**COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

County introduces data ‘dashboard’; state continues to mobilize for peak cases

More local coverage on pages 2,3,6,7,12

**By Kate Golden-Smith**

**COUNTY**

As of Monday morning, Dutchess County had 943 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 882 of those active cases. Individuals hospitalized in the county is 78. There have been 8 deaths and 53 recoveries. Total tests administered are 4,133. A town-by-town breakdown is available on the new COVID-19 Community Impact Data Dashboard, viewable at www.dutchessny.gov/COVIDdashboard.

**STATE**

Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to Gov. Cuomo, stated last week: “In addressing the coronavirus pandemic, it is essential that we all work together. While the pandemic is primarily in downtown New York now, it is projected to peak and reduce in downtown. It is essential that we all help each other, and the Governor is asking upstate hospitals to loan 20 percent of their unused ventilators to struggling downtown hospitals.

He added, “Ventilators literally save lives. They will be returned or reimbursed to those hospitals. Moreover, when the pandemic wave hits upstate New York, the Governor will ask downstate hospitals for similar help.”

In citing Azzopardi’s confirmed cases of COVID-19, he said, “We are not upstate or downstate; we are one state and we act that way.”

The governor will ask downstate hospitals to send 100 percent of their unused ventilators to struggling downtown hospitals.

In closing downstate hospitals.

Recently, 1,000 ventilators arrived at JFK Airport from China. This significant donation was made by the Joseph and Clara Tsai Foundation and facilitated by the Chinese government and Ambassador Huang, the Chinese Consul General.

-Courtesy photo

**More local coverage on pages 2,3,6,7,12**

**By Kristine Coulter**

Congregations will celebrate Passover and Easter in unique ways this year. Passover begins on April 8. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 12.

“Passover is a holiday based more in the home with the festival meal of the Seder, with its accompanying ritual foods and reading of the Haggadah (the accompanying book that explains the ritual foods and tells the story of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt). There are also accompanying worship services, traditionally on the first and last days of the holiday. For many, many years, Vassar Temple has held a community seder the first night of Passover, open to the congregation and community led by lay leaders of the congregation. Sadly, that was one of the first things we had to cancel early on with the onset of the virus, as it takes so much advanced planning and preparations,” remarked Rabbi Renni Altman.

“Passover is perhaps the most celebrated holiday among Jews, though their level of observance of the different holiday traditions vary. Family members travel from all over to be together (similar to Thanksgiving). Thanks to the technology available to us, many families, including my own, will be sharing Seder virtually via any one of the different platforms available to us. In order to help congregants navigate this brave new world (even as I am figuring it out), I’m holding a virtual program tonight via Zoom to brainstorm how to make this kind of Seder meaningful. Vassar Temple is a Reform synagogue and both our congregational body, the Union for Reform Judaism, and rabbinic organization, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, have been working very hard to produce and gather resources to help in this venture,” she said.

This year Vassar Temple will hold its festival services via Zoom the last morning of Passover, which includes the memorial service associated with the Jewish festivals.

As for 2020’s Passover celebration, Rabbi Altman said, “For me personally, it will be difficult. We always have had a situation, New York State will help you find safe shelter. You are not trapped just because of coronavirus. Call 1-888-842-6906.

The federal government is deploying 1,000 personnel to New York State. The personnel includes doctors, nurses, respiratory technicians and therapists to help the state’s overwhelmed hospital systems. The first 325 personnel were deployed to the New York City hospital system on Sunday.

-Late last week, New York State received a donation of 1,000 ventilators from China. This significant donation was made by the Joseph and Clara Tsai Foundation and facilitated by the Chinese government and Ambassador Huang, the Chinese Consul General. (Joe Tsai is the owner of the Brooklyn Nets.) The ventilators arrived at JFK Airport over the weekend. Additionally, the Joseph and Clara Tsai Foundation and the Jack Ma Foundation will donate 1,000 ventilators to New York and across the country have answered our call to join New York’s surge healthcare force. We are awed by the heroism and selflessness of these volunteers.

-If you are in a dangerous domestic
family seder the first night and a seder with friends the second night. Each year we tried to invite some new people and many are not Jews — some non-Jewish friends have come for decades and always enjoyed sharing this holiday with us. Our children do not live in the area and we eagerly anticipate their arrival each year. We will join together virtually. I'm now gathering resources and figuring out how we will manage it. The most important thing will be to connect, share in the rituals and talk about the contemporary meaning of this ancient story."

She explained, "Passover tells the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt, the move from slavery to freedom; each year we apply its message of freedom to our world today and remember our obligation to be part of the redemption to all who are oppressed. It could relate to current struggles of immigrants, to racial injustice, to homelessness and poverty, and, sadly, the list can go on. Our beginnings as slaves is part of the foundation story of the Jewish people; we retell the story each year to remind us of our obligations (as told 36 times in the Torah) to remember the stranger, for we were once strangers.

Freedom is not something to be taken for granted. Passover calls upon us to be grateful for the blessings in our lives and for the freedoms that we have, and to strive to help bring those blessings to others in need."

Altman added, "Passover is one of our most joyous holidays. It moves from slavery to freedom, from degradation to hope. Hope is a central theme throughout Jewish and Jewish history. The seder ends with Elijah's cup, the promise of the future redemption and it closes with the words "Next year in Jerusalem, next year may all be free." Whether it is a physical or spiritual Jerusalem, we pray that next year will bring us closer to that time when all will truly be free," said Altman.

At Tabernacle of Christ Church in Beacon, Rev. Ricardo Pacheco said, "We will be celebrating Easter service via our Facebook, livestream and YouTube accounts. Members of our community can visit our webpage https://tabernacleofchristchurch.com/ for up-to-date information. However, our temple remains operational as we provide Meals on Wheels to members of our community."

He said, "Celebrating Holy Week and Easter Sunday without physically being at the temple will be difficult. Our church members love to engage with each other and talk about the contemporary meaning of this ancient story."

"The NYSSBA did acknowledge some bright spots in the budget, including lawmakers opting not to consolidate 10 state aid categories, rejecting future reductions in building and transportation aids, repealing a mandate to provide paid time off for employees to vote, adding protections against the dangers of vaping, and enacting neat neutrality provisions which prevent internet service providers from limiting access."

"But, "as bad as the damage could have been, it’s hard to be too optimistic when the state faces a potential $15 billion budget deficit, the New York State School Boards Association said in a statement. ‘Foundation aid – the largest and most important source of school funding – is flat, but largely because of $1.1 billion in federal stimulus funding for schools. Schools will continue to receive full reimbursement for building and transportation costs, BOCES building and transportation aids, repealing a mandate to provide paid time off for employees will not have been set yet."

"I don't think the date change will make a difference, realistically," said Martin Handler, superintendent of the Pine Plains Central School District. "I think the big question for all districts will be how are they going to conduct the vote, adding protections against the dangers of vaping, and enacting neat neutrality provisions which prevent internet service providers from limiting access."

"For example, the state reassesses its financial condition on a rolling basis for the remainder of the year," the New York State School Boards Association said. "This is not business as usual. Nor will it be for quite some time. We commend Governor Cuomo’s leadership during the coronavirus pandemic. He has fought hard for the safety and well-being of people of this state. We appreciate his honesty and his optimism for the state and its people. We could all use some optimism right now.

School budget votes delayed until at least June 1

By Rich Thomaselli

School budget votes and school board elections in New York State have been delayed at least two weeks as the spread of the coronavirus continues to play havoc with the state budget – and life as we know it.

The state published a traditional voting day of the third Tuesday in May – May 19 of this year – to at least June 1, though the exact date has not been set yet.

"I don't think the date change will make a difference, realistically," said Martin Handler, superintendent of the Pine Plains Central School District. "I think the big question for all districts will be how are they going to conduct the vote? In-school? Absentee vote? That’s a big question right now."

Despite being the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak, New York and Gov. Cuomo have somehow managed to reach an agreement on a budget by the annual April 1 deadline. And, for the moment, all 732 districts in New York are set to receive the same amount of foundation aid they received last year.

The level funding for public education, at least for now, is "probably about the best school districts could have hoped for a time when the state faces a potential $15 billion budget deficit," the New York State School Boards Association said in a statement. "Foundation aid – the largest and most important source of school funding – is flat, but largely because of $1.1 billion in federal stimulus funding for schools. Schools will continue to receive full reimbursement for building and transportation costs, BOCES services and in other critical aid categories."

"The most important thing will be to connect, share in the rituals and talk about the contemporary meaning of this ancient story."

The Vassar Temple members will be celebrating Passover virtually this year. Shown is Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie with a rainbow over it in 2018. -Courtesy photo

Temple, churches to celebrate holy days online

Local churches to host online services

These are just some of the local churches that will host Easter services virtually this year:

St. Joachim’s - St. John’s Roman Catholic Church in Beacon - https://stjoachim-stjohn.org
First Reformed Church of Fishkill - http://www.fishkillreformed.org
Trinity Episcopal Church of Fishkill - www.trinityfishkill.org
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Beacon - www.beacon-episcopal.org
St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson in New Hamburg - www.stnicholasnewhamburg.org
St. Columba in East Fishkill - www.stcolumbaonline.org
Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie - www.poughkeepsieformedchurch.com

Vassar Temple members will be celebrating Passover virtually this year. Shown is Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie with a rainbow over it in 2018.
Save lives while staying in with the virtual AHA Heart Walk

With the recent coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic keeping more Americans at home, the American Heart Association, the leading voluntary health organization focused on heart and brain health for all, is embracing the new normal and moving its iconic Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk online.

The Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk is a fun and meaningful way to celebrate heart and stroke survivors, raise lifesaving funds and encourage physical activity. “Now, more than ever, we’re all looking for ways to connect with others, stay active and stay encouraged,” said Melissa Hanigan, manager of patient registration/office manager of specialty service, Ellenville Regional Hospital and chair of the Hudson Valley Board of Directors, American Heart Association. “This virtual format allows everyone to continue to have fun and support our lifesaving mission, while adapting to spending more time at home. We are grateful for the support from our community and can’t wait to see how everyone makes the Heart Walk their own.”

On April 18, Dutchess-Ulster area Heart Walk participants and teams will not physically meet but are invited to get moving at home or around the neighborhood, observing a safe distance from others. Here are a few fun activities to consider choosing from:
- Take a walk outside (while following current social distancing guidelines).
- Get the whole family involved and have an indoor dance party.
- Try out a few strengthening exercises like push-ups, lunges and squats.
- Create an at-home circuit workout.

“We're proud to work with the American Heart Association, which is investing research dollars in the search for answers,” said Neil Weber, president of Laerdal Medical, a sponsor of the Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk. “It's critical that the Hudson Valley keep supporting the American Heart Association, since heart disease and stroke remain the No. 1 and No. 5 killers in the country.”

To register, visit www.DutchessUlsterHeartWalk.org. From there, participants can stay up to date by downloading the Heart Walk mobile app and encouraging friends and family to join in via e-mail or on social media.

The funds raised from the Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk go towards research, advocacy, CPR training and to promote better health.

A Letter From Your Congressman

ANTONIO DELGADO

Keeping folks safe across our region is my top priority. I am continuing to closely monitor the quickly evolving situation that Coronavirus (COVID-19) has presented, and I am coordinating with local public health and elected officials to keep upstate residents informed of the latest developments and recommendations.

Please get the facts on the virus if you haven’t already, and keep the information to the right handy. This information will help you protect and care for yourself and your loved ones. Now is the time to prepare, not panic.

For updates and tips, call the NEW YORK STATE CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE at 1-888-364-3065.

Antonio Delgado

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Tips and Resources

SYMPTOMS: Fever, cough, and shortness of breath
PREVENTION: Avoid contact with people who are sick, avoid touching your face, wash your hands with soap and water
IF SICK: Stay home except for medical care, call your doctor, wear a facemask, cover your coughs and sneezes, avoid sharing frequently touched items, wash your hands with soap and water

RESOURCES:

Centers for Disease Control: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/
New York Department of Health: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home or 1-888-364-3065
Congressman Delgado’s office: https://delgado.house.gov/contact or 1-845-443-2930
Many older buildings in Village of Wappingers Falls being lost

To the Editor:

As village of Wappingers Falls historian, I felt it important to take a photograph of the latest village loss, an early 19th century building on Market Street. I returned later to take another photograph of what was left of the building after it was brought down. It seems like we have been losing an awful lot of buildings that are the story of our village, our history. I recall especially the terrible fire of the Sweet Orr Factory on Mill Street. Oh, the history that we have lost of that building. It is gone, but the history remains. Many of my family worked in that building and I used to bring them lunch and coffee. This was the first factory I believe in the United States to manufacture men’s work shirts. Many of my family worked in that building and I used to bring them lunch and coffee. That building was destroyed by fire in the 1950s.

I was in high school and had to help my mother in the Coffee Shop after school, but whenever I had a little money, I ran down to Market Street to the Osten’s Candy Shop. They made the best homemade chocolate candies. Delicious! As I remember Market street, today I remembered the 1950s when my mom, Kay Diedh, had the Kay’s Coffee Shop on Mill Street below Sweet Orr. It was the place for the village citizens to gather to enjoy, breakfast, lunch, supper, coffee or just socialize. I was in high school and had to help my mother in the Coffee Shop after school, but whenever I had a little money, I ran down to Market Street to the Osten’s Candy Shop. They made the best homemade chocolate candies. Delicious! As I remember Market street, today I remembered the 1950s when my mom, Kay Diedh, had the Kay’s Coffee Shop on Mill Street below Sweet Orr. It was the place for the village citizens to gather to enjoy, breakfast, lunch, supper, coffee or just socialize.

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The village does not have any more of these losses to our historical district or the story of our beautiful village. Historical buildings should be on the historical register of the state and should be afforded any more of these losses to our historical district or the story of our beautiful village.

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Foundation have donated one million surgical masks, one million KN95 masks and more than 100,000 pairs of goggles. Governor Kate Brown has offered to provide New York with 140 ventilators from Oregon's stockpile. Governor Brown said, "We are so grateful to Governor Brown and the people of Oregon. New York State will repaid Oregon in favor when Oregon needs it. This generous offer is an inspiring example of the solidarity that other states are showing to New York." -Cuomo issued an Executive Order today allowing medical students slated to graduate this spring to begin practicing now. "These are extraordinary times, and we need all the help we can get," he said.

A new COVID-19 drive-thru mobile testing center was scheduled to open in Albany on Monday, April 6. The mobile testing center will be located in a parking lot at the State University of New York at Albany campus. It will still receive every cent you are owed. Due to the circumstances from the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to get a "Real ID" has been extended to October 1, 2021. For more information on whether the Real ID is right for you, visit that website. New York needs relief for its nurses and doctors. I am asking healthcare workers across the country to come and help New York if they are able. We will return the favor in your hour of need. Healthcare professionals can sign up here: http://health.ny.gov/assistance.

Don Minichino
Dutchess County Conservative Party Chairman
British-born Kathleen Burke. She created the to it, made it effective in advancing women's leaders in the organization, and others similar women emerging during World War One as efforts. But the scale and effectiveness of movement was formally endorsing women's debate was encouraged by the "pro" suffrage Hook Grange favor equal suffrage." While we hosted a debate, "Resolved: the women of Red storekeeper, Alvin Ham.

The Grange formed after the Civil War to farming and nursing organizations advanced Women's Suffrage in rural Dutchess

The Grange was again, and quite the Civil War to support the life of the farming family. From inheritance, the Grange put an equal emphasis on the participation of men and women, but its support of suffrage was uneven. The NY State Grange publicly endorsed women's suffrage in 1881, but far from unanimously. In 1912, the Dutchess County Pomona Grange formally voted a majority against endorsing women's suffrage. No doubt with that vote in mind, in 1913 Mrs. Aldrich hosted a luncheon for "Grangers" at Poughkeepsie's finest hotel, the Nelson House where she gave a talk. She was affectionately referred to "Sister Chanler" among the local Grangers.

In December of 1912, the lack of a local suffrage movement was described by Mrs. Aldrich as "wonderful added dimension of the talent, ambition, deep conscience and unassuming nature of one of its oldest river estate family members, Mrs. Margaret Chanler Aldrich, of Red Hook, who is internationally active, long-time pro-suffrage advocate and Red Cross worker. Her involvement ranged from meeting with US Presidents, to traveling to the Middle East, to marching in parades, to attending, speaking, or hosting Red Hook Grange meetings. She was affectionately referred to "Sister Chanler" among the local Grangers.

In February of 1914 the Red Hook Grange hosted a debate: Should the women of Red Hook Grange favor equal suffrage? While we don't know who one can be the better speaker in the debate was encouraged by the "pro" suffrage forces. By the end of 1916 the suffrage movement was formally endorsing women's suffrage. The NY State Grange said that words were not enough, Grangers needed to "take aggressive action". 44 women did not come out in support of Women's Suffrage because they needed women one can be the better speaker in the debate was encouraged by the "pro" suffrage forces. By the end of 1916 the suffrage movement was formally endorsing women's suffrage. The NY State Grange said that words were not enough, Grangers needed to "take aggressive action". The Grange formed after the Civil War to support the life of the farming family. From inheritance, the Grange put an equal emphasis on the participation of men and women, but its support of suffrage was uneven. The NY State Grange publicly endorsed women's suffrage in 1881, but far from unanimously. In 1912, the Dutchess County Pomona Grange formally voted a majority against endorsing women's suffrage. No doubt with that vote in mind, in 1913 Mrs. Aldrich hosted a luncheon for "Grangers" at Poughkeepsie's finest hotel, the Nelson House where she gave a talk. She was affectionately referred to "Sister Chanler" among the local Grangers.

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Dutchess Responds gives $50,000 in first round of grants

In collaboration with the Dutchess County Medical Community and the Dynasty Foundation, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced the first round of $500,000 to be deployed from the Dutchess Responds fund. The fund launched in late March to provide immediate assistance to nonprofits providing critical services.

Charlotte Ann Frank

Charlotte Ann Frank, 88, a longtime Beacon resident, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2020 at St. Luke’s-Cornwall Hospital, Newburgh.

She was born on January 2, 1932 in Ossining, NY, Daughter of the late Bruce Frank and Virginia Vosper. On September 7, 1952 she married Andrew McDonald St, who predeceased her in 2012. The family of Charlotte and Thomas Edwin Frank, and he predeceas her in 2003. Charlotte was known for her generosity, great sense of humor, and being a devoted grandmother. In 1974 she attended BOCES in Yorktown Heights where she completed her degree to be a licensed practical nurse. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Cascade Vassar Chapter 347 of Beacon; and a member of The Reformed Church of Beacon. Charlotte was predeceased by her son Glenn McDonald and survived by her Karen of Florida, Sons Michael McDonald of Texas, Andrew McDonald Jr of Beacon, Thomas McDonald of Peekskill, father Susan Egan & husband James of Lagrangeville; and her 11 grandchildren & 16 great grandchildren. She is survived by her brother Thomas McNemey & wife Madeline; and a host of nieces and nephews. A Memorial Gathering to inter Charlotte in her family plot at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, will be held at a later date and time for IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY.

New York Blood Center (NYBC) is calling for recovered COVID-19 patients to donate blood plasma to help treat other patients with advanced illness. In the current, known as convalescent plasma, the patient is transfused with the donor’s plasma with the goal to clear the virus more rapidly and help preserve the need for ICU beds and ventilators. Donors can sign up at www.nybc.org/cdonor.

NYBC is the first blood center to collect blood plasma donations for this purpose after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the treatment on March 24th. NYBC is now increasing the nation’s supply of convalescent plasma by accepting donations from those who have recovered from COVID-19. For more information, please visit www.nybc.org/cdonor.

Scholarships available for Irish descendants

The Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Committee is offering a $1,000 scholarship for a girl and a $1,000 for a boy of Irish descent. Scholarships will be awarded for Community Involvement and Academic Achievement. The application deadline is April 30. Application information is available at www.dcpp.org/scholarships.

Recipients of the scholarships will be announced by the parade committee on June 4.
State Police open application process, will hold entrance exam in October

Superintendent Keith M. Corlett announced the State Police has launched a new recruiting effort to attract the best and brightest qualified candidates to join one of the most highly respected law enforcement organizations in the country. The State Police will be holding a new trooper entrance examination this fall. Federal options to start the application process. To apply, candidates can visit joinstatepolice.ny.gov and apply online, they can text JoinNYSPT to (818) 240-3959, or call 1-866-NYSP-EXAM.

The State Police open application process, will hold entrance exam in October. The exams are scheduled for Oct. 3, 10, and 24, and will be offered at several convenient locations around the state.

by Rich Tomaselli

For the 13 school districts in Dutchess County, life has changed. The Wappingers Central School District and the Arlington Central School District began remote online learning on Monday, April 6, joining the rest of the county as schools remain closed through the end of the month, at least.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has put the state on virtual lockdown, forcing schools to adapt the way they teach. And as much as school districts go through over the course of time, this is uncharted waters for everybody.

Beacon City School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl wrote on his blog, “We don’t want our Distance Learning plan to be the thing that completely stresses or overwhelms a family. Feel free to communicate with your child’s teacher or principal if you are concerned with its impact on you. We will make adjustments for our students and families as we figure all of this out. And we promise to try our best to be aware of the fact that we all have different needs right now.”

“Not even close. I have been doing this since 1987,” said an educator before that, and it’s not even close to anything I’ve experienced,” Pine Plains Central School District Superintendent Martin Handler said. “The only thing that even might partially resemble it was when I was working in Pennsylvania we had a Halloween ice storm and it knocked us out for seven to 10 days. But this is an extraordinary circumstance. And I am not second-guessing the governor but some states have shut the schools for the rest of the year. He is doing this two weeks at a time and it makes it difficult to set plans.”

It’s difficult to tell how students in all grades have reacted, so it’s difficult to extrapolate how this will play out over the course of the rest of the year if, as Handler suspects, school will likely continue through the end of the semester with remote learning.

Many schools, such as Millbrook, have gone to a pass/fail model for classes for the remainder of the third marking period, something that will be evaluated for the fourth and final marking period depending on Cuomo’s next move. Handler’s advice?

Work with your staff.

“My staff was unbelievable. We had a conference day on a Friday (March 13) to get ahead of how we would set up distance learning, and then schools were shut down on a Monday (March 16),” he said.

“We were advantaged by the fact that grades two through 12 already have devices (such as Google Chromebooks) assigned to help them. Now we have a pretty decent plan of attack.”

Arlington Superintendent Dr. Brendan Lyons said his district will use mostly Google Classroom, which allows students to access teachers’ course work on any device at any time from anywhere.

For the most part, that’s what most districts will utilize. “The technology is there to do live or recorded lessons,” Lyons said, “but that would be at the teachers’ comfort level and discretion.”

Virtual lessons and lectures would be great, but not every district has the resources. “You’re talking video-conferencing and it’s been ridicuously great. We’re still tweaking around the edges. Our biggest barrier is families that don’t have internet, but we are providing printed material that we have mailed home.”

According to Poughkeepsie-based Our Lady of Lourdes Principal Catherine Merryman, “Our blended learning philosophy has pointed us in a direction that demanded we provide our students with state-of-the-art technological resources and one-to-one student Chromebook program & SMS. This academic and instructional plan put us ahead of the curve in transitioning to online learning during these uncertain and confusing times.”

Kristine Coulter contributed to this report.

counties schools adapt to new learning methods during pandemic

vated candidates from all walks of life to take the Trooper exam this fall. Candidates will be competing for the chance to join the ranks of the New York State Police and have a rewarding career of public service.

State Police open application process, will hold entrance exam in October.

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The strength of our agency is built on the diversity of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving their community and their state” said Superintendent Corlett. “We are actively seeking qualified, committed, and motivated candidates from all walks of life to take the Trooper exam this fall. Candidates will be competing for the fourth and final marking period depending on Cuomo’s next move.

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Virtual lessons and lectures would be great, but not every district has the resources. “You’re talking video-conferencing and it’s been ridicuously great. We’re still tweaking around the edges. Our biggest barrier is families that don’t have internet, but we are providing printed material that we have mailed home.”

According to Poughkeepsie-based Our Lady of Lourdes Principal Catherine Merryman, “Our blended learning philosophy has pointed us in a direction that demanded we provide our students with state-of-the-art technological resources and one-to-one student Chromebook program & SMS. This academic and instructional plan put us ahead of the curve in transitioning to online learning during these uncertain and confusing times.”

Kristine Coulter contributed to this report.

By Rich Tomaselli

For the 13 school districts in Dutchess County, life has changed. The Wappingers Central School District and the Arlington Central School District began remote online learning on Monday, April 6, joining the rest of the county as schools remain closed through the end of the month, at least.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has put the state on virtual lockdown, forcing schools to adapt the way they teach. And as much as school districts go through over the course of time, this is uncharted waters for everybody.

Beacon City School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl wrote on his blog, “We don’t want our Distance Learning plan to be the thing that completely stresses or overwhelms a family. Feel free to communicate with your child’s teacher or principal if you are concerned with its impact on you. We will make adjustments for our students and families as we figure all of this out. And we promise to try our best to be aware of the fact that we all have different needs right now.”

“Not even close. I have been doing this since 1987,” said an educator before that, and it’s not even close to anything I’ve experienced,” Pine Plains Central School District Superintendent Martin Handler said. “The only thing that even might partially resemble it was when I was working in Pennsylvania we had a Halloween ice storm and it knocked us out for seven to 10 days. But this is an extraordinary circumstance. And I am not second-guessing the governor but some states have shut the schools for the rest of the year. He is doing this two weeks at a time and it makes it difficult to set plans.”

It’s difficult to tell how students in all grades have reacted, so it’s difficult to extrapolate how this will play out over the course of the rest of the year if, as Handler suspects, school will likely continue through the end of the semester with remote learning.

Many schools, such as Millbrook, have gone to a pass/fail model for classes for the remainder of the third marking period, something that will be evaluated for the fourth and final marking period depending on Cuomo’s next move. Handler’s advice?

Work with your staff.

“My staff was unbelievable. We had a conference day on a Friday (March 13) to get ahead of how we would set up distance learning, and then schools were shut down on a Monday (March 16),” he said.

“We were advantaged by the fact that grades two through 12 already have devices (such as Google Chromebooks) assigned to help them. Now we have a pretty decent plan of attack.”

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Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Binox by Krazydad

• The finished puzzle should be filled with Xs and Os.
• Horizontally and vertically, there should never be a continuous run of the same symbol longer than 2.
• There are an equal number of Xs and Os in each row and column.
• All rows are unique.
• All columns are unique, too.

The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Binox can be found on page 5
How the ‘historians’ of tomorrow are recording today

By Goldee Greene

Arts & Entertainment

The city’s major historical organizations have closed their doors to the public until further notice. “Just like everyone else, we’re temporarily shutting down programs,” said Beacon Historical Society president Diane Lapis. BHS is located at 17 South Avenue. “When we reopen, we will resume some really great projects that were started earlier this year. For example, History Talks, of which we do about ten a year, started in March. We want to let everyone know that Also, videographer Peter Skierewicz is planning to post History Talks on the Beacon community TV channel, starting next week. Also, we are spending this time planning behind the scenes for history walks. Our goal is to do them along Main Street, to bring people back into town to benefit our supporters. Our donors have been all the wonderful people who live in Beacon, and businesses. These walks will highlight the history of the city and recognize the beauty of the city, hopefully taking place in the fall.”

Lapis has welcomed two interns from Vassar College, “working online for future exhibitions, which include a hat exhibit. Basically, they are working on three research projects which will in turn become future exhibitions and programs. The non-profit ‘just got a grant from the Ella Club for educational outreach. As a result, in the next week K-5 grade lesson plans will be on our website.” Curriculum centers around the dummy light, post office and the DAR monument on Melont Beacon. There are three lesson plans to start, with about another dozen are in the works.” Lesson plans were designed by Lapis, an early childhood teacher in collaboration in K-5 teacher Diane Murphy, who also serves on the board. Lapis encouraged the public to attend the organization’s fourth annual “fund-raiser” gala, scheduled for November. “We’re hoping to get together and socialize. Proceeds help to pay rent of our beautiful new home at 17 South Avenue. The space also has room for collaboration with Bannerman Castle Trust, “so we have an exhibit on their history, since January.” Looking ahead, she noted: “As this situation changes we’re planning to exhibition of fabric artist Shirley Botsford, who lives in a historic home, the Botsford Briar Inn, on High Street. How it influenced her art; fabric artist, Botsford Briar Inn. Also re-launched will be the postponed Hat Parade, in collaboration with BeaconArts, supposed to be in June, but will be next year. It’s sad that we can’t open our doors, but at least we have lot to look forward to.”

Meanwhile, just a few blocks away at 50 Van Nydeck Avenue, events at Madame Brett Homestead are also up in the air for now. “The safety of our volunteers, member and the public are our utmost priority,” said Joan Miskell, Melzingah Chapter regent. Daughters of the American Revolution. The 1709 Dutch Colonial, where George Washington once spent an evening of dining and dancing the minuet, is owned and operated since 1954 by the chapter. President General Denise Doring Van Buren is leading the chapter’s partnership to others nationally, the Service to America chapter. “This year, approximately 30,000 medical-grade masks have been sewn and distributed across the country. Also member Joanna Houston completed her Gold Award Conservation project over the summer of 2019, "laying the groundwork for a new and refreshed garden by removing invasive weeds.”

The space also has room for collaboration with Rennie Mansion Castle Trust, “so we have an exhibit on their history, since January.” Looking ahead, she noted: “As this situation changes we’re planning to exhibition of fabric artist Shirley Botsford, who lives in a historic home, the Botsford Briar Inn, on High Street. How it influenced her art; fabric artist, Botsford Briar Inn. Also re-launched will be the postponed Hat Parade, in collaboration with BeaconArts, supposed to be in June, but will be next year. It’s sad that we can’t open our doors, but at least we have lot to look forward to.”

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The Madam Brett Homestead in Beacon. —Courtesy photo

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