

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Ketcham grad Sullivan re-signs with Red Bulls II



Dylan Sullivan, a graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School, has re-signed with the New York Red Bulls II in the MLS NEXT professional soccer league.

-Photo by Peter Bonilla

By Morgan E. Maier

For Wappingers Falls native Dylan Sullivan, the game began with a generational love for the Glasgow Rangers Football Club. Threaded in his fibers next to his Scottish blood, soccer is the center of Sullivan's early memories.

At the age of four, he joined his first organized team with the Wappingers Soccer Club.

Twenty years, a continued family legacy and a national soccer title later, defensive midfielder Sullivan is now approaching his third professional season with the New York Red Bulls II. With the ink freshly dried on his second Major League Soccer (MLS NEXT) Pro contract, a new chapter awaits the Roy C. Ketcham High School graduate.

MLS NEXT Pro is a men's professional soccer league created to support developing players on the path to Major League Soccer. New York's season kicks off against Atlanta United 2, at 7:30 p.m. on March 7. The match will be live-streamed on the MLS NEXT Pro website.

New York Red Bulls II is one of the league's 27 direct MLS affiliates, as a stepping stone to New York Red Bulls. Sullivan joins current Red Bulls II teammate Curtis Ofori as the organization's most recent players out of Wappingers Falls. In 2015 Tyler Adams, Sullivan's brother, became the first player to ink a Red Bulls II contract. Sullivan has 1 goal and 1 assist in 40 career appearances for the New Jersey-based club. This one-year contract is another step forward in a legacy written miles north in Dutchess County.

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'Celebration of Light' set for February 22



"Beacon Spring Celebration of Light" will take place on February 22. Pictured are attendees and participants from a previous year's event.

By Kristine Coulter

Celebrate light as the last weeks of winter come upon us. The "Beacon Spring Celebration of Light" will offer attendees and participants that opportunity. This will be the Year of the Wood Snake. The annual festivities will take place on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Participants and attendees will gather at 5:30 p.m. at Polhill Park, located at Main St. and South Ave. Then at 6 p.m. there will be a parade on Main St. Activities will take place

at The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane, at 6:30 p.m.

"Beacon Spring Celebration of Light" is an annual free lantern parade and multi-cultural celebration of the coming spring, lunar new year, light, hope, warmth, renewal and kids. The festival includes free community lantern-decorating workshops in the month leading up, and an evening parade that begins with a processional walk up the middle of Beacon's Main St., complete with

live music, community participants of all ages, and glowing lanterns themed with the animal of the current lunar year, the Snake in 2025. Moving from the west end of Main St. to the east, it culminates in an outdoor gathering with music, dancing, and food (for purchase but no-one will be turned away). Everyone is welcome," said organizers Christine Wang and Jessica Jelliffe.

-Courtesy photo by Simon Keogh

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DCC men hold No. 1 ranking, unbeaten as playoffs approach

The Dutchess Community College men's basketball team has risen to the top of the NJCAA Division III rankings, holding the No. 1 spot with an undefeated 21-0 record (14-0 in Region XV).

Led by Head Coach Robert Piano and Assistant Coaches Justin Kinlock, Conor Maisch, Matthew Randolph and Ian Umpierre, the Falcons have built their success on dominant defensive play and a roster of standout student-athletes.

"We have had much success thus far due to our defensive play," Piano said. "The players have bought into the defensive philosophy. We have been able to take teams out of running their offense and are constantly disruptive. For the remainder of the season, it is one day at a time—looking to improve on the parts of



Alijah England of Dutchess Community College leaps toward completing a lay-up during a recent game. The Falcons are undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA Division III as the post-season approaches.

Continued on page 2

-Courtesy photo from DCC

'Celebration of Light' set for February 22

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So, one may ask – are there any new activities this year during the event?
 “Yes! This year we are featuring a 80-foot dancing snake lantern that will weave it’s way along Main St. ... This year the festival will be collaborating with the Foundation for Beacon Schools’ Student Film Festival to document the event and engage aspiring student filmmakers. The final documentary will be screened as part of the annual Film Festival,” said Wang and Jelliffe.
 Students who are interested may contact Beacon Spring for more information at beaconspringny@gmail.com.
 “The feedback from the community has been glowing. Each year the number of attendees gets bigger and bigger. The first two years we walked along the sidewalks but our numbers were just too big to be safe, so the city let us expand into the street. People are so happy to be outside

celebrating together, even in the cold,” stated the organizers.
 Why celebrate light and the upcoming spring season?
 “It’s so [much] fun! It can be really hard to get through the dark and cold of winter but having the excitement of the festival to plan and look forward to really helps. You can help too! We need volunteers,” Wang and Jelliffe said. Those interested in volunteering should email, beaconspringny@gmail.com.
 Organizers noted, “So many cultures around the world celebrate light - Lunar New Year, Imbolc (Gaelic festival of Spring also celebrates St. Brigid), St Brigid’s Day (celebrated in Ireland), Walpurgis (celebrated in northern Europe and Scandinavia at the end of April), Passover, Las Fallas (a commemoration of Saint Joseph in Valencia, Spain), just to name a few - we wanted to make our own big town/small city festival. Come celebrate the light in the darkness together!”



The “Beacon Spring Celebration of Light” will take place on Feb. 22 in Beacon. -Courtesy photo by Simon Keogh

DCC men hold No. 1 ranking, unbeaten as playoffs approach



The team gathers courtside during a recent game. -Courtesy photos from DCC



The DCC men’s basketball team is undefeated so far this season.

Continued from cover

the game we need to get better at while preparing for the next opponent.”
 The team’s leadership includes key sophomores, Joseph Battle, Prince Kamate, Quincey Platt and Seiray Sinerna, sophomore transfers Alijah England and Amadou Diallo, along with a

talented freshman class.
 “It’s been tremendous watching the dedication of our coaches and student-athletes,” said DCC Director of Athletics Matt Paquet. “The players have committed themselves to being model student-athletes, prioritizing academics and athletics. Their success can be attributed to the entire college community providing support and



DCC coach Robert Piano

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resources that allow them to flourish.”
 The Falcons celebrated their sophomore student-athletes at their home game against Fulton-Montgomery Community College on Tuesday, Feb. 18. They will conclude the regular season on Feb. 20 against Orange County Community

College before beginning postseason play. DCC will host a quarterfinal matchup on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.
 For more on DCC athletics, including information for prospective student-athletes and a schedule of upcoming games, visit dutchessfalcons.com.



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**Stenger Glass Law Team
Welcomes Mariel Gil As Counsel**





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See story, page 8

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Ketcham grad Sullivan re-signs with Red Bulls II



Roy C. Ketcham High School graduate Dylan Sullivan recently re-signed with the New York Bulls II. He is pictured gesturing during a game.

-Photo by Peter Bonilla

Continued from cover

Days spent lift training in Montclair, N.J., were once spent at the John Jay High School pitch. With his dad Darryl coaching the varsity girls, Dylan was their built-in ball boy. Sullivan's own high school years traded those afternoons for the elite Red Bulls Academy, playing for its U16 and U18 teams. Sullivan credits his dad, stepmother, and mom, who each

buckled up for three-hour round trips to training.

The Academy fit Sullivan's game well, growing him into a process-based player. It complemented the fast, aggressive Northeast style of play. When he left the North's oft-soggy pitches for "attractive" southern soccer at Clemson University, the fundamentals didn't change. The game only grew with him as he matured off the field. Yes, he's learned a lot about



Dylan Sullivan

-Courtesy photo

soccer over the years, but he also learned more about what it takes to reach every new career step.

"I went to Red Bulls Academy, I learned the system and it really fit my play style well. I grew a lot within that. What the coaches [at Clemson] taught me as well, from a technical standpoint and a tactical standpoint, and really, just becoming a man. Now to come here, playing at Red Bulls II, MLS NEXT Pro is just another step for me," Sullivan said.

As his third professional season approaches, Sullivan's processed thinking is an asset to New York's high-press play style.

"We are happy to have Dylan [Sullivan] back with the team," head coach Ibrahim Sekagya said in a press release. "He is an

athletic midfielder with great soccer IQ that will be valuable for our team for the upcoming season."

New York fell short of last year's post-season, but a magical 2023 playoff run is fresh in the minds of the Red Bulls II squad. For Sullivan and other third-year players, this season builds off those highs and lows of the last two years.

Sullivan's foundation rests on the basics. The big three are - doing what's right, taking care of the body and leading by example. In the midst of preseason, he's ready to get back to business.

"This is when it really matters to get ahead of the curve. You want to be full throttle, especially when the season starts," he said.

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VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Honoring and serving our vets with new programs and initiatives



Year after year, Dutchess County and our Office of Veterans Affairs make the needs of our veteran community a top priority – both in word and in action – putting into place new initiatives that will enrich their lives, and this year is no exception.

County Executive Sue Serino and I proudly invite Dutchess County residents to learn about our new “Honor-A-Veteran” program, in which family, friends and Dutchess County leaders can honor deceased veterans at a series of monthly ceremonies, held April through November, in recognition of their service to their country.

The initiative allows families and residents to nominate a local veteran from their community to be honored at the “Honor-A-Veteran” recognition ceremony and in the Legislative Chambers of the County Office Building in Poughkeepsie or in the town, village or city hall of the municipality the veteran being honored that month resided in.

Dutchess County has a rich and enduring reputation of veterans valiantly serving our country. Continuing that tradition, the “Honor-A-Veteran” program will

serve, in part, to keep that history in the forefront of our community’s eyes; offering an opportunity to learn about the lives and history of those who have served, strengthening the bond between the veterans and the communities they call home; and giving the families of the vets being honored a sense of pride that their neighbors have not forgotten the valor, sacrifice and courage of their loved ones who protected Dutchess County.

To be eligible for the “Honor-A-Veteran” award, the veteran must be deceased for at least 30 days; have served in the United States Armed Forces with an honorable discharge; or have died while in service or missing in action or have served in the Merchant Marines or as a Special Civilian Employee on “Active Duty” during the period December 7, 1941, through August 15, 1945. Wartime and peacetime military service members will be honored, and there is no specific length of service requirement to be considered for the program.

Nominations for the “Honor-A-Veteran” recognition are ongoing, and the process to apply is straightforward. Applications are available online, or you

can pick one up at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, located at 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley. If you have any questions regarding the “Honor-A-Veteran” program, feel free to my office, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at 845-486-2060.

A second new, exciting initiative that will greatly help our local veterans is modeled after the County Office for the Aging’s GoGo Technology ride-share program called “GoGo Grandparent,” which serves Dutchess County’s older adults. Our Office of Veterans Affairs has just recently introduced a similar program this month for the veterans of Dutchess County called “GoGo Veterans.”

This new transit solution will provide on-demand transportation for free rides to non-emergency medical appointments, grocery delivery, home services, prescription pick-up services and for business and appointments our veterans have at our one-stop campus. The “GoGo Veterans” service customizes each ride to the specific needs of its clients and offers security to those using the service by providing 24/7 live operator support and real-time ride monitoring.

After registering with the Office of

Veterans Affairs, the “GoGo Veterans” program will make it possible for you to utilize rides with a network of vetted Uber and Lyft drivers, where they are available, by simply making a phone call or online request without having to coordinate with several entities. The customized service also comes with multiple safety measures in place for the peace of mind of the veterans we serve.

Those who have already used the “GoGo Veterans” ride program have told us it is convenient, flexible and a perfect transportation option for those with spontaneous and changing schedules, which can sometimes be difficult to accommodate when relying only on public transportation and traditional private or taxi services.

Dutchess County is funding the “GoGo Veterans” program as part of our continued commitment to offer programs that enhance the lives of our veterans who have who have selflessly served our nation.

To register for the “GoGo Veteran” program or for information about the new service go to www.dutchessny.gov/veterans or call our office at 845-486-2060.

Beacon High School students recognized for PRIDE

The following list of students who were recognized for showing Beacon PRIDE (Positivity - Respect - Integrity - Determination - Engagement) during the 2nd quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. Certificates were awarded on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Noah Abdullah-Simpson, Madison Abrahamson, Aaron Aduamah, Loremi Alcantara, Macy Alencastro, Mason Alencastro, Alianna Alijaj, Nathanael Alvarado, Farhana Antora, Matthew Apostolou Jr., Jesse Apostolou, Jeralizz Araujo, Anabelle Arginsky, Ashland Assael, Ryan Ayala, Caden Balfour, Amari Battle, Taryn Beardsley, Jessica Belgrave, Vincent Bergerson III, Lily Berry, Benjamin Betancourt, Jude Betancourt, Giovanna Bottiglieri, James Bouchard III, Breannah Brace, Savannah Brace, Hartley Brickman, Daniel Bridges, Alexander Browning, Noa Buckland, Myasia Burch, Wyatt Burgos, Michael Cahill, Samuel Callan, Mackenzie Campbell, Allen Canada, Parker

Capawana, Jennifer Chacon, Terry Chen, Skylar Clair, Aiden Claudio, Peter Cohen, Misleiry Cruz Cruz, Mateo Cruz, Isabella Davila, Jensen del Puerto-Vitti, Jake DeLuise, Krystal Dembo, Ayanna Dennis, Evelyn DePalma, Caroline Diaz, Victoria Diaz, Chanel Dickey, Diego Dickinson Case Leal, Travis Dickston, Maysie Doyle, Victor Hugo Duarte Salguero, Joseline Duran, Dante Dyer, Tye Elias, Elijah Epps, Khordae Facey, Kyle Fairbanks, Teo Fairbanks, Malik Faison, Fionn Fehilly, Samiria Ferrer, Alejandro Flores Urzua, Lucas Foret, Willa Freedman, Patrick Gara, Messiah Gardner, Adam Getter, Ayham Ghazzawim, Gabriel Godbee, Samiha Golden, James Gorden, Brianna Green, Fallon Groza, Anastacia Guzman, Noelle Haase, Kayla Hammond, Julian Hannah, Jeremiah Hardwell Jr, Zenia Haris, Mackenzie Harman, Troi Harvey Semple, Elma-Taherin Hassan, Gauge Heeter, Jose Hernandez Canelo, Amaya Hernandez, Xiane Hernandez, Dylan Hetrick, Ayden

Hooten, Ruby Hotchkiss, Milo Isabell, Kai Jean-Francois, Teanna Jennings, Vincent Joao Jr., Gabriel Jones, Jaden Jones, Mercer Jordan, Alina Joseph, Gabrielle Khalil, Jo King, Makayla King, Griffin Kitzrow, Charlie Klein, Wenang Edward Kobarsih, Maceo Koerner, Katelyn Kong, Carlos Lampon III, Ryan Landisi, Jayden Lassiter, Isabella Lee, Aron Li, Isaac Long, Lani Lopez, Markus Louis, Ela Lyons, Ethan Maignan, Yianniz Male, Arianna Malinowski, Josephine Mallon, Brayden Manning, Ash Marcus, Josue Martell, Endrit Mavraj, Desmond McGrath, Isaac McKible, Oscar McKible, Jada Medley, Zechia Mickler, Stephen Miller, Jaylen Mitchell, Jessica Morocho Llivipuma, Ismael Munoz, Jaiera Newton, Zora Nicholls, Khiana Nicholson, Megan Nicholson, Emily Nivicela Jarama, Payton O'Connell, Adrien Okoye, Stori Owen, Brianne Papo, Lindsay Pedersen, Gabriel Peluso, Geordan Penn, Hudson Penn, Roimel

Perez Novas, Gabriel Quinones, Caleb Ramirez, David Ramirez, James Reyes, Cherelle Ritter-Hazel, Khloe Roci, Daveya Rodriguez, Giana Rodriguez, Thalia Rodriguez, Mackinley Roland, Trevi Romanelli, Breanna Rudolph, Katherine Ruffy, Elijah Rupp, Liliana Rybak, Mehr Sagri, Mikaela Sanchez, Noah Sanderson, Michael Santiago Jr, Evangeline Santise, Samiratu Sayibu, Dominic Sceppaquercia, Zachary Schetter, Benjamin Seaman, Antonio See, Anna Sevastianova, Kayli Shand, Za'layni Shand, James Sheehan III, Gonzalo Soria Velecela, Jamir Spence, Travis Spencer, Aiden Spiecker, Declan Sprague, Adryanah Sweat, Anthony Talbot, Shea Tanaka, Rayana Taylor, Jessica Testa, Jalen Thompson, Farrah VanCott, Eliza Verdichizzi, Olivia Viola, Jah'Real Whitted, Cayden Williams, Tatiana Williams, Zachari Wood, Luna Yawman, Piper Yewchuck and Francis Zezza.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
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- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- 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.
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DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

DCHS Dutchess County Historical Society

www.DCHSNY.org/ddp

Navigating wealth & poverty: the local 19th-century Black community



Unknown individuals from the 19th-century family album of Alma and Henry Jackson of the Town of Milan. Patrice was the great-grandson of the Jacksons. An analysis of the clothing of those in the local family album suggests a range of economic status, worn with equal pride and care.

-DCHS Image Collections, gift of Walter M. Patrice

By Bill Jeffway

“Navigating Wealth & Poverty: Economic Diversity of the local 19th-Century Black Community” is the subject of a talk on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. on Zoom by the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS). Sponsorship by the Dutchess County Government in recognition of Black History Month allows us to offer the event at no charge, and it will be available on demand at DCHS’s Virtual Event Space after Feb 22. Details/RSVP at www.dchsnny.org. This provides an introduction to that talk.

From its inception, the Dutchess County economy has been at the crossroads of great economic currents. From the earliest times of Dutch settlement it has operated in the economic realms of global trade right down to the smallest economic unit of the self-sufficient farm. We examine how the Black community, focusing on the 19th century in particular, engaged in all those economic levels locally. We find extremes of wealth and poverty, and a growing middle class of professionals who often worked within, or intersected with, these various levels of economic activity. Likely because of the pervasiveness of slavery even in the most rural parts of the county until its abolition in New York State in 1827, communities of color were present in both built up and the most remote in-land rural areas.

Paul Cuffee (1769–1817) Global Whaling & Trading Captain

We profile Paul Cuffee, who was as a leading Captain of a global whaling vessel who happened to be Black and who had an entirely Black crew. Based from New Bedford, he would go on whaling trips that might take two or three years and involve navigation around the world. Like many successful Black entrepreneurs, he was involved in developing ideas to address racial jus-

tice issues, as well as whaling and trading of cargo for business income.

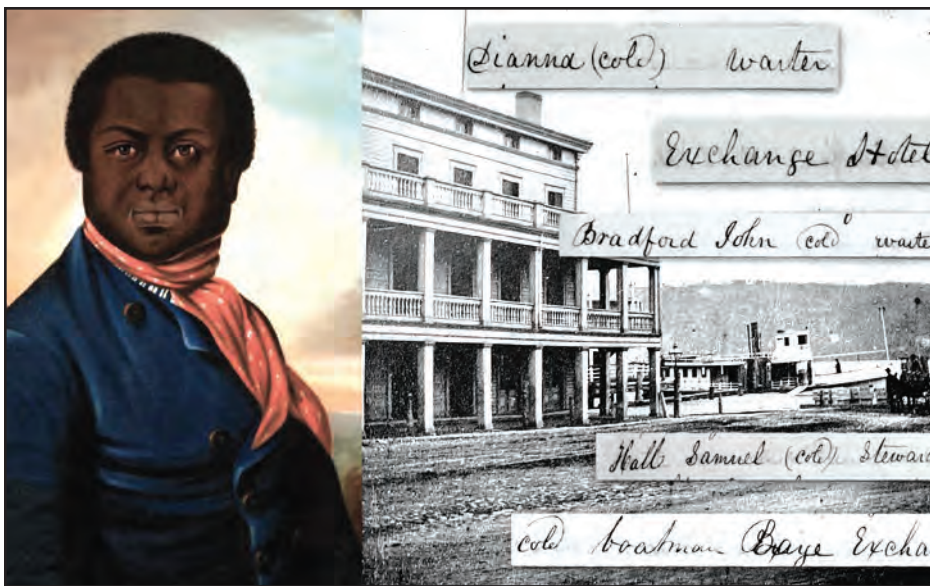
It is this trading in cargo that specifically engaged him with Poughkeepsie at the end of the War of 1812 with Britain. Abram Lincoln Harris wrote about Cuffee in his landmark 1936 book, “The Negro Capitalist,” explaining that among Cuffee’s cargo in 1815 was African camwood which he sold at Poughkeepsie. Camwood was a very popular item, which when ground, could provide a deep red, or reddish brown color that was very popular.

The United States had not yet moved to the mass manufacturing of clothing. Individuals still bought different color dyes for use at home, although industrial-scale demand was very much growing locally at the time. An advertisement in the Poughkeepsie Eagle of 1815 for Barnes & Willoughby, a general store, offers “camwood” for sale among other dyes. Camwood is made from the heartwood of baphia natida, a small evergreen tree or bush native to West Africa that is a deep, warm red or reddish brown. We don’t know what he paid for the Camwood in Africa, but Harris reports Cuffee sold it in Poughkeepsie at \$100 per ton.

Jeremiah G. Hamilton (1806–1875) America’s first Black Millionaire

A generation later, just before the Civil War, Jeremiah G. Hamilton was described as “the only Black millionaire in New York.” The term “robber baron” described the aggressive tactics and nature of the emerging newly wealthy, like the Vanderbilts, and Hamilton fit that mold and reputation, as well!

Hamilton’s embrace of Poughkeepsie was not just a place of investment, but a potential place to reside. What caught his attention was what remains the single biggest blueprint for growth for Poughkeepsie: plans through The



Paul Cuffee (1769-1817) was a world-famous whaling captain who sailed around the world and used the port of Poughkeepsie to sell cargo such as a rare African wood used for color dyeing. In the 19th century there was a large Black population involved in the river industry from riverboat captains and crew to stevedores. The image shows the Exchange Hotel at the foot of Main Street while the insets show a notebook used in the 1840s to collect census data showing Blacks at that hotel working as waiters and stewards.

-Photo and ledger DCHS Collections

Improvement Party. The group consisted of local wealthy men like Matthew Vassar, who tapped into investors in New York City, like James Delafield, for whom Delafield Avenue is named in Poughkeepsie, and Hamilton.

In 1836 Hamilton invested in three things in particular that the Party proposed. One was the silk mill at Upper Landing, where he became a shareholder. Another was the purchase of Union Landing, a 400-foot-long dock, including three large storehouses, as well as a nearby five acres of land at the foot of Union Street at the Hudson River. And the third, perhaps the most visible, was his purchase of land and a significant house built in the grand Greek Revival style on Mansion Square, an area being developed by the Improvement Party.

The timing could not have been worse. By the spring of 1837 the national financial crisis derailed those plans, and the plans of virtually everyone who had invested in anything at the time. Recovery was years off and Hamilton went bankrupt, like many others.

On the Other End of the Spectrum: Getting By

DCHS Collections holds the writings of Thomas Sweet Lossing, who wrote in the 1930s about his childhood memories in Dover in the 1870s and 1880s. Among many topics he writes about is the significant Black community which provides uniquely detailed insights. He was the son of the noted historian of Dover, Benson J. Lossing.

“Their occupation mostly consisted of selling wild berries and making all kinds of splint baskets which they sold to the farmers of the surrounding countryside. It was said of Jackie [Duncan] that he could make a watertight basket. Amos [Duncan] would often come to our place with all sized baskets and usually succeeded in making a sale of some description as we use a great many. There always had to be a replenishment of bushel baskets for corn husking, and half-bushel baskets for apple picking, and a basket about 6 inches wide and 14

inches long which we painted red for our mother’s garden basket. One other basket we always had to be sure of having that was my mother’s key basket. This was a basket about 6 inches square and about 4 in deep with a strong handle. It was painted black and varnished with a little yellow stripe up under the rim to match the furniture in her bedroom.”

We know of other basket makers at the time, like Milan’s Jacob Lyle before the Civil War. And we will examine a host of other such activities.

The Bulk of Economic Activity: A Burgeoning Middle Class

A growing part of the population worked in a burgeoning middle class that included the better known trades of barbers, tailors, gardeners and domestics. The descriptor “gardener” may understate the roles of someone like Alexander Gilson, who was head gardener at Montgomery Place at Red Hook. He bred a unique double-blossoming Begonia which has the official Latin name of Begonia Gilsonia.

Blacks’ growing political influence affected job prospects and economics. The Bolin family is well known for this, but there are other examples. William K. Mowers of Amenia ended up working (and suffering a fatal heart attack in the office of) the US Secretary of the Treasury in Washington DC. A woman’s seamstress business came to employ others, including White women. Property ownership, and work in education and churches were among the stepping stones used for multi-generational economic advancement.



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

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Public Hearings set for Feb. 26, 27 to discuss 2025-2029 Dutchess County, City of Poughkeepsie Consolidated Plan

Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie are holding two public hearings for the community to provide input comments about the development of the proposed Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 and the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025.

The 2025-2029 Dutchess County and City of Poughkeepsie Consolidated Plan (CP) is a comprehensive document promoting a coordinated approach to housing and community needs and fostering the coordination of all programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

This proposed plan will outline the priorities by which the County and the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program will be invested. Every year, the County and City will each produce an Annual Action Plan to detail specific activities to carry out the Plan's priorities and goals.

The hearings will take place:

Wednesday, February 26, 6 p.m.
City Hall
62 Civic Center Plaza
Common Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Poughkeepsie

Thursday, February 27, 10 a.m.
Dutchess County Farm & Home Center
2715 Route 44
Millbrook
Participants may also join either of the

scheduled public hearings virtually via Go To Meeting:

<https://meet.goto.com/745807261>
Access Code: 745-807-261
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

There will be discussion of housing and community development needs in the County/City, proposed activities, and a review of previous program performance. Groups and organizations representing people with low and moderate incomes are encouraged to have their clients attend this hearing so that the views of program beneficiaries may be obtained.

The overall goal of the CP has been and continues to be to strengthen partnerships within the County/City among all levels of government and the private sector, including for-profit and not-for-profit organizations to enable them to provide decent housing, establish and maintain a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities for our citizens. The functions of the CP are threefold: it is a planning document, an application for Federal funds, and a strategy to be followed in administering HUD Programs.

Reasonable accommodations and services necessary will be made for sensory-impaired and disabled citizens at the meetings. Additionally, translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Persons requiring such accommodation/services should call 845-486-3600 at least five business days in advance of the meeting.

Find out about available Dutchess County Arts & Cultural funding

For over 60 years, Arts Mid-Hudson (AMH) has taken a lead role in equitably distributing Dutchess County arts and cultural funds to Dutchess County arts organizations, so that both residents and visitors to the region can enjoy offering of arts. Through a partnership with the Office of the County Executive and Dutchess Tourism, AMH is partnering with arts organizations to support capacity building initiatives and implement arts and cultural programs. AMH seeks partners that have a history of achievement in the arts, good management, stable finances, and self-sustaining programs with the potential to make a measurable impact.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, March 11 at 11:59 p.m.

Complete information is available at: <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/dutchess-partners-in-the-arts>.

Capacity Building Initiatives support initiatives which grow the capacity of arts and cultural organizations in Dutchess County. This funding opportunity is made possible through funding from the County of Dutchess. This funding opportunity is made possible through funding from the

County of Dutchess.

Programmatic Support funds may be used for arts and cultural events, new and existing, which engage visitors and residents of Dutchess County. All programs must have a stated focus on generating a measurable impact on tourism in Dutchess County. This funding opportunity is made possible through funding from Dutchess Tourism, Inc.

Information Session: A recording of the Info Session was made available after Feb. 12. Q&A Sessions will be held on Zoom weekly to assist applicants with the process.

View the Q&A Schedule and RSVP here: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/webLink/WebLink.aspx?name=E231621&id=497>

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, please contact the AMH Grants Team in advance of the deadline, at 845-454-3222 or grants@artsmidhudson.org.

Attorney Kara Gerry launches campaign for Dutchess County Judge

Kara Gerry, a seasoned lawyer with experience both as a prosecutor and defense attorney, launched her campaign for Dutchess County Judge vowing to bring fairness, strength, and integrity to the bench while prioritizing community safety and justice that protects and respects all.

Gerry is running against incumbent Judge Ned McLoughlin.

"I have spent the past 18 years in public service in the Hudson Valley, because this is where I grew up and where I am raising my family. I am deeply committed to the people of Dutchess County: making sure that justice is served fairly and that people are held accountable for their criminal activity; protecting the community from dangerous individuals; ensuring that those who need treatment and help are afforded that opportunity; and meting out appropriate sanctions and punishment for those convicted of crimes. I'm running for Dutchess County Judge to bring a safer, more just future to our incredible county."

A lifelong Hudson Valley resident, Gerry grew up in East Fishkill and graduated from St. Denis-St. Columba School, Our Lady of Lourdes High School, and Marist College before earning her law degree at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. She began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where she gained invaluable experience prosecuting thousands of criminal cases and ensuring victims were protected. She later joined the Dutchess County Public Defender's Office, where she currently serves as Bureau Chief of the Criminal Unit, supervising six attorneys while maintaining her own rigorous caseload.



Kara Gerry

-Courtesy photo by Mike Lawrie

"This election is about who we trust to uphold justice in Dutchess County," Gerry said. "I've spent my career in Hudson Valley courtrooms, fighting for safer communities, standing up for clients, and ensuring justice is served fairly and effectively. I'm the only candidate with the experience and perspective that comes from being both a prosecutor and a defense attorney. As Dutchess County Court Judge, I will enact justice that protects victims, holds offenders accountable, and respects constitutional rights."

To learn more about Kara Gerry and her campaign for Dutchess County Judge, visit karafordutchesscounty.com.

Assemblyman announces legislation to mandate background checks for youth service workers

In response to the recent arrest of a local children's martial arts instructor on child sex charges, Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R,C-East Fishkill) has introduced legislation to strengthen protections for minors by requiring mandatory background checks for all employees, volunteers, and independent contractors working at businesses serving children. The legislation also prohibits individuals with certain criminal histories from owning or operating such businesses.

"First and foremost, my heart goes out to the victims and their families who have been affected by this horrific situation," said Assemblyman Beephan. "Parents should never have to question whether their children are safe when attending instructional programs or extracurricular activities. This common-sense legislation will close dangerous loopholes in existing laws and ensure that individuals with troubling criminal pasts cannot gain access to children in these settings."

The bill, titled "An Act to Amend the General Business Law, in Relation to Requiring Mandatory Background Checks for Persons Employed by Certain Businesses Serving Minors and Prohibiting Certain Persons from Owning Such Businesses," aims to enhance child safety by establishing uniform regulations across various youth service providers, including martial arts academies, dance studios, sports training facilities, music and performing

arts schools, and tutoring centers. Under the legislation:

- All employees, volunteers, independent contractors, and business operators at youth service providers must undergo comprehensive background checks prior to employment or ownership, with rechecks every three years.

- The background checks will screen for serious criminal offenses, including sex offenses, violent crimes, and offenses against children.

- Individuals who fail the background check will be immediately disqualified from employment, volunteering, or ownership.

Currently, New York law does not require background checks for employees at many private businesses that cater to children. While schools and daycare centers have stringent vetting processes, youth service providers remain largely unregulated, leaving dangerous gaps in child protection. Beephan's bill seeks to close this loophole and provide peace of mind to parents by ensuring that only qualified and vetted individuals work with children in extracurricular settings.

"This is a straightforward measure to protect our children and prevent known predators from exploiting these gaps in the law," Beephan continued. "I urge my colleagues in the Legislature to join me in taking swift action to pass this bill and prioritize the safety of New York's children."

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



A 'Frostie' guest demonstrates ice bubbles



Francine noted: "Bubbles made with a Bubble Blower (squeeze bottle) were smaller than those that I blew through a straw. I placed my large 'warm' bubble in the freezer to get it to crystalize, so it would not be disturbed by the wind."

Photos by Francine Wizner



Ingredients in Best Bubble Brew & Bubble Blower-squeeze bottle

Changing climate patterns have resulted in milder winters in Dutchess County, but there is still the occasional snowy day. It was on one such white winter afternoon that I took the opportunity to have a fanciful chat with a not-so-famous Snowy Man: Frostie. Our conversation started out as merely instructive.

'Frostie the Snowy Man' and me

For example, Frostie told me that snow looks white because light reflects off the many sides of snowflakes, diffusing the spectrum. Snow can also appear to be other colors due to dust, pollution, or algae. And, as far as the uniqueness of snowflakes, he explained that their shapes are temperature-dependent and are created by the individual path they take as they fall through the sky.

Our chat about the ice crystals that form Frostie's arctic anatomy made me shiver. Snowflakes are fleeting. They melt so quickly. But Frostie was ready with a suggestion to get a really good look at all the beautiful shapes falling from the sky.

"Place a piece of dark fabric on a snow pile so it gets nice and chilly," directed Frostie as he handed me a scarf. The sun wasn't out, so we didn't have to worry about the fabric absorbing heat. When the snowflakes dropped onto it, I was able to magnify them. Close-up photos show the intricate patterns and allow lengthy observations. But, even in the cold, snowflakes melt quickly.

Making frozen crystals last

That snowman was not out of ideas. You see, Frostie's pipe is special. Frostie understands the dangers of tobacco use!

"My pipe blows bubbles instead of smoke. And snowman bubbles are quite magical because they are frozen," he "explained."

For mere mortals incapable of blowing magical frozen bubbles through a pipe,

Frostie had some scientific information. He explained, "The key is making bubbles that last at least several seconds so they have time to freeze. For that, you need to delay evaporation by adding a viscous substance such as corn syrup or glycerin to a water and dish soap mixture."

But, you also will need to blow cold bubbles. If you blow bubbles using a straw (or pipe), your breath will be warmer than a frosty, snowy man's. Making frozen bubbles will be easier if you use a "bubble blower" to keep the air inside the bubbles at a lower temperature.

Here is an activity that shows how to blow frozen bubbles: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Frostie-the-Snowy-Man-Science-Bubbles-Enrichment-Cross-Curricular-11953653>

Frostie is corny and punny

This snowy man's pipe is made out of corn ... and maybe he is, as well! I asked Frostie a few biographical questions as we examined our frozen bubbles. He told me his parents' names were Mom and Pop-Sicle and he that has a very close relationship with his mom's sister, Aunt Arctica.

I rolled my eyes. When we stopped for lunch, I was not surprised that the menu consisted of ice-burgers with chili sauce and cake with frosting. When he left, he traveled by icicle.

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/>.



Our intrepid columnist "chills" with "Frostie the Snowy Man."

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Love of family & baseball excite new Renegades GM Denlinger

Editor's note: Tom Denlinger, the eighth and new General Manager of the Hudson Valley Renegades takes time to talk about family, baseball and the excitement of his new role.

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades announced the hiring of General Manager Tom Denlinger on January 17. Denlinger's minor league baseball career stretches down the east coast, most recently spending 10 seasons with the Atlanta Braves Single-A affiliate Augusta GreenJackets. A Pennsylvania native and die-hard Philadelphia sports fan, he returns to northeast baseball with two wishes: 50% in April and fun for everyone crossing the turnstiles at Heritage Financial Park.

How did family inspire your move to the Hudson Valley?

My wife's family is from Ohio, so it got us both closer to home to allow our daughter to be a part of her grandparents' lives. At the end of the day, family plays a big role in what we do in Minor League Baseball. I love what I do, and the opportunity to be close to home and put my hat in the ring of a franchise that's been

successful like the Renegades was a no-brainer. I'm excited to be here and hit the ground running.

When did your career in baseball operations start?

I loved sports, so when I was taking business classes and things I was looking at ways to still have that part of my life. So I started doing internships toward my junior and senior year. My last was with the Reading Phillies, which are probably one of the 10 best teams in baseball. So I had that experience, got it in my blood, and when that internship was up I started my career and applied to a number of places. I started in Salisbury, Maryland with the Delmarva Shorebirds and I've just been able to run it from there, so it's been fun. I've been blessed to be in it this long, and now be in a new market to learn and be a part of the community.

Which Minor League Baseball promotion brings the most fun for fans?

My all-time favorite is fireworks in general. I've been in the industry for 23 years with teams that have 10 to 20 fireworks shows a season, and they never get old. It's always the best promotion because it's one that everybody can



Tom Denlinger

-Courtesy photo

enjoy. I love giveaways and things, but that's only for the first certain amount of people. When you come to a fireworks night, it impacts everybody.

What is your favorite baseball memory?

My family and I were at the longest doubleheader [by total elapsed time] in the history of baseball. The Phillies played the Padres at Veterans Stadium. It was raining all night long and the first game ended right before midnight. It's one of those special things where we picked the right game to go to. My family actually left because we didn't think they were playing the second game, and then I convinced my mom to go back. They ended up playing, and it was over at around 4:50 in the morning.

Fun Fact: The July 2-3, 1993 Phillies-Padres double-header ended 12 hours and 5 minutes after the start of Game 1.

What are you most excited for as 2025 Opening Day approaches?

I've never experienced a game at Heritage Financial Park, so I am counting down until I get to see the park in action and to see the community engaging with the experience. At the end of the day, we are on the platform for a family, college kid, grandparent, or a couple to come out and relax, and enjoy three hours at the ballpark. We put a lot of things on paper, but it's always more fun when it comes to life.

Boutique Wine, Spirits & Cider of Fishkill wins national award

Boutique Wine, Spirits & Cider in Fishkill has earned its third national award in just five years, further solidifying its reputation as a leader in the retail craft beverage industry. The American Cider Association (ACA) recently named Boutique as the Best Off-Premise Cider Partner on the East Coast at their 15th annual CiderCon conference as part of its 2025 awards, recognizing individuals and businesses that play a key role in growing the hard cider category.

The Hudson Valley and New York State were well represented in this year's ACA awards, which took place in February in Chicago, highlighting the region's deep-rooted influence in the cider industry.

Paige Flori, co-owner of Boutique, commented, "Collaborating with Scott Ramsey and the New York Cider Association has strengthened our role as a leading retailer and advocate for the many small cider producers in the Hudson Valley and across the state. His efforts have been instrumental in shaping consumer and producer-friendly legislation while also enhancing the economic and tourism impact of New York's cider industry. Similarly, Nine Pin Cider Works has been a valued industry partner since our inception in 2017, and we are delighted to see them receive national recognition for their contributions. The dedication and innovation of industry leaders like Scott

and Nine Pin have played a significant role in our own success, helping us earn both national and local accolades."

This national recognition caps off an already award-winning year for Boutique Wine, Spirits & Cider. In late 2024, the business was honored locally with Best Small Business in Dutchess County by Think Dutchess and a Collaboration Award from Dutchess Tourism, further reflecting its impact on both the local and national levels.

"It's a privilege to be honored again by the ACA," said Gennaro Flori, co owner of Boutique. "We couldn't do this without our wonderful cider supporting customers, the women and men that produce these phenomenal beverages, and our incredible staff that help Paige and I connect the two groups together." Boutique features over 300 SKUs of craft cider and 13 taps for growler fills. "Cider continues to be a passion of ours and a category that we felt was underrepresented. We are honored to be a part of expanding the category by educating consumers and providing a wide variety of choices."

Located at 18 Westage Drive, Fishkill, NY, Boutique Wine, Spirits & Cider is just ¼ mile north of I-84, off Route 9, in the Hudson Valley Towne Center shopping plaza. Store hours are 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. every day.

Stenger Glass Law team welcomes Mariel Gil as counsel

In an expansion of its team and its offerings, Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele LLP (Stenger Glass) has welcomed Mariel Gil as of counsel.

Gil, who brings nearly two decades of experience to the firm, will strengthen the team in various practice areas, including business law, real estate, banking and secured lending, and commercial leasing.

"Mariel brings a depth of knowledge and experience to our firm," said Kenneth Stenger, founding partner at Stenger Glass. "I am confident that she will enable us to better serve our clients and the Hudson Valley at large and keep up with the growing demand for the comprehensive counsel we provide."

Prior to joining the Stenger Glass team, Gil served as General Counsel at Access Health, LLC and, before that, was a senior associate attorney at Levine & Levine, PLLC and held positions at the Law Office of Omer Gil and Daniels, Porco and Lusardi, LLP. She is a graduate of the University of Miami, where she received her bachelor's degree, and St. Thomas University's Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor. She currently resides in Poughkeepsie.

"Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele LLP is renowned for their legal expertise," said Gil. "I am honored to



Mariel Gil

-Courtesy photo

join such an esteemed team and look forward to bringing my years of experience to the table."

For more information on Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele LLP, visit stengerglass.com.

Heavy Equipment Service Writer

Job Description:
We are seeking a motivated and customer-oriented individual to join our team as a Heavy Equipment Service Writer. In this role, you will use your expert knowledge to understand the client's problems and explain their needs to the staff for satisfactory service / repairs in a timely fashion.

Responsibilities:

- Interact with customers, listen to their questions and concerns and provide timely responses
- Educate clients about the company's products, services, and offers
- Schedule appointments, take orders, monitor service progress, calculate charges, and process payments
- Review of customer accounts and report changes to internal staff
- Manage complaints and returns. Resolution of customer grievances to achieve 100% customer satisfaction
- Record customer details and transactions
- Serve as a customer relationship manager
- Serve as a link between the customer and different departments in the organization
- Support in-house service team with parts needs for service/repair of our large rental fleet.
- Provide accurate price quotes and availability information to customers.
- Develop and maintain strong customer relationships through excellent service and product knowledge.
- Collaborate with partse and sales departments to ensure customer needs are met.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent; technical or vocational training preferred.
- Experience in heavy equipment service or a related field is a plus.
- Strong customer service and communication skills.
- Proficiency in using computer systems and parts catalogues.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and handle multiple tasks.
- Ability to lift heavy parts and accessories as needed.
- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record.

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Marist women's basketball, Miles of Hope Foundation honor breast cancer survivors at 15th annual Pink Game



The halftime portion of the annual Pink Game at Marist University on Feb. 15 included a Salute to Survivors of breast cancer.

-Photos courtesy of Stockton Photos

By Morgan E. Maier

The American Cancer Society predicts that over 315,000 women will receive new breast cancer diagnoses in 2025. The Marist University women's basketball team and Dutchess County-based foundation Miles of Hope hosted an annual Pink Game to raise awareness of this life-altering disease on a snowy February 15 afternoon and applause from pink-clad supporters marked an annual tradition of honoring what's bigger than basketball.

The Pink Game raises awareness, funds, and support for local survivors. As Marist faced off against conference opponent Merrimack, the 15th annual Pink Game raised money for Miles of Hope with a 50/50 raffle, and featured a sports bra donation drive by The Sports Bra Project.

Miles of Hope executive director Pari Forood raises money 365 days a year for breast cancer survivors in the Hudson Valley. The foundation supports survivors and their families with education, financial assistance, and scholarships across nine counties. Through fundraising efforts like the Marist Pink Out, Miles of Hope contributes millions of dollars toward medical bills, costs of living, and transportation. "People have literally not had treatment because they couldn't afford to get there," Forood said. "They couldn't pay their heating bill, electric bill payments, food, gas, you name it."

After a half-court buzzer-beater shot closed out the first half of the game, McCann Arena's attention turned to the halftime Salute to Survivors. The ceremony, a constant at this event, honors breast

cancer survivors in attendance as they are announced at center court.

"We're just so honored that [survivors] want to be there," said Forood, "For a disease to have a happy time like this, that's a gift." Basketball programs nationwide highlight breast cancer awareness in partnership with nonprofit Play4Kay, which honors the legacy of late NC State coach Kay Yow, who publicly shared her breast cancer journey.

Harrison Baker, Marist Athletics' associate athletic director and head of external affairs, coordinates yearly with Miles of Hope. This is Baker's eighth year involved at the Pink Game and each Salute brings a familiar feeling. "It's always a special night. And [it's] really fun to get to work with the survivors and give them their moment... The applause of the crowd gets me every time," Baker said.

Repeated attendance by survivors and local organizations shows the widespread impact of the Pink Game. It means Marist does its job as a community partner, according to Baker. "The cause itself affects so many people. We see it year to year when people come back and want to be a part of this game," he said. "It's showing people that we're here for them, and we're accessible.

Interested in supporting breast cancer survivors? Community members can host their own fundraisers to support Miles of Hope, from bake sales to marathons, lemonade stands and Zumba classes. As more organizations and individuals become involved with the foundation, awareness will spread



Jackie Piddock of Marist University drives the ball past a Merrimack defender during Saturday's game.

even further, Forood said. The Miles of Hope website also features resources including a peer-to-peer hotline with trained survivor dispatchers, and local sites where women can receive free mammograms.

Miles of Hope promotes regular screening for early cancer detection, and repre-

sentation like the Marist Pink Out can inspire people to take personal caution. "We are a huge, bright pink reminder that you need to get a mammogram this year," said Forood. "Because you can spread the word but if you don't point people towards the resources, you're only doing half the work."

Renegades taking applications for Field Betterment Program

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, have announced that applications for the Youth Field Betterment Program presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union are now open. Applications will be accepted by the Renegades from Feb. 1 through March 8, with the recipient being announced during the week of March 25.

"The Youth Field Betterment Program has been one of the most-popular initiatives as part of our community partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union for the past two years," said Jessica Levinson, Manager of Ticket Operations for the Renegades. "We are really excited to bring the program back in 2025 and continue to make an impact in our community."

The program, which began in 2023, sees the Renegades and Heritage Financial Credit Union award one little league organization with a refurbishment of a field used within their community for youth baseball. In 2023,

Renegades and HFCU staff renovated Sauter Field at Spratt Park in the City of Poughkeepsie, and in 2024 Lee Town Park of the East Fishkill Babe Ruth League was renovated.

Each refurbishment includes one makeover of a 46/60 or 50/70 little league field. Youth Field Betterment proposals may include, but are not limited to, improving existing spaces to increase overall usage, safety, accessibility, and inclusiveness for all participants.

The Youth Field Betterment Program was created to help local organizations positively impact their local community by creating a safe place for their youth to further develop themselves and their baseball skills. The program's goal is to aid local youth organizations that provide players of all abilities with an environment that combines inclusiveness with fair play.

Submissions will be evaluated for constructed ideas and goals that provide a direct benefit to youth from across the Hudson Valley.

Heavy Equipment Dealership Parts Counter Salesperson

Job Description:

We are seeking a motivated and customer-oriented individual to join our team as a Heavy Equipment Parts Counter Salesperson. In this role, you will be responsible for assisting customers in identifying, locating, and purchasing parts and accessories for heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, excavators, and loaders.

Responsibilities:

- Greet customers and aid in identifying their parts and accessory needs.
- Support in house service team with parts needs for service/repair of our large rental fleet.
- Utilize parts manuals, catalogues, and computer systems to locate and order parts.
- Provide accurate price quotes and availability information to customers.
- Process parts orders, invoices, and returns efficiently and accurately.
- Maintain a clean and organized parts counter and showroom area.
- Develop and maintain strong customer relationships through excellent service and product knowledge.
- Collaborate with service and sales departments to ensure customer needs are met.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent; technical or vocational training preferred.
- Experience in heavy equipment parts sales or a related field is a plus.
- Strong customer service and communication skills.
- Proficiency in using computer systems and parts catalogues.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and handle multiple tasks.
- Detail-oriented with good organizational skills.
- Ability to lift heavy parts and accessories as needed.
- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record.

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Obituaries

Martha S. Mastrantuono



Martha S. Mastrantuono, a longtime resident of Beacon, entered into rest on February 8, 2025 surrounded by her children. She was 78 years old.

She was born on May 23, 1946 in Montevideo, Uruguay, the daughter of the late Milton and Fernanda Rodriguez Mercadal. Martha co-owned and helped to run the family-owned grocery stores. Later she was a homemaker raising her family.

Martha is survived by her children, Marcelo Mastrantuono and his wife, Victoria, Martha Jaycox and her husband, Kenneth, Oscar Mastrantuono and Morris Mastrantuono; her grandchildren, Stephanie, Alexis, Amanda, Alyssa, Nico, Marshall, Kenneth, III, Cyngin and Kemar; her brother, Miguel Mercadal; her sister, Maria Pola Correa; her many

nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her former husband, Oscar Mastrantuono; her brothers, Milton and Mario.

Family and friends gathered on Friday, February 14 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held on Saturday, February 15 at the funeral home. Burial followed at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Joan R. Marshall



June 10, 1941 – December 31, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Joan R. Marshall, 83, of Fishkill, New York. She passed peacefully in her sleep on December 31, 2024, surrounded by her loving family and her husband of 47 years holding her hand.

Joan was born the daughter of Joseph and Teresa Gajdos of Poughkeepsie, New York on June 10, 1941. On September 24th, 1977, she married the love of her life, Eugene A. Marshall, who survives at home. Eugene and Joan shared a rare and special love for the 47 years of their marriage.

Joan spent the majority of her working years at IBM. Starting as a secretary, she eventually rose to become the project coordinator between IBM and SSI Corporation in Wisconsin in the joint

development of super computers. Her drive, intelligence, and leadership earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues.

Joan was a marvel of craftsmanship, organization, and productivity - traits that inspired awe and admiration from all who knew her. Whether creating beautifully hand-made gifts, master-craft level stained glass art, organizing family gatherings, or maintaining an impeccable home and gardens, Joan brought creativity, skill, and love to everything she did.

A devoted animal lover, Joan had a special place in her heart for cats. She deeply loved keeping them as pets and ensured they lived wonderful, healthy lives filled with care and affection.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughters Donna (Michael) Brooks and Susanne (John) Balcom; her stepchildren James (Denise) Marshall, Laurie Marshall DiBenedetto, and Eugene Marshall along with his significant other Roseann Sorrentino. She is also survived by six grandchildren Teresa Burger, Cylus Brooks-Ambrosi, McKenna Marshall, Nicholas Marshall, Julia Chachkes, and Amanda Schmadel, along with five great grandchildren and a brother Paul Gajdos

Joan's kindness, warmth, and faith will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Visitation was held at McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, 1089 Main Street, on Monday, January 6. A Mass followed at St. Mary Mother of the Church in Fishkill, and a burial at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks to consider donations to Tunnels to Towers Foundation (t2t.org).

Joan Cunningham



Joan Cunningham, age 91, formerly of Poughkeepsie, died peacefully Wednesday, February 12th, 2025.

Born on April 14th, 1933 in Williamsport, PA, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Bessie Weller of Montgomery, PA.

She is survived by her daughters, Linda Kowalsky of Wappingers Falls, NY, and Beth Cunningham of Redondo Beach, CA; son, Todd Cunningham of Montgomery, NY; and their families. Joan was one of eight children and is survived by a brother, Ben Weller, Jr. of Montgomery, PA, and a sister, Judy Rooker of Williamsport, PA.

Joan was predeceased by her loving husband, Charles A. Cunningham, who no doubt welcomed her with a bag of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, her favorite.

She was loved and will be deeply missed by her family.

Burial will be in Green Lawn Memorial Park, Montgomery, PA, at the privacy of the family.

Paul J. Nuccitelli



Paul J. Nuccitelli, 82, of Beacon, passed away peacefully at home on February 13, 2025, surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness.

Born on June 11, 1942, in Beacon, Paul was the son of John Nuccitelli and Ann D'Angieri. He spent his early years in Beacon before living in Abilene, Texas and Riverside, California. He returned to Beacon for his senior year of high school, where he played football and wrestled at Beacon High School.

Paul pursued higher education at Fordham University and later earned his Juris Doctor degree from New York Law. His career led him to work alongside his father, John, and uncle, Nick, as a partner at A & N Vending, where he contributed to the family business for many years.

Paul found joy in life's simple

pleasures—solving the New York Times crossword puzzle, walking the river trail and spending summers at the beach. His cherished Long Beach Island getaway was always filled with family, friends and laughter; he and Helen loved to vacation in Florida and Myrtle Beach. He was also a lifelong member of St. Rocco's Society in Beacon.

He is predeceased by his parents and survived by his devoted wife of 39 years, Helen (Cahill). He leaves behind his beloved daughters, Lisa (Tom) Elia, Maria (Joe) Yanarella, and Lori (Dominick) Roscino, as well as his treasured grandchildren: Emily Elia, Kyle (Crystal) Yanarella, Kristen Yanarella, and Grace and Anna Roscino. Paul was eagerly anticipating the arrival of his first great-grandchild in June.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 17, at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon, with a special prayer service.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Hudson Valley Hospice or the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation in Paul's honor.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to Hudson Valley Hospice for their compassionate care during Paul's final days.

To send personal condolence, please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Anna Venticinque



Anna Venticinque passed away on February 10, 2025 at the age of 94. She was born in the Bronx on June 30, 1930 to the late Joseph and Rachel (Cirigliano) Ruggiero. On October 29, 1949, she married her loving husband Michael Venticinque. Michael predeceased her in 1998.

Anna enjoyed being a homemaker and taking care of her home and family. She loved crafts, baking (especially her famous honey balls), and singing. She also enjoyed trips to the casino, and playing on the penny machines, as well as trying her luck on scratch off tickets.

Anna is survived by her two children: Grace Venticinque and her boyfriend Eric Torres, and John Venticinque and his wife Joan; many grandchildren including Lisa Pesco, Rachel Oddo, and Serena,

Aleksandr, Tiffany and Krystle Venticinque; many great-grandchildren including: Andrew, April, Levi, Dominic, Anthony, Serafina; great-great grandchildren Bradley, AnnaLisa and baby to come in March; daughters-in-law: Tina and Lorraine Venticinque; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends.

In addition to her husband Michael, Anna was predeceased by 3 of her sons: Philip, Joseph, and Michael Venticinque Jr.

Calling hours were held on Friday February 14, 2025 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction, followed immediately by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Columba Church, and then interment at St. Denis Cemetery 604 Beekman Road Hopewell Junction.

Please consider a donation in memory of Anna to Hudson Valley Hospice www.hvhospice.org.

Peter Joseph Pavone



Peter Joseph Pavone, 82, an area resident since 1975, died peacefully at his home on November 30, 2024.

Born in Bridgeport, CT on October 5, 1942, he was the son of the late Joseph and Lucy (Campagna) Pavone. Peter proudly served our country in the US Air Force and was employed as an Engineer with IBM in East Fishkill. Peter really enjoyed golf. If he wasn't playing golf, he was watching it on television. He was also an avid fan of the New York Yankees and Jets.

On October 12, 1991 in Hopewell Junction, Peter married Linda Ann Schneider who predeceased him on March 30, 2024. He is survived by his son, Michael Glover and his wife Kelly; his daughter, Melissa Corrado; his grandchildren, Melissa Cassidy and Kyle Cassidy; his great grandson, Cason Gross; and his grand-dogs, Cavu

and Bijou. He was looking forward to the birth of his second grandchild in March.

A Celebration of Peter's Life will be held on March 29, 2025 at 12pm at Anthony's Catering in Hopewell Junction.

Memorial donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice who lovingly cared for both Peter and Linda this year.

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Serino and Childcare Council call for legislative action to support providers and families

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Childcare Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. are urging state lawmakers to address critical challenges facing childcare providers in Dutchess County. In a recent letter sent to state representatives, Serino and the Childcare Council called for legislative solutions to improve accessibility and quality of childcare services that are vital for families and the local economy.

"Access to quality child care is essential for working families, yet too many providers face unnecessary roadblocks that make it harder to do their jobs," said Serino. "As a former child care provider and single mother, I know firsthand how important it is to have a system that truly supports parents, children and providers alike. By expanding workforce flexibility, streamlining processes, and ensuring the safety of childcare options, we can

strengthen childcare options for families while making it easier for those who dedicate themselves to this vital work."

In a letter to state representatives, they outlined the following critical issues:

- Substitute Pool for Childcare Providers – Current requirements for substitutes separately cleared by OCSF for each location create delays and administrative burdens. Serino and the Childcare Council are advocating for a system allowing substitutes to register with local Departments of Social Services, streamlining the process for multiple locations.
- Home-Based Childcare Provider Relocation Flexibility – Providers who move homes face lengthy re-registration, deterring continued service. Streamlining the process for location transfers would eliminate this barrier.
- Staffing Challenges – Inconsistent

funding and no financial assistance during low enrollment periods make it difficult to retain staff. Serino and the Childcare Council are advocating for a dedicated funding stream to help providers during downturns.

- Duplicative Background Checks – Childcare workers often undergo duplicative fingerprinting even if already completed for other positions. Serino and the Council urge integration of background checks to reduce delays.

"Childcare is the backbone of our workforce and economy," said Jeanne Wagner, Executive Director of the Childcare Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. "Providers are struggling and families are feeling the impact. We need legislative action that prioritizes solutions, removes red tape, and makes it easier for people to open and maintain childcare pro-

grams." To read a copy of the letter sent, visit www.dutchessny.gov (go to Departments, County Executive).

Recent findings from the New York State Comptroller's office (<https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/child-care-challenges.pdf>) have highlighted the critical state of childcare across New York, with high prices and insufficient slots in many areas. In Dutchess County, 51% of census tracts are considered childcare deserts, with 3.7 children under six for every available childcare slot. The cost of center-based care for one infant can consume up to 10.9% of the median family income in the county, further exacerbating the financial strain on working families.

For more information on the Childcare Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc., go to <https://www.childcaredutchess.org/>.

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by luigi coppola



The new mattress

Pop makes a deal

Watching my father in action over the years has made me very jaded. I have been with my father during many purchases and have come to learn that I have to be ready to get embarrassed. Whether it be purchasing chairs for the restaurant or a personal vehicle, Pop has been a haggler like no other. Over the past few years, my other brothers have stepped in. They forgot what it was like.

On one occasion, my father decided he was going to buy a new mattress. So, he went to a local mattress store and started to look around. Immediately, the sales person pounced on him and before too long had convinced Pop to purchase the top-of-the-line bed with twin remote controls that could bend you into a taco shell if you wanted to.

Pop spoke to him for a few more minutes and was able to get him to throw in two memory foam pillows free of charge if he purchased the top-of-the-line bed with twin remote controls that could bend you into a taco shell if you wanted to. However, before he finalized the purchase, he was going to ask one of his sons for an opinion. Pop called my brother Anthony and asked him to come down to get his opinion.

Pop: Anthony, these esa "Joe." Joe, these esa my son Anthony.

Joe: Hello, Anthony. Your father has decided to purchase the "Starsleeper 2000." It has dual controls so your parents can set their individual bend ratios and massage indexes to maximize their sleep quotient enabling them to get a better more complete night's sleep while still...

Pop: (interrupting) Anthony, do youa thenka Mom and me can use thisa bed?

Anthony: Well, Pop. This might be a little complicated for you. One of us can definitely show you how to use it.

Joe: We can show him what...

Pop: (interrupting) I donta know. I thought it wasa too much, too.

Joe was sensing he was going to lose the sale of the top-of-the-line bed with twin remote controls that could bend you into a taco shell if you wanted to, and he wasn't too happy, shooting death looks at my brother.

Anthony: Pop, it's up to you.

Pop: Anthony, what kind ofa bed do you have?

Joe: I'm sure the mattress your son has is quite good for what his needs are; however, I can assure you that the "Starsleeper 2000" will help both you and your wife.

Pop: Youa be quiet. Ima gonna talk to my son.

Anthony: Pop, really all you need is a good mattress. I don't think you need all this stuff.

Pop: Ok. Show whicha one youa have.

Before too long, poor Joe lost his sale of the top-of-the-line bed with twin remote controls that could bend you into a taco shell if you wanted to, and the commission that went with it. Not only that, after Pop had decided on the mattress, it was time for Pop to make a deal, and Joe wasn't prepared.

Pop: OK, I wanta thisa mattress. Now,

because my son helped me make the decision, Ia want a 10% discount and the pillows.

Joe: What? Huh? Wait? What?

Pop: Yes. Ifa you no give me the deal, Ia go someplace else.

Joe: Wait? What? Excuse me?

Pop: Wea gotta the deal or am I gonna go to the Macy's.

Joe: Mr. Coppola. I can't give you that deal. I can't even give you the pillows now.

Pop: OKa, Anthony. Andiamo.

Joe: Wait. OK, I'll give you half off the pillows.

Pop: No.

Joe: OK, I'll give you one of the pillows and only charge you for the second one.

Pop: Ima no stupid. NO.

Joe: (sensing defeat) OK, I'll give you the pillows.

Pop: You a gooda boy. Thank You. Now maka sure I getta free delivery.

Joe: Wait? What? Huh? (defeated sigh) OK.

Pop: Now hurry up. I gotta go and make escarole and beans fora my wife, Franca.

A few nights later Mom and Pop were asleep on their new mattress, happy and content. I am sure poor Joe was not. Maybe he'd feel better if he had some escarole and beans? Buon Appetito!

Escarole and Beans with Pasta

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 large heads escarole

- 1 cup of Tubetini pasta
- 1 pinch of salt and pepper
- 4 green olives, pitted and diced
- 1 pinch crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 clove garlic, sliced
- 2 (16 ounce) cans cannellini beans, undrained
- Fresh grated Reggiano Parmagiana cheese

Method

Fill your sink with warm water. Roughly chop the escarole and place in the sink and let soak.

In a large skillet over medium heat, fry the garlic with the olive oil. Add the olives.

Strain the escarole with a colander and place in the frying pan, turning. Season with salt, pepper, and crushed red pepper flakes.

Cook, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes, or until tender.

Pour in beans, with juices and the Tubetini pasta, and simmer until creamy, about 10 minutes.

Serve with fresh grated Reggiano Parmagiana, a crusty loaf of Italian bread and a glass of Pinot Grigio.

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.

Beacon Elks host inaugural First Responders Awards Dinner



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 honored seven First Responders from our community at the Lodge's inaugural First Responders Awards Dinner. The Elks honored members of the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BVAC), Beacon Police Department, Beacon Fire Department, Rombout Fire Company, Dutchess Junction Fire Department and Glenham Fire Department. These awards ranged from 50 years Active Interior Firefighter to the 1st Past Paid Fire Chief to Firefighters with Life Active Duty to Ambulance Corps Summer Camp Recruitment programs.

Pictured, from left, is Carl Oken, Event Chairperson; Daniel Silvestri Jr., Rombout FD; Gary Van Voorhis, Beacon FD; Dominic Virtuoso, Glenham FD; Michael Zingone, BVAC; Fred Finck, Dutchess Junction FD; Michael Connor, Beacon PD and Michael Zanzarella, Exalted Ruler. Not pictured is Piero Giangrosso, BVAC.

-Courtesy photo from Beacon Elks

Cary Institute to present program on fate of world's largest trees

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies will host a public lecture featuring forest ecologist Evan Gora, a staff member and a Fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on Friday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Gora will explore the fate of some of the world's largest trees and why they are so important.

Guests can attend the presentation in-person, at Cary's Millbrook auditorium, or via live stream. For more information and to register, visit caryinstitute.org/events.

this week's puzzle solutions

This week's answer

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

SUDOKU

A	D	A	M	V	I	A	T	O
H	O	Y	A	B	E	N	D	S
A	G	A	R	U	R	S	A	K
S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R	E
O	R	B	I	T	O	W	N	
P	L	U	N	G	E	A	R	S
E	E	N	E	D	G	I	N	G
R	A	F	T	S	A	C	T	A
D	R	E	W	O	N	E	I	L
U	N	D	O	I	N	G	O	D
P	I	N	G	C	O	L	D	F
O	U	T	D	O	A	L	T	O
C	R	E	S	T	K	O	A	N
N	E	S	T	E	R	R		

1	3	2	3	1
2	4	1	5	1
1	5	2	3	4
4	3	1	5	2
1	5	2	4	3
2	4	3	4	1

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

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

Suguru

		3			5
		2			
	3			2	
	4				2
			3		

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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: IDIOMS

ACROSS

1. Actor Driver
5. By way of
8. Bambino
11. Oscar De La ____
12. *Do this backwards to try hard to please
13. Range
15. Petri dish gel
16. Celestial bear
17. K-pop home
18. *Cold one is offensive
20. Sportscaster Andrews
21. Outer space path
22. Hold title to
23. *Take this to commit to marriage
26. Bullet factory
30. Even, poetically
31. Trim
34. Sitar music
35. Kon-Tiki and such
37. Be in a cast
38. Very, in music
39. Actress Barrymore
40. "Long Day's Journey into Night" playwright
42. Between Mar. and May
43. Annulling
45. Loads
47. Compass point between NE and E
48. Dugout river ride
50. Check-in via text
52. *Sign of nervousness (2 words)
55. One up
56. Lowest female voice
57. One quark plus one antiquark
59. Toothpaste brand
60. Riddle without solution
61. Cogito ____ sum
62. *Leg's partner, price-wise
63. Make a mistake
64. Robin's house

DOWN

1. "Eureka!"
2. *They cause no problems when they sleep
3. Nursemaid, in India
4. ____ 5, band
5. "Il Trovatore" composer
6. Garment insert
7. Month before Nisan
8. Torus, pl.
9. Word before sesame
10. *Cupful that's not for everyone
12. Adjective derived from bulb
13. Distorts
14. *Cutting these leads to poor results
19. Prods
22. Dot follower
23. Lost, in Provence
24. Live's partner
25. Hungry
26. Voting no
27. Like Fran Drescher's voice
28. Wide open
29. Bear digs
32. Group of buffaloes
33. *Breaking it relieves tension
36. *When these meet, one can afford what they want (2 words)
38. Remote in manner
40. Football's extra point
41. "The Call of the Wild" author
44. Gold bar
46. Dig further
48. One on artist's wheel
49. Communion table
50. Feline vibration
51. Unit on a list
52. *Easy piece
53. Ireland's other name
54. Duds
55. Edible tuber
58. 1990s negation

CROSSWORD

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

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Couples renew, exchange vows during Valentine's Day ceremony in Wappinger



Gail and Russell Nehrig, left, and Sara and Richard Dobbins, above, were two out of nearly twenty couples who renewed or exchanged their vows on Valentine's Day, February 14, in the Wappinger Town Hall.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

Nearly twenty couples renewed or exchanged vows on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in the Wappinger Town Hall. Red and white balloons, some heart shaped, decorated the large meeting room in the town hall. At the front of the room was a large heart display.

One of the couples renewing their vows was Gail "Gay" and Russell "Russ" Nehrig.

"We decided we'd get married and see if it takes this time," Russ said, laughing.

Approximately 100 people were in attendance for their vows on their wedding day in Chicago, said Gay.

This was their 54th wedding anniversary, as they exchanged vows on Feb. 14, 1971.

The Nehrigs moved to Wappinger when COVID hit. Their adult children live in New York, and they wanted to live close to them. The couple previously lived in Missouri and Colorado.

They were on NBC's "Today" show for one of their anniversaries.

"This year we didn't have any plans," said Gay. Russ, who previously served in the U.S. Coast Guard, said he asked Gay out for their first date when she was a

bank teller by passing her a note.

As for the Wappinger officials and employees hosting the vow ceremony, Gay said, "I love it. It's such a beautiful celebration."

The officiant of the ceremony was Wappinger Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini. He and members of the Town of Wappinger Recreation Department and Secretary to the Supervisor, Kaitlyn Aboshanab, organized the event.

"We had events like this in mind," said Cavaccini about celebrating Wappinger 150, the 150th incorporation of the Town of Wappinger.

"Remember the lessons you've learned along the way," Cavaccini remarked.

"May your life together continue in love and excitement," stated the Supervisor.

Three couples then were married after the already-married couples renewed their vows.

Sara and Richard Dobbins were married on March 29, 1970 in the Bronx. The couple renewed their vows on Valentine's Day.

As for why they wanted to renew their vows, Richard said, "We love each other."

Sara said, "Let the good outweigh the bad. It works."

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Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce sets Soiree March 1

The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Copacabana Soiree on Saturday, March 1, at 5:30 p.m., at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

The Chamber hosts this formal affair to celebrate leaders of its business community. Walk the red carpet in your finest attire; enjoy delicious cuisine, decadent cocktails, and delightful company. Dance the night away while celebrating some of the best in local business. The evening features an extended cocktail hour, a full three-course dinner, a premium open bar, and live music by Jungle Love.

2025 Honorees include:

Community Service Award: Staci Cussick, Comparion Insurance Agency;

Community Spirit Award: The Curry Sisters, Cathleen, Dawn, Jenny, Jill, Karen, and Prish, The Curry Estate;

Industry Award: Lawrence & Angela Holzapfel, Quality Environmental Solutions & Technologies, Inc.;

Leadership Award: Brian Altmann, DBS Remodel;

Next Generation Award: Jacob Reckess, PAZ Management & The Arlington of Poughkeepsie.

Get tickets and more information at <https://www.dccroc.org/gala>.