, President Joe Biden presented Charlie's sister, Juanita Mendez, the Congressional Medal of Honor in his honor during a White House ceremony that similarly recognized six more Korean War heroes. The next day, the Pentagon inducted Charlie into its Hall of Heroes.

I'm proud to say that Dutchess County has never forgotten Charlie, his courage or his legacy.

In 2010, for example, Arlington honored Charlie and fellow alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation by dedicating Johnson Hall and a Wall of Remembrance, following years of students' research into Charlie's life. Arlington also unveiled a statue showing Charlie rescuing Dingee, created by retired art teacher Arden Witherwax and donated by Arlington graduates. The statue embodies eight qualities that defined Charlie: loyalty, brotherhood, selflessness, courage, compassion, responsibility, patriotism and integrity. This past spring, County Executive Sue Serino and I were honored to attend the school's stirring musi-

cal salute honoring Charlie and other fallen Arlington alumni.

County Executive Serino and I also had the privilege of joining the Johnson family, friends and a military honor guard at the Nine Partners Cemetery in Millbrook last spring for a solemn graveside ceremony, dedicated a plaque and flags that will forever mark this hero's final resting place. If you're ever in eastern Dutchess County, I urge you to stop by Nine Partners Cemetery, take a moment to find Charlie's grave and pay your respects to this true American hero.

The life and sacrifice of PFC Charles Johnson are remarkable; so, too, are the call to duty and desire to serve of every Black service member who has taken up arms in defense of our freedom. While not all receive a hall or statue in their honor, and they might not each earn a presidential commendation, every one of these brave men and women have earned our eternal gratitude and respect for risking their lives so we can enjoy ours.

May we hold these veterans' service, sacrifice and stories in our hearts – not just during Black History Month, but every day.

## Regional Food Bank kicks-off ReStock Our Pantries program



On Friday morning, Feb. 13, the Regional Food Bank delivered 12 pallets of food to the Newburgh Armory Unity Center on S. Williams Street in Newburgh, where partner agencies were able to pick up to restock their shelves.

-Courtesy photo

The Regional Food Bank has launched a first-of-its-kind ReStock Our Pantries program this winter in an effort to refill empty shelves for Food Bank community partners including pantries, soup kitchens, youth and senior programs and so many more across a 23-county service area.

On Friday morning, Feb. 13, the Regional Food Bank delivered 12 pallets of food to the Newburgh Armory Unity Center on S. Williams Street in Newburgh, where partner agencies were able to pick up to restock their shelves. The pallets, unloaded by Food Bank staff and community volunteers, is the equivalent to approximately 15,000 additional meals that will be available to combat food insecurity in the region.

"The Regional Food Bank facilitated New York State's largest Thanksgiving meal distribution and had a hugely successful Holiday Hunger Appeal thanks to generous community support," said Tom

Nardacci, CEO of the Regional Food Bank. "The holidays have notoriously left our shelves and partner's shelves bare during the winter months. This much-needed distribution program will directly support agencies by delivering food to where it is needed and in turn benefit communities."

The Regional Food Bank hosts these distributions, delivering food to where it is needed in the Hudson Valley for agency partners to pick up resources and restock their shelves at no cost for our neighbors in need.

"Last year we distributed over one million pounds of food to the needy people of Newburgh," said Paul Zalanowski, Director of the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry. "The ReStock Our Pantries Program gives us the opportunity to refurbish, replenish some of the things that we're low on like pasta, sauce and peanut butter. That's why this program is so outstanding."

## Arts Mid-Hudson to introduce new board of directors Feb. 23

The Board of Directors of Arts Mid-Hudson invites the public to attend its 2026 Annual Meeting on Monday, February 23, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at Arts Mid-Hudson's Poughkeepsie office, at 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie.

During the meeting, Arts Mid-Hudson

will present its 2025 Annual Report and introduce the 2026 Board of Directors. The event is free and open to the public, and reservations are requested. Interested attendees can RSVP by visiting: <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/2026-annual-meeting>.

## Chair Valdés Smith announces \$7 million for Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund

Chair Yvette Valdés Smith has announced that the Dutchess County Legislature has taken a major step towards finalizing the allocation of \$7 million for projects in the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund. Built in collaboration with local developers, these projects will provide hundreds of additional housing units, including affordable housing, across the county.

Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill) said, "Last week's unanimous Environment Committee vote demonstrates the Legislature's unwavering commitment to our affordability agenda and the residents of Dutchess County. I have been a proud member of the Housing Trust Fund advisory group, which works to ensure all our residents can afford to live here in Dutchess County today and into the future."

The resolution passed unanimously at the Dutchess County Legislature's Board meeting at 22 Market Street in Poughkeepsie on Monday, February 9th.

"At a time when all Americans are facing rising costs," Chair Valdés Smith continued, "this major investment in afford-

able housing units proves that local government can and will play a pivotal role in combating New York's housing crisis. I look forward to the completion of these projects and to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver on our affordability agenda through housing, public transit, EMS, and mental health programming."

Lisa Kaul (D-Town of Poughkeepsie) said, "Our seniors deserve to age in place, and our young people deserve the chance to build their futures here in Dutchess County. As Chair of the Environment Committee, I strongly support allocating funds for this diverse array of affordable housing that gives our residents real options to live and thrive in the community they love."

The \$7 million allocation will support the following projects: 9-13 Noxon Street (City of Poughkeepsie), Wallace Campus (City of Poughkeepsie), The Clinton Crest (City of Poughkeepsie), Morgan Avenue Apartments (City of Poughkeepsie), Two Cross (City of Beacon), Locust Hill (Town of Rhinebeck) and Powder House Road (Town of Amenia).

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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

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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: U.S. PRESIDENTS**

**ACROSS**

1. Action word
5. Sierra Nevada, e.g.
8. Do like Lindsey Vonn
11. Sheltered, nautically speaking
12. a.k.a. Daminozide
13. a.k.a. tangelos
15. Ladder crosspiece
16. Rigatoni relative
17. Earth tremor
18. \*Buchanan's or Lincoln's birth place (2 words)
20. Odds' partners
21. Completely dedicated (2 words)
22. Street in France
23. \*The Era of Good Feelings president
26. Ground red peppers spice
30. Paleozoic or Victorian, e.g.
31. Talking pet
34. Flock's affirmation
35. Phonograph media
37. It doesn't mix with water
38. Key, in Spanish
39. Letter before kappa
40. Conjured
42. Bathtub hooch
43. "You don't bring me flowers \_\_\_\_"
45. Silvery-white, in heraldry
47. The night before
48. Add something extra (2 words)
50. Eye rakishly
52. \*Millard's last name
55. Unwelcome software message
56. Double reed woodwind
57. Actress Sorvino
59. Carell on "The Office"
60. Falling out
61. Grand in scale
62. \*Buchanan who ran for president in 1992 and 1996
63. Dental school alternative to MCAT
64. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.

**DOWN**

1. Variable, abbr.
2. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
3. \*Attorney General under Bill Clinton
4. Panhandler
5. "My wife can vouch for me", e.g.
6. Ancient Romans' language
7. Julia Roberts' Academy Award-winning role
8. Went down slippery slope
9. Gene Simmons' rock band
10. Belief or philosophy
12. Popular flowering shrub
13. Deplete (2 words)
14. \*Eisenhower or Grant, pre-presidency
19. Horse hoof sounds
22. One in Dean Martin's pack?
23. Means of mass communication
24. Belted starman
25. Highly unpleasant
26. \*Between Tyler and Taylor
27. Visual representation
28. Macaulay Culkin's famous character
29. Beside, archaic
32. \*Karl \_\_\_\_, "The Architect" of George W. Bush's campaigns
33. Grande or Bravo, e.g.
36. \*Nickname for Kennedy's presidency
38. Read-only memory device
40. Before, old-fashioned
41. Aerie baby
44. Blatant
46. Mythological garden guardians
48. Fibula's partner
49. Marriott hotel brand
50. "Blackfish" (2013) subject
51. Small cave
52. \*Model T namesake or U.S. President
53. Ready for picking
54. Lake north of Cleveland
55. Clairvoyance
58. Acronym, abbr.

**CROSSWORD**

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62						63				64		

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## HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



# Nearly 80% of K-12 teachers are women and half of them are menopausal

The title of this column headlines education. But women in all of their diverse roles are affected by “the change” at some point. Teaching is just one field that stands out as predominantly female.

When ovulation stops and the resultant hormonal changes occur, women often experience a variety of disconcerting symptoms that would be burdensome for anyone’s workday. I certainly found sleep interruptions and bodily temperature tantrums a challenge to my classroom management!

### Health and productivity

Organizations where we are employed want everyone doing their best work. They know our health and productivity are fundamentally linked. At school, counseling is available, particularly in times of trauma or upheaval; PPE was provided to all at the height of COVID-19; and if a member of the community becomes hospitalized due to childbirth, injury, or illness, there are expressions of support and well-wishes.

Those acknowledgments and adjustments prompt my question: What accommodations are made to deal a universal female experience which impacts work-life? During my thirty-two years of teaching, I could hear crickets chirp over the silent response. Menopause was simply not discussed.

More recently, here in Dutchess some employers have adopted formal menopause and midlife policies. Two organizations that responded to my query about these services were CVS and Nuvance Health, now a part of Northwell Health. CVS operates multiple pharmacies in Dutchess County. Nuvance Health operates Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Northern Dutchess Hospital, and Putnam Hospital.

CVS was the first US company to earn “Menopause Friendly Accreditation” from MiDOViA, an organization that advocates for workplace menopause services. Dr. Joanne Armstrong, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Women’s Health at CVS Health, explains that, “Menopause is a life stage that impacts women in nearly every aspect -- heart health, bone density, mental well-being and much more. No two menopause journeys are the same; holistic, integrated care is needed.” To that point, CVS provides benefits for its colleagues, including in-person and virtual health care, counseling, and a Menopause and Midlife Care Support Guide.

CVS also provides menopause care to the public (in-person and virtual) through MinuteClinic. (MinuteClinic

has telehealth and walk-in options at many pharmacies. Care is available every day; most insurance is accepted). And, for those insured through Aetna, a CVS Health company, members can access clinicians trained in menopause care and symptom management.

The Women’s Health Department at Nuvance has certified clinicians who treat community patients, as well as employees. The Women’s Wellness Center in New Milford, Connecticut provides care for anxiety, depression, body image concerns, or other life transitions. There is also a complimentary one-hour support group that meets both in person and online. Information can be accessed here: <https://www.nuvance-health.org/locations/new-milford-hospital-womens-wellness-center>. Additionally, informational videos are posted on the Nuvance Health Facebook page. To find them, click on the three dots on the upper right and type “menopause” in the search.

### New York

There are emerging NY State laws aimed at standardizing menopause support. Assembly Bill A5436 aims to provide legal protections and accommodations for employees experiencing menstrual and menopausal conditions. Senate Bill S7495 establishes mandated education and studies on the impact of menopause in the workforce to develop statewide best practices. The bills are part of a national push toward supporting women’s mid-life health.

### Menopause vs Androgen Decline

There is no such thing as MAN-opause. “Male Menopause” (andropause) is a misnomer. More accurately, androgen decline is the gradual, age-related reduction in male hormones. It may lead to body composition changes, hair loss, decreased libido, depression, and other ailments. “Menopause” literally means a cessation of the monthly cycle. It involves a dramatic stop in estrogen and progesterone, which ends fertility. In males, testosterone peaks in the late teens and begins declining around age 40; male fertility is lifelong.

### Seeing all aging with the same lens

Aging increases the risk of hypertension, cholesterol problems, heart disease, and diabetes--all commonly discussed and normalized. Time off from a job for recovery, reduced work hours, and the expectation of lower performance are typical accommodations.

Yet, the mention of menstruation can still cause embarrassment. Once labeled “hysteria,” today’s characterizations of

## Ryan, Guardian Revival deliver Valentine’s cheer to local veterans at Castle Point

Guardian Revival brought an afternoon of live music and connection to the residents of the Castle Point VA Medical Center, while Congressman Pat Ryan’s Office brought handmade Valentine’s cards to veterans as part of his fourth-annual Valentine’s for Veterans Card Drive on Feb. 9.

The event, held from 1:30 to 3 p.m., included room-to-room delivery of Valentine’s cards to veterans receiving care at the facility. The cards were collected through Ryan’s initiative, which engages students across the district to write messages of appreciation to veterans. Since its inception, the drive has delivered thousands of cards to local veterans.

Guardian Revival partnered with Ryan’s office to enhance the visit with live performances from its music division, Encore, along with outreach from its peer services division and the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Project of Putnam County. Together, these efforts created an afternoon centered on connection, gratitude,

and well-being.

The combination of Guardian Revival’s programs and Ryan’s Valentine’s initiative created a shared experience for local veterans that was centered on personal connection, gratitude, and well-being.

“As a nonprofit, our mission is rooted in service — just like the veterans we’re honored to support,” said Aaron Leonard, Guardian Revival’s CEO. “The simple act of playing a song and delivering a handwritten card can remind veterans that their service is seen and remembered, not just on holidays but all year long. We’re grateful to Congressman Ryan’s office and the Castle Point VA team for helping make these moments of connection possible.”

Guardian Revival is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that supports the mental health and well-being of military members, veterans, first responders, and their families through peer support, wellness programming, and community-based initiatives.



Menopause is a life stage that impacts women in nearly every aspect - heart health, bone density, mental well-being and much more.

-Photo courtesy CVS

menopausal co-workers include vague descriptors like not being “collegial” or “collaborative.” Does the disparity in treatment of female aging conditions result from the lack of attention they receive? If a topic remains taboo, it can’t be addressed.

### Education

I taught about menopause during the unit on reproduction. (If students noticed the frequency with which I put on and took off my sweater, the topic also arose!) Talking about routine hormonal changes that occur is one way to normalize them. Aging is a part of life. Menopause

shouldn’t be embarrassing.

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>.

Register here for our February 18, 2026 session:

“And the Beat Goes on- Heart Disease and Menopause”



Virtual Only!

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/25033792220307?p=AjwOaT34xkN4a0XMT>

5:30pm- 7:30pm

For more information, contact Norwalk Hospital OB at (203)852-3073 or email [NWMenopauseEdTeam@NuvanceHealth.org](mailto:NWMenopauseEdTeam@NuvanceHealth.org)

Register here for our February 25, 2026 session:

“And the Beat Goes on- Heart Disease and Menopause”



Virtual Session Only!

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/22853074977519?p=KN5LS8BZtnX0kLf7Fu>

5:30pm-7:30pm

For more information, contact the New Milford Women’s Wellness Center at (860)210 5535, [NMMenopauseEdTeam@NuvanceHealth.org](mailto:NMMenopauseEdTeam@NuvanceHealth.org)

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

# Impact PR & Communications Founder Filomena Fanelli to be inducted into DCC Alumni Hall of Fame

In recognition of her exceptional professional achievement, leadership in her field and meaningful community contributions, the Dutchess Community College Foundation will induct Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO of Impact PR & Communications, into its prestigious Alumni Hall of Fame. Fanelli will be formally recognized at the Foundation's annual Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala, on Saturday, March 28 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. The event honors and celebrates alumni and community leaders whose achievements exemplify excellence, leadership and service.

"Receiving this alumni award from the college that shaped my professional foundation is a meaningful milestone," said Fanelli. "The education and confidence I gained at DCC made it possible to build my PR agency, and the recognition carries special significance as my mother is also a graduate. Being acknowledged by an institution that has influenced multiple generations of my family underscores its lasting impact."

Founded by Fanelli in 2014, Impact PR & Communications has grown under her leadership into an award-winning strategic public relations agency with a national client roster, serving organizations across industries including banking and financial services, real estate, construction, tourism, hospitality and nonprofits. The agency aids clients in strengthening brands and reputations, creating thought leaders, building public trust and deepening community connections. Impact PR &

Communications has earned national recognition, including being named the "Nation's #1 PR Agency" in CommPro's influential industry ranking in August 2025, the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2024 "Women Owned Business of the Year," multiple Mercury Awards by the Public Relations Society of America Greater Connecticut Chapter and more. Fanelli has previously been recognized as a Hudson Valley Magazine Women in Business Honoree, a Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Mover & Shaker and an Athena award honoree.

"Filomena Fanelli's journey is a powerful reminder of what is possible through hard work, perseverance, and service. Her induction into the DCC Alumni Hall of Fame is a well-deserved recognition of her remarkable legacy," remarked the Foundation's Interim Executive Director, Anna Parra.

The "Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala" raises critical funds for the Dutchess Community College Foundation, supporting scholarships, emergency assistance, academic programs and student success initiatives. The event brings together alumni, community leaders and partners to celebrate achievements while investing in the next generation. Additional gala honorees include Raymond J. Freda (posthumously); Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee, Samuel and Gail Simon, recipients of the Bridge to the Future Award, for their lasting contributions to education and quality of life



Filomena Fanelli

-Courtesy photo

throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley; and G. Angela Henry, recipient of the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award for exemplary leadership, volunteerism and service across Dutchess County.

For more information on Impact PR & Communications, including its clients and

capabilities, please visit [www.prwithimpact.com](http://www.prwithimpact.com).

To attend the Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala or support the Dutchess Community College Foundation, visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/alumnigiving/foundation/](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/alumnigiving/foundation/).

## Jason Netrosio hired as Osaic Institutions Financial Advisor at Rhinebeck Asset Management

Jason Netrosio has joined Rhinebeck Asset Management, a division of Rhinebeck Bank, as an Osaic Institutions Financial Advisor.

A Middletown resident, Netrosio joins Rhinebeck Asset Management with more than 28 years of experience in developing and implementing wealth management strategies and financial plans tailored to his clients' retirement planning, estate planning objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon. He holds Series 7, 63 and 65 securities licenses.

"Jason is a talented addition to Rhinebeck Asset Management who brings a wealth of experience to share with our team and his clients in Orange County and the Fishkill area," noted John McLoughlin, Senior Vice President / Investment Sales Director at Rhinebeck Asset Management. "He truly cares about his clients and has a strong track record of creating successful financial plans and retirement plans for them."

"It is very rewarding for me to help guide clients on their financial journeys and assist them in reaching their specific goals," said Netrosio.

When not working, Netrosio enjoys



Jason Netrosio

-Courtesy photo Rhinebeck Bank

spending time with his family and dog, wine collecting, sports and travelling.

## Rhinebeck Bank promotes Brandi Rider to Vice President, Banking Relationship Manager

Brandi Rider has been promoted to vice president, business banking relationship manager at Rhinebeck Bank.

Rider previously served as assistant vice president, business banking relationship manager in the bank's retail banking department since May 2023.

"The opportunity to build meaningful relationships with local businesses and community leaders to support growth throughout the Hudson Valley is something I truly value," said Rider. "I'm proud to share the Bank's commitment to relationship-driven banking and community involvement."

"Brandi sets the standard for outstanding customer service through her unwavering commitment, attention to detail, and customer-first mindset," said Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Jamie Bloom.

Rider is a 2014 graduation of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Dutchess program and was honored by the Chamber as a "Forty Under 40" award recipient in 2017. In 2019, she earned her "Making the Commercial Credit Decision" certification from the New York Bankers Association.

Her commitment to important causes in her community has included past board membership with Dutchess Outreach, Hudson River Housing and the F.D. Roosevelt High School Baseball & Basketball Booster Club. She currently serves as a board member of The Chamber



Brandi Rider

-Courtesy photo Rhinebeck Bank

Foundation as well, a position she has held since 2024. She also provides financial literacy training for multiple local organizations, including the DC Workforce Investment Board's Youth Summit.

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# Obituaries

## William S. Masterson Sr.



William S. Masterson Sr., 85, of Staatsburg, passed away on Friday, February 6, 2026, at the Hudson Valley Hospice House in Hyde Park, with his family by his side.

Born, March 19, 1940, in Poughkeepsie, to the late William Masterson Sr. and Mary Stevens Masterson.

A dedicated educator, Bill worked for the Wappingers Central School District for many years as a history teacher at John Jay High School teaching social studies. He proudly coached both girls' and boys' soccer at the high school. William was passionate about teaching and took great joy in sharing his love of soccer with generations of students and athletes.

Known for his sarcastic sense of humor and love of puns, William brought laughter wherever he went. He enjoyed reading, long walks by the river, skipping rocks, and spending time with his family. He especially cherished time at the ocean and spontaneous car rides that often turned into adventures, ending wherever and whenever the road led.

William proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1959 to 1962.

On Saturday, May 17, 2003, in Beacon, he married Barbara Ostberg Masterson, Mrs. Masterson survives at home.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Jeffery Masterson and his wife Natalie; Kelly Carmody and her husband James; Dennis Wood; and Carrie Wood and her husband Mike Dougherty; and William Masterson Jr.

He was a loving grandfather to Cooper Masterson, Dylan Carmody, Jordan Dougherty, Michelle Dougherty, Michael Dougherty Jr., and Sean Dougherty, and a cherished great-grandfather to Emma Moshref. He is also survived by his sister, Judy VanNorstrand.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place. Services will be held at a later date.

The Masterson family respectfully requests that memorial donations be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, in gratitude for the compassionate care William received. 80 Washington St. Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. ([www.hvhospice.org](http://www.hvhospice.org))

To send an online condolence or for directions, please visit [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

## Erving Keith Perkins



Erving Keith Perkins left us suddenly on August 27, 2025, following a brief illness. He was 89 years old. Keith was predeceased by his wife, Helen.

Keith was born in Middlebury, Vt. He was the son of Keith Jerome Perkins and Kathleen Regan. He was predeceased by his siblings: Grace, Anita, Earl, Elwin and Leroy.

Keith and Helen relocated from Vt. to NYS shortly after the birth of their first child. Keith took a job at N&S Plumbing Supply in Wappingers Falls and worked there for quite a few years. However, as time passed, he decided on a career change and pursued his love of cooking. Helen and Keith opened The Village Deli in Wappingers Falls and supported the community for years.

Later in life, Keith returned to the

Plumbing Industry and worked for Gardner Heating and Plumbing in Gardner, NY.

Keith and Helen made their home in Glenham, NY – near the Slater Chemical Fire Department, which became a focal point in their lives. Keith, along with his Glenham Friends, were Volunteer Firemen for many, many years.

As they aged, The Perkins eventually left Glenham and relocated to their "Cabin" in Elizaville, NY. As time passed, Wintering in NYS became tiresome, so Helen and Keith began "taking to the road in their RV" and eventually settled in Summerfield, Florida. Keith resided in Summerfield since the loss of Helen in 2023.

Keith leaves behind three sons: E. Keith Perkins Jr. (Donna); Joe (Sharon) and Tim (Wendy); eight grandchildren: E. Keith III (Heather); Ashlee (Mason); Melanie (Ryan); Trevor (Nicole); Mackenzy; Chelsea (Cory); Chad (Sahira); and Emma.

Our family circle also includes 11 great grandchildren, who sadly, will never get to know their "larger than life" great grandfather, "Pop."

Services will be held in Fair Haven, Vt. On May 2, 2026 when Helen and Keith will be laid to rest, together.

Condolences can be sent to: [Perkins1231@aol.com](mailto:Perkins1231@aol.com).

## County Community Services Board to meet Feb. 23

The Dutchess County Community Services Board (formerly the Mental Hygiene Board) will be holding their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, at noon at the Community Mental Health

Center, 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie, or one may participate via Microsoft Teams Meeting. One may phone in by dialing 1-516-268-4602 and enter Conference ID number 130 029 923#.

## Elks to host free luncheon for veterans

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 is hosting a free Veterans Luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 21 at noon at the lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave.,

Beacon. All veterans and their loved ones are invited.

Please RSVP at 845-718-9183.

## Corrine Ann Becker



Corrine Ann Becker, a 47-year long resident of Rhinebeck, NY and formerly of North Haledon, NJ, entered into rest Monday, February 9, 2026 at home surrounded by her family. She was 93.

Daughter of the late John and Ann (Kooch) Ruzila, she was born on November 18, 1932 in Passaic, NJ. She was raised in Garfield, NJ where she met her beloved Raymond Francis Becker. They were wed on February 5, 1955 at Three Saints Russian Orthodox Church in Garfield. Mr. Becker survives at home.

In her younger years, Corrine worked for Bell Telephone Company in New Jersey. Once she and Raymond started their family, she spent her years making a warm and loving home for her hus-

band and three children. In her spare time, Corrine was an avid gardener; she loved visiting botanical gardens. She and Raymond also enjoyed listening to opera together. Corrine was a longtime member of St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church in Wappingers Falls.

In addition to her beloved husband, Raymond, she is survived by her children, Kevin (Mildred), Larissa (the late Michael) and Christine (David); sisters, Arlene and Ellen; brother, Richard; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, John and her sister, Dorothy.

Family received their friends on Friday, February 13, 2026 at St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church, 1500 Route 376 in Wappingers Falls. A Panikhida immediately followed.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at the church. Interment followed in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Avenue in Poughkeepsie.

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. For directions or to send a personal condolence, please visit [www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com](http://www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com).

## Debra L. Boyer



Debra L. Boyer, a longtime resident of Poughkeepsie, NY, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 5th, 2026; at the age of 69. She was born in Rhinebeck, NY on June 11, 1956, daughter of Kristine and Chester Holsapple.

Debra was a woman of remarkable strength, unwavering determination, and resilience. She met all challenges head-on. Those who knew her will remember her stubborn streak – not as a flaw, but as proof of her fierce loyalty and the depth of her resilience. Beneath the strong exterior was a heart full of love – steady, protective, and deeply devoted to her family.

Debra worked for the Dutchess County Attorneys Office for over 25 years. Her career was a point of pride, and she was

known for her dedication, tireless work ethic and straightforward nature. In her free time, she loved trips to the casino and sunny days spent on a beach.

She is predeceased by her life-long partner, John Di'Ottaviano, and her mother, Kristine Moore.

Debra is survived by her four daughters, Carissa Rodriguez (Joe Rodriguez), Brianne Nenni (Anthony Nenni), Ashley Boyer, and Taylor Di'Ottaviano. Her brother Craig Holsapple, wife Fran Holsapple and nephew Ryan, also survive her. She was also a proud and loving "nana" to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Alyssa Boyer, Nika Rodriguez, Brandon Rodriguez, JJ Rodriguez, Xayoni Rodriguez, Hannah Nenni, James Nenni, Amaya Vazquez, Emilia Maulsby.

In accordance with her wishes, she will be cremated. Private memorial will be held at a later date where her life will be remembered. To honor her memory the family encourages acts of kindness or simply holding loved ones a little close.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of 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](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).

## Lee Ann Femenella



Lee Ann Marie Femenella, a longtime resident of Wappingers Falls, NY, passed away at her home on February 3, 2026; at the age of 69. She was born on January 17, 1957 in Brooklyn, NY, daughter of the late Raymond Patrick & Catherine P. (Taylor) Close.

Lee Ann worked at the Taconic Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon, NY; until she retired.

LeeAnn enjoyed knitting and crocheting; she also enjoyed making recipe books for family & friends. She will be remembered as an amazing cook. She also loved animals, and feeding the wildlife around her home from the squirrels.

Lee Ann is survived by her beloved son, Jonathan Femenella and his wife

Ericia of Texas; her three grandchildren, Gabriel, Julian and Hallie; her sister Cheryl Close, and her brother Leonard Close. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and her beloved cat 'Buttons'. Sadly, she was recently predeceased by her other cat 'Charmer' who awaits Lee Ann's homecoming.

Along with her parents, Lee Ann was predeceased by her sister Melody Ann Gerkaris.

Her Family & Friends gathered on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls; where a Prayer Service was held and a private cremation followed. Interment will be private at the discretion of her family. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.DelehantyFuneral.com](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).

- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

# Classified

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We are not responsible for typographical errors. A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

- 100 Help Wanted
- 105 Employment Opportunity
- 106 Business Opportunity
- 107 Situations Wanted
- 120 Schools
- 121 Special Instruction
- 122 Musical Instruction
- 140 Nursery Schools
- 141 Child Care
- 142 Day Care
- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care
- 150 Announcements
- 151 Adoption
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- 154 Lost & Found
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- 201 Home Improvement
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- 502 Clothing
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- 507 Sports Equipment
- 508 Exercise Equipment
- 509 Office Equipment
- 510 Firewood
- 511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
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- 700 Pets & Supplies
- 701 Free Pets
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- 713 Rummage Sale
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- 720 Vendors Wanted
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- 750 Events
- 800 Boats
- 801 Campers & Trailers
- 802 Motor Homes
- 803 Recreational Vehicles
- 900 Autos for Sale
- 901 Vans/SUV's
- 902 Trucks
- 903 Motorcycles
- 904 Auto Parts & Tires
- 905 Autos Wanted

## Contact Us

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### 200 Services

**PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME** from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-549-0598 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

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Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by
Proceeding In Rem Pursuant to Article Eleven
of the Real Property Tax Law by
DUTCHESS COUNTY

PETITION AND NOTICE
OF FORECLOSURE

Index No. 2023-54444

The above-captioned proceeding is hereby commenced to enforce the payment of
delinquent taxes or other lawful charges which have accumulated and become liens
against certain property. The parcels to which this proceeding applies are identified on
Schedule "A" of this Petition, which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof. This
document serves both as a Petition of Foreclosure and a Notice of Foreclosure for
purposes of this proceeding.

Effect of Filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real
property described in this Petition are hereby notified that the filing of this Petition
constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the court specified
in the caption above to foreclose each of the tax liens described by a foreclosure
proceeding in rem.

Nature of Proceeding: This proceeding is brought against the real property only
and is to foreclose the tax liens described in this Petition. No personal judgment will be
entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.

Persons Affected: This Notice is directed to all persons owning or
having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition. Such
persons are hereby further notified that a duplicate of this Petition has been filed in the
office of the Commissioner of Finance, the Enforcing Officer of the Tax District, and will
remain open for public inspection up to and including the date specified below as the last
day for redemption.

Right of Redemption: Any person having or claiming to have an interest in any
such real property and the legal right thereto may, on or before said date, redeem the
same by paying the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereon, including all interest and
penalties and other legal charges which are included in the lien against such real
property, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be
made to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, 22 Market Street,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. In the event that such taxes are paid by a person other than
the record owner of such real property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the
tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record.

LAST DAY FOR REDEMPTION: THE LAST DAY FOR REDEMPTION IS
HEREBY FIXED AS JULY 29, 2026.

Service of Answer: Every person having any right, title, or interest in or lien upon
any parcel of real property described in this Petition may serve a duly verified answer
upon the attorney for the Tax District setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his
or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be
filed in the Office of the County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District on
or before the date above mentioned as the last day for redemption.

Failure to Redeem or Answer: In the event of failure to redeem or answer by
any person having the right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever
barred and foreclosed of all of his or her right, title and interest and equity of re-
demption in and to the parcel described in this Petition and a judgment in foreclo-
sure may be taken by default.

Dated: January 27, 2026.

Enforcing Officer:

Handwritten signature of Heidi Seelbach
HEIDI SEELBACH, Commissioner of Finance
County of Dutchess
22 Market Street, 4th Floor
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel. No. (845) 486 - 2025

STATE OF NEW YORK )
)ss:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS )

I, HEIDI SEELBACH, being duly sworn, depose and affirm under penalty of perjury: I
am the Enforcing Officer for the County of Dutchess. I have read this Petition and No-
tice which I have signed, and I am familiar with its contents. The contents of this Petition
and Notice are true to the best of my knowledge, based upon the records of the office of
the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance. I do not know of any errors or omis-
sions in this Petition and Notice.

Handwritten signature of Heidi Seelbach
HEIDI SEELBACH, Commissioner of Finance
County of Dutchess

Sworn to before me this
27th day of January, 2026.

Handwritten signature of Notary Public
Notary Public

CAROL THOMPSON
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
04TH6151306
Qualified in Dutchess County
Commission Expires 7/1/26

Attorney for Tax District:
CAROLINE E. BLACKBURN, ESQ.
Dutchess County Attorney
22 Market Street, 5th Floor
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

SCHEDULE A

RECORD OWNER

Table with columns: RECORD OWNER, TOWN OF AMENIA, SWIS CODE, TOWN OF BEEKMAN. Lists property owners and their corresponding SWIS codes.

Table listing various property owners and their SWIS codes, organized by town: TOWN OF CLINTON, TOWN OF DOVER, TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL, TOWN OF FISHKILL, TOWN OF HYDE PARK.

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
<b>Legal continued from previous page</b>			JESSUP, PATRICIA E		134400-6565-03-303432-0000
HILL, GREGORY			<b>TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE</b>		
RUNZA, JOSEPH S IV	133200-6064-08-877926-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		134689-5469-14-787650-9999
COSTA, KAREN	133200-6065-04-792368-0000		LAWLOR, JENNIFER L		134689-6057-07-692964-0000
BORSCHER, ERIC	133200-6065-04-800400-0000		LAWLOR, JOHN H		
OBSZARNY, CHRISTOPHER E	133200-6065-08-766893-0000		RABOY, SVETLANA		134689-6059-08-975877-0000
OBSZARNY, LINDAA			VISHNESKY, PATRICK		
DURMIAKI, SIMON	133200-6065-19-726225-0000		MONTGOMERY, CRISTAL		134689-6060-04-921004-0000
CHHATRALA, SOHIN	133200-6065-20-839198-0000		MONTGOMERY, LORIN D		
RJA HOLDING INC,	133200-6066-02-989921-0000		DUTCHESS AVENUE RIVERWALK,		134689-6062-02-745510-0000
SPRINGHORN, KAREN TRUSTEE	133200-6163-01-388645-0000		POFF, SUSANA		134689-6159-02-720618-0000
LST ENTERPRISES LLC,	133200-6163-02-561569-0000		CANNIZZARO, FRANKA		134689-6159-02-803594-0000
LAUB, CRAIG B	133200-6163-03-484453-0000		DITTENHOEFER, JOYCE F		134689-6159-02-936506-0000
DOSIO, REBECCA	133200-6164-01-013987-0000		DITTENHOEFER, TIMOTHYA		
HAASS, JAMES			SHERBAN, GEOA		134689-6159-04-555075-0000
MAX DEVELOPERS LLC,	133200-6164-02-890593-0000		SHERBAN, GLORIAM		
CHHATRALA, SOHIN	133200-6164-03-417035-0000		WINKMAN PRODUCTIONS LLC,		134689-6159-04-700245-0000
CHHATRALA, SOHIN	133200-6164-03-428020-0000		HONEY DO ESTATES LLC,		134689-6159-04-969275-0000
TORRES, RAMON	133200-6164-13-052304-0000		HONEY DO ESTATES LLC,		134689-6159-04-986287-0000
DJERE, ONOME	133200-6165-03-416256-0000		RENZA, KRISTINE		134689-6160-01-087884-0000
MUSCAT, MICHAEL	133200-6165-04-898203-0000		RENZA, MICHAEL		
DILKS, AMY	133200-6165-04-945145-0000		JOHNSON-ODUMS, LENNICE M TRUSTEE		134689-6160-02-580559-0000
DILKS, HARRY			ABAO LLC,		134689-6160-03-031450-0000
FIGUEROA, VICTORIA MARIE	133200-6166-02-829548-0000		HUDSONVIEWS LLC,		134689-6160-04-625373-0000
WARD, MARY E	133200-6167-02-816507-0000		ALLEN, RICHARD RM		134689-6160-21-064989-0000
DABROS, MATTHEW	133200-6167-03-002389-0000		JOHNSON, LUCILLE LT		
AUTORINO, DANIELLE	133200-6167-03-018333-0000		KELLY, SEAN P		134689-6161-03-101167-0000
DURAN, JASON	133200-6167-04-852413-0000		PORRAZZO, COLLEENA		
WILDLIFE PROPERTIES LLC,	133200-6263-03-387480-0000		MALIK, DANIELLE		134689-6161-77-101112-0000
AHMED, FARHANA	133200-6263-03-461471-0000		MURASSO, KATHLEEN D		134689-6162-07-519750-0000
RASHIED, MOHAMMED			MURASSO, LOUIS D		
KR ELEANOR REALTY LLC,	133200-6265-04-721437-0000		THOMA, ROBERTA		134689-6162-10-373623-0000
SCHWARTZ, TANNER	133200-6266-01-167785-0000		THOMA, ROSE		
STEPNEY, KENNETH	133200-6266-19-619124-0000		MCCAULEY, KATE W		134689-6162-10-410749-0000
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557 EDVENTURE LLC,	133200-6266-19-654134-0000		ANDERSON, BLAISE		134689-6162-15-638417-0000
	<b>TOWN OF LAGRANGE</b>		BEVANS, CLYDE		134689-6162-15-639423-0000
YUSUPOV, HAIM	133400-6259-02-581943-0000		BEVANS-JENKINS, ARDEN		
JAMIESON, NAOMI W LT	133400-6260-04-656143-0000		SMITH, A TRUSTEE		134689-6162-15-665351-0000
MURPHY, CYNTHIA J RM			AUSTIN, KYLE L		134689-6162-19-679017-0000
MURPHY, MICHAEL L RM			AUSTIN, SHIRLEY		
C&S PROP 1 CORP,	133400-6359-02-941764-0000		AUSTIN, KYLE L		134689-6162-19-690015-0000
CHOICE, DEONDR A	133400-6360-01-209511-0000		AUSTIN, SHIRLEY		
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CAMILLUCCI, GREGORY	133400-6459-01-136994-0000		VU, KIRAPHUNG		134689-6162-20-924058-0000
CITIMORTGAGE INC,	133400-6461-01-019612-0000		VU, LIEM		
GEM MOUNTAIN INFANT HOME CORP,	133400-6559-02-829864-0000		WISE, NICHOLAS J S		134689-6259-01-062571-0000
MASHIAH, DANIELLE E			HONEY DO ESTATES LLC,		134689-6259-03-013310-0000
DJERE, ONOME	133400-6560-02-501748-0000		BEACH LINE PROPERTIES LLC,		134689-6261-01-217743-0000
THOMPSON, SEAN JOSEPH	133400-6560-03-371165-0000		DONAHUE, GOLDIE		134689-6262-01-019830-0000
THOMPSON, VIOR WARNER			DONAHUE, JOHN		
STANCIU, ANY	133400-6561-04-876127-0000		MC KEBE CORPORATION,		134689-6262-03-101380-0000
CARDINAL, HENRY	133400-6562-02-819904-0000		F I C A,		134689-6262-03-345435-0000
ORREGO, ROXANA	133400-6562-03-456442-0000		MALABAR REALTY LLC,		134689-6262-04-571014-0000
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RED WING PROPERTIES INC,	133600-6474-00-180320-0000		CORNELL, GEORGE M JR		134689-6362-01-082517-0000
RED WING PROPERTIES INC,	133600-6474-00-272168-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		134689-6469-09-787650-1882
SWARTZ, DONALD R	133600-6474-00-720241-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		134689-6469-14-787650-1884
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MICHETTI, LIBERATO JR	133600-6571-02-866567-0000		YUDEKOVITZ, YSHAI D		134803-6174-02-643925-0000
MICHETTI, ROBERT M			MERRITT, SAMUEL ENG		134803-6175-04-583277-0000
	<b>TOWN OF NORTH EAST</b>		TAYLOR, AMANDA		134803-6175-18-469005-0000
FLOODS SPRAYING SERVICE,	133801-7271-13-199451-0000		COOKINGHAM FARMS INC,		134889-6272-00-906781-0000
FLOOD, PATRICIA	133801-7271-13-217424-0000		MOTTOLA, ROSALIE		134889-6272-12-957652-0000
FLOOD, THOMAS			ANGELIER, MARK W		134889-6371-00-118903-0000
FLOOD, LEO M	133801-7271-14-261411-0000		WILLIAMS, BRIANA		
ST JOHN, DEIDRE	133889-7171-08-944766-0000		21 & 23 AVE B LLC,		134889-6371-02-861900-0000
ST JOHN, ROBERT			MILLER, SAMANTHA C		
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MEISSNER, PAUL	134001-7056-09-070731-0000		RUSSELL, EDWARD A		135089-6371-00-423606-0000
MTA,	134001-7057-17-082121-0000		<b>TOWN OF STANFORD</b>		
SLUK, LOUISE MAYER ESTATE	134089-6856-00-761085-0000		O'HARA, JOHN B		135200-6669-00-005313-0000
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HEINEMAN, ANDREW B	134089-7056-02-541594-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-525290-0000
SIMMONS, LOUIS	134089-7057-00-531965-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
	<b>TOWN OF PINE PLAINS</b>		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-575194-0000
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SLEVIN, EMIL	134200-6872-00-098897-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-609105-0000
SLEVIN, MARY			FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
SLEVIN, EMIL	134200-6872-00-140889-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-610219-0000
SLEVIN, MARY ELIZABETH			FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
SLEVIN, RENEE MARIA			JACKSON, KATIMA		135200-6869-15-588479-0000
CROSBY, BRIANA	134200-6872-18-427157-0000		SWEENEY, EDWARD P		135200-6969-00-023536-0000
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KBL PROPERTIES LLC,	134400-6363-03-447030-0000		KELLY, KEITH S		
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SIMMONS, LOUIS	134400-6365-02-799610-0000		MADARAS, CYNTHIAL		135400-6761-00-013240-0000
1777 ROUTE 44 LLC,	134400-6463-01-282818-0000		MADARAS, ERNEST J JR		
65 67 69 PARKSVILLE LLC,	134400-6463-01-449612-0000		GARCIA, GLADYS E		135400-6959-00-109930-0000
65-67-69 PARKSVILLE LLC,	134400-6463-01-460610-0000		DUTCHESS COUNTY,		135400-6962-00-095617-0000
PATTERSON, RONALD	134400-6464-03-443044-0000		TAX SALE IN-REM 2018,		
PATTERSON, RONALD	134400-6464-03-447060-0000		<b>TOWN OF WAPPINGER</b>		
HUDSON VALLEY CHILDREN &	134400-6465-02-995821-0000		MC CLUSKEY, CHARLES R		135601-6158-18-343127-0000
PHILIPBAR, DAVID A	134400-6564-01-157797-0000		MC CLUSKEY, MARY C		
PHILIPBAR, RITAA			RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		135689-5569-14-787650-9999
ZACHARCZUK, GEORGE	134400-6564-01-229640-0000		KCDI INC,		135689-6057-04-933333-0000
LIO, DOMINICK	134400-6564-02-748535-0000		PORTEUS & SON BUILDIERS,		135689-6156-02-822808-0000
LEA, TERENCE R	134400-6565-03-122099-0000		CHEAP LANDS INC,		135689-6157-01-276805-0000

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<b>Legal continued from previous page</b>					
BLAUSTEIN, BRUCE	135689-6157-01-296777-0000	KBL PROPERTIES LLC,	135689-6259-04-509245-0000		
DATRES, MAY ANN	135689-6157-01-422693-0000	PALUMBO, JULIE	135689-6356-01-188875-0000		
POUANI, LAZARE	135689-6157-02-582728-0000	ABRAMS, ANNETTE	135689-6357-01-034557-0000		
2345 LLC,	135689-6157-04-573456-0000	ABRAMS, BRUCE			
OLD POST COMMONS LLC,	135689-6157-04-625489-0000	CORBIN, DONALD M	135689-6359-02-685574-0000		
1147 ROUTE 9 LLC,	135689-6157-04-649068-0000	CORBIN, MILDRED			
MEDINA-NUNEZ, MADELYN	135689-6157-16-866487-0000	PORTEUS & SON BUILDERS LLC,	135689-6359-02-770582-0000		
NUNEZ, JOSE L		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,	135689-6569-14-787650-1883		
MEDINA-NUNEZ, MADELYN	135689-6157-16-894424-0000	<b>TOWN OF WASHINGTON</b>			
NUNEZ, JOSE L		WINCHELL, CATHERINE E	135889-6566-00-955197-0000		
HAIJANI, SALIMAS	135689-6157-16-898428-0000	BROWN, ERNESTINE	135889-6566-02-627814-0000		
LUND, BARBARA TRUSTEE	135689-6158-03-117060-0000	MIGLIORE, CARMELAG	135889-6863-00-981632-0000		
PROGRESSIVE REALTY,	135689-6158-04-620288-0000	MIGLIORE, RICHARD F			
GREEN, LATAVIA	135689-6256-02-901774-0000	MERCER, C DOUGLAS	135889-6963-00-315813-0000		
HIRSCH, LORRAINE	135689-6257-01-042944-0000	MERCER, CAROLANN			
HIRSCH, MICHAEL		OLEAGA, DALINDADIANA	135889-6965-00-840867-0000		
STEUBER, DENIS J	135689-6257-01-109690-0000	SCORES, ROBERT M	133400-6560-01-181887-0000		
STEUBER, KIMBERLY M					
BECKFORD, ROCHELLE R	135689-6258-02-901653-0000				
POUANI, LAZARE	135689-6259-02-554893-0000				

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
<b>Legal Notice 2/12/2026</b>						
<b>Call of Election</b>						
<b>RESOLUTION BY THE</b> Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Wappingers Falls, New York, as follows:						
<b>SECTION 1:</b> That pursuant to Section 504 of the Election Law, the general Village Election of and for said Village will be held on the 18th day of March 2026, and that the polls shall be open for voting between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M.						
<b>SECTION 2:</b> That said Village has been divided into three (3) election districts and that a description of said districts, together with the polling place for each such district is as follows:						
<b>ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1:</b> All that portion of said Village lying North and West of the Wappinger Creek; the polling place in District No. 1 is the Village Hall 2582 South Avenue in said Village.						
<b>ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2:</b> Election District No. 2 is comprised of all that portion of said Village generally bounded as follows: on the South by the Village boundary line, on the North by East Main Street, on the East by South Avenue and on the West by the Wappinger Creek and the polling place is the Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue in said Village.						
<b>ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3:</b> All that portion of the Village lying outside the two districts above described; the polling place is the Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue in said Village.						
<b>SECTION NO. 4:</b> This resolution shall take effect immediately. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following are names, addresses, offices, and term candidates are nominated for.						
	<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b>					
Rick Cerino	15 Church Street. 2 Yrs 1st Ward	Trustee				
Liz Cummings	24 West Academy 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee				
John Tyliszczak	26 South Mesier 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee				
	<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY</b>					
Jennifer Niznik	3 Carmine Drive. 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee				
John Tyliszczak	26 South Mesier 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee				
	<b>VILLAGE FIRST PARTY</b>					
Rick Cerino	15 Church Street. 2 Yrs 1st Ward	Trustee				
Jennifer Niznik	3 Carmine Drive. 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee				
Stephen Maher	1548 Rte. 9 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee				
	<b>CITIZENS FIRST PARTY</b>					
Christopher Morris	17 South Remsen Avenue 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee				
	<b>COMMUNITY FIRST PARTY</b>					
Liz Cummings	24 West Academy Street 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee				
John M. Karge, RMC, CMC.						
Village Clerk & Chief Election Officer						
Village of Wappingers Falls						
	The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-18-	26 Compliance Inspection, Record Management, and Training Services for Petroleum				
<b>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE</b>						
			<b>REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE</b>			
			The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-28-26			
			Rebid for Air Compressor Preventive Maintenance and Repair			
			Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 5th day of March 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <a href="http://www.dutchessny.gov">http://www.dutchessny.gov</a> , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.			
			<b>NOTICE TO BIDDER S - RFB-DCB-03-26</b>			
			<b>NAME OF PROJECT:</b> Wilcox Park Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Replacement			
			<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b> Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Replacement located at			
			Wilcox Park, 1737 Rte. 199, Stanfordville, NY 12581. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at <a href="http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess">www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess</a> . Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at <a href="http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess">www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess</a> or by using the link provided at <a href="http://www.dutchessny.gov">www.dutchessny.gov</a> , selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at <a href="mailto:dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov">dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov</a> , or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. <b>All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site.</b> Bids due on or before 11:00 AM,			
			Wednesday, March 18, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. <b>Bids for the above project will be received by:</b> Caroline A. Miller, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike, 1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All call-ins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 177 533 697#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name			
			of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. A Walkthrough is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 11:00 am at Wilcox Park (Maintenance Garage), Rte. 199, Stanfordville, NY. All parties interested in bidding are encouraged to attend and apprise themselves of the site conditions prior to bidding. If you cannot attend the scheduled Walkthrough, you can contact Caroline Miller at <a href="mailto:dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov">dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov</a> . Questions will be accepted by the close of business Wednesday, March 11, 2026 and emailed to Caroline Miller at <a href="mailto:dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov">dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov</a> with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The <b>"Anticipated Start of Construction"</b> will be around <b>April 25, 2026</b> , and the <b>"Anticipated Completion Date"</b> , <b>August 2026</b> . This RFB may be subject to <b>NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2026003470. IMPORTANT: Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Sub-Contractor Registry Requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding the APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable.</b> The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.			

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

# Virtual program in recognition of Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month, the Dutchess County Department of History is sponsoring a free virtual historical program, hosted by the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS), on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m., focusing on the experiences of people of color in Dutchess County during the American Revolution.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Black History Month isn't just a chapter in history, it's the heartbeat of the American story. This important program dives deeply into the voices that built our country, bringing untold legends into the light. Let's learn from our past, celebrate our local and national heroes, and remember what freedom and equality mean for a brighter today."

The program, entitled "1776 to 1876: The Long Journey of African Americans & The Elusive Promise of Equality," will be presented by Bill Jeffway, DCHS Executive Director and member of the research committee for the Poughkeepsie-based Celebrating the African Spirit. Drawing on extensive research, Mr. Jeffway will examine the personal histories of Dutchess County men, women and children of color and their experiences within the broader context of the events surrounding the 1776 struggle for independence.

Registration for this free event is available at [dchsny.org/2026-0226](http://dchsny.org/2026-0226), and registrants will receive a Zoom link to join the event.

The presentation will explore the complex and often difficult choices faced by people of color during the Revolutionary era, including why five times as many men of color joined the British in combat roles rather than choosing the American Patriot cause. These decisions will be examined through the lens of freedom, legal status and the pursuit of equality.

The program will further trace the long and challenging efforts of local individuals and families to realize the full legal promise of equality articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Using America's first century as a benchmark, the discussion will reflect on the significant progress achieved following the Civil War, as well as the early and enduring challenges to that promise that became evident by 1876.

County Historian William P. Tatum III said, "This program offers an opportunity for residents to gain a deeper understanding of local history and Black Americans' ongoing struggle to fully realize the nation's founding ideals." For more information about the County's Department of History, including the ever-expanding availability of electronic records, such as the Ancient Documents Collection, please visit [dutchessny.gov/history](http://dutchessny.gov/history). For information about other Black History Month and year-round events, visit Destination Dutchess's website, [destinationdutchess.com](http://destinationdutchess.com), to check out these spotlights: "Celebrating African American History in Dutchess" and "Support Black-Owned Businesses in Dutchess."

that's italian!

by luigi coppola



# New menus

## Luigi learns to curb his enthusiasm.

The other day, I was going through our restaurant menu, making sure that everything in it was selling. I was reading through my notes to be sure that the counts were correct and trying to figure out if I needed to recommend any changes to my brothers. This chore brought me back to when I wrote my first menu with my father.

It was 1987. I was 18 years old and so proud. I re-wrote the entire menu and put in new artwork and did it all myself on our new office computer, which I had to beg my father to buy. It was still new to have a computer in your office, and my father did not see the benefit of such a contraption, but he agreed because I told him I could make new menus myself without having to contract a specialist.

I invited my father into the office and sat him down next to my computer. I called up the menu with all its glitzy artwork and fancy fonts and its descriptive explanations. I was ready for my father to be wowed by how incredible and awe-inspiring my presentation was and prepared to be anointed the king of the earth for this amazing menu.

My father looked at the first words and stopped.

**Pop:** The writing. Isa too small.

**Me:** What? No, Pop. It's just deceiv-

ing. It's plenty...

**Pop:** What's all of this crap all over the menu?

**Me:** What crap? Ohh, that's some artwork I put in to...

**Pop:** Get rid of it and make the writing bigger.

**Me:** Huh? But? Wait. What?

**Pop:** You use too many words. You confuse the customer.

**Me:** Don't you need to describe...

**Pop:** You take out some words, you can make the writing a bigger.

**Me:** OK. But...

**Pop:** You're missing some entrees.

**Me:** I researched all our sales, tracked what sold and what didn't sell, and removed the items that weren't selling.

**Pop:** Why do you do that? The menu needs to be como se dice (how do you say) Equilibrato (balanced). They don't sell a lot, but they still need to be in there.

**Me:** Yeah, but Pop, the numbers...

**Pop:** Whata this. New York Sirloin. That's it? Where is the Pizzaiola? You need to have pizzaiola on the menu.

**Me:** But Pop...

**Pop:** Write this down. New York Sirloin ala Pizzaiola. Grilled and smothered with...

**Me:** What's smothered?

**Pop:** You know, smooder! Come on you no understand? Smooder, smooder!

**Me:** What? Um. Wait...

**Pop:** Write it down.

**Me:** Yeah, but I don't understand, Pop.

**Pop:** Now you make fun of my English?! Smooder!

**Me:** OK. Sorry. Pop. Smooder, yes of course.

It was in that moment, as I wrote down NY Sirloin Pizzaiola, that I realized that my great accomplishment, my wonderful creation, was dead. My menu with all its glitzy artwork and fancy fonts and its descriptive explanations would not be praised by my father. He would not be wowed by how incredible and awe-inspiring my presentation was. I was not going to be anointed the king of the earth for my amazing menu. Instead, the menu was going to be...

**Pop:** OK. Nice menu. Very nice Luigi. You did a nice job.

**Me:** Wait. What? Huh?

The clouds of despair were disappearing. My menu with all its glitzy artwork and fancy fonts and its descriptive explanations, my incredible and awe-inspiring presentation might still get printed. I could still be the king of the earth. I sat a little taller, my chest puffed out a little bit, I looked bravely into my computer screen with a smile on my...

**Pop:** Justa donta puta all the pictures on the menu, make the writing bigger, add the Steak Pizzaiola, and don't use too many words. OK?

And boom! It's gone.

**Me:** Yes, Pop.

As you enjoy this recipe for Steak Pizzaiola, SMOTHERED with a rich tomato, olive sauce, remember in life it's important to know your audience. My father taught me that lesson very well.

### Steak Pizzaiola

#### Ingredients

4 NY Sirloin Steaks, cut ½ inch thick  
3 tbsp olive oil, plus extra  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
16 oz. Coppola's Marinara sauce  
1 tbsp capers, drained and rinsed  
8-10 black olives, smashed  
8-10 green olives, smashed  
½ small onion, diced fine  
10 oz. white wine  
1 oz. grated Pecorino Romano

#### Method

Brush the steaks lightly with a little oil and season. Heat a cast-iron griddle over a high heat. Once smoking hot, add the steaks and reduce the heat to medium-high. Cook for 2 minutes on each side for rare, or 2 ½ minutes on each side for medium-rare. Rest the steaks somewhere warm.

Put 3 tablespoons oil, onions and the garlic in a medium frying pan over a high heat. Once the garlic sizzles and begins to turn brown, add the white wine and allow to simmer for two minutes. Add the remaining ingredients and allow to simmer for 5 more minutes, shaking the pan every now and then.

Spoon the sauce onto warmed plates. Slice the steaks and place on top and garnish with grated cheese.

Serve with a hot loaf of Italian bread and a nice Chianti.

*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](http://www.coppolas.net).*

## Funding available for arts and cultural activities

Arts Mid-Hudson (AMH) and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) announce the Statewide Community Re-grants Program, a funding program with over \$170,000 in NYSCA funds to support the arts in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties. This funding is available to individual artists to create new work in 2026, and to nonprofit organizations, Tribal Nations, individual artists, libraries, and municipalities for arts and cultural activities in 2026. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to: exhibits, performances, concerts, festivals, in-school and community workshops, screenings, readings, cultural programming, and the creation of new work. Grant awards are determined by a peer-review panel composed of community members. Please note: this program was previously called the Decentralization Program.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, Feb. 26, at 11:59 p.m.

Complete information available at <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/statewide-community-regrants>.

### Three distinct grant programs

Community Arts Grants provide project support for arts and cultural activities open to the general public. Nonprofit organizations, Tribal Nations, unincorporated groups, and individuals located in Dutchess, Orange, or Ulster Counties are eligible and encouraged to submit a grant proposal.

Individual Artist Commission supports

the creation of new work by an artist. The project must engage a segment of the community through a small-scale public presentation of the work or through community involvement during the artist's creative process. Presentations and community involvement may be conducted in person or virtually.

Arts Learning Grants support sequential, skill-based workshop series focused on the arts and artistic process. Projects can take place in-school during the school day and/or in after-school and community-based settings for youth and/or senior learners.

### Comprehensive technical assistance available

A recording of an information session held on Jan. 13 via Zoom is available.

Drop-in Q&A Sessions will be held on Zoom and in-person to assist applicants with the process.

View the Q&A Schedule and RSVP at: <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E231621&id=552>

Contact AMH with accommodation requests. AMH provides free in-depth support, including informational videos, resources, one-on-one appointments, and draft review.

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions and still wish to apply, reach out to the AMH Grants Team for individual assistance well in advance of the deadline at 845-454-3222, ext. 11, or [grants@artsmidhudson.org](mailto:grants@artsmidhudson.org).

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