

WISHING ALL A PEACEFUL PASSOVER & EASTER!

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Breakneck Connector and Bridge project to begin on April 21

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) announced that Breakneck Ridge, other area trails, and the adjacent Breakneck Ridge Metro-North Station will close on April 21, as part of the construction of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Breakneck Connector and Bridge project in Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

The public will be able to hike the Breakneck Ridge rock scramble and the Upper Overlook at Breakneck Ridge through April 20, before the two-year closure takes effect.

The closure will allow for the complete renovation of the Metro-North Breakneck Ridge station and construction of the Fjord Trail's Breakneck Connector and Bridge. The new Breakneck Connector trail and pedestrian bridge will provide hikers with an alternative to walking on the dangerous and narrow State Route 9D to access popular area trailheads and will create cohesive access to and from the 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 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 native trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly flowering plants.

Continued on page 2

## Renegades go up and down to split series with Brooklyn



New York Yankees prospect and shortstop, George Lombard Jr. prepares to take a swing during the Hudson Valley Renegades opening series.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

When the Hudson Valley Renegades went down to Brooklyn for a little High-A Subway Series, the boardwalk gave a cold welcome. A narrowly missed snowstorm and tempers flared for a first-inning ejection. Though baseball weather escapes them for now, the Renegades' bats and bullpen were warm enough to salvage a series split.

The First Farewell

Before Sunday's game, the New York Yankees promoted catcher and part-time power hitter Antonio Gomez to the AA Somerset Patriots. With a .982 OPS in six games, plus 6 RBI and 12 total bases, Gomez is headed up the Yankee ranks after 96 games in the Hudson Valley. His catching debut was a two-way beauty, catching No. 4 prospect Ben Hess' professional debut and mashing a grand slam in

Continued on page 6

## Front entrance now open at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls after renovation work complete

By Kristine Coulter

Easter Sunday, the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, will be held at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls with newly revealed renovations. Worshipers will be able to use the front entrance and steps, which have been closed since early 2024, for this year's Resurrection Sunday services. The Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this month with dignitaries and community members gathered on a rainy day.

In the spring of 2023, major masonry and renovation projects were begun at Zion. According to Father Alex Herasimtschuk, Zion's priest-in-charge, the restoration of the front facade and bell tower, began in the summer of 2024.

For more than a year, the front steps of Zion were closed due to safety concerns, while renovations were being made. That is until recently - when the steps and facade were completed and dedicated during a ceremony on April 5.

Parishioners have said the last remodel to the front of the Church was done in the 1960s, under the leadership of Father Whistler, according to Fr. Alex.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

The day of the Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association ribbon-cutting ceremony, it was raining. The first portion of the ceremony, where

the guest speakers made remarks, was held inside the church.

Continued on page 2

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## Front entrance now open at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls after renovation work complete



A ceremony was held inside Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls before the unveiling of the church's new facade and steps.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

"It's really gorgeous," Fr. Alex said of the renovations. "It's really beautiful and it makes me so happy."

Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber remarked, "It looks amazing out there. You guys did a wonderful job."

Wappinger Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini noted the restoration was completed during the Town of Wappinger's 150th year of formation.

"This truly is a beautiful building in our community," said the supervisor. He said one should reflect on "Zion's incredible impact on our community."

Beth Devine, president of the Wappingers Falls Historical Society, said that Zion Episcopal Church "has a long history of outreach in the community."

Christian Ingo, co-founder of Art in Stone Masonry and Design, offered thanks to his team for the work they did on the project.

Gordon MacGill, with the Bedell Fund Committee at St. Bedford's Church in Bedford, Westchester County, also offered remarks. Zion received a grant from the foundation for some of the project.

Reverend Matthew Heyd, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, stated, "God's love is bigger than this place."

He said this is "a journey we'll be on together for years to come."

Before heading outside for the ribbon-cutting, Fr. Alex said thoughtful consideration, and prayer were offered as to who should cut the ribbon. It was decided that property manager for the church, Doug McNeil, and Poppy Hinkaew, Zion's first lady, should be the ribbon cutters because they both "endured so many conversations about mortar."

The assembled group clapped and cheered as the ceremonial ribbon was cut and the front entrance was once again open for worshipers.

## Breakneck Connector and Bridge project to begin on April 21

Continued from cover

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.

"As a unique hiking area with its own dedicated rail station stop, the Breakneck Ridge and Hudson Highlands trails are popular destinations. The interior trail system will

remain open during construction, and we encourage hikers to use this as an opportunity to learn about the many other fabulous hiking areas in the vicinity. Once the project is complete, the addition of structured parking along Route 9D with available restroom facilities as well as a safe and accessible path to the trailheads will be a welcome addition to the Hudson Highlands," said Linda Cooper, Regional Director for New York State Parks.

"This is the start of a transformational

project that will ensure access to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve for people of all abilities and recreational interests. At the same time, it will help better manage the increased tourism the region has been experiencing while helping to restore the natural ecosystem of the Hudson Highlands. It's truly a resilience project in every sense of the term," said HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala.

Peter Mullan, President and CEO of HHFT added: "We express our greatest thanks to our committed partners at New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Metro-North Railroad, and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, whose collaboration has been invaluable in bringing this project to life."

During construction, there will be no public access to the Breakneck Ridge and Wilkinson Memorial, or Lower Brook

trailheads, which will remain closed until construction is completed. The Washburn/Cornish trailheads, Notch Trail, and Little Stony Point will remain open and accessible to the public while construction is underway. 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 duration of the construction period.

Work on the Breakneck Connector and Bridge will take place from just north of the tunnel on Route 9D to the Breakneck Ridge Metro-North Railroad train station in the Town of Fishkill.

Additional information on construction logistics will be provided as it becomes available. HHFT will maintain a construction tracker page on its website to share regular updates with the public.

## State senators urge DOT action on Hudson Valley bridge safety

Senators Michelle Hinchey (D-41st), James Skoufis (D-42nd) and Rob Rolison (R-39th) sent a letter to New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez expressing concerns regarding recent findings by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on the potential structural vulnerability of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge (which spans Hudson to Catskill) and Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

These findings come as part of the NTSB's investigation into last year's collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Md., which crumbled after a cargo ship struck one of its support piers. NTSB's investigation revealed that Maryland officials failed to assess the bridge's vulnerability—an evaluation that would have shown the bridge's risk of collapse was nearly 30 times above the acceptable limit. This oversight has raised alarms about other bridges nationwide, which also lack such assessments, including the Rip Van Winkle and Newburgh-Beacon bridges.

In their letter, the lawmakers posed specific questions to Commissioner Dominguez regarding the DOT's stance on the NTSB's findings, timelines for addressing possible structural vulnerabilities, safety assessment protocols, prioritization of protection projects, and the

availability of state funding for repairs.

Hinchey said, "Thousands of Hudson Valley residents and visitors rely on the Rip Van Winkle and Newburgh-Beacon Bridges every day – we can't wait for a disaster to test their safety. The tragic implosion of Baltimore's Key Bridge was a wake-up call, proving why proactive inspections and reinforcements are essential. We need to know what's being done to evaluate any possible threats so we can ensure the security of everyone who crosses these vital links to our communities."

Skoufis said, "It's been just over a year since the collapse of the Key Bridge in Baltimore. Six overnight workers were tragically killed, and we must take every action possible to prevent another tragedy from occurring. The two bridges flagged by the National Transportation Safety Board located in the Hudson Valley are vital arteries for the region. Ensuring they remain usable, accessible, and—most of all—safe, is of utmost importance."

Rolison said, "Our bridges are lifelines for communities and commerce. The NTSB's findings make clear that we can't wait for a crisis to act. We urge the DOT to move swiftly in assessing and securing the Newburgh-Beacon and Rip Van Winkle Bridges to protect the thousands who rely on them every day."

## Dintino begins tenure as DCC president

Dutchess Community College has named Dennis Dintino vice president for finance and administration. He began his tenure on April 1.

A seasoned financial and operational leader, Dintino has held senior positions at Columbia University, NYU and the former Polytechnic University. At NYU's Tandon School of Engineering, he led a \$100 million campus transformation initiative that included a 10,000-square-foot MakerSpace. He has also worked with colleges and universities nationwide through his consulting work with the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). Dintino holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Rutgers University, graduating magna cum laude.

"Dennis brings extensive experience in higher education finance and administration, coupled with valuable consulting expertise," said DCC President Peter Grant Jordan. "He has a proven track record leading strategic financing and campus transformation initiatives, which makes him well-qualified to guide DCC's financial and master planning strategy during this pivotal time. As we continue to make critical investments in people, programs, partnerships and physical assets, Dennis's leadership and expertise will help ensure our financial resources align with the College's strategic priorities and long-term vision."

At DCC, Dintino is focused on ensuring that financial planning and resource allocation support strategic priorities and long-term growth. His responsibilities include oversight of the College's operating budget, capital projects and key operational areas such as Finance and Budget,



Dennis Dintino

-Courtesy photo DCC

Facilities, Safety and Security, and Information Technology.

"My guiding principle has always been to do what's best for the College," said Dintino. "At DCC, that means starting with the mission and the strategic plan—then building the tactical and budgetary plans that get us there. I'm energized by President Jordan's vision and encouraged by the collaborative spirit I've seen at all levels of the College—from the Board of Trustees to faculty, staff and students—and by the deep commitment to the community DCC serves. I'm excited to contribute to the momentum DCC has built and help advance the important work already underway."

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See story, page 8




John Hettinger      Joseph Kirchhoff

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## DA, Family Services honor crime victims, Champions of Victims' Rights on April 10



Trooper Isabella Sokolik of the New York State Police receives the 2025 Champions of Victims' Rights Award from Michael Jones of Family Services.  
-Photo by Curtis Schmidt



Detective Brad Cookinham of the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department receives the 2025 Champions of Victims' Rights Award from Kira Lunde of Family Services.  
-Photo by Curtis Schmidt



Speaking at the Candlelight Vigil to honor crime victims were survivors Erin Clancy, above, and Sha-Ava Crooks, below.  
-Courtesy photos



Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi and Family Services Chief Executive Officer Leah Feldman hosted events to support crime victims and survivors in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week on April 10 at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie.

The events included the Family Services' Center for Victim Safety and Support 12th Annual Visions of Hope and Healing Art Show, the presentation of the 2025 Champions of Victims' Rights Award honorees and the District

Attorney's Candlelight Vigil to honor crime victims.

The 2025 Champions of Victims' Rights Award honorees include Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department Detective, Brad Cookinham and New York State Trooper Isabella Sokolik.

The Candlelight Vigil included presentations by crime victim survivors Erin Clancy and Sha-Ava Crooks.

Works in the of Hope and Healing Art Show were on display in the lobby of the Family Partnership Center.

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# Viewpoints

## Doing the math on Social Security

By Irv Miller

Many people are proud of their innumeracy in math, but embarrassed by illiteracy in reading. The question that is asked is: What practical use is there for math? Currently, there is a big furor over the status of Social Security. Let us look at how the math of a grade-school student could provide a solution to the debate.

Consider the following conditions: A person makes \$100,000 a year; 10 percent is paid toward Social Security. That person works for 40 years, retires at 60, lives until 90, and receives \$20,000 per year in Social Security payments.

Over those 40 years, he pays  $\$100,000 \times .10 \times 40 = \$400,000$ . At 90 he is paid back  $(90-60) \times \$20,000 = \$600,000$ . He receives \$200,000 more than he paid into Social Security.

The question is: How do we resolve the excess money? Either we increase his payments to more than 10 percent or reduce the amount he receives. One absurd solution is to remove healthcare so he will not live so long.

Mathematics is all about finding different ways to solve the problem. Here are some solutions, of which many will be familiar:

- You could increase the age for receiving Social Security to 70. The concern is this is unfair.

- We could remove the cap of \$168,000. This would have the wealthy pay much, much more into Social Security. The wealthy would not be happy.

- We could reduce the benefits from \$20,000 to about \$14,000 a year. No one should be happy.

- We could increase the payroll tax to 15 percent. No one would be happy.

I have given you four solutions. There are some solutions to me which would be absurd:

- Eliminate the tax on Social Security;

- Eliminate taxes on people who earn a living through tips;

- Lower the income tax.

We all benefit from these solutions in the short term, but in the long term it would be disastrous. Our basic instincts would not be operating in our best interests.

The math would allow us to evaluate the various options, and then we could choose the one that is most equitable. In my personal opinion, I would chose removing the cap, increasing the tax rate, or raising the age for receiving Social Security. I took the last option for myself, because that was the only one I could control.

*Irvin Miller Ph.D. is founder and executive director of the Imaginative Multi-Media & Math and Physics Exploratorium in Lagrangeville. He was a senior programmer at IBM from 1964 to 1992.*

## Kindred Creeks Farm in Poughquag moves Spring Kick-Off to April 19

The surprise snow didn't help. Kindred Creeks Farm, located at 8 Pleasant Ridge Road in Poughquag, will now conduct their Spring Kick-off on Saturday, April 19 from noon to 4 p.m. to benefit Happy Life Animal Rescue.

They will be holding pet adoptions that day at the farm. The first 100 people to bring an item to donate will receive a free Kindred Creeks plant. Their wish list can be viewed at [happylifeanimalrescue.org/ways-to-help/wishlist/](http://happylifeanimalrescue.org/ways-to-help/wishlist/).

There will be lots of fun activities for the kids, photos with Easter Bunny, Bounce House, craft stations and sow your own seeds stations. It will also be the Grand Opening of the Kindred Creeks Farm Store. Happy Life Animal Rescue will have dogs and kittens for adoption at

the event as well, plus food trucks and plenty of vendors.

One of the sponsors is Lobster Hill Farm, which will provide goats at the Spring Kick-Off.

Jessica, Andrew, and their children run a first generation regenerative farm on 75 acres in Brewster. Lobster Hill Farm concentrates mainly on dairy goats, pigs and pastured poultry for meat and eggs with plans to expand that livestock to include meat goats, sheep and a dairy cow. They are committed to bringing you the very best products, straight from their farm to your home. Visit [lobsterhillfarm.com](http://lobsterhillfarm.com) for more information.

Tickets for the Spring Kick-Off are on sale now at [Kindredcreekspringkickoff.eventbrite.com](http://Kindredcreekspringkickoff.eventbrite.com).

## Board of Health meeting set for April 17

The Dutchess County Board of Health will be holding a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 17, at 4 p.m. at the Dutchess County Department of Health, at 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite

106, in the City of Poughkeepsie. One may participate via Microsoft Teams by calling 1-516-268-4602 and enter the Conference ID number: 263 004 685#.

## BEACON FREE PRESS

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Albert Osten, President

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## Abilities First, Foundation for Abilities First NY announce 2025 Recognition Reception Honorees

Abilities First has announced the 2025 Recognition Reception, which will take place on Thursday, June 5, at Curry Estates in East Fishkill from 5-7 p.m. This celebratory event honors community partners whose unwavering support and dedication have transformed countless lives and advanced our mission of empowerment and inclusion.

"At Abilities First, we believe in the power of partnership to unlock potential and create lasting change," said Pete Setaro, FAFNY Board Chairperson. "The individuals we honor this year represent the best of our community—dedicated partners whose generosity and commitment make our work possible."

Abilities First and the Foundation for Abilities First New York (FAFNY) present their distinguished 2025 honorees:

### Business Partner of the Year Award

TRIO Community Meals, the nation's largest provider of older adult nutrition programs, under the leadership of Food Service Director Kim Constable of Poughkeepsie. This innovative partnership creates meaningful volunteer opportunities for Abilities First individuals, enabling them to serve our senior community while developing valuable skills and connections.

### Volunteer of the Year Award

Steven Howell, CPA, DABFA at RBT

CPA's, LLC, and Chair of the Abilities First Inc. Board, whose volunteer leadership and unwavering dedication have been transformative for the organization. Howell's strategic vision and compassionate approach have significantly advanced Abilities First's mission, creating meaningful impact throughout the community and enhancing the lives of those we serve.

### Abilities First Participant Person of the Year Award

This year, Wally Domoulin will be honored for embodying the essence of resilience and determination. Wally's inspiring journey exemplifies extraordinary strength in overcoming obstacles while maintaining an uplifting spirit that inspires everyone around him.

### Friend of Abilities First Award

This year, they will present this award to Lorraine Heneka, In Memoriam, for her extraordinary volunteer leadership spanning 14 years. Lorraine's unwavering dedication to Abilities First created a lasting legacy of compassion, inclusion, and meaningful support that continues to impact our community.

For further information regarding event sponsorship, tickets, and congratulatory journal ad opportunities, please contact JoAnn Parker at [joann.parker@abilitiesfirstny.org](mailto:joann.parker@abilitiesfirstny.org).

## Roadwork to begin in Wappinger on April 21

The Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) has announced work to improve the traffic signal at the intersection of Middlebush Rd (CR 93) and Sgt Palmateer Way in the Town of Wappinger is expected to begin on or about the week of April 21st.

Project work will include upgrading the traffic signal with a mast arm mounted signal, installing a vehicle detection system to improve flow of traffic through the intersection, and

widening the shoulders to improve traffic safety. Work will be intermittent throughout the project as equipment arrives and is installed and, when active, will include alternating lane closures. Work will be limited to 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The project is anticipated to be completed in the fall.

For more information, please contact the Dutchess County Department of Public Works' Engineering Division at 845-486-2925.

## Rally to end systemic violence set for April 19

A rally to demand an end to systemic violence, basic human rights, and fair pathways home for incarcerated people. In honor and remembrance of Samuel Harrell, Robert Brooks, Messiah Nantwi, Edward Sholtz, and countless others—whose lives were taken by state violence,

organizers will hold an interfaith vigil.

The vigil will take place on April 19, from 1-3 p.m., at Verplanck Avenue & Matteawan Road, Beacon.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/April19Justice>



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.



## A Rev250 Update from the Dutchess History Community



The Dutchess County Rev250 logo.

-Courtesy image

By Will Tatum

After years of discussion, planning, and a fair amount of wondering about funding, Dutchess County and the nation are finally, decisively entering the 250th Anniversary Cycle of the American Revolution. On Saturday, April 19, tens of thousands of Americans will gather in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, to witness the commemoration of the "Shot Heard 'Round The World" and the first bloodshed of what would become America's struggle to create a new nation. The municipal historians, historical societies, preservation groups, and other members of the Dutchess County History Community stand ready to begin delivering innovative programming this year. Here's a brief look at what's ahead.

As part of the 2025 Dutchess County Budget, your county legislators authorized a pool of \$75,000 for a grant program supporting special public programming designed to educate Dutchess County residents about our role in the American Revolution. During January and February, the Dutchess County Department of History received 27 applications for funding, totaling a request of \$129,000, from 19 out of our 20 historical societies. Projects ranged from special speaker series and exhibits to three theatrical productions, and a multi-town Quaker tour. This return on investment far exceeded the county's expectations and was so impressive that your elected leadership is now working to expand the funding line in order to ensure your access to Rev250 programming this year. We have high hopes for an expanded grant pool for 2026. In the meantime, here are a few of our headliner projects.

The Little Nine Partners Historical Society, which serves the Town of Pine Plains, submitted a proposal to perform a new theatrical production based on the pension application of a Revolutionary War soldier's widow. In 1842, Mary Ingalls applied for financial relief from the federal government based on an 1836 Act of Congress. Her late husband, Lieutenant Elihu Ingalls, had served under Colonel Morris Graham of Pine Plains during the Revolution and never received support from the preceding Revolutionary War pension programs. Worse yet, all of the documentation for Ingalls' service was lost in a fire. Mary's application, which survives today in the National Archives, contains affidavits from eight witnesses who served with her husband, along with her own narrative of her husband's service and testimony to the difficulties of life for a single woman in 1840s Pine Plains. Drawing on the the-

atrical talents that we have seen displayed in their annual cemetery tours, the Little Nine Partners Historical Society will make this pension application come to life. A special thanks to Dyan Wapnick of the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, for her work in researching and drafting the script.

The Pawling Historical Society has long preserved the John Kane House on the outskirts of the Village of Pawling. The aforementioned John Kane was one of Dutchess County's preeminent Loyalists and quickly found himself persona non grata. None other than General George Washington replaced Kane as the head of household in 1778, when the Continental Army made its winter encampment in the Fredericksburg district, spread across the modern towns of Pawling and Patterson. The Pawling Historical Society proposed both an engaging new physical exhibit on Washington's winter-long stay, as well as an innovative virtual reality experience, through which visitors can explore a digital reconstruction of the Kane House as it might have appeared in 1778 and investigate topics including the formation of the Culper Spy ring. A special thanks is due to Trench Brady, whose graphic design talents ensure that this project will rank among the finest new local history exhibits in the nation.

A coalition of six local historical societies has assembled to explore the legacy of Quakers in Dutchess County. Led by the Clinton and Millbrook Historical Societies, the Quaker Meeting House Group submitted a proposal for a multi-town tour, linking together the county's four oldest standing Quaker meeting houses. In addition to a driving tour guide and online material, this project will equip each site with a set of exhibit banners that will explore the unique history of each Quaker congregation and the role their members played in the American Revolution. Special thanks are due to Cynthia Koch, Craig Marshall, Trench Brady, Denise Byrnes, and Alison Meyer for shepherding this project from the drawing board to the application review committee.

From March 24 to 26, I represented Dutchess County and New York at the final national summit for America 250/Rev250 hosted by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia. Forty states sent representation to this event, which was the last opportunity to share ideas, plans, and challenges ahead of April 19. With assistance from Trench Brady, I assembled a trade show display to show off a



The Dutchess Rev250 Trade Show Display at "A Common Cause to All," the national America250 Summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, in March 2025.

- Courtesy photo

sampling of the excellent projects that the Dutchess County Rev250 Grant Program generated. Ours was the only such display on hand during the event, which attracted more than 500 attendees. The Dutchess History Community has always distinguished itself as an especially gifted pool of talent within the state of New York; now we are primed and ready to demonstrate our achievements on the national level. Stay tuned for more updates as the year rolls ahead.

Will Tatum has served as the Dutchess County Historian since October 2012. He holds a PhD in Early American History from Brown University and is a peer-reviewed published author. His annual Tavern Trail program series engages new history audiences across the county, while his archival access initiatives, including the Dutchess County Ancient Documents Project, continue to make additional resources available to historians. Tatum is the chair of the Dutchess County Rev250 Committee.

## Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

March 15: Property Damage-Main Street-Caller reported damage to his vehicle as a result of a Hit & Run Accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted. Suspect vehicle located.

March 18: Fraud-Main Street- Caller reported being a victim of fraud. Report filed. Investigation conducted.

March 18: Lost Property- Main Street-Caller reported that his laptop was lost or stolen. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

March 21: Assault-Main Street-Caller reported being assaulted. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

March 24: Criminal Mischief-Forrestal Heights- Caller reported damage to her car. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

March 25: Arrest-Beacon-Jarell C. Brown, 32, of Beacon, was charged with Murder 1st, Murder 2nd & Conspiracy 2nd.

March 26: Suspicious Condition-Robert Cahill Drive- Daral Reilly, 54, of Beacon, was charged with violating Section 143, Subdivision 4 of the Beacon City Code, knowingly committing the offense of littering streets or other public places prohibited.

March 26: Remand-Municipal Plaza-

William J. Anderson, 37, of Poughkeepsie, was remanded after a Beacon City Court appearance.

March 27: Burglary-Attempt -Caller reported someone trying to enter her home. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

March 27: Dispute-Municipal Plaza-Caller reported being harassed by an individual on a motorcycle. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

March 28: Disorderly Subjects-Main Street-Tamara C. Hill, 25, of Poughkeepsie, was charged with Assault 3rd, Harassment 2nd, Obstruct Governmental Administration 2nd.

March 29: Suspicious Condition-Main Street- Caller reported a male not known to her was questioning children. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

March 30: Assist Other Agency-Railroad Drive- Miguel A. Herrera, 34, of Newburgh, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

March 30: Unwanted Party-Wolcott Avenue- Rakim R. Preyer, 29, of Poughkeepsie, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

Number of Calls: 275  
Auto Accidents: 20  
Domestics: 2



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## Raise funds for American Heart Association during annual Heart Walk on April 26



The 2025 Heart Walk will take place on the Walkway Over the Hudson on April 26. Pictured are participants in a previous American Heart Association Heart Walk.

-Courtesy photo American Heart Association

**By Kristine Coulter**

The 2025 Dutchess-Ulster Hudson Valley Heart Walk is set for Saturday, April 26. The annual event will take place at the Walkway Over the Hudson, 61 Parker Ave., in Poughkeepsie.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. The Walk starts at 9:30 a.m.

Stated on the American Heart Association website, <https://www2.heart.org>, "Did you know that cardiovascular disease occurs every 39 seconds and is the No. 1 killer of all Americans? Heart disease also kills more women than all forms of cancer combined. And congenital cardiovascular defects are the most common cause of infant death from birth defects."

"Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of all Americans and stroke is No. 5. The American Heart Association, which is also the American Stroke Association, encourage people to be part of the Heart Walk and to fundraise, to help the American Heart Association fund research and programs to change that statistic. Being part of the Heart Walk is also a great way to improve your own health, by taking a walk in a beautiful, iconic place," said Katherine McCarthy, Senior Marketing Communications Director, New York State for the American Heart Association.

The goal is to raise \$350,000 for the American Heart Association this year.

The funds, as stated on the American Heart Association website, go towards lifesaving science, such as:

Science that can create an artificial heart valve

- Prevent a stroke
- Put scientific advances into doctors' hands
- Correct heart defects in newborn babies
- Someday, find a cure for high blood pressure

"We're grateful to Dr. Ali Hammoud of Nuance Health for chairing, and to all of our sponsors, especially Ramsey Mazda, Nuance Health and Laerdal, for being major supporters. And we are grateful to every single walker who raises money so we can continue to save lives. We will invest the money in research and programs to continue fighting heart disease and stroke," remarked McCarthy.

Organizers hope that people take away a sense of hope from taking part in the Walk.

"We hope they are inspired by seeing the people who walk in honor of loved ones they've lost to heart disease and stroke, and how they support the American Heart Association so that others don't suffer similar loss. We hope that seeing all the survivors who have benefited from the science, research, and programs of the American Heart Association motivates them to make a daily walk a regular part of their lives. April is Stress Awareness Month and walking is a great way to fight stress. We also hope they take away a sense of community. For all of us who work at the Heart Association, it's amazing to see people come together united for a single cause," McCarthy said.

For more information, call 845-764-1156.

## Renegades go up and down to split series with Brooklyn

*Continued from cover*

Wednesday's 7-2 rout. After missing half of last season due to injury, Gomez finished strong, hitting .299 in the final two months of 2024. Good luck, Antonio!

**Bombing in Brooklyn?**

Though the Renegades collected 10 hits on Wednesday, they'd combined for just three the night before. Gomez's grand slam was the offensive peak. Brenny Escanio laced a home run to center in the previous inning. On Thursday, the Renegades earned an 8-3 victory behind Jackson Castillo, who went 3-5 with 6 RBI. The rest of the lineup combined for three hits.

The rest of the week's offense followed suit with the outside temperatures, dropping through the weekend. Saturday saw just three Renegades runs in 14 innings, as the teams went Dutch on the doubleheader. Game 1 went to the Renegades, 2-0. Brooklyn snapped the 'Gades three-game winning streak in the nightcap, 2-1. Jose Colmanares broke a seven-inning

Sunday shutout with his own solo shot.

**Bookend Losses**

Carlos Lagrange was scorched for five runs in his debut to start the series. The Renegades just couldn't make up the ground, and Brooklyn went on to win 7-3. On Sunday, five first-inning runs by Brooklyn made the difference, as the Renegades fell once more in the series finale, 8-1.

The Renegades won't meet their in-state rivals again until the first week in July. Returning to the Hudson Valley with a 5-4 record, Hudson Valley looks to snap a two-game skid as they face off against the Wilmington Blue Rocks. It's the team's first six-game home series, and fans can enjoy a full week of fun. Educators can take a spring break trip to Teacher Appreciation Night. Or, celebrate Air Jordans and Dr. Naismith with Hoops and Sneakerheads Night, learn "All About Baseball" with some trivia, and get their own Renegades paddle on Pickleball Night (first 1,000 fans).

# HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



## April is a time to celebrate nature & wildlife

A lot of things happen in April. Maybe someone played a joke on you on the 1st because of April Fool's Day. National Deep Dish Pizza Day was April 5, and the 9th was National Unicorn Day! Sadly, April 15 is Tax Day, but did you know that the 28th is Blueberry Pie Day?

Perhaps because its springtime, April is also a month to commemorate nature and wildlife. April 14 was National Gardening Day, and April 23 is National Picnic Day! The 22nd is Earth Day, the 26th is Audubon Day, and the 25th is National Arbor Day. All in all, its a great month to appreciate and enjoy the outdoors.

### The Earth

Americans were becoming aware of the effects of pollution on the environment in the early 1960s. Rachel Carson's bestseller "Silent Spring" pointed out the dangerous effects of pesticides on the American countryside. Later, a 1969 fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River shed light on the problem of chemical waste disposal.

Until then, protecting the planet's natural resources was not part of the national political agenda. Factories pumped pollutants into the air, lakes and rivers with few legal consequences. Gas-guzzling cars were considered a sign of prosperity, and few Americans recycled.

The first Earth Day was held April 22, 1970. It was effective at raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. During the 1970s, several important pieces of environmental legislation were passed. Among them were the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. Another key development was the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, which was tasked with safe-

guarding the natural environment – air, water, and land.

### Birds

John James Audubon was an ornithologist, naturalist and painter who was well-known for his extensive studies on American birds and their habitats. Audubon's greatest work, "The Birds of America," is now widely considered as one of the most noteworthy examples of wildlife illustration. After his death, the National Audubon Society was created in John Audubon's memory. The society promotes and protects habitats that support the world's birds and sponsors National Audubon Day.

### Trees

Pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in the 1800s noted that it was largely a treeless prairie region. The new residents needed trees as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel and building materials, and for shade from the hot sun.

J. Sterling Morton, the secretary of the Nebraska Territory, proposed a tree planting holiday called "Arbor Day." More than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day in 1872. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states. The Arbor Day Foundation was created in 1972. Its mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

### A fun way to contribute

Making birdseed feeders is a great way to help birds locally. They add natural ornamentation and are practical in that they contribute to the food web. Plus, they're fun to make!

To make 6-7 cookie-cutter feeders, you will need a bowl, 3/4 cup flour, 3 tablespoons corn syrup, a nonstick saucepan, an unflavored gelatin packet, a chopstick, large needle, 4 cups birdseed, nonstick



Making birdseed feeders is a great way to help birds locally.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

cooking spray, spoon, 1/2 cup water, string and cookie cutters!

First, spray a plate and the cookie cutters with non-stick spray. Next, bring water and corn syrup to a boil. Reduce the heat and add the gelatin, continuously whisking to dissolve the powder.

Transfer this mixture to the mixing bowl and add flour, stirring the mixture until well blended. Add additional hot water or flour, as needed, to achieve a good consistency. Once the mixture is the thickness of cake batter, add the birdseed and mix it so that the seeds are thoroughly coated. Fill each cookie cutter to the brim with the birdseed mix. Use a chopstick to create holes approximately 1 inch away from the ornament's edge.

Allow the bird feeders to dry for 24 hours. Once dry, remove each from the

cookie cutters, thread a string through the hole and tie a knot, leaving a loop for hanging. An organized write-up for the feeders is available here: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/APRIL-COMMEMORATE-NATURE-WILDLIFE-EARTH-ARBOR-AUDUBON-DAYS-ENRICHMENT-7606441>.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>.

## International Night held at Van Wyck Junior High School



The World Languages Department and the Multicultural Club of Van Wyck Junior High School in the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) hosted International Night on Friday, March 21. The event was attended by more than 350 community members.

There was entertainment by the Mid-Hudson Chinese Language Center, the Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler (shoe plattler) Verein from Germania of Poughkeepsie, students of the Doherty Petri School of Irish Dance and a current John Jay High School student. Students' families and local restaurants provided food from different countries.

-Courtesy photos WCSD



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# Hettinger named president of Kirchhoff; Joseph Kirchhoff to remain chairman

Aligning with the firm's growth plans, Joseph Kirchhoff, founder of Kirchhoff, the Hudson Valley-based real estate principal investment firm and the operating company behind Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie and other successful ventures around the country, announced that John Hettinger has assumed the role of President. With this change in leadership, Joseph Kirchhoff will retain his role as Chairman.

Commenting on Hettinger's new role, Kirchhoff said: "Over the past 12 years, John Hettinger and I have had the privilege of partnering together to transform our business. We have been co-managing our platform for many years, and John has been instrumental in virtually every aspect of growing, organizing and institutionalizing our firm. Though I am excited to remain highly active in our organization as Chairman and will continue to be a strong source of support for John and our team, John's tremendous integrity, intelligence, judgment and work ethic make him an ideal fit to lead the firm."

Kirchhoff, a highly-respected businessman and community member, began devel-



Joseph Kirchhoff

oping the basis for Kirchhoff's platform decades ago as an outgrowth of his market-leading construction company, Kirchhoff Construction Management, Inc. Hettinger



John Hettinger

-Courtesy photos Impact PR

joined the firm in 2013 directly out of graduate school and together with Kirchhoff, has overseen the growth and evolution of

Kirchhoff from a local operator to a sophisticated investment firm operating on a national basis.

Hettinger began his career in the Corporate Advisory Group of Perella Weinberg Partners, focusing on the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions and Financial Restructuring activities. Hettinger currently sits on the Harvard Alumni Real Estate Board, the Policy Advisory Board of the Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (US), and the Board of Trustees of Dutchess Day School. Mr. Hettinger graduated from the University of Florida and earned his MBA from Harvard Business School.

"I'm extremely proud to be part of our organization, which comprises incredibly talented individuals," said Hettinger. "It's an honor to work alongside Joe and our team to deliver excellent results for our partners and clients. Notwithstanding what we've collectively been able to accomplish to this point, we have tremendous opportunities ahead as we continue to evolve as a firm."

# Beacon Film Society to present 'Valve Turners'

Beacon Film Society will present "ValveTurners" – in partnership with Beacon Climate Action Now – on Earth Day at The Beacon Movie Theater, 445 Main St., on Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

in Beacon. The Beacon Movie Theater is hosting The Beacon Film Society this spring with a line-up of films by New York filmmakers. The second screening of the season

is 2024 feature documentary "Valve Turners" by Director Steve Bonds-Liptay and fellow climate doc filmmaker Deia Schlosberg will be in attendance for a Q&A following the screening, moderated

by Beacon Climate Action Now. For more information, and tickets, go to: <https://ticketing.useast.veezi.com/purchase/18647?siteToken=gbcmrvjb9512w3bgj0jt6al28>.

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## Easter Bunny visits during annual Easter Egg Hunt in Wappinger



The annual Easter Egg Hunt in Wappinger was held at Brexel-Schlathaus Park on April 5. The Easter Bunny joins local and county officials during the festivities. -Courtesy photos Town of Wappinger





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# Obituaries

## Francis J. Connolly



Francis J. Connolly, 80, an area resident since 1976 and formerly of the Bronx, died on April 4, 2025 at MidHudson Regional Hospital.

Born in Manhattan on July 30, 1944, he was the son of the late Daniel and Alice (Meehan) Connolly. Frank proudly served our country in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and was awarded two Purple Hearts for his service. He had been employed as an Iron Worker and then as a Custodian for the Wappingers Central School District for 25 years until his retirement.

Frank was a member of the American Legion. He will always be remembered as his mother's favorite child! He was known for his sarcastic humor and as the man who always had many stories and

tales to tell; however, he also will be remembered for his kindness and willingness to do things for others.

On November 15, 1969 in the Bronx, Frank married Maureen Doherty who predeceased him on August 16, 2021. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Heather and Kevin Granger, Frank and Holly Connolly; his grandchildren, Fiona, Shepard and Lachlan; his siblings, Matthew Connolly and Alice Ryan; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his wife and parents, he was also predeceased by his siblings, Nancy Plate, Gloria Campbell, Kaki Doherty, Margaret Haughey, Veronica Connolly and Daniel Connolly.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Denis Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery with military honors.

Memorial donations may be made in Frank's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Jo-Ann C. D'Agostino



Jo-Ann C. D'Agostino, 89, a resident of Hopewell Junction for 20 years died on April 4, 2025 at the Hudson Valley Hospice House.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 50 years, Joseph D'Agostino, and her sons; Scott Santos (Beatriz Santos) of Orlando, FL, Paul Santos (Kimberly Santos) of Poughquag, NY, and David Santos (Rik Fairlie) of NYC. Jo-Ann's stepdaughter Jaynie D'Agostino predeceased her. She is also survived by her three grandchildren: Sarah Santos, Brian Santos, and Christopher Santos.

Born in Revere, MA on September 21, 1935, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Bessie (Borden) Smith.

On November 23, 1974 in Hartsdale, Jo-Ann married Joseph F. D'Agostino. After raising their family in Scarsdale,

she and Joe relocated to Hopewell Junction. In 2001 Jo-Ann retired from the University of Connecticut.

At the Hopewell Reformed Church she volunteered in the pastor's office, knitted goods for the unhoused, and was a member of the Christian Women's Club. She loved attending services at Odyssey, a ministry of Hopewell Reformed Church for adults and children with special needs.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Funeral Service was offered at the Hopewell Reformed Church, 143 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction followed by interment in the Hopewell Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hopewell Reformed Church.

## Mary O. Albasi



Mary O. Albasi, a longtime resident of the Bronx and for the past 8 years, a resident of Millbrook, passed away on April 8, 2025, at the age of 88.

Born on November 12, 1936, in the Bronx, Mary was the daughter of the late Michele and Marta Ardissonne. She was married to Eugene Albasi, who predeceased her in 2016. Mary worked for many years as an office manager for a podiatrist, in the Parkchester area of the Bronx.

A true Bronx native, Mary was actively involved in her community, including at the Middletown Senior Center and Santa Maria Church. In her last years, she lived at The Fountains in Millbrook, where she embraced various activities and programs. Known for her knitting and cro-

cheting skills, she was also a dedicated New York Yankees fan, rarely missing a game.

Mary is survived by her son, Gene Albasi; daughter, Roseann Albasi; brother, Frank Ardissonne; sister, Florence Norton; as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Larry Ardissonne, in addition to her parents and husband.

She will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Funeral services will be private for the family.

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

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

## James J. McGowan



James J. McGowan "Chief" a resident of Fishkill, NY since 1962, passed away on April 6, 2025. He was 94 years old.

James was born on September 6, 1930, the son of the late Hugh and Helen (Jones) McGowan in Troy, NY where he was raised and educated graduating from Catholic Central High School and furthered his education at Hudson Valley Community College, both in Troy, NY.

From 1949 to 1951 he proudly served his country in the United States Air Force as a medical assistant.

On September 24, 1960, at St. Anthony's Church in the Bronx, NY he married the one true love of his life Marian (Bray). She survives at home.

For 30 years, James worked for Consolidated Edison - Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, NY as an

Instrument and Control Technician before his retirement in 1992.

James was a longtime parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill, NY.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Moose Club and local Veteran organizations.

"Chief" was instrumental in the leadership establishing the Rombout Fire Company in 1971. He dedicated 50 years of service to the Rombout Fire District, rising up the ranks to Fire Chief and recognized for his service and dedication as Fire Commissioner for 10 years.

James enjoyed riding his bike and taking care of his home and yard throughout his life even at age 94. His family and friends meant the world to him. He took regular trips back to Troy, NY to visit relatives and childhood friends. He enjoyed national and international trips with his beloved wife Marian and traveling to see his son and daughter. He enjoyed camping, whether it be with his work friends, fire department friends or his family. He loved his Wheaton Avenue Neighborhood; especially the Christmas parties, Clambake parties and in his later years, visiting with his neighbors from a recliner in his garage. On the first Wednesday of every month, he spent his mornings at the Redline Diner in Fishkill, NY catching up with his fellow retirees from Con Ed.

In addition to his loving wife Marian, James is survived by his daughter Ann Marie McGowan of Helena, MT and son William James McGowan of Jupiter, FL.

In addition to his parents, James is predeceased by two brothers: David McGowan and Hubert McGowan and two sisters: Jean Colman and Joan Sajler.

A memorial mass will be held at a later date.

## Edward Orellana



Edward Orellana, a resident of Wappingers Falls since 1972, passed away on April 11, 2025 at North Westchester Restorative Therapy and Nursing Center in Mohegan Lake. He was 82. Edward, known affectionately as "Chico" by his family and friends, was born on September 8, 1942 in Harlem to the late Elicio and Candita (Morales) Orellana. On February 23, 1969, he married his beloved wife Kudesa (Ali) Orellana at the Church of All Nations in Manhattan.

Chico was employed by Metro North Railroad as a Master Electrician for 37 years. During his time there, he was recognized as Employee of the Year, and received a Years of Service Award and Safety Award. He loved trains, wood working, watching the NY Yankees and NY Giants, playing golf, and taking trips to the casino.

In addition to his beloved wife Kudesa Orellana, Chico is survived by his sons Edward Orellana of West Virginia, and Marcus Orellana and his wife Jill of Arlington, NY; his grandchildren: Olivia Orellana of Inwood, West Virginia and Kieran Orellana of Arlington, NY; as well as his cousin Joe Morales of Las Vegas, Nevada.

In addition to his parents, Chico was predeceased by his granddaughter Eliza Orellana in 2018, his brother Abraham Orellana in 1978, and his brother Eliceo Orellana Jr. in 2021.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 from 2-6pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction, NY. A Funeral Service will begin at 5:30 pm.

## Richard William Placke April 24, 1949 - September 30, 2024

### When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for  
a little while  
Please do not grieve and shed  
wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you  
through the years  
But start out bravely with  
a gallant smile;  
And for my sake and in my  
name live on and do all the things  
the same, Feed not your loneliness  
on empty days,  
But fill each waking hour  
in useful ways,  
Reach out your hand in comfort  
and in cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you  
and hold you near;  
And never, never be  
afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for  
you in the sky!

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- 105 Employment Opportunity
- 106 Business Opportunity
- 107 Situations Wanted
- 120 Schools
- 121 Special Instruction
- 122 Musical Instruction
- 140 Nursery Schools
- 141 Child Care
- 142 Day Care
- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care
- 150 Announcements
- 151 Adoption
- 152 Novenas
- 154 Lost & Found
- 155 Personal
- 200 Services

- 201 Home Improvement
- 202 Cleaning Services
- 203 Lawn Services
- 221 Professional Services
- 222 Tax Experts
- 223 Beauty Services
- 225 Business Services
- 226 Travel & Services
- 227 Bridal Services
- 295 Financial
- 296 Mortgages
- 300 Real Estate
- 301 Townhouses & Condos
- 302 Commercial Property
- 304 Mobile Homes
- 305 Lots & Acreage
- 400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

## Classified Index

- 401 Apartments for Rent
- 402 Rooms for Rent
- 403 Furnished Rooms
- 404 Furnished Apartments
- 405 Wanted to Rent
- 406 Garages for Rent
- 407 Vacation Rentals
- 408 Houses for Rent
- 420 Commercial Rentals
- 500 Musical Merchandise
- 501 Kid Stuff
- 502 Clothing
- 503 Furniture
- 504 Appliances
- 505 Free Items
- 506 Computers
- 507 Sports Equipment
- 508 Exercise Equipment
- 509 Office Equipment
- 510 Firewood
- 511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
- 512 Winter Merchandise
- 516 Misc. Merchandise
- 700 Pets & Supplies
- 701 Free Pets
- 702 Lost & Found Pets
- 703 Pets for Adoption
- 710 Garage & Yard Sale
- 711 Tag Sale
- 712 Moving sale
- 713 Rummage Sale
- 714 Flea Market
- 715 Craft Corner
- 716 Barn Sale
- 717 Estate Sale
- 718 Auctions
- 719 Antiques

- 720 Vendors Wanted
- 721 Wanted to Buy
- 722 Bazaar
- 723 Consignments
- 724 Farmers Market
- 725 Collectibles
- 750 Events
- 800 Boats
- 801 Campers & Trailers
- 802 Motor Homes
- 803 Recreational Vehicles
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- 901 Vans/SUV's
- 902 Trucks
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## Friends of the Walkway unveils strategic vision for the future

Friends of the Walkway has unveiled a new strategic vision focused on enhancing visitor experience, deepening community engagement, and strengthening regional connectivity at Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. This five-year roadmap sets the course for the organization's continued evolution through 2030 and beyond.

This announcement marks a meaningful shift for the organization, which has spent the past three decades spearheading the transformation of the once-derelict Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge into one of New York's most iconic parks - generating more than \$55 million to help establish the infrastructure and amenities visitors enjoy today.

Friends of the Walkway is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that receives no annual state or federal funding. Instead, the organization relies on donations, grants, and community support to bring Walkway Over the Hudson to life. This includes hosting public programs and events, leading accessibility initiatives such as operating the

park's electric tram, coordinating volunteers, and enhancing the visitor experience through interpretive signage, branding, community engagement and communications.

### Vision for the future

The new name, mission, vision and goals were developed through a dynamic strategic planning process launched in 2024. Friends of the Walkway convened community members, volunteers, and partner organizations including the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Parks and Trails New York to help shape the future of the park.

"The time is right to fully embrace our name - Friends of the Walkway - and focus on our role enhancing the park through programming, events, and fundraising," said Maureen Solero, Board Chair, Friends of the Walkway. "We look forward to launching exciting new initiatives while continuing the beloved traditions our community has come to know and love."

### What's ahead

In the near term, the strategic vision includes: Continuing events like Walkway at Night, the Mayfest Farmers and Makers Market, the July 4th Fireworks Spectacular, and Starry, Starry Night gala; Launching Walkway Connections, a series of free, interactive programs for adults, along with new family-friendly programming prior to each Walkway at Night; Expanding community partnerships to create experiences for under-represented audiences through annual gatherings like Salute2Vets, Pride in the Sky, and more; Growing youth engagement through expanded school tours and the Walkway Explorers program; Creating new volunteer opportunities for both long- and short-term engagement; Ensuring Walkway remains one of the most accessible parks by expanding tram operating hours to serve more guests throughout the year; Launching a digital guestbook to gather real-time visitor feedback and stories; Expanding in-park interactive content and activities to further engage visitors of all ages and Partnering

with wellness organizations to deliver community health and well-being programs.

Long-term goals include: Building digital infrastructure to improve signage, navigation, and guest interactivity; Expanding bike accessibility through rentals and repair stations;

Developing sustainable funding for long-term park maintenance; Elevating the Walkway brand through public art, lighting, and immersive visitor experiences; Cementing the Walkway's status as a regional landmark by leveraging its scale and structure to deliver bold, place-making experiences

"Locals and visitors alike see the Walkway as a place of inspiration, wellness, gathering, and belonging," said Lori Robertson, Executive Director of Friends of the Walkway. "This new strategic vision allows us to grow into our role as a partner to New York State Parks and the New York State Bridge Authority, while keeping the community at the heart of everything we do."

To read the full strategic vision and learn how to get involved, visit [walkway.org/strategicvision](http://walkway.org/strategicvision).

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# Putnam Chorale to host 2 concerts April 25, 26

The Putnam Chorale will perform Antonin Dvorak's Stabat Mater oratorio at two concerts in late April, at the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church in Lagrangeville and at the St. James the Apostle Church in Carmel on April 25 and April 26, respectively, at 7:30 p.m.

The Putnam Chorale, conducted by Maestro Jason C. Tramm, will perform this epic masterwork with its 70-member choir, four renowned vocal soloists, and a professional orchestra. Premiered in Prague in 1880, the Stabat Mater work played a crucial role in Dvorak's international breakthrough as a composer.

The Stabat Mater is a choral composition that depicts the Virgin Mary's grief over the death of her son, Jesus. The piece is based on a 13th century Latin poem by Franciscan friars and is known for its emotional depth and symphonic structure. The music is sorrowful and moving while also offering a vision of heavenly paradise. Dvorak was a man of great faith and found inspiration and consolation in this text after the deaths of his two young children.

According to Maestro Tramm, "Dvorak's Stabat Mater is one of the towering monuments of choral masterworks. The composer



Laura Zahn

focuses on two personal aspects of the



Mark Uhlemann

*-Courtesy photos Putnam Chorale*

poem's emotional world: grief and solace. Dvorak's profoundly moving setting of this ancient text channels the depths of human sorrow and reminds us of music's ability to transform suffering and offer comfort to the soul."

Dr. Tramm is an acclaimed conductor, professor, podcast host, and recognized leader in the artistic community. Tramm's work in the choral, symphonic, and operatic realms have received critical acclaim throughout the United States and abroad. Maestro Tramm currently holds the following musical positions: Artistic Director/Principal Conductor, MidAtlantic Artistic Productions (with whom he made his Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium) debut in 2015). Executive Director, Light Opera of New Jersey, and Director of Music Ministries for the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association. An accomplished educator, he serves as an Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Seton Hall University, where he leads and conducts the University Chorus, Chamber Choir, and Orchestra. The Stabat Mater performance will feature four soloists, each of whom have achieved great standing in their professional careers.

Tenor Jeffrey Hartman's operatic repertoire is extensive and diverse. His portrayals of iconic roles include Cavaradossi in Tosca, Calaf in Turandot, Bacchus in Ariadne auf Naxos, and Hoffmann in Les Contes d'Hoffmann. His performances have graced esteemed venues and companies such as the

Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Palm Beach Opera, and Theater Chemnitz. Mark Uhlemann, bass-baritone, has performed as a soloist with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, and the Tanglewood, Ravinia, Aspen, Manchester, and Chelsea Music Festivals. His career has taken him around the world, including performances in France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, and Albania.

From recitals to the opera stage, Monica Rose Ziglar hails from Tucson, Arizona where she studied music at the University of Arizona and developed her love for art song and sacred oratorio from her beloved teacher Soprano Elizabeth Mosher. Monica was known throughout the Southwestern region and Sonora Mexico for her opera and concertizing programs as well as festival performances such as the Alfonso Ortiz Tirado Music festival in Alomos, Sonora, Mexico. In 1993 Monica attended the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) in Philadelphia.

A rising dramatic mezzo-soprano, Laura Zahn has been praised for her "warm, voluptuous voice" "captivating with her powerful delivery." In the 2023-2024 season, Zahn performed several roles in the dramatic repertoire including Santuzza (Cavalleria Rusticana), Zita (Gianni Schicchi), the Mezzo-Soprano solos in Verdi's Requiem and made her international debut in Hong Kong singing highlights from Carmen. The current season will see Laura return to Verdi's Requiem as the Mezzo-Soprano soloist, cover Dalila in Samson et Dalila with St. Pete Opera, sing Carmen highlights with New West Symphony and perform in Teatro Regio di Parma's inaugural Verdi program and showcase in New York City.

The Putnam Chorale is a community chorus that has been singing since 1984. It is renowned for the wide range of music that it performs, from baroque, to classical, to contemporary, to pop. Over the last few years, it has grown to 70 singers, drawn from Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester, and Connecticut. Most have not sung professionally but are amateur singers that benefit from the coaching and training provided by Maestro Tramm. Many members of the group will be traveling to Italy in May, where the chorale will perform a "Viva Vivaldi" program in historic churches in Rome, Assisi and Venice.

Advance sale tickets are available for adults, seniors and students at [www.putnam-chorale.org/next-event](http://www.putnam-chorale.org/next-event) or purchased at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

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## Art-making book club for children in Orange County

Hidden Histories: New York & Beyond, an art-making book club for children ages 9-13 and their grownups, will look at events and people that we may not learn about in school, with the

focus being on New York history and its relationship to the United States. They will read and discuss stories about immigration, slavery and the American Revolution, family separation, jazz, art, the Orphan Trains and many other topics. With New York being central to so much of United States history, the book club will help connect participants to place, making connections between New York and the rest of the United States. These stories and discussions combined with art making will help us better understand how the past has led us to this present and how one can use the past to design better futures.

The artmaking portion of the meetings will help participants process the books they read. In addition to making room for perspectives, participants will learn about art as a part of the historical record and contemporary art as primary source documents. The art pieces the participants make become records of personal histories.

The club will meet monthly beginning Sunday, April 27 from 3-4:30 p.m. at Newburgh Free Library in Orange County.

## this week's puzzle solutions

**SUDOKU**  
This week's answer

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

KEY	TAR	W	KEY	KEY
OKRA	FLX	AS	OKRA	OKRA
WAL	ALTO	VE	WAL	WAL
BAAL	AF	OGA	BAAL	BAAL
LS	LS	LS	LS	LS
SP	IK	NG	SP	SP
TAL	LA	UR	TAL	TAL
ST	UB	SL	ST	ST
AN	GC	DE	AN	AN
CO	OK	IE	CO	CO
TI	RA	MI	TI	TI
AN	EW	OR	AN	AN
RA	SH	SU	RA	RA
RM	SC	AL	RM	RM

**Sudoku solution**

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

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

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

Suguru

3								
		4						
3							2	
					5			
4							3	

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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: DESSERTS**

**ACROSS**

1. Like some champagnes
5. Undergarment
8. Dashboard acronym
11. Poison ivy woe
12. Took to court
13. Milan's La \_\_\_\_
15. Afresh
16. Globes and such
17. SNL's forté
18. \*Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur
20. Grammy of sports
21. Jeweler's unit
22. \*Like walnuts on ice cream
23. \*Thin Mint or Carmel deLite
26. \*Apple dip
30. Nelson Mandela's org.
31. Profoundness, pl.
34. Frost-covered
35. Ticket leftovers
37. Pathetic \_\_\_\_
38. Lazybones
39. Samoan money
40. A in AU, Alabama
42. Heidi Samuel \_\_\_\_ Klum
43. Contaminating punch
45. Flammable anesthetics
47. a.k.a. acid
48. Military group
50. Jezebel's deity
52. \*Espresso+gelato
56. Forgo
57. Palo \_\_\_\_, CA
58. Sacred image
59. Southern cuisine pods
60. Show the guns
61. Small stream
62. "The Star-Spangled Banner" author
63. Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_\_ Baby"
64. Adeline or Addison, for short

**DOWN**

1. Troublesome child
2. Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
3. Olympic cast-out
4. Smack
5. Anatomical sac
6. Overthrow by argument
7. Marketing creations
8. Wild onion
9. Clever tactic
10. Spanish sea
12. Evening party
13. See-through
14. \*Eggs+milk+sugar
19. Old \_\_\_\_, or unpopped popcorn kernels
22. Be, singular past tense
23. Uses a fishing reel
24. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
25. Round openings
26. Cabbage, in France
27. "The House at Pooh Corner" author
28. African chieftain
29. Ancient Greeks' harps
32. Socket counterpart
33. Bar bill
36. \*Filo dough+nuts+honey
38. Book opener
40. Uniting conjunction
41. Robin Hood in Disney's "Robin Hood" (2 words)
44. Keys
46. Mecca to Medina exodus
48. Type of lily
49. Happily ever when?
50. \*Make Alaska
51. Gossamer
53. Vinegar or lemon juice, to a chef
54. Communicated
55. James Bond's "For Your Eyes \_\_\_\_"
56. Asian cuisine pan
57. Astern

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10			
11						12				13	14				
15						16				17					
18				19						20					
				21						22					
23	24	25						26			27	28	29		
30						31		32	33			34			
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59										60				61	
62										63					64

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

# Renegades have new treats for the 'ballpark foodies'

By Morgan E. Maier

I remember when ballpark food was simple - soda, popcorn, ice cream helmet, maybe a spot of fries. Even as a Little Leaguer, post-game meals were hamburgers and hot dogs. Simple. This or that.

But a welcome shift is upon the fans who hold baseball's beauty and gastronomy in equal regard. The Hudson Valley Renegades have caught the ballpark food bug this season, offering plenty of new menu items outside of the classics. Footlong Cuban sandwiches in Miami and the signature Yankees chicken bucket are just the beginning. These are not your father's Cracker Jacks.

In 2025, Heritage Financial Park remains a delight for every appetite. Focusing on local flavors, the new menu additions highlight the culture of the Hudson Valley and New York alike. Even the classics are getting revamped. At Rene's Popcorn Pavilion (located by the Main Gate), fans will be faced with seasoning options to customize each kernel, if they so choose.

While the Renegades were out of town, Executive Chef Mark Woinoski served some bites to this beat writer-turned-culinary evaluator, along with suite holders and WMCHHealth Club members. Note to future self: Arrive at such a tasting with a stomach larger than the eyes.

The corned beef and cabbage made me wish every day could be Saint Patrick's Day. With Gotham Deli open for the remaining 60+ home games, I realize it can.

This is a slice of the new butcher on the block, Gotham Deli, where the meat is smoked in-house every two days. Yup.

Chef Woinowski designed the all-new

menu, which includes (among others) an Italian combo, a knish (pastry dough filled with mashed potatoes, then fried), and the king sandwich of New York, the Reuben. A mountain of corned beef, sauerkraut, Thousand Island, Swiss cheese on marbled rye. Whether one believes it was invented in Omaha or the Big Apple, the flavors are New York classic through and through.

The Jägerschnitzel was delightful, each bite swirling with gravy and buttons. One tablemate shared a dislike for mushrooms, but took no offense at this cutlet. Positive reviews across the board.

Finally, white cake and carrot cake. Wishing not to exit such a fine dining experience early with a bout of anaphylaxis, I skipped dessert. Top notch, say my fellow connoisseurs. I take their word for it. Find these in the WMCHHealth Club Lounge.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the local beverage options. The Sloop Brewing Co. Beer Balcony (located in right field) offers the all-new Cruiser Golden Ale, brewed in Hopewell Junction at Sloop HQ. Beacon-based breweries Liquid Fables and Industrial Arts Brewing Co. are joining the roster with their selections of canned ales and cocktails. Among others, the classics: domestic brews and hard seltzers.

Hudson North Cider Co.'s exclusive Renegades Big Apples Cider will be served in a 19.2 oz double-fist friendly can, so fans can traverse the concessions Matrix with both food and drink.

Baseball can easy as ball/strike, safe/out. Other decisions are not as simple as hot dog/nacho helmet when Jamaican patties, Bavarian pretzels, and pastrami



From Jägerschnitzel to Corn Beef sandwiches to salads and Carrot cake desserts, the chefs at Heritage Financial Park will have a variety of new treats for Renegades fans this season.

-Photos by Morgan E. Maier



are also options.

This is just a single path to eating one's way through Heritage Financial Park. Tommy Lasorda once said, "When we lose, I eat. When we win, I eat. I also eat

when we're rained out." Whether the home team is up a pair of runs or no-hit through 7 innings, heed the call for gustatory celebration. They're serving up quality eats with a side of baseball.

## HEADS UP, HIKERS!

### BREAKNECK RIDGE AREA CLOSURES BEGIN 4/21/25

#### CLOSED TRAILHEADS:

- **BREAKNECK RIDGE** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- **WILKINSON MEMORIAL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- **BROOK** closed from trailhead to Cornish Connector



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TO SEE PLANNED  
IMPROVEMENTS**



## DCC honorees recognized at Bridge to the Future Gala



Honorees at the DCC Bridge to the Future Gala included, back row, from left, City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Poughkeepsie City School District superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, Wappingers Central School District superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk and Gala co-chair Michelle Barone-Lepore. In front are, from left, Eleanor Charwat, Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati, Gala co-chair Susan Scivolette-McCormack, Dutchess BOCES superintendent Dr. Jodi DeLucia and Dr. Peter Grant Jordan, president of Dutchess Community College.

-Courtesy photo

Honorees at the Dutchess Community College Foundation's Bridge to the Future Gala on March 29 were recognized for their lasting impact on the Dutchess County community.

Honorees Yvonne Flowers 1990 and Kirk Imperati 1989 were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame for their outstanding professional contributions and commitment to our community.

The "Bridge to the Future Award" recognized Dutchess BOCES, Poughkeepsie City School District and the Wappingers Central School District for enhancing the

quality of life for DCC students and so many others in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Eleanor Charwat received the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award for her outstanding service, volunteer work and executive leadership for nonprofit organizations throughout Dutchess County.

The Gala raised more than \$172,000 through sponsorships and donations which are critical funds to advance the Foundation's mission, providing scholarships and resources to empower the next generation of DCC students.