Pandemic makes Mother's Day special for Beacon nurse, family

By Rich Thomaselli

She is Super-Mom, Super-Wife and Super-Caregiver all rolled into one. And, yeah, she was most likely all of those things anyway long before the words "global coronavirus pandemic" became part of our everyday lexicon. But as Mother's Day 2020 approaches Beacon resident, Christine Forman is emblematic of every nurse, every frontline worker, every professional battling COVID-19 while at the same time balancing life as a wife to husband Andrew and mother to two teenagers, Ava and Jack. She is, along with her colleagues, a hero.

By Kate Goldsmith

Molinaro unveils 'Restarting Dutchess' initiative

Noting progress in testing and a decrease in hospitalizations, County Executive Marc Molinaro outlined Dutchess plan to begin its reopening process in a telephone town hall last Wednesday. "Restarting Dutchess" is a multi-phased initiative to reopen the county's economy and Dutchess County Government operations.

As part of the initiative, Molinaro has announced the creation of four executive-level county-wide groups to work in concert with the Dutchess County Government leaders, members of the Dutchess County Legislature and several county-wide elected officials - to guide the direction of the initiative forward to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

"While Dutchess County Government remains laser-focused on public health and safety, we are also working aggressively to ensure a successful transition to full County Government operations andregaining our local economy," said Molinaro.

This will be a careful balancing act - enabling the acceleration of economic activity while carefully monitoring the health of the community and remaining ready to any spikes in infection or hospitalization. It will be a very fluid process as we adapt to a new normal for the economy and Dutchess County Government.

Led by Molinaro and County Legislators Randy Johnson and Dierdre Houston, the Local Governments Team is working with the county's 30 municipalities as they devise phased-in reopenings of their respective plans for re-opening. Among the measures being taken across the County are a recent informational webinar, "Conducting Public Meetings During the COVID-19 Pandemic," held for Planning Boards and Conservation Boards of Appeal to ensure necessary meetings can be held to keep key projects moving forward while also aligning with the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for creative measures to jump-start villages and cities centers.

Town of Hyde Park Supervisor Alan Forshay, chair of the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association, said, "We thank County Executive Molinaro for his transparency, cooperation and guidance during this unprecedented pandemic. We appreciate the open lines of communication the County has engaged during these difficult times, as well as the willingness to work with individual municipalities to find sensible solutions to evolving challenges."

Deputy County Executive William EX O'Neil, County Clerk Brad Kendall and County Legislature Assistant Majority Leader John Metzger will serve on the County Government Functions Team which is assessing Dutchess County Government departments' current level of functionality during the pandemic and working for the full operational restoration of County Government. The work of this team includes review of the county's year-long Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Coordination of Government (COG) plans. County department heads also have all been directed to provide comprehensive reconstitution plans, including how they will provide services in a new environment that includes new focus of public health and safety concerns as well as anticipated fiscal challenges.

Assistant County Executive for Economic Development Romanek, members of the Th!nk Dutchess

STATE COVID-19 UPDATE

State moves forward with data-driven decisions

By Kate Goldsmith

Throughout New York's COVID-19 outbreak, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said the data will determine when, and how, the state reopens. With increased testing and a steady decline in hospitalizations and deaths, the governor last week issued a series of actions that will begin that process by region.

"As we think about our next steps, we are focused on these figures as well as the testing data to guide us forward," Cuomo said. "We will closely monitor and act in accordance with the clear evidence presented."

The governor announced the formation of the New York Forward Reopening Advisory Board, whose mission is to help guide the state's reopening strategy. Consisting of 100-plus business, community and civic leaders from industries across the state - including Elizabeth Bradley, president of Vassar College - the advisory board is chaired by former Secretaries to the Governor Steve Cohen and Bill Mulrow.

As one of the first steps in the reopening process, hospitals in 35 counties, including Dutchess, are now able to resume elective surgeries. The decision was based on hospital capacity (less than 70 percent) and rate of transmission (less than 1 to 1). The state also

On May 2, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo observed the three-step disinfectant process of a New York City Subway #7 train car at the Corona Maintenance Facility in the borough of Queens. Cuomo has directed the MTA to disinfect all trains every 24 hours to improve safety measures for essential workers who rely on public transportation to get to work.

-Courtesy photos by Kevin P. Coughlin
"My No. 1 concern was her well-being, of course," Andrew said. "In fact, when this thing started coming into fruition, I talked to Christine about wearing a mask. I think I was more aggressive about it than she was." He chuckled slightly at his recollection. Then and there he turned serious, almost somber.

"She's bringing home reality to us every night," he said.

Things have slowed down somewhat. Christine noted that just shy of 300 patients with the coronavirus have been discharged from the hospital, each with a huge celebration among staff as they physically leave. Patients who have been admitted to the facility are down, and patients under investigation for possibly having the virus are also down. But the state restrictions and lockdowns are still in place, meaning Ava and Jack, a senior and a sophomore at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, are doing remote learning. That has its own challenges.

Starting with Ava's class trip to Disney World in mid-March - at the precise moment Walt Disney World announced it would be closing the park in the next 48 hours.

"At first, my classmates and I were like 'this isn't that big of a deal, it's just the flu.' I mean, we were in Disney, there were thousands of people around us each day. We didn't think it was as serious as it became," Ava said. She learned quickly from Mom when she got home.

"We were definitely worried," Ava said. "And we were worried for her. At first, like she said, even she didn't realize what was going to come of it and that was scary for all of us, that she initially didn't know."

Ava said, "I think we find ourselves asking her how her day was more than we have when she gets home."

"Home. Always a safe haven, even if Christine has to take precautions. While still thinking about work. "There are nights when I immediately jump in the shower when I get home," she said. "Andrew will start dinner and the kids have been great."

"I think the hardest part for me, the thing that has been the most taxing, is the emotional support for our staff," Christine said. "People have said, well, as a nurse, this is what you signed up for. No. It isn't. We are trained to take care of people who are sick and we give it our everything. But we didn't sign up for people who are so upset that they lost their job, and there's nothing we can do but be heartbroken. We didn't sign up for our patients who have passed away to not be able to see their family members, and their family members not to see them, and there's nothing we can do but be heartbroken. Those are the day-in and day-out trials."

Continued from page 1

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Landahl on schools closing for rest of academic year

Beacon City School District Superintendent Matthew Landahl stated to parents and community on the BCSD’s website, “I am guessing you have already heard the news but today (May 1) Governor Cuomo closed schools in New York for the rest of the year. While I know many of us were expecting this announcement, it does not take away how sad this is for our community. I know as a dad how hard this is seeing my son physically away from his friends and his teachers. We are living through history and I know I say this all the time but the gratifying part is seeing the Beacon community rally together as it has."

Landahl noted, “We will continue our meals program and distance learning through the end of the year and we will work on refining and improving as we go.”

As for graduation, he said, “We are working hard to make different plans for our seniors that go beyond a “virtual/digital” graduation.” He stated that the district "will carefully follow the health guidelines but we do want our seniors, even if it is just in front of their families and everyone is safely social distancing, to walk across a stage. If it takes 10 hours to do it safely and families come in shifts, so be it.” He added, “We will keep the community updated as we plan.”

Landahl also mentioned the 2020-21 school year, stating Governor Cuomo asked school districts to start planning for the next academic year. “I think the best way to make these plans is to do it collaboratively so I will be gathering input from all community and school district stakeholders as we develop these plans,” stated the superintendent.

When Albany and Washington, D.C. inform the BCSD about the budget, Landahl said district leaders will let the community know.

In a way, it makes this Mother’s Day different. More special.

And it’s not lost on Ava and Jack, particularly Ava. She’s off to Missouri State University in the fall and, given that colleges usually don’t wrap up until mid-May, this could be her last Mother’s Day at home in Beacon - at least on the exact holiday - for a bit.

"My mother has done so much for us," Ava said, "and yes, I think that this is the last Mother’s Day I really might be home for a while."

"It’s a big part of my daily routine to make sure nothing happens to her," Jack said. "So this Mother’s Day really is a little more special."
Land to Learn and South Ave. School receive grant for garden project in Beacon

By Kristine Coulter

South Ave. Elementary School in the Beacon City School District and Land to Learn received a grant from the Eastern New York Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association Education Committee (AWMAEC). This grant was awarded to them for their participation in the "Day Grant" program, which is a $600 grant to revive a wild area in the school’s garden.

Joe Farron, Environmental Specialist at Eastern NY AWMA, explained, "All of the selected projects had outstanding plans for projects that would promote environmental awareness for students. The Orville Todd Middle School is a multiple-time winner of Earth Day Grants under this program, and has included submissions of multiple teachers on an annual basis the past few years."

Air Rhodes, with Land to Learn explained about the South Ave. project, "The garden at South Ave. has been underutilized for years. We are excited to turn the area into an "Indigenous Agricultural space" featuring permaculture planting techniques and water conservation features that have been used for thousands of years."

Farron stated, "The Orville Todd Middle School "Tick Tock" project is a $450 grant that will provide an opportunity for a continuation of the program awarded in 2019. As a follow up to last year's grant, students will continue working with Cary Institute and in their science classes to conduct studies on biodiversity and tick populations in Dutchess County, specifically around the school property. Students will examine the types of mammals living in the area and explore how Lyme bacteria is transmitted, what the symptoms are, how to prevent it, and why biodiversity matters."

The second grant for Orville Todd Middle School is for the "Green with Envy" project.

The $730 grant, he explained, "will provide students with exposure to dirt, planting, growing, observing, and harvesting. Starting plants (microgreens) from seeds and watching them grow using a time lapse camera is one of the project elements, and the food grown in the classroom will be used in the cafeteria."

Farron remarked, "We are excited to have received excellent applications from these teachers and schools, and are excited for their participation in our [next] program."
Editor's note
At different times you will see photos in our newspapers and at our website with captions that include the current social distancing guidelines. Please know that such photos are archived or courtesy photos taken well in advance of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Anonymous donor donates $1,000 worth of Key Food gift cards

A generous local donor recently provided a donation of Key Food gift cards to a heartwarming donation, hoping perhaps, to provide some much-needed certainty to residents in these uncertain times.

A total of $1,000 worth of gift cards was donated to the Beacon Food Pantry. The gift cards (each valued at $50) will be distributed to local families in need of food. City administration will work with the City School District and the local religious leaders to ensure the cards are distributed to families who most in need. This donation will enable families to purchase the necessary items for their households during this unprecedented time to experience some measure of comfort.

Mayor Lee Kyriacon said, “An individual opened up their heart to give back to our community during this devastating time, to assist families and people in need. As Governor Cuomo has said a number of times, ‘times of crisis, you see the best of humanity.’ This is one of those times. On behalf of all residents, I thank this generous donor.”
Beacon receives more than $856,000 water grant; seeks federal and state grants

The City of Beacon was awarded a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) Grant in the amount of $856,467 recently. The funding will defray the cost of the replacement and construction of a new 1.5 million-gallon Fairview Water Tank. The old Fairview Water Tank held 1 million gallons and was constructed in the early 1980s.

The cost of the project to construct a new tank is $1,481,622.61, and the grant will fund an impressive 58% of costs. This project continues the City’s goals of upgrading our infrastructure while continuing to provide safe clean drinking water.

Legislative Chambers will meet via videoconference this week and again on May 11.

The May 11 meeting will be available to the public via videoconference. For more information, please contact Alison Herro, Adult Services Librarian, at 843-831-1134.
Robert McMenamin
Robert Wilson McMenamin of Harrison, NY passed away on May 30, 2020 at Putnam Valley Hospital. He was born on September 12, 1921 to Joseph and Margaret (nee Hynes) McMenamin. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy T. (Wilson) McMenamin. Robert (Bob) was born in Mount Vernon on February 26, 1920, the son of Robert J. Mattheus, an ensign with the USN who gave his life during a test flight for a new Navy plane at West Point High School in 1969. He attended both Putnam Valley High School and the Warburg Home in Mount Vernon until he entered and graduated from the Zone 3 Police Academy (Putnam and Dutchess Counties) 72nd Session in 1966. Bob was honored to have served the public as a Mount Vernon Police Officer, transferring later to the Village of Scarsdale. He was a member of the "Letters and Order of Police." On September 12, 1981, Bob married Marilyn E. Hanschuh (nee Mazzoli) of Catskill, New York, as several great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins and in-laws. Together they took and had many pets during his lifetime. He also had a great affinity for the beach and spent time each year in Beautiful Bristol, Jersey, where he often fished for bluefish with his father and his cousin Ronn Koehein. He enjoyed do-it-yourself projects, classic cars, rock music (Elvis was his favorite) and collecting stamps. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor (and was sometimes a bit irreverent). The family will hold a celebration of Bob's life at the Funeral Home of Hopewell Junction. Burial will be in Rose Hills Memorial Park in Purchase, NY. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bob's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Frances C. Conforti, 82, of Wappingers Falls, passed away on May 18, 2020 at Vassar Bros. Medical Center. She was born in Manhattan October 14, 1937, the daughter of Anthony Scialfa and Anna Buttagazzoli. Mrs. Conforti was employed as an Administrative assistant to the Chief of Surgery at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie for many years. She was married to Peter J. Conforti in 2002. They had one daughter, Jessica Conforti. Interment is private at Mt. St. Mary’s Cemetery, Wappingers Falls. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Wartburg Home in Mount Vernon, 25 North Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550.

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) has significantly expanded its efforts to help the elderly in need throughout the County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the week of April 20-24, 2020, OFA delivered 3,130 hot meals to homebound residents, homes, compared to 1,330 meals a week before the pandemic, an increase of 350 percent since COVID-19 first impacted Dutchess County in March.

The Office for the Aging's meals-on-wheels deliveries of hot meals (HDMs) has increased due to social distancing guidelines and events such as Meals-on-Wheels gatherings, including the closure of eight Senior Friendship Centers throughout Dutchess County. This program has implemented a plan to deliver more hot and ready-to-eat meals to seniors than ever before. In addition to 117 more than 440 additional clients than before the pandemic.

Providing seniors more than nutritious and delicious lunches and dinners, the HDM program also helps prevent isolation among County seniors, as OFA volunteers offer meals to the homebound, which is critical to their health.

The Office continues to work diligently on the home delivery aspect of the program to ensure service to all who need assistance. Residents in critical need of food and nutrition also have access to OFA's MHA Vet to Vet program. The program has been operating since March 16 and is meeting with significant demand.

For more information about the pandemic, OFA ordered and received last month an additional 7,700 frozen meals, and, with no definite end to the pandemic, has ordered 10,000 more meals to date.

The OFA headquarters at 114 Delafield Street in Poughkeepsie remain open with essential operations and front line staff still working. Clients may also call 845-486-2555 or email info@dutchessny.gov, as OFA personnel can handle many tasks without the need for a visit to the building.

In addition, OFA staff and volunteers are being asked to deliver Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other essential items to all residents currently receiving meals from OFA. Our Home-Delivered Meals program offers more than 36,000 meals per month to our clients. Our delivery service volunteers work with social distancing and other safety measures, and importantly, are now delivering food to seniors who were severely limited their contact with those outside their homes.

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We reserve the right to modify or refuse any ads.
The deadline for Legals is every Monday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication. *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Friday at noon.*
Diversions

**SUDOKU**

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills. The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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

**Binox by Krazydad**

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

```
X  X
X  X
X  X
X  X
X
X
X
X
```

The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Binox can be found on page 5.
By Kristine Coulter
Stony Kill Foundation and volunteers are working to continue its mission.
“Our livestock are doing very well at the farm. Spring is time for renewal, and we’ve had several lamb births, many of which are twins. As you drive by, you can usually see them frolicking in the field and enjoying the cool spring air. We’ll be shearing our sheep soon to get them ready for our warmer summer months. We’ve also incubated and had 20 successful chicks hatch. We now have several heritage breed chickens, our JavaS and Dominiques that will be added to the flock. With the recent interest in keeping chickens, we are preparing a kit that may be available to first-time chicken owners,” noted Stony Kill Farm Foundation member Stacey Lynch Adnams.

Lynch Adnams remarked, “We’ll also be participating in Hudson Valley Gives on May 20. There are still opportunities to volunteer on the farm in following with social distancing guidelines. When using our trails, you can report any tree blow downs and pick up refuse. Stony Kill Farm remains open to the public from sun up to sun down. “All trails are currently open following social distancing guidelines. Pets are not permitted on the property and DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) Rangers are monitoring all centers. Our ponds are also open for fishing,” said Lynch Adnams.

“Me we miss familiar faces at our weekend Open Barn but we love seeing families enjoy the farm in a responsible way. We are looking forward to opening our barn up and easing back into our public programs,” she noted.

Spring is a ‘time for renewal’ at Stony Kill

By Kristine Coulter
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On the state’s decision to keep schools closed through the academic year, Molinaro said, “As challenging as it has been, and will be, closing schools for the rest of the academic year is the right decision for Dutchess County, and I’m thankful Governor Cuomo made this decision. Dutchess will continue working with our school districts and students to receive the educational foundation they need to propel them forward. As we continue to Think DIFFERENTLY in Dutchess County, we will keep advocating for those who need special education services to ensure they get the support they require.”