

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Beacon City Administrator Chris White to retire in June

By Kristine Coulter

City of Beacon Administrator Chris White has announced his retirement. He plans on leaving in mid-June.

"I am grateful to Mayor [Lee] Kyriacou, the City Council, and the amazing City staff for their support. It has been a tremendous honor to serve in this position over the past five years, and I look forward to the City continuing to move in a positive direction under the next City Administrator," White recently told Beacon Free Press via email.

White was asked what accomplishments he is most proud of during his tenure as Administrator. He replied, "In terms of projects, I am most proud of the Firehouse Project and the South Avenue Park Rehabilitation." A new centrally located firehouse was unveiled in Nov. 2024.

White added: "The other accomplishments that I'm most proud of are the successful negotiation of multi-year contracts with all three of our unions that better compensate the staff who tirelessly work to protect and improve this community and the improvement of Main Street maintenance, where our staff and I invested significant effort in paving, planting trees, painting, removing graffiti and posters, removing litter, upgrading litter baskets, etc."

White noted, "When I started in 2021, we received complaints every week about garbage on Main Street. Last year, we were featured as one of the most pristine Main Streets in New York State."

White said he is already working with Benjamin Swanson, Secretary to the City Mayor, "to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible." Swanson could officially be named the next City Administrator.

White will be working on the following projects until his retirement:

- Milling and paving of Fishkill Avenue and installation of pedestrian warning devices near Memorial Park on Fishkill Avenue
- Sidewalk replacement on Wolcott Ave (Route 9D) between South Avenue and the Beacon Housing Authority
- The replacement of the dewatering system and aeration blowers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (this is \$6 million project and will upgrade failing systems)

Asked how working for the City has been different from when he sat as a member of the Council, White responded, "The City has undergone significant economic revitalization since I was on the Council thirty years ago. The redevelopment of Main Street and other areas has provided additional resources to invest in the aging infrastructure and services. The City is in much better financial health and stronger organizationally than when I was on Council."

America's 250th, plus top talent highlight Renegades' outlook



Infielder Core Jackson is a returning performer and is expected to be one of the leaders for the Hudson Valley Renegades as they prepare to start the 2026 season on Friday at Brooklyn. The home opener at Heritage Financial Park is on Tuesday, April 7 vs. Wilmington starting at 6:35 p.m.

-File photo by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

Even though baseball weather may seem far away, the Hudson Valley Renegades return is imminent. It will be a year of celebrity sightings and one-of-a-kind promotions, plus a weekly pop of fireworks and fun for all ages at Heritage Financial Park.

Jersey days, free giveaways, and an elevated promotional schedule highlight affordable family fun. The Renegades minor league melange features treats for all, may they be a Yankees fan, baseball apathist, or

somewhere between.

"There's something for everybody out here having fun, so we offer a three-hour memory-making experience," said Renegades general manager Tom Denlinger.

One guest appearance highlights one especially palatable experience. Joey Chestnut, competitive eater and undisputed GOAT of Coney Island hot dog competitions, will be in town on Friday, July 31st, to display his prowess with a pow-

der-filled challenge. The Renegades will have cider, spice, and everything nice for the final celebration of the Cider Donuts identity, and perfect for a mid-inning snack! Chestnut may be known for his July 4 antics, but the semiquincentennial (250 year) USA celebration will be massive for the Renegades. Fireworks and, naturally, hot dogs highlight a full home-stand of Independence Day festivities.

Continued on page 3

Taking It to the Streets to thank volunteers at luncheon on April 21

By Kristine Coulter

Taking It to the Streets will hold its annual "Spring Thank You Luncheon" on April 21. The luncheon will take place at Fishkill Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 953 Main St., at 1 p.m.

Taking It to the Streets' founder is Ruth Anderson. Anderson stated, "First and foremost, Taking It to the Streets' mission is to feed and clothe the Homeless every Tuesday morning beginning at 7:30 a.m. every week rain, shine, or dead of winter as well as every first Sunday a full-course organic meal." Anderson offered examples of food that is provided, such as, rotisserie chicken, brown rice, vegetables, garden salad, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, homemade bread (zucchini, banana nut or cranberry - all from scratch) along with water and/or coffee depending on the weather.

"A full set of clothing is given with dignity to everyone, which also includes toiletries, footwear, sleeping bags, blankets, and comforters. Our goal is to supply their needs along with a smile and even hugs. As a result, we have fed and clothed over 5,000 on the street alone," she said.



Taking It to the Streets will host its annual Spring Thank You Luncheon on April 21 in Fishkill.

-Courtesy photo

Continued on page 3

Renegades & Heritage FCU announce Youth Field Betterment at Stanley Still Park

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and Heritage Financial Credit Union have announced that Town of Poughkeepsie Softball's Stanley Still Park has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Youth Field Betterment refurbishment.

The program began in 2023 with the mission to award one youth baseball or softball organization with a refurbishment of a field used within their community. Applicants are evaluated on several criteria, including increasing the access of youth participation and improving the quality of youth baseball, and developing life skills of all those who have access to the facility.

"We're all about showing up for our community, and teaming up with the Hudson Valley Renegades helps us to do just that," said Chad Beach, Community Development Officer at Heritage Financial Credit Union. "From improving local fields to supporting little leagues, it's all about giving kids a place to play, grow, and make great memories."

"We are extremely excited to continue the Youth Field Betterment Program in 2026 with the support of Heritage Financial Credit Union," said Jessica Levinson, Renegades Manager of Community Relations & Ticket Operations. "This incredible initiative allows us to continue creating lasting, positive change in the lives of young athletes across the Hudson Valley. By selecting Town of Poughkeepsie Softball as this year's recipient, we're not just improving

a field — we're providing more children with the opportunity to experience the joy of softball and the valuable lessons that come with it."

"We are honored to be chosen as this year's field renovation project and deeply appreciate the Renegades for their dedication to improving local fields and creating opportunities for young athletes across the Hudson Valley," said Janine Masopust, Board Secretary of the League. "This generous partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening our community and investing in the future of our athletes — not only as softball players, but as confident, hardworking individuals. On behalf of our players, families, and volunteers — thank you for believing in our program and helping us build something special for our girls, both on and off the field."

Stanley Still Park (also known as Jackson Road Park) is located on Jackson Road near the Dutchess County Airport. The park has a senior size baseball field, two girls softball fields, a basketball court, a 1/3 mile walking track, a playground, a creekside nature trail and is known as a great place to fish. The Town of Poughkeepsie Little League Girl's Softball league operates a youth girls softball program of the Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation Department at the park.

The Town of Poughkeepsie Girls Little League Softball (TOPGLLS) program consists of dedicated players, managers, and coaches. They welcome players of all



Stanley Still Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie is the recipient of the 2026 Youth Field Betterment refurbishment by the Hudson Valley Renegades and Heritage Financial Credit Union.

-Courtesy photo

ages and abilities who live or attend school in the Town or City of Poughkeepsie. Players exhibit a willingness to learn, to compete to the best of their ability, and above all, to have fun.

The vision of the softball league is to provide quality coaching, to provide an opportunity for players to reach their full potential, and help them gain an understanding of the game of softball. We do this in an environment that promotes teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship and respect. The goal of TOPGLLS is to create long-lasting memories and friendships, win or lose.

Representatives from the Renegades

Front Office and Heritage Financial Credit Union will spend a day this spring refurbishing the field led by Renegades Manager, Field Operations Tanner Puff.

Stanley Still Park represents the first Youth Field Betterment project renovation of a softball field as the program helps support youth baseball and softball programs throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley. It joins Sauter Field at Spratt Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie (2023), and Lee Town Recreational Park, part of East Fishkill Babe Ruth League (2024), and Town of Crawford Park, part of Pine Bush Little League (2025) as recipients of the renovations since the program's inception.

April is National Volunteer Month!

Let's recognize the great volunteers in our communities!

Can You Recommend a Community Helper?

Who are the "Community Helpers" in your town?

Every community has individuals who always step up and help out, regardless of the need. They are the volunteers who get things done for the good of one or all.

In many cases, these individuals or groups work behind the scenes. We at the Beacon Free Press want to recognize these "Community Helpers" - and we need YOUR help.

Please send your suggestions to Curtis Schmidt (cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com) or Richard Wambach (richardlw47@gmail.com).





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**Private Investments Allow
Vassar-Warner Home to Fully Reopen**





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**See story,
page 8**

America's 250th, plus top talent highlight Renegades' outlook

Continued from cover

This year's promotions highlight America, but also the Renegades' local roots. Alongside the Big Apple identity that honors Renegades' New York pathways, a few promotions tie back to the Hudson Valley. Halloween night will further feature the Headless Horseman of Dutchess County notoriety.

"At the end of the day, that's what minor leagues are built on: the community," said Denlinger.

The Renegades, known for fun from ages 2 to 102, have something in store for first-time baseball goers and fans of their golden years. A new tier for the kids' club offers free membership with 5 tickets to Sunday games and family fun days (dogs included!). After every game Wednesday through Sunday, the smallest Renegades fans can run the bases postgame.

The Silver Renegades program (\$79 membership plus fees) offers discounts for fans 55+ on Tuesday games, with bingo, and extra tickets for Grandparents' Night. Walkers may trade the mall route for a trip around the basepath, as the Senior Stroll follows every contest

Players arrive soon

For Joe Vasile, Hudson Valley's director of public relations and broadcasting, there is much in store for this year's new-look Renegades roster.

"I'm really excited this year for a lot of things baseball wise. The Yankees every year, especially since the affiliation here in Hudson Valley switched over, have done such a great job of not only player development, but stressing winning at the minor league level too. That's been great because we've won a lot of games and had some very com-



Kaeden Kent is expected to be a mainstay on the infield for the Renegades in 2026.

-File photo by Dave Janosz

the playoffs last year, as a late-season surge kept them in South Atlantic League contention.

Kaeden Kent and Core Jackson anchored the infield upon their arrival from Low-A Tampa, and could prove effective once again with a return to Hudson Valley.

The Yankees' off-season moves caused a farm system shakeup, as Hudson Valley anxiously awaits a whole new crop of position players. Some pieces of the pitching staff that led MiLB in earned run average last year should also return for 2026.

"I think it's going to be a really well balanced team this year and some really interesting players.

I'm looking forward to seeing how all that comes together," added Vasile.

Headlining the dugout changes is manager Aaron Bossi. An assistant coach in 2021, he is no stranger to the Renegade ways. Though he may be pleasantly surprised at the changes made in his hiatus. From new locker rooms to turf and lounge upgrades, we may need to hear Aaron's take on his new Hudson Valley digs.

Will the present slate of promotions and prospects top last year's? Fans will have to get out to Heritage Financial Park and see!

'No Kings' protests held in Poughkeepsie, Beacon



"No Kings" protests were held throughout the country, including in Dutchess County, to protest policies of the Trump administration. Congressman Pat Ryan took part in protests held in Poughkeepsie and Beacon on Saturday, March 28. This was the third "No Kings" protests during President Trump's second term.

-Courtesy photos

Garden Volunteer meeting set for April 22

Learn about the many ways to be involved in the gardens at The Homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield and the Vanderbilt formal gardens at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22 at the Wallace

Visitor Center, Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Site in Hyde Park.

No experience is necessary and schedules are flexible. Volunteers learn, make new friends and give back to the community.

petitive rosters," said Vasile.

The Renegades fell one game shy of

Taking It to the Streets to thank volunteers at luncheon on April 21

Continued from cover

Taking It to the Streets provides clothes for women, men, and children on Ann Street in Newburgh in Orange County, who are pantry recipients of Deacon James Seymour Pantry, which consists of approximately 120 families. The clothes are provided every Friday and Saturday mornings from 7-9:30 a.m., according to Anderson.

"They too are given a variety of clothing from casual, sport and dressy attire; in addition, footwear to match every occasion. Other locations served in a similar manner are Mansion Street Park from May to November. [We serve] anyone in need with clothing setup on tables so they can shop until they drop - men and women as well as children from the smallest size to the largest along with footwear," she remarked.

Another accomplishment this year, said Anderson, was during the Christmas holiday, they gave over 250 gifts to children from infant to 17 years of age at the Pleasant Valley Motel and Hudson River

Lodge shelters as well as pantry recipients' children on Ann Street in Newburgh.

"Our homeschool mothers and their children, the New Covenant Learning Center staff and students on Catherine St. in Beacon, packaged each gift and the homeschool families presented gifts to the children at the Hudson River Housing shelter," said Anderson.

Taking It to the Streets is also planning a benefit concert and recital on June 6.

Actor, singer and music educator Reginald Bennett Jr., a native of Beacon, will offer a unique repertoire of hip hop and art song. His recent theatrical performances have included "Ragtime."

"I want to add my sincere gratitude to every volunteer, everyone who has donated materially and/or financially to our nonprofit to make it possible to serve the Homeless and those in need weekly and throughout the year; we cannot do what we do without You. A million thanks," said Anderson.

One must RSVP to 857-928-2170 (call or text) by April 14. Donations are welcome.

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The CPCA, Delehanty Funeral Home, elected officials call attention to April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Kristine Coulter

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Delehanty Funeral Home has blue pinwheels outside of its location in Wappingers Falls to call attention to this cause, as well a sign that states: "We are Heroes for Kids."

Local elected officials, including Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber and Town of Poughkeepsie Councilman Bill Reuter, joined The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (CPCA) Executive Director Jessica Ferrantino and Delehanty Funeral Home Director Joseph Schuka to show support for this awareness campaign at Mesier Park. Local resident, firefighter and business owner Jordan Freer, of Freer Landscaping LLC., and his wife, Kelly, also turned out for the cause. Freer strung the blue lights on the Mesier Park gazebo to call attention to the prevention of child abuse. He said it took about two hours to set up the gazebo, along with Schuka.

Ferrantino said, "I'm very excited that we're kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month in April" this way. She thanked all those who are getting the word out.

Schuka, who arranged the gathering, said he has "a deep sense of gratitude for all. "For Mayor Huber from the Village of Wappingers Falls, for allowing Delehanty and I to light up the gazebo structure in Meiser Park, which is centrally located in the Village of Wappingers Falls. And Jordan Freer from Freer Landscaping for assisting me with the hanging of the lights; many hands get the job done, and I'm big about community and getting everyone involved; Thank you, Jordan," he said.

Schuka added, "Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini [is] always great [showing] his support; and it's awesome that he too will be lighting up the Town of Wappinger Town Hall building on Middlebush Road. Glad he



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, since 1983. The gazebo in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls will be lit in blue to call attention to the cause. Pictured from left, Delehanty Funeral Home director Joseph Schuka, local resident Kelly Freer, Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber, Town of Poughkeepsie Councilman Bill Reuter, Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, Freer Landscaping owner Jordan Freer, The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse Executive Director Jessica Ferrantino and volunteer John Finnigan.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

sees the importance of this awareness for Child Abuse Prevention and the amazing efforts of The Center for Prevention of Child Abuse (CPCA) of Poughkeepsie."

Schuka also thanked Town of Poughkeepsie Councilman Bill Reuter.

Restaurant Week will be held April 13-19, which is when a portion of the proceeds will be donated to CPCA. To find out more, visit thecpca.org.

"I have been involved with supporting this great organization for the past 6 or 7 years; I have helped spread the word from my business in the City of Beacon, and I keep carrying the message as I am now here in the Village of Wappingers Falls and the surrounding Town of Wappinger area. During the month of April, if you drive past the Delehanty Funeral Home on East Main Street in Wappingers Falls, you will notice the beautiful bright blue pinwheels, a sign of



Above: Pinwheels outside of Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls to call attention to April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Below: A sign outside of Delehanty Funeral Home that reads: We are Heroes for Kids.



hope for child abuse prevention," he said. All are welcome to stop and inquire about the awareness campaign, remarked Schuka. He noted there is a QR-code, which is a way for one to get more information and if one would like to help and make a donation.

For information, call The CPCA at 845-454-0595, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The statewide number for Child Protective Services, if one suspects child abuse, is 1-800-342-3720.

County to offer \$950,000 competitive grant program to prevent homelessness

Dutchess County currently has two new grant opportunities totaling \$950,000, available through its Municipal Investment Grant (MIG) competitive grant program, to support local communities and eligible non-profit organizations in making important improvements, as well as municipalities working to prevent homelessness.

The County's Department of Planning & Development is currently accepting applications for MIG funding through two initiatives: \$750,000 for infrastructure, safety and security upgrades at community gathering spaces, and \$200,000 to help communities address the needs of residents experiencing homelessness.

The first initiative will support infrastructure projects and safety enhance-

ments at facilities, including municipal buildings, fire stations, libraries, parks and other community gathering spaces across Dutchess County. Cities, towns, villages, fire departments and fire districts can apply, as can 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that regularly host free public programs or events in partnership with a municipality or the County; non-profits that apply must generally operate a community gathering space that is open to the public and regularly offers free programs or events for residents on behalf of a municipality or the County. Applications from 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations will only be considered if municipal projects have not exhausted all available grant funding.

The second initiative will fund commu-

nities addressing the needs of residents experiencing homelessness. Cities, towns, and villages throughout the County can apply for funding to support local solutions, which may include housing or shelter costs or partnering with service providers to offer support locally. Funding can support housing or shelter expenses, or contracts with organizations that provide services locally. Any shelter-related services must follow the requirements set by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The Dutchess County Legislature dedicated specific funding in the 2026 County

Budget for both initiatives, each requiring a 100-percent match as part of the grant application requirements.

The County's Community Development Advisory Committee and the Department of Planning & Development review all MIG applications and forward recommendations to the County Executive for final approval.

More information and application instructions are available online. Applications must be submitted through the County's online portal by May 13 at 3 p.m.; awards will be announced in summer 2026.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Policy on letters:

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

Wappinger board unanimously approves historic land acquisition

326-acre Cranberry Hills property to shape Town 's future

In a landmark decision that will shape the future of the Town for generations, the Wappinger Town Board voted unanimously to acquire and permanently preserve the 326-acre property known as Cranberry Hills—ending nearly 50 years of uncertainty and protecting the community from large-scale development.

For decades, Cranberry Hills has been at the center of repeated development proposals dating back to 1976, when 473 units were first proposed. Most recently, plans called for as many as 1,200 multi-family units, projects that would have dramatically altered the character, infrastructure, and quality of life across the Town.

“When I first took office, Wappinger was at a crossroads,” said Town Supervisor Joseph D. Cavaccini. “We were facing an unprecedented wave of development proposals—thousands of units moving through the pipeline with little regard for long-term impact. Cranberry Hills was at the center of that threat.”

In response, the Town swiftly enacted a development moratorium and adopted targeted legislative changes to its Comprehensive Plan, successfully preventing nearly 6,000 housing units from being constructed across Wappinger—including the high-density Cranberry Hills proposal.

However, with the Town’s moratorium set to expire this April, officials warned that “as-of-right” development—specifically a 150-home subdivision—could proceed as early as June without further intervention.

Cavaccini went on to say, “Our investment in Cranberry Hills represents the greatest opportunity to positively impact the most residents, while also addressing one of the greatest potential risks to our Town if left to development. The Town Board can plan its future, or have its future planned for them by developers.

“Personally, I ran to be your Town Supervisor to ensure that we proactively plan for our future and safeguard our community. We get to decide what we want. I am looking forward to working alongside each and every one of you to make this a reality.”

A Once-in-a-Generation Investment

The acquisition of Cranberry Hills represents a proactive and transformative solution—one that not only prevents overdevelop-



The Wappinger Town Board recently approved the land acquisition of more than 300 acres of property known as Cranberry Hills.

—Courtesy image

ment but positions the Town to thoughtfully plan for its future.

A critical distinction of this acquisition is that it places no burden on Town residents. Unlike residential development, the property remains within the non-homestead (commercial) tax base, meaning it does not impact the residential tax levy. At the same time, it does not generate additional demand on schools, EMS, or critical infrastructure. In essence, this represents “clean revenue” for the Town—providing financial benefit with virtually no associated service costs.

By preserving the land, the Town avoids significant long-term impacts, including:

- Approximately 1,500 additional daily car trips
- 60–90 EMS calls annually
- 45–75 fire calls annually
- 75–100 new students entering the school system
- 45,000 gallons per day in water demand

“These are permanent cost drivers that our taxpayers will never have to absorb,” Cavaccini emphasized.

Financial analysis presented to the Board further demonstrated that development would likely result in a break-even scenario

at best—or up to a \$200,000 annual deficit—while preservation carries only minimal, controlled costs.

Aligning with Community Vision

The decision to preserve Cranberry Hills is firmly rooted in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, which explicitly calls for the protection of this land. Additionally, the Dutchess County Route 93 Corridor Management Plan warned of the severe traffic, school, and infrastructure impacts associated with development at this site.

“This is not just about stopping something—it’s about creating something better,” Cavaccini said. “This is our opportunity to establish a ‘Central Park of Wappinger’—a space that connects neighborhoods, enhances quality of life, and serves as a lasting asset for generations to come.”

Town officials noted that the site’s central location and size make it uniquely suited for preservation and community use, offering opportunities for passive recreation, pedestrian connectivity, and environmental stewardship.

Senior Councilman William H. Beale, who represents the First Ward noted, “This monumental land acquisition occurred after

research, public discussion, and risk-benefit analysis. I proudly support the concept of a “central park” in the Town of Wappinger and look forward to what the future brings.”

Second Ward Councilwoman Heather O’Dell said, “Cranberry Hills may be one of the most important long-term decisions we make, and it is an extraordinary opportunity for Wappinger. More than 300 acres of open space, wetlands, and forest do not come back once they’re gone, and if we have the chance to preserve it, we should take that responsibility seriously. This is about protecting the character, resilience, and future of Wappinger. Preserving Cranberry Hills is a rare chance for Wappinger to act responsibly, protect public safety, and make a decision we will be proud of for years to come.”

Third Ward Councilman Christopher Phillips shared, “This 326-acre acquisition is a direct result of responsible leadership and a clear commitment to protecting Wappinger’s future. We are delivering real results—preserving open space, strengthening property values, and enhancing quality of life for our residents. By securing these 326 acres, we are making a smart, forward-thinking investment in Wappinger—balancing growth with preservation while ensuring taxpayer dollars are used to create lasting public benefit.”

Commitment to Affordability

Town leadership also emphasized that the acquisition has been pursued responsibly, with a focus on minimizing taxpayer burden through grant funding, alternative revenue sources, and direct negotiation with the property owner.

“Our administration has worked tirelessly to secure funding and maintain Wappinger as one of the most affordable towns in Dutchess County,” Cavaccini said. “This investment reflects those same principles—protecting our residents today while planning responsibly for tomorrow.”

A Defining Moment for Wappinger

With this unanimous vote, the Wappinger Town Board has taken decisive action to eliminate a long-standing threat and secure a lasting benefit for the entire community.

“For 50 years, residents have lived with the uncertainty of what might be built at Cranberry Hills,” Cavaccini concluded. “Tonight, we bring that chapter to a close—and open a new one defined by preservation, planning, and pride in our community.”

Vassar gifted landmark Harriet Beecher Stowe Collection by Alumna Mary Schlosser '51

Vassar College has become a preeminent source of books, manuscripts, and ephemera related to prominent 19th-century abolitionist and author Harriet Beecher Stowe, thanks to a gift from Mary C. Schlosser, Vassar Class of 1951. The Mary C. Schlosser–Harriet Beecher Stowe Collection centers around Stowe’s seminal work, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, the best-selling novel of the 19th century and second only to the Bible as the best-selling book.

Comprising more than 500 items, the collection features all 40 issues of the abolitionist weekly *The National Era* in which *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was first serialized in 1851, as well as the 1852 first edition of the printed book and Stowe’s handwritten manuscripts. Advertisements, playbills from staged productions of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, ceramic plates, and other memorabilia round out the collection.

“This is one of the greatest acquisitions for the Archives and Special Collections Library during my 25-year career here,”

noted Vassar’s Head of Special Collections and College Historian Ronald Patkus. “We are extremely grateful for this wonderful gift, produced by an alum and member of the Beecher family. As the largest and most important collection of this kind in private hands, it will add considerably to Vassar’s holdings and provide an outstanding resource for teaching and research.”

Schlosser, a descendant of one of Stowe’s 10 siblings (another sibling was a Vassar trustee), began collecting rare editions of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in the 1960s. She said she chose Vassar to receive the collection because of her enduring fondness for the College, where she had an “absolutely splendid” experience as an art history major, and because of Vassar’s unique approach to allowing undergraduates access to its Archives and Special Collections.

“The great thing about Vassar is, to this day, they don’t lock all their rare books up so that nobody can touch them,” Schlosser said. “There are limitations to the use of rare-book libraries in many bigger institutions. I just

think that it’s too bad if you have to be a high-level graduate student in order to be able to handle the special books. One of the big draws was that the books I would give to Vassar would be available to the student body to handle and look at, and people wouldn’t say, ‘Oh, you can’t touch that—that’s a first edition.’”

Harriet Beecher Stowe intended *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* as a rallying cry against slavery in the wake of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which required ordinary citizens to help capture people fleeing enslavement. The book became a cultural phenomenon the likes of which had never been seen before, with printing presses running 24 hours a day to meet the demand.

“Few would argue with the claim that the novel is one of the most significant in American history,” said Patkus. “In offering a portrait of slavery, it touched a nerve in public life, and millions of copies were sold both in the United States and in other countries around the world.”

Meanwhile, in the decades following the

original publication, stage adaptations were performed throughout the country—some of which, particularly in the South, complicated the book’s legacy by changing the story and attributes of the book’s title character in order to thwart Stowe’s abolitionist message.

“To think about 19th century American culture, you have to be able to contend with *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in all of its messiness,” said Vassar Assistant Professor of English Blevin Shelnett, who teaches Stowe’s novel at Vassar as an example of the sentimental literary tradition shaped by 19th century women authors. Shelnett added that she looks forward to using the Mary C. Schlosser–Harriet Beecher Stowe Collection as a teaching tool. “The texts that we’re reading aren’t just linguistic arrangements; they actually have these material lives that affect the way that they’re received and carry meaning,” she said. “I feel really lucky to have this kind of proximity to a collection of this magnitude and importance for 19th century American culture.”

Over 130 volunteer firefighters attend Dutchess County Weekend



Over 130 volunteer firefighters from all over Dutchess County took part in dinners and training events at East Fishkill training center, New Hackensack Fire Department and Hudson Valley Regional Airport.

-Photo by Vinny Galvin

Dutchess County Weekend took place during the weekend of March 21, drawing more than 130 volunteer firefighters to events hosted at several locations, including the East Fishkill training center, New Hackensack Fire Department and Dutchess County Airport. The festivities began Friday night with a meet-and-greet and dinner at the East Fishkill Fire Department. Throughout the weekend, participants

were provided with meals. Saturday featured breakfast, lunch and dinner, while Sunday included breakfast and lunch, ensuring that everyone was taken care of during the event. Saturday marked the start of various classes designed to cater to all attendees. Topics included legal issues for commissioners and line officers, Firefighter 2 training, live fire exercises, school bus rescue operations, air-

craft emergency procedures, highway safety, and EMS sessions for EMTs. This event was organized by the Dutchess County Fire Chiefs Council. Support came from the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighter's Association, the Association of Fire Districts, and the East Fishkill Fire Department and their support group. Their collective efforts made the week-

end a success. The organizers hope to welcome participants again next year and encourage continuous learning. Photos from the weekend are available at DCVFFA.com. Everyone is invited to join the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighter's Association and participate in their website community.

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Skilled Trades Fair set for April 15 at RCK

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's Skilled Trades Fair, in partnership with the Wappingers Central School District, will return to Roy C. Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Road in Wappinger, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15. This free event is open to all Dutchess County residents and no RSVP is required to attend.

Career paths are rarely onesizefitsall, and it's important to know ALL of the options available, even if that might not be a college or university," said Serino. "That's why I started these Skilled Trades Fairs in my home school district: to help students and adults throughout Dutchess County explore options and chart a path that fits their goals. We are thrilled to once again return to where it all began in the Wappingers Central School District and to our partners in a wide range of industries. We will continue to host these events, as well as our Older Adults Skills Fairs, throughout the county to shine a spotlight on all the many rewarding, sustainable career opportunities available for everyone wanting to build new skills or put their skills back to work!"

Dr. Dwight D. Bonk, Wappinger Superintendent of Schools, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the Skilled Trades Fair back to our district this year! Events like this open our students' eyes to the incredible range of career pathways available to them. By connecting directly

with industry professionals and exploring hands-on opportunities, attendees gain real insight into futures that are engaging, meaningful, and in high demand. We're grateful to County Executive Serino for starting this great tradition in the Wappingers Central School District and for returning again this year to help inspire our students, and adults alike, to discover their passions and envision the many possibilities ahead."

The County Executive's Skilled Trades Fairs connect hundreds of students and their families, as well as adults seeking new career paths, with diverse job opportunities in the Hudson Valley in fields such as construction, electrical work, plumbing, masonry, aesthetics, lawn care, pet grooming and more.

Participating businesses will have a unique opportunity to engage with motivated students and adults, eager to explore careers in their trades. Local businesses and trade organizations interested in showcasing their opportunities at the fair are encouraged to register online at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/RCKTradesFair> or contact the Dutchess County Executive's Office at 845-486-2000 or CountyExec@dutchessny.gov.

There is no fee to participate, however space is limited, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Blood Drive set for April 13

American Legion Post 1466 will host a blood drive at the Post, 50 Legion Road, in Poughkeepsie on Monday, April 13, from 1-5 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code Legion1466.

that's italian!

by luigi coppola



Is it sauce or gravy?

Can Luigi find the answer to an age-old question?

As the winter's snow recedes and the ground gets uncovered, we begin thoughts of gardening and our tomato plants. Some of you may already be starting your tomatoes indoors in hopes of getting them in the ground the moment the threat of frost is gone. Others are keeping an eye open for the moment tomato plants are being sold at your favorite store to be placed next to your basil plants. Either way, tomatoes mean sauce or gravy.

In the beginning, Italians had tomatoes. Not really, though. The tomato originated in America and is believed to have been brought back to Europe by Christopher Columbus in 1493. Primarily used in flower gardens, it was not widely eaten and often used as an ornamental plant. Many people thought tomatoes were poisonous. The use of tomato sauce on pasta doesn't appear till the late 1700s. However, the question of sauce vs. gravy doesn't appear for another 300 years.

Growing up in a house with two "off the boat" Italians, we always called it sauce. My aunts, uncles and cousins also called it sauce. Pasta was pasta, not macaroni. Macaroni was elbows (an argument for another time). Everything else was pasta. Sauce went with pasta. Gravy was for turkey.

I remember being a teenager and going to a friend's house for dinner for the first time. When I asked him what was for dinner he said macaroni with gravy. I remember thinking that it must be an American dish, so I kept my mouth shut. When I saw bowls of pasta with sauce, I was really confused. So being the shy Italian boy that I was, I asked his mother what was going on. Joey said we were having macaroni with gravy. This was pasta with sauce. She then explained that in their house, they called tomato sauce, gravy. When I said that gravy was for turkey, she told me to shut up and eat.

I went home confused. I told my mother what had happened. That Joey's family called sauce gravy. My mother wiped her hand on her apron, looked at me with the most serious look in her eyes and said, "Sauce is for pasta, gravy is for turkey! You capisce?" So began the "great" debate for me and the quest for the ultimate answer.

My quest began very innocently, by asking my Italian friends whether they called it sauce or gravy. Vinny Justibuono told me they called it gravy. Anthony Mustaccelli told me they called it sauce. I started noticing a trend that the further

North on the boot that your ancestors came from, predicated how you termed sauce, or gravy. Northern Italians called it sauce. Southern Italians called it gravy. I had some of my friends tell me that if it's called gravy, then those people were not Italian. I had others tell me that only true

Italians called it gravy. I also had a few people tell me to shut up and mind my own freakin' business.

I realized that a question that brought out such passion, and such anger was something that needed to be answered. To try to break the tie, I asked my non-Italian friends what they called it – sauce or gravy – and they just looked at me like I had three heads. I had reached an impasse.

I did a little internet research and found some comments on the "great" debate. Some folks attach "gravy" on a South Philly upbringing. Others say it's a Jersey thing. Still others say it's from growing up in the Bronx. One article said that it came from Long Island at the turn of the 20th century in the Port Washington section.

While some Italian-Americans may call it gravy, people from Italy don't have the same habit. One Italian chef from New York, who was born in Naples, had this to say: "In an Italian family we make 'sauce' for a pasta meal. Gravy is brown and for turkey only." Another chef commented "My husband's family from Jersey says gravy, but I lived in Italy and can promise it was never referred to as 'gravy' by any Italians!"

I saw one theory that tomato sauce is a meatless marinara; when you add protein such as meat to it like meatballs and sausage, it becomes gravy. Sauce is made from just tomatoes. One friend of mine who owns an Italian restaurant in Jersey has had an ongoing argument with his "off the boat" grandmother. When he served her his baked ziti in red sauce, she demanded he call it gravy. Then, for Christmas, she got him an ornament that said "It's Gravy, not Sauce." Naturally, He didn't hang it.

Sauce vs. Gravy is the Italian version of "Less filling! Taste Great!", "Yankees vs. Mets" and "Giants vs. Jets" all rolled into one. Whole families have been ripped apart because of this argument. I've heard of people not talking for years because they believe it's sauce, not gravy.

One Philadelphia restaurateur remarks, "It's a South Philly thing to throw meatballs into your red sauce and overcook it and then call it gravy." After a little more internet research I found a historical arti-

cle about the great debate. Our southern Italian ancestors prepared both salsas and sugos. A salsa is a vegetarian sauce with little or no meat that is not cooked very long. Sugo, or gravy, is a tomato and meat preparation that slowly cooks all day.

I remember going to my grandmother's house in Marlboro, NY after Sunday mass and watching her make her sauce. First she would fry a chunk of fatty pork meat in olive oil. She would then add sausages, meatballs, and braciolo with garlic, onions, spices, red wine, tomato paste and crushed tomatoes and let it simmer for 2-3 hours. All afternoon we would sneak onto the kitchen and tear off a hunk of bread and dip it in the sauce. We would have to be quick or Nonna would smack us with her wooden spoon. We would then have it with a hearty pasta, such as rigatoni, with loaves of home-baked crusty Italian bread and fresh shaved Reggiano Parmigiana cheese. We would have a chunk of cheese on the table with a cheese grater and pass it around to freshly grate cheese on our pasta.

I remember the taste of the sweet sauce combined with the sharp creamy cheese. We would ladle out the meat onto our plate right out of the pot. Those meatballs had to be handled delicately because they were sitting in the sauce for hours. They would just fall apart in your mouth. The addition of the homemade sausage to the sauce gave it just enough "kick" to tingle your tongue. It's amazing how well balanced those sauces were. You had sweet, sharp, and spicy flavors all coming together in perfect harmony.

If one accepts that gravy is basically sauce slow-cooked with meat, does it matter what kind of meat? Some say that if you don't add pork bones to it, it's sauce. Others say that the amount of time it takes to make, makes it sauce or gravy. As I said, there were more than a few arguments during my quest to settle the "great" debate once and for all. I, for one, agree to disagree. Either way, once you combine with pasta it's delicious.

So what have I discovered in my quest for the answer to the great debate? If you want to call it gravy, call it gravy. Want to toss in some pieces of chuck steak instead of pork shoulder, go ahead. Prefer spaghetti over rigatoni, you got it. For each and every Italian-American family, the spicy, thick tomato-based chili styled ragu that becomes the pinnacle of every Italian-American's Sunday dinner may be made differently, taste different and be called something different, but at the end

of the day, no matter which way you stir the pot, it's really all the same. Pasta or Macaroni (debate for another day) sauce (or gravy), bread, cheese, wine (definitely).

To me, gravy isn't a food, it's a memory of good times, relatives and friends, and coming together. Memories of a meal so incredible and so tasty that even the most curious, wide-eyed Italian American boy can forget to worry about what's in a name and instead focus on more important things – like what's for dessert.

Nonna's Sunday Sauce or Gravy Ingredients

1 lb. pork shoulder meat cut into 1-inch cubes
4 meatballs
4 spicy sausage
2 qts. crushed plum tomatoes
½ cup water
½ pint tomato paste
1 small finely diced onion
4 cloves finely diced garlic
10 oz. red wine
1 tbsp. sugar
1 tspn. salt
1 tspn. pepper
1 tspn. oregano
1 tbsp. dried basil
¼ cup olive oil

Directions

In a large pot add olive oil, onions and garlic. Simmer on low heat until onions become translucent (about 10-15 minutes). Add pork meat and brown. Bring heat up to high.

Once ingredients begin to sizzle, add the red wine and scrape the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon. Add in remaining ingredients except meatballs and sausage and return the heat to low.

Leave on the fire for two-three hours stirring occasionally, until sauce, or gravy, becomes thick. A half-hour before service add meatballs and sausage.

Serve over hearty pasta such as rigatoni with a loaf of bread, grated cheese and the rest of the red wine.

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

Tickets for 'Jekyll and Hyde' now available

With the spring season here, the Beacon Players of Beacon High School are excited to present the musical adaptation of "Jekyll and Hyde" on April 24th, 25th, and 26th! The production team this season includes our director Anthony Scarrone; advisor Lori LaDue; conductor Samantha Ryan-Ferry; set, lighting, and sound crew advisor Randy Caruso; costume crew advisor Karin Zdrojewski; art crew advisor Carmen Finton; choreographer Kimberly Rodriguez; and vocal director

Will Reynolds.

"Most anything you see on stage, from base coats and scenic textures to detailed props and larger visual pieces that become part of the stage design have been done by the art crew." This show is nothing less than extravagant, but with our cast, crews, and orchestra pouring dedication into our work, we are confident it will be something spectacular. Jonathan Trentacosta (Treasurer, Costume Crew Chief) encapsulates this perfectly: "Each year we take

knowledge gained from our previous experiences and apply it to ourselves, increasing our capabilities."

Tickets for Jekyll and Hyde the musical are on sale now on the Beacon Players website: <https://our.show/bpjh>.

Dance set at Elks Lodge on April 11

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. The lights are low, the sound is full and the ambiance is warm and inti-

mate. Attire is whatever suits one's mood - from blue jeans to sparkles.

Admission is \$15 and includes complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar.

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Chicken Sliders with Kimchi gets our vote to lead snacks at Heritage Park in 2026



From left: Chef Mark Woinoski created a dynamite bite of spice and vinegar, cabbage and chicken for Chicken Sliders with Kimchi. Focaccia Pizza and Watermelon and Feta Salad. You can check this out along with other fan favorites this season while watching the Hudson Valley Renegades.

-Photos by Morgan E. Maier

By Morgan E. Maier

Play ball! It's the greatest two-word imperative, second only to "Let's eat." There will be plenty of both at Heritage Financial Park in 2026.

New this season, the Hudson Valley Renegades are partnering with New York City-based chain Shake Shack.

Just as that sandwich magnate began as a hot-dog cart, my journey through the 2026 WMCHHealth Club menu offerings begins with a small cabbage. Crunched for time, this author had time enough to cram a few bites; the aptly-sized Chicken Slider with Kimchi was the winner. A

beautiful take on a favorite fermented Korean staple, Chef Mark Woinoski created a dynamite bite of spice and vinegar, cabbage and chicken.

My stomach fulfilled and revitalized from a sweet kiss of kimchi, this slider was just the size to tide me over... and the perfect taste to have another one.

For the second year running, it was a masterful meat preparation, knocked out of the park. And speaking of fermenting, wine - Benmarl Winery returns for another season. Nearly older than America and five years younger than cream cheese (more on that later),

the vino pairs nicely with the live music that will ring in every Renegades home contest this season. No. 1 in state wine licenses, No. 1 at Heritage Financial Park. I hear corned beef, also fresh sliced in the WMCHHealth Lounge, pairs nicely with a dry Riesling.

Grilled veggies are a delightful balance within the cornucopia of ballpark nosh, alongside a refreshing watermelon feta salad fit to hydrate any mid-inning craving. Also on display, an inside hint to the latest in incomparable stadium food pairings: the chicken and waffles cone. I'm absolutely here for it, because there's nothing better

than a treat that satisfies the sweet and savory, all in one hand, in one dish.

It's true, baseball is a celebration of food, fun, and funky combinations. In New York, the pastime is best enjoyed with pizza. Ice cream, too. Plus chicken wings, Cracker Jacks, and... cream cheese? Bagel's best friend was first created in Chester, N.Y., not Philadelphia as people think. In honor of the spread's Hudson Valley beginnings, the August 25 Ode to Cream Cheese kicks off the Renegades' final homestand.

Private investments allow Vassar-Warner Home to fully reopen

After more than two years of navigating significant funding challenges and fighting to serve seniors in New York's Hudson Valley region, Vassar-Warner Home, located at 52 South Hamilton St. in the City of Poughkeepsie, will officially reopen its doors to residents on May 4.

Supported by transformative private investments, Vassar-Warner will once again operate as Dutchess County's only nonprofit independent senior living residence, providing high-quality care that meets the individualized needs of each resident inside a storied New York State landmarked Greek Revival building. Applications are now open

and can be found at <https://vassarwarner.org/admission-process/>. If an applicant needs immediate placement or housing before the May 4 move-in date, Vassar-Warner's team will work with them individually.

"The past few years have been a journey, one full of highs and lows, but our determination to restore Vassar-Warner to what it has always been has never wavered," said Ericka Von Salews, executive director of Vassar-Warner.

A longstanding pillar for seniors in the Hudson Valley, Vassar-Warner will provide a nurturing environment designed to enhance the quality of life for up to 35



Private investments will allow Vassar-Warner Home in Poughkeepsie to fully reopen in May.

-Courtesy photo

seniors. Each resident will benefit from services and programs tailored to their interests, health considerations, needs and dietary restrictions. Amenities include prepared meals, laundry services and housekeeping. To encourage connection and well-being, residents will also enjoy a variety of activities, including exercise and mobility classes, Mahjong, painting and crafts, educational lectures on diverse topics, book clubs and more.

"We are beyond grateful for the support from our staff, the community and generous donors, and we look forward to continuing to serve our seniors and provide them a safe and supportive home," said Richard Schuster, whose mother lived at

Vassar-Warner before its closure and who currently serves as the nonprofit's board president.

Vassar-Warner's pivotal return will also ensure the continued operation of Vassar-Warner Home for the Day, the facility's social model adult day care established in July 2025 that welcomes elders to interact with peers for a few hours or a full day. To stay updated on Vassar-Warner and its grand re-opening, visit vassarwarner.org and follow along on Facebook (@VassarWarnerHome). To support Vassar-Warner's work with Hudson Valley seniors and its continued legacy in the community, make a donation at vassarwarner.org/make-a-donation/.

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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by francine wizner



Home compost: expand and observe or set and forget?



As the size of the compost pile increases, volume grows faster than surface area.

-Images generated by AI, courtesy of Francine Wizner

At 48°F, this small compost pile doesn't provide enough insulation for its core to reach high temperatures.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

I made a compost pile a few years ago in a shady, out-of-sight, yet convenient area. The mound contains leaves, referred to as “browns,” for their carbon content, as well as kitchen scraps, referred to as “greens,” for their nitrogen content. I checked moisture and rotated the pile regularly.

Since its formation, landscaping work has disturbed the mound. Trucks have dropped fill around the compost and wood chippers have thrown mulch over the area. The heap has been smushed, resurrected, smothered, and, again resuscitated at least three times in as many years.

What I can and can't see

Since winter's snow has receded, I can now see rotting kitchen scraps intermixed within spongy earth. There are also residents that can't be seen. Psychrophilic bacteria, as well as fungi, are probably in the organic matter. They digest easily degradable materials like the simple sugars in our apple cores.

PSYCHRO-philic bacteria aren't crazy. They are cold-loving bacteria that are most active from 28°F to 55°F. If you ever had refrigerated meats that have gotten slimy or dairy that has soured, blame psychrophiles.

Another thing I don't see is “steam” (technically condensation). A visible mist forms in cool air that contacts heat generated by decomposition. My compost pile is certainly not steaming! It's cool enough that psychrophilic bacterial populations should increase.

There goes the neighborhood!

Bacteria release energy during rapid growth and when decomposing organic matter. If a compost pile is cool with plenty of nutrients, it's a boom for psychrophilic populations! Their numbers grow and their exothermic processes raise temperatures. Once the pile warms beyond 70°F, it's a bust for the psychrophiles; they've un-alived themselves. Mesophilic bacteria burgeon in the newly temperate environment.

In contrast to cold-loving bacteria, mesophiles are active between 68°F and 113°F. As their populations grow, they, too, raise the temperature as they digest nutrients. The mesophiles will expire as the compost transitions to the thermophilic phase. When the pile exceeds 113°F, thermophilic bacteria “move in.” Thermophiles break down materials rapidly. But, their high-temperature environment requires observation and management.

Hot rot

Heat-loving (thermophilic) bacteria are

found between 113°F and 130°F. “Hot Composting” occurs between 130°F and 140°F. But, to keep that temperature range, the correct carbon-to-nitrogen ratio must be maintained and the pile needs frequent turning to provide oxygen. If the mound gets too hot, there can be rapid moisture loss resulting in compaction, reducing oxygen circulation, producing foul odors and potential volatility.

Size matters

There is a marked difference between my compost's 48°F and temperatures that thermophiles prefer. My little mound of compost is unlikely to spontaneously combust. Small compost piles don't provide enough insulation for their core to reach high temperatures. If a big pile is the goal ... I must, I must, I must increase...

My compost heap can be used as an example in understanding the volume to surface area relationship. As a pile expands, its volume (which generates heat) grows much faster than its surface area (which loses heat to the environment). A mound needs to be a minimum of 27 cubic feet (3 ft3) to generate enough heat to steam. Expansive compost heaps that are 64 to 125 cubic feet (4 ft3 to 5 ft3) provide more insulation and higher temperatures, even in the cold of winter.

It's not 'go big or go home'; it's 'do what you can do'

Big, hot compost piles need temperature checks, aeration, watering, maintenance of proper ratios, and a large, expansive mass. To achieve more efficient decomposition, I'll need some workarounds for our situation.

We produce few green materials for our heap. We have minimal food waste. Mowed grass is left in place to return nutrients to the soil. We lack farm debris (alfalfa, hay, or manure) -- no herbivores. AND, the garden weeds that are composted just grow anew because the pile isn't hot enough to kill their seeds!

We have plenty of brown material (dry leaves, pine needles, woody trimmings, paper products), but the quantity throws off the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of the pile. That nitrogen deficiency may mean that the heap won't ever get hot enough to produce “quick compost” in a few months. In the future, I may try adding alfalfa pellets or blood meal for a nitrogen boost.

But a small compost heap is still a valuable endeavor. It produces a nutrient-rich soil amendment that is a habitat for a variety of organisms. Small piles keep organic materials out of landfills, reducing methane emissions. They simply break down organic matter over time,

rather than using heat. They require little maintenance or stress. You just set it and forget it. That's ideal if you have other things to do!

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She

creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County.

Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.

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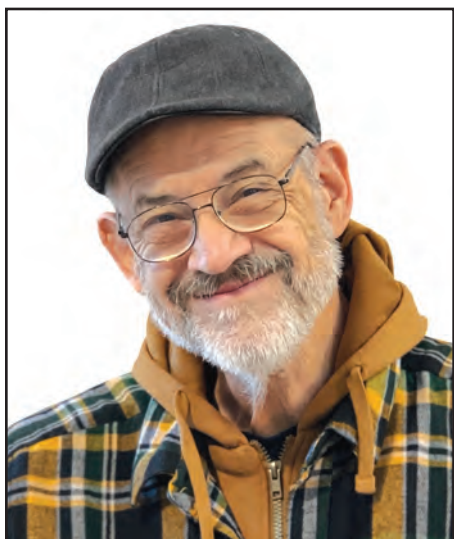


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Obituaries

David J. White



David J. White, a longtime resident of Wappingers Falls and Poughkeepsie, passed away at his home on March 14, 2026 at the age of 77.

He was born in Poughkeepsie, New York on December 20, 1948, the son of the late Leon E. White and Beatrice G. (Brammer) White. David attended Arlington High School.

David enlisted in the United States Army on May 19, 1971, and proudly served as Military Police until his honorable discharge on May 21, 1973.

David worked as a social worker for the Taconic DDSO in Wassaic, New York until his retirement. He was an avid sports fan who loved watching games and following his favorite teams, especially the UConn Women's Basketball team. He also enjoyed spending time with family

and friends and made many lasting friendships through his years playing on local softball and bowling teams.

David is survived by his son Dana White, his son Joshua White and his wife Maureen White. He was the proud and devoted grandfather of Liam and Lana, who will deeply miss their grandfather cheering them on from the sidelines at their many sports games, where he was always their biggest fan.

He is also survived by his brother Michael White, his sisters Pamela White and Carol White, and many nieces and nephews with whom he shared cherished memories.

In addition to his parents, David was predeceased by his younger brother Leo White. His family and friends will gather to honor and celebrate his life on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 1:00 PM with a Military Honors Graveside Service in the Veteran Section at Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, West Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. A reception will follow.

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

Sharon Judith Flynn



Sharon Judith Flynn, age 78, of Beacon, New York, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2026, surrounded by her three sons. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Flynn II.

She was born on February 6, 1948, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to Joan and Frank Smith.

Sharon attended Misericordia College and built a career in healthcare as an ultrasound technician. She was known for her kindness, her selflessness, and the love she showed to her family and friends, as well as her joyful spirit and appreciation for life.

Sharon is survived by her three sons, John Oakes (Amy), Jim Oakes (Karin), and Greg Oakes (Cynthia Reffler); her stepchildren, Joe Flynn III (Jayme) and

Kelly Bialko (Keith); her sister, Joan Foster (Chris); her brother, Frank Smith (Mary); and her grandchildren, Liam, Erin, Patrick, Brady, Keagan Oakes, Alex, Riley, Jack Flynn, and Summer and Keith Bialko.

She found great happiness in life's simple pleasures, especially plants, flowers, and gardening.

She will be remembered for the warmth, love, and light she brought to those around her.

Family and friends gathered on Monday, March 30, 2026, at Riverview Funeral Home in Beacon, New York.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Sharon may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation.

Sharon will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

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

Patricia Mary Elizabeth Modugno



Patricia Mary Elizabeth Modugno, a resident of Wappingers Falls, NY passed away peacefully at her home on March 24, 2026; at the age of 55. She was born in Loughrea, County Galway, Ireland on April 16, 1970, daughter of Nancy (nee Kelly) Mahony and the late John Mahony. Patricia immigrated to the United States in 1987 and later became a citizen in 2002.

On July 31, 2003, at St. Brendan's Roman Catholic Church in Loughrea County Galway Ireland, she married her love, Christopher Edmond Modugno; who survives at home in Wappingers Falls, NY.

Patricia had a big heart and loved nothing more than spending time with her friends and family, cooking for them and making everyone feel special. She especially cherished her regular trips to Ireland to see her family and friends where she always found great joy and

peace there.

Along with her dear mother and beloved husband of 22 years, Patricia is survived by her two loving sons, whom she adored, Christopher E. Modugno Jr. and Patrick Modugno. She is survived by her loving sisters and brother, Caroline (Leo) Martin, Sean (Pauline) Mahony, Ann (Tomas) Mahony-Cooley; her brother-in-law, Michael Modugno and his partner, Marilyn Perez. Patricia is also survived by aunts and uncles in both Ireland & England, niece, nephews, cousins and countless close friends.

Her Family received Friends on Sunday, March 29th at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Monday, March 30th at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY, followed by interment to Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, Fishkill, NY.

To offer a message of condolence, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Barbara Ann Skillman



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Barbara Ann Skillman, loving mother, a remarkable woman, and a dedicated professional. Barbara's courageous 4-year battle with Dementia/Alzheimer's ended on February 9, 2026, as she passed away peacefully at the age of 88.

Our mother, Barbara, a widow at the age of 45, was filled with strength and determination, as she had to fill many roles after the early passing of her husband, Robert. We were blessed to have her as the head of our family, and she lived her life with faith, grace & gratitude, despite having to walk alone for so many years. She was a survivor, as she lived bravely and loved fiercely, always letting her family know how much she loved them.

She met Robert G. Skillman, Jr. and was married on April 13, 1957, and together they went on to have 2 children. Barbara was predeceased by her husband Robert G. Skillman, Jr. and her parents Robert & Elvira Muller. She is survived by her children, Bob Skillman, III (wife, Jackie), and Lynn Braban (partner, Tony DeRosa). Barbara's legacy will live on as she is survived by 8 grandchildren, some by blood and some by love, their spouses & partners, 5 great-granddaughters, and 1 great-grandson. Her nurturing spirit, unwavering support, and boundless love will forever live on in the hearts of her children.

Barbara is also survived by her siblings, Ruth Boselli (husband Patsy - deceased), Robert Muller (wife, Barbara), & Donald Muller (wife, Roxann).

As a smart accomplished woman, graduating from Grace Dodge Vocational High School, just 1 month after she turned 16, Barbara's passion for math and organization paved the way into a secretarial position at Starflite Uniforms, and continued throughout her career as Office Manager / Head of Financial Affairs for many years. She remained with her core group of colleagues through changes in company ownership & name, finally retiring from Uniform Ideas/Cintas. Barbara truly had an incredible work ethic, simply loved her job, and thrived on being part of a company. To no one's surprise, after a short period at home, to keep active and busy, took a part-time job in a local company in the accounting department where she remained into her mid 70's

Barbara was a woman of faith and church was a central part of her life. For many years, was an integral part of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx, her roles included being a Youth Group Chaperone, a Sunday School teacher, member of Church Council, and anywhere else a helping hand was needed. Her memory will be forever cherished, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Barbara's Life will be held on April 11, 2026 at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church; 4360 Rev. Theodore Wittrock Crossing, (Boyd Avenue), Bronx, NY 10466. Visiting hours will begin at 12:30 pm, followed by a Memorial Church Service at 2:00. A coffee & dessert fellowship will be held immediately following church in the same location. Barbara will be buried in a small private funeral on Monday, April 13th at Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Redeemer Lutheran Church Youth Group, a cause close to Barbara's heart.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Wappinger convenience store closed after arrest

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of Mohammed N. Alyasjeen, 27, of Poughkeepsie, in connection with a recent investigation into alleged illegal activity at M&M Convenience & Tobacco on Route 376 in the Town of Wappinger.

In late 2025 the Sheriff's Office received information about suspicious activity at the store, including the alleged sales of alcoholic beverages and marijuana/THC products to minors. An investigation was then initiated, and it was discovered that several products were allegedly being sold illegally at the store - to include alcoholic beverages, THC products, vape products, untaxed cigarettes, and psychedelic mushrooms, it is stated in the press release. According to the sheriff's office, on March 21, a search warrant was executed at the store, at which time numerous items of contraband were seized and Alyasjeen was taken into custody. At this time Alyasjeen has been charged with the following, according to officials:

- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd degree (felony)
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled

- Substance 5th degree (felony)
- Endangering the Welfare of a Child (misd)

- Unlawfully Dealing with a Child 1st degree (misd)
- Sale of alcoholic beverages to a minor (misd)
- Sale of alcoholic beverages without a license (misd)
- Keeping alcoholic beverages on premises without a permit (misd)
- Selling untaxed cigarettes (misd)

After being processed the defendant was arraigned before the Town of LaGrange Court and released, and is due to reappear before the Town of Wappinger Court on April 8.

The quantity of vape products seized is thought to be the largest to date in Dutchess County and could result in significant fines & penalties, according to officials. The Sheriff's Office was assisted in the investigation by the New York State Office of Cannabis Management, the Dutchess County Department of Health, the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, and the New York State Liquor Authority. The investigation is continuing and further charges are possible at a later time.

Village of Fishkill board changes meeting date

The Village of Fishkill Board of Trustees Meeting scheduled for Monday April 20 at 6 p.m. is changed to Tuesday

April 21, at 6 p.m., Van Wyck Hall, 1095 Main Street, Fishkill.

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

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- 100 Help Wanted
- 105 Employment Opportunity
- 106 Business Opportunity
- 107 Situations Wanted
- 120 Schools
- 121 Special Instruction
- 122 Musical Instruction
- 140 Nursery Schools
- 141 Child Care
- 142 Day Care
- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care
- 150 Announcements
- 151 Adoption
- 152 Novenas
- 154 Lost & Found
- 155 Personal
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- 504 Appliances
- 505 Free Items
- 506 Computers
- 507 Sports Equipment
- 508 Exercise Equipment

- 509 Office Equipment
- 510 Firewood
- 511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
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- 516 Misc. Merchandise
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- 701 Free Pets
- 702 Lost & Found Pets
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- 710 Garage & Yard Sale
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- 712 Moving sale
- 713 Rummage Sale
- 714 Flea Market
- 715 Craft Corner
- 716 Barn Sale
- 717 Estate Sale
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- 719 Antiques

- 720 Vendors Wanted
- 721 Wanted to Buy
- 722 Bazaar
- 723 Consignments
- 724 Farmers Market
- 725 Collectibles
- 750 Events
- 800 Boats
- 801 Campers & Trailers
- 802 Motor Homes
- 803 Recreational Vehicles
- 900 Autos for Sale
- 901 Vans/SUV's
- 902 Trucks
- 903 Motorcycles
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401 Apartments for Rent

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS, INC. - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

TWO (2) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$2,150.00 per month and one month security deposit. Tenant is responsible for electric, cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

DIMARCO PLACE I, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,768.00 per month and a one month security deposit. Rent includes electric for lights, cooking, air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided), heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. All household members must be 55 years or older or disabled. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE FAMILY COMPLEX, Beacon, NY

THREE (3) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,764.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,540.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE II SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,507.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,575.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

HIGHLAND MEADOWS SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY. One (1) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,247.00 per month and Two (2) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,561.00. One month security deposit required. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is electric, heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

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easter greetings



Savage Wonder presents 'The Big Funk' by Pulitzer-winning playwright John Patrick Shanley

This spring Savage Wonder Art Center returns with its boldest experiential production yet: "The Big Funk," a darkly comic and deeply human play by John Patrick Shanley. A surreal fable of grit and grace, the show unfolds like a midnight cab ride through the soul of 1990s New York — a sharp portrait of dreamers trying to find their footing at the end of the millennium. What unfolds is funny, bruising, and deeply human: a collision of longing, fear, and the stubborn hope that change is possible.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright John Patrick Shanley, "The Big

Funk" is a rare and electric work — part ritual, part fever dream. This experiential reimagining turns the myth of the knife thrower into a meditation on masculinity, spectacle, and control.

The night begins "outside" The Parlor, in our art gallery, and ends at a long communal table with a dinner, where actors and guests break bread inside the story itself — salt, pepper, steel, and skin. No drugs. No gods. Just hunger, danger, and the strange intimacy of being alive together.

Featuring Jose-Maria Aguila*, Carolyn Holding*, Zion Jang* & Whitney McIntosh-Joseph (*Denotes a member of

Actors' Equity Association). This production is produced in accordance with the Actors' Equity Association.

A New Kind of Savage Wonder Experience Under the direction of Jenn Haltman, Savage Wonder offers a fully all-inclusive theatrical dining experience. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with live music from Hudson Valley's beloved duo Petty Larceny — Patricia Santos and Brian Broelmann — setting the atmospheric tone before the performance unfolds. Guests are then treated to chef-driven, show-inspired fare by The Grape Rebellion, along with themed cocktails

crafted for the night. Your ticket is all-inclusive and covers themed food and cocktails. Seating is limited and arranged as part of the performance environment. All performances have limited capacity and may sell out. Tickets are released through the Eventbrite waitlist as they become available. Performance Dates and Times: Saturday, April 4 — 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 11 — 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 18 — 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 25 — 6 p.m.

Savage Wonder Art Center is at 139 Main Street in Beacon. Entrance through Savage Wonderground at 141 Main Street.

Singer Jennifer Silva to take the stage in Beacon on April 11

Jennifer Silva is an indie rock/alt-country songwriter and powerhouse vocalist, whose fire ignites the stage. Her music moves between haunting ballads and driving anthems, pulling audiences into a space that's both sensual and unapologetically alive. She will perform at Savage Wonder, 139 Main St., in Beacon on April 11 with Jeff Berman. Her third full-length album, Runaway (2024), follows Purgatory Road (2021) and Bluest Sky, Darkest Earth (2018), solidifying her place as a bold voice in today's rock and Americana landscape.

Silva is now based in the Hudson Valley but spent over two decades living and creating in Brooklyn, with roots in Rhode Island.

She has been performing for over 15 years, throughout NYC at venues like The Bowery Electric, Rockwood Music Hall (Stage 2), Berlin Under A, Mama Tried, Brooklyn Music Kitchen, Pete's Candy Store, among many others.

Silva performed with her six-piece band most recently at the 2025 Beacon Bonfire Music, Art + Film Festival in Beacon, New York, this past Fall. In Spring 2025, Silva was a key performer at the 2025 Ladybug Music Festival in Wilmington, DE, a 100% female led music fest. She began her monthly residency at Savage Wonder in Beacon in January 2026.

Silva is also the creator and host of a monthly podcast called Through the Forest with Jennifer Silva: Haunting Tales & Ballads - a storytelling podcast that blends haunting true tales with her original music they inspire. Through the Forest is where ghost stories meet gothic folk, inviting listeners to follow the music deeper into the unknown.

Beacon Film Society presents 'Starring Jerry as Himself' at the Howland Cultural Center

The Beacon Film Society will present the Slamdance Film Festival Grand Jury Award-winning film "Starring Jerry as Himself (2025)" with producer Jonathan Hsu, director Law Chen, and cinematographer Tinx Chan in attendance for a Q&A. Truth proves itself stranger than fiction in this genre-bending hybrid documentary/narrative about Jerry Hsu, a retired Taiwanese immigrant in Florida scammed out of his life savings.

After an unsettling call from a Chinese police officer, Jerry agrees to join an undercover operation that sends him into a spiral of secrecy and self-destruction. What follows is a rare film that exists along the fine line between fact and fic-

tion, one that confronts memory, nostalgia, human frailty and fallibility, the pursuit of the American dream, and the seductive traps that fraudsters set to prey upon our aging population.

Q&A following the screening features film producer Jonathan Hsu, director Law Chen, and director of photography Tinx Chan.

The showing will take place on Thursday April 9, at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main Street, in Beacon.

Tickets are \$20 door / \$15 advance. For more information, visit https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rLXVp_t0ah4L4yxnP-KQ0N5C9m-ga5fJ?usp=sharing.

this week's puzzle solutions

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

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

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

Suguru solution

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-50-26

Specialty Printing Materials

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 14th day of April 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BRIDGE REPLACEMENT DUTCHESS COUNTY

Legal Notices

FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT TO REPLACE BRIDGE RH-16 ON RIVER ROAD (CR 103) IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

PIN 8763.09 Replacement of Bridge RH-16 (BIN 3343710), CR 103 (River Rd) Over the Saw Kill Town of Red Hook Dutchess County Public notification and solicitation of public comments for the proposed de minimis use of Section 4(f) resources

Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DCDPW) is undertaking a federally funded project to replace bridge RH-16 on River Road (CR 103) in the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County. The purpose of this proposed project is to address the identified deficiencies with the existing bridge and pedestrian facilities along the above referenced route. The bridge carries both River Road

Legal Notices

and the Empire State Trail. The bridge replacement project proposes the installation of new sidewalks on each side of the bridge and widening of the travel lanes to 13' to accommodate both vehicle and bicycle traffic. The new sidewalk will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project is being progressed as a Class II Categorical Exclusion in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as defined in 23 CFR Part 771.117(c) and as a Type II Action in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) as defined in 17 NYCRR, Part 15. Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act of 1966 protects publicly owned parks and recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic properties. Section 4(f) also requires transportation agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to consider all measures to avoid the use of 4(f) resources. If there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of a 4(f) property, all possible planning to minimize the use must occur. In cases where the proposed impacts are not adverse and are determined to be minimal, the FHWA can make a de minimis use determination after the public is afforded an opportunity to comment on the use of the park and recreation resources. This proposed undertaking will use an extremely minor portion of the Empire State Trail to construct the project. This area includes: the bridge and approximately 500' of the highway approaches in both directions. A detour for the trail will be posted

Legal Notices

that will use Barrytown Road (CR 82), Old Route 199, NYS Route 199, Meadow Dr, Trow Blvd, Colonial Dr, Manor Rd, Aspinwall Rd, and Kelly Rd. The Empire State Trail detour will be signed separately from the detour for motorists, and it is anticipated that this detour will be in place for 4-6 months during construction of the bridge replacement project. The DCDPW has evaluated alternatives which would minimize the impacts and use of these Section 4(f) properties and finds that these impacts would result in a de minimis use of this Section 4(f) resource. As stipulated in 23 CFR Part 774.5(b)(2)(i), public notice and an opportunity for public comment must be provided prior to making a de minimis use determination for these resources. The public may submit their written com-

Legal Notices

ments to the attention of Mathew Dutcavich, P.E., Director of Engineer, Dutchess County DPW, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Comments will be received until April 22, 2026. Related project documents are available as follows: Upon request to dpwengineering@dutchessny.gov, electronic copies will be sent in person at the DCDPW Engineer Division office at 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, M-F between 8A-4P At the DCDPW Engineering Division's website at: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/Engineering.htm>

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New

Legal Notices

York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-44-26

Annual Rental of Machinery and Equipment

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day of April 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

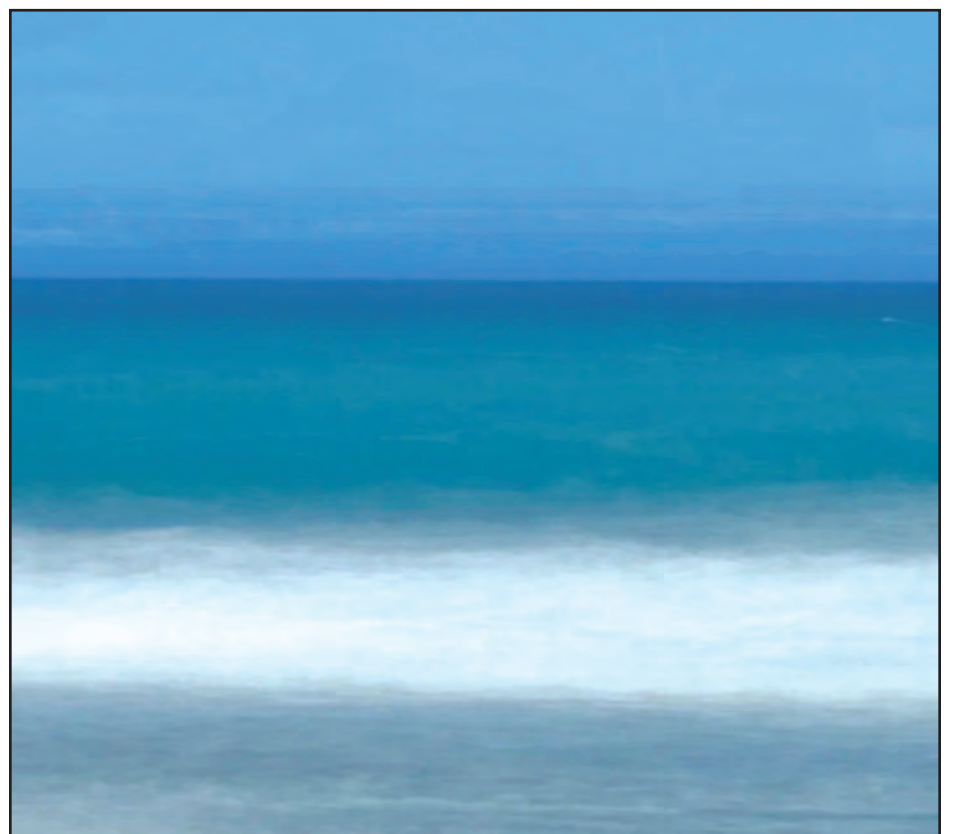
BAU Gallery announces April exhibitions



Nate Hill, "Producer-Receiver," 2022, walnut and brass, 83 in. x 24 in. x 24 in. -Courtesy images



George Kimmerling, "Brick Beach," 2026, archival pigment print, 20 in. x 24 in.



Soli Pierce, "Lines in Time," 2026, archival print on aluminum, 24 in. x 18 in

BAU Gallery has announced the following exhibitions for April 2026. The exhibitions will be on view from Friday, April 10–Sunday, May 3. A reception will be held on Saturday, April 11, 6–8 p.m.

Nate Hill: 'The Loop Trail'

Nate Hill's inaugural exhibition at the gallery, "The Loop Trail" presents a series of biomorphic wooden sculptures created from locally sourced walnut trees, either scavenged from roadsides or shared by arborist friends. Hill envisions each piece as an "actor" in a role familiar in a forest ecosystem: grazer, producer, decomposer. Together, they connect, create, and play out different scenes within imagined systems and potential futures. Often, they collaborate and work in harmony, but sometimes they get caught in difficult scenarios or spend too much time on one thing. Through their presence in his studio, the actors became co-designers of additional sculptures in the exhibition, made from paper pulp, light, wool, lenses, found objects, and other materials.

About the artist: Nate Hill's work spans painting, sculpture, installation, and social practice. Nate is a librarian, artist, and aspiring ecologist. He is a member of the Katonah Museum Artists Association, and his work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum and Dokk1 (Denmark). Nate was a past affiliate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, past participant in the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and he is currently a program affiliate scholar at the Engelberg Center at New York University. Nate has a BA from Skidmore College and an MS in library and information science from Pratt Institute.

George Kimmerling: 'The Unfinished History of Denning's Point'

George Kimmerling's latest project explores the cultural landscape of Denning's Point, a 64-acre site on the

Hudson River in Beacon. Now a state park, Denning's Point has a complicated—and distinctly American—history. Once owned by Dutch enslavers, Denning's Point is indelibly marked by racial and class conflict, unbridled industrialism, and environmental degradation. This exhibition includes new black-and-white landscape photographs, works based on archival materials, and studies for new historical markers. Kimmerling hopes the project begins to express a more holistic, inclusive, and complex understanding of this and similar sites as deeply contested and embedded in the social structures that have shaped them and that lie at the core of U.S. history.

About the artist: George Kimmerling's work has been exhibited at the Cooper Hewitt, the New Museum, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and numerous galleries and nonprofit spaces across the U.S. and internationally. He has a BFA from the Corcoran School of Art and an MFA from RISD. He attended the Whitney Independent Study Program and has had residencies at the PS1/MoMA National Studio Program and the MacDowell Colony. His work is represented in both public and private collec-

tions, including at the New Museum, Corcoran Gallery of Art archives, and West Collection. He has taught/lectured at the University of Chicago, Syracuse University, RISD, Hunter College, and McMaster University.

Gallery Artists: 'Awaken!'

A call to action, a spiritual goal, a plea—"awaken" has a rich set of meanings, all of which seem right for this moment. In this exhibition of photography, drawing, printmaking, painting, and sculpture, BAU artists explore the many ways we can awaken to the world around us, from profound sensory awareness to engagement with pressing issues. Whether offering deep insight into the natural world, a reflection on social concerns, or a still and solitary form, the works are a collective call to viewers to reflect and respond.

Participating Artists: Robin Adler, Karen Allen, Bob Barry, Joel Brown, Dan Florin, Nate Hill, Nataliya Hines, George Kimmerling, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Nansi T. Lent, Síle Marrinan, Soli Pierce, Eileen Sackman, and Ilse Schreiber-Noll.

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