HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Kyriacou touts successes, future in State of City

Mayor Lee Kyriacou delivered his State of the City address during the City Council meeting on Monday, March 2 at the Municipal Building. In the speech, Kyriacou touted achievements from the past year. He also laid out his initiatives for 2026.

"In a word, the state of the City remains excellent."

This is his seventh year as mayor; he thanked the community for its confidence in him.

Portions from Mayor Kyriacou's speech follow.

City's financial situation

"Beacon's financial health remains the best it's been in decades," remarked Kyriacou. "We have undertaken additional major capital projects in 2025 – parks rehabilitations, roads and sidewalks, water and wastewater upgrades plus to continue to build upon employee quality and productivity."

He said this was done by "keeping tax increases modest."

The City Council passed $37 and half million combined operating budget for 2026. Kyriacou remarked, "This was my most challenging budget as mayor due to substantial employee salary increases needed to stay competitive in hiring."

He talked about the decline in homestead tax rate. "We're at $5.49 per $1,000 of assessed value," he said. This is the lowest rate since 2009, he added. For comparison, he stated, the same tax rate remains over $10 for the cities of Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Newburgh, he added, "which is where we (City of Beacon) were when I got on the Council in the '90s." He noted the [rate] had to rise during that period because Beacon's assessment was falling.

"We expect to continue lowering the City's tax rate by expanding our tax base with new construction, which ensures that residents are not overburdened," said Kyriacou.

"We have a moderate property tax increase," he said, adding it is below the property tax cap.

"We stayed below the tax cap and a lot of this has to do with new construction."

"Employee salaries were the big issue for us," said Kyriacou. He noted the city reached amicable agreements with the all three unions (Police, Fire and CSEA) in last 18 months.

The cost to taxpayers was "largely offset," he said. There were new revenue sources – a 2% occupancy tax on hotels and short-term rentals and a share of the state cannabis tax from dispensaries opening in Beacon, he stated.

There was an addition of $47 million to the city's tax base in terms of new construction last year and $225 million "in the past six years of my budget," shared the mayor.

"The City has maintained its Aa2 bond rating from Moody's, that's one of the highest among communities in the Valley. It reduces our bond costs, and we do borrow a lot. It's the one issue our bond raters tells us is not as strong as we'd like it to be. We borrow because the rates are attractive and we've been doing generational investments to catch up on our infrastructure," he said.

Continued on page 2

Parade of Green to step off in Beacon on Saturday

The annual Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green will be held at noon on Main St. on Saturday, March 14 in Beacon. Pictured are members of the Green Team, (from left) Kimberlee Markarian, Etha Dexter, Bitsy Castillo, Angela Fredrick (and son Noah Sewing), John Sheehy, Rich Kaplan and Reuben Simmons.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

Main St. will be decked out in green for the annual Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green on Saturday, March 14 at noon.

"There are some new things and we're really excited," said Kimberlee Markarian, a member of the Green Team and Associate Real Estate Broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hudson Valley Properties.

Rich Kaplan, also a member of the Green Team, remarked that the parade route will end at Tioronda Ave. (Route 52) this year.

"There will be a place for bands to perform and dancers to dance instead of a parade that keeps going," said Kaplan, former co-owner of Max's on Main. The locations will be at Veterans Place (by the U.S. Post Office) and Henry St.

"We're going to keep doing what we're doing. We're going to embrace spring," said Etha Dexter.

"We've all been together for 11 years," said Green Team member John Sheehy.

The 2026 parade grand marshal is Anthony "Zep" Thomaselli. According to his biography by the Green Team, he was born in the original Highland Hospital, at Verplanck and Schenck Ave. and had been a lifelong resident of Beacon. He attended South Ave. Elementary School, Rombout Middle School and graduated from Beacon High School in 1971. Zep is a former City of Beacon Highway Department Superintendent. He was part owner of "Zep's Place," a tavern on East Main St., according to organizers, and co-owner of "Philomena & Narducci," on Main St.

Zep coached CYO basketball and still works in the kitchen for the league on Saturdays, noted Green Team member Reuben Simmons.

"It's all volunteering," said Simmons about the Green Team. "It's civic engagement – the heart of this community – it's alive and well."

Continued on page 4

Beacon boys crush Red Hook to gain Section 9 championship

By Morgan E. Maier

With their first Section 9 championship on the line, the Beacon High School Boys Basketball team brought all corners of their game to the challenging Raiders from Red Hook High School. With a decisive 62-37 victory, the Bulldog squad erased a 23-year title drought – while Ryan Landisi cleared the boards.

Michai Thompson was a scoring machine, including an improbable, damaging 3-pointer that beat the first-half buzzer and extended Beacon's growing lead. Landisi propelled Beacon with his signature rebounding-snatcher's mentality that kept Red Hook chasing Beacon all game. The Raider two seed and its well-traveled Red Zone couldn't find traction as the Bulldogs pulled away for good. The Bulldogs were set to play Tappan Zee on Tuesday at Mahopac High School.

This wasn't the final Raider performance of the day, as Red Hook's girls took to the floor for the nightcap against the Highland Huskies. The Ulster County challengers prevailed in the tough matchup 43-40, upsetting the top-seeded Raiders for the Class A title.

Our Lady of Lourdes had its own doubleheader in Class AAA, but fell short in both games. After a semifinal win over the reigning section champions at Newburgh Free Academy, the boys were overthrown by Kingston in the final, 81-64. The girls lost on a buzzer-beater to the Lady Goldbacks. NFA's all time leading scorer, TT Burden, broke a late-game deadlock with seconds to go, propelling the Goldbacks to a section title over the Warriors, 51-49.

In Section 1 girls' basketball, Roy C. Ketcham's storybook season ended in the Class AAA finals. Albertus Magnus quelled the Storm 56-31 to win the title. To reach the finals, RCK pulled an improbable upset over Arlington. The 56-42 win was led by 29 points and 14 rebounds from Ally Kaminski.

Serino highlights key issues in State of County address

From County reports

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino presented her 2026 State of the County Address on March 3 to residents, County legislators and other elected leaders as well as community business and nonprofit partners in the Legislative Chambers in Poughkeepsie. Serino outlined many of her strategic priorities including affordable housing, childcare, EMS service, older adult fraud prevention and more, while emphasizing fiscal responsibility to be ready for unforeseen challenges and ensure County Government continues to provide the high-quality essential services that residents depend on.

"The state of Dutchess County is strong. We are working for our neighbors every day…modernizing government, strengthening essential services, and investing in people with a wide range of priorities from childcare to housing to EMS and more," said Serino. "We are acting with fiscal responsibility and leading with compassion, planning with purpose for the future but ready to meet the moment when the unexpected arises."

Among the key accomplishments and initiatives highlighted:

Housing Investment

• Over $14 million invested in the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund, with $12.3 million already committed to create or preserve 370 affordable homes, with several projects under construction or beginning construction this year.

• Launching a new Own-and-Rent Duplex Program, enabling residents to purchase or construct two-family homes, live in one unit and rent the other to build long-term financial stability and add to rental availability.

• Expanded home-repair support for low- and moderate-income residents through the Owner Occupied Property Rehabilitation Program, and through partnership with Rebuilding Together, funding for critical repairs, including roof replacements and boiler upgrades, to keep homes safe and prevent further strain on housing inventory.

Strengthening EMS

• Ensuring an ambulance is available to respond to every call with the County's supplemental EMS coverage, which launched last year and responded to nearly 3,000 calls and transporting more than 800 patients in 2025.

• Awarded more than $330,000 through the Fly Car Grant Program to local fire departments, rescue squads and ambulance corps to purchase life-saving equipment that allow EMTs to begin patient care before an ambulance arrives.

• Strengthening EMS workforce development with support for youth mentorship programs and certification and degree programs at Dutchess BOCES and Dutchess Community College.

• Launching HeartSafe 2.0, a $100,000 initiative that provides automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and emergency training to local youth sports leagues and recreation programs.

Expanding Childcare Access

• Selected as one of three counties statewide by Gov. Kathy Hochul to receive over $20 million in proposed state funding for a pilot program expanding affordable childcare for infants and toddlers.

• Enhancing childcare workforce development through DAY ONE Early Learning Community and continued partnerships with the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam and the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum to support in-home childcare providers.

Government Efficiency

• Advancing modernization efforts across County government through enhanced technology systems: Lean Six Sigma training for staff across multiple departments and streamlined interdepartmental operations to improve service delivery.

County Executive Sue Serino offered 2026 State of the County Address on March 3 in the Legislative Chambers in Poughkeepsie.
-Photo courtesy of Dutchess County Gov't

• Establishing an AI Committee to ensure new technologies are used responsibly, securely, and transparently.

• Partnering with Marist University to again host the Hudson Valley Artificial Intelligence Summit on April 9, bringing together leaders to discuss how AI can help employees work smarter and improve community services.

Addressing Homelessness

• Utilizing the New York State $13 million grant to replace the aging, temporary emergency housing shelter ("PODS") with a permanent Housing Support Center at 26 Oakley Street in Poughkeepsie to expand the model of comprehensive case management, mental health support, and substance use services that has helped nearly 80 people move toward stability, independence, and permanent housing in the last 16 months.

• Partnering with local municipalities who want to establish homeless beds in their community through the implementation of a $200,00 grant that the Legislature added to the 2026 budget.

Retaining, Supporting County Workforce

• Nearing completion of a multi-year contract with the County's largest employee union, the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), that includes fair cost-of-living increases to all CSEA employees, with the largest percentage increases going to those who earn the least.

• Utilizing tools to recruit and retain employees including New York State's Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (HELPS) program and targeted outreach for opportunities such as the CDL training program in Public Works.

Older Adults, Veterans

• Protecting older adults with the launch of an Elder Justice Task Force, in partnership with the Dutchess County Sheriff's and District Attorney' Office, that will expand education, strengthen investigations into suspected fraud, and ensure that those who target seniors are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

• Continued expansion of the "Friendly Calls" program to reduce the isolation that often makes older adults vulnerable to fraud.

• Providing greater service accessibility for seniors and veterans through mobile outreach through the Office for Aging's Ambassador and the Office of Veterans Affairs' "Operation: Mobile Outreach" programs, connecting with seniors and veterans in their local communities for direct one-and-one assistance.

Full text and video of County Executive Serino's 2026 State of the County Address is available on Dutchess County's website, dutchessny.gov/2026SOTC.

Kyriacou touts successes, future in State of City

Continued from cover

Parks, Trails, and Quality of Life

"We continue to increase both the programming budget and the capital investments in our parks, our recreation and soon a rail trail - funded in large part mostly new construction …" Kyriacou stated.

The biggest news is that the city is committed to converting in the next two years the disused rail tracks from our train station to Main St. and beyond, according to the mayor. A feasibility study was completed in October 2025. Construction is expected to begin in 2027.

"The 3.5-mile Beacon portion of a rail trail would create a level trail from the Beacon train station, along the Hudson River, past Dennings Point and Madam Brett parks, alongside Fishkill Creek, running directly adjacent to Main St. and our dummy light, then alongside Route 52 and ending at the City lines. The Beacon Rail Trail is currently my top priority as Mayor," remarked Kyriacou, adding it would be transformative.

"We're also partnering with the Fjord Trail, wholeheartedly support going to Breakneck Neck, "who knows if it will go any further …"

Beacon and Fjord trails are "foundational" to Beacon, said the mayor.

The 2026 Budget for operating Beacon's Parks and Recreation programs is over $1.1 million – the third year in a row it has exceeded $1,000,000 (it averaged only $300,000 in 2010-2014). "This is a huge commitment to our quality of life – funding a large expansion of affordable programming for youth, seniors and the community," said Kyriacou.

The mayor noted park investments in Wee Play Toddler playground at Memorial Park and the renovated basketball and tennis courts at South Ave. Park.

Another project brought up by Kyriacou was the Beekman Street Pedestrian and Bicycling Improvement Project, which the City received 95% funding grant of $3.6 million.

Kyriacou stated, "At the end of 2025, the City marked the substantial completion of the rehabilitation of Teller and Fishkill Avenues. This effort dates back to 2001, and had City Administrator Chris White not prioritized the time-intensive right-of-way acquisition process and final engineering design, we were at risk of losing $9 million in federal/state funding."

At the end of last year, a new West Main Pump Station and Force Main was opened.

"In 2026 we will begin the rehabilitation of the Melzingah Reservoir Dam and the replacement of the Mt. Beacon Water Storage Tank," he said. The City continues "to modernize" the Wastewater Treatment Plant, he noted.

"We will address some "punch list" items this spring, and then repave the final segment of Fishkill Avenue from Blackburn to the City line," he said.

Kyriacou remarked that when SNAP funding was suspended by the federal government, the City stepped in with emergency funding.

"The renaissance that our City and our Main Street have experienced is in no small part due to a critical reimagining of our City back in the nineties, and smart ongoing planning and zoning since. We continue to steer our zoning and planning processes to maintain Main Street's revival and historic character, and to make Beacon a more sustainable and livable city," said Kyriacou.

The Fishkill Ave. Committee offered its final report at the end of last year, he said, and "many hope the Route 52 area will gradually include: more mixed residential and retail use; the development of the Beacon Rail Trail alongside the road; and an access road to our schools and Camp Beacon area."

Regarding housing, Kyriacou said in part, "The State has recognized Beacon as a Pro-Housing Community, which opens up funding options. At our train station, planning is underway to build housing (and replacement parking) on the commuter parking lot north of West Main Street – consistent with current zoning, including 10% of units with below market rents. And last year the lion's share of State's Plus-One ADU funding for constructing accessory units in Dutchess County was awarded to Beacon homeowners; round two was announced at the start of this year."

Kyriacou concluded, "It is an honor to serve our community. And I find it befitting to live in a place called Beacon, where we try to remember our past, to look forward, and to hopefully offer some light to inspire and guide other communities. Onward."

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IMPACT PR & Communications

KDD Marketing Earns Two Awards, Cementing Firm's Hospitality Expertise

See story, page 8

IMPACT PR & Communications

Small plane crashes into Hudson River while attempting an emergency landing

It is being called another miracle on the Hudson. A small plane made an emergency landing on the Hudson River 2.3 miles south of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. According to New York State Police, Orange County 911 received a report from Stewart International Airport Operations that a Cessna 172N experiencing mechanical failure had made an emergency landing on the Hudson River on March 2 just after 8 p.m.

A coordinated multi-agency response was immediately initiated. State police noted responding agencies included the City of Newburgh Police Department, Town of Newburgh Police Department, Town of New Windsor Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police Aviation Unit, Underwater Recovery Team, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit, and Bureau of Criminal Investigation at Montgomery, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Orange County Department of Emergency Services, multiple EMS agencies, and area fire departments including marine units.

According to state police, the aircraft had departed Long Island MacArthur Airport for a scheduled training flight. While returning from Stewart International Airport, the aircraft experienced engine failure. The flight instructor, Liam D'arcy, 31, of Southampton, NY declared a Mayday and, after determining the aircraft could not safely reach the runway, conducted an emergency landing on an ice-covered portion of the Hudson River 200 feet from the city of Newburgh shoreline, stated state police in a press release.

The following was posted on Gov. Kathy Hochul's on X account: "Another miracle on the Hudson. Thank God both the pilot and passenger of a single engine plane that performed an ice landing near Newburgh have been located with only minor injuries. Grateful to our first responders for their quick actions."

D'arcy and his student pilot, 17-year-old of Locust Valley, self-extricated from the aircraft, swam to shore, and were located by responding officers, it was stated. Both were transported to a local hospital, treated for hypothermia, and later released.

The preliminary investigation indicates no signs of impairment, no evidence of criminality, and the incident appears accidental in nature, according to state police.

The investigation is on-going, it was stated, and the State Police are working in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, United States Coast Guard, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

A Cessna 172N experiencing mechanical failure had made an emergency landing on the Hudson River on Monday, March 2. The pilot and a student pilot were transported to a local hospital, treated for hypothermia, and later released, according to New York State Police.

-Courtesy photo

The original "Miracle on the Hudson" occurred in January 2009, when US Airways flight 1549 made an emergency landing in the Hudson River. The passenger plane made the emergency landing after taking off from LaGuardia Airport in New York City. There were no fatalities.

Viewpoints

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Policy on letters:

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

How much 'spying' should the government be allowed to do on its residents?

To the Editor:

Our community needs to have a discussion about how much spying Dutchess County should be carrying out on its residents. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office has a special division operating a multi-million dollar intelligence center, the Advanced Real-Time Crime Intelligence Center, which collects data from live cameras, license plate readers, officer body cams, and other surveillance tools distributed across the county. The politicians claim that they only use warrantless mass surveillance for legitimate law enforcement purposes, but if we've learned anything from the state of our country right now, we should have learned not to simply trust the things politicians say. We should also know by now that politicians have very little respect for our civil liberties, especially our right to privacy.

The real cause for concern is not that there are license plate readers on our public streets, but that we have no idea how much data is being collected on us and who is able to access it. The Sheriff's Office is coy about what makes up the intelligence center, but we do know that one vendor, called Flock, is responsible for over 400 license plate readers and cameras just in Dutchess County according to the company's own transparency portal. Outside of our county, Flock operates a network of tens of thousands of cameras across the country and has contracts not only with local governments, but state agencies and private security firms as well. Flock claims that they don't have contracts with ICE and the federal government, but reporting from Jason Koebler and Joseph Fox at 404 Media concluded that data had been unwittingly accessed by third-party agencies with the stated reason as "ICE," "Immigration," or "ERO" (Enforcement and Removal Operations). This evidence heavily implies that the federal government uses connections with compliant local law enforcement agencies to gain side-door access to data generated by any Flock-connected organization.

The surveillance unit built by the county to spy on its citizens with the help of a vendor of questionable ethics was certainly not free and it makes the taxpayer wonder if they are getting a raw deal. The people of Beacon are still without answers after a brutal assault over a month ago. Short term rental "hosts" are flouting Beacon's licensing law openly and the City Administrator claims that he doesn't have the resources he needs to enforce the law. Land speculators have been allowed to neglect the Dutchess Mall site in Fishkill south of the Route 9/I-84 junction so long that the out-of-code buildings are barely distinguishable from the illegally dumped rubbish. Surely this multi-million dollar panopticon has yielded some results, though, right? No - Flock's own website admits that the nearest major crime solved by their software is in New York City and since installation about a year and a half ago, Dutchess County police departments have only solved 3 hit-and-runs with the data (citation 1, citation 2 -- A NY State Police hit-and-run and a missing persons case from Florida are included in this data for unclear reasons). Is it worth it to live under constant, expensive surveillance just to solve one more hit-and-run every six months?

Robert Holmes
Beacon

Tonal change 'not a one-off'

To the Editor:

Remarks made at the member swearing-in ceremony by the newly elected Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature Yvette Valdes-Smith, and reported in this paper as a 'unifying message,' initially and for cause gave me a wait/see moment. Specifically, she noted that "there is more that brings us together than could ever drive us apart as Americans." Fair enough, though platitudinous.

Well, only two weeks later at a public ceremony honoring Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., she described federal law enforcement officers employed by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement as "masked thugs." Is law enforcement masked to avoid law enforcement – as though bank robbers? I concede that this attribution may play well risk-free in some local circles, yet it is not a unifying message.

The tonal change is not a one-off for Ms Valdes-Smith. The overused "let us work together" mantra was a feature in a prior Legislature candidacy and yet she on arrival became the prominent obstructive voice as the former minority leader.

The self-proclaimed sanctuaries in some Democrat-controlled areas causes ICE to enforce federal law on their own initiative because local law enforcement is prohibited by superiors from honoring legal detainers for dangerous illegal aliens already housed in jails. This results in the efforts to monitor and take into custody individuals at-large in the communities. One can easily see the friction that the lack of local cooperation creates, by forcing a focus change, and it seems designed to be all-or-nothing resistance. Happily, this is not an entirely common dig-in-the-heels approach because reasonable people abound.

Detention and repatriation of felonious illegal aliens is quite popular among the citizenry. It is still popular for what some would call well-behaved illegal aliens. None of it is popular by any stretch with Democrats attending the recent State of the Union Address and who put their cards on the table and foment a great divide.

So, it is not much to ask Ms. Valdes-Smith to tone down the rhetoric and negative attributions.

David Smith
Beacon

Saddened to hear of the passing of City of Beacon's first African American councilwoman

To the Editor:

It was with sadness to hear of the passing of former City of Beacon Councilwoman Eleanor Thompson, the first member of the African American community in the city of Beacon to be elected to public office. Eleanor worked above and beyond to represent her constituents.

Eleanor Thompson was a hero to the community and admired by the Democrats and some Republicans. When help was needed, she did not care if you voted for or against her; she would be there for you. Sometimes she had to confront members of her party, if she felt they were not voting in the best interest of the city of Beacon.

Eleanor Thompson was my inspiration to run for office. The second person of color elected to public office in the city of Beacon as a Dutchess County legislator.

Eleanor Thompson, I think, was the Rosa Parks of her time. She did not sit on a bus - her message was in the streets of Beacon.

If Donald Trump can change the names on buildings, write to your elected officials and ask them to find a place for Eleanor Thompson beyond a paper resolution. When they stop at your residence this election season, to ask for your vote, remind them to honor Eleanor.

I would like to thank our current Mayor Lee Kyriacou for his heartfelt speech at the memorial service. He has always been a friend of the African American community and stating Beacon will have an "Eleanor Thompson Day."

Ron Ray
Former County Legislator, City of Beacon

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Parade of Green to step off on Saturday

Continued from cover

"It's fun to see how we put this thing together," noted Markarian about her fellow Green Team members planning the annual event.

"It's a great day to come and celebrate – and spend a day – in Beacon," remarked Bitsy Castillo, Green Team member.

Angela Fredrick, Green Team member, echoed the sentiment, saying, "It's a wonderful day to come out to Beacon."

Markarian added everyone is welcome.

Friday Night Lenten Dinners at Elks Lodge

Elks will hold Friday Night Lenten Dinners at the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, 900 Wolcott Ave. in Beacon. On Friday, March 13, 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.

Vegetable lo mein, dumpling, egg roll and dessert will be served.

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FDR's private letters touch on larger issues

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.
WASHINGTON.
November 28,

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Vice President
FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY OF MARYLAND
55 Liberty Street New York City

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
At Warm Springs, Ga.,
November 24, 1928.

ROOSEVELT & O'CONNOR
COUNSELORS AT LAW
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PERSONAL

Dear Morg:

The range of letters reveal the full course of FDR's political life, with the exception of his term in 1911 and 1912 in the NY State assembly; although FDR references events from that period in his 1933 letter to Hoyt.

-Courtesy of DCHS

By Bill Jeffway

The recent acquisition of personal letters that range in date from 1913 to 1944 between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Beacon's Morgan Hoyt reveal the extraordinary capacity of FDR to lead the world through a global economic depression and World War -- and maintain meaningful local contacts.

Hoyt was the newspaper publisher of the only Dutchess County paper that leaned Democratic. He was a political supporter of FDR from his first 1910 campaign for NY State Senator when Hoyt introduced him in Beacon. FDR asked Hoyt to introduce him at all his subsequent campaign speeches in Beacon through and including this successful race for Governor and four U.S. Presidential campaigns.

The letterhead and dates of the letters reveal all the major stages of FDR's political life, from time as Assistant Secretary to the Navy, to his polio recovery years when he worked in his law office, to the Governor's mansion, to the White House and time at Warms Springs, Georgia.

This provides a quick snapshot of some of the letters and context for the time. The letterhead and date are in italics. FDR's words in quotation marks.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., November 28, 1913: "Dear Morg, The matter of the post office at Beacon is giving me considerable concern, but I hope before we get through with it, we will be able to get it fixed up the way it should be. Much obliged for the information you gave me, which will be of considerable service when we come to fight the matter out."

Beacon had just become a city in 1913, combining the villages of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan, as well as a small portion of the hamlet of Glenham from the town of Fishkill. At the time, Beacon residents were lobbying for a new federal Post Office to be built for $50,000. It is notable that the Assistant Secretary of the Navy was taking an interest in the local building of the post office, as this is well outside the remit of that position. This reveals the thoroughness of FDR's complex relationships. Hoyt was not only an important newspaper publisher, but a proud Irish Catholic Democratic, an important constituency for FDR. A new post office was not built until 1937 for a cost of $100,000. By then, FDR was able to painstakingly oversee its historically sensitive design and construction, as he did in Wappingers Falls, Hyde Park and Rhinebeck.

Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, 55 Liberty Street, New York City. January 6, 1926. "I am delighted to hear of your newspaper at Mount Dora, the copy of which has not yet come, but I

Under the heading "Morgan Hoyt reads a letter from friend FDR," Yank magazine published a profile of local mourners in Beacon as FDR's funeral train passed through that included this photo.

-Yank magazine, May 11, 1945.

feel certain that with your long experience, you will build up a successful and popular paper. I wish I could get to Mount Dora when I am in Florida this winter, but will have to spend all of my time on a small houseboat along the keys south of Miami."

The fact that Hoyt bought a newspaper in Florida was important for FDR politically in 1926. As subsequent letters reveal, FDR was spending a good deal of time in Florida campaigning for NY Governor Al Smith's Presidential run. Hoyt was helpful by having the Florida newspaper publish FDR's letters of support for Smith.

Roosevelt & O'Connor, Counselors at Law, Broadway, New York City [letterhead], 49 East 65th Street [typed home address], December 22, 1928. "Many thanks for your letter and the account of the meeting of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club. I wish I could have been with you. Phil Mylod has just sent me your list of friends whom you wish to have sent invitations to the reception at Albany."

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Club was a club of local supporters that formed to ensure a warm local reception for the Governor, then President. It is well known that FDR never carried Dutchess County, whose voters were strongly Republican and opposed not only to the Democrat, but his policies including the New Deal. Phil Mylod was the son of John Mylod (of Poughkeepsie), who was an early supporter of FDR who was active in the Irish Catholic community.

Undated handwritten note. Likely 1928. "I am off on Monday for Warm Springs, Georgia for 2 weeks – address me there if anything turns up. I have prepared two other articles and will send them in a few days." This refers to FDR's articles in support of Alfred Smith for President mentioned earlier.

The Executive Mansion, Albany, November 17, 1932. "Now that the election is over our entire efforts must be devoted to the reestablishment of a better ordered economic life and in this happy task of restoration I invite and shall be deeply grateful before your cooperation yours."

This is an interesting articulation of FDR's intention to shift from a posture of campaigning – to governing – a distinction often pointed out as distinctly different by successful politicians.

The White House, October 31, 1933. "Dear Morg, You are certainly entitled to a letter not only in your capacity as the first casualty of the Sheehan fight in 1911, but also as one of my oldest friends in Dutchess County. Someday when you are in Washington you must run in, shake my hand and see the executive offices. I am delighted to know that things are going well in Beacon and I shall look forward to the news on November 8th."

The Sheehan reference is notable because immediately after taking the oath of office for his first political responsibility, as NY State Senator he nominated Hoyt to be a clerk in a committee FDR served on. This was one of the fewer instances where FDR lost to pressure from the political machine known as Tammany, that FDR had taken on as an "insurgent." It was indeed good news on November 8th as the local election in Beacon was a sweep for Democrats.

The White House, January 17, 1939. "That is a mighty interesting letter of yours and I greatly appreciate your very generous suggestion about those letters of mine which I have been writing you over a period of years. It would be a grand thing if the new library at

Hyde Park could have those letters because they fill in what are undoubted gaps and because they were personal letters, I doubt whether any copies of them were kept in my correspondence. I am asking several friends who have similar letters to look through them and see if there is anything of real interest which would help make the collection more complete. We hope to get the building underwritten and started next spring and I know you will watch its progress with interest. I hope to see you in person when I get back to Hyde Park. As ever yours."

DCHS is just beginning to review another set of personal letters from FDR to a local cousin, in which we find FDR's extraordinary attention to detail to his new Presidential library. In one letter he explains that he will be writing explanatory descriptions that will be shown next to certain objects in the library. We hope to be able to share more news about those letters later in the year.

The White House, May 18, 1944. "Dear Morg, Many thanks for your note. It is grand about Jim Forrestal. Do you realize that two of my Cabinet come from southern Dutchess? I hope to see you one of these days, My best, to you, as ever yours…"

Hoyt would have known well that the newly appointed Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, was from Beacon as Forrestal had worked for Hoyt in the local newspaper publishing business. Hoyt would have also known that Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau was from Fishkill.

The White House, November 30, 1944. This is the last letter in the series in DCHS Collections. FDR thanked Hoyt for sending him a letter and a newspaper article which FDR said he had read and found valuable.

Although not part of the DCHS collection, there were published reports of FDR's last letter to Hoyt when FDR returned from Yalta in February of 1945. FDR died two months later. As always, DCHS keeps an eye out for items that help us piece together the local aspects of this global leader's most amazing life and contributions.

In 2022, DCHS published Band of Locals which launched at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum which can be found online: dchsny.org/band-of-locals. As we develop a better understanding of these letters and new acquisitions related to FDR's local relationships, we will keep this page updated.

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

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Donations for Prom Pop-Up can be dropped off at Howland Public Library

By Kristine Coulter

The Prom Pop-Up is back at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St. One may donate gently used, like new prom attire. Donations are being accepted through March 20.

The Prom Pop-Up will be held April 4, 11 and 12 from noon to 4 p.m.

Organizers are looking for one to donate formal wear, such as cocktail dresses, suit jackets, vests, pants, bow ties, cummerbunds and suspenders. Don't forget any gowns, too.

"Community members, local businesses, and organizations are all welcome to donate. The event is truly powered by community generosity, and we're grateful for everyone who contributes. Last year, Lady Gray Bridal donated over 20 beautiful dresses! Other local businesses like Beacon Performing Arts Center (BPAC) and Cold Spring Thrift Alliance helped us out by lending us their clothing racks," remarked Michelle Rivas, Head of Adult & Community Services at Howland Public Library.

Kate Vander Linden is one of BPAC's co-founders and the executive director. "We are thrilled to donate our costume racks again this year to assist with the Prom Pop-Up! The library runs such wonderful programs for the community, and lending the racks helps play a small part in creating an organized, welcoming space where every student can easily find something that makes them feel confident and celebrated," said Vander Linden.

Prom Pop, noted Rivas, is for all local students. Whether one is looking to save money, find something sustainable, score a vintage gem, or simply enjoy the experience, everyone is welcome, she said.

"Prom Pop started as a simple idea: to make sure cost isn't a barrier to attending prom. It's also about giving outfits that may have been worn only once a new life and a new story to be part of. There's something special about watching a dress or suit begin its next chapter with a new student. We're proud to create a welcoming, boutique-style space where teens can shop, feel celebrated, and leave excited for their special night," said Rivas.

In 2025, dozens of teens were supported by the program. Organizers hope to assist as many local students as possible this year.

"When we say local teens, we mean students from Beacon and the immediately surrounding towns. Our goal is simply to make sure that any student in our broader community who needs an outfit has the opportunity to find one," stated Rivas, who added some of the dresses leftover after the event will be donated to other local nonprofits.

Right: Donations for this year's Prom Pop-Up can be made at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., in Beacon through March 20.

-Photo courtesy of Howland Public Library

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Renegades Fest returns to Heritage Financial Park on Saturday, March 21

The Hudson Valley Renegades have announced the return of Renegades Fest to Heritage Financial Park on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This year's event will be bigger than ever before as we celebrate the official countdown to Opening Night.

Renegades Fest celebrates the start of the 2026 Renegades season and the much-anticipated home opener on Tuesday, April 7 and features fun for the entire family. In addition to playing games to win Renegades prizes, fans can participate in mascot autograph sessions, play on the inflatables in the Heritage Financial Credit Union Fun Zone, watch local Little League Baseball games on the field, browse the Sports Memorabilia & Card Show, participate in an Easter Egg Hunt on the field, and have access to an exclusive in-person only buy one, get one free single game ticket deal (limit 10 tickets, July 2-4 games excluded).

The event is FREE and open to the public. Renegades concessions will be open with food and drink will be available to purchase. The Den Pro Shop will be open to stock up on all the great new Renegades gear with exclusive in-person only merchandise deals.

Murder She Wrote: A Crime Writing Workshop set for March 18

Murder She Wrote: A Crime Writing Workshop set for Wednesday, March 18 with Cynthia Weiner, author of "A Gorgeous Excitement." Tickets include food, beverages, and writing supplies.

https://beaconlitfest.ticketspice.com/beacon-litworks-true-crime-writing-intensive

Children's Book Festival to feature over 100 authors and illustrators

The Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival, scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at Falcon Hall at Dutchess Community College, will feature over 100 authors and illustrators of children's and young reader books.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., readers can find books of all types - storybooks, chapter books, picture books, and graphic novels, both fiction and non-fiction. There will be opportunities to buy new books and get autographs.

"It connects our Poughkeepsie kids with the creators behind their favorite stories through personal author meetings and it ignites a passion for reading," said John Turro, Head of Youth Services for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD).

The book festival, organized by PPLD, is an opportunity for children to find a deeper connection with books, and for the authors to make a personal connection with their readers.

"My favorite thing about Book Fest is meeting young readers who share my enthusiasm for books and animals, my two passions," said Nancy Furstinger, author of "Catskill Creatures." "Readers chat about their pets and which books they can't wait to read to them. I only wish I had that opportunity when I first learned to read!"

Falcon Hall at Dutchess Community College will be the site of the Poughkeepsie Public Library's annual Children's Book Festival.

-Courtesy photos

More than 100 authors and illustrators will be on hand to entertain and educate children of all ages at the Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival on Saturday, March 28 at DCC.

And excitement about reading is what the festival is all about. Children and parents will be surrounded by different genres and types of books, offering exposure to new authors and series. Being surrounded by so many different types of genres and books can help stories come alive for children.

"When communities and libraries work together to promote literacy, it's a win for all involved," said Nancy Viau, author of "Hanging Out with Gram." "From the smiling young faces that light up upon meeting an author or spying a favorite book, to the fun activities that surround the festival, it's a delightful, unforgettable day."

The interaction between reader and writer or illustrator is rewarding for both.

"I feel that the festival is important because it offers an opportunity to the public, especially the readers, to meet their favorite authors and illustrators and get to askquestions about their books," said Daniel Mahoney, author of "My Cat is a Secret Agent." "This kind of connection is so valuable and necessary!"

Some of your favorite book characters will be there, such as Biscuit, Paddington, Bad Kitty, and Red Crayon.

"I love how the Poughkeepsie Book Festival makes books come alive for children in so many ways," said Megan Litwin, author of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Winter Night." "I was honestly over the moon myself to get a photo with Elephant and Piggie last year! The whole day buzzes with joy."

In addition, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), will be helping to put on the festival.

Special thanks to the Friends of PPLD for sponsoring free Book Vouchers, which will be available to visitors at the Book Festival aged 17 or younger. Each child may receive one voucher, which is valued at $15. Some restrictions apply.

News release submitted by Poughkeepsie Public Library District

get growing! by mark adams

Signs of Spring

Good news for the winter-weary

Surprise! 2026 did not produce the coldest February on record – that would be February 1934. Even February 2015 was colder, but I have a short memory. As soon as it started to warm up last Sunday, I went looking for signs of spring.

• **Spring Peepers** – These little frogs make a deafening roar when they emerge from the mud to start their mating ritual. As I was composing this article on Sunday evening, March 8, I strolled down to my pond in hopes of hearing some peepers. They were still asleep, but I bet you'll be hearing them by the time you read this. Last year, they emerged on March 10, and as early as February 27 in 2024.

• **Witch Hazel** – This native shrub sports its spidery blossoms in February, and sometimes all winter. You can see a small forest of witch hazel in Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan.

• **Snowdrops** – The earliest of the spring blooming native wildflowers, sometimes poking right through the snow. Snowdrops are in bloom now along the Priscilla Bullitt Collins trail at Vassar College. In a few days you'll be able to see real marsh marigolds, the ones sporting big five-petaled blossoms, not to be confused with the invasive lesser celandine.

• **Ramps** – The broad leaves of the wild leek – ramps – look like lilies or tulips when they shoot up in early spring, and in a few weeks they're gone, retreating to their underground bulblets. I see fields of ramps crowding the banks of Wappingers Creek in the town of LaGrange. I dare say they can be harvested for personal consumption, to make pesto or simply sauteed in olive oil and vinegar.

• **Skunk Cabbage** – It generates its own heat, to emerge from still frozen ground in February. The foul "skunk" odor is meant to attract flies for pollination, since bees aren't active yet. The broad leaves are supposed to be edible, but they're shot through with poisonous calcium oxalate crystals, which have to be dissolved by boiling multiple times. Why bother?

• **Woodcocks** – These relatives of the sandpiper are among the earliest migratory birds to return to the Hudson Valley in spring. They're almost impossible to find, camouflaged among the forest leaf litter and rarely venturing above the ground. But you can hear woodcocks in early spring, just as the sun is rising or setting, as they perform their bizarre mating dance, calling out a loud "bzzzzt!"

• **Canada Geese** – An unwelcome aspect of early spring, except for the pair that returns to my pond every year. Geese mate for life, and the two geese try valiantly to protect their territory from hundreds of intruders. Sometimes they need a little help from my array of bottle rockets. After a couple of shots clears out the crowd, I could swear I see my two resident geese nodding their appreciation.

• **Salamanders** – Laura Heady, a biologist with New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, told a crowd at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies that amphibians, including frogs and salamanders, start to migrate to vernal pools (pools that dry up in summer) at the first sign of spring. A couple of locations in Rensselear County, West Sand Lake and Grafton Lakes Park, for example, are hot spots for salamander migrations. The poor creatures are at the mercy of drivers as they try to cross Route 43, so please be careful. For a real amphibian experience, sign up for the March 22 (7-8 p.m.) "After Sunset with Salamanders" tour at the Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining.

• **Woodchucks** – Don't get me started.

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

KDD Marketing earns two awards, cementing its hospitality expertise

Continuing its streak of local and industry-level accolades, KDD Marketing recently earned two wins from the 23rd annual Service Industry Advertising Awards (SIA Awards).

Acknowledged for its work with The Emerson, a Catskills-based resort and spa, the team ranked first in the website category and third for its integrated marketing campaign. The SIA Awards build on the agency's recent industry recognition for its work with The Emerson, which also earned honors from the Davey Awards and the American Graphic Design Awards in 2025. Locally, KDD Marketing was named the 2025 Small Business of the Year by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"Receiving multiple awards for our work with The Emerson is reflective of our team's deep and nuanced understanding of what makes a successful marketing campaign in the hospitality and tourism industries," said Katy Dwyer, founder and creative director of KDD Marketing. "We've worked hard to establish a specialty within this area, amongst others, and we're incredibly grateful to see our efforts recognized by fellow professionals in the industry."

The SIA Awards is the only program to recognize the achievements of advertising and marketing professionals within the service industry. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of industry specialists who evaluate creativity, execution, impact, innovation and more. With 48 award categories, the organization enables creatives to benchmark their work against other industry leaders.

"We're honored to see this work recognized with two SIA Awards," said Naomi Umhey, CEO of The Emerson. "We're grateful to KDD for their collaborative approach and for helping us tell The Emerson's story with clarity and purpose."

To learn more about KDD Marketing and its team, visit www.teamkdd.com or follow along on Facebook (@KDDMarketing) and Instagram (@kddmarketing).

Right: The staff at KDD Marketing is celebrating multiple honors at the the 23rd annual Service Industry Advertising Awards.

-Courtesy photo

Maple Open House on March 14 at Stony Kill Farm

By Kristine Coulter

Stony Kill Foundation will host an Open Maple House at Stony Kill Farm on Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Events like the Maple Open House are important to host at Stony Kill Farm because they connect the community with the region's agricultural history, natural resources, and seasonal traditions," stated Stony Kill Foundation Executive Director Stacey Lynch Adnams. "Events like this support Stony Kill's broader mission of agricultural and environmental education. They provide accessible, family-friendly opportunities for the public to learn about farming, sustainability, and the role that working farms and historic sites play in the community."

Stony Kill Farm's annual Maple Open House, a public program that is free, will celebrate the tradition of maple sugaring and the arrival of spring in the Hudson Valley, noted Lynch Adnams.

"Visitors to Stony Kill Farm can experience a variety of hands-on and educational activities centered around small-scale, backyard maple production. The event will feature maple tapping demonstrations, maple tree identification, and opportunities for guests to make maple taffy the old-fashioned way," she said.

Guests are also invited to tour the farm's historic barn, said Lynch Adnams, and enjoy warm beverages while watching sap cook over an open fire as it is transformed into maple syrup. She added visitors will also have the opportunity to see traditional draft power in action during special oxen demonstrations featuring the farm's Milking Devon cattle.

Gov. Kathy Hochl said in a press release, "With over 2,000 maple producers, New York continues to be home to a thriving community that dedicates their time to making the most delicious and innovative maple products in the world." Maple Weekends throughout the state will be held later this month on March 21 & 22 and March 28 & 29.

"In addition to our popular public events, we are expanding our programming to include new educational opportunities designed specifically for adults," shared Lynch Adnams. Attendees "will learn how maple sap is boiled into syrup and how to build a small-scale evaporator using materials from a hardware store," she said.

Backyard Maple Sugaring: The Boiling Process class is for those 17 years and older that day too. The class will be held at 9:30 a.m. The cost is $30 for non-members and $25 for patron members.

Among the topics to be covered
- Evaporator design basics
- Heat management
- Finishing syrup
- Tips to improve efficiency

Participants should come with questions said organizers.

For more information, and to register for programs or classes, visit stonykill.org. Stony Kill Farm is at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls.

Stony Kill Foundation will host a Maple Open House at Stony Kill Farm on Saturday, March 14. There will also be The Boiling Process class for those 17 years and older that day.

-Photo courtesy of Stony Kill

love to cook

by vicki frank day

Tea time treat

Scones can be sweet or savory and complement a nice cup of tea.

This has been a season of hibernation if ever there was one. For much of it, my house felt like a cave I was trapped in, and I tried to make the most of it. Tried and failed because there's so much more I should have accomplished with the time rather than wallowing, which is what I mostly did. I baked and cooked and ate and binge-watched shows, cleaned and caught up on reading and ate some more, but it all felt empty somehow, like my heart wasn't in it. I can't remember a winter seeming this long and I think it's just knocked the spark out of me. I crave spring's warmth and sunshine more than I ever have and hope it brings renewed energy and purpose. I'm pretty sure it will.

Throughout this long winter there has been a comforting constant: a cup of tea. At least one a day. I sipped it while reading or crafting, doing crossword puzzles or watching a favorite movie. There were days it even replaced my morning coffee and many a night I sipped Sleepy Time right before bed. I grew up drinking tea and always have an assortment in the house, but I don't think it was ever an everyday ritual like it has been this winter, a soothing balm or reward I looked forward to, savored and, apparently, needed.

I wrote an article about tea, its many qualities and benefits just a few years ago, so I'll not be repeating myself. What I will do is give you a scone recipe that traditionally goes with tea because a.) I wanted to make up for my winter of gluttony with something a little sophisticated and (most importantly) b.) my mother said she would like some.

Scones are slightly sweet and biscuit-like with a tender, crumbly texture, thanks to using butter and cream with baking powder as a leavening agent. They likely originated in 16th-century Scotland as oat-based griddle cakes. In 19th-century Great Britain, a lighter, sweeter version became a staple for Afternoon Tea, which had become a popular daily small meal meant to stave off hunger until a usually late dinner. Whether round or wedge-shaped, dotted with berries or raisins or plain, they are typically served warm with jam and clotted cream and, of course, tea. They can also be drizzled with icing, dusted with powdered sugar, served with lemon curd or made savory with herbs and cheese.

You may have heard that these deceptively simple treats are difficult to get right, and that isn't untrue. The key to success, i.e. perfect texture without being dry, is to use cold ingredients (butter, egg and cream) and to chill the dough prior to baking, which prevents overspreading. As with most baked goods, you also want to avoid over-working the dough for that desirable tenderness. Going in knowing that means you can be fearlessly on your way to successful scones. You can do it!

Scone dough should be well chilled before baking to avoid spreading.

Photos by Vicki Frank Day

Delightful, Delectable Scones

This recipe is adapted from and inspired by America's Test Kitchen. By using cold ingredients, not over-working the dough and chilling before baking, you'll get moist, flaky, tender scones with crisp edges and buttery flavor, not the flat, dry lumps I used to think were scones. Mix in fresh (or frozen unthawed) berries, chocolate chips, nuts, raisins, lemon or orange zest, dried cherries or cranberries if you like. If making a savory version, omit the vanilla and add herbs, cheese and/or finely diced ham.

A quick note: my dough was a little too sticky and I didn't chill it enough, so it was a bit hard to transfer to the baking sheet and spread more than I would have liked. My scones were a tad misshapen as a result. Even so, the texture of the finished scones was pretty perfect. They were not overly sweet and could have benefited from a drizzle of icing, but I opted to let the jam I added later sweeten them instead.

Ingredients

2 cups flour, sifted (more for working dough)
1 tablespoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup sugar
8 tablespoons (1 stick) cold butter (cubed)
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup cold heavy cream (more for brushing tops)
½ cup raisins, nuts, dried fruit, fresh (or frozen thawed) berries
Coarse sugar for top (optional but recommended)

Method

Place oven rack in middle position. Preheat to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar. Add cold butter and mix with pastry cutter, fork or fingers just until you get pea-sized crumbs.

In a medium bowl, whisk egg, vanilla and cream together. Pour into flour mixture, add fruit if using and mix just until moist and combined. Dough will be sticky, but if too wet and sticky, add a little more flour. You can pop dough into the fridge or freezer at this point for a bit to firm it up enough to work with.

Transfer dough to a lightly floured work surface and work into a ball with floured hands (dough is sticky). Ten seconds ought to be enough – you don't want to overwork it. Flatten into an 8-inch round about ¾-inch thick. Cut into 8 wedges and place on prepared baking sheet 2 inches apart. Chill or freeze at least 15 minutes or overnight.

Brush tops with heavy cream and sprinkle with sugar (if using). Bake until lightly golden brown, 12-15 minutes (mine were perfect in 14 minutes). Cool on a wire rack. Serve warm with jam, clotted cream or lemon curd.

Winter hibernation is thankfully on its way out and spring's sunny warmth just around the corner. I can't wait to get back outside, but there's still plenty of time to enjoy a cozy cup of tea and a lovely scone or two, which I sincerely hope you do! Enjoy!

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

Scones and tea are a good pairing.

Obituaries

Emily R. Craig

Emily Rita (Simon) Craig (1943-2026)

Emily Craig, of Boca Raton, FL, passed away peacefully on February 20th, 2026, at the age of 82.

Emily was born on May 19, 1943 to parents Max and Miriam (Agar) Simon in Brooklyn, NY. Emily attended Yeshiva of Flatbush and graduated from Malverne High School. She worked in NYC as a model while still in school. After graduating on scholarship from the Tobe-Coburn School for Fashion Careers, she worked at SAKS 5th Avenue in NYC and MD.

Emily married Dennis Craig, raising a family in Wappingers Falls, NY. She studied real estate and enjoyed becoming an agent with Century 21 and then Prudential Serls.

Emily found joy interacting with others. She dedicated her time to charitable causes, and was known for her yard sales, tag sales, and raffles, in which the proceeds were donated to charity. Emily's Jewish faith guided her throughout her life.

Emily is survived by her loving sons, David Craig (Shannon) of Middletown, NY, and Aaron Craig of Wappingers Falls, NY, her brother, Arthur Simon (Isabel) of Miami, FL, and her sister, Barbara Canaan of Australia. She is also survived by her granddaughter, Annabelle Craig, her "favorite only grandchild" as Emily used to say. Emily appreciated close friendships with her niece, Kristin Craig, and stepmother Molly Blank.

Emily was predeceased by her parents, her husband, Dennis Craig, and son, Neil.

A graveside service will be held on February 22, 2026 at Lakeside Memorial Park in Miami, FL.

If you wish to honor Emily's memory, and her legacy of giving to others, please consider a donation in her name to a charity of your choice.

Michael P. Mulvenna

Michael P. Mulvenna, a resident of Beacon, NY for over 15-years and formerly of New York City, passed away on March 4, 2026 at the Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, NY; at the age of 71. He was born in Manhattan, NY on November 11, 1954, son of the late Alexander & Ann (Flanagan) Mulvenna.

Michael served in the United States Air Force from 1975 to 1978, and received an honorable discharge of service.

Mike worked in maintenance for Metro-North Railroad in New York, NY, for over 12-years. Prior he worked as a laborer for the Royal Carting Sanitation in Fishkill.

Mike enjoyed nature, feeding and watching the birds especially the pigeons; he enjoyed sports like basketball and football. He also enjoyed music and dancing, particularly he was a huge Mo-Town fan.

Mike was a faithful member of the local Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous support groups in the Beacon-area.

Michael is survived by a son, Simon Korby; his two sisters and three brothers: Jack (Julie) Mulvenna, Bridget (Jozef) Mulvenna, Kevin (Terry) Mulvenna, Alexander (Karen) Mulvenna and Bernadette (Gina) Mulvenna. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins & a host of friends.

His Family will gather with Friends on Saturday, March 14th from 1-4PM at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, where a Prayer Service will be offered. Interment with Military Honors from the United States Air Force will be held 12:00 Noon, Monday, March 16, 2026 in the Veterans Section at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, Fishkill, New York.

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

Roger E. Adams

Roger Edwin Adams passed away peacefully on February 16th. Roger was a resident of New York, since 1964, living in both Putnam County and Dutchess County. He was born in Dover NH to Oliver and Marie Adams in 1939 where his father was a popular teacher and football coach. He spent his summers on the beaches of York, Maine. After graduating high school, Roger served in the Air Force as a Fireman from 1957-1960. After his honorable discharge, he moved with his parents to New York, built a career at IBM, and met his beloved wife Teresa, in 1974.

Roger was an avid water-skier, body surfer and boater in his youth. He had a passion for boating and spending time with friends and family on the water. He was most at peace in Maine and visited York Beach every summer with his family. His children and grandchildren continue the tradition and share his great love for the beach. His vast knowledge of film and history, his kindness, his storytelling and wicked sense of humor will be missed.

Roger is survived by his wife of 51 years, Teresa; his son, Keith Adams (Janene Adams) and daughter, Faith Adams (William Jaeger); and his grandchildren Christopher Adams and Ashleigh Adams.

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

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

Kyriacou remembers former council member Eleanor Thompson

First African American on Beacon council

By Kristine Coulter

Eleanor Thompson, former Beacon City Councilwoman, has died.

"She was really dedicated to community, even though she wasn't from Beacon originally," said Mayor Lee Kyriacou during the Beacon City Council meeting last month. A service was held at Beacon Light Tabernacle Seventh Day Adventist Church on March 1.

Thompson first ran for office in 2001, for the Ward 2 seat on the council. She later served as a member-at-large, noted the mayor.

According to Thompson's obituary, she was born on April 23, 1946, in Darien, Georgia, about 160 miles southwest of Charleston, along the south Atlantic shoreline.

Thompson "ended up running the MLK Center afternoon programs out of the old Martin Luther Center at the corner of South Ave. and Beacon St.," remarked Kyriacou.

"I just want to note her passing," said the mayor.

Thompson had moved to Texas to be with her daughter, said Kyriacou.

Her obituary states: "On January 17th, 2026, when you took your place among the ancestors, the legacy that you left was one of empowerment of others. You've shown two generations of New York City and Hudson Valley residents that they are worthy and that they are capable. You gave many individuals basic tools to pursue their dreams. For others, you opened doors of opportunity. And then there were those to whom you taught self-advocacy; and/or advocacy for others."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Howland Cultural Center at: https://donorbox.org/northcutt-legacy-fund-honors-eleanor-thompson.

Bridge to be replaced in Town of North East

The Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) has announced work will begin on or about Monday, March 16 to replace a bridge on Rudd Pond Road (CR-62) over Webatuck Creek, near Boston Corners Road (CR-63), in the Town of North East. Rudd Pond Road will be closed near the work zone, with a detour posted along Boston Corners Road and State Route 22.

The project will include replacing the existing structure with a new, wider bridge that includes a 5-foot shoulder on the south side due to the road's proximity to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, and a 2-foot shoulder on the north side. The span will also be raised about one foot to better accommodate the potential for future flooding as part of the County's ongoing Resilient Ways Forward infrastructure initiative. The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of this summer.

This section of Rudd Pond Road averages approximately 400 vehicles per day.

Motorists are advised to plan for additional time and to exercise extra caution near the construction site and on the detour, obey the posted speed limits, and traffic advisory signs and the directions from flaggers near the work zone to ensure the safety of workers and other motorists.

For more information, please contact the Dutchess County Department of Public Works' Engineering Division at 845-486-2925.

Town of Fishkill announces applications for affordable units now open

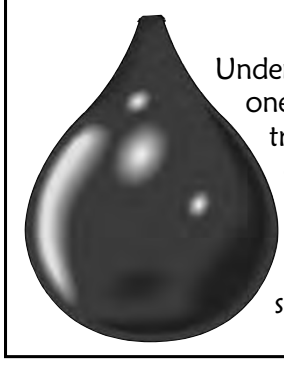
The Town of Fishkill Affordable Housing Program provides opportunities for persons of low- or moderate-income levels to purchase reasonably priced dwelling units. The Town currently has '2' 55+ affordable units for purchase.

The income Requirements as of May 2025; an applicant's income must be at or below the following: for Purchasing: Household Size Maximum Income is:

1 - $66,205.00
2 - $75,662.00
3 - $85,120.00
4 - $94,578.00

Please go to https://www.fishkill-ny.gov/uploads/1/4/9/0/149031607/affordable_housing_application.pdf to print, download and complete the application. Once completed please bring to Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, New York and submit to the Housing Director Maureen McLennon.

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE



Who needs blood?

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

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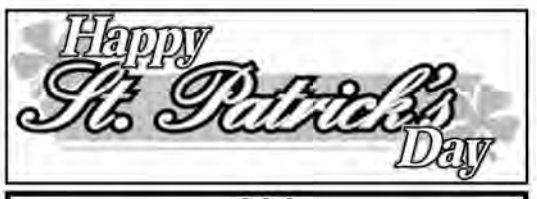

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Community Tea Party and Art Exhibition at Howland Cultural Center on March 14

The Howland Cultural Center (HCC), in collaboration with the Bannerman Castle Trust, will host a public Community Tea Party in the HCC's gallery, immediately following Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green from 1– 3 p.m.

This festive public tea party, which will include tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and other goodies with the St. Patrick's Day theme, will give the public a chance to enjoy the "Bannerman Island and the Mighty Hudson River Exhibition." The exhibition has Hudson River Valley scenes by more than 50 artists. Many artists will be present for this "meet and greet" where there will be live music featuring Celtic favorites by pianist Thom McCoy and friends.

All artwork will be for sale and proceeds will benefit both the Howland Cultural Center and the Bannerman Castle Trust – both non-profit organizations with a long history of serving the community with a variety of cultural and arts programming for children, teens, and adults.

Fine art paintings, watercolors, drawings, pastels, photography, and mixed media works - representing many genres - will be on view. Many focus on the Hudson River and historic Bannerman Island and Castle in the Hudson River Highlands.

The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main St. in Beacon.

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Elks honor RMS students

Members of the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 presented January Student of the Month Awards at Rombout Middle School on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Students were chosen for being hard-working, respectful, having a positive attitude and being supportive of their fellow classmates. The students received a certificate and gift card for their achievements. The Beacon Elks thanks Glazed Over Donuts for sponsoring this event with them.

From left: Cathy Oken, Youth Activities Chair; Laila Jones, 6th Grade; Camille Murphy, 7th Grade; Josiah Gibbs, 8th Grade; and Jeanine McAuley, Exalted Ruler.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Events celebrate Women's History Month at DCC

Dutchess Community College celebrates Women's History Month this March with a diverse lineup of performances, lectures, panel discussions and community events honoring the contributions, creativity and leadership of women. Listed are some of the events planned.

A gallery talk on March 12 at 12:30 p.m. in the Mildred I. Washington Gallery will explore "The Role of Euthenics in the Architecture of Vassar College." Nathanial Craig, an art history graduate student at Binghamton University, will examine the legacy of trustee Minnie Cumnock Blodgett and Blodgett Hall, considering how the early 20th-century euthenics movement expanded women's education while reflecting the social expectations of its time.

A Women's Wellness Market will take place March 22 from 1–5 p.m. in the Greenspan Dining Room, Drumlin Hall. Presented in collaboration with The Brain and Body Coalition, the market features small businesses offering wellness-focused products and services designed to celebrate women and expand wellness practices across the community.

On March 26, two events highlight literature and leadership. From 12:30–1:45 p.m. in the Writing Center, Hudson 503, novelist Adelle Waldman will offer a reading and Q&A as part of the "Process to Text" series, presented in partnership with the DCC Writing Center. Waldman is the author of "Help Wanted" and "The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P."

That evening, 6–7 p.m. via Zoom, biochemist and health coach Nicole Glaser Boeck will lead "Health-Centered Leadership" as part of DCC's "Zoom in with the Experts" series. The interactive session will provide practical tools to strengthen resilience and manage stress in educational settings.

For a full schedule and additional details, visit sunydutchess.edu/whm.

this week's puzzle solutions

Sugoku solution

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Legal Notices

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The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-43-26

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Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 26th 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 http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2026-05

NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Culvert M-29 Round Lake Rd (CR-52) over Tributary of Little Wappinger Creek, Town of Milan. Project Description: Removal & Replacement of Culvert M-29 on CR-52 round Lake Rd. in the Town of Milan, Dutchess County. The existing 72" pipe will be replaced with a 95" x 67" arch pipe. Existing wing walls will be replaced with precast concrete wing walls. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. 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 www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, 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 dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, 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. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM **Wednesday April 1, 2026**, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. 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 callins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID:570 111 200#. 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.

Questions will be accepted by the close of business March 25, 2026 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov and cc'd dmckenna@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is June 1, 2026; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 11, 2026. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC # 2026005035. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-25-26

Clinical Services for Juvenile Risk Intervention and Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., March 30, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-32-26

Equipment for EMS/Paramedic Instruction

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 25th 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 http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

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

Collaborative Solutions for Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS)

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., March 30, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

Diversions

SUDOKU

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

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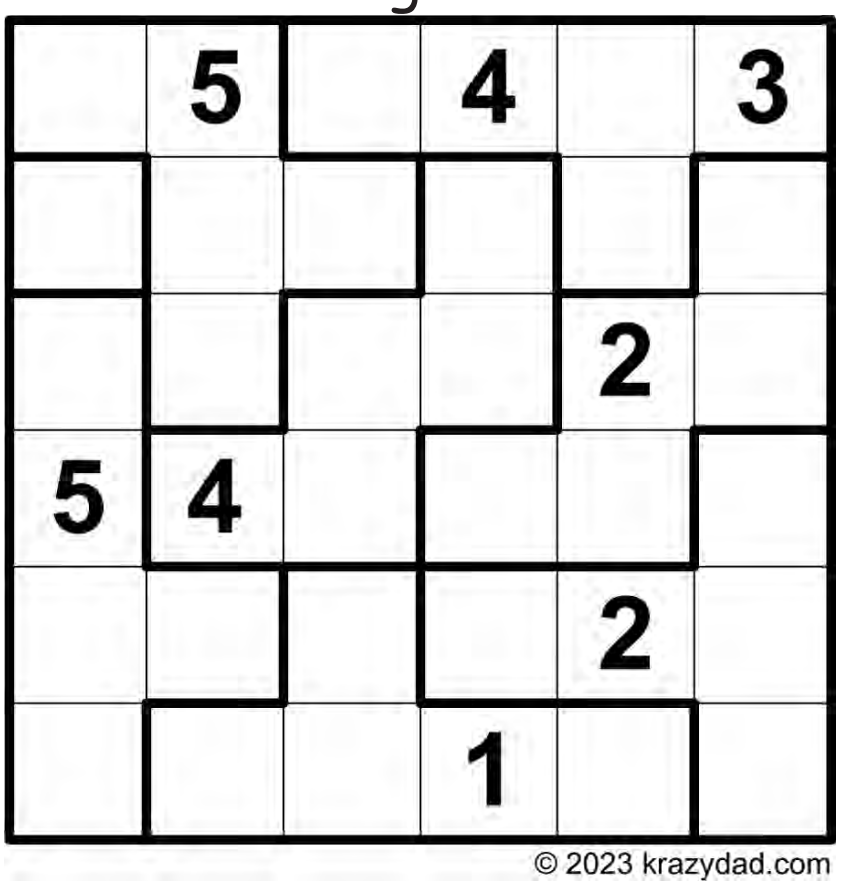
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



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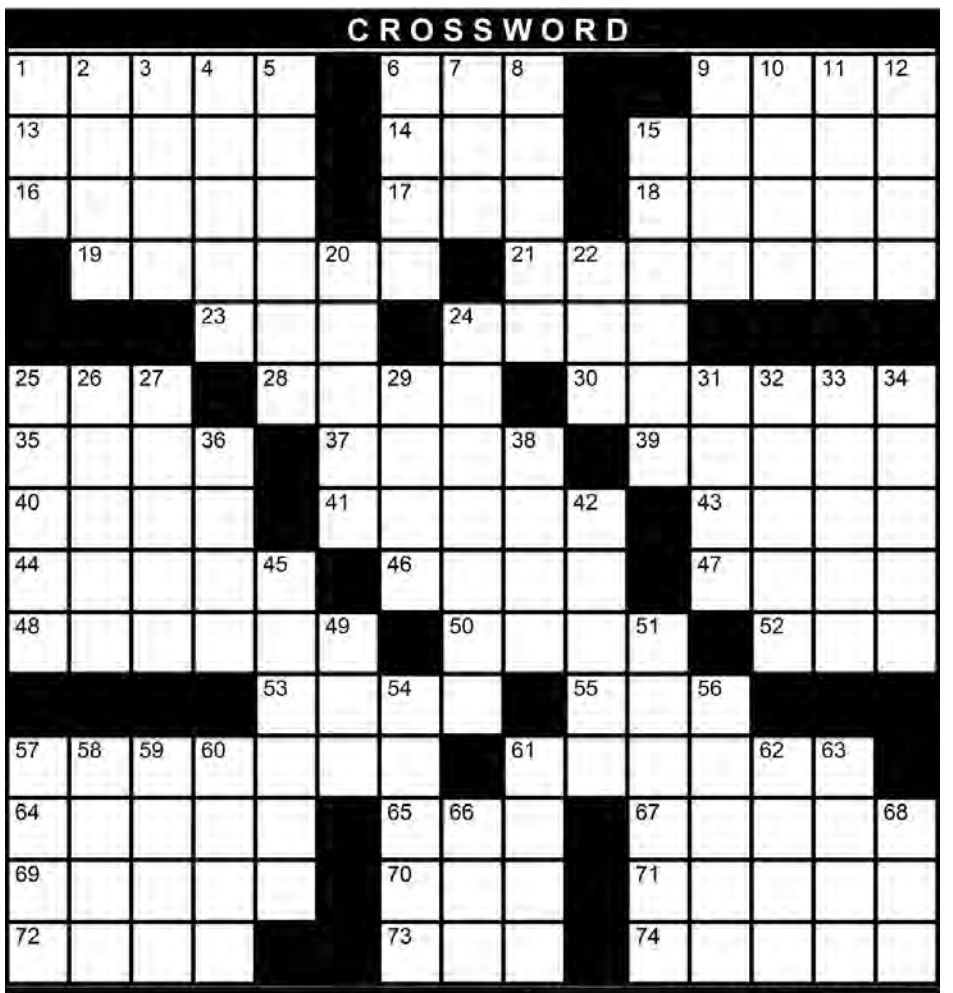
The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally,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

THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS
1. Traction aid
6. Freddy's street
9. Reach a high
13. Italian bowling
14. Entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk's alias, Gary ____
15. Jolly good one
16. Parallel grooves
17. Many, many moons
18. "Take it back!"
19. *"Song Sung Blue" Best Actress nominee
21. *Movie with most 2026 Oscar nominations
23. Make a seam
24. Vampire's tooth
25. Tai's partner
28. South American monkey
30. Naphthenic acid + palmitic acid
35. Pilot's stunt
37. Forbidden, to a baby
39. Vampire of Greek mythology
40. Italian wine region
41. Not Astroturf
43. Alpine lift
44. Sports figures, e.g.
46. Cantina pot
47. Email folder
48. Not vivid and bright
50. Nessie's abode
52. *Jamie Foxx won for his role in this 2004 biopic
53. Eagle's nest
55. Unreliable newspaper
57. *2026 nominated film with Stone and Plemons
61. *Chloé Zhao's nominee
64. Newton or Stern
65. Romanian money
67. Star-crossed one
69. To the point
70. a.k.a sodium hydroxide
71. Novelist Zola
72. Formerly, formerly
73. Aye-aye
74. "He ____ it like it is"

DOWN
1. Not NBC or ABC
2. Reluctant
3. Pantyhose hue
4. DNA and RNA, e.g.
5. Cups and saucers
6. 20-20, e.g.
7. *"One Battle After Another" Best Actor nominee
8. High IQ society
9. *#7's nominated co-star
10. "Anything ____?"
11. Wing-shaped
12. K to Romans, pl.
15. Like athlete's foot
20. Behind on rent, e.g.
22. Night spot
24. At last
25. Necklace fastener
26. Popular garden perennial
27. I to Greeks, pl.
29. *2026 nominated Benicio del ____
31. Benatar and Morita
32. Fly in ____, or a reminder of the past
33. Tarzan's swing rope
34. *Fictional table tennis champ
36. *Nominated "F1" star
38. Nobel Peace Prize capital
42. Sacrum, pl.
45. Communicating with spirits event
49. Hawaiian flower garland
51. *Inspiration for #61 Across
54. Pep gathering
56. Lawn ornament
57. Angler's hope
58. ____-friendly
59. Needlefish, pl.
60. Brewer's kiln
61. Color wheel elements
62. Like fairytale stepmothers?
63. Be a snitch
66. Payment for an eye
68. Hi-____ graphics

CROSSWORD



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

31st Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade held in Wappingers Falls

The annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade was held in Wappingers Falls on Saturday, March 7. Clockwise, from top left: Spectators line East Main St. in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Cedar Hill Ranch & Cattle Co.'s carriage was pulled by a tractor on the parade route. St. Patrick looks at the crowd. Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati drives the parade route. The Wappingers Falls Highway Department was applauded for their recent removal of snow and ice. A firefighter from the Wappingers Falls Fire Department smiles at the crowd. A bagpiper from the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band plays her instrument. A float by the Ancient Order of Hibernians on the parade route.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Artist Talk with Judith Campanaro on March 20 in Poughkeepsie

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie will host an evening artist talk with local mixed-media painter Judith Campanaro on Thursday, March 20, from 7-9 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Campanaro will speak about her recent works currently on display, offering insight into her creative process and the deeply personal themes that shape her art. Working in mixed media, oils, and acrylics, her paintings explore memory, emotion, and the unseen layers of human experience. Her work reflects the cycles of healing and renewal that are part of every life.

As both a visual artist and expressive arts therapist, Campanaro views creativity as a powerful tool for transformation. "Painting gives shape to feelings that are often too complex for words—loss, joy, longing, hope," she explains. "I'm not trying to provide answers. I'm creating spaces where viewers can pause, reflect, and perhaps feel recognized."

For more information, please contact the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie at office@uupok.org.