

BEACON FREE PRESS

Howland Public Library vote set for May 1

By Kristine Coulter

Registered voters in the Beacon City School District have an opportunity to vote on the Howland Public Library budget and for three library trustees. The vote will be held on Thursday, May 1, from noon – 8 p.m. at the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., in Beacon.

On the Howland Public Library website, beaconlibrary.org, a message from the library board states: “Our budget narrative outlines changes and additional information regarding this year’s budget. If you have any questions about the budget, please contact us, and we would be happy to review it with you.”

According to the budget information on the website, the proposed 2025-26 operating tax levy of \$1,488,190.24 “reflects a 4% increase.”

The Library budget supports, as stated on the website:

- Access to a diverse collection of books, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks and -books, e-readers, homeschool kits, museum passes, WiFi hotspots, video games, microfilm reader and online resources.

- A wide range of programs for all ages and abilities

- Scanning, copying and faxing technology

- Public computer use and free WiFi throughout the library

- Operation expenses including insurance, building and office supplies, equipment maintenance, phone and internet services

- Staff salaries that align with other area libraries

“Increasing costs of materials, wages, and library usage make it difficult to maintain the same level of service. The Board will have to make tough decisions about which services to cut if the vote fails,” it is noted on the website.

Gillian Murphy, Howland Public Library Director, said, “Please take the time to vote because the feedback helps us plan for our future, let us know how the community feels about our funding and help select community members to represent your thoughts and concerns about the future of your library.”

If the budget passes, the information on the website states: “The Howland Public Library will continue to provide quality services to our residents. Our digital collection is growing rapidly, and we offer numerous educational programs and helpful services.”

According to the information from the website, the budget plan was approved by the Board of Trustees during a Special Budget meeting held on Feb. 25.

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Volume 74, Number 18

April 30, 2025

DC sports museum to celebrate female athletes with new exhibit

By Morgan E. Maier

The Sports Museum of Dutchess County (SMDC) will open for the 2025 season on Saturday, May 3. For the first time, SMDC will unveil its Patsy “Pat” Zerbe Women in Sports Room, an exhibit honoring the achievements of female athletes with ties to Dutchess County. Beginning at 1 p.m., this event is free for all to attend with beverages and light fare provided.

Located at 72 Camwath Farms Lane in the Town of Wappinger, SMDC offers equal parts education and nostalgia for visitors of all ages. The Women in Sports exhibit showcases memorabilia from different eras in Dutchess County history, plus a collection from Patsy Zerbe’s storied career as coach, mentor, and athlete. From Pine Plains to Poughkeepsie and in between, these athletes have contributed to their generations and those who have followed.

Each corner of the exhibit offers an opportunity to learn and be inspired by the ever-growing landscape of women’s sports. The engraved silver kitchenware and platters, frequently awarded to winners of ladies’ competitions, represent the days when even the trophies served as a reminder of a woman’s expected roles.

The Women in Sports Room celebrates athletes who began their journey in Dutchess County, like WNBA star and Poughkeepsie native Maddy Siegrist. Siegrist’s #20 basketball jersey is retired at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, where she was twice named to the All-State team. Victoria Isaacson, a 2024 Team USA Paralympian, began her fencing career at Arlington High School and continues to train at The Phoenix Center

By Pete Colalzo
Poughkeepsie Journal

Editor’s note: When one thinks of local sports dynasties, teams like the Our Lady of Lourdes and Haldane high school girls basketball squads come to mind.

In recreational sports — specifically road racing — though, there is a one-woman dynasty, and her name is Marisa Sutera Hanson. Never was Hanson more on top of her running game than in 2001.

During the last calendar year, Hanson finished first in 29 races — including all 10 Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club race she entered. She also extended her Dutchess County Classic record for number of victories by capturing the 5-kilometer race title for the eighth time.

Success in running is nothing new to the Pleasant Valley resident. She was a star sprinter and hurdler at Roy C. Ketchum High School in Wappingers Falls and then at upstate Ithaca College, where she earned All-America honors in cross country and track.

More than 20 years after lacing up running sneakers for the first time, Hanson is still succeeding. And she’s still running strong despite the challenges of squeezing in her training around a full-time teaching position as well as family responsibilities.

Earlier this week, Poughkeepsie Journal running columnist Pete Colalzo talked with Hanson regarding her running career.

— How did you get started in running?

I was in junior high and I had a lot of energy. I used to get up really early in the morning. My mother suggested I run around the block. So I started running around the block. Then my father bought me a stopwatch, and then I started doing track at Van Wyck (Junior High School).

What other sports were you interested in as a kid?

I really enjoyed a lot of other sports. I played basketball, and the basketball coach really helped me. He said, “You are a good basketball player, but your gift is running.” He really helped me by saying that.

What events did you run in high school track?

The 100-yard dash.



PROFILE

MARISA SUTERA HANSON

Age: 38
Residence: Pleasant Valley
Hometown: Poughkeepsie
Occupation: Physical education teacher, LaGrange Elementary School
Family: Husband, Rich; children, Sebastian and Reese
Career highlights: Dutchess County Classic 5K record-holder, 8-time race champion; national champion, 3,000-meter steeplechase, 1992; qualified for U.S. Olympic Trials in steeplechase, 1992 and 1996; 3-time All-American at Ithaca College

which is still one of my fatter times on the track. It was one of the races where I was told I looked absolutely horrible during it, but somehow I found a way to pull out. I was so sick afterwards, sick I couldn’t even drive home. I pushed myself way too hard that race.

Did you intend on racing as much as you did in 2001?

I just kind of went with how was feeling. It took me about a year to come back to hard training after having Reese (her second son). I sort of wanted to take advantage of feeling good.

With many of the races, I use them as hard runs. It really helped me get a little sharper and push myself a little harder.

Talk about the challenges of training with your busy schedule.

It is tough, but it’s made easier because (husband) Rich is so understanding. Basically what I try to tell myself is not to put as much emphasis on what I have to do. After having kids, I realized that running is not my No. 1 priority. It takes the edge and pressure off of how to do so much.

I fit the training in after work, and if I can’t fit it in, I can’t fit it in. But I’m training hard and getting the speed back.

A newspaper display shows Marisa Sutera Strange in the Patsy “Pat” Zerbe Women in Sports Room at the Sports Museum of Dutchess County.

—Courtesy image

ing career at Arlington High School and continues to train at The Phoenix Center

in Poughkeepsie.

Continued on page 2

Clarke’s adventures characterize Rhinebeck Antique Car Show

By Curtis Schmidt

He’s an avid antique automobile collector, but Owen Clarke is also a showman, chauffeur, movie buff, walk-on actor and he loves to see children smile.

When Clarke talks about the lure of antique automobiles, his eyes light up and he says, “It’s in the blood.” Family blood, that is.

Clarke’s grandfather owned a parking garage in the 1920s and ‘30s just off Park Avenue in New York City. Not just any parking garage. This one had special rooms for chauffeurs - with billiard tables. His father got his start at the parking garage and later owned a Ford dealership in nearby Cliffside Park, New Jersey.

“When I grew up in the 1950s, I waited every night to see what kind of trade-in my dad would drive home,” said Clarke. “It was almost a different car every night.”

Stories just like this one are at the heart of the Rhinebeck Antique Car Show & Swap Meet, which will be celebrating its’ 53rd annual gathering this coming weekend, May 2, 3, 4 at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck.

Continued on page 3



Antique auto collector Owen Clarke is pictured with a young cancer survivor with the “Make A Wish” Foundation. Clarke provided the vehicle for the young boy’s dream -- to be the Grand Marshal of a parade.

—Courtesy photo

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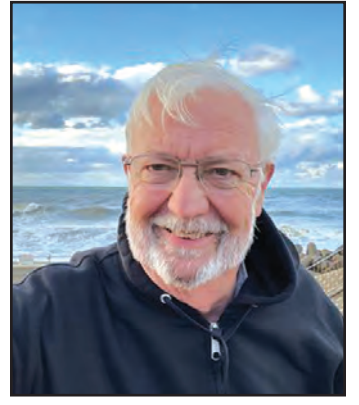
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Howland Public Library vote set for May 1



The five candidates running for three trustee positions on the Howland Public Library Board of Trustees, from left, are: Jason Cohen, Ruth Danon, Sarah From, Kathy Furfey and David Lemon. The election is May 1 at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St. in Beacon.

-Courtesy photos HPL website

Continued from cover

There are three open seats for Trustee positions.

“Each is for a 5-year term. David Lemon is running for his seat. Kathy Furfey is running again after taking one year off the board,” explained Murphy.

The following are statements from each of the candidates, in alphabetical order, that were taken from the library website.

Jason Cohen

I’m a relative newcomer to this community, but eager to be more involved. My wife and I moved to the Beacon area in 2022 in order to find a more spacious and affordable life to raise our twin boys.

One of our mainstays here in town has been the Howland Public Library. If you spend any time in the children’s library on the weekend, chances are you’ve seen my kids. They love it here, so I’m taking this as an opportunity to teach them the importance of community spaces.

I have a background in literature and cover technology as an editor for an online tech publication, giving me a balanced perspective between modernizing for the future and maintaining the beautiful traditions of the literary world.

As a seasoned union leader at work, I’m also a skilled community organizer. My hope is to help turn the library into the cultural center of town by improving the

library’s offerings to the public (especially for families of small children).

Ruth Danon

I moved to Beacon in 2017, after teaching at NYU full time for 23 years. The first teaching I did in Beacon was at the Howland Library. In 2018 I founded Live Writing: A Project for the Reading, Writing and Performance of Poetry. The Live Writing project offers writing workshops in person and on zoom. I’ve curated multiple events in Beacon and on zoom, and have worked to create a vibrant poetry community in Beacon. I was one of the founding curators of the Beacon Litfest. My work has been published widely in the United States and abroad and I have been named Poet Laureate of Beacon and Dutchess County.

I am running for Library trustee because I believe political and cultural change begins at the local level. I would like to help the library succeed in its mission to be a “hub of knowledge and a center of learning...” I have extensive experience in designing programs for adult students. There is need for extra-academic learning for adults that the Library can provide. Additionally, there is much talk of a loneliness epidemic. The library can be an antidote for that. I would like to work towards that end.

Sarah From

Sarah From is an active Beacon commu-

nity member, a parent of school-aged children in BCSD, and a dedicated patron of the Howland Public Library for a decade.

Sarah is a leadership coach and organizational consultant who works with nonprofits and social change organizations in the Hudson Valley and nationally.

She is committed to supporting the library’s initiatives to expand services and community engagement, aligning with its mission to provide free and equal access to information and promote social responsibility.

Sarah believes deeply in the role of public libraries as vital pillars of community, democracy, and lifelong learning.

Kathy Furfey,

I have had the honor of serving as a trustee on the board of the Howland Public Library from 2019 to 2024. I would like to use that experience to further the role of the library as a center of the Beacon community.

During my five-year tenure:
Policy Committee: Led the review of all policies with the purpose of revision and updating; Board Development Committee: Conducted orientation sessions for new board members; attended Mid-Hudson Library System-sponsored webinars as well as state advocacy days; Building Committee: Involved in maintaining a sustainable facility and atmosphere for all patrons; after my trustee term, I remained on the committee for

preparation and research to facilitate the long-range plan. Executive Committee: Researched, interviewed, and selected the current library director. Prior Professionalism: Certified special education teacher.

Prior Volunteer Roles: Ex-Pat reading club organizer. Tutoring children with special needs, assisting at homes for the elderly, assorted roles in hospitals and parishes.

As a nominee, I offer my experience, love, and commitment to the Howland Public Library. It would be a privilege to serve once again.

David Lemon

A Beacon resident since 1979, I managed the editorial dept. of a major New York City investment bank before retiring in 2015.

As board president, in 1997 I guided HPL’s successful transition into a tax-funded school district library. In my second tenure on the board, in 2010 I helped lead renovation of the Library’s facade.

Elected again to the board last year, I seek reelection because I want to continue working on the critical issue facing HPL’s future—how to maintain a 75-year-old building and provide the library services that meet our citizens’ needs amid looming State and Federal cutbacks.

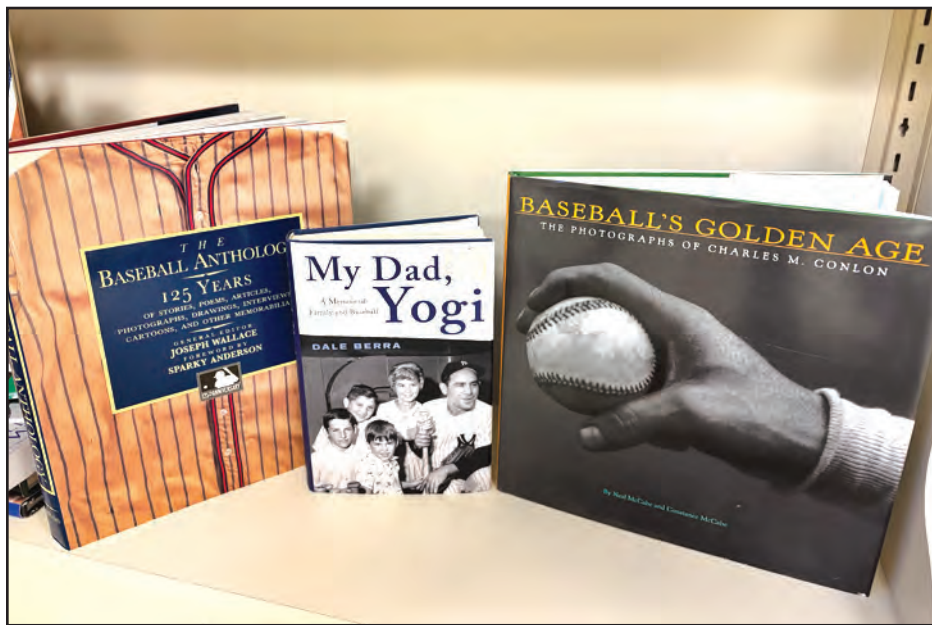
It is more important than ever that the Howland Public Library remain a welcoming place of knowledge, inclusivity and community for all.

DC sports museum to celebrate female athletes with new exhibit

Continued from cover

Patsy Zerbe spent nearly half a century at Dutchess Community College (DCC), spearheading various sports programs and initiatives for students and community members. Zerbe’s individual athletic achievements in basketball and tennis transcended the bounds of Dutchess County, as she dominated in Ulster County tennis championships and played on a Pennsylvania Little League team. She was the only girl, but a scrappy first baseman later remembered by teammates to be “the first” to break the Little League gender barrier.

This event offers exploration into women’s history from the 19th century through today, as significant transformation is made on all levels of sport. On a museum tour with President Bill Ponte, visitors will learn the history of the above



Marist University students, intern Hunter Emerson and assistant curator Brendyn Huggins, relocate a museum display.



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Books, museum T-shirts, memorabilia, and stickers will be available to purchase in the museum’s new-look gift shop.

-Courtesy photos

enthusiasts with dozens of displays from auto racing and ice yachting to baseball and boxing.

Pleasant Valley’s Marisa Sutera Strange is known for her success in track and cross country.

A Roy C. Ketcham graduate, she won the Dutchess County Classic 5K 20 years in a row, holding a Guinness World Record for most consecutive wins of a single event. Sutera Strange is a twice-named All-American at Ithaca College, where her name is still written in the record books.

There were few opportunities for girls’ sports when Strange was growing up in the 1970s, and the bulk of her athletic achievements came after her college years. Strange said, “There were very few [organized sports for girls]. Most of

the sports that I played were in the neighborhood, and there were all boys in my neighborhood.”

Travel back in time to read about legendary golfer Patty Berg and the 1975 Girl Talk Classic, held at the All-American Country Club (also known as Carvel Golf Course). Berg is a member of five different sports halls of fame, including the PGA, as one of 13 original LPGA founders. And the Knicks fans in attendance may recognize a towering pair of 1970’s icons shaking hands with Zerbe at a D.C.C. celebration.

Beginning Saturday, May 3, the sports museum will be open and free to the public every weekend through October from 1 to 4 p.m. Donations are encouraged. See the Sports Museum of Dutchess County Facebook page and website (www.sportsmuseumofdutchesscounty.org) for more details.

Clarke's adventures characterize Rhinebeck Antique Car Show

Continued from cover

Members of the Hudson River Valley Antique Auto Association (HVRAAA) will start the area's car show season with hundreds of enthusiasts showing off autos at Saturday's "Rod and Custom Dust Off" and Sunday's Antique & Classic Vehicle Show.

Now - back to Clarke's story. His interest hasn't been just autos. The home in which he grew up was built in 1743. His interest in antiques began at an early age and he turned his that interest into a career as a trustee, working for several banks and later with his own business.

Clarke still owns and drives his favorite vehicle - a 1963 Lincoln Continental Convertible. His father drove it home and traded it for a "1964-And-A-Half" Mustang. Clarke drove the '63 Lincoln to his high school prom in 1967 and then to his 50th high school class reunion in 2007.

It's still in pristine condition - even with a convertible top that lifts up with the push of a button and folds neatly into the trunk that opens from the front and closes to hide the top.

Other favorites include a 1964 Studebaker Gran Turismo Hawk, a 1957 Lincoln Continental Mark II (actress Doris Day was the original owner), a 1952 MG-TD, a 1967 Mustang Fastback and a 2002 Thunderbird Retro Bird.

A connection with the Hudson Valley Film Commission several years ago opened up a whole new world for Clarke. He has negotiated to have different antique autos used in a variety of films in the U.S. and abroad.

There's just one notable part for the agreement. Clarke gets to have walk-on roles in the movies. Sometimes he's the chauffeur/driver that no one sees. That's easy. But he has played the part of an FBI agent and a U.S. Senator and even had a role in an HBO Christmas movie.

In these cases, his hobby has turned into



In January the Executive Committee of the Hudson River Valley Antique Auto Association met with original members that were involved from the beginning of the Rhinebeck Car Show. From left are Mike Lueck, show chairman; Al Krum former vendor chairman; Danny Lumb, former show chairman; Al Spada, vendor chairman; Al Fassbender, HRVAAA member; Joe Doyle, former show chairman; Bob Huer, HRVAAA member; Mike Butler, current President and Giorgina Butler Wallace, Vice president.

-Courtesy photo

Rhinebeck Antique Car Show & Swap Meet Schedule

May 2, 3 & 4
Dutchess County Fairgrounds
Friday: Swap Meet, Noon - 5 p.m.
Saturday: Rod and Custom Dust Off, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Antique & Classic Vehicle Show, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

an investment. "It's fun when you make a little money doing what you love," he said. He has also struck deals with organiza-

tions like the Fashion Design Program at Marist College and allows his vintage vehicles to be used for weddings and proms. But again, Clarke has to be the driver.

And then there are the times he loves most - when he sees the smiles on the faces of children when their parents take photos of them in his cars.

His happiest moment with vintage autos happened when the Make A Wish Foundation came calling. A young boy who was recovering from cancer had always wanted to be the Grand Marshal of a parade. And Clarke was more than happy to provide his 1963 Lincoln for the occasion. "Seeing the smile on that little guy's face was so incredibly rewarding," he said. "That was the thrill of a lifetime. And I'd do that again on the drop of dime."

Council offers condolences to Murphy family

By Kristine Coulter

Members of the Beacon City Council held a moment of silence for late Beacon resident Eugene "Gene" Murphy during the April 21 meeting at City Hall. Murphy died in a house fire on Alice St. on April 15. Three of his family members were able to escape but were injured. The cause of the fire was still being determined at press time.

"We will have a moment of silence for the loss of Eugene Murphy," said Councilmember Pam Wetherbee.

After the moment of silence, Wetherbee said, "Eugene was a former City of Beacon public highway superintendent and tragically lost in the fire on Alice St."

City Administrator Chris White stated that Murphy worked for the city for 30 years. He worked for the Department of Public Works and then he came back and worked as the City's dog warden, White added.

White noted it was an "incredible response on a very difficult circumstance and fire."

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said, "Thanks to all of the fire departments who responded. They did an amazing job."

On the GoFundMe site, a message from the Murphy family was posted. The statement reads: "The Murphy family

cannot express how thankful and overwhelmed by the amount of love, support, & generosity from everyone who has helped in any way since the tragedy. They wish they could thank each and everyone individually, but want everyone to know how much it means to them. A special thank you to the many people from the Beacon City School District! Their support of Markus [Murphy's great-grandson who was severely burned] has been amazing!"

Councilmember Molly Rhodes offered condolences to the Murphy family and those in the fire department who sustained minor injuries.

Rhodes also mentioned the GoFundMe account that has been set up to assist the Murphy family.

Councilmember Jeffrey Domanski offered thanks regarding the announcement of the GoFundMe account.

Councilmember George Mansfield stated, "I too would like to offer my condolences to the Murphy family on Alice St. They were my neighbors. Mr. Murphy, who was lost, was a good man - loved by many and will be missed by many more." He added, "I can't be more proud of our community" because of their support for the Murphys."



Timothy V. Howard Foundation purchased and dedicated a double plot section 152/lot3691/site 7 at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Maryland side by side where Timothy now rests in eternal peace in site 7.
Call for more information: 845-505-5441

*My Darling Tim,
I miss my old life the one that had you in it.
Heavenly 61st Birthday*

70th anniversary of the Thunderbird highlights 53rd Rhinebeck Antique Auto Show

If you are a Thunderbird fan -or just love to see antique autos, hot rods, customs and more, then the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck is your place to be this coming weekend.

The 53rd Annual Rhinebeck Antique Car Show & Swap Meet is set for May 2, 3 and 4 at the Fairgrounds. Hundreds of Hot Rods, Customs, Classics and Antique autos from all over the Northeast will be there.

It's three days of custom paint, chrome and tricked out cars.

This year they're celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Thunderbird with over 100 Thunderbirds on display.

Gates open at noon on Friday, May 2, for one of the biggest swap meets in the Northeast. On Saturday, May 3, gates open at 8 a.m. with Hot Rods, customs, sport coupes, race cars, compact customs and pickups on display. On Sunday, May 4, it's Antiques and Classics.

You'll also see the "General Lee," the "Knight Rider Car," the "Christine" movie car, the original "Starsky and Hutch" car and the "CHiPs" motorcycle, plus fly by's from The Rhinebeck Aerodrome.

Event sponsors include: Dry Ice Restoration, George Apap Painting, John Abrams/Haggerty Insurance, Matt's Auto Body, Northside Auto Body, Ruge's Auto Group, Savon Event Rentals, Sawyer Motors, Upstate Electric and Veith Electric.

There is plenty of free parking. For more information, visit rhinebeckcarshow.net.

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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, 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.

Social Security - not just for retirement

To the Editor:

In the past few weeks, you have seen a mathematical discussion on Social Security. The nature of mathematics is to make suppositions on a situation and then compare the results to the data. In the first case, a simple model was put together assuming that the reported news on Social Security was correct.

This led to a set of solutions to resolve that condition. A second viewpoint claimed that Social Security was not in financial trouble. However, there was a piece of data that

was ignored in both models — Social Security is not just a retirement insurance program, but that it covers people who are not able to work and that it is associated with Medicare. The two models that were proposed did not cover this extra burden. This would now suggest another solution. Separate the retirement section out to preserve Social Security on its own right and then address the problem of unemployment insurance and health insurance. As we solve a mathematical problem, we keep modifying the model as we better understand the problem. In all cases, we are driven by the data and have to take on the responsibility of checking and validating the data. The time value of money is a financial tool which compares the profit from making a product to the profit for investing the money at the time changing interest rates. The government borrows from the Social Security fund. Since it is borrowing from itself, does it have to pay interest. If it does not, then we would have to reevaluate the time value of money.

As we go through this mathematical process, we are in essence auditing the Social Security books.

Irvin Miller
Poughkeepsie

Your Social Security contributions and payments - correction

To the Editor:

Just a small correction to last week's numbers in my letter in the April 23 edition.

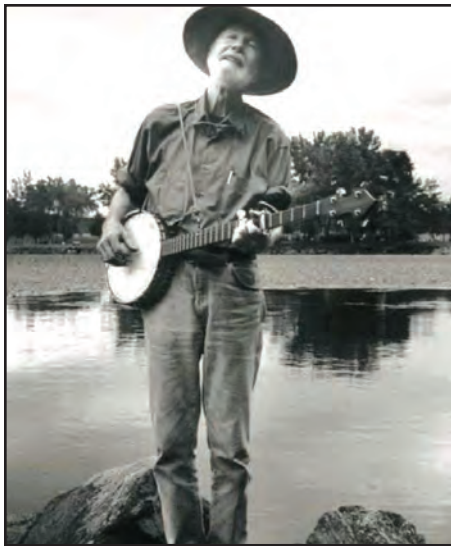
If we adjust every annual contribution over 40 years, then account for every after-tax benefit received over the 30 years of retirement—indexing all values over the 70-year span using mid-year CPI rates—the total inflation-adjusted "pay-in" balloons to approximately \$3,252,377, while the total after-tax benefit received amounts to just \$758,100 an overfunded amount of \$2,494,277.

The example was this individual paid \$10,000 into Social Security. The tax rate was 75%, but using a rate of 28%, they would have actually paid \$12,800 to net that \$10,000 after tax at a CPI value of 27.2. Adjusting for inflation and applying the time value of money, the present value of that contribution in today's dollars would be approximately \$150,588 in today's dollars given the CPI at 320.

Joseph P. Paoloni
Wappinger

MBA Fordham; MS Chemical Engineering – Columbia University.
Former NAFTA Director of Pensions, Trusts, and Investments for Ciba-Geigy

Commemoration of Pete Seeger's birthday set for May 3



Join in on the annual commemoration of Pete Seeger's birthday. Bring instruments and voices for a circle of song! The celebration will be held at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr.

Seeger, a former Dutchess County resident, was born in 1919 and would have turned 106 this year. He died in 2014.

For more information, contact Ken Miller at 201-376-1316, or powwow187@aol.com.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Sloop Club

Riverkeeper SWEEP set for May 3 at Beacon waterfront



Join Beacon Sloop Club for a cleanup at Beacon Waterfront and Riverfront Park for the Riverkeeper SWEEP on Saturday, May 3, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Volunteers will meet outside the Beacon Sloop Club at 2 Red Flynn Drive. Free parking is available at the riverside of the Beacon Metro North station.

Organizers recommend that all Sweep volunteers bring a hat, sunscreen, a full reusable water bottle, insect repellent, work gloves and hand sanitizer.

This site is suitable for elementary-aged children with adult supervision. Questions? Contact Riverkeeper at sweep@riverkeeper.org or Sweep leader Joyce Hanson at joycehanson@mac.com or 914-907-4928.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Sloop Club

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Albert Osten, President

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Free Adult Mental Health First Aid Training set for May 4 in Beacon

"Hello. How are you?" A very common greeting. What if the response is not well?

Beacon Volunteer is teaching a free Adult Mental Health First Aid class on Sunday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in collaboration with Nuvance Health Community Education. BVAC is located at 1 Arquilla Dr. in Beacon. If one is interested, register at: <https://medical>

[educationnuvancehealth.enrollware.com/enroll?id=11498124](https://medical.educationnuvancehealth.enrollware.com/enroll?id=11498124).

Registration is required in order to attend the class. Attendees will have to attend the entire class to get the certificate as a mental health first aider by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

For background about this program, please visit: mentalhealthfirstaid.org.

Correction

In the April 16th edition of Beacon Free Press regarding Dutchess Community College's new Vice President, Dennis Dintino the headline said president instead of vice president.

CCEDC Green Teen Hydroponic Greenhouse launches at DCC with Central Hudson support



Representatives from Central Hudson, Dutchess Community College and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County cut the ribbon to open the Hydroponic Greenhouse on April 24.

A new hydroponic garden is taking root at Dutchess Community College (DCC), thanks to an \$8,500 contribution from Central Hudson in support of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's (CCEDC) Green Teen program. The funding will help establish a hydroponic greenhouse, a key feature of the newly expanded Green Teen initiative in Poughkeepsie.

On Thursday, April 24th at the campus of Dutchess Community College, Central Hudson volunteers joined Green Teen Poughkeepsie participants and community leaders to celebrate the project, raising the structure's roof and presenting the donation. This milestone marks another step forward in empowering local youth through hands-on agriculture, leadership, and sustainability education.

The Green Teen program equips urban youth with essential life and career skills through immersive experiences in farming, nutrition, entrepreneurship, and community leadership. Since its founding in Beacon, the program has provided paid opportunities for teens to grow and distribute fresh produce at farmers' markets, food pantries, and pop-up events.

In 2024, CCEDC expanded Green Teen to Poughkeepsie, establishing a home on the DCC campus—a strategic location where many participating students may later pursue higher education. The Beacon program has been proudly supported by New York State Assemblymember Jonathan G. Jacobson (District 104), while the Poughkeepsie expansion reflects its growing impact.

"This project exemplifies the power of collaboration," said Mary Lou Carolan, Executive Director of CCEDC. "Central

Hudson's investment doesn't just support a garden—it nurtures future leaders, strengthens local food access, and builds a greener, more resilient community. Every teen involved gains real-world skills, and every harvest benefits neighbors in need. It's a triple win."

The hydroponic greenhouse will enable year-round growing, further enhancing food security and educational opportunities for participants.

"Dutchess Community College's partnership with the Green Teen program and this new expansion brings learning to life in a way that reflects the best of what the campus stands for," said Dr. Susan Rogers, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at DCC. "Through sustainability, work-based learning, and service learning, we're creating healthy, hands-on experiences in partnership with CCE and Central Hudson—spaces where students not only grow academically and personally but also give back to their community in meaningful ways."

"We are deeply grateful to Central Hudson for their generous donation supporting our food pantry garden's new hydroponic greenhouse," added Lacie Reilly, Director of The Pantry at DCC. "This contribution expands our capacity to grow fresh, healthy produce year-round and the greenhouse will serve as an educational and hands-on resource for the Poughkeepsie Green Teen Program. We are honored to have Central Hudson as a partner in our mission to fight food insecurity and support youth engagement in our region."

For details on the Green Teen program or other CCEDC initiatives, visit ccedutchess.org or call 845-677-8223.



Central Hudson staff volunteers who helped to install the roof of the greenhouse include, from left, Environmental coordinators Alexa Valastro, Kate Landi and Jesse Gallo, Senior Environmental Coordinator Eric Chastain and Senior Manager – Environmental Mark McLean.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

Pawling Central School District's Alan Barto named 'School Bus Driver of the Year' by Dutchess County



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino (right) joins School Bus Driver of the Year Alan Barto (center) and his family members.

-Courtesy photos



The awarding of the Dutchess County School Bus Driver of the Award to Alan Barto took place on Safe Stop Education and Enforcement Day on April 24.

Pictured are members of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Police join (from left) Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Pawling Central School District (PCSD) Superintendent of School Kim Fontana, School Bus Driver of the Year Alan Barto, PCSD Supervisor of Transportation Pamela J. Serafini and Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board Administrator William Johnson.

As part of Dutchess County's observance of Safe Stop Education and Enforcement Day, County Executive Sue Serino announced on April 24 that Pawling Central School District bus driver Alan Barto has been honored with the 22nd Dutchess County School Bus Driver of the Year Award, highlighting his outstanding service and commitment to safely transporting students. The award is presented by the Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board to promote school bus safety, coinciding Operation Safe Stop, a Governor's Traffic Safety Committee project which promotes school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts.

Serino emphasized the importance of school bus safety, stating, "Alan Barto is the kind of employee every district hopes for – dedicated, dependable, and committed to the students he serves. He shows up with compassion and professionalism every single day while never hesitating to go the extra mile for his colleagues or the students he serves. We're so proud to recognize Alan as our School Bus Driver of the Year, and we thank him for everything he does to keep our kids safe."

During Operation Safe Stop Education and Enforcement Day, County, state, and local law enforcement will monitor school buses to identify and ticket drivers who illegally pass when red lights are flashing. Officials will focus enforcement in high-violation areas identified by school transportation authorities.

New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law is simple and clear: Drivers must stop whenever a school bus' red lights are flashing, including on divided highways, regardless of which direction the motorists travels. Failing to comply is both dangerous and illegal, with fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, the possibility of receiving five points on a driver's license, and potential jail time – up to 30 days for a first offense and 180 days for repeat violations.

Barto, a school bus driver for 14 years, has maintained a spotless safety record without a preventable collision. Serino presented him with a commemorative plaque at the Operation Safe Stop press conference in recognition of his achievement. The Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board established the School Bus Driver of the Year award in 2002 to promote school bus safety and

recognize the crucial role drivers play in protecting students.

"Alan's willingness to take on any route, support his colleagues and assist with a variety of tasks reflects his outstanding work ethic," Pamela J. Serafini, Supervisor of Transportation for the Pawling Central School District, wrote in her nomination of Barto. "He consistently transports some of our district's most vulnerable students, doing so with incredible care and compassion. His dedication to his work and his colleagues is evident in everything he does."

Dutchess County embodies the principles of Operation Safe Stop every day, as the County has implemented additional measures to enhance school bus safety. A school bus camera safety program, launched in December 2021 in partnership with BusPatrol LLC, enforces compliance with laws requiring motorists to stop for school buses with flashing red lights. This initiative provides school districts with cutting-edge safety technology, including photo enforcement equipment installed on 790 buses Countywide, at no cost to taxpayers; 11 of the 13 school districts in Dutchess County currently participate in the program.

Serino said, "In Dutchess County, we take school bus safety seriously – because when it comes to protecting children, there's no room for mistakes. If a school bus has its red lights on, you must stop – even on a divided highway, even if there's a median. The flashing red lights on school buses aren't suggestions; it's the law, designed to keep kids safe. Our school bus camera program is in place to hold drivers accountable, because this isn't about handing out tickets – it's about making sure every child gets home safely."

According to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, approximately 50,000 motorists illegally pass stopped school buses in New York State every day, putting children's lives at risk.

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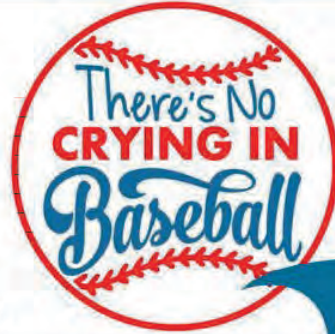
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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades bounce back to win 4 of 6 games vs. Asheville Tourists

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades took a trip to Asheville, NC and came back victorious against the Tourists. This week at McCormick Field, the Renegades saw the opposite side of a sweep, fans enjoyed \$1 hot dogs, and a second baseman clocked an 80 MPH fastball. When the clouds and rain delays parted, the Renegades packed up for the Empire State after taking 4 of 6 games from their South Atlantic League (SAL) rivals.

Double-edged sweep

Following a 6-0 home series against Wilmington, the Renegades had an extra day off with a rainout on Tuesday. Hudson Valley dropped the first two games in Asheville, losing both halves of Wednesday's doubleheader, 9-5 and 3-2. In Game 2, the Renegades received their first walkoff loss of the season, as a single from Asheville's Joseph Sullivan broke a 2-2 tie in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Long balls

As of Saturday's standings, Asheville has hit the second-most team home runs in the SAL this season, trailing only the Greensboro Grasshoppers (29) with 18 long balls. Hudson Valley pitching

allowed just three home runs to Asheville in this away-from-home series. But the Renegades scored 10 runs on 6 long balls of their own, moving into fourth place in the league (16). Jackson Castillo hit the team's second grand slam, finishing the week with five hits and 8 runs batted, including his first home run of the year.

Best overall performance so far?

On Saturday, all of Carolina heard the Renegades' best all-around effort of the season. Hudson Valley scored a season high 15 runs on 18 hits. Every starter in the lineup notched at least one hit, and eight crossed the plate. Four players left the game with three hits: Brendan Jones, George Lombard, Castillo, and Jace Avina. Tourist 2B Drew Vogel earned his first career strikeout, coming on in relief in the top of the 9th inning to save an Asheville arm. Six dazzling innings by true pitcher Bryce Cunningham (3-1) were the catalyst for a combined 5-hit, 14 K shutout, as the Renegades handed the Tourists the largest home defeat since June 16, 2022, a 22-1 loss against the Rome Emperors.

The Renegades (15-6) return home for a divisional matchup against the



Brendan Jones of the Renegades had three hits in the team's 15-3 win over the Asheville Tourists on Saturday.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

Jersey Shore BlueClaws (7-13). Another full week of promotions is on the horizon for Renegades fans, includ-

ing Tuesday's Mental Health Awareness Night, jersey giveaway on Thursday, and Family Fun Day on Sunday.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Hudson Valley NYY	15	6	.714	-	8-2	W4
Greensboro PIT	15	6	.714	-	7-3	L1
Brooklyn NYM	13	7	.650	1.5	6-4	L1
Aberdeen BAL	9	12	.429	6.0	3-7	W1
Jersey Shore PHI	7	13	.350	7.5	3-7	W1
Wilmington WSH	7	14	.333	8.0	4-6	L1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Hub City TEX	12	9	.571	-	5-5	L1
Rome ATL	12	9	.571	-	7-3	L1
Bowling Green TB	10	11	.476	2.0	5-5	W1
Greenville BOS	9	11	.450	2.5	5-5	W1
Asheville HOU	8	12	.400	3.5	3-7	L4
Winston-Salem CWS	7	14	.333	5.0	3-7	W1



Home Schedule

05/01/25	06:05 PM	vs. Jersey Shore	Hockey Night Hockey Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
05/02/25	07:05 PM	vs. Jersey Shore	Game Show Night Fireworks Friday
05/03/25	05:05 PM	vs. Jersey Shore	Irish Heritage Night Presented By Leprechaun Lines Irish Heritage Hat Giveaway Presented By Leprechaun Lines
05/04/25	02:05 PM	vs. Jersey Shore	Copa De La Diversión: Cuatro De Mayo Sunday Family Funday
05/13/25	06:05 PM	vs. Aberdeen	Rascal's Reading Challenge Night Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
05/14/25	06:05 PM	vs. Aberdeen	Pirate Night We Care Wednesday Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network
05/15/25	06:05 PM	vs. Aberdeen	Soccer Night Soccer Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
05/16/25	07:05 PM	vs. Aberdeen	Disco Night Fireworks Friday
05/17/25	05:05 PM	vs. Aberdeen	Open Mic Night Jace Avina Bobblehead Giveaway
05/18/25	02:05 PM	vs. Aberdeen	No Place Like Home Sunday Family Funday
05/27/25	06:05 PM	vs. Wilmington	Fast Food Night Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
05/28/25	11:05 AM	vs. Wilmington	Education Day Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union We Care Wednesday Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network
05/29/25	06:05 PM	vs. Wilmington	FRIENDS Night FRIENDS Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
05/30/25	07:05 PM	vs. Wilmington	Fireworks Friday Baseball (Rosie's Version)
05/31/25	05:05 PM	vs. Wilmington	The Malmö Oat Milklers: Did Someone Say Dynasty? Faith And Family Night Presented By The Paramount At Somers





Renegades Extra!



East Carolina alumni Moylan and Grosz return to N.C.



Josh Grosz, above, and Josh Moylan of the Hudson Valley Renegades were also teammates in college at East Carolina University.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

Hudson Valley Renegades players Josh Moylan and Josh Grosz aren't just linked in name. They are also former East Carolina University (ECU) Pirates who, in their fifth consecutive season as teammates, have exchanged the hypothetical high seas for High-A baseball.

With the restructuring of Minor League Baseball in 2021, the Asheville Tourists and Hudson Valley Renegades were organized into the High-A minor league level as members of the South Atlantic League. This week marked the Renegades' first-ever visit to Asheville, located just five hours away from the ECU campus. The road trip also saw Moylan and Grosz take a North Carolina baseball field together for the first time in their professional careers.

Grosz tossed a season-high 73 pitches in his April 24 return to North Carolina, holding the Renegades' first inning lead through 5.1 innings. Though Grosz received a no decision, the outing ultimately lowered his earned run average (ERA) to 3.09. The Renegades went on to beat Asheville 9-4, with Moylan scoring a run and reaching base with two walks.

The Yankees took Grosz in the 11th round of the 2023 player draft, as a top-rated prospect out of the American Athletic Conference (AAC). Moylan, a three-year first baseman at ECU, signed with New York after going undrafted the same year. Since moving up the Yankees' organization, Moylan has exclusively fielded the corners. As a Renegade, he switches between the first and third base positions, while also getting

reps as the designated hitter.

As the 2025 Renegades enjoy a recent hot streak, these two former Pirates are likely used to the feeling. Before they were impactful on last season's Renegades playoff run, Moylan and Grosz were College World Series hopefuls. The 13-seeded ECU team, with freshmen Grosz and Moylan on the roster, reached the Super Regional Round (Nashville) of the 2021 NCAA tournament. The following season, the Pirates won their conference and further advanced to the Greenville Super Regional as an 8-seed.

In 2023, the Pirates were 13-3 in games that Grosz started, four of them being quality starts. According to ECU record books, Grosz had the conference's third lowest opposing batting average, holding batters to just .215 through his junior season. On the

offensive side, Moylan's 70 runs batted in (RBI) and 20 doubles led the AAC in his third and final year at ECU. That season, the Pirates, as a 2-seed, fell to Virginia in the Greenville Regional after receiving an at-large bid to the tournament.

Grosz and Moylan are just one set of former collegiate teammates who are today's Renegades. Northeastern boasts a trio of right-handers in Thomas Balboni, Sebastian Keane, and 2023 alum Cam Schlittler.

And the roster spot left vacant in the departure of RHP Cole Ayers, recently promoted to AA Somerset, was filled by newcomer Tony Rossi, his former teammate at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. Though the name on the front of a jersey may change, the connections made along the way remain.

Q&A with Renegades GM Tom Denlinger

Sports-related themes and the fun of bringing communities together



By Morgan E. Maier

Editor's note: This week, writer Morgan E. Maier speaks with new Renegades General Manager Tom Denlinger.

Q. The HVR promotional schedule features many different sports-themed nights and jersey giveaways. Which are you most excited for?

A. If the first Heritage Financial Credit Union Jersey Thursday is any indication, the jerseys have injected Thursdays at the park with a new energy. Our goal for these nights - in combination with Happy Hour - was to re-energize Thursdays at the park, and I think we did just that. We have so many good jerseys this year. From soccer, Friends, Cider Donuts, and more, fans

will want to collect them all!

Q. How can sports teams impact a local community, and one another?

A. Sports, to me, represent the fabric of the community. It brings everyone together, and the Renegades are proud to be a part of that fabric in a FUN way. As in any industry, we are better by supporting each other. The free flow of ideas across the sporting landscape allows us to grow and share best practices and programs that we can take and utilize in our communities. The Minor League Baseball community is a great example of that. There are 120 of us affiliated teams, and we share ideas and best practices with each other all the time.

Q. As part of the Augusta Greenjackets, you were on a few special sports-related councils. What were those experiences?

A. Working in Minor League Baseball, I've seen the impact we have on the community where we serve. As part of my role, I've always tried to be engaged and involved in the community we are in. Serving on boards has been a big part of that, and those experiences have not only opened up relationships and doors but also positively impacted the community in unique ways.

Q. If you could only watch one sport for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A. That's easy - baseball. It is our nation's pastime, and it brings communities together. I love what I do, and a big part of that is our platform of Baseball.

Q. We've talked about your part of baseball history in the longest doubleheader ever, but what's an all-time favorite sports memory?

A. Being a Phillies fan, my favorite sports memory was being at games 3, 4, and half of Game 5 of the 2008 World Series in Philadelphia. It was a historic series in the way the weather affected Game 5, and getting to go to the World Series was something I'll never forget.

HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



Wonder worms make black gold

Compost is a dark, nutrient-rich soil amendment called “black gold” because of its value in helping plants be more resilient and healthy. Composting is the managed decomposition of organic waste. It is a slow chemical process, which takes six to 12 months, and occurs best between 90° and 140° Fahrenheit.

A much faster process, occurring in as little as three months, is vermicomposting, or composting with worms! Vermicomposting is a physical process which occurs between 55° and 77° Fahrenheit. Vermicompost, or castings, is worm manure. Horticulturists consider worm castings to be one of the best soil amendments available.

No native earthworm species in North America

Surprisingly, there are NO native earthworm species in North America. Any native North American species of earthworms that may have been living in the region were destroyed by glacial ice sheets 11,000-14,000 years ago. All of the earthworms currently in North America are exotic. Most initially arrived with European settlement. They continue to be transported through a range of human activities, including the dumping of unused fishing bait and transport of compost and mulch. Although they may be helpful in gardens, all earthworms are invasive species in North America and can be particularly harmful to forests.

Harnessing the power of earthworms

But worms can be helpful in composting and gardening! Worm castings are enriched with organic matter. Castings can increase the ability of the soil to hold together, as well as increase its water storage. Earthworm activity and castings may also contribute to the stability of carbon within soil particles (sand, silt and clay).

Compost your organic waste

Wastes brought to landfills are compacted and buried. Although those facilities accept organic waste, it is better to compost or recycle biodegradable matter, because doing so promotes faster decomposition, conserves landfill space, and reduces methane emissions. (Methane is a greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change).

Hudson Valley Vermicomposting

Community Compost Company is a local business that provides food waste collection and composting services to the Hudson Valley. Their mission is to do better for the Earth and help others do the same by giving people the ability to keep their food waste out of landfills. The company also creates compost products that

help local farmers and gardeners heal and revitalize Earth’s worn out soils.

Dutchess County currently has three food waste drop-spots that are free for Beacon residents. They are located in the City of Beacon Recreation Center, Memorial Park, and the Churchill Street Parking Lot. The compost that is collected from Beacon and other Valley municipal sites, as well as private pickup, is composted at the business’ facility in Kerhonkson. Compost is produced both in their compost piles (called windrows) and through vermicomposting.

One of the primary benefits of adding compost to soils is that it adds microbial life, such as bacteria, nematodes and fungi. Different microorganisms are present when composting is thermophilic (over 131° Fahrenheit) versus cooler temperatures. Since vermicomposting occurs at lower temperatures, it produces a biologically different soil amendment from thermophilic compost. Therefore, adding worm castings in addition to compost helps cultivate a diverse array of biological life that can create the most benefit for soil and plants. Vermicomposting is a crucial part of the compost operation at Community Compost Company.

Their vermicomposting is performed within a 4 x 16-foot continuous flow-through worm bin. In the system, worm food (human food waste) is continuously added to the top, while worm castings are collected from the bottom. They feed their worms food waste that has been partially pre-digested by the thermophilic microorganisms in their compost piles, which removes any potential pathogens.

Wonder worms!

The worms at Community Compost Company are red wiggler worms. They are the most effective species of worm for vermicomposting. They are incredibly fast decomposers, and don’t need to burrow as deep as other earthworms. The worm castings are sold to farmers, gardeners and landscapers. They also sell a “Black Gold” product which is a mix of about 82% compost and 18% worm castings. It is called Plant Jolt.

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



Red wiggler worms, the most efficient species of worm for vermicomposting, clump together while eating.



Fresh layers of partially-decomposed food are added to the top of the vermicompost bin for the worms to consume.



A full-length view of Community Compost Company’s continuous flow-through worm bin. Worms migrate upward as layers of food are added to the top of the bin, leaving nutritious worm castings in the lower layers.

-Photos courtesy of Community Compost Company

2025 PKX Arts and Film Festival set for May 3

The Art Effect announces the highly anticipated annual PKX Arts and Film Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 3. The festival celebrates the creativity and talent of Poughkeepsie, while inviting the community to experience a day filled with free, family-friendly art activities, a local teen art exhibition, a short teen film showcase from around the world, live music, local food vendors, and more. The festival is free and open to all ages of the public, while the short-film portion is reserved for teens and older.

The festival kicks off on Saturday, May 3 at 1 p.m. in Mansion Square Park followed by the art exhibition reception at the Family Partnership Center, and concludes with the film screenings also at the Family Partnership Center.

Mansion Square Park, 165 Mansion St, Poughkeepsie,

Art in the Park, 1–5 p.m.

Family Partnership Center, 29 N Hamilton St, Poughkeepsie

5–6 p.m., Teen Art Exhibition Reception

Film Festival & Awards Ceremony, 6–8 p.m.

PKX 2025 is designed and produced by teenagers in the Poughkeepsie Board of Artistic Youth (PK B.A.Y.), showcasing the power of youth-led creativity. PK B.A.Y. brings together students from six youth-serving organizations: Boys & Girls Club of Poughkeepsie, Community Matters 2, Esperanza Dutchess County Hispanic Organization, Nubian Directions II, and The Art Effect with support from the Poughkeepsie Children’s Cabinet.

Learn more & get real-time updates at thearteffect.org/tae-events/pkx.

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The Floral Map of Dutchess

By Aidan Chisamore

As April comes to a close and waves of wildflowers continue to appear up across the county, it is all too easy to get caught up in the beauty of Dutchess in spring. In the first half of the 20th century, however, many residents held serious fears that this flora would be lost forever. In the Dutchess County Historical Society's archive, one map – decorated with varieties of local wildflowers – tells the story of how local garden clubs helped promote the importance of environmental education and conservation in the local area.

Commissioned for use in the 1938 Dutchess County Fair, the "Floral Map of Dutchess County" was once the centerpiece of an expansive floral display. It was originally entered by the Poughkeepsie Garden Club competitive flower show of the county fair. Surrounded by a bright floral border, the map depicts Dutchess County covered in different types of native flowers (fig. 1). These included many regional favorites such as Dutchman's Breeches, Golden Rod, and Brown Eyed Susan. According to contemporary reports, the placement of each denoted "the principal locations of [those] wildflowers throughout the county."

The original exhibit covered 216 square feet. A much larger version of the map hung above a floral display that allowed participants to walk through the county in miniature, viewing homegrown versions of the wildflowers. The show was a joint effort between members of the club who planned and ran the booth and John W. Pratten—a local art teacher—who designed and painted the map.

Reports of the fair in the newsprint demonstrate the excitement this display caused. One report noted it was the most popular floral display that year. Despite this attention, the Poughkeepsie Garden Club was disqualified for failing to cover their name during judging. While they lost the competition, the club was awarded an "honorable mention for educational value, originality, and beauty."

At the conclusion of the Fair, the map was displayed in several Poughkeepsie-based flower shows before being moved to the Adriance Library a few months later. While record of the map drops off after its arrival at Adriance, one article in the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News from September remarked that several "small replicas" were made "for distribution by the club, to further educate." The map held by DCHS must be one of these maps, as it is only half of the original's size at a meager 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide.

The move to Adriance and the many reproductions of the map spoke to the Poughkeepsie Garden Club's focus on education. During its showing, members of the society served as attendants detailing proper care of these plants in home gardens as well as to edify the proper method of conserving these wildflowers. Pamphlets, as shown in fig. 2, were also handed out by attendants.

Founded eleven years before the creation of the "Floral Map," the Poughkeepsie



"Floral Map of Dutchess County," 1938 DCHS Archives and Special Collections.

Garden Club first organized in April 1927, initially formed with only 28 members. In July of that year, the club began public programming, hosting their first flower show in the auditorium of Lucky, Platt, and Company. During the following decade, membership had more than doubled.

Throughout the 1930s, conservation and environmental education became a focus for society. This was, in part, the influence of national trends. State-wide political movements of the 1920s and 1930s, especially in Dutchess County, motivated legislative interest in the environment. This was best expressed in the highest level of state government. Then governor, and county native, Franklin Delano Roosevelt campaigned for environmental protection and restoration. Most notably, this involved reforestation efforts such as the 1929 State Reforestation Act and 1931 Hewitt Reforestation Amendment.

Correlations between garden clubs and conservation efforts can also be seen locally. One especially evocative article published in the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News in May 1924 called on local garden clubs to save a dwindling wildflower population. The anonymous author specifically identified over-picking and the failure of local legislation as the cause of the floral decline. According to the author, the only solution was through the work of these social organizations, like the Garden Club of America, who could lead locals by teaching them how to properly care for their county.

The most salient call to action for local clubs, however, came in J. Wilson



Program for the Poughkeepsie Garden Club, 1938 DCHS Archives and Special Collections.

Poucher's book "Stories of the Wildflowers of Dutchess County" (1931). Compiled from articles he had written on wildflowers in the county, Poucher (1859-1948) decried the changing environment caused by what he believed to be a popular disregard for nature and other people. His solution revolved around these garden clubs, advocating for environmentally conscious unions: "enlist every garden club member into a league for the preservation of these wildflowers and evergreens." In doing this, Poucher placed these social organizations at the forefront of the battle for conservation, tasking them, and others, to teach the county's children as they were not old enough to remember the days when

wildflowers were more prevalent. The Poughkeepsie organization certainly shared Poucher's concerns. By 1928, only a year after its founding, the club established a subcommittee on conservation. Three years later, in 1931, the same year as Poucher's publication, the club celebrated the "Wildflowers of Dutchess." Poucher clearly had influence with the club as nearly all early club material (like fig. 2) listed him as an honorary member of the organization.

Their participation in statewide organizations best illustrates the scope of this garden club's conservation efforts. Guidelines published by the Federated Garden Club of New York State (1933) outlines the crucial role of local garden clubs in promoting environmental consciousness: "preservation is the law of life and that preservation with conservation is one of the most constructive schemes we can fulfill." As an active member in the state-wide organization throughout the 1930s, the Poughkeepsie Garden Club supported these values participating in seed drives, fundraising, political outreach, and—most importantly—educational programming.

The organization worked in Dutchess County and the Hudson Valley, promoting conservation efforts. Events such as their yearly lecture series and annual garden tours emphasized themes of conservation and reforestation. This mission served as the guiding principle for the organization well into the 1950s. This brief study serves as a reminder of the people who sought to preserve the beauty of the county for modern residence, and it is a lesson we should take to heart. Conservation, with the ultimate goal of preservation for the future of Dutchess County, should not be confined to history. It is just as important today, as it was at the creation of the "Floral Map."



Aidan Chisamore is archive manager at DCHS. He may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org.

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Obituaries

Nicholas A. Vetrano



Nicholas A. Vetrano, 77, an area resident for almost 30 years, died on April 21, 2025 at Putnam Hospital Center following a long illness.

Born in Yonkers on July 1, 1947, he was the son of the late Nicholas and Angelina (Polidore) Vetrano. Nicholas proudly served our country in the US Air Force and was an insurance agent for most of his career. During his younger years, he enjoyed playing tennis, going on cruises, and was an avid dancer. He also enjoyed watching police shows, but more than anything, he loved spending time with his family.

On September 14, 2011, Nicholas married Harry Hinkel who survives at home. He is also survived by his daughters, Francine Packes and husband Dennis,

Renee Camacho and husband Jeff, Nicole Vetrano, and Kimberly Vetrano and partner Joyce Vittorini; his stepchildren, Adam Hinkel and wife Stacey, and Kathleen Rokis and husband Anthony; his grandchildren, Nicholas and Gianna; his step-grandchildren, Emma, Gabriella, Hanna, Olivia, Augustus and Sawyer; his great-granddaughter, Haven; his siblings, Linda Black and husband John, Thomas Vetrano and Edward Vetrano and wife Patricia; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, Lagrangeville.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoufuneralhome.com.

Raymond H. Cole



Raymond H. Cole, 93, a resident of Town of Poughkeepsie, passed away April 25th, 2025, at Vassar Hospital. Born January 3rd, 1932, at Vassar Hospital he was the son of the late William and Sarah Wilkenson Cole.

Ray proudly served his country in the army during the Korean War. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and the National Defense Service Medal by the State of New York. The most prestigious being the Bronze Star with a double V for Valor. Ray was employed as sales manager for Lafayette Radio. Retired from Glaxo-Smith Kline as a service representative.

He loved to listen to all kinds of music. He was an avid sports fan. His favorite teams were the Brooklyn Dodgers, Giants, Notre

Dame, and New York Mets. He loved playing golf, softball, and bowling. He was also an amateur boxer.

Ray belonged to O.H. Booth Hose Drum Corp. and served as President Business Major and Drum Major. Ray was also ASA and AAA Umpire for many years while also serving on the Board of Directors for Hudson Valley Umpire Association.

On June 2nd, 1978, he married the love of his life Ellen Smith. Ray and his wife were inseparable for years.

Ray and wife loved to travel- Disney, Lake George, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Georgia, North Carolina, and going to musicals. Ray loved his best pal Shawn (his service dog). He loved spending time with friends and telling jokes with his quick wit and sharp mind up until his passing.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years. He is predeceased by 4 brothers and 4 sisters, his father William Cole and his mother Sarah Wilkenson Cole.

Ray would like to thank his niece- Rene

Bardua and cousin- Lisa Vetter as well as the voluntaries at Castle Point for help with Vets whom he always stopped to thank personally.

A visitation will be held on Friday, May 2nd from 4pm-8pm at Delehanty Funeral Home 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. There will be a graveside service the following day on Saturday, May 3rd at 10AM located at St. Mary's Cemetery 19 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Nelly E. Yandraside



Nelly E. Yandraside, 89, a Hopewell Junction, NY resident for 51 years, died peacefully on April 16, 2025, surrounded by family and beloved caregivers.

Born in Ecuador on May 8, 1935, she was the daughter of Victor and Sofia Cadena. Nelly was very proud when she became a Naturalized Citizen of the United States in 1972.

On August 5, 1971, Nelly married the love of her life for 49 years, Robert Yandraside, who predeceased her on December 18, 2021. Nelly is survived by her son, beloved Robert, and his wife Nancy; her loved sisters, Ketty, Haydee, and Francia; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Nelly enjoyed entertaining family and friends with her love of music and dancing. Nelly spent her time caring for her son along with many nieces and nephews who enjoyed

spending time with her.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, May 2 from 5-7pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, May 3 at 11:30am at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery.

Alice O. Baker



Alice Odell Mink Baker, 88, of the Wappingers Falls, NY, passed away peacefully the evening of April 25, 2025. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Gene, and is survived by her daughter, Amy Nardone (husband Tony), sons, Greg (wife Patti and stepson Corey) and Gene Jr (wife Valerie), granddaughters Peyton and Kellyn, her sister, Jane Walker, and several nieces and nephews.

Alice was born on February 25, 1937, to Travis and Isabelle Mink near Cadillac, Michigan. After graduating from Memphis (MI) High School, where she was a leading scorer on the girls' basketball team, Alice attended Michigan State University where she met Gene and earned her Bachelor of Education degree and began

her lifelong career in Special Education at the MSU School for the Blind. Alice and Gene remained avid Spartan fans their entire lives.

After moving to New York following Gene's graduation from MSU, Alice set about altering the perception and acceptance of special needs students through her life's professional mission as a Special Education teacher with BOCES and the Wappingers Central School District, earning her master's degree from SUNY New Paltz along the way. She pioneered the inclusion of thousands, and by now, millions, of special needs students into the state and, subsequently, national public education system. In addition to aiding the cause of her students, Alice helped bring respect and notoriety to Special Education professionals, serving officer roles in organizations including, New York State United Teachers, New York State Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, the Association for Retarded Children, Wappingers Congress of Teachers, Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, and several more, taking the case for her peers and their students directly to the state governmental offices in Albany.

Having risen from modest beginnings to achieve great personal and professional success, Alice served all those around her as an inspiration and guiding light while sharing her blueprint for making a positive difference in individual lives and society in general. She will be dearly missed, but the love, guidance, compassion, and motivation she has provided will survive through the lives of her children, grandchildren and everyone who had the good fortune to have known her.

Alice's family and friends will gather for a small memorial service on Saturday, May 3 from 11:00a to 1:00p at: McHoul Funeral Home, 895 NY Rte 82, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to New York State Special Olympics at: Special Olympics.

Eelco Kessels appointed CEO of Habitat Dutchess

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County (Habitat Dutchess) announced the appointment of Eelco Kessels as its new Chief Executive Officer. Kessels brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, strategic development, and community-based initiatives, a passion for community building, and a strong commitment to Habitat's mission of providing safe and affordable housing.

"We are thrilled to welcome Eelco as the new leader of Habitat Dutchess," said Pete Carr, Board Chair of Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County. "His expertise and dedication will guide us into an exciting new chapter as we continue to expand our programs and serve more families in need."

Kessels' background includes over 15

years of leadership experience in international development, disaster response, and humanitarian relief. Prior to joining Habitat Dutchess, Kessels served as Executive Director at Global Center on Cooperative Security, where he was instrumental in expanding programs, increasing funding, and fostering strategic partnerships. His expertise in fundraising, stakeholder engagement, and operational strategy will be instrumental in advancing Habitat Dutchess's mission.

Under Kessels' leadership, the organization will continue its critical work in expanding homeownership opportunities for Dutchess County. His vision is to strengthen community collaborations, enhance volunteer engagement, and empower families through safe and stable

housing solutions.

At the same time, Habitat Dutchess expresses deep gratitude to interim CEO Nevill Smythe for his dedicated service and leadership. "We thank Nevill for stepping in as interim CEO and for his hard work and dedication. He brought his vast nonprofit experience, community connections and calming leadership which has positioned Habitat Dutchess for continued success," added Pete Carr.

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County remains committed to its mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. With Kessels' leadership, the organization looks forward to new opportunities to create lasting change for families in Dutchess County and beyond.



Eelco Kessels

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Application process for Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund now open Workshop set for May 5 in Millbrook

As part of multi-faceted efforts to expand housing supply in Dutchess County and create more affordable and accessible options for residents, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced the application process for the latest round of funding through the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is now open, with up to \$3 million available to local developers for the creation or preservation of affordable housing, including smaller-scale projects in rural areas. The HTF application is available through Dutchess County's online grant portal. Application deadline is Monday, June 9.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "The Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund is more than just dollars – it's about the people. It's about making sure local families, workers and older adults can afford to live in the communities they love. We're focused on supporting projects that not only expand access to affordable housing but also blend

into and enhance the unique character of our towns and neighborhoods. We encourage developers of every size to take advantage of this opportunity and be part of the solution."

This round of HTF funding focuses on the program's Housing Creation and Preservation (HCP) component, which supports affordable rental housing through new construction, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, property acquisition and preservation of existing units. Application instructions and guidance are available online.

Both private for-profit and non-profit developers are eligible to apply; and small builders are encouraged to apply. The County's Department of Planning & Development will host a workshop for applicants on Monday, May 5, at the Dutchess County Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44 in Millbrook, from 1 to 3 p.m. Applicants can register for the workshop by completing this registration form.

The Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund

provides a flexible and nimble funding source to aid the implementation of a variety of affordable housing efforts, with several main goals:

- Providing financial assistance to develop affordable housing across Dutchess County;
- Enhancing the competitiveness of affordable housing initiatives to secure additional funding;
- Supporting housing projects that align with County priorities but have limited or no funding options; and
- Focusing on projects that create housing with deeper affordability levels.

The HCP component supports new affordable rental housing through new construction, rehabilitation of existing homes, and adaptive reuse of non-residential buildings. Eligible projects may be fully affordable or mixed-income, including single-room occupancy rentals. The HCP also funds property acquisition for affordable rental housing by non-profit developers and the preservation or

rehabilitation of existing affordable units to ensure long-term affordability.

The affordable units created through the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund can either target all households with incomes up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Dutchess County, or a portion (no more than 20 percent of the units) can target households with incomes up to 80 percent AMI.

Additional information about the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund is available on the Department of Planning & Development's website.

Dutchess County's Housing Trust Fund is one of several programs County Government is utilizing to expand housing accessibility. Other programs include the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funding programs, as well as the Owner Occupied Property Rehabilitation program. Information about these and other housing initiatives is available online.

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1974 set of 2 foldable Mets photo albums, 1074 official Mets year book in original envelopes from stadium, \$80. Call: 845-592-0450

Sturdy 4 inch 3 ring binders inside pockets, Navy blue color. \$3 each. 845-264-0240

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

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

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

CANNON FOR SALE, Full size Napoleon Howitzer Smooth Bore. 2.125 inch. Original Civil War fittings, all equipment, Trailer. Fed. Exempt. \$25,000. Ron Shaner 845-266-0334

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

517 Computer Merchandise

Brother Laser Printer H-L L2395DW Print copy scan new cond. Asking \$75. Leave message. Contact Roseanne, 845-897-5812

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712 Moving Sale

Hopewell Junction Friday April 25th, Sat. April 26th. 9AM - 3PM 236 Hosner Mountain Road NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE.

900 Autos For Sale

2005 Lexus ES330 for sale. Best Offer. Runs good. Still driving on road. 845-297-0084

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903 Motorcycles



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

904 Auto Parts & Accesories

Draw Tite Hitch Receiver for Nissan Rogue, \$125. Call: 845-896-5197

905 Tires

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County Players to present the 'Big Fish'

Musical opens May 2, runs through May 18

County Players, one of the longest running community theatre companies in the area is proud to present the sweeping musical tapestry "Big Fish", which opens Friday, May 2, and runs through May 18, 2025. With music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by John August, the musical is based on the 1998 novel by Daniel Wallace, and the 2003 film written by John August and directed by Tim Burton. This production is directed by Michael J. Frohnhoefer with musical direction by Karen Dalmer-Sheehy and choreography by Mary Beth Boylan. Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8 p.m., with matinees at 2 p.m. on Sundays, May 11 & 18 and Saturday May 17 at County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

This larger-than-life Musical is a fantastical musical adventure inspired by a father's incredible stories. Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, Big Fish tells the story of Edward Bloom, a charming traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest, and then some. Overflowing with heart and humor, Big Fish is an extraordinary



Members of the cast of "Big Fish" at County Players in Wappingers Falls. The musical opens May 2 and runs through May 18.

-Courtesy photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography

story that reminds us why we love going to the theatre, and a buoyant feel-good show for the whole family.

This production features a large community cast of talented performers from across the region featuring: Lisa Berger,

Mike Boden, Anthony James Clopton, Cora Colwell, Mary Dallari, Ryan Dutcher, Carlos Gomez, J. Alan Hanna, Aaron Heisler, Karen Hoben, Emily Holland, James Keating, Brian Kuchicki, Moira Laughlin, Megan Longwell, Frank McGinnis, Asia McGough, Keller Mickle, Rebecca Nagle, Laura Seaman, Vanessa Taylor-Mishra, Chris Tomer, and Scott Woolley. Of this production director Frohnhoefer says "Theater is about telling a great story, and what better story to tell than one with a great message. At its core, Big Fish is a story about the importance of love, forgiveness, the impact of relationships, and the sheer power of storytelling."

Tickets available online at [countypayers.org/tickets](https://countypayers.org/shows/big-fish-the-musical/): \$30 for Adults; \$28 for Seniors 60+, Military, Students (with ID), and Children under 12. For complete info visit: <https://countypayers.org/shows/big-fish-the-musical/> (NOTE: Proof of Vaccination is NOT required; facemasks are optional for audience members.)

Hudson Valley Credit Union sponsors County Players 67th Season, and "Big Fish" is made possible by Bronze Sponsors: Marshall & Sterling Insurance; Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP, and is presented through special arrangement with TRW Plays. trwplays.com

'Fairy Tales, Myths, & Folklore: Stories Reimagined' exhibition now at Howland Public Library



"Fairy Tales, Myths, & Folklore: Stories Reimagined," a new group exhibition showcasing the work of more than 20 artists from the women's collective CoMFY will be on exhibit at Howland Public Library. The exhibition runs until May 3.

This imaginative group show explores the enduring influence of fairy tales and folk traditions through a wide range of artistic mediums. Some works offer direct visual interpretations of classic tales, while others present personal responses, inventive twists, or entirely original stories.

Visitors are encouraged to bring donations of period products for the library's personal needs pantry.

For more information, contact community@beaconlibrary.org.

-Courtesy photos from HPL, artist Tena Cohen

Comedy Game Night set for May 3

Comedy game Night will be held on Saturday, May 3, at 7 p.m. at The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane, in Beacon.

For the ticket link, please go to <https://aflowerz.crowdwork.com/shows/comedy-game-night-05-03-2025>.

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