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VA Dept. gives recommendations on Castle Point

By Kristine Coulter

The Department of Veterans Affairs released its Asset and Infrastructure Review report March 14. The report recommends possibly closing Castle Point VA Medical Center (VAMC) for the purpose of making upgrades. The AIR Commission will conduct public hearings. It will then submit its own recommendations in 2023 to the president for further review.

“VA came to these recommendations by asking ourselves one question above all else: what’s best for the Veterans we serve? Because that is our number one goal, today and every day. That’s what our Asset and Infrastructure Review recommendations are all about,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough in a press release. “We’ve spent the last several weeks and months communicating about this with VA employees, union partners, state partners, Veteran service organizations, Congress, and more. I’m continuing to consult with our unions, and will do so moving forward, because I so appreciate the strong partnership we have with them.”

Recommendation for Castle Point, but no ‘decisions’ yet

The recommendation regarding the Castle Point VAMC in the report is “Following the realignment of services, the current Castle Point VAMC will be closed.”

“There have been no announcements or decisions regarding any VA facilities closing, anywhere including Castle Point. VA was required by law to conduct a series of market assessments under the VA MISSION Act to examine future demand for health care services among the Veteran population, which is projected to change in size and location over the next decade. It is important to note that any recommendations to the upcoming AIR Commission are just recommendations,” said Lenox Okall, Public Affairs Specialist for VA Hudson Valley Health Care System Castle Point Campus.

According to the report, the Castle Point VAMC was built in 1923.

“The current infrastructure and layout do not meet modern health care standards, and the existing facility requires significant capital investment. FCA deficiencies total approximately \$115.5M, and annual operations and maintenance costs total an estimated \$7.6M. There are 4,998 beds within a 60-minute drive time of the VAMC with an average occupancy rate of 76.1%. With the declining population, low demand, substantial maintenance cost, and high-quality community partners for inpatient care nearby, Veterans can sustainably receive care in the community,” states the report.

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Celebrating sugar maple season

The Fresh Air Fund, Dutchess County to host events this weekend



Tim Stanley, Director of The Fresh Air Fund Sharpe Reservation, checks the sap collected from sugar maple trees on the property, which is being made into maple syrup. Inset, a wooden leaf highlighting the “Best of the Best” syrup at Sharpe.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

This year is the return of the annual Maple Sugar Celebration at the Fresh Air Fund’s Sharpe Reservation on March 26. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual event had to be canceled in 2020 and 2021. The festivity in Fishkill is one of many that will take part across the state as part of New York State’s Maple Association’s National Maple Weekend.

Dutchess County Park will host its Sap

Happy Weekend March 25 – 27. Sap Happy Weekend, which take place in collaboration with the Office for the Aging, Poughkeepsie Public Library, Farmers and Chefs restaurant and Sean’s Waffles food truck, will be held at Bowdoin Park, 85 Sheafe Road, in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Free admission to Sugar Maple Celebration

The Sugar Maple Celebration, a rain or

shine event, will take place at Sharpe Reservation, 436 Van Wyck Lake Road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. There will be food for purchase during the day.

“We started tapping trees around Feb. 12,” said Tim Stanley, Director of Sharpe Reservation. There are 150 trees with tube lines, he said.

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Estonian couple warns of Putin’s ultimate goal

By Rich Thomaselli

Since February 24, Dutchess County residents Mark Lagus and his wife, Leevi Ernits, said they have been shaken over the events that have taken place in Ukraine.

That was the day that Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin, launched a full-scale invasion of a sovereign Ukraine, formerly part of the old Soviet Union, but fiercely independent since 1991 when the U.S.S.R. splintered.

Lagus’ parents are from Estonia, another area of the old Communist regime that broke off into an independent republic, and Ernits was actually born and raised in Estonia when it was still part of the Soviet Union and still has family there.

They were shaken by the war, but not surprised.

“We have been watching Putin for close to 20 years because of Estonia’s proximity to Russia. He doesn’t have respect for the borders drawn today or any respect for the self-determination of the people,” Lagus said. “You know, in 2006 or 2007 there was



Bangall residents Mark Lagus and his wife, Leevi Ernits, are of Estonian heritage and have been shaken by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin.

-Courtesy photo

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# Sugar maple celebrations this weekend



A display about maple syrup at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

## High school seeks Career Fair participants

Beacon High School is currently seeking participants for its annual career fair. The fair will be held on Friday, May 27 from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. All careers welcome!

Participants will get a table on which they can display any items that represent their career and can serve as talking pieces with the students. Set-up for the event will begin at 9 a.m., and a light breakfast will be served. A light lunch will be available towards the middle of the event.

Please contact Michele Polhamus, School Counselor, for additional information and link to register for the event at [polhamus.m@beaconk12.org](mailto:polhamus.m@beaconk12.org) or 845-838-6900 ext. 3025.

## Comedy show in Beacon April 2

Comedy Show on April 2 at Veterans Memorial Bldg., 413 Main St, in Beacon. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Show at begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$30 per person. Proceeds to benefit Guardian Revival Boots & Paws which provides Veterans in need with working dogs, fully trained with a care package and vet coverage and food for one year.

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*Continued from page 1*

Stanley explained that this year the temperature fluctuations have been “a little bit more dramatic.”

“Every class [that visits] will tap a tree,” said Stanley, who noted that field trips to Sharpe during the past few weeks have been above the normal number because of the increase.

For those who attend, some of the activities will be:

- Maple Sugaring demonstration
- Live animal show
- Local crafts and food market
- Annual Maple Syrup Judging Contest

There will be 25-30 volunteers that day assisting visitors. Social distancing and wearing a mask indoors will be required, according to Stanley.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Stanley said, “We’re excited to have it again.”

**Learn about maple syrup production at Bowdoin Park**

“Dutchess County Parks’ Sap Happy Maple Weekend is a great opportunity for residents of all ages to explore our beautiful Bowdoin Park while learning about the art and history of maple syrup production, take a fun Story Walk, and even taste syrup made at the park,” said County Executive Marc Molinaro, in a press release.

Attendees will be able to purchase Bowdoin Park Maple Syrup, while available, for \$5 for 3.4oz or \$10 for 8oz. bottles.

Seniors who want to participate in Pancakes in the Park, a drive-through free pancake breakfast, can pre-register with Office for the Aging at 845-486-2555. Those who register will be given a designated time to come by and receive their meals. Reservations are limited and are required.

Those who want to take a walk and

learn at the same time, can participate in the self-guided Story Walk. One can read Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse, by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton all three days of the event. The Story Walk is in collaboration with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., one can visit Sean’s Waffles food truck.

Farmers and Chefs restaurant, 40 Albany St., in Poughkeepsie, will offer dishes with Bowdoin Park’s Maple Syrup. One such choice, for those who decide to visit the restaurant, will be a dessert – Bowdoin Park maple pecan pie.

“We truly enjoy hosting Sap Happy Maple Weekend at Bowdoin. It is a great opportunity to showcase the facility, our Park Staff who oversee maple production, and the Park Naturalists who lead maple workshops. We also thank our community partners that assist in providing additional fun happenings throughout the weekend,” said Parks Director Sandy Washburn.

**Sap Happy Maple Weekend Schedule:**

- Pancakes in the Park Drive-Through for Senior Citizens: March 25th 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. free, pre-registration required by calling 845-486-2555.
- Story Walk with Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton: March 25-27, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. near the Sugar house. Free, no registration required.
- Hands-On Public Maple Education Classes: March 25-27, sessions at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. \$5 per person, limit 20 per session. Register at [DutchessNY.gov/Parks](http://DutchessNY.gov/Parks).
- Bowdoin Park Maple Syrup Menu at Farmers and Chefs Restaurant: March 25-27, while supplies last.
- Sean’s Waffle Food Truck at Bowdoin Park: Saturday, March 26th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. near Pavilion 5.



Tioronda Garden Club officers for 2022-23 were installed earlier this month.

-Courtesy photo

## New officers installed by Tioronda Garden Club

The Tioronda Garden Club of Beacon, held its installation of newly elected officers for 2022-2023 on March 9. The new officers are President Geraldine Fuller, First Vice President Gary Barrack, Second Vice President Cindy Konzen, Recording Secretary Gillian Ramkalowon, Treasurer Cindy Marsh, and Corresponding Secretary Jean Haight.

First Vice President Gary Barrack stated, "2022 will mark the club's 93rd Anniversary The club's mission is to create an awareness of the need to conserve the natural beauty and resources of the City of Beacon and to engage the public to help beautify our surroundings. Each member should be proud to belong to an organization that has never wavered from its mission."

Meetings are held at the Howland Cultural Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and welcome and encourage new members to join.

Club President Geraldine Fuller said, "During Spring and Summer, the Garden Club contributes the beautiful baskets hanging along Main Street. The club also plants and maintains flower beds at the entrance signs to Beacon, the Howland Cultural Center, the Railroad Station, the Patriot's Garden, the Washington Triangle, the Visitor's Center, and the Clock Tower. The wreaths and lights along Main Street are prepared by members during the holiday season and members decorate the Howland Cultural Center, the Beacon Municipal Building, as well as the Madame Brett Homestead. The club also provides the flower arrangements for the Beacon High School graduation ceremony. Club members also enjoy various horticultural presentations throughout the year, trips to local gardens, as well as annual summer picnic and holiday party where members make their own holiday arrangements."

Anyone interested in becoming a member is encouraged to contact Membership Chairman Robert Haight at [nyhaights@aol.com](mailto:nyhaights@aol.com).



# Estonian couple warns of Putin’s ultimate goal

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a cyber-attack on Estonia and it shut down the country, the banks, the ports, for several days. In the olden days, a state of war would have ensued, but that was under the guise of cyber wars. So I thought that’s what would happen again. I didn’t expect tanks.”

He paused to collect his thoughts.

“After all the moral ambiguity of the last decade, it’s clear this is a good vs. evil situation,” Lagus said.

Now Mark and Leevi are on their own personal crusade. Residents of Bangall since 1999, they are trying to rally their neighbors – not just in their small town, but all over Dutchess County – to show support from Ukraine. From Ukrainian flats to bumper stickers to monetary contributions for food and clothing, Mark and Leevi are a two-person cornerstone hoping to do their small part as Estonians and kindred spirits to their brethren in Ukraine.

Because they know what could happen next.

“It seems like people in the West would be happy if Ukraine made some certain sacrifices and the war would end, but I cannot agree,” Leevi said. “Of course, we want the war to end, but Ukraine cannot make concessions. It would be worst thing to happen.”

The reason? They, like many, believe Putin has a bigger picture in mind.

“We don’t believe he will stop with Ukraine. All the Baltic states would be next,” she said.

To that end, Mark and Leevi have been rallying folks to the cause, including a recent speech at Bangallworks, where Mark, who works at GlobalFoundries in East Fishkill, was joined by colleague Ziaus Molla. Bangallworks is a co-work-

ing facility in Bangall and hosted the event entitled “A Call to Action for Ukraine and The World We Love.”

Molla and his family, including his wife, Nadiia Molla, and mother-in-law, Iryna Antonova, hail from Ukraine’s besieged city of Kherson. Nadiia spoke heartbreakingly over the plight of Ukraine and the injustice being wrought upon her people.

“We’ve seen some remarkable acts of courage in Ukraine and we need those to inspire us here,” Mark said. “We want to see the fighting stop, but only with the terms that Ukraine retains its freedom. The sanctions are tough. They are punishing all Russians. But if Putin gets out of this unscathed, it’s going to be trouble.”

The couple said that for the first time in recent memory, perhaps since the 9/11 attacks more than two decades ago, Americans have been united in terms of their support for Ukraine.

But they also both cautioned that people need to be careful and not be swayed by the events that are taking place instead of focusing on the true culprit. For instance, there has been a heartwarming video circulating on social media showing an entire elementary school in Italy waiting outside for two students arriving as Ukrainian refugees.

“It is lovely. It is heartwarming,” Leevi said. “But millions of people had to leave their homes because of this conflict. People don’t want to leave their homes. We want to fight the cause of this, whereas this is the symptom.”

Mark and Leevi were both moved by Ukraine President Zelensky’s Zoom speech to Congress last week.

“We’re trying to galvanize our representatives and hoping that the population gets out ahead of them in wanting to stop what’s going on in Ukraine,” Mark said.



Mark Lagus, whose parents are from Estonia, speaks during an event at Bangallworks in the Town of Stanford to rally local support for Ukraine on March 6.

-Courtesy photo

“To us, this is more than just Putin wanting the Soviet Union back together. He’s looking at the old Russian Empire. The devil is in the details here. If Putin comes out of this feeling like he didn’t lose, it will happen again. It might be the Baltics, but it also might be Finland. He might be more aggressive going after the elections. Who knows? This is literally a fight for the Western order.”

## County’s High-Speed Internet Survey closes March 31

Time is running out for residents, non-profits and business owners — both with and without Internet access — to complete Dutchess County’s High-Speed Internet Access Survey.

The survey takes just five minutes and, by completing it, you can help the county better understand where to invest in infrastructure and develop a plan to ensure access to this critical utility for students, businesses, nonprofits and government agencies alike.

Those without internet access can visit their local library or Senior Friendship

Center to fill out the survey, or they can contact the Department of Emergency Response at 845-486-2080 or email [broadband@dutchessny.gov](mailto:broadband@dutchessny.gov) for assistance.

The survey is the county’s first step in investing \$1 million of the Federal Government’s American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds in critical communications infrastructure as part of the County’s “Dutchess Invests” program, which was announced in June 2021.

Learn more about the project at [dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet](https://dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet).

### New York Polyphony to perform at next Howland Chamber Music Circle April 3

Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will continue its 2021-2022 season with a live performance by the male classical vocal quartet, New York Polyphony, on Sunday, April 3 at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main Street, Beacon. To attend the concert, tickets are available for purchase at <https://howlandmusic.org/Tickets.html>.

In order to ensure the safety of its patrons, HCMC is following all CDC and local COVID guidelines. Concerts will be held at half capacity to enable social distancing, and a proof of vaccination is required prior to entry. (The wearing of masks will be determined by the prevailing CDC and local government mandates and guidelines.) As guidelines may change, HCMC thanks its patrons for their flexibility and cooperation.

For more information on this performance and on the entire 2021-2022 HCMC season, please visit [howlandmusic.org](https://howlandmusic.org).

Praised for a “rich, natural sound that’s larger and more complex than the sum of

its parts,” (National Public Radio) New York Polyphony is one of the foremost vocal chamber ensembles active today. The four men, “singers of superb musicianship and vocal allure,” (The New Yorker) give vibrant, modern voice to repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant to cutting-edge modern compositions.

Their dedication to innovative programming, as well as a focus on rare and rediscovered Renaissance and medieval works, has not only earned New York Polyphony two Grammy nominations and wide acclaim, but also helped to move early music into the classical mainstream.

Their repertoire for this performance includes works by 15th- and 16th-century composers Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Thomas Byttering, and Jean Mouton, as well as the music of the 20th-century composers Irving Berlin, Ted Fio Rio and William Henry Monk. At this concert, the quartet will also perform two works that were composed specifically for them — of course, in the 21st century.

**E.F. Democrats to host blood drive**

East Fishkill Democrats will be hosting a Blood Drive on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the East Fishkill Fire District, 2502 Route 52, East Fishkill. Walk-ins welcome.

For more information contact: [connect@efdems.org](mailto:connect@efdems.org).

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Viewpoints

LETTERS  
TO THE  
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Policy on letters:

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- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
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- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Southern Dutchess News.

## Firefighters thank local Girl Scout

### To the Editor:

On Sunday, March 6, there was a knock on the firehouse door. Makayla Reinoehl, her father and her brother walked in and said she was there to deliver cookies that she paid for out of her tip money in support of the firefighters. She was greeted by Dominic Virtuoso, Tom Hunt and John Pomarico. Adopted 'Uncle Dom' gave the kids a tour of the "big red" trucks and gave them a short story on them all. We chatted with all of them, especially Makayla's dad, who is a fourth-generation owner of Lank's Automotive, Route 52, in Beacon.

It made our day when she came over and gave each of us a hug and a thank you. It's great to have a young lady come to say nice comments like that.

Makayla supports the fire service. We, as firefighters, will do the same for the local Girl Scouts.

Kudos to her family, especially her parents Christina and Josh.

She is doing it for a good cause.

Dominic Virtuoso, Tom Hunt and John Pomarico  
"The Glenham Trio"

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## Troop 40 scouts recognized



Troop 40 Court of Honor celebrated scout achievements and community service.  
-Courtesy photo

Scouts and leaders from Troop 40 gathered earlier this month to celebrate achievements at the winter Court of Honor. George Boumis and Michael Diamond earned the rank of Scout. Ryan Peretta advanced to Tenderfoot and Dylan Servidio earned the rank of Star. Andrew

Check received the 50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award and Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award. Community Service activities included Haunted Harvest Thunderbird Games at Croton Point Park, Adopt-A-Highway and hosting a Halloween Party for Pack 227.

## Central Hudson audit, billing review and storm response under way

The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) has approved a third-party independent consulting company to conduct a comprehensive management and operations audit of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation.

The Poughkeepsie-based Central Hudson serves approximately 309,000 electric customers and 84,000 natural gas customers in the mid-Hudson region.

In addition, the Public Service Commission announced a review of Central Hudson's response to the February winter storm that left more than 67,000 homes and businesses without power and it is investigating ongoing billing problems related to the company's recent upgrade to a new billing system that resulted in many customers not receiving timely monthly bills.

"The audit we have launched will examine Central Hudson's electric and gas operations in New York State," said Commission Chair Rory M. Christian. "The audit will also provide an assessment of Central Hudson's grid modernization efforts and examines how the company plans for and manages projects related to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act or CLCPA. We are also closely examining Central Hudson's storm response efforts, and its ongoing customer-billing problems."

The audit will also examine governance, management, and customer operations, including bill estimation processes. The law provides the Commission the authority to conduct management and operations audits of natural gas and electric utilities. For large electric and natural gas utilities, such as Central Hudson, the law requires such audits at least once

every five years.

As the Commission stated publicly during its February session, it requires detailed scorecard reports from Central Hudson based on the length and severity of the recent winter storm. These publicly filed scorecards serve as a tool for the quantitative assessment of New York State's electric utilities' performance in restoring power to customers after a significant outage. These reports will be thoroughly reviewed by staff, and a determination will be made regarding next steps.

In terms of the recent supply price bill surge, on March 1, 2022, the Commission sent letters to all of New York's major electric and gas utilities, including Central Hudson, requiring them to increase their outreach and education efforts with New Yorkers on the continuing surge in energy supply prices and the impact it will have on utility bills. The Commission sees this outreach as essential considering the increases to utility bills customers are experiencing as a result of the rising cost of fossil fuels.

Department of Public Service staff are also aware of recent billing and customer service issues faced by customers of Central Hudson. An on-going independent investigation is underway. The agency is actively working with the utility to ensure these issues are resolved as soon as possible and appropriate plans are put in place to prevent these situations in the future. The management audit, which will be conducted by Overland Consulting, includes a review of customer information system changes since the last audit and the impact of such changes on customers.

## Jacobson praises PSC decision to audit Central Hudson's winter storm response

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-Newburgh) praised the Public Service Commission's recent announcement that it will be auditing Central Hudson's winter storm response and estimated billing practices.

Jacobson said, "It's high time Central Hudson got the bugs out of its new billing system. All winter, I have been hearing from constituents who either received an enormously high estimated bill that doesn't correspond to actual usage or no bill at all for months on end.

"That's why I introduced legislation (A8806A) that limits the number of estimated bills a utility company can issue and directs the Public Service Commission to provide a model procedure for estimated bills," Jacobson continued.

"My constituents are frustrated and so am I. Earlier this month, I brought Central Hudson to the table with a virtual forum that allowed my constituents to get their billing questions answered. My office is also organizing an April forum with the Public Utilities Law Project that will ensure constituents know their rights when it comes to ridiculously high bills," Jacobson concluded.

In the Senate, Bill A8806A is sponsored by Senator Michelle Hinchey

Assemblymember Jacobson's virtual Public Utilities Law Project Forum will be held on April 21st at 6pm and co-hosted by Assemblymembers Didi Barrett, Kevin Cahill, Sandy Galef, Aileen Gunther, and Ken Zebrowski. Call 845-562-0888 for more information.

### CORRECTION

In an article in the Northern Dutchess News, Beacon Free Press of March 16, the information referred to Sheriff Kirk Imperati. Imperati is the Acting Sheriff of Dutchess County.



# Report’s recommendations on Castle Point

Continued from page 1

“Nothing is changing now for Veteran access to care or VA employees. Any potential changes to VA’s health care infrastructure may be several years away and are dependent on Commission, Presidential, and Congressional decisions and robust stakeholder engagement and planning,” stated Okall.

According to a release about the report, “The report includes recommendations by the VA Secretary to cement the department as the primary, world-class provider and coordinator of Veterans health care for generations to come. The VA MISSION Act requires Secretary McDonough to publish the AIR report in the Federal Register and submit it to Congress and a presidentially appointed AIR Commission.”

The AIR Commission will conduct public hearings as part of its review of VA’s recommendations before submitting its own recommendations to the president for further review in 2023.

The report mentions “establishing a new MS CBOC (community-based outpatient clinic) in the vicinity of Fishkill, New York.” The report’s recommendation noted, “The new site will be centrally located to the Veteran population and will be able to address current and future outpatient demand for the Hudson Valley Region, while eliminating operating and maintenance costs at the Castle Point VAMC.”

“The report’s release marks the beginning of an in-depth deliberative process. The AIR report is the result of years of research and analysis intended to help VA build a health care network with the right facilities, in the right places, to provide the right care for all Veterans, including underserved and at-risk Veteran populations in every part of the country — making sure our facilities and

services are accessible to Veterans in their communities,” stated the release.

**Maloney responds to report on facility**

U.S. Representative Sean Patrick Maloney said in a statement, “I am closely monitoring the new proposals from the VA about the future of health care facilities in the Hudson Valley. I want to assure veterans in the region that these are preliminary proposals, which will be reviewed over the next year by an appointed committee and will require the President’s sign off and Congressional approval before any changes are made to current facilities or resources. I will stand up for our veterans throughout the review process of these proposals, and I will never support changes that reduce access to care for Hudson Valley veterans.”

Maloney said in a letter to VA Sec. McDonough, “Without assurances that a new VA facility in Fishkill or an adjacent community would fully replace the services offered at Castle Point, we have serious concerns that local veterans could face an interruption to their care. As representatives for veterans in the Hudson Valley and surrounding regions, please respond with whether the VA has plans to construct a new facility in the Hudson Valley and the surrounding area, whether such a facility would match or exceed the services provided at Castle Point, and whether this facility and its full complement of services will be included in the VA’s recommendations.”

**Molinaro states ‘there can be no reduction in services’**

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said, “Dutchess County’s veterans have sacrificed so much for our freedom, and these brave men and women deserve the finest care from the nation they defended. There can be no reduction in services, and Castle Point must remain open until any new facility is fully operational.” He continued,

“While the recent Veterans Affairs report was voluminous in its recommendations, it leaves too many open-ended questions that should be addressed prior to blindsiding the community with this announcement. Any plan needs to be coordinated with local healthcare, mental health and government providers.

“We will carefully review each decision and hold the VA accountable throughout the process to ensure no veteran experiences a lapse in the critical programs and services they deserve and have earned through their service to our country. That there has been so little transparency is proof intense public scrutiny is necessary.”

Molinaro stated, “I encourage Dutchess County veterans and their families to fully engage in the process, whenever able to partake, and implore the VA to include local heroes in their decisions.”

**Criteria used for report**

According to the report, “VA came to our recommendations to the AIR Commission by asking ourselves one question above all else: what is best for the Veterans we serve? The result of asking ourselves that question repeatedly, in markets across the country, is a set of recommendations that will help VA to:

- Cement VA as the primary, world-class provider, and coordinator of Veterans’ health care for generations to come;
- Build a health care network with the right facilities, in the right places, to provide the right care for all Veterans, including underserved and at-risk Veteran populations in every part of the country — making sure that our facilities and services are where the Veterans are;
- Ensure that the infrastructure that makes up VA in the decades ahead reflects the needs of 21st century Veterans — not the needs and challenges of a health care system that was built, in many cases, 80 years ago; and
- Strengthen VA’s roles as the leading health care researchers in America and — with VA’s academic partnerships — the

leading health care training institution in America.

The recommendations center around improving access to and quality of care for Veterans by ensuring the department’s infrastructure in the decades ahead reflects Veterans’ needs and 21st century design standards. VA is investing heavily in its number one asset — its employees, strengthening its public/private strategic partnerships and elevating its role as the leading health care research entity and the leading health care workforce training institution in the country.”

**Serino reacts to recommendation**

NYS Senator Sue Serino said, “I govern by listening, so the first thing I did upon hearing this news is reach out to local veterans and veterans organizations. What I have heard, is that while the plan will take many years to implement, Castle Point is in need of significant upgrades and the proposal does offer the opportunity to bring an improved facility to the area. That being said, my top priority is to ensure that our local veterans have consistent access to the healthcare they depend on. We must remain vigilant in holding the federal government accountable to ensure that Castle Point remains open until a new local facility is fully accessible. We will continue to monitor this process closely to ensure that our veterans have convenient access to the services and resources they so deserve.”

**Lalor remarks recommendations ‘not acceptable or feasible’**

Assemblyman Kieran Lalor said that VA hospitals are on the chopping block “disgraceful and short-sighted.”

Lalor said in a statement, partially, “With regard to Castle Point specifically, some bean-counter in Washington DC is basically saying veterans in Dutchess County or Orange County can just go down to Montrose to get care. That is not acceptable or feasible. Many of our vets have trouble getting transportation to and from Castle Point. Now the VA wants them to go to Westchester.”

## DEC adopts new regulations for freshwater fishing in NY

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced the adoption of new freshwater fishing regulations that will take effect on April 1.

Following a public comment period on the draft proposals earlier this year, the new regulations reflect the input received and the support of the angling community in DEC’s efforts to make fishing New York’s waters less complicated and easier to understand.

“The new regulations adopted today coupled with the reformatted Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide reflect DEC’s sustained commitment to ensuring the enjoyment of both novice and expert anglers in New York State by making fishing easy and accessible,” Commissioner Seggos said. “Amendments to freshwater fishing regulations provide greater consistency and significantly reduce special regulations while still maintaining protective measures to sustain the health of the State’s fisheries.”

DEC is implementing changes to reduce the number of special regulations while still providing the protections necessary to ensure sustainable fisheries, including changing some statewide regulations for certain species and eliminating special regulations that are no longer necessary. Some of the new statewide regulations were already broadly applied via special regulations. Some special regulations are still necessary, particularly for waters that require unique management strategies to achieve desired fisheries outcomes, but DEC has significantly reduced the number of special regulations. Additional changes include opening the season for all sportfish on a hard date and allowing ice fishing in waters inhabited by trout in most of the state.”

DEC also adopted more conservative harvest regulations for sunfish to protect populations from over-harvest and

increased the minimum size limit for crappie to 10 inches to improve the stability and size structure of populations. DEC also placed experimental regulations on 11 waters to determine if larger sunfish can be produced under a 15-fish-per-day harvest limit and an eight-inch minimum size limit.

**Notable changes**

A complete compilation of changes and an assessment of public comment associated with the final rulemaking is available on the DEC website at [dec.ny.gov/outdoor/124258.html](http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/124258.html). Major regulation changes include:

- New statewide regulation for rainbow, brown trout, and splake in lakes and ponds. The season will now be open year-round, with a five-fish daily limit, any size, with a “no more than two longer than 12 inches” harvest rule;
- Statewide Atlantic salmon regulations will now allow for a year-round open season.
- Ice fishing is permitted on all waters in New York unless specifically prohibited with the exception of Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties where previous rules remain;
- New specific dates replaced floating dates for statewide season openers to include: May 1 - Walleye, Northern Pike, Pickerel and Tiger Muskellunge; June 1 – Muskellunge. Note that in 2022, DEC will allow for the fishing of muskellunge beginning the last Saturday in May to accommodate previously planned fishing trips; June 15 - Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. A five-fish daily walleye limit in Oneida Lake; A new regulation to limit the growth of the walleye population in Skaneateles Lake. No daily possession limit; 12-inch minimum size limit, open year-round; The statewide sunfish daily harvest limit has been reduced from 50 to 25 fish; and The statewide minimum size limit for crappie has been increased from nine inches to 10.

### COVID- 29 quick facts – Dutchess County

(as of March 20)

**Active cases:** 116 (up from 104 on March 12)

**Community transmission:** 9.53 per 100,000 (up from 8.85 on March 12)

**Hospitalizations due to COVID-19:** 1 (down from 7 on March 12)

Hospitalizations of individuals with COVID-19: 5 (down from 12 on March 12)

**Total deaths:** 654 (was 651 as of March 12)

**% population 18+ with at least one dose of vaccine:** 85.18 (slightly up from March 12, when it was 85.1)

**% of total county population with at least one dose of vaccine:** 76.71 (slightly up from 76.62 on March 12)

**% of total county population that has completed their vaccine series:** 69.07 (slightly up from 68.96 on March 12)

The county dashboard doesn’t include data on boosters; however, according to the CDC, 50.9 percent of the county’s fully vaccinated population has received a booster, up slightly from 50.7 percent on March 12.

Currently, the CDC classifies Dutchess as a *low-risk* county.



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# Diversions

## SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.  
The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.  
Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.  
Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.  
Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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

## Suguru

		2			3
			4		
3			5		
					5

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.

### ACROSS

1. Dramatist George Bernard \_\_\_\_
5. List of candidates
10. Moon: Sp.
14. North Sea nation: abbr.
15. Highest scorer, in golf
16. Smooth
17. Region
18. Made of a certain wood
19. Departed
20. Flat-bottomed boat
22. \_\_\_\_ Falls
24. Rest
25. Irk
26. Orange or peach
29. Eur. language
30. Preach
34. Word with land or free
35. Rocky crag
36. Religious title
37. Siamese coin
38. Teased good-naturedly
40. Assn.
41. Hit the sack
43. Polish off
44. To boot
45. Gem
46. \_\_\_\_ up; misbehave
47. Tiny land mass
48. Set out
50. See 9 Down
51. Regular payment
54. So-called
58. Strip
59. Sticker
61. Part
62. Mr. Guinness
63. Accustom: var.
64. One of four in a deck
65. Swallow's place
66. Dutch painter Jan
67. Spots

### DOWN

1. Word with shot or dragon
2. Novel's star
3. Solar disk
4. Nonspecific article
5. Sailing vessel
6. Give temporarily
7. Invite
8. Youth
9. With 50 Across, 2012 British Open winner
10. Account books
11. Eye layer
12. By
13. "...\_\_ partridge in a pear..."
21. Boatman's need
23. Dodge
25. Flawless
26. Russian rulers, once: var.
27. Singing group
28. Game of chance
29. Tibetan antelope
31. Ring-shaped island
32. Wordy's opposite
33. Plant fungus
35. Article
36. Fix in place
38. Island whose capital is Canea
39. Too heavy
42. Look over carefully
44. Declares
46. Zealous
47. Sneezing and feverish
49. Llamas' home
50. Girl's name
51. Bridge
52. Saga
53. Angers
54. Swiss waterway
55. Puncture
56. Robert \_\_\_\_
57. Algerian governors, once
60. Hint

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			
65					66						67			



# DC Criminal Justice Council report highlights extensive collaboration among agencies

The Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) has released its 2021 Annual Report, highlighting the ongoing collaboration between numerous Dutchess County departments, community organizations, law enforcement agencies, and justices to maximize resources and continually enhance the criminal justice system. The CJC’s continuum of services and interventions has been recognized as a state and national model for reducing recidivism and ensuring community safety.

During 2021, agencies throughout the criminal justice system creatively adapted to conducting meetings and court sessions virtually and continued providing essential services, including pre-trial diversion services, re-entry programming, training for first responders, and many others despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, agencies have continued to adapt to the impacts following the recent state Bail Reform legislation and changes to Discovery rules. In 2020 and 2021, Dutchess County agencies have struggled to provide services such as pre-trial intervention, probation, or other alternatives-to-incarceration programs that offenders would have been connected to prior to bail reform. Similarly, district attorneys throughout the state have grappled with recent reform to the discovery process, as onerous timelines and protocols that accompanied the reform have forced prosecutors to often drop prosecution of many cases, putting victims and witnesses at even more risk and allowing defendants back on the streets, often to re-offend.

Kevin Warwick, member of the CJC’s Special Populations Workgroup and nationally recognized criminal justice consultant from Alternative Solutions Associates Inc., said, “Dutchess County is the only county in the country with such an extensive coordination of services, collaboration between agencies, and activities throughout its entire criminal justice system. From intervening with those at-risk of committing crimes to helping offenders successfully re-enter the community and reduce their risk of re-offending.”

The CJC is comprised of 10 committees covering various topics and populations within the system. In 2021, the CJC’s various committees have worked to investigate trends in data related to recidivism and incarceration, improve services for juveniles in the criminal justice system, and initiate strategies and interventions to overall improve the criminal justice system. Among the 2021 committee activities:

- The Quality Assurance Committee (QA) continued multiple analyses of the Dutchess County Jail (DCJ) population to better understand the reality of the existing criminal justice system and inform policy making. The committee has also begun studying the impact of Bail Reform. Retrospectively, the committee’s analysis showed reincarceration rates of nearly 50 percent among those previously held for Misdemeanor and Non-Violent Felony offenses, which are now non-qualifying offenses under Bail Reform. The analysis also verified that yearly DCJ admissions for non-qualifying offenses declined by nearly 1,500 and that, unless sentenced, people arrested for such offenses can no longer benefit from the County’s successful RESTART program, which has been

proven to reduce individuals’ risk to re-offend. The committee will continue to objectively evaluate prospective impacts of Bail Reform and will assist in developing innovative policies and practices.

- The Re-Entry and Special Populations sub-committees advocated and supported the expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) at the DCJ to include induction and maintenance for individuals with substance use disorders. A case manager was also tasked with ensuring a smooth transition for program participants re-entering the community.
- With a technical assistance grant awarded in partnership with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, the Juvenile Justice Committee has been working with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice and other county stakeholders to review the entire juvenile justice system to identify areas for enhancement and work has begun on the project’s first recommendation – choosing a trauma screening instrument linked to community resources. This is especially important considering the significant increase in a need for youth mental health services due to lingering negative impacts on young people’s social and academic development following the isolation of virtual schooling.
- The Police Reform and Modernization Committee, the CJC’s newest committee, completed its police modernization plan in conjunction with the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office and other law enforcement agencies as well as significantly increased the diversity of the pool of candidates applying for the police exam.
- Assessing the needs of domestic violence and other victims and survivors was the focus of the Victims and Justice-Involvement Women’s committees in 2021, including a partnership with Marist College to develop surveys to identify additional service needs due to the pandemic and to analyze the results to implement strategies to better meet the needs of both victims and women.
- Gender-responsive strategies and programs were also addressed in 2021 and a residential center for women, operated by Project M.O.R.E., is scheduled to open early this year. The residence for women will open additional beds for male residents at the Re-Entry transitional housing center in the Town of Poughkeepsie. This will also permit expansion of existing programs as well as introducing the new RECHARGE (Re-Entry Community Housing and Resource Guided Empowerment) program. RECHARGE will be the next step for participants in the County’s successful jail-based RESTART program. Once individuals are released from DCJ, RECHARGE will assist with finding permanent housing, employment, education, and other supports necessary to successfully re-enter the community and not re-offend.

Additional highlights from 2021 include:

- Secured funding through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for a 16th year of re-entry programming, which is provided by Exodus Transitional Community at the Re-Entry Center, located at 97-99 Cannon St. in the City of Poughkeepsie:
- Provided assessment services to 260

individuals

- 162 participants completed the anger management program
- 107 participants completed the Ready, Set, Work program
- 146 participants found employment
- Worked with Exodus and Community House Initiatives to evaluate and increase services at the 8-bed, 90-day transitional housing facility for homeless parolees on North Hamilton Street in Poughkeepsie, including:
  - Adding Moral Reconation Therapy Classes
  - Partnered with Vassar College to offer college credit courses with both Vassar students and six formerly incarcerated individuals participating.

RESTART was held virtually in 2021 thanks to collaboration between program and corrections staff.

The Special Populations Committee continued to review and provide input for the design of the programming units of the new Justice and Transitions Center to ensure physical layout and programming needs continue to be aligned.

- The Diversion Committee assisted in offering Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to local law enforcement agencies. Since 2015, 442 law enforcement officers and 32 emergency dispatchers have completed the 40-hour training with an additional 179 officers and

Corrections Officers completing the Basic CIT 8-hour course. This results in 79 percent of active county law enforcement being trained.

- The Community Involvement Committee participated in and presented many virtual public forums, including on the Dutchess County Judicial Drug/Diversion Program (Drug Court) with graduates from the program sharing their experiences and community experts discussing new approaches to helping individuals with substance use disorders.
- The Centralized Arraignment Committee continued to research the efficacy of Centralized Arraignment in Dutchess County for after-hours criminal arraignments to provide these court proceedings more efficiently.

CJC Chair and Director of the Office of Probation and Community Corrections, Mary Ellen Still, said, “We are grateful to have so many agencies and facets of the criminal justice system represented on the Criminal Justice Council. Despite the challenges the past year has put on the system, we are united in our commitment to continuing to improve the system and ensuring those within the system receive fair and equitable treatment and our community is safer for all.”

For more information on the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council, visit [dutchessny.gov](http://dutchessny.gov).

## New Hamburg yacht Club members take up donations for Ukraine



*The New Hamburg Yacht Club members were organizing and loading boxes on March 18. The items will be shipped to Ukraine.*  
*“I’m overwhelmed with the donations in the short amount of time,” said George Kolb, who is a member of the yacht club and building inspector for the Town of Union Vale. He said the yacht club “has a really good membership” who quickly heeded the call to drop off donations.*  
*Humanitarian supplies were brought to the former JC Penney store in the Poughkeepsie Galleria where Dutchess County was collecting humanitarian supplies. Clothes, toys and other items collected were brought to Houlihan Lawrence, 1325 Route 55, in LaGrange, said Kolb.*  
*Pictured with a Ukrainian flag and the donations are George Kolb, from left, and yacht club members Matthew Ciarfella and Mark Roth.*

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

## Registration now open for Joseph Ennesser Veterans 5K

Wappinger Supervisor Richard L. Thurston and the Wappinger Town Board, in partnership with the Wappinger Veterans Advisory Group announce that registration is now open for the 2nd annual Joseph Ennesser Veterans 5K Walk/Run on the William R. Steinhilber – Dutchess Rail Trail on Saturday, April 16. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. with the race kicking off an hour later at 8 a.m. from the Van Wyck Trailhead of the Rail Trail on Lake Walton Road.

Sign up to support veteran causes by running or walking in a live, in-person race with socially distanced protocols and professional chip timing – or choose to take part in a virtual race where you can run or walk your 5k anywhere between April 9 and April 16. Submit your time and see how you stack up to the virtual competition.

For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=88828&eventId=585019>.

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# Dutchess Regional Chamber honors outstanding leaders



Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce honorees at the “Emerald Ball” included, from left, Committee Co-Chair Matthew Mullaney, Hudson Cadillac Buick, GMC, Committee Co-Chair Samantha Cerbone, The Pines of Poughkeepsie, Chamber Board Chair Scott Pawenski, Branding Pros, Leadership Award Honoree, Tim Dean, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, Next Generation Award Honoree, Luigi Coppola, Coppola’s Restaurant Group, Community Spirit Honoree, Lori Cassia-Decker, Angels of Light, Next Generation Honoree, Marcy Schwartz, Highway Displays, Chamber Foundation, Inc. of Counsel, Community Service Honoree, Hon. Stephen E. Diamond, Stenger, Diamond & Glass, LLP and Chamber President and CEO Frank Castella, Jr.

-Courtesy photo

The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted over 400 attendees at the annual premier black-tie event with all proceeds to benefit The Chamber Foundation. The gala was themed as the “Emerald Ball” and recognized outstanding leaders in the community for their contributions to economic development and local business.

The following individuals were recognized:

- Leadership Award, Timothy Dean,

Marshall & Sterling Insurance

- Community Spirit Award, Lori Cassia-Decker, Angels of Light
- Community Service Award, Stephen E. Diamond, Stenger, Diamond & Glass, LLP
- Next Generation Awards, Marcy Schwartz and Evan Hartman, Highway Displays and John, Luigi & Vinny Coppola, Coppola’s Restaurant Group
- Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor, KeyBank.

# Registration open for Spring Naturalist Programs in Dutchess County Parks

Dutchess County Parks has curated a great lineup of naturalist programming for residents of all ages this spring season. There is something for everyone with archery, park palette art sessions and eaglet nature program. Program registration is open for spring sessions at [www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation](http://www.DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation).

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said, “With the weather warming up, we are excited for a great lineup of our popular naturalist programming. Our spring program schedule offers fun and educational opportunities to try new activities while enjoying the scenery at the beautiful Bowdoin Park. Don’t wait to register, these programs will fill up fast!”

**Spring Naturalist Program Schedule**  
Adult Park Palette will be held on Thursday, June 9th at Bowdoin Park on the deck at the Maple Knoll Lodge 5:30-7 p.m. and is open to ages 18 and up. Create a spectacular nature themed sunset as seen from the park. Cost is \$12 (includes all supplies). Limit: 12 participants.

**Park Palette Art Series** for ages 10-18 will be held at Bowdoin Park from 3:30-5pm in Pavilion 5. These classes take students through a step-by-step learning opportunity to create nature themed paintings. Students can choose one workshop or take all three. Cost is \$12 (includes all supplies). Limit: 12 participants per session.

- Thursday, May 19 – Campfire
- Thursday, June 2 – Tree Frogs
- Thursday, June 16 – At the Lake

**Eaglet Nature Program** returns for youth ages 5 to 7, along with their parents or caregivers, at Bowdoin Park’s Nature Education Center. Through interactive exploration and play, children will have the opportunity to take a closer look at the unique natural habitats, with each week focusing on a different topic with a craft being made at the end of the class. All classes will be offered 4-4:45pm. Registration is \$5 per child. Limit: 12 participants.

- Tuesday, May 24 – Spotting animals in the wild

- Tuesday, June 7 – Building a mini village and learning about tribes and trade
- Tuesday, June 21 – Pond study

**Weekend Public Archery** sessions will begin Saturday, April 9 at Bowdoin Park. The archery program consists of five classes, held on Saturdays, with various time slots offered. The sessions, each an hour long, are designed for children ages 8 and up, and adults with any level of archery experience. Basic hands-on archery skills are taught, as well as bow and arrow safety. Cost is \$60 per person and includes all five classes and equipment. Limit: 20 participants per time slot.

- Saturday, April 9
- Saturday, April 23
- Saturday, May 7
- Saturday, May 14
- Saturday, June 4

## Time Slots

- 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- 10-11 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 2-3 p.m.
- 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Intro Adult Survival 1** will be held Saturday, April 30th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Bowdoin Park. This immersive one-day program is for ages 18 and up and covers the basics of survival education, including how to build several types of shelters and build a fire from scratch. This program is a prerequisite for **Adult Survival 2**, which will be a weekend overnight session June 11 and 12 at Wilcox Memorial Park in Milan. Adult Survival 2 goes deeper into wilderness survival education, including testing skills in an open campout setting. Space is limited and registration is \$40 per person, per session.

All programs are held outdoors, unless otherwise noted. Participants should dress appropriately for weather conditions.

Additionally, group **weekday Archery and Junior Survival** are available by appointment and reservations can be made by calling 845-298-4602.

To learn more about Dutchess County Parks, visit [www.DutchessNY.gov/Parks](http://www.DutchessNY.gov/Parks).

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TOWNE CRIER DANCE JAM SET MARCH 24

Get On Down at the Towne Crier Dance Jam on Thursday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at 379 Main Street, Beacon. All are welcome – singles, couples, friends, newcomers. Admission is \$10.

For more information, call 845- 765-0667 or email [rhodaja@optonline.net](mailto:rhodaja@optonline.net).

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# BHS student earns Eagle Scout rank

**By Kristine Coulter**

Allen McKay, a Beacon High School freshman, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Allen, a local resident, decided to update the baseball dugouts, picnic tables, field house and the snack stand at Memorial Park, off Route 52, in Beacon. Allen had the assistance of more than 30 volunteers. He organized the volunteers as they gave an updated paint job, of the Beacon High School colors of blue and gold, on the field facilities.

“Working on the project at first was tough because it was the first time I had to lead such a large group of volunteers on a project that really had five sites - three baseball fields and two adjacent buildings. Fortunately, because of the size of the project, I was able to learn more and more about how to lead and to oversee the project each day that my teams worked on it,” said Allen. “I learned to be mindful when leading each team to make sure things got done on time and efficiently, that there was no significant down time, and to make sure people were assigned roles that best fit their individual abilities as children, teenagers, and adults were all part of my volunteer crews.”

Allen began in Scouts with Wolf Cub Scout in Pack 3001. Initially Leon Lopez and then Anthony Maxaner were his Cub Masters. He journeyed through the Cub Scouts ranks earning his Arrow of Light, the highest honor in Cub Scouts, as well as two religious emblem awards.

After Cub Scouts, Allen crossed the bridge into Boy Scouts joining Troop 41 (Elks Lodge #1493 is the Chartering Organization) where he has earned 113 Merit Badges, attended several Boy Scout camps, was awarded membership into the Order of the Arrow, and participated in several other activities, all under the guidance of Scout Master Larry Wood.

“My wife (Maria) and I could not be more proud of our son. The path to becoming an Eagle Scout is long and arduous, but very rewarding and worthwhile. Knowing that he would have many competing interests for his time in high school, he sought to complete his Eagle project before beginning his freshman year - which he did - and then just

finished the last few Eagle required badges and his Eagle application in the Fall 2021,” said Allen McKay, Allen’s father.

The elder McKay said of his son, “He was very focused and managed his time extremely well, doing all of this while still playing baseball for his travel baseball teams and for the middle school. As parents, we hoped to raise a good kid who makes smart choices, and we can see that he is well underway and has chosen his path wisely. We also could not be more proud of how much time and effort he has put into doing various volunteer projects to benefit the Beacon community, as well as how he is able to guide the younger Scouts in his Troop and help them learn the necessary skills to becoming better Scouts and to forging their own paths to becoming Eagle Scouts. While becoming an Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouting, Allen still has over three years left to learn more about leadership and to tackle additional projects.”

Asked what he learned from working on his Eagle Scout project, Allen replied, “I learned from my Eagle Project how to be a better leader and how to delegate tasks and responsibilities appropriately. I learned how to select a project goal and how to achieve the various steps to complete the project, from the financing needed to pay for the materials for the project to scheduling the time and volunteers to execute on the project to making sure that all of the work got done safely. Most of all, I learned how good it feels to give back to the community that I grew up in.”

Allen previously participated in the Beacon Junior Baseball recreation program All Star and Beacon Maulers travel team baseball player, and wanted to give back to that program, noted his father. Allen played for the Hudson Valley Renegades youth travel baseball program and the Sticks Northeast Baseball travel program and Beacon High School.

“It feels great to have earned the rank of Eagle Scout because it has been a life-long goal of mine. From the time I was first starting in Cub Scouts, I had heard about and wanted to become an Eagle Scout, the highest and most respected



Local student Allen McKay has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. -Courtesy photo

rank in Scouting. I feel that I have learned many different life skills through scouting and hope to learn even more about leadership. While many Scouts who earn the rank of Eagle are often near the time they age out of Scouting (18 years of age), I have the good fortune of having over

three years left as a Scout to learn and enjoy all the more,” remarked Allen.

According to Allen’s parents, his siblings, Victoria (a Cadette in Girl Scouts and First Class Scout in Boy Scouts) and John (a Webelos in Cub Scouts), look to follow in their brother’s footsteps.

# WMCHHealth teams up with Renegades as official hospital partner

Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth) and the Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, announced a major partnership making WMCHHealth the inaugural Official Hospital Partner of the Renegades.

“Our organizations are cornerstone brands of the Hudson Valley and touchstones for life events for residents of the communities we serve,” said Michael Israel, President and CEO, Westchester Medical Center Health Network. “As a network, we are deeply committed to ensuring the health and wellness

those in our local communities, and being able to partner with the Renegades presents a tremendous opportunity for us to advance that mission through new initiatives and programs.”

At the heart of the partnership is a comprehensive community program that will have a lasting impact on Hudson Valley residents. Among the highlights of the community programs will be annual events promoting both partners’ dedication to the health and wellness of the communities they serve.

WMCHHealth, which employs more than 13,000 people and has nearly 3,000

attending physicians, will become the title sponsor of the Renegades Community Program, and the presenting sponsor of HOPE Week (Helping Others Persevere & Excel), a yearly organization-wide charitable initiative started by the Yankees in 2009. They also become title sponsor of We Care Wednesdays, a weekly promotion throughout the season aimed to integrate the non-profit community within Dutchess Stadium.

“The Renegades are elated to welcome WMCHHealth into the Renegades family!” said Steve Gliner, President and General Manager of the Renegades. “It was clear to us from the start that WMCHHealth

exemplifies many of the same community-focused values we hold true to our organization, and the synergy that exists between our two organizations will make for a very successful partnership.”

The Renegades will also help to give back to the Foundations of WMCHHealth with the new Runs for a Cause program. Each run scored at home during the season aims to encourage crowd-sourced fundraising efforts for the various subdivisions of WMCHHealth’s network of services, including but not limited to, Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital, a member of WMCHHealth and the only acute care children’s hospital in the region.

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# Obituaries

## Gloria M. Arroyo



BEACON - Gloria M. Arroyo, a longtime resident of New York City and currently of Beacon, entered into rest on March 10, 2022. She was 85 years old. Gloria was born in Manhattan on March 16, 1936 the daughter of the late Felix and Josephine Merced. Gloria married John Arroyo and together they enjoyed 65 years of marriage until his passing in 2018. Gloria worked as a jewelry designer for Mazza & Sons in New York City. Gloria is survived by her daughter, Lisa Monroe and her husband, Tim; her grandchildren, Aubry, Jessica, Dale, Christopher, Elizabeth and Marilyn; her great grandchildren, Kassie Ellen Rose, Grey Cyrus, Adelyn Rose, Levi Parker, Avery Jade, Mickayla, Christian, Finely, Riley Willow and Cooper Souza; several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and her husband, Gloria was also predeceased by her siblings, Gladys, Hilda, Joseph and Artie. Family and friends gathered on Saturday, March 19 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held at the funeral home. Memorial donations in memory of Gloria may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com). Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

## Cheryl C. Bradley



POUGHKEEPSIE – Cheryl C. Bradley, of Poughkeepsie, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2022 at The Pines at Poughkeepsie. Cheryl was born on Jan 3, 1945 to the late Thomas H. Bradley and the late Dorothy Williamson Bradley in Poughkeepsie NY. Cheryl graduated from Poughkeepsie High school and Marist College to begin her 35-year career as a rehabilitation advisor at Dutchess ARC. She was strong, independent and very proud of her accomplishments. Cheryl lived a full life and was a woman of faith. She loved her family and friends and always welcomed them with a big smile. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. Cheryl is survived by her brother Tom Bradley and his wife Mary Beth, Sanford, FL, her cousins; Sheila Silverman and her husband Edward, Poughkeepsie, NY; Frank Spingler and his wife Susan, Delray Beach, FL; Bill Voelker and his wife Melinda, Southington, CT; and John Voelker, Rocky Hill, CT. The Bradley family would like to thank The Pines at Poughkeepsie and Hudson Valley Hospice, especially the staff on the fourth floor, for their loving care and devotion provided to Cheryl and her family. A Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, March 22 at St. Mary's Church, 231 Church Street, Poughkeepsie. Interment followed at St. Peter's Cemetery. Family requests in lieu of flowers please make a donation to Hudson Valley Hospice or a charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. If you wish to send an online condolence, please visit our website at [www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com).

## Joan Howley



EAST FISHKILL – Joan Howley, 70, a longtime area resident and formerly of Long Island, died on March 15, 2022 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Born in Rockville Centre on January 11, 1952, she was the daughter of Cono and Eleanor (Krol) Simonetti. Joan graduated from East Islip High School in 1970 and received her BBA from Pace University in 1973. She would later receive her MSW from Adelphi University in 2006. Joan had been employed as a Child Welfare Supervisor - Foster Care for Dutchess County Social Services. She was a member of Calvary Chapel of the Hudson Valley where she enjoyed Bible Study. She also enjoyed cooking, sewing, boating on the Hudson, and talking with her friends for hours, but more than anything, she loved her grandchildren. On November 16, 2003 in Hopewell Junction, Joan married James B. Howley who predeceased her on February 13, 2005. Joan is survived by her daughter, Kelly O'Neill; her son, Matthew O'Neill and his wife Claudia; her stepson, Christopher Howley and his wife Kristina; her stepdaughter, Pamela Foxwell; her grandchildren, Cory, Caitlyn, Kaden, Liliana, Olivia and Charlotte; her brother, John Simonetti and his wife Robin; her sister-in-law, Debbie Malanchuk; her niece, Rachel Sawtelle-Galvanez and her son Benjamin; and many cousins. Calling hours and a funeral service were held on Friday, March 18 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations are made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Leonilda Maniaci



EAST FISHKILL – Leonilda “Aunt Nini” Maniaci, 83, an area resident since 2008 and formerly of Greenwich, CT, died on March 13, 2022 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Born in Abruzzo, Italy on July 9, 1938, she was the daughter of Donato and Concetta (Tamburrino) Furia. Nilda worked as an Insurance Agent for many years. She was a parishioner of St. Columba Church in Hopewell Junction. Nilda enjoyed traveling to Italy, spending time with family and friends, playing cards, and she had a passion for shoes and fashion. More than anything, she loved her nieces and nephews. Nilda is survived by her brother, Anthony Furia and his wife Mary; her sister, Diana Carozza and her husband Fernando; her nieces and nephews, Frank and Ana Carozza, Artie and Christina Carozza, Danny and Diana Carozza, Danny Furia, Anthony Furia, Connie and LJ; and many great-nieces and great-nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Victor Maniaci; and her nephew, Fernando Carozza. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by entombment in the Community Mausoleum at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

## Patricia Scofield



BEACON – Patricia Ann Scofield, 85, a life-long area resident, died peacefully on March 18, 2022 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Born in Beacon on March 27, 1936, Patricia was the daughter of the late Franklin and Genevieve (Martin) Cism. She had been employed as the Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Fishkill for many years before working as the secretary to the City of Beacon Police Chief and Detective Bureau. Patricia had been a parishioner at St. Mary, Mother of the Church where she worked as the CCD secretary. An avid reader, she also enjoyed crocheting and taking camping trips to Maine. On May 30, 1954 at St. Denis Church in Hopewell Junction, she married Kenneth Scofield. Her husband of almost 68 years survives at home. She is also survived by her children, Deborah Scofield and her fiancé Todd Votz of the Village of Fishkill and Kevin Scofield of Fishkill; her grandchildren, Jason and Chrissy Fisch and Jack and Faye Fisch; her great-grandchildren, Michael, Naomi, Nathan, Mackenzie, Riley and Kinsley ; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. In addition to her parents, Patricia was also predeceased by her daughter-in-law, Mary Ellen Scofield; and her siblings, Barbara Karaffa, Joan Wheeler, and Frank Cism, Jr. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Wednesday at 10 am at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill followed by burial at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Donations may be made in Patricia's Memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Hudson Valley Hospice. Please visit her Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Joseph E. Pan

WAPPINGERS FALLS– Joseph E. Pan, a resident of Wappingers Falls, entered into rest Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. He was 75. Son of Dolores Moar Pan and the late Manuel Pan, he was born February 24, 1947 in Manhattan. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. He was honorably discharged in June of 1969. He married the former Wilma Rivera on June 16, 1973 at St. Mary's Church in the Bronx. Mrs. Pan survives at home in Wappingers Falls. Prior to his retirement, Joe worked as a microchip technician at IBM in East Fishkill. He enjoyed listening to Latin music and jazz as well as playing his drums. He also spent time reading and doing puzzles. Survivors include his mother, Dolores Pan of Tappan; his wife, Wilma Pan of Wappingers Falls; his children, Joseph Pan, Jr. and his wife, Tara of Wappingers Falls, Marisa Jackson and her husband, Derk of the Town of Poughkeepsie, and Cristina Cleary and her husband, Thomas of Pleasant Valley; his brothers, Manuel and Richard Pan; his grandchildren, Alexis Pan, Anthony Pan, Addison Pan, Roxanna Jackson, and Ian Jackson; as well as several nieces and nephews. In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his sister, Laura Pan. Family received friends on Monday, March 21, 2022 at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 East Main Street in Wappingers Falls. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 22 at the funeral home. Interment followed in Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9 in Fishkill. To send the family a personal condolence, please visit our website at [www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com](http://www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com).

## Ceremony to honor Vietnam veterans set for March 29 in Wappinger

Wappinger Supervisor Richard L. Thurston and the Wappinger Town Board, in partnership with the Wappinger Veterans Advisory Group, will honor the veterans of the Vietnam War on Tuesday, March 29, at 1 p.m. on the Memorial Plaza in front of Wappinger Town Hall in observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. On March 29, 1973, the United States military command in Vietnam was disestablished one day after combat troops left the country. In 2017, Congress established five objectives for this day. With the primary goal to thank and honor our Vietnam War veterans and their families, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States. Thousands of organizations have joined in the noble mission of honoring our 6.2 million veterans, living at home and abroad. Also honored are the 9 million families of all who served. One retired US Army Colonel remarked, “We had no expectations but to serve where duty called us. We asked for no reward except a nation's thanks.” During the ceremony, publicly and individually, veterans of the Vietnam War are being presented with the Vietnam Veteran Lapel pin, a lasting memento of the Nation's and our Town's appreciation. During the upcoming March 14, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Wappinger Town Board, it is anticipated that the Town Board will adopt Resolution-2022-57, A Proclamation Recognizing March 29, as Vietnam War Veterans Day. All residents and veterans are invited and encouraged to attend the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Ceremony at Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls.

## Virtual program for young women with breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer

Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program: Young Women's Open Discussion will be held via Zoom video conference on Thursday, April 7, from 7 – 8 p.m. Open to women nationwide, ages 20 – 40 years old, who have or have had breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer. Pre-registration is required. To register, call Support Connection, 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. Must register no later than 5 pm (NY time) on Wednesday, April 6. There is no age discrimination for cancer. Support Connection understands there are unique challenges faced by those diagnosed at a young age. What are the challenges faced by young women living with a diagnosis of breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer? What strategies can be helpful in navigating life after cancer diagnosis? Join this open discussion where you'll have a chance to connect with other young women coping with issues such as: Stress and anxiety; Dealing with medically/surgically induced menopause; Family and relationships; Fertility issues; Career. This is not an educational program; there will be no professionals speaking about the medical or psychosocial aspects of cancer. Open Discussions present a valuable opportunity to connect with others with similar concerns who understand what you're going through, and a chance to help one another by sharing information, resources, and coping strategies.

# DC Comptroller Lois partners with Vet Zero on financial seminar series for veterans

Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois has partnered with Hudson River Housing and VetZero to provide local veterans with a free educational series devoted to maintaining financial health, as well as utilizing veteran-specific government services. In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, Part 1 of the series will include a brief presentation by the New York State

Comptroller's Office to provide further guidance within the realm of pandemic-related relief. A free dinner will also be provided by a local Poughkeepsie eatery. “I am happy to partner with VetZero and the New York State Comptroller's Office to provide vital financial information to our local Veterans. It's important that our Veterans know what financial

resources and tools are available, and our Offices are here to bring it to them conveniently in one place,” said Lois. Part 1: Personal Finances, will be on Tuesday, April 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Poughkeepsie VFW Post 170, 1 Violet Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Part 1 will cover how to balance a personal budget, understanding and raising credit scores,

and filing income taxes. Veterans who wish to attend are advised to bring their tax documents, bank statements, and any other questions they might have. Resources will be available on site to provide direct assistance. Parts 2 and 3 of the series are scheduled for the Summer and Fall, with details to be provided in the coming weeks.



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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a vote will be taken upon the following proposition to appropriate the funds necessary to meet the estimated expenditures of the Howland Public Library for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to be held at the Howland Public Library, 313 Main Street, Beacon, New York, on April 28, 2022, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m.:

Proposition #1

"Shall the sum of \$1,282,445.00 be appropriated for the annual support of the Howland Public Library for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and shall the Beacon City School District be authorized to levy the taxes necessary to raise such amount?"

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that at the same time and place, a vote to elect one (1) member to the Board of Trustees for a term of five (5) years, and one (1) member to the Board of Trustees for a term of four (4) years will also occur.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of trustee of the Howland Public Library must be filed with the Library Election Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2022.

Each petition must be directed to the Library Election Clerk, must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the Howland Public Library District, must state the residence of each signer, and must state the name and residence of the candidate.

Petition forms may be obtained from the Library weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Board

Legal Notices

of Registration will meet on April 13, 2022, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of preparing a register of the qualified voters of such Library District at the offices of the Howland Public Library, 313 Main Street, Beacon, New York. Anyone not presently registered will be registered in accordance with Section 2014 of the Education Law. Any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register, provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration, he/she is known or proven to the satisfaction of such Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at the school meeting or election for which such register is prepared.

Voters registered for general elections under Article 5 of the Election Law are eligible to vote at the April 28, 2022, budget vote and election without further registration. Voters who have been previously registered for any annual or special meeting or election and who have voted at any such annual or special meeting or election held or conducted during the last four calendar years preceding 2021 are eligible to vote at the April 28, 2022, budget vote and election without further registration.

The register prepared will be filed in the office of the Library and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the Library District between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on each of the five days prior to the election. The register will also be available for inspection on the day of the election at the polling place.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the Library office. If the ballot is to be mailed to the

Legal Notices

voter, the completed application must be received by the Library Election Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, seven (7) days before the annual library budget vote and election. If the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, the completed application must be received by the Library Election Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, one day before the annual library budget vote and election.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., prevailing time, at the Library office on each of the five (5) days before the annual district vote and election.

By order of the Board of Trustees of the Howland Public Library

Julie Beyer  
Library Election Clerk

The Annual Meeting of the Clove Cemetery Assn. will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at the Valley Bible Fellowship Church, 1875 Clove Valley Road, La-Grangeville, NY. All plot owners are invited to attend. For further information, contact Elfriede Tillman (845) 724-5840.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK – COUNTY OF DUTCHESS INDEX # 2018-51943 FILED 2/25/2022 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS**

Plaintiff designates Dutchess County as the place of trial based on the location of the mortgaged premises in this action.

Plaintiff's principal place of business is C/O Seterus, Inc. 14523 SW Milikan Way Suite 200, Beaverton, Oregon 97005. FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, Donald Kennedy, if living,

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and if dead, the respective heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignors, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and their respective husbands, wives or widow, if any, and each and every person not specifically named who may be entitled to or claim to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the verified complaint; all of whom and whose names and places of residence unknown, and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained by the Plaintiff, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, Defendants. To the above-named defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME if you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST

Legal Notices

RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. This action was commenced to foreclose a mortgage against real property located at 493 Stanton Terrace, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. You are named as a party defendant herein because you may have an interest in the premises. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 1 Huntington Quadrangle, Suite 3C20, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 812-4084, (855) 845-2584 facsimile. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE New York State requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT You are in danger of losing your home. If you fail to respond to the Summons and Complaint in this foreclosure action, you may lose your home. Please read the Summons and Complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies, and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by New York State Department of Financial Services' at 1-877-BANK-NYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at WWW.BANKING.STATE.NY.US. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. You have the right to stay in your home during the foreclosure process. You are not required to leave your home unless and until your property is sold at auction pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale. Regardless of whether you choose to remain in your home, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR

Legal Notices

PROPERTY and pay your taxes in accordance with state and local law. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. File # 560-3877

**NOTICE TO OWNERS OF VIABLE FARMLAND 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, 2022, during which Dutchess County landowners who own "predominately viable agricultural land" may request that their land be newly included in one of the County's four existing Agricultural Districts. In order to be considered for such inclusion, an application must be on file with the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District on or before May 14, 2022. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land" will be included. To receive an application, contact the District at 845-677-8011 ext. 3. A copy of the application can also be downloaded from the District's website: <http://dutchess-wcd.org>. 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 right-to-farm protections for 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

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prior to purchase of property in agricultural districts. Applications must be on file with the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District on or before May 14, 2022. 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.


To receive an application, contact the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District at 845-677-8011, ext. 3. A copy of the application can also be downloaded from the District's website: <http://dutchess-wcd.org>. Landowners whose parcels are already included in an Agricultural District are not required to apply as part of the annual inclusion process.

LEIGH WAGER  
CLERK, DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
March 15, 2022

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Please take notice that the Planning Board of the Village of Wappingers Falls will hold a public hearing on April 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the American Legion Hall, 7 Spring Street, Wappingers Falls, NY on the application submitted by Hilda Duque, applicant, for Daniel Quezada and Norma Torres-Campos, owners, for property having an address of 14 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY (Grid # 6158-09-217511), and located in the Residential (R) Zoning District. The applicant is seeking a special use permit and site plan review to have an accessory dwelling unit. A copy of this application is on file in the Planning and Zoning Department and is available for inspection when the Department is open, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The telephone number is 845-297-5277. All interested persons may appear in person, by agent, or by attorney, and all will be heard. Date: March 18, 2022

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# DECODING DUTCHESS PAST



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Historical Society

[www.DCHSNY.org/ddp](http://www.DCHSNY.org/ddp)

## ‘Discovery’ of historic house reveals home of former slave

By Bill Jeffway

After living in Florida for three decades, Mary Witherwax and her husband, Roland, were looking for a house to buy in Dutchess County in 2020. They were returning home in the sense that they had grown up locally and had known each other from their teenage years.

Mary “just knew” she walked into the right house in the Town of Hyde Park on East Market Street. She had a feeling there was a wonderful history tied to the house, which motivated her to want to call it home.

It turns out, she was right.

“I knew it was the right place the second I walked in, my husband not so much at first, but it has grown on him. An old house can be harder to keep up. We had built a new house when we moved to Florida. But I feel that if you live in New York, especially here, you need to live in an old house. That’s what this area is all about,” she said.

“When I first walked in, it was a feeling as I started walking through. I thought the quirks, the odd stairs added character (there is a very narrow, very vertical set of stairs leading upstairs and to the basement). That was it, I wanted the house.”

Mary and Roland bought the house think-

ing it was built in 1900, the date mentioned in tax records and the date advertised by the real estate agent. Mary explains, “At the closing, the prior owner had prepared an envelope with the deed chain going back to 1826 showing all the names of owners, including a man named Dunbar Brown, but I knew nothing about him until recently.”

The deed chain shows that the narrow and deep quarter acre lot was subdivided in 1826 and was first purchased for \$75 by Deborah and Dennis Beach. Dunbar Brown bought two adjacent quarter acre lots for a total of \$170 in 1834. By 1857, the deed included his wife’s name, and they sold the two lots for \$462. The higher price suggests, and other data supports, that Brown had built a house by then, the one that stands today.

What is exceptional about Brown is that we know, from other sources, that he was enslaved by Judge Edmund Pendleton on an estate just north of the Vanderbilt site, arriving in Hyde Park from New Jersey around 1820. We don’t know exactly when Brown became free, but slavery was abolished and prohibited in New York State from July 4, 1827, so he was certainly free by then.

This information was a kind of accidental or incidental discovery as DCHS was



Mary Witherwax, who has owned the house with her husband, Roland, since 2020, sits in the dining room with exposed beams. She was attracted to the house by its “hand hewn” character, but only recently discovered the proprietor, and likely builder, was a former slave.

-Photos by Bill Jeffway

### Presentation

**Tuesday March 29 at 7 p.m.**  
Bill Jeffway speaks about Hyde Park’s New Guinea Community and the Dunbar Brown House - With Mary Witherwax.

The event will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park, 1 Church Street. Entrance on Church Street for parking. Masks required. Email [bill.jeffway@dchsn.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsn.org) with any questions.

Hosted by Hyde Park Historical Society.



The house at East Market Street in Hyde Park was the property of Dunbar (formerly Pompey) Brown, who was a slave owned by Judge Edmond Pendleton, at an estate just north of the site of the Vanderbilt Estate.

conducting an updated investigation into the Hyde Park New Guinea Community, an effort for Black History Month that was sponsored by Dutchess County Government, Offices of the County Executive, Clerk and Historian.

Emily Majer of Tivoli is owner/operator of “White Clay Kill Preservation.” She has an MS in Historic Preservation from the University of Massachusetts, is Town Historian of Red Hook, and is a trustee of Historic Red Hook.

She is confident the house was standing during the period of ownership of Dunbar Brown, saying, “It’s the whole package, the size and massing of the structure and the visible eyebrow window. While there is some newer flooring in parts, the beams look to have been hand hewn and sash sawn, and the mortar in the basement looks like a nice soft lime mixture. These elements, plus the size and shape of the house, and the roofline definitely say pre-1850 to me. 1834 is within the range of possibility.”

We are very fortunate to have the notes of Edward Braman, a local Hyde Park historian. Called the “Edward Braman Diaries, 1873 to 1894,” they are housed at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Hudson River Valley & Dutchess County Manuscript Collection.

Through them we learn that while enslaved Dunbar Brown was known as Pompey Brown, and that it was somewhere along his journey from enslaved to being a free man, that he changed his name.

Braman visited Dunbar Brown and his wife, Amy Griffin Brown, in New York City in 1878, and wrote the following, “Dunbar (Pompey) Brown was a slave when he came to Hyde Park in 1821 or 1822, as coachman for Judge Edmund H. Pendleton. Later, after he left the Judge, he settled in New York City and became a carpet shaker, white-washer, and public waiter. He prospered and at one time was worth considerable property. He is a prominent member of St. Philip’s (colored) Episcopal Church on Mulberry Street, and his daughter is one of the lady managers of its fairs...”

In a summary note, meant to indicate the hospitality and popularity of Dunbar and Amy Brown at Wooster Street, Braman writes, “Brown’s brass door plate with ‘D. Brown’ on it is well worn.”

Judge Edmond Pendleton’s father, Nathaniel Pendleton, was best known for being the second to Alexander Hamilton at

the duel that proved fatal to Hamilton. He married into the Bard family and came to own an estate just north of the Bard family. The Bard family estate was located at the site of today’s Vanderbilt Estate.

When Brown died in 1884 at the age of 84, the New York Globe of June 7, 1884 referred to him as “an old and respected citizen, a prominent member of St Philip’s P.E. (Colored)

Church where his funeral was held. He left a widow, two daughters and three grandchildren in New York City.” The reference to the church is explained in the book, “In Protest and Progress. New York’s First Black Episcopal Church Fights Racism. Studies in African American History and Culture.” The author, John H. Hewitt, Jr. writes that Brown was an advocate who helped the Black church in New York City gain full and equal status within the Episcopal Diocese in the 1852, saying, “Those still living [in 1852] of the original ten men on the 1845 vestry who had initiated the effort to win the vote in the diocesan convention must have been overjoyed [...as they] helped press the parish’s cause to a successful conclusion. Among them were Dunbar Brown, who operated a shoeshine parlor at 430 Broadway.”

Mary takes pride in being able to maintain Dunbar and Amy Griffin Brown’s legacy as persons, through maintaining the home.

“I hope more people will look at their homes and find out its history,” she said, “I know I can carry on their names, they had long lives, and I hope if other people have an older home, they will want to know its history. History is important, I really believe that. It has made us who we are today, and we learn from it, there has been good and bad, there is always that, but we should learn from it and not ignore it.”



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at [bill.jeffway@dchsn.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsn.org) or 845-293-7711.

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