

# BEACON FREE PRESS

Volume 75, Number 14

April 8, 2026

## Jackson's hot bat leads way as Renegades open with 2 wins



Core Jackson and his Hudson Valley Renegades teammates will play Wilmington during their home-opening series this week.

-Archive photo by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades opened their season in the home of the reigning South Atlantic League champions, the cross-city rivals on Coney Island, the Brooklyn Cyclones. The Renegades took two games in the introductory short series of stellar pitching and early scoring, courtesy of some veteran and fresh faces in the lineup.

### Strong Core

Core Jackson is back with the Renegades and had little problem getting on base in Game 1, with a stolen base to boot. The big swipe was to come. Jackson stole Game 2 for the Renegades from the jump with a leadoff home run. He was 3-5, a triple shy of hitting for the cycle, with two RBI on the way to the Renegades' 8-1 win on April 4.

### High-A introductions...

Kyle West came swinging to his High-A debut, a first pitch extra base hit to get the Renegades' first run of the season. Then in the ninth, another West whack scored Kaeden Kent on an error, and the massive insurance run. He showed more speed with a stolen base.

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## April 12 dedication, legacy fund to honor 'Father of the Walkway' Fred Schaeffer

By Jim Donick

His business card reads "Father of the Walkway." Now, some years after the Walkway Over the Hudson was established as a premier tourist attraction in the Hudson Valley, the Friends of the Walkway have announced a major honor for long-time Pleasant Valley resident Fred Schaeffer and a fund to further support the Walkway Ambassador Program.

For most visitors to the site the ambassadors' friendly greetings is their first indication that Schaeffer's dream of making this the "friendliest park in the world" has become a reality.

To safeguard this legacy of Fred's dream, and to build upon it for the future, Friends of the Walkway has launched the Fred Schaeffer Ambassador Legacy Fund to support and grow the park's beloved volunteer Ambassador program. The fund will help ensure every guest is greeted by a smiling face with the same warmth, knowledge, and enthusiasm that has defined the Walkway experience since the park's opening in 2009.



"Father of the Walkway" Fred Schaeffer looks out over the railing on the Walkway Over the Hudson railway bridge.

-Courtesy photo

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## History of the Lenape at Mount Gulian Historic Site set for April 25

By Kristine Coulter

Find out about the Lenape Native Americans during a talk at Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., in Beacon. The talk will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. Harv Hilowitz, a contributing scholar for the Maritime Museum in Kingston, will lead the talk.

The Verplanck family's property, Mount Gulian, was identified as the site of temporary Lenape encampments, according to organizers. The now historic location was also the site of the Rombout Patent of 1683, the Indian deed selling much of Dutchess County to colonial settlers, it was noted.

"The Lenape are a large indigenous cultural group whose Lenapehoking territory stretched from the southern Catskills throughout the Hudson Valley, through New Jersey and into Maryland and Delaware, western Pennsylvania and into central Long Island. Before the colonial period, Lenape lived in hundreds of settlements throughout Lenapehoking and were honored as the "Grandfather People" by other nearby Tribes for their long history here, their prowess at warfare, as well as their negotiation and mediation skills," said Hilowitz.

Local tribes such as the Wappinger, Esopus and Tappan encountered Henry Hudson along the Mahicannituck in 1609, changing things dramatically forever, according to organizers.

"The Verplancks had many interactions with the Lenape, starting from the Verplancks' arrival in New Amsterdam circa 1634. In 1683, Gulian Verplanck and partners bought 85,000 acres of land from the local Wappinger Indians (Lenape) under the Rombout Patent, for approximately \$1,200 worth of trade goods, forcing the migration of Lenape People from most of Dutchess County," said Mount Gulian Executive Director Elaine Hayes.



Learn about the Lenape Native Americans, the first inhabitants of the region, at Mount Gulian Historic Site on April 25 in Beacon. Pictured is a Lenape pouch.

-Courtesy photo Mount Gulian

Continued on page 6

# April 12 dedication, legacy fund to honor 'Father of the Walkway' Fred Schaeffer



The inaugural members of the Friends of the Walkway volunteer ambassadors are featured in this archive photo. "Father of the Walkway" Fred Schaeffer is on the far right.

-Courtesy photo

Continued from cover

An April 12 event will mark both the dedication of a plaque in Schaeffer's honor at the Walkway's Center Overlook and the public launch of the Ambassador Legacy Fund. The ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. Friends of the Walkway Executive Director, Lori Robertson, notes that she is "excited that we can do this to honor Fred."

Before the Walkway took its shape, Fred's ideas for it were beginning to gel. Initially thought as maybe a simple bicycle trail, on what was then viewed as a "rickety old railroad bridge," it's potential began to take root in his imagination. Some years ago in an interview with the Hudson River Valley Institute, Schaeffer recalled his first walk onto the bridge. "It was just awesome, breathtaking." He also noted, "It was a little scary."

From there he began to think of it as a potential major tourist attraction for the area. Like many great dreams, there was a lot of effort and passion involved. He needed to convince people that the structure was sound

enough for completing the project. He had to convince the community and its leaders of its tourist potential and that "if we build it, they will come." Beyond all of this was a need for money, a great deal of it. He became, for a time, the chairman and later a board member of Friends of the Walkway.

To make this happen, Schaeffer was never far from the action. There were meetings with community leaders, advocacy sessions in Albany, and countless small group walks out onto the bridge to show people exactly what this experience could become. In the park's early years, he could often be found opening the gates in the morning for his traditional sunrise bike ride and to accommodate early morning joggers. He would often be seen stopping along the way to greet visitors with a smile, share stories, answer questions, and snap photos. That latter experience can be seen nearly every day, even now. People from all over the world have been greeted by Schaeffer as they wander along the Walkway.

Schaeffer never lost sight of his vision that the Walkway would be known as "the friendliest park in the world." To help make that vision a reality, he founded the Walkway

Ambassador volunteer program in 2011, creating a model of hospitality that continues to shape the visitor experience today.

Now, more than 150 Ambassadors, recognizable in their trademark red vests, carry forward the tradition he began. They greet visitors from around the world, lead tours, operate the ADA-accessible tram, assist with community events, and ensure that every crossing is more than just a walk, it's an experience.

"The Ambassador Legacy Fund is about building on what Fred started and ensuring it continues to grow," said Maureen Solero, Chair of Friends of the Walkway and an Ambassador herself. "Our volunteers are the heart of the Walkway. They create a sense of welcome and connection that visitors remember long after they leave."

The Ambassador Legacy Fund is designed not only to honor this tradition, but to expand it for the future. The fund will sustain and strengthen the volunteer program by recruiting and inspiring the next generation of Ambassadors; expanding training in accessibility, safety, and visitor engagement; providing uniforms and equipment; and investing in modern tools to support a hospitality

program that continues to grow in scope.

"The Walkway Ambassador program is a model for destinations across New York State and beyond," said Robertson. "But hospitality at this scale doesn't happen by accident. With more than 600,000 visitors each year, the Ambassador Legacy Fund ensures we have the resources to support the extraordinary volunteers who bring the Walkway to life today and for years to come."

To learn more about the Ambassador Legacy Fund or to make an inaugural donation, visit [walkway.org/ambassador-legacyfund](http://walkway.org/ambassador-legacyfund).

Robertson expects the April 12 ceremony will include tributes from many of the valley's leaders, most of whom have worked with Schaeffer or supported his many years of dedication. One can't predict how large of crowd of the public will join in but, if only 1% of the people he has welcomed to the walkway were to attend, the bridge would be packed. The unveiling ceremony and official kickoff of the Legacy Fund will take place in the center of the Walkway. It will be followed by a reception, open to the public, near the western gate to the park.

# Jackson's hot bat leads way as Renegades open with 2 wins

Continued from cover

Pico Kohn retired eight Cyclones in the season opener before allowing a base-runner. Brooklyn's John Bay knotted the game at 1 with a solo shot. Kohn started the game with a 3-pitch strikeout, working out of a bases-loaded jam in the fifth inning. Kohn's final line in his first win: 5.2 IP, 3 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 2 BB, 8 SO. He left runners on the corners for Chris Veach, who ended the threat with a strikeout.

### Oh, what a relief!

Veach and Tony Rossi combined for seven strikeouts in a familiar Renegades relief outing on April 3,

allowing just one base-runner apiece in a combined 2.1 innings of work. Ben Grable followed up to close out Kohn's professional debut with his first own. With a 3-1 lead to protect and a save opportunity, Grable got the job done. The first batter grounded out a seven pitch at-bat, easily scooped by Jackson at second. The next struck out looking; save complete.

A rainout on the Sunday finale keep the Renegades in the hunt for their first sweep. They returned home to face the Wilmington Blue Rocks April 7-12. On deck for the first homestand is tickets free for all active-duty veterans, military and first responders on Wednesday night!



Core Jackson had three hits, including a home run, in the Renegades' 8-1 win over Brooklyn on Saturday.

-Archive photo by Dave Janosz

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**Guardian Revival Appoints Attorney  
Daniel Ravo as Board Secretary**






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**See story,  
page 8**

# U.S. Olympian short-track speed skater Clayton DeClemente visits Dutchess County Legislature

The Dutchess County Legislature recently welcomed U.S. Olympic short-track speed skater Clayton DeClemente to the Legislative offices.

DeClemente, 26, is a Town of Poughkeepsie native and 2017 graduate of Arlington High School. Considered among the top 20 skaters in the world at the fast-paced discipline of short-track racing, he represented the United States on the world stage at the Milan Cortina Olympics in February, reaching the quarterfinals of both the 1000-meter and 1500-meter events.

“It’s great to be back in Dutchess County, and it’s amazing to be recognized by the County Legislature,” said DeClemente. “Being an Olympian is the honor of a lifetime, and I can only hope that my success encourages more Dutchess County youth to pursue their Olympic dreams.”

DeClemente recently stopped by the

Legislature chambers to be recognized for his achievement. Legislature Chair Yvette Valdés Smith and Legislator Anna Shah presented DeClemente with a special commendation from the County Legislature, and he in turn presented the Legislature with a commemorative U.S. Speed Skating Olympic pin.

These days, DeClemente spends most of his time at the U.S. Speed Skating training facilities in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he hits the ice six days every week, honing his skills for national and World Cup competitions, with his eyes on another shot at Olympic glory in 2030.

“Dutchess County is so proud of our native son Clayton DeClemente for representing us in the Winter Olympics,” said Chair Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill). “It was our privilege to welcome him home to our great County and officially congratulate him on being an Olympian!”



U.S. Olympian short-track speed skater Clayton DeClemente recently stopped by the Dutchess County Legislature.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov't

## County, DCC connect local students with high-demand tech careers

The Dutchess County Division of Youth Services and Dutchess Community College (DCC) partnered to host a first-ever “Digital Dutchess” career exploration event, welcoming high school students from across the community for a full day of hands-on learning and career discovery on Friday, March 27.

Held on DCC’s Poughkeepsie campus, the interactive event introduced some 50 local students to emerging fields, such as computer science, artificial intelligence, information technology, cybersecurity and quantum computing.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, who offered welcoming remarks, said, “‘Digital Dutchess’ is all about opening doors for Dutchess County students, giving them a hands-on look at high-tech careers to help them build the skills they need to succeed right here in our community. Introducing high-school students to careers in computer science equips them with the problem-solving and technical skills; broadens their future job opportunities and allows them to stay here locally to pursue their careers; and helps them become informed content creators, not just consumers of technology.”

Through interactive sessions, panel discussions and experiential activities, students from Arlington and Pawling high schools, as well as Dutchess BOCES, gained valuable insight into career pathways and the skills needed to succeed in today’s rapidly evolving technology landscape.

A featured panel of technology and education leaders – including Steve Oscarlece, Commissioner of the County’s Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS); Matt Ganis, Professor of Computer Science Professor at Pace University; and Frank Whittle, DCC Professor of Computer Science – shared their perspectives on industry trends, educational pathways and real-world experiences in technology-focused careers.

Students also participated in a



Dutchess County OCIS Commissioner Steve Oscarlece explains how computer science has evolved from the punch cards of previous generations during the event held at DCC.

-Courtesy photo

cybersecurity workshop led by DCC’s Associate Director of Cybersecurity, Joe Falcone, as well as an interactive session with DCC Esports Coach Jesse Navarra. Jesse Navarra and DCC esports student-athletes, highlighting the growing intersection of technology and competitive gaming. The st

rong turnout and enthusiastic engagement from students and partners underscores the success of the inaugural “Digital Dutchess” event.

Serino said, “Dutchess County is proud to invest in our youth and prepare the next generation for the jobs of tomorrow. Today’s collaboration with DCC, and our future ‘Digital Dutchess’ events, are just the latest examples of that commitment.”

Additional information about Dutchess County Youth Services is available online at [dutchessny.gov/youthservices](http://dutchessny.gov/youthservices).

## MRC to host Active Shooter & Stop the Bleed Preparedness training on April 14

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Dutchess County will offer a free Active Shooter & Stop the Bleed Preparedness training on Tuesday, April 14 at 6p.m. at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, located at 392 Creek Road in Poughkeepsie. The training is free and open to the public. As seating is limited, registration is required and is available online at [dutchessny.gov/ActiveShooterTraining](http://dutchessny.gov/ActiveShooterTraining).

The trainings will be presented in partnership with the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office and will focus on how the average citizen should respond if an active shooter is in their vicinity, how to best protect themselves depending on the scenario, and what to expect

once law enforcement arrives.

The County’s Stop the Bleed training, which is included in the evening’s curriculum, will focus on how to identify and effectively control life-threatening bleeding in an emergency.

Comprised of both healthcare and non-healthcare volunteers, Dutchess MRC is part of a national network of more than 200,000 volunteers dedicated to supporting public health infrastructure as well as disaster preparedness and response in the community. Dutchess MRC hosts various trainings for members and non-members alike throughout the year.

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer, visit [dutchessny.gov/mrc](http://dutchessny.gov/mrc).

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# Viewpoints

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### 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.

ALBANY, NY – Sen. Michelle Hinchey last week released a letter co-signed by 14 of her State Senate colleagues, urging Gov. Kathy Hochul to implement a statewide gas and diesel tax holiday in response to sharp price increases at the pump stemming from the Trump administration's foreign policies.

Hinchey said, "Trump's war in Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz and sent gas prices skyrocketing, hurting average Americans who just need to get to work. While the Federal Government forces New Yorkers to choose between filling up their tank or putting food on the table, we, the state, should do everything we can to save New Yorkers money, and suspending the fuel tax will provide immediate relief for working families and seniors across our state. Every penny we can save people matters, and we are calling on Governor Hochul to swiftly lower gas prices at the pump for New Yorkers."

The full text of the lawmakers' letter to Governor Hochul is included below.

### State Senate members urge gas tax holiday

March 31, 2026

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write today in strong support of a New York State gas and diesel tax holiday in response to the recent spike in prices caused by the war in Iran. This increase has disrupted daily life for New Yorkers statewide, from commuting to industrial production to tourism. A gas tax holiday, as was done in 2022, would be a vital step toward helping New Yorkers struggling with these increased costs.

On March 2, in response to President Trump's air strikes, Iran announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. According to the United States Energy Information Agency, around 20% of the world's crude oil and other petroleum products are shipped through the Strait.

At the time, AAA reported that the average price per gallon in New York was \$3.00 for regular gas and \$4.01 for diesel. Since the closure, gas has spiked to \$3.94, and diesel has risen even more sharply to \$5.77, used in much of our farm equipment, commercial trucking, and other key areas of our economy. This increase comes at a time when our farmers, manufacturers, and other industries already face damaging input cost increases from arbitrary and disruptive federal tariffs.

In response, several states are now considering the temporary suspension of State-level gas and diesel sales taxes. Democratic Senator Kelly and Representative Blumenthal have also

proposed the Gas Prices Relief Act to temporarily suspend the federal gas tax. New York suspended gasoline and diesel taxes in June 2022, through the end of that year, saving consumers an average of 16 cents per gallon, with some of our counties following the State's lead and partially suspending their own applicable local taxes.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the gas price increase was costing New Yorkers approximately \$300M per month in additional expenses as of March 23. New Yorkers are already struggling as the Trump administration callously and irresponsibly raises the cost of daily life, from cutting health care subsidies to repealing residential green energy incentives to tariff policies that the conservative Tax Foundation estimates cost the average household \$1,000 in 2025.

Events of the past month have underscored the importance of renewable, domestically produced energy sources. As we must prioritize wind, solar, and other clean, safe energy production, we must also ensure that everyday New Yorkers are not harmed by reckless federal foreign policy that disrupts the oil supply many of us still rely on. A gas tax holiday, whether with triggers tied to price at the pump or a specific timeline, would be a tremendous help to people struggling to afford their daily commutes, visits to family, and business expenses.

We thank you for your consideration and urge swift and timely action on this matter.

- Senator Michelle Hinchey
- Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
- Senator Jamal Bailey
- Senator April Baskin
- Senator Siela Bynoe
- Senator Leroy Comrie
- Senator Nathalia Fernandez
- Senator Pete Harckham
- Senator Shelley Mayer
- Senator Monica Martinez
- Senator Chris Ryan
- Senator Jessica Scarcella Spanton
- Senator James Skoufis
- Senator Lea Webb
- Senator Jeremy Zellnor

### Troop K gives back to MS Society



On March 25, current and retired members of Troop K presented a \$15,500 donation to Andy Yates, president of the Upstate New York chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

This contribution was made possible thanks to everyone who came out in February to support Skis, Boards & Badges at Catamount Mountain Resort. Next year's event will be held on February 5, 2027.

Pictured from left: Trooper Christopher J. Ryan, Technical Sergeant Jennifer L. Sennett, Senior Investigator Melissa D. McMorris, retired Investigator Robert S. Torre, retired Trooper Jeff L. Galm, President Andy Yates, Quartermaster James M. Talleur, and First Sergeant Mark A. Conway.

-Courtesy photo

### Learn to sail at the Beacon Sloop Club

The Beacon Sloop Club offers Spring Sailing Class, starting Wednesday, April 15 through June 3, 7-9 p.m. (8 Wednesday classes) at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon.

This is a sailing theory class for small boat sailors and people who want to crew on the Sloop Woody Guthrie. It is a classroom experience using the Beacon Sloop Club as the classroom.

This year's instructors feature captains and crew of the Sloop Woody Guthrie, including Andy Fairbanks, Tom LaBarr, Corinne Leloup, James Malchow, Ben Mazer, Metal Winters, and Steve Schwartz.

The course is \$50 per person for the entire series, and includes the Sailing textbook, "Learn Sailing Right -Beginning Sailing," plus other reference and support materials. The club is offering discounts for families sharing the text book and previous class participants who want to refresh their knowledge.

For more information, go to [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org) or contact facilitator Mary Arnold at [marykonizarnold@gmail.com](mailto:marykonizarnold@gmail.com), call (text preferred) 845-891-4509.

To register please go to, <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/V7WM8BKT59PXA>.

### Clarification

A quote from Town of Wappinger 4th Ward Councilman Al Casella was inadvertently left out of the story, Wappinger board unanimously approves historic land acquisition in the April 1 edition.

"On Monday Night, March 23rd, The Town Board make a great decision to preserve open space and protect the community from over development with the purchase of Cranberry Hills. The residents came out in full support of the purchase which was very much appreciated. The purchase will save the town significant infrastructure costs that would have been incurred if the property was developed. The visions for this property are many and we need to ensure we take the time to plan properly to ensure we maintain the same community lifestyle that the residents want. I want to thank Town Supervisor, Joey Cavaccini for his stewardship in bringing this project to completion with full support of the board," said Casella.

## BEACON FREE PRESS

Published Weekly, Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc.  
84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
Albert Osten, President

serving the communities of:

Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,  
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wiccopee,  
New Hackensack and Stormville

Publisher - Albert Osten

Editor - Kristine Coulter

Reporter - Morgan E. Maier

Art Director - Sharon Browne

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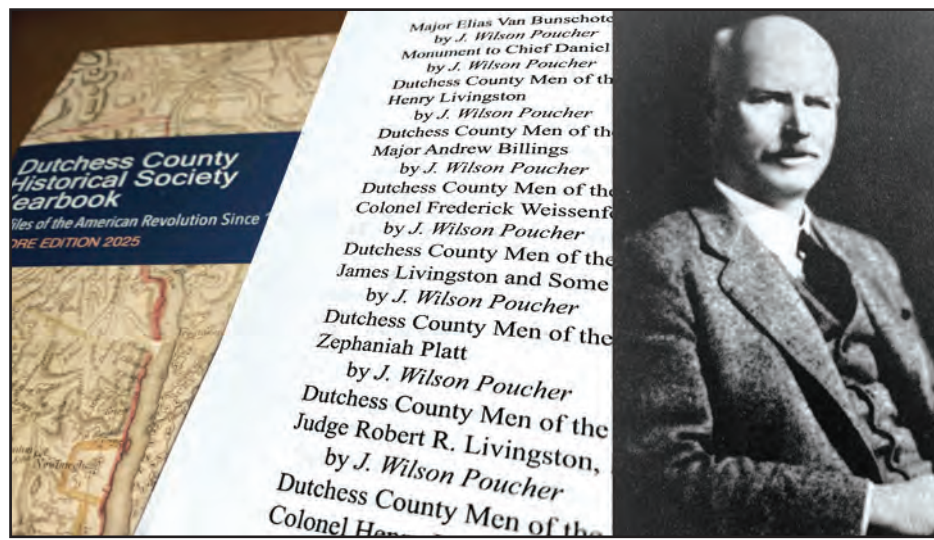
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THE BEACON FREE PRESS (ISSN 0192-9631) is published weekly by the Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc., 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Second-Class postage paid at Wappingers Falls, 12590 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEACON FREE PRESS, 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.



## Here's yet another way to remember Dr. J. Wilson Poucher



The profile of Dr. J. Wilson Poucher in the 1948 DCHS Yearbook acknowledging his passing, referenced his having authored over 50 articles for that publication. Referencing in particular his profiles of Dutchess County Men of the Revolutionary Period, the article suggested, "These taken together with the studies of local characters comprise a body of biographical silhouettes worthy of being framed in a separate volume." This is exactly what DCHS did in 2025 with the support of Dutchess County Government "Rev250" grants, marking the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. This Encore Edition is accessible at [dchsny.org](http://dchsny.org).

**By Bill Jeffway**

The Dutchess County Historical Society is less likely to find that large pieces of furniture meet its collections criteria of being historically significant locally, with a known provenance. The wonderful and recent exception is a handcrafted 1850s sofa, a gift of Rachel Garrison, the great-granddaughter of one of DCHS's most prolific and influential founders, Dr. J. Wilson Poucher (1859–1948), who long kept the piece in his Poughkeepsie home.

Made by Dr. Poucher's father, Peter Poucher, while living in Claverack in the 1850s, it appears to be made using Black Walnut. Beyond its association with Dr.

Poucher, the craftsmanship reminds us that an ordinary farmer and occasional mill worker of modest financial means, could possess notable woodworking skill, as rural life often required extensive "do-it-yourself" work. It also reminds us that a couple of modest means and limited education, Peter (1835–1919) and Maryetta (1836–1868) Poucher, could raise a son who was able to reach his extraordinary full potential in medicine and in life.

Dr. Poucher was widely recognized as a pioneer physician and a leader in his field. Yet the profile published in the DCHS 1948 Yearbook upon his passing portrays a man whose life bridged medicine, history, and



From left, Bill Jeffway, DCHS executive director; Rachel Garrison, donor and Peter Poucher, Garrison's great-great grandfather who made the sofa.

-Courtesy photo

civic leadership in Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley. Medical journals and professional organizations honored his achievements, as did the hospitals, banks, and civic institutions with which he was associated. Still, his distinction extended well beyond medicine.

From an early age, Poucher showed a strong inclination toward history. Family traditions encouraged his reading, and even as a schoolboy he demonstrated a remarkable aptitude. One oft-repeated anecdote recalls his passing a history examination without prior classroom preparation, to the astonishment of his teachers. This passion endured throughout his life. Even amid a demanding medical practice, historical study remained a constant avocation—one that became central after his retirement.

In April 1914, at a meeting in the Pleasant Valley Free Library, Poucher made a motion to establish the Dutchess County Historical Society. Alongside other early founders—including Franklin Roosevelt, John Mylod, and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds—he helped establish the principles and practices of well-sourced, well-documented historical narrative that continue to guide the organization.

That commitment found enduring expression in one of Poucher's major collaborative achievements, the 1924 volume "Old Gravestones of Dutchess County," produced with Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. The work cataloged approximately 19,000 inscriptions from cemeteries, family plots, and churchyards—many already deteriorating. Before the advent of systematic public vital records, these inscriptions preserved invaluable documentation of names, dates, and family relationships. A similar project followed in Ulster County, extending the reach of this work with an additional 22,000 inscriptions. The map of patent lines in Dutchess County published in the 1939 Yearbook remains

widely used today. His book, the "Story of the Wild Flowers," was published in 1931, and reflects his lifelong passion for gardening and the growing and protection of native species.

As City Historian of Poughkeepsie, Poucher worked to instill a sense of local heritage. One notable episode recalls his efforts to save the Glebe House, a colonial structure threatened with demolition. Carrying subscription lists through the city, he helped raise funds to preserve the building, transforming a vulnerable relic into a valued civic asset. His leadership was also evident in commemorative efforts during the 1930s, including the 250th anniversary of Dutchess County, when he guided educational programs and helped document historic boundaries and landmarks.

Poucher maintained affiliations with organizations such as the Columbia County Historical Society and the Ulster County Historical Society, and was active in lineage and patriotic groups including the Holland Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Colonial Wars, and the Order of the Cincinnati. His involvement reflected both personal ancestry and a broader commitment to preserving historical memory.

Ms. Garrison's gifts include generations of family photographs and genealogical information as additions to the already significant contributions of Dr. J. Wilson Poucher.



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

# Three Breakneck Ridge Trailheads remain closed

## Breakneck Connector construction resumes

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Metro-North Railroad (MNR), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT), and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC) remind park-goers that the Breakneck Ridge, Wilkinson Memorial, and Lower Brook trailheads and the adjacent Breakneck Ridge Metro-North Station, which closed on April 21, 2025, will remain closed throughout 2026.

With the start of spring hiking season approaching and multiple road construction projects happening simultaneously, it is more important than ever to consider the impact of these closures when planning visits to the area.

The trailhead and station closures allow for the complete renovation of Metro-North Railroad's Breakneck Ridge station and construction of the Fjord Trail Breakneck Connector and Bridge. The new Breakneck Connector trail and pedestrian bridge will provide hikers with an alternative to walking along State Route 9D to access popular trailheads and will create cohesive access to and from the new Breakneck Ridge train station.

Construction will also address long-

standing issues of safety, accessibility, and environmental health in the project area. The addition of sidewalks, organized and formalized parking, including small lots on the west side of Route 9D, enhanced crosswalks, and wayfinding signage will facilitate a safer experience for both motorists and trail users. Improved access points for first responders at Breakneck Ridge will also increase safety in the area.

The Breakneck Connector and Bridge will meet Accessibility Guidelines for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas (AGODA) standards; associated facilities, including restrooms, will be ADA-compliant, providing increased access to the river and views of Storm King Mountain via a new Lower Overlook at the foot of Breakneck Ridge. Environmental resilience investments will help combat erosion by removing invasive vegetation and replanting with native trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly flowering plants.

Site improvements will also include the addition of HHFT-managed restrooms, an information kiosk, a bike tune-up station, and new overlooks for visitors to enjoy the views of the Hudson Highlands and Hudson River.

During construction, there is no public

access to the Breakneck Ridge, Wilkinson Memorial, or Lower Brook trailheads, which will remain closed until construction is completed. All other trailheads in the North and South Highlands including Washburn/Cornish trailheads, Notch Trailhead, Little Stony Point and Mt. Beacon Trailhead will remain open and accessible to the public while construction is underway. Nearby Fahnestock State Park is a good alternate destination

to avoid overcrowding and parking issues.

Parkgoers should note that there is limited parking for these trailheads, which fills up early on busy spring weekends.

Beginning just prior to Memorial Day weekend, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference trail stewards and Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve staff will be stationed in the park to assist and orient hikers through the end of peak hiking season.

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GENERAC

# 'Easter Bonnets' shine despite damp weather at NYC parade



A wide variety of "Easter Bonnet" renditions were on display at this year's Easter Parade on 5th Avenue in Midtown NYC.

-Photos by Jim Donick

**By Jim Donick**  
"In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it  
You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade."

The song has come down through the ages, but not many folks know the tradition continues to this day. Part of 5th Avenue in Midtown NYC is closed down on Easter Sunday every year so people can parade up and down in their own renditions of an "Easter Bonnet."

The song doesn't say anything about umbrellas, but this year's weather was wet. Enthusiasm was hardly dampened though. Ladies and gentlemen, even children in strollers, donned their own ideas of what constitutes an Easter Bonnet and took to what the song reminds us is "the avenue, 5th Avenue."

No one complained of the weather and many optimistically predicted sunshine for next year's parade. Even if it rains, though, they'll be back.

## History of the Lenape at Mount Gulian Historic Site set for April 25

Continued from cover

The Lenape fished, hunted and gathered nature's bounty here for centuries and were a farming people, with every settlement having rich gardens, noted Hilowitz. "They were a matriarchal society, with most leadership, family and big decisions made by women," he explained.

Hayes stated, "We hope visitors will leave the talk knowing that the Lenape are

a federally recognized sovereign Tribal Nation, directly involved in the renaissance of Indian Country in this area. Lenape are reviving their language and material and cultural practices, even growing their unique varieties of corn here again. Lenape want their stolen sacred objects repatriated to their People, and to be part of the conversation as to how their history is told and their culture interpreted by non-Native institutions. Most importantly, visitors will

learn about a local People's survival in the face of great adversity, an important lesson in today's world."

Hilowitz said, "All Americans need to know about the Lenape, their lifeways in the pre-colonial period, their siding with the Americans during the Revolution, their forced migrations into Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Ontario, their survival strategies in the face of erasure, and the fact that they are thriving to this day with over 20,000 people

self-identifying as Lenape, some in the Hudson Valley. Mount Gulian is a part of that story and is proud to tell others about it."

Admission is \$18 for adults; \$15 for seniors and \$12 for children (5-15 years). Walk-ins are welcome, but spots might not be available. Mount Gulian members' admission to the talk is free. Membership is open to the public. To make a reservation, one may call 845-831-8172 or email info@mountgulian.org.

## County maintains AA+ bond rating

**County reports**  
Dutchess County has once again received an exceptional AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P), reaffirming the County's strong financial position and responsible fiscal management and again placing Dutchess County among the highest-rated county governments in New York State. The County held its annual bond sale on Tuesday, borrowing funds for essential public safety and infrastructure investment at a low 3.57% interest rate, thanks to the County AA+ bond rating. The 2026A public improvement serial general obligation bonds will fund various capital projects, including repairs and replacement of multiple bridges, culverts and guide rails, highway paving, Sheriff vehicles and HVAC infrastructure in various County buildings.

"Dutchess County's AA+ rating is a powerful signal of our fiscal responsibility and long-term economic stability and gives our residents the assurance that our county is well-positioned to weather challenges while continuing to provide the essential services they depend on. It also gives the business community confidence to invest and grow," said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. "Our commitment to financial stewardship saves taxpayers money with lower costs for crit-

ical investments in public safety and reliable infrastructure. These are key factors businesses look for when choosing where to locate and expand."

Why does an AA+ bond rating matter for residents and businesses? The County's AA+ rating does the following:

- Reflects the County's conservative fiscal stewardship. S&P cited factors including careful budgeting practices and responsible long-term debt management in the County's rating.

- Signals lower credit risk. Higher ratings allow governments to borrow at lower interest rates to make important strategic investments in infrastructure and facilities, while helping reduce costs for taxpayers.

- Reflects the strong local economy, which is expected to continue to grow with new development, higher incomes and rising property values.

Serino said, "We value the trust our residents place in us and will continue to manage tax dollars carefully. Keeping a strong bond rating and solid savings helps Dutchess County stay stable, even during uncertain times and allows us to make the smart investments that improve services and quality of life for our neighbors for today and for the future."

The full S&P report is available online.

## Beacon Poet Laureate to celebrate LiveWriting series on April 17

Ruth Danon, the Poet Laureate of Beacon and acclaimed author, continues her celebrated LiveWriting series on Friday, April 17, at the historic Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon. This installment, titled "Poet-Publishers from Hudson Valley and Beyond," features four distinguished literary figures who balance the creative act of writing with the vital work of independent publishing. Curated and hosted by Danon, the

evening will feature readings by Michael Broder, Stephen Motika, Elizabeth Murphy, and John Yau. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the program runs from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

The LiveWriting series is made possible, in part, with support from Poets & Writers and NYS Council on the Arts.

Tickets are available at bit.ly/LW-APR17.

For more information, visit www.ruthdanon.com.

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love to cook

by vicki frank day



# Puff the Magic Pastry

A side dish inspired by spanakopita is also substantial on its own.

The recent weather has me wondering just what season this is. Ordinarily my inner food radar keys me in with natural cravings for seasonal fare: cozy comfort when it's cold, fresh lightness when it warms up. But now? Well, that radar's on the fritz. Lucky for me there are plenty of recipes in my repertoire that work at just such times.

The other day when the temperature hit 70 degrees, I planned on salmon for dinner. I'd worked in the garden a bit and had worked up an appetite, so I knew I'd need more than a simple side salad to serve with it. Spinach is always a good go-to but, taking a cue from my radar, I wanted to keep it light while being substantial enough as the only side. I took inspiration from spanakopita and served it on a bed of puff pastry, which was perfect. I even served it for Easter!

**Spanakopita-inspired Puff Pastry**

This is one for the books. Not only does this come together pretty quickly and check all the notes for flavor any time of year, it's also good warm from the oven or at room temperature, making it a versatile new classic for your next party, brunch or as a weeknight dinner side. You can even cut it into small squares to serve as hors d'oeuvres. It was perfect with salmon, is great with ham, lamb or pork and can stand alone as a lighter, meatless meal or snack. If you aren't feeding a crowd or don't want leftovers, use just one sheet of puff pastry and half the spinach mixture. The rest will hold in the fridge for a few days or in the freezer for about a month. You can substitute biscuit dough for the puff pastry if you prefer, serve it in crepes or on toasted baguette.



Uncooked Spanakopita-inspired Puff Pastry, left, and the ready-to-serve dish.

-Photos by Vicki Frank Day

**Ingredients**

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (10oz) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 8 oz cream cheese, room temperature
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten (reserve some for the egg wash)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- Salt and freshly cracked pepper, to taste
- 1 teaspoon (dried) oregano
- A pinch of nutmeg
- A pinch of red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 cup grated mozzarella or Swiss cheese (I actually used Gruyere)
- 1 (17oz, 2-sheet) package frozen puff

- pastry, thawed
- Freshly grated Parmesan for top (about 1/4 cup)

**Method**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside. Melt butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Add shallots and cook until just tender, 2-3 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook 2-3 minutes more. Cool a bit, then transfer to a large bowl. Squeeze water from the thawed spinach. The best way is by placing it in the center of a clean kitchen towel, gathering it in a ball and twisting the top to release as much excess water as possible. (Note: it may stain your towel green).

Add to the bowl with the shallots. Add cream cheese and beaten eggs to the bowl (reserve a little of the eggs in a small bowl for a wash later). Use a potato masher or fork to incorporate the cream cheese, then stir to combine. Stir in lemon zest and juice, salt and pepper, oregano, nutmeg, pepper flakes (if using), feta and mozzarella (or Swiss).

Lay one puff pastry sheet on each baking sheet, pressing to close any holes or cracks (from being folded or rolled). No need to roll it into a rectangle to fit the baking sheet, (the square is fine) though you can if you want to. Divide spinach mixture evenly between each sheet leaving about a 1-inch border. Fold the edges over and crimp with the back of a fork to make a pattern and seal the corners. Sprinkle tops with Parmesan.

Add a splash of water to the reserved beaten egg and whisk to combine. Brush on puff pastry edges. Bake until puffed and golden brown, 25-30 minutes. Cut into desired sized pieces and serve warm or at room temperature.

Because I love food, I'm always delighted when I hit on the perfect recipe for the occasion – or no occasion at all – that can hit all the right notes, make life a little more delicious and any meal feel celebratory. This is one of those recipes for me and I hope it is for you, too. Enjoy!

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

## Dutchess County will hold free Earth Day event on Saturday, April 18



Dutchess County to celebrate Earth Day with a family-friendly event on April 18 in Poughkeepsie.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov't

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management and the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barn will once again celebrate Earth Day with a free, family-friendly event on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., designed to educate, engage and inspire residents of all ages to take part in protecting the environment. This celebration, held at 50 Vassar Farm Lane in Poughkeepsie, will feature interactive

exhibits, hands-on activities, opportunities to connect with local organizations dedicated to sustainability and conservation, information about volunteer opportunities.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Earth Day is a chance for us to come together and learn how to preserve our planet, not only for right now, but for our children and grandchildren. This is a wonderful opportunity for friends and families of all

ages to connect, learn and see how even small changes can make a real difference for our environment. By teaching our children the importance of protecting our natural resources today, we ensure a vibrant sustainable Dutchess County for years to come. I hope to see you there!"

The County's Earth Day celebration showcases the importance of sustainability and caring for the environment, encouraging residents of all ages to learn practical ways to cut down on waste, use resources wisely and help preserve the planet for future generations.

Attendees can take part in a variety of activities and educational opportunities, including:

- Hands-on projects, such as nature journaling and seed ball creation;
- Demonstrations on recycling, composting and reducing household waste;

- Exhibits highlighting energy conservation and sustainable practices;
- Information about local ecosystems, wildlife and pollinator protection;
- Guided nature walks through the Preserve at Vassar; and
- Engagement with local environmental groups, businesses and government agencies

A full list of event participants is available online.

Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste Management Kerry Russell said, "When people come together to learn about our environment and share ideas, it strengthens our community's ability to build a more sustainable future."

More information about recycling programs, composting and other environmental initiatives in Dutchess County is available on the Division of Solid Waste Management's webpage: [dutchessny.gov/solidwaste](http://dutchessny.gov/solidwaste).

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get growing!

by mark adams



# Sue's Hanging Basket

## An inspiring horticultural journey

In the summer of 2009, hanging baskets with a combination of flowers were (and still are) all the rage. Sue had been designing baskets and growing many thousands of them in our greenhouses for a few years (and still does). So she decided to enter one of her baskets in a competition sponsored by Cornell University. The Kathy Pufahl hanging basket contest was named in honor of the founder of Beds and Borders plant nursery. Kathy, a Cornell graduate, was a pioneer in flower container design. She served on the Cornell Ornamental advisory council until she tragically died of melanoma at age 44.

Sue picked one of her own original container designs to enter in the competition, to be held on July 21 at the Cornell campus in Ithaca. The only problem – Sue and I had been invited to our friend's wedding on July 18 in Chicago. And we wanted to stop in Pittsburgh to visit the grandchildren on the way. To get back to Ithaca in time for the competition, we'd have to bring the hanging basket with us.

Combination hanging baskets are designed for visual impact, with lots of flower power. The different varieties, usual-



*Sue Adams with hanging basket.  
-Courtesy photo from Cornell University*

ly three, should "play well together," as we say in the horticulture trade. Blossom colors need to be complementary.

Since the competition took place in mid-summer, Sue chose flowers that would stand up to the heat:

- Euphorbia Breathless Blush – with pink bicolor flowers and red-flushed foliage, to plant in the center, where it will mound slightly.

- Vinca Cora Cascade Bright Rose – 3

plants around the edge, to trail down.

- Tradescantia – 2 plants with purple foliage to trail and provide contrast.

The 12-inch wide basket was planted in May, grown with care, fertilized with Miracle-Gro water soluble plant food, and hung up where it could trail down, making for a beautiful combination basket. Sue named it "meandering delight."

On July 14 we loaded it into the car and headed west. Since I had won a free night at Caesar's Cove Haven resort in the Poconos, singing karaoke (the Bee Gee's "To Love Somebody"), we decided to stop there on the first night. We set "meandering delight" out on the patio to get some fresh air, and a deer ate the tradescantia! That was the meandering part of the design. So we called back to our crew at the greenhouse and had them Fed-Ex two pots of tradescantia to Becky's house in Pittsburgh. We spent two days visiting the grandchildren, and replanted the basket as soon as the new plants arrived. In Chicago, we booked a room with a balcony so the tradescantia could grow a little bit and blend in.

After the wedding, we checked out of the hotel, and a few activities were planned for

the next day. The wedding party was going to a Cubs baseball game. We couldn't lock "meandering delight" in the hot car, so we had to bring her to the game. We had to buy an extra ticket so we could put her in her own seat where nobody would sit on her.

The Cubs won. Then we all headed north to Highland Park for a Tom Jones concert. I'm sure "meandering delight" enjoyed it, adding a couple of inches to the tradescantia as she heard "What's New Pussycat."

Finally, we headed back to Ithaca for the competition. Sue's hanging basket was a little worse for the wear, but "meandering delight" did take home a second-place silver medal.

Sue loves designing baskets and containers and always enjoys experimenting with the new flowers we receive from breeders. 2026 season has just begun, and Sue is already looking forward to creating new designs for 2027. Maybe we'll see Tradescantia Pistachio White, a new intro for next year in the hanging basket.

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

## Guardian Revival appoints attorney Daniel Ravo as Board Secretary

Guardian Revival has announced that attorney Daniel Ravo has joined its Board of Directors and will serve as Board Secretary. In this role, Ravo will help guide governance, strategic planning, and organizational growth as Guardian Revival expands its programs for military, veterans, first responders and their families.

Ravo is an attorney with Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele LLP, one of the largest and most experienced law firms in the Hudson Valley. As a U.S. Navy veteran, he brings both legal expertise and lived experience of service to those that Guardian Revival supports. At the firm, he focuses on litigation and advocacy while remaining deeply engaged in the Hudson Valley community.

"I'm honored to join Guardian Revival's Board of Directors and to support an organization that stands beside those who serve long after the uniform comes off," said Ravo. "As a veteran, I know how critical connection, purpose, and trusted support are, and I'm proud to help strengthen the programs that deliver that for our guardians."

"We are thrilled to welcome Daniel to our board," said Alexander Othmer, co-founder and President of the Board of Directors at Guardian Revival. "His combination of military service, legal experience, and commitment to this community will be invaluable as we continue to grow our impact for military, veterans, first responders, and their families."

Founded in 2019, Guardian Revival is a New York State 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides culturally-informed,



*Daniel Ravo  
-Courtesy photo*

non-clinical programs to support the mental health and well-being of military, veterans, first responders, and their families.

Guardian Revival provides outdoor adventures, companion dogs, music experiences, physical fitness programs, and peer support initiatives that help reduce isolation, build connection, and strengthen resilience. Additionally, guardians can participate in peer-led gatherings and utilize a non-crisis talk line to connect with others who understand their unique challenges.

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# Star Party at the Beacon Sloop Club on April 16

Members of the Beacon Sloop Club will welcome the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association (MHAA) for an evening of stargazing on Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse, Red Flynn Drive, Beacon.

MHAA is a non-profit group of amateur astronomy enthusiasts in the Mid-Hudson Valley region of New York. Their members will be on hand with telescopes and binoculars, and everyone is invited to look through them. Amateur astronomers are a friendly lot, eager to share their knowledge with anyone who's curious.

The evening will include a short presentation on MHAA's mission, an introduction to Electronically Assisted Astronomy (EAA) — a form of real-

time imaging that displays live views of distant nebulae and galaxies on a screen, making the invisible universe visible to everyone in the room — and practical guidance on how to get started in amateur astronomy.

Weather permitting, we'll head outside to observe the night sky directly. April is a wonderful time to look up — spring skies bring galaxies, planets, and deep sky objects into view, and the new moon will provide ideal dark sky conditions.

No equipment or experience needed. Whether one is a lifelong stargazer or have never looked through a telescope, this is a welcoming evening for all ages.

Free and open to the public. All are welcome.



An evening of stargazing will take place at the Beacon Sloop Club on Thursday, April 16 in Beacon.

-Photo courtesy Beacon Sloop Club

# HEADS UP, HIKERS!

## THREE BREAKNECK RIDGE AREA TRAILHEADS REMAIN CLOSED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

### SOMETHING EXCITING IS HAPPENING...

If you've spent any time in the area, you know that Breakneck corridor of Route 9D has historically been hazardous for both hikers and motorists, especially on busy hiking weekends.

But, coming in 2027, the Fjord Trail's Breakneck Connector will make the area safer, improve accessibility, add public restrooms, organize parking, include renovation of the Metro-North Breakneck Ridge train station, and much more!

Construction began in April 2025 and is expected to continue for approximately two years. Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. is working with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Metro-North Railroad; and the NY-NJ Trail Conference to bring you these critical improvements.



ALTERNATIVE HIKES + MORE INFO  
[WWW.BREAKNECK.INFO](http://WWW.BREAKNECK.INFO)

### CLOSURE IMPACTS

- ⊘ **BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- WILKINSON MEMORIAL TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- BROOK TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Cornish Connector
- ⊘ **METRO-NORTH RAILROAD BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAIN STATION** closed — no train service at Breakneck
- ⊘ **NO PARKING ON ROUTE 9D** in the area north of Breakneck Tunnel



Learn more about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail at [hhft.org](http://hhft.org)

Photo by Michael Grandeau

# Obituaries

## Shawn W. Johnson



Shawn W. Johnson, a lifelong local area resident, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026 following a sudden illness. He was 43.

He was born in Beacon on July 25, 1982 and graduated from John Jay Senior High School. Shawn worked as a self-employed landscaper.

He always enjoyed spending time with family, friends, and neighbors. However, more than anything else, he truly cherished being a father and did everything for his kids. He loved taking them fishing and was always their #1 fan at their baseball & football games and dance recitals.

Shawn is survived by his son and daughter, Jabob Joseph Johnson (12) and Jessa Ryan Johnson (11), both of Fishkill;

his parents, Jerry and Linda (Hamilton) Johnson of Beacon; his brother, Jerry Johnson of Poughkeepsie; his longtime partner, Amanda Lewis; his aunts & uncles, Laurie Hamilton, Michael Healey, Glen Hamilton, Jim & Bonnie Johnson, John & Rhonda Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Joe Johnson, and Dave Silvestri; the mother of his children, Alicia Lucas Lucariello; as well as many cousins and close friends.

He was predeceased by his grandparents as well as his aunt, Lisa Silvestri.

Visitation was held on Saturday, April 4 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A memorial service was conducted.

In lieu of flowers, an education fund will be established for Shawn's children. Checks can be made payable to Linda Johnson.

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

## Thomas R. Perry



Thomas R. Perry, 59, a 30-year resident of Highland, NY died at home on Monday, March 23rd, tragically just two days after the loss of his soul mate and fiancée Kerry Trigalet who passed away at home as well.

Tom was born on September 21, 1966 in Mt. Kisco, NY. Tom graduated from John Jay High School in East Fishkill and worked at Jilco Window and Door Corporation in Granite Springs for the past 32 years.

He is survived by his beloved daughter Kathleen Perry and her boyfriend Rory Moon of Staatsburg, as well as brother Michael Perry of Wappingers Falls and sister Donna Perry and her husband Jonathan Amith of Gettysburg, PA. Also

surviving are nephew Brandon Inkell and niece Alana Amith, as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

In addition to Kerry, Tom was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Marilyn Perry.

Family & Friends will gather to celebrate Tom & Kerry's Life on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 6-9PM at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where a time of remembrance will be shared at 8PM. Interment will be private at the discretion of their families. To offer a message of condolence or share fond memories, please visit: [www.DelehantyFuneral.com](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).

## Kerry C. Trigalet



Kerry C. Trigalet, 54, of Highland, NY died at home on Saturday, March 21st.

Kerry was born on November 10, 1971 in Woodbury, NJ.

She attended Garden Spot High School in New Holland, PA.

She resided in Highland, NY for the past 20 years. and was engaged to be married to Thomas R. Perry who tragically passed away 2 days later on Monday, March 23rd.

She is survived by her father, Robert Trigalet of Lititz, PA., her brother Robert Trigalet II and his wife Lynelle of Lancaster, PA as well as her sister, Jenny R. Sensenig and her husband Neal Sensenig of New Holland, PA. Also surviving are a nephew, Rowan Sensenig, and two nieces, Aliana and Mia Sensenig and her stepfather, Michael Weidle of Middletown, PA.

Kerry was predeceased by her moth-

er, Judith Weidle.

Family & Friends will gather to celebrate Tom & Kerry's Life on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 6-9PM at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where a time of remembrance will be shared at 8PM. Interment will be private at the discretion of their families.

To offer a message of condolence or share fond memories, please visit: [DelehantyFuneral.com](http://DelehantyFuneral.com).

## Vincent Michael Richards



Vincent Michael Richards, 80, a resident of East Fishkill since 1978, died on March 26, 2026 at Putnam Hospital Center following a short illness. He passed into the arms of the Angel of the Bugler.

Born in the Bronx on November 30, 1945, he was the son of the late Vincent Michael and Ellen (McPartland) Richards. He graduated from Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, and then went on to Sherwood School of Music and Chicago University from 1967-1969 when he was drafted. Vincent graduated from Pace University in Manhattan in 1975 with his bachelor's degree in sociology and from the New School of Social Research in 1983 with his master's degree in sociology. He was

employed as a music and social studies teacher for the New York City Board of Education until his retirement in 2013. He had also worked as a route salesman for Frito Lay.

Vinny proudly served our country in the United States Army. His military career began with Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC and after graduation, he earned a Military Occupation Specialty 02B20 Musician at Fort Knox, KY. Following his separation from active duty, he joined the 319th Army Reserve Statue of Liberty Band at Fort Totten, NY where he spent the next 35 years as a Reservist and earning the rank of SFC, brass group leader and Assistant Bandmaster. He was also a honorary member of the New York 42nd Rainbow Division. Vinny's greatest honor was playing Taps for Veterans who answered their final call. "Be tho at peace soldier, your tour is over."

In 1989, Vincent founded the Hudson Valley Council Boy Scouts of America Community Band. After several years, the Girl Scouts also wanted to join so they became Explorer Post #2609. Throughout the years, they played in New York, Washington DC and even two international tours of Canada. They rehearsed and performed with the 319th Army Statue of Liberty Band at Fort Totten, and placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They have provided many musical performances in the Town of East Fishkill on Memorial Day and for the 9/11 Observance each year, as well as at the Hopewell Depot Museum and for the town summer concert series. In February, Vinny and Althea were honored with the Barbara Z Community Service Award by the East Fishkill Republican Committee.

A parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill, Vinny was a life member of the Boy Scouts of America. He was also a member of Manny Bacon Post #1758 American Legion, Elks Lodge #1493, Beacon, the New York City Musicians Association and the Retired Army Musicians Association.

On June 19, 1971 at Holy Cross Church in the Bronx, Vinny married the love of his life, Althea Bernadette Corey who survives at home. He is also survived by his son Michael Bryan Richards and his wife Jill; his grandsons, Jason Vincent and Michael Charles; sister in law Marguerite Sullivan and her husband Patrick; his godchildren, Mark Lu and his wife Stephanie, Theresa Burke and her children, Ethan, Issac and Alivia; and Connie Lu and her partner Michael Chan; his brothers, Thomas Norman Richards, and Robert Raymond Richards; his brother-in-law, Kenneth Stoller; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his sister, Honor Marie Stoller and brothers John Thomas Richards and James Gilbert Richards.

Calling hours were held on Monday, April 6 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Hudson Valley Community Band honored Vinny with a performance. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, April 7 at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 103 Jackson Street, Fishkill. Interment will be in St. Denis Cemetery with military honors.

Memorial donations may be made in Vinny's memory to the Hudson Valley Community Band. Please mail c/o McHoul Funeral Home, 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

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

## Bridget T. McGivney



Bridget Theresa McGivney passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie after a short illness. She was 97. She was born in Ballinalee, County Longford, Ireland, on January 23, 1929, the daughter of Peter and Anne Maguire. She was the youngest of five children; her brothers James, Patrick, and Peter, and her sister Mary all predeceased her.

A resident of the Town of Wappinger for 57 years, Bridget emigrated to the United States in 1955, arriving in Brooklyn on Saint Patrick's Day after what she often declared would be the first and last sea voyage she would ever take. She first found work as a waitress at a

Schraft's restaurant in New York City and then as an elevator operator at the old Western Union building on Hudson Street, where she first met Bernard 'Barney' McGivney, whom she married in 1957. Barney McGivney passed away in 2004. Bridget worked for Sears, Roebuck at the South Hills Mall in Poughkeepsie for 21 years. After her retirement, she spent her time caring for her family and working in her garden, planting flowers and vegetables, and then ruthlessly killing any weed that sought to violate the verdant integrity of the green, green grass of her home.

Her five sons survive her: Peter, of Wappingers Falls, Thomas and his wife Janie, of Bayside, Queens, Patrick and his wife Valerie, of Hopewell Junction, John, of Chelsea, and Timothy, of Wappingers Falls, as well as her grand-daughter Bridget Phillips and Bridget's husband Joseph Phillips, and their son, Ezra, all of Slidell, Louisiana, and by many more nieces and nephews in both Ireland and the United States.

There will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 11am at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY 12524. Interment to follow at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, Fishkill, NY 12524.

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#### HIGHLAND MEADOWS SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

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

# Classified

## SDN Subscriber ads

### 107 Situations Wanted

Residential and Commercial Clean outs. Disposal of unwanted items Carpentry work Interior and Exterior Painting. Property Management Call Craig 845-891-8930

### 401 Apartments for Rent

Victorian, BEACON 9D / mins. RR - 70 NYC Hwy, Spectacular Hudson Views, Rest. Antiques, Hiking, biking, Mountains, 2BD + Den, DW / WD, Split - Level, \$2,800. Suitable 1 - 3. 914-960-0069 or 914-584-7137

### 409 Garage for Rent

Garage For Rent. Concrete Floor. Call: 845-831-8698

### 502 Clothing

New men's dress slacks/shirt w/tags. Dockers Brown 38/29, Haggard Gray 38/30, Perry Ellis dress shirt Cream 16.5 sleeve 32/33. Asking \$7 each. 646-734-3823

### 503 Furniture

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

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

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

Enjoy the holidays with an oval oak dining room table with 2 leaves, 6 chairs and lighted china cabinet. Asking \$375. 845-221-3824

China Hutch, King size mattress and metal support frames, Exc. Cond., Best off, Hopewell Jct. 845-797-9724

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



### 505 Free Items

JumpKing 15 foot trampoline. You take away FREE. 845-632-2569

### 512 Winter Merchandise

Snow Blower, Electric, 18 in., Powersmart Brand, Hardly used, Exec. Cond, \$60 OBO. Cell: 845-797-9724

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

Vermont Castings four burner stainless steel barbaque gas grill with side burner New burners, heat plates with manual, \$100. 845-632-2569

Lincoln Arc Weldor Model Ac-225S. Hardly used, \$250. 845-897-5455

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

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

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

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

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

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

Elvis Presley photo given at the opening of Love Me Tender at Academy Theater in Wappingers Falls, NY, \$125. Call: 845-582-0450

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

New Quickie Q500M Power wheelchair. Great indoor and outdoor with sedeo Pro seating and advanced controls. New Low price, \$1,900. 845-221-3691



### 516 Misc. Merchandise

Electric Scooter, Brand New. Pristine condition, \$450. Platform Trailer also, New, \$110, Brand Vovic. Call 914-456-6813

### 800 Boats

MERCUISER Model MCM 488, Horse power 188, Inner Cooler, Fresh water only - "Boat disassembled", other parts, \$2,000. 845-897-5455

### 801 Trailers

2 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath Trailer minutes from Ocean, Edgewater, Fla. Fully furnished, new beds, TV etc. Screened Porch, W/D, \$17K neg. Call 386-847-4397

### 903 Motorcycles



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

### PETS

Tabby: Domestic short Hair Cat. Adult 3-8 yrs, Female, Medium 7-11 lbs. Tabby is a Buff/Tan/Fawn color. Personality is Affectionate, Curious, Gentla, Playful, Quiet and Shy. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY

Gabby: Domestic Short Hair Cat. Senior 8+ yrs, Female, small 6 lbs, color: Tortoiseshell, Calico. She's Curious, Friendly, Playful, Athletic, Smart and Funny. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY

Champ, Dachshund & Terrier Mix. Adult 3-8 yrs, Male, Small 0-25 lbs, Medium coat, color, White/Cream, Red/Chestnut/Orange. He's Friendly, Loyal, Loves kisses, Protective and Affectionate. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon NY

Pets For Adoption ARF, Beacon, NY 845-831-5161 54 Simons Lane PO Box 1129 Beacon, NY 12508

Hello, my name is Cupcake! I am a 8 week old boxer/hound mix looking for my forever home! I am super sweet and playful and love everyone I meet. I am fully vetted up to what is age appropriate and I can't wait to find my new family. If you would like to adopt me please go to [www.incrediblepupspetrescue.com](http://www.incrediblepupspetrescue.com) and submit an adoption application.



Hello, my name is Binx! I am a 7 month old Collie mix looking for my forever home! I am super sweet and playful and love everyone I meet. I'm good with kids, dogs and cats. I am fully vetted up to what is age appropriate and I can't wait to find my new family. If you would like to adopt me please go to [www.incrediblepupspetresuce.com](http://www.incrediblepupspetresuce.com) and submit an adoption application.

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(Home phone)

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Email (with "Free line ad" as the subject) your subscription name, address, phone number, & subscriber ID, along with your ad to: [sdnadvertising@aol.com](mailto:sdnadvertising@aol.com)

Ads should be limited to 20 words including a contact phone number (must be included in ad). If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.

Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810

Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted. We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.

Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Yes, send me the Southern Dutchess News for the next 52 weeks for just \$10.  
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 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Southern Dutchess News  
 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
 Coupon must accompany payment

# Arlington High students unveil historic marker at Old City Hall in Poughkeepsie



The new marker, made possible through grants from the Pomeroy Foundation, is located at the Old City Hall in Poughkeepsie, now the Dutchess County Commissioner of Jurors Building.

-Courtesy photos

Arlington High School students include, from left, Rory Nowik, Ryan Stickers, Heba Touijar and Connor Riley. Not pictured is Noah Gillman.

Students in the United States History class at Arlington High School are installing five new Pomeroy Foundation Historic Markers in Dutchess County. The most recent

marker was placed at the Old City Hall in Poughkeepsie, now the Dutchess County Commissioner of Jurors Building.

The next unveiling will be at the home of Gaius Bolin, 153 North Clinton Street in Poughkeepsie on April 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Instructor Robert McHugh said each marker is the result of a project undertaken last year by students at Arlington High School. The students could pick anywhere in Dutchess County that they believed was deserving of a marker. They had to then find primary sources (government documents, newspaper articles, maps, photos, etc.) that

could prove the importance of the site. They had to come up with language that would go on the marker and secure permission from whoever owned the land on which the marker would be installed. Over the past 3 years, 11 markers have been installed around the county as a result of this effort.

## HV History Reading Festival set April 18 at Wallace Center

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District will present the annual Hudson Valley History Reading Festival on Saturday, April 18.

This is a free public event, but registration is required for in-person attendance via [www.fdrlibrary.org](http://www.fdrlibrary.org)

- Schedule:
- 10 a.m. Joseph E. Diamond, "The Archaeology of Kingston, New York"
  - 11 a.m. Anthony P. Musso, "Mafia Burial Ground: The Mob and St. John's Cemetery"
  - Noon Lunch Break (on your own)
  - 1 p.m. Elizabeth Werlau, "Legacies on the Land: Historic Houses, Hamlets, and Landscapes of Southern Ulster County"
  - 2 p.m. Moira Fitzgibbons, "Drawn by the River: The Hudson River Valley as a Comics Ecosystem"
- Contact Cliff Laube at 845-486-7745 with questions about the event.

## this week's puzzle solutions

This week's answer

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

Suguru solution

**Legal Notices**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF FISHKILL ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WILLOW LAKE PARTNERS GROUP, LLC**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Fishkill will continue the Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026, commencing at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible in the Francois R. Cross Meeting room located in the lobby of the Town of Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY** to consider the following area variances for the adaptive reuse of several existing structures and amenities and for the construction of new improvements to include overnight motel ac-

**Legal Notices**

commodations for guests comprised of 32 semi-attached motel structures (64 units each approximately 600 SF in size) and 16 fully detached motel structures (each approximately 950 SF in size), accessory facilities including a restaurant with outdoor seating areas, a large event space designed for group dining and special occasions, a welcome building, a small building serving as a trail head for on-site hiking, a spa building, a fitness building, an accessory flex building, hiking trails, parking and all other necessary site improvements:

1. A 21.3' front yard setback variance from the front road centerline for the proposed Valet Check Out Building Connection, where 75' is the minimum required front yard setback from the road centerline in the R-40 Zoning District. Said variance will result in a 53.7' front yard setback.
2. A 22.2' front yard setback variance from the front lot line for the proposed Valet Check Out Building Connection, where 50' is the minimum required front yard setback from the front lot line in the R-40 Zoning District. Said variance will result in a 27.8' front yard setback.
3. A front yard setback to allow parking to be located in the front yard for the proposed Valet parking lots, where parking is not permitted in the front yard.
4. A 15' wall height variance, where 6' is the maxi-

**Legal Notices**

mum wall height permitted. Said variance will result in a 21' wall height at its highest point; the retaining wall height varies.

5. A construction on steep slopes variance to allow disturbance of approximately 0.11 acres of 55.87 acres of existing steep slopes, where new construction shall avoid areas of steep slopes (slopes greater than 20% over a horizontal distance of 100 or more feet).

The lands affected by this application is shown generally on the Tax Map Parcel No. 6255 00-432320, located at 4-16 Willow Lake Drive, consisting of 92.82 acres in the R-40 & R-4A Zoning Districts; Tax Map Parcel No. 6255-00-472382, located at 138 Van Wyck

**Legal Notices**

Lake Road, consisting of 10.98 acres in the R-40 & R-4A Zoning Districts; and Tax Map Parcel No. 6255-00-359445, located on Van Wyck Lake Road, consisting of 1.74 acres in the R-40 Zoning District.

Willow Lake is the subject of a Site Development Plan Approval and a Special Use Permit Approval by the Town of Fishkill Planning Board, identified as Planning Board Application No. PB25-001 and a Freshwater Wetlands/Watercourse/Water Body Permit, identified as Application No. PB25-006.

All interested persons will be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing as stated above.

**Legal Notices**

By Order Of The Zoning Board of Appeals Of the Town of Fishkill, New York

Debbie Colonna, Secretary

**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-37-26

Parts Washer Rental, Service, and Waste Disposal

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 21st 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.

**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-48-26

Pre-Cast and Fabricated Catch Basins, Frames, and Grates

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 23rd 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.

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# Diversions

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With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082185 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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

## Suguru

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

## THEME: 21st CENTURY SONGS

### ACROSS

1. Smacks
6. Marketing pop-ups
9. Kindred
13. Jeopardy
14. Dog foot
15. Threefold
16. Throat dangler
17. Mogul rider
18. Right-hand page
19. \*Lady Gaga: "You and me could write a bad \_\_\_\_"
21. \*Missy Elliott: "Get Ur \_\_\_\_"
23. Exclamation of disgust
24. At the apex
25. Pérignon of champagne fame
28. Two-masted vessel
30. Cast out
35. Larger-than-life
37. Electrical resistance units
39. Star bursts
40. Silicate mineral
41. Alexander, for short
43. \_\_\_\_ of the valley
44. Sushi option
46. Alpine lift
47. Impose a tax
48. Forward and email, e.g.
50. Made in Vegas
52. Siren's domain
53. Cajole
55. \*Drake: "I need a \_\_\_\_ dance"
57. \*Adele: "We could've had it all \_\_\_\_ in the deep"
61. \*Olivia Rodrigo: "I got my \_\_\_\_..."
65. Earliest stage of sickness
66. Ribonucleic acid, acr.
68. Tipi, alt. sp.
69. Drugstore shampoo brand
70. Many, many moons
71. Witchy woman
72. \_\_\_\_ Spumante
73. Ovine mom
74. Chinese green tea

### DOWN

1. Horse prod
2. Left, Latin prefix
3. \_\_\_\_ lily
4. Pilaff or plov
5. Colloquially
6. Location of altar
7. \_\_\_\_ Prescott of Dallas Cowboys
8. Swiftie's idol
9. Geometric calculation
10. \_\_\_\_ the Can
11. \*Ariana Grande: "Cause I'm so \_\_\_\_ you"
12. Glowing gas
15. Trephination tool
20. \*Maroon 5: "The \_\_\_\_ that controlled my mind"
22. Actor Lowe
24. Sheriff of Nottingham's collection container
25. Raise doubts
26. Suppose
27. #40 Across, pl.
29. \*Pink: "So \_\_\_\_? I'm still a rock star"
31. Long-lasting Steelers coach
32. Brown and such
33. Topical remedy
34. \*OutKast: "\_\_\_\_!"
36. \*The Killers: "Comin' out of my \_\_\_\_"
38. Food fish
42. Eagerness
45. Stir up violence
49. Knotts or McLean
51. Mole
54. Come to terms
56. Each and all
57. Parks of Civil Rights fame
58. Blame
59. Law school prerequisite, acr.
60. Denim innovator
61. Copenhagen native
62. "Iliad," e.g.
63. Nevada city
64. "As \_\_\_\_ on TV"
67. \*Gotye: "\_\_\_\_ you're just somebody that I used to know"

## CROSSWORD

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# Retired police officer to be honored at Hudson Valley Heart Walk

By Kristine Coulter

The Hudson Valley Heart Walk for the American Heart Association is set for Saturday, April 25, at Mount Saint Mary College, 330 Powell Ave., Newburgh, in Orange County. Set to share his story this year is Paul Craft, a retired Ellenville police officer who survived sudden cardiac arrest.

The annual event begins at 8 a.m. Opening ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m., followed by the Walk.

Chairing the Walk this year is Ali Hammoud, M.D., a cardiologist at Nuvance Health, now part of Northwell Health.

## Lunch break becomes an emergency

Sixty-year-old Paul Craft had collapsed. Stephanie Craft, Paul's wife, screamed. John Paulsen, fiancé of Paul's daughter Carly, heard her and came back in, as he was returning back to work from his future in-laws' house. That was almost a year ago, on May 29, 2025, according to the American Heart Association (AHA).

"I don't remember having symptoms however my family said I had Tums in my truck, so I must've felt something but didn't realize what I was feeling," Paul said via email. It was noted by AHA that GI issues are often a sign of heart disease.

"Paul is a retired police officer, and was home," Stephanie said. "He was walking across the house and into the kitchen, and he bumped into the kitchen island. I was sitting at the kitchen table, and I looked up and watched him crash into the wall. I froze for a second, then screamed for

John, and called 911."

John began CPR on Paul and Stephanie called 911.

It was explained by Stephanie in a press release, "They had heard the 911 call, and when people heard '60-year-old-male' and the name of our street, they knew who it was."

A portable AED was in the car. Paul's former colleagues were on their way from the police department.

"When he arrived at [the hospital], he had another heart attack," Carly, Paul's daughter, said. "They took him right up to the cath lab and put in five stents."

Paul was in ICU for about six days, according to AHA officials.

According to the AHA, "Doctors implanted an Impella device to keep his blood moving and let his heart rest. While he was in the ICU, doctors needed to change Impella pumps to get the correct size to prevent damage to his red blood cells. After two days with the second pump, his heart began working correctly."

Paul was not out of the woods yet, because after leaving the ICU for the cardiac step-down unit, fluid built up around Paul's heart, it was stated. This required a drain, which meant he stayed in the hospital for another week. From there, he went to the acute care unit at Garnet Health for six days, it was noted.

On June 24, 2025, Paul went home. The next month, he was able to ride in the lead car at Ellenville's Fourth of July parade. He also completed six weeks of cardiac rehab at Ellenville Regional



Paul Craft will take part in this year's Hudson Valley Heart Walk. Craft is pictured with his family (daughter Abbe, wife Stephanie and daughter Carly). He will share his story during the Walk.

-Photo courtesy of American Heart Association

Hospital after returning home, according to organizers.

How is Paul's health now?

"I feel happy and healthy now! I'm grateful that I was able to return to the people and things I love. I follow up with all of my doctors routinely!"

As for the Walk, Paul said, "I became

involved with the Walk as a result of my heart attacks. I want to raise awareness and let people know how very important it is to take care of yourself with exercise, diet, and regular doctor visits."

For more information, to register or donate, visit [www.heart.org/hudsonvalleyheartwalk](http://www.heart.org/hudsonvalleyheartwalk).

# Premier Medical Group, Dr. Bertrand Norvilus to be recognized during annual Art & Soul Gala

By Kristine Coulter

The Haiti Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, will hold the 14th Annual Art & Soul Gala on Thursday, April 16 at Vassar College. During the events, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Vassar College's Alumnae House in Poughkeepsie, Premier Medical Group and Dr. Bertrand Norvilus, will be honored for "uncompromising support of and dedication to the Fierville Clinic and the 47 villages it serves in northwest Haiti."

Members of the Haiti Project told Beacon Free Press via email, "This year, the Art & Soul Gala will feature the Premier Medical Group as one of its honorees. Dr. Sunil Khurana will be representing the medical group; these are physicians who have exhibited a high degree of excellence in medical care for residents of the Hudson Valley for decades. Premier Medical Group has been with the Haiti Project from the very beginning supporting us year after year to ensure that medical care for the underserved populations of Haiti are being cared for."

They noted, "Dr. Bertrand Norvilus, who puts his life on the line week after week in getting to the clinic will be our second honoree. Because of the ban on travel from Haiti, he will be part of the

event via videotape. Sometimes, Dr. Norvilus traverses gang roadblocks to get to the clinic. Ironically, he also must care for them when they come to the clinic for their own medical needs."

"Working with the Haiti Project is important to me because it provides an opportunity in which I can directly help people most in need while also highlighting the beauty of Haitian culture," said planning team member and Vassar junior Logan Watts. Watts, who hopes to be a doctor one day according to organizers, added, "This opportunity also allows me to work within a motivating, intimate community of individuals who are dedicated to the mission of the organization."

Twisted Soul will cater the event. Entertainment will be provided by the band La Bonne Vie. The "singing surgeon," Dr. Elvis Francois, will join in the festivities. Dr. Francois is of Haitian origin and has recently completed his final year of Harvard's Spine Surgery Fellowship, it was stated. Music during cocktail hour will be provided by Vassar's Mahagonny Jazz Combo. Members remarked, "The Haiti Project is humbled by its sponsors and supporters whose belief in our work encourages us to keep going. The challenges are sometimes insurmountable



The Haiti Project clinic and solar lab in Haiti.

-Photo courtesy of The Haiti Project

but the tangible difference we make is profound. We are forever grateful to them."

What will the funds be going towards?

"The funds raised support the care of people from 47 villages in the remote mountains of Haiti who normally would not have any healthcare at all. Many of the local clinics have closed due to gang presence. Thousands of people come annually to the clinic for evaluation and free medication is offered to them as well. There is also a full-time nurse at the clinic who is also supported by the project," said Haiti Project members.

Sara Neequaye, a Vassar senior, said, "Being a part of the Haiti Project for the past four years has been a transformative experience. I've witnessed how collaboration between students, medical physicians, artists, and local churches can drive meaningful change to a community miles away in Haiti, despite the ongoing conflict." Sara has been working with The Haiti Project for four years. "As someone

hoping to launch my career in public health, I'm grateful for the learning opportunity and hope to keep up this work past graduation," she said.

Members added, "We are so lucky here to be able to go to a doctor and get the best care - health care is not a privilege but something that should be afforded to everyone; we're happy to be a part of it."

Board of Director member David Schwartz stated, "The Clinic is in a very remote part of Haiti. And, as in so much of the country, the people lack adequate medical care. Before this clinic was built, many people would never be able to even see a doctor. Now they can, and it is life-changing."

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available through the Ticket/Sponsorship Link. Tickets for the event are \$125. Sponsorships that help underwrite the clinic's annual operational budget, including the physician's salary, nurses, and medications are welcomed, stated organizers.

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