

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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The annual Sugar Maple Celebration will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on March 22. Pictured are Ranger J. Pries, Smokey Bear and the "Maple Fairy" (Jane Raush) during a previous Sugar Maple Celebration.

-Courtesy photo Sharpe Reservation

## Parade to highlight 20 years of celebrating the sugar maple

Annual event set for March 22 at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill

By Kristine Coulter

The 20th annual Sugar Maple Celebration will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fishkill. The celebration features Sharpe's educational sugar maple operation. Admission is free. Lunch will be available for purchase. This is the one time the local community can come and experience the natural surroundings of the more than 2,000 acres at Sharpe, 436 Van Wyck Lake Rd., in Fishkill.

Honoring the 2 decades of the Sugar Maple Celebration there will be a special parade this year.

"We will celebrate by adding a parade starting at the sugar shack and

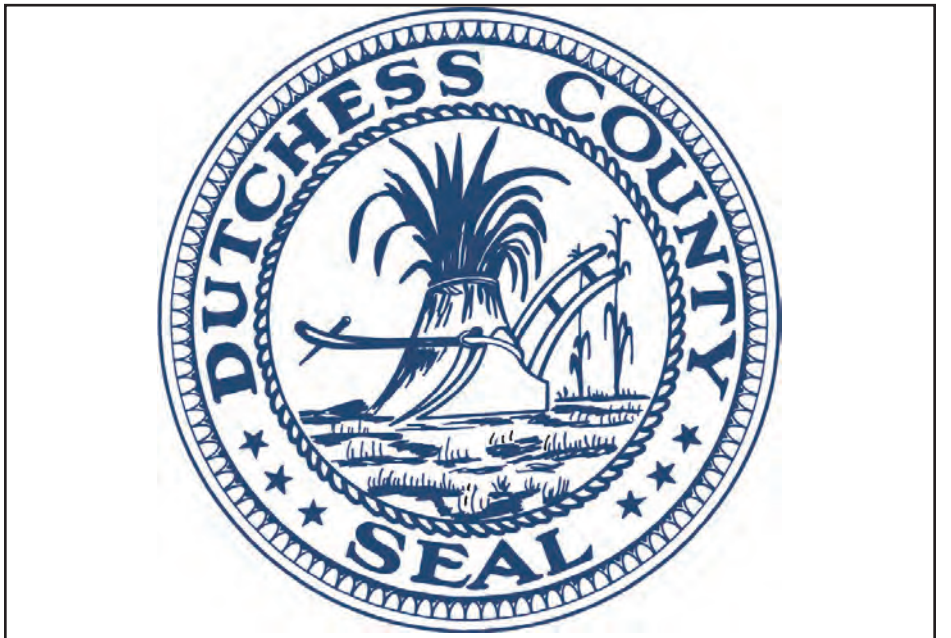
going up to the main camp to the annual maple syrup judging contest on the main stage. Kids and families will be able to join the parade with crowns and wands made in the nature center," said Tim Stanley, the director of Sharpe Reservation.

Some of the activities during the day will be:

- Maple Sugaring Demos
- Nature Discovery Center
- Planetarium Show
- Live Animal Show
- Local Crafts and Food Market
- Annual Maple Syrup Judging Contest
- Food Trucks

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## Uncertainty on federal funding: County officials monitoring reports



Dutchess County officials are monitoring the situation regarding federal funding. -Courtesy image DC Gov't

By Curtis Schmidt

Concern over proposed cuts in federal spending by the current presidential administration - and the uncertainty surrounding that issue - has many individuals worried about impacts on county governments and programs therein that receive federal funding.

With those thoughts in mind, we decided to take an educational look at the 2025 Dutchess County budget with the help of Budget Director Jessica White. She is quick to point out (as of 3-14-25) "To date, we have not been notified of any federal reductions that would impact our funding. We are monitoring reports and guidance from our State agencies, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), and the National Association of Counties about any possible funding changes."

White noted that federal funding supports just over \$51 million in programs, services and administration in the Dutchess County 2025 operating budget.

Shed added that "through conservative fiscal management and spending constraint,

Dutchess County has a strong financial foundation, including a healthy fund balance. Should it be necessary, our fund balance will help us absorb any unexpected changes, while providing us time to carefully analyze the specific impacts and make necessary adjustments."

White did note that the County operating budget does also have significant state funding - and federal changes could lead to decisions at the State level that are costly to the County, such as Medicaid payments. She added, "But that is a much longer discussion."

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Despite recent uncertainty, we are confident Dutchess County's strong financial position will help us weather any unexpected changes. We are grateful to our County departments for their dedication to continuing to provide the programs and services that our residents rely on, and to our Budget Office team for closely monitoring this evolving situation."

Continued on page 6

## DC Health Commissioner advises residents to 'take seriously' measles virus

Measles cases are on the rise in the United States, including cases confirmed in New York State. While there have been no reported measles cases in Dutchess County, the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) urges all residents to have the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination, as it is the best-known way to stop the spread of measles.

Dutchess County Health Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, "It is very important that all residents take this seriously as the measles virus is very contagious and spreads quickly. Already this year, the number of nationwide measles cases as surpassed the total for all of 2024. I encourage all residents to consider vaccination for measles and other respiratory viruses, as it is the most effective way to stop individuals from contracting and spreading these viruses. Together, we can help safeguard the well-being of our loved ones and local community members."

Measles is a very contagious respiratory virus. An individual can catch the disease by breathing in the virus or touching an infected surface and then touching the

eyes, nose, or mouth; the virus can live on surfaces for up to two hours. Up to 90 percent of non-immunized people who are in close proximity to a person with measles will be infected. Among unvaccinated people who contract measles, 1 in 20 will develop pneumonia, 1 in 5 require hospitalization. Individuals who received measles vaccination between 1957 and 1967, and anyone born in 1968 or later who has not received a measles attenuated virus vaccine may be susceptible. Others who are vaccinated do not need to take further action at this time.

Two doses of MMR vaccine are 97 percent effective at preventing measles. Children should get their first Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine at 12 through 15 months of age. The second dose is usually given between ages 4 years and 6 years. Because the measles vaccine contains an attenuated virus, it is not recommended for pregnant or immunocompromised people. To protect these at-risk individuals, it is important for anyone who may be in contact with them to be immunized.

Continued on page 2



County residents are advised by the County Health Department to take the measles virus seriously. There are no known cases in Dutchess County as of press time.

-Courtesy image DC Gov't



# Parade to highlight 20 years of celebrating the sugar maple



Continued from cover



Approximately 175 trees have been tapped this year, said Stanley.

"We have had a three-week run of sap starting in late February. Maple season has a short window of opportunity when the temperatures at night drop below freezing, and daytime temperatures rise above freezing. We currently have lots of sap, and are bottling syrup daily. This season looks to be better than last year," noted Stanley.

According to the Governor's Office, "New York State continues to rank second in the nation in maple production, and in 2024, maple production increased to 846,000 gallons, up nearly 100,000 gallons of maple syrup from the 2023 season."

"We tap 40 Black walnut trees that we make black walnut syrup from. It is boiled in small batches like maple syrup and a truly unique specialty syrup. We typically only make 4-5 gallons of syrup in season. The oxen pull our buckets and equipment through the forest as we tap the trees in mid-February," explained Stanley.

"Maple Month is officially underway, offering New Yorkers from every

corner of the State the chance to support the hardworking producers of this sweet agricultural crop," Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement on March 10. "New York State has a long history with this delicious crop, and continues to be home to a thriving community of maple producers making some of the most delicious and innovative maple products in the world. I encourage all New Yorkers to participate in Maple Weekends to sample some of the world-class items that New York's maple community has to offer."

What feedback was received after last year's Celebration? Stanley replied, "Last year it rained all day long. Everyone who attended enjoyed the day, but everyone wishes for better weather this year. It is March, so the weather on the day of the event is anybody's guess. People love the event and as we have seen, even come out in the worst weather."

The staff and educators "love teaching" people about how maple syrup is made, Stanley remarked. "They love having people enjoy the outdoors and this is celebration of the end of sugar season and the beginning of spring," he said.

Stanley said the organizers "hope to see old and new friends as we celebrate

The annual Sugar Maple Celebration will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on March 22.

Above: Oxen, Titan and Thyme, pull equipment through the forest. Pictured with the animals are Andrew and Aliyah Stanley and Pat Farrell, left, putting buckets on black walnut trees.

Left: Andrew Stanley taps a tree.

Center: Andrew Stanley stands with Titan and Thyme.

-Courtesy photos from Sharpe Reservation

another maple season!"

A list of Maple Weekend events

is available by visiting [mapleweekend.nysmaple.com](http://mapleweekend.nysmaple.com).

## DC Health Commissioner advises residents to 'take seriously' measles virus

Continued from cover

Symptoms of measles virus include:

- Fever;
- Cough;
- Runny nose;
- Eye irritation; and
- A rash that usually starts in the head or neck and then spreads to the rest of the body.

If you have signs or symptoms of measles, isolate yourself and contact your healthcare provider right away.

To get your measles and other respiratory

vaccines, contact your healthcare provider, local pharmacy or the DCDOH clinic at 845-486-2963. DCDOH offers MMR and other vaccines on its Mobile Health Unit. Please see the vehicle's upcoming schedule. Those interested should call the DCDOH clinic to confirm availability and services at each event.

To learn more about the Dutchess County Department of Health and its services visit: [dutchessny.gov/health](http://dutchessny.gov/health). For more information about measles, visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention measles webpage.

## Miles of Hope sets 'An Evening of Insight & Impact'

Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation invites the community to be a part of a special event, Sip & Learn: An Evening of Insight & Impact, on Friday, March 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Meyer's Olde Dutch, located at 15 Collegeview Avenue in Poughkeepsie. This unique event will feature Dr. Claudia Lago Toro, who will lead an enlightening discussion on promoting health and wellness to reduce cancer risk.

Guests will enjoy light fare, cocktails, and mocktails while learning vital information about cancer prevention, with an opportunity to connect with others in the community. Dr. Claudia Lago Toro will share her expertise and encourage attendees to ask questions to understand better how lifestyle choices impact health and cancer risk.

The event will also feature some familiar faces behind the bar, including Brian Powers, Shelby Outwater, Sara Winterleitner, Cathy Varunok, Melissa Zehr, and Linsey Gatto (@TogetherishMom), ensuring an enjoyable and welcoming environment for all attendees.

"We are thrilled to bring this event to our community and empower people with information they can use to improve their health," said Pari Forood, Executive Director of Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. "We encourage everyone—men and women alike—to attend, learn, and connect with others who are passionate about reducing cancer risk through simple yet impactful wellness strategies."

All are welcome to attend, including men. RSVP in advance at [www.miles-of-hope.org](http://www.miles-of-hope.org) or by calling 845-264-2005.

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**See story, page 8**

## Serino announces key initiatives in State of the County Address

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino delivered the 2025 State of the County Address on Tuesday, March 11th before hundreds of residents, business and non-profit leaders, and elected officials at John Jay High School in East Fishkill, reinforcing her commitment to ensuring County government makes a real difference in the lives of residents. Under the theme 'The Lives We Touch,' Serino reflected on the past year's achievements and announced multiple new initiatives aimed at improving the daily lives of seniors, veterans, children, first responders, farmers, business owners and families across Dutchess County.

"Everything we do in County government comes down to the people – the lives we touch through every decision, every dollar invested and every initiative launched," said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. "Whether we are helping seniors stay connected, ensuring families have access to childcare, or strengthening emergency response, our work is about real people. None of this would be possible without the dedicated County employees who work tirelessly to serve our residents and make Dutchess County a place where people feel supported and empowered."

Among the key initiatives announced:

### Supporting Seniors

New Office for the Aging Ambassador position to assist seniors in accessing services and staying independent

Training programs on hoarding to help families and caregivers address these challenging situations and connect seniors to services

Expanded Fraud Prevention Outreach efforts in partnership with the Dutchess County Comptroller, District Attorney and Sheriff

### Strengthening Emergency Medical Services and Public Safety

The County's Supplemental EMS Coverage initiative, launched January 1st, is making an impact in reducing response times and increasing regional coordination, with regional EMS meetings with municipal leaders planned this month to enhance collaboration and review progress

In partnership with Dutchess Community College, a new Paramedic Academy will work to eliminate barriers to help first responders advance in their careers with scholarships, stipends and specialized training

Tackling the Opioid Crisis with Narcan Leave Behind Kits for EMS first responders when responding to overdoses and continued support for the Dutchess

### County Drug Task Force

#### Honoring and Connecting Veterans

New Veterans outreach position to connect veterans with housing, benefits and employment resources

Launched the GoGo Veterans transportation program to ensure access to medical care and community events

Creation of the 'Honor-A-Veteran' Program to recognize the sacrifices of local heroes with the first ceremony to be held in April.

#### Investing in Agriculture

New Connecting Farmers initiative to match retiring farmers with young people and veterans interested in continuing their work

New Youth Gardening Grant program to introduce children to agriculture and food production

Purchase of a new refrigerated box truck to rescue and distribute 100,000 pounds of farm food to local food pantries annually

#### Expanding Mental Health Services

The Mobile Health Unit is establishing permanent locations across the county for monthly services, ensuring consistent access to mental health and physical health services

Expanding access to children's mental health services with recent opening of Access: Supports for Living Mental Health Urgent Care walk-in center in Poughkeepsie and supporting Family Services in opening new facility in Rhinebeck

The Empowerment Center served more than 200 individuals in its first official year in operation, connecting individuals to recovery, housing and employment resources

#### Empowering Youth

New YOU Drop-In Center grants to be awarded this year, supporting the creation of safe, supportive spaces for young people to come together.

The Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) will continue to grow and strengthen relationships between youth and law enforcement

New playground at Bowdoin Park, selected through resident feedback, will be installed this year, providing a safe, engaging and accessible space for children

#### Expanding Childcare Access

New Provider Incentive Grant to increase in-home childcare slots and ease start-up costs

Workforce training for small childcare providers, in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum and the



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino offers her State of the County address on March 11 at John Jay High School in East Fishkill.

-Courtesy photo DC Gov't

Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.

Free babysitting certification program with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board, giving teens valuable skills and experience and encouraging childcare as a rewarding career path

#### Investing in Economic Development

Continuing the County's recently launched Small Business Forums to boost small businesses and provide opportunities to address challenges

Expanding workforce development with new locations for the popular Skilled Trades Fair events and hosting a new Older Adults Skills Fair

#### Expanding Housing Opportunities

Expanding the senior-owned/occupied rehab program to provide financial assistance to all income-qualified homeowners, helping them make critical health and safety repairs to stay in their homes and preserve housing stock for the future

Housing Trust Fund projects continue, with 30-32 Smith Street in Poughkeepsie set to open soon and Two Cross Street in Beacon currently under construction. New rounds of applications to open this year, prioritizing smaller housing projects particularly in more rural communities

Water and sewer infrastructure inventory to help guide responsible housing development and ensure that housing is developed in areas with the necessary resources to support it

The 2025 State of the County Address event opening program also highlighted County Executive Serino's emphasis on Dutchess County's young people, as well

as the various educational opportunities available to them. Dr. Dwight D. Bonk, the Wappingers Central School District's Superintendent of Schools, welcomed those in attendance. John Jay High School senior Ava Dvorak sang the National Anthem; members of the Roy C. Ketcham High School Step Team shared their dance art with a performance, entitled "Formation;" and junior Sophia Puglia, a member Future Business Leaders of America, the Renaissance Club and student government at John Jay, introduced County Executive Serino.

A longtime champion of Dutchess County's older adults, County Executive Serino invited the Evergreen Chapter of Sweet Adeline's International, which performed "God Bless the U.S.A. (Proud to be an American)." The event also brought together those who protect and counsel the community, including County Sheriff Kirk Imperati, who led guests in the Pledge of Allegiance; and Rev. Dr. Edward L. Hunt, Pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls, who offered the invocation.

"County government is at its best when it's working for the people," concluded Serino. "From expanding mental health services to creating more childcare opportunities, our focus is always on the people we serve. The progress we've made is just the beginning, and I know we will accomplish even more in the year ahead."

The full text and video of County Executive Serino's State of the County Address is available on Dutchess County's website at [dutchessny.gov](http://dutchessny.gov) and a photo gallery from the event will be available on the County's Facebook page, [facebook.com/dutchesscogov](https://facebook.com/dutchesscogov).

## Council begins to discuss priorities for 2025

### By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon City Council discussed how to prioritize what they would like to accomplish in 2025 during the meeting on March 10.

"We're working through these things. Seeing what we can tee up next. What are we going to tee-up next? That's where you all sort of have some say," stated Mayor Lee Kyriacou.

To comment on a communication plan was added to the list, said the mayor.

"What might we do sooner rather than later? Longer term what do we prioritize?" Kyriacou commented.

He added, "The one I will say is the communication plan, you put some money in the budget. (City Administrator) Chris (White) and I already started talking about that." It's an expenditure of time – not an expenditure of money, said the mayor.

White noted one of the things talked about is information for digital and paper for everything – such as when is Christmas tree

picked up? Where do I license my dog?

"We literally can think about doing something that is a resource guide," said White, who continued maybe to have someone on staff who is a graphic artist, probably some overtime work, could do the project.

The resource guide would be updated once a year – and would drive people to the City's website where the information can be updated, he stated.

Council member-at large Amber Grant said, "I don't necessarily think we want to design this here. [It is] something the community is asking for and needed."

Grant suggested if the handling of the resource guide could be outsourced, it would be a better use of City employees' time.

Grant asked, "How do we get a plan in place to make sure we're supporting the City in the best way we can?"

White said, "I understand what your priorities are. We are trying to get as much done as possible while being fiscally responsible."

He noted there have been more than 100 contracts made. "We're running as fast as we can. I never say 'oh we haven't don't enough,'" remarked White.

Kyriacou said, "We put things in our hopper, and they may not become reality and that's OK."

Councilmember George Mansfield said to do an inventory of what "we hope to have in the city."

"You look at the 10 years old comprehensive plan that is so 'old' Beacon," said Councilmember Pam Wetherbee. "So, what should we have tee up?" she asked.

"These are topics we're not doing tomorrow," said Kyriacou. The mayor noted, "We haven't talked about some of the big projects - or simply going to wait."

"We do think ahead many years. The practical reality is to get these projects done sometimes I'm grabbing resources from wherever I can..." said White.

The order of importance, communication sidewalks, mobility, "I think I'm hearing that

order," said Kyriacou. "Maybe as a Council start to define what mobility means, I hear bike lanes (for mobility)."

Grant said maybe break down what one means by communication plan and mobility.

White remarked, "When it comes to these kind of Council priorities. Every week I ask the mayor what do you want on the agenda. There are like 8 things. You can't put them all on at once... which one of these do you want to put on the agenda next. Pick one and we'll try and prepare."

Councilmember Jeff Domanski said, "We can have structured conversations around concepts [that we] have common ground on." He added, "We can have structured and timely conversations to move these things forward."

"We'll do something to tee up the communication discussion with Council," said Kyriacou, "and see if can define it now, so we know as a group what we're looking for."



# 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](mailto:newsplace@aol.com), and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

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- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
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- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
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- 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.

## 'Support each other through these uncertain times'

### To the Editor:

As a resident of the village of Wappingers Falls for 12 years and now a Town resident for 31 years, I know this community is one that respects and embraces equal treatment of our residents, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, country of origin or immigration status.

Our local law enforcement provides safety for our community, investigates dangerous and criminal activity, apprehending those responsible, as well as interacting with us, the people they serve. I have never been let down. The local patrol of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office saved my life and the life of my husband by getting us out of a fully involved house fire in 2003.

The Federal Government is required by law to enforce federal immigration laws. I believe the residents of Wappingers Falls support ICE in lawfully removing undocumented persons convicted of crimes, dealing with them at the federal level.

Hopefully our local law enforcement will not question, investigate or arrest anyone based on actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status, a civil immigration warrant, administrative warrant or an immigration detainer.

I am additionally hoping that Wappingers Falls will disseminate information to make all residents, undocumented and citizens alike, aware of their rights pertaining to possible situations involving ICE during these unsettling and unpredictable times.

We are a community and can support each other through these uncertain times.

Amy James-Oliveras  
Wappinger

## Get together and 'let our voices be heard'

### To the Editor:

Are we really going to let Trump lie his way straight into an Oligarchy without any significant fight from our elected officials and those of us who are not consuming the daily Fox Entertainment propaganda? We sat through an election season with Republicans throughout the country lying about the Biden economy which was recovering nicely from the disaster left by the previous administration.

Number 47 was left two Democratic recovering economies which had to be rebuilt from disastrous Bush and Trump terms in office. When will we learn that Democrats are for giving a hand up to all Americans, while 47 and the Republicans are only for their Billionaire Buddies.

We absolutely must stand up to the hatred, bigotry, cheating and all the other despicable things that 47's White House stands for. We must get together and let our voices be heard through the noise. Please join your local groups that are working tirelessly to figure out ways to stop this madness.

As a retiree, I was hoping to spend my days reading, relaxing and ruminating. Unfortunately, now is not the time.

Jackie Przytula  
Wappingers Falls

## What happened to my country?

### To the Editor:

When the US entered WW II, the man who eventually would become my father volunteered to serve his country and fight fascism. He and the tens of thousands of men and women who served, as well as their family members, would be appalled at the US switching political allegiances and now aligning with fascists.

In the last few weeks in a UN vote the US sided with Russia, Iran, China, and other "former enemies" refusing to agree that Russia started the war in Ukraine.

More recently, more than 30 countries had a meeting to discuss preserving and strengthening the "free world" and providing more assistance to Ukraine. The previously acknowledged leader of the free world, the United States, was not even invited to the meeting because of the current administration's policy decisions.

The "Five Eyes" intelligence community is reported to be fearful of sharing intelligence with the Trump administration because they don't think they can be trusted.

This is NOT the America that my father's generation fought to save. Please contact your representative and senators to let them know that you want the United States to be the respected leader of the free world again! We need to side with democracy over fascism.

Greg Daynes  
Fishkill

## NYS enacts Burn Ban until May 14

As dry, windy conditions continue, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued a Burn Ban for Dutchess County as well as the lower Hudson Valley region. This is an extension of the agency's annual statewide ban on burning that took effect on March 16th. The burn ban is in effect now through May 14.

Since Sunday, March 9th, more than 10 brush fires have been reported, and contained, in Dutchess County. This extension of the DEC's annual ban, which has been March 16-May 14 annually since 2009, will help prevent wildfires and protect communities as increased conditions for the rapid spread of fires continue across the county and region.

The burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as uncontained campfires, and open fires used for cooking. Backyard fire pits and contained campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter are allowed, as are small, contained cooking fires.

According to the DEC, open burning is the "single greatest cause" of wildfires in



*There is a Burn Ban for Dutchess County and lower Hudson Valley now through May 14. The ban was enacted by the NYS DEC and took effect March 16.*

-Courtesy image

New York.

For more information about the annual ban and tips about fire safety and prevention, visit DEC's FIREWISE New York webpage.

## County to host annual Community Pancake Breakfast at Bowdoin Park on March 29

Dutchess County Parks will host its annual Community Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 29, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Bowdoin Park auditorium, featuring Dutchess County Parks Pure Maple Syrup.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Our beautiful parks have so much to offer and our annual pancake breakfast gives residents of all ages the chance to taste our delicious homemade maple syrup, learn the history of the syrup-making process, and explore Bowdoin Park! I am grateful to our Parks team for continuing to bring this annual tradition to our community."

Tickets for the event are \$5 per person

(cash only at the door) and children 6 and under are free. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis and while supplies last. Walk-up Maple Education workshops with Parks Naturalists will also be held (weather depending) and are included with pancake breakfast entry.

Event information, including registration and updates are available on the Dutchess County Parks Facebook page and at [dutchessny.gov/parks](http://dutchessny.gov/parks).

Other group Maple Education experiences are available at Bowdoin and Wilcox Park by appointment. For more information on these or other Parks Naturalist programs, please call 845-298-4600.

## BEACON FREE PRESS

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Albert Osten, President

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## Photographer Margaret DeMott Brown: An Artful Documentarian



Above left: Photo of Margaret DeMott Brown. Above right: photo of Franklin Roosevelt at his Hyde Park estate by (and signed by) Brown. The personal inscription reads, "For Miss Margaret Brown with the regards of Franklin D. Roosevelt." Both images are courtesy of Fred Schultz and the family of Margaret DeMott Brown.

By Bill Jeffway

In recognition of Women's History Month, we look through the lens of local photographer Margaret DeMott Brown (1880-1959) and her partnership with four women in particular. Brown had important collaborations with local historian Helen Wilkinson Reynolds and DCHS, Vassar College Botanist Edith Roberts, and two generations of consecutive local theater leaders who were Vassar Professors: first Gertrude Buck and then Hallie Flanagan.

Brown arrived in Poughkeepsie from the mid-West in 1917 to open a professional photographic studio near Vassar College. She was described in newspapers as having an interest in the style of "pictorialism" and would offer "home portraiture and art photographs." Pictorialism was, and remains, a form of photography that is highly artistic with strong moods and soft muted focus; sometimes described as counter to a literal documentary style. Before her local arrival she had studied with one of Pictorialism's great photographers, Clarence H. White. But much of the work done in the examples we explore have an important documentary role which reveals Brown's ability to navigate the two styles.

### Helen Wilkinson Reynolds

Brown's most consistent collaborator was the local historian, researcher/writer Helen Wilkinson Reynolds (1875-1943) with whom she maintained a close personal relationship. When Reynolds died, Brown put her photographic business aside and relocated to Massachusetts to spend the rest of her life with family.

The Dutchess County Historical Society was formed in 1914 and differed from many organizations at the time by inviting the participation of women (unlike the Dutchess County Society in the City of New York, for example). This gave Brown and Reynolds a platform they put to good use for nearly three decades.

Two collaborations were published in

1924 where Brown's photographs had a supporting role: "Poughkeepsie: The Origin and Meaning of the Word and Old Gravestones of Dutchess County," which was a transcription of nineteen thousand entries. In two subsequent books, Brown's photographs were at least as important as the text: in 1929, "Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776" (with an introduction by FDR) in 1929; and "Dutchess County Doorways," in 1931, were published as books with a major focus on photography.

In 1938, Brown and Reynolds expanded their partnership to include Vassar College's head of the Department of Botany, Edith Roberts. They produced the landmark publication "The Role of Plant Life in the History of Dutchess County." Far ahead of its time, in what would today be called advocacy for the protection of native species and plants, the publication outlined the idea of a succession of plant associations, to help a broader general public understand the dynamic relationship of plant life over generations. Brown's other collaborations with Roberts involved just the two of them.

### Edith Roberts

Edith Roberts (1881-1977) was a pioneering ecologist and eminent scientist who grew up in rural New Hampshire, graduated from Smith College in 1905, and then obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Roberts worked for three years as an associate professor at Mount Holyoke College. When World War One broke out in 1917, she became a field representative for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, traveling the county to advise women managing farms while their husbands were serving in the war in France.

In 1920, Roberts created the first ecological laboratory in the United States at Vassar, which remains in operation today. Brown documented the workings of the laboratory and farm, as well as individual plants and plantings. Prior to the major

Four photographs by Margaret DeMott Brown with an inset of Brown's collaborator in each instance. Top row, left to right: Fireplace in the Zacheus Newcombe home, Poughkeepsie with Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. A fern image, one of a great many in DCHS Collections with Edith Roberts. Bottom row left to right: Poughkeepsie Community Players performing "Helga and the White Peacock" with inset of Gertrude Buck. From the play, "Now I Know Love," with inset of Hallie Flanagan.

-DCHS Collections

work, "The Role of Plant Life in the History of Dutchess County," Brown and Roberts collaborated on "American Plants for American Gardens," in 1929, and "American Ferns: How to Know, Grow and Use Them," in 1935.

Several hundred photographs of ferns by Brown in "DCHS Collections" reflect both the documentary (where rulers mark sizes and date stamps mark time) as well as the most artistic (one of which for example was the cover of the Poughkeepsie Garden Club's 1933 annual booklet).

### Gertrude Buck

The earliest innovator of local theater at Vassar College was Gertrude Buck (1871-1922), who was equally involved with the local Poughkeepsie Community Players. She first joined Vassar in 1897 and grew beyond the role of English professor to embrace local theater.

In part prompted by her early death, a campaign led by Vassar College President MacCracken resulted in the national publication by Macmillan of a play Buck had been working on locally. "Helga and the White Peacock" was written by Cornelia Meigs, who worked with Buck and the Poughkeepsie Community Players. The photos in the book by Brown are of the local production in her early pictorialist style (see image) which emerged as the premiere to what was a subsequent successful round of schools putting on the performance nationally.

### Hallie Flanagan

Hallie Flanagan (1889-1969) was very specifically recruited to replace Gertrude Buck in the role of developing local theater. But the generational change could not have been more profound. Europe was emerging from the trauma of World

War One in the 1920s with a growing interest in a radical new approach to theater. Flanagan spent a year at Vassar in 1925 before touring Europe in 1926, where she met up with Poughkeepsie-born Lee Miller, who was just about to emerge as a "modern" photographic powerhouse. Miller came back with Flanagan and introduced people she had worked with in Paris like Ladislav Medgyès (who spoke at Vassar in 1927), and invited their participation locally.

An important part of this modern movement was clear, spare geometric stagecraft, which gave Brown an entirely different platform to capture (see image).

### Home portraiture

The promotion of Brown's practice upon her local arrival in 1917 promised "home portraiture." At the time she was likely not aware that her home portraiture would come to include the family of a US President, Franklin Roosevelt; and US Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau of Fishkill. Although Brown never married or had children, descendants of her family through an aunt have generously shared many of the images in their private collections. Reports of Brown being close to the Roosevelt and Morgenthau families is preserved in handwritten notes to Brown from each of them, inscribed on family photos Brown had taken of each family.



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

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# Beacon student completes Eagle Scout composting project at Stony Kill

By Kristine Coulter

Fifteen-year-old Victoria Lee McKay has completed her Eagle Scout Project, the highest rank in Scouting.

"I first thought about what entity I could do something nice for and quickly realized that Stony Kill Farm (SKF) would be a great entity to serve as the benefactor of my Eagle Project," explained Victoria, a town of Fishkill resident, in an email. "I then consulted with the people there as to what I could do to assist them in their educational mission and also be of use to them. Because one of the purposes that the volunteers undertake there is to educate the public about how to protect the environment and because SKF had only one old, small compost bin, I thought that I could construct a much larger one for my Eagle project. Having a newer and larger compost bin would enable SKF to compost on a much greater scale than they had undertaken previously and which would allow them to encourage others to compost their disposables to reduce waste and build healthy soil."

Victoria, who attends Beacon High School, explained how she broke her project down into three stages.

"I first needed to decide what I was going to do and then decide how to go about achieving it, including securing the materials and volunteers. Secondly, I needed to round up the appropriate volunteers whom I could lead on the project to construct the 9 foot long, three section compost bin that I had decided upon. Thirdly, I then needed to direct my volunteers on the construction and then delivery of the compost bin. With each step I marveled at how I was getting closer to

becoming an Eagle Scout while enjoying how I was going to be able to give something back to SKF, a place that I have visited numerous times since I was a very young child."

Allen McKay, Victoria's father, shared, "My wife and I are very proud of our daughter for being able to give back to SKF, a place that she holds near and dear to her heart because of her great childhood experiences there - visiting the animals in the barn, hiking its trails, and going to its festivals over the years. We knew that she already possessed the leadership qualities to be able to direct her adult and child friends as well as some fellow scouts in constructing and delivering to SKF the sizable compost bin, but this clearly demonstrated that she could execute upon her plan."

McKay noted, "Completing her Eagle project was all the more exciting for us because we knew that she was then well underway to becoming the first girl in her (Boy) Scout troop to become an Eagle Scout and that she was also about to become one of only a very small number of girls to attain the rank of Eagle Scout in Dutchess County as girls have only recently been allowed to join what was previously called the Boy Scouts."

While in Scouts, Victoria has served in various leadership positions including as a Den Chief for a Den in Cub Scouts Pack 3001, and as Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for the girls in Scouts Troop 86. Victoria's brother, Allen, also was an Eagle Scout.

Victoria stated that completing her Eagle Scout project, she learned "I can



Victoria Lee McKay, a Beacon High School student, recently completed her Eagle Scout project. The project is about composting and was done at Stony Kill Farm in Wappinger.

-Courtesy photo McKay family

lead a group of people to achieve a common goal no matter how much older or younger they are than me."

"For my Eagle project, I needed to have at least one person who could safely cut pieces of wood to their appropriate sizes and other people who could fasten together all of the pieces of wood and screening. I also learned how to break down the overall project into smaller pieces so that completing the entire project was not as daunting when all I needed to do was complete each compo-

ment part. This process of breaking down the overall project into component parts is very much like becoming an Eagle Scout - where one needs to achieve the various ranks - the smaller steps - to complete the overall goal - becoming an Eagle Scout," remarked Victoria.

McKay said, "She has now been awarded her Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, and her next plan is to complete her Gold Award, the Girl Scouts' highest rank."

## Uncertainty on federal funding: County officials monitoring reports



The cover of the 2025 Dutchess County Adopted Budget, which could be impacted by proposed federal cuts.

-Courtesy image DC Gov't

Continued from cover

From a historical perspective, County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair said in a report, "We found that federal programs

represent a little over 10% of our expenditures, not including COVID-19 relief. In 2023, this amounted to \$65 million, including over \$25 million in direct aid

such as food stamps and home energy assistance. Federal dollars also support core County functions: adoption and foster care supports, emergency and disaster preparedness, workforce investment, child support enforcement, buses, roads, sidewalks and more."

Looking at the situation from a statewide perspective, Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt said, "During a recent trip up to Albany for the NYSAC Annual Conference, it was clear that the leadership of NYSAC is concerned by proposed federal cuts and the subsequent potential impacts on county governments across New York State. At this time, there is general sense of uncertainty as we have not yet lost any federal revenue. I am aware that NYSAC is lobbying New York's Congressional delegation to advocate on behalf of county governments to ensure we do not suffer a loss of federal dollars. This is precisely the reason we in Dutchess County have placed such a high value on maintaining a solid fiscal fund balance of 1-2 months of operating funds in reserves in order to protect our taxpayers in the instance of challenging economic times or a sudden loss of revenue."

Here are Federal Operating Funds included in the Dutchess County 2025 Operating Budget. All of the dollars listed are projected funds - based on prior and continuing funding allocations and confirmed grant awards. Not included are "off budget funding, such as Community Development Block Grants, for which the allocation is not known from year to year.

- Public Transit - \$6,816,205
- Public Health Grants - \$573,909
- Early Intervention, Pre-school Special Education and Special Needs - \$1,097,535
- Mental Health Grants - \$448,750
- Office for the Aging - \$1,224,199

Amounts are not yet known for Public Safety and Homeland Security, Community & Family Services, Community & Family Services- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Community & Family Services- Foster Care, Community & Family Services- Title XX Eligible Clients, Community & Family Services - SNAP and Planning & Development - Planning Studies.

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## Friends of HPL to honor Marcia Frahman on March 26

Join the Friends of The Howland Public Library in wishing a dear friend and President Marcia Frahman a Bon Voyage on her exciting new adventure! Stop by from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26 at Beacon Reads, 309 Main St., in Beacon.

Marcia will be returning to Sacramento, California after 20 years of community service to Beacon. She's been a moving, innovative and active member of both the Board of Trustees at the Howland Library

(serving as President for three years), as well as Pres-ident of Friends for the past 15 years. Her work with the community includes The Beacon Sloop Club, The Mayor's Council on Police, The Conservation Board and The Beacon Democratic Club. In 2018 she received The Helen Saviot Award for Library Advocacy.

One may raise a glass and share in thanking her for her incredible, passionate work making the Library what it is today!



**Remember that Renegade?**

**By Morgan E. Maier**  
For over 30 years, fond farewells have been the driving force in the Hudson Valley baseball. Hundreds of players have moved up Major League Baseball ranks while Dutchess County cheers them on. These days, Hudson Valley Renegades will go on to Somerset, Wilkes-Barre, the Bronx and beyond. Many paths await our Renegades once they leave High-A baseball. So let's check in on some of our backyard ballplayers and see where they are today.

**Evan Longoria, 3B (2007)**  
In the summer of 2007, the centerfield trees turned to watch an Evan Longoria home run sail overhead. Dutchess County legend says that ball still hasn't touched the ground. "Longo" was a Renegade for just a week, ripping through the Tampa Bay Rays organization on his way to being named the 2008 Rookie of the Year. In his 15-year career, he appeared in two World Series with Tampa Bay and the San Francisco Giants. Since Longoria left the Rays in 2018, nobody has worn #3 for Tampa Bay.

**Stephen Vogt, C (2007)**  
Before he was an unlikely fan favorite in Oakland, Stephen Vogt was the first Renegades catcher to reach the majors. A two-time All-Star with the A's, Vogt was essential in the team's seemingly-random playoff run of 2013. Following a short retirement in 2022, he joined the Seattle Mariners as a clubhouse and quality control coach. Known for a positive dugout presence in each of the six organizations he played for, Vogt was the Cleveland Guardians' top choice as Terry Francona's managerial replacement. After earning the top record in the American League Central (92-69), Vogt beat out his former Renegades skipper Matt Quattraro for the 2024 AL Manager of the Year crown.

**Josh Smith, INF (2021)**  
As a Hudson Valley Renegade, Josh Smith hit .324 with 9 home runs and 17 stolen bases. After his successful High-A stint, Smith was part of a package traded to the Texas Rangers for Joey Gallo in 2021. Smith became a mainstay in the 2023 World Series champion team. In 2024, he received a Silver Slugger award as the American League's best utility player, posting career highs in home runs, batting average, and RBIs. In Arlington this season, Smith eyes the Gold Glove in the same category.

**Jasson Domínguez, OF (2022)**  
Nicknamed "El Marciano" (the martian) by a scout at spring training, Jasson



Domínguez has been a highly-awaited prospect. After light years spent bouncing between AAA and the bigs, the outfield prospect will finally get phoned home. After a late call-up for the Bombers' World Series run, this top pinstriped prospect is likely to make the Opening Day roster. Hear it in these pages first, Renegades fans. Snatch some Number 12 merchandise from the Renegades team store. You may be sorry when they hit auctions later.

**Jared Serna, SS (2022)**  
Before shortstop Jared Serna was traded to the Miami Marlins last July, his 22 games with 2-plus hits led all Renegades. His multi-hit madness increased his stock, and the Marlins' affections. Down in the Sunshine State, Serna went 4-5 with four RBIs in his AA debut as a Pensacola Blue Wahoo, continuing his offensive tear after being promoted to AAA Jacksonville to close the season. In 2025, the 22-year-old leads all hitters in Marlins spring training camp, batting .571 in five games.

**George Lombard Jr., INF (2024)**  
When former first-round pick George Lombard Jr. arrived in the area last August, the Hudson Valley summer got a bit hotter. In the closing month of the 2024 season, Lombard's bat helped Hudson Valley reach the South Atlantic League championship series. At the Yankees 2025 Spring Training, Lombard showed a drastic improvement as a non-roster invitee. He put on weight, increased his power, and evened out his swing. Most of all, Lombard proved he can hit MLB pitches, sending a 96 mph sinker into the seats at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa. Some are calling him the Yankee third baseman of the future. Could he make his pinstripes debut this season?

**Marist, DCC basketball teams end seasons in tournaments**

**By Morgan E. Maier**  
What's the opposite of trifecta? On March 13, next season began for each of Poughkeepsie's "Big Three" college basketball teams. The defining moments of each team's season, though, are not the final game outcomes. In the final day of their seasons, the Marist University Red Foxes were twice snared in the Mountaineers' trap, and the Dutchess Community College Falcons' historic run ended in fowl play against the Dallas College - Richmond Thunderducks.

**Don't cry for me, A.C.**  
This would be a different story but for Marist's ugly regular season finish. The spirit squad kept the crowd in the game on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Even Frankie Fox took the pom poms for a spin. But Marist couldn't capitalize on their defensive stops and Mountaineer missteps, losing the first men's quarterfinal to eventual MAAC champions of Mount St. Mary's University. On the heels of John Dunne's best season to date, Marist can look back on this season with pride. Next year just means just a little more. Expect Josh Pascarelli to pop off for his senior season after a career year filled with honors and career highs. With the exit of senior center Jackson Price, keep an eye on the development of freshman center and Middletown, N.Y. native, Tarik Watson.

**First-round exit cannot clip Falcons' wings**  
One of two New York basketball teams to be ranked #1 nationally, the DCC Falcons had a lot to be proud of this season. With seven departing sophomores, we will be seeing a new-look Falcons

squad next year. The freshmen won't forget the feeling; it will fuel them next year. From team alumni to fans, family and friends, DCC will remember the nationally-recognized 2024-25 Region XV champs fondly.

**2,460 seconds**  
If only they had an extra minute. Marist women would have completed the comeback if basketball games were 41 minutes, not 40. In the final quarter, Marist's fire would have burned up the boardwalk. After Mount doubled up Marist 54-27, the MAAC Championship's first quarterfinal seemed decided. But Marist spent the final quarter erasing the deficit. And showing fans that the program is in great hands.

They nearly completed the third-largest comeback in the history of NCAA women's basketball history. Marist showed their fight, turning up the heat at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall. It was ten straight minutes of forcing Mountaineer mistakes before the final buzzer bailed out St Mary's. Chasing down loose balls, forcing bad passes, and pulling one another from the hardwood, our girls were one point shy of a 64-64 tie. Marist lost the heartbreaker 68-65, but Erin Doughty and the Red Foxes showed us why they've stolen the hearts of fans from McCann to Maryland. If next season brings anything.

We have Falcons, Red Foxes, and student-athletes everywhere to thank for getting us through another Hudson Valley winter. From every HV hoops fan who tuned in to watch the MAAC and NJCAA, it's been a joy to watch our mid-major and junior college student-athletes. March Madness will tide us over for now. See you in October.

**Renegades showcase Yankees' future in Spring Breakout Game**



*Former Renegades' star Spencer Jones hit two homers during a Spring Breakout Game over the weekend.*

*-Archive photo by Dave Janosz*

**By Morgan E. Maier**  
With 44-year-old Nick Swisher coaching New York Yankees rookies from the first base line, baseball's past and future collided in Sarasota, Fla. this weekend at Ed Smith Stadium. Top Yankees and Baltimore Orioles prospects faced off for the second annual Spring Breakout, a single-game showcase OF the league's finest farm talent. Seventeen Renegades alumni were selected to show their skills, and our boys did not disappoint this Spring Breakout. What better way to spend a long weekend than some rookie baseball in the sun?

Big, bad Spencer Jones looked like the 2023 Rising Star that the Hudson Valley remembers fondly. If you have his bobblehead from last season's giveaway, get the display case ready.

Jones put on a memorable display in the inaugural Spring Breakout, sending two pitches above the outfield fence. This time around, Jones was plunked in his first two at-bats, finishing 1-2 with an RBI, a double and a run scored on the day.

The defensive gem of the day came by 3B Jesús Rodríguez ('23, '24), who is more known for power hitting than fielding prowess. He robbed Jud Fabian of a 5th inning hit, sliding across the third-base line before making a strong one-hop throw to first. Rodríguez hit a bouncing single that split the middle infielders in the first inning, and Jones flew home from second base. Rodríguez finished with two RBIs and a hit in his five plate appearances.

With the average age just under 22, the Yankees held the AL East's second youngest Spring Breakout roster. Nineteen-year-old George Lombard Jr. picked up a couple bases as the leadoff

hitter, setting up scoring opportunities for his prospect teammates.

The bases were loaded with 2024 Renegades in the 8th inning. Josh Moylan singled, Garrett Martin walked, then Lombard Jr.'s rallied a two-out infield single. Nowhere to go for fellow 2024 alum Jackson Castillo. The second pitch of Castillo's at-bat sailed over the catcher's shoulder, scoring Moylan easily.

The previous inning showed a familiar Eric Reyzelman ('24), who is arguably the Bombers' most slept-on pitching prospect. Reyzelman pitched a scoreless seventh frame to keep the game tied at 3 apiece. Reyzelman gave up two hits in six appearances for the Renegades, putting up a 0.00 ERA in 9 innings. If he stays healthy, Reyzelman will likely get called up to the Yankees' regular season roster.

Former Yankees prospects Agustín Ramírez ('23) and Jared Serna ('23, '24) also showcased some Spring Breakout talent. Serna and Ramirez appeared for the Miami Marlins down in Jupiter, FL. Ramirez was hitless in five innings, but impacted the game on the basepath, with a run scored and a walk.

The looming presence of 6'7" righty Carlos Lagrange got the start for the Yankees. After a shaky first frame, Lagrange responded by retiring 11 batters in a row. With a heater maxed at 101 mph according to the stadium reader, Lagrange clocked 100 consistently, to wagging tongues in the bullpen and cheers from the crowd. Righty Ben Hess fanned three batters over two relief innings in his professional debut. Dominican-born Lagrange and 2024 first-round pick Hess have yet to emerge from the rookie leagues, but we should see them at Heritage Financial Park sooner than later.

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## Millbrook Winery revives popular 'Vine to Wine' for milestone 40th year



Returning by popular demand and in celebration of its 40-year anniversary, the "Vine to Wine" Boot Camp provides a behind-the-scenes experience like no other, allowing wine enthusiasts to become part of the winemaking journey.

-Courtesy photo

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, the Hudson Valley's flagship winery, is once again inviting wine lovers to roll up their sleeves and experience the winemaking process firsthand with its exclusive "Vine to Wine" Boot Camp. This immersive, eight-part series runs from April through October, offering participants a rare opportunity to work directly with the vineyard's renowned winemaking team.

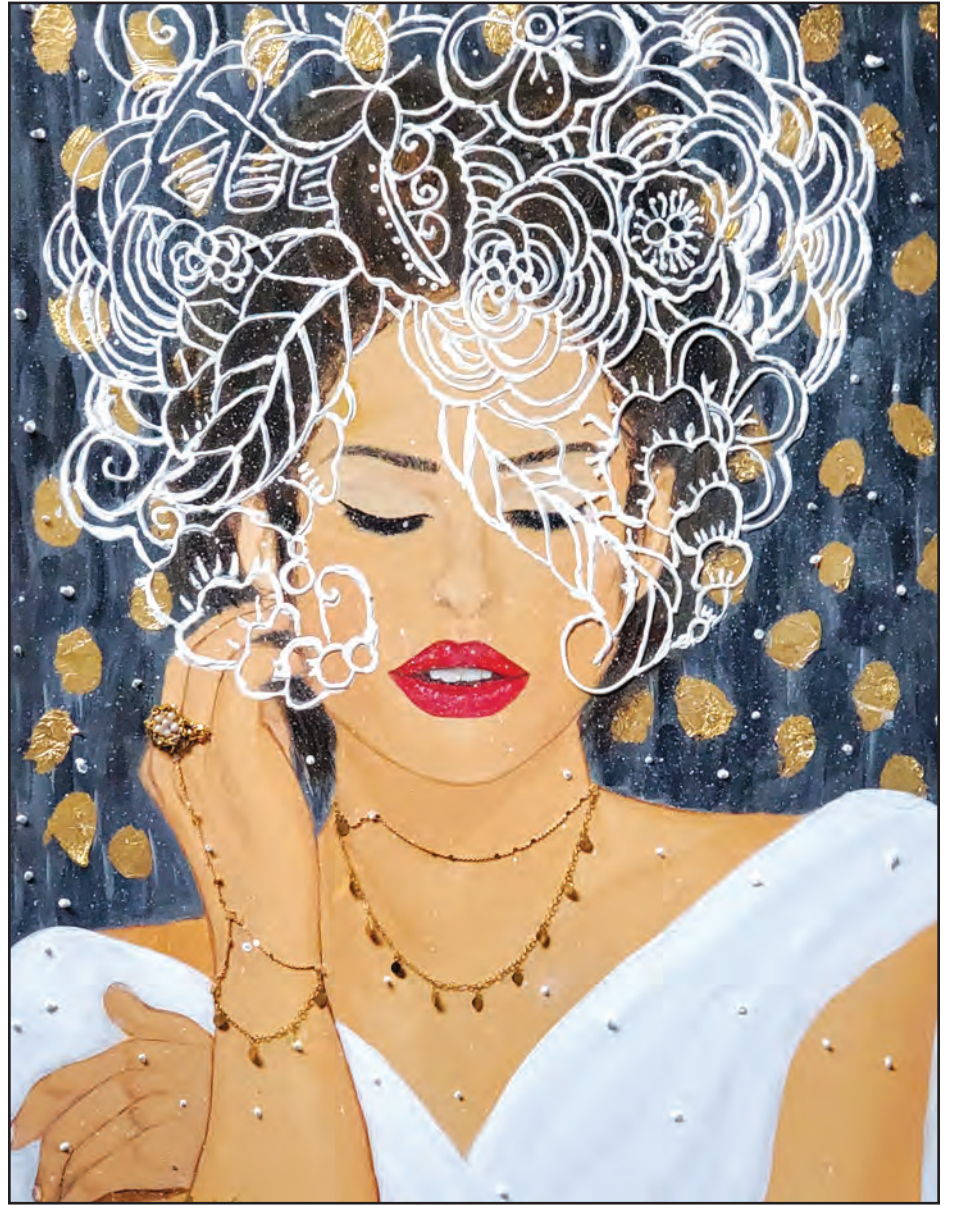
Led by Ian Bearup, Millbrook's head winemaker and vice president of winemaking and vineyard operations, boot camp participants will be assigned grapevines on the winery's celebrated Lollipop Hill. Through hands-on expe-

riences—from pruning and harvesting to fermentation and bottling—participants will gain a deeper understanding of the craftsmanship behind Millbrook's award-winning wines.

Returning by popular demand and in celebration of its 40-year anniversary, this program provides a behind-the-scenes experience like no other, allowing wine enthusiasts to become part of the winemaking journey.

Registrations are accepted now through April 7. To secure a spot in the program or with questions visit <https://www.millbrookwine.com/boot-camp/>, email [SHudson@millwine.com](mailto:SHudson@millwine.com) or call 845.677.8383 ext. 17.

## Grinnell Library highlights the artwork of Fatima-Ezzahra in March



Artwork by artist Fatima-Ezzahra can be seen at Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls throughout March.

-Courtesy image artist, Grinnell Library

Fatima-Ezzahra is an artist who develops artwork that expresses her deepest thoughts and emotions in a very creative and unique way. Fatima-Ezzahra also known as "Tima" is originally from Morocco and came to America in 2014 after marrying her husband PJ. Although she has enjoyed art and painting since she was a child, she really started focusing on living her dream as an aspiring artist beginning in 2014. Since then, she has sold many pieces of artwork online and now, she has had the opportunity to have it displayed in Poughkeepsie. Her goal and objective is to gain recognition and one day have her artwork displayed

around the world.

So much time, effort and emotion go into each canvas she paints. She wants to leave behind breathless representations of the emotions women go through in their efforts to stay ahead of the current times. When one looks at Tima's paintings...pause & then reflect. Only then will one see the true beauty that lies within each brush stroke of paint laid down on that canvas.

Fatima-Ezzahra's work will be on display throughout March. For more information, contact the library at 845-297-3428. Grinnell Library is at 2642 East Main Street in Wappingers Falls.

## Common Ground Farm sets Opening of Fields event March 23

Common Ground Farm invites visitors to join for a contemplative walk through the early spring fields on Sunday, March 23 at 3 p.m. The walk will be guided by Farm Manager Rhys Bethke and Common Ground Executive Director Sember Weinman, with reflection and commentary shared by food access partners and community leaders, including: Ilana Friedman, Luke Wygodny, and Deb Davidovitz of Beacon Hebrew Alliance; Lisa Pellegrino of the music group Soil and Soul; Stony Kill Foundation's Executive Director Stacey Adnams; Lindley Todd Finance Manager Shara Wightman; musician Patrick Stanfield Jones; Beacon Farmers' Market Manager Amy Bandolik; Common Ground Board Member Jessica Shay; artist Julia Norton; and farmers Chris and Brenda of Finca Seremos.

Common Ground fosters engagement and connection among the full diversity of the community. The Opening of the Fields walk is an opportunity to appreciate the potential abundance of the fields as well as to reflect upon the changes and uncertainty inherent in nature and our current times. Common Ground is a community farm dedicated to fresh food access, donating produce to local food access distribution sites each week during the grow-

ing season. This event is an opportunity for the farm's valued community partners to visit the place where our produce is grown, and to see the fields that will feed their communities from May until November. Leaders have been invited to share blessings and teachings about nature, food, and land from their various traditions and philosophies, as well as songs, wishes, and words of inspiration.

Common Ground Farm supports and engages the community by fostering access and connection to fresh food and local agriculture through farming, education, and farmers' markets. For more information, visit our website <https://www.commongroundfarm.org/events-2> or contact Executive Director, Sember Weinman at [semer@commongroundfarm.org](mailto:semer@commongroundfarm.org).

Common Ground is located at Stony Kill Farm at 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers, Falls. Visitors can park by the red barn and meet the group by the fire circle. Hot tea and snacks will be provided, and guests are welcome to stay and socialize by the fire pit afterwards if the weather is fine. We expect the fields to be muddy. Please wear appropriate footwear. The event is free and open to all, but advanced registration is encouraged at Common Ground's website.

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that's italian!

by luigi coppola

# The Impossible Dream

Luigi has 'miles to go' before his day off



I have written many stories about working with my father in the restaurant. My father still is tough. He still is relentless. He might have slowed down, but he still produces. At 92 years old, he still is an incredible chef and he still comes in every day. Every single day. Only for a couple of hours, but still, every single day.

The other day, my father came into the restaurant. It was a Sunday, and Sunday is my last day before my day off. Needless to say, Sundays are a little rough because I am usually on my last leg and I am not the most pleasant person to be around. On Sundays, Pop usually comes in later, after noon mass, to make dinner for himself. He's full of energy for his age and always ready for me.

So when Pop comes in I have already put in around 5 hours of work with only 8 more to go, and I've got my eye on the prize. I'm trying to stay focused and not lose my cool.

So Pop comes in and he sees me, and right away he starts.

**Pop:** Quello che un viso brutto (What an ugly face) Hai mangiato limoni stamattina? (Did you eat lemons this morning?)

**Me:** Why do you say that?

**Pop:** Come on, it's a morning and you already in a bada mood?

**Me:** No, Pop, I'm not in a bad mood.

**Pop:** Whya you looka that way?

**Me:** I don't know. I'm busy and I'm try-

ing to get all my work done.

**Pop:** Maka sure the bread crumbs are done.

**Me:** What? Huh? (sigh) Yes, Pop.

**Pop:** Maka sure you no taka the sauce off the fire too soon.

**Me:** (sigh) Yes, Pop.

**Pop:** Youa sure youa ok?

**Me:** Yes, Pop. I'm fine.

**Pop:** OK. Do you still need me to maka the Tira mi Su?

**Me:** No, Pop. We ran out so I had to make it.

**Pop:** What?! Nowa you no needa me no more?

**Me:** No, Pop. We ran out. I had to make it.

**Pop:** Nowa youa the chef, right? Youa no need me to bea the chef?

**Me:** (sigh) No, Pop. That's not true. I just needed to make one for today. You can make it for tomorrow.

**Pop:** (pauses as he stares at me) Youa maka it the righta way?

**Me:** Yes, Pop. I followed your recipe.

**Pop:** Youa usa the brandy?

**Me:** Yes, Pop.

**Pop:** Anda the Kahlua?

**Me:** Yes, Pop.

**Pop:** Youa make the custard the righta way?

**Me:** Yes, Pop, just like you showed me.

**Pop:** Youa...

**Me:** Pop, please. Stop. I'm tired. I've got to finish the day, so I can take tomorrow off.

**Pop:** Oh youa tired?

**Me:** (sigh) Yes, Pop, I'm tired.

**Pop:** How many days youa work this week, huh?

**Me:** Oh no ... 6, Pop.

**Pop:** Six? You taka any nights off?

**Me:** No, Pop.

**Pop:** You gotta everything done?

**Me:** Almost, Pop. It'll be done by the end of the day.

**Pop:** Good. (pause) Youa worka too hard.

He kissed me on the cheek and slapped my other cheek. He turned away from me and went into the walk-in cooler to get his ingredients for dinner. At that moment I thought my head was about to explode. I could almost hear Frank Sinatra singing "The Impossible Dream." I wasn't sure, but I think he paid me a compliment.

### Tira Mi Su Ingredients

- 6 egg yolks
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/4 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pound mascarpone cheese
- 1 cup strong brewed coffee, room temperature
- 4 tablespoons brandy
- 4 tablespoons Kahlua
- 4 (3 ounce) packages ladyfinger cookies
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

### Method

In a medium saucepan, whisk together egg yolks and 1 cup of sugar until well blended. Whisk in milk and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture boils. Boil gently for 1 minute, remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Cover tightly and chill in refrigerator 1 hour.

In a medium bowl, beat cream with vanilla until stiff peaks form. Whisk mascarpone into yolk mixture until smooth. Add chilled custard and gently whisk until blended.

In a small bowl, combine coffee, 1/2 cup sugar, brandy and Kahlua. Dip lady fingers into the coffee mixture.

Arrange half of soaked ladyfingers in bottom of a 7x11 inch dish. Spread half of mascarpone mixture over ladyfingers. Sprinkle with cocoa. Repeat layers and again sprinkle with cocoa. Cover and refrigerate 4 to 6 hours, until set.

To serve, cut into a 3-inch square and garnish with whipped cream.

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

## VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

# Veterans Affairs wants to hear from you



In last month's column, I highlighted two new initiatives that our Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs recently launched that have already received a positive response from our veteran community. The "Honor-a-Vet" program formally pays tribute to a deceased veteran in recognition of their service to their country. The "GoGo Veterans" program provides free rides to veterans in need of dependable and safe transportation for many of the essential services they need, including medical appointments and events.

This month, I'm excited to share with you another effort to connect with our veterans, one that we anticipate will generate new ideas and further innovative programs. We're introducing our "Veterans Questionnaire," which will help us gain a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of the vets that we serve here in Dutchess County. The feedback we receive from those in the veterans community will shape future veteran-focused initiatives Dutchess County and our Office of Veterans Affairs undertake.

We have designed a questionnaire with a short series of questions that will only take a few minutes to complete, in hopes of identifying additional ways we can assist you.

We hope respondents' answers will offer insight such as:

identifying any of our programs that could be adjusted or administered in a more effective manner;

how we can more effectively distribute resources to address the most pressing needs of our veteran community;

identifying possible gaps in any of our services;

how we can increase community engagement and future participation in the activities and events we sponsor; and

identifying policy issues that we may need to meet with our county, state and federal representatives to discuss.

We want veterans in Dutchess County to feel they have a measure of ownership regarding the services we offer, and also know they part of the decision-making process. I believe working together to make this project a success can help us achieve that and further strengthen the strong relationship we have already developed over the years. You all have different life experiences and perspectives, and offering your unique insights will be invaluable.

I invite you to thoughtfully look over the questionnaire and answer the questions as honestly as possible. It is confidential and is designed to allow you to

answer as candidly as possible. All answers will be kept anonymous and used only to discover new ideas and determine how to better serve you. The survey will be available online and we will also be following up with traditional paper surveys.

As you can imagine, with approximately 13,000 veterans in Dutchess County, with even modest participation from our veteran population, we expect to get a wide range of responses that will take a considerable amount of time to analyze. So we ask you to help us make this endeavor a success by supplying your answers and returning them to us as early as you can.

You can access the questionnaire on our website at [www.dutchessny.gov/veterans](http://www.dutchessny.gov/veterans) and in the coming weeks, we will also be distributing the survey by email, mail and at various community events. Help us spread the word and share the survey with fellow veterans so we can get as much feedback as possible. We appreciate your help!

As always, if you have any questions, please contact our office at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Services at 845-486-2060 or visit [www.dutchessny.gov/veterans](http://www.dutchessny.gov/veterans).

We're excited to hear from you.

## Tree removal at Breakneck Ridge to begin this week

Tree removal will begin to take place in the Breakneck Ridge corridor, on the west side of Route 9D, just north of the Breakneck tunnel in the Town of Fishkill this week, according to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT).

This work is in preparation for construction of the Breakneck Connector and Bridge, which is slated to begin later this spring, stated HHFT.

An Environmental Stewardship Biologist with the New York State Office

of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) conducted a field determination that there are no active raptor nests in the area of work.

Ultimately, these trees will be replaced with 2,080 shrubs, 430 trees, and thousands of additional native plants to foster more early successional forest, dense shrub, and grassland habitat, which will better serve native wildlife in the Breakneck corridor, stated HHFT.

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# Obituaries

## Phillip Randazzo



Phillip Chris Randazzo, a resident of Beacon, NY, formerly of Peekskill and Mount Kisco, passed away on February 4, 2025 at Putnam Hospital at the age of 81.

He was born in Passaic, NJ on July 31, 1943 to the late Christopher and Pearle (Pizzulo) Randazzo.

His high school years began at Peekskill Military Academy and finished as a graduate of Clifton High School, Class of 1961. It is there where he met his high school sweetheart whom he married and together they had Christopher, David, Todd, and Tracy, before separating. He played clarinet for the Mustang band and marched in the Rose Parade in California in 1960 and played football in high school.

He started out working for his father as a senior project manager in the family

construction company, Randall Construction before becoming an independent contractor and starting P.C. Randazzo Construction Company. While working for his father at Randall Construction, his work took him all around the NY/NJ area for such companies as IBM, UniRoyal, and many libraries, public schools and government buildings at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, NJ and the U.S. Post Office in Newark, NJ.

Phil had the opportunity to attend the New Jersey State Police Academy with extremely high marks on his entrance exam, but ultimately he enjoyed working with his dad and stayed on at Randall, running major construction projects. He was extremely talented at overseeing complicated projects and managing the many workers of varying trades required to get the job done. He was meticulous with numbers and calculations. Phil was incredibly proud of starting his own business, P.C. Randazzo Construction Company. He continued working in construction until a back injury made the strenuous physical work too difficult.

Later, Phil had another son, Joseph, and was especially passionate about coaching him in baseball and bowling. Phil was an avid golfer and bowler. He loved few things more than the NY Yankees. He loved cars and his midnight blue 1964 GTO drop top with white interior was a special point of pride.

In his later years, he was PopPop to his grandchildren, pursued passion projects, spent time with friends, and always had a story to tell. He left an indelible impression on all who knew him and will be very much missed.

Phil Randazzo was larger than life to all who knew him and passed peacefully after making an unforgettable mark on this world.

Survivors include his son, Joseph Randazzo & his wife Christina of Wappingers Falls; his son, Christopher Randazzo & his wife Pamela of Millville, NJ; his daughter, Tracy Shinabery & her husband Craig of Defiance, OH; his son, David Randazzo & his wife Maryann of Millville, NJ; his son, Todd Randazzo of Millville, NJ; his grandchildren: Kate, Rory, Stephanie, Christina, Lara, and Linnea; his great-grandchildren: Steven, Jonathan, Kayden, Kora, and Kooper; his siblings: Patrick Randazzo & his wife Patricia and Christine Donofrio; as well as several nieces & nephews and many other loving relatives & friends.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents as well as his brother, Paul Randazzo, and brother-in-law, Michael Donofrio.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. followed by a service at 3:00 p.m. at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY.

For online tributes, visit [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## William A. Cross



William "Bill" A. Cross, 93, passed away on March 3, 2025, in Redmond, WA.

Born December 23, 1931, in Beacon, NY, he was the son of the late William and Myrtle (Root) Cross.

He attended New York City College and graduated in 1951.

On November 22, 1954, he married Helen Veronica (Clee), who passed away on January 7, 1979. He married Lois (McAllister) on June 18, 1983, losing her on December 11, 2018.

In his younger days, Bill was an avid hunter and fisherman who enjoyed the mountains and streams of the Hudson Valley. Later he took up tennis, which he played regularly with his children. He also enjoyed the arts, growing bonsai, playing the

piano, and listening to classical music. He had a great sense of humor and loved telling stories, particularly of growing up in Beacon.

Bill was an accountant and general manager throughout his career, assisting multiple businesses, which necessitated moving back and forth across the country. He finally retired at the age of 83 from Corporate United Van Lines in Washington in 2014. He also sat on the board of directors for several charitable organizations.

He is survived by his seven children: William (Laurie) of McHenry, IL, Joe (Patty) of Buckeye, AZ, Tom (Anne Wehrly) of Carnation, WA, Veronica Ryan (Bruce Pyles) of Mill Creek, WA, Robert (Sally) of Fox Island, WA, Edward of Tucson, AZ, John (Rose Brant) of Junction City, OR, and two stepchildren, Ross McAllister of Redmond, WA, and Megan (Mike) Johnson of Clancy, MT. He also leaves behind 22 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Along with his two wives, Bill was preceded in death by his sister, Theresa Travis, and his brother, Francois Cross.

A brief graveside service will be held at the New St. Joachim's Cemetery, Beacon, NY, at 11:30am on April 4th. There will be a reception following at the Southern Dutchess Country Club.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

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

## Lilia P. Zani



Lilia P. Zani, a beloved resident of Wappingers Falls, peacefully passed away at her home on March 6, 2025, at the age of 92, leaving behind a rich legacy of love, family, and dedication. She was born on December 20, 1932, in Gropodalosio, Italy to the late Sovvenire Perini and Dusolina Della Bartolomea.

Lilia was educated in Italy, Switzerland and the United States. She was born and raised in Italy, where she grew up on a farm before meeting Sabino Zani. They left their home and traveled to the United States, married on February 24, 1957, and raised seven children until his passing on March 24, 2020.

Lilia hired a tutor to help her improve her English writing and speaking skills, and she excelled. She was a busy homemaker and entrepreneur,

working as a floral designer for Rosemary Flower Shop while also starting her own business, Flowers by Lilia. She enjoyed cooking and baking and was known for her homemade bread, ravioli, and special foods unique to her home in Italy as she treasured the moments spent teaching her grandchildren the joy of food.

Lilia, an outstanding gardener with a passion for vibrant flowers and thriving vegetable gardens, also mastered the art of mushroom foraging from her childhood in the hills of Tuscany. In her later years, she embraced a more relaxed lifestyle, spending time watching her favorite shows like Days of Our Lives, Mike and Molly, Last Man Standing, Lifetime, and Little House on the Prairie.

Lilia was a devoted wife and mother to her children: Mauro Zani (Sandra) from Raleigh, NC; Franco Zani (Elaine Rivera) from Highland, NY; John Carlo Zani (Diane) from Poughkeepsie, NY; Gina Zani-Palome (Michael) from Wappingers Falls, NY; Nancy Rini (John) from Beacon, NY; Angelo Zani from Saugerties, NY; and Sabino Zani (Magan) from Raleigh, NC. Lilia cherished her grandchildren including: Andrea, Kristina, Alexander, Arianna, Franco Jr., John Anthony, Francesca, Johncarlo, Parker, and Jane Frances. She leaves behind her sister, Adele (Perini) Tavaroni of Italy, her brother Pietro Perini, and countless nieces and nephews also in Italy.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. The mass of remembrance is devoted to Lilia's late husband, Sabino Zani, and her deceased parents, Sovvenire Perini and Dusolina Della Bartolomea.

## Diane D'Albro



Diane died peacefully on February 24, 2025, at home, surrounded by her family. She had just been enrolled in Hospice after several years battling two rare and aggressive cancers. Although she lost that battle, she has won the "imperishable crown" of Eternal Life in the arms of our loving Savior. Diane was born in Manhattan, NY, on May 8, 1949, and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. She attended her parish's (St. Edmund's) elementary and high school. After graduation she earned certification as a dietary and nutrition manager from New York University and used her training and skills to care for the nutritional needs of hospital and nursing

home patients in Connecticut. Her care, concern, and creativity brought comfort and joy to patients and staff alike.

In recent years, Diane spent many hours at The Lunch Box of Dutchess Outreach, Poughkeepsie, providing lunch and dinner to the poor and homeless of Poughkeepsie, and also offering best practices to the staff. Second only to her family was her love and devotion to her spiritual family at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center, Wappingers Falls. She attended daily Mass there and donated many hours replacing candles in the chapel, helping with bingo and tag sales, and baking her scrumptious chocolate pumpkin bread and other goodies for many occasions. But the highlight of her association with Mt. Alvernia came with her decision to apply for admission as a Secular Franciscan. After a couple of years of study, she was formally enrolled in January 2024, as a member of the Stigmata Fraternity of the Franciscan Order. For her, this moment was a genuine peak experience in her spiritual life. Surrounded by her natural family and her new spiritual family, Diane experienced a peace and trust that helped her immeasurably to deal with the uncertainty and suffering that two rare cancers would inflict on her.

Diane is survived by her two sons, Brian Macfarlane of Providence, RI, and Thomas (Stacy) Macfarlane of South Windsor, CT, on whom she has showered unconditional love, as well as encouragement, advice (and occasional admonishment) throughout their lives. She is also survived by her brothers: James (D'Anne) of Los Osos, CA; and Thomas of Wappingers Falls. There are numerous cousins scattered throughout the country. She was predeceased by her parents, Vincent James and Rose Riccobono.

The Wake service was on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Delehanty Funeral Home, Wappingers Falls. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, March 4, at St. Martin de Porres Church, Poughkeepsie. Burial followed at the Wappingers Rural Cemetery, followed by a reception for family and friends at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center. Memorial donations may be made to Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center, Habitat for Humanity (Poughkeepsie), or Dutchess Outreach, Poughkeepsie.



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House Cleaner Needed. Small two bedroom, two baths. References and Driver License Required. 845-325-2337

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### 401 Apartments for Rent

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### 403 Furnished Rooms

2 rooms, Private Bathroom and Entrance. Semi furnished, into private home. No Kitchen. Call: 845-784-8964

### 503 Furniture

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

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

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

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

2-drawer, wide, metal filing cabinet. Good shape, tan, has lock but no key. 19 D x 30 W x 28 H. \$25. 845-227-5922

Sofa with reclining ends, \$75. Recliner Rocker, \$50. All good cond., Blue in color. 845-297-0131

Bunk Bed set with ladder, one dresser. Early american style, great condition \$175. 845-227-5922

### 504 Appliances

Large Air Fryer, never used, have all attachments, booklet. I don't have room on my counter, \$75 OBO. 845-242-7717

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

Girls White lace tiered dress (Communion, Flowergirl, etc). Size 12 Never worn-tags attached, \$25. 845-264-0240

1974 set of 2 foldable Mets Photo Albums. 1974 Official Mets Year Book in original envelopes from Stadium, \$80. 845-582-0450

Treadmill Exerciser (Pro-Form Crosswalk #395). Excellent condition, \$150. 845-677-5293 call mornings.

10" (TC250B) Tilesaw 2.5 H/P with PVD tray. 3340 RPM with mini pum Chicago power tool, \$150 OBO. Ping Pong table MDSport Not Used, \$125 OBO. 845-831-8698

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

CANNON FOR SALE, Full size Napoleon Howitzer Smooth Bore. 2.125 inch. Original Civil War fittings, all equipment, Trailer. Fed. Exempt. \$25,000. Ron Shaner 845-266-0334

Sony Handycam Video Camera with Case. 16 hour battery life and instructions, \$75. Call 845-226-8896

European Lead figures, also European Model Cars HO Marklin Trans 1940's-1970's large collection very nice resonable. 845-221-0893

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

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

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

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

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

Special Bike made in Denmark, good cond., \$75. 845-401-7654

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

Brother Laser Printer H-L L2395DW Print copy scan new cond. Asking \$75. Leave message. Contact Roseanne, 845-897-5812

New Bathroom Vanity with sink, \$60 10" Deluxe Electronic Radial Saw with 44" cabinet and 2 doors. Leave message, 845-426-4441

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

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

### 900 Autos For Sale

2005 Lexus ES330 for sale. Best Offer. Runs good. Still driving on road. 845-297-0084

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### 903 Motorcycles



1993 Harley Davidson FLHTC 1340cc, Black/Chrome, \$5,000 OBO. CALL: 845-554-6317

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# Students at RMS achieve honor roll for 2nd quarter

The following students are on the honor roll at Rombout Middle School for the 2nd quarter, according to the administration.

### Principal's Honor Roll 6th Grade

Henry Allee, Logan Alvarado, Kevin Boyle Jr, Dylan Brown, Amadou Ceesay, Adeline Clark, Emmett Coleman, Frances Coulon, Rana Craig, Grace Daley, Iris Dotson, Alden Emich, Evan Eraca, Aoibhinn Fehilly, Linnea Gabel, Margo Gentle, Xavier Hazim, Mia Hernandez, Morgan Jamin, Ania Krasikova, Dean Macaluso, Samuel Mack, Jack McGrath, Camille Murphy, Evan Pantojas, Atticus Perez, Anya Piester, Luna Punsoda-Drew, Mosammat Rahman, Gisella Sanchez, Jose Santiago, Sabine Schenck, Orion Sinift, Mateo Spaccarelli, Fiona Suckow, David Verdesi, Leo Virgadamo, Madelyn Westlake, Delanie Winther, Rufus Zimmerman

### 7th Grade

Lucinda Arginsky, Leo Aymar-Blair, Sirah Bah, Olivia Bellis, Preston Bennett, Lucas Campos, Kamilah Corte-Illescas, Ali Cosentino, Gianna Cruz, Sofia Cruz, Dean Cumming, Nathan Domanski, Kai Illa-Hanca, Charlie Jelliffe, Jonah Landahl, Regan Laug, Jonah Lipman, Kai Mason, John McKay, Mikayla McMahon, Daniel Mulligan, Asa Partlow, Maya Pellegrin, Tavin Pennock, Avery Persico, Colten Powlis, Jack Reeves, Lorenzo Sait, Roberto Sampson, Emmylou Shay, Anna Sheehy, Madeline Smith, Angelina Soria, Justinas Turner, Kevin Vogrincic, Braden Webster

### 8th Grade

Natalie Allen, Luna Ayers-Uekawa, Fiona Burke-Smith, Ethan Cason, Ivy Cohen, Connor Coldrick, Sebastian Concepcion, Elodie Duquesne, Kylie

Ebeling, Lilah Fisher, Alice Gabel, Edith Giunta, Manasvi Gupta, Silas Hayes, Samih Jabar, Samantha Johnson, Davia Kelleher, Julian Khan, Pixie Kimberg, Suvi O'Shea, Dominick Pulcastro, Tallix Roan, Zbigniew Rybak, Ashley Senior, Silas Stampleman, Sherley Tacuri, Anita Vigeant

### High Honor Roll 6th Grade

Nana Adusei, Uday Alaji, Ember Allred, Amelie Aquino Collins, Maya Ariel, Alexander Arroyo, Haley Brandstrom, Caiden Burks, Maximus Burton, Jacob Bustamante Cruz, Elijah Cherubini, Violet Costello, Zoey Darcy, Arianna Diaz, Savannah Dick, Mirella Digneo, Cooper Figlia, Audrey Fisher, Bryan Flores Urzua, Samara Friedman Quinn, Lucas Genao, Allayna Graham, Orly Gropen, Francesca Guido Taylor, Samoya Haye, Oliver Jackson, Alyssa Keels, Makenzie Kiernan, Elijah Macaluso, Jake Maxaner, Sonja McCollum, Madyson Mericle, Peter Miozzi, Cassidy O'Sullivan, Jesus Perez Jr, Timothy Perez-Sample, Vincent Pulcastro, Acadia Rodriguez, Julian Romero, Emily Rottenkolber, Phoebe Roy, Jackson Simonetta, Naomi Simons, Mason Soltish, Ava Spence, Max Staab, Macon Stadler, Elan Stim-Fogel, Alejandro Suscal Sinchi, Ariya Valverde, Lucas White, Finn Woolston

### 7th Grade

Nia Abonyoh, Alexis Aduamah, Mikaela Arce, Erick Arpi, Parker Bennett, Aiden Berry, Mateo Buckland, Troy Burch, Ninalyse Caccomo, Daniel Calderon, Angel Cruz, Trey Davis, Meera Diebboll, Radcliffe Dunne, Amelia Emich, Julianna Gannon, Mia Gombiner, Alicia Green, Asher Hetling, Sarai Horne,

Luis Jimenez Bueso, Ciel Koerner, Max Mawson, Damien Mayers, Ava Morgan, Qahtan Murshed, Conal O'Sullivan, Anthony Patino, Ian Ramkalawon, Aaliyah Ridore, Aundrey Savage Jr., Lucas Simms, Olivia Spiecker, Victoria Squilla, Joscelyn Sweat, Yidoen Tenzin, Louisa Virgadamo, Nathanyel Walden, Henry White

### 8th Grade

Brayden Arroyo, Vivianna Bailey, Hazel Balogh, Gavin Barone, Alyanna Bembridge, Amaya Bravo, Marcus Brooks Jr., Matthew Browne, Teaghan Burks, Madison Carr, Chase Christman-Evans, Shuprova Das, Gabriela Diaz, Willow Faiella, Grace Fleming, Jayme Fuentes, Jack Garrett, Jordan Garzon, Carolina Guerra, Weston Hetrick, Nahlia Keane, Miles King, Connor Kuhhorn, Vivienne Lipari, Anthony Lopez, James Mack, Ralph Marinaccio IV, Celest Marshall, Ramiro Martinez Jr., Auwaab Mohammed Murtada, Noah Montoya Gutierrez, Sarah Pillcurima Panama, Dion Qelaj, Sophia Romero, Jonathan Saraceno, Landon Soltish, Sophia Spiconardi, George Stadler, Ryan Sulca, Daniel Tschang, Jaliyah Vasquez, Joshua Velazquez, Emery Vergolina, Colin Witkowski

### Honor Roll 6th Grade

Christian Alzate, Daisy Bernacchia, Madison Bostock, Bryce Brown-Rohan, Connor Campbell, Izabelle Castro, Anthony Constantino, Chloe Daniels, Maxxum Digneo, Catalynn Figueroa, Nyomi-Navii Gillman, Carlos Gonzalez Jr, Eivan Hetling, Milania Hubbard, Nahlia Kelland, Caleb Martell, Lev Martin, Sabrina Montague, Eliza Montanez, Danny Nivicela Jarama, Michael Owens, Arron Pittman, Ella Posey, Christian Robinson, Otis

Robitaille, Arvin Roci, Ezekiel Rodriguez, Ryleigh Russak, Sebastian Smith, Scott Solano, MacKenzie Thorpe, Olivia Velazquez, Skyler Zingone Redfield

### 7th Grade

Grey Andersen, Gennaro Antonucci, Even Aquino, Myla Ballard, Walter Bean, Jessiah Beckwith, Marley Brooks, Amaziah Buffin, Madison Clark, Adran Conklin, Madison Crinieri, Mason Cruz, Mia Cuautle, Gia DelBianco, Camron Dennis, Riley DiTata, Hudson Faust, Joi Finley, Avery Fisher, Elias Havers, Matilda Hoffman, Bryce Jackson Lane, Phillip Johnson, Mario Jovel, Zeev Korman-Bennis, Luca Lentini, Johanna Marquez, Laila Martinez, Patrick McEvoy, Mason McNair, Charles Montleon, Jaxson Pultz, Ella Reyes, Mary Rinaldi, Naomi Rivera, George Robitaille, Annalise Saiz, Leilani Sanchez, Sean Sanders, Hailey Seddon, Ethan See, Ledion Shtanaj, Elliot Trabka, Angel Vigil Garay, Zuri Yeboah, Jacob Zayas

### 8th Grade

Lorelei Aakjar, Elaina Alvarez, Riley Anderson, Shannon Anzovino, Sarp Bagriyanik, James Bailey, Hawken Brickman, Jack Bunker, Ava Casanova-Flippin, Lily Cheyne, Jackson Coultas, Hailey Day, Braedan Eraca, Shaniya Evans, Ronza Ghazzawi, Eli Gilleo, Lucien Guido Taylor, Nathan Hayden, Greyson Johnson, Grace Just, Ileana Lawrence, Isabella Lopez, Scarlett Mckimmey, Michael Medina, Ian Melhado, Elena Moleano, Divine Morris, Madelyn Newcomb, Yailin Novas Perez, Noah Postolan, Keily Quiridumbay, Leela Ramdeen, Sanaa Richardson, DeJaun Rigby, Genevieve Shrawder, Everett VanCott, Lily Vogrincic, Marina Winters, Callie Winther.

### Legal Notices

#### NOTICE TO OWNERS OF VIABLE FARM-LAND IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Pursuant to Section 303-b of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25AA, the Dutchess County Legislature has designated the period April 15 through May 14, 2025, during which Dutchess County landowners who own "predominately viable agricultural land" may request that their land be newly included in the County's Agricultural District 21. In order to be considered for such inclusion, an application must be made on or before May 14, 2025. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land" will be included. The application is to be completed online and is available at: <https://gis.dutchessny.gov/ag-districts/>. If you require assistance with submitting an application, please contact the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 845-677-8011 ext. 3 or apply in person at the Farm & Home Center 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY 12545. Landowners whose parcels are already included in an Agricultural District are not required to apply as part of the annual inclusion process. Inclusion in an Agricultural District provides potential right-to-farm protections for qualifying farm businesses, including protection against laws that unreasonably regulate farm operations in agricultural districts, limited protection from private nuisance claims, and notification of property buyers about farming practices prior to purchase of property in agricultural districts. The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board will review applications and submit a report to the Dutchess County Legislature, which will hold a public hearing and forward any approved applications to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for certification. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land," pursuant to Section 303-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law will be included.

### Legal Notices

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### Legal Notices

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.

## Beacon Elks recognize Wappingers JHS Students of the Month



Members of the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recognized the Wappingers Junior High School Students of the Month for January 2025 during a certificate ceremony that was held on Feb. 12.

Pictured front row: Victoria Bergman (7th) and Mekhi Pearce (8th); Back row: Michelle Califano, Guidance Counselor; Jeanine McAuley, Esteemed Leading Knight; Cathy Oken, Youth Activities Chair; teachers, Richard Coelho, Heather Coelho, Tonya Liberta, Catherine Perri Siena, Jennifer Hansen, Lisa Talaber, WJHS Assistant Principal, and Sharon Haviland, Esteemed Loyal Knight.

Each Student of the Month recipient receives a Certificate of Achievement and a gift certificate to a local business. The Elks thank Giacomo's Pizza Cafe for recognizing this month's students.

-Courtesy photo from Beacon Elks

## this week's puzzle solutions

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9 and some cells empty. Below the grid, the text 'This week's answer' is written upside down, and the word 'SUDOKU' is written in large letters.

Word search puzzle grid with letters and some words highlighted in black. The words 'MIDWINTER', 'WINTER', 'SOLUTION', 'WAPINGERS', 'STUDENTS', 'MONTH', 'RECOGNIZED', 'CERTIFICATE', 'CEREMONY', 'HOLD', 'FEBRUARY', '12', 'BEACON', 'ELKS', 'LODGE', '1493', 'JANUARY', '2025' are visible.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9 and some cells empty. Below the grid, the text 'Suguru solution' is written upside down.



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

			3		
			5		3
1					
			2		2

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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: MARCH MADNESS**

**ACROSS**

1. Giant Himalayan
5. \*M in MAC
8. Bathtub libation
11. Joie de vivre
12. Do like fly fisherman
13. East side of Jersey
15. Tucked in
16. Diva's solo
17. Length of a forearm
18. \*\_\_\_\_ Sunday
20. Osiris' wife
21. Freshwater fish
22. Stir fry pan
23. Victorian era overcoat
26. Smallest
30. \*Like attending band at the NCAA Tournament
31. Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
34. Great Lake
35. Prep mushrooms for steak, e.g.
37. Cooking fat
38. Bible song
39. Second to last word in some fairytales
40. False
42. Dip oreo into milk, e.g.
43. Tiresome
45. Hoariest
47. NBC's sketch comedy show
48. Misrepresent
50. South American monkey
52. \*2025 NCAA Championship game venue
56. Renaissance fiddle
57. "To \_\_\_\_ and to hold"
58. \_\_\_\_-friendly
59. Founding Father Thomas \_\_\_\_
60. Damien's prediction
61. Reunion group
62. Bancroft to Hoffman in "The Graduate"
63. Agreement word
64. Ages and ages

**DOWN**

1. Nay opposers
2. River in Bohemia
3. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
4. Owes money (2 words)
5. Angelina Jolie's 2024 singing role
6. "Kick the bucket," e.g.
7. \*\_\_\_\_ Smith, coach of 2 champs and 11 Final Four teams
8. Mongolian desert
9. Fleur-de-lis
10. \*Cut down at end of last game
12. Like rheumy eyes
13. Descendant
14. \*2024 winners
19. Thin pancake
22. \*\_\_\_\_ and move on
23. \*Cinderella's victory
24. Furlough
25. Spew, past tense
26. Cough syrup balsam
27. Use other end of pencil?
28. Farm structures
29. Dangle a carrot
32. \*\_\_\_\_-up or evenly matched game
33. Step on it
36. \*2024 Most Outstanding Player Newton
38. Paralyzing disease, for short
40. Afghan monetary unit
41. Neolithic tomb
44. "Riunite \_\_\_\_ , that's nice"
46. Figure out
48. Scapegoat's due
49. Roof overhang
50. Salty drop
51. Avian wader
52. Sailor call
53. Capital of Norway
54. Statistics calculation
55. Sea eagles
56. Dashboard acronym

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



# HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



## Spring & Science: Two that are better together

Just like cocoa needs marshmallows and Kermit's wit is ever enhanced by his longtime love, Miss Piggy, spring and science make a super pairing. Is the coupling of an academic subject and a season comparable to the 1940s romance of Bogie and Bacall? Is the bond closer to the flavorful marriage of peas and carrots? The unwavering acceptance of Forrest Gump and Jenny? Read on to see why spring and science go hand-in-glove.

Late March through May are months when themes such as biological cycles, pollinators, diversity, and many others are particularly relevant due to weather patterns. Those topics all relate to ecology and Earth Day (April 22) as the academic year draws to a close. Classroom teachers and homeschoolers can try these science activities which are easily done in the spring. Try them out and you will agree that spring and science is better than peanut butter and jelly or a pen and paper.

### Extract chlorophyll from plant leaves

Springtime leaves are bright green. Grind them up and soak them in alcohol to extract the green pigment. The process is a way to learn about plant molecules involved in photosynthesis. Chlorophyll can be used for a chromatography investigation, or teaching younger children about the seasons.

### Examine stomata

Stomata are pores which allow the pas-

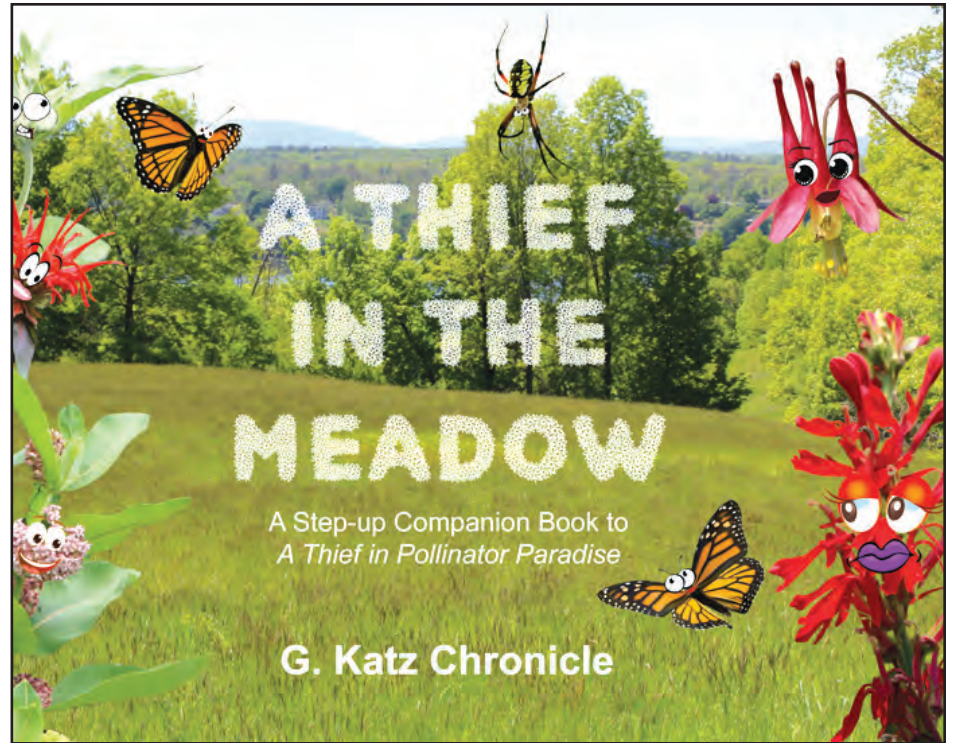
sage of CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O. Most stomata are on the bottom of plants' leaves. The number of stomata on the epidermal surface can tell you a lot about a plant. Plants that grow in different climates have stomata adapted to their location.

### Observe lichens

Lichens are typically seen growing on rocks. They are considered pioneers because they have few ecological requirements for life. Over time, they prepare conditions for other organisms through the biodeterioration of rocks and the accumulation of nutrients. Colonization of an area by lichens is an important first step in the succession of barren locations and areas devastated by disasters. Meet the Lichens is a FREE sample "Do Now" activity which teaches about the symbiotic nature of lichens. "Do Nows" can be used at the beginning of classes or as a "fill-in" to help with the comprehension of science concepts. The activity is available at: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/SAMPLE-DO-NOW-MEET-THE-LICHENS-ECOLOGY-6679549>.

### Dissect a flower

Flower dissection is a hands-on way to teach flower structures, or as a part of a unit on reproduction. The best flower types to dissect include lilies, tulips, daffodils, alstroemerias and gladiolus. Avoid daisies, asters, calla lilies, roses, and iris since their



Cover for the book "A Thief in the Meadow."

-Courtesy image

floral structures are not as easy to view.

### Read 'A Thief in Pollinator Paradise' or 'A Thief in the Meadow'

Both tales deal with the coevolution of flowers and their pollinators. The characters discuss symbiosis, photosynthesis and respiration. The mystery at the heart of both stories encourages the meadow-dwelling characters to make observations and collect evidence so they can identify the thief!

Spring blooms allow easy access to foliage for obtaining chlorophyll and examining stomata. Greater sunlight and warmer temperatures permit pleasant outings for observing lichens and gathering blossoms for dissection. And, for those of us familiar with Poets' Walk in Red Hook, you will notice that views of that location

are part of the meadow setting in the two "Thief" books mentioned above. The meadow is in Dutchess County, overlooking the Hudson River.

Those are just some of the reasons why I think Spring and Science is a pairing that rivals that of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall!

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/>.



A screen grab shows a flower dissection.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

## Children's Book Festival set for March 29 at DCC's Falcon Hall



The Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival is set for Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Dutchess Community College, Falcon Hall. It is free to attend. No registration required.

Meet and greet authors and illustrators (covering reading ages from preschool to Young Adult), take one's picture with favorite costumed book characters, and have fun with hands-on activities. Books will be available to purchase, and to have signed by the authors and illustrators who made them.

Free parking in Lot A (30 Mascot Dr.) or Lot D (95 Cottage Rd.).

Free crafts and hands-on activities will be provided by The Art Effect and Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum.

-Courtesy photo

## Beacon Elks to serve Lenten dinners on Friday night

Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, in recognition of the Lenten season, will provide lent dinners every Friday until Easter, which is April 20.

The dinners are open to the public; meals are \$20 (\$21 for takeout); and are

served from 6-8 p.m. The Friday, March 21, the dinner is a crab cake sandwich, fries, coleslaw, and dessert.

It is recommended to call ahead (845-831-9746) to reserve a seat and/or a meal.